

Hush Festival (25th - 27th July 2008) Update - 31/1/08

The next acts line-up will be announced very soon, at which point the ticket price will increase again.

The last call is now being made for reservations for the £30 tickets for the weekend (£40 if camping).

If you would like to reserve tickets at this (still bargain!) price please email bookings@hushfest.co.uk, stating how many you'd like to reserve, whether or not you'll be camping, your postal address and contact number.

There are still some £30 tickets left, but it is first come first served, and once they're gone they're gone.

The website initial pages are now live, and more will be added over the next few months.

Check it out on www.hushfest.co.uk.

Martin Phillips

Recycling - 31/1/08

As a result of many people complaining to the council about the level of service received from the recycling company, I have just heard from the council that the recycling crew's supervisor/manager is going out with them tomorrow to supervise.

This seems to be a positive step forward.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Rock Club - 31/1/08

Sat 9th Feb Its just been pointed out that I omitted the ticket price for the gig.

It is £5 per ticket. Look forward to seeing you all there

Sorry for any confusion with the comparison to NEC and Wembley prices

Hamish Millar

Town Meeting. FTCs 0809 budget proposal - 30/1/08

This meeting is arranged by FTC to present next year's budget to the town and receive suggestions from residents for additional projects to be considered. Sadly there were only 7 residents there- unlike last year when 60 musicians/music lovers attended to express their views about the noise issues iwhen using the Corn Exchange.

The good news is that the FTC have budgeted such that there is no increase in their contribution to the cost of the Council Tax

Below are some points made by either councillors or residents. Full 0809 budget details are available from the Council office in the CornExchange.

The Corn Exchange is budgeted to lose £8533. £5k is included for general maintenance. Franchise income is reduced by over £3k. This figure excludes caretaker costs and a contribution to office overheads.

£16k capital is budgeted for noise mitigation measure, £5k capital for toilet renovation and £80k 106 money for other improvements. These were mentioned as the floor, the stage, decor, curtains and that the detail of the work had not yet been decided.

None of this work will be carried out until the lease of the building(owned by VWHDC) has been settled.

The Pump House is budgeted to lose £9.5k. £1k is included for a condition survey, £400 for Broadband. This figure excludes caretaker costs and a contribution to office overheads.

£80k capital from 106 monies is included to reenovate the theatre and the Community room, £16k capital from 106 monies for a disabled lift, and £20k fto develop Youth facilities(*the councillors I asked after the meeting didn't appear to know what is happening about the Youth Centre on the Highworth Road*)

£4.5k is included in the Recreation and Open spaces budget for Christmas lights. It was £5k this year
Capital budgets for this committee include:- £8k for skate park equipment, £2.5k for refurbishment of Town Park (planting, bins, paths) and £2.5k for play equipment in Tucker park.
This committee is investigating how use can be made of the land behind Willes Close(it is subject to a covenant that it is for public use)

The salaries budget is increased by £7.7k to employ a part time office worker. Total salary and pension costs are £110k

An advertising budget of £3200 has been reduced to £700. It seems that £3k of this this was not advertising, but simply a way to make a contribution to the running costs of the community bus.

Faringdon TIC costs nearly £30k to run, and makes a loss of £17k+ pa.

£5k has been budgeted to progress the Councils work on the Nottingham Climate Change project.

Projects no longer planned for 0809, in order to keep the same budget level as 0708 are another bus shelter (£4k), (I think opposite the Fire Station, though it was mentioned there are planning issues), play equipment in Oakwood, servicing play areas (done this year)

It is anticipated that there will be about £40k in the reserve fund at the end of 0809. This represents about 2 months running costs. The auditor prefers a council to have enough for 3 months.

The lease for the Corn Exchange has not yet been agreed. FT councillors believe that VWHDC will announce the closure of their office in the Corn Exchange imminently. If this happens, FTC may decide to move offices to the Pump Rooms.

It is anticipated that the terms of the lease will be known by April.

A suggestion was made that whether the FTC should sign a repairing lease for the Corn Exchange (sold to VWHDC by a former FTC as the town could not afford to maintain it) should be discussed at the Town Meeting in April (specific date not yet set).

Alan Hickmore believes that if Faringdon do not run the Corn Exchange, then VWHDC will sell it for conversion into offices or flats. When it was pointed out that the building is listed, and so there were restrictions on how it could be changed, AH said that VWHDC were the listing and the planning authority and they would decide.

106 planning gain (the planned additional 400 houses) summary
Corn Exchange Improvements.....£80k
Youth development.....£20k
Pump House development.....£15k
Car Parking Survey.....£15k
Faringdon Community Bus.....£30k

For comparison, this was the list of 106 projects that a group from FTC, other community organisations and residents came up with in summer 2006

Their list of requirements in priority order is: -

- Car parking - to encourage existing and new residents to use the shops and facilities in the town- huge money needed
- A Skate Park to be located in the country park possibly near the new cricket ground £5k
- Youth Club to be located in the old bar in the Community Centre/Pump House, £30k
- Tucker Park Development.- rugby pitch - estimated cost £15,000
- A Trim Track - estimated cost £17,000
- An all weather sports pitch - estimated cost £200,000
- Additional Community Bus and paid driver, £100k
- National Coach Pick Up Point- in one of the planned bus stops on Park road
- Disabled lift in the Pump Rooms- £30k
- Faringdon Guide - for all residents - definitive information about the facilities in the town, £10k
- Performance venue, £50k

Sums suggested take account of the fact that government grants would be applied for ie Skate Park, Youth Club, Sports facilities

Gene Webb

Operation Christmas Child Belarus Shoe Box Distribution Trip Presentation and Talk by Ann Jerome.- 30/1/08

All Welcome

Wednesday 6th February 7:30p.m. & Saturday 9th February 11:00a.m. Faringdon United Church

If you gave a shoe box, or helped in any way, then please come along and see the pictures and hear my experiences of distributing boxes in Belarus 14th - 19th December last year.

Tel: 01367 241566

Big Faringdon Gig - 30/1/08 Saturday 5th July Faringdon Junior School

We now have a full day planned consisting of 15 bands all playing original songs - no covers whatsoever. 5 of the bands are local to Faringdon but they will be playing songs that will be new, some of which specially written for the BFG. There are also bands coming from Oxford, Swindon and two from Reading.

All profits from the event will be split between the Faringdon Arts Festival committee and Helen and Douglas house hospice in Oxford.

All those taking part bands, organisers and helpers will be giving their time for free.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the bar, help on the door (selling tickets not bouncers) and particularly two stage managers to work with the professional sound engineers.

Also there is the opportunity for local organisations/clubs (or individuals) to raise funds by having a stall space i.e. BBQ, teas/coffee and craft stalls etc.

You can listen to the bands on myspace - see www.bigfaringdongig.com

Tickets will be available in May, £10 per person - not bad for 15 bands.

Sean Hodgson

Appeal for Witnesses - 30/01/08

Please look at this appeal for witnesses to an attack in Faringdon

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/default.asp?dismode=article&artid=13579>

Name supplied

Joint Environmental Trust Meeting 24th Jan 08 - 30/1/08

Just some interesting points from the meeting I went to.

JET have £29k+ in the bank, of which the main commitments are:

Gateway feature Lechlade Road.....	£7k
Improvement of Southampton St car park.....	£5.5k
Improvements to Town Park.....	£3.6
Total commitments are.....	£17.695k

At the meeting it was agreed that £900+ will be given to Friends of the Folly to contribute to the work needed on the

woodland

It was suggested that a coach and horses sculpture/artwork be placed at/near the Park Road entrance, to denote our history as a market town. Planning will be needed.

There is an intention to move the Park Road gateway feature to somewhere nearer the roundabout, as the town boundary has now changed

The street maps in the notice boards are to be updated (based on the Town map produced by Faringdon Walkers and Cyclists). Bus stops are to be added, I think.

I wasn't allowed to speak at the meeting(there is no public question /speaking time on the agenda), but afterwards I suggested that there were roads/paths in Faringdon that needed signs. eg Arthur's Hill, The Hobble, Elmtree cottages. I was told to make a list and contact the Town Clerk. (If anyone knows of any more, please do tell me)

I also suggested that we have a plaque/notice somewhere with a bit about Henry James Fry of Sing a song of sixpence fame.

Minutes of the JET meeting can be found on the [VWHDC website](#)

I don't know how soon the minutes of 24th will be online.

Gene Webb

Faringdon Rock Club Sat Feb 9th@Faringdon Junior School - 28/1/08

Hopefully some, if not all of you, have seen the posters about town. I'll behave myself this time and not post too many on lamp posts but it is very hard to grab people's attention.

This should be a great night for all lovers of live rock music, I see enough t-shirts around town, with an opportunity to see 3 cracking local bands one of which pistolkixx is starting to attract national interest and is playing in Camden during the week before Faringdon and a rock legend(formerly Kerrang cover boy and now regularly featured in Classic Rock) in Tyla and his band The Dogs D'Amour(type in Tyla or The Dogs D'Amour in Amazon to get a scale of his output).

Sound is provided by Faringdon's own Tim Cartwright with lights once again from local man Rod.

This should give a great start to the live music year with MADD Fest, Faringdon Arts Festival, Party in the Park and the Hush festival to come.

I guarantee that you would not get a better show if you paid £25 per ticket for Birmingham NEC or Wembley Area and the school is small enough to see the stage. As an added incentive £1 from each ticket sold in Faringdon is being donated to the pre-school.

Hamish Millar

Chemist - 28/1/08

Moss the chemist has been stocking Boots brands for some time. (Sadly this has meant replacing Moss 'own brand' products which were less expensive.)

They are both now part of the Alliance group (which has taken over Unichem shops).

Name Supplied

Boots in Faringdon - 28/1/08

I notice that Boots the Chemist is opening a retail outlet in Faringdon.

To my knowledge, this is the first large retailer that has come to the town in many years.

Is it an indication of how the perception of Faringdon might be changing?

David Reynolds.

Ed(GW): I gather that the chemist will be closed on 12/4/08(Sun) and reopen on Wed 14th, having been totally restocked as a Boots store. It will still be possible to get a prescription during this time(possibly by a 'runner' from the

door)

From now til 12/4, the current stock will be run down.

Friends of the Folly – Start of Season Meeting - 28/1/08

7.30pm on Thursday 21st February at the Bowls Club, off Gravel Walk

The time has come again to meet and finalise the programme for the forthcoming season. We will be meeting in the Bowls Club off Gravel Walk, and the bar will be open for refreshments.

(Sunday 23rd March has been suggested as a suitable date to clean inside the Tower and to collect the rubbish in the woodland areas.)

Please come along on the night. If you are interested in joining Friends of the Folly but unable to attend please let me know.

edchriswilliams@aol.com

Re Green Boxes again ! - 27/1/08

I agree the collection people aren't perfect - but I was pointing out that there was rubbish blowing about on Friday well before they'd even arrived to start collecting.

On a windy day (as Friday was) blaming all the mess on them was unfair.

Walking a dog early in the morning you see all sorts - bin bags out the night before are often ripped open and bones, packets etc left around - I don't suppose the owners clear it up before the bin men arrive.

The same with green boxes - newspapers are often all over the place because they have been placed on top and uncovered.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Library . - 27/1/08

Being British (well most of us) we tend only to comment on things which upset us and remarks about things which don't are usually considered to be "bor.ing". However at the risk of being boring I would like to praise the staff of our public library.

During the past 12 months I have borrowed (and returned) more than 80 books. I didn't like one or two of them but being a reasonable man I don't really blame the staff for that. I also get uptight because I usually can't find anywhere to park without paying what some might describe as an insignificant amount of money (to me there is no such thing) but again the staff are not to blame.

And that's it. so ..Thank you Library staff for always being cheerful and helpful.

HGM

Re:Town Meeting. - 26/1/08

Small pedantic but important point. The meeting is a TOWN meeting and not a Town Council meeting (Monday 28th January 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange)

Jane Boulton

Speeding - 26/1/08

I'm glad to see that we are so filled with community spirit in Faringdon. I feel I need to point out that even the police need PROOF to demonstrate that a car is speeding - not just that they looked like they were. That is why they have speed guns and cameras onboard their vehicles. However, seeing a car entering a stretch of road to which car access is prohibited is not so subjective, and is easily proved with the aid of a simple everyday device - a camera!

It's disappointing to know that if we say we all speed, that makes it OK. It is still illegal - whether we like it or not, and those prosecuted, with suitable proof, should take it on the chin. The same applies to driving where you shouldn't.

I will agree that some people enter the road through confusion, but a large number of cars use this as a way to get

infront of "slower" cars (ie those keeping to a safe speed). I have no sympathy with people who endanger life this way. They take motorists coming down from the church end of Church St by surprise, and often do not even stop before turning up Church St, as they might then end up behind the cars taking the proper route, who are apparently hindering their progress. This behaviour is a danger to motorists and pedestrians alike, and is quite unlike the behaviour of a lost or confused driver.

So please, lets stop hiding behind excuses and agree that better signage would be helpful, but the current signs should not be allowed to be used as an excuse by people who quite obviously know better.
Anita van Eijndhoven

RE:recycling and mess - 25/1/08

In reply to the argument about people not packing the boxes correctly and things blowing around.

1) I followed the recycling lorry out of my street (as there was no way past in the car) about 2 weeks ago and I was shocked at the time. Without a doubt they were dropping litter everywhere, they were going so fast they were missing the wagon in there haste to empty boxes and then throwing boxes accross the street spilling reject material in the process. They simply go to fast and have complete disregard for the mess thay make.

2) If the general public can be fined for litter picking does the same not apply to waste collectors?

3) I assume that recycling collections are growing in size and waste collection diminishing in size. As a result most house holds now have 2 or more often 3 green boxes. I would question whether the green box scheme is fit for purpose these days. Personally I would prefer a recycling wheely bin or bins? This would help the waste collectors to acually collect more than they drop.

Name Supplied

re Green Boxes & Mess - 25/1/08

To be fair, if everybody put their rubbish in the boxes sensibly there wouldn't be so much rubbish everywhere.

I saw lots of bottles and papers blowing about well before they'd started their rounds.

If people put loose papers on top they are going to blow away. I always put the papers in a carrier bag on top of the bottles etc.

Also, if you have a lid - put it on !.

Name Supplied

Skate Park - 25/1/08

Look at the 'residential and commercial pdf' which is a composite view. The skate park is on the right hand side of Jespers Hill.

Sheila Donovan

The Skate Park will be located next to the new Cricket Field at the end of Stanford Road (in the extension to Folly Park). They are not shown on the plans linked in a previous comment as they are plans for the new business park at the end of Park Road (by the roundabout).

I think I'm right in saying that there should be a copy of the proposed plans for the housing development and Folly Park extension in the Council Offices if you want to see them.

Anna Marlow

Skate Park - 25/1/08

I have just been loking at the plans for Faringdon. I can't see the Skate Park, where is it going to be sited?

Name Supplied

Publicise the poor recycling service? - 25/1/08

I was just wondering if anything could be put into the Faringdon Folly regarding the terrible recycling service we get here.

The boxes are disgarded anywhere and half of the recycling always ends up down the road.
Name Supplied

In response to "Spring Clean the Town" - 25/1/08

I would like to say that our town is at its worst for litter on Fridays when the green boxes are collected.

The streets are covered in plastic bottles, paper etc which the recycling gang have dropped and left. They seem oblivious to any items that they drop. On a day like today - very windy - it is a nightmare. Pedestrians are being hit by flying litter and the sound of cars driving over plastic bottles is almost constant.
Jill Dean

Fed up with Friday litter - 25/1/08

I am fed up every Friday going to pick up the remains of my recycling that the recycling people couldn't be bothered to put on their lorry.

They try to cram 4 houses worth of recycling into one little box to empty on to the lorry - like that's going to work! Today they even dropped my box in to the busy road opposite my house!

When I asked if they were going to pick it up they said it wasn't their job!
I complained to the council but i'm sure that nothing will be done about it.

So maybe if everyone that wasn't happy with the service complained something would be done about it.

Name Supplied

Ed(GW): Anyone who feels the same try

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/website/how_to_get_in_touch/emailform.asp to email a complaint to the Waste Management team

Launderettes - 25/1/08

7 Oxford Rd, Abingdon; 66 Abingdon Rd, Oxford; 4 Cockcroft Rd, Didcot; 65 Hailey Rd, Witney; 37 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford; Manchester Rd, Swindon; 4 Covingham Sq, Swindon; 110 High St, Wootton Bassett.

It rather depends which direction you want to go!!
Jane Boulton

Litter pick - 24/1/08

Hear hear! I too am fed up with the mess. I will help. We could sort as we go and recycle what we can.

I find myself regularly picking up around my house and road but then venture out and am dismayed by what I see. Anybody else to help?

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) If someone contacts VWHDC(see link below) to help with organisation, I'll happily call for volunteers through this site

Faringdon Town Council Precept Meeting on Monday 28th - 21/1/08

The Town Meeting to consider the Precept will be held on Monday 28th January 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange

This is the meeting where the Town Council tell us what they are budgetting for in 2008/09. They do ask for views, but I'm not sure whether these are really taken on board - as the budget has to be set very soon after the meeting. It seems there is little time to make changes.

I could be wrong!!

Gene Webb

New business park - 23/1/08

Have a look at <http://www.four-twenty.co.uk/> if you want to find out more about this new business park
Name Supplied

Used Stamps - 24/1/08

In Martins is a box for used postage stamps. It is a charity for the blind.
Cleve Gibson
Ed(GW): Thanks Cleve

Spring Clean the town - 23/1/08

what the chances of getting together to spring clean the town.

i dont know about you lot, but i am fed up with rubbish, everwhere the town should get together in spring ,taking are dogs for a walk anywhere you can see lots of rubbish .

who knows about putting this into action.
i willing to put my time into this so long as other can guide myself.
Name Supplied

Ed(GW):Good idea -see [Need help with Community litter pick](#) on the VWHDC website

Laundrette - 21/1/08

Does anyone know where the nearest laundrette is to Faringdon please?

I am having a washing machine crisis !
Name Suppled

Used Stamps - 21/1/08

hi there
if you take used stamps to royal mail sorting office in swan lane me and my wife collect them. or post to r baker 20 chubbs lawn middle path crewkerne somerset ta188bh
Name supplied
Ed(GW) Thanks v much

Any events for the Town Guide? - 21/1/08

I am compiling a list of all events being held throughout 2008 for publication in a new Faringdon guide. Includes festivals, craft fairs, school fetes, plays, summer fairs, winter fairs, music etc.

If you are holding an event and wish to be included please send details to info@peluche.co.uk
David Reynolds

Doggy Walking Social Club - 21/1/08

Would your dog enjoy a walk with other dogs and their owners?

We have two puppies under seven months old that would benefit by socialising with other dogs.

This is a new club so bear with us in the early stages.
During the winter months we will meet on a Saturday morning at 9.15 at Badbury Woods, near Faringdon.

When the better weather arrives we plan to organise early evening walks and different venues in the area.

Call or email (see below) if you are interested.
There is no charge for this Club.

Sarah-Jane 07753 856446 doggywalkingsocialclub@fsmail.net

Oxfordshire Active Citizen's Award 2008 - 21/1/08

The purpose of the award is to recognise the people in Oxfordshire who make a difference.

Every area of the County relies on those who:

- Support those who because of age, illness or poverty need assistance,
- Work within their own communities giving time to run village halls or community centres
- Sit on school governing bodies or get involved in other unpaid ways with the work of the County Council
- Sit on the boards of trustees of organisations
- Give their time freely in many other ways to make Oxfordshire a better place.

Such people are often called volunteers.

The Award is set up not only to recognise their contribution but also to encourage others to become active citizens.

Awards will be given to people who fit into either one or several of the following 5 categories:

1. Long service
2. A young person under the age of 25 who has made an outstanding contribution
3. Work within their own community which has made a difference
4. Work through an employee volunteering scheme
5. In services provided by Oxfordshire County Council

Nominations can be made in writing to :

Chairman, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

Or email chairman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The letter must include the following information:

1. The person nominated with address and telephone number.
2. The name, address and telephone number of the person making the nomination.
3. A short paragraph telling us what the nominated person does and how it makes a difference. How long they have been doing it and if in the young person's category, their age.

Nominations will need to be received by 25th February 2008

Hi there Devil's Advocate- 21/1/08

No I would not tell pork pies of drivers speeding, but others could, This is why you can't have members of the public becoming police.

It is police's job not mine or yours or anybody, to take action against driving offences

Regards

Name Supplied

Used stamps - 21/1/08

Does anyone know anywhere in Faringdon that collects used stamps for charity??

Thanks

Gene Webb

Disposal of Garden Rubbish - 21/1/08

I wrote to VWHDC, as Davis' DIY have been told to stop selling green sacks. I have a very small garden, that does not warrant having a special bin, nor is there a suitable space for one. I suspect people who live in flats have the same problem.

This is their reply

'Thank you for your email.

Green garden waste sacks are currently still available to buy in some outlets. We will shortly be stopping the sale of

these bags and will be then changing to the new options for collection of garden waste. After this point, green garden waste sacks will still be collected with refuse and sent to landfill.

New smaller Brown Bins will soon be made available to residents for the collection of garden waste and cardboard, at the same annual charge of £29 a year. They are intended to help those residents who find the current 240 litre bin too big.

In very exceptional circumstances there will be a supply of biodegradable sacks available in quantities of 50 at the same price, but this will require a visit by our officers to establish suitability.

The new system will stop even more garden waste from going to landfill and instead allow us to compost as much material as possible. As well as helping the environment this will help us to meet even higher targets that are being set for the diversion of domestic waste from landfill.

If none of the options are suitable, perhaps you could consider getting a composter to deal with your garden waste at home, or using the Waste Reception Centres for garden waste disposal as and when you need to.

If you have any further questions or would like to order a bin, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Waste Management Vale of White Horse District Council Abbey House Abingdon 01235 520202 ext. 640 '

So it looks as if I will need to drive waste to Stanford tip(in my new car!!- and not carbon footprint friendly) or secrete it in a black bag.
Any other ideas??

Gene Webb

Problems with driver going up the bus lane - 21/1/08

eg telling pork pies get my point. Sorry I don't get the point.

Are you saying that you are prepared to tell lies about people speeding along Park Road, just for the fun of it?
Devil's Advocate

Bus Lane - suggestion - 20/1/08

I know some people deliberately use this lane as a short cut but I think it is very badly signposted. I know the area well as I've lived in the local for over 20 years but any visitor to Faringdon could well be confused as to whether the bus only section was to the left or right of the sign. It is not at all clear.

A driver coming to this sign comes upon it suddenly from a narrow winding section of road and has to make a snap judgement as to which is the legitimate direction to take, particularly if confronted by an oncoming car in the centre of the narrow road ahead.

Only when it is clearly signposted, perhaps even with another sign on The Volunteer end of the junction too, should action be taken against drivers who mistakenly drive up the bus lane.

Joan

More Offices - not needed- 20/1/08

Why more offices next to the Esso petrol station? Why is more land being used for offices.

The town does not need more offices. It does not bring employment, only puts more money in landowners pockets. There is empty offices at Wicklesham, some for more than 12 months. The same at RAC buildings and again at White Horse business park, SITV.

What we need is retail shops
Name supplied

Faringdon Artistic Skaters Demonstration - 19/1/08

January 26th 0915, Faringdon Leisure Centre.

Faringdon Artistic Skaters will be performing championship programs for 2008

Please come along and support these skaters from Faringdon, 10 of whom are preparing to skate at International level.
These mornings are to help them raise their standard of performance to an audience. A very important part of their training.

Also a presentation by Faringdon Chamber of Commerce after a successful charity ball.
Please come along and bring friends
Dee England

Problems with driver going up the bus lane - 19/1/08

just before everybody gets carried away with this problem. yes i know it is wrong. but before you all start calling the police . how many of you can be honest and say you dont speed ,or driven pass a road close sign due to flooding etc.

if i was outside my house in park road and reported ever driver rider for what i thought was going faster that the 30mph limit. how many of your car number plates would turn up.
i could not say that i dont speed ,so unless you can ,dont go reporting drivers, as i am sure you would not be chuffed to have 3 points on your licence just because i said you were speeding.eg telling pork pies get my point .
regards

Hello John Pettit! - 18/1/08

I'm not a cyclist but wanted to respond to your message (02.01.08) as there are not many of us Pettits in this neck of the woods. My (ex) husband's family were miners/gamekeepers on the Notts/Derbys border.

We haven't done any family history research but know there is at least one branch of the family in New Zealand. And my son Stephen is a keen mountain biker so maybe there's something in the genes!
Lynn Pettit

Hush Festival News - 18/1/08

An open air live music festival (Faringdon Hush Festival 2008) is being planned for this summer, over the weekend of 26th July. The venue is some fields within Church Path Farm, on the Northern edge of the town. The main performance and public areas are bounded to the West by Radcot Road, and to the South by Church Street and Church Farm Path.

Large camping and parking areas are planned for the West, South and East of Church Path Farm.

The aim is to have live music on two or three stages from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th, with some big (household) acts headlining, supported by some excellent breaking bands (probable names for the future), and a showcase of our own Faringdon talent.

We are rich for musical talent in this town, so let's sing about it. We are hoping to attract a crowd of 10,000, with significant media coverage. We are expecting the vast majority to take advantage of the camping facilities that will be provided on the site from Thursday 24th to Monday 28th.

[More information on this newsletter](#)

To book tickets or enquire about trading pitches: bookings@hushfest.co.uk

Martin Phillips

Ignoring no entry sign - 18/1/08

Since there was recently concern raised about drivers abusing the buses only stretch between the newsagents/post office and Old Town Hall, and because it is clear that the authorities will take no action on this, my suggestion is that offenders should be named and shamed.

SO to start the ball rolling - take down the make and registration of the car, the date and time, and a description of the driver and tell the police (08458 505 505)
its time to stand up and be counted.
Name Supplied

Faringdon Arts Festival seeks Performers and Artists - 18/1/08

Planning is well under way for this year's Faringdon Arts Festival which takes place over the weekend Friday 11th to Sunday 13th July.

We are currently planning events for the weekend and would like to hear from local artists and performers who would be interested in taking part in this year's event. Musicians, photographers, artists, dancers, performers....all are welcome to apply.

Now in its 5th successful year the Faringdon Arts Festival has become a hugely popular event for both audience and participants so if you are interested please contact us as soon as possible. You can contact me at info@peluche.co.uk or call 0771 421 8825.

David Reynolds
Festival Chairman

Music and Arts Venue to be Top Project from the 2007 - 17/1/08

Faringdon Healthcheck Faringdon Area Project recently hosted a well attended meeting in the Corn Exchange. The results of the 2007 Healthcheck were discussed and the projects that will go forward for funding applications were agreed. The most popular project by far was to provide a new Performance and Arts Venue for Faringdon that would include a Town Museum. This large project will join together many groups including the Faringdon & District Chamber of Commerce, Focus on Faringdon, a newly formed Museum group and all those involved with the provision of Arts and Music of which Faringdon is justly proud. Other ideas that will go forward to the next planning meeting include helping to set up a group of Volunteer Carers that would help to fill a perceived gap in the present provision and would provide recreational activities such as swimming and music.

There was a lot of support for returning Faringdon to "Great Faringdon". The Great has long since been dropped by organisations and residents alike. The Folly Trust was also well supported and these activists under the Chairmanship of Eddie Williams will continue the good work to promote the tower and to support the renovation work which is urgently needed. So also the need for cycle paths within Faringdon, extending to Shrivenham and South Marston and the Energy Group has opted for the education within the community promoting the need to reduce the Carbon Footprint. There is a need to provide a safer method of crossing the A420 southwards by foot, cycle and horse.

Daphne Saunders, Chair of Faringdon Area Project said, "There is still a great deal of work to be done and we hope to find funding for all of the wonderful projects that have arisen from the 2007 re-visit to the Healthcheck." A complete list of wishes will soon be available to all in the town library and by email.

Faringdon Area Project is looking for volunteers to help develop the ideas.
If you would like to know more please contact Jane Haynes on 08456 580 510 or email jane.haynes@bordengate.com

Calling all artists to start a new art project - any level welcome! - 16/1/08

Come to an introductory meeting at **10.00am on Thursday 7th February at Faringdon Junior School** to find out what it's all about.

You will be working with the school's art teacher and children to set up this ongoing inter-generational art project. Sessions will then take place weekly, starting on Thursday 28 February & continue until the end of term, resuming at the start of the following school term.

We really look forward to seeing you there for a fun morning of art! If you have not participated in a **Bridging the Gap** event before, or cannot attend this meeting but want to know more, please ring Pam on 01367 243478 before coming.

Also for more information and any help with transport please contact her. (Please note that this project will be held in the school's art room so not wheelchair accessible, sorry).
Enq: 01367 243478

"Have you got a lot of unwanted junk after Christmas? - 15/1/08

Need to make room to accommodate all those new gifts?

Well, if you're contemplating a Spring clean, bring your unwanted/surplus items to give away at the **Swap Shop at the Corn Exchange from 10am to 12 noon on 8th March:**

The idea is that, like the Vale of White Horse site on www.freecycle.org, anybody who likes the look of what you've got will take it off your hands. It's also a good opportunity for you to pick up something from them, FOR FREE- after all, one man's meat is another man's poison...

It's all designed to reduce the amount of rubbish Faringdon sends to landfill.

If you're interested in helping, we'll be meeting at **8pm on Thursday 24th January at 18 Fernham Road** - hope to see you there."

Andy Hayter

Festive Faringdon.....encore!! - 15/1/08

Perhaps those people quick enough to criticise the lights recently should be aware that the Tree lights were not broken, only unplugged by some ungrateful??? jealous???? scrooge???? person who does not appreciate how hard the council work to maintain the christmas lights and facilities in Faringdon.

Note to Denise.....I am a resident of Faringdon.

Name Supplied

Appalling service from the Post Office. - 14/1/08

In case anyone is interested I am now entering my 4th week with no phone service. The Post Office has not attempted to reconnect me and I have been told three separate stories about what is wrong with the line: the most probable this morning when I was told it had been "safed" and I would have to reapply for a phone.

As - see last post I have already done this a few times, I have now formally given up and applied to BT. I will have a new number and be connected on 4 Feb and may have to pay £124 if the engineer has to do anything.

Ofcom tells me that I now have to wait 12 weeks from the time I sent my letter of complaint and then I can apply to the Ombudsman - which is something called OTELO - interesting if you look it up.

I also found some very helpful people on a Consumer advice number - and Orange have given me a free month on broadband from February - as I am an esteemed customer!

So they aren't all as terrible as PO - Avoid!

Felicity Cormack

Folly Tower special opening - 14/1/08

338 people climbed the tower yesterday, and enjoyed the wonderful views of the surrounding area at night as well as the lovely effect of the pink light among the Folly trees

Over £350 was raised to go towards the roof repairs that are essential if the tower is to be preserved for the future

Keep an eye on www.faringdonfolly.org.uk - this website will gradually be populated with history, photographs, events- everything you would wish to know about our Folly

Eddie Williams

Folly Light and Festivals - 14/1/08

Firstly, a huge well done to the guy responsible for the Folly light. Sorry, I've forgotten your name but keep up the good work.

Secondly, does anyone know when the town council will be discussing the allocation of monies to fund the various festivals that occur in Faringdon?

With so many festivals now in the planning I think the various promoters should perhaps get together to see if they

can pool the resources.

Ray

ED(GW) Peter White is the man

Hush Festival July 2008 - 14/1/08

Here it is, [the long-awaited first acts listing for the Hush Festival \(see attachment\).....](#)

The listing will appear with pictures in a few weeks on the website, together with more details about the weekend.

All the £20 tickets have gone now, but there are still some £30 tickets left, so whisper the word quick!

Once the £30 tickets have gone the ticket price will go up again, and more (bigger name) acts will be announced.

Let's keep the momentum rolling, this should be big!

Martin Phillips

Coxwell Road etc. - 12/1/08

How do you feel about the Beechcroft development?

Why not come along to the meeting of Faringdon Association of Residents (**Monday 14 January, 7.30pm Old Town Hall**) to air and share your views about this and any other of your concerns, and find out about what's happening (or proposed) for our town.

Faringdon Association of Residents

Re The Volunteer - 12/1/08

Never believe hearsay.

If you live near the pub as you say, have you tried going in and asking.

The landlord will be glad to put you in the picture. Incidentally, an owners idea of what they want for a property can differ quite considerably from what they are allowed to do.

Jane Boulton

Volunteering in Folly Park. - 12/1/07

Thanks to those who expressed an interest but were unable to join Margaret, Alan and two Sheila's who managed another bit of boardwalk on Saturday 12 January.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with the little tasks, some of which are suitable for children. If enough people turn up next month there will be litter-picking, repairing (or probably re-building) the willow structure and removing or cutting the saplings that are growing in the lichen patch. We will also build another section of the boardwalk. Risk assessment, tool-handling and health & safety guidance are always carried out. Tools (including long-handled litter-pickers), gloves, tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

Next meeting on Saturday 9th February.

Further information and contact details on our website

<http://oxnet.org.uk/follypark>

Plans for Volunteer? - 12/1/08

i seem to remember a few months ago one of the talking points on this page was the planned 'closure' of The Volunteer pub in the town centre. Has anything been settled because i live close by to this pub and if anything it seems busier than ever and in no way shows signs of closing in the near future.

I did hear that it was being renovated into flats.

Does anyone know anything about this project?

Name Supplied

Dropped kerb - 11/1/08

The dropped curb opposite the entrance to Sudbury House was put in to enable people in wheelchairs to cross the road safely on their way to Sudbury House.

Without it, people in wheelchairs have to be pushed up the hill in the road. London Street at that point has a severe sideways gradient, so steering a wheelchair is also difficult. Traffic is fast and dangerous. There is a perfectly good pavement which has a level gradient, but without a dropped curb the pavement could not be used.

John Gillman

and

Re dropped kerb.

Sudbury House is opposite and therein lies the clue. If you are in a wheelchair and wish to go to or from SH and town, the pavement on SH's side finishes before it gets there.

Jane Boulton

Ed(GW) Thankyou -sounds a good reason. I wanted to say - and clearly benefits the Sudbury House business as well - so perhaps they paid for it- but decided not to!! I wonder where else in the town such dropped kerbs are deemed essential

Makes Sense To Me.. - 10/1/08

In light of a movement for Jeremy Clarkson to become PM I believe its time that our Dave Reynolds applied for the position of Faringdon Mayor (no comparison implied).

I think it makes perfect sense, all those in favour please post here, it may just encourage him to do it..

Andy (Patyra)

If you can't beat'em, join 'em ! - 10/1/07

David's comment on the historical background to the Coxwell Road developments was a timely reminder of what can happen.. But of even more interest is the fact that before he joined the campaign a petition of over 300 names was organised objecting to the proposal.

What's so interesting about that you may well ask ?

The answer is that the address of one of the three original objectors was 26 Coxwell Road.

Now known as The Beechcroft Development

HGM

Faringdon Folly on BBC TV Friday 11th- 9/1/08

Faringdon Folly and the light will be featured in **BBC One TV South Today from 6.30 to 7.00pm Friday 11th Jan**
Don't miss it

The opening of the tower on Sunday 13th, 4pm - 8pm will be mentioned. Go up the tower while the splendid pink light is lit.(Bring a torch)

Eddie Williams

The mystery of the dropped kerb opposite Sudbury House - 9/1/08

It looks new - but why is it there? There is no gateway only an old stone wall

Gene Webb

Volunteering in Folly Park - 8/1/08

Meet by the Pond in **Folly Park 11am Saturday 12 January 2008**

Are you strong, handy with a hammer or would like to spend some time in the fresh air?

Friends of Folly Park are building a boardwalk over some boggy ground at the top of the park and need all the help we can get. So if you have 1-3 hours spare today come along at 11.00 hours, suitably dressed (warm clothes and wellies recommended), to help us finish this project and/or help with maintenance tasks in the Park.

Further information and contact details on our website: www.oxnet.org.uk/follypark
Sheila Donovan

Coxwell Road developments - 8/1/08

Some time ago I voiced my concerns about development of infill land in Faringdon. I suggested that if the destruction of a house on Coxwell Road to build a development of up to 15 houses was given approval it would open a floodgate of applications for the wholesale destruction of perfectly habitable houses all over town.

I now notice that are THREE developments of this nature along Coxwell Road (and the original one I opposed has yet to start!).

Wasn't wrong, was I?
David Reynolds

Cycling at Badbury Clump - 7/1/08

We have spoken to the NT many times and they are very happy to allow mountain bikers at the clumps. Some of their staff even had a go down the tracks!!

The track was built by the Swindon based ATB shop to whom the NT gave permission so that the tracks are maintained. Judging by the amount of use the track receives this is a reflection on the massive support this sport has.

Badbury clumps is already on many MTB websites-but the only people who use it are locals (as its so small)but anyone is more than welcome. Whenever i am there i have people asking all about the sport and often hang around to watch.

Bring your bike and have a go!!
Name Supplied

Beechcroft development, Coxwell Road - 7/1/08

I was really surprised to see that the line of the new build is in front of the building line of properties either side. I thought planners were meant to preserve such things, to maintain the character of the street/area. Doesn't look as if the building materials have been chosen to fit in with existing properties either.

Then I thought - why am I surprised - I must have some residual hope that planners/councils will look after our town

I mustn't make that mistake again!
Name Supplied

Faringdon on BBC Countryfile - 7/1/08

Yesterday, Lord Berners Faringdon House and our Folly where the focus of BBC's CountryFile.

If you missed CountryFile you can now watch it again on BBC iplayer
(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/page/item/b008nk73.shtml>)

Do not forget.... The Folly 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.

Entrance to the Folly is only £1. This pound will go towards a building fund for essential repair work to the roof.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are planning on visting the Tower you should bring a torch for the path up to the Tower. The inside of the tower has lights.
Raoul van Eijndhoven

Phone Connection - 07/1/08

If the reconnection of a phone requires a visit from an engineer, how is a disconnection managed without one??

name supplied

BT- appalling service - 6/1/08

I too am having phone connection problems.

It took something like 4 calls to cancel a service, 7-8 to get a new service started (excluding those I gave up waiting)- often they couldn't find the property, or they couldn't find the cancelled service.

Information I was given varied - it would cost nothing as all apparatus etc was in place, it would take 7 days, it would take 2 days, I could keep the same number - and finally

and finally it needed an engineer to visit. and a different number was given.

I got the impression that different people had access to different systems that gave conflicting information about the service

Now I have a bill for connection of £125, when the line had been working a couple of weeks earlier

I rang to query this yesterday and spoke to the billing dept(sounding as if it was India) and was told that all connections cost £125. As I have an email saying it only costs that if apparatus needs to be installed or a gap of 3 months without a service has elapsed, I objected, and was promised a call back that day or at the latest by the end of today.

4 hours to go and no call

I am gearing myself up to complain. The chairman is Sir Michael Rake- the only address I can find is BT Group plc, BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ - unless someone knows better/different

If I could charge for my wasted time, it would be enough to go on holiday for a fortnight!!

Gene Webb

Post Office Home Phone - appalling service!!!! - 05/01/08

I had two phone lines to my property. One of them was for my lodger. I asked the company to terminate the lodger's line, when he left, but apparently they terminated both lines by mistake.

22nd December My phone wouldn't receive or make calls. I telephoned Post Office Homephone and I was told there was a fault on the line, and it would be rectified by 24th December.

24th December. It was not rectified. I rang them but there was no reply

28th December. I emailed them, with no reply.

29th December. I made several calls and was passed from department to department between 11am and 3.30 pm. I was assured that I would hear from the technical department (Darren) at 12.30pm precisely on 30th Dec.

30th December. No phone call from the technical department at 12.30.

At 1.50 pm I called them. I asked them to ring back as I was having to ring on my mobile phone. By 2pm there was no reply, I rang again but there was a queue so I rang off. 3pm I rang again. Still a call queue so I rang off. 5.50 pm I got through and was passed over, I was told, to a manager, (Kirsty). She told me however that she was not a manager. She promised to ring back immediately, but failed to do so. 6pm I sent a second email detailing the total lack of progress so far

31st Dec 12noon I rang from a friends house and I was passed from department to department again. I sent another email. I had no reply.

02nd Jan I spoke to Mark. He said I had to sign up again in order to get my phone reconnected. He says he will phone next day at 9am.

03rd Jan No phone call 6pm I speak to Kurt. Kurt says he remembers me from 29th December. I am passed to John who says he will ring later when the new line is set up. No later phone call. My internet access is also terminated at this point.

04th Jan 8am. In desperation I contact BT. Who said they would set up a new line within two days

05th Jan I use a friend's computer to look at my email. (below, sic.)

Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2008 16:32:06 +0100 (CET)

Dear felicity, I have contacted are sales team and they have advised that you will need to call the post office help line on 0845 600 3210 and sign up again. I apologise for this but it is the only way round it.

05 Jan Evening. I still have no phone and no internet access. I have just phoned again. I am waiting for someone - from a call centre? to ring me back. I am not holding my breath .

Someone has now rung me back. Apparently they cannot reconnect me, as they cannot log in my correct postcode....So just how have they been managing to send my bills all this time??

Just so you know how 'Post Office Home Phone' treats its customers.

Felicity Cormack

Healthcheck meeting - 10/1/08, 6.30pm, Corn Exchange - 4/1/08

Just a quick reminder – the next, and final, Healthcheck Open Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th January 2008 from 6:30pm in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon.

At this meeting, the two major projects will be decided upon. Faringdon Area Project needs your support – we need to get as many people as we can to come along to help make this decision.

Even if you are not able to attend please tell your friends and family in case they would like to come!

I look forward to seeing you there

Jayne Haynes

Have I missed something? -4/1/08

I and the majority of our customers, local and from afar, have said how nice Faringdon looked this Christmas. We say, well done!! to all concerned, a clean and well-balanced display not overblown glitz. Neverland decorations should be kept to be displayed in never land.

Thanks again to all those who have the thankless task of trying to keep the majority happy while getting the back lash from the apathetic. ..

Oh and Happy New Year to all who helped us celebrate our 16th Christmas in the wonderful medieval Faringdon market place.

Jo, Andy and Muz Boston

Festive Faringdon THIS HAS TO BE A JOKE!!!! - ----- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - 4/1/08

To the people who complain and havn't the guts to put their name to their convictions. May I suggest you join one of the committees, or communicate with the relevant people with your suggestions.----- Maybe at the same time let us know your ideas via this blog -- in good time!!

As another thought, the nation is in turmoil because it can't get labour during the Christmas break to fix the rail network! Can you imagine a gang coming out to fix our lights!!! Most probably that would be beyond your comprehension!

To the organisers, perhaps as there has been suggestions regarding other operators in the town, whether local politics is involved, alternative suppliers are found. I was most surprised to see the lights being erected in November and was told it was because "It was the only time they could fit us in"!

I thought the lights were very good, especially in the square.

Whatever is done, it is always a thankless task and being a nation of moaners and non producers, welcome to the New Year.

Who wants Christmas lights anyway!!!! HUMBUG! -----

Ian Smith

Dog Walker in Faringdon Area - 3/1/08

It has been brought to my attention that there is a problem in the area with dog walkers thinking that they can wander wherever they like. Going back to the Folly issue, with it being ploughed up, I even heard a dog walker complain that her dog was getting dirty due to the mud??

Please stick to footpaths as it gives us dog owners a bad name

Name supplied

Cycling in Badbury Clump - 3/1/08

It has been said that mountain bikers can use the Clump. I would just like to point out that NT does not allow this, and this should not be highlighted as a place to go biking

Name supplied

Junior Triathlon - 3/12/07

The junior triathlon club at Faringdon Leisure Centre Soll Leisure has now changed hands.

Training times are still the same 1200 - 1400hrs every Saturday.

Website address is www.valetridents.co.uk

We are still interested in any sponsors we currently have none. Club has 25 members we are always looking for qualified volunteers and athletes to join. Club fees are minimal £20 per year club subs and £4 for a 2 hour professional session by BTA coaches.

David Zimmer

headcoach@valetridents.co.uk

Funding Surgeries in Faringdon - 5/1/08

Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action- are holding surgeries in Faringdon at which community and voluntary organisations can speak to a funding advice worker and use the FunderFinder program to identify grant-making trusts.

Wednesday 23rd January

Wednesday 20th February

Wednesday 19th March

Brunel House, Volunteer Way, SN77YR, 10.00am to 1.00pm

If you would like to make an appointment please contact Susie Griffith on 01865 251946 or email

funding@ocva.org.uk.

OCVA's mission is to enable a diverse voluntary and community sector to flourish in Oxfordshire. We provide advice, information and training, and build partnerships for community groups and organisations.

To find out more about us, please visit our website www.ocva.org.uk or call the office on 01865 251946.

Local cycling . - 3/1/08

There is a CTC section in Wantage who have several excellent local rides and events through the year

<http://www.wantagectc.org.uk/>

I would be keen to join a local ride from Faringdon in the evenings or weekend, either on my road bike or off road once my mountain bike is back in action.

Let me know if you organise something or have other interest.

Andrew Roberts

Ed(GW) John's email address is now with his post

Festive Faringdon? I don't think so!!! - 3/1/08

Well Denise its was nice to see all the town's Christmas lights actually working for New years day. But come

Thursday night two days later and two thirds of the town lights are broken again!!.
The Christmas tree, Marlborough street and London street. Are not working.

I cant believe that you think this is anymore than an embarrassment to all your groups hard work and a really poor show for all the People in Faringdon. It must be time to get rid of the cowboys who are installing our lights and get some one who knows what they are doing.

From speaking with one of the shops keepers in London street and from reading from this web site I understand that we have our own very capable Christmas light installer in the town. Faringdon Electrical Services Who I also think has something to do with the Folly Light. I have also read that they have offered to install the Christmas lights in the town FREE OF CHARGE.

Have you seriously considered there offer ?.
Name Supplied

Message for Thomas Collett - 2/12/07

In reply.

Another member of your family, going back to that time has written to me in the last 6 months. Perhaps I can introduce you both!

Yes, you are very welome.

The original part of one up one down is still very visible, for 6 kids plus parents!!
Ian Smith

John Pettit. - 2/1/08

There are many cyclists in Faringdon, im amazed that you have missed them.

Head to Badbury clumps at the weekends as there is a few XC (cross country) tracks, three Downhill tracks and a rideable mountain borders track.

As for starting a club-this is always difficult as aspirations, speeds and skills differ so greatly.
Name Supplied

Music update? - 2/1/07

Could anyone tell me

1. Why the Crown has cancelled all Sam Prince's gigs?
2. If, more than a year down the line, there has been any movement on the Corn Exchange sound-proofing?

I think we should be told ...
Mark Harrison

Faringdon Area Project PUBLIC MEETING 6.30pm, Thursday January 10, 2007

at Corn Exchange in Faringdon.

Local food in Faringdon schools?

An annual arts & music festival?

Low-carbon public transport?

Closed Circuit TV?

Zero-carbon housing?

An arts & theatre centre?

More & better car parking?

Promotion as a tourist destination?

You are invited to help make Faringdon a better place to live.

For pensioners and those on benefits who attend FAP will be providing FREE low energy light bulbs. Help Faringdon

reduce its carbon footprint!

For more information or to become a volunteer, please call Jane Haynes on 08456 580 510

A Fantastic Evening - 2/1/07

New Year's Eve at the Crown was a fantastic night of musical talent and good humoured fun.

Thanks to the big, and I mean big, band of Jon Lane and Boogie Me with guest artists who put on a fantastic couple of sets of rhythm and blues and also the extremely talented Tom Corneill playing his guitar and singing his and others songs.

A terrific night out. Who says we can't enjoy ourselves?

Congratulations to Sam and her staff at the Crown. That's more like it!

John Belushi.

Local Cyclists - 1/1/08

I have now been living in Faringdon for seven great months but am starting to wonder where all the cyclists are in the town?

I mountain bike and also go on the occasional road ride.

Are there any cyclists out there who could join me now and again?

How about setting up a cycling group?

Contact me through this site if you are interested

John Pettit

john@vortok.co.uk

Ed(GW): There are cyclists around, so a local group would be great- especially(for me) if there was a softies sub section!!

dear jane - 29/02/08

What we need in faringdon is retail business.

The town can stick its head in the sand for another twenty years, and come up and it will still be the same lots of private business, but nowhere for the town to buy anything, where are the new 600 to 700 hundred households going to buy food?. Not from the small supermarket in the town .

When i worked for scats the town council turned down scats a retail licences to trade out of what is now Bray Health, so in turn they bought the old railway station which turned out to be too small for the company and its vision for growth. So we lost a rural business in a rural town, because the town council would not let it have a retail business licence.

The area to side of the esso needs to be retail, to attract some of big players into town. look at Wantage ,and how it has moved with the times. I would myself have been intrested in setting up a garden centre and animal feed store in the town ,if i could have located a good site with retail, but they are few and far between in the town. and with my knowledge of the scats problems i was put off from even to try
yours sincerely

SIMON COOK

Re. Jane Boulton's comment: - 29/02/08

'There are a lot of people who live in this town who use it as a dormitory whilst commuting to Oxford & Swindon. They don't contribute, and they aren't interested.'

I wasn't aware, when I moved to Faringdon, that working outside of town prevented one from taking an interest in local events/issues.

Like many people, I use the (infrequent and often unreliable) bus service to commute daily. I consider it important to support public transport services to prevent rural towns from becoming inaccessible to anyone without a private vehicle.

I do all food shopping locally: this includes an early morning dash to the market on a Tues for fruit and veg before the 7.29 bus into Oxford. When possible, I buy gifts, cards, household/DIY items etc locally, but, sadly, this is about the extent of Faringdon's shopping experience (!). I regularly go out in town , including supporting local restaurants and those few local music events that have survived despite the actions of a few, fun-fearing residents. Hence, I spend a not-insignificant proportion of my disposable income locally.

It might be wise to consider that younger, newer residents (such as myself) moved to Faringdon DESPITE the paucity of local goods and services: we cannot be held responsible for the demise of businesses over the past decades. I for one whole-heartedly support any new business/entertainment opportunity in the town. It is important to see mixed-use development, rather than endless residential properties thrown up without consideration of the need for appropriate infrastructure to support these new homes and encourage residents to participate in town life.

The point I would like to make is simple: like many others, I WORK in Oxford, but I LIVE in Faringdon. Kindly refrain from assuming that, just because I'm not fortunate enough to work within walking distance of my house, I don't care about the future of Faringdon. Voicing contempt for the residents of the town you claim to care about is neither appropriate nor acceptable, can only cause offence and will not encourage residents to become involved in local issues.

name supplied

Saturday morning cycling - 29/02/08

Is there anyone interested in meeting in the square on Saturday mornings (9-ish?) on road bikes? I was thinking about 25-40 miles in 3-3.5 hours. I imagine there is a bit more safety in numbers and the possibility of a lemonade back in the square afterwards

Mark Harrison

To Simon Cook - 29/02/08

I read with interest your comments about the number of business units available in the town.

As Secretary of the Faringdon & District Chamber of Commerce I am often asked if I know what business facilities are available in the town. There are several people I know of at present who are looking for office space and I would really like to know where these places are so that I can point them in the right direction.

You are very welcome to come and talk to me about this and you can contact me on 08456 580 510.

Jane Haynes

To: Simon Cook. - 29/02/08

Thankyou for posting. I'm really pleased that you are interested in what is going on. There are a few small business units going up, I wish them luck. We need more employment in Faringdon. But the majority of the development is the Bloor Homes estate with its skate park etc. which will be a major boon to the town. We have some important issues going on at the moment and we really need as many people as possible to attend the Town Meeting. You will be welcomed.

Jane Boulton

to jane boulton - 28/02/08

For your info i am real i was born eaton hastings grown up in sitv and lived in faringdon for last ten years. i have a real intrest in faringdon. the reason i ask about the bussiness devolpment in faringdon. is i cant see the need . for one i know all the ins and outs. of how well bussiness are doing ,and what is empty and whats not. due to fact that i am a postie in town and delivery to park road firms . yours sincerly simon cook

ps jane Boulton, I know about the homes being built, and can understand why. I was asking about the firms not the homes, Why do we need them? As you pointed out yourself, most of the town works in Swindon, Oxford, London, So why build units which will remain empty? I would post a list of empty units, but the mods of the forum would remove it. I dont know why.

I am a genuine person who wants genuine answers, not to be accused of not being genuine. No wonder others are put off posting, as soon as somebody posts something that others don't like, they get accused of Lord of the Flies, etc.

I will try to get to the next town meeting.

Simon Cook

Worthy Harry - 28/02/08

When the worthy Harry goes to Davies DIY does he stand next to the window waving one arm and one leg out.

Seamus O'Hodge
The Woolly Mammoth

Private Property. - 28/02/08

In reponse to Mel Lane. Can I suggest that you write to the Landowner, making them aware that the building is dangerous, and that it is causing damage to you're property.

Give them a period of two months to make repairs sufficient to remove the dangers and restore your wall to its previous condition. Also advise that if nothing is done you will seek resolution.

If nothing is done you then have the framework for taking the matter further with your solicitor should you wish.

Unfortunately this is likely to involve taking the matter through the courts. By making them aware that there is imminent

danger as a result of their negligence, if God forbid someone is injured they cannot claim ignorance.
I sympathise with your position.

Devils Advocate.

HARRY'S WORTH - 28/02/09

I may not agree with what you say Harry, but I would defend to the death your right to say it. As we all know you never let facts get in the way of a good argument. I do agree though that Davis Homecentre is a good place for you and I to go verbal paintballing, a sort of cumudgeony trolly dash for the mind.

Jim Horton

Re: Development near Folly Park. - 28/02/08

Dear anonymous poster. I'm really intrigued to know if you are real.

There are a lot of people who live in this town who use it as a dormitory whilst commuting to Oxford & Swindon. They don't contribute, and they aren't interested. The development you are enquiring about has been the subject of a lot of interest. It has been widely publicised and will bring a lot of much needed cash to the town.

I suggest you google Bloor Homes and Faringdon. I really do hope that you are asking this because you have an interest in the future of Faringdon. Please attend the Annual Town Meeting on 28th April at 7.30 pm

Jane Boulton

Development in Park Road - 27/02/08

the work behind the rac estate is surprize surprize more unwanted firms buildings. why are the council letting more business units be built. gods knows.

can anybody shed any light on this subject.

name supplied

HGM v JH - 27/02/08

Jim and I disagreeing in what we would both agree is the best DIY store in Oxfordshire ? Surely not ! Both of us are gentle, peace loving individuals ever ready to turn the other cheek (Metaphorically) and the discussion we were having occurred merely because Jim, quite mistakenly of course, THINKS he is always right and I KNOW I am.

By the way Joan. I'm sorry your Moped didn't turn up. But, despite the negative attitude, the comment from MGH will have been welcomed by many nervous posters because it proves that intelligence is not a prerequisite for a few moments of glory on this website.

HGM

Work Placement in France - 27/02/08

G rard Ganivet, one of our colleagues in the Twinning Association, is looking for a young person for a period of work experience in his company in France. He is looking for a young person with an interest in business, e.g. someone who could be following a business course, with basic French language skills.

There are English speaking people in the team with whom the young person would be working. The company will have a web site available from the end of February on <http://www.faringdon.org/http://www.dmhfrance.com>.

The proposed programme for the work experience is: First week, familiarisation; observing the business in order to understand the products and the team. The work will then entail using E-mail and telephone to look for suppliers in India, and asking for requests for quotations; searching for potential customers using E-mail and telephone (undertaking market analysis on the United Kingdom).

Duration: about one and a half months.

Dates: June and July, to be arranged at mutual convenience.

Location: Nantes. Remuneration: the amount has not yet been decided.

Accommodation: this will depend on the dates.

Further information is available directly from Gérard Ganivet: E-mail gerard.ganivet@wanadoo.fr

Mike Wise Dr Mike Wise, Downham, Canada Lane, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 8AR Tel 01367 240597

Re: Heavy lorries - 27/02/08

Yes! I live on the Lechlade Road near the humps and have noticed a huge increase in lorries going through recently - making everything shake and rattle!

sue englefield

Did the Earth Move for You? - 27/02/08

I was spooked to feel the very definite earth tremor in Faringdon just before 1am today. I was working at my desk at home and was rather taken aback when things on it started to wobble for a few seconds!

How many other people felt it?

Martin Long

Tree Spoiling - 27/02/08

A council contractor hacked at the trees at the top of marlborough close as well, leaving what was a nice green bushy hedge in a complete state.

Again it just happened and no one knows why, no one wanted it and what a mess.

Hopefully the stumps will recover in a couple of years.

Further down the street there is a tree leaning across the pavement that wheel chairs for example can't pass and all they do is trim one side of it leaving it odd shaped to miss the wires. Now that tree people do want cutting down but will they do it... no. I would vote for a local law requiring the planting of 2 native trees in Faringdon for every one removed in a public space.

name supplied

Moped - 27/02/08

In reply to MGH, unfortunately the moped has not been recovered yet but it cheered me to read HGM's comments.....thanks.

Joan

LORD OF THE FLIES? - 27/02/08

Fear not everyone, salvation is at hand, why only today Jim Horton and Harry (HGM) was spotted in Davis Home centre having a disagreement, hopefully it will spill over onto this site again bringing back some much needed humour, ah! spring is indeed coming, come on you old war horses, saddle up!!

name supplied

Faringdon Calendar - 27/02/08

I'm currently putting together next years Faringdon 2009 calendar. I thought it would be a nice idea to include local photographs by local people. I'm looking for 12 different shots, one for each month. Under each photograph used the photographer will be given credit with telephone number / email address if required.

Please email any photographs you would like to be considered to mailto:tic@faringdowntowncouncil.org.uk or bring

them into the Information Centre.

Sally Thurston
Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre

Development near Folly Park - 27/02/08

Does anyone know what the development is that seems to be happening near folly park and how far it is going to extend. I presume it to be some sort of industrial estate given the location but cannot find any information on planning websites?

name supplied

Private Property! - 27/02/08

It amuses me that the the might of health and safety can ban kids playing conkers, chop healthy trees down in case it gets struck by lightening and deem it illegal to be sold hayfever medication between the hours of 1 and 2pm but allow a crumbling wreck of a derelict barn, merrily shedding its roof tiles, infested by rats, regularly broken into by yoofs, leaking water through broken guttering and damaging a 10 foot wall on a public street, attracting forementioned yoofs as a place to hang about (each to their own) - and yet nothing can be done because its on private property despite it bordering my home, damaging my wall, risking my family's health with loose roof slates as well as plague from the rats!

Wish some overzealous council official would take it over! Private landowners - they're my issue...

Mel Lane

In fear for our lives? - 25/02/08

Looks like we may be another community suffering from the effects of the litigious society we now sadly live in. Many councils are removing trees because of health and safety concerns - they worry that someone might sue if a leaf dares to fall on their head (well something like that!) It really is tragic. Before we know it we'll have to remove roofs from buildings for fear of tiles falling on heads in a breeze and as for that Folly, well it's death trap surely? Lets face it someone might bump into it, better take it down!
The world has gone mad!

Anna

Trees In Lansdown Road - 24/02/08

A friend of mine has asked me to post this on the site as she does not have a computer. She says: Why are they cutting trees down in Lansdown Road? They are such lovely trees, especially in Spring and Autumn.

Sheila Price

I also live in Lansdown Road and could not agree with her more. What precisely was the matter with this particular tree which the surgeon described as lovely and with the highlighting of all things green, why were the residents of Lansdown Rd. not informed/consulted with regards to its demise?
We keep trying to plant more trees throughout the world - why kill them?

Hilary Prince-Braunton

Faringdon Twinning Association - 22/02/08

On Sunday 20th April (evening) to Saturday 26th April (morning) we will be visited by a group of French children from our twin town of Le Mele in Normandy.

If you are interested in hosting 1 or 2 French children please do contact me as soon as possible.

This is an excellent opportunity for your children to improve their own French, make new friends and possibly return and visit Le Mele in July.

We will be taking a group of Faringdon Children over to Le Mele on 19th July to 26th July.
Many thanks

Carolyn Murphy 01367 240698 / 01235 225823 / 07798 468 532

Hush... - 22/02/08

Hush, is it Slushed?

Sam Prince

Those were the days - 22/02/08

'Lord of the Flies' syndrome?? I must agree. A year ago or so I would visit this web site on a daily bases and enjoy the debate, not always posting but very interested. Often I did not agree with what was being said, but it was usally well worth a read. But it seems those days have gone!

name supplied

Heavy lorries - 21/02/08

It might be my imagination but over the past few weeks there seems to have been a noticeable increase in the number of very large transport lorries travelling down Park Road and Gravel Walk towards Lechlade? Anyone else noticed?

David Reynolds

Pay at Pump - 20/02/08

I used this system to pay for fuel last week. There was a sticker on the pump stating that the £59 will be reserved from your account. You could always pay in the shop - which will have shorter queues as an alternative.

name supplied

'Lord of the Flies' syndrome?? - 20/02/08

This board used to be a lovely friendly board with good discussions going and full of good advice and info for all us Faringdonians. However (in my opinion), lately when anyone posts, there is uncalled for nastiness and back-biting, which naturally puts anyone off posting and probably reading. I certainly have been put off posting and when I do, I use name supplied because of responses.

Is there any chance we could get back to be being the lovely forum we used to be?

name supplied

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH...HAS IT WORKED ? - 20/02/08

Five days have now gone by since HGM posted his sleuthing idea. So has he any idea if the stolen moped's been found yet....or is he still sitting around telling people what they should be doing ?

MGH

re pay at pump - 20/02/08

The same thing happened to me and I would like to warn people that it took them 4 days to clear the £10 of fuel I had-while 'auto auth' withheld £59.

name supplied

Pay @ Pump Petrol - 19/02/08

A warning if you use the 'pay @ pump' system at the petrol station in Faringdon.

The company don't just reserve the amount of money in your account that you spend on petrol (this is what happens before a payment goes through), they reserve the maximum amount of money that you can spend on your card (it tells you how much when you put your card into pay at the pump) until the payment goes through.

So in my case I put in £25 worth of petrol but they reserved £60 out of my account until the payment had gone through.

name supplied

Pop-Wreck - 15/02/08

Hi Neil, Ive got an ad on partysounds if you'd like to contact me through there with some more info about your band.

Emma

Pop-Wreck! - 15/02/08

(a name possibly familiar from numerous 'musicians wanted' websites) still need a lead singer. Male or female, we don't mind..in fact, let's have both....preferably not too young or old (we're about 28 on average,)and somebody who doesn't want to sound too much like anybody else.

Expect initially to encounter a melodic racket reminiscent of Morrissey mugging the Primitives, but moving off pretty sharpish in its own direction...and if you've never heard of the aforementioned, you're probably too young to be replying to this...or too old to care.

Neil 01865 823374

Traffic Hazards in Coxwell Road/Street- Continued - 15/02/08

Forget the drivers on Cowell Rd/Street, What about the Residents? I live in the Old Health Centre so have the pleasure of living next door to one of the developments taking place.

For all the drivers who think having to drive round the builders vehicles is bad enough, try having them constantly blocking your driveway with their vehicles or deliveries, or when it is 'clear' having vehicles parked so close to the driveway that you take your life into your hands pulling out.

SO PLEASE CAN ALL THE DRIVERS THAT GIVE ME A FILTHY LOOK OR HONK THE HORN OR FLASH THEIR LIGHTS AT ME WHEN I HAVE TO PULL OUT REALLY SLOWLY, SO I DONT CRASH, GIVE IT A TRY NEXT TIME!

Alice Teasdale

Neighbourhood Watch - 15/02/08

In an ideal world our Police Station would be manned 24/7. We would see policemen/police women patrolling our streets and catching Boy Racers, Illegal Parkers, inconsiderate drivers and litter louts. Teenagers, smartly dressed, would crowd into Youth Clubs instead of hanging around the Town Centre and given the opportunity they would help Little Old Ladies across the street. It would be Utopiaor an Orwellian Police State depending on your point of view

But it isn't going to happen and all most of can do is use this website to complain about the inadequacies of those we feel should be responsible. The complaints do very little good but they do make us feel better. But for once we could all participate in a bit of amateur sleuthing. Somewhere in Faringdon there is a Stolen Moped. It may have been stolen by an international gang and now be on its way to Dubai but I doubt it. It's Purple, not everyone's choice of colour, it's worth very little (except to the legal owner) and with a following wind it might be capable of breaking the speed limit down Coxwell Road so it is hardly the type of transport which would be favoured by the average job.

So just this once, instead of writing comments on this site how about keeping an eye open for a metallic purple Honda SFX 50, registration number OY02 WCO and if you see it call 07791935066. I'm sure Joan will refund the cost of your call.

HGM

Stolen Moped - 14/02/08

My daughter's moped was stolen from Marlborough Street this afternoon (Thursday). Has anyone seen it, please? It is a **metallic purple Honda SFX 50, registration number OY02 WCO**. If you know where it is can you please call me on 07791935066.

Joan

TRAFFIC HAZARDS IN COXWELL STREET/ROAD - 13/02/08

While I sympathise with the owner of the smashed MG and others in London Street, can I turn your attention to the current ridiculous situation for drivers in Coxwell St/ Road.

Starting from the Fernham Road end, there are currently no less than four potential hazards all down to greedy property developers, namely:-

*The demolished bungalow between Fernham and Highworth roads where I am sure they will soon be excavating the tarmac to lay drains or at least laying mud on the road from delivery lorries diggers etc.

*The development site on the right just past Highworth Road where the road is currently part-blocked by safety barriers round road excavations - safety for the workers maybe but not for passing motorists

*The site next to the old Health Centre where the hazard is not only large delivery lorries on a regular basis but ever-growing fleets of builders vans, "flash mo'ers" and half cab trucks which monopolise a stretch getting on for a couple of hundred metres of parking now.

*Finally the former electrical retail shop on the right near the hoarding and opposite the former Eagle pub where an unlit skip has been plonked in the road to add to the "fun" for drivers trying to negotiate their way through this latest chicane.

Quite frankly at most times driving down Coxwell Street/Road at present is pretty much like taking a ride on the fairground dodgems. Now here's a couple of suggestions to the powers that be.

1 Why not insist that all the builders vehicles park in the under-utilised library car park -(and clamp or tow away to the Police pound those that don't)which would mean that the workers might, heaven forbid, have to walk to the job and so take the opportunity to reduce beer bellies etc - not that I am compartmentalising people of course !

Alternatively:

2 Why not just completely close the road off for a year or two while everyone who wants to along this stretch sells off their gardens for housing, allowing time for all the work to be completed and all the hazards to disappear ? By the way, for what it's worth, I thoroughly agree with "Sniper" when it comes to people who ignore traffic signs. The latest culprit witnessed on Sunday driving fast up the buses only lane was a man in a silver Vauxhall Zafira MPV

MGH

Stay in Faringdon? - 11/02/08

I am one of the majority of folk who get little involved in Faringdon activities, in part as my classic cars take me all over the place.

However I am shortly to decide if I move away from the town I was born in or skint myself out to stay put with the resolving of my mother's estate drawing nigh. This concentrates the mind on what living here offers over and above the convenience of Faringdon being in the centre of the Southern half of England.

The few people who are motivated to do things in the town have made a difference. For instance the Christmas lights get a little better each year and the Millenium Lighthouse put Faringdon right at the forefront of the country's displays. Of course a complex lighting display on the Folly draws in planning issues etc. Not many small towns are lucky enough to have the skills and vision available that we have to provide this.

The MADD fest and other music activities are to be appluaded. I have not been as supportive as I might have been by attendance. However it has got me going to gigs up to 60 miles away again. It is the sign of the times that such enjoyment can be spoilt by one complaint.

I was appalled when I saw that the British Legion had to have planning approval to march on Remembrance Day. This is in memory for people who gave everthing for us to live as we do. Unforgivable behaviour towards a group who

surely earned the right to march one day in a year. Then I realised that of course this official interference would be nationwide so moving would not really solve this problem.

It is so British to whinge about a trifling problem and allow the big issues through without a murmur. Freedom is something I greatly value and it is being eroded at an alarming rate. So thanks to the few who do their bit. I will try and stay in Faringdon if I can as despite the brickbats there are many great things about living here. The negatives mainly result from the fact that the town has not enough clout to tell outside busybodies where to get off. I just wish we had a French style Mayor.

Alan Hitchcock

A great night - 10/02/08

A great night last night at the junior school for a full night of live music. Diablo 13 got the night off to a flyer, Zen Pigs showed that the 15 minute club debut was the sign of things to come and played an absolute blinder, PistolKixx showed the rock and roll lifestyle to the world and if there has ever been a better set played in Faringdon than The Dogs can someone let me see the video.

Thanks also to Tim and Rob for fantastic sound and lights as always and to Simon at the school for his help. A great night enjoyed by around 130 people, sadly only 14 tickets sold to faringdonians, where do the towns rockers go for a night out or are they just fashion statement t-shirts, but at least that means £14 to the pre-school coffers.

Hamish

Sniper - 10/02/08

I have an answer to all our traffic 'problems' if that's what they really are. A sniper on the roof of the pump room or is there a better vantage point. '

Anyone taking the slip road, parking in the road, 'speeding', or generally being considered a nuisance would be shot. This would remove the offending person and cut down on people who have little better to do posting complaints about such like.

This scheme could be extended to people who dislike our water, complain about noisy bands in the corn exchange, not enough light bulbs on the christmas tree, bad dress sense, people with hoodies it goes on, blah blah blah.. Consider this, danger is all around us and we must stive to minimise real danger but please, has anyone really been hurt in Faringdon due to slip road use, 'excessive ' speed etc?

OK everyone jump to it and request speed humps, more police, traffic wardens, but when I walk around our great town all appears to be acceptable and I guess thats all it needs to be unless you only see George Orwell's 1984 view of life!

name supplied

Rogue Van - 08/02/08

Is that the same Castles Windows van that took the slip road (skirting the cones at the corner) past the Old Town Hall on Thursday at 2.45pm. Tut tut!

name supplied

Recycling - 08/02/08

I see that nothing has changed. Green boxes are left blocking driveways and more seriously Footpaths. Not forgetting that anything dropped whilst taken to the lorry is left to litter the place.

name supplied

London Street Parking - 08/02/08

Could this be the sort of thing the parking survey will note? Photographed at 10.55am Friday 02nd Feb in London Street, 70 centimetres from the wall, where it had been since the previous evening; (and parked in the vicinity for days beforehand) obliging pushchair users and other pedestrians to walk in the road.

name supplied



London Street Traffic - 08/02/08

I was fascinated by two items in the February edition of The Folly. Firstly the report that some of the section 106 money would be invested in "a parking survey".

Then, I note on page 9 a report on "the dangers of cars speeding downhill into Faringdon's London Street past Sudbury House were once again underlined ... when a woman driving too fast was unable to brake safely in time and ploughed into the back of an MGF sportscar".

I hope that the powers that be will read the excellent parking survey report produced by Cllr Tim Evans and a team of volunteers in 2004 and take that as a start point in their deliberations.

They may also observe that the authorities felt there was "no need" for further speed restrictions in London Street, a point of view as invalid today as it was then. Luckily, the only sufferer so far is an MGF sportscar and no one has yet been killed or injured.

Steve Wright

Friends of Faringdon Folly call for expertise- 7/2/08

The roof of the tower, the brickwork and the woodland need maintenance work if we are to preserve the structure and the area

If you can offer advice or assistance in one of the following areas, we would be hugely pleased to hear from you:-

Tree surgeon

Woodland Management

Building surveyor

Carpentry

Roofing and scaffolding

Any help you can offer would be much appreciated

Please contact Eddie Williams on 01367 241142 or email: edchriswilliams@aol.com

Band Looking for Bassist - 06/02/08

We only do original music - style melodic pop/rock with occasional acoustic songs - influences Beatles, Floyd, KT Tunstall.

We've been told some of our songs sound a bit like Echobelly (I'd never heard of them until the other day but now I like the comparison) also some of them have a distinctive early American sixties pop sound yet also on some of the songs the lyrics have a hint of psychedelic influences...what a mixture.

A sense of rhythm and timing more important than experience.

Interested please contact Sean 07712 530405

Great Western Hospital - 6/2/08

My Dad's been in and out of the Great Western Hospital for various different things over the last few years, and we've visited all sorts of departments, sometimes for long stays. They've *all* been great.

It's an outstanding hospital. The recent news story reflects badly on them, and should, but only to its own extent.

There's no institutional problem there, and the place deserves our wholehearted support.

Paul Cornell

Taste of Water debate - 06/02/08

For what its worth, here's an article to throw into the ring

http://www.thameswater.co.uk/en_gb/Downloads/PDFs/PRESS-decanter-article-water-tasting-feb08-260Kb-210108.pdf

I appreciate that its a Thames water link, but apparently the test was undertaken completely blind. It asked various testers including wine buffs to test various bottled water from around the world, including some which sells for over £50 litre.

At 0.06p a litre Thames water tap water came third in the blind testing.

Got me thinking

Devils Advocate

Faringdon Twinning Association - 06/02/08

We are looking for 2 vibrant leaders (18+) to accompany a group of Faringdon young people to our Twin Town in Normandy – Le Mele Sur Sarthe

This trip takes place every year and the dates for this year are: 19th to 26th July 2008

If you are interested then please contact me to find out more information.

Carolyn Murphy

<mailto:cmm1046@kingalfreds.oxon.sch.uk>

Great Western Hospital Eye Department. - 06/02/08

Yesterday I went to the Great Western Hospital Eye Department. I arrived at 0800 and was back home by 1030 and I was delighted at my treatment. During the intervening 2.5 hours I had some eye drops inserted, I was given a biodegradable brown bag containing more eye drops, a roll of surgical tape and some instructions. I was also given a cup of tea and a biscuit. Oh yes, I almost forgot...I also had a cataract removed. My only complaint was that I had to wear a 'shower cap' which did nothing for my Macho self image.

The department was clean and nicely decorated. The staff were all very friendly and very efficient. In fact that part of the Great Western Hospital was exactly as Aneurin Bevan must have envisaged it 60 years ago. It's such a shame, in fact it's a national disgrace, that not all of the GWH can emulate the Ophthalmology Department. I just want to make the point that it's not all bad.

Ex- Cyclops

name supplied

Wrong dates! - 06/02/08

Mea Culpa!! It wasnt Gene who got the dates wrong, it was me....Hil Picky?.....Mmmmm-mm, could be.....
HT

Wrong dates - 06/02/08

I hope I'm not being picky here, but has anyone else noticed the dates on these messages? Someone hasn't moved her calendar on a year, have you Gene?

name supplied

15 Minute Club 03/02/08

Sunday night was another great night in the back bar of the crown.

Pictures taken of the evening can be found here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/raoul42/sets/72157603849707160>

Raoul van Eindhoven

Water, Water, Everywhere - 06/02/08

The water in Faringdon is fine stop moaning try drinking dirty water like in a third world country be thankful that we live here we have a good quality of life and try and do something to help others put your effort into this rather than writing on this forum
name supplied

More water torture - 03/02/08

Have you ever tried drinking the water from the taps in Faringdon? The smell of chlorine is dreadful - let alone the taste.

name supplied

Water Torture - 03/02/08

In the Market Place yesterday, I noticed a large vehicle loaded with those containers of water, supplied for office drinking water dispensers. It was parked across the disabled bay. A car pulled out from behind it, blocking the Market Place altogether, and preventing a second car from proceeding up towards the church. There was an argument between the drivers of the two cars, much gesturing and mouthing.

As I was waiting to cross the road, idly watching this little altercation, the thought struck me

"How on earth have we all been conned into paying people to drive around the country in lorries filled with large plastic containers ofwater, for offices which all have.....taps??"

Just a thought.

name supplied

Getting in touch with his feminine side? - 03/02/08

Re Black Porsche Conclusions, conclusions. Doesn't it pee you off when people jump to conclusions. "The black Porsche driver who doesn't know the Highway Code or bother to read road signs.....he didn't happen to pull into a disabled bay did he ?!!".

Yet another wrong conclusion. If the driver doesn't know the Highway Code or can't read road signs then she's obviously a woman....

Name Supplied!!

Re Stolen Badge - 03/02/08

Sorry Devils Advocate, I really didn't intend to include everybody in my comments - just the 'community' who delight in this sort of crime.

Just wondered though - the black Porsche driver who doesn't know the Highway Code or bother to read road signs.....he didn't happen to pull into a disabled bay did he ?!!.

name supplied

Porsche Pest - 01/02/08

The person driving a black Porsche through Faringdon at about 4pm today should be ashamed. Not only was the 'slip' road by the Old Town Hall used but there were no indicators signalling the intention to do so. If a driver does not know the Highway code and cannot read or understand road markings and signs is not also illegal to be driving?

name supplied

M.a.D.D. Festival. - 01/02/08

Last years title was "go with The Flow" This year we have decided on "Living With The Dead" We Have invited the Soothsayers back, but this time somewhere warm.

Sam prince

MORE HUSH NEWS - 01/02/08

The Swindon Advertiser has published an article on their website (and in today's print copy) about the Hush Festival, check it out at

http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/swindonnewsheadlines/display.var.2010397.0.faringdon_prepares_for_a_rocking_weekend.php

Very well done to Faringdon's James Pugh who interviewed me over Christmas for his university assignment, then sent it to the Faringdon Folly, Swindon Advertiser and Oxford Mail! For political correctness I must apologise to other music festival organisers in the town. "Faringdon's first music festival" was not said by me or I believe written by James! Similarly, the acts stated were chosen by the Swindon Advertiser's editorial people, so apologies to those who weren't mentioned!

Good publicity for our (re-blossoming?) live music scene nevertheless.

Martin Phillips

Stolen Disabled Badge - 01/02/08

Re disabled badge stolen

Not at all surprised. Town is Policed very poorly and I have yet to see any able bodied person be ticketed for misuse of the bays.

Why can't we have a FREE car park in the Town?

name supplied

Everyone little counts- 31/3/08

I believe if many people do a little, it can make a big difference.

So why not reduce the use of carrier bags, turn lights off, reduce heating by a few degrees, don't let taps run, don't fill kettles unnecessarily, shower not bath (though my power shower water use is significant!)

My dad would have been so proud!!

I would like the government to help though - legislate that manufacturers should use less and only biodegradable packaging, and while I'm writing, ban chewing gum too!!

Gene Webb

RE my comments regarding Hush -29/3/08 - 31/3/08

I'm not involved in music production. Just an ordinary customer who is disappointed after all the emails and excitement that the festival is not going ahead and has been cancelled so late in the day.

I felt further explanation was due after monies had been held for some time which added together would add up to quite a bit of interest!

I have no axe to grind or hidden agenda. It wasn't personal I just wanted clarification.

Sorry that I caused such offense!

Name Supplied

Julie Farmer's response regarding HUSH - 31/3/08

Hear Hear!

Sue Englefield

Thank you to HT and to Andy Patyra - 31/3/08

.....for pointing out that there are indeed more important issues out there than just picking on plastic bags - and if it's the ONLY thing you do, then clearly that smacks of bandwagons, tokenism, & hypocrisy. (Similar in that respect to the stand-by electricity issue). I think the point that we would all agree with: as long as you're doing the big hits, then the smaller hits are also worth doing. We can then discuss details as to what, how, why, when.

And this gives me the opportunity to highlight some of the other events happening during ECOWEEK in June (14th to 21st)

.FARINGDON ECOWEEK - KICK THE CARBON - JUNE 14-21

Saturday 14th June marks the beginning of a whole week of low carbon ECOEVENTS taking place in Faringdon and the surrounding villages.

The ECOWEEK kicks off on the opening Saturday with a SWAP SHOP and big ECOFAIR. During the week there are high profile ECOTALKS with celebrity speakers; an ECOTOUR around energy-from-waste facilities in Swindon; Eco-Open Days at Friar's Court and Venn Mill; and an ECOTRAIL that takes you around dozens of premises that have interesting eco-credentials to show you. For budding ornithologists, there's the Bird & Farm Walk around Kilmester Farm in Eaton Hastings; where there were more bird species identified by the RSPB than on any other farm in the UK.

To round off the week on Saturday 21st, (the Summer Solstice), the ECOBIKES (a peloton of amateur cyclists - all abilities and ages welcome) will set off around the ECOFARMS (there are a staggering nine organic farms within just two miles of Faringdon.) and end up at Westmill Wind Farm Open Day, where more than 3000 people are expected to attend.

The attempt to break the wind-turbine-hugging world record (the largest number of people who can hug a single wind

turbine simultaneously) will happen at 2pm precisely- under the watchful eye of one of Mr McWhirter's successors.

More details at www.ecoweek.info - where you can also find out all about ECOBUTTIES, ECOBAGS and ECOBINS! Alternatively, "What's On" www.faringdon.org/nvwhatson.htm will also give you more details.

Sjoerd Vogt

Youth Centre on Highworth Road - 31/3/08

Does anyone know what is happening?
Name Supplied

Free Parking (1 hour) in Faringdon - 31/3/08

This is copied from http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news_views/press_releases/article.asp?id=tcm:4-2881&rt=D
It's dated 26/3/08

Faringdon's BuyBack refund scheme launched

Twenty-five of the town's independent traders in The Faringdon Retail Group have pooled resources to launch the new "Buy Back" parking ticket refund, whereby anyone who spends £5 or more at participating stores will have the first hour of their parking ticket refunded. It is hoped this will encourage more visitors to the town centre shops.

The scheme has been introduced at Southampton Street Car Park, and organisers hope to extend the scheme to Gloucester Street in the coming months.

Under BuyBack residents are required to purchase a parking ticket from the newly installed machine, display it in their car window, and when they take a receipt to a participating shop they will be refunded the first hour of parking charge on purchasing £5 worth of goods.

The scheme is being paid for by the independent traders themselves who will foot the bill for all refunds claimed. BuyBack is supported by the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Gene Webb

Pat on the Back - 31/3/08

To the 'name supplied' (which isn't) who can not understand why the organisers of Hush deserve a pat on the back. It is very simple, they tried to bring a large event to Faringdon that would have benefited the town as a whole. The local retailers, local drinking establishments and hotels and guest houses would have all made a profit from this event.

They have spent many hours preparing, planning, attending a vast number of meetings and getting quotes, understanding lengthy legal and H&S legislation. Putting on an entertainment event takes a lot of time and energy, which on the whole is done after a full working week.

In short they had an idea, ran with it, are going to run with it and have been very honourable in their endeavours to let each participant know what is going on. At all stages of this event the organisers have stated that if there is an issue with the event a full refund will be given without question. Currently the organisers are offering a full refund or tickets to the event planned for next year.

Its easy to sit back and criticise but before you do, ask yourself, what are you putting back into your community?
Julie Farmer

A good point - 31/3/08

Name Supplied makes a good point about domestic compost heaps - and that you shouldn't really be putting meat on them (or for that matter - other things that attract rats - such as cooked fatty food). These items do rot down very quickly, but the associated problems do - on balance - put some of these things on the NO list. (The reason that poo is usually on the NO list is primarily because of the yuk factor, and the soil association in determining criteria for organic farming also admit as much) . But if you CAN protect your heap from rats then cooked food & meat are fine. There's now also systems available that actively encourage this approach.

See for example www.recycling-guide.org.uk/composting.html - where there's links to smartsoil & greencone systems.

Yes - maybe we SHOULD all be getting smarter in our composting. Biodigestors (primarily anaerobic digestion for the collection of methane) are another example of closed systems where rats are therefore not a problem.
Sjoerd Vogt

Carrier Bags.. - 30/3/08

I for one agree with the previous comments on plastic bags and the infamous focus it has achieved.

Out of interest I wonder how many of the people who profess to being green or concerned for the planet drink bottled water driven miles and miles from locations such as the lake district and Scotland, or even worse from the continent?

Just a thought...
Andy Patyra

Corn Exchange Soundproofing - 30/03/08

I have no special interest in the Corn Exchange problem, but I do think that Dave Reynolds is right that the council should hold fire in going ahead with the work at present.

Although, yes, planning permission for residential development in the town centre has been granted, and contracts for performances agreed, one thing that hasn't been mentioned in the arguments surrounding this issue is that sound levels now demanded by performers have increased dramatically over the years, to the extent that they are unacceptable to close residents, even if only a few complain.

Faringdon will grow, and grow, so surely in the long term the solution of a purpose built venue, even on the outskirts of town, which could be used for theatre, film and other events, together with adequate car parking space would be preferable to patching up an unsuitable building in the historic town centre. The town centre in any case is not geographically anywhere near the centre of Faringdon.

HT

Ban the bag campaign - 30/03/08

Not everyone wants an outright ban on plastic carriers.

I for one am tired of the fashionable eco-lobby trying to dictate my lifestyle. Like the previous dissenter, I prefer to choose to what I do and don't conform. I certainly rely on plastic carriers; I save them and have secondary uses for ALL of them. I resent the use of meaningless statistics [for instance on-line polls] to support such campaigns, and I do not believe the assertion that less than 5% of carriers are re-used.

Rather than castigate consumers for their 'laziness', and 'addiction' to plastic bags perhaps the eco-lobby might examine their reasons for choosing such an easy and trivial target, when there are other vastly more devastating examples of the carbon footprint problem. Focussing on this only detracts from the more serious issues.

If retailers succumb to this campaign I shall doubtless buy plastic bags, of the convenient size that we now have as carriers, but why should those of us who use them have to pay a vastly inflated and spurious 'tax'? No-one can argue against making less waste; but please do not patronise us with one sided arguments and misleading figures.

Read more at:
www.carrierbagtax.com/whatpeoplesay.htm

I daresay I shall be vilified for my attitude,

HT

Speeke my mind - 30/3/08

Sarah Speeke, on every occasion I'd applaud and support the one who tried but failed over the one who sits back and does nothing but complain, snipe and condemn others' efforts.
David Reynolds

Hush - 30/3/08

The ticket prices were set at a very low price initially with the intention of giving local people the opportunity to experience a large festival at a bargain price. Those who took up the offer still have that opportunity. If they feel it is "unfair" that they might lose a little interest in return for cheap tickets then they can have their money back. It is their choice. I really can't see what is unfair about that.

With regard to licenses and permissions we had received approval to proceed as we did in good faith.

If "Name Supplied" is not someone who had paid for tickets then you cannot feel it is unfair to you personally. Please give the people who have paid for tickets the credit to make their own choice. I'm sure those who have said they don't want refunds do not feel it is unfair.

If we had proceeded this year by hastily planning for a new venue then the likely outcome would have been an event poorly organized, with high health and safety risks, questionable licensing arrangements, obscure bands that few would have heard of, and insufficient members of the public to cover the costs. Would it then have been acceptable for the Town Council cover the losses with a grant? I don't think so. We are asking for no grant funding at all, and are not prepared to take high risks whether financial or safety related.

If anyone has any other concerns then please email bookings@hushfest.co.uk or call 07843 055532, and we will address the matter immediately.

Martin Phillips

Be a Blood Donor - 30/3/08

Corn Exchange, Tuesday 8th April
Tel: 0845 7711 711

Faringdons pretty boring! - 29/3/08

There is no night life to speak of for someone in their teens/twenties or if there is I don't know about it!

The bus service is pretty poor the last bus back from Oxford during the week is 7:50 and on the weekend its 11:25 to be honest there isn't a lot that's possible in that time frame I've tried and taxis back are very expensive. There also isn't a late bus to and from Wantage which would be pretty cool as they've actually got people there.

If anyone knows of anything fun to do let me know!
Matthew

Pat On The Back- 29/2/08

How easily our culture now inflates
Esteem for failure rather than success
Lets fête the also-rans, the second rate
Now everyone must feel that they're the best
Reward ineptitude, incompetence
Pat on the back the ones who didn't win
Pay out that bonus, keep up the pretence
That everything is wonderful, and spin
The truth so we feel good about ourselves.
Nonentity's the new celebrity.
We shun achievement, diligence that delves
Too deep, exposes mediocrity

So let us give our friends a great big hand
For lamentable planning, projects panned

Sarah Speeke

I'm Furious - 29/3/08

I think the 'name supplied' contributors who've commented negatively on the Hush festival ought to tell us if they're professionally interested. That is to say, are they also involved in promoting music (with or without success) in Faringdon? Are they the same posters who've been circling like vultures in the last few days before the announcement?

Personally, I think an offer to have all one's money back is sufficient, and satisfactory. To require that tickets be then also honoured, after said refund, at the original price for what will be, in effect, a new event next year, is not only making up one's own rules, but making up the sort of rule that would make it much harder for such an event to succeed. Which is, I suspect, no coincidence. If these posts were from genuinely concerned individuals, and not, for example, from two sock puppets, please take no heed of my post, and don't feel that I have anything against you in the slightest. I don't normally think that posting under the 'name supplied' banner is cowardly and despicable.

My great friend of many years standing Martin Phillips has continually acted unselfishly and indeed, to the point of self-sacrifice, to help out other people in this town, particularly those involved in music and the arts. He has always been on the side of those of us who wish to keep the flame of live music going in Faringdon. I think this is the time when such people ought to come forward to help out or at the very least applaud, and I know of very many who have. Gloating and mockery of other people's misfortune, on the other hand, speak only of the lack of character of those who gloat.

I'm sorry if I sound angry. It's because I'm bloody furious.
Paul Cornell

just one thing sjoerd vogt - 29/3/08

you cant put corn starch bags with dog poo in them as dog poo contains meat which does not do your composting any good.

good article apart from that.
regards
Name Supplied

Corn Exchange - sound proofing - 29/3/08

No sound consultant in his right mind would ever give such a guarantee against "the recommended scheme not working sufficiently". This is because this entire issue is dictated by the laws of Statutory Nuisance NOT the laws of decibels. There is no such thing as "soundproofing" a building, only "sound-limiting". This means that there is still likely to be sound emanating from the Corn Exchange even after the work has been done. If this sound still annoys the main complainers they can still claim it to be a Statutory Nuisance however unreasonable the rest of us consider that claim to be.

Sure, it will be for the Environmental Health Officer to have the final say but experience shows that complainers' persistence in contacting the Officer seems to give them the advantage. I think the Town Council should be applauded for not recklessly spending taxpayers' money on a scheme that might not have the desired outcome and, moreover, on a building that does not belong to them.

David Reynolds

Hush - 29/3/08

I don't really understand why Hush has to keep money in order to honour the original ticket price. To keep people's hard earned cash for well over a year is totally unfair. Ticket prices should be honoured as well as a full refund for those who's money has been earning interest in someone else's account for several months already.

Also, surely, all the necessary licenses and permissions were in place before tickets were sold? What happened? It would be good to have further explanation from the organisers.

Name Supplied

BAN THE BAG - WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE IN FARINGDON? -

29/3/08

Generally, all the different "ban-the-bag" Campaigns can be quite confusing - and sometimes confused. The notes below might help to clarify what we're trying to achieve with our Ban the Bag Campaign in Faringdon.

Banning single-use carrier bags - Just Tokenism?

An easy argument to make - and an easy excuse for doing nothing. Yes- bags are just a small percentage of the total packaging used in the retail trade, and just a small percentage of our wastefulness in what goes to landfill. But they're high profile and represent unnecessary wastefulness (laziness?) - and they're a good place to start. If we can't even deal with our addiction to free bags - then how can we even begin to tackle all the bigger culprits? If we continue to take free bags then we certainly lose the moral high ground when tackling suppliers on excess packaging - for example.

Charging for ALL bags?

What about food bags - the kind that you get at the cheese or meat counter and the kind that keeps your fish fresh? And what about gift bags - the kind that adds the finishing touches to that special gift? No - there is no campaign to charge for bags used for hygiene or longevity (these reduce food spoilage, and therefore on balance reduce the overall carbon footprint). And there's also no campaign to charge for gift bags - often an important part of the gift either for protection or presentation. However - it IS frightening how much wrapping goes to landfill after Christmas - so cutting down is not such a bad idea!

Plastic Fantastic?

Many ban-the-bag campaigns demonise plastic carrier bags - thus by implication encouraging other bags (eg paper) as environmentally friendly alternatives. Some campaigns also differentiate between the traditional plastic and the corn starch plastic (eg COOP bags) - again implying that the latter is OK. This is a BIG subject - but in summary, all of these bags have a very similar ecological footprint over their lifetime (for example: paper bags take much more energy and chemicals to make initially). Plastic is actually a VERY sensible material to make LONGLIFE bags from - as long as you don't throw them away! It's NOT the material that we should be demonising. It's the single-use that is bad - it's people's habits that we have to change. In other words - there should be a charge for ALL single-use carrier bags, including those made from paper or corn starch or jute or bamboo or hemp - (they all take energy to make!) . Think of it as a "carbon tax".

Swing Bin Bag Liners, Nappies & Dog Poo?

Another common argument. People insist that they use their plastic bags as kitchen bin bag liners or for dog poo - and therefore if they DIDN'T get their stock of free carrier bags then they'd have to buy more bin bags to make up for this. So - banning free carrier bags wouldn't actually achieve any environmental benefits - they say. There IS a small element of truth in this - but various studies have shown that less than 5% of supermarket bags are actually re-used in this way. The rest are thrown away and NOT even used a 2nd time. So - this argument is primarily an excuse for doing nothing. In the Netherlands, where people are particularly fussy about cleanliness, they tend not to use bin liners and instead wash out the bin every now and then. And where bin liners or poo bags ARE needed then this is a good case for the biodegradable corn starch bags. If they contain just organic matter then these - bags plus contents - can be thrown on the compost heap rather than go to landfill.

Go to www.ecoweek.info for more information - and to take the online survey.
Sjoerd Vogt

Pat on the back? - 28/3/08

What does Hush deserve a pat on the back for?

They haven't done anything except take ticket-money for a non-existent event. Is it really likely to materialise next year?

I have serious doubts about this but we shall see.

Name supplied

Hush Update - 28/3/08

Hi Folks

You might be aware by now of the debacle regarding the original venue cancellation for the Hush Festival this year.

In order for us to go through the lengthy process of venue selection and license application with sufficient time to plan and implement the numerous factors, after much consideration Tim and I have decided to postpone the Festival until next year.

Ultimately the root problem was outside our control. Six months of planning have largely been lost with the venue cancellation. Our best chance of success and a safe and enjoyable event for all is to ensure that everything within our control is managed effectively, which takes many months of planning and negotiations, and at this late stage the only real option is to postpone. The website (www.hushfest.co.uk) will be updated imminently.

We do apologise if this has caused you any inconvenience, and thank you for supporting us this far.

On the positive side, we certainly have sufficient time to make sure Hush gets off the ground next year!

The starting price for tickets will not be as low as it was this year, "early bird" prices are likely to be around £40 or £50, more in line with other large festivals.

We are now offering full refunds as promised, or, as a gesture of our appreciation to all of you who have paid for tickets this year, we will honour your reservations for next year on a one-for-one basis regardless of starting price if you don't take the refund.

Can you please therefore let me know which of the two options you wish to take:

1. A full refund of your ticket money.
2. No refund in return for the same number of tickets for next year, regardless of starting price.

I would be grateful if you can email your choice to bookings@hushfest.co.uk.

Thanks again for your support so far.

Regards
Martin Phillips

Corn Exchange - 28/3/08

For what its worth, should the lease issue ever be sorted, then the money set aside for soundproofing should be put to use immediately. But with one very clear condition, that being, that the sound consultant who recommended the scheme has sufficient public liability insurance that will reimburse the Town Council the full cost of all the works, should the recommended scheme not work sufficiently to ensure that the venue can stay open as a public music venue.

If the consultant is not willing offer this safety net, then you can guess what will happen.

We can do without another pump house liability which already makes our council charge the highest in the Vale.

Devils Advocate

In reply to Sam Prince - 27/3/08

I have seen this notice and the Festival has been postponed to next year. This Festival is good news for Faringdon and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them luck continuing to organise this event. Faringdon has not, to my knowledge had circa 8,000 people at any single event. I know that FAF had circa 1,000 last year and it took a lot to organise that.

With such larger numbers of people planning to attending an event in Faringdon and the legal and Health and Safety requirements that go into an event of this size the organisers deserve a pat on the back.

Well done done Martin and Tim, it was must have been a tough decision to make.
Good luck for 2009.

Julie Farmer

No ban on plastic bags - 28/3/08

No, I feel that Faringdon should not ban plastic bags.

The decision to use any form of carrying device should be up to the individual and not dictated to by other members of the community.

What will we have after plastic bags. Next will be CCTV all over town. If this is anything like Oxford, will then be used to fine people parking cars, crossing the road in the wrong places (not yet with this one, but its coming).

Are we then going to start to ban plastic shoes??

Name supplied

keep up the good work hamish and mark - 27/3/08

hamish i do believe this is true case of not in my back garden ref music and fun in town centre. eg the market place so common in rural towns and villages.

Simon Cook

Re: Hush Festival - 27/3/08

There is a notice being circulated by the organisers that the festival is not happening this year.

Sam Prince

Mr Gillman- re the Corn Exchange - 27/3/08

I appreciate the Corn Exchange is owned by the Vale and leased by the Town Council, although not currently with a lease as everyone has dragged their heels on this one. It is however in the heart of the town and therefore able to attract punters whereas a venue on the periphery of the town would not.

I appreciate that there has been considerable infill in the town creating more residents but planning permission for this was approved/recommended by the Town Council over the years. I appreciate that it is only in the last few years that a regular event programme was established however this was done with Town Council approval as they accepted the bookings and took the money. The Town Council also failed to impose its own curfew on a number of occasion resulting in events overrunning.

Money has been set aside for sound proofing measures so the local residents have already paid for this. Surely it would make sense to work with the local chamber to turn the Corn Exchange into the town's performance venue rather than leave the Corn Exchange to turn into a jumble sale venue as any capital that they can contribute could add further to the noise escape mitigation, also setting a calender of booking dates for performance types would ensure that the risk of complaint is reduced as the main complaint was that "every weekend" or "late on a sunday"

Surely as the Mayor you want a vibrant Town Centre rather than everything pushed to the outskirts. The Town has been bullied by a couple of individuals on this issue who have ruined a lot of fun for a lot of people and in some cases people who were attracted to the town and spent money here, a fact that you use to re-assure everyone is a benefit of the sealed knot weekend. It is not a insurmountable problem to run a venue in the middle of a town lots of places do it and in old buildings as well.

I can criticise the venues committee as I have had experience of dealing with them. The Town Council needs to stop hiding behind its always someone elses problem mindset.

Hamish Millar

Town Meeting - 27/3/08

Will Matthew Barber and the other Vale councillors be at the Town Meeting? Or, in fact anyone from the Vale?

We need to be putting pressure on them to do something as the Vale appears to be ignoring the Town Council. Can we not invite the actual people from the VWHDC who make the decisions about the lease to the meeting so we can speak to them directly?

Ray

Should Faringdon Ban the Bag? - 27/3/08

The vast majority of carrier bags (plastic OR paper!) given out free by shops are then used only once, which is very wasteful and polluting (paper is just as bad as plastic - but for different reasons!).

Ireland recently introduced a PLASTAX - an environmental levy on every plastic bag handed out. This means that Shoppers are charged approximately 10 pence for every new plastic bag that they need. The PLASTAX, which has been warmly welcomed by shops and shoppers alike, has been extraordinarily effective, and has cut down the waste and pollution by more than 95% .

Most Northern European countries also do not allow free plastic carrier bags to be given out by shops. Do you think that the UK should follow Ireland's lead?

Do you think that Faringdon should lead the way in this?

We welcome your opinions!

See <http://www.ecoweek.info/Waste/ECOBAGS/ecobags.html> for information and link to online survey
Sjoerd Vogt

RE Country Park extension - 26/3/08

Message to the VWHDC from a confused faringdonion - a swampy old filled in quarry full of rabbit holes costing £13,000 PA to maintain! is not a gift (or a country park) - keep it!
Name Supplied

Bus Lane - 26/3/08

The bus lane needs a huge axle breaking sleeping policeman, that'll sort it.
Name Supplied

Corn Exchange threatened - 26/3/08

OK, so I'm sticking my head above the parapet again! I read so much ill-informed stuff on this site. I seem to be the co-ordinator of the new, improved Town Council Newsletter. I'm about to blot my copy book.

I'm going to post some copy I'm not allowed to put in the newsletter. Please remember that all the Town Councillors are residents of the Town and have the same interests at heart as every other resident. We are all volunteers, but are constrained by law with things like "Standing Orders" and "Confidentiality" and "Legality". So my post is a personal opinion and does not constitute the opinion of the Town Council.

"For those unaware of events so far, the Corn Exchange is owned by the Vale of the White Horse District Council (VWHDC) who lease it back to Faringdon Town Council to administer. At the moment there is no lease and the Town Council do not feel they can spend the town's (your) money on soundproofing without a lease in place.

The Town Council have been actively pursuing a resolution to this for some time, with the VWHDC dragging their feet.

The current position is that the VWHDC are proposing to withdraw their office from the building. This would make it uneconomic for the Town Council office to stay there, so it will probably relocate to the Pump House. The VWHDC's refusal to sign a new lease with reasonable terms, together with their withdrawal from the town not only shows that they are still trying to pretend that Faringdon doesn't exist, but makes one wonder if they have another agenda. They are currently short of money and the Corn Exchange is a very valuable piece of real estate!

We need the whole town to join us in ensuring that this building continues to be available for the benefit of the residents of Faringdon.

Please attend the Annual Town Meeting on 28th April, 2008 at 7.30pm"

Jane Boulton

Purpose built Performance venue - 26/3/08

Hamish

In your message about the future performance of music in Faringdon, you described Faringdon as "vibrant". Therein lies the problem!

Twenty years ago there were very few people living close to either the Crown or the Corn Exchange. Both buildings are now surrounded by residential properties in which some people, not all, object to noise nuisance impinging on their homes. The Town Council owns neither venue, so why keep criticising Venues Committee councillors?

If you want to enjoy live music in Faringdon then I suggest you support Nick Elwell's vision, with the Chamber of Commerce, of building a purpose-built facility well away from residential housing, landscaped so that (unlike the Crown and Corn Exchange) future housing cannot slowly encroach and restrict its operation.

John Gillman

Faringdon Arts Festival - 26/3/08

Dear Faringdon

The Faringdon Arts Festival will be taking place on the 11th, 12 and 13 of July.

We plan to have our normal music event on Friday night where most of the roads in the Market Place will be closed. On Saturday we will have a number of exciting acts during the day and for the first year we aim to have a dancing in the streets in the evening, (please get your dancing shoes at the ready). On Sunday we will have events for children in the morning and music in the afternoon.

If anyone would like to help organise the Festival this year or take part please contact David Reynolds on david@reynolds46.fsnet.co.uk or Julie Farmer on julie@mypabusiness.com >

We look forward to hearing and seeing you during the weekend.

Julie Farmer

Hush Festival - 26/3/08

Has the HUSH event been cancelled then? There isn't anything on the HUSH website.

Sue Englefield

Annual Town Meeting - 26/3/08

This annual meeting is on **Monday 28th April at 1930 in the Corn Exchange**

This is an opportunity to express your views to the town council, possibly in the presence of our VWHDC and County councillors.

There are many issues:

The future of the Corn Exchange

The closure of the VWHDC cash office

Dangerous Bus Lane in the town centre

106 progress

Pump House plans

- and I'm sure there are more topics

It is much more effective if lots of people go to the meeting - please do

Gene Webb

FUTURE OF COUNTRY PARK EXTENSION THREATENED - 26/3/08

At a recent informal meeting between representatives of Faringdon Town Council and an officer of the Vale of White Horse District Council, the officer indicated that the VWHDC might not maintain the new extension to the Country Park and that if the Town Council, Rugby Club or Cricket Club refused to meet the cost then "VWHDC might refuse

the "gift" of this land".

The extension is planned to more than double the size of the Country Park and is the subject of a "section 106" agreement between the Vale and Bloor Homes resulting from the development of 400 hundred houses in Faringdon.

Faringdon Town Council has stated that it could maintain the land with commuted money from the VWHDC but would be unable to pay the quoted £13,000 per year maintenance charge as this would have a major impact on the Town Council's budget.

The Country Park in Faringdon is a Vale wide facility in the same way as Tilsley Park or Abbey Meadows in Abingdon. The Town Council takes the view that its maintenance should be financed in the same way - through Vale wide taxation rather than double taxation of the people of Faringdon. As VWHDC will raise additional money through the building of the new homes, the Town Council can see no reason as to why the VWHDC cannot fund the maintenance of the park extension.

For more information please contact:
The Town Clerk
Faringdon Town Council
The Corn Exchange
FARINGDON OXON SN7 7JA
Tel. 01367 240281
Email: june@faringdowntowncouncil.org.uk

M.A.D.D. @ The Corn exchange - 26/3/08

From the beginning of April M.A.D.D. will be operating the franchise of the bar at the Faringdon corn exchange.

As we are a group who promote the arts we shall be looking into ways of breathing some life into our town venue. Please check www.maddfaringdon.co.uk for information and details on the M.a.d.D. mayfest, 3rd - 5th may and news on other events.

I am pleased to read about John Otway coming to town and I for one shall be there.
Well done to the organizers for a stimulating idea.
Sam Prince

Music in Faringdon - 26/3/08

Having been present at Town Council meetings where live music has been discussed it seems that some councillors have a complete distaste for live music and this seemed to be shared by the venues committee members. The Town Council cannot continue to hide behind the Vale Council, it has the option for the lease and has had proposals to install noise proofing measures but has so far not taken action seemingly too scared of a couple of serial complainers who are actually ruining the vibrant atmosphere of the town, I understand that they are now complaining about events at the crown now, I assume that the arts festival in the market square will be the next to go. The sealed knot, which will I'm sure be a great display of pageantry etc will create more "noise" than any corn exchange event.
Hamish Millar

Mad gig in the Folly Tower - 26/3/08

John Otway has done mad gigs before - The Balloon Gig in Vauxhall Gardens, The Boat Trip on The Thames and the Break For The Border (Radius) Gig.
This time it will take place at Faringdon Folly

On Saturday 5th April, the plan is to be at the Folly for 10:30ish. Then climb the 154 steps to the top and hopefully John (and maybe Richard) will then do a set, once they've got their breath back.
All tickets have been sold, but John is happy for people to be outside and on the ground floor to listen and experience the fun.

See www.johnotway.com/
You can hear John Otway, Wild Willie Barrett, Theremin and Guitar Jam on
<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=l2dVl2g5lCo>

Another first for our Folly!!
Gene Webb

BUS LANE - Someone Has To Die..... - 25/3/08

Re the posting on this issue on 20th March I think your correspondent is absolutely right - it will probably take someone being killed before anything is done about the problem of cars abusing the bus lane.

In their 2008/09 Council Tax leaflet, Vale of White Horse DC say they are shutting the Faringdon Cash Office, clearly to save money. Well for the benefit of everyone in Faringdon, why cannot some of the money saved pay for decent no entry signs on the bus lane or, even better, an electronic barrier which can only be opened by a remote control device installed in buses or carried by the drivers? Some buses in Oxford, I believe, have something along these lines to change traffic lights in their favour so surely with modern technology, something to open and shut a traffic barrier would be possible too.

Name Supplied

Hush?? - 24/3/08

Having read the comments today (Tuesday) re: the Hush Festival and the problems involved, could some-one, for example Mr.Phillips, kindly tell the ticket-buyers (so far) and anybody else who may have wished to attend the event what the heck is going on?

Hilary P-B,
MADD

Sealed Knot Battle - 24/3/08

Mark Thanks for your comments. The main problem I believe with Faringdon House Estate objecting to the Hush Festival being held on their land was scale, not noise. Church Path Farm is a working farm and was judged unsuitable in size to withstand a proposed 10,000 people, many of whom would camp overnight.

The Sealed Knot last time at Step Farm camped only 1200, with 1400 at the battle and about 250 public. The SK presence this July hopefully will be similar with probably up to a thousand public at any one time. So there is a complete difference in scale between the SK and proposed Hush Festival events.

You say that the "Council" is patronising towards music. Which Council? It is the District Council who own the Corn Exchange and also provide environmental health officers to police excessive noise.

It is the District Council who insist on the use (and setting) of noise limiters in the Corn Exchange. Town Council employees merely administer the Corn Exchange to the environmental rules laid down by officers in Abingdon.

So who is being patronising?

John Gillman

Sealed Knot Battle,21/3/08 - 23/3/08

John, I have no problem whatsoever with the Sealed Knot (SK) playing war games in Faringdon. I live opposite the site where the last "muster" was held 10 years ago and agree that it was a positive experience although there was a lot of noise, about which it didn't even occur to me to complain. Live and let live and a bit of fun and culture is a good thing for our town.

What does annoy me intensely, however, is the patronising attitude taken by the council and others. Why would they be any better or worse than the SK? Their credentials, you must agree, are less belligerent. Or is it because music is somehow tinged by a younger and less feudal (forelock-tugging) attitude?

Mark Harrison

mark and john ref the sealed knot - 22/3/08

i agree with you totally what is the diffrents.

john when you refer to a more suitable site. does that mean outside the town centre. so its is ok to have a music fair outside of the hub of are town,because it suits some. but it is not ok to have shops out of the town centre because it does not suit some. myself personally i am very intrested in the history of town and the sealed knot meeting. but

surely the music fair is far more popular to average person in the town. and will also bring just as much business if not more than the sealed knot, to the town. both the sealed knot and hush should be embraced by all .

so hopefully the hush festival will get the go ahead in the town centre . which is the so called heart of are town , when it suits some.

Name supplied

Sealed Knot Battle - 21/3/08

Mark,

The Sealed Knot event at Church Path Farm 19-20 July is much, much smaller than that envisaged for the Hush Festival. The same group of SK re-enactors held a muster 10 years ago at Step Farm off Lechlade Road and caused no damage or nuisance, while giving the restaurants, shops and pubs in Faringdon a welcome surge in income.

Yes, Faringdon has a violent history. The two worst damaged towns in England after the civil war were judged in Parliament to have been Faringdon and Torrington in Devon. The town was also heavily fought over in 1144 when King Stephen attacked Queen Matilda's fort on Folly Hill, capturing it after a 3 day battle. There were cavalry skirmishes later during the Wars of the Roses down at Radcot Bridge, with Faringdon opting for the Red Rose side - look in the Crown Hotel's downstairs bar for the red rosed crown in the window, glass which by definition predates the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, when the Crown merged red with white. And yes, there was a John Gillman at Bosworth in 1485 - he was in charge of the bullion wagons in Henry Tudor's baggage train and after the battle became number 2 in HM's Treasury.

Faringdon is also unique in having fought off attacks by both Generals Fairfax and Cromwell. It was most unusual for either General to have to march away from a siege, but they were forced to by the stubborn defence put against them in Faringdon.

The muster roles for Rawdon's Regiment defending Faringdon in 1646 still exist, held in a library in St Albans. The roles show that 48% of Rawdon's combat strength in Faringdon were men, 10% women in support and 42% "Posemen". A Poseman was a woman dressed as a soldier and normally used in the musket block as a sniper. The Posemen in Rawdon's were armed with long 28 bore muskets which were accurate to about 120 yards, compared with the men's 10 bore muskets which fired a heavier ball, but only accurately to about 40 yards. Rawdon appreciated in 1644 that for siege defence he needed long range snipers to defend the ramparts, recruiting a large number of female Posemen. So Faringdon was defended actually by a force made up of 52% women - the deadly majority who saw off Cromwell with heavy casualties. Incidentally, the musket ball on display in All Saints Church is of 28 bore calibre, so would have been fired by a female Poseman.

Faringdon is lucky to have retained its civil war battlefield almost unchanged since 1646. The only change has been the demolition of the old Faringdon House. But the battle and siege site remains intact, with the bases of the earth rampart walls still easily seen in All Saint's churchyard, together with Cromwell's Battery site still being visible on Folly Hill.

The Sealed Knot event should prove of interest to people in Faringdon and also bring welcome trade into the town. Hopefully the music festival planners will soon find a suitable site so it too can proceed.

John Gillman

Shame - 20/3/08

I was sorry to see Jim's poem forced off the front page so quickly by other more serious postings. But mention of a loo suggests tiled walls and a warm seat. For a more accurate picture check Tippler Toilet on Google. Nevertheless I thought the poem was, like the Curate's Egg, quite good in parts...almost as good as mine

HGM (Noted for modesty)

More Bus Lane - 20/3/08

On Tuesday at about 9.30pm I was able to pull in front of a car racing up the bus lane...I hope much to the annoyance of the driver.

Later I thought whoops, the driver is probably not insured so my minor protest could have cost me a major repair bill
Name supplied

Bus Lane outside Dillons - 20/3/08

Went down to get the papers this morning and waited by the Chemist until safe to cross and then crossed over the Bus Lane to Dillons and was almost hit by a Red Rover 600 P reg speed ing up the lane. good job it was dry otherwise it could of been a different tale.

I would have thought that with County Councillors aware of the problem, Police as well AND the Highways department that something could have been done by now. Better signage, No Entry painted on the road and a period of monitoring.

The very same Police can mount speed traps on Park Road, do very little about the parking in London Street and Coxwell Street/Road; yet have very little regard for the bus lane.

Perhaps someone needs to die first and then something will get done.

Come on councillors, Highways and Police do something.

Colin

Faringdon Artistic Skaters - 20/3/08

Four skaters have just returned from Brusells after taking part in a training Camp that was put in place after the Competition was cancelled at last minute. Cancelling competition was a great disappointment as financially £2000 had been paid out but no refund on Eurostar is available. The training was excellent and all skaters benefited from training other skaters from different countries.

Skaters Future International Events

Italy 8/14 June Skaters selected

Georgina Howe Hollie Fidler Ben Timbrell and Nathaniel William.

Croatia 20/21 June

Skaters selected Ben Timbrell Nathaniel Williams.

Unfortunatley the Croatia competition clashes with FCC French trip so girls are unable to go.

Sponsorship for these trips.

We estimate travel expenses for both trips to be in the region of £500 for each child. If you would like to donate please contact Dee England 07872955355.

These skaters have worked mighty hard to gain International Status it would be a great disappointment if finances stop them going.

We would like to thank Chamber of Commerce, Faringdon Town Mayor and his wife, The Nut Tree for sponsoring gifts and Donations to make the Brusells trip successful.

Dee England

A musical note for the Folly tower - 20/3/08

As part of the m.A.d.D. Mayfest madrigals will sung from the Folly TOWER by the Folly singers on Monday 5th May, commencing at 9am.

The mayors Kombat golf, which, if people have recovered from last year, will prove to be fun. Just bring a bat/club but no golf clubs.

It is also planned to run a small open stage.

Join in on our celebrations.

Have breakfast on the hill, enjoy the wonderful views.

www.madffaringdon.co.uk

Sam Prince.

Church Path Farm: - 19/3/08

Can anyone tell me why the Sealed Knot is able to take its guns, explosives and loud noises on to Church Path Farm and the Hush Festival is not being allowed to bring music - or is that what Faringdon's about?

Celebrating our violent past is OK but celebrating music is somehow distasteful?

Mark Harrison

Folly Tower and Woodland - 19/3/08

Have you seen www.faringdonfolly.org.uk yet?

It's a dedicated website for the Folly Tower and Woodland. The content is still being generated.

Maybe you can contribute to Facts and Myths, or the Wildlife and Woodland page, or maybe you have an unusual photograph that you would allow to be published.

Please do have a look- the site is still in it's early stages of development, so any ideas or comments are welcome.

Gene Webb

The Life and Times of Grizzly Harry - 19/3/08

Let me tell you a story of Harry,
A man with some charm and good grace,
He has a stick with a 'orses 'ed' andle,
You read him a lot on this place,

He originates from up north, or so I've been told,
A poetically, barren cold place,
We sometimes have long running battles,
But of course, never quite face to face,

Now, young Harry could do rhyming couplets,
Read Albert and 't Lion on't loo,
Being Harry he said, "I could do better than that,
"Wheres paper?, I could write quite a few,

Now, his fame became bigger than Yorkshire,
And to not spread his talents further, a crime,
"Bring bath in from coal shed Mother,
before catching me train, I've just time",

He started his journey down to us,
With a balm cake given by Mum,
"Look after thee sen" yelled his siblings,
Knowing more room in bed would be fun,

He took out his Marriot Edgar,
And read about poor young Sam Small,
About Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom,
And the waves that were fidd'lin and small,

On his way down, RAF needed attention,
They didn't know quite what to do,
"Will you help us Harry, we'll give you some money,"
So for a while he joined the boy's in blue,

He eventually left, and he settled,
In a town, below Folly Hill,
In a recumbent posture, he tells us,
Of all the things that make him ill,

Now, you either love old Harry, or hate him,
My choice changes, from time to time,
But this site would really be boring,
With out now and then, Harry's odd rhyme.

Jim Horton

Folly Tower opening - 17/3/08

Friends of the Folly Tower are hoping to open the tower more often during the summer - eg the Art Fest weekend, and the Sealed Knot weekend+++.

To do this this we need a few more volunteers.

Anyone willing to have a 2-3 hour stint in the Belvedere room, taking money, selling bits and pieces and generally having a nice time chatting to visitors?

If yes do contact Eddie Williams edchriswilliams@aol.com

Easter Greetings Everyone (particularly JH) - 16/3/08

For the past few weeks the Postings on this Website have been as informative as ever but there has been little in the way of comic relief. So as Easter Egg Time approaches I thought a little poem about one of the most famous eggs of all might not be out of place.

I hope it might even provoke some equally light hearted responses..?

So here's a simple poem, Jim. .No hard words at all. It tells what happens to an egg when it falls off a wall.

So.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, which wasn't very bright
For eggs have a low survival rate if dropped from any height.
And Humpty Dumpty did fall off, the rhyme required he should.
He splattered on the ground below, we always knew he would.
The Sovereign's soldiers came along to see what they could do
All were Sandhurst Graduates but, they didn't have a clue.
Some horses came along as well ..I really can't think why.
Hooves can't pick up scrambled egg, they didn't even try.
Some other people saw him there just lying in the street
He started smelling slightly and congealing in the heat.
The King's own Chefs took care of him..they were a caring set
And Humpty Dumpty ended as.
a Royal Om-el-ette

HGM

Battle of Faringdon meeting - 16/3/08

In just over 4 months time a large contingent from the Sealed Knot will descend on Faringdon for a re-enactment weekend. The event will be similar to that held 11 years ago at Step Farm. The organising group in the Sealed Knot are members of Rawdon's Regiment, who also organised the last big muster. Sir Marmaduke Rawdon died defending Faringdon in 1646 and his memorial grave stone can be seen in All Saints Church at the end of the choir stalls, on the left as you approach the altar.

I am the local SK organiser here in Faringdon and need to clarify the administrative details of the event. A lot of the manual effort needed to lay out the battlefield and campsite will be performed by volunteers from Rawdons. However, I need to be able to procure the items / field stores needed for this muster before the SK members appear, also clarify exactly who is to provide local services such as publicity, sanitation, roadsigns, road/entrance preparation, fencing, water, fire pickets etc. The planning activity so far has concentrated on submitting a licence application for the site and hosting a visit by the Security Advisory Group of the Licensing Authority. Detailed site maps have been prepared showing overall layout, sanitation, fire points, ambulance routes, camping and parking areas.

I am very grateful to the support given for this muster by the Saunders Family, who are lending the SK most of Church Path Farm for the event, and also Faringdon House Estate and Sofka Zinovieff.

Could anyone willing to help please come to a meeting on **Wednesday 19th March at 7 p.m. in the June Rennie Room in the Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon.** I will explain at the meeting the planning conducted to date and then identify tasks which need to be undertaken both by local volunteers and subsequently by Rawdon's Regiment members when they arrive in July. I will be holding a meeting with the SK over Easter to get confirmation of their manpower and potential for help.

I am confident that we in Faringdon can make this SK muster as successful as the last one at Step Farm. The muster not only serves to remind people of Faringdon's history, but also has the potential to bring many people into town SPENDING MONEY!

I only hope that this time the pubs do not run out of beer on Saturday night.... If you are able to help, then please come to this (or a subsequent) briefing.

Thanks
John Gillman
01367 240094

Lights Out 29/3 - 12/3/08

I've just signed up for earth hour as part of lights out wiltshire (not sure if oxfordshires doing anything similar) and have pledged to turn off all my lights for one hour at 8pm on 29th March.

On their interactive map I noticed there was only one other faringdonian on there!

Im sure we can do better than that.

<http://www.wiltshiresgwrfm.co.uk/Article.asp?id=608561&spid=24102>

15 Minute Club - March 2nd 2008 - 15/3/08

A bit late but here are the pictures I took during the 15 Minute Club on March 02, 2008.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/raoul42/sets/72157604121055378>

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Swap Shop success - 14/3/08

Very many thanks to all who were able to help on Saturday, especially Liz for the name/email generation, Lisa for keeping everything running smoothly, Billie for her organisational skills and keeping me on the straight and narrow, Alison on the scales, and Gerald and Sjoerd for the banner and assorted town crying. And thanks, too, to everybody who brought and took. In case you haven't already heard, we managed to divert a whopping 400kg from landfill! And, thanks to Diane's, Susanna's and Ali's prowess with the refreshments, Pre-School managed to raise another £25 or so. The winner of the compost bin was Terry Jones, who guessed 800lb, and who came all the way from Oxford for the occasion!

One of the most common questions was 'When's the next one going to be?'. This one was part of a co-ordinated effort across the county, with 16 taking place on Saturday alone, but there's nothing to stop us from making it a regular event: indeed, with 6000 residents in Faringdon alone, meaning about 2000 households at least, we've not even scratched the surface. If we could get everybody thinking about putting stuff aside for the next Swap Shop instead of sending to landfill, then we'll have made real progress.

With this in mind, we're planning to repeat the Swap Shop as part of Ecoweek, from 14 - 21 June. It'll take place on the first day, and will be running in conjunction with the Eco fair, probably at the Catholic Church Hall. We'll be sending off an email to all who didn't win the compost bin to let them know the date. In order to plan for it, and to do some brainstorming about future, non-Swap Shop events, we'll be having a meeting at 18 Fernham Road on **Thursday, 20th March, 8.30pm**: hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Andy 01367 241289

www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/

Help needed to organise Battle of Faringdon re-enactment 19-20 JULY - 14/3/08

Help is needed in organising the English Civil War "Battle of Faringdon" re-enactment 19-20 July. It is ten years since the last, highly successful re-enactment and the Sealed Knot Society plan to invade Faringdon over the weekend of 19-20 July. The SK will be based on land below Church Path Farm and will have a living history site beside Church Street.

Help is needed in preparing the site for the SK's arrival, also in areas such as publicity, parking, road signs, security, tentage, press coverage etc.

Anyone who feels able to contribute to this event is invited to come to an initial coordination briefing / meeting in the **June Rennie Room, Pump House in the Market Place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 19th March.**

Thanks

John Gillman

Big Faringdon Gig Saturday 5th July - 12/3/08

We are looking for one more band for this unique one day music festival at Faringdon junior school.

Unfortunately local band Gorgeous Moron have had to pull out of their slot at the BFG so we are looking for another band.

Initially this opportunity will be offered to a local band before we look further a field. The band must only play original material - no covers for a 45 minute slot.

If you are interested please contact Sean 07712 530405
see www.bigfaringdongig.com

Total Body Workout for over 50s - 10/3/08

Leisure Centre, Mondays, 11am for 45 minutes, £2.50, with coffee afterwards

Not too strenuous for the more mature!

NOTICE: Faringdon Folly Tower - 10/3/08

During the storm of Sunday night a big tree branch has broken off from one of the trees around the folly tower and has landed on the path through the center of the woods around the tower.

As the weather is going to be similar for the next few days I would like to ask people, who walk around the folly tower and surrounding woods, to be EXTRA CAREFUL as more branches might come down.

We of The Friends of the Folly are currently waiting the arrival of funding for maintenance on the woods surrounding the folly tower.

And the maintenance work will commence as soon as possible.

Regards,

Raoul van Eijndhoven - Friends of the Folly.

Re: Ruining it for the many, Dave Porter, 2 March '08 ... - 8/3/08

I am afraid we get what we deserve. With the occasional exception, no-one takes an interest in community affairs. There IS an aspect of chicken-and-egg in that the town council is unpaid, unelected and impotent and consequently no-one goes to its public meetings, but what about the Vale Council?

Councillor Gillman is on the right track when he says we should be taking things directly to the VWHDC. Its members are elected, but why oh why do we elect Vale councillors who do NOTHING for Faringdon.

If we have an issue, we need to find out when the VALE meetings are and attend them en masse.

We can observe our elected Tories in action and maybe make them realise we mean business. There's the challenge

...

Mark Harrison

FARINGDON FOLLY TOWER - Open during the Spring and Summer - 6/3/08

Hailed as "BRITAIN's FINEST 20th CENTURY FOLLY TOWER" and "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FOLLIES IN BRITAIN"

OPEN 11.00am till 5.00pm starting Easter Monday 24th March
Followed by Sunday 6th April, Sunday 4th May and Monday 26th May
Then first Sunday of the Month till 5th October.

For more information go to www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

To arrange additional visits please contact Eddie Williams on 01367 241142 or email edchriswilliams@aol.com

SPECIAL FARINGDON HEALTH WALK - 6/3/08

To Celebrate our First Anniversary In the grounds of Faringdon House (By kind permission of Sofka Zinovieff)

WEDNESDAY 9th April at 10.30 am, outside The Bell Hotel

The 1 or 2 mile circular walks are for everyone, whatever their ability - and they're FREE!

We expect that there will be a range of abilities and one of our trained leaders will walk at the pace of the slowest walker.

We hope you will join us afterwards for tea/coffee and a chat. Please turn up about 10 minutes before your first walk to complete a brief questionnaire.

Please remember to wear sensible shoes and comfortable clothes.

For more information call Eddie: 01367 241142 or Joan: 01367 242970 or email edchriswilliams@aol.com

Otherwise, JUST TURN UP!

Guitarist and Bass player wanted - 6/3/08

For a new original material band fronted by "the man with the STEREO hands". Already recruited a brilliant drummer, now just need a second guitarist who can play a bit of lead as well as rhythm guitar and a bass player with a bit of aggression who prefers to play with a pick. Own equipment essential, gigging experience useful. Ideally male or female aged between 30 and 40 living in Faringdon/Swindon/Oxford/Oxfordshire.

Take a listen to the mp3 samples of original material on the stereohands website at www.stereohands.co.uk and see if it's your kind of thing, although the new material will be a little heavier sounding.

If interested contact us at info@stereohands.co.uk

Town Council's Corporate objectives - 5/3/08

has anybody read the town councils corporate objectives.

one key point is to promote sustainable development and its economy to meet the needs of present residents and visitors without jeopardising the needs of future generations.

the last thing we need is a pointless business park.
Name supplied

Big Faringdon Gig Sat. 5th July - 5/3/08

Faringdon Junior School

We now have a full line up for this unique music festival, 15 bands all playing original songs (no covers what so ever). Thankyou for those bands showing an interest in playing but the day is now full (unless someone backs out).

Tickets will probably be available in May with all profits being split in support of Helen and Douglas House Hospice Oxford and Faringdon Arts Festival.

We now have our stage managers but would still like to hear from volunteers to help on the two bars and manning the doors.

Any local organisation looking to raise funds providing refreshments (tea coffe snacks etc) and please get in touch.

For contact details and more information please see www.bigfaringdongig.com

Thank you Sean

Which council?? - 5/3/08

Simon, your letter keeps throwing mud in the direction of the "council", but you never reveal which council you are talking about.

In Town Council I have always said that the Folly Farm development will merely be served by the kebab wagon at its entrance.

But the planning authority is not here in Faringdon, rather in far away Abingdon. You know - that town east of us that you cannot get to by bus. The planners there come under the control of the District Council, an assembly dominated by the Liberal Democrats, whose main party voting base is around Abingdon and Wantage. Their councillors probably think it is marvellous that people from Faringdon often go to shop in Tescos at Abingdon. If Faringdon had a successful shopping complex then their voters in Wantage and Abingdon would lose much of Faringdon's trade. The planners seem to think therefore that serving 450 houses merely with a kebab wagon as a retail outlet is acceptable as viewed from Abingdon, as it would induce even more people to shop in their town.

So if you want to influence the planners, please throw the mud around on their home patch, not here in Faringdon.
John Gillman

Business Park Helpful??????? - 5/3/08

The only thing a business park at the edge of the town (that includes a large supermarket) would bring to Faringdon would be the closure of the town centre. People are fickle creatures and if they can do all shopping under one roof whether it be Mr Tesco's or Mr Sainbury then that is what would happen.

People like myself who are an independant work very hard to bring different goods in to our shops.
Denise Palmer

Please god - not another Tesco or Sainsbury's. - 4/3/08

If you want one that badly then just drive the 10 minutes to Swindon or 15 minutes to Wantage.

There's nothing wrong with Budgens. Foodwise you can buy anything you need in Faringdon, and anything else you can order online of just take a short drive to get.

The last thing we need is a pointless retail park that's going to empty the town still further
Ray

Publicans of Faringdon! - 4/3/08

Does anyone have records of Licensees from about 1912 to 1930.

My grandmother Ellen Taylor moved from Horley Surrey to Faringdon after becoming a widow in 1911. She worked in a pub there until the publican, maybe a Mr Spiers, walked out in about 1926 to get a haircut and didn't come back!! She then became the liciensee. She returned to Horley in 1942.

Can anyone confirm this family story or do you know anything about Mr Spiers
Liz Peacey

business park helpful???? -3/3/08

it does not have to be a large retail park it could be part business units like the hundred park.

and part retail like at watchfield the co op has two shops that have be trading with no problems of cross over on there customer catchment area.

why could budgens not ,my view is that if we are going to expand faringdon chimmey pots .

then the due to size of the town centre ,bugdens just dont have enough square feet .
this is why we end up with artics in peak times trying to deliver
in wantage there has been a mix of independent and national companys for some time.
the problem is there is never going to be room in the town centre for national companys.
but if landowner are going to be allowed to sell land for homes .
then the council are going to have wake up to demand for better shops in the town.
and stop wearing rose tinted glasses, i am amazed they let mr carter sell carters .
old customers of carter did not want it to change ,i did not want it to change .
when time time does a dig in 2000 years time.
of faringdon they will go err tony they had no shops in faringdon.
they must of shop at witney or wantage.
what some of national companys would bring is jobs more suitable for the average workerlike myself.
like so many of us are most of the jobs being made are skilled or highly skilled .
and somebody like eg tescos brings varied hours of work suitable for eg a working mum that wants to work from 0930
to 1400 hrs.
that your average faringdon company cant offer for business reasons.
so in turn puts more into work which puts more into are local economics not swindons etc. like pubs etc
i am not saying this is the way forward but we should look at it .
instead of having a certain landowner one tracked business vision of faringdon.
why are the council so against retail??

simon cook

Door to door begging - 3/3/08

I had the same experience from the same lady with Dog as Colin was describing. She also asked be for a fiver as her husband was at work and she had no money and promised to pay it back.

As Colin I declined.

This was last Saturday. Whilst walking the Dog on Sunday, I saw her again knocking on doors.

Raoul van Eindhoven

Courses at Community College - 3/3/08

Many more courses scheduled in March and April. Includes computing, history, tai chi, photography, plumbing and many more.

[See attached for details](#)

[Also First aid course 15th March](#)

To enrol or for more information: (01367) 243 599 - Janet Deane

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

Retail Park helpful? - 1/3/08

have to question how a large retail park on the edge of town would help the economic and social development of Faringdon. Evidence suggests that where a large supermarket is sited near a town it inevitably leads to difficulties for, and the possible demise of, local independent traders.

Wantage has been mentioned as a town that has "moved with the times".

Have you taken a look at Mill Street lately? What used to be full of independent shops is now a boarded-up wilderness...and all since Mr. Sainsbury expanded his empire!

David Reynolds

Ruining it for the many! - 02/03/08

Do you remember at school the teacher saying "it's always the behaviour of the few who ruin it for the many"?

Well, we all understood what the teacher was saying, didn't we? I've just come back from the 15minute club where a young band tried to **express themselves** and the organisers (who had no choice because they are on their last warning) were turning down their amps all because "of the behaviour of a few (resident(s)) who are ruining it for the

many"...

How the tables have turned! Of course the band were compromised, aggrieved and the moment lost.

12 days a year! That's all we ask for. I don't think that is unreasonable. Do you? This is the last venue in Faringdon. When the marketplace gets vandalised, why do you think that is? It's because young people don't have anywhere to **express themselves!**

Dave Porter

Scats - 01/03/08

I miss Scats. I used to go there for the animal feed, countrywear, garden requirements, and other useful goods. It is a great pity it closed. The nearest comparable store is in Newbury.

name supplied

Simon - 01/03/08

I write in support of all your comments, It's about time someone talked some sense. I know you quite well, I was a regular customer in scats a place that brought a lot of trade to the town. A few shops and traders seem to have the shopping sewn up in Faringdon and I do go to larger supermarkets, buy my clothes in Swindon or Oxford, but am a very active community member.

We don't all sit on committee's some of us just beaver away, trying to make a difference, without a fuss. Pay our tax, and just help when and where we can.

name supplied

door to door begging. - 01/03/08

At home this morning and there was a knock at the door and on answering I was asked for a loan.

A woman from around the corner allegedly had no money to buy shopping and was left alone with a large dog and husband gone to work.

I was asked to lend her a fiver with no idea of when it would be repaid.

I declined but has begging now gone from the street to door to door. hope not.

Colin

Pay at pump -01/03/08

In effect the 'maximum amount - £59' IS taken out of your account as it took me over my overdraft limit and therefore my bank wouldn't let me get any more money out until the transaction had gone through 3 days later. When you live on a budget, companies 'reserving' money from your account can cause problems.

name supplied

Contributing. - 01/03/08

Plenty of people live in a town or area, with or without local employment, who pay their taxes, are law abiding citizens, use local shops and facilities, and want a quiet life. Why on earth should they be stigmatised for not 'contributing' further?

My experience of people who contribute - worthy though they may be - is that they usually do so for a sense of personal satisfaction, and if as a result other people benefit well so much the better. I vote for our local councillors to run the place, so that they may take on the responsibility that they enjoy, and have the power, however illusory, and self satisfaction that they seek, and I am grateful to them for taking on this task. If I'm not satisfied with what they do I can always vote for someone else or have a go myself.

Society is already overrun with busybodies, chivvying us 'to do our bit' for the community etc., which often means volunteering to carry out some thankless task, under the supervision of, and ultimately for the aggrandisement of the

busybodies themselves.

By all means let the contributors 'contribute' as much as they like, but please leave the rest of us alone.

name supplied

re: Pay at Pump - 01/03/08

I've used this several times, and do not have a problem with it. The £59 shown on the display ISN'T taken out of your account, nor is it the maximum you can spend on your card. It's simply the maximum amount the pump will allow you to spend on petrol.

Nothing is taken out of your account until the transaction is closed, though it won't show on your bank statement until the next working day. I've checked my statements so I know this to be the case. Incidentally, the same is true for any card transaction, eg, at Budgens the transaction isn't closed and the money debited until you withdraw your card from the reader.

Rod Davis

Town Meeting - 30/4/08

There were about 40 people at the meeting on Monday 28th - a good turnout (comparatively), even though 10-15 were councillors.

The most discussed subject was the lease of the **Corn Exchange** - still under discussion, but importantly, waiting for a structural survey report that VWHDC have commissioned. Before FTC even think about signing a lease (term not mentioned) it is essential to understand the order and cost of the maintenance work that is needed. There seems to be a great deal - the roof leaks, the floor needs renewing, the cloakrooms need to be updated, decoration, sound proofing.

Cncllr Leniec said he hoped to hold a town meeting to discuss the terms of the lease and the cost of repairs.

FTC has budgeted £16k for double glazing. One councillor said 'don't be under the illusion it will solve the (sound) problem' and indicated that much more ££ is needed. The Corn Exchange can still be used for some music events

VWHDC are to close the Cash office in September. In the light of this FTC may move their offices to the Pump Rooms, but to some extent this depends on whether a lease for the Corn Exchange is signed, and the amount of VWHDC queries and information FTC staff have to deal with.

Pump House

£80k of 106 monies will be used to install a disabled lift to the 3rd floor, and towards making the theatre usable. It was suggested it could be used for some music events and an arts centre.

No usage or income figures were available. One councillor said it is taking time to build up usage.

Town Park (Behind the library) Using money from JET, the paths have been improved and planting is to start soon

Willes Close. The covenant stipulates that the land should be used for as open space for public use. FTC are finding out if allotments could be put there. FTC feel they can no longer just leave the land as it is, as it is hazardous. Alternatives are to sell it back to OCC (it used to be part of a school) or prevent access with secure fencing.

Christmas Lights 6 Festoon lights have been purchased to replace some disappointing ones - I think for Marlborough St

400 new houses. Planning permission has now been agreed, meaning that the 106 agreement is agreed too. It includes new cricket/ rugby pitches and pavilion, £80k for the Pump House (payable when the 1st house is built), £80k for the Corn Exchange (payable when the 100th house is built est after 1 year), the base for the skate park (should be done when the pitches are established), extension to the Folly Park

The cricket pitch has to be in place for at least one year before the current pitch can be built on.

FTC will manage an est £280k of 106 money.

There is some delay in the Bloor Homes timetable. It is not known whether the down turn in housing market will have any effect.

Folly Park. Bloor Homes are to fund the maintenance of the Folly Park extension. No term was known. It is currently thought that they will give money to be invested and used to fund the maintenance - forever!

Rogers Concrete and adjacent site. Potential developers have had meeting with FTC Planning committee. No specific information was put forward.

Bus Shelters. The installation program is complete. A contract for monthly cleaning has been agreed.

Tescos on JDS sight. Not mentioned

The Chamber is producing a Town Guide for delivery to all residents (8K print run).

A Faringdon Community Interest Company has been set up.

'A' boards on pavements - yet to be resolved.

Another French Market 7/9/08 in London Street.

More evening markets to be organised.
Seeking to improve in town Cycle routes and between villages.
Taken over the Visitvale tourist website

Retail Group

Buy back scheme for parking
Seeking more stalls for the Thursday market
Festive Faringdon
Party in the Park, 28/6/08, in the grounds of Faringdon House.

Faringdon Association of Residents have requested that flashing speed warnings are installed to deter speeding motorists

Siobham Vinall has resigned as an FTC councillor

A number of councillors indicated that they would really like more residents to attend Council meetings, especially Venues committee and Planning.

I suggested that JET, Traffic Advisory and JEFF groups should report to the town meeting.

The next Town Meeting will be in October/November so that town people can input to FTCs budget process earlier in the process.

I have tried to report this accurately - do let me know if you know of anything that needs to be changed, or items to add.
Gene Webb

Re : Tesco/JDS Site - 30/4/08

Having worked at JDS and speaking to a few members of staff who are still there, there was, at some point, a possibility of Tesco's buying the site, for whatever use. However, according to them, the business is now recovering and has even taken some of the staff back on, and there are no plans to sell the site at present.

Whether or not this is purely management's way of keeping staff happy for the time being I don't know, and I really wouldn't put anything past them, but this may all be something and nothing, and certainly nothing to panic about for the time being.

I hope that the 2 guys I spoke to are right, and that more importantly everyone's jobs are safe, but I think this is a case of 'wait and see' for now.
Lyn Sheppard

BIG FARINGDON GIG 5th July - 30/4/08

BFG on tour - only original music - NO COVERS

As part of the work to promote this years BFG we will be having two BFG music nights at the Port Mahon in St Clemments Oxford.

Here you will have the opportunity to hear some of the bands that will be playing at the July BFG at the junior school.

The first date is Tuesday 10th June - the line up: The Dacoits Disclosure But Then Again...

The second date is Wednesday 25th June at the Port Mahon - line up details are not yet complete but will include: Chalk But Then Again...

All the bands have myspace links on the BFG website. More details on www.bigfaringdongig.com Sean

Transport from oxford - 30/4/08

Planning on going out in oxford for a night out and wondered if anyone knew of any cheap taxis?
hopefully less then £40 which seems waaay too much!
Matthew

Old Railway Bridge - 29/4/08

hi everybody i am new to site but not new to the area. but after reading the agenda for the town council for the first april i read at the very bottom about the application to english heritage for the old railway bridge to be listed . about time too

but my thoughts on the subject is the landowner who's land it is on should be made to remove the horrible concrete and repair it at there cost

Name Supplied

A Big Thankyou - 29/4/08

This a big thank you to the very kind people who helped my mother Joan Millikin last Thursday 24th April, when she fell and broke her hip as she crossed the road to the Portwell.

She is in Great Western Hospital recovering from an operation to pin the fracture. Yesterday she was able to take a few steps.

She thinks two people who came to her aid, and provided an umbrella to shield her from the rain, were visitors.

Whoever you are , Thank you very much!

Angela Dewey

"Sam Kelly's Station House" - 29/4/08

Sam Kelly voted British Blues Connection "Drummer of The Year" for five years running is a versatile ,creative,energetic player.

Sam has a vast experience playing with some of the most influential performers on the stage to-day and yesterday.

Sam brings his band of equal talented players to the junior school on May 5th as part of the MayFest.

www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

RE: Freeview reception - 29/4/08

I live in Cromwell Close and have no problems with getting Freeview, no matter what various websites might suggest! I look forward to meeting you in the close in due course.

Name Supplied

More Baggies - 27/04/08

I have been the manager of two large supermarkets (not local) over ten years. The cost of the free carrier bags, to the supermarkets, is a tiny fraction of a penny each. To charge 5p or more per bag now is scandalous. The uptake of the throw-away bags will drop considerably but will level out and still be there. It would be easy, though not as profitable to switch to biodegradable bags.

The supermarkets say they are going to donate the profits from their bags to environmental charities, but I can guess it will be only a small percentage of what that profit will be. As consumers, you will never know.

The environmental lobby has manipulated public opinion in order to raise it's profile, and politically ambitious environmentalists have cottoned on the usefulness of the 'plastax' in its campaign. Large retailers are only too happy to go along with this under the banner of being environmentally friendly, it is to their advantage, and public opinion is easily manipulated.

The CBC has rightly, reasonably, and honestly (in their response to the Scottish Parliament paper) put their arguments - drawing on the DEFRA poll - against a plastic carrier bag tax. Of course they wish to defend their industry. Virtually all the members of the consortium are, however packaging firms who supply all kinds of packaging, jute bags, biodegradable plastics, paper etc. though, and will be able to recoup their losses on the non-bio plastic bags in other ways; furthermore they have cited research not necessarily carried out on their instructions, but a variety of studies carried out by independent bodies - which you will have seen if you got to the end of the paper I mentioned.

My principle objection to the local ban on free carriers though is that a self appointed, unelected group of putative guardians of our environment can bully local retailers into a course of action which affects us all, and although superficially (e.g. Irish 'plastax' results in drop of 90% in waste) looks hugely (and misleadingly) successful, none the

less will not be quite as environmentally gainful as it sounds, when you consider the eventual consequences, such as the increased use of paper, other plastics and so on.

I am not on any bandwagon, merely trying to present a reasoned answer to what I think is a misguided course of action. There are other more effective ways of reducing plastic waste - of all sorts. I have read the paper which you mention, and there is nothing there to change my mind. (nor, in fact some others' minds judging by the responses to it)

My argument is of course pointless, as this is too good an opportunity for the big retailers and politicians to miss, and is a 'done deal'. We will meekly accept it, and in five years time we shall have forgotten all about it and there will be another cause to latch on to.

Name supplied

RE: Freeview reception - 27/4/08

Thanks for all the tips It's a rented house so I'm not sure yet if I could get SKY if Freeview fails ... or if I can afford it to be honest but fingers crossed we might be able to get some sort of reception, even if it involves fitting a bigger aerial!

Now, could anyone recommend a good aerial fitter ...?!

We're moving from Stanford in the Vale so not too far, and I know Faringdon reasonably well as I publish Community Times magazine.

Good news (I hope) for anyone in the Berners Way area as my daughter will probably start delivering the magazine there for me!!

Alison

RE Plastic bags - 27/4/08

Dear name supplied, its interesting how you claim we all jump on the band wagon when in fact you have jumped on one yourself.

The web site you quote is not a defra survey it is a response from the CBC to the scottish carrier bag tax. The CBC are the carrier bag consortium who describe them selves as...

"The Carrier Bag Consortium is a group of major UK carrier bag suppliers who have uniquely joined together to fight the possibility of a carrier bag tax being imposed in the UK.

Such a tax would wreck jobs and businesses and do no good for the environment."

Do you really think the views you so easily defend are unbiased in anyway? or are these a group of people out to defend there right to make money by selling carrier bags in the same way that M&S want to make money selling Jute bags or whatever.

There is no difference either way someone is out to make money on the issue. Which band wagon you join depends on whether you like plastic derived from oil, that dwindling resource sending up our fuel bills and causing wars or recyclables from grass and trees and replaceable sources that look nice to the eye.

A brief search came up with this link if your willing to balance your reading. It provides the other side of the argument with references.

On balance I like less packaging and bags altogether to save me putting the bins out when its raining.

www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1204/London%20Councils%20Shopping%20Bag%20Consultation.doc

Mark

Bluebells - 26/4/08

Thanks for the Bluebell message!

Am on my way with the camera!

Jill Dean

Freeview - 26/4/08

We live on Stanford Rd, which Berners Way is off and we get a decent Freeview signal. Every couple of months it goes a bit wobbly and we have to rescan for channels and then its fine again.

Mel

Badbury Clump Bluebells - 26/4/08

In full bloom - lovely

GW

Freeview reception. - 26/4/08

I live in Bennett Road which according to various websites cant receive a good freeview reception due to the position of the Folly and its impact on the signal from Oxford.

But, if you have a decent aerial then you can get a good picture.

You could always go the Murdoch way if necessary.

Colin

Freeview - 26/4/08

The upper end of London Street gets freeview OK, provided you have the correct aerial.

HT

Help - freeview reception? - 25/4/08

Hope someone can help me out here!

I'm probably moving to Cromwell Close, Faringdon (off Berners Way) in a couple of weeks and have just arranged with BT to sort out the phone line and broadband, and part of the package includes a free BT Vision TV recorder box - fantastic, and saves me sorting out a freeview box. But then I checked on a couple of digital TV sites and it says that I'm unlikely to get reception there Does anyone here live in that part of Faringdon?

Do you get Freeview reception?

Please help!!

Alison

Ed(GW): I know Harding Close get freeview, but you may need to check the aerial is good enough. Welcome to Faringdon- if you're new!

Plastic Bags - 25/04/08

Yes, a very good move - for M&S, and other smart retailers with slick marketing machines, who will eventually make a very good profit on their bags, - *some* of which profit *may* go to environmental projects. For anyone who wants to read something sensible on this issue go to [DEFRA survey](#)

(The page may appear blank initially - just scroll down a bit)

I doubt that many of you will bother. Too much trouble, and easier to just jump onto a popular bandwagon.

name supplied

VWHDC Sustainable Strategy meeting - 25/4/08

A Community Strategy is being prepared by The Vale Partnership, which brings together the Council and service providers across the Vale(private and voluntary as well as public).

The partnership would now like you to be involved in agreeing the actions that it will undertake to tackle the issues that you have helped to identify.

Forums are being held across the Vale for your to comment on and discuss a draft version of the new Vale community sustainable strategy.

You are welcome to come to attend the forum which is most convenient to you

Wed 30th AprilAbingdon Guildhall

Tue 13th MayWantage Civic hall

Thurs 22nd MayFaringdon Corn Exchange

Tues 17th JuneCumnor Village Hall

All 7pm - 9pm

A number of special consultation events are planned for June and July this year about the Core Strategy Preferred Options document, which will set out a number of things including the broad locations where the major housing, employment and other community uses should go.

Details of the special consultation events will be published on www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk in the local press and at VWHDC offices as they become available

VWHDC Head of Community Strategy
[See full press release for more details](#)

Madd May Fest - 25/4/08

Many things have been said about Ian Parker. "Excellent, beautiful, the guitar solo was simply amazing, like a megaton lightning bolt entering the cerebrum, travelling all the way to the coccyx and back several times. Never seen a better performance. If he is playing nearby, do not miss one of the finest acts on the circuit today. If you do, you will miss something very special"

Ian Parker Band.

M.a.D.d. MayFest. Monday 5th May

www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Plastic Bags - M&S Oxford - 25/4/08

The Oxford store are offering free bags (long life? jute?) until 5/5/08. After then they will charge 5p for their normal carrier bags.

Proceeds from these sales will go to an environmental charity/organisation.

Sounds like a good move

Gene Webb

BIG FARINGDON GIG Saturday 5th July - 25/4/08

We have teamed up with Oxfordshires newest music magazine 'Oxfordshire Music Scene' to help us with publicity.

This is a free glossy quarterly music magazine that will concentrate on local Oxfordshire music. The current copy (freely available in Budgens, Sandwich Phillers and Saddlers and The Crown) features a double page spread on one of the bands due to play at BFG 'Not My Day'.

Last few days to get free tickets for the BFG - take the music quiz on our website www.bigfaringdongig.com

Sean

Annual Town Meeting - 24/3/08

This annual meeting is on **Monday 28th April at 1930 in the Corn Exchange**

This is an opportunity to express your views to the town council, possibly in the presence of our VWHDC and County councillors.

There are many issues:

The future of the Corn Exchange

The closure of the VWHDC cash office

Dangerous Bus Lane in the town centre

106 progress- Folly Park, Skate Park

Pump House plans

Proposed Tesco

- and I'm sure there are more topics

It is much more effective if lots of people go to the meeting - please do

Gene Webb

Hush Refunds - 23/4/08

The last of the requested refunds have now been posted, either by hand or first class mail. If anyone has requested refunds but not received their money by Monday 28th April please let us know by emailing bookings@hushfest.co.uk.
Martin Phillips

HUSH festival - 23/4/08

No, no refund or acknowledgement as yet.
Come on HUSH organisers, don't let us down!
Name Supplied

Madd May Fest - 23/4/08

'The Soothsayers, pretty much from the first note it became obvious that not only could these boys play, but they could do so with soul in their bellies. Rhythm and melody slipped across each other effortlessly as the brass section chased each other across solid fields of drum and bass, guitar and vocals. this is a band which is obviously unafraid to experiment, to flatter even, which is why their songs were able to meld harmonies and riffs that acknowledge all manner of influences while maintaining their own imprint. They also made it look so very easy, which is always a sign that you are watching and listening to a group that is master of its own destiny.'
Excerpt from Ray's review of the Soothsayers in Faringdon May 2007.

"Soothsayers" A group of musicians playing a fusion of nu Afro beat and Dub; a cultural collision created by movement of people; music with vision and a message; music for all people from all cultures and nations.
Catch them on sunday 4th May @ the junior School Faringdon. The M.A.d.d. MayFest
www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

He who hesitates ? ? ? - 23/4/08

The implication of Raoul van Eijndhoven's comment is that someone has deliberately destroyed some daffodils donated by our Mayor because they either don't like daffodils or don't like the Mayor.
He hesitates to give his reasons because he fears being made unpopular.

If everyone took this view and being popular was a prerequisite to posting this would be a very boring site.
So please R van E publish your suspicions as "Name supplied" and we'll all pretend we don't know it's you.
HGM

Re: Dog poo and daffodils Update on the daffodils... - 22/4/08

Well more sad news. Now most of the Daffodil patches around the Folly have been destroyed.
The additional destruction of the Daffodils happened very shortly after Gene put the initial response on Talking Points (April 13, 2008).

The bulbs were donated by our mayor, John Gillman, to The Friends of the Folly.

Why oh why have they been destroyed... Well I have an idea but it will not make me very popular. So I will keep it to myself for the moment.

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Re: The Good old National Trust - 22/4/08

Personally I have no problem with the introduction of paying at the White Horse Hill car park, if the money goes back in to the maintenance of White Horse Hill and the Ridgeway.
There are several alternatives if you do not want to pay for parking at White Horse Hill.
* There are plenty of other car parks around the ridgeway (close to the WhiteHorse) where you do not need to pay.
* Become a member of the National Trust. - You can park for free and it will give you loads of other perks when visiting other National Trust Areas (e.g. Free entrance at Stone Henge).
* Move to Uffington or Woolstone.

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Great a distibution center in/near Faringdon - 22/4/08

Especially if you are a frequent user of the A420.

It seems that the A420 has already become the short cut/ratrun for several large distribution/haulage companies in Swindon.

If Tesco will have it's disti center here in Faringdon, next to the A420. It will mean even more lorries.

Great...

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Hush Festival - 22/4/08

Has anyone had a refund yet?

Sent my request about 2 weeks ago and not even an acknowledgement.

Name Supplied

Youth Choir - 20/4/08

As a fund raiser for the excellent Youth Choir two local bands are giving their services towards this event." The Folly's," a Trev Williams project and "Disclosure"

Please come along and support this event.

This is part of the M.A.D.D. MayFest on Sunday 4th May, 3-30pm @ the junior school.

This is a free event. Donations towards the choir.

Any person interested in the open stage on folly hill Monday 5th May, please get in touch with Sam on 01367-243806 or through www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Tescos and JDS - 19/4/08

i know what site it is the jds site is so small in distribution terms. for a company like tesco.

tescos would only buy for two reasons one is highlighted by another poster. which to stop others buy it which i do believe is now against the law. and the other is put a retail shop.

while the vwhdc council and with consent of are own town council. allow the growth of faringdon it will bring the town to attention of some of the big boys. as with the town being in the 6000 population mark. with the extra 500 houses at the end of park road. that will bring the town into 7000 mark. which will be of interest to tescos as they will be working on the catchment area.

if a store place here in the town goes ahead. it will bring that hard to get permission for a store area of the cotswolds into play eg gl postcode of lechlade. so for all that support the town and the extra growth . you will not be able to have new house without interest from some of the big names that some hate so much fact.

Simon Cook

Budgens - 20/4/08

I've just noticed that Budgens are now offering a dry cleaning service.

I do feel it's a pity that in a small town such as Faringdon, that the supermarket doesn't consider other retailers.

Wouldn't it be better for everyone if Budgens offered just a good range of staple food and household goods rather than compete with the smaller retailers for things like cards, papers, magazines, medicines++

It is well known that supermarkets have caused many smaller businesses to close. Isn't in Budgens interest in the long term, as well as the other shops in Faringdon to keep the town centre active and alive?

I know this is not the spirit of current day commercialism, but I think it would be good to be more coooperative.

Name Supplied

Tesco's - 18/4/08

But we are not talking about the Town Centre Simon, it's the main trunk road through the town next to a number of large industrial units and sites.

Therefore, it would be an ideal site for distribution, but obviously not to the scale of Didcot.

Name supplied

tom you are right - 17/4/08

tescos distribtion unit at didcot is one of only two chilled and frozen units in the uk. one for the south and the other is somewhere up north. when i worked there i think we had a turnover of up to 600 artics a day in and out.
cant quite see that happen in jds.
it is bad enough with bugdens two artics a day facing the wrong way in a one way street.
simon cook

the good old national trust - 16/4/08

having used the white horse hill car park for the best part of my whole life ,and in more recent years four times a week for training as raf reservist and currently training for yorkshire three peaks for heart research. i was told by the trust at coleshill that i am not a local.

you have to live in uffington or woolstone to have a free parking pass. so this has cut short my use of the nt carpark as i cant afford to pay a pound ever time i use the park. with the goverment trying to get us out about the trust is trying to fleece jo blog.

i would not mind but the nt is given most of it land. and sheep do most of up keep of white horse hill. still i could always push bike up to keep fit.

just wonder what other thoughts of this new idea of the trust. but to all you doggie walks out there and mountain bikers badbury clumps will be next???

simon cook

Tesco's? what ? - 16/4/08

I have to say the idea of tescos having a distribution unit in faringdon is stupid.
Didcot houses, from what i beleive, one of the biggest Tesco distribution units in the south.
Tom

What are you putting back into the Community? - 16/4/08

Is there a summary of the town councils expenditure and bad debts available before the the Annual meeting on the 28th so we can actually see what we have put back (or the town council has decided to put back) into the community?

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) I think you'll have to go to the FTC office and ask for a copy of the accounts

St George's Day Parade - Sunday 20th - 16/4/08

Scouts, cubs, beavers from the King Alfred area (Faringdon, Stanford, Watchfield, Shrivenham +++) will be assembling to leave the Junior School at 1330, to parade down Gloucester St, through the square and on to the Church in celebration of St George's Day

Tesco rumour - 14/4/08

From what i've heard Tesco have brought the land to stop any other retailers buying the land. They then leave it for upto 2 years then either develop or sell it on.

This is normal practice for them! Stops the big boys taking over!!

Lets hope they sell it on for housing not retail.

Name Supplied

Big Faringdon Gig Sat 5th July - 14/4/08

An opportunity to win free tickets to this years BFG

Answer the simple music quiz on our website for two chance to win one of two pairs of tickets.

Closing date 29th April Tickets will be on sale on 1st May - £10 for all day 15 bands playing original songs - no covers what-so-ever. www.bigfaringdongig.com

Sean Hodgeson

Arts Festival - 14/4/08

Hi Mel and everyone keen to find out about this year's Faringdon Arts Festival.
We are currently finalising the complete line-up and will publicise this in the next few weeks.

What I can confirm though is that, due to public demand, we are extending the Market Place stage activities to 11pm on Saturday as well as the Friday!

More to follow!

David Reynolds
(Chairman, Faringdon Arts Festival)

Tesco Rumour - 14/4/08

I would imagine it would be a distribution site and not a supermarket !!
Name Supplied

Dog poo and daffodils - 13/4/08

Last Thursday VWHDC cleared the high path along Stanford Road of weeds - and very good it looks too. I walked there on Sunday only to see that 2 dog owners had allowed their dogs to 'dump' on it. I hope they feel embarrassed and ashamed- but I guess not else they wouldn't have allowed it to happen

Please, please dog owners - clear up after your dog - friends of the Folly are trying to encourage more visitors to the tower - it does not give a good impression of Faringdon to see this sort of thing.

They have also started cleaning the path to the Folly - I do hope dog owners respect this and make sure their dogs don't foul it

Friends of the Folly planted daffodils around the tower. Sunday, the daffodils on one patch had been almost destroyed - daffodil stems scattered everywhere.

I despair
Gene Webb

Arts Festival - 13/4/08

Is there a website for The Arts Festival yet?
I've got some family coming down for the weekend and would like to give them an idea of this year's line up.
Thanks Mel
Ed(GW): The URL was www.faringdonartsfestival.org - but it doesn't appear to be live at the moment

Tesco Rumour - 11/4/08

On JDS site
Does anyone know anything?
Name Supplied

Smokers/Budgens - 11/4/08

I see some pubs are placing buckets of sand outside their premises for discarded cigarette ends.
Any chance the smokers outside Budgens could request one ?. There is a bin which they don't use (presumably because of the fire hazard) but throwing them on the floor isn't the answer.
The amount on the pavement - and chewing gum (which isn't a fire hazard and could go in the bin !) - is quite disgusting.
Name Supplied

Madd May Fest Tickets - 10/4/08

All tickets for the M.A.D.D. MayFest on sale @Faringdon T.i.C. through our website www.maddfaringdon.co.uk our www.wegottickets.com
Sam Prince

Holes Filled in at Leisure Centre - 9/4/08

Just to let you all know 47 indents/holes were filled in last evening by a dedicated Duty manager. With more sessions of Roller Hockey booked in maybe we should start a betting game on how many next time. Who wants to start!!!!.

Anyway THANKYOU we were able to skate at 7am this morning without cones on the floor. I think people of Faringdon need to realise we already have 3 British champions and at the end of April we could have 5 and 2/3 runner ups.

These children of Faringdon along with parents and those who have sponsored us are committed to these children who love their sport.

If you would like to see these children in action come to Saturday sessions 7.30 to 12 am you will be very surprised.
Dee England

Pictures of the Folly - 9/4/08

A very poor turnout was expected but the total takings for the weekend were £167.69, (including the £23.69 from Saturday).

There was a total of 179 visitors on Sunday which is outstanding, considering the weather.
Eddie Williams

I believe the reason for the good turnout was due to the snow. Have a look at these (I took them on Sunday morning while walking the dog): <http://www.flickr.com/photos/raoul42/2399157026>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/raoul42/2399147356>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/raoul42/2399144186>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/raoul42/2399140882>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/raoul42/2398329435>

Raoul van Eyndhoven

See www.faringdonfollly.org.uk for more pictures, information and events

Well said Jim. - 9/4/08

The local skating team and Dee really do deserve an accolade for their efforts. Hard work, dedication and attention to detail over the years have led to genuine achievement, measured internationally, not just within the boundaries of li'l ol' Faringdon, and we should recognise it.

They should not have to suffer because of the all-too-usual, sloppy, 'jobsworth' attitude.
Name Supplied

Leisure Centre - 9/4/08

It isn't often that I feel moved to grumble any more like I would have when I was young, I tend to want to yell just a minute that really is not on! It seems strange to me that the people running the sports hall in a place like Faringdon can discriminate between sports activities and allow these hockey players to muck up the floor of a training place for international roller skaters. Where on earth is their sense of priority?

These skaters are actually regularly winning international medals for Britain.

Why has everybody been making such a fuss about the teenage diving sensation winning medals when I was lucky enough to go as a spectator to Leicester for an international skating match and watched several of them win medals against other countries ,among them the youngest girl winning three gold medals among other cups and plates. The prize giving was amazing as this little seven year old went up again and again! What a fuss has been made about Beth Tweddle,22, winning a silver in gymnastics this week.

I know This is minority sport but this must be the only country in the world who would treat international medal winners this way. So arrogant as to believe that amateur hockey players have a right to damage the very floor that international roller skaters are obliged to train on for an international contest just a few days away. Football players wouldn't be treated this way so why should skaters. It isn't as if they don't pay dearly for it either. As I understand it they are major contributors of money to the leisure centre.

So please stop being so dog in the manger whoever you are these people deserve to train somewhere suitable for their purpose not have to endure accidents that would not happen on a smooth floor..... let things wash over me but just sometimes something happens which strikes me as being so unfair

Meriel and John Gillman

THE Knight in Shining Armour has taken up the challenge - 8/4/08

I have been in contact with david about his challenge of organising something for the younger generation at the FAF this year.

Once School has resumed I shall be in contact with the three Local schools doing a Survey of what the local Yoof would like to do or see at this years FAF.

I am not taking this challenge Lightly. but then again i know i won't please all the people all of the time. But their will be something for the local Yoof and i hope either Free or a very minimal Charge.

I Feel like Aneka Rice Now. Although i do assure you all that i do not look that good in a Jump Suit.
Scott Gildert

Faringdon Centre - 8/4/08

No the Centre is not just for skating.The biggest income on the hall side comes from skating almost £3000 every 13 weeks this includes block booking and any extra we do on a weekly basis.

To use the hall for 4 hours just on a saturday cost £1500 every 13 weeks.I think we have a right to have the floor clean and in repair.

I would like to say majority of the time we have to ask to have it swept.We pay for the whole hall therefore we should be able to use it. On monday we paid for just one court. Court 1 we had to put cones around to cover most of area and use other part of hall.

For those of you who live in the passed and think Roller Hockey equipment is plastic it is not they use wooden sticks and they Sharpen them before use.Boots are worn outside therefore grit and dirt on wheels damaging floor.

The FCC do not cause any damage to the main Hall they respect the facility as we all do. If we look after the facility it will be there for generations to come. If management want to use the facility for Roller Hockey they should ensure the RIGHT protection for the floor not a just a covering to make it look nice.

Dee England
Ed(GW) What do Soll Leisure Management say?

Sponsored 2008 Bluebell Walk (short) for the charity Canine Partners -

8/4/08

Sunday 20th April at Badbury Woods.

Canine Partners are a fantastic charity that receives no government funding. They train dogs to assist physically disabled people and this completely transforms people's lives.

For further information on the walk please contact Sarah-Jane on 07753 856446 or email sarah-janemartin@fsmail.net.

Would you be able to adopt or foster a Labrador? Labrador Retriever Rescue Southern England are a registered charity that re-homes purebred and Labrador Retrievers crosses. [More Information](#)

If you can help please contact Sarah -Jane on 07753 856446 or email sarah-janemartin@fsmail.net

Displeasure Centre - 8/4/08

Now , I maybe thick, or I may have missed something, but why, if the hockey club had been banned from the centre because of the damage they caused, why were they back on Saturday? and, if they have caused so much damage, why have they not been presented with a bill for repair?

Sometimes I feel out of my depth with the arguments on here, on this topic I feel I am in the shallow end, so that makes me feel safe.....

Jim Horton

Leisure centre - not just for skating - 8/4/08

As a person who uses the leisure centre on a regular basis, I'm always pleased to see so many people using this hard fought for facility.

There are a lot of different groups using the large hall including the community college. This hall floor will get damaged but thats the price we have to pay for it being so popular.

The hall is not just for the roller skating.

Name Supplied

John Otway at the Folly - 8/4/08

Just to endorse David Reynolds' comments about the John Otway gig at the top of the Folly Tower - which we only found out about through an email from some friends in Lincolnshire who are fans.

John Otway was completely brilliant and incredibly funny (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK7m4hILPv4&NR=1>) - Yes, let's encourage him to come here and do a larger gig!

The Townsend Five

Ed(GW) It was a private booking for the Folly Tower. Only very near the time was it agreed that we could publicise it - which we did on this site and www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

Scott our Knight in Shining Armour - but we still need more! - 8/4/08

At Faringdon Arts Festival Towers we are currently putting together the programme for this year's event (11-13 July). We've also recognised that it would be nice to have more on for the youngsters and have been looking for a volunteer to take up the challenge. Hooray! Along comes our knight in shining armour in the form of Scott Gildert!

Scott could you along with anyone else interested in volunteering (a few hours or a few days) for this year's event please call me on 0771 421 8825.

Many thanks

David Reynolds

Faringdon Leisure Centre - 8/4/08

During the Christmas period thousands of pounds were spent on resealing the Main Hall floor. Much of the damage to the floor was done by 2 sessions of Roller Hockey using wooden sticks prior to resealing.

Management made a decision not to book these players in again!!!! Saturday these players were in again NEW HOLES SCRATCHES and top surface almost gone..

The bottom line of income might be up by couple of hundred pounds last week but the damage they have caused and the inconvenience caused management need to take more care when taking bookings of this nature. Unless these holes are filled in Faringdon Skaters will be forced to train elsewhere until repairs are done.

With only 2 weeks before Cadet and Youth Championships this is tragic for us. Sunday and Monday I spent much time trying to get someone to make a decision to get holes filled in but it seems none could do this.

Such a simple task.

Please can I ask anyone who reads this to put pressure on Management to get this simple task done.

Thankyou

Dee England

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS 2008: Great Art Show in Great Coxwell - 7/4/08

Visitors to Great Coxwell during the first two weekends in May will be treated to a feast of art and craft as 15 local artists display their work at various venues throughout the village. As part of 'Oxfordshire Artweeks', studios, homes and the 'Dairy Gallery' will exhibit a wide variety of work including paintings, photography, fabric bags, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, book-binding and delicate wire work..

Children's work created especially for the occasion can be viewed in the Reading Room where delicious teas, coffees and lunches will also be served.

All proceeds will go to Great Coxwell Park.

The beautiful 12th century church will be open to visitors as will the Great Barn so admired by William Morris. Opening times are May 3rd to 5th, including Bank Holiday, and May 10th and 11th, from 11.00am to 5.30pm. Artweeks programmes will be available from Faringdon Tourist Office and venues in the village. Further information from John Rounce, 01367-241934.

Events:

GREAT COXWELL ARTWEEKS 2008

15 artists and craftspeople invite you to view their work at 6 different venues in the village as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks.

Work includes paintings, photography, fabric bags, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, book-binding and delicate wire work. Children will also be exhibiting.

Delicious coffees, lunches and teas in the Reading Room.

Proceeds to Great Coxwell Park.

12th century church also open to visitors.

3rd - 5th May inclusive and 10th - 11th May from 11.00 to 5.30

Further information from John Rounce 01367-241934 or Karen Vogt karen@vogt.org.uk

Faringdon Dramatic Society presents - 7/4/08

Performances in both Faringdon and Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada...

'Outside Edge' by Richard Harris a very English comedy, about class, cricket and tea.

Thursday to Saturday 15th, 16th, 17th May 2008 at Faringdon Junior School

Curtain up at 7.30pm

Tickets £7.00 and £5.00 concessions available from The Nut Tree (enquiries 01367 242490)

Faringdon What a Fantastic Town. - 7/4/08

The Town Of Faringdon is a fantastic place to live.

I myself are not Faringdon Born and Bred, but my Wife and my Children are.

and i have lived here for the past 11 years

we now have Three Fantastic Schools that educate our Children Well.

I Personally don't think we have a supermarket issue as all the big players of the supermarket world are within a reasonable travelling distance and should stay where they are

you can get your Hair cut.

you can buy almost anything (Hardware wise) from Our diy shop.

you can now even buy Shoes in the town.

you can buy Gifts.

and we even have a bargain shop

you can now buy your (sorry i forgot our Anniversary) Flowers.

or for your dear old mum.

you can buy your early morning newspaper on the way to work.

we have lots of Establishments around town where you can eat (whether it be fast food or Food Excellently cooked by an expert chef)

We started to have LOTS of Live music in the Town (Courtesy of Mr Martin Phillips whom i think should be applauded

and given a citizenship award for trying to change the Nightlife in the town although We Still have Sam Prince

Plodding on with his Music Events) All Much to the Disapointment of a very small Minority who don't like music.

And i Seem to remember a Poster even saying that the Junior School needn't think that they are safe.

Lots of Nice Places for the Younger People to play

But Sadly as i saw and agree with a previous poster who is in their teens (or so i presume) there is nothing for them to do.

and with me having a son just about to enter his teens in the next few years. what is he going to be able to do of an evening.

Maybe the Skate Park Idea Needs a Bit of a Kick.

although the National Trust Let People Go Dirt Boarding at Badbury Clump.

But that is no Fun in the Dark as Trees Don't have lights on them. and they Hurt.

There is one thing i would like to see at the FAF this Year and that is A Lot more for the Kids to do as there was not so much of it last year.

Peace Everyone
Make Love Not War
Scott Gildert

4 things you probably never knew (probably) your mobile phone can do -

6/4/08

I was sent this by email - thought it to be useful

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival.

Check out the things that you can do with it:

FIRST Emergency

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile; network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked.

SECOND Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys (with unlock button) are at home, call someone at home on their mobile phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you.

Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

THIRD Hidden Battery Power

Imagine your mobile battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370# Your mobile will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your mobile next time.

FOURTH How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * # 0 6 # A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone gets stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless.

You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either.

Gene Webb

John Otway in the Folly Tower - 6/4/08

Today, thanks to Friends of the Folly, I witnessed one of the most entertaining and unusual gigs I have ever seen... John Otway playing in the top room of the Folly Tower. Treating 40 people to a mixture of his own songs (Really Free, Beware of the Flowers Because I'm Sure They're Gonna Get You, Bunsen Burner) and covers (I will Survive, House of The Rising Sun) John showed himself to be a truly magnificent songwriter, musician and singer as well as being hilariously funny. (Check out House of the Rising Sun on youtube!).

I spoke to John afterwards about coming to Faringdon for an Arts Festival gig and hope to tie up a date in the near future.

I'm sure we'll need a bigger venue. Can you please register your interest in this gig as soon as possible by email to info@peluche.co.uk.

Many thanks. David Reynolds

The Big Boogie Bash Friday 25th April - 5/4/08

Faringdon Junior School 7.30pm - 11pm.

Come and eat, drink and get on up to the sounds of local sensations Jon Lane & Boogie Me. In aid of The London-Paris fundraising bike ride for The Big Issue Foundation
Licensed bar. Tickets £15 single, £25 double.

Contact 01367 243720 for details or check out www.myspace.com/jonlaneandboogieme

A Doctor Comments - 5/4/08

Lately it seems that a cloud of 'sanctimony' has been hanging over Faringdon. 'Sanctimony' is not in itself harmful, but can give rise to worrying indications when it occurs in concentration. Concentrations of sanctimony are produced when vulnerable individuals come into contact with mild criticism, or a point of view which is inconsistent with their own.

It can cause a variety of symptoms. Virtue is often ritualistically extolled. There is nothing wrong with 'extollation' of virtue - it is good for us all from time to time, but may affect sensitive individuals, who 'show out' and 'self extoll'. This can be embarrassing but is simply due to a perceived excess of virtue, (it's all in the mind!) and will soon subside. Another common symptom is a 'rash of back-patting'. Again, this should not be discouraged, as back-patting activity has been shown to be very beneficial, and mutual back-patting can be extremely pleasurable, though best not carried out in public, as it may cause offence.

The well known 'Odour of Sanctity' is given off by sanctimony, and passive inhalation can cause irritation and nausea, but again, this is transient, and sufferers should try not to react, or they may find themselves victims of the 'Canute effect' where they make futile attempts to set themselves against the 'tide' of sanctimony and are overwhelmed. My advice to Canute effect sufferers is to keep your heads down and try to find a nice hobby, that does not involve reading inflammatory material.

All in all, 'sanctimony' is only noticeable in concentration, and will soon pass. So there we have it. Nothing at all to worry about.

A. Doctor.

Volunteers, Ecofriendliness and Nastyness...- 4/4/08

I agree with Gene that there are loads of volunteers in Faringdon and vey many of them doing a very good job without fanfare and publicity.

And that is exactly my point (which was edited out, incidentally) that there ought to be more publicity for more of the volunteers not the same old one or three e.g. Eco Friendly, Fair Trade, Peace Group all the time.

On the Ecofriendly front, as I said, most people these days are trying to do their bit and are aware that they need to try to do more.

What they don't need is to have the message constantly rammed down their throats in the somewhat smug and patronising tones that a lot of Eco experts seem to adopt.

One recent posting on this site suggested for instance that people should not fly to New York because of the large amount of CO2 the plane would emit.

Two questions are raised by this:-
How else are they supposed to get there ...swim perhaps ?

Secondly, if the poster is suggesting that people should not go to places like New York as a holiday destination for the same reason, is this not a very gross infringement of civil liberties, to say nothing of smacking completely of nannystatefulness (if there is such a word), to say nothing of being completely patronising too?
Name Supplied

Faringdonians need sunshine - 4/4/08

I am another regular reader of Talking Points who has been out of touch for a couple of weeks and am amazed to read the negativity that has appeared - clearly Faringdonians are in need of some sunshine!!!

I think Sjoerd should be applauded for doing his bit for the environment and for encouraging others to do the same. We have a beautiful planet and it distresses me when I see people totally admonishing responsibility for looking after it.

Whilst it is true that none of our actions individually are going to make a big difference we have to look at the big picture and make an effort to do what we can realistically. I'm not talking giving up air travel, getting on your bike or living in a tree house but there are things we can do without much hassle! I dread to think what issues my children and their children in the future are going to be faced with - things are critical enough now.

Banning carrier bags may not be convenient and will not save the planet, nor will simply replacing our light bulbs with energy efficient ones, but if every person took some small steps to become a little 'greener' we could make a big difference together! Burying our heads in the sand or slating those who do make more effort is not going to get us anywhere.

I guess I'd better put my name to this and face public condemnation...so be it. Sticks and stones and all that!....

Anna Marlow

Faringdon has many volunteers - 4/4/08

Well said Gene.

Sjoerd Vogt was on Radio Oxford this morning again extolling the virtues of Faringdon (talking about the world record attempt on Midsummer's Day), and it made me proud to be part of this community

Name Supplied

Wrong Thinking Simon. - 4/4/08

During the past four years I have been an ardent reader and contributor to this website. I have usually, though not always, used my own name.

I have been the target of much criticism though I would never have described these comments as "nastiness".

I heartily support the Name Supplied or Pseudonym system as it allows posters to air their views without being influenced by the possibility of hostile personal comments. The Editors hardly ever, as far as I know, censor our articles and they seem to subscribe to the view expressed by Harry S Truman when he said "If you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen"

Harry G Mitchell aka HGM

Faringdon is a great place - 3/4/08

Crikey, I've been a bit lax of late in reading the 'Talking points' and I find myself being very bemused and befuddled by the amount of people who seem to be very negative about EVERYTHING.

Firstly, we are all very lucky, as people who live in a developed nation, anyway. Secondly, we are lucky to be living in Faringdon, which I think is a great place (and I'm not from here originally). It wasn't until I got to Gene Webb's recent addition that there was a whole hearted 'Hear hear' from me.

So my credentials, I have a compost heap, I recycle, I used washable nappies for my first 2 children, (by the third I reckoned I was spending more on washing them than was beneficial,) I use reusable carrier bags for shopping and lament the loss of the supermarket bags for bin liners, for my small bins. I buy biodegradable bin bags for the rest of my rubbish.

I was a founder member of the Faringdon Arts Festival, which was set up by a group people who thought that Faringdon had so much to offer, it would be great to put it under one umbrella and show off/celebrate what goes on in Faringdon. I think that those who have kept it going are FAB as it is enormously time consuming.

I think that the HUSH festival organizers do need our support, as the idea of a festival HERE- IN FARINGDON, was very exciting. They can keep my money until next year.

It would be great to have one place where we can all go for concerts, theatre etc and we should all look at how we can proceed in getting such a place.

I think we should support the local sports clubs in trying to get their new sites up and running and get the skate park going for the 'YOOF'.

If I win an obscene amount of money on the lottery then I will be in a position to help financially, but until then rather than moan, let's give support to those people who give their time - for us.

'Hear, hear' Gene Webb. Let's be appreciative.

Name Supplied

ps i will be a name withheld as I may win an obscene amount of money!! :-)

Big Faringdon Gig, Sat 5th July - 3/4/08

We have found our replacement band and are very pleased to announce that local band DISCLOSURE will be on this years bill.

For more news about the BFG please see the website www.bigfaringdongig.com

We are still keen to hear from a few more volunteers to help out in the two bars and on the doors.

Tickets £10 available in MAY

Sean Hodgson

Faringdon has many volunteers - 3/4/08

Some volunteers are very visible - eg Town, VWHDC and County Councillors, but there are many many more that work hard for the benefit of people who live in and around Faringdon.

There are the sport clubs - football, rugby, tennis, cricket, skaters, bowls, judo, as well as brownies, guides, cubs, scouts.

The churches provide leisure activities and support to those who need it.

There's the Arts Festival, Mad May Fest and the other music events that happen frequently.

Money raising events - jumble sales, fetes, gardens open, bingo, race nights, barn dances, evenings of music

Friends groups and trusts run Tuckers Park, the Folly, the Folly Park, the Old Town Hall, the Peace group, Twinning

There's the Faringdon singers, the Folly singers, Sing Faringdon, U3A, Health walks, Drama Group, Art Society - and many more

We're a Fairtrade town, there's an active Community Action group, the forthcoming Ecoweek is packed with events that people can join in with

All of these (and more) are organised and run by local people on a voluntary basis.

We have a good community- let's be appreciative

Gene Webb

No name supplied? - 3/4/08

i think we should do away with name supplied and akas names etc and then lets see how brave some posters are if they cant hide behind name supplied.

i am very dishearted by some of the comments made to the vogt family.

if comments are made it should be towards there thinking not them or there family.

simon cook

The "C" Word - 3/4/08

It's a sad day when responsible people who are socially and ecologically sound get slated for putting their views across. For my part, it doesn't matter whether there is global warming or not, its more an issue of preserving the planets limited resources for as long as possible.

There are still millions of socially inept people who get into their car to go to the shops which are within easy walking distance, and yes I am guilty of this sometimes. However, people like Sjoerd Vogt remind me I'm completely stupid

for doing so.

Sjoerd, please keep posting sir, keep reminding me and others that it is in fact good to be socially and environmentally responsible. Ignore the rants of those selfish few, who have taken the stand that its not their problem and will continue their parasitic ways without regard to any consequences.

Devil's Advocate

Nastiness - 3/4/08

I've decided not to read this anymore.

There is a lot of nastiness towards each other which is unnecessary.

Name Supplied

Jumble Sale last Saturday - 2/4/08

Raised £576 for Riding for the Disabled and Parkinsons disease

Next sale 29th November 2008

Windfarm Hugging..... - 2/4/08

Having just read Sjoerd Voigt's recent posting on this subject - part of his ramblings re EcoWeek

When will Sjoerd and his ilk get the message that people are fully aware through the national media of the need to conserve energy, re-use, recycle etc and that most people now do their bit. So please stop lecturing us - it's incredibly boring.

Oh, by the way, I see he advocates washing rubbish bins regularly to get rid of smells and mess, rather than using plastic bags. But I thought we were meant to be conserving water too - so how does that equate ?

Name Supplied

Drawing Competition for children - 2/4/08

Faringdon Tourist Information Centre are holding a St. George's Day Competition.

Draw the story of St. George and the Dragon, either as a storyboard or as one big picture and you could win a prize.

Prizes include a family ticket to the New Farmer Gow's Activity Farm, Longcot.

Post it, or take it in to Faringdon Tourist Information Centre, The Pump House, 5 Market Place, Faringdon. SN7 7HL

Rules: Competition is open to children up to, and including, Year 6 age. Entries must be on one piece of A4 paper. Name, address, school name and class year must be written clearly on the back of your entry.

Entries must be received no later than the closing date of 1pm, SATURDAY 26th APRIL, 2008. Also - get a free gift with every purchase on St. George's Day!

CO2 and Exercise - 2/4/08

John - sounds like a good idea. Couch potatoes of the world unite! But being sedentary won't decrease you overall respiration by that much I'm afraid. Most of the daily energy we expend just goes on keeping us ticking over at the right temperature - and depends more on body weight than on exercise levels. See for example <http://www.primusweb.com/fitnesspartner/library/weight/calsburned.htm> for a fuller explanation.

So - the key to saving the environment is that we all lose the extra pounds. Coming on ECOBIKES on the 21st June would be a good start! But don't worry, your weight won't plummet dangerously. Daphne's doing ECOBUTTIES at Step Farm at the halfway point: Organic baps with organic crispy bacon - served with a mug of frothy fairtrade coffee - using organic milk of course!

Sjoerd Vogt

Fed up of hearing about the "C" word. - 1/4/08

Great to see Mr John Gilman questioning the "ecobike" event in June regarding the dreaded "C" word, that's Carbon.

Mr Vogt you have been well and truly brainwashed into thinking that we can all make a difference to climate change. Sorry to disappoint you but the tide is starting to turn and more and more people are beginning to realise that global warming is a natural phenomenon due to extra sunspot activity on the sun. Do a bit of research and google the "Maunder minimum" and you will find that the climate on this planet is very closely correlated to activity on the largest object in our solar system, the Sun.

The Sun unbelievably contains more than 99.8% of the total mass of the entire Solar System, therefore its influence and fluctuations are felt massively here on this little planet we call Earth.

Man-made Global warming and climate change is a clever scam and used to make us feel guilty and for extra taxes to be imposed on us. Think about it for a second, if what we were doing on a daily basis was really affecting the planet in such a detrimental way, would the governments not simply have an outright ban on anti-green activities???

No instead they want even more of your hard earned money, and all it does is line the pockets of the government.

Mr Vogt, I put it to you that your time and energy would be better served in raising awareness and money for the other "C" word that actually does devastate people's lives on a daily basis - not Carbon but Cancer

Citizen Smith

Faringdon Artistic Skaters - 1/4/08

British Championships held in Leicester

Tots (under 8) British Champion - Ursula Campbell

Mini Boy (under 10) British Champion - William Timbrell

Mini Girls 7th - Sophie Howard

Espior Boys (under 12) British Champion - Nathaniel Williams

Espior Boys Runner up - Oliver Timbrell

Faringdon has great talent in skating
Congratulations to all

Nathaniel Oliver and William have all been selected to represent GB in the Cup on Europe 8th October

Forth coming Event Cadet and Youth Championships

8 skaters will be taking part.

Tamara Williams, Hollie Fidler, Georgie Howe, Ben Timbrell, James Campbell, Richard Whilock

GOOD LUCK TO THEM ALL

Dee England

Sound proofing - Corn exchange - 1/4/08

I'm going to break a rule of a lifetime and for once actually agree with what David Reynolds says. However, in my usual kack handed way, that was exactly the point I was making. The work should only be done if it can guarantee success or someone is liable for the failure if it is not. If there is no liability then money should not be wasted.

On a frivolous note, if consultants are not liable nor responsible for advice and the recommendations that they make, then I am available to give advice on any issue and will be more than happy to waste Town Councils funds providing advice and offering solutions which may or may not work. The bonus is that I will only charge half that of the most competitive quote.

Devils Advocate

Litter - 31/05/08

Has anybody noticed that since the "No Smoking" ban, the streets around the town are now covered in all manner of smoking debris. I understood that the establishments that can no longer have smoking inside HAD to provide bins etc for the disposal of this rubbish.

Dog walkers are expected to clear up after them as we would soon be knee deep in dog mess. And there aren't enough bins for that by the way. Why is nothing done about the smokers debris. Why aren't the Town council doing a bit more about it?

Colin

Thanx Doc ! - 31/05/08

A Doctor's diagnosis and prognosis appear to show the kind of insight only possible to a fellow sufferer and such sensitivity can only be from a woman. I am prepared to take her advice but a very famous Chinaman (I can't remember his name) said "A thousand miles journey starts with a single step"
My single step will be to resist my keyboard until at least 9am. Unfortunately as I am writing this at 5am I feel that I have very little hope of a successful recovery.

name supplied

A Doctor Responds - 30/05/08

To 'addicted'. First of all, may I say that you deserve a pat on the back for your courage in facing up to the fact that you are an addict. This is often the hardest part of the recovery process, and it does show a degree of maturity and what we doctors call 'insight' that you have recognised your condition.

It is in fact a common addiction, and very easily acquired, as it costs the sufferer nothing in monetary terms. The onset is insidious. Sufferers start with one post in response to something they have read, and offer an opinion, then they get a response, which of course gives rise to what we doctors call the '*reward*'. The *reward*, or *payoff* usually elicits a warm glow of satisfaction in the sufferer, then of course, they want another reward, and another, and so on. The internet forum is in fact a very powerful reinforcer of the act of expressing your opinion, as it uses what we call a *random schedule of reinforcement* - i.e. you aren't sure when, or how often the rewards will come, so you keep trying with more and more posts until satisfaction occurs.

Pretty soon you will find yourself making excuses to look at your computer screen, then hiding the fact that you are sneaking off to look at it, until it becomes the most important thing in your life. Guilt sets in, and you are lying through your teeth about where you are spending your spare time, having sneak peeks throughout the day, and getting up extra early in order to see if there are any responses to your posts.

A real problem of course is that you begin to form opinions that are purely invented in order to get the buzz - and you will forget who you are and take on the various personas of 'name supplied'. A common effect is the one you have described in that you forget what you have actually written, and end up debating with yourself, with potentially disastrous results.

Common delusions which may occur are that you think your opinions are infallible, or that everyone is interested in them. The first is sometimes triggered, quite reasonably in my view, when normally sensible citizens respond with exasperated incomprehension (usually on a regular basis) to posts from individuals who might be diagnosed as what we doctors call '*pumpkin positive*'. Arguing with *pp* individuals is futile and leads to a dangerous variation of the addiction which can cause raised blood pressure and a form of 'computer rage' Sufferers should try to cease contact with their computer immediately and seek professional help.

Sadly, there is no real cure for TP posting addiction, but vulnerable individuals may rest assured that it is very unlikely

that their true identity will be discovered, unless of course they type in to their post one or other of the words or phrases for which special branch/vice squad etc. are looking out, such as ***** **** ***** , or ***** ***** [sorry, censored, Ed (HT)].

Basically, then, there's nothing too much to worry about. My advice to you is to take plenty of exercise and try to have a healthy diet. An occasional post wont hurt. Take up a hobby, change your routine, get out more in the fresh air. If that doesn't reduce your craving, get an internet phone or handheld computer with Wifi and take it out with you. That way you can indulge yourself and pretend to be checking the cricket scores/train times/weather forecast if anyone asks. Hope this helps

A Doctor

TP Addiction - 30/05/08

Alcoholics. Smokers, Drug Addicts even Paedophiles They all defend their cravings by say they "Could give up any time" But in reality they all need help. I have decided that I have become a TP Poster addict and feel that maybe I need help.

Like any other addiction I claim that it does no harm but nevertheless I am stuck with it.

Can you suggest an organisation which might help? As you can see I have sunk to the point where I use "Name Supplied to hide my failings but one day I will be discovered, named and shamed. What should be innocuous comments on your website find me reaching for my keyboard and I have been ashamed to find comments signed by me which I can't remember writing.

H.E.L.P

Name Supplied

Bus Lane violation - 30/05/08

Just walked down to the Post Office and walked past even more cigarette mess than earlier, and on crossing the bus lane was again almost knocked down. The woman driver motioned for me to move and when I pointed to the sign was met with ***K **F. Also had the dog with me so not amused.

I have now had 2 near misses, suppose when I do get hurt something MAY get done.

Come on those dragging there feet. ACT!

Colin

Graffiti Art Workshop - 30/05/08

For Those of you that may think Graffiti is Ugly see some of the comments from Doing a Workshop like this. "I brought six of our youth group to an event where AKS was painting. Seeing graffiti used in a positive way like this was very inspirational for the youth and myself. Three days later we have applied for funding to have someone like AKS come and paint our youth centre with the local young people!" - Mr S Jones, Cephass Project, Huddersfield

"I wanted to drop you guys an e-mail to let you know how happy I was with the graffiti workshop on Friday. Not only are their artistic talents superb but they were able to command respect from the young people that I have not seen done by any other artists I have employed. I asked the young people to complete a quick questionnaire and they all rated the workshop as 'excellent'. I look forward to working with you in the future." - Fiona Paul, Youth & Projects Officer, Hertsmere Borough Council Quote from BBC Lancashire Website

The workshop was part of a week of activities including portable skate ramps and litter picking, set up to encourage young people to become active citizens in a fun way. All participants had the opportunity to practise designs, watch a full 'piece' being created, learn about the history of Hip Hop and Graffiti and were even given advice on skills of Graffiti art.

The benefits of this workshop was to try and build the confidence and self-esteem of youths, improve team work abilities whilst also offering a positive, alternative future for people The projects were coordinated by Impact: Preston, which is a Christian organisation that aims to serve and strengthen communities in Lancashire.

It aimed to encourage young people to become active citizens and that's exactly what it did.

And Lets Not Forget that the Underpass was Brightened Up a couple of Years Ago and now has been Destroyed by Ugly Tagging. what a way to show that Spray Cans can do more than just Spray your name all over the place. also these Instructors Teach that it is against the law just to spray on a wall without Permission. and with hopefully the new Youth Centre Going ahead in Faringdon perhaps the kids could Decorate it themselves and come up with their own designs

Scott
(This Years Arts Festival Kids Events Co-ordinator)

More eventss for the kids at FAF - 30/05/08

Graffiti Art Workshop A Graffiti art Workshop will be run at this Years FAF on Saturday the 12th July. Aimed at the 11 - 16 year age Group to Book your Places for this Event e mail fjsproductions@tiscali.co.uk all Art will be Done on Boards and then Displayed in the Town.

Scott
(This Years Kids Events Co-ordinator)

The Last words. - 29/05/08

We learn something new every day but I am amazed to be told that Marie Antoinette's last words, according to both HGM and Jane, were in English

name supplied

Jane from HGM - 29/05/08

I do seem to have to spend a great deal of time these days apologising. Now I feel I must apologise to you and explain that my comment was meant to be a joke. When it comes to historical facts I am happy to accept your version of Marie Antoinette's last words because I wasn't there.

HGM

Re: Flood risk explained. - 29/05/08

I'm sorry that you feel that your local councillors don't read or respond to this site. I do, so do several others. We are also residents of Faringdon and have the same concerns as everyone else. I will also add that postings by me on this site are my own opinions and not those of the Town Council. It is also difficult to respond sometimes when we have discussed the subject at length in council meetings, the minutes of the meetings are freely available.

Councillors have different viewpoints on things and don't always agree (as it should be). The danger of responding on this site is that one councillors viewpoint can be taken as the viewpoint of the whole council. Personally, I only tend to stick my head above the parapet when I feel very strongly about the subject, when I can clarify the situation or where the information is not freely available. Other than that I keep my head down.

Jane Boulton

Re: Thanks Mel - 29/05/08

[Pedant mode] Marie Antoinette's last words are commonly quoted as being "Monsieur, I beg your pardon" when she stepped on the executioners foot. Also attributed to her as last words are "Farewell my children, forever. I go to your father" The second one is closely associated with the letter she wrote to her children on the day of her execution.[/pedant mode]

Jane Boulton

Thanks Mel - 29/05/08

Your old grandma was a wise woman but I believe her phrase was originally attributed to Marie Antoinette..in fact I understand they were her last words.
Not a lot of people know that.

HGM

Dogs & Sheds - 29/05/08

HGM I've got two dogs and a shed! All are well No need for penitence from you, as my old grandmother used to say "Heads up and smile!"

Mel

Peccavi. - 28/05/08

Mel's gracious response to her critics makes me feel rather ashamed of my occasional less than friendly replies to some of mine. So, while the mood remains I must apologise to Devils Advocate for misinterpreting his comments and thank him for clarifying the situation.

I won't even ask Mel if she really has a dog...or a shed.

A Penitent HGM

Rubbish - 28/05/08

RE Positive Spin and gone but not forgotten: The Positive Side as i Agree with mel My Garden Shed is intact. it is now the responsibility of the land owner who-ever that may be to clean up the area. and if the land owner is the Council then I have no problem in joining a Task force to clean up the area and take the offending material to the tip to stop them putting the cost onto my already sky high council tax.
as long as land owners leave these areas accessible and unlocked then the travellers will park in them. and if they do then you just have to put up with them till you can get them moved on. and it is the responsibility of the land owner to get them removed.

it amazes me how some people can justify large lorries Trundling through so we can have a supermarket which is a bigger danger to the Children but a little bit of rubbish and a few caravans sparks a large debate.

scott gildert

Saturday Night Dance Party - 28/05/08

Faringdon Arts Festival Just to let everyone know, the Faringdon Arts Festival will be held on the 11, 12 and 13 of July in the Market Place again this year. At the request of many of our attendees we have decided to use the stage on the Saturday night as well as the Friday night. Saturday will be a big dance party.

We have a number of bands playing with Boogie Me being the headline. So please put on your dancing shoes and join us from 6pm to 11pm.

If you have any queries with regards to the Arts Festival please contact me for more information.

Julie Farmer

Volunteers wanted - 28/05/08

The Faringdon Arts Festival is looking for volunteers to help out over the weekend. If you would like to give your support for an hour or more please contact Julie Farmer on 01367 246003 or email info@mypabusiness.com

We need volunteers to be marshalls etc. All help is needed. Thank you in advance for your help

Julie Farmer

Fern Hill Place - 28/05/08

HGM, just for clarification, I did not say that it was my considered view that a gated development would cause no problems. You raised a specific point about fire tenders gaining access to the site, and it was that point which I addressed.

In terms of the gated development per se, I agree with you as I also think that it is inappropriate. Serving 10 dwellings as it does, I'm sure that there will be occasions when more than one vehicle will wish to enter the site, which is likely to cause problems on the street. Just thought that I would clarify my view.

I answered the right question, but I'm afraid that you addressed the wrong answer.

Devils Advocate

Re. Travellers Have Left - 27/05/08

Yes but at least no-one tried to buy my dog or broke into my shed! Love, light and peace

Mel

Gone but not forgotten. - 27/05/08

The travellers are no longer with us but their memory lingers on. It will do so until all the rubbish they left has been removed. I wonder if it would be too much to ask those who supported their presence to subsidise its removal There is no chance of another influx of Mel's friends because a large earth bank has been erected across the opening to the site.

I believe Planners call this "Locking the Stable Door" and in any case no self respecting travellers would want to occupy such a filthy area.

name supplied

Positive spin?? - 27/05/08

i would to see mel and scott put a postive spin on how the travellers have left their campsite. they sure have enriched the local area with rubbish and a caravan and some gas bottles. I hope bloor homes remove the caravan and gas bottles before it gets burnt and closes the a420 costing tens of thousands of pounds in lost revenue to local firms etc.and with the gateway blocked by ten tonnes of eath the fire engine will struggle to get too it. so what was the postive side mel and scott?.

SIMON COOK

Travellers have left - 27/05/08

Well the travellers have left...

Why well... I can think of 2 reasons why they have left:

1) Their man made landfill got too much.

2) The court case that Bloor Homes is/was planning to have against the Travellers.

Well personally I believe it is number 2.

On the main gate on to the premises where the travellers resided you can find a A4 sheet posted by the Vale/Shire about it.

But at the end of the day we, the people of Faringdon, are now stuck with a piece of land which has become a safety hazard. Among many other items you will find gas cylinders and even 1 abandoned caravan on the site.

Who will be cleaning up the mess and who will be paying for it... Well I do not know who will be do the cleaning, but I do believe I know who will be paying for it... That will be you and me through the Vale or local council.

Talking about "giving a dog a bad name"... Well they do it to themselves... They have nobody but themselves to blame for their reputation.

Thank you travellers for leaving all the mess and use the Faringdon area as your personal land fill....

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Silly Season - 26/05/08

Is this the silly season for web site commentary, or what??

name supplied

Unconcerned - 26/05/08

john i guess you dont care so long as does not head towards your own home. great i feel really good that you are only concerned about it not flooding the market place or town centre ,but is alright to flood the town to south or uffington and abingdon. a true case of not in my back garden by are own town mayor and town counciler .

SIMON COOK

Flood risk explained - 26/05/-8

I was pleased to see the defence of Bloor Homes offered by John Gillman. It had the perfect combination of common sense, sarcasm and humour.

But most importantly it showed that at least one member of our Town Council checks out this website.

It's nice to know you are listening Mr Mayor.

HGM

Planning for Rain - 26/05/08

The Planning Department always makes the correct decision....Don't they ? Name supplied is probably being pessimistic about flood risks...Isn't he ?

I think the annual average rainfall in our area is about 30 inches. I am sure that the Planning Department will have calculated that replacing acres of fields and gardens which absorb rain with concrete and tarmac which don't will not produce widespread flooding...won't they ? A few areas adjacent to the new sites might be inundated but there's a saying "No gain without rain"..Isn't there ?

Some years ago a respected older member of the community recalled a time when the Market Place was flooded and

he suggested we should be twinned with Venice. But he was joking ...wasn't he ? Noah and Sons (Phone for a quote)

name supplied

Flood Risk - 26/05/08

The houses being built by Bloor Homes are on land which drains south towards Uffington, not Faringdon. Water tends to drain downhill, not uphill!

The plans for the homes include an extensive scheme for slowing down the water drain-off in case of heavy rain, not to protect Faringdon from flooding but Abingdon, where the water will end up and also where the Planning Authority are based.

There is a very successful rowing club in Abingdon, so I hope they enjoy our water run-off.

John Gillman

Flood Risks/Planning etc -25/05/08

Its all very depressing isn't it? The Planning process claims to give you your say, but really, even if you take up your option and have your two minutes worth at the District Planning meeting, they don't listen.

Look at the McCarthy and Stone development in Swan Lane - the Town Council said "no, we don't need it". We as neighbours said we don't need it, yet they were granted permission to build it and hey ho, out of 53 apartments they have managed to sell 23 after THREE YEARS of marketing! What a legacy they have left us!

Town Planners should do their job and properly plan the towns - instead they rely on the fact that the government of the day present them with guidelines they must work to - oh! for a planner with a bit of backbone prepared to say "No" in the interests of the town/community.

Andrew Goodwin

Flood risks? - 24/05/08

All these new houses on top of hills, are we ready for the floods that will hit faringdon, park rd even the town centre, did the council think of this when they recieved £300000 from bloor homes. get your boats ready and check your insurance. ps 3 day ago i got a letter from the council telling me about the development and how to complain, what the point, they have started.68 new homes, hope they dont flood or sell

name supplied

Looking for Tuckers - 24/05/08

Hello, I wonder if anyone can help me. My husband's mother came from Faringdon or Wantage, both places were mentioned. My husband's mother was called Frances Eileen Tucker she was born in 1924 ish and died with influenza/childbirth in 1957.

She had brothers and sisters and my husband has fond memories of visiting his grandmother (he was 8 when his mother died (in Scotland). My husband has a brother who was 5 when his mum died.

They lost contact for reasons they do not know but would love to meet their aunts or uncles cousins etc. My husband still has his mother's handbag intact from the day she died in 1957 including wartime photographs of her friends etc and letters and post cards from his grandmother to his mother (one from Didcot).

Please please if anyone can remember a family from either Wantage or Faringdon called Tucker (may have owned a nursery garden) please contact us. We would be very grateful.

Thank you.

Veronica Anne Kelly
to reply see [guestbook](#). Ed (HT).

Planning ...? - 24/05/08

Over the past few years I have given my gratuitous views on this website on a range of subjects but being asked to comment, albeit from a shy "name supplied" is a first. It is obvious from my, sometimes naïve, postings that I don't pretend to have a deep background knowledge about Planning and it is equally obvious that some posters have.

I am told that we need more houses in Faringdon...hundreds of them. My unprofessional view is that we don't. Over the years I have seen people turn their gardens into mini housing estates thereby making small, in some cases large, fortunes. Given the opportunity most of us might probably try to do the same but I hope that the Planners (who, like God, move in mysterious ways) would not allow us.

If we really do need hundreds of extra houses as John Prescott told me we do, then by all means stick them as far away from the existing Town Centre as possible because it must be obvious, even to the Planners, that we do not have the infrastructure to support newcomers who, for the most part, would look on Faringdon as a cute backwater adjacent to Swindon, Oxford, Wantage and all points North where the real action, supermarkets and jobs can be found.

Well" Name supplied" you did ask and I now ask those people who really do know about Planning to explain, in simple, easily understood terms, why my thinking is wrong.

HGM

More Housing - 23/05/08

hgm and others what are your thoughts on the planned 120 houses at rogers concrete site????.

Do you think it is appropriate for this site to be built on e.g next to A420 etc. i think if the vwdc and our own town council are going keep on approving this type and size of growth, we are going to have to reopen the old stanford road and please don't say it's big enough, as it was the old A417 main gloucester to london road.

If cut back and cleaned up it would provide a good access to town .and the old fernham road with a new roundabout ,to provide a more even distribution of traffic into and through faringdon as park road is becoming overload with traffic With the 500 houses at park road . and the 120 at rogers and the 20 or so adjacent to rogers concrete turn that will be at least 500 to 600 extra cars in the town alone. and vwdc and our own tc need to get this right.

name supplied

Rogue Traders - 23/05/08

I saw Matt Allwright of BBC1's "Rogue Traders" fame filming in the Market Place yesterday (Thurs 22/05/08) - Did anyone else spot him/his team and find out what it was all about?

Nosey Parker

Bonus tracks on Julie's CDs - 23/05/08

Knowing Julie's taste in music I have a question. Can extra tracks on a John Barrowman CD really be counted as a bonus? ;-)

David Reynolds

Fern Hill Place Debate . - 23/05/08

Over the past few months I have become increasingly concerned about the latest development in Coxwell Road. I had begun to think that a narrow gated entrance would cause congestion on an already congested road and I was surprised that the planners had decided that a three storeyed development towering over the adjacent properties and some of the homes in Elm Road was acceptable.

I have to agree with Devils Advocate (I wouldn't presume to do otherwise) that, despite its aesthetic shortcomings, "the development is inappropriate, out of character and flipping ugly" but I am reassured by his comment that the narrow entrance has been carefully considered and it will pose no problems.

HGM

DEVILS ADVOCATES POINTS - 23/05/08

Firstly can I Say that you have a Point I Did drop off somewhat towards the End. and I Apologise for my Tardiness But you can only Make Claims on Information that you have at the time of making the Claim. and MY Claim Simply was that their was no SIGNIFICANT INCREASE or the Fact that it had Soared.

I Totally Understand that Some People wish to Remain Anonymous. Just as it is my Choice to have my Name Posted But if Politicians Remained Anonymous when Canvassing then what a state of affairs this Country would Be in but then Again it may be Better if some Politicians did Remain Anonymous (oh and this is by no means a Sly Slur at the Local ones).

Hopefully as this is a Discussion Group We Could also Be like the Politicians Make Sly Digs at each other while discussing then POP Down the Local and then Laugh about it all Peace Everyone Make Love NOT War

Scott Gildert

Boring..... - 22/05/08

hgm sorry some of the post are boring ever thought about not reading them.one persons slanging match is anothers debate.

i dont find some of posts intresting but i would never dream of calling them boring. your own post ref boring some could find offensive .eg you are slanging them off for being boring. i like to respect all comments even if dont agree with them. its better to spend one day as tiger than a whole lifetime as a sheep.

name supplied

Bonus tracks on CDs. - 22/05/08

Julie, surprisingly in this modern world you are getting something for free but, yes, it is "marketing" too because you are probably buying something that you bought before. Most CDs with Bonus tracks are re-issues, a good example being the recent 25 year anniversary re-release of Thriller by Michael Jackson, and the "bonus tracks" (and photographs and lyrics etc) are there to encourage you to buy. Personally, I am just delighted that you are buying CDs. Keep it up!

Music Company Employee

Different Track - 22/05/08

Changing the point a little. I have a little query, can anyone explain to me why, when you buy a CD the artists now put a little section on the CD entitled 'Bonus Tracks'.

Is the track really a Bonus? I don't think I have ever seen a CD where the additional songs are an option. I could be a little cynical in thinking that this is a marketing ploy to con us into thinking we are getting something for free.

Not sure but would like to know if there is an answer?

Julie Farmer

Boring? Or not? - 22/05/08

HGM Boring, no, it's about establishing facts as opposed to making claims which may or may not be substantiated. As for the Coxwell Road Development, rumours also unsubstantiated could be considered boring by some. No me however.

The planning application included a bin store at the front of the site, should the planners have done their job properly they would have ensured that this will be accessible. As for fire service, looking at the plans, the width of the road is sufficient to get a tender into the site, and even though it is likely to be a gated development this will make little difference.

There are thousands of gated developments around the country, and in my lifetime, I can recall no news story or scandal concerning problems associated with this type of development. No doubt someone will have evidence to the contrary, and rather than just politely point this out, and enter into an adult debate, they will degenerate into flinging some personal insults, so be it, I'm a big boy. For the record, I think the development is inappropriate, out of character and flipping ugly, and I did not support it.

Devil's Advocate

Travellers Moratorium. - 22/05/08

Please ! It is very obvious that this website deplores censoring postings but the present "Travellers" thread is committing a cardinal sin. It is becoming boring. What started out as a few restrained comments has now degenerated into a slanging match which achieves nothing. Can we please change the subject ?

How about a few thoughts on the three storeyed development in Coxwell Road, part of which, it is rumoured, will not be accessible to our Garbage Disposal Operatives or to a fire engine. I know that occupants will be able to drag their bins to the main road, where if they are positioned carefully, they will hardly block the pavement but the difficulty of moving a minor raging inferno may even have worried the planners.

HGM

Who Owns the Land? - 21/05/06

HI GUYS JUST OUT OF INTREST WHO NOW OWNS THE THE LAND WHICH THE TRAVELLERS ARE ON.IS IT BLOOR HOMES OR VWHDC OR ARE OWN TOWN COUNCIL. AND WHO EVER OWNS IT DO THE TRAVELLERS HAVE THERE PERMISSION TO BE THERE. IF THEY ARE THERE WITHOUT PERMISSION IT MAKES NO DIFFRENTS IF IT IS A PRIVATE FIELD OR YOUR PRIVATE BACK GARDEN MEL LANE. AND MEL AND SCOTT I AM NOT THE ORINGNAL POSTER. REGARDS

name supplied

Response to Scott and Ray - 21/05/08

You obviously didn't read my post correctly or misunderstood what I was saying. I was making no claim about whether there was an increase in burglaries, or when they took place and it needed no research. I was simply providing a direct and un-edited published quote from PC Rowland as of Monday 19th May.

Go to this link and read it yourself

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/default.asp?dismode=article&artid=14928>

It states quite clearly that there has been an increase in burglaries in the past few weeks. (as of Three days ago) I accept that there have been burglaries in the past and you quite rightly point out that there has been. The police are obviously aware of these as they posted information about them. Details for May have not yet been posted (but are obviously known to the police), or at least I can't find them, so there could be a ten fold increase or a ten fold decline.

I recall reading in the folly that there has actually been an increase in reported crime over the last month, particularly theft from homes. I checked this with the the local police website which states:

This is the latest update for the Faringdon West area, provided by PC Paul Rowland:

There has been an increase in burglaries over recent weeks mainly in and around Faringdon town centre. It appears that the thieves have been stealing from houses when the occupants are away on holiday and stealing small easily carried items such as jewellery. I would remind you that if you are going away, as well as cancelling your milk and papers, please tell your neighbours so they can keep an eye on your property to give you extra peace of mind. We are conducting a number of enquiries along with the neighbourhood team and suspects have been identified and arrested with further arrests are anticipated. We will keep you updated via the Thames Valley Police website.

This is dated 19th May, so is pretty up to date. I make no point regarding who may or may not be responsible as I have no evidence one way or the other. I'm simply stating a reported fact which is contrary to some of the claim/statements made by other recent posters, ie that there has been no increase in theft/crime. The moral of the posting, is keep an eye out, as there has been an increase in theft despite claims to the contrary.

Devil's Advocate

IN RESPONSE TO MEL LANE AND NAME SUPPLIED - 21/05/08

Mel I totally agree with what your saying these Travellers have camped their for over a month now and no-one has commented on them so they must be Law abiding People. So why not let them park on the outskirts of town. the Crime Rate hasn't soared in the town since their arrival. No-one has reported their shed Going Missing or their house broken into. So yes Live and Let Live. And Most Travellers are wary now as a lot of people have the same Views as NAME SUPPLIED and know that the Slightest trace of a dog Going Missing or your Prize Shears from the Shed Go Missing. that they are usually the first port of Call where the police go for their enquiries. they may not pay Council Tax But why should they when their homes are mobile. Perhaps NAME SUPPLIED would Moan even more if the Government wanted people who owned Mobile Caravans to stump up extra money for owning one OR Better still Make them a road Fund Licensed Item. as People with mobile Caravans are a real menace on the road.

Scott Gildert

Re. Travellers response - 21/05/08

"Name Supplied" Just for the record, the land at the end of Stanford road is not a private back garden, I did mean buy supplies rather than steal and don't really get why being asked if you want your drive done is any more harassment than someone trying to flog me timeshares just because they may be wearing a suit and pay council tax.

My shed is just as likely to be broken into by a local as a traveller. On consideration, you're absolutely right. Let's round 'em all up and put them in a big labour camp. Can't imagine what I was thinking of when I suggested we should all try and live harmoniously - please forgive

Mel

BIG FARINGDON GIG - 20/5/08

In association with 'Oxfordshire Music Scene'

Saturday 5th JULY

Faringdon Junior School

Tickets are now on sale at Budgens and Sandwich Phillers London Street.

Tickets are £10 for this all day event where 15 bands will play from 12 noon. Doors open at 11.15am

All bands will only play original material - no covers whatsoever.

If you would like a taster of what the day will be about then 'The BFG on tour' will be playing at the Port Mahon, St Clements Oxford on Tuesday 10th June and Wednesday 25th June.

For more information please see our website www.bigfaringdongig.com

Sean Hodgson

ECOBIKES - 19/5/08

Saturday 21 June is the Ecobikes cycle ride around the lanes and bridleways; butties and refreshments at Step Farm; ending at the Wind Farm.

We've got groups of cyclists coming from Oxford, Swindon, Witney and Wantage. I really hope as many local people as possible will join in to make a huge cycling presence. There's a short route too!

Have a look at www.ecoweek.info/Community/ECOBIKES/ecobikes.html for more info.

mel lane you're talking rubbish - 19/5/08

if we all lived like this who would pay for your nhs .or taxes that keep up your local services . they dont pay tax .so if i came and camped in your garden would you still say live a let live.

buy supplies from local businesses do you mean steal .

give a dog a bad name and thats for a reason .

i know of older locals that have been badgered by them,would you like you drive done etc. do you want to sell your dog etc.

mel live in the real world there is a place for diffrent lifestyles but so long as they pay there way.and keep to same laws that i do and hopefully yourself.

still you might change your mind next week when they rob your shed .

Name Supplied

FARINGDON ARTS FESTIVAL YOUNG FILM MAKERS COMPETITION FIRST PRIZE SONY CAMCORDER DCR HC27 E - 19/5/08

if you're aged Between 11 and 16 and have Either a mobile phone that can take video a Digital Stills Camera OR even Better Access to a Digital Video Camcorder and a computer running Windows XP or Windows Vista then you can Enter the Young Film Makers Competition at this years Faringdon Arts Festival. on **Saturday the 5th July**

there will be a Workshop on how to use WInows Movie Maker Register your interest at fjsproductions@tiscali.co.uk

Scott This Years Faringdon Arts Festival Kids Events Co-ordinator

Faringdon Twinning Association Exchange - 18/5/08

We are looking for 2 vibrant leaders (18+) to accompany a group of Faringdon young people to our Twin Town in Normandy - Le Mele Sur Sarthe

This trip takes place every year and the dates for this year are: **19th to 26th July 2008**

If you are interested then please contact me to find out more information.

If your son or daughter is interested in the exchange then please could you contact me and I will send you more details.

The young people should be in current school years 7 - 9.

Carolyn Murphy
01367 240698
01235 225823
07798 468 532

Travellers: - 18/5/08

Camped at the far end of Stanford Road, a considerable distance from any property. No sign of static caravans, hard standing, new bore holes or indication of intended permanence - what's the big deal? What happened to "live and let live"?

As a resident of Stanford road, frankly I quite like the bit of interest these travellers create. There is a touch of "give a dog a bad name" here which is for as long as we accuse these people of not adhering to the country code, stealing

babies, lowering house prices etc. then who can blame them for not treating our town with as much respect as we feel it needs.

I say lets welcome them for what they are, itinerant travellers who buy supplies from our businesses and then move on with our good wishes.

Mel Lane

Community College Eco events - 16/5/08

Good to see that some of the schools are also taking an active part in www.ecoweek.info in 4 weeks time. And the Community College also have two events that are open to the Public.

On the Wednesday they're having an Open Day from 10-1pm and opening up parts of the New Science Block to the public. The Roof Terrace is destined to become a showcase area for environmental projects.

And on the Thursday they're running a workshop: how to make musical instruments out of junk.
Yet another interesting angle on the thriving music scene in Faringdon!

Mairead

Travellers - 16/5/08

I'm really surprised that nobody has yet posted any comments about the travelers on the field the top of Folly Park.

Personally, I do not have any problems with travelers as long as they adhere to the code of conduct set out by the council

[See code of conduct on County website](#)

At the moment they are not doing themselves any favours by not adhering to the code.

Name Supplied

Channel 4 on Berners Way - 16/5/08

Does anyone have any tips on how to pick up Channel 4 on portable tellies with indoor aerials in the Berners Way area?

My daughter's looking forward to Big brother already (groan!) but we can't get CH4 on her telly upstairs ... and I'm damned if I want her downstairs watching it every day!

Alison

Has anybody lost a cockerel? - 16/5/08

One has been waking up the residents in the Portway/Budgens/Ferndale School area of the town.
It's been wandering about in gardens and the school.

If it belongs to you could you pop round at about 5AM and collect it please !.

Name Supplied

Time team - 16/5/08

Time team were filming at radcot bridges and a group of 30 year 4 pupils from faringdon juniors were invited along.
My daughter who went was told it would be on TV between January and March next year.

Emma Riddle

Time team on flickr - 16/5/08

I've just noticed on Flickr that Time Team were at Radcot this week, our resident reporter Al Cane looks to have been on the case again (well done Al!) - take a look here: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/faringdon/pool/>

Anna Marlow

Ed(GW) There was a TV photographer at the Folly last week who said she was taking photos for a Great Escapes

program- a couple thinking of moving to a house at Radcot. To be broadcast in the Autumn

Time Team - 15/5/08

A group came into the TIC and asked for walking directions to Radcot bridge. They said they were doing a time team there.

I had no idea what that was at the time so didn't ask when or if it will be broadcast.

Sally Thurston

Stolen Green boxes - 15/5/08

I have had several green boxes stolen over the last few years despite them having my house name or big red ribbons attached.

I generally have to get a couple of replacements every year. Twice I have seen the box outside my house at about 3.30 and on the return from the school run it had disappeared!

I live in the back of beyond, well outside the town so not sure who the culprit is.

If I manage to retain my box then I have the dubious joy of having the lid nicked! Grrrr!

Joan

Joan Millikin. - 15/5/08

It was my blanket and umbrella that kept you dry and warm when you fell. There was another couple who stayed with you. I had sneaked out of work so must remain anonymous!!!!!!

I hope you are recovering well and are up and about now.

I see cars are STILL using the slip road by Herbs and that people are parking all day in the market square.

Name Supplied

Time Team in Faringdon - 15/5/08

Has anyone else seen the Time Team Car in Faringdon this week, are they filming locally?

Name Supplied

Help - trailer needed! - 15/5/08

Does anyone know of a trailer hire company near to Faringdon?

I need to transport a drumkit and am looking for a smallish, covered camping trailer to hire and/or borrow (i'd pay you!).

I need it from a Friday to a Sunday.

Thanks

Ray

Stolen recycling bins - 15/5/08

I haven't lost a brown bin but last year I had my green recycling box stolen twice in a fortnight. Again it was replaced free but in the meanwhile I had to stockpile the glass, paper etc

KC

Community Bus Trips - 14/5/08

Due to driver shortages the Cirencester trip for the 10th of July is now running on the 17th. Tickets are still available at £5.00

There is a trip to Woburn Abbey this Sunday 18th May, cost for travel is £9.50.

Tickets are also still available for Stow on the Wold on Thursday 22nd May £5.50.

Tickets from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre.

Antiques Roadshow in Oxford - 14/5/08

We've just received notification that Antiques roadshow is visiting Oxford. You can take your treasures to Herford College, Oxford on Saturday 28th June 2008.

For more information call into the Community and Tourist Information Centre in the Market Place.

Brown bin stolen! - 14/5/08

We had our brown bin (garden waste collection) stolen last week. A bit odd as it was full of heavy grass cuttings!

After a call to the council, they mentioned that they'd had several bins stolen in the area recently. They're sending a new one but ultimately we all pay the price for this.

Has anyone else heard about this or had their bin stolen?

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) I'm surprised mine hasn't been stolen. Since it was delivered I've put it out 4 times(every collection day) and every time I have to ring the council to tell them it has not been emptied - so it sits at the collection point for 2-3 days at a time

Revamp Talking Points? - 14/5/08

I occasionally dip into talking points to see what's going on. I find that it can take some time to find the posts I'm really interested in due to the completely linear style of the layout. It's also very difficult to find the first post in a thread (normally vital for comprehension of the whole topic).

My request is that the talking points format is revamped more along the lines of an online forum, making threads and subjects significantly easier to navigate and read. This would also mean I can skip all the posts that are of no interest to me.

Thanks to those who manage the current system - this is in no what meant as a criticism but a "feature request". Surely the current format is well due an overhaul to an easier to use and read system? I think it would be worth it as the site seems to have a good number of contributors, an easier to navigate system would surely only increase the use of the site?

Thanks!

Name Supplied

Scratch Messiah, Sat 5th July - 13/5/08

if you want to sing come along to a day workshop with Martin Fitzpatrick - Head of Music and senior conductor for English National Opera

For further details contact Alison Moore on alisonacf@aol.com

Poppies at the Folly - 13/5/08

Will they, won't they appear this year!!

Read the document attached to the September 2004 entry in the [Folly Diary](#) to know why they appeared then
Gene Webb

Calling all 11-16 year olds - 12/5/08

Do you have a mobile phone capable of Taking video ?

Do you have a Digital Stills Camera ?

Do you have Access to A DV Camcorder ?

do you have A Computer Running Either WIndows XP or Windows Vista ?

IF you can answer yes to the Above then you can Enter the Young Filmmakers Competition at this Years Faringdon Arts Festival. IT IS FREE TO ENTER.

if you are interested in entering then Register your Interest by emailing fjsproductions@tiscali.co.uk

we are still working on the prizes but hope to have some nice ones and we hope to show the winning Video on this

Very site.

Keep your eyes out for more information

Scott (this Years Faringdon Arts Festival Childrens Entertainment Co-ordinator)

Madd - art, music,drama - 12/5/08

Actually- Music, there was masses of- Art, we dressed the well with the help of several individuals from Faringdon, Dance - we did lots of that from all age-groups and Drama - well, that's talking-points.

May I say many thanks to our supporters, especially our Mayor, The Folly singers, Denny Ilett Jazz (at the top of the hill)and The Faringdon Youth Singers, who were absolutely fabulous. Also, without the support of our own Town Council, we could never have done it. "May the force be with us" plus a few more people would be good.

Keep in touch with us via our website and we have taken over the world, well no, actually it's the bar at the Corn Exchange, but it does mean that we are open for functions in a Music Art Dance Drama sort of way - to book, get in touch with the Faringdon Town Council.

Hilary Prince-Braunton

IN Response to Name Supplied RE: 15 Minute Club May Bank Holiday -

12/5/08

Hi Name Supplied

Thanks for the Comments I do believe i shall be Singing again

WOW i have a Fan but to all my fans out their Please no throwing of Underwear when i Sing as this may Cause me a Blinding Injury. due to my Wife Whacking me one when i return home covered in them. haha haha haha haha

Peace Everyone Make Love not War

Scott Gildert

MADd what does it Stand For? - 12/5/08

i thought MADd stood for Music Art Dance and Drama

Well we had Music

No Art

No-one Danced

But its Now Caused Lots Of Drama

Perhaps next year it should just be the May Music Fest.

So Enough of the Madd Mayfest now that has come and gone WHY don't we now start gettting our Teeth into the Faringdon Arts Festival.

their's a NEW Subject to Start a Debate on

Peace everyone lets make LOVE not WAR

Scott Gildert

Faringdon Artistic Skaters - 12/5/08

Faringdon Artistic skaters after recent championships have 7 skaters in the national squad and one reserve skater.

Ben Timbrell, Hollie Fidler, Tamara Williams, Nathaniel williams, are to skate in Masano Italy on the 8th June Ben and Nathaniel are to skate in Croatia 21 June

Ben, Oliver and William Timbrell, Nathaniel Williams and Gerogie Howe are to skate in THE CUP of EUROPE in October

Georgie Hollie Tamara Ben are to skate in the Cadet and Youth Europeans in September

Saturday competition in Alumwell saw skaters again take top honours.

Skaters are committed to being the best in Great Britain training 6 days a week.

Congratuations to them all.

Dee England

15 minute club May Bank Holiday - 12/5/08

I attended this months 15 Minute Club at the crown and was surprised at the wealth of Talent that this Town has on offer. I was particularly Surprised at the spread of Musical Genre on offer.

There was one particular young man that stood out for me though (i think his name was Scott) he sung songs from the Musicals what a fantastic voice he had (I hope he sings again)

Name Supplied

Successful young gymnasts - 11/5/08

Just to change the subject a bit.

Several young girls from Faringdon (including my daughter) were invited to milton keynes last sunday to compete in The Roses gymnastic competition. They were representing their club, Cre-8 based at King Alfreds school in wantage, and did exceptionally well.

All the girls won at least one medal (my daughter won 5 golds but im not boasting you understand ;) hahaha) and i'd just like to say a big well done to them all, and long may the hard work continue!

Emma Riddle

Pleasing Arts Festival Line up - 10/5/08

Ooh David...I can't wait to see the line up for Faringdon Arts Festival when the website is up and running!

Sheila

Madd contribution - 10/5/08

As we're all contributing to the MADD debate here's my twopence worth.

As someone who's job is to cover what happens in the town because I put together the content of the Folly newspaper, I felt it important to attend some of the MADD Mayfest. Yes, of course I knew about it, but I have to say that if I was passing through Faringdon last Monday I would not have known anything was on. There were A5 flyers about and several postings on this site, but no BIG size information saying THIS IS ON.

Audiences at both the Soothsayers and the Ian Parker Band were insubstantial, but the quality of the musicianship, the sound and light production was excellent at both. I know there's a great reluctance for people to fork out cash for bands they do not know much about, particularly when the information about them is minimal. But I have to say that, in my opinion, Ian Parker and his band were absolutely mesmerizing, although it was essentially a four piece blues band, he brought in rock and soul into his set with a voice to match. By the way I met a couple of Ian Parker fans who travelled all the way from Preston for the evening, who couldn't believe the gig wasn't crammed to the gills.

I went to hear Delta Echoes in the Corn Exchange, two guys playing old style guitars, banjos etc and that was really mellow and free. But there were so few there, it sometimes feels embarrassing. However it did point out that the Corn Exchange has the potential to make a great acoustic venue.

The Kombat Golf and music at the Folly Tower on the Monday morning was a lot of fun, quite well attended (and free) and could turn into an enjoyable Faringdon institution given half a chance - one year maybe the weather will be fine. Without people coming in from elsewhere this kind of festival won't work in our small town, there's not enough local audience willing to pay not insubstantial amounts to hear bands. Witness the size of the audience for the Youth Choir, which was I'm told was the biggest of the weekend and that was a free entrance fundraiser.

A free gig in the Market Place depending on the type of music would probably work. As others have said you can't just put on a gig and magically expect a crowd unless you go out there and pull them in and you can't berate people for not wanting to go to something just because it's on.

I give credit to Sam and Hilary Prince for putting on these festivals, they do offer something different, and I can't criticize the quality of musicianship or the sound and light production. But I don't want to sit through another gig by a well known band with about a dozen people shuffling about in front of the stage.

Bear in mind also that the MADD May Fest receives a grant from our town council, as does the Arts Festival, but I

can't believe that this covers the cost of the event. Every music promoter takes a risk when putting on an event.
May live music continue!
Al Cane

More Madd - 9/5/08

There are a lot of negative comments flying about on here both from the attendees and organisers of Madd May which I think is really sad.

I attended the event on Folly Hill on Bank Holiday Monday with my family and we had a lovely time despite the rain! The reason I didn't attend the other events was that they really weren't appropriate for children of 4 and 6 years old and whilst I would be more than happy to mill around in the marketplace with my children whilst live music is going on, I am not going to pay to take them into a school hall to force them to listen to music either good/bad or indifferent.

If I was still young free and single then I would probably have gone but these days I'm afraid I will make an effort for a family friendly event but 'Living with the dead?!' Hmmmm....

Sam and Hilary, I think you do a great job organising these events and should be applauded for your contributions to the community but please don't just assume that people don't turn up because they have no community spirit, that is very unfair!
Anna Marlow

MADDFEST - 9/5/08

I came to the music festival about three years ago. Then, it was over three days, I spent over ninety pounds for tickets for myself and my partner, we attended all three evenings, Dr Feelgood plus a fantastic Madness style band as support, Paul Young, with the Fos Brothers, (their CD, I still play, they were that good), and on the Sunday evening, Fairport Convention, a superb way to end a truly wonderful weekend, every night was packed with music lovers, apart from a rude compere who told disgusting jokes in front of a family based audience, you could not fault it.

I had to keep reminding myself that I was in Faringdon. The couple that organised it lost money, so the quality was never repeated. Last year it was a couple of days of African bands, sorry I wouldn't cross the road for that, let alone travel from Swindon, this year, it just seemed to be all blues, ok, I don't mind a bit of that, too much though is overpowering. So, if you put music on that people like, they will come, put on your favorites, and they won't, a little like me putting on my favorite CD, turning the volume up, opening the windows, and expecting people to sit in the road to listen.
J Davies

Madd advertising - 9/5/08

I don't think I was sniping at people for NOT attending events, merely questioning why, and what music they would prefer. I appreciate that a few people have offered answers to one or both questions. I also admit to staying away from events if the music is not to my taste, or if I've heard the same stuff over and over again but I do like to lend an ear to musicians I have not previously heard of or seen perform live.

As for the advertising - Printing and distributing 1000s of flyers is expensive. This site is well used by some promoters (including Sam) but not all music lovers know about or have access to it. Some events are publicised only in Faringdon Advertiser's free listing which may not leave a lot of time to organise babysitters if the dates are at the beginning of the month (but I am assured that it is delivered to all households) Some promoters and performers have their own fanbase and/or a list of mobile numbers and email addresses, or post events on facebook, but again not everyone receives these notifications....

I assumed MADD Fest was on, as it has been every year since I moved here, so I kept my eyes open for info. But I live and shop in Faringdon (thus I walk into or pass by shops, businesses and the Corn Exchange where posters were displayed); buy and read the Folly newspaper; log on to this site and read posts to talking points and what's on; take the trouble to read notice boards outside venues (although the latter seem to have disappeared from the Crown of late) and have been known to call in at the Tourist Office. The information is usually out there somewhere. My only complaint is that given the lack of venues and acceptable performance times, sometimes three music events are on at the same time! Well, that and the transport problem which means that I can't get to (or home from) gigs outside Faringdon.
Sheila

Ray Thanks for your comments..... - 9/5/08

..... about the Tyla gigs, I know that his style is not to everyones taste, although it has changed since the kerrang frontcover days, but I do know that no one who has been to a gig has had a bad experience and that is down to the calibre of the support acts, sound and lighting, I am very grateful for their contribution as well as the main act.

The Junior school is also a fantastic venue with a decent sized stage. I am unashamedly a fan and wish to share my enthusiasm with others but certainly do not expect people to attend just because it is on but nonetheless I do believe that it is a good social night out and an alternative to the pub once in a while with the last 2 shows having 4 bands on the bill for £5.

Sorry if this sounds precious or defensive it is not meant to in fact it is support of your comments.
Thanks Hamish

Swahili music? - 9/5/08

Thank you Lyn.. I agree 100% with Lyn's comments but was afraid to air my views until she did it for me.

In my opinion much of today's music has a lot in common with Swahili as I can't understand either !
But if anyone can drag the Brighthouse and Rastrick Brass Band down here I'll certainly buy a couple of tickets
HGM

What a great show that would be...! - 9/5/08

Ray,that's the kind of line-up I like....

I'd pay £8 to see Keith Harris and Orville, Bros and the Saint Winifred's School Choir.....!
David Reynolds

More singer songwriters wanted - 9/5/08

I love music, and I particularly love live music, but to be honest middle of the road pub bands are not my taste.

The music on offer in Faringdon is not varied enough. I would like to see more singer songwriters, folk, blues that isn't middle of the road blues rock. More solo artist, not pub bands.

Just my taste.... Besides which, I never even KNEW about MADD fest, so it can't have been well advertised at all.
And berating people for not turning out, is just really off putting. You can't force people to be part of a community, it doesnt work like that....
Name Supplied

Madd Sniping - 9/5/08

I think that the constant sniping at people who did not attend Sam's festival is a bit unfair. I play in a band (and have done for 25 years) and love live music, however I don't like the blues and have already seen the Soothsayers and so decided not to go. It's as simple as that. It's a similar case with Tyler's gigs - I like rock music but have never liked Tyler's music so don't go to his gigs. I can appreciate his professionalism and talent at what he does, but as it doesn't do anything for me why would I want to see him play?

While I agree that all of Faringdon's promoters do an excellent job and should be applauded and (taste permitting) supported, I think it's ridiculous to expect people to attend gigs just because they have been arranged. If I arranged a gig featuring Keith Harris and Orville, Bros and the Saint Winifred's School Choir, would you pay to see them?
Probably not.

It is dispiriting promoting to an empty hall and the only suggestion I have is to use smaller venues and target a specific audience or promote different bands.
Ray

MADD Mayfest - 9/5/08

Congrats to the Princes for putting this on again sorry that family illnesses prevented me from joining you.
I think that the specials summed it up well.
Keep up the good work
Hamish Millar

Madd thanks - 8/5/08

Thank you Sam and Hilary for bringing such fantastic music to Faringdon for Madd MayFest. I have no idea why the audiences were small - was it the ticket prices - although some events were free; did the music genre not appeal; maybe everyone was away for the bank holiday weekend?

It's hard to believe that sometimes 80 -100+ people used to turn up to the 15minute club before the plug was pulled at the Corn Exchange and live music was available for four nights every week in town.

Perhaps it would help to solve this mystery if the music lovers of Faringdon posted their reasons for not supporting this and other live music events?

What WILL you support? (I think we should be told!)

Sheila

Madd Mayfest - 8/5/08

Perhaps People would have turned up had the MADD Mayfest "Living with the Dead" been Advertised better. No flyers Round Town Just an Advert in the Folly the day before the Event which also was unclear as to what was going on. This Years Event was Badly Advertised (or had The Organise just forgotten to send out the flyers).

Name Supplied

Madd - 8/5/08

In response to Sam Prince's comments about people not turning up to various music events, I would like to say the following. People attend events that they want to attend; that play music they want to listen to; that provide the atmosphere they enjoy. I fail to see why he should complain that certain events are poorly attended, and am really at a loss as to why he is 'having a pop' at people for not going. Surely that is not the way to persuade people to attend?

There is a huge music following in Faringdon, as well as a wealth of talent. However, people have different tastes and this should be encouraged, not discouraged. Just because Sam Prince has had a hand in arranging things, or he enjoys certain events, he is not the barometer of how the people in this town feel about music.

Other events enjoy huge popularity, and this will continue; what we don't need is to be admonished for not turning up, and to be told when and where we should be.

Lyn Sheppard

Madd Mayfest!! - 7/5/08

Great music; good beer; crappy weather (but hey most of the events were indoors)

WHERE WERE THE MUSIC LOVERS OF FARINGDON?

Congrats to the YOUTH CHOIR though - they brought their supporters -and performed magnificently!

Hopefully they will grow up to form future audiences for live music - unlike their parents generation!

Name Supplied

Madd - 7/5/08

I've been involved with a current c/d of Taj MaHal live at Ronnie Scott's
It's a great sound. were you there probably not.

This is what the M.a.D.d. May Fest is all about music that has soul not just a noise for a noise sake.

I would like to thank everyone who didn't turn up because they participated into the explanation of LIVING with THE DEAD.

It's Just an arts project.

Sam Prince

Table for the Folly - 8/7/08

Has anyone got a folding picnic table that they would be willing to give to Friends of the Folly?

Maybe a couple of stacking plastic chairs too

Thanks

Gene Webb

genewebb@nildram.co.uk

Madd Mayfest - not very Madd - 6/5/08

I didn't go to everything, but the two events I did attend only a handful of people were in the audience and most of these were either relatives/friends of the musicians.

Only a few(7/8) were locals

Did local people not know that it was on?

Was the music not to their taste?

I thought the music scene in Faringdon was supposed to be lively!!

Name Supplied

Madd Mayfest - Living with the dead - 6/5/08

What an apt Theme for this years Mayfest as most of the Artistes were playing to a Dead Auditorium.

and what a shame as the artistes themselves were Excellent

Scott Gildert

Black Cat Found.

A black cat with white feet and white collar and bib. In good condition.

Appears lost. Probably a family pet.

Please telephone 01367 240183.

Name Supplied

Splendid performance by Youth Choir - 4/5/08

If you weren't there you missed a super performance.

30 or so young singers aged between 10 and 19 all singing beautifully and with such enthusiasm.

Totally enjoyable and very impressive

Gene Webb

Youth Centre go ahead - 3/5/08

I've just read in the Folly that a purpose designed Youth Centre is to be provided at the former Cromwell Centre in Highworth Road, with 106 monies and funding from The County's education budget.

Sounds good - not sure if these means a new building, or just a redesign of the existing building.

I wonder if it will be designed as a multi purpose venue? Maybe it could be used for music events.

Does anyone know anything?

Who, locally, will be involved in the design?

Gene Webb

Performance of the Youth Choir - 3/5/08

Sunday 4th May, 3-30pm @ the Junior school.

A newish choir made up of young people up to the age of 18

Free entry

Donations towards the choir.

A musical note for the Folly tower - Mon 5th - 3/5/08

As part of the m.A.d.D. Mayfest madrigals will sung from the Folly TOWER by the Folly singers, 9am

The mayors Kombat golf, which, if people have recovered from last year, will prove to be fun. Just bring a bat/club but no golf clubs.

It is also planned to run a small open stage.

Join in on our celebrations. Have breakfast on the hill, enjoy the wonderful views.

www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Sam Prince

Ed(GW): and the Folly tower is open all morning

Try archery? - 2/5/08

Want to try archery? - then contact the secretary of the Buscot Park Archers Mr Adam Abbott for further details. tel 01793 764361 e-mail adam.abbott1@btinternet.com or visit our web site <http://buscotparkarchery.googlepages.com>

Park Road Roundabout - 2/5/08

The retail group are in talks with the highways people who look after the roundabouts about the revamping of them but at present we are still waiting for them to come back with costings, but because of insurances they will have to do the work, we will supply the plants etc.

If you would like to help please contact me at Presentation Gifts in town
Denise Palmer

Free Blues on Monday - 2/5/08

A Chance to hear the country blues of the 1920s and 1930s on National Steel and acoustic guitars by Delta Echoes, at the "The blues Cafe" in the Corn Exchange faringdon. Monday 5th May 6pm-7-30pm.

there is no charge for this session. Another M.a.D.d. weekend gig.

Well Dressing. - 2/5/08

Work produced by several individuals will be unveiled @ The Portwell, Sat 3rd May, 12 mid-day.

These images will emphasize the idea of this years MayFest theme "Living With the Dead"

Sam Prince

ED(GW) Sounds jolly!!

Park Road Roundabout - 1/5/08

Does anyone hold the same views on the appearance of the Park Rd roundabout? you only have to travel to Shrivenham to see what a difference a few plants can make, Swindon boasts some nice ones too.

With sponsorship from local businesses it would surely be a good selling point for the town, with a team of volunteers the Stanford Rd one could have a facelift too!

Michael Scott

ED(GW) There was once a FAP project for doing the roundabout and improving the appearance of Park Road - not sure what has happened - if anything

Old Railway bridge - 1/5/08

Can someone clarify where this is?

Rachel Hopper

Ed(GW) It's the other side of the bypass. to the right of the A417- about 1 mile out of town on a footpath through Wicklesham properties.

Faringdon groups get the Point! – Grand opening, Brunel House - 1/5/08

On Tuesday 13th May, 5.30-7:00 pm

Are you involved in running or setting up a voluntary or community group? Are you looking for help with funding, finding volunteers or identifying the right policies and procedures? If so, the launch of a new resource for local community groups might be of interest!

The Faringdon Area Project and Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership (OVSDP) are delighted to invite you to the opening of your new Information Point. The date for your diaries is Tuesday 13th May at 5.30pm. Chris Deeney from OVSDP will be giving a short demonstration of the resources that include a broadband connected computer, a small library of books, and the ever-useful FunderFinder (a powerful programme for those of you that are looking for funding!).

We look forward to welcoming as many groups as possible – the launch will also be a great opportunity to network with local community organisations over a sandwich or two! For more information please contact Jane Haynes at jane.haynes@bordengate.com or tel: 08456 580 510

What else can I say about the MayFest - 1/5/08

The Folly a landmark, The Folly A Heritage, The Folly a place to be on Monday 5th May.
Music by The Folly singers, Trev Williams, and Denny Ilett jazz band, Gillmans crazy Kombat golf.
All part of a M.A.D.D.s unique festival.
Sam Prince
Ed(GW) and the tower will be open

Freeview - 1/5/08

Thanks - I'm feeling much more confident that we'll be able to get Freeview now!!!

Another question - are there any parks/playgrounds close to Berners Way? My son is ten and loves to go out to the park in Stanford on his own - we live opposite - and I'd like him to have the same level of freedom when we move
Alison

Taxi from Oxford - 1/5/08

I always use Laraine from White Horse Hire. It's about £32 to the bus station and she's never let me down! 01367 241132
Have a good night.
Name Supplied

Old Railway Bridge - 1/5/08

"the landowner who's land it is on should be made to remove the horrible concrete and repair it at there cost"

As the landowner in question, I'm probably best equipped to address this request. I don't actually own the bridge - just the land around it. The bridge still belongs to BRB Residuary, a government body required by statute to maintain such structures. I didn't want the concrete and have always wanted the bridge restored to its former glory. But I'm legally powerless to stop BRB doing pretty much anything it wants to do to it.

It's because I've raised concern about how the bridge has been maintained in recent years, and how BRB planned to continue to do so, that it has thankfully now come to the attention of the Town Council that the bridge needs a more sympathetic restoration plan. I don't think it's BRB's fault per se - it delegates responsibility through a chain of contractors. But I've worked up through that chain, and fortunately BRB is now listening.

BRB now realises the architectural value of the bridge has been neglected. It's put on hold provisional plans to fill the bridge with yet more metal and concrete. We're working towards a long term solution that I'm confident everyone will be happy with. But these negotiations take time and there are legal hurdles to overcome.

As soon as I've any news, I'll pop another post up here.
Many thanks for all the support I've received from the many people who use the bridge - it's really bolstered our cause.
Tom Allen-Stevens

Read this report from www.tescopoly.co.uk. - 30/6/08

Local shops

From a nation of shopkeepers to Clone Town Britain?

The UK's biggest supermarkets are grappling for ever greater market share. Small independent stores and suppliers, and ultimately consumers, are paying a direct price in the face of unfair competition. In the five years to 2002, 50 specialist stores including butchers, bakers, fishmongers and newsagents closed every week. In May 2005 the IGD revealed the loss of 2,157 unaffiliated independent convenience retailers, compared to only 1,079 the year before.

The All-Party Parliamentary Small Shops Group investigated the future of small shops in the UK. Its report "High Street Britain: 2015", released in January 2006, predicted a bleak future for independent shops. The report predicted that independent convenience stores were unlikely to survive by 2015 and independent newsagents were very unlikely to survive. The report argued that the social and economic benefits of diverse forms of retail should be protected. Likewise, a report by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) from 2005, Clone Town Britain, found that chain retailers are damaging to the local economy, social inclusion and local identity.

Small shops are vital for people to access healthy food, in particular disadvantaged groups, and people without cars or with limited mobility. The closure of many small shops has left some neighbourhoods with limited access to healthy food. Please see the food poverty page and Sustain's Food Access Network for more information on this.

What will the future impact of these changes be?

There are concerns that the closure of small shops is a one-way street. Once small independent stores shut, there are often insurmountable barriers to getting back into the High Street. It is very difficult for new businesses to start up. And there are concerns that a tipping point could be reached. Once a certain amount of independent retailers shut, the wholesale industry may no longer be sustainable, and could collapse. The knock on effect of this will be further damage to the independent retail sector. For more information on this, please see the submission from the Federation of Wholesale Distributors to the Competition Commission, as well as the High Street Britain report and the Association of Convenience Stores submission to the Competition Commission.

There are concerns about the way supermarket chains gain an advantage over small shops on the High Street. Their market share gives them a level of flexibility between store formats and over product pricing, and control of supply chains. Smaller shops do not have this flexibility and control.

There is evidence of the large supermarket chains:
abusing seller power, through practices such as price flexing and below-cost selling. According to the Competition Commission's report on the grocery market from 2000, the big four chains were persistently selling products at below market price. This could damage independents and smaller chains, and in turn damage consumers. This report also found that some of the chains were engaging in price-flexing. In geographical areas with no major competitors, they were selling products at higher prices than in areas where they faced stronger competition. The submission by the Association of Convenience Stores to the Competition Commission grocery market inquiry in 2006 found that such practices were continuing.

abusing buyer power, in particular squeezing suppliers on prices. The larger chains can extract more favourable conditions from suppliers than other types of retailer can. They are able to do this because of their market shares and integrated supply chains. See the Code of Practice page for more information on these issues. The result of these practices can be what is known as the "waterbed effect", when suppliers raise prices for other buyers (including independent shops) as a knock-on effect.

For further information on this please see the Association of Convenience Stores submission to the Competition Commission. > abusing the planning system, because of their superior resources compared to competitors or local authorities.

See the planning page and Friends of the Earth's report Calling the Shots for more information.

Name Supplied

Tesco - pros and cons - 30/6/08

Will it be bad for Faringdon to have a Tesco?

When I go to Wantage Sainsbury, after shopping there I leave my car in their car park and walk through to the town and shop there.

It seems to me that providing Tesco allow this AND there is an attractive walk from their car park to the town (along Hobwell lane and Southampton St) it could be good for the town - not perhaps for Budgens, but OK for other shops. It could attract people from the villages to come here instead of Wantage and Swindon, so there could be more potential customers for local shops.

I've heard it said that the Swindon Woodworking site could become available- with good negotiation with Tesco any 106 agreement could provide access and maybe development of the Willes Close triangle(owned by Faringdon). It could be the place for a (sound proofed) performance venue!

Name Supplied

Big Faringdon Gig - Saturday 5th July , Junior School - 30/6/08

It just goes to show despite all the thought that goes into this there is always something glaringly obvious that is missed off.

As we want to encourage families to this event, especially as we have two great school bands playing, tickets for under 18's will be £5.

The pricing is as follows:

Adults - all day £10

Under 18's - all day £5

Accompanied under 11's free.

In the evening (from 7.30pm in the main hall - still three bands to see) All tickets one price £5 (Accompanied under 11's still free).

Doors open at 11.15am, entrance via the town park behind the library or through the blue gates - first band on at 12 noon. >> Well done to Dawn and all those volunteers for Saturday and it was sunny as well - what more could we ask for.

Sean and Amanda

Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

Scarey Tesco - 30/6/08

The thought of Tesco's is quite a scarey one. Our town centre couldn't win.

There will no doubt be some very short sighted people who will be pleased about it - and the thought of saving a few pence.

We do need to sort the parking out in Faringdon - even allowing the first hour free in the two main car parks might encourage more shoppers.

Any idea where we go to let our objections be known (apart from here !).

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) *I think FTC are going to get Tesco to sponsor some consultation*

Fantastic Production by Faringdon Junior School Year 6 - 30/6/08

If you really want to see Local Talent both On the Stage and Behind the Scenes then POP Along to Faringdon Junior School on any of these Days

15th July 7pm

16th July 1:30pm

17th July 7pm

And see Faringdon Junior School Perform their Year 6 Musical Production of > "CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC"
Written and Composed by NONE other than Mr Joe Moore.

NO Tickets Required Entry is Free.

Set at StarStruck Music & Dance School, in 1988, when synthesizers, rubix cubes and leg-warmers ruled the world, a competition to find new performing talent emerges. Two rival bands, 'Angel Eyes' and 'Uptown Boys' - who are sworn enemies from day one - compete for the prize, unaware of the highs and lows they will face on their journey towards stardom...

"West Side Story meets Fame whilst auditioning for A Chorus Line..."

Scott Gildert on behalf of Joe Moore

Taste massage - 30/6/08

From 2pm - 6pm on Saturday, 12th July, I will be offering free massage taster sessions with essential oils lasting ten minutes.

Just come and sign up for a time slot on the day from 1.45pm onwards at 25 London Street.

Emma Elkin-Jones

Tesco in Faringdon - 30/6/08

I'll help stop Tescos

Ray

Clothes shop in Faringdon? - 29/6/08

As a resident of Faringdon I really do enjoy the small independant stores and cafes we have in the local community.

I am interested to know what shops the local residents would like to see as I have been watching Mary Queen of the Shops and have been wondering would a clothing shop have a place in Faringdon?

Name Supplied

Party in the Park 2008 - 29 /6/08

Great party at Faringdon House Grounds.

Thanks to Dawn Pulker, Rotary members and all the other helpers for organising a great family afternoon event.

Simply put, Faringdon at it's best.

Laura Bishop

Party in the Park - 29/6/08

A big thanks to those that organised the event yesterday, and the bands that played.

It was GREAT!

Sue

Re. Stop Tesco - 29/6/08

We'll support you. We think we owe it to the local farming community to stop this. We all know Budgens isn't great but it is getting better now its stocking Coleshill organic and local eggs. If you want a major supermarket, and lets face it there are times when you do, its only 7 miles to Sainsbury's in Wantage and on a bus route. Far more people will lose out than gain if Tesco goes ahead. Local farms, the farmer's market, local specialists like Rob the Cheese and the Florists will find it impossible to compete and will have to close, leaving Faringdon with a dead main street and market place and a thriving major conglomerate just outside the town.

I think we're all agreed that this would be a different argument if it was one of those Tesco Express type affairs taking over Budgens, which although not ideal, would probably be quite restricted and contained given the location. Where do we sign?
Jon and Mel Lane

STOP TESCO - 29/6/08

We are lucky in Faringdon. We have a breadth of independent shops in the town centre from the butchers to the florists that serve our needs. Budgens is brilliant - fighting for a range of good food, locally sourced at fair prices.

Do we want Tesco on our doorstep? We certainly don't need it... Do we want the centre of Faringdon to become a ghost town and Park Lane to be congested with traffic so we can buy intensively reared, chemical laced, broiler chickens on BOGOF??

We want to fight against this - anyone else interested? Let us know...

Michele Oliver & Paul Vanags (Gloucester Street)

Interim solution to posters?? - 27/6/08

Until someone from othe VWHDC displays some common sense (unlikely), perhaps event organisers could provide an email address for Faringdon residents who are willing to put posters up in their windows to get in touch? Posters could then be dropped through letter boxes (or maybe with the TIC for collection) and we can all do our bit.

I'm not aware that councils can do you for advertising from your own home (yet), or maybe they can??!! This could potentially reach more residents (esp in the estates) and passing trade, if those of us on the main roads (London St in my case) are on board.
Name Supplied
ED(GW) Good idea - they'd get taken down when the event has happened promptly too. Not sure I'd want too many in my window though

Tescos - definitely - 27/6/08

The Folly reports that Tescos have bought the old JDS site and are hoping to buy adjacent properties. Tesco says it will be a superstore(15k-60k sq ft)

No timescales yet
Read more in the July Folly
Gene Webb

Fly Poster Meeting with the Vale - 27/6/08

An informal meeting looking at the questions of road signs and fly-posting (this includes A-Boards) took place yesterday between VWHDC staff and members of the Faringdon Community. There were three representatives from the Vale who came to Faringdon for the meeting: Toby Warren (head of Community Strategy), David Stevens (Dep Dir Environment) and Paul Yaxley (Planning Enforcement Officer). From Faringdon, the Town Council and Chamber of Commerce were also represented.

Overall, very constructive discussions. The VWHDC explained why and how these enforcement policies (originating

from central govt) are at present being implemented. Although there is scope for interpretation and discretion when enforcing the "Clean Neighbourhoods Act" at local level, there is also a fear in what is becoming an increasingly litigious society that making exceptions, turning a blind-eye, interpreting liberally, applying common sense - opens the VWHDC to potential litigation. Someone trips over an A-Board and it's the Vale that then gets sued because they didn't do their enforcement job properly. Making one exception opens up a time-consuming can-of-worms as everyone else also wants to be treated as an exception. So - they crack down.

At the meeting there was general recognition that we DO need to find creative solutions to what is now seen as a policy that is negatively impacting the vibrancy of the town & turning the VWHDC into the enemy. This blanket enforcement is perceived by Joe Public as inappropriate and draconian. Messages coming from DC, Highways Authorities & CC are confused and contradictory. You haven't a clue to whom you should apply for permission, and when you DO find out (Highways Authorities) then you also discover that permission will NOT be granted. There's at present really no workable exceptions to this for low budget local events (apart from: don't get caught!). AA signs are one exception - but this route will cost you a body part or two.

Here's the good news:

1. The VWHDC is in final stages of putting in place a clear "Enforcement Policy" Document for its staff - so that more discretionary common sense decisions can be made by enforcement officers without fear of litigation. The FTC and Chamber are now also involved in consulting on this document.
2. Potentially, the TC could take local control over many of these flyposter/roadsign decisions. There IS a precedence for this. Abingdon & North Hinksey were apparently given some local control up until two years ago. This will be further investigated by the TC.
3. On the continent (think of a wonderfully tidy yet fantastically colourful Plaza typical of Switzerland, Holland, Germany) you have dedicated poster points - perhaps solar-powered rotating ones - rather than having to rely on scabby lamp posts. This will also be investigated thru the TC.
4. I think there's grudging respect from the VWHDC for this bunch of Faringdon renegades who seem to think that their Town actually matters. For the two big upcoming events (FAF & Sealed Knot) we may find that they'll give us some slack while we try to find more permanent solutions. As long as people promise not to sue them for tripping over an A-Board....

Watch this space.
Sjoerd Vogt

No discretion re posters - 26/6/08

I have now had two telephone conversations with the Vale Planning department. It was like being in a sketch with a pontificating Ronnie Barker character. "...the law of the land states..." and 'The law is black and white and must be obeyed...'. 'Our enforcement officer is just doing his duty'
Discretion was not in the vocabulary.

As Basil Fawltly once said 'This is how Nazi Germany started.'
Sean

Indie dance?? - 26/6/08

Ray,
Is that some kind of indie dance then?
Or were you going for the full UDI?
Bill Sticker

Use strong glue - 26/6/08

The Arts Council states "Between 2006 and 2008, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and the National Lottery in supporting the arts.

This is the bedrock of support for the arts in England. We believe that the arts have the power to change lives and communities, and to create opportunities for people throughout the country."

Shame no-one's allowed to hear about these opportunities...

David, that location doesn't appear to feature on the forbidden list so I reckon you should go ahead and stick that poster (make sure you use VERY strong glue!)
Anna

Re: Events posters - 26/6/08

Meanwhile the Orwellian state gathers pace informing us every single day of the things we are no longer permitted to do and the consequences we face if we disobey.

I have been trying to warn people on this forum of what was to come (this is of course nothing compared to the civil liberties that we will see taken away in the next decade).

Anybody in Faringdon ready to listen yet?

Citizen Smith

VWHDC Vee Will Hound Decent Citizens. - 26/6/08

anyone do better? Ive started to dig the tunnel, do I need planning permission?
Name, rank and serial number, withheld.

Permitted posters! - 26/6/08

For those of you who think that we still live in a democratic, liberal society check out the following link from the Vale of White Horse District Council website which explains where you can and cannot stick a poster.

I know where I'd like to stick a poster!

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/326679.pdf>

David Reynolds

Declare UDI? - 26/6/08

Maybe it's time to declare independence from the VWHDC and the formation of the People's Republic of Faringdon.

Ray

ECOWEEK POSTERS - 25/6/08

Talking Points is buzzing with postertalk & ecoweek feedback. Yes - it's surreal that environmental officers were "caught" taking down posters advertising environmental events, and it's certainly brought the whole discussion to a head - which is clearly needed.

Big Brother from Abingdon comes stomping in to suppress community-led initiatives and prevent events from being a success. Bizarre. What do they actually want? A vibrant community, or a sterile town displaying only their black&white threat notices telling us what we are NOT allowed to do?
It reminds me of "The Grinch who Stole Christmas". Do the Vale REALLY want to be seen as spoilers?

Obviously it's not just ECOWEEK that's affected - although this seems to have been the first event to have really

suffered from the new regime.

There IS a meeting I'm told - tomorrow at 4pm - with Sjoerd Vogt (main organiser of ECOWEEK), District Council, Town Council & Chamber of Commerce - to try to sort out this mess & rediscover an element of common sense in all of this.

And one more point. In spite of the Fahrenheit-451 treatment of the ECOWEEK posters, it seems as if most if not all the ECOWEEK events were very well supported. Certainly, the ECOFAIR and ECOSWAP events on the first Saturday had well over 500 people between them - which is excellent. I also went to ECOMILL - the Venn Mill Open Day - and they had nearly 200 visitors. Good flour by the way - and a VERY interesting event. But - how many MORE people would have come to the ECOWEEK events if the Posters had stayed up?

There is a message here perhaps. Posters are just one way of publicising events. Even if the posters and the road signs DO all get ripped down by those spoilers from Abbey House, you CAN still get your message out. The ECOMAP that was delivered door-to-door was very good - and I've shown it to friends and family far afield as evidence of a community that really seems to be working together on the issues that matter. It was fantastic to see how the schools, shops, businesses, farms, shoppers, home-owners, cyclists, walkers, bird-lovers, swapshoppers & cream-tea-lovers all came together & got involved. I've already got two of the new canvas Faringdon shopping bags.
SO - WELL DONE FARINGDON!
Andy Hayter

Big Faringdon Gig - 25/6/08

Saturday 5th July at the Junior school Doors open at 11.15am
Tickets from Budgens and Sandwich Phillers and from the The Crown

We now have 16 confirmed bands playing a huge variety of sounds and styles - and it will all be original music. There are two prices for entry - an all day pass to both rooms will be £10. On the day at 7.30 pm (so just the evening slot - but still with three bands) tickets will be £5. £5 tickets cannot be purchased in advance
At £10 for 16 bands that works out at 62.5p to see each band (no it's not £187.5 just to see the three bands you want to see).

SUPPORT YOUR COUNCIL!!!!!! - not (VALE NOT TOWN)

Some of you may have seen my advertising around the town - this is temporary publicity for a community event that benefits a charity and the community (profits from the BFG will go to Helen House Hospice and Faringdon Arts Festival)

The signs will it have to go as the little man from the Vale council is threatening to prosecute me, the school any band associated with the publicity and anyone benefiting from events associated with such publicity i.e. Helen House Hospice and Faringdon Arts Festivalso the signs will be coming down.....so much for Community spirit..... who do these people work for???

All of you that run fund raising event, village fetes, bonfire nights Xmas events etc...it could be you next for committing such evil crimes.
They even told me (the planning department at the Vale) the RAF Fairford Air Tattoo billboard near Longcot is now subject to review even though it got planning permission.

MR VERY ANGRY

Sean Hodgson

PS But hope to see you on the 5th July at the BFG...please spread the word

www.bigfaringdongig.com

ED(GW) There's a VWHDC planning poster outside the chemist dated May 2008 - will VWHDC fine itself?

Arts Festival posters banned - 25/6/08

Hi Everyone

We have just been told that we are no longer allowed to put our big signs up to advertise the Faringdon Arts Festival which is going to give us a bit of a problem as one of the common complaints about events in Faringdon is

that they are not advertised enough. We have been told that the VWHDC will sue us and anyone who is associated with the event.

We will be having our brochures out soon, we have our website up and running www.faringdonartsfestival.co.uk. There are some signs in the doors of many of our shops and pubs. Please could you also spread the word for us as we would like as many people there as possible. Its an excellent event for all the family so please come along and take part.

The first event is Sean's and Amanda Big Faringdon's Gig on the 5th July at the Junior School.
Please come along and support us.
We look forward to seeing you at the BFG and the Arts Festival.
Julie Farmer
01367 246003

Ecotalk - 25/6/08

I went to the Mark Dowd Talk on the Thursday - which was excellent. Plenty of people, and clearly riveted by what he had to say.

Mark had not only spent the whole day with the Junior School, but he'd also done a lot of original research for his evening talk. He blew away many of the misconceptions that we have relating the Climate Change evidence being a recent phenomenon (it's not. In the US there were urgent calls for action going as far back as 1957) and he highlighted the many campaigns of misinformation and suppression of information relating to climate change that go right up to presidential level.

There are many parallels with the smoking lobby of course, and how long it took for significant change to come about - in spite of overwhelming medical evidence.
Anyway- we were very privileged to have such a good speaker coming to Faringdon.
Mairead Boyce

ENERGY FROM WASTE - PLASMA TOUR - 25/6/08

I'd just like to add my thanks to the organisers of the eco week. I went on the very well organised Tetronics Plasma tour which was over-subscribed.
I'm just sorry for those who had to be turned away, because this was really hot stuff - literally!

People had signed up from as far away as Reading and Maidenhead - although how they found out about it is anyone's guess. On the minibus, I overheard one of the Reading people asking "so --what's so special about Faringdon that it has all this stuff going on?"

Hopefully, this tour will be repeated.
Helen Hand

ECOBIRDS - 25/6/08

Yes, there were 62 people who came for the Bird walk - more than the 12 that we'd planned for! We saw lots of birds and it was great fun, although the biggest problem was to stop people chatting...
Adam & Lorna Symonds

NEW WORLD RECORD ***** - 24/6/08

Yes - another first!

We're now the holders of the first turbine hugging world record - with officially 345 people taking part, all holding hands to make the shape of the hub, the three blades and perimeter circle.

In spite of the weather (the turbines enjoyed it) , there were approximately 1000 people who came to the

Windfarm's first public Open Day; enjoying the stalls, organic burgers, kites, tours of the substation, film show about the construction, tractor rides, children's workshops & juggling displays.

Thanks to all those who helped make the day a success! A great way to end ECOWEEK.
Sjoerd Vogt

Ecoweek Bird Walk - 24/6/08

Talking about ECOWEEK, I went on the Bird Walk round Kilmester Farm by the Thames on the Friday evening - and it was just fantastic.

Great walk, with two hours of observations & information from an RSPB tour guide who was stunningly good. We weren't just seeing birds, we were hearing their calls & studying their regurgitated meals.

Well done for putting this on and well done for a great week.
David Williamson

Special Folly Tower opening days - 24/6/08

To coincide with the Arts Festival and the Battle for Faringdon, the Folly Tower will be open on both the Saturday and Sundays of each weekend.

12th and 13th July, 19th 20th July

11.00am till 3.00pm

Adults £1, Children 11-16 20p, Children under 11 free

Removal of adverts - 23/6/08

As for the removal of adverts/boards for EcoWeek events, I was one who noticed the Vale's Environment Warden walking around with a 'forest' of Eco Week boards under his arm. I thought to myself how ironic that is. (He was here also doing the dog fouling initiative, which I'm heavily in favour of). When I asked him why he said that it's illegal and they had to be taken down as no permission had been sought to put them up. (As if it would be granted!)

But it's a very selective application, there are posters up from last autumn on Gravel Walk, although I feel that people who put them up in the first place should be responsible and take them down once the event is over. Some solution can surely be found and a compromise reached.

And on another point there are other publications in town that advertise and notify of events, What's On, The Folly and The Faringdon Advertiser to name but three, it's not just through this website, useful and informative as it is.
Bill Posters

Big Clear out - 23/6/08

We're having a big clear out (apologies to the Eco Week organisers - we didn't get our act together in time for the Swap Shop) and we were wondering if anyone is organising any kind of summer fete or jumble sale who would appreciate various bric a brac, books, clothes etc.

If you can help, please can you email us at garthpool@btinternet.com by Friday this week or we will be swamping the local charity shops at the weekend.

Many thanks
Mel

Fly posting fines - 23/6/08

It seems that the Environmental chaps from VWHDC are cracking down on the display of posters on walls, telegraph poles etc. - I understand they removed ones advertising the Ecoweek events(bizarre!!)

I gather VWHDC are starting to implement the law and start dishing out £75 (per board) fines to anyone displaying unauthorised boards- I assume boards include posters- see http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Environmental_health/Fly-tipping_litter_and_enviocrimes/DetailPage-1918.asp

Putting posters up around the town is almost the only way we can publicise community events(apart from here); it will be very difficult to spread the word without them. Surely the law could be interpreted as not putting posters up too soon and taking them down afterwards (say within a week after the event)- fining those who don't keep to these rules.

As a matter of interest, I have often seen Planning permission and Traffic regulation notices displayed(by VWHDC)- are these considered fly posting? They are sometimes guilty of not removing them in a timely way

There is a meeting about it on Thursday 4pm(venue not known). Do make comments here - it may help to feed the debate

Gene Webb

Corn Exchange noise - resolved? - 23/6/08

I'm just wondering that as the Jam Club is now opening at the Corn Exchange whether this means the noise problem has been solved?
Ray

Cheapest fuel from Esso garage? - 23/6/08

I am reading with interest the comments regarding the Esso Garage on Park Road.

I was listening to Jack FM, the local radio station, the other day and they have a service whereby listeners ring in with the cheapest fuel in the local community. Apparently the cheapest place to buy fuel in Faringdon is the Esso Garage in Park Road!!

Is there anywhere else we can buy fuel in town? I keep looking for a forecourt near Budgens, but so far no luck!
Ray Hunt

Wind turbine hugging - 23/6/08

Despite the poor weather at the beginning of Saturday many cyclists, walkers and other visitors gathered at the wind farm and joined in the hugging. At a guess there were 500/600 people (I'm sure Sjoerd will tell us more precisely)

I thought we'd just gather round, but in a masterpiece of organisation we formed the shapes of the turbine blades, and joined these in a circle.

Sadly the aeroplane that was to fly over and take photographs could not, as the cloud was too low.

However - it seems we are now the World record holders for wind hugging!!
It was a really good event

Gene Webb

The Jam Club at the Corn Exchange. - 23/6/08

M.A.D.D. is pleased to announce the return of The Jam club. Previously a blues club it will now encompass a wider range of music.

The new season will commence in the Autumn on Friday Oct 3rd and then every first Friday of the month.

For all information and updates please see www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Join in the battle for Faringdon - 21/6/08

Please do not be frightened if on Saturday 20th June a large crowd of English Civil War re-enactors appear in the Market Place. Sir Marmaduke Rawdon's Regiment of Foote are conducting a final survey of the Church Path Farm battlesite to prepare for the large battle and re-enactment displays over the weekend of 19/20 July. Having looked at the ground during the morning Rawdons will, as usual, base themselves in the Crown Hotel and advertise the forthcoming event.

If anyone wishes to take part in the forthcoming Battle for Faringdon, this is their chance to join up! Rawdons have a good stock of spare uniforms for recruits and plenty of space in the pike block to get seriously bruised and abused. Alternatively my wife and I prefer to take part in Living History and explain what life was like in 1645. We have fond memories of peeling onions to go into a stew in front of children who thought onions only came frozen, peeled, cut or in pasties.... We roasted a leg of venison over an open fire to exclamations like "Oh the poor Bambie" until a man from Uganda tried to wrap the leg in cooking foil, saying we did not know how to cook. Unfortunately aluminium cooking foil did not exist in 1645 and in England we do not have such a problem with flies as he has in Uganda. We agreed to differ on cooking methods, but it showed what fun Living History can be.

So if anyone wants to join the Sealed Knot to re-enact Civil War era battles and Living History, now is your chance. The recruiters will be out in the Market Place during Saturday.

Or if you miss this event just email me on jgillman@btinternet.com to be put in contact with the Rawdons Regiment recruiters.

John Gillman

Esso Fuel Shortage - 19/6/08

An extract from forecourtrader.co.uk 10-Jun-2008

Esso has reassured its retailers that it has "contingency plans" in place if the threatened strike by Shell drivers goes ahead this week. Karen Dickens, Esso's executive director, fuels marketing UK & Ireland, said she hoped drivers would work through the industrial action to maintain supplies and get product through to sites.

Speaking at the company's Dealer Forum at The Belfry hotel in Sutton Coldfield last week, she told the audience: The haulier provides drivers for Shell and Esso. If the dispute is not resolved, we hope drivers will be prepared to go through picket lines to maintain supplies. We have been building stocks in the terminal to make sure their is sufficient product. We have contingency plans to make sure the right stock is on site."

I have found that Esso forecourts at Challow and Stratton were out of stock. Maybe there is a clue in the quote? http://www.forecourtrader.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/2331/Esso_hopes_drivers_will_work_through_Shell_strike.html

Swap Shop success - 18/6/08

358kg!!!!!!

OK, so it's slightly less than the 402kg we saved from landfill in March, but not a bad figure at all considering we didn't have the Corn Exchange at our disposal.

Many thanks to all involved, especially the newcomers to the cause, Mark, Malcolm and Val.

And the best result was that we raised a whopping £71 for Pre-school, mainly down to the generosity of Angie Cartwright, who found a cello in perfect condition. Hubby Mike has wanted to play the cello since childhood, and was thrilled to bits to find one at the Swap Shop, complete with bow, so Angie made a very generous donation.

Mike has promised to keep us all entertained at the next CAG event!

Andy Hayter

Still no fuel - 18/6/08

Still no diesel or "normal" unleaded petrol at the Esso petrol station on Park Road.

Surely by now they *must* have had a delivery and I find it hard to believe that there is still panic buying, given that

the Shell delivery strike is over.
As Peter said "What is going on?"
Kat

Faringdon Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - 18/6/08

Faringdon Fossil Trust has been formed, and is soon to be the owner of the SSSI site on the Fernham Road.

The Trust will take over the maintenance of the site from the builder Ede, who gave the site to town as part of a 106 agreement.

Fernham Gate Estate is limited on its (roughly) eastern side by a quarry face about 3 metres high and 100 metres long.

This gives excellent exposure of the Faringdon Sponge Gravels - a geological formation that has for some 200 years been famous for the fine specimens of various fossils that it yields. Much of it also provides an excellent gravel, which has been extracted for over 150 years and used in pathway and building construction .

Members of the Trust are, Norman Snelling (Chair), Bill Horsfield of the Oxfordshire Geology Trust and town councillors Alan Hickmore and Mike Wise

The town councillors are in discussion with Jonathon Ede to finalise ownership and discuss the clearing and fencing work that still needs to be done.

Faringdon Fossickers represents a group of people who at various times have expressed an interest in the setting up of a geology and natural history reserve on the old Faringdon Sponge Gravel pit in the Coxwell Rd.

If you're interested in becoming a Faringdon Fossicker, and want to contribute to the running of the site, please contact Norman Snelling on 01367 240601
Norman Snelling

Faringdon on TV - 18/6/08

BBC has been filming from the top of the faringdon folly for a new BBC program named "Britain from Above"
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/britainfromabove>

Eddie Williams (chair of "The Friends of the Folly") was interviewed by Andrew Marr. The program is due to go on air mid to late August of this year. It will be a 3 part program shown on BBC1, probably at 8 or 9pm on Sunday evening, so primetime.
Exact details are not known yet.

Raoul van Eyndhoven

Southampton St to Southampton?? - 17/6/08

Simon Cook on the 13th asked on Talking Points if Southampton Street went to Southampton. The answer is yes it did for drovers, but not carriages. The route I have traced goes up Southampton Street, past the tennis courts and then go right to Rogers Concrete, Coles Pits, Fernham, Uffington, the Blowing Stone etc and on to Hungerford, where the coach roads started again. But the drovers did not like sharing roads with wheeled traffic, so beyond Hungerford they probably went on very minor roads of paths.

The attached file [nvtp Faringdon map1670.doc](#) shows the coach road map for London services dated 1670. Faringdon is on a Y Junction, right for Gloucester, straight on for Stratton (turn left for Marlborough) with Marlborough Street basically linking London to Bristol.
Note that Radcot Road goes straight in to the Market Place from Faringdon House.
Wadley Manor is called Waddy Farm meaning boggy ground farm.

Also shown is the coach road map from 1670 showing the importance of Faringdon on the strategic coach network. The main Bristol service ran to Colnbrook, Maidehead, Henley, Dorchester, Abington, Faringdon, Margret.

I will scan the town map for the Lechlade route, asp, but it is basically the same.
John Gillman
Ed(GW) Thanks John- I thought you would know

Don't Panic Peter - 17/6/08

The tanker driver's strike might have caused some isolated fuel problems at Shell petrol stations but it wouldn't have worried me. But when this government told me not to panic that did worry me and I immediately went to the Park Road Esso Station and filled my car.

I never usually do this as it takes fuel to carry fuel. Many others have the same lack of faith in Gordon Brown's lot and that, Peter, is why there was a problem.
Did you really not know ?
Name Supplied

Police Station - 16/06/08

Wouldn't it be better to actually contact the police re the opening times and use of the station rather than rely on guesswork, speculation & hearsay?
You will find the local contact details here
www.thamesvalley.police.uk/bcu/oxfordshire/local-police-area/VOWH/faringdon-west.htm

The police station car park is in constant use and needs to be available for emergencies.
Name Supplied

Police Station Car Park - 15/6/08

According to Gene the police station is only open about 8 hours a week.

Couldn't some Marlborough Street residents be given permits to use it during the remaining 160 hours
Name Supplied
Ed(GW) It looks as if it's only the front office where opening times have changed. I guess(I hope) the station is open for officers as it always has been

Field for film wanted - 16/6/08

I am currently searching for a field to film in for a short film entitled "The Firework". I grew up in Faringdon, so I know the surrounding countryside is perfect for my film. The location I had selected has fallen through, so I now have one week to find a suitable replacement. I'm posting in the hope that someone may be able to help me in my search.

The field I am looking for has to be away from houses and developed areas. Crucially, I need the field to have a single tree or group of trees with climbable branches, around which most of the film's action takes place. I am willing to compromise, so if you think you know of somewhere vaguely similar please be in touch.
I can be contacted at phil.hurst@gmail.com

Many thanks
Phil Hurst

Fuel supplies - 14/6/08

What on EARTH is going on at the Esso station on Park Road? They've had no diesel since at least Thursday - I had to go and get ripped off at the BP at Buckland today. Others cry "support your local filling station or it'll be gone"... what use without fuel?

I have contacted Esso UK and put the question - does anyone have any inside info?
I know there's a Shell tanker driver strike but fail to see how this would affect Esso so badly so quickly
Peter McGurk

Ed(GW) Sorry for the delay in posting - been away.

Residents parking won't solve the problem - 13/6/08

Residents parking in Gloucester Street will increase costs but not the number of parking spaces.
The problem is more residents' vehicles than available kerb space. Better parking would help - one jeep is parked in the middle of a space that would take 2 cars off the lines, and has not moved for 3 days.

What we need is additional parking space which could be achieved by building a multistorey car park on one of the existing sites. A temporary car park could be set up for the duration of building work, if the will was there, on the site of the Peugeot showroom when that is redeveloped.

At present the Gloucester Street commuters set off in the morning and are replaced by Faringdon workers and shoppers. In the evening the workers and shoppers go home and the commuters return.
That is a fair and efficient use of the available space - we just need more of it.

A Gloucester Street Resident

Ed(GW) Fish Bros have permission to build houses on the Peugeot garage site. I vote for an underground car park - just needs somewhere and a few £m

Arts Festival is soon - 13/6/08

Hello everyone

The Arts Festival is only a few weeks away.

You should have started to see our posters around the town. We have now put up a small website for you to have a look at.

www.faringdonartsfestival.co.uk

Once again, anyone who would like to volunteer to help out during the festival, please give me a call on 01367 246003.

Julie Farmer

Did southampton street ever go to southampton? - 13/6/08

just a question for the more informed locals

did southampton street ever go to southampton

as all other roads head towards there names eg glous st london st marl st. southampton street heads toward that way and the os map shows that the footpath still heads that way though the volly way pass oriel cottages and toward wickelsham but stops at the farm

any insight into this would be much welcomed.

simon cook

Faringdon Community College is outstanding - 12/6/08

Faringdon is second 'outstanding' Oxfordshire secondary school An Oxfordshire County Council run community college in Faringdon has become the third Oxfordshire school in a few months to be rated 'outstanding' by education watchdog Ofsted.

The college's inspection report, published this week, shows Faringdon Community College provides an 'outstanding, caring and supportive environment' in which students flourish both as individuals and as part of the community.

See nvpressrelease.htm for more info

To the new resident in Gloucester Street. - 12/6/08

First I would like to welcome you to Faringdon I also live on Gloucester Street and know that parking can be an issue we also only have one car.

There is parking available in the Gloucester Street Car Park it is possible to get an annual permit as a resident although this comes at a price! I have thought about contacting the council to find out if they have investigated the option of residents parking on Gloucester Street and London Street as this would make it a more affordable option to all the residents.

I would be interested to know what the residents of Gloucester Street think of residents parking as an option.
Name Supplied

Can you help? - 12/6/08

I am a young man seeking a daytime assistant while completing my studies at the Defence Academy, provisionally until the end of July. Wages are £7.50/hour and hours would provisionally be between 9-10am and 4-5pm (6-8 hours), although some flexibility and a job share is possible.

The ideal candidate would be able to drive our car to the Defence Academy. Once there they would then help me get set up with the task at hand and provide intermittent assistance while I complete the task. In the mean time, they would keep themselves occupied, at the adjacent desk space, while I work (so hopefully they would enjoy reading!). Also, they would have to be comfortable providing a small amount of personal care (although no lifting is involved).

There is the possibility of an extension of employment beyond the end date depending on available funding.

If interested, please call 240659, or send me an e-mail to mike@leyondar.co.uk

Mike Gibson

Music in the Autumn - 12/6/08

Whilst I know there is a wealth of live music coming up a bit of advance notice about a couple of events after the summer. I'm mindful of recent posts about not expecting an audience just because an event is booked but obviously have to let everyone know that it is on.

Sat 20 September at The Crown - Jake Shillingford + Supports, better known as the frontman of My life story who were major players in the britpop movement working with such luminaries as Oasis and Pulp and himself an NME award winner is stopping off in Faringdon on his national solo tour.
Get a flavour of his music from www.myspace.com/jakeshillingford.

On Sat 29 November at The Junior School - This date has been in the whats on diary since the start of the year but can now reveal the headline act as Tommy Hale and The Snakes. Tommy hails from Dallas and teams up with the London based Snakes whenever he tours the UK They are often compared to Neil Young meets Steve Earle meets Exile on Main Street Stones era but with their own unmisstakeable charisma. More info from www.myspace.com/tommyhale
Tickets for both shows with at least 2 support slots will be only £5 each.

Any questions please mail me at fbpromotions@tiscali.co.uk
Hamish Millar

Campaign against dog fouling - 10/6/08

This is a response to an email to VWHDC Environment Warden by a Faringdon Resident applauding the action they are taking to reduce dog fouling and pointing them to the comments on this forum.

"The campaign has highlighted certain areas in Faringdon where dog fouling has become a problem in the town. The Council does provide dog bins as a public service in areas of high demand, but has to balance provision against the overall cost to all council taxpayers - i.e. it would be unreasonable to have dog bins all over the place.

Wrapped dog waste can be put in a normal litter bin if a dog bin is not available.

If no bins are available, dog owners should take dog waste home. Lack of a nearby bin is no excuse to break the law and fail to clean up after your dog, or even, worse, to leave a bag of dog waste lying about.

Those people that left bags on our signs were highly irresponsible.

The Environment Wardens are working hard to raise awareness to the irresponsible dog owners who do not pick up after their dog. The message we are trying to get across, is that they must clear up after their dog. This would then improve the local environment for all the residents and visitors of Faringdon.

The minority of dog walkers who don't pick up will be fined to re-enforce the message that it is an offence not to pick up after your dog.

The postings on www.faringdon.org/talkingpoints were interesting to read and the comments will help the council improve the area of Faringdon."

Name Supplied

Necessary Pavement Parking!- 10/6/08

On checking this site today (I am fairly new to the area). I have to say that I began to feel rather angry and saddened by the comments about Pavement Parking.

I live in the centre of the town (Gloucester Street to be precise) and sometimes have no option but to park on the pavement. I have to say that I only do so when there is no other space available (e.g on my road). When I do park there I must be the only person who actually thinks about whether or not people can pass by - particularly as there are lots of children passing in the morning with younger brothers and sisters in buggies. I also have to add that when I did find a space on my road on one occasion I was kindly blocked in by a neighbour (welcome to the area!) as obviously I didn't see the sign that said it was reserved!

Perhaps it would be a good idea if we were all a little bit more tolerant of each other and don't assume that the space outside our house is always ours! I also have to add that I am a one car household.

Name Supplied

Using the Bus lane, and police station open times - 10/6/08

I happened to see a vehicle rush up the bus lane yesterday - a posh black land rover type vehicle, with the name French, I think James French on the door.

A woman under the town hall waiting for a bus said she had seen 4 other vehicles do the same in a matter of minutes

Seems to me that the police only have to lurk about there for a short while to catch quite a few people. I thought I'd go and suggest it to them, but found a notice on the Police Station door to say that the office was only open Tues and Thurs, something like 11 til 3. Not sure if these are now the regular opening times, or just temporary(It used to be every day 10-3)

Gene Webb

Council owned Listed buildings - the responsibilities and rules - 9/6/08

I emailed English Heritage asking them for information of the obligations of owners of listed buildings, as often information points to the local Council as the enforcer of the rules. It was not clear what happens if the owner is the enforcing council, as is the case with the Corn Exchange and VWHDC. This was prompted by a comment from a Faringdon councillor at a meeting indicating that VWHDC could do what they wanted with the building as they were the enforcing council.

English Heritage said

"The legislation governing listed buildings is set out in the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act 1990) supported by guidance in Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 15: Planning and the Historic Environment September 1994. You may find it surprising to learn that there isn't an explicit statutory duty for an owner of a listed building to maintain it in good repair. This is because the majority of listed buildings are in what is known as beneficial use and therefore it is in the owner's interest to maintain them and their value. Where there is evidence of an owner deliberately neglecting a building in the hope that it will decay to such an extent that repair is not viable or will fall down, releasing a plot for redevelopment, there are powers in the legislation for the local planning authority and the Secretary of State to take action. The Act does not differentiate between private and public sector owners (i.e. councils) except in the system to determine planning applications and listed building consent applications for those buildings owned by county or district councils. Where the local planning authority both own the building and are the determining authority, any applications for changes have to be referred to the Secretary of State who is advised by English Heritage.

The Secretary of state and English Heritage expect local authorities to set a good example in the stewardship of their own historic estates and we have produced advice on managing local authority assets (see the English Heritage website or go to www.HELM.org.uk). Where a local authority is failing to look after its historic buildings without good reason then the Secretary of State has powers he can exercise but does so very rarely.

There are no regulations barring a council from selling a listed property, although the disposal of council assets is governed by other regulations regarding obtaining best value. Any applications for change of use would be considered by the Secretary of State in the usual fashion with reference to the advice of English Heritage.

If the council cannot afford to maintain the building then it is open to them to consider disposal or alternative uses which would have to show that they are appropriate and preserve the special interest of the listed building."

Then I asked

So as I understand it, the council must apply to the secretary of state for any planning application, change of use, or to sell it, and the sec of state office will always contact English Heritage.

Please confirm if any of these did happen,- it would be important for local people to know at an early stage- what are the consulting/communication obligations of the council/sec state if any?

Would Eng Heritage involve the community?

"Essentially that is correct.

What usually happens is that a local authority will refer an application direct to the EH regional office and get our advice first and then send the application with EH comments attached to the relevant Government Office (in this case GOSE) who represent the Secretary of State. This is suggested as best practice in the PPG but doesn't always happen.

If the applicant is a County council then they will also consult the relevant local planning authority. All councils have to advertise the applications in the same way as they would "ordinary" private applications. This is usually done through a planning notice on the site and also in the case of a listed building consent application an advert in a local paper.

EH act as specialist advisers to both the council or SoS and therefore we do not "involve" the community" Our advice is governed by national policies on the historic environment and whether proposals conform to those policies and preserve the special interest or significance of an individual heritage asset.

You might like to take a look at our HELM (Historic Environment Local Management) website which has all of our policy advice and case studies etc and other information on the historic environment go to www.HELM.org.uk"

I hope this is useful- it may help FTC and residents (FTC have said we will be consulted if they consider moving offices from the Corn Exchange) decide the best course of action with regard to the Corn Exchange

Gene Webb

Sorry it's a bit long!

Re- Dog-nappies - 9/6/08

That sounds like something which will have to be bio-degradable?

To me it is simple - being a simple soul myself. You have a child, and you have a responsibility to keep it clean. If you have a dog, you have a responsibility to keep it clean, and that means picking up and disposing of its poo.

There are 'doggy' bins around the town to put your bagged 'stuff' into and a responsible dog owner will use these.

I am a dog owner too, in case you wondered.

Mind you I wondered if the Council or whoever is responsible for the bins, could please remove one section of the fencing at the bin next to the Library, please? It's a bit hard to climb over in a skirt!

Fiona Merrick

Re: Dog Poo Puzzle - 08/06/08

I completely agree with Mel. Myself also a dog owner and walker around the Folly every day, I do not understand why it is so much to ask, after picking up the poo and putting it in the bag, not to be able to put it in the designated bin.

On another note. The signs posted have had a positive effect. I believe that more people are now cleaning up after their dogs. How do I know?...

Well have a look at the Dog Bin at the bottom of the path up to the folly. The bin is full and people now have to leave the bags on the ground around the bin.

I now hope that the vale will do their part and empty the bin more frequently.

I do like to ask the vale if the following would be possible :

1) Add a Dog Bin at the bottom of the main gate on to the Folly fields and folly tower. The gate where cars can go through to go up to the folly or the water works.

2) I bag dispenser. I have seen this in Wales. This is where people can put their spare "plastic" bags so dog walkers can pick one when they have "forgotten" to bring one.

This will then leave no excuse for not having one.

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Coming Shortly...Dognaps (Diapers for dogs) - 08/06/08

These have been popular in the United States for over two years. As a fashion accessory they are available in many different colours but initially the UK version will only be available in brown and in three sizes.

They will be available soon in Faringdon and it is hoped that the dog poo problems and the references to it on this site will both be a thing of the past.

Look out for adverts in the local paper.

Name supplied

Dirty thoughts - 08/06/08

Being a dog owner who goes out of town for the daily trudge, I'm not familiar with the Folly path, but perhaps the protestors feel that the council should provide frequently sited bins for the doggy disposals?

These days there is a cultural expectation that everything should be provided for us, and that we shouldn't have to take responsibility for our mess, doggy, or otherwise.

Name supplied

Dog Poo Puzzle - 08/06/08

It is with a weary sigh that I once again put fingers to keyboard, this time, not dog fouling itself but the bizarre behaviour of some dog owners who are now picking up the mess their dog leaves behind, placing it in bags but then proceeding to hang the bag off a sign warning that dog owners not picking up after their dogs at all will be fined.

Can anyone tell me the objective behind this peculiar protest? I mean, if you've gone to the length of picking the thing up in the first place, what's the point of then leaving it somewhere? Being a dog owner myself and a frequent complainant to the council and on this site about lazy dog owners not acting responsibly, I would be grateful if one of the protesters would enlighten me as to the purpose of this action. Without an explanation I am bound to continue my general understanding that there is a significant number (NOT ALL RESIDENTS BY ANY MEANS !!!) of residents in Faringdon who are just downright bloody minded, belligerent and like nothing better than to oppose something, anything whether there is a sensible or plausible argument or not.

To the residents undertaking their protest I would say that your action lumps you in quite tidily with the people who don't clear up after their dogs, even makes you worse than them since plastic bags don't easily bio-degrade. It's possible that eventually, and due to your seemingly pointless action, dogs may be banned from areas such as the Folly altogether. And since I'm on a roll, I'll throw in that I bet at least one of these protesters whined about the travellers leaving litter on that field.

Mel

Food for (canine) thought? - 07/06/08

do the vwdc have the power to enforce on parts of the folly my understanding is there is a public footpath over from the stanford road and around the top and across from the bottom of stanford rd toward old london road. so if you are fouling one of the many tracks around the folly that is on private land it is nowt to do with the council???. i might be wrong???? that does not make it right to foul the area . as many of the walker roam the area if it was there own back garden not someones crop.

One of worst things is that dog poo spoiling hay made for cattle feed . a well used dog walking field next to orchard hill suffers from this . the farmer has to throw many bales away due to cattle no wanting to eat hay with poo in it. cant blame them????? food for thought for the dog owners of faringdon.

Name supplied

FAF Young Film Makers Competition - 07/06/08

Still some Places left on the Workshop being held on the 5th July at Faringdon Business Centre to find out what you can do with Windows Movie Maker.
First Prize is a Sony Camcorder.

Book your Places by emailing fjsproductions@tiscali.co.uk

SCOTT
This years Kids Events co-ordinator

Dog Fouling - 06/06/08

Since the Vale of the White Horse District Council have decided to take action against the many people who leave dog mess on the paths leading to the Folly, the situation has got worse.
Instead of leaving the mess, people are now bagging it and leaving the bags littering paths, trees and hanging from the Vale of the White Horse signs. As a dog owner I am disappointed and embarrassed with my fellow dog owners'

behaviour and am finding it hard to understand what the problem is.

Dog excrement on pavements and verges is truly unpleasant. If you object to the use of plastic bags, find an environmentally friendly option, but don't bag it and leave it as this is ruining the joy of the folly for everyone else. Would one of the many people who have taken such a strong objection to the signs like to explain why they are now committing the offence of litter instead of the offence of dog fouling? I for one will certainly be giving details of offending owners to the District Council.

Name supplied

re: the Fruit & Veg stall first comment - 06/06/08

Well Faringdon is a "Market Town" so let us enjoy any market whether it be on Tuesdays or everyday!

Name supplied

FRUIT AND VEG . - 06/06/08

I personally think that anything that has wheels, wheelchairs, pushchairs, prams, buggy's, should be forced to use the roads. Perhaps then I could walk the streets without getting my ankles knocked. I like the fruit and veg stall where it is, much better than skateboarders or idiots on bikes, sorry, what am I thinking, must'nt upset the little darlings, they are so sensitive dont you know! There are so many more important thing to moan about than something that actually makes the market place look good, and as for children being frightened of lorries, ye Gods, someone needs to get out more, we are breeding a generation of pampered over indulged spoilt brats, who have little or no respect for us oldies as it is! There we go people, there enough there for you to be incandescent with rage about, pick the bones out of that lot.

Victor Meldrew.

Fruit and Veg - 05/06/08

All you have to do is ask them to move something if you are having problems, They are very nice people. Simple really!!

Name supplied

Concerned, of Faringdon - 05/06/08

I hope that wheelchair was not using the slip road.

Ray

Wheelchair - 05/06/08

I've just noticed a wheel chair zipping accross the market square in between the flowers with no problem!!

Name supplied

Fund Raising Opportunity - 03/06/08

Does your voluntary group need to raise funds?
The Sealed Knot will be re-enacting the 1646 Battle for Faringdon on 19th & 20th July at Church Path Farm, Faringdon.

John Gillman and Focus on Faringdon, the organisers of the event, are keen to involve local community groups and help them to raise funds. Close to the entrance gate, there is an area where we can put some stalls. If your group would like to get involved by having a stall, then please contact Jane Haynes at jane.haynes@bordengate.com or phone 08456 580510

Jane Haynes

More Fruit'n'veg - 03/06/08

I love the fruit/veg/flower stall. It makes the town look alive and if you were driving through it might just encourage you to stop and spend some money!

There are paths all the way around the Market Square please let the middle be a market.

Name supplied

Fruit'n'veg - 03/06/08

I would like to confirm that I too have experienced little difficulty negotiating the fruit and veg stall. I managed this on Saturday while pushing a pushchair and managed to avoid crashing into anything. I think the stall look fine and stops the Market Place looking like a non-market place.

Ray

Pavement Parking - 03/06/08

I don't think any one believes they have the RIGHT to use the footpaths for parking and I'm sure they don't do it to make life difficult for pedestrians particularly little old ladies with Zimmer frames. Most simply have nowhere else CONVENIENT to park so are prepared to risk getting a fine.

As the risk is minimal, in fact virtually non existent, there will be no change until the police "do something"

Name supplied

Fruit/Veg/Flowers - 03/05/08

Is it that tricky ?. I've found it ok with plenty of room to walk about - the middle bit is empty. Considering before the 'improvements' you had to dodge around cars and buses I think it's much nicer and actually looks like a market town should.

Now - cars blocking pavements is another matter. Do the owners of the vehicles which park opposite the church, near the Faringdon Clinic really feel it necessary to park across the path ?. I saw an elderly lady with a walking frame trying to pass there last week and couldn't so she had to walk around the car and into the road. This seems to be happening all over the place now - London Street, Ferndale Street also.

Why do people feel they have the right to use the path as a car park ?. There are some very thoughtless and selfish people about.

Name supplied

THE FRUIT AND VEG STALL COME FLOWER STALL. - 02/06/08

I am just writing to see if anyone feels the same as me about the stall that is now in the Market Place. This stall that was once a fruit and veg. stall has now decided to sell flowers and take up all the pavement in the middle of the town. Their flowers are spread out all over the pavement making it difficult to get past with wheelchairs, pushchairs and even as a pedestrian.

Does the stall have permission to take up all this space?

Other peoples comments on this matter would be appreciated.

Name supplied

Big Faringdon Gig, Junior School Saturday 5th July -02/06/08

It was good to hear the much awaited new music from David Reynolds new band on Saturday evening at the 15 minute club and I eagerly await the opporutinty to hear the full set. The full set of course will be premiered at the Big Faringdon Gig.

We are still looking for a few more volunteers to help out on the bar and the door. If you can help please get in touch via our website.

Tickets are now on sale at Budgens and 'Sandwich Phillers'

www.bigfaringdongig.com

Sean Hodgson

Volunteers needed, Windmill Open Day - 02/06/08

WESTMILL WINDFARM OPEN DAY 21st June 11am-4pm,

Volunteers needed for general stewarding & car parking.

Can you help for a couple of hours perhaps? Call 01367-241707, or email sjoerd@ecoweek.info

Sjoerd Vogy

Re:Litter . - 02/06/08

Absolutely agree with you. However, trying a letter to the Town Council, who can pass it on to the District Council whose responsibility it is, might have more effect. The Town Council is here in an advisorately capacity. They can't make any rules and as the councillors are Independent, Labour and Conservative, whereas the District Council is Lib Leb they are there in a lose, lose situation.

Please volunteer to join the council. We need new members!!

Councillor J Boulton

15 Minute Club - 01/06/08

Well if you haven't been to the monthly 15min club then you are all seriously missing out. We all went along last night and the now infamous Dave Reynold's pulled another rabbit out of the hat with a great selection of performers and all for two small quid each!

Its on every last Saturday of the month at the Coaching Inn, try it out, if you like a variety of live music you'll love it to death.

Andy Patyra

Faringdon Secondary modern school photos - 31/7/08

I wonder if you can help, I was brought up in Faringdon from the year 1937 to the day I got my call up papers in 1949, I still have a friend in Faringdon who I contact from time to time. However I digress, can you point me in the direction to getting pictures of my old Faringdon Secondary Modern School, that was in Southampton Street. I understand it has been knocked down and no longer there.

Regards Ron.Clements
arcy31@btinternet.com

Oxfordshire Life - an article on Faringdon - 31/7/08

Following a request to the editor, Sandra Fraser, this great article about Faringdon which appeared in the March 2008 edition of Oxfordshire Life, is now available via the internet.
It was written by Mark Child

It's really worth a read - do have a look at it: <http://www.oxfordshire-life.co.uk/main-menu-oxfordshire-places-faringdon's-folly,-fortune-and-fame--72023>

Gene Webb

Re: Copying from reel tape to CD - 30/7/08

Gene, in response to your request, I am able to transfer 1/4 inch reel tape (so long as the reel is no more than 7 inches in diameter, digitally enhance it to the highest quality and then create a CD of the material. If yourself or any other users of this website would like to take advantage of this local service at very reasonable rates, please contact me on 0777 347 9669.

Neil

Ed(GW) Thanks Neil. The tape belongs to a relative of mine - I have to get hold of it first

Our New Sergeant - 29/7/08

I have just had a chat with our new Policeman, Sergeant Maddison. He was unaware of the Faringdon Website so I have enlightened him and he has promised to check it out. I did tell him that some of the posters tend to be wrinklies with nothing better to do but I also pointed out that it reflects current thinking on matters which concern us such as Parking and illegal use of our bus lane.

He inspired me with confidence and while I'm not saying I would buy a used car from him I did believe him when he said he will take note of our comments.

So if you are reading this Sergeant. Welcome to Faringdon.

HGM

Poetry 2008 - 29/7/08

Here we go again, Hopeful as can be
Trying to win prize money by writing poetry
Now some poets write for pleasure,
and some poets write for gain.

Some people like the things I write,
but some think I'm insane.
So I dislike a contest,
where someone says who's best
There's only one person that I aim to please
and then I say.
B****r the rest !

Phyllis Stein

2008 Faringdon Online Poetry Competition - 28/7/08

Yes, its that time of the year again. Just when you'd thought that nothing further was to happen, no more excitement. The Big Gigs; the Music Fests; the Battles of Faringdon; all over. But NO.... Here it is..... *The 2008 Poetry Competition!!!*

Summon up your muses. Get out your quills, and visit

<http://www.faringdon.org/poetry2008/nvpoetrycomp2008.htm>
to see details of the contest

I look forward to a deluge of poetic outpourings in due course

Hilary T.

Lost your keys? - 28/7/08

Did anyone lose a set of keys, with the a Honda Car Key on it, in the Market Square or The Crown on Saturday Night as I appear to have them.

If they are yours let me know and I will get them back to you.

Contact me on jpgsawyer@yahoo.com

Huge Thank You to John Gillman - 28/7/08

It takes a General, a Commander to win a Battle, and the Battle of Faringdon of the weekend 21st July 2008 was the result of two years of strategic planning by Faringdon's Mayor and General, John Gillman. From the start to finish, John organised and directed the operations. He wanted this to be for the people of Faringdon, with no pricey entrance tickets, for all to enjoy. True, he encountered along the way minor skirmishes with Health and Safety men, Environmental Officers, who objected to advertising the event with signs and notices, and the Highways Authorities.

The weekend was filled throughout with well thought out events; the Battle of the King Charles I's Troops against Cromwell's men on the Saturday afternoon, followed by the confrontation in the Market Place at 6.00pm where men were shot for their participation in the earlier fight. An hours rest before another gathering in the beer tent with historic Ale flowing until early Sunday morning.

Going to All Saints Church was an experience for many where John gave us a history of the event, wreaths laid on Marmaduke's grave and Dr Graham Scot Brown aptly talked of John Bunyan's pilgrimage. Hymns and prayers came from those times.

The Sunday Battle intensified, moving closer up the hill towards the people, much cannon firing and fighting. One of Cromwell's men devastatingly killed his brother on the King's side, such was the ferocity of the Battle. Poignantly, a nostalgic time came when John, dressed in his 1646 Commanders garments, took the salute of all participants, and thanked the Sealed Knot for such a wonderful weekend.

In saying thankyou to John, we also especially thank Jane Haynes and Nick Elwell for their organising skills throughout. No General can win without his quality staff, and in Jane and Nick, he had so much detailed help.

There is in planning stage a reception and gathering for all helpers, gatemen, car park attendants and everyone involved soon. The Sealed Knot want to come again, they loved our town and the warm welcome you all gave them.

Planned to every small detail, we saw an orderly arrival of many caravans and campers, the water and food supply, hospitality stands etc., and by Monday, the fields where such Battles took place in 1646, and again in 2008 returned for their peaceful grazing in exceptional tidyness. Such was the organisation that only a Leader of men can do.

Daphne Saunders
Chairman of the Faringdon Area Project

Bus Lane update. - 26/7/08

Yet again I am crossing over to the paper shop with dog in tow and once more nearly get run down.

When are the OCC going to get and put up some BIG signs AND paint road markings to notify drivers and more importantly, when are the boys in blue going to shift there useless arses and do something.

Do I have to die first!
Colin

FTC Finance meeting 23/7 - 26/7/08

This committee monitors council spending, awards grants, and makes decisions that have financial implications

Mike Wise was elected as **Vice chairman**(Chairman is Steve Leniec)

It was agreed that **Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre** will offer payment via credit cards under an arrangement made by Tourism South East. It will cost £138pa, plus 1.25% - 1.5% per transaction.

FCTIC have been given postcards by VWHDC, for sale. Some have been donated to the Friends of the Folly as the postcard depicts the tower.

A number of photographs have been offered for the Faringdon 2009 calendar. More are needed.

Grants

Faringdon First responders were awarded £1350 to equip a van that has been donated by the 41 Club.

Bromsgrove Day Centre were awarded £300 towards the cost of arranging a course re fall prevention for elderly/inform Faringdon residents

Faringdon Whist drive was awarded £332 for 5 new card tables

Council Accounts

AH proposed that the way capital money is held in the accounts is changed. As far as I could understand this will mean that money earmarked for capital projects in the budget will be held under the same budget heading as the council reserves. The effect of this is that if money is unspent, the the council reserve figure will appear to be higher than if these monies are held separately. The FTC Finance officer, the Town Clerk, was against this and felt it would be misleading for townspeople.

The motion was agreed (of 7 councillors, 3 supported, 2 against, 2 abstained).

Corn Exchange Lease

The condition survey report has been received. It was said there were no surprises. The toilets(particularly the gents) was the major item, the roof was not highlighted as a major issue though there are some minor repairs needed, plus decoration.

The terms of the lease were discussed. It was thought that VWHDC and FTC would split any costs 50:50. The lease term is 10 years, there is a peppercorn rent, FTC would be responsible for insurance costs.

The discussion on break clauses was unclear to me. Any time after one year was mentioned, but also a minimum term of 10 years. No mention was made of notice periods, though if ever FTC did terminate the lease then the building would need to be returned in a certain condition. (I think the condition now, rather than after the works mentioned above have been carried out).

Mike Wise asked that the full costs and income of running the Corn Exchange under the lease were calculated in order to make an informed decision.

A working party will meet with VWHDC to discuss the lease, and the assistance VWHDC would provide if it was decided to move FCTIC to the Corn Exchange office area.

No mention was made of the FTC office moving to the Pump House

It was stated that FTC intend to hold a town meeting sometime in September, to ask the town their views

Pump House - It was suggested that 'something needed to be done' about the Pump House- so that it is better used.

Land adjoining Willes Close - It was agreed to apply for change of use (£150 to be paid from reserves)- to allotments. It wasn't mentioned what the current permissible use is. (this former school playground/field land was covenanted to Faringdon by Oxfordshire CC)

SSSI land off Fernham Road - This SSSI land, will become owned by Faringdon (currently in discussion with builder Ede, who gifted the SSSI).

House owners in Fernham gate whose gardens back onto the SSSI have removed the boundary fence and erected another to include between 2.5 and 3m of SSSI land in their rear gardens.

FTC are to write to builder EDE, as current owner of the land.

Climate Change - Mike Wise is to be the Finance committee representative on the Climate change working party

Employment Tribunal - the case was dismissed

Council Meetings are likely to be held somewhere with disabled access

Personal comment

The above notes are my memory of the meeting (>3 hours long!). There are some points that are a bit unclear - but as you know the public are not allowed to ask questions except at the Public question time agenda item- and then having given prior notice.

I went to the meeting to hear about the Corn Exchange and the suggestion from Venues '*David Price (the chair) felt it was important that FTC looked at the big picture across venues, their uses, the finance, the pros and cons. Others at the meeting agreed with this, but thought that it was being done via the Finance meeting*' To my surprise, even though there were 4 councillors at this meeting that were also at the Venues meeting, it was not mentioned.

I have heard informally that if secondary glazing is installed in the Corn Exchange, air conditioning will be required.

Gene Webb

Unobtrusive nappies - 26/7/08

I was intrigued to see that staff in supermarkets are obliged to wear nappies as they are given insufficient time to use the lavatory.

Although I have scrutinised Budgen's staff carefully on my recent visits there I can see no tell-tale bulges, nor have I detected any leakage.

It is gratifying to note that modern nappies are so unobtrusive.

HT

Congratulations - 26/7/08

Whoever was responsible for the decoration of our new Boots building deserves a pat on the back. Josiah Wedgwood would be proud.

People sitting in the bus shelter watching the law breakers ignoring the signs will now have something calming to look at..

Well done !
Art Lover

Make the most of existing facilities - 25/7/08

I notice from the post regarding the council meeting that young people would like somewhere to meet and play tennis

and basketball. Faringdon Community College has several tennis courts and a basket ball court which stand unused all summer long.

Up until the end of term and the nets were removed there were lots of people young and families using the tennis courts. Some however are in a poor state of repair.

My suggestion is that all the groups in Faringdon pull together and make the most of existing facilities instead of looking for money to provide more. Money could be spent on these areas to provide better courts and CCTV to prevent vandalism. Everyone would benefit - FCC from better quality courts and the community from evening, weekend and holiday use.

Name Supplied

Copying from reel tape to CD - 24/7/08

Does anyone know of a reliable service to copy voice from reel tape to CD?

I guess the tape was made in the 1960/70s

Gene Webb

Corn Exchange update+++ - 22/7/08

Thought I'd go along to the Council Venues committee meeting (22/7) to hear what is happening about the Corn Exchange- it was last on the agenda so was not talked about until 8.50, and then not for long. These are my notes of the meeting - and hopefully are accurate, but of course I don't go to all meetings and therefore don't have the full detail.

VWHDC will be closing the cash office in the Corn Exchange on 1/10, and FTC are considering whether to move the TIC into the open area in front of the offices (not into VWHDC cash office), so that an information service can be provided to people who are accustomed to getting VWHDC information from Cash office staff. It seems that the VWHDC solution to this is to put a computer into the library

Whether this is a possibility is dependent on FTC signing a lease for the Corn Exchange.

The condition survey has been received and from the sound of it there is about £30k to spend - a largish proportion on the toilets, particularly the gents.

When the lease is needed to be signed was mentioned, not whether it will be. No mention was made of FTC moving to the Pump House.

David Price (the chair) felt it was important that FTC looked at the big picture across venues, their uses, the finance, the pros and cons. Others at the meeting agreed with this, but thought that it was being done via the Finance meeting (*next meeting 23/7 - so I went to that too*)

Other subjects discussed.

Common Room for Youth activities.

2 6th form girls have been co opted to provide the Venues committee with information from other young people about their needs.

Sophie Cave reported that they want a room for playstation games, TV and the like, and for the summer somewhere to meet, play basketball, tennis etc. They like the idea of a cinema and occasional discos.

FTC intend to hold an open meeting for teenagers in September.

No mention was made of the Cromwell Centre becoming the Youth venue.

Corn Exchange/Bar franchise

Hilary and Sam Prince have, as the franchisees, been co opted onto the Venues committee. The agreement is soon to be signed

There was a long discussion about lower hire rates for non business/profit making organisations. It was agreed that this is not always clear cut, so deciding on a case by case basis will continue, with decisions to be made by the chair and vice chair (Julie Farmer)

The Corn Exchange has few bookings during August (this is normal), so the venues caretaker is carrying out some park superintendant duties as he is on extended sick leave.

It was thought that maybe bookings this year are down, so a year on year comparison is to be produced.

Oxford Countywide Rural and Community Touring scheme.

It was decided to fund 2 performances, to be chosen by the Town Clerk.

It was agreed that more publicity is needed as in the past audiences have been small.

Pump House

It was stated that this building is under utilised.

£850 is to be spent in removal of combustible materials from the old theatre and bar, in order to comply with insurance requirements.

2 radiators need to be replaced - the paint is peeling and they are not suitable for thermostatic control. The ££ for this is to come from the climate change budget of £5k.

FTC would like to put thermostats on all rads (Climate change initiative), but have been told that the radiator connections are unsuitable and the radiators would have to be replaced.(FTC do not want to do this)

Apparently there is a heat control for each floor, operation of which is now understood, so controlling the temperature should not be a problem

Pump House theatre and bar

A working party was set up to look into use/repairs/costs of these rooms. No meeting date was discussed.

It seems there is a fire safety requirement that access is only from the rear, and no more than 80-90 people may use the theatre at any one time.

Gene Webb

An exciting evening!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lord Berners doves- does anyone know? - 24/7/08

When Lord Berners released the doves on the opening night, were they just red, white and blue – and was this supposed to be the colour of the Union Jack, do you know?

Gene Webb

A case against Tesco in Faringdon - 24/7/08

Supermarkets present a very seductive picture to the consumer, but just under the surface it is a different story.

Research carried out in the UK some 15 years ago revealed that the average distance travelled by the food in a typical supermarket trolley is more than 3,000 kilometers. Most "fresh" produce is at least 4 days old and has passed through a number of processing and storage plants, involving subjection to very different temperature fluctuations, before getting onto the shelves. In the process, there is a loss of between 40 and 50% of the nutritional value of these foods.

Sell by dates are routinely altered in many chains, to keep fresh looking produce longer. Staff are paid very low rates and, in more than one known chain, have to wear nappies, as they are not given sufficient breaks to go to the toilet.

Huge power requirements are needed to maintain freezer and cold storage facilities, drawing heavily on the national grid and thereby encouraging wasteful practices that increase already critical global warming patterns.

Being able to buy "anything at any time" comes at a high price to our environment and farmers. The large supermarket chains buy their supplies from wherever it is produced at the lowest cost on the world market. Organic and conventional. This involves contracting large agrichemical oriented farms to mass produce "cheap" food. Because the price paid is very low, the farmer has to compensate by maximising production and minimising employment.

The result is the huge monocultural prairies that dominate US agriculture and have now established a significant foothold in Europe. These 'food factories' are entirely dependent upon chemical inputs: herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, nitrate fertilizers and increasingly, genetically modified seeds/plants. Their soils are so barren that they are incapable of producing any crops at all without heavy doses of agrichemicals.

The same applies to meat production. The great majority of farm animals, in order to be raised to strict supermarket specifications and time lines, are housed in vast sheds with very little room to move freely or express their natural

physiological needs. Electric lighting is kept on night and day and most animals never see real daylight or indeed, the outside world. Pigs and chickens are routinely fed antibiotics in their heavily processed and genetically modified feed, in order to speed up their rate of growth and prevent them from becoming sick. In spite of this, mortality rates are high.

All chickens routinely have their beaks clipped in order to stop them pecking each other in the overcrowded cages in which they are raised. The feed of egg laying hens contains chemical colours to make the yolks look red. The farmer can choose from a wide variety of orange colourings. When I kept hens (free range) I was sent a yolk colour chart by the manufacturers hoping I would buy their products!

Without these colours the yolks of hens kept in these conditions would be grey and consequently completely unacceptable. Hens require access to green foods (ie grass) to have naturally orange yolks. The hens that supply the supermarket chains never get outside. They live for an average of 3 months before being culled and used for quick chill chicken dishes and dog/cat food. The same goes for birds specifically grown for meat: they are fed 24 hours a day on genetically modified maize and soya plus antibiotic growth promoters in vast indoor air controlled (no windows) sheds often containing upwards of 30,000 hens. They are slaughtered at an average age of 2.5 months, their under-formed legs barely able to hold their exaggerated weight.

On average, dairy cattle are culled (slaughtered) after just 3 lactation cycles, because they cannot maintain the peak volumes of milk demanded by the supermarkets, beyond the age of 4/5 years. Many suffer severe mastitis inflammations of the udder and hoof rotting due to the unnatural conditions in which they are kept. On my organic farm in the UK, my dairy cattle averaged 14 years before they ceased commercial milk production. I then kept them on as nurse cows for raising calves.

Each supermarket planning acceptance leads to the subsequent loss of an average of 150 local jobs through the closure of local businesses (Rural Development Commission, 1992). Money which used to circulate in the local economy is lost to the global economy, thereby draining the community of its life blood.

Supermarkets require special road structures to cater for their large transportation vehicles and equally large concreted delivery areas. They are major contributors to CO2 emissions, largely because of their vast and power hungry refrigeration units, but also because they encourage families to use cars to get to them - instead of shopping locally.

Tesco's profit margins increase every year - and are now regularly in the 3.5 billion pound area. They are the leading exponents of a centralised market economy and have no interest in supporting local communities or stocking local food. Their representatives often claim that they will take an interest in purchasing locally - to placate any critics - but in reality they source 98 percent of their produce wherever it can be purchased most cheaply and most easily on the national and world market.

All in all they are at the front line of contributors to a degraded food growing environment on a global scale; inhumane animal welfare practices and the undermining of the integrity of local communities.

Any community that wishes to encourage a robust local economy would be well advised to steer well clear of such marketing practices. In Faringdon's case, courting such trading runs directly counter to the stated goals of the FAP as well as the recent "health check" criteria for a more self supporting and inclusive community involvement in the town's development.

Julian Rose, Hardwick Estate, Whitchurch-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Battle for Faringdon pics - 23/7/08

If people are interested there are now well over 200 diverse photographs to look at from last weekend's Battle for Faringdon, posted by 11 local (flickr) photographers on a flickr site called Battle for Faringdon 2008.

The direct link to it is <http://www.flickr.com/groups/853558@N22/pool/>

Al Cane

MADD person - 23/7/08

Speaking as a M.A.D.D. person, running the bar for the Sealed Knot, I have to put on record that I have rarely met a

nicer bunch of people and would welcome them back again, although it would be nice if it was not assumed that plastics grow on trees. They have to be replaced.

Di's and John's parties seem to have gone swimmingly but we were running a creche on Sunday.

However, I know I sound like a moaning Minnie but apart from being totally shattered, we enjoyed and learned from the experience and will be there for the next one. yours,

Hils and Sam M.A.D.D.

Young Film Makers Competition - 23/7/08

Two of the entries from the Young film Makers Competition that was held at the Faringdon Arts Festival can now be viewed at the following URL <http://www.members.lycos.co.uk/scottgil/>
If you just keep watching the winning one will play after the first one in total the video will be around 12 minutes long

the Final two will be added once they have been compressed for Web Viewing

Thanks

Scott Gildert

Stolen Fruit - 23/7/08

I not sure if the curpits are human I know from dogs we occasionally take care of are very partial to our strawberries I only got to try one and what about the Birds do they not like berries?

Name Supplied

Stolen Fruit - 22/7/08

I think that you need to add johnny bird to your list of potential culprits.

As soon as the berries are ripe (as with cherries) they will strip the bush of fruit without trace. The only way to prevent it, is to pick before ripe or net the bush.

Devil's Advocate

A420 Buckland Highway Maintenance Works - Littleworth junction to Wadley Manor. - 22/7/08

Oxfordshire Highways will be undertaking carriageway repairs on the A420 commencing 28th July for 6 weeks. The repairs will involve the reconstruction and resurfacing of worn out areas of carriageway. The traffic management will consist of night time road closures (20.30 to 05.00). The closure will commence at the Wantage roundabout and end near to and west of Carswell Lane. Local access will be maintained to Littleworth along the A420 as far as it is possible. The night closures generally are expected to commence on the 12th August, and to continue for three weeks. Outside of this period there may be the need to close the road for a short time to undertake work safely in order to maintain the work on programme and to ensure that the works are complete within the six weeks.

See nypressrelease.htm for more information

Battle for Faringdon. - 21/7/08

Well done John Gillman.

Absolutely wonderful weekend that has lifted the profile of our town.

I didn't record it on TV as I thought I would be able to replay on BBC IPlayer and I didn't know what time it was on anyway. Not so - they don't do IPlayer for local news.

So if any one has recorded it and can copy/lend me a copy, I would be truly grateful.
Couldn't watch it myself as I was stuck in the carpark then helping clear up.
Then at a seminar on the towns behalf in Oxford.

Can I go to sleep now.

Jane Boulton (Town Councillor)

In Reply to Ray - 21/7/08

The Arts Festival this Year was Over £8000 to put on and i know that a quarter of this went on childrens events.
It is good to have things like Bouncy Castles Quad Bikes and Big Bouncy Slides. but they all have to be paid for and I know I Parted with a good £40 of my money and that was without Buying food or drink.

and those type of thing are not based around the Arts

This year we had:

Graffiti art

Film Makers Competition

Kids Junk Modelling

Toddlers Singing

Puppet Making WORKSHOP

Puppet Show

Sony Play Station Guitar

Hero Street Dance Workshop

and all but the puppet show everything was free

now to me that is money well spent and all the events were very well attended. and based around the arts. their was also a wide variety of music at the festival
from opera to Musical theatre to cheesy pop and
Rock.

Original music and also covers.

so the Attractions like what was at the battle of faringdon don't really apply to an arts Festival. we may well just call it the faringdon Carnival.

Scott

Some thoughts on your replys (re Tesco) - 21/7/08

Martin - Do you think you using tesco online helps fund the tescos attack on rural towns etc.

Ray - i know bugdens is a franchise .

But they still have to stock a certain percentage of bugdens named brands,

Dont think they are stocking coleshill veg for your health and well being.Its becuase its the in thing to do ????

Andrew - I agree with you about varied hours opening ,Not everbody is blessed with being able to shop in the 9 to 5 window.

I know of only one local shop to open on a sunday 9 to 1 pm.Thats why il spend my money there on sundays not halfords etc.

Shaz - great post ever job is important checkout girl or doctor makes no diffrents.

simon

ps hamish sorry the tesco debate is so sanctimonious

Re: Super Response from Faringdon IT Company - 21/7/08

I would like to thank Eddie Williams for the kind words about my company.

One small correction on the original posting.
My contact number is 07834 164 375
Raoul van Eindhoven

Stolen fruit - 21/7/08

Could the lady or gentleman who helped themselves to all the gooseberries from my granny's back garden, kindly not. I was going to make some lovely crumble, but apart from two I found on the floor you've taken every single one of them!!!! This is not only trespassing but it is also stealing.

Anyone else had fruit taken?
Name Supplied

Extremely good Battle for Faringdon - 21/7/08

Yes I would like to agree that the Battle of F weekend was extremely good, especially the range of children's activities and food stalls.

Is there any possibility that next year's Arts Festival could hire some of these children's attractions.
I've heard that FTC have a budget of £6000 for events, and so instead of wasting part of it on the MADD festival why not spend it on bumping up the attractions of the already enjoyable Arts Fest?

Ray

In Reply to Video Hound - 21/7/08

The Videos will be posted soon they need converting to a smaller size so that they can be viewed without using too much bandwidth plus also we need somewhere to host them they will be available to view soon

Scott Gildert

Battle for Faringdon - 20/7/08

What a brilliant weekend- thankyou John Gillman for organising it.
There are many more people now, who know about Faringdon and it's importance in the civil war

For those who want to read more there are several links worth looking at on www.faringdon.org/hyhistory1.htm
Gene Webb

Don't knock the Community Bus - 20/7/08

Please don't knock the Community Bus and its very dedicated group of volunteers.
My guess is that any body saying that it runs about half empty isn't one of the many many people in the town who need to use it because, they don't have a car and need to shop in the town (probably don't have computers to buy from ASDA, TESCO or Sainsbury's online. Need go to the doctors or haven't had a trip out of Faringdon for many months. Or disabled the list goes on.
Also it is a thought that when you see the bus half FULL 3 or 4 people might have got off at the previous bus stop.

Also some of us use it rather than taking a car into town and try to reduce the traffic and our carbon footprint. Just a thought!

There are many people in this town who can't go to the big out of town supermarkets, therefore cannot take advantage of cheaper food prices. These very often are the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. Perhaps they would like a choice as well. Just to add to the debate.

Name supplied

Great Art Fest photos on flickr - 19/7/08

Have a look -lots of faces of Faringdon
www.flickr.com/groups/772559@N25/

Video workshop results? - 19/7/08

What has happened to the winning video(s) from Scott Gildert's artsfest workshop - Is there a link to it/them?

videohound

Sanctimonious debate - 19/7/08

Dear name supplied

I wasn't making fun of Cllr Hickmore's inability to spell but merely trying to lighten the mood, albeit in the childish and public school boy manner of private eye, as sadly the whole tesco debate is all a little sanctimonious and actually doesn't show the town in a particularly good light, if the only opinion was gathered through reading the .org forum.

No doubt this post will be objected to by a section of the posting community who will claim the valuable right to share their opinion but merely operate on the basis of I've already made my mind up don't confuse me with the facts.

At least I haven't threatened to cancel my subscription (another private eye reference)

Hamish Millar

One hour free parking: - 19/7/08

Yes you do get a refund of your 40p on production of a receipt but only if you've spent over £10 - not much good if you want to pop in for five minutes for a loaf of bread or a stamp!!

If Faringdon Town Centre is to survive we must have free parking like Witney, Abingdon and Wantage all have. As far as I know Faringdon gets no benefit from the parking monies taken - that all goes back into the Vale Councils purse. It's about time this was changed surely?!

Controversial I know but if I need a loaf of bread and it's going to cost me £1.40 at Budgens because I have to pay parking (and have to fiddle about entering my registration number...and there's another talking point, grrr!) I'm more likely to nip into Tesco's for two minutes and buy one for £1.00. In an ideal world I'd always support the Town Centre shops but I also have to budget realistically!!

Name Supplied

Tesco Part 24: The class war - 18/4/08

Why do I get the impression from the "not in my backyard" posse, that they view the posters for Tesco's as waffling, plastic bag using, uneducated burger chomping morons. While the against Tesco's brigade, are the educated, jute bag carrying, I've lived in a city, I've seen the future (garlic bread) jolly decent people sort.

"The only benefit I can see is shelf stackers and check out staff", what's the heck is wrong with that, we can't all be captains of industry, I know which group I would like to be stuck in a lift with.

Shaz. a checkout girl, and proud of it!!

A good point - 18/4/08

Simon, you make a very good point.

I fully agree that customers should put their money where their mouth is. In fact, I would like to spend more of my money in the butchers, bakers and local shops when it is convenient for me. Hence why I have suggested they could open late night one evening a week.

However, I am not trying to personally attack people who choose to spend their money in supermarkets. I am trying to focus discussion on the clearly detrimental effects Tesco would have on Faringdon as a market town and trigger discussion on what local shops can do to serve customers better.

Andrew

Wrong about Tesco? - 18/4/08

Actually I was wrong to object Tesco.

I apologise for my suggestions that a supermarket would do everything possible to achieve maximum turnover in one building in turn closing down Faringdon town centre and removing all profit from the local area.

Now that I hear Tesco suggest providing a bus service to bring in customers from local villages AND Faringdon town centre while providing opportunities to capture every market in one new shopping mall experience I am converted. I for one cannot wait for a Clinton cards and an Orange mobile phone shop to replace these unnecessary bakers, butchers and delis we currently have, that's progress.

It looks like we can be confident they may allow local business to relocate to their site, thank you Tesco, I was wrong to doubt you.

Andrew

Faringdon Budgens is a franchise - 18/7/08

Simon

Faringdon's Budgen's is actually a franchise, and as such is owned by a local businessman. Tesco's isn't. That's the big difference.

Budgen's sells local produce, Tesco's doesn't.

I can happily say that I support a local shop by using budgens.

Ray

Simon's comments on Tesco. - 18/7/08

I do shop with a major supermarket, however online. I make use of their endless lines of goods and enjoy the choice. However, this doesn't mean I want one on my doorstep!

I wonder, how many of the pro Tesco brigade live on or off of Park Road? This is the major trunk road through the Town and is busy at peak periods. There are a large number of children who have to cross or walk along the road to school. The increased traffic we will get with a Tesco's is going to make their trip even more treacherous.

Let's have larger schools, doctors surgery etc to cope with the increased housing. These are things you can't do online, as you can your shopping!

Martin Harries

Thoughts re Tesco - 18/7/08

My thoughts

looking at the comments most of posters on here dont like the thought of tescos coming.

So am i right in thinking that you only buy from small local shops and never use major shops .
If you use budgens then you are using a quite large company 225 stores.

So my question to anti tesco poster, where do you buy your goods can you hand on heart say I buy all my bread in london st bakers and all my meat in one of the two butchers.

If you can fair enough but if you cant then dont you think it is a bit rich ,to come on here saying i dont want a tescos but i will shop at it so long as it is not in faringdon.

So there it is

where do you get you shopping from ??? I am very interested in where the anti faringdon tescos poster get shooping from.

I know that we use 90% supermarkets in one shape or form eg budgens in faringdon or co op, tescos of sainsburys.

Be honest in your replys
regards simon

Maybe more people for the town shops - 18/7/08

Yes, Hamish, a bit unnecessary to pillory AH for typos, but an independent and professional review would be welcome. Perhaps it could look at comparable towns to Faringdon, such as Langport, Somerset, (rather than crow about Inverness) which has had a Tesco's for around five years now, and I believe of the existing shops there none has had to close. Moreover, I am told that more people go there now to the supermarket and visit the town shops as well, than formerly.

If all the ranters on this site don't want Tescos, why don't they simply avoid it and stop trying to dictate life for the rest of us. Its a possible supermarket which would serve the whole area, not a strategic nuclear strike on Faringdon, that we are talking about.

Name Supplied

One hour free parking - 18/7/08

The scheme includes the Gloucester St and Southampton St car parks

There are many participating shops that offer a refund of one hours parking(40p), on production of a receipt when purchasing goods

Look out for the sticker in the shop window
Name Supplied

Faringdon in Bloom - 18/7/08

This year's competition had 28 entrants (plus 1 lost application)

Judging was 21/6, 22/6 by Jim Ludlow from Lechlade

The winners are:

Commercial premises- Faringdon Motorparts

Private garden - Ann Garratt

Communal garden- Eastfield Court

Patio - Jessie-May Barrett

The overall winner being Eastfield Court

Presentation Sat 19th 11am, Pump House

The competition was organised by Alan Hickmore

FTC councillor

Free Tesco bus? - 17/7/08

This Free bus service Tesco's are looking to supply is ludicrous. The only benefactor will be Tesco.

The bus will bring Tesco's customers from outside Faringdon and surrounding villages!

We already have a community bus service run by dedicated individuals. Why the need for another bus service? > Are they hoping to kill of our community bus too?

Maybe they will even re-brand the bus? Tesco's community bus!!
We don't need Tesco or their cash enducements!
What real benefits can Tesco offer Faringdon?
Keen to hear other residents' comments
"Every Little Helps"
Neil

Tesco - 18/7/08

In reply to Alan Hickmore regarding Tescos I hope to towns people are listened to wether they want a tescos or not. So far it seems to be a 50 - 50 split.

One thing we can ask for is not another bus, the community bus at the moment is used yes but not full to capacity. So yes lets ask for additional parking that is definately a problem which could be solved from the 106 money and not for personal causes.

We want people to use the town as well as another businesss and has anybody thought what would happen to a large site like Budgens if they were to go or would Tescos take over the whole town!!

Name Supplied

Pedant thanks- 18/7/08

Thanks for the corrections pedant!!

Alan Hickmore
FTC Chair of Planning

Pedants corner? - 17/7/08

Its good to see that the tesco proposals, according to Cllr Hickmore, will be subject to a pedant (albeit an inde one probably a lot of staring at shoes and mumbling) and a professional review.
I'm pleased that matters will be dealt with so seriously but surely an independent and professional review would be better. (one for pedants corner/column in private eye)
Hamish Millar

Tesco proposals in Local publications? - 17/7/08

It's good to see that the Town Council is seeking a proactive consultation with Tesco. However if they also seek to promote local businesses should Tesco not also be invited to put their proposals into the Faringdon Advertiser and Community Times both of which are independent Faringdon based businesses.

David Reynolds
(unashamedly publisher of one of them!)

Referendum re Tesco? - 17/7/08

I recently attended a meeting at which Councillor Hickmore stated that if Tesco's made the decision to come to Faringdon the Town Council would hold a referendum so that the whole town could decide what they wanted. Has this now been abandoned?

Name Supplied

Tesco in Faringdon. - 17/7/08

Following a series of rumours, Faringdon Town Council planning committee invited representatives from Tesco to visit and give us the facts as they now are.

Tesco have purchased the former JDS site. They are also in negotiation with other premises near by.

They are at a very early stage in the process and no final decisions have been made by Tesco as to the size or type of supermarket they envisage, indeed the final decision as to whether to go ahead in Faringdon is still being discussed by their commercial section.

If they decide to go ahead, they will seek to consult with the Townspeople before seeking planning consent. >

The committee have suggested a consultation method that will be meaningful, there is no point in consulting on the basis of hearsay and rumour, it should be based on facts.

The method that we have suggested is:

Tesco will be invited to put their proposals into the Folly or Whats On? Others will be invited to make their comments in the same edition.

This will be followed by an exhibition by Tesco of their proposals at which they will ask for suggestions.

We will then hold a Town Meeting at which the Tesco representatives will be present to answer any questions.

Finally an independent and professional opinion poll will be held to find out the Town's views.

This suggestion was well received by the Tesco representatives, but we are awaiting confirmation when they have made their commercial decisions.

If this proposal goes ahead, there will have to be some "section 106" (planning gain) issues to suggest. So far the suggestions are: a dedicated bus to bring people in from nearby villages and from the Tesco site to the Town centre; the provision of start up shops nearby; help with parking. We would welcome any suggestions from you.

As an important side issue, there is the strong possibility that a site will become available onto which the existing businesses will be able to relocate.

The FTC planning committee has not taken a view on this proposal, but will await the results of the consultation process.

I hope this clears up some of the issues that have been worrying people.

Alan Hickmore

Future Imperfect - 16/7/08

Oh dear. I see it all. This morning just before dawn, I had a vision of how Faringdon will be. It is Christmas Day, future, sometime in the twenty first century. (It is hot - global warming; and shops must now remain open 24/7 - inclusivity and not to offend minority groups)

We are in London Street, shell of what used to be a thriving etc. main street in a busy market town.

Old Ma Taylor is hobbling slowly down the street, supported on her zimmer. She is one of the oldest surviving inhabitants, having been completely reinvented by the new PFI/NHS polyclinic on the edge of town.

She heads for the Crown, now a broken down bar room, where her old friend, little Stevie Wright, is waiting. "Howdy, Ma" he greets her, fingering his few grey hairs. Ma squints at his balding pate

"Been for a haircut?"

"Yup"

"Joycey gone to....to.....T...?"

"Yup"

They sit disconsolately inside the shabby bar, a warm thin beer between them. Outside, a single street lamp flickers, (It is council policy to light the streets during the day: health and safety) briefly lighting up the semi derelict ruins of what used to be the thriving etc. Paint peels from the buildings, the rendering from the Crown's facade lies in bits on

the pavement, where it has been since 2010. (The pile of crumbling building material has now been listed and must remain)

A dark cloud hangs over the area, evidence of the polluting atmosphere from the all-embracing Park Road SUPERMARKET, the Sodom and Gomorrah that is Tesco. In the unnatural, darkly shimmering heat-haze, an untidy ball of tumbleweed rolls by, tendrils trailing, its lazy progress gathering fag-ends and dog detritus. It meanders on past the neglected empty hulk of what used to be a thriving etc. Budgens. Ma Taylor and Stevie hear the far-off sound of raucous merriment and crashing cash registers, they see the eerie neon-glow of greed that palls over the town, causing its once thriving etc. centre dilapidated and deserted, and turning Faringdon's friendly townsfolk into ravening monsters, unable to think for themselves, lured by the false promises of mammon, the freely available pile-it-high sell-it-cheap rubbish food, garish clothing and a car park without ticket machines or officious attendants.

Ah, Tesco's car park! (by now covering half the county) Streams of pasty, obese rural peasants drive their trucks in an unending line past the once thriving etc. industrial estate. Inside the car park, they do not leave their cars, but proceed through the drive-thru junk food dispensary and sit slavering over their coke-and-(extruded potato powder) fries BOGOFs. Embarrassing sounds of lewd writhing and slurping emanate from their vehicles as they settle down in front of the giant widescreen cinema.

Back in town our pair are joined by Paul, the oldest surviving Dalek. "Fancy a pint, Paul?"

But before he can croak out the affirmative 'Yup' Ma stiffens

"Hey" she whispers. "Hear that?"

The others strain to listen.

"If my hearing aid serves me right, there's somebody a -coming"

The trio peer through the door.

Outside, the light resembles that of an eclipse; weirdly gloomy, still as limbo. Two tiny, wizened figures come tottering slowly out of the haze. They stand, expressions grim, facing one another at either end of the once thriving etc. market place. Their hands are poised over their holsters.

Stevie gulps, "My God, its....."

Ma's eyes widen in disbelief

"Sam Prince and David Reynolds!"

Paul, shocked, topples over.

They wait, transfixed, to see who will draw first.

In the distance, above the tinny racket of cash flowing a western ballad drifts from Tesco's stupendous surround sound multi million pound open-air cinema (The obligatory contribution following their successful planning application)

"Do not forsake me oh my darlin'.....on this our wedding da...ay...."

Steve slowly turns to Ma, his face ashen,

"High Noon" he mouths

"Not again..?"

"Yup."

Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose!

name supplied

Illegal posters - 16/7/08

There is a Unison poster advertising their strike on a pole outside the Council office

Special dispensation?

Name Supplied

Faringdon Arts Festival. - 16/7/08

Just wanted to say we enjoyed this event.

Also does anyone know the contact details for the guy who did the "Dalek Invasion" David Price was the name I believe.

Would love to be able to hire his Dalek & Tardis for my sons birthday in November.

Angela - SITV

Can't stop the music - 16/7/08

Fantastic production by the Junior School children. So good to see so many children having such fun and so they're so talented

It's on again this afternoon and tomorrow evening
Well worth going

Gene Webb

Folly Tower open this weekend - 16/7/08

Open 11- 5pm, both Saturday and Sunday.
There should be a pretty good view of the Battle for Faringdon from the Belvedere room

Gene Webb

Battle for Faringdon - 16/7/08

The Sealed Knot will be re-enacting the battle of January 1646 when Cromwell's Red Coats, seen above, advanced on Faringdon from Radcot. The garrison in Faringdon beat off numerous attacks by General Cromwell, but as a result the town was very badly damaged. The church lost its steeple, many houses were burnt down and over 330 families were made homeless. The last Royalist commander, Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, is buried in All Saints Church.

Gates will open at 10am at Church Path Farm, at the top of the Market Place, where a Living History site will be displayed, together with numerous sideshows, slides, jousting apparatus, stalls and refreshments. Below the farmhouse is the actual historic battlefield, with cameo performances during the morning and military activity in the Market Place culminating in a full size re-enactment on the actual battle site starting soon after 2.30pm. There will also be a cameo performance outside the Old Town Hall at 6pm on Saturday.

Wreaths will be laid on Rawdon's grave during Morning Prayer on Sunday at 1030am and another re-enactment on the field around 2.30pm

Read more about the Civil War and the part Faringdon played on www.faringdon.org/hyBattleforFaringdon.htm

Welcome travellers? - 15/7/08

We could always turn the old jds site into a travellers site.
Some welcomed them more than tescos????
simon

Organic growth for Faringdon - 15/7/08

I am neither panicking nor unusually wound up, merely trying to trigger some discussion around what local businesses can do to more successfully give customers what they want. After cutting through Jim's waffle the only positive point I can see being made is that Tesco will bring jobs as shelf stackers and checkout attendants. I do not see this as a huge benefit to the town; the real money and profits do not stay in the local area.

I believe growth for Faringdon would be fantastic if managed organically and I welcome new affordable and well planned housing. I am not anti-change and certainly not grumbling about the good old days. A supermarket, however, would be a step change to the town and would certainly affect the town centre in a negative way leaving few options for customers, this loss will only be felt after shops and other businesses have closed down.

Hilary, I see no reason why the centre should be gridlocked; we have a well planned bypass and the only through traffic need be from Radcot bridge, there are also 2 well placed car parks, albeit ones which could be cheaper/ free. The existing road layout is surely better than that in Abingdon, Wantage, Lechlade and Burford. Why do you think the shops in Faringdon can't offer convenient opening hours or ranges and prices as other local towns?

You suggest that there is no need to be defensive about the town in which you live, in particular where people choose to shop. I think there is every need to be defensive about changes you believe will harm your local environment. I do not want to see Faringdon as a clone town or have a dead town centre and I am also certain shopkeepers would choose to continue thriving, profitable businesses. My suggestions so far are that shops should adapt to meet customer needs.

I do not naively believe that Tesco does not know how to make profit from high turnover and low margin; they are clearly a very successful business model. But I do not think that attracting shoppers purely on price brings any other tangible benefit to the town, it is a false economy placing price ahead of quality and service.

It is slightly perverse that I, as a consumer am suggesting to shops that they stay open later to allow me to spend more of my money locally. Shouldn't it be the other way around?

Andrew Robertson

Planners say no to fourth city Tesco! This from Inverness(Check the website) - 15/7/08

THE only MSP to join the objectors to Tesco's proposed fourth superstore in Inverness is celebrating after councillors threw out the controversial multimillion-pound development. Green MSP Eleanor Scott is tickled pink with a decision by members of Highland Council's area planning committee to give the thumbs down to the application to create a 4,400-square metre supermarket at Ness Side. She was just one of more than 3,000 people who rose up in a display of public indignation to protest against the plan.

A green light would have paved the way for a massive store, individual shops, a petrol filling station and sites for the construction of a hotel and a doctors' surgery - as well as parking for almost 400 cars. Dr Scott, has previously accused Tesco of using aggressive tactics to put local shops under pressure. She has further claimed that the retailer's operational policy "trashes the planet on a daily basis, all in order to line the pockets of fat-cat shareholders". In the aftermath of the planners' decision, Dr Scott said: "I am delighted it has been chucked out." It is much larger than was originally proposed. It is too big and people simply don't want it." She said approval would have consolidated Tesco's "stranglehold" in the city.

The group already has a market share of 51 per cent of Inverness food sales - the highest percentage of any UK city.

Dr Scott, convener of the Scottish Green Party and spokeswoman on rural development, added: "Our concerns are not confined to Tesco but to all big supermarket chains."

Among the party's fears are the packaging of produce, the food miles clocked up by delivery lorries, the fact the company does not buy from local sources, and the belief that it forces "pitifully" low prices on suppliers.

The MSP was one of 73 people who wrote letters of objection to the council. About 4,000 more signed a petition.

Planning officers recommended the application be rejected on the grounds that it was contrary to the Inverness Local Plan, as the size of the foodstore would undermine smaller stores in the Ness area. Courtesy Inverness Courier

Name Supplied

Tesco Proposals - 15/7/08

Your June 2008 issue reported Tesco was considering the purchase of the Redlake site with development not to be undertaken for some years. By July 2008, Tesco had bought the site, proposing a "superstore" and were negotiating for more land to add to the massive Tesco portfolio worldwide.

Much cheaper food can be provided by stores other than Tesco, (Aldi, Lidl, Morrisons) without fear of such encroachment on our town and it's character. The Co-op has its Fair Trade label.

Tesco is known for its greed and was responsible for the start of the demise of small shopkeepers in the UK and beyond. Tesco customers will buy as much as possible under one roof, load up and drive away. "Superstores" stock almost anything, which would bring the last straw to our local businesses. All would be under major threat of closure, removing character and choice from Faringdon. We could become the town of Tesco surrounded by housing. The centre of our community could die.

Tesco are not making these proposals for the convenience of the local population and their store could not be sustained wholly by the local inhabitants. Much more traffic, including large lorries, would invade us.

QUALITY OF LIFE IS PREFERABLE TO ANY CARROT TESCO MAY DANGLE!

Mary Edwards

Twinning Meeting - 15/7/08

Just a reminder that the Faringdon Twinning Association AGM is to take place tomorrow, 16th July, at 8.00pm in the Old Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Also that we have a trip planned , leaving on Thursday 30th October and returning on Sunday November 2nd (in half term week). As yet we have no further information about the visit but will get a letter out to you shortly. However the coach is booked and if we get a full coach it will cost about £80 , half price for children under 16.

If you are interested in going please contact Jeanie on 240374 or email jeaniepugh@talktalk.net. A deposit of £20 will be required by mid September

Arts Festival - 15/7/08

Thank you everyone for your kind comments about the Faringdon Arts Festival this year. It was nice to see so many people come out and join us.

I have noticed that there was a comment from someone about the Art Exhibition in the Corn Exchange. I am so pleased that you enjoyed the art work from your younger members of the community. Just to way-lay your fear about vandalism and theft, when we arranged the exhibition we were very careful to inform all the teachers that there would be no one to man the exhibition. All the teachers knew this and were happy to put the art work forward.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered there time in making this Festival such a success.
Thank you.
Julie Farmer

Tesco in Faringdon? - 14/7/08

Come on Faringdonians, let's be a bit more positive. The reason Tesco comes to a town is because it sees an expansion of business in general, not an opportunity for monopoly. However, the arrival of a major supermarket does mean that life changes. So:

1) Local businesses have to adapt to a change in their customer base. Some locals will go to Tesco by choice, but others will still be in or near the town and need their basic supplies from local stores they can reach without a long walk (or short drive). So provide good quality basics to that customer base.

2) When out of town customers enter Faringdon, let's give them something of value that they can't get anywhere else. We have specialist traders who can benefit from an increase in people around - two examples might be Rob The Cheese and The Nut Tree. And, if you are male, you can also avoid joining your partner in Tesco and go for a haircut (2 good choices). If you are female, there is (I believe) a good ladies hairdresser in the town.

3) Car parking in the town must be a comparable cost to parking in Tesco. That means it is either free or EASILY reimbursed by traders.

In the past, Tescos have been blamed for a lot. I lived in Cirencester for many years and it wasn't Tesco or Waitrose that conspired to kill the town centre. It was greedy councils who pushed up the business rates so that the local greengrocer (very popular and successful) and other retail businesses could not survive.

So come on, think positive, think what you could do to take advantage of the Tescos of this world and we ALL win - and, dare I say it, I won't have to drive to Wantage, Witney or Swindon for the "big monthly shop"!
Steve Wright

Farindon Arts Festival 2008 - 14/7/08

The Faringdon Flickr Group have started post their photo's from FAF 2008 on this website:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/772559@N25>

Enjoy the photo's, we have enjoyed taking them.

Raoul van Eindhoven
Member of the Faringdon Flickr Group.

The Hil's are alive.- 14/7/08

I must agree with everything that was written in your post Hilary. A lot of what I read on here is from Moralistic dictators, self appointed of course. The Tesco's topic seems to me to be the sky falling on Chicken Littles head, a lot of running around in a panic, the post's are full of heat, very little light. Just because someone has seen the film, read the book and worn the t shirt, why should they try to stop me from seeing the film.....well you get the idea, yes? Are we locals so stupid that we need to be told what life is like in the scary city, or what to do to have a fulfilled life and a fulfilled freezer?

If the evil that is Tesco's should ever come here, may I ask a question?, how many of you would apply for a job there?, none of you I bet, however, there are many people, Faringdon people, that would, Faringdon people that have lived here all of there lives, they don't feel the need to come on here telling everyone how smug they feel having organised the families meals for the week, they just get on with life, mundane as it is. I would argue that 75 per cent of us go out of town to shop, either at Sainsburys, co-op, Morrisons or dare I say it, even the dreaded Tesco's. We must be the only market town around here that has to do that, all that money going out of town, not to mention the villagers and their money driving past our town.

Anyway I feel that I have wound you all up enough to give many of you palpitations, by the way Tesco's are doing a BOGOF offer on smelling salts this week.....every little helps.
Jim Horton

Children's Art exhibition - 14/7/08

I was passing the Corn Exchange at the weekend as I frequently do. There was an exhibition, I gather, of local school-childrens' work. I only discovered this, having walked through the open doors because of the signs inside. There was no person looking after the exhibition at all and it was very vulnerable to vandalism and / or theft.

Thank goodness that Faringdon is generally a safe town otherwise lots of childrens' efforts, not to mention possible exam-work could have been for nothing.

Why were there no adults responsible for their work on display?

Where was the advertising for the exhibition? I saw nothing but the work there was wonderful, from the little-ones to the big-ones.

I am so glad I saw it and well done to the Exhibitors, one and all.
Name Supplied

Another interpretation? - 14/7/08

Hmm. I didn't think my post would be interpreted like that.... Rather, I was trying to be supportive of Faringdon as a great place to live with advantages that may outweigh the limitations.

I have freely admitted in a different forum that I would be a willing customer at Tesco if it comes to Faringdon; not suggesting crime and chaos will follow in its wake. Leaving a larger, more anonymous and less friendly district was a good move for me and, I suspect, for other 'incomers'. I am not among those who wish to see Faringdon locked in a time-warp. I am saddened every time a private enterprise fails through lack of public support or a public service disappears in spite of the wishes of those it purports to serve. With luck, 106 monies and agreements with developers will add to the town's facilities.

Perhaps increased housing will give rise to an improved bus service and that will be of great benefit to many, including myself, who may wish to shop for goods or seek entertainment of a kind and at a price or time not available here but who are currently limited by lack of transport etc. Or the businesses in town will evolve to meet the needs of the population.

Until then, please accept my statement that it is possible to live within the limitations of the town as my point of view, not as a condemnation of those who take other options.

And while I'm here, I'd like to add my congratulations to the organisers, volunteers and performers for yet another superb Faringdon Arts Festival.

Sheila

Lovely Arts Festival - 14/7/08

What a lovely, lovely Arts festival that was.
Sarah Oliver

Super Response from Faringdon IT Company - 14/7/08

I recently had a big problem with my computer over a weekend and had difficulty in finding anyone to respond quickly. I contacted Quidne IT Ltd, a Faringdon company run by Raoul van Eindhoven. Raoul happened to be available, responded very quickly and did an excellent job of fixing the problem, as well as resolving lots of other more minor issues.

I've already passed this on to 3 of my friends who are also delighted with the service.

I know how difficult it is to get good service and advice, so thought it would be of interest.

Great to have someone around who responds quickly, knows what he is doing and doesn't charge the earth.

Contact details for Quidne IT:

Phone: 07834 164 375

Email: info@quidne-it.com

Web: www.quidne-it.com

Eddie Williams

Arts Festival - 14/7/08

Well done Dave, Julie and everyone else for this year's festival.

It is getting better every year.

Ray

Arts Festival - 14/7/08

Some great acts - Gorgeous Moron, Scott Gildert, Powertrain and of course the Youth choir - not that I saw them all. Great photographs and Children's art

Looked like a successful Arts Festival, albeit smaller than other years - but what happened to the brochure delivery - did anyone get one through the door?

Gene Webb

Hilary well done. - 13/7/08

Great post it is the same old names i dont what this or that.
simon

arts festival... - 13/7/08

just seen DISCLOSURE at the arts festival Sunday afternoon.
fantastic local band, only a matter of time before they make it big.
Name Supplied

Late opening etc.- 13/7/08

There's a whiff of hypocrisy about trumpeting the moral superiority of your own freely made choices while apparently wanting to restrict that freedom for everyone else. To hint, however obliquely, that the arrival of a larger supermarket than we presently have might change the friendly nature of residents, or bring in its wake traffic chaos, muggings etc, and generally disrupt life in this small town, is illogical.

There are a great many people living here, who for their various reasons, choose to shop elsewhere, at times and as often as it suits them, and there is no need for anyone to feel defensive about it. Not everyone here has a car, not everyone has a computer, not everyone has ample resources, or the self proclaimed virtues of 'puzzled'; and even if they have why should their choices be denigrated?.

For all its undesirable qualities, real or perceived, a large supermarket with its own dedicated car park would attract many shoppers from local villages who now go further afield. It would bring advantages to a great number of consumers; and the proposed site is nearer the geographical centre of town than the old 'Town Centre'

Faringdon will grow in terms of population regardless of the protestations of a minority of residents, and while no-one wants to see the demise of our existing traders, what use will be a historic town centre, if it is gridlocked with traffic, bursting at the seams with illegally parked cars, and can't offer the convenient opening hours and range of low-cost goods obtainable in other local towns.

Hilary Taylor

Traffic light phasing. - 12/7/08

Have now used the lights at the London St and Radcot Rd ends for this weekends events in the Market Place and found the phasing/timing of the lights to be absolutely awful. Radcot road, waited as long as a song plays on the radio, lights go to green and THEN back to red.
I carried on as I was a bit hacked off. London St. Again waited ages and same thing.

What the hell is going on. If you get people in to run these things, get people who know what they are doing please!
Colin

Live with the limitations - 12/7/08

I used to live within 10 minutes walk of a large supermarket, loads of restaurants, clothes and shoe shops, several banks, a post office, railway station, fantastic bus service, a plethora of estate agents and a variety of other independent retailers. I was also mugged, burgled, generally stressed and kept awake by the noise of traffic and police sirens. Now I do without those 'advantages' I am surrounded by friendly people and beautiful countryside. And even the rain is cleaner!

Faringdon has its limitations, but one can learn to live within them.

Sheila

Ref. Late Opening (Sheila) & Puzzled - 12/7/08

Don't worry, I am not galloping down to Budgens on a regular basis. I plan all meals in advance, and I do all my food shopping online, with a veg box scheme/supermarket. I rarely leave Faringdon, walk almost everywhere (despite the current deluges!), and do most of my clothes shopping online, too. But when the supermarket lets you down and/or your child is sick and you have run out of Calpol, a trip to a shop stocking the essentials is unavoidable - and worth the exorbitant cost of petrol to get it.

Walking to Costcutter/Esso would just prolong their Calpol-less misery/hunger, and I have not yet found Costcutter/Esso to be reliable enough in their stock to waste time going there (in fact I sometimes wonder why Costcutter bothers opening at all, as when I go they seem to have almost nothing on their shelves).

I don't think the argument here is about whether one person drives to the shop or walks, their meal organisation - or what shop they go to, but the opening hours of the 'big name' shops in town and the reluctance of the businesses to step up their game to prevent the need for a chain supermarket to fill in the gaps. They must have spotted a gap in the market to even consider buying an interest in the retail market here in Faringdon.

I very much doubt that either of you have NEVER had to go to a shop after 8pm.... for whatever reason... and found the shops available in Faringdon at that time sadly lacking.

Name Supplied

Air Tattoo Cancelled on Saturday - 11/7/08

Please read the details on this website:

http://www.airtattoo.com/airtattoo/Newsroom/news/Newsroom/AIR_TATTOO_CANCELLED_SATURDAY

Raoul

Lost signs - 10/7/08

Thanks to those who told me that College Lane is off Gloucester St.(towards the Junior School entrance) I've just remembered there is a lane off Gravel Walk - on the right near mini roundabout (Lechlade Rd and Gloucester St). There are several cottages in a row behind Gravel Walk. I've never known a name for these - does anyone know?

Gene Webb

Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre open - 10/7/08

- will be open from 6.30pm to 8.30pm Friday 11th July for the Arts Festival and we have programmes to give away. Air Tattoo tickets are also still available at the advance ticket price of £32.50.

Sally Thurston

tic@faringdowntowncouncil.org.uk

Lost street signs in Faringdon - 10/7/08

I thought I might try and get some of the missing street names replaced-, via VWHDC or Joint Environmental Trust.

On the list so far are:

Christopher Square (in front of Baptist Church)

Wellington Sq(opposite the Duke of Wellington)

Arthurs Hill (opposite Peugeot Garage)

Hobwell Lane (between Southampton Street and Park Road)

College Lane (need to find out where this is)
Elm Tree Cottages (off London St just beyond what was the fish and chip shop)

Seems a shame to lose these old names

Does anyone know of others?
Gene Webb

Watch the aeroplanes from Fairford Air Show from the Folly Tower - 10/7/08

The Folly Tower is open this weekend(Sat and Sun 11-5). The planes from Fairford Air show sometimes fly over this way

Climb the tower and do some plane watching

Gene Webb

Foam cups on offer - 9/7/08

I have a few hundred foam cups left over from the BFG if any fund raising group or other charity would like them

please contact me and I can deliver free of charge.
Sean 07712 530405

Late opening - 9/7/08

Why drive to Watchfield Co-op when Costcutters and the petrol station shop stay open later than Budgens?
There must be an hour available for shopping locally if you don't work 24/7.
Spend £10 in certain shops and parking fee is refunded - and anyway 40p parking must be less than the cost of driving out of town.

Walking is good for you, too!
Sheila

Puzzled of Faringdon - 9/6/08

What is all this about needing to shop into the evening?

When I needed to provide for a family I simply shopped in a supermarket once a month (and not a Sunday)- for store cupboard /staples, and bought fresh produce locally each week- based on the meals I had decided to cook that week. Proper home cooking too - ready meals that existed were expensive and not very nutritional or nice. I did have a freezer though.

Why did I do this? - I was busy - young family, college course and full time job - and I seldom ran out of anything.

I thought people were even busier these days - so why go shopping so often?

Is more forward planning/organisation needed??

Name Supplied

Tesco / Late Night Opening - 9/7/08

'Late night' is not 7pm. 'Late night' is at least 8pm, pref. 9pm. Faringdon is a real family town, and a very large number of people will be feeding their kids or putting them to bed at 7pm (myself included!), with partners not arriving

from work until that time. I often don't even make it to Budgens with its 8pm closing time, and end up driving to CoOp in Watchfield (open til 10pm). I don't like taking business out of the town (I live here, so it is in my interests to keep things open and thriving), but if I need something, the restricted closing times do impact on my shopping habits. As does a 40p parking charge to buy a loaf of bread, but that's another argument for another time.

I definitely DON'T want a Tesco in town, but if they were open until 10pm (like CoOp), then I am afraid that they will get my business if there is no alternative. It is a competitive market, and if Faringdon businesses want to stay open, they need to stop thinking 'poor me', and actually do something, step up to the challenge, and start working from a level playing field. Particularly those shops with 'essential' items, such as Budgens and (now)Boots. They may be franchises, but they aren't small independent retailers - they have the clout of major companies behind them, so there is no excuse for them NOT to pull their socks up and compete.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Association of Residents Meeting - 9/7/08

I haven't been to this meeting for ages. Some interesting subjects discussed:

War Memorial is in need of refurbishment. Some of the names are hardly legible. It was felt this was letting the town down.

Speed Indicators have been requested. There is to be a 24hour speed monitor on roads into Faringdon. From this a decision will be made as to whether they are needed (£2-£4k each)

Gateway to Faringdon on Lechlade road. Planning permission has been granted. It was thought it will cost about £10k. The general view was that this is a waste of money. The gateway to the town on Park Road is to be moved to where the 30mph limit starts. No mention was made of the cost of this. *See correction below*

Housing Developments

400 houses - Bloor will be starting with 50 homes, ([08/00793/REM GFA/19883/3-D states 68 units target decision 14/08/2008](#)) then will continue building depending on the housing market. This will delay the 106 monies that are destined for facilities in the town. (ie skate park, cricket pitch and pavilion, 2nd community bus)

Fernham/Coxwell Road- permission has been given to demolish a bungalow and build 5 4 bed houses([08/00778/OUT GFA/20534](#)), with access onto Coxwell Road

Ferngrove demolition and redevelopment for 11 affordable flats and houses ([08/01522/FUL GFA/16154/2](#)) resubmitted 26/6/08, target decision 25/9/08

Red House development, Coxwell Road - it was stated that planning consent was granted 3 days after the company went into liquidation. It's not clear what the implications of this are.

Tesco - Following a discussion of the possible implications the vote against Tesco in Faringdon was won by a just over 50% majority(of about 20 people)

Next meeting 20/10/08 Old Town Hall, 7.30pm. Everyone welcome

Gene Webb

Ed(GW) 31/7/08 Correction: Proposed gateway, Lechlade Road. Awaiting a Certificate of Ownership to be completed by O.C.C. Once received an application will be submitted.

Big Faringdon Gig - 9/7/08

I wish to thank all those volunteers and bands that played at the BFG. As regards the event being a day of original music it was a great success looking at it from the standard performance and the breadth of originality on offer.

Unfortunately the numbers attending were limited and the day actually made a loss but that's the risk when promoting something new.

I wish success for all the bands that played and their myspace details are still on the BFG web site.

Sean and Amanda

www.bigfaringdongig.com

Faringdon Arts Festival events - 8/7/08

A full list of events for the Faringdon Arts Festival this weekend can be seen at www.faringdonartsfestival.co.uk.
If you have not received a programme yet please call me on 0771 421 8825.

Regards
David Reynolds
Festival Chairman

Late night opening - 8/7/08

I for one would support later shop openings in the week. Especially such as Boots. However, I don't get home till 7pm, so the trial at the end of last year wasn't any good to me.

I would also support the Tuesday morning market... if it were on a Saturday... again, an awful lot of people in Faringdon work full time so aren't able to support these services.
Sue

Shops in Faringdon - 8/7/08

I hear what Denise, Jane and Name Supplied are saying regarding unsuccessful late night openings and the challenge of attracting market traders. I appreciate that challenge from Tesco et al may seem insurmountable. I am not claiming to have the answers but no one responding has answered the following:

Why do people prefer to spend their money in supermarkets rather than the town centre?
Why do people choose not to go to the market?
Why do people choose not to attend these special events?
What else may attract customers to the town centre?

All I can hear in the responses is that events have been arranged in the past but people didn't come. This implies that retailers have tried everything and customers have a duty to spend money in town, seemingly out of pity; hardly the attitude a group of retailers should take. This is why I suggested local businesses take a long hard and critical look at themselves.

Personally speaking 7pm does not count as late night as I have barely returned from work by that time, I would suggest that places need to be open at least as late as Budgens to be a genuine alternative. I also think that a good range of shops need to be open to represent the majority of peoples shopping list (minimum: butchers, bakers, cheese shop, deli, hardware shop, pharmacy, off licence and a pub/ coffee shop/ restaurants) ideally all retail businesses on one regular evening per week. I also reiterate that free parking and regular opening hours may help.

It is great that Faringdon has organisations working hard to keep the Market Place full of unique independent traders.
Andrew

Reply to Andrew - 8/7/08

We would like to jointly respond to Andrew's comments regarding late night opening in Faringdon.

Members of the Faringdon Retail Group and Faringdon Chamber of Commerce organised late night opening and a small farmers market until 7pm for initially 3 months at the end of 2007. Most of the independent shops were open and the evenings were widely promoted. However, there was very little response from residents and the project had to be shelved.

It has been difficult to get market traders into Faringdon to support the Tuesday, Thursday and evening markets and they need to be supported. If they are not, word of mouth does not go around between the traders and everyone pulls out. This is the same for the shops, if a few are doing well the rest will follow.

Both organisations are working hard to keep the Market Place full of unique independent traders, but we need the support of the town to keep going.

Denise Palmer - Faringdon Retail Group and Jane Haynes - Faringdon & District Chamber of Commerce

Faringdon Big Gig - 7/7/08

I never knew that there was so much musical talent around.
Saturday's event was a great achievement by all those involved, only let down by the poor attendance.

For those of us who made it we heard some great music.
Congratulations and thanks to all those involved.
David Campbell

Where can I get an Arts Fest programme - 7/7/08

Hi, just wondered if there are any programmes available for the faringdon arts festival as there have been in previous years?
We have relatives coming from essex for the weekend and just wanted to know whats on at what time and where etc, but the website only gives an overview.
Thanks Emma

Whats on at the Faringdon Arts Festival - 7/7/08

I check 'what's on' and Faringdon Arts Festival website regularly, but nothing has been added for a while.
Can anyone out there tell me who/what is on (for adults) during Saturday and Sunday daytimes?
Or is it a secret?
Name Supplied

Information about a London Street House? - 6/7/08

I posted a request on '[Memories of Faringdon](#)' for information about my home 30 London Street, formerly Roger Clarke's 'La Chaise Antique' and before then, the Star public house but unsuccessfully.

I have the impression that the front was rebuilt after the Civil War but that at the back it is considerably older as there the walls are all over the place and there is a window that looks Elizabethan.

Not really Talking Points - but I would love to learn more about it.
Margaret Barker

Weekly cycling - Sat 9AM - 6/7/08

There is a group of us that leaves the Market Square at 9AM every Saturday morning.
We aim to do about 20-30 miles at a "comfortable" pace.
All comers welcome

Mark Harrison

Law and Order? - 5/7/08

Before anyone wastes their time by suggesting what Sergeant Maddison should do to bring Faringdon into line it might be appropriate to find out if he is prepared to log on to TPs and check our input.
So, Sergeant, how about introducing yourself ? Also let us know how you feel about helpful hints from TP posters.

If you check back on a few postings you will see that we are not reluctant to air our views but it would be nice to know you are prepared to read them.
Even nicer to think you might act on some of them.
And

Welcome to Faringdon ! !

HGM

ED(GW) I shall pop in and tell him about Talking Points some time!

RE: a new man in town - 5/7/08

I am sure we all agree with the car related problems he should deal with, but I don't think Gene Webb has been a nuisance really, has she ???

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) Thanks v much - I've made it clearer now. I guess it could be debateable whether I am a nuisance or not!!

A new man in town - 5/7/08

The new sergeant in Faringdon is Antony Maddison, apparently formerly from Witney. Let's hope he has lots of enthusiasm for improving matters in Faringdon. Maybe we could give him some pointers.

I'll start with:-

- Misuse of the bus lane in the square
- Illegal parking

Gene Webb

Reply to Andrew - 4/7/08

The local shops have tried late night shopping a few times but on each occasion these were poorly attended by the public, these were well advertised locally, if there is more you can help on I am sure the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce or the Retail Group would appreciate your help.

The local shops we have do provide excellent service and quality goods as you say, let's make sure we all support them.

We don't want a ghost town!!

Name Supplied

Breast Cancer - correction - correction! - 4/7/08

I attended the annual town meeting where I remember that Faringdon Area Project gave an explanation of their comments and this matter was brought to a close.

I believe that Mr Desborough was also in attendance at that meeting and I am surprised that Faringdon Association of Residents still continue to resurrect this subject.

Name Supplied

Breast Cancer - correction - 4/7/08

FARINGDON ASSOCIATION of RESIDENTS Breast Cancer in Faringdon.

There have now been at least 2 documents by FAP (Faringdon Area Project) that have included statements that Faringdon has a high incidence of Breast cancer which they claim needs addressing by FAP. These unfounded statements have worried many Residents.

It was FAR that obtained the return of the Screening Clinic to Faringdon and we have followed the screening results. FAR pointed out on several occasions to FAP that their facts were wrong and that a simple enquiry to the NHS or us would have given them the facts but we were ignored.

The published figures for incidences of Breast Cancer in the age ranges concerned are:
Nationally the level is 0.83%

The Faringdon level is 0.57%

The Faringdon level is well below the National average and should give rise to unnecessary worry by Residents. We hope that this will clarify the position.

Colin Desborough
FAR next meeting 7/7/08, 7.30pm Old Town Hall

Extra openings of the Folly Tower - 4/7/08

Saturday 12 July - Arts Festival
Sunday 13 July - Arts Festival
Saturday 19 July - Sealed Knot
Sunday 20 July - Sealed Knot

11am - 5pm- normal opening times

Find out more about the Folly on www.faringdonfolly.org.uk.
Become a friend of the Folly and be kept in touch with all that is happening.
Email edchriswilliams@aol.com

Tesco and the shops in Faringdon - 3/7/08

Faringdon does not need a Tesco. Faringdon already has a Tesco; it is online and will deliver to your door. This is in direct competition with local and national farm shops that also provide this service with lower food miles and better quality.

I believe Faringdon is defined by its town centre, anything that detracts from this removes the heart and soul of the town.

In response to Charlie Harman; Most of your shopping may be done outside the town but this is not true of all. By shopping little and often it is quite possible not to require a 'weekly shop' as you put it, many people do not need to or want to get in their cars to travel further than Budgens. I am sure people would prefer to wander round a town centre (which is probably smaller in area than the average out of town mega store) than struggle through the horrendous experience that you are confronted with in super markets. Why people choose not to is a question that I put here to the businesses in town.

Faringdon will get a Tesco or similar at some point in future if the existing shops do not give the customers what they want. No small business in town can compete purely on price as no small business can subsidise loss leaders to the extent of Tesco, however the playing field is not level; customer service, proximity, familiarity, flexibility, community and user experience are all in favour of our fantastic local shops. I suggest local businesses take a long hard and critical look at themselves.

Ample free parking and late night opening on a specific night would go a long way in winning back those who do a midweek supermarket shop outside of working hours. Regular opening times (that are adhered to) would also help build confidence that businesses will be open and allow customers to plan their time. I also believe that significant spending power is held by those who work 9-5 elsewhere and are not able to shop locally in the week as the shops are not open.

Customers should also look at exactly where their money goes; shouting 'stop Tesco' while spending money out of town does not help informed debate. Put your money where your mouth is.

This is certainly not meant to criticise local businesses that on the whole provide excellent service, choice and products but prompt a useful debate rather than a character assassination. What else can local shops do, not only to retain existing customers but win back those who shop elsewhere?

Andrew

Twinned visit - 3/7/08

Twinned with Le Mele in Normandy - on going Thursday 30th October until Sunday 2nd November to Le Mele

Approx price £85-please phone 01367 240374 with a £20 deposit by 31st August to secure your place.

You will all have a great time.

Jeanie Pugh

Missing Cat - 3/7/08

Our black cat, Babe, has been missing from the Town End Road area since Sunday. He's a beautiful, sleek, quite big cat and he's three years old.

We miss him a lot - we would be most grateful if you could check locked garages/sheds etc. and if you think you may have spotted him please do contact me - 242769

Many thanks

Sarah Oliver

I do shop at Tesco - 2/7/08

I get most of my shopping there but I do not want tesco here I find the shops here are adequate and meet my needs

I think Bugens much improved but I enjoying the shopping experience it get from really local shops the two butchers Cheese from Rob the country market on Fridays the fab sandwiches from philles the very friendly off license. I got some lovely flowers from the florist delivered.

I do have not better argument I do not care if people really disagree with me but I really do not think we need a Tesco's in faringdon.

Yes I am ones of damp awful people who will get most my shopping form internet but I find can stay within a budget without being tempted by offers in the actual store.

I rather be persuaded by the smell of the Cornish paste coming from Rob's shop anytime. The Guinness and beef pie is very good as well.

Name Supplied

Clothing shop in Faringdon? - 2/7/08

A shop that sells either adults or children's clothes would be great, but if the Tesco superstore does come to Faringdon, then I am sure people would shop there as it would be far cheaper for most.

However, I remember when Country Lady was a thriving business, so if it was well stocked for the right market, then it may be successful. Burford has a few clothes shops which seem to have kept good trade over the years, although they are a thriving tourist town.

I would be keen to have a clothes shop again in Faringdon, anyone else?

N.B. If we support our lovely local shops then we will only have more and more!

Laura Bishop

Roadworks on A420 - soon - 1/7/08

With reference to the new Highways Agency signs that have recently appeared around Faringdon; I found this on the Oxfordshire County Council website.

Enjoy!

A420 - Southern Area

Road: From the A417 Roundabout (near Faringdon) to Carswell Country and Golf Club

Dates: From 28/7/2008 To 5/9/2008

Description: Carriageway surfacing works with some minor alterations to footway, kerbing and drainage. There will be temporary 24 hour traffic signals, which will be manually controlled from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. Monday - Friday and from 9.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m. at weekends. It is also expected that there will be night time road closures from 8.30 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. from 11th August for 3 weeks.

Status: Imminent
24 hour traffic Lights: 24 Hour
Lane restrictions: Single lane
Possible delays: Severe
Contact: Andrew Johnson - 01865 815737
Works promoter: Oxfordshire County Council

Guy Robinson

Budgens is great - but - 1/7/08

Budgens is great, but how many people do you see pushing a trolley around doing there weekly shop?
Most of our shopping is done outside of faringdon -Swindon, Abingdon, oxford & the internet thats where the money and the jobs go.

Having small shops is great, but how many are open after 5pm?
Charlie Harman

Walk Wonders- 6th July 2008 - 1/7/08

Old Town Hall, 10.30
Walk North Faringdon and Thrupp(4.5 miles)
Refreshments at Old Town Hall
Make a donation to Macmillan cancer support or get sponsors

Good piano wanted - 30/8/08

Sing Faringdon are looking for a good piano to put into the Roman Catholic Church Hall, ready for our singing sessions (to start again in the Autumn)

Do you know of one? Can you help?
We have *some* money

Gene Webb
genewebb@nildram.co.uk

Re:TV interference - 28/8/08

We have had this for many years.

We changed to digital thinking that this would resolve the problem, instead of which when there is no analogue signal there is no digital either. Excuse given is that emergency signals take priority.

Whilst I can see that and it sends us on a guilt thingy, surely the signals should be different. I am sincerely p**sed off with not knowing what is going on in a program. I really, really don't want anyone to die because of this but surely there is a solution.

Name Supplied

Holiday Accommodation - 28/8/08

Look at our [Holiday accommodation page](#) and find holiday property to stay in, in the Algarve, West Wales and Devon.

If you would like to advertise your holiday property (at no cost), fill in the form on <http://faringdon.org/msadentry.htm>

Gene Webb

Re: Television interference. - 28/8/08

I was up the Folly Tower on the night in question, and I know a lot of other people were, and whatever that was, I don't think it's something anyone should be laughing at, it's nothing at all to do with whoever that is with his patents, and I'm tired of trying to say to everybody that it is serious.

The ones who were up there weren't laughing let me tell you!

Name Supplied

Re: Poor TV Reception in Faringdon - 28/8/08

I live right in the centre of town and agree TV reception has become awful lately, but then it always has seemed to come and go.

For us, BBC 1 and Channel 4 are always viewable on terrestrial but not at great picture quality. The other channels and Digital TV only seem to work to a reasonable standard after 7pm until about midnight on weekdays, and most of

the day Saturday and Sunday (But never when there's something on I want to watch!)

Interestingly, DAB radio seems to fluctuate in the same way, suggesting some interference from somewhere..?

Name Supplied

Re Screeching birds.... - 28/8/08

The birds making all that screeching noise are two young Common Buzzards. They have for the last few weeks adopted the upper lawn of Sudbury House Hotel. They can often be seen sitting in one of the trees there or standing on the grass eyeing the now very nervous rabbits. They were today circling high over the Folly tower and calling all the time.

As a matter of interest, there are daily, three almost as noisy Green Woodpeckers on the bottom lawn after the ant nests.

Colin Gibbard

House swap over Christmas? - 27/8/08

I'm wondering if anyone might be interested in undertaking a house swap over the Christmas week?

My sister-in-law, her husband and two children have a two-bed flat in Vannes, France. Vannes lies at the head of the Golfe de Morbihan and is Southern Brittany's major tourist town, with various winding medieval streets, loads of shops, a port and direct access to the sea.

They are planning to visit us in Faringdon over Christmas and I am wondering whether anyone in Faringdon would be interested in swapping with them for the holiday?

If not, does anyone know of a house that might be for rent over the Christmas week at all?

Thanks Ray

Oxfordshire Photography competition - 27/8/08

Thought you would be interested in entering the below competition: <http://www.oxfordshire-life.co.uk/the-magazine-reader-offers--1887>

The prize is an EOS 450D camera and lens and possibility of featuring as a cover shot for the magazine. I'm sure with all the photography talent we have in Faringdon we could bring the prize here!!

The picture must have been taken between January 1, 2007 and September 1, 2008, the closing date of the competition.

Regards Sally
Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre

Go for the bollards - 26/8/08

Regarding the bollards - go for it (love the YouTube link - the final van shows why it is important to wear a seatbelt). And install a 'viewing gallery' for us pedestrians to enjoy the fallout - a bit like Faringdon's 21st Century version of the Village Stocks.

We could even have a photographic exhibition at the next Arts Festival of all those who have fallen foul of the 'evil' bollards. A bit like those pubs whose carparks are under the high tide line, with the photos to prove it..

I do wonder if the Give Way sign approaching the Town Centre from Gloucester Street needs to be clearer. I know it is hard to see cars coming FROM that direction when approaching from the other end, but when you are at the Give Way sign, you have a pretty clear view of everything heading your way - not that you would believe it. I purposefully use the full width of the street outside the shoe shop to deter those who think they can ignore the Give Way sign and

squeeze past - and have had great pleasure in forcing people to reverse, standing my ground despite the diminutive size of my car. I have had several 2 fingered salutes, on one occasion from a scheduled bus service driver, but am quite happy to continue to do so if people get the message that it is effectively a one way street for two way traffic, and that the Give Way is there for a reason. *Particularly* for taxi, bus, & white van drivers, who seem to be the worse offenders (and the former two should know better).

Name Supplied

Re: Poor TV Reception in Faringdon - 27/8/08

The individual with the patent is almost certainly not going to get his wish: I doubt we'll see the 'craft' he's attempting to signal too descending on the folly hill.
Still, there have been reports of lights in the sky recently!

Name Supplied

Poor TV reception in Faringdon- 26/8/08

Approx 2 months ago now, a dramatic deterioration in the quality of Television reception (mainly BBC 1 3 & 4, analogue signals and general interference/weakening of signal strength in many other digital channels) was experienced and continues to this day. I believed it was just myself experiencing this but it has become clear that many people have experienced the same with some not able to view BBC channels at all until late evening.

Have you had reports of similar or know of any reason as to why this is occurring? I understand an individual within Faringdon has applied for a world patent to do with a new means of 'fitting an increased number of signals (up to 100 I believe) into standard wavelengths, this may be totally unrelated but thought it worth a mention.

Any help, guidance, poll on the Faringdon site or information as to who I should approach would be greatly appreciated.

I contacted the council environmental team and they have directed me to Freeview, BBC and OFCOM but as it is a local problem, I am not sure if they can be of much help; however, I will contact all three and see if anything comes of it.

J Trump

re screeching birdie. - 26/8/08

Many thanks for the RSPB link for Peregrine Falcons, its great to know that we have such a wealth of wildlife on our doorstep.
I still can't decide what these birds are, they may Buzzards, but whatever, thanks.

Andy Boston

Marlborough Street.- 26/8/08

There is a lot of discussion on the Market Place but why in Marlborough Street is Budgens allowed to put out cones all day long ?
Does that mean when Tesco open up that parts of Park Road will be coned off when they have deliveries coming.
Dont see any other shops coning off in the town? Why????

Name Supplied

All traffic complainants/ poster's - 25/8/08

At the end of the day, if you decide to break the law by using bus lanes, parking on yellow lines, failing to buy a parking ticket etc and get caught it is your fault- not the police, traffic wardens or anyone else's. You all have your own mind which you are happy to show on this website so are obviously capable of making a decision. Therefore, don't blame the police or traffic wardens who are just doing their job.

You take that risk knowing the consequences of your actions and therefore you pay the penalty for law breaking, just as you would for any other crime.

So stop whinging.

Name Supplied

Single yellow lines not all superfluous - 24/8/08

The single yellow lines along Gloucester Street are not uniformly 'superfluous'.

The single yellow line on the opposite side of the entrance to the Gloucester Street car park is there to ensure that drivers of large vehicles have the full width of Gloucester Street when pulling out of the car park entrance.

There has been a steady stream of collisions involving long wheel base vehicles..... so keep up the ticketing, and illegal car parkers take note.

Name Supplied

Bollards and Cameras in our ancient Market Place. What next ? - 24/08/08

My Grand-daughter is trying to drag me, reluctantly, into the 21st Century and I have decided to 'go with the flow' (I think that's the correct modernism) and am seriously thinking of changing my black and white TV for a coloured version. (She admits the programmes will be just as bad but says they look better in Technicolor.)

However, as a Council Tax Payer, I am loath to have my money spent on futuristic gimmicks like Disappearing Bollards and Unmanned Cameras. A great deal of thought has obviously gone into these high tech solutions to what seems to be a very low tech problem and I would like to offer a cheaper alternative.

I would be happy to make a contribution towards equipping a policeperson with a notebook and a pencil and asking them to spend a few hours sitting in the outdoor café with a cup of coffee, which I would also be happy to subsidise. They would be expected to take down the Registration Numbers of transgressors. After a few villains have been caught and had their wrists slapped word would get around and the policeperson could be replaced by a cardboard cut-out (when my offer to subsidise the coffee would be withdrawn.)

O.W

Folly and White Horse Hill on TV - 23/8/08

If you missed the Britain from Above episode on the BBC that included Faringdon Folly and the Whitehorse, you can view them online.

[Faringdon Folly clip on www.faringdonfolly.org.uk](http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk)(About 1.5 mins in)

[White Horse Hill](#)(About 1 minute in)

Gene Webb

Re Idiotic Town Centre . - 23/8/08

The alterations in the town centre were really designed to be anti car I would imagine and surely the Town Councillors must have realised this and the problems it would cause with the buses and the bus lane so its down to them and the County Council.

As for pedestrians looking where they are going, I do; as I trust no one driving and yet I have been nearly run down twice due to drivers NOT looking where THEY are going.

Why not install a camera, photograph every user going up the bus lane and then prosecute those that shouldnt be

there.
Must be cheaper than bollards or should that be something else.

Colin

Idiotic town centre - 22/8/08

When tescos comes you will not have to go to the town centre, according to some on here so that will solve the problem as nobody will ever shop in the town centre.
You can take the tescos bus and avoid the bus lane crossing

Name Supplied

illegal gigs - 22/8/08

KEEP MUSIC ALIVE.
name Supplied

Screeching birds at Folly - 22/8/08

I've not been to the Folly but your description of an eagle/seagull sounds like a Peregrine Falcon.
You can check out the call here: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/p/peregrine/index.asp>

Name Supplied

Idiotic town centre? - 22/8/08

One of the reasons for the misuse of that lane by the Crown is exasperation with the idiotic design of the 'new' town centre.

Traffic approaching from the Gloucester Street end of the narrow section of Cornmarket cannot see what is approaching from the other end, particularly as that coming from Market Place is obscured by the Old Town Hall. Buses and opposing traffic, in particular, have difficulty in negotiating Cornmarket with its widened pavements, and it then makes more sense (and is sometimes the only option) for cars to go up the bus lane.

It's awkward to turn from the bus lane towards the Church where the road narrows (another traffic calming road layout feature) but it's more sensible than sitting facing an irate bus/lorry driver when each of you is in a queue, and neither can reverse.

Perhaps if they genuinely fear for their safety, pedestrians could look where they're going instead of complaining, and clamouring for expensive enforcement measures for very trivial traffic misdemeanours. (Perhaps in future could we ensure that whoever designs our town centre when it all has to be re-done actually spends some time here, preferably driving up and down London Street and round the Market Place.)

Name Supplied

Credit where it's Due - 22/8/08

The papers are full of tales about Bolshy, Jobsworth, Binmen afraid of breaking their finger nails and I'd like to set the record straight here in Faringdon. My wife keeps a beady eye on them and admittedly they sometimes leave something they should be taking with them.

BUT.. for the most part what they do leave behind is the impression of an efficient and friendly service and so far they show no signs of threatening us with the once a fortnight collection so beloved of many Councils.

Name Supplied

Screeching birds - what are they? - 21/8/08

A request to all the ornithologists out there, does anyone know what type of bird or birds are making a lot of screeching noises around the Folly, I think they nested in the wood at the bottom of the Folly on the Oxford side. I have heard them on church path and close to Sudbury as well. They have been around for 4 months and sound like an eagle/ seagull cross, (But they are NOT Seagulls)
Andy Boston

Live Music to come back to the Corn Exchange - 21/8/08

Just to change the debate a bit
I See Live Music is Returning to the Corn Exchange. Some JAM Club
Has the Soundproofing been sorted out their now then ? or is this some illegal gig. are we returning to the days of prohibition. and illegal live music gigs sprouting up all over the place.
hahahahahahahahah
Name Supplied

Sleeping Policepersons - 20/8/08

I did see one of the above, ticketing vehicles on Sunday evening outside Rainbow chip shop/Wheatsheaf pub etc. Obviously not the busiest time for traffic etc. but she was placing tickets on windscreens.
Martin Harries

It's a load of bollards - 20/8/08

Raoul's idea of checking out youtube is a great idea. Follow the link below!

It would be great to see these drivers get their come-uppance but just wait for the writs to start flying!
In the interest of economy and common sense I still don't understand why a simple standard red circle, white bar "No Entry" sign can't be erected.

http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=i_Cw0QJU8ro

David Reynolds

Disappearing Bollards v Sleeping Policepersons. - 20/8/08

The cost of Raoul's favoured disappearing bollards must be quite high but we would only need one and some of it could be recouped by having a collecting box for pedestrians enjoying the entertainment.
Far better value than Sleeping Police Men/Women.
Name Supplied

Road misuse. - 19/8/08

In further response to the posts already, I see each morning people misusing the bus lane, and have also seen Blunketts bobbies; the PCSO's, ignore illegal parking on London Street and the misuse of the bus lane as well. Havent seen this new bloke yet.

When can we expect the disappearing bollards to be installed. We shall need them for the 2012 Olympics and the dodgems events that will be taking part.
Colin

More road signs ignored - 19/8/08

In town on Sunday a white van drove up the give way part near the shoe shop - just missing a car coming the other

way (whose R.O.W it was) -he then mounted the kerb.
He was on the phone!
He then drove up the bus/taxi bit right past a female police officer. She did not bat an eyelid.

Name Supplied

Road Signs - 19/8/08

Response to the comments below.
I have had the same experience on the road towards the roundabout and Coach Lane. That is why I would love the (dis)appearing Bollards.

People who ignore the signs will find themselves a pleasant surprise when they meet the appearing bollards.
You tube website has some nice videos of people who thought they would be able to win from an appearing bollard.

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Poetry Competition 2008 - 18/8/08

The closing date of the competition is Friday September 21st
Winners will be notified no later than Sunday October 21st

There will be a prize of £50 for the best poem.
There will be a prize of £50 for the best poem by a local poet
There will be a prize of £50 for the best comic poem
There may be a junior prize if there are sufficient entries

A selection of entries will be included in the Faringdon Online 2008 anthology of poems

See www.faringdon.org/poetry2008/nvpoetrycomp2008.htm for the rules and
www.faringdon.org/poetry2008/nvpoems2007prizewinners.htm to see last years winning poems

Hilary Taylor

Road Signs. - 18/8/08

A few weeks ago I was travelling down coach lane and was met by a car approaching in the wrong direction.
They pulled in to let me by and as I passed I thought I'd better let them know they are going the wrong way. The driver told me they know, but because there was a queuing traffic down London Street they decided to do what they did.

When I reminded them they are breaking the law I just got a load of verbal abuse!

Just how stupid and arrogant are some people?

Name Supplied

Reading road signs - 17/8/08

"If people do not have the ability to read signs, they should NOT be on the road"
I know that and you know that, but the amount of people who do not DO precisely that is stunning.

Try walking up Marlborough Street towards the roundabout some days and you will find someone driving down there the wrong way!

I even took my life in my hands (drama queen, me!) one day by standing in the middle of the road and gesturing that the driver would have to go back, and got a two-fingered thank you!

Name Supplied

The Folly on TV - 17/8/08

This is to remind those who haven't caught 'Britain from Above' on BBC1 yet. The program aired on Sunday 17th August featured Faringdon (if you missed it, you can catch it on BBC iPlayer for 7 days after transmission date).

But in addition to that, the opening credits (repeated weekly) also feature the Folly from above, as well as the White Horse. Worth catching, some stunning footage
Name Supplied

Salsa - 16/8/08

As part of the new M.A.D.D. programe we are involved in promoting different areas of dance. In the past we have held Cajun and Salsa nights.

Anyone interested please contact Sam or Hilary on 01367243806. www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Scrap metal thieves about - 14/8/08

Watch out for manholes covers missing on 13th or early 14th was stolen from sands hill ,and across the a420 near devils corner.
Name Supplied

Salsa Classes - 13/8/08

Does anyone know if there are any Salsa classes anywhere in Faringdon or close to?
Many thanks!
Name Supplied

Hello ! Hello ! Hello ! - 13/8/08

Our new, well reasonably new, Sergeant is obviously doing his job by booking the wicked law-breaker who parked on the single yellow in Gloucester St.
Shame on you wicked law-breaker !

Now, please, Sergeant, get rid of the superfluous yellow line so that the same person will be able to park in the same place causing the same 'No problem to anyone' situation but without being branded as a wicked person !!!
O.W.

Tesco bus - 13/8/08

Good work, Dave.
That was exactly the question I would have asked.
It would be more than ironic if any 106 monies from Tesco was spent on a bus for the sole benefit of Tesco.
Ray

Carpet Fitter? - 12/8/08

Does anyone know or is anyone a carpet fitter who could move one carpet from downstiairs to upstairs and fit a new one?
I spoke to one local company who said they'd only fit if they provided the carpet and one who said he could help and I should call him when the new carpet was delivered and now his phone is constantly off.

Can anyone help?

Many thanks
Mel

Future Fireworks at Sudbury House Hotel: - 11/8/08

Friday 15th August 2008 - 10.30pm Maximum 10 minute display.

We would like to give all local residents in the surrounding area of Sudbury House Hotel advanced warning that a firework display will be taking place at above date and time.
We will notify of any further displays as they are due to take place.

Please contact the hotel on 01367 241272 for any further information.
Andrew Ibbotson

Tesco benefits - 11/8/08

At the Chamber meeting I asked the Tesco representative to give specific working examples of "benefits" they have given to the local community and business where similar stores have been built. The only answer they could offer was that they give Section 106 monies to the local "governing" bodies who then decide how to spend the funds. If this is the case could I urge the Chamber and other interested parties to ensure that the decision on how to spend these monies is opened up to the wider population of Faringdon.

I personally don't see how the suggested offer of a new bus running between the Tesco store and town is going to benefit anyone but Tesco!

David Reynolds
Faringdon

Yes to disappearing bollards - 11/8/08

I'm all for to have them installed on the left of the Old Town Hall. People with legitimate use can come in from the other end (e.g. Deliveries for Herbs or The Crown).

Regarding potential legal users following a bus.

Well as far I know, I might be wrong here, that as part of your driving test you are also required to be able to read signs. So when the bollards are installed there will also be a set of signs which will explain this. If people do not have the ability to read signs, they should NOT be on the road

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Ref double and single yellow lines on Gloucester Road.- 10/8/08

Having just received a parking ticket for parking on a single yellow line near the cornmarket building I'd just like to ask for a bit of consistency from our various authorities.

I regularly see comments in the Faringdon Folly and on this web-site complaining about the lack of policing of illegal parking, almost always coupled with comments from the planning authorities that they aren't too worried about such parking as it acts as a form of traffic calming. It would seem that the police have a similar view most of the time since it is very rare that they do any monitoring of parking traffic.

Of course I fully accept that there are rules to be followed, and I broke them. However, let's either

a)see the rules being monitored more consistently/frequently and stop semi-official comments indicating that a blind-eye policy is in place

OR

b)get rid of the lines that are redundant owing to changes in road use/layout (as discussed in an earlier comment).

Name Supplied

The Chamber meets with Tesco - 10/8/08

2 representatives for Tesco met with members of the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce. I noted down some of the points - but in reality it is too soon for Tesco to be very specific as they are still in the land assembly stage- or so they said.

A study shows that 70% of people do their main shopping outside Faringdon

Another study indicates that 65-70% people go shopping from home

Government figures state that a main food shop is bigger than 15k sq ft (Budgens is 12k sqft)

Tescos will consult with residents when an indicative scheme is drawn up and before seeking planning permission

It will be a Food Store only- which means that up to 15% will be for non food items - cards, papers, hair and beauty, cds, wine. That % is set by the planning authority.

Stores larger than 25k sqft sell clothing (pharmacies and other services not mentioned)

Tesco prefer to be located in Town Centres/to be part of a vibrant community. The proposed store in Faringdon will be 'edge of centre' (Action for Market Towns also indicate that town centre supermarkets produced benefits for other retailers)

Tesco will give to the community - under 106. Could be a bus to bring people into Faringdon, walkway between the store and the town- to be discussed/decided

Tesco offer free parking unless it's near a station and likely to be used by commuters, or the planning authority say they can't - and this is usually if there is likely to be a reduction in use of Council car parks

140 jobs will be created, some with career opportunities

Tesco sell 98% British beef and 80% British lamb

A 15ksq ft store will require another 50% of space for parking

The Faringdon store is likely to be 23-25sq ft (plus parking)

Tesco own the petrol station and Martins the newsagent

Tesco will model traffic flows to assess the impact on Park Road, and whether road changes are needed

Timescales not known

Concerns expressed by Chamber members

Traffic in Park Road

Loss of jobs, as Tesco buildings replace existing businesses

Loss of Retail shops in the Town Centre

Gene Webb

Would be good if others at the meeting added the bits I failed to note down

Disappearing bollards!! - 10/8/08

Apparently Oxfordshire Highways are suggesting that disappearing bollards are installed to the left of the Town Hall to prevent vehicles using this road illegally. I'm told that vehicles which are allowed to use the road would have a remote device that would enable the driver to lower the bollards.

I read somewhere this was a bit problematic for vehicles following a legal user- they may not realise that there are bollards and perhaps have not seen the no entry signs- quite possible if the vehicle in front is a bus!

Name Supplied

Fireworks at Sudbury - 9/8/08

Thank you Andrew for the apology. Must admit, they did appear to be bigger than the normal fireworks and certainly louder !.

Sudbury is a little way up the road from us but it still proved a bit of a shock to our dog - we were walking him at the time and had to make a quick dash home.

I'm wondering, it would be too time consuming for you to ring everybody who might be affected during future displays so would it be possible for you to let us know on here ?. Just a monthly list maybe or a quick posting a few days

before each one ?

I'm sure the word would get about to pet owners who might be concerned.
Thanks very much

Name Supplied

re Supermarket chain - 9/8/08

Tesco has bought another empty pub in Oxford
Apparently Sir Terry Leahy daughter has just started at oxford uni.
So expect a few more in Oxford!

Name Supplied

Re condition survey - 7/8/08

Can we join Oxfordshire County Council?

Ray Philpott

Noise of fireworks - apology - 7/8/08

On Friday 1st August the hotel hosted a wedding reception (as we do most weekends) and in the evening the Bride and Groom had arranged a firework display for their guests. I am now aware that this caused some distress to a number of our neighbours and would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the inconvenience caused.

A wedding is of course one of the most important days in anyone's life and we take great pride in providing for all the needs of the happy couple in making the arrangements leading up to the day. We endeavour to comply with all their requirements and occasionally are asked to allow firework displays in our grounds. We are also very mindful of local residents in the area and indeed we do have a contact list of people, particularly with pets, who we inform when such displays are taking place so that they have advanced warning and can make any necessary arrangements.

Once again I would like to apologise for any distress caused to our neighbours and would ask anyone with any concerns to give me a call so that we can add you to the contact list of people that we inform of any future displays.

Yours sincerely Andrew Ibbotson
General Manager
Best Western Sudbury House Hotel
01367 241272

Corn Exchange condition survey report - 7/8/08

I thought it might be interesting to have a look at the condition survey that VWHDC have had produced.
The person I spoke to in the Vale said that as it is a working document they are not obliged under the freedom of information act to let me see it.
They said there will be a summary produced, but could not say when.

So much for transparent government
Gene Webb

Britain from Above - Faringdon Folly on TV - 6/8/08

There is a new series starting on BBC TV this Sunday called 'Britain from Above', hosted by Andrew Marr as he discovers how each and every one of us is interconnecting making Britain what it is today.

Andrew and the crew visited the Tower on 17th July together with their helicopter and state-of-the-art camera, buzzing around to capture the beauty of the Tower, woodland and town. Earlier that day they were filming on the White Horse Hill which is featured in the programme.

The three-part series starts on Sunday Aug 10th on BBC One TV at 9pm. **The Folly will be on the second programme on Sunday 17 th Aug, on BBC One TV at 9.00pm.**



Meanwhile, if you would like to see more detail of the series and some amazing footage take a look at www.bbc.co.uk/britainfromabove.

Friends of the Folly.
More information about Faringdon Folly can be found on www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

Parking for a library visit - 6/8/07

If you want to visit the library, park in the Gloucester Street car park. You may not be aware but the school has no vehicle access and it is important that the buses which take the school children to and from the swimming pool are able to park directly in front of the gates on Gloucester Street.

There is far too much irresponsible car parking and I'm not sure on what basis those who enforce parking restrictions in Faringdon, should make particular exception to you.
Name Supplied

Internet shopper - 5/8/08

I do not understand why everyone is saying that the Tesco is going to be out of town when what appears to be the intended site is own 5 minute walk from the town centre. I therefore agree with the letter from M Edwards in the folly that it will kill local business.

Actually it be nearer the town centre then the price cutters shop in the Marlborough estate therefore in direct competition with both small supermarkets.

I would call the garage out of town and not this supposed tescos so again all arguments that is not in competition is farce.

I agree competition is good at driving down prices but at what cost to heart of faringdon.

Again I would like to again praise our marvelous town centre I had plesant morning shopping this Monday with the friendly service you get from shops in faringdon they are a real asset to this town

Name Supplied

Tesco - World Domination beckons - 5/8/08

Tesco gobbles up another pub

Supermarket chain Tesco has bought another empty pub in Oxford as part of plans to open more stores in the city.

Its latest acquisition is the Fox and Hounds, in Abingdon Road, which the company wants to turn into a Tesco Express convenience store.

Tesco already has two supermarkets in Oxford - Tesco Metro, in Cowley Road, and a superstore at Oxford Retail Park, in Ambassador Avenue, Cowley - and bought the disused Friar pub, in Marston

Road, Marston, in April, to create another Tesco Express.

Spokesman Juliette Bishop said: "Tesco can confirm that we have plans to redevelop the former Fox and Hounds Pub, in Abingdon Road, into a Tesco Express store.

"This is an excellent opportunity for a Tesco Express along the busy Abingdon Road, leading out of Oxford city centre.

Ms Bishop said the adjacent former petrol station site, which has been empty for years, was not part of its plans. She could not give a timescale for when a shop might open and she said no talks with the city council's planning department had been held.

The store, at the junction with Weirs Lane, would be almost opposite the Nisa Local grocery shop and post office. Mohammad Afzal, who has run the shop in Abingdon Road for more than 20 years, said: "It will badly affect my trade - not only my trade, but everybody else around it. We have got Sainsbury's down the road already.

"I would like to know why we need one down here. I think there's no need.

"The traffic in Abingdon Road is already very congested, so I think traffic-wise it will be a disaster too."

Reaction from people living in the area was mixed. Seventy-seven-year-old Bernice Morgan, who lives in Weirs Lane, said she would welcome the plans.

She said: "I think that would be lovely.

I'm an OAP and I can't go too far. The only shop we have got now is across Abingdon Road and I hate crossing that road.

"At the moment, I have to get a taxi to Cowley to go to Iceland, so this would be perfect."

But Elizabeth Laskar, who lives in Abingdon Road, was concerned about the potential impact on existing shops.

Ms Laskar, who is in her 30s, said: "I'm really into supporting local shops and if they put a Tesco there, it's going to put a lot of pressure on the local shop, which is a really nice community store. I would be the first to sign a petition against it."

Name Supplied

Sergeant Maddison.Gloucester St.An easy problem to start with. - 3/8/08

Once upon a time (well, it was a long time ago) the traffic in Gloucester Street could flow in both directions.

Unfortunately any parked car caused havoc so the Planners made a wise decision (well, it was a long time ago)

They decided to paint double yellow lines on one side of the road prohibiting parking at any time and single yellow lines down parts of the other side restricting parking at busy periods. They also punished anyone transgressing (well, it was a long time ago).

Then they decided to make Gloucester Street one way. They kept the double yellow lines which was a sensible idea as it ensured a steady traffic flow but can you think why they kept the single yellow which most people (not me of course) ignore?

The Zig Zag markings are intended to prevent parking and overtaking on the approach to the pedestrian crossing outside the school. But there is no pedestrian crossing (except when the "Lollypop Lady" is on duty).

Could you drop a hint to TP readers that you will turn a blind eye if we park to go to the library when there are no kids going to and from school ? We will promise not to tell visitors (or your boss.)

I know that the responsibility for road markings belongs to some obscure part of the VWHDC but Faringdon is a long way from Abingdon.or so it often seems !

Optimistic Wrinkly

Oxfordshire-wide survey on mental well-being - 30/9/08

Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Oxfordshire County Council are working in partnership to develop a programme to improve the mental well-being in the county. We want to make a positive difference to the lives of people in Oxfordshire.

As part of this work we need to understand what influences well-being and what local people feel is needed to help improve the mental well-being of those living in the county.

To begin this process we are asking as many people as possible what their views are.

Please find out more and fill out our online survey on <http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/>

The closing date for responses is Friday October 24th.

Name Supplied

Dog Poo - 30/9/08

Last sunny Thursday, and today a wet and windy Tuesday, I have been out around the town on the annual Geography field trip with Year 7's from Faringdon Community College.

My usual moan is about the traffic using the bus lane by Saddlers Coffee Shop. Not today though. Although it is still happening, it does seem to have improved.

Today its DOG POO. I thought a while ago a team came in to town to sort out the problem. It has'nt worked. Many of the pupils trod in it, causing a bit of a stink. We, as dog owner ourselves, could not understand how some owners are letting their pets do this and turning a blind eye. Have they not heard of Bag it and Bin it? There dont seem to be many bins about, but they could take it home could'nt they?

One of the worst places was the alley that goes from Beech Close down to Canada Lane.

Yuk

Chris Higgs

M.A.D.D. @ the Corn Exchange - 26/9/08

the Jam club reopens this Friday 3rd Oct with "The Obscure" plus support from "A/C".
Doors open 7.30pm. Entrance £3.

Sam Prince

Local Video Production - 26/9/08

Are you Celebrating Something special ?

Maybe a wedding

a Baptism

A Special wedding Anniversary party

Would you like the memory to last Forever on DVD

Then contact SGV Productions sgvproductions@tiscali.co.uk

Competitive prices with Professional production

Name Supplied

Helicopter light-up - 26/9/08

Apparently there were thieves spotted breaking into the sheds of some of the resident's houses in Carters Crescent, someone disturbed them in the act, the police helicopter was out and about in Oxford so helped them out.

Name Supplied

Litterpicking By Faringdon Volunteers (again) This Saturday, 27 September 2008. - 26/9/08

I was in Switzerland the other week, not a litter in sight wherever we went, it was utterly lovely - came back, drove up the road to my house, litter everywhere - walked with the dogs to the park - not a meter without some rubbish on the ground.

It is such a sad site and I am fed up that the council does not take stronger action! We only just cleaned the Folly Park a few weeks ago! Something must happen, it just cannot go on like this.

I was brought up in Switzerland and I am not biased as I have lived here in England for 20 years, but it was hammered into our heads from a very early age, that all rubbish goes in the bin. If there is none take the rubbish home.

Why do we in England have such a problem with that obvious solution? Grown ups and children all need educating and if someone does drops litter, one should not be too scared to tell them to pick it up again. It is utterly pathetic the way we tip toe around problems like these. And it is down to volunteers like us to clear up after people who cannot care less.

I feel suffocated by all this litter and I am sure I am not the only one.

Bernadette Disborough

It's Folly time - 26/9/08

To let readers of Talking Points know that the October edition of The Faringdon Folly is out this afternoon, early this month because of when the first of the month falls. There's a review of last Saturday's gig at the Crown, a plea for performers to join next year's FDS panto, a story about goings on on Coxwell Road - developers and planners - and what people got up to in Faringdon in the 1930's for amusement.

All this and much more including sports news, clubs news, police and fire reports and village news. Available in glorious technicolour at all local supermarkets, newsagents and convenience stores, price just 60p

Al Cane

Blunketts bobbies - 25/9/08

Colin you are right but they do give up there time unpaid and unthanked by the like of yourself and others . The main thing i find is the lack of intrested by are so called local very well paid police.

Complaints have gone up against police in south. I would like to see a policeperson in faringdon to make a complaint about. Long gone are days of tim and mitch walking around the town, they used there legs shock horror.

I have noticed a slight rise in small crime in the town kids on motorbikes parking on paths etc.

If the police do not get on top of this ,we will end up with more serious crime eg knife crime etc. regards

Name Supplied

Not quite a Vulcan.... - 24/9/08

Can anyone shed any light on the presence of a Police helicopter tight-circling the streets around Coleshill Drive in the very early hours of this morning?

It was strafing the Eaton Close area for a good 45 minutes with a very bright spotlight trained on one spot.

Not quite a Vulcan, but just about as noisy!
Name Supplied

Police Helicopter - 24/9/08

Anyone have any idea why the Police Helicopter was in action just before midnight Tues 23/09 towards the Community College?
Police on foot and cars up and down Marlborough Gardens and Marines Drive also I believe.
Name Supplied

What's the connection between a yellow line and a dishwasher? - 24/9/08

In reality there shouldn't be one, but unfortunately there is, so I'll tell you about it. I live on Gloucester Street, which you will know by now, if you are a regular Talking Points reader, has a totally unnecessary single yellow line along much of its length, dating from years gone by when there was a seed merchant operating in the street. I am not alone in wanting this line removed because it serves no useful purpose.

Yesterday our dishwasher packed up so I made some calls and arranged for an engineer to come out to look at it this morning. At 11 o'clock I received a call from the engineer. He was phoning to apologise because he could find nowhere to park. The entire length of the yellow line was free of parked vehicles and he had pulled in pretty much outside our house only to be moved on by a traffic warden, or whatever they are called now. He moved on to Gloucester Street car park instead, but when he got there he was told his van is too big and because it was sticking out over the lines he would be liable to a £80 fine if he stopped there.

I suppose there's bound to be some nameless supporter of jobsworths out there who thinks this is all very reasonable. However, I am thoroughly peed off once more by the continuing existence of this completely unnecessary yellow line.

Fortunately I work from home and hadn't had to take the morning off work to be here; others would not have been so fortunate. I'm hoping he'll find a place to park this afternoon, but I if he doesn't I can't expect him to keep trying.

Ifor Phillips

Re: Blunketts Bobbies - 23/9/08

Two lady PCSO's were doing a fine job of holding up the traffic at the bottom of Coxwell Street, very closely checking out all the parked cars on the single yellows outside the hairdressers.

At last!
Name Supplied

The Crown on Saturday - 23/9/08

Thanks to all who braved the sunny weather to come out to The Crown on Saturday night.
A big thank you to The Follies for kicking off the gig and producing a storming set and for Sam and all the staff at the crown for their hospitality.

In these days of doom and gloom lots of very positive feedback about the town from all who travelled to the show from far and wide.

The next show, a full band rather than acoustic night, is set for Sat 29 November this time up at the junior school. Headliners are Tommy Hale and The Snakes from Dallas with confirmed support as of now from Faringdon's own The Lucky Generals and Disclosure.

Look out for posters in due course

Cheers
Hamish Millar

Poetry Competition 23/09/08

FO Online poetry competition has now closed to entries. This year we had over 500 entries, of which 65 were in the comic category, 38 were local, and there were 27 junior entries.

I was surprised, and delighted this year to receive entries from (among a great variety of other places) China, Georgia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Israel, as well as USA, Australia, Other parts of Asia, Africa, Europe and all over the British Isles.

The winners and short list of commended poems will be published on the site as soon as possible.

I hope to arrange a poetry event, when Helen Kidd, this year's adjudicator, will come and talk about the competition and present the local prize; and there will be an opportunity for local authors to read their poems.

In due course there will also be an anthology of selected poems from the competition, more details later.

Thanks to all of you entered, and who have supported the competition, I look forward to seeing you later in the year at the poetry event.

Hilary Taylor

British Artistic Roller Skating . Championships Inter-Silver Standard - 22/9/08

The above Championships are to be held at Faringdon Leisure Centre 30th/31 May 2009

This is a chance to see the best skaters Great Britain have in the sport of Artistic Roller Skating. Put this date in your diary Dont MISS IT

We have 4 Faringdon skaters that are working qualify for this competition.

Tamara William

Georgie Howe

Hollie Fidler

Ben Timbrell

All these skaters travelled to Italy and represented Great Britain in the European championships and all were placed in top 20

Congratulations to them all.

Dee England

Jake Shillingford at The Old Crown Inn, Faringdon - 20th September 2008. - 22/9/08

Dressing room ghosts, sharing chord progressions with the Sugababes and immersing the good people of Faringdon in beautiful ballads is all in a days work for Jake Shillingford, one time frontman of cult orchestral pop sensation My Life Story.

Mid-way through his acoustic tour to promote his recent solo album "Written Large", Jake took to the stage in the intimate surroundings of the Old Crown Inn in Faringdon on Saturday night accompanied by pianist Toni Krause to perform tracks from his aforementioned solo album and some old My Life Story favourites. Following support slots featuring Tyla from Dog's D'amour and Faringdon's very own The Follies, Jake had the audience under his spell from beginning to end with renditions of tracks such as "Butterfly Wings" and "Antiques" along with the albums title track "Written Large".

Not put off by an appearance of "The Faringdon Ghost" in his dressing room, although not risking a trip back down there before his encore, Jake roared through the old My Life Story favourites "Sparkle" and "Strumpet" ensuring that the good people of Faringdon won't forget the name Jake Shillingford for a long time yet.

Jake's solo album "Written Large" is available from www.jakeshillingford.com

review by Lindsey Taylor-Fullman

Roller Skating Beginners Course - 21/9/08

Starting after half term Monday at 5pm to 6pm at Faringdon Leisure Centre.

BOYS AND GIRLS

Inline skaters

Quad Skaters (4 wheels)

Younger skaters who have barby skates or any other skates.

Book in at the leisure Centre or contact Dee England 07872955355

Faringdon Skaters will be there to give one to one attention. This will ensure good progress

Dee England

Faringdon Artistic Skaters - 21/9/08

Five Faringdon Skaters travel to Italy on the 30th September to represent Great Britain in the Cup of Europe. We have one family going with 3 boys. The cost of sending these three boys is expensive.

If anyone out there has any euros sitting in a drawer or would like to help in any way please contact Dee England 0787 295 5355.

Thankyou

Horse event at Badbury Clump? - 21/9/09

While walking the footpaths between Faringdon and Badbury Clumps last week I saw lots of cross country horse jumps/fences in and between several of the fields and wondered if anyone knew if they were connected to an upcoming event?

I don't think it has passed as there are only a small number of hoof prints !

Kate Brady

Blunketts Bobbies. - 19/9/08

Saw 2 of the PCSO's today; Blunketts Bobbies walking past cars parked illegally on London Street and not seeing them and walking at great pace to obviously get back for a fag and a cup of tea.

What is the point of them?

Colin

A Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008 - 2026 - 19/9/08

Faringdon Town Council are asking for comments and suggestions on their [Strategy for Faringdon\(88kb\)](#).

A copy of the [comments form\(140kb\)](#) and the strategy document are available from the Council Office

This letter has been sent to a number of organisations in the town. **The deadline for comments is 12th October 2008**

A long term planning and development process has been started across the whole of England. The process is begun by the Government, then taken to the next step by the Regional Authorities (in the case of Faringdon - the South East Regional Authority), then the County Councils, finally the local planning authority (Vale of White Horse District Council). The "spatial plans" that will then be finalised will set the broad areas for development up to the year 2026.

Some of the areas that are covered are:

- The number of new dwellings that are expected to be built over the period and each year of the plan.

- The provision ratio for "affordable" housing.
- The allocation of new dwelling numbers across the region, counties and districts. Then within each district.
- Provision and allocation of employment centres.
- Gravel extraction.
- Waste disposal.
- Transport policy (very broadly).
- Environmental policy.

This list is not complete but contains the major areas.

It should be emphasised that the spatial plans are not designed to cover detailed planning matters - for example they will not allocate the numbers of 4 bedroom houses against the numbers with 3 bedrooms. This type of detail is left to planning at local (district) level. What the plans set out to achieve is a comprehensive overall picture and commitment to long term planning.

Faringdon is not a planning authority. The Town Council does however, have a statutory consultation responsibility.

The enclosed "Strategy for Faringdon" is an attempt to help the planners and members at the Vale of White Horse District Council to have a clear view of the aspirations of our Town during the period when they are putting together the local spatial plan. Without this there is a danger that the planners at the District will include Faringdon without having the benefit of input from the Town.

The enclosed "Strategy for Faringdon 2008 -2026" has been produced by the Planning and Highways Committee and has been agreed as a basis for consultation by the Town Council.

To help this process we would be very grateful if you could consult the members of your organisation on the contents and let us have your written response using the enclosed form by 12 October 2008. Subsequently we intend to hold a meeting with all responding organisations so that we all have a full understanding of the issues.

After this process, the FTC planning committee will review the strategy. This will be sent to the Vale planners with the listed comments, hopefully in November.

Thank you for your help.

Cllr Alan Hickmore
Chairman
Faringdon Town Council Planning & Highways Committee

Can Openers for Kosovo - 19/9/08

In October a small team of people from Faringdon will be heading for Kosovo with the National Charity 'Hope and Aid Direct'. There will be two trucks going from Faringdon filled with food, clothes and equipment.

One special thing that we are lacking are can openers. On the lorries will be a significant quantity of canned food, so we need can openers too. Adam Blackwell of The Cook Shop has very kindly agreed to sell can openers at a very special price of 55p. There will be a container to put the paid for can openers in, in The Cook Shop and in Davis Home Shop and they will be collected before the lorries leave Faringdon on Friday 10 October.

We anticipate delivering aid to 1000 families in Kosovo, so please feel free to buy as many as you like - the families will be hugely grateful!

Thank you very much.
Sarah Oliver

Missing Chicken - 19/9/08

I am well aware that it's probably a fox that got my chicken but I thought I'd just check that no-one's found a ginger and white hen in their garden and is keeping her safe! She went over the fence at the back of my garden in Town End Road on Weds (17th) afternoon with her two friends and the other two came back but she didn't.

The other two weren't at all distressed when they came back which makes me wonder if something other than a fox caused her not to return.
Any info to Sarah Oliver 242769 Thanks

Homeswap - 16/9/08

hi, iv been looking for a homeswap in faringdon and this seems as good a place as any to ask, i have a spacious 2 bed flat with garden and am looking for a 2 or 3 bed house, there is also the opportunity for a 3 way swap the other home is a 2 bed bungalow which i beleive is for 40 or 50+, so if you have a home and your thinking of down sizing please let me know.

Laura

laura_t9@hotmail.com

Lord Berners and and his connections with Faringdon on Radio 3 - 17/9/08

Composer of the week. Radio 3, midday, repeated tonight, Wed at 2200
Gene Webb

The 15 Minute Club now has a website. - 16/9/08

www.15minuteclub.co.uk

Check it out for news, photos and useful links!

Next 15MC is at the Crown Coaching Inn on Saturday 27th September.

David Reynolds

Faringdon Calendar - 15/9/08

Anyone noticed that the 2009 Faringdon calendar only has seven photos of Faringdon?
Neil Supplied

Vulcans in Faringdon? - 15/9/08

Highly illogical!

Fiona Merrick

Wow! A vulcan huh? - 12/9/08

Now would that be the Roman god of fire, a vulcan like Mr Spock, a fictional character from a DC Comic, a delta wing subsonic bomber or a car made in Southport early in last century?

We deserve to be told which one was seen near the Folly.

The Flying Poster

Vulcan over Faringdon. - 12/9/08

This is the ONLY flying Vulcan XH558 details at www.tvoc.co.uk and is presently based at Brize until the end of the month to do some displays.

Check out their website at www.tvoc.co.uk and Wikipedia for information.

It has a few more to do before departing in a few weeks.
Colin

Vulcan - 12/9/08

Yes, I've seen it. Apparently they are doing some training down at Brize.
Name Supplied

Vulcan over Faringdon? - 11/9/08

Just saw a VULCAN fly over my house (Coxwell Rd). Anybody else see it???
Basil Mandelson

Music Extravaganza at The Crown - 10/9/08

Not long now until the next live music extravaganza at the Crown (Sat 20 September) for those aficionados of original live music. Tickets on £5 with £1 of each ticket going to Faringdon pre-school) 3 fantastic song-writers on show

Faringdon's own Trev Williams ably supported by his Follies

Tyla - fresh from a headline slot at the bulldog bash. Alone with his guitar so relive the last night of the corn exchange.

Jake Shillingford - accompanied by Toni Krause on keyboards, a Brit pop legend with My Life Story having been NME artist of the year.

Sound and lights from Faringdon legends Tim and Rod.

Tickets Hamish 07879 418969 or fbpromotions@tiscali.co.uk

New Folly Merchandise - 9/9/08

You can now buy tee shirts, fleeces, hats and scarves all with the new folly logo from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre, or the Folly tower when it's open

Lots of different colours



Last Call - 8/9/08

We are choosing the Faringdon Christmas card this weekend.

Please email any winter shots of Faringdon you would like to be considered to tic@faringdowntowncouncil.org.uk

We would like two designs and the prize is a year's subscription to Cotswold Life or Oxfordshire Life.

The cards will be sold in the Community and Tourist Information Centre.

Crop Circles - 5/9/08

I couldn't believe that the picture of the crop circle in this month's Folly near the windfarm was genuine- it was so complex and precise. So I did a bit of googling.

You can see more pics on <http://www.cropcircleconnector.com/2008/Watchfield/Watchfield2008.html> where also

you'll find a complex description (too complex for me) about the design.

On <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Crop-Circle> you can find out more about how it's done, and the tools (rope, string, protractor and tape measure)

It still seems pretty amazing to me
Gene Webb

Faringdon TIC Featured artist for October - 5/9/08

Cristina Steel

Born in Barcelona but have been living in Swindon for nearly 20 years. I am married and have a daughter. As a working mother I still managed to find time to expand my creative side, first by qualifying in Interior Design and now with my art.

I started painting with oils at evening class and I now work with acrylics mostly. I like to experiment with the paint and mediums to achieve different effects, textures and transparencies. I have also painted in watercolours, pastels and charcoals as I enjoy the variety. However, I consider myself self-taught.

I get my inspiration from every day life, whether from a photograph, a landscape, a conversation and even the new trends in home decoration. I would like to think that my passion for colour, texture and to have fun is reflected in my art. My paintings could be described as bright and lively. www.paintedforyou.co.uk

Sally Thurston
Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre

Town Meeting cancelled - 4/9/08

FTC were intending to hold a Town Meeting on 17th September to discuss the impact and options once the VWHDC cash office in the Corn Exchange is closed at the end of September.
This meeting has been cancelled as VWHDC are currently reviewing their property to decide which buildings to retain
Once this has been done I suspect the meeting will be rescheduled
Gene Webb

Light Bulbs - 4/9/08

Hi Hilary, I believe the waste recycling centre on the Stanford Road does have the facility to recycle fluorescent/ low energy bulbs. Maybe that you need to collect in a bucket or bin and then when full take there.

I appreciate that means getting in the car to drive them there which seems to defeat the point of reducing our carbon footprint.

Name Supplied

Litter Picking - 4/9/08

Litter-picking has just reminded me of something i.e. our responsibility for the correct way of disposing of various non-bio-degradable materials.

I work in Davis's and we are no longer able to put glass or batteries in our skip. Apparently, we can put them in our domestic bins but not a business one. I know that the Council provides a service for the safe disposal of batteries but what do we do with low-energy bulbs? We cannot put them out as glass because of the metal fittings and they are filled with something or other which includes mercury. Although they are undoubtedly excellent in reducing the use of electricity and there will soon be a change in the law concerning the sale of "suitable" bulbs to the general public, it doesn't seem to be very clear what the changes will be.

If we do not have plans in hand for safe disposal, are we digging ourselves another waste-hole?

Answers on a post-card please!

Hilary P-B

Great Faringdon Litterpick - 2/9/08

As some of you will know, September has been designated 'Big Tidy Up' month by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Bill Bryson et al.
We're planning to meet under the Old Town Hall at 10am on the 27th September for the Great Faringdon Litterpick.

Volunteers welcome!

If you prefer to just club together with friends and do your own immediate neighbourhood, then no problem; just get in touch with Andy Hayter on 241289, and we'll supply you with the right equipment!

It would be great if you can let me know in advance if you're coming, so I've some idea of numbers.
Hope to see you there.
Andy

The man with the STEREO hands - LIVE- 2/9/08

The Crown, Market place, Faringdon, free, 8.30pm
The man with the STEREO hands' first solo performance in Faringdon for six months. He returns to the front bar with his own unique brand of Singalong pop/indie/new wave classic covers from the 70s, 80s and beyond mixed with some original material old and new.
www.stereohands.co.uk
www.myspace.com/themanwiththestereohands

Free Tickets - 2/9/08

I have won a pair of tickets to the Dolls House and miniature exhibition at the NEC Birmingham on 5 October.
I wont be able to go due to work so am offering on this website.

Further details go to ://www.miniatura.co.uk/
contact me on 01367242082.
Colin

Faringdon's 2009 Calendar is now available. - 1/9/08

This year's calendar is unique. It has been compiled using photographs submitted by local photographers.

We have chosen 13 beautiful shots out of over a 100 entered by local people.
The calendar is on sale at £7.50 at Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre

TV Interference - 1/9/08

Below is a link to the BBC Website all about the Oxford Transmitter and the area it Covers:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/transmitters/tv/tv_oxford..shtml

also some more information on Digital Terrestrial Television Reception

Typical reception problems with digital terrestrial TV (DTT) - e.g. Freeview - include picture break-up or freezing, missing channels and no reception at all.

Long-term poor reception

If your reception has been poor for a long time, it may be a sign of a weak signal. DTT - e.g. Freeview - comes to your TV via an aerial, so even if you are in a Freeview coverage area, you need to have the right type of aerial and the leads and connections from it need to be in good condition. Your aerial may need repairing or updating. For more information, see TV aerials and connections.

On the following link is a wealth of information on Digital TV Reception.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/digitaltv/freeview.shtml>

But also Sadly our WOnderful Folly Hill also Blocks a lot of the Signal Coming from the Oxford Transmitter.

the Worst affected areas are

the Centre of Town and those Shadowed by the Folly the West of the Town especially those to the Far West Like Leamington drive

Westland Road should be able to receive signals from Either the Mendip Transmitter or the Oxford Transmitter.

Sadly their is No Real Solution to get Freeview Free of Charge without paying for Free Sat or Sky Television.

I know we all pay a Licence fee so that we can watch Television but if you look into the licence you are paying the fee because you have the capability of receiving television or Radio Signals not on the quality of the signal that you receive.

AND NO The Solution is NOT TO BULLDOZE THE FOLLY HILL

Scott Gildert

Sorry Name Supplied - 31/10/08

Sorry "name supplied" the new FTC website was not as a result of your urging. We have been planning this for some months as part of the project to improve our communications with the whole Town and organisations within the Town.

We need to improve and will do so. Watch out for the new newsletters and for chairs of committees talking to any groups that ask them to.

Also watch out for the article on how to become a councillor in the Folly this month.

If any organisation or group of residents wants to invite a chair of a committee (or councillor) to talk to them about how the council works and what it does please contact the Town Clerk at <mailto:www.june@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk> and she can arrange it.

Its nice to know that you are interested.
Alan Hickmore

Power to the People - 30/10/08

On 27th October I suggested we should spend our pennies on a decent website and today we have one. Please don't ruin my day by saying it is a coincidence. I particularly like the map. I hope Father Christmas pays the same notice to the letter I will be sending up the chimney.

Name Supplied

New Council website - 30/10/08

It's just been put live- have a look at <http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/> - not a .gov site now. Still more info to go on there(and council staff are awaiting training), but now minutes and agendas will be published in a more timely way.

Hooray
Gene Webb

Spooky evening in the Tower - 28/10/08

Background

Nov 5th 2010 will be the 75th Anniversary of the construction of the Folly Tower and we want to do something special to mark the event. For safety reasons we don't want to have a bonfire or fireworks and have decided instead to focus on a Halloween Evening. The idea came from one of our 'Friends of the Folly' who had tried lots of different formats for Halloween and the most exciting one by far was to take torches into the woodland in the dark. The children loved it!

So, in the build-up to 2010 we will start this year with our very first Folly Tower Halloween Evening.

This Year's Event.

The Belvedere Room at the top of the famous Faringdon Folly Tower will have a Halloween theme with lots of spooky music. We will also have lights shining from the top of the Tower onto the surrounding trees and the outside of the Tower will be illuminated. The view from the top of the Tower will be fantastic and of course, we also suggest that visitors bring a torch to explore the woodland in the dark!

It will be a bit spooky for the children - but not too spooky - and the parents should also have a fun evening.



HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

Climb the Tower at Night It will be SPOOKY!

Friday 31st October 6.00pm till 8.00pm Adults £1, Children 11-16 20p, Children under 11 free

For more information call 01367 241142 or enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

Faringdon Folly Tower Trust – registered Charity No: 284795
<http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/>

Npower - 30/10/08

Anyone else been cold called, in person, by an Npower representative? I was, last night, and was disgusted that he attempted to gain access to my property to check my 'supply numbers' which I initially understood to mean 'read your meters' ... until it dawned on me that I wasn't an Npower customer.

It left me wondering how many other people had misunderstood his spiel and allowed him access, only to be hard sold

Npower as an alternative energy provider. Npower should be ashamed of themselves using unethical and underhand selling techniques. They were exposed by The Sunday Times back in April and it looks like they're at it again.

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/utilities/article3690034.ece
I, for one, wish doorstep selling in this country were outlawed.

Mrs Angry

re: footbridge over the A420. - 29/10/08

As someone who regularly cycles from Faringdon to Shrivenham, a cycle route including a foot bridge would be very welcome.

At present, I have to go through the town centre and along Coxwell Road, which is quite difficult due to the number of cars parked on the road.

I appreciate I may be in the minority but would like to lend my support to this idea.

Name Supplied

Re Bollards - 28/10/08

Tony. Thank you for your 'response' to my recent post. Unfortunately you forgot to include the Cipher key.

Ivor

Fed up with bad dog owners - 28/10/08

I was walking my two dogs around wickelsham last week. When a large bridle dog attacked both of my dogs pick my terrier up and shook it.

I have spoke to the lady owner before and she claimed she was only playing. Since then I have spoken to too other dog owners who said the dog has attacked there dogs.

So if the lady who owns this this dog reads this forum please keep your dog under control on a lead before somebodys dog or child is attacked. As this was a very unpleasant for me and my dogs.
Name Supplied

More Bollards - 27/10/08

My suggestion is that we buy one of Swindons redundant speed cameras on e bay, fire it up to go off every ten minutes, (thats about how often someone uses the bus lane illegally) then use the photos as evidence to give them hefty fines, then hey presto, there will soon be enough money to dig it all up and put it back to its original state (you know, the days when you could park to nip into the bank).

Chris Higgs

Picture Gallery - 27/10/08

Thank you, Al for the Faringdon Flickr hint.
Fantastic!
Thanks again.
Name Supplied

What does go on in the Council Chambers? - 27/10/08

P.S may not know her "theres" from her "theirs" but perhaps her comments are intended to encourage more knowledgeable members of the community to comment on matters which should concern us.
It is obvious that most of us have no idea what goes on at Council Meetings and the little information we do get is usually provided by our Ed who is prepared to listen to what is being decided until the "Pas devant les enfants" rule is invoked when the Corn Exchange Lease is discussed.
Perhaps if we have money to spend a decent informative website should be top of the list.
The latest Planning and Highways minutes are dated 11th March and state "These are draft minutes yet to be approved by Committee"
Name Supplied

God and The FTC move in Mysterious Ways - 27/10/08

A bridge over the A420, a cable car from the Folly Tower and now a £450 grant for The Poetry Competition. What next? Whatever it is no one can complain that our council is afraid to support new ideas !

Rumour has it that from next summer The LA based Culturvultur Tour operators are planning to include Faringdon in there itinerary
It is to be hoped that the Council guarantees that they don't come on Tuesdays when the Market is in full swing and that they are not allowed to use coaches which are any longer than the Stretch Coaches favoured by our present bus providers

Phyllis Stein

RE Footbridge over A420 ...again - 26/10/08

Like other posters, I feel this would be a complete waste of council tax payers' money.

Would not the loot be far better spent on installing traffic lights in the town centre in place of the constantly abused "give way" sign outside Haine & Smith's which few motorists ever take any notice of ?

I have lost count of the number of times that cars ignoring this have forced myself and other motorists up onto the pavement to avoid collisions.

A permanent red traffic light would also be far more effective at stopping the countless rogue drivers who also ignore the sign denoting the bus only lane.

What does anyone else think ?

Name Supplied

Bollards - 26/10/08

Bollards stupid your not supposed to leapfrog them serves you right why dint you take a chainsaw with you ha ha lauhg you shoudnt breed if your that stupid anyway

Tony

Lost Freeview - 26/10/08

Has anyone else lost their freeview signal today ?

I was in the middle of watching a programme and it just went and now I can't get it back.

Just wondered if it was a local signal problem or with my reciever..

name supplied

Ed(GW) Mine is OK(at 1714)

Bollards to the lot of you! - 26/10/08

Those decorative lumps of wood may be to low to be seen by reversing van drivers but they are just the right height to do some serious damage to innocent drunks attempting to navigate their way from the Crown to the Kebab shop of a Friday night. Sue the Council for loss of fertility as well.

Ivor Soresack

Parking, Speeding, vandalism - 1929 - 26/10/2008

Have a look at [hy council minutes extracts.htm](#). These are notes that John Gillman has made from old Town Council minutes - going back to 1929

Still some of the same old subjects

Thanks John

Gene Webb

Finance Meeting, Faringdon Town Council - 26/10/08

Not much to report - I was asked to leave when the Corn Exchange lease was discussed - it seems the details are commercially sensitive.

SSSI land.

The builder Ede has been made aware of the approx. 3m encroachment of the gardens of house that back onto the path. It was mentioned that a piece of land above the SSSI may also be transfered to the town.

The ownership of the land has yet to be transfered to the Town Council. There was no mention of why it was taking so long.

The new **Town Council website** will be up and running at the end of October - or so the council have been told by the developer

FTC have money invested with the **bank of Ireland**, but NOT Iceland. This years precept has just been received(£120k) and will be put into the bank of Ireland., but all accounts are to be reviewed, given the economic

situation.

(It was mentioned that VWHDC hav £1m in Iceland, and Oxfordshire CC £5m)

£30k, the first tranche of 106 money from Bloor Homes, is imminent. there was no discussion as to what this would be spent on.

Faringdon Poetry competition has been awarded a grant of £450

Gene Webb

More trouble On The Buses, (excuse the pun) - 24/10/08

I saw a lovely silver transit van reversing into a wooden bollard in the market place due to a bus not being able to swing around to go up Marlborough Street

The van driver heading towards London Street had no choice but to reverse into the silly little bollard, which was obviously too low for him to see.

Sue the council for the damage to your van mate!!!

Chris Higgs

High Finance, Low Finance and A Bridge Too Far - 24/10/08

High Finance

I admit I know very little about looking after large sums of money. I know even less than the Government or the Financial Services Authority...probably. I understand that China is suffering from the Credit Crunch and now has only three trillion pounds in its Piggy Bank. I'm not sure what three trillion pounds looks like but it sounds like quite a lot. I understand that GB (does that stand for Gordon Brown or Great Britain ?) is going to borrow five billion pounds, maybe from China, to ensure that City Bigwigs still get their Bonuses but small shareholders, sadly, will have to lose their dividends. As there are more small shareholders than City Bigwigs I suppose that makes sense .or does it ?

Low Finance

I do know something about this

Throughout my working life I paid various taxes. Yes ! I know that if I had been rich enough I could have avoided most of these, but I wasn't, so I didn't.

Now as a pensioner I get money paid into my bank and the nice people at the bank transfer just under half to the equally Nice Council Tax People (NCTP). I assumed that the NCTP spent it on necessities like painting white lines round potholes. I must admit I hadn't realised they also put millions into Banks in Iceland (I had heard about Frozen Assets but didn't bother to find out what it meant)

Now I read, on this excellent website, that we may be getting a bridge across the A420.

I know that some time ago there was a proposal to build a Funicular Railway from the top of the Folly Tower to the Market Place as a Tourist Attraction but a bridge almost a mile from the Town Centre would not have the same appeal.

What is going on ?

Puzzled Pensioner

Dog Runner - 23/10/08

I take a run with dog which means crossing A420 fairly regularly and I never had any trouble crossing. I have more problems crossing the road locally in town mostly due to inconsiderate parking on pavements and cars exceeding the speed limit.

Foot bridge over the A420 seems extreme when money would be better spent on making sure parking and speed limits are enforced where more pedestrians are present.

Name Supplied

Re Buses getting stuck.- 23/10/08

Nothing to do with town planning, it's that ridiculous bus company Stagecoach who run the less than 3rd rate bus service that "services" Faringdon.

Obviously the idiot who does their planning didn't think about the difficulties that these bigger buses would face in small spaces in towns and villages! They don't need bigger buses to cram everyone onto, they need MORE buses! Everybody crams onto one bus because they know they can't get to work on time if they don't because there isn't another one that comes along at a sensible time to suit the rush hours.
Trish Reynolds

A Faringdon Rock Extravaganza - 23/10/08

Sat 29 November @ The Crown

What a way to end the festive Faringdon celebrations 3 of Faringdon's finest all for a £5.

The return of Zen Pigs, with support from Disclosure and The Lucky Generals.

Tickets soon to be available from The Crown or me. Enquiries fbpromotions@tiscali.co.uk

Faringdon Flickr is here already. - 23/10/08

In response to posting photographs of Faringdon and district, there's a group of over 40 photographers with local connections who have already posted well over 800 images to www.flickr.com/groups/faringdon
It's a wide and diverse range of images and people are free to join this group and post their own as well as comment on the pictures. (It requires opening a free yahoo account.)

Al Cane - (one of the Flickr 43)

Simon Sez - 23/10/08

Simon thinks a bridge across the A420 would not be the best way to spend some of our council tax but it seems it is being seriously considered.

So just for the record... I agree with him.
HGM

Bridge over A420 - not good value - 21/10/08

I don't think a bridge over the A420 is value for money.
What wrong with the good old green cross code,
Sure it is busy but really a footbridge seems too much for so little use.

If we need a footbridge over the A420 for dog walkers runners etc, then we must need a footbridge over park road for school children .

Just my thoughts
simon

Picture Gallery - 21/10/08

Do you think it would be nice to have a picture gallery here where anyone could add pictures from and around our lovely Faringdon?

I think it would be lovely to show people some interesting and creative snaps of the area.

Hope to see the gallery soon!

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) Good idea - but we don't have the know how or technology to allow people to upload pictures directly. Will look into it though. Is there a techy willing to help?

Faringdon Association of Residents - 21/10/08

Meeting Notes. 20/10/08

The council's strategy for Faringdon document is being finalised

Tesco- report from Nick Elwell(Chairman of Chamber of Commerce)

Tesco have bought JDS and some surrounding plots.

The chamber of commerce is working with Budgens against Tesco (or any big supermarket) coming into Faringdon.

There will be a questionnaire sent to every household, asking what they want in town, hopefully during November

A survey has indicated(*I'm not not sure where from*) that Budgens is about 8% more expensive than Sainsburies.

Budgens are considering spending c £3m to upgrade the shop

It is rumoured that Tesco have bought the Snooty Fox premises at Littleworth

Focus on Faringdon - a community interest company (CIC)- report by Nick Elwell

Working closely with Faringdon Area Project

Current projects(based on the updated Healthcheck Action Plan)

- cycle path to Shrivenham

- Performance venue in Park Road within 5 years(A site has been identified)

- Skate Park (near new cricket and rugby pitch)

Find out more about CICs from <http://www.cicregulator.gov.uk/faq.shtml>. Focus on Faringdon reference is 06536016

Reports from other meetings

FAR are trying to get the Traffic Advisory Committee to put a speed sensitive sign on Park Road. It seems this is not considered a priority. Such a sign, with installation would cost between £3k and £5k. A firm decision is expected by the end of October

Through JET, a survey of the All Saints Church yard tombs and monuments has been completed. The restoration work will commence when the ivy has been removed.

The war memorial boards will be taken down and cleaned and restored in time for Armistice day

Planning

- the (Red House) development on Coxwell road is to start

- access to the new development (ref 08/00778/OUT) on Fernham Road will be onto Coxwell Road

A new union flag now flies on the Pump House

Next meeting 19/1/09, Old Town Hall, 1930

Footbridge over A420 - 21/10/08

In response to Lynn Mander's comment about a foot-bridge, Focus on Faringdon CIC is planning to develop various cycle routes - including a bridge across the A420.

If anyone has an interest in helping drive this project forward please contact Jane Haynes or Nick Elwell on 01367241162

Want some books? - 20/10/08

Edward (& Mojo) are emigrating and I'm unable to take all my books.

So if you fancy a browse of science fiction, 2000AD, architecture and some technical books please pop round to 10 Walnut Court (off Bromsgrove) and have a browse.

tel: 07714 260713 email: ejpguerra@yahoo.com

Scratch Messiah - 18/10/08

Please can Hilary or Sam put out a message about rehearsal times/day and performance of the scratch Messiah.

I'm interested but don't have every evening free.

Joan

Ed(GW) Spoke to Sam today - they'll set a date when they know there are enough people interested - so do contact them 01367 243806

New book about Lord Berners - 17/10/08

Lord Berners: Composer, Writer, Painter by Peter Dickinson £25.00

Hardback 176 pages

Date of publication: 18/09/2008

Publisher: The Boydell Press

ISBN: 9781843833925

Noisy helicopter - 17/10/08

Can anyone shed some light on the reason behind the recent early morning flights of helicopters Over folly hill?
Much noiser than the local owl population.

Thanks

Name Supplied

Allotments - 16/10/08

As far as I know all the allotments are currently rented. Any allotmenters who hadn't cultivated their plots for a while were sent a letter earlier this year basically saying use it or lose it. (I was one of those who received such a letter, embarrassing since I'd helped instigate the suggestion).

In defence of the seemingly uncultivated plots, it is possibly the case that someone has taken over a plot that has not been cultivated for years, and it takes a long time to get it to a state where veggies can be grown. As was my case.

My plot is now in cultivation, although it had to be cleared of a lot of debris that the previous incumbent left behind, together with marestail, couch grass and self-seeded vegetables!

This has taken 18 months to achieve.

I've walked all over the site and can't find a "large" plot fitting the description of a dump. There are a few small sites where stuff can be dumped for collection.

Jane Boulton

Bridge over A420 - 16/10/08

In Faringdon Area Project's new Healthcheck Action Plan, there is a project to develop a cycle route from Faringdon to Shrivenham. This would include building a bridge to cross the A420 as mentioned in Lynn Manders recent posting.

Focus on Faringdon is currently working on this project and would like to talk to anyone who is interested in helping or finding out more.

Please contact Jane Haynes on 08456 580 510 or email jane.haynes@bordengate.com

Allotments: - 16/10/08

Yes, there does appear to be many allotments that aren't worked. Some it seems, have been unused for years.

Also, I've seen one large plot which isn't used for growing anything at all. Instead it appears to be a 'tip' for somebodys gardening business and all that seems to happen is that large amounts of garden waste gets dumped there.

Surely not what the land was intended for. This person should be using the Stanford tip and the allotment should be for growing vegetables.

Name Supplied

Re: Allotments. - 15/10/08

There are two sources of allotments at the Canada Lane site. One is the Town Council and the other is the National Trust. The sites are next to each other.

The best contact would be Christina Field who took over from her late husband as secretary of the Allotment Association.

Her plot is the one where the main access turns and has a sign on her shed re the association.

In addition, the Willes Close Triangle is about to be turned into new allotments and will (I hope) shorten the waiting lists.

Jane Boulton (Chairman of Recreation & Open Spaces Committee) Town Councillor
Ed(GW) I've heard it said that there are a number of allotments that are not being worked. Is there a plan to move these to people on the waiting list who will work on them

50s/60s Household items wanted - 15/10/08

I am from Abingdon and Witney College Performing arts and we are doing a show in December, which requires a number of 1950/60's style household items

As well as small side tables and cupboards I am also looking for Oven & hob combo (4rings small) - Gas or electric and a Gas fire.

If you know of anyone with one being chucked out or could suggest somewhere let me know on 01235216449 (9-5 mon - friday)

Tom

At last something that is free. - 15/10/08

Just a quick note to let everyone know that the park and ride parking fee is now free.

This started on the 1st of October 2008.

Julie Farmer

Ed(GW) I guess you mean in Oxford Julie?

Re: fabric oddments - 14/10/08

Thanks for the replies. I've found a home for these.

Rachel

Volunteers wanted - Coleshill Community Shop - 14/10/08

Coleshill Community shop opens from 10.30 until 1630, weekdays.

Maybe you are willing to spend some of your time to help man the shop. It could be a couple of hours on a regular basis, or to cover holidays and sickness.

It's a great shop - super home made and organic foods, great(fairtrade) coffee

Call 01793 763618, or 01793 764637 to find out more

Faringdon Dramatic Society presents CANDLEFORD. - 14/10/08

Adapted by Keith Dewhurst from Flora Thompson's trilogy "Lark Rise to Candleford"

Thurs 6th Nov, Fri 7th Nov, Sat 8th Nov, Faringdon Junior School, Gloucester Street, Faringdon. Curtain 7.30pm.

Tickets £7.00 of £5.00 for Concessions available from The Nut Tree, Cornmarket, Faringdon.

<http://www.faringdramatic.org.uk/>

Affiliated to NODA

Pedestrian footbridge needed - 13/10/08

Is there anybody else that wonders, like me, why there is not a pedestrian foot bridge from the Faringdon side of the bypass over to Wicklesham?

As a runner I take the risk of crossing the bypass to enjoy running the footpaths on the Wicklesham side.

"More fool her" I hear some of you say, but on my runs I see Faringdon families mountain biking, Faringdon ladies walking and Faringdon dog owners, dog walking, who have had to take the same risk to enjoy the footpaths in beautiful countryside.

I'm sure many more people would do the same if there was a safe way of getting across the bypass!!

Anyone who knows who to contact with regard to this please reply.

Lynn Mander

Fabric oddments - 13/10/08

I have a bag of fabric oddments that would be ideal for someone who 'makes crafty things'.

Is there anyone out there who can make use of them?

Please contact me on rachelehopper@btinternet.com

re: buses getting stuck. - 13/10/08

This seems to be happening a lot but I am not sure that it is fair to blame the planners - it is happening because there is a new kind of bigger/longer bus.

I am told by 2 people I know who commute to Oxford on the bus that they have been gradually getting more crowded over the past 6 months which may be to do with the cost of petrol/cost of owning a car etc - and they are pleased that the buses are bigger because sometimes people were having to stand all the way to Oxford (50 minutes in the rush hour).

Perhaps the new buses are also easier to get on to for those with pushchairs or disabilities.

But presumably the bus company didn't check to see if they could get their buses round the corners of the market place in Faringdon.

I feel rather sorry for the bus drivers, as the problem seems to be caused by people in cars coming through the centre of town and not foreseeing what's about to happen when they try and whizz through the narrows as a bus is coming round the corner from the market square.

Hey-ho.

Name Supplied

October 16th - 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the World Food and Agriculture Organisation. - 13/10/08

To celebrate this event charities and schools all over the country during the coming week will be holding events to bring the country's attention to this incredibly important UN organisation.

What are we doing in Faringdon?

On Friday 17th October 7.30pm African Children's Fund and The Porridge Club are holding an evening of GOOD

FOOD, TALK, GOOD MUSIC and DANCING in the Corn Exchange
After supper, speaker will be Bill Rennells of BBC Radio Oxford
Tickets are £10 and available from the African Children's Fund Shop and from the Community and Tourist Information Centre both of which are in the Market Place.
Everybody will be made very welcome, please if possible buy your tickets asap.
Alison Moore

Christmas Cards from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centres - 11/10/08

We have opened our Charity Christmas card shop selling cards from more than 25 National charities. Cards for Good Causes sell cards across the country.

The shop within the Community and Tourist Information Centre is one of a national network of shops. Over the last five years the charities have received £20 million from Cards for Good Causes for their Christmas cards sales.

Because Cards for Good Causes keeps its operating costs to an absolute minimum, charities receive at least 79p in every pound from their cards sales from which they have to pay for production, distribution and any applicable VAT.

The shop is open from 9.30am to 2pm Monday to Saturday.

Look out for the red triangular Santa sign!

This year we will also be having a local card, entered taken by a local man in response to a competition, supporting The Folly Trust and The Family Centre. Available in packs of 6 and singly.

Bus stuck again - 10/10/08

Just seen (for the second day running) a bus stuck trying to get into cornmarket from Market Place. Day before yesterday the bus waited ten minutes - I was on it - before it could negotiate round that corner. I suppose that Stagecoach will simply stop the buses coming round to the Market Place at all, and send them up Station road instead.

Thankyou town/traffic planners, for your inept town centre design.

I wonder if local authorities will ever consider practicality and common sense before dogma and theory.

Name Supplied

Suggestions for shoeboxes - 10/10/08

Ideally a shoebox should contain items from each category regardless of the age of the child.

Clothing - hat, mittens/gloves, scarf, socks

Stationery - paper, pencils, crayons, felt tip or gel pens, rubber, sharpener, pencil case

Stimulating games and toys -ball, Frisbee, bat and ball, dominoes, ludo, jacks, mouth organ, recorder, hand or finger puppet, Snap or similar card game (NOT playing cards), yoyo

Cuddly toy - teddy, TV or Disney character, toy animal

Hygiene items - toothbrush and paste, wrapped soap, flannel or sponge, brush, comb, sponge bag

Sweets - wrapped sweets (at least March of next year sell-by date and NOT chocolate)

Miscellaneous items - photo of yourself and greeting card

Girls 2-4 - small bag, ribbons, hair bobbles or slides, skipping rope, doll with clothes, simple puzzle, picture book

Boys 2-4 - truck, car, farm animals, tractor, simple puzzle, picture book

Girls 5-9 - anything sparkly, craft kit, stickers, purse, small bag, jewellery, hair things

Boys 5-9 -sunglasses, "red nose", anything to do with football, badges, Lego kit, finger skateboard, spinning top,

Girls 10-14 - anything pretty or sparkly, make up, nail varnish, geometry set, calculator, diary, jewellery, hair things,

craft kit, sewing kit, stickers, purse, tights, notepaper/pad

Boys 10-14 -gent's tie, large hankies (bandana), kit bag, sunglasses, "red nose", small cars, torch, anything to do with football -stickers, badges or cards, key ring, juggling balls

Leaflets are available from the library, Mustard Seed, Dawn's, G and G butchers, The Really Useful Shop, the dry cleaners and the United Church.

Ann Jerome

Scratch Messiah - 10/10/08

Any people interested in performing? Performance in December.
please contact Hilary or Sam on 01367 243806.

<http://www.maddfaringdon.co.uk/>

I told you so ! - 10/10/08

During my life I was vilified because of my assertion that Homo Sapiens had Simian ancestors.
Surely the existence of throwbacks like Tony proves my theory beyond doubt
Charles R Darwin (Deceased)

Allotment wanted - 10/10/08

Many years ago, I had the pleasure of having an allotment situated next to Canada Lane. Sadly, due to work commitments, I was unable to maintain it and had to let it go. I am in a position now to be able to work one again and friends of mine have expressed an interest in joining me, the motivation being great fresh produce, keeping an element of fitness as well as the social aspect.

Having walked around the many sites recently, my wife and I saw that many had not been worked on at all and were obviously totally unused. So, with that in mind we felt that we would have no problem in getting one in the near future. This is proving to be not the case.

We can go via the Allotment Association or the Town Council (we have been told). Apparently there is a waiting list until next year.

When I suggested that there were many sites left untendered, I was curtly told that this was not the case at all, therefore my plea is for anybody who has one available in the near future to contact me via this site
Ray Hunt



Woodland maintenance on the Folly - 9/10/08 Advanced Notice of Woodland Maintenance

In the next few weeks we will be carrying out maintenance work on the trees which is essential for safety reasons, This will also help to preserve the woodland (and the Tower) for the use and enjoyment of the general public - in particular the inhabitants for Faringdon and surrounding villages.

The work will consist of

- removing some dead-wood from trees close to the footpaths
- thinning out trees to prevent overcrowding and to establish specimen trees for the future
- felling dead trees - and where possible leaving trunks standing for wild life and insects
- constructing woodpiles to encourage wildlife

We hope this work will not interfere with your enjoyment of the woodland. If you have any queries or comments please call 01367 241142 or email enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

We would also like to hear from you if you are interested in learning more about becoming a Friend of the Folly Tower

Many thanks
Faringdon Folly Tower Trust - registered Charity No: 284795
<http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/>

Poetry etc - 9/10/08

Quite right, Tony.
Next year I shall abandon my attempt to promote poetry, and will start offering basic literacy classes instead.
Hilary Taylor.

National Poetry Day - Today - 9/10/08

Just heard it on Radio 4

Grovelling Apology - 9/10/08

If the post from Tony is in response to my invitation for posters to join the poetry debate I must apologise to all normal TP readers.
However I don't think anyone could be really as stupid as he appears to be so I can only assume he is joking.
P.S.

Poetry Competition - 09/10/08

Poetry's rubbish. There are enough poncy around here we don't need it.

Tony

Poetry ? ? ? - 8/10/08

I am prepared to read poetry with an open mind, as instructed by Name Supplied, but I don't feel I should also have to approach it with an open dictionary.
Until HGM rather patronisingly told me what a Pantoum was I not only didn't know but I hadn't even heard of it. (And I suspect he only found out by Googling)
What Name Supplied may find even more disturbing is the fact that I am not even ashamed to admit my ignorance.
How do other posters feel?
Phyllis Stein

Mocking poetry - 7/10/08

Phyllis Stein mocks poetry forms and poetry, but what shows through is how scared she is of something that she doesn't understand, or try to understand.
Forget the tosh about velvet cloaks Hilary, the poets are just people - go and read some poetry instead, with an open mind this time
Name Supplied

Ref Shoe Box Appeal - 7/10/08

Great idea to have pre-wrapped boxes and starter items. However - please could you post up some more information about the Shoe Box Appeal - what kind of items are suitable to put in the boxes, etc.

Then everyone will know what to bring. Thanks!

Name Supplied

Party entertainment wanted - 6/10/08

Do you know of anyone who may be interesting in enteraining at group of 12 girls (10 years old) at a Birthday Party on Saturday 6 December (am) in the Corn Exchange.

They are too old for a magician but I thought maybe trying to arrange a line dance/country dance or drama person to entertain them for 1 hour.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

cfmlacey@aol.com

Phyllis Stein is aptly named.- 6/10/08

The poetry forms she so readily mocks are known to most of us but not every one may be able to give a quick definition. It's a bit like trying to describe a spiral staircase without using your hands. So for those few who are still just a little vague about the exact meanings here is a reminder;

Pantoum. A form of verse in which the second and fourth lines of each four-line verse are repeated as the first and third lines of the following verse.

Sestina A poem of six six-line stanzas and a three-line envoy, with the last words of the first six lines repeated, in different order, at the ends of the other lines.

Sonnet A verse form consisting of 14 lines with a fixed rhyme scheme.

Villanelle. A 19-line poem of fixed form consisting of five tercets and a final quatrain on two rhymes, with the first and third lines of the first tercet repeated alternately as a refrain closing the succeeding stanzas and joined as the final couplet of the quatrain.

Now can we get back to the more important things like Yellow lines and dirty pavements

But I do agree Hilary did a good job

HGM

Can Openers for Kosovo - 5/10/08

Thank you very, very much to everyone who has paid for can openers over the past couple of weeks.

It's not too late to buy one/some. They are available to buy to send to Kosovo for just 55p in the Cook Shop in London Street but only until the end of the day on Wednesday 8 October not Friday as I had previously stated as the lorries will be leaving on Thursday.

Many thanks

Sarah Oliver

Poetry Competition - 5/10/08

The organisation of the poetry competition, the sheer tedium of reading over 500 entries not to mention (which I am doing) the costs involved are all ,as far as I am aware down to Hilary Taylor. Yet she thanks the participants. Just to restore the balance.

Thank you Hil for all your efforts. You have probably put Faringdon on the Global Poets Map and we can expect an influx of people with velvet berets and long cloaks

I have read about 20 of the published list so far and am confident that somewhere among the others I will find a few I can appreciate, for as we are told. " The poems selected this year demonstrate an impressively wide range of technical expertise, and a really satisfying sense of how form can bring content into fresh focus."

I am not proud of the fact that I don't know my pantoums and sonnets from my villanelles and sestinas but even I know it must have taken a great deal of sweat and worry, or whatever is the poetic equivalent, to generate such a far reaching enthusiastic response

So once again

GOOD SHOW HIL
Phyllis Stein

Poetry Competition - 04/-9/08

See the results of the Faringdon Online Poetry Competition [here](#). There are links to all the winning poems. Thanks to all of you who took part and supported the competition. There were over 500 entries this year. There will be a poetry event in November, date to be arranged, but details will be on the website in due course

Hilary Taylor

Double yellows for Swan Lane, Faringdon - 2/10/08

A Press Release from Oxfordshire County Council

Double yellow lines are to be installed on Swan Lane in Faringdon in the vicinity of the recently constructed Granary Mews and Dove Court development in the town. Swan Lane has a narrow carriageway and parking in the lane hinders the passage of vehicles - a particular problem for the emergency services.

Consultation took place from June 26 to July 25 with those whose properties front on to the part of road that will now have double yellow lines installed.

The Vale of White Horse District Council and Thames Valley Police were also consulted and had no objection to the plan.

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "Given the presence of new housing development in this area I have no doubt that it is a common sense safety move to install double yellow lines on this part of Swan Lane."

Shoe Box Appeal - 1/10/08

Two Mondays 13th and 20th October, the appeal are offering a ready wrapped shoebox and a starter item at the United Church

Talk on her trip to Belarus by Ann Jerome on 14th October in the United Church Hall

Coffee Morning in the Corn Exchange, 1/11/08

Wanted for Giant Jumble Sale - 1/10/08

Books, toys, bric a brac, good clothes, raffle prizes in aid of Parkinsons Disease and Riding for the disabled
Tel: 01367 241753 or 240130

Great Festive Faringdon - 30/11/08

Congratulations to Denise Palmer and Dawn Pulker of Faringdon Retail Group for organising a really successful "Festive Faringdon" last Saturday.
Thanks to their hard work and dedication Faringdon's annual Christmas celebration gets better and better every year!
Jayne Haynes

Unsightly billboard - 28/11/08

There is a new business park scheduled for that land but the scaffolding seems to be for huge billboards advertising the new Bloor Homes development further along Park Road (well, the entrance to this development is very understated and would be very easy to miss wouldn't it?!).

The signs are an absolute eyesore and I can't understand how Bloor Homes have had permission to put them there when that field is not part of their development.
Perhaps anything goes as far as planning is concerned in Faringdon?.....
Name Supplied

Ref the 4 and 20 business park - 28/11/08

I have read the the info very good website, but one thing struck me the site and owners claim that we need a 1000 jobs in faringdon.
But in the census out of just short of 5000 16 to 64 year olds only 0.09% where unemployed.
In my rough sums about 50 .
So where does the owner get that faringdon needs another 1000 jobs.

Having said that in the current climate we may do .
Regards simon

Re: Whats going on at the field by esso - 28/11/08

It's a new business park see <http://www.4-and-20.co.uk/vision.html>

Rachel

The garage - one more thing - 27/11/08

i just wanted to say one more thing to the lady/man who had to beg for petrol while on the way to emergency room.

i am absolutly shocked that they didnt try to help in anyway, and for the way they were rude and i do hope you complained about the individuals in question to managment, please beleive we wernt and some arnt all that bad.
:) hope child is feeling better
Laura

Bashing the garage - 27/11/08

i just wanted to say well done chris for speaking up against the bashing the garage has been getting.

as another ex-employee it was sometimes hard to keep smiling through out the day when most people coming in were rude and moaning, but the majority of us were up beat at 6am so next time you go in maybe a little smile and hello could help. most people there work VERY hard and it is not fair to as the 'budgens employee' stated lump them all together.

Laura

The problems with the buses - 27/11/08

.....are largely caused by the number of cars which park illegally & completely unnecessarily in the market square (outside of the marked bays - yes, that includes you, driver of the silver people carrier which stopped RIGHT across the end of the slip road, blocking both 2/3 of the bus lane AND creating a pinch point on the road up to the church!), or which ignore the priority signs on each end of the traffic calmed bit & then have to awkwardly squeeze past each other, OR which drive up the buses only lane.

On the rare occasions when none of the above are an issue, the buses turn out with no problems at all. After years of running VERY tired old buses on the 66 route, it must be a bit frustrating for the bus company when they upgrade the buses on this service to be met only by complaints about something which is outside of their control and which would not be an issue if people a) obeyed the traffic rules and b) showed some basic courtesy.

And person ally, I LIKE the new(hardly!) layout in the market square! It makes for a far better social space for the arts festival, Festive Faringdon & all sorts of other happenings in the town through the year.

Name Supplied

Whats going on at the field by esso. - 27/11/08

The two large scaffold towers what are they for, and do they have planning permission

I cant find any history of planning permission . ??????????????

Name Supplied

Don't forget that this Saturday at The Crown - 27/11/08

After the excitement of festive faringdon there is a night of home grown music.

Doors at 7.30 with The Lucky Generals, Disclosure and Zen Pigs/ Hypermused guaranteeing an entertaining night
Hamish Millar

Nice One Tony. - 26/11/08

I enjoy your input and you have now established your reputation as an illiterate rabble rouser with the only spell checker which converts correct spelling to rubbish. But, as your comments usually make sense, how about dispensing with the pseudo stupid stuff and just send in your postings like the rest of us.

They will still be valued for what they are worth.

C.Darwin

busses - 25/11/08

the busses are too big to get round the stupid pavd bit in the middle they woud have to go on the rwong side of the road if they went the other way then the cars coming past the cemist have nowere to go and they suposed to get priroty then htere wuld be truble when they change things they never think it out the cars are bloking up london street always because they have nowere to park in the middle now theyshoud of left it but they are all stupid and the bits in the road areall coming to peices now and we payed for it if iwasy mayer i woud not of stod for it you can lauf but it is you council are stupid to let it hapen and get away withit
tony

Festive Faringdon - 25/11/08

Its that time of year again this weekend on Saturday 29th November we will be switching on the christmas lights between 4.30pm and 5.00pm, depends when Santa can get there!!

Lots happening from crafts to BBQ and this year Altitude 24 climbing wall, fairground rides and Fox FM are attending, all kicks off at 1pm finishing just after fair.

Please come down and see us

fun for all!!

Denise Palmer

Lots of helpful staff - 24/11/08

I would like to reply to the person criticising the staff in Budgens for rudeness etc. I will confess that some of the staff have not gone to etiquette school, but the rudeness can work both ways, to paraphrase another poster on here.

I too work in Budgens, and I try my best to be polite, courteous and helpful. If a member of staff comes up and talks to me while I am serving a customer, I tell them to wait until I am finished, and I don't rush the customer. Each customer I serve gets the same amount of attention.

I am not alone in this - many of us in Budgens are polite and will do our very best to help customers. All I'd say is - please don't lump us all in together. And, yes, I am signing off anonymously to avoid reprisals.

Bet you can't guess who I am next time you are in the shop - there will be too many of us to choose from!

A helpful shop assistant

Name Supplied

Buses - 23/11/08

Is there any logical reason why the buses cannot drive past the slip road on the left, turn left into Market Place, then left into the slip road?

Would this cure the problem of the right turn out of Market Place?

Jill Deane

Foiled Again! - 23/11/08

As soon as I had finished my coffee I was going to suggest that any staff who have to deal with the more than often surly public might respond to a friendly approach but Chris has done it for me so I'll not bother.

I'll have another cup of coffee instead.

But I take issue with his (or is it her) criticism of withholding names. Without anonymity this site would be about as interesting as the average Church, or Town Council, Notice Board.

Name supplied

Responder Van... 23/11/08

Just want to thank everyone who has made a donation towards our new responder van. Yet again, the generosity of local people and organisations has been overwhelming and the team is grateful to everyone.

The vehicle is in its' final stages of being fitted out and will soon be operational in the area. We're planning to formally 'launch' it at a buffet lunch in January.

Godfrey Smith Team Co-ordinator Faringdon Community Responders

It works both ways - 22/11/08

Why is it that all of you that are criticising the Esso garage are withholding your names????

Having worked there, I know how easy it was to just go into automatic pilot mode, however, when I go in for petrol now, I usually find a cheery "Hello, how are you?" from me guarantees eye contact and a friendly reply..... these things work both ways!!!!

As for the lack of staff, thats down to the guys running the company...you know, the ones making all the profit.
Chris Higgs

Poetry prize giving - 22/11/08

Thirty plus people enjoyed the poetry evening on Friday at the Pump House. The winning poems were read and an open mike session followed

This 3rd year of the competition had more than 500 entries from local people and from all over the world
Another success for Faringdon.

[Read the winning poems](#) and look out for a piece in the Folly, and details of how you can buy the 2008 poetry book- a snip at £6

Gene Webb

Plain rude - 22/11/08

Never mind the lack of smiles from Budgens, the checkout staff are just plain rude by not waiting for the customer who has paid to pack their shopping away. Instead they just start putting through the next customer thereby intermingling the 2 customers shopping.

This sort of thing will lose them custom should a major supermarket chain come to Faringdon as at least the Tesco/Sainsburys/Asda staff will have had some customer service training instead of just being shown how to use a till by one of the other 16 year olds!
Name Supplied

Disgruntled response - 21/11/08

During the time of the ridiculous petrol prices a few months back (not that they are that great now) I made a point of filling up at Sainsbury's Stratton or the Esso garage on the A420 on my way to or from work, simply because Faringdon is always appx 2p more. Tight ? yes I suppose so, but needs must. I've not gone back.
Will it threaten the existence of the Esso station in Faringdon ? I doubt it, but I personally wouldn't miss it that much.

I have had a few experiences of rudeness at the garage but I'm generally immune to this behaviour as you get it everywhere these days.
I'm more surprised when someone's nice and even make a point of remarking on it to my wife when it happens. Isn't that sad.

For the record, my most recent experience of rudeness at the garage was when I bought some sweets for appx £1.50. I handed a tenner over and was asked if I had anything smaller, I apologised that I had not. I think the lady behind the counter must have had hearing difficulties and can only imagine my response had sounded like "No that's all I've got, and by the way, I hope you and all your immediate family die in a freak potato peeling accident" such was the disgruntled response I received.

What's that I hear ? the sound of sleigh bells and Budgens repeatedly running out of bread over the Christmas period. Ah, I've gone all gooey!

Name Supplied

Tony for Mare. - 20/11/08

I second the motion to support Tony. His contribution to town planning and advice to Stagecoach is invaluable to us all.

Perhaps he would consider recommending more frequent smaller busses or maybe a Faringdon flyover? Or perhaps knocking down the eyesore that is the market cross/ old town hall, moving that awful outdoor market stall selling good value fruit and veg with a cheery smile and converting the town centre into a giant car park served by a Tesco metro with regular free bullet train service to the out of town megamarket.

Sir Castic

No people skills - 20/11/08

Having read the talking point about the petrol station and its lack of staff training even eye contact. This is also a problem in budgens.

Staff are rude throw your shopping after scanning, many never make eye contact. They chat at high tone to each other across the room about their last nights outing. they have no people skills what so ever. When they are stacking shelves always at busy times customers have to move around them.

I and many have stopped doing weekly shopping at budgens as you cant push a trolley around in comfort its a battle most of the time.
Name Supplied

Re Esso - 19/11/08

From what I hear its a scheduled shut down to update the price board, and send off data to HQ to say if the tanks need filling up, how much money is made etc etc.

I personally have never had any problems other than being told off for playing with the pin machine when it was taking ages.

One thing I do have to question is why at rush periods is there only 1 petrol person and 1 coffee person, but when no one seems to be about there are 3-4 of them working
Name Supplied

Tony for mayor! - 19/11/08

The comments have been boring as hell for about a year now (...ever since we were banned for giving false names and being allowed to remain annonyous to the editors!) but every time I see a post from Tony, the clouds lift, the sun shines and I chuckle my little heart out.

Sometimes I even agree with him, if I can make it out what he's saying.

Please can we elect him as a town representative? - that would liven up council meetings

Name Supplied

ED(GW) no bans in place!!

Re. Esso (Acorn) Service Station - 18/11/08

Is there any reason why the Esso Service Station in Faringdon is so appalling? Other than the fact it has a monopoly in this town, of course.

Firstly is their 'scheduled'(!) closure between 9.45pm & 10pm every evening. This is not seemingly advertised anywhere, and it often seems to be a lot longer than the stated 15 minute closure (one that you are only told about once you have driven up to a pump and got out of your car - and then told over the tannoy that they are not open). It seems a rather odd time of night to be closed. Even when I had an extremely sick baby in the car and was on my way

to the emergency out of hours doctor, I had to rap on the door several times for them to even listen to me, and I then had to literally BEG for petrol (for a completely empty tank) in floods of tears?!

Secondly, is their staff's complete absence of customer service skills. As a result of the issue above, I made a comment about the timing of the closure, and was met with rudeness. I have also encountered hostility, anger and complete indifference on the majority of visits to this petrol station. My husband has also encountered rudeness and lack of any respect on several occasions. Even eye contact is an apparent problem - there is none, even when you thank the staff for change! There seem to be a few key staff who are the worst perpetrators, but it does seem to be a 'culture' rather than someone having an 'off day'.

Why am I writing to Talking Points rather than Esso? I have tried complaining to senior staff and suggested staff training, and was met with a similar complete lack of interest. And the staff attitude has in no way improved, and if anything has got worse.

I apologise to those members of Acorn staff who DO do their job properly and courteously, but you seem to be in a significant minority. Please, even though you are the only petrol station in Faringdon, there are others around, and we can choose to not give you business. And you might want to choose an alternative method of shutting your pumps - cones, perhaps, plus a notice saying when you might consider MAYBE reopening - rather than a curt and discourteous message over the tannoy.

Some customer service training won't go amiss, either - plus some judicious 'staff turnover' in favour of people who actually want and are TRAINED for a job in a public service industry.

Meanwhile I will continue to give Sainsburys and BP my custom instead, and would urge others to do the same.
Name Supplied

The Buses - 18/11/08

The busses like to show there boss so they drive everyone else off the roads but its not there falt its the stupid roads in the middle of the town no body nows were there supposed to go or stop and now theres now places to park in the middle any more dint they now its just a stupid way to make the roads why dint they think of it before and now its a mess and it will be an accident. soon

Tony

Bigvoiceoxfordshire - new website for young people - 17/11/08

Children and young people involved in a new website aimed at empowerment through informing them of their rights were at Oxford's County Hall on Friday for its official launch.

Big Voice Oxfordshire (www.bigvoiceoxfordshire.com) is a source of information for people up to the age of 21 which also contains details about views and voices of children and young people across Oxfordshire and about how they can be more of a part in improving the services they use in the county.

Tesco. - 16/11/08

Cant wait for them to come to this sleepy backwater.

Budgens isnt the greatest place to shop, when it was Carter's it was a lot better. could be the shot in the arm this town needs.

Dont see the Oxford County Council or the Vale doing much for the town.

Let them in I say.

Colin

Test Success for Faringdon Skaters - 15/11/08

Georgina Howe passed her Inter Bronze, Bronze and Inter-Silver free skating tests. This qualifies her for the Competition held in Faringdon on 30th May.

Hollie Fidler passed her Inter-Bronze and Bronze figures.
Ben Timbrell passed Inter Bronze Figures and Free and his Bronze free.
William and Oliver Timbrell passed grade 6
Kate and Rebecca passed grades 3 and 4

All our skaters passed without any re-skates and should be congratulated.
Skaters still have many tests to take before Christmas to ensure they all qualify for next years Championships.
Dee England

What have I missed - 14/11/08

Cinderford and Lydney are about 50 miles from Faringdon and I can't understand what their problems with Tesco have to do with us.
Just in case I am missing something very obvious I have no intention of advertising my ignorance by signing this.
Name Supplied

Buses in Faringdon - 14/11/08

I am a resident of Faringdon and have been for 28 years. This afternoon (14/11/08) I was driving through town to park in the Market square when I was forced off the road by a Stagecoach bus. I was through the narrow part of the road and past the chemist to turn into the Market Place when the 66 bus decided to just pull out of the junction. He could clearly see that I had nowhere to go but he still carried on reagarlessly forcing me to reverse.
I had a car behind me and nowhere to go but he kept coming and was threatening to hit my car, fearing for damage to my car, I reversed with him forcing me on to the pavement. He had no intention of stopping. Not only was this embarrassing but dangerous as pedestrians were on the pavement.

I know for a fact that I am not the only one this has happened to.
I appreciate that Stagecoach are providing a service for the community and I think that the bus service provided is very helpful but all I ask is for some considerat ion to other motorists on the road.
Name supplied

Special Offer - 13/11/08

Tickets for 'The Amazing Thing' puppet show to be held in **The Corn Exchange Sunday 16th November at 3pm** are available from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre at 2 tickets for the price of 1!

The show is part of the Live and Local programme and is brought to Faringdon with the support of Faringdon Town Council. Details available at www.liveandlocal.org.uk

Planner slams Tesco store plans - 14/11/08

A planning boss fears a new supermarket scheme for the Forest of Dean could force smaller shops out of business. Tesco wants to build a new branch at Cinderford's rugby ground, close to the town centre. But Terry Glastonbury, chairman of the district council's planning committee, said the move would hurt the town's smaller retailers. A spokesman for Tesco said the new store would help revitalise the town by bringing shoppers to the centre. Mr Glastonbury has had to declare an interest, which means he cannot take part in planning debates about the scheme, but he said he felt strongly about the issue. 'Increase vitality'

He said his decision to speak out was based on the experience of his home town, Lydney, which acquired a Tesco in 2001. "Since Tesco came to Lydney, we've lost the greengrocer, we've lost two bakeries, we've lost a wet fish shop and two butchers and I don't want to see it happen in Cinderford," he said.

Cinderford Rugby Club said the scheme was vital to its plans to relocate to larger premises at nearby St White's Farm.
Commercial manager Matt Bayliss said: "We're doing extremely well at the moment, we're in the top 42 clubs in the country, doing better than we could even dream of at the moment. "There are so many kids up there who want to play

rugby and that's our next generation of people coming through, so we really do need to move so some of those kids can play on their own ground."

Felix Gummer, from Tesco, said: "Over 50% of expenditure is going out of Cinderford. "People are feeling their retail needs aren't being met in the town. "What we need to do is bring people into the centre, we want to increase the vitality of the town."

Name Supplied

Bus shelter for sale - 13/11/08

In good condition, almost new.

Situated on Coxwell Road at the end of Fernham Road. Ready to take away in one piece.

Get the number from the estate agents boards on either side of the shelter.

I know things are getting bad, but this is just plain silly. If you can't sell houses, sell the street furniture instead.
The Weather Prophet

Missing dog Judy - 12/11/08

**Black Labrador, Female 7 years, Collar, ID tag, Microchipped, Spayed
Missing from Birdlip (GL4 Gloucester/Chelt) Sept 2008
Call 07831 664616. Reward**

10 weeks on and we still have not had any luck in finding Judy.

As Judy has a microchip then she is easily identified by a scan by a vet or dog warden so there is still hope that sometime she will turn up.

If you want to keep an eye on how things are going you can log on to her page on **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** ref 14917.

Thanks loads for your help!
Harriet

Piano Stool wanted - 10/11/08

Has anyone got one to donate or for sale?

Needed for the beautifully refurbished Roman Catholic Church Hall- a super venue for concerts/musical events

Gene Webb
genewebb@nildram.co.uk

Missing Brown Bin - 10/11/08

Did someone in Highworth Road lose a brown bin last Wednesday?

There was one left outside my house till late Thursday, when my son brought it in mistakenly thinking it was ours.

Katrina Campbell

Customer Information - 10/11/08

This is just to let my customers old and new know that my new telephone number is 01793 824619. the mobile number, 07768016804 remains the same.

the new email address is james222h@btinternet.com.

Jim Horton

Roadworks - 7/11/08

Talking to a man working on the Gravel Walk site on Friday morning, he claimed 'illness' was the reason no-one had worked on the gas pipe mains for several days. (What, everyone!)

He said that the already laid pipework would be filled in today (Friday) before moving onto the next section going down to the Lechlade Road/ Gloucester St roundabout and they would expect to be there another three to four weeks.

Sounds like fun!
The Invisible Man

friday 7th Nov - 6/11/08

your chance to experience the "intriguing five piece all female band The Rogue Dolls". at the Corn Exchange, Faringdon.

Support by A/C, doors open 7-30pm, entrance £3.

Faringdon Dramatic Society announces this year's pantomime - BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.- 6/11/08

AUDITIONS next TUESDAY 11th November in the United Church Hall, Faringdon. 7 p.m. onwards for Children, 8 p.m. onwards for Adults.

Rehearsals up to Christmas will be in the United Church Hall at the times above, thereafter in the Junior School Hall.

Sing Faringdon - Starts Thursday 6th- 15/10/08

For anyone and everyone who would like to sing, just because they enjoy singing

Start **Thursday 6th November** until December 11th.

Hall of Faringdon Roman Catholic Church (entrance from Southampton St car park), from 6.45pm - 8pm. £2 per session.

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- just come- all are welcome.

New singers always welcome at any time

We just aim to have 'a jolly good sing' singing well known modern and traditional songs

Please contact me if you're interested

Gene Webb
genewebb@nildram.co.uk
01367 242222

Please be Patient David and Trish - 5/11/08

200,000,000 years ago this whole area was under the sea depositing vast areas of gravel under what is now most of the country. Very early maps named major roads according to their destinations but the minor ones were often named after local dignitaries or geographical features.

The gravel which lies under Gravel Walk gave it its name but it was not of any interest until about two weeks ago when a small bone was unearthed. This was proved conclusively to be from a Stauricasaurus of the Triassic period or a pork chop from Budgens and until this matter has been resolved there will be no further work carried out.

The Ministry of Transport regrets the disruption this discovery has caused.

Name Supplied

A420 bridge - 4/11/08

So where would it go, the top of the town near old stanford road for access by the new estate or near the quarry for the middle part the the town park road etc or the top of the town near fernham road ,whichever I cant see the walkers of dogs etc walking though the town to cross near oriel cottages ,and vice versa I would not walk from park road upto fernham road just to use a footbridge.

Are we all becoming so inpatient that we cant wait for a safe gap to appear that we need a footbridge . I walk my dogs over there twice a day at peak traffic times . safe gaps come fact you all just have to be a bit more patient ,instead of wasting cash that could be used on more constructive things in the town.

Like street cleaning, the cost of this bridge 80 grand maybe more could fund many projects to work with young kids in the town etc.

Regards simon

Roadworks in Gravel Walk - 4/11/08

I'm sure i can't be the only one who is sick and tired of the temporary traffic lights in Gravel walk? If the work is essential enough that it is thought disruption to traffic is justified, isn't it essential that it is completed asap! I haven't seen a single bit of work going on behind those barriers for well over a week, has some strange alien craft beamed up all the workmen while no one was looking!

Does anyone know anything about this work, how long it is supposed to take, why no one is working on it by any chance?

It is causing problems with traffic and i'm sure the residents whose houses it's outside must be extremely fed up with it!

Trish Reynolds

Roadworks Gravel Walk - 4/11/08

The roadworks along Gravel Walk have been in place for two weeks but I have not seen any work being done on them for over a week!

Does anyone have any information or know where I can out?

David Reynolds

Re: Footbridge over the A420 - 4/11/08

I too would like to lend my support to the proposed A420 Footbridge project. I am a regular crosser of this road both by bike and with my dog and have noticed that it is becoming increasingly busy. Heavy trucks are directed from Swindon and Oxford to take alternative routes including the A34. However, presumably on the advice of the ubiquitous SATNAV, this advice is frequently ignored resulting in "very slow moving traffic on an already busy route" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A420_road).

A footbridge would negate the requirement to stand by the side of the road on an unprotected verge, sometimes in the dark waiting to cross. From January 09 I will be commuting daily to Shrivenham by bicycle and would welcome a safer route to work and an alternative to the bus in the interest of a healthier/greener lifestyle.

Please don't let us wait until someone is killed before we implement this project.

Harriet Hebblethwaite

Merry Winterlight Festival. Don't miss it - 4/11/08

Oxford at 5pm on November 28th will be the place to be for it is then that the Oxford Town Mayor, Susanna Pressel, will open Bonn Square which will be surfaced in sandstone giving it a unified and uncluttered look and, as an even greater crowd puller, the lights will have come on for the start of the WinterLight Festival.

Take your children along so they can gaze with shining eyes at the 25metre high mobile of lanterns in the shape of the Solar System.

They may ask awkward questions about Father Christmas but you can assure them that the Christmas lights will be switched on at the same time but there won't be a ceremony as this might offend what used to be "The Ethnic Minority" and the Council will still send out cards with the word "Christmas " printed on them though not necessarily to your kids

Let's hope the FTC, with all due respect for the beliefs of the non Christians, will stick with the old fashioned Christmas Lights and Tree (no matter who dares to take on the thankless task of providing them)

Name Supplied

Reply to name supplied - 3/11/08

We do

The Town Clerk and her excellent team then implement it.

Visit a Council meeting or a committee meeting and find out how it works.

Alan Hickmore

The 15 minute club is back on Sunday and its back to its best. - 3/11/08

Last night a hardy audience of 30odd people enjoyed music from a number of acts including, Both Feet Forward, Dave Reynolds, Steve Wright, Trev Williams and a lady called Malvina. Highlights of the night have to be Trev and Malvina who had everyone up and dancing at the end of the evening. There are a couple of short clips on my flickr account <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jpgsawyer/sets/72157608622447094/>

It was a good night and I am looking forward to the next on on the first Sunday of December.

Why not come along and join in the fun.

John Sawyer.

Night of Miracles - 3/11/08

A cantata by John Peterson.

Practices at All Saints Church on Wednesdays 7 - 8 or 8 30 if you can stay that long.

Ability to sight read an advantage.

More tenors and basses needed especially.

Performances on Friday 5th December in Bampton (on tour!!) Sunday 7th at The United Church and Sunday 14th at All Saints

NPower visit. - 3/11/08

I was also visited by the 'rep' from NPower.

He asked me for my meter number, which I refused telling him that NPower was not my supplier, and NOT likely to be.

Nigel Wilkinson

Councillor 'work' - 3/11/08

A question to councillors - if the only extra work is to attend a monthly meeting, who does the real work- sorting things out, making plans, investigations

Name Supplied

More spookiness!! - 2/11/08

The Folly Tower was visited by over 200 people on 31st - lots dressed for Halloween - some great photos on www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/

Spooky lights, music, weird character
Maybe you can find a picture of you

Friends of Faringdon welcome anyone who is interested in the Folly and the Woodland to become a friend. If you would like to become a friend, and receive an occasional newsletter please email enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk or Tel: 01367 241142
Lots of pictures and information about the Folly on www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

HOW SPOOKED AM I..... 2/22/08

Official or not ?
But are they sure it was the Ghost of BRIAN De Soulis. ???
Are they sure it was the Ghost of EDWARD Hyde. ??

AND NOT THE GHOST OF, BRIAN EDWARD STANTON ??? (our Dad.)

his ASHES are scattered up the folly. ???
Gary Stanton

So no Power to the People then!- 1/11/08

Mr Hickmore has shattered my illusion that my input resulted in the formation of our website. So be it. But please Mr H. don't also disillusion me about the value of sending a letter to Father Christmas. I am still recovering from the realisation that the FTC aided by the VWHDC could probably run this country better than the present Government!
Name Supplied

Update to Alan Hickmore's post. - 1/11/08

Having read the Folly the article is good as far as it goes, however, questions we're asked haven't been addressed. You do not have to belong to a political party, and even if you do, you can stand as an independent councillor. The only extra work is to turn up to the monthly meetings (and any committees you join). You might occasionally be required to produce a report especially if it is within your expertise. If you become chair of a committee an interest in that committee is advisable.

You absolutely do not have to be middle/upper class, male, retired and politically minded (tongue-in-cheek).

Just have a passion about our town, we all live here, we don't all agree but at least we care.
Jane Boulton (Town Councillor)

Paranormal Society visits The Folly - 1/11/08

Well that's it! - It's official!

I'm pleased to announce that we definitely have Folly Ghosts! Robert, 1st Earl of Gloucester - who built a castle on the hill in 1145 - but it all went wrong for him and he died of a fever on 31st October 1147. (861st anniversary on our Halloween night!)

One of the group greeted me as she arrived with, "Is there a Brian Here?" This turns out to be Brian De Soulis was in command at the castle during the 1147 siege

Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon was also present. He was a major figure in the Civil War and I hope we hear more from him during their next visit.

We also need to hear more about the "object or a person may have fallen inside the tower" and the "dark figure seen outside the Tower"

All of this plus, "dragging sound in the Tower", "footsteps in the clearing", "someone lurking nearby" and "feeling that there were people carefully staying out of the torchlight".

What more could we ask for? - I can't wait till the next visit.

See more about other sites at [Thames Valley Paranormal - Ghost hunt investigations](#) in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and beyond
Eddie Williams

Friends of Faringdon welcome anyone who is interested in the Folly and the Woodland to become a friend.

If you would like to become a friend, and receive an occasional newsletter please email

enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk or Tel: 01367 241142

Lots of pictures and information about the Folly on www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

MORE SPIRIT OF XMAS - 31/12/08

I approve of and support virtually any move to retain a decent town centre in Faringdon. But I don't count trying to "book" shoppers on Xmas Eve as one of these.

I would have thought that anyone who did get a ticket then would have been put off from shopping in Faringdon for life.

Certainly free, uncomplicated parking at Sainsburys is the main reason that I tend to do my grocery shopping there rather than Faringdon. It would be interesting to know just how many other people feel the same way.
name supplied

Town Council Agenda - 31/12/08

[Planning and Highways Committee Meeting](#) *this is a word .document*

The above agenda has been posted out today. The meeting is due to take place in the Corn Exchange and will start at 7.00 pm (slightly earlier than the usual committee time of 7.15pm). This is in order that agenda items up to and including No. 10 can be dealt with by the committee before invited representatives from local major organizations arrive for the discussion due to take place under agenda item No. 11.

This is anticipated to be at approximately 7.30 pm. Of course, everyone is welcome to attend from 7.00 pm if they wish.

All the very best for 2009!

FTC

Ideas for development. - 31/12/08

Unfortunately Jane had it slightly wrong when she wrote that the County Council had some innovative ideas for retail development.

The planning authority that is producing a "Local Development Framework" to guide development over the next 20 years, is the Vale of White Horse District Council.

The draft consultation document is published on their web site, follow the links to "Your Vale Your Future". The ideas that Jane mentions are briefly touched on in this document. The LDF will be the subject of public consultation from 12th January until the end of February.

Your District Councillors who may have more knowledge of this are: Roger Cox Alison Thomson Matthew Barber.

Their contact details can be found on the same site.

Incidentally, there is a 30 minute free parking period in the market place already.

Alan Hickmore FTC Chair of Planning

Battle of the Supermarket - 29/12/08

I wonder if we'd all be so uppity about a new supermarket if it had been Waitrose....just a thought....but there, a 'rose' by other name I suppose.....

name supplied

Spirit Of Christmas - 29/12/08

I think Peter may have missed another purpose of the warden - this would be so that there was a free flow of parking spaces so that everyone could do their Christmas shopping - after all, if they could not park in town, they may have gone to Tesco....

name supplied

Vote for/against Tesco. - 29/12/08

Please vote, the more views the better.

But if the County Council has some innovative ideas why are they keeping them to themselves!! Why don't they stop thinking about them and try to introduce some of them.....how about 30 minute max parking for starters in the town centre?

Charlie Harman

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS - 27/12/08

I am sure I was not the only person to notice that the powers that control Budgen's car park were joining in fully with the spirit of Christmas by sending out a warden on Xmas Eve to book vehicles without a ticket or with an expired one. I do not blame the warden for this Scrooge-like piece of mean mindedness - he was only following the orders, no doubt, and probably getting paid some overtime too.

Was it really necessary to send him out, though and will the money collected as a result be put to a really useful cause, like paying to book the illegal parkers in Coxwell Street, for instance ? I doubt it on both counts.

Peter Hawkins

Vote for/against Tesco - 27/12/08

Please take a minute to log on to <http://www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk/> where you can vote on whether or not a TESCO store of some 25,000 square feet, sited along Park Road, would be a good thing – or a bad thing.

The members of Faringdon Chamber of Commerce have met on several occasions to discuss this topic and have also met with a representative from Tesco. We have taken the stance that a new supermarket in Faringdon would be a bad thing for several reasons, some of which are noted below:

We all pay UK tax but we are not convinced that a fair proportion of Tesco profits reaches the Government's coffers.

We are concerned that most of the revenue taken by a store in Faringdon would end up in London or overseas: offering little or no financial benefit to the local economy.

We believe that Tesco are not really committed to sourcing local products and we have little evidence that, when they do, they treat their suppliers equitably.

We appreciate that shopping in Supermarkets is "easy". However, we have Supermarkets in Highworth, Swindon, Wantage, Witney, Carterton, Oxford, most of whom deliver and some of whom accept orders on line and/or by phone. We would like to retain the current town centre as the shopping centre in Faringdon. (The County Council has some innovative ideas in this direction). We also think that the shops in Faringdon should offer a specialist, enjoyable and unique shopping experience and not try to compete with the major retail shopping centres.

Contrary to popular opinion, we do not believe that a Tesco store in Faringdon would offer the same prices as the Tesco Superstore in Swindon. (Check out the prices of the Tesco in Grove)

We believe that the traffic increase generated by a new store (if successful) would substantially and unavoidably affect the quality of life for those who live and work in the town.

However, we respect, absolutely, the right of those who live and/or work in the town to make a choice so would ask that you visit www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk and vote. We will then be sure that any action we take or stance that we adopt accurately reflects the preferences of the community.

If you would like to become further involved with the Chamber of Commerce, The retail Group, Faringdon Area Project, Focus on Faringdon, The Residents Association, please contact Jane Haynes:

Jane.Haynes@bordengate.com

Mystery Christmas Card - 24/12/08

Can anyone link Hilary (No not that Hilary) with Rob and Heidi, Richard and Zoe, Sue and Martin. If so I have a card and some very nice wedding photos looking for a home.

HGM

To the poets on Talking Points - 24/12/08

Thank you for your poems. I'm not as literarily (to coin a new word) gifted as you both, but your funny poems always make me smile. Happy Christmas to you gents, and to everyone.

Fiona Merrick

Another Christmas Greeting - 24/12/08

Merry Christmas everyone
keep sending us your words
your ranting raving messages
on parking and dog turds.

mery cristmass tony yor inglish is a treet for thos of us hwo ponder on busses in the streat

and greetings too to Peter White
provider of the star
our badge of eccentricity
to guide us from afar.

To arty -farty festivals
and poncy poetry
and all the folks who make things work
and put them on for free

and to our brave Town Council
whose voice is sometimes heard
e'en to our district councillors
...who never say a word...

For the new year if we could
we'd grant your wishes, too
a multi storey car park
and an absence of dog poo

but as we're just old biddies
without the wizardry
we'll just say *Merry Christmas*
from
GW and HT

Re Computer virus- HELP!! - 24/12/08

Glad you have got rid of the virus infection, but do remember that your anti-virus or internet security is update with the latest virus definitions.

Also, you should the offline spyware detector software called SPYBOT R&D.

The link to download is.... <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/download/index.html>. Install it, update it and run it. It should pick up any spyware and trojans. It will pick up tracking cookies installed on the PC when you are surfing the internet. Run the software and see what it scans. Any problems, please contact me (Bharesh) on the emailed supplied and I will email you with a guide to install and run Spybot R&D.;

Bharesh Mandalia

<http://www.faringdon.org/contact@thehappycomputercompany.co.uk>

Merry Christmas - 24/12/08

Merry Christmas Everyone

Christmas is a-coming.
To The Herald Angels Hark
But Santa may pass Faringdon.
He says "Where would I Park ?"

Nevertheless

Happy Christmas and a (hopefully) Prosperous New Year to the Eds and all contributors, even those who may, on the odd occasion, disagree with me
HGM

Residential Parking Please - 23/12/08

I live in Coxwell St. It wasn't built with cars in mind. At this time of the year there are more than the usual number of customers for the Getagrip (hairdresser) and Saffron (Indian Restaurant). Coming home from work is a nightmare. I've had to park in Gloucester St to be able to park legally, probably much to the local residents annoyance.

The last parking ticket I got was when I was desperate for the loo and parked outside for less than 5 mins. I could have left my boot open (indicating that I was unloading) which is legal, but is an invitation to thieves. So what do we do? I know from past experience that if I park in Coxwell Rd my car will be vandalised (not enough to claim on the insurance, but enough to ensure I can't get to work in the winter).

Most people there have drives and the vandals know this and target cars on the side of the road. The parking fine is a lot cheaper. I vote for residential parking.
name supplied

Coxwell Street Parking. - 22/12/08

Came down the road at 1545 and counted 7 vehicles illegally parked. Some had been there since this morning when I noticed them and 2 were parked on the pavement. Where are Blunketts bobbies to sort this out.

The comment regarding the buses in the Market Place and give room is good and also good news is that the Rainbow Chippy is opening again.
Thats Christmas Dinner sorted!
Colin

More photos on this website - 22/12/08

More photos of the town taken between 2004 and 2008, on [hy mapsandphotos.htm](#) and very recent ones on the Village pages ([ylvillage1.htm](#))

If there is anyone from the surrounding villages who would like to add to the information about their village, please get in touch
Gene Webb

Gravel Walk roadworks - explanation from Oxfordshire County - 22/12/08

"There was a catalogue of woe however. The contractor employed two gangs at the outset of this job one of which left to work for another company in the first week, they could not be replaced at short notice. The remaining gang lost their main man to illness for one week just three weeks into the job, which put the whole gang out of action for a week.

The next problem was an engineering difficulty in the guise of a huge concrete block in the line of the trench. Then there was the good old English weather!
What more need I say, except I do not envy those guys who are earning their bread putting Gas mains into our roads.

The current situation is.

The job is on hold till after the Christmas break, all equipment removed and road fully open, and is due to restart in the new year.

I do not have a start date confirmed for the restart but I think it is going to be Jan 12th"

Here's a thought... - 22/12/08

if you are driving into Market Place from any direction and see a bus leaving from the stop outside the Old Crown, or waiting to turn into Cornmarket, consider the advisability of waiting until it has passed through the section of road where it has right of way before attempting to squeeze into the same space.

The new buses are large vehicles. Give them room to negotiate the space available and no one needs suffer damage to their vehicle.

Name Supplied

Txt msge. - 18/12/08

i hvnt been on hr fr a lg tm, nc 2 c tht we cn nw txt our cmmnts 2 u. u a dfntly mvng wid th tms ldies, L8ters.
Jim Horton

re: Accident in the square - 18/12/08

Merry Christmas 'Name Supplied' (one of the most entertaining things about this site is trying to work out just who each anonymous poster is...some harder than others I might suggest?!)

You just made my day with your post...all I can say is Hear Hear!

Mind you, there was nearly an accident at my PC today because I didn't take a long enough breath before reading that post! ;-)

Three cheers for Talking Points - Thanks Hils and Gene for another great year!

Name Supplied

Re grumpy Grandad - 18/12/08

As a relative newcomer to Faringdon i feel i have to say that you guys have some of the nicest teenagers i have ever seen.

Yesterday a large menacing looking group were blocking my path and they all moved and said sorry!

This is one example of many.

See if that happens in Swindon.

Its the dog owning adults here that bug me-it seems they are the arrogant ones! They certainly seem not to have heard of Dog waste bins.

Must be too posh to pick up poo.

Name Supplied

Coxwell Street. - 18/12/08

Went up Coxwell Street this morning just after 0800 and counted 5 cars parked where the restriction is from 1800-0800.

May only be a few minutes but that then becomes a quarter hour and so on.

Made getting up the road a right pain as it is usually busy then so a lot of weaving involved.

Perhaps the "local" constabulary could make an effort to be there at 0800 to see the problem.

And the Bus Lane problem in the Market Place still exists.

Wonder why I pay the Poll Tax.

Colin

African Children's fund - 18/12/08

Thank you to everybody who bought a copy of our Christmas Quiz.
The winner was Shirley Gerring who is very delighted to be receiving a Christmas Hamper.
The quiz raised £123.00 for the Charity as this is the 1st year we have done it
I think that is great Watch out for the next one.
Alison Moore

Re Accident in the square- 18/12/08

I heard that a bus forced a vehicle to drive onto the paved area by the town hall, but even then managed to hit the vehicle, trapping the driver. Apparently there was about a metre of space the other side of the bus
I was told that 2 fire engines, an ambulance, 4 First responders turned up, and maybe an air ambulance.
The ambulance arrived after about 40 minutes
Nobody was hurt
Local community police turned up when it was nearly all over- it was said that that they didn't hear about it - had only just started their shift.

Name Supplied

SILVANITO @ the Corn Exchange - 18/12/08

Sat night 20Dec FREE entry.
Their christmas single is tipped to be number 1 for Christmas.www.myspace.com/silvanitoband.
On the Same bill for the night is "Citizan Cane" and a great set by A/C.
Come along, enjoy, christmas starts here.
Sam Prince

Accident in the square - 18/12/08

i saw there was an acident this morning when I was in the market place and it was the busses again this time a car got crunched it is so obvius that the road is to narrow by the cemist and the paving is to wide and nobody nows what they hav to do and the fire engin was there it is alright tosay that the new paving looks pretty and it is nice to use it for the art festival but the art festival is only three days and the space has always been there the same since the bildings were bilt and the road is clod anyway for the festival so what diference does it make the diference is to the parking and the trafic which is all worse off becasue the planers are so stupid they look on there computers and see pretty pictures and they dont think what realy hapens it is easy to say it isnt the planers falt but whos is it then didnt they no that it woud cause problem or is it just that no one cares abot faringdon i suppose they just say give the job to the trainees to practice on who cares a bout us when the old rdc was here it was beter becase concelers lived here and they caerd but now they dont so who gives a toss if I was mayer iwoud make a fuss abut the roads and what they done we payd for it and now weal pay forever
Tony

To Grumpy Grandad - 17/12/08

I'm sorry sir, I have to disagree with you. I don't think the younger generation are considering themselves too cool to say thank you.
My husband is a Scout leader in Faringdon, and each year the Scouts come to one of the leaders' houses to have a fun night of DVDs and food. This year it was our turn.
It went well and at the end of the night, each one of them remembered to say thank you as they left - not one of them was prompted. They all took their lead from each other.
These are boys aged between 10 and 14, (the ones who traditionally get bad press) and I think their parents can be proud of them.

Fiona Merrick

Re Computer virus- HELP!! - 17/12/08

Thank you Raoul, I found the instructions and all appears to be well!
Previously I had done all that was required *except* to turn off sytem restore, when the problem persisted.
What a total waste of time all this malware causes, UGH!

gratefully, name supplied.

Re Computer virus- HELP!! - 16/12/08

I had a quick look on the web and found this write up of how to fix it.
<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20081114105828AAc2EBp>

If you are not comfortable with doing this your self. I will be more than happy to assist. I run my own Computer Support company here in Faringdon.

For contact details and prices, have a look at my website: <http://www.guidne-it.com/>
Raoul van Eijndhoven

Computer virus- HELP!! - 16/12/08

Does anyone know about a computer virus called gadcom? I appear to have got it yesterday, and since then have had many viruses appear.

Avg appears to remove infected files, but they/others come back again. I can find nothing about it on the web
I've no idea what to do next
Name Supplied

Merry Christmas Everyone - 16/12/08

Once again Peter White has provided a welcome addition to the Faringdon Christmas Decorations with his/our Folly Star . As usual Gene has become the voice of the people by saying Thank You.
Last week my wife and I gave our annual Christmas Party for our Grand Children. It cost us about one month's state pension but it was worth every penny.

I have just one minor niggle.

There is no sign so far of a "Thank you for my presents" or a "Thank you for having me " and if previous years are anything to go by there never will be.

This is because the Younger Generation, which in my case includes a very large part of the population, no longer feel that such platitudes are cool.

So, at the risk of being "Un cool"...

Gene and Hilary, Thank you for providing this very enjoyable Website, and Peter White, Thank You for providing our Star.

Grumpy Grandpa

Mulled wine in the Corn Exchange 26/12 - 16/12/08

As part of the mummers play comming to Faringdon on 26th Dec. M.A.D.D. is pleased to announce that the Corn Exchange will be open from 9am. mulled wine, mince pies, somewhere warm and if it rains the play will be performed in the hall.

There may be a sing around.

Sam Prince

Lights and babychanging - it's VWHDC - 15/12/08

The Council responsible for both the problems that name supplied had - Gloucester St Car park and the baby

changing problem - is the Vale of White Horse District Council.
You should try there - good luck!!
Alan Hickmore

More complaining about our lovely town yet again.... - 15/12/08

1. Gloucester Street Carpark (top end by the dentist) all the street lights are out, this is very dark and scary at night with children, plus you cannot see to get in your car!
2. Lack of baby changing facilities (fold down table) in the mens loos in Southampton Street (Budgens)men's. My husband had to use the back of our car to change our daughter's nappy on Saturday in the cold and the ladies are a disgrace too, no hot water, no working dryer or paper towels, no locks on doors. I have lived in Farindgon all my life and am very embarrssed by it. Not only is this a pay and display carpark, the Oxfordshire County Council Tax is high in this area and it should be spent on these facilities for the good of the town.

By the way I have complained to the County Council today, I shall hold my breath though.....
Name Supplied

More success for Faringdon Skaters - 15/12/08

Winter Solo Dance Championships Faringdon skaters

Ben Timbrell Hollie Fidler and Sophie lewis took a bronze medal in the Trio event of the above championships. Skaters only had 3hrs training over this passed month to prepare for event due to figure and free tests to qualify for next years championships.

Georgina Howe Oliver Timbrell and Richard Whitlock took 5th place.
Faringdon Skaters were up against the best Dance Clubs in GB.
We do dance for fun!!!! how good would we be if we took it seriously!!!
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
Dee England

Coxwell Street Parking. - 14/12/08

Could have sworn that in the Highway code it states that pavements are for people to walk along. Why on Sunday morning were so many cars parked partly on the pavement? And again in the same are why were so many cars parked on the double yellows.
Pity the Wardens or for a change the Police werent about to write some tickets.
How will they cope when Swan Lane gets its yellow lines.
Colin

It IS a star - 14/12/08

Now on the Folly tower until at least Sunday 18th January, when there will be a special opening of the tower 4pm - 8pm
For those of you who don't already know, Peter White has illuminated the tower since the Millennium - all his inspiration and effort, all as a gift to the town

Thanks so much Peter - we love it
Gene Webb

Place to give coins and stamps? - 13/12/08

Does anyone know somewhere locally I can give away foreign coins and used Stamps?
Many thanks
Name Supplied

Waiting for the Star - 12/12/08

I too wait with eagerness to see what Peter is going to put on top of the Folly.
All I hope is that Tesco's don't get there first with one of their illuminated signs!
Gof Smith

Oliver Postgate visiting Faringdon - 11/12/08

But during World War II, Oliver Postgate was a farm labourer in Kidlington, so it's likely he came to visit his brother in Faringdon.
Paul Cornell

Oliver Postgate a previous Faringdonian? - 10/12/08

A little dicky bird told me a while ago that the great Oliver Postgate who sadly died a few days ago used to live in Faringdon.
Was anyone else aware of this or can anyone confirm this to be true??
Neil
Ed(HT) It wasn't Oliver, but his brother Richmond Postgate who used to live in Faringdon.

Why - 9/12/08

Did somebody take a bag of clothes that had been donated to the charity shop in the market place, which had been donated to help African children find a better life, and throw the contents into a tree at the Southampton Street carpark.

Could this be the same idiot that emptied the dog bin in Pitts Park?
Why?
Alan Hickmore

Why? - 9/12/08

Somebody has emptied the dog dump bin all over the park at the Berners Way end of Pitts park.
Why? It seems to me that somebody has no interest in our Town. It must have been a disgusting thing to do - as it was a disgusting thing to clear up.
This person needs treatment!!
Alan Hickmore

Waiting for the star - 9/12/08

I too am waiting patiently for the Folly Star (or whatever magical creation it is to be this year)- it may sound daft but as well as the beacon guiding me home , it fair lifts the spirits on the dark December nights travelling home on the A420. When I catch sight of it shining brightly through the darkness I know I will soon be home.

Am I alone in feeling daft like that or are there others out there?
Hurry up Peter, your public awaits!
Name Supplied

Faringdon Singers Christmas Concert - This Sunday 14th December 3pm - 9/12/08

In our hectic preparations for Christmas, the Sunday afternoon Faringdon Singers Christmas Concert has become a firm favourite for many people. Peaceful, unhurried, family friendly, inclusive - thoroughly enjoyable and uplifting! Carols for Choir & Audience. Old favourites as well as a few of the more eclectic ones.

The Concert is this coming Sunday (14th Dec) at 3pm.

Come in from the cold into the lovely warm newly refurbished Blessed Hugh Catholic Church in Marlborough St (come in the front or round the back - whichever you prefer) - with mince pies and hot Christmas Punch afterwards in the Hall.

There's no charge - just a retiring collection for the Faringdon Family Centre.
DO COME - and DO please spread the word to friends & family!

Courses at Faringdon Community College from January 2009. - 8/12/08

DIY, German, Batik, Glass engraving, computing, furniture restoration ++
[See flyer for full program, times, dates, costs](#)

That Sinking Feeling - 8/12/08

Have you ever had that sinking feeling when your computer stops computing (I don't want to sound too technical) ? If you haven't you are lucky but one day you may and there are two things you should do and I speak from recent bitter experience.

First of all feel free to panic it's nothing to be ashamed of. And secondly phone Raoul on 01367-244397 at QuidneIT He will turn up at exactly the time arranged

If you ask him nicely he will explain what QuidneIT means

If pressed he will accept a coffee with milk and sugar

But most importantly he will bring his years of experience to your aid

If you are cynically wondering if I have a financial stake in Quid-thingy the answer is NO.

HGM

Folly Star - 8/12/08

Does anyone know if we are getting the Christmas Star on top of the Folly this year?

I work in Oxford and look forward to see the star 'guiding me home'

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) The tower will be lit - no one knows(except Peter White) what it will be. Keep looking, it will soon be there

Fish and Chips - 8/12/08

Yes I am missing the Rainbow as the Chippy up by the Peug Garage isnt what it use to be.

The other fast food outlets do chips but not Fish and pea fritters.

Hope it opens soon

Colin

Fiddler on the roof - 8/12/08

The highlight of last week for me was the Production of Fiddler On The Roof @ the F.C.C.

As well as many outstanding individual performances, was the vitality and enthusisam that came across from all members of the cast. A moving and emotive show.

My congratulations to all who obviously worked many hours with dedication to produce this difficult and demanding

show.
Sam Prince

Temp accommodation for a Polish student? - 8/12/08

I would like to arrange a homestay for my son to improve his English skills.
I need to find people who are ready to give him an accommodation and possibilities of learning every day from 19 to 31 of January 2009.
He is 17 and he has been learning English in his school in Poland for five years so I hope his skills are not very weak.
I am a military student in Shrivenham so the area of Faringdon seems the best option for us.
May I ask for a help.
Thank you in advance
Robert GLAB
robertglab@op.pl

Buy books in Faringdon - 8/12/08

A quick word to those ordering books for Christmas:
why not buy locally at the White Horse Bookshop, across the road from Budgens?
David has one big advantage over Amazon: he can usually have your books there the day after you order them!
So you're not limited to what's in the window.

Paul Cornell

Desperate for Fish and Chips - 7/12/08

Does anyone know what is happening to the Rainbow Fish & Chip shop in London Road.
I am desperate for decent fish and chips and I am losing weight rapidly!!!
When will they re-open?
Can anyone suggest a local alternative before I fade away?
Name Supplied

Ed(GW) Top of Marlborough St- not used it for a while, but it's always busy

More Success for Faringdon Skaters - 7/12/08

Hollie Fidler passed her Inter-Silver Figures and Inter bronze free
Ben Timbrell passed his Inter-Silver Free and Bronze Figures
Georgina Howe passed her Inter bronze Figures
Oliver and William Timbrell passed both Elementary and perlim free skating tests.

All skaters performed to a high standard and congratulations to them all for their dedication to skating.
Our success is bringing skaters from other clubs in the Vale to Faringdon we have 7 new skaters all wanting to be part of Faringdon Artistic skating club.
Dee England

Another lost cat? - 5/12/08

Have you lost a pale ginger male neutered cat which has attached itself to a house in Highworth Road?
If you have please contact 01367 240685.

Lost cat - 5/12/08

Betsy is a small white, grey, peach coloured cat (calico tortoiseshell)

Holds her tail curled up over her body in a very distinctive way.
Never really leaves the garden so is very unusual for her not to be around.
Is very much missed since Dec 1st
Please contact me if you have seen her 01367 240782

Does anyone have a photo of the Eagle Inn? - 5/12/08

Wonderful to see the old photos of Faringdon recently posted on the website.
We have just moved to The Old Eagle (formerly The Eagle Inn on Coxwell Street) and would be grateful if anybody has any photos (external or internal) or can share any history or memories that they have.

We are hoping to build a 'history of the house' book.
If anybody has any idea how old the house actually is, that would really be of interest.
Thank you!
Helen Barter

Budgens refit - 5/12/08

Have just been told that Budgens shop is to be refitted after Christmas
Name Supplied

Grants available from ORCC - 5/12/08

Oxford Rural Community Council (ORCC) have been appointed to manage funds from Seeda(South Eastern Development agency) under a Rural Access to services program(RASP)
The funds will be used to provide grants for projects meeting the aims of the programme.
Grants will normally be up to £20,000 but larger amounts may be available.

RASP aims to look to develop new ways of connecting rural residents with services such as education, employment, health, shopping and leisure.
This can be by locating services in suitable local premises, extending existing service centres or establishing viable transport links to existing centres.
Download more details from [our press releases page](#)

Faringdon getting some shopping development? - 5/12/08

It was said on last nights BBC Oxford news that Faringdon was getting some shopping development through VWHDC. No details - but it was said that there would be a public consultation in January

I've found this on the VWHDC website 'Town centre: The area around Budgens store and Southampton Street car park could be redeveloped to provide more shopping floorspace and better car parking.'
There's also a link to a proposals map on http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning/ldf_preferred_options_consultation/detailpage4-4350.asp
Looks as if its a Budgens related development
Gene Webb

Faringdon photos - from 1978 - 4/12/08

John and Julia Strevens have kindly given me their photos of Faringdon, taken over the past 30 years.
It's a real trip down memory lane- many reminders of the shops and business premises that Faringdon use to have.

And they're all (well nearly all of them) available to see on this website. Just choose the maps and photos link on the Home page or the Faringdon Photos link above.
Thanks John and Julia
Gene Webb

African Childrens Fund Quiz - 3/12/08

[Download the Quiz sheet](#)(pdf 834kb)

Deadline is 13th December 2008. Entry £1

Please return your completed answer book to: African Children's Fund, 10 Market Place, Faringdon SN7 7HL (01367 244480)

Gravel Walk roadworks - 3/12/08

Have spoken to the Highways Agency about the roadworks in Gravel Walk this morning. The contractors are due to complete works temporarily on Friday 5 December. However, will start again on the 12 January!

They then have up to 3 weeks to complete the works.

They are fitting a new gas main and have come up against some engineering difficulties and also staffing problems.

Hope this helps!

Sue

Fantastic Singing teenagers - 2/12/08

As I walked through the town centre this afternoon I noticed that there were a dozen teenagers under the Old Town Hall. They were not causing trouble or damage they were singing!

They sounded fantastic as they promoted their up and coming musical at Faringdon Community College.

Hats off to these proactive youngsters who are a credit to the college and the town! I will certainly be checking out the musical this weekend.

Name Supplied

FTC Strategy for Faringdon - 2/12/08

Following consultation with local organisations, Town Council has recently approved a Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026 which has now been submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council to help with its spatial planning. The final document followed a discussion at an Extraordinary Ciuncil meeting to which interested parties were invited. ([Read the minutes](#))

Download the final documents

[Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026 \(pdf 121kb\)](#)

[Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026 \(Appendix \(i\) Consultation Returns\)](#) (tif 491kb)

[Development Strategy for Faringdon 2008-2026 \(Appendix \(ii\) - Statistics\)](#) (pdf 49kb)

Festive Faringdon - 2/12/08

Denise and Dawn

Well done on Festive Faringdon.

Yet again a great event for everyone. Its great what a group of kind hearted volunteers can do for the community.

Julie Farmer

Focus on Faringdon Questionnaire - 2/12/08

My wife has completed the questionnaire but I wanted to add my own view

Despite having lived in Faringdon for more years than most Faringdon inhabitants have lived anywhere I make little use of the shops. My pet hate is the Parking situation of course. But I don't take advantage of some of the many excellent outlets because I don't do much DIY, I don't want any new Curtains and so far have no desire for a Piano,

Grand or otherwise.

(I wonder, did Gene ever get her's)

Unfortunately I do occasionally use our local Minimart and I want to make it clear that I have no complaints about the attitude of the staff. I load my purchases into my reusable bag, pay the bill and take my goodies home.

And that is when the proverbial hits the fan.

My wife asks why I have not bought a few of the items on the list and my explanation that "They didn't have it" is no excuse

She also often finds fault with the little piece of paper which also finishes up in my bag which details the price of my purchases but doesn't always coincide with the price indicated on the shelves.

However, as a reluctant and infrequent shopper, as I drive round Faringdon looking for somewhere free to park I get the impression that visitors would be quite impressed with our town and would be happy to enjoy the Faringdon Experience

IF ONLY THEY COULD FIND SOMEWHERE TO PARK.

Name Supplied

Focus on Faringdon Questionnaire - 1/12/08

FOCUS ON SHOPPING

We are gathering some important information about shopping in Faringdon and would like to hear your views. This will help us plan for future improvements.

We would like to improve the shopping experience in Faringdon in every way – including variety, convenience, fulfilment, enjoyment – whilst thinking of local food and carbon footprints.

BRIBERY!

Every returned, completed questionnaire will be entered into a FREE draw to win a £50 shopping voucher that can be spent in any shop in Faringdon.

If you win but do not provide us with your name and contact details the money will be given to charity.

[Download the questionnaire](#)(pdf 364kb)- it will only take a few minutes to complete, or look out for a copy in the December Whatson

The draw will take place on December 18th and the winner will be notified on December 19th.

Nick Elwell
Focus on Faringdon

Faringdon Poetry Book 2008- a good read - 1/12/08

I have my copy of the anthology of poetry.

Well done Hilary. A year to remember. It is full of many styles of poetry and makes for a good read.

If they all sell out will there be one in the library for all to read?

It does come with an ISBN number.

Cleveland W. Gibson
