

A heartfelt thank you - 31/1/09

..... to everyone who turned up yesterday to the public consultation and showed their support for Wicklesham Quarry.

Quite a few people had stuck yellow Post-it notes supporting the site as a new industrial business park and to safeguard Faringdon's jobs.

Let's hope the planners now understand the depth and breadth of the local support behind this proposal so that they include it the next draft of the LDF. The feedback I've received from them so far is that we have every reason to believe they will, provided we continue to put forward a good case.

For anyone who didn't manage to make it yesterday, you can still submit your views on the LDF - this is a formal consultation procedure and every view submitted counts, so don't let Faringdon's case for more local jobs go unheard.

For more information, go to http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Planning/LDF_preferred_options_consultation/ and to submit your view, email planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Thanks again for all your support.

Yours

Tom Allen-Stevens

The Faringdon Soapbox - 31/1/09

.....is a great idea, good fun. I shall certainly be watching the videos

Bear in mind that the views expressed will not however be representative of 'the town', but only of those - self selected - people who

- a) enjoy expressing their views in public.
 - b) want to see themselves on U-Tube/in the paper
 - c) happen to be there at the right time
 - d) have strong personal feelings on, or a vested interest in,[whatever]
- etc.

That said, I eagerly await the Faringdon 2009 version of 'Speakers' Corner'

name supplied

Re Hush festival - 31/1/09

i too paid for a couple of tickets, and last year we were told that we could have our money back, or we could wait for this years festival, which would cost more per ticket....but we could get the tickets for last years price.

It would be nice however to hear something about this years festival.

Steve Leech

Coming soon to Faringdon - 31/1/09

Two people, two cameras (video and still), one topic of the day and YOUR VIEWS.

The Faringdon Soap Box will be making its first appearance on the streets of Faringdon on Saturday 14 February at 11am for an hour under the Old Town Hall.

We want people's views on a question we'll pose on the day - it could be on the future of the Corn Exchange, Community Theatre, Tescos, the possible demolition of the Lees, mucky streets, traffic problems....you get the idea. You'll get up to 30 seconds to say your piece.

Look out for us, we'll be looking out for you.

Clips will be posted on our Youtube page. <http://www.youtube.com/FaringdonSoapBox>

Citizens Gildert and Cane

White vans obstruction- Marlborough Gardens - 31/1/09

Many people post comments concerning parking/double parking in the town. Places such like Goodlake Avenue, London Street and Coxwell Street amongst others.

Am I the only person who feels that the BIG white vans parked on the corner of Marlborough Gardens (by the phone box) are a danger and an utter nuisance?

On many occasions, I have nearly had a head on collision while negotiating that bend. A lot of the time, approaching and taking on that bend is guess work and a total gamble. At night, the only way to tell if there is a car coming the other way is to look for a reflection in the glass of the phone box!!!

Do the council, or local bodies ie police ever notice this and "IF" they do, why hasnt this issue been addressed???

Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

Name Supplied

The Hush Festival.- 30/1/09

I'm confused I thought the proposed Hush festival was supposed to happen 2008 but ran into difficulties. As I understand the organizers promised to pay back all people who bought tickets. But this was all last year. Why has someone suddenly come out of the mists of time?

Sam Prince

VWHDC plans(ideas?) for Faringdon to 2026 - 14/1/09

VWHDC are required to produce a Local Development framework(replaces Local plan)- it shows where it believes 11,560 new homes, sites for employment, shopping and leisure facilities should be developed in the Vale up to 2026.

Our views on the plans for Faringdon are needed:

30th January, Exhibition Corn Exchange 3pm - 7pm, Discussion 7pm - 9pm

Comments may also be submitted by email to planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or by post to Development Policy, Abbey House, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3JE

The Chamber of Commerce and Faringdon Town Council will be making their views known, but it is important that individuals do too

Basically it's suggesting that the land off Park Road(on right as you're leaving the town) should accommodate 420 houses and the area around Budgens store and Southampton Street car park could be redeveloped to provide more shopping floorspace and better car parking (hope that means more!)

No land has been earmarked for industrial /business development. See **Do we want a dormitory town?**below - 23/1/09

You can find the full document on http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Images/Complete%20document_tcm4-4713.pdf (pdf pages 62 - 64, section 5.12- 5.14, doc pages 55,58,59 and [Appendix 6](#) (pdf pages 117 - 121, doc pages 112-116) are about Faringdon)

The Lees?!- 28/1/09

as a resident of the lees i would be very happy to see the houses demolished, they are old and falling apart. they could rebuild or reallocate us somewhere else in faringdon.

i am not alone in this at least half of the people who live here would agree.. at least then maybe we would also save on heating as most of the warmth is lost through dodgy windows and doors.

i hope there is some truth in this and not just another silly rumour

Name Supplied

Does anyone have any info on the Hush festival? - 28/1/09

Despite them still having a wad of my cash, I can't get a response from the organisers.

I know it's call the Hush festival, but they are being a little too quiet.....I'm sure others are in the same situation??

Name Supplied

Can anyone offer a home to Ricky - an 8 year old, pedigree black labrador . - 28/1/09

He belongs to my dad who is now away quite a lot working and thinks its not fair on Ricky.

Ricky has been "done" has a pedigree as long as your arm, is house-trained, doesn't go on furniture or upstairs and needs a decent walk and one shorter one every day. he doesn't have any health issues common to labradors such as hip dysplasia etc. He'd be ideal with children and is used to being pulled about and poked by very young grandchildren.

Before you ask, I have a new baby, two dogs, a cat and 3 chickens of my own which is why I can't take him in.

We're all a bit upset about having to rehome him but think its for the best. He will come with bed, various squeaky toys, bowls and leads. He is fully vaccinated and micro chipped and we'd get the chip transferred into his new owner's name.

If you are interested and would like to meet Ricky, please can you email me at garthpool@btinternet.com

Many thanks

Mel

Housing development - Planning gain for Faringdon - 28/1/09

FTC have been negotiating with VWHDC the planning gain (106) for Faringdon as a result of the additional housing. This has been going on for (guess) at least a couple of years, but it is now coming to an end.

[The full list of monies and where they will be spent is attached.](#)(word 37kb)

Those that are directly in the control of FTC are:

- Parking survey ----£20,000
- Pump Rooms ----£80,000
- Corn Exchange--- £80,000
- Community bus --£30,000

Total 210,000

Other amounts are in the control of either Oxfordshire County or VWHDC. They include education, folly park extension, replacement cricket pitch and pavilion, rugby pitch, skate park.

I'm told by Alan Hickmore (who kindly provided this information) that the only outstanding negotiation point is the timing of the payments and that it is important to know that the sums have to be used within the local area, not to improve facilities, but to maintain them at present standards despite the pressures from increased population.

Gene Webb

Demolition of the Lees?! - 27/1/09

The best thing that could ever happen in Faringdon in my opinion (I'm sure that won't be shared by those that live there though?!)

What a great car park we could have then and I'm sure the residents would be far better off in new housing too?

Aren't some of them privately owned though?!

Name Supplied

Demolition of the Lees - fact or fiction????? - 27/1/09

The Chamber of Commerce's response to Faringdon Town Council's comment on the Local Development Framework includes:

It is known generally speaking the Chamber do not consider the presence of a Tesco store in Faringdon to be a good thing. We do see the benefit of developing the Budgens car park and the area beyond. Indeed, further investigation has established that the occupants of the Lees have received notice that the premises are likely to be demolished and the area redeveloped. It would make sense to us to see housing relocated in accordance with the Local Development Framework leaving the area currently occupied by the Lees available for commercial development.'

Name Supplied

In response to Techie's post - 27/1/09

I would suggest many internet users have dynamic IP addresses, not static ones. For non "techies" this means every time you log off and back onto the internet you will be assigned a potentially different IP address by your ISP (internet service provider) & therefore logging them in a poll would be pointless! I would also suggest that "usually" cookies are used to log 'voters' on a website's poll and by simply deleting the cookie someone can vote multiple times. IMO the above issue is meaningless anyway... someone could vote from their mobile, home computer, work computer, laptop, internet café, friend's computers, old computer in the basement. it's not difficult to make your IP/ computer appear as if you are in Canada etc etc. The point is if someone wants to sway the result it would be all too easy! & with such a small population of votes someone voting 10-20 times will statistically "throw" the result by a large margin.

I think this is why Focus on Faringdon (not the chamber of commerce- whose members views/ interests and opinions have nothing to do with the poll- Alan?- As far as I'm aware the chamber of commerce have already expressed their views) have posted what is obviously a 'fun' poll on their site to 'roughly' gauge the views of the people of Faringdon and to get people talking about Tesco's potential arrival.

it appears to have done the job! Unfortunately it must have become apparent to Focus on Faringdon the poll was being abused and had to be taken down.

Name Supplied

The Corn Exchange - 27/1/09

An interesting dilemma for the council and without the benefit of all the facts and figures a difficult one comment on. Whichever route they take someone will accuse the council of "getting it wrong". I like Gene's idea of a debate led by two councillors with opposing opinions. This would enable those without the facts and figures to better understand the benefits and the liabilities that ownership will inevitably present.

Either way, I wish Steve Leniec and his team good luck. I agree that the town needs the Corn Exchange as a venue. The question is only how best to achieve this goal without incurring huge costs.

The performance venue that Focus on Faringdon is promoting will not really conflict with the Corn Exchange. It is proposed that the new venue will have a substantial capacity: in the Vale we do not have an indoor venue that can adequately accommodate just 300 people.

Focus on Faringdon would like to change that!

Nick Elwell

26th January, Faringdon Town Council Precept meeting, 7.30pm Corn Exchange

Corn Exchange, 7.30pm

Have you say on the proposals FTC have for spending our local tax

First responders have a new vehicle - 25/1/09

The 41 club(Ex Round Table) have donated enough money for our First Responders to have their own vehicle (these volunteers have been using their own cars, at their own expense). FTC provided funds for the van to be equipped. Look out for it - the ambulance/paramedic livery with an orange light on top.

Apparently Faringdon is the first town in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (our ambulance area is SCAS) to have raised money locally for a designated vehicle

The First responders provide an excellent service, usually being the first to arrive for a category A medical emergency.

Gene Webb

SSSI?? - 25/1/09

Had to Google SSSI from previous post about Wicklesham Quarry. For any one else who is puzzled - it stands for "Site of Special Scientific Interest".

Jill Dean

Ed(GW) Thanks Jill- I should have noticed this. For those interested in SSSI have a look at

<http://www.faringdon.org/hygeologyindex.htm>

Wicklesham Industrial Park - 25/1/09

People who have lived here for a long time will remember that Park Road used to be a dead end, so the Industrial estate was well hidden- no one saw it unless they went there for a specific purpose. Now as the main road into town, it is seen by everyone and it is not the prettiest of sights. With the current and possible plans for more housing, it will be surrounded by housing.

Doesn't it make sense for there to be a new Industrial Park across the road at Wicklesham? This would provide space for new business and somewhere for existing businesses to move to if they wanted to expand.

As the current industry moved there would be more space for housing- OK that would take a long time, but that is what strategies take into account.

There is already one tranch of land between the Park Road industrial estate, Volunteer Way and the Berners Estate, designated for industry, that has been languishing for many years - presumably the owner was just waiting for a change of use to housing. - I understand this is now recommended as part of the Local Development Framework. The land owners along Park Road will eventually hang onto their land for housing too.

It was inevitable that when the bypass was built that the land the Faringdon side of the road would be developed. Given the current developments, it is almost by default housing land. But we do need enough business to provide work for local people. So lets think ahead and prepare the way by encouraging the VWHDC planners to include Wicklesham quarry in the development plan.

I understand too there would be another gain for Faringdon - a SSSI on the edge of the quarry and currently inaccessible. This would become another amenity for towns people and would encourage visitors.

Name Supplied

RE: Town Centre Development - 25/1/09

Please vote this person to be head of development!

Obviously Budgens is too expensive for the council to buy at the moment, but after Tescos, who knows. In a free

market this is a good solution.

Then convert Pump house into good quality private flats, the rear into a public car park.

Move all the council into 'Budgens Public Venue' and existing council offices into rented office space. - (then convert the Market Place back to the way it was)-

Name Supplied

Nominations for Oxfordshire LINK, hosted by the charity Help and Care. - 23/1/09

Oxfordshire Link are holding an election for a Stewardship Group whom will support the voice of the people in the community in regards to health and social care.

On the website you will find various information sheets and papers, together with a nomination form.

Any nominations for the Stewardship Group, should be returned via email or post to reach us by noon on Friday 30th January.

www.makesachange.org.uk.

kelly.rowland@helpandcare.org.uk

Ref: Bus hitting a blue Suzuki jeep in the Town Centre, December 17th 2008 - 23/1/09

As I was in a position to take clear photos of the event (ref. January's Folly), I have had contact with the gentleman who was driving the Suzuki. Apparently the bus company are trying to say it was his (not the bus driver's) fault, and so the gentleman is trying to find witnesses to support him. Unfortunately I didn't see the actual accident, but was able to take photos for him shortly afterwards.

If you witnessed the actual accident (or know someone who did) and are able to help, please contact me via email, so that I can pass on your details.

davidfarquhar@gmail.com

Re: What a mess - Pitts Estate - 23/1/09

Parking down Goodlake Avenue, everyone parks down one side of the street but there is always one idiot that decides to park on the other side opposite someones driveway.

There's minimal gap to get your car through. The same goes with the corner on the entrance to Pye Street.

There are times where you got to crawl round there because of where people park.

Just think if a fire engine or ambulance had to get round. No chance.

Some people just dont think!

Name Supplied

Pros and Cons re the Corn Exchange - 23/1/09

How about a proper debate at the meeting on 3rd about the Corn Exchange.

One councillor could put the case for accepting it, and another the case against.

We could then vote

Gene Webb

Town Meeting to discuss the 09/10 precept - 23/1/09

MONDAY 26th JANUARY 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

AGENDA

1. Mayor's Opening Address
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 28th April 2008

4. Matters Arising

5. Town Council Budget and Precept for 2009/10. To receive presentations on the proposed budget for 2009/10 from Council Committee Chairmen and to receive suggestions from residents for additional projects to be considered.

6. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion

Do we want a dormitory town? - 23/1/09

The Vale of White Horse District Council has published its Preferred Options for where housing and employment land will be allocated up to 2026.

The plan will result in:

- An extra 420 homes - when included with the Bloor Homes development, Faringdon's population will swell by around 35%
- A net loss of employment land, meaning more people will have to drive to work from Faringdon
- No provision of land for Faringdon's industry - any firms, such as Red Lake group and Bray group, wishing to expand will have to move away from Faringdon, resulting in a loss of local jobs

The plans go against the wishes of Faringdon Town Council, Faringdon Chamber of Commerce, Faringdon Area Project, Focus on Faringdon and Faringdon Association of Residents. All of these groups and organisations support the allocation of Wicklesham Quarry as a new industrial park for Faringdon. This would:

- Provide enough employment land to secure jobs in the town and allow room for future growth
- Be hidden from view, so Faringdon's townscape will remain unspoiled by industrial sheds
- Have its own access off the A420, taking heavy lorries away from Park Road
- Allow the redevelopment of Park Road without the loss of any businesses that needed to relocate
- Be linked to the town with a new footbridge over the A420, providing a link for cyclists and walkers to the quarry and to the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside beyond

So why has the VWHDC done this?

- Because it wants to concentrate job creation in Milton Park and Harwell in the eastern fringe of the Vale
- Because its review of business land needed in the Vale has not taken account of local requirements of Faringdon, the main settlement to the west of the Vale, in particular the town's need to preserve its industry
- Because the Vale's vision of creating only hi-tech job growth has disregarded the fact that Faringdon's unique business make-up contains ancillary trades and businesses that feed Swindon's mighty industrial growth

The result?

- Faringdon slips further into dormitory town status
- More businesses relocate to Swindon or beyond
- The town's retail outlets suffer
- Community spirit suffers as the commuter population swells

Don't let it happen!

The plan comes to Faringdon Corn Exchange for public consultation on Friday January 30.

- If you value your job in Faringdon
- If you value your right to live in an area uncluttered with heavy industry
- If you would like to see Park Road, Faringdon's gateway, improve as the town's entrance
- If you believe that Faringdon must grasp this golden opportunity to future-proof its industry, the life-blood of a community's prosperity

Make your view heard by taking part in the consultation.

Make sure the planners understand that Faringdon needs a good mix of both industrial land and office space

Tom Allen-Stevens

Town Centre Development - 22/1/09

How about: abandon the Corn Exchange as a performance venue - it's past it's sell-by date.

Welcome Tesco's (or somebody) to provide the slightly out-of-town-centre (which isn't in the centre of the town anyway) modern, convenient, up to date retail park.

Leave the historic town centre to develop as an enticing, quirky specialist and individual shopping area with cafes etc.

Forget the Pump House 'theatre' - it was never well designed and doesn't belong to us anyway;

and on the Budgens site, put a decent performance venue, theatre and music etc. with access on to the attached car

park.

Sorry Budgens, but when you (as Carters) expanded and niftily acquired planning for an access to the municipal car park, you destroyed the livelihoods of at least four grocery stores, a couple of butchers and sundry other retailers. No one mourns them now...that's change, and unless the human race ceases to go forth and multiply, and come to roost in Faringdon, It's inevitable.

name supplied

Corn Exchange - VWHDCs offer - 22/1/09

The future of the Corn Exchange as a community building for the residents of Faringdon is soon to be finalised. After months of negotiation first for a new lease and more recently on a possible "gift" to the town we are now in a position to put the facts to a town meeting. This meeting is planned for the 3rd Feb and as Chair of FTC Finance committee I am preparing a paper on the likely cost of the building to the taxpayers of the town. Once the meeting is over I will post it here and on the town council website.

The outline of the offer as posted by Gene is correct, however I do not recognise some of the figures she includes in her report. I appreciate that following the debate at committee without all of the relevant papers can lead to confusion and I would like to correct one or two of the more misleading ones.

Running costs based on current levels of usage and including rates, gas, electricity etc £17270.

Monies due from Bloor Homes agreement to improve the building £80,000.

The building was sold to the Vale by the old Faringdon Rural District Council (disbanded when the Vale formed under local government reorganisation) and not the Town Council. It is also true to say that the monies paid for the building were handed back to the Vale to help finance it's refurbishment!

On the issue of the possible performance venue somewhere out of town, we would all welcome this but, hand on heart, do you really believe it is achievable in a five year timescale in the current economic climate? and what will we do once the hall closes after April 2010 if we walk away?

There is no plan b, the Vale have indicated their clear intention to dispose of the building by that date.

I do not pretend that these are easy decisions and I intend to give an open and clear picture of the cost implications at the meeting and look forward to hearing the views of the people who ultimately pay, the council taxpayers of Faringdon.

Steve Leniec

Corn Exchange - VWHDCs offer - 22/1/09

I went to FTCs Finance meeting last evening to hear about this.

The deal is:-

Conditional contract by 31/3/09

VWHDC will contribute £10k in 09/10 towards maintenance work on the building arising from the condition survey, and £2k towards 'fabric related maintenance' eg boilers

Ests total £29k and include decoration, roof repairs, refurb of toilets, kitchen upgrade, floor repairs, general repairs, not sound proofing

Running costs are estimated as £10.3k pa and include cleaning, insurance, maintenance, but exclude heating costs (e .£9k) and rates(c £3k)- so the real total is £14k

In 2010/11 VWHDC will fund a further £7k towards maintenance, and in 2011/12 £5k

IF FTC sell the building before 2015/16, the proceeds will be split 50:50, if sold 2017/18 onwards, the split will move by 5% pa in favour of FTC, moving to 100% for FTC in 2026/27

FTC will be contracted to continue community use of the building until 2011/12

FTC discussion included:

Possible letting of the offices (if FTC move to Pump Rooms, move cost e£10k)

Independant estimate for Toilet refurbishment £30k, to include disabled toilet (VWHDC figure is £8k)

£8k expected from Bloor Homes (106 money) - no timescale given

Estimated cost for replacement of 2 boilers £9k each(not in VWHDCs figures)
Marketing of venues needed - no great success in letting Pump House
Grants could be available, given the historic value of the Corn Exchange

This will be discussed at a special Town Meeting on 3rd Feb, in Corn Exchange, 7.30pm

No mention was made of the current market value of the building, or that FTC sold it to VWHDC for £35k in the mid 1970s.
There was virtually no discussion on the impact for plans for the Pump House theatre and community room if the 'gift' is accepted
There was no mention of the implications of the Focus on Faringdon plan to build a purpose built performance venue in the next 5 years

My own view is that while it doesn't feel right for the Corn Exchange to be anything other than a hall for community us, I feel maybe it has outlasted its usefulness in a modern world. Maybe it would be better to put all energies(and resources) into a custom built performance venue- one that is sound proofed, larger and more versatile and has parking - and that would also mean no further ££ to be spent on the small theatre and community room behind the Pump rooms.
Gene Webb

Chamber of Commerce.- 21/1/09

I suggest if Alan Hickmore has a problem (as it sounds he does) with anything the Chamber has done or is doing then he should be speaking directly with them, as at a very recent meeting he wanted to work with them! take your comments directly Alan and not through a public website!
Name Supplied

The government requires all entertainment venues to use sound limiters.

Is this the final blow for all music requiring electricity.
See www.maddfaringdon.co.uk
Sam Prince

In Response TO Mr Allan Hickmore and the chamber of Commerce.- 20/1/09

If No organisation is interested representing the people of Faringdon in this debate then I would Like to On Saturday Afternoon i would like to set up a Video Booth in the Town Square (or The Corn Exchange or any other establishment as long as their willing to give me the space for free Please get in touch) where i would Urge the People of Faringdon to come and make their Views Clear on whether or not they want A Tesco in Faringdon. these results would not be flawed and a DVD made of the raw video and given to The Town Council District Council and the Chamber of commerce so they can see what people are saying. and for all those worried about their face being seen we can blot it out but i would urge you not to have your face blotted out as then this poll could be deemed as flawed.
BE BRAVE AND MAKE A STAND
Scott Gildert

Re; Chamber of Commerce Poll.- 19/1/09

I don't know how they determined that the poll was false BUT as a techie I have a clue as to how it usually works. The same theory works for phone polls and computers. Every computer has an IP (address) number. If you vote from that computer, every other vote from it is discounted as a false vote.

The same with phone voting. Any vote from the same number will be ignored. and there may be several members in the same household with differing opinions.

Sooh the first vote is counted as legitimate from Mum, then son logs in with a different opinion - his vote won't count as it's on the same computer/phone. They don't realise this and it applies to TV voting as well.
Techie

Gym Equipment - 19/1/09

Why is it that Faringdon always gets second hand equipment. The equipment we have had since Soll took over leisure centre was from Wantage.

Will we ever get new equipment straight from manufacturers.

Dee England

The Chamber of Commerce "Poll" - 19/1/09

The attempt by the Chamber to "spin" the result of their "poll" is ridiculous. I understood the original note to say that they would accept the result - they haven't (and neither should they if they truly represent their members).

This brings to the fore a more worrying aspect of the development of the Chamber's activities. It appears that, far from trying to represent the views of their members (as they rightly and clearly should), they are trying to put it about that they represent the views of the people of Faringdon. They are an organisation that represents the views of (some) businesses within the Town. That is what their members joined for. In recent times the Chamber seems to have subsumed the Faringdon Area Project, Faringdon Association of Residents, and the recently set up Community Interest Company ("Focus on Faringdon")

It is clear that there is a serious conflict of interest here. It is certainly not clear that the interests of the business community coincide with those of the residents. These other organisations have a very important role to play in the Town. They should not be constrained by being in bed with an organisation that has as its overriding object to help the trades and businesses within the Town. It will not be long before the needs of the people of Faringdon could well diverge from those of the Chamber (as witness the true result of the "poll").

Please do not read this as an attack on the Chamber per se-it also has an important function - but let them, and us, be clear that their function is to represent the interests of their members, not try to pretend that they represent the Town as a whole.

Alan Hickmore

Changing times - 19/1/09

The poll a fix whats new .

Its ok to have vast amounts of industrial units on the park road and wickelsham a420 section but not tescos in park road.

Both will bring traffic problems in fact but times are changing.

Name Supplied

New gym equipment at the Leisure centre - 19/1/09

The gym will be closed for a week from 23/1/09 while the gym is redecorated and re-equipped - I'm told as a 'techno' gym.

I'm told it's super kit, though not new(from Henley)

Gene Webb

Parking Buy Back Scheme - 19/1/09

Buy Back Scheme works as the follows:-

You just need to obtain a receipt from either of the car parks and when you spend £5 in one of the participating shops they will refund your first hours parking (40p) on receipt of the parking ticket

All participating shops have the buy back logo displayed either on windows or doors

Denise Palmer

Re- The Tesco's Poll - 19/1/09

Someone once said 'there are lies, there are damn lies, and there are statistics'?
A statement perhaps relevant now, methinks.
Si Nical

Two points re Tesco: - 18/01/09

Neither of the points (below) are logical -

First; that Tesco can afford to minimise it's tax bill, in itself, is entirely irrelevant to the question of its potential arrival in Faringdon, (and presumably all the existing local traders would, if they could, adopt exactly the same taxation strategy)

Second; Why should local traders spend a greater proportion of their income locally than any other residents? In my experience the people who make good profits locally still choose to spend it elsewhere - for example - on holidays, investments, second homes, nice consumer goods, their children's education etc....There is only so much to spend it on in Faringdon and buying a few local veggies & groceries isnt the same as ploughing profits into the community with no financial advantage to themselves.

The chamber are quite right and reasonable to try to defend their members' livelihoods against what they see as a threat. Why not be honest and say that, instead of using disingenuous arguments which don't really make sense.

ps Presumably the online poll is for entertainment - everyone should know that such 'surveys', while fun, are totally unreliable as fact and not meant to be taken seriously.

Name supplied

What a mess - Pitts Estate - 17/1/09

Has anyone been down goodlake avenue and untons place lately especially any local councilors and seen what a mess it is.
untons place resembles a building site mud everywhere, uneven pavements specially goodlake avenue and vehicles parking wherever they feel like it.
Name Supplied

Vote rigging?? - 17/1/09

So the Chamber of Commerce pollsters decided amongst themselves that there were anomalous voting patterns (while surely not being able to have any proof that that was so), and then decided to reset the voting to a figure of their own choosing, which just happened to support their case?

The producer of Blue Peter got the sack for doing exactly that. It seems democracy spoke, and the CoC didn't like what it said.

Name Supplied

Gloucester Street Parking. - 16/1/09

Well done to the numpty who rather than try and park there car on the Street, decided it would be far better to drive into my daughters car and "leg it". Her car is now sporting a large dent to the rear panel just behind the door, its a 3 door car.

I do hope the perpetrator comes down with an incurable and long painful demise and that they lose every single possession they have as they lose there job, house, marriage and get a driving ban.

Colin

Folly Tower Special opening- to see the Star - 12/1/08

Sunday 18th January 4pm - 8pm

Come and see the STAR, before it disappears for another year.

The trees looked beautiful covered in frost. [See the 2 minute video on Youtube by Scott Gildert](#)

Tesco v local businesses - 16/1/09

In answer to a question raised earlier about Tesco's "How many traders, local or otherwise, really 'worry' about whether a fair proportion of their revenue reaches the governments' coffers...?"

I accept that most would like to keep their profits and not give them away. However, there are two important differences between the local shop keeper and Tesco: Tesco can and do afford an army of tax specialists to minimise their tax bill. (And so they should as they are working for their shareholders.) Local traders do not have that ability.

But the other and more important point is this. A local shopkeeper who makes profits will spend a substantial percentage of those profits locally - increasing the wealth of the other businesses. Tesco's profits are not (I suggest!) spent locally. (I would be happy to meet with the author of the question to explain our opinions in more detail).
Nick Elwell

FTC response to the Local Development Framework(LDF) - 16/1/09

FTCs Planning and Highways committee, with representatives from groups in the town, have met to discuss VWHDC's LDF. [The summary of their views can be found here](#), and the full meeting minutes on [FTCs website](#).

Please contact [Hilary Sherman](#) by 5th February, if you have any views on their summary.

These will be discussed at the next Planning and Highways meeting on 10th February

New Benefits Advice Service - 15/1/09

This is being organised by FAP to help compensate for the closure of the VWHDC office
To start with dates are:- 27/01/09, 24/02/09, 31/03/09 and 28/04/09 June Rennie Room, the Pump House, 9:30 – 12:00

Anyone with questions and queries about housing and council tax benefits will be welcome to either make an appointment or just drop in
Jane.Haynes@bordengate.com

Chamber on-line Tesco poll. - 15/1/08

Where on earth did the 2:1 against figure come from?

As of tonight the results show 40% strongly in favour, 37% strongly against and the other two groups exactly even. This is, of course, in no way a representative nor in any way a mathematically correct poll, but please don't try and mis-represent the result.

Incidentally when does it finish, or is that delayed until the Chamber are happy with the result?
Alan Hickmore

Ed(GW) It was said at the chamber meeting that the 'yes for Tesco' vote increased significantly over a very short space of time(when only 3 people were logged in), indicating that someone had over ridden 1 vote per person limitation. The 2:1 against est excludes those rogue votes. The poll is now deemed to have ended

Vale to gift Corn Exchange to Tesco. - 14/1/09

As shoppers have felt the pinch of the crunch this christmas they downgraded their shopping baskets buying up low quality, nutritionally devoid and flavourless food. Tesco profits have soared due to their irresistible offer of free parking outweighing the risk to ankles from trolley rage and mind numbing exposure to the customer service skills of mouth breathers. Tesco's yesterday released a 2008 profits statement declaring it had more money than sense and didn't know what to do with it. The money would clearly not be safe in the banks and as they didn't even trust the investments of tesco finance, they are going to buy up a quadrillion pounds worth of tangible assets. Starting with the town of Faringdon.

The Park Road land has already been purchased but just in case any objection to this development is upheld on the grounds that that an out of town development is not in the best planning interest for a historic market town, tesco have considered town centre locations. Originally the budgens site was considered for development by tesco but discounted due to the fact it would not consume enough of the spare cash. The corn exchange has been selected for its prime location, value on Talking Points and because no-one knows what to do with it.

The Vale is planning to gift the Corn Exchange to tesco on the proviso that a whole pile of money is thrown at it. Initial plans include raising the building off the ground to allow access to a mega (free) underground car park with tesco's very own all-weather bus station and turning circle. The listed frontage will be turned into a themed tesco pub and a competition run to decide on a name. The name currently 3 votes ahead in the online poll is The White Elephant.

If you have opinions on this or any other development in the Faringdon, please keep them to yourself.
Sir Caustic

Fortnightly waste collection, part two - 14/1/09

Yes, reading the Vale's press release it appears that it'll be waste collection one week, recycling collection the next. One thing buried in the press release is that recycling bins will be chipped with our addresses, they claim that this will only be used to identify lost bins....

But this won't happen until October next year, quite a way off.

A new contractor, Verdant, has won the contract to service both South Oxfordshire and the Vale. They claim that this will save big bucks, but don't hold your breath on council tax reduction from the Vale in the light of current economic situation. The full press release is available through this website [under press releases](#) on the front page.

The Rubbish Man

Ed(GW): I wonder what will happen following Bank Holidays. I do hope they have contracted to keep to the normal schedule as much as possible. Many people don't look at the collection day changes, so the streets are littered with black bags- not a good impression for visitors.

Re Fortnightly waste collection? - 14/1/09

-take a look at the Vale DC website

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news_views/press_releases/article.asp?id=tcm:4-4719&rtn=D

Jane Haynes

Fortnightly waste collection? - 15/1/09

Is it correct, that we will soon only have a fortnightly waste collection?

If so I suppose the council tax will be reduced.

Observer

Important Town Meetings - 14/1/09

26th January, Faringdon Town Council Precept meeting, 7.30pm Corn Exchange

Corn Exchange, 7.30pm

Have you say on the proposals FTC have for spending our local tax

3rd Feb Town Meeting. -7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange

To discuss an offer by the VWHDC to gift the Corn Exchange to the Town Council, and whether or not to accept it. FTC are currently working on the costs to the town of accepting it, or not.

VWHDC plans(ideas?) for Faringdon to 2026 - 14/1/09

VWHDC are required to produce a Local Development framework(replaces Local plan)- it shows where it believes 11,560 new homes, sites for employment, shopping and leisure facilities should be developed in the Vale up to 2026.

Our views on the plans for Faringdon are needed:

30th January, Exhibition Corn Exchange 3pm - 7pm, Discussion 7pm - 9pm

Comments may also be submitted by email to planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk or by post to Development Policy, Abbey House, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3JE

The Chamber of Commerce and Faringdon Town Council will be making their views known, but it is important that individuals do too

Basically it's suggesting that the land off Park Road(on right as you're leaving the town) should accommodate 420 houses and the area around Budgens store and Southampton Street car park could be redeveloped to provide more shopping floorspace and better car parking (hope that means more!)

A VWHDC representative said that the density is likely to be about 50 homes per hectare - similar to that in areas of London. It seems little account is taken of needs for gardens, or big enough homes for people to live comfortably together.

Unless any future developer makes representations to government, 40% of any new homes will be Social Housing.

You can find the full document on http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Images/Complete%20document_tcm4-4713.pdf (pdf pages 62 - 64, section 5.12- 5.14, doc pages 55,58,59 and [Appendix 6](#) (pdf pages 117 - 121, doc pages 112-116) are about Faringdon)

Gene Webb

PS: The VWHDC chap said as far as he knew, Tesco had not made a formal approach for permissions. Apparently the Chamber of Commerce website survey indicates 2:1 against Tesco coming to Faringdon. 300 people completed the shopping questionnaire - these results are still being analysed. Another questionnaire is planned

Faringdon Area Project - action plan for Faringdon 2008-2012- 14/1/09

[Read the new plan](#) (pdf 3.8mb) - projects include a performance and conference venue, visiting cinema, cycle paths, Faringdon carers, coach parking, Saturday fine food market

Help wanted - 14/1/09

African Children's Fund and the Porridge Club are asking for help from volunteers to support their fund raising events. If you could be of help in setting up a fund raising group we would love to hear from you.

Telephone Alison 01367 253003/243743

Thank you

Thankyou from Mary- 13/1/09

I would like to thank everyone who has wished me well on my recent retirement from the Library. Faringdon will always be in my heart even as I move on to pastures new.

With Best wishes

Mary Fellows

PS Please pass the message on to Library users who are not connected to the internet

Bad Luck? - 13/1/09

whats faringdon going eco and leaving xmas tree and decs up, aint this bad luck.?
Burt

URGENT Animals need Re-homing quickly from Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary, Stadhampton - 13/1/09

Would you pass this on to anyone you know who may be considering getting a pet, as the Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary Home have announced closure as they can't continue to fund looking after all these poor animals.

Here is the website to look at the animals: http://www.oxfordshireanimalsanctuary.org.uk/animal_gallery.html
The animals will have to be put down if they can't be re-homed

New pharmacy? - 11/1/09

Does anyone have any idea when the new pharmacy is due to open in London Street?
It seems to have ground to a halt.
Trish Reynolds

Beauty and the Beast - 11/1/09

Faringdon Dramatic Society would like to invite you to their forthcoming performance of: Beauty and the Beast
A pantomime by our own Carolyn Taylor:
30/31 Jan, 6/7 Feb 2009
Faringdon Junior School
Director: Carolyn Taylor
Tickets are available from The Nut Tree or on the door. Adults £7, concessions £5
Please visit [our website](#) for further details and an A4 size poster.

Next Chamber of Commerce meeting- 8/1/09

Will be held on Wednesday 14th January 2009 from 6pm.
The venue for this month is SUDBURY HOUSE HOTEL, not Brunel House.
Our guest this month will be Grant Audley Miller of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

This meeting will give us the opportunity to discuss the Local Development Framework – Preferred Options, you can look at the detail on the District Council website
http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning/ldf_preferred_options_consultation/detailpage4-4350.asp - there are significant plans for Faringdon Town Centre included.
Jane Haynes

Parking- 8/1/09

The issue of parking illegal or otherwise often pops up on this website. If you really have a gripe about it though you should to speak with relevant authorities.
The controlling bodies of Southampton Street Car Park and Coxwell Street are NOT the same. The "Budgens" car park is owned by the Vale of White Horse District Council whose main offices are in Abingdon (Tel 01235 520202). Coxwell Street comes under Highways and is controlled by Oxfordshire County Council (Tel 0845 310 11 11).

Call them. They will take on board your comments.
David Reynolds

Against Tesco - 8/1/09

I do have strong feelings against Tesco because I have grown to love the town I chose to live in. Faringdon is a fantastic example of a busy market town with a variety of interesting independent shops, excellent for good food. The town centre defines Faringdon with the historic buildings, markets and shops as well as all the arts, music and community events held throughout the year. While organic and sustainable growth is required to provide housing, leisure and business opportunities this must not be allowed to happen at the expense of the town centre diversity.

If you support Tesco then Faringdon will lose:

The busy town centre

The great range of shops and services and you will only be able to purchase what Tesco can source at the lowest price

Opportunity to purchase from local suppliers

Choice will disappear

Revenue of local traders which ends up being spent locally will be lost

Jobs will be lost as the head count required at a large store is a lot lower than all the individual shopkeepers selling a wider variety of produce sourced locally

An out of centre site could not possibly provide the safe access by foot, bus, bike or car that the town centre currently does, without an increase in cars.

Tesco is not a done deal, but I would hate the mistake to be made due to apathy and for Faringdon to wake up one morning with no independence, no interesting shops and no life of its own.

What does Tesco actually offer as a benefit? Faringdon already has a cheese counter, butchers counters, grocery aisles, bread counter, flowers, dry goods, store cupboard items, a book section, gifts, kitchenware, a sweet section, an opticians, insurance, banking, wine, beers and spirits aisles as well as café and restaurant.

Andrew Robertson

Sensitive Issue Mental Health - 8/1/09

Do you suffer mental illness of any sort?

Do you feel the professionals don't listen?

Do you feel that you are given medication to keep you quiet?

When you are seen by professionals do you feel they at times you are a tick in the box?.

Do you feel you don't have enough support when you really need it?

Do you feel that our GP,s are doing a better job at supporting us than those who are supposed to be professionals in the mental health service.

If you have any comments or feel you would like more support and your views known ring 07872955333. Full confidentiality.

For/Against Tesco - 04/01/09

I have no strong feelings about Tesco, however, I do question the reasons offered by the Chamber for rejecting the idea.

How many traders, local or otherwise, really 'worry' about whether a fair proportion of their revenue reaches the governments' coffers...?

Where does most of the revenue taken by local traders end up? Does that particular point imply that most traders would like to donate their profits to the local council as opposed to 'London or overseas'? Somehow I doubt it. Surely they'd like to keep as much of it as possible in their own pockets - just like Tesco does.

Does the Chamber really want to encourage us to shop online or drive out of town when we want an 'easy' supermarket experience? and what about those who don't drive or use a computer, but who would still like the convenience of a greater range of goods under one roof?

As for traffic; yes I would hope that it would substantially affect those who live and work here - for the better - by

providing a decent sized, free car park, for those from the surrounding areas, and so that we locals can stop trying to squeeze our cars through the town centre chicanes and between illegally parked vehicles whenever we want to venture away from home.

No one wants the town centre to die - but it is the heavy domestic traffic and inconvenient parking as much as anything which is killing it. Stow on the Wold, & Moreton in the Marsh, both fairly local towns, seem to have survived in spite of large edge of town supermarkets, by encouraging unique, unusual, attractive and affordable shops into their centres. Faringdon has a pretty town centre with striking historic buildings. We have a lot to offer; make the most of our assets and make people want to come here, don't drive them away.

name supplied

Happy New Year - 02/01/09

Despite popular opinion, last year I must have been a very good boy because Santa brought me a new computer. What he didn't bring me, so maybe I wasn't as good as I should have been, was the ability to connect to the internet. Once again feeling quite suicidal I had to phone Raoul (It was either him or the Samaritans) and he came and had a long phone chat with a nice Indian man. I couldn't follow what was going on but after an hour I was back on line.

So now I can say. Happy New Year to all TPer
HGM

FARINGDON SKATERS - 02/01/09

Don't Miss it! 6.30 FRIDAY EVENING BBC1

Dee England

A Good Read - 02/01/09

Billabongo, the fantasy novel, sponsored by the Arts Council and set in Faringdon is already on sale at most bookshops, on line at Amazon, at Barns & Noble, WH. Smith, Waterstones, etc. ISBN 978-1849231008 in paperback. The blurb reads: When a ghost fails to scare-off three highly-spirited children from spending their summer holidays in a Faringdon Manor House, the scene of a murder-mystery, something HAS to happen.

The police are puzzled by the Sherlock Holmes type crime but nothing alters until the children, finding an Indian artefact with shape-changing powers, call up a silky Unicorn for many adventures. The children must complete their mission or be doomed to Billabongo forever, though adults Jarge and Nakota Towa try to help them. The magical Unicorn and the children continue to fight against the evil witch and the slippery grave-digger.

Feel the tension mount in the furious battle between Roman General Marginus and the evil ratter Black Rufus. Run with the gypsies, flee from the Blue-Monkey men, grab the Dragon Gold and remember to get home safe and sound.

Experience a stunning finish and that WOW factor.

Cleveland W. Gibson

Parking - 01/01/09

I agree with the comments made on the illegal parking in Coxwell St, with cars parked both sides of the road it creates an unnecessary hazard, the situation is not confined to Coxwell St, London St is equally as bad and on double yellow lines too, also people have taken to parking on the footpath opposite the church outside the Salutation flats leaving little room to walk pass. So perhaps in 2009 could we have more considerate parking from those people responsible, and perhaps a reminder from the Police for the persistent offenders.

name supplied

Come and Sing- 3rd March, 19.00 - 26/02/09

For everyone who enjoys singing, an invitation to join together and sing Mascagni's Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana on Easter Sunday morning 12th April.
Rehearsals Tuesday evenings 7 - 8pm: Roman Catholic Church.
All welcome.
Contact Lyn Williamson 01367 240033 or just turn up

Poor public transport - 26/02/09

Every one keeps harping on about Tesco's.....How about discussing the poor transport links to & from faringdon. Hourly buses to oxford or swindon, two hourly to wantage & if you are a person like me who doesn't drive it's a nightmare! poor transport links to towns like ours will make the retailers in town suffer,lack of passing trade affects their trade even more than tesco's could.

If that service was improved then it would have a positive effect on faringdon, bringing more people in.(well I think so) Oh & when are going to get a proper market! With all due respect to everyone, It is naff! Isn't Faringdon meant to be a market town???? Like I said before, everyone is harping on about Tesco

Mrs.Savage

Rudi Giuliani of Faringdon - 26/02/09

I dare say if the good citizens of Faringdon were actually prepared to pay for the service, then someone might take it on

name supplied

Message from New York - 25/02/09

Visiting a site on East 116th Street and the FDR Drive, where a building that was once defaced by graffiti vandalism is now graffiti free. This may not sound terribly remarkable, but the diligent removal of graffiti throughout New York City has been a priority that my administration has taken very seriously. And as we work to reduce crime by nearly 40 percent, since 1993, and improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers, we've made cleanliness and graffiti removal two very important components of our efforts. Graffiti creates an impression of disorder and of lawlessness.

A city tainted by vandalism invites more vandalism and more serious crime because it sends the message that the city doesn't care and isn't paying attention. In the past, the city has turned a blind eye to this very serious problem that turns public spaces into threatening and menacing areas. However, we've taken the challenge of eliminating graffiti very seriously. In July of 1995, I formed the Mayor's Anti-Graffiti Task Force. For the first time, this task force coordinated all of the agencies and entities that deal with the problem of graffiti, in total 18 different agencies, departments and authorities are involved.

Thanks to their efforts -- and yours -- our parks are now nearly graffiti free, with 97 percent of parks rated acceptable for graffiti. And last year, the Department of Transportation cleaned more than 6.5 million square feet of graffiti from our highways and roads. Another part of our anti-graffiti initiative is law enforcement. In the past, virtually no one was arrested for graffiti vandalism, even though graffiti involves, very often, destroying the property of other people. We understand that low level, highly visible crime often breeds more serious crime. So I initiated the Anti-Graffiti Vandal Squad as a specialized unit within the New York City Police Department.

Last year, the Vandal Squad made nearly 190 felony arrests and nearly 1,300 misdemeanor arrests. The task force, the Vandal Squad and the removal of graffiti from locations like the building on East 116th Street are all the kinds of actions that show people that we're serious about eliminating graffiti. And as we continue to remain constantly vigilant in our fight against graffiti vandalism, we all enjoy the improved quality of life, the much lower crime rates and the inviting atmosphere that are the results of our efforts. But everyone has to help to make our city graffiti vandal free. And I urge all New Yorkers to report graffiti in progress to our hotline that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This was proved to be an excellent antidote for graffiti. Nearly one week on, our town centre is still suffering from the effects of last week's graffiti spree. Is anyone in authority going to take charge and be the Rudi Giuliani of Faringdon?

Jill Dean

State of the play parks - 25/02/09

well,thought i should throw in something abit different then the usual tesco debate, sooo..... has anybody seen the state of the play parks in faringdon!!!! i can ignore all the litter, the bad language that has to be written on EVERYTHING including the bins!!! but when you have to take your own dustpan and brush to a park before you can let your children play so they do not get cut by broken glass bottles, is absolutly bl**dy ridiculas!!!

as i visited 'the green' in malborough gdns on the pleasent weekend we had it was all over the toddlers slide!!!! i know the only people to blame are the selfish youths who think they are cool to smash beer bottles where children play, but as this is not the 1st or 2nd time this has happened surely there must be something someone can do, before someone gets seriously hurt.

can anyone say that there is a clean safe park here as the ones i have visited there is always broken glass on the floor, pie street park being one of the worst.
from a very angry mum

laura

Rumour - 24/02/09

...is a Lying Jade (Usually)

The latest rumour about the Folly Star is that for the Easter period a large transparent fibre glass rabbit is going to be fitted over it.

It's hard to believe that this would be allowed but the enormous ugly bill boards at the end of Park Road must have been approved so why not an illuminated Easter Bunny ?

Actually it might look rather nice

Stella Lover

Hush - 24/02/09

Silence is not always golden. I was very sad to hear (in response to my earlier posting) that the Hush festival will not go ahead in the near future. It really does seem that this town now only caters for the under-5s and over-60s. It is now almost a month since my last posting and, despite assurances that all monies would be refunded within a couple of weeks, I have still heard nothing.

I have requested a refund via both of the email addresses through which tickets could be purchased, but have not even been dignified with a response. If these addresses are obsolete, the organizers should provide new contact details – I experienced no such difficulty when the cash-flow was in their direction. My address, email address and phone number have not changed so there is no reason why the organizers could not have contacted me (unless poor records were kept). I am not prepared to post these publicly on this site and expose my self to any joker/scammer who happens to be trawling the net (and why should I?).

The organizers did a sterling job, and genuinely had the support of many townsfolk, but by failing to return money that

was invested in good faith they are turning themselves into the bad guys and seriously compromising the success of any future initiative that requires the support (financial or otherwise) of local residents. I, for one, am unlikely to support future events in light of the current situation. In these financially turbulent times, the failure to return money could be having serious implications for some people, and the organizers should respect this. Please, please do the right thing – let us know how to contact you. It won't be that difficult and will help to restore a bit of goodwill!

name supplied

Tesco - yes please - 23/02/09

Andrew, - strongly held views, and you are very confident about what "will" happen if a bigger supermarket comes to Faringdon. You are however omitting a few things.

There are a number of residents for whom there is no choice about where they shop. They must shop locally. This group includes many elderly, disabled, those on low incomes or with young families, etc. who do not necessarily have internet access, or their own transport, or for whom the option of deliveries from larger, more diverse, cheaper retail outlets (than Budgens) is not viable because they do not wish to spend enough money in one transaction.

You mention development of the town centre - yet there is little scope for any development which will not cause the very thing which you appear to fear - the destruction of the town centre's individuality; and another thing you seem to have missed is that the town is set to expand fairly dramatically in the relatively near future. Our one supermarket is going to be hard pressed to cater for the influx of residents, and the parking arrangements can hardly be called adequate.

A large supermarket with parking facilities will not only cater for the narrow confines of Faringdon, but residents from surrounding villages will come to the town, who presently go to Wantage, Swindon, Witney for their needs. What you are in effect arguing for is less, not more choice for Faringdon. Your message is "I like things as they are, everyone else should accept my preferences"

For residents who don't like/approve of Tesco's the answer is simple. Don't shop there. It isn't obligatory. If the present local retailers are superior, then they will have enough support to ensure their survival.

Sarah

Dormitory Town?? - 23/02/09

Many thanks to the unknown person who probably voices the view of many in Faringdon in response to Simon Cook's posting. As the owner of said proposed Wicklesham industrial park, I'd just like to add a few further observations: "Do we want a town that is over developed with hundreds of houses and b1 b2 units?" as the main town in the west of the Vale we are obliged to accommodate the houses, are perfectly capable of doing so without harming our community, and should welcome people who want to settle here. As for B1 and B2 units - quite agree.

The whole point of putting an industrial park in the quarry is that it will allow industry to grow without damaging the townscape or filling the town with heavy lorries. Few towns have that opportunity. "Does this mean that we will have bypass bypassing the bypass in 2220?" No. The A420 is perfectly adequate to cater for Faringdon's proposed expansion and won't be affected by the developments. The only differences most people will notice from the road are changes to the Park Road roundabout and probably a new pedestrian bridge over the road.

Another question entirely is whether the A420 can handle the proposed new massive expansion of Swindon - for the record, it's 30 times the size of Faringdon's modest growth, represents the biggest expansion in the south west, and it's going to be 8 miles down the road from us. "The proposed Wicklesham industrial park and housing will affect my quality of life" Indeed it will - it will probably improve it, as it will for most people who want Faringdon to be a thriving community.

If the Vale gives us that opportunity (and that still hangs in the balance), I'll be joining the streamer and ribbon brigade seeing off those who don't want to live in a thriving community. "I am betting some who gain in back pocket will (leave) as well" By your remark I'm assuming you mean the owner of any land likely to be developed, one of which would be myself. My family's farmed here since the 1920s. We now have a flourishing, diversified business and our own little community at Wicklesham. Provided our community is still allowed to prosper, I'm not planning on going

anywhere, thanks. But there's others who will benefit - local businesses will be able to expand, section 106 agreements will benefit Faringdon, and then there's the millions it'll pour into the local economy - that's a lot of "back pockets", and I'm guessing most people who benefit will want to stay as a result.

Tom Allen-Stevens Wicklesham Quarry

Tesco, no thanks. - 23/02/09

A healthy debate about Tesco continues on Talking Points but some statements are slightly misleading. Tesco will not provide more choice Faringdon is not large enough to support 2 centres. A large superstore on Park Road will put the town centre into decline, leaving most local retailers at risk of closing: the market stall, bakery, deli, cheese shop, florist, Boots, gift shops, butchers, coffee shops and Budgens could all suffer.

This will result in far less choice for the people of Faringdon. Tesco will not provide more jobs Tesco employs far fewer people than equivalent local shops. Shifts may be available over longer hours but there will not be an influx of employment to the town. Quality of jobs will be lower Tesco will not be employing florists to advise on blooms, no butchers will be actually butchering carcasses or making sausages, no one will actually be making cakes or baking bread. Customer service will not improve

Moaning on Talking Points is one thing, but if you honestly believe Tesco will provide a panacea to the perceived shortcomings of Budgens then I think you may be jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

Price - The market stall already provides seasonal produce at very reasonable prices as do the butchers and bakery. Like for like sales I do not believe Tesco is significantly cheaper than shops in Faringdon town centre. Tesco will always be cheaper when loss leaders are sold and also for bulk buying, for this you can currently shop online for home delivery or you can drive to a supermarket.

Tesco will cut down on driving - People already drive out of town to the supermarkets which cater best to their needs. Tesco in Faringdon will not be better for the environment. - The distributed supply chain, energy inefficiency, high levels of waste and bulk purchasing power putting small suppliers out of business will all have a far greater negative effect on the environment.

Tesco will bring Faringdon into the 21st Century - If 21st century living is choosing to live in a bland soulless town and driving to a supermarket that could be anywhere in the country for the weekly shop then this does not sound very enjoyable. I do not wish to buy food based only on price; I would like the option to taste different flavours from varied producers and not buy the same processed food month in and month out. I enjoy talking to shopkeepers who can advise and are passionate about their products and the seasonality of local food.

Greater provision of shops, competition on price and service and increased choice should be available to the people of Faringdon and based in the existing centre. Any town centre development should include adequate parking as well as other sustainable transport links.

Andrew

Faringdon in Bloom 2009 - 23/02/09

The Faringdon in Bloom competition will be held this year on the weekend of 18th. and 19th. of July. Any garden can be entered whether small, large, or new. The competition is designed to show off the beautiful gardens that we have in Faringdon. Your garden does not have to be "Chelsea" standard - just a nice garden that you are proud of.

The prizes this year are a £50 garden voucher for the winner and gardening books for each category winner. The judging will be by an independant qualified judge.

To enter please pick up an application from the Town Council office or from the Information and Tourist Information Centre. Or Email a.hickmore.1471@btinternet.com More information is on the [Town Council Website](#) news page

Alan Hickmore

Naughty Shopper! - 22/02/09

I too go out of town for my 'big shop', for various reasons. Naughty me. Thank you Nicola, for a sensible point. What a pity name supplied didn't leave her/his real name - obviously we could all then have congratulated him/her for displaying such enviable moral superiority, and said a little 'thankyou' for telling us all how to live our lives just that bit better.

AD

Prices - 22/02/09

more competitive supermarket prices so normal everyday people can afford to buy a weekly or monthly shop in faringdon without driving out of our town and provide more local jobs.
its very simple really.
our town will continue to expand so why not expand our choices?

nicola yarwood

If it's too expensive - go without- 22/02/09

I note the comments of Nicola Yarwood re Budgens, are you really saying you make a specific journey out of town to another supermarket? You don't obviously consider fuel cost, wear and tear on your vehicle, time taken driving back and forth and how better that time could be spent, and finally the environmental impact of that journey! I would never shop in Tesco's in my life, being the most immoral retailer around, if something is too expensive in Budgens then go without...

name supplied

Too expensive - 21/02/09

i have nothing against budgens or its staff but the simple fact of the matter is we cannot afford to shop in the local supermarket.i have to drive out of town to tesco's in abingdon or swindon to do my weekly shop.
i buy all my fruit and veg from tony's veg stall in the town centre which is cheaper and better quality in my opinion.

if i run out of milk, bread or eggs midweek i pop up the shop at the top of marlborough gardens.cheaper and free parking!i just refuse to pay budgens prices so never use the shop.
with the town expanding we need some competitive prices and more local jobs.
bring in tesco or any other competitive supermarket and bring this town into the twenty first century.

nicola yarwood

Vandalism - 21/02/09

we seriously need cctv in faringdon!
sat morn and the whole of gloucester street,the corn exchange, budgens,nuttree and the peugeot garage had orange spray paint across windows,doors and on cars.
another evening of mindless vandalism. this is now a regular thing in faringdon.
they have smashed the bus shelters on park road.smashed the window of the really useful shop at least twice.
what next? i blame the parents of the group of teenagers that are constantly walking round faringdon at all times of the day and night.who obviously dont care where they are!!

nicola yarwood

Pre School and Scouts/Cubs fundraiser - 19/02/09

Next Saturday 28th Feb, Pre School and Scouts/Cubs fundraiser - KIFF, Gorgeous Moron, The Lucky Generals plus support - Faringdon Junior School

The recession is over (well, we can hope!), spring is in the air, the Red Lion has a new landlord and it's that time of year again to see Faringdon's premier music offerings for a good cause! Please come along
Tickets on the door or ring 244868, 240586. Doors 7:30pm

Dave Porter

Budg.... - 18/02/09

I don't log onto talking points very often.. last time infact, was when you were all praying tesco wouldn't come along and destroy our retailers, including one of our main local produce providers... Budgens. Don't let this become another of those situations when we all remember what we had after its gone..

Bron Chapman

Budgens ad nauseum - 18/02/09

I've also never experienced any rudness from the staff at Budgens and think they are just as good as any other supermarket staff I've come across. I would have to agree with Mel and the other posters - why don't you just complain to the management instead of leaving anonymous comments here?

Ray

Scams & distraction burglaries

For anyone who would like information on this type of crime and how to deal with it - visit the [distraction burglaries page on the Thames Valley Police website](#)

Ed. HT

Scam? - 18/02/09

When I drove in to Faringdon last night at approx. 7.00pm I noticed these men. When I arrived at my house in Gloucester Street I saw one of the men talking to my neighbour - he actually stepped right over the threshold and I heard him saying that he could see better in the light?! - One word SHIFTY! Needless to say when he knocked on my door I didn't open!

Clare

Scam - 18/02/09

NPower sales. I too had 2 shifty looking types at the door almost demanding to check the meter numbers. Needed to check them so they could see if I was entitled to a discount????????? Wouldnt let them do that and they got a bit narked and I told them to go away as well. Thought they were god botherers first of all. Also claimed they missed me last week, even though I was in

Bob

nPower Door to Door 'Scam?' - 17/02/09

Today I had two young gentlemen knock on my door claiming to be from nPower; well, they flashed a badge with the logo on at me.

They were dressed up to the nines in dapper suits and coats. They approached the door, standing very (intimidatingly) close, then asked to come in for some 'numbers from your meter'. I declined (as our power is not from nPower, and the box is just outside the front door, which they should have known!), and told them to go away - they

got a bit shirty and moved towards the door, so I shut the door fast.

I've rung nPower who said they have no one up in our area at the moment doing meters / door to door. The police have been alerted, but I wanted to let local Faringdon residents to keep an eye out and of course, don't let them in.

name supplied

Re The Budgens experience - 17/02/09

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS OR COMMENTS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SPEAK TO ANY MEMBER OF STAFF WHO WILL GET THE RIGHT PERSON TO DEAL WITH YOUR COMPLAINT/COMMENTS I CAN ONLY APPOLOGISE FOR THE ATTITUDE OF THE MEMBER OF STAFF I WILL PASS THIS OVER TO THE MANAGMENT TEAM A.S.A.P

name supplied

The Budgens Experience: - 17/02/09

Did you actually complain to the management? I guess not, so how do you hope to have a better customer experience, if you don't tell the people who are running the store.

Don't go round complaining about things, if your not willing to hand over important feedback to the franchise owner and his management. I am sure they are not naive enough to think that everything is brilliant in their store, but if your not willing to speak to people face to face, rather than hiding on the Town's website, your comments mean nothing!

Martin Harries

Budgens Staff - 17/02/09

I have never, to my recollection been offended by any staff in Budgens but appreciate I just may be thicker skinned than usual.

Can I suggest that if you are offended that you take the name of the individual and report it either by letter, phone or in person to the manager? I don't really see how Budgens can be expected to solve this issue if they don't know who is responsible. If they knew which of their staff was offending the local clientele then they could address it perhaps with customer service training/performance review and if this doesn't solve the issue, then disciplinary steps can be taken.

It doesn't seem fair to leave a cloud of suspicion hovering over them all... Personally I'm saving this for the next time I am loudly diagnosed by an amateur (but keen) pharmacist at the chemist.

Mel Lane

The Budgens Experience - 17/02/09

Have all you people who have had a bad experience with the staff tried to report these experiences to the management. as im sure that during these Difficult Financial times that the management Don't want people NOT to shop there. Try talking to them They are only Human after all

Faringdons Answer to CHE Guevara Scott Gildert

The Budgen's experience - 16/02/09

Re Thank You - from Budgens Well, for once it was actually a pleasure shopping at Budgens during the wintery weather, mainly because the 'usual suspects' (read: staff who shouldn't be working within a mile of a customer) were not actually in the store.

Again and again I decide to use Budgens for a night-time 'emergency'/midweek top-up shop, so as to support the town centre, and YET AGAIN I leave fuming and/or upset at the poor attitude of some of your till staff. Please, PLEASE either strongly consider training your till staff in the finer points of customer service (or for some, even just the basic points, perhaps?), OR, keep those just not suited to customer-facing jobs well away from the general public, and NOT on the tills.

The attitude this evening was so poor that even the customer behind me - a total stranger - raised her eyebrows at me, after a display of such utter rudeness that I was actually speechless, and rather upset. I should add that this is a repeat offender who I actively try and avoid if there are any other tills open (unfortunately not possible just before closing time). And I will now try and avoid Budgens completely for my next shop and head for the CoOp instead, as although it is a lot further away, I don't feel like cr*p when I walk out their door because of extremely substandard staff behaviour.

So - thank you for opening during the vile weather, but please - sort out the attitude of some of your till staff before you drive any more customers away - or worse, lead us staunch Faringdonians to preferring that Tesco DOES actually open here in the near future - if only for considerably less upsetting shopping experience.

name supplied

Thank you - from Budgens - 16/02/09

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO ALL CUSTOMERS WHO CAME TO BUDGENS OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS WE APOLOGISE FOR THE DELAY AT TILLS DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGES COS OF THE BAD WEATHER THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN

Dale Richardson

Time Team - 16/02/09

for those who missed last night's (15/2) showing of Time Team's dig at Radcot, it is repeated on Channel 4 at 7pm on Saturday 21st Feb.

Consultation - 13/02/09

I was interested to read the comments from Simon Cook (nice to have a name!!) While I disagree with nearly everything he has said, he still has a right to say it. He also has the right to put his view where it matters - VWHDC planning department. Anybody who has a view on the VWHDC local development framework preferred options consultation has the right to make that view known to the Vale.

This is a genuine consultation (by law) and the more views that the Vale receives the better - but hopefully most (unlike Simon) will support a sustainable Faringdon in the future. The closing date for the consultation is 27th. February.

Alan Hickmore

Volunteers wanted for Faringdon Arts Festival - 13/02/09

10th to 12th July 2009 The Faringdon Arts Festival is currently in the process of recruiting volunteers for the 2009 event. Whether you can spare a few minutes, a few days or bit longer we'd like to hear from you. We are particularly interested to hear from volunteers to help with marshalling over the three days. (even if you can just spare an hour or two).

If you would like to be a part of the Festival please call 01367 246004 and speak to Dawn. The Faringdon Arts Festival is a voluntary organisation and as such partly relies on kind donations from the town's people. This year we

would like to ask for your help in putting the event on and any contributions would be greatly welcomed.

You could help the Festival with some donations of goods which we can auction or make a financial donation.

Whichever way you'd like to help please call Julie on 01367 246004. The Faringdon Arts Festival Team would like to thank you in advance for your help and support and look forward to seeing you on the 10 to the 12 July 2009.

Julie Farmer

Dormitory town? - 13/02/09

At last the snobbish elite show their true colours. Faringdon is an expanding town due to the fact the UK has an expanding population, roll on development and industry i say!

The days of buying houses for a year and a half's salary are long gone, seen off by middle england penny pinching queue forming people like yourself.

For Faringdon to survive the economic crisis the entire UK faces, it has to offer prosperity and jobs for local people.

Not the second home, nice view chasing minority that enjoyed economic comfort of yesteryear! I would be quite happy to send off with streamers and ribbons, anyone who wants to leave faringdon due to its expansion. Perhaps you could take some of the inconsiderate staff at Budgens with you!

Good riddance.

P.S Bravery is giving a damn in the first place.

name supplied

Come and Sing - 12/2/09

For everyone who enjoys singing, an invitation to join together and sing Mascagni's Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana on Easter Sunday morning 12th April.

Rehearsals Tuesday evenings 7 - 8pm: Roman Catholic Church, starting March 3rd

All welcome.

Contact Lyn Williamson 01367 240033 or just turn up

Do we want a dormitory town???? - 12/2/09

No but do we want a town that is over developed with hundreds of houses and b1 b2 units. What I think is total crazy is that 30 or so years ago we had a bypass put in away from the town to improve quality of life for the town and traffic congestion. And now the vwdc and a local landowner want to build all around the bypass that was put in to avoid traffic impacting on day to life of faringdon. Does this mean that we will have bypass bypassing the bypass in 2220????

I moved to faringdon to avoid being overcrowded if I wanted that I would move to swindon the proposed wickelsham industrial park and housing will affect my quality of life plus others fact.

I will be moving away when this happens if I can afford to and I am betting some who gain in back pocket will as well .

From a not ashamed to put my name simon cook

p.s give the budgens staff a little respect by at putting your name and be brave .

The Lees?! - 12/2/09

Hope there is some truth in the rumour that "The Bronx" known locally as the Lees will be bulldozed. Perhaps then, those people that spend all day making "banger cars" can find worthwhile employment and not spend others hard earned money on these vehicles and wouldnt then be seen testing them on the highway.

Would make a lovely car park for Tesco!

Bob

Swimming Pool - 12/2/09

Pool may be open tomorrow- ring centre for confirmation.

Well done to the staff who have to take agro from public.

Have noticed the absence of management during this time from centre and Soll. Management should be at the frontline explaining to members and not even when on frontline avoiding public.

Name Supplied

Budgens staff and management - 12/2/09

I went into budgens this morning at 8.15 no staff at tills car park end. I was asked to go to other end of shop. I informed them why should I carry all my shopping through the shop.They did open till.

There are staff in shop doing nothing but chatting most of the time. Checkout staff grunt at you (younger staff) some staff have very little people skills definately more training required. It seems that staff dont want to work the tills they do avoid opening till.

I have found many essential items are just to expensive the management know that folks HAVE no choice in essentials. Most of the items they mark with tesco price and budgens price to compare we dont really need. Roll on tesco or any store.This will give budgens competition not only in prices but in quality of staff.

Name Supplied

Faringdon in the snow - 12/2/09

We have just had a small amount of Driving in Severe Weather conditions leaflets delivered from the Highways agency.

The free leaflet contains some really useful advice - all be it a little late! If you would like one pop into the Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre and ask a member of staff.

We are hoping to publish a commemorative Faringdon snow booklet. We would like it to contain pictures of the local landscape and the people of Faringdon enjoying the snow. It will be a lasting souvenir of the amazing scenes of snowmen and sledging and winter wonderland over the past week, just in case it never happens again! We want to include as many photographs as we can.

Please could you get any you would like to be considered to me ASAP. Hard copies or disks would be good as I don't have much computer space! But if you can't get in please email at tic@faringdowntowncouncil.org.uk

Photographs don't have to be of professional quality just ordinary family shots.

Thank you

Sally Thurston

Stand and deliver Budgens! comment - 12/2/09

Yes, we do benefit from Staff discount. Why shouldn't my wife have a perk with her job after a large number of years service?

I'll be honest, we don't do our regular shopping at the store though, we like many people in the town make use of Internet shopping for convenience. However, if we need something at short notice, we will pop into the store and purchase our goods!

If the prices are that high, don't shop there. Buy a computer and internet shop, or travel to one of the larger stores buy car.

It's your choice and no-one forces you into the store!

Name Supplied

Interesting statistics from the Soapbox You Tube site - 12/2/09

The Corn Exchange meeting has been viewed so far 120 times in one week 84% were male, 16% were women. Of the 120 views, 11% were in the age range of 18 - 24, 9% were in the age range of 25 -34 and 80% were in the age range of 35 -44

Just goes to show that this sort of thing appeals to a wide range of people. Thank you to all that have watched so far, pass the word around the soapbox is now live and coming to the Market Place in Faringdon this Saturday the 14th from 11 to 12 then watch out for the views of YOU, the General Public.

Go on, come on down and have your say... <http://www.youtube.com/user/FaringdonSoapBox>
Citizen Cane and Gildert

Stand and deliver Budgens! - 11/2/09

I fear some of us are standing too close to the fire and aren't realising they are getting fried!
Choice and good customer service is all that is required here... more staff than customers all wandering around trying to avoid eye contact which what are after all product purchasing, wage generating members of the public. My feelings are echoed by my peers.

As for helping the elderly and those on low income, well the owners should wear a three cornered hats and brandish flintlock pistols! As for having a family member working in said shop... perhaps you would like to share your staff discount?

Name Supplied

Please Vote for me!! - 11/2/09

An organisation called Links has been set up to influence the delivery of health and social services across Oxfordshire.

'The government have taken a strong view in recent years that the general public should be involved in, and allowed to voice their opinion about, how health and social care services should be run. Each council has been required to select a local organisation that will host an independent Local Involvement Network (LINK). Every Local Involvement Network will be created by the public. The members of the public that want to be a part of a LINK will decide how each is formed and run. Each one will be different depending on where each is based, the type of community that it serves, the numbers and types of people that want to be involved in running it and what the health and social care issues are that face those communities.'

[More about the Oxfordshire Link on www.makesachange.org.uk](http://www.makesachange.org.uk)

The Stewardship group will be formed through a ballot.

The group will 'guide the LINK through supporting and enabling groups and individuals to carry out the work of the LINK. The Group will help with the development and building of better health and social care in the Oxfordshire Community through listening to individuals and groups and deciding on how resources will be best used to help improve services'

I am told that of the 18 nominations - 10 are from Oxford City, 4 from North Oxford and 4 others - of which I am one I am told that 391 ballot papers have been sent out (not clear how they chose who to send them to) - of which 2 (yes 2) have been sent to Faringdon.

The only way for us to have a representative on the group is for you to vote for me. - please!

You can see the nomination statements on

<http://www.makesachange.org.uk/cms/site/docs/Oxon%20LINK%20Candidates%20Statements.pdf> - though you can't always tell who what area the people cover.

To vote please email kelly.rowland@helpandcare.org.uk and ask for a ballot paper - she will email them to you.

She will want to register you on www.makesachange.org.uk as someone interested in the work of the group - I hope that doesn't put you off from voting!

If you tell her your name, email address and a password, she will register you.

There is now a Faringdon Area Project Health group. The group has only just been formed, but we aim:

- . To gather service information and then publicise it throughout Faringdon
- . To participate in patient groups for both Faringdon practises.
- . To link with the Vale PCT consortium

- To become a Health voice for Faringdon, in influencing the PCT
- To understand the services available to Faringdon (on the Oxon/Wilts boundary) through Swindon PCT
- To ensure PCT take into account the projected population growth within Faringdon

It is evident from the contacts the FAP group has already made that the Health needs and opinions of Faringdon residents are not being heard. Being a member of the Stewardship group could help change this.

Please do vote- and ideally for me!! Closing date I think is 26/2

I'm away from 14/2 for a fortnight, but hopefully will have email access- in case of questions.

Gene Webb

Weather Deliveries!! - 10/1/09

All I can say is- the post wouldn't deliver, no supermarket would deliver, but my milkman still managed to get my milk and bread delivery here before 0530 every morning last week. Fabulous service and a big thank you to John Sidebottom the milkman concerned for the effort put in to achieving your job- shows what can still be done with a little bit of consideration.

As for gritting outside schools etc or keep them shut- did your school(s) shut all those many moons ago- i know mine didn't, everyone had to walk or bike and no-one bothered moaning about slipping over- that was part of growing up and enjoying the snow! Did your kids actually go and play in the snow??

Name Supplied

With reference to slagging off of Budgens!- 10/2/09

Perhaps staff at Budgens also couldn't get into the town due to the poor driving and walking conditions. My wife works at Budgens and worked more than her salaried hours to ensure the town had a shop open because they couldn't receive their Tesco/Asda/Sainsbury order, as did other members of staff and management. The owner and management made special journeys to other outlets to ensure the people of Faringdon had bread and milk when the Budgens deliveries were unable to reach the town. Would Tesco's have gone that extra mile?

The shop was busier due to people not being able to go to their chosen store, perhaps this was why you had 4 people in front of you in the queue! Let's grow up a little and understand the circumstances that the staff and management had to work under and give them some credit.

Perhaps you should have driven to Sainsbury's for your milk and had the great service they provide (tongue in cheek!), which would have taken you longer, they do charge you less, but add on the fuel cost and your worse off for your convenience item.

Name Supplied

Pavements. - 10/2/09

I can remember when I was at school in Wootton Bassett in the late 60s/early 70s, that at times of snow and really bad frosts; the older school kids, 14 and up would be despatched to clear the paths and driveways of the older residents of the town. Much older kids would also knock on each door and see if they were okay and see if anything needed doing.

Cant do that today as the Nanny Brigade would say that child labour, exploitation or some such nonsense.

On another matter, Why isnt McColls open till 0800 on Sunday now. Have to walk to the Esso to get the papers now as 8 is to late!

Bob

Volvo mechanic? - 10/2/09

does anyone know of a good non-(stealer)dealer garage or mechanic who is conversant and good at Volvo's in the Faringdon area?

Don't want to pay the stealers prices.
Bob

Poor old Gym! - 10/2/09

You are not alone Pat in your comments about the rusty gym equipment recently installed at the Faringdon Leisure Centre.

The layout of the room does not work either as is far too cramped, the T.V's are displayed to the side of the running machines giving you neck strain and where are the cross-training machines?

You now have to use two exercise machines to get the same effect I was told by a member of staff!
Name Supplied

Dear Faringdon Council - 10/2/09

Almost a week of snow has now passed...

We have been held prisoner in our own street, save the brave few who risk their insurance premiums by daring to drive down the ski runs that the Orchard Hill, Beach Close, Pines and Chestnut Avenue estates have become.

How can it be, that in this day and age, several days can pass, but nothing is done to grit the ice covered road and pathways.

My daughter slipped and fell on her way to School this morning. She had arrived at the Infant's School by car (due to the ice covered pathways), crossed the road and immediately slipped after reaching the pavement. This was outside the School...

My elder daughter also experienced a very hazardous trip to the secondary School, slipping and sliding her way up the hills toward Fernham Road.

Why is this happening? Should the Schools have opened at all if conditions were so severe? Children are risking personal injury in attempting to make it safely through the School gate? Where was the grit? Why did my Daughter hurt herself outside a School after all the money I personally pump ever month into the Council coffers? Why have the hills around these estates not been administered to? The children were reprimanded earlier last week for throwing snowballs at each other (all in the good name of Health and Safety), but the Council appear to be saving my pennies for more pressing project's.

I fully appreciate the fact, that this country does not normally expect the bad weather of late, but it has been nearly a week. If the Council cannot provide a safe route to School, then that School should not be open.

As for the roads... It's everyone for themselves!

Not good.. I won't be sending any of my children to School until this situation improves.

Kind Regards

Mr. H.

Registered Voter and Contributor of Excessive Council Tax.

Re - Post? - 10/2/09

Kate - yes the post arrived today, I had not had any post since Tues - but then again I wasn't waiting for particularly "Nice" post - just the usual assortment of bills, letters from the bank telling me how much my most recent transgression has cost me in bank charges.

But I knew things were back to postal normal when I got the standard - Congratulations you are over 50 - apply for a quote for your final lump sum for loved ones and we will send you a parker pen and as an added bonus - apply now for your easy payment funeral plan and we will send you an Alarm clock - with a battery guaranteed to die before you do!!!

Now I KNOW I am still alive and things are back to normal!!!

By the way can I claim that I only moved my now illegally parked car off the single yellow line outside my house at 8.02am instead of 8am because I was given a dodgy alarm clock by the Funeral Plan Company who were not building accuracy into their giveaway timepiece? Not that I am trying to avoid legally enforceable parking tickets, just the vitriole of a local self appointed vigilante busybody!!!

Name Supplied

Ricky has a new home - 9/2/09

I'm delighted to advise that my Dad's dog, sappy, timid Ricky has now found a wonderful warm and loving home with a lady called Vivian in Shrivenham. We went to visit her and she came and visited Ricky and went for a walk with him before both parties agreed they were happy. Ricky moved into his beautiful new home, complete with new bed and is settling in well, especially after being fed sausage gravy on day 1!

Vivian was alerted to Ricky by my post which was read by her daughter Jennifer who lives in Faringdon.

Many thanks for all readers of TP who contacted to enquire, offer advice and request an update - we are much obliged
Mel

Well done Martins - 9/2/09

While we are in congratulatory mood may I just say that Martins' (McColl?) have managed to deliver the newspaper before eight o'clock every morning last week.
Well done!!

Name Supplied

Pavements and Post and Colin - 9/2/09

Pavements...Many of us have cleared the snow from pavements outside our homes but how many understand that if anyone has an accident on the bit they have attempted to clear the householder will be considered responsible not the Council.I know it doesn't make sense but what has sense got to do with officialdom ?

Posts... Most of your post will be at the Sorting Office in Swan Lane. Take some form of identification to collect it. And don't blame the posties for avoiding the bone breaking paths.

Colin...Does anyone believe that Colin meant what he said ? Of course he didn't. He was angry and frustrated at the accident to his daughter's car...as most parents would be.So Colin. we don't want you to eat worms...just admit that you wish you had counted to at least ten before sending in your comments.
HGM

re Well done Budgens- 9/2/09

As a staff member, can I say thank you to all the customers who were patient and polite over the weekend despite there being less staff available.
It's amazing that it takes extreme conditions like this to bring out the nice side of people!
Fiona Merrick

Have a go at Colin. - 9/2/09

Yes Budgens is expensive, but at least they were open but Tesco would be cheaper. Faringdon does have a lot of elderly people on fixed incomes after all. Give them a choice.

OCC Highways types. Yes I have seen the poor local tv coverage, listened to the wireless and used the tinterweb to

monitor and find out whats going on. I couldnt get to work on Friday, or Saturday because of the state of the roads. Got to Carterton on Sunday and there roads there were in a far better state than the ones in the Town Why?

As for the incident with my Daughters car in Gloucester Street, I have suffered the same "deal" 3 times, my wife at least twice, so yes I am angry. And yes I have lost a loved one due to a nasty illness. Odd that no one complained when I wished a plague of locusts on those that parked illegally and continue to do so on Coxwell Street about 3 years ago when their inconsiderate parking caused my wife head injuries and a broken collar bone. Perhaps you are a saint and wear white and go to church. I myself dont believe in any religious figure, drink and fart in public.
And come on Tesco's.
Colin

refer to the comment Well done Budgens - 9/2/09

In my opinion the elevated prices and general lack of staff is something to be laughed at. On the last five occasions of visiting said shop, i have been kept waiting in a queue of more than four people only to get to the front to find they have to supervisor price check every other item in my basket. The last time took five minutes to price check 'Milk' yes 'Milk'. Maybe they don't sell too much of the stuff, i'm not sure! Any apology, you must be joking. Saying hello to each individual customer does not constitute customer service - Roll on Tesco's.
Name Supplied

Faringdon leisure centre Gym equipment - 9/2/09

The equipment we have now is much better than before and the Gym looks like a fitness gym. The staff have been putting a great deal of time into sprusing it up and it is much better.

BUT BUT BUT The SWIMMING POOL needs new airhandling. CLOSED AGAIN
Do Soll not realise that the equipment is 10 years old now it needs to be replaced patching up is no good. GOOD Regular servicing would have given an extra couple of years!!!.

BUT BUT BUT The main hall is being negelected again by some staff. Having a good fitness room is great but the other areas need looking at also.

This is no fault of the Staff Soll need to be much more proactive in visiting our centre spending more money and seeing really what goes on.
Dee England

Treachery on the pavements. - 9/2/09

If the Highways can't grit the pavements in time can they supply us all with ice skates?
Never known such slippy conditions as this morning walking to school.
Saw so many falling over like nine pins. Planning for the unexpected.
Walker

Well done Budgens - 8/2/08

Well done to Budgens for the valiant service they have given over the past few days - they were a life saver for those folk who couldn't get to their usual supermarkets and the staff despite being hard pressed were very helpful. I find the price comparison signage very helpful and yes some items are more expensive but then we are paying for the convenience and a lot more besides.
Alice Randall

Post? - 8/2/09

big blue bits of bus in my now wrecked car.)

Despite witnesses who saw the bus but did not get his registration number, and protracted civilised phone calls to Stagecoach in Swindon, I was not allowed to hold an identity parade at their depot. I wanted to re-unite the bits of bus that I had with the offending bus, a bit like a jigsaw, as I had the bits that had fallen off their bus!

I also had witness statements - but that was not enough....

I was not allowed to hold my ID parade to find the bus/driver and they have a very efficient PR department that prevented me from recovering the excess.

So ignorance of who hit your daughters car can be bliss - It will save you weeks and weeks of hassle.

However I now have to return to the matter of your language - It is true that you didn't use any actual swear words so that you post was allowed on this site - However what you DID say is far more vile, offensive & inflammatory than any swear words could ever have been.

Just what sort of warped sick person actually wishes the sort of misfortune you desire as an outcome on anyone... for a dent in a car!

I quote..."I do hope the perpetrator comes down with an incurable and long painful demise and that they lose every single possession they have as they lose there job, house, marriage and get a driving ban."

Be careful about you wish Colin bcause it could come true. I have always treated other people as I would like to be treated, so I hope the way you would like to treat this person & your venom does not backfire and fate decides that is what you deserve instead for your obvious hatred of others. I hope that you never have to never experience Cancer, the loss of a loved one, the loss of your job or dignity, the loss of your home or the loss of your mobility, because if you do you will only have yourself to blame and a dented car will seem insignificant in the bigger picture.

Terry

Re Forgotten Faringdon.- 8/2/09

CC highway types have been working very hard around the clock all week. I think you Colin need to watch the news and maybe listen to the radio and wake up.

Name supplied

Sue and the Folly Star - 7/2/09

Sue says the Star is not necessarily just for Christmas but I think she will find that most people, even those who ignore the religious considerations, still believe it represents a 2000 year old version of SatNav guiding gift bearing travellers to a rather basic Maternity Suite.

I agree that at any time of the year it might be nice to see it. I enjoy Christmas Pudding and Mince Pies but I wouldn't want them every day.

I still think the Folly Star should be allowed to remain as a unique part of Faringdon's decorations.and as such should be switched off at Twelfth Night.

Sue's need to have something guiding her back to Faringdon sounds like a personal problem with which I am not qualified to help.

HGM

Budgens. - 7/2/09

Due to the dreadful weather we are experiencing at the moment, I had to use Budgens today.

I certainly hope Tesco come soon as I couldnt believe just how expensive a shop it is.

How do they get away with the prices for certain items.

Well done to them for at least opening, but honestly some prices are scandalous.

Colin

Forgotten Faringdon. - 7/2/09

Tuesday when we had snow I saw the Highways types throwing salt and grit around the town so that the paths and roads were at least driveable. Since then nowt.

Due to OCC's incompetence they havent got enough salt as most of the councils money it seems goes to paying the gold plated pensions for there people; so obviously cutbacks are made.

The roads in the town and the footpaths are an absolute disgrace and I certainly hope that no one breaks any limbs on the paths or roads.

I know that budgets are tight, but surely as a matter of public safety the roads and paths should be better treated.

I wonder if the Town council will make a complaint to the paymasters at County Hall?

Colin

Folly Star - 7/2/09

I like the Folly star. I like the fact that it does stay up longer than 12th night.

It looks great, guiding you home at night. It's a star so not specifically a Christmas decoration.

Leave it up as long as possible I say!

Sue

Urban Myths - 7/2/09

Many people believe that certain actions lead to bad luck.

For example....Walking under a ladder, Breaking a mirror, Leaving Christmas decorations up after Twelfth Night, Electing a Labour Government.

TP Posters know this is superstitious rubbish (apart from the last one). But I feel that, purely in order to reduce Faringdon's carbon footprint you understand, it might have been advisable for the last person to leave the Folly Tower to have switched off our much appreciated Christmas Star

HGM

Salt box needed - 7/2/09

after seeing the chaos of the Witney junction of the 4095 (i live opposite), where is the grit / salt box for the junction????/

i listened to radio 2 talking points today and inferred that councils were not paying for them anymore!!!!.....are there any grit boxes in faringdon?

Name Supplied

Lost Keys - 6/2/09

I have lost a bunch of 3 keys today (Friday 6/2/09) up at Folly Park. If anyone finds them, could you take them to the police station in Faringdon and I will contact them to collect them this week.

Thank you in anticipation

Lorraine

Christmas is long over - 6/2/09

....really it is, but the star on the Folly Tower shines on and a lit christmas tree on the A420 would tell a different story. Everytime I see them they bug me.

Now I sort of like the decorations on the top of the Folly Tower, the light house effect being the best but can we please have them off on January 6th like all the rest.

Please?

Joan Monks

Hush - 6/2/09

Firstly, thanks to those of you who have contacted me regarding the recent postings on Talking Points. I have been living and working away for the last few months and ashamedly had grown out of the habit of regularly logging on and

catching up (sorry Gene and Hilary!). I see Tesco's, the Corn Exchange, traffic and names supplied are still high on the agenda. Even dog poo is still there, but then some things never change!

With regard to Hush, Tim and I have discussed this at length and decided that we cannot dedicate the time that would be necessary to organise the event this year. We have therefore decided, rather than attempt something in 2010, to refund all monies.

We have spent a considerable amount of time building up plans, proposals, contacts, etc. for the event, and will pass these on willingly to anyone who would genuinely like to organise something similar, providing it is in the same spirit as we intended (i.e. showcasing and publicising local musical talent alongside more widely known names, giving local people the opportunity of discounted entrance fees, and risking nothing from the public purse).

Over the next couple of weeks we will make contact with all of you who have not yet had refunds in order to confirm that we still have the correct address on record to which the refunds will be posted.

I'd like to inform the cynics that the bank account received no interest (in return for free banking). Although we did incur costs no taxpayers' money was used, and full refunds will be issued to everyone who had the faith to believe in a good idea.

I know the majority are not at all cynical, although some have openly admitted that they thought we were mad to try in the first place! The cynics are extremely few and far between, and may well be mad themselves, but then some things never change.

Martin Phillips

Faringdon Soap box - 5/2/09

The Faringdon Soapbox made its first ever outing at the meeting about the Corn Exchange on Tuesday night and interviewed some of the key councillors involved as well as gathering comments from some of the people at the meeting afterwards. The results have been published on the Soapbox's Youtube site - <http://www.youtube.com/user/FaringdonSoapBox>

This is only the beginning, we'll be out in the town on Saturday February 14 under the Old Town Hall asking for your views on what you would like to see happen at the Corn Exchange and whether there is any point in developing the old community building behind the Pump House.

Citizens Cane and Gildert.

Ed(GW): Great idea and great video - and sensible/realistic views expressed - mostly

Buyer Beware - 5/2/09

Five weeks ago I decided to ensure that GB and his mates couldn't force me into donating to yet another of their Fat Cat Charities by spending some of my savings.

I went to PCWorld and bought a VISTA computer full of Gigathingies.. The salesman was very friendly and reassuring. He even let me have a bargain price bundle of Office 2007 and Norton NIS and it was quite a while before I found that there was a free 60 day trial of both already installed. He convinced me that connecting to the Internet would be no problem, and to be fair it wasn't.....for him ! Raoul sorted it !

After 5 weeks my computer died.I don't know the technical term but it wouldn't start. I phoned the PCPerformance people (£4.99/Month) to be told that as it wasn't a hardware problem they couldn't help and any worthwhile support from PCWorld only lasts for 28 days. I was advised to press the little System Recovery button. I was then faced with a computer which looks just like it did when I brought it home except it was no longer in a box.

Again Raoul sorted it and he made it look quite a tricky operation so I don't feel like a complete idiot.

Caveat Emptor

FTC to own the Corn Exchange - 4/2/09

About 42 people(including councillors) voted to accept the transfer of ownership of the Corn Exchange to the town. 1 person abstained, feeling there was insufficient information from which to decide.

FTC accept that there is substantial repair work to be carried out (toilets, flat roof, heating), plus refurbishment and

updating. Some ££k will come from VWHDC, some from FTCs capital fund and £80k from Bloor Homes when the 100th house is occupied. FTC are confident that further money can be raised through grant funding from Oxfordshire CC and other organisations.
The impact on our Council Tax will be an extra £3 pa for Band D properties.

The £16k budgetted for sound proofing will not now be used for this. Sound proofing will be considered again when the Bloor Homes £80k is available.

It was said that the Corn Exchange is very well used- quizzes, craft fairs, dancing, and that music events(ending by 11.30pm) no longer cause a noise problem to surrounding residents, providing the noise levels are kept to a reasonable level.

Points made during the course of the meeting:

The Corn Exchange is losing significant business through the poor state of the toilets
Professional marketing help may be needed to maximise the use and income from the Corn Exchange
FTC may move to the Pump Rooms to enable office space and the Council chamber/Mayors parlour to be let
The TIC may move alongside the FTC offices, so that the Pump Rooms can be let
It was recommended that FTC get a 'whole building' plan of the work that is needed, rather than take a piecemeal approach.
Creating a Corn Exchange Trust will be considered- this may be advantageous for financial/grant funding reasons
It was suggested that FTC involve the community in planning the development of the building. eg Team to include non council interested parties
VWHDC have spent £411k on maintenance between 1996 and 2003 (figures supplied by VWHDC,, 2 sums £175k and £105K, the rest between £20k and £50k)

That's all I can remember - anyone else who was there please do tell me what I've missed or got wrong
Gene Webb

Calendar Competition - 4/2/09

We at the Tourist Information Centre in Faringdon are thinking of next year's calendar already!

Do you have any pictures you have taken of the area under snow? All Saint's Church? The Folly Tower? The Market Square?
Just as long as it is obvious that it is in or around Faringdon, we would love to see them.

Send them or email them to Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre, The Pump House, 5 Market Place, Faringdon. SN7 7HL, tel no 01367 242191 or email to tic@faringdowntowncouncil.org.uk
Fiona Merrick
Information Assistant

Re A Doctor Comments - 4/2/09

Thank you for that advice, Doctor.
I assume this is a syndrome and cannot be cured, but should be managed carefully?
May I suggest a remedy? My favourite is tea and chocolate, dosage to be regulated by the patient, but large quantities are good due to the calming properties of said remedy.

Above remedy available without prescription at your nearest supermarket. Always read small print - tea should be hot and chocolate should be of quality - Belgian is most efficacious.
D. Duck
Alternative Therapist

A Doctor Comments - 3/2/09

A Doctor Comments

"Heat Under The Collar"

In the dark days of winter, chill winds often mask an outbreak of what we doctors call 'getting hot under the collar', but there is no mistaking the tell-tale signs when they strike several people at once. I have noticed a small epidemic of this which seems to have been triggered by references to Tesco's, the Faringdon soap box, possible demolition of The Lees and other contentious topics aired lately on this website, and particularly by the appearance of the elusive 'name supplied'

Heat under the collar should ideally be monitored, as it usually gives rise to a release of hot air and in this era of climate change you cannot be too careful about how much energy you are wasting, but as yet there seems to be no reliable method of measuring the harmful emissions that accompany this condition.

Those afflicted may notice that they have raised blood pressure, a faster heart beat, breathlessness, hot flushes and loss of literacy. Frequent episodes of spelling amnesia and 'shiftkey finger'* can also occur. Another symptom to watch out for is a secretion of pedantry, but this is less common and usually short-lived. As a general rule, heat under the collar subsides, given time, but in extreme cases can lead to a seriously red face; and occasionally a susceptible victim actually bursts with indignation, (although this is very rare).

All in all though there is nothing much to worry about and my advice to sufferers is to buy a dictionary, avoid alcohol and take frequent cooling baths.

If anyone is experiencing regular attacks of 'getting hot under the collar' and would like confidential advice with regard to management, I can offer my professional services, although the presentation of my bill can sometimes induce a related condition which we doctors know as 'rippoff syndrome'.

A. Doctor

*see Strydant, Simpelle and Moot 2005

Buscot Fun Run?? - 3/2/09

Anyone know when the Buscot fun run is this year and Lambourn 6K which is normally the same day but in the morning.

I know its early to ask about June events but as I work shifts I need to plan ahead.

Many Thanks

KP

PS editor could we have a sporting events page on Website?

Love the website its one of my favorites and very useful

Ed(GW) I could highlight sports events in the Whatson page? How would that do?

Over 60s Bodyzone?? - 3/2/09

Please could we have a 'Bodyzone' facility for the over sixties? we'd only need a cut-down version...probably do without the pregnancy testing etc.

name supplied

NOTICE OF A TOWN MEETING - future of the Corn Exchange TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange

AGENDA

1. Mayor's Opening Address
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 26th January 2009
4. Matters Arising
5. Future of the Corn Exchange The Vale of White Horse District Council have decided that they no longer wish to own the Corn Exchange and lease it to Faringdon Town Council. Town Council have been offered the building in

order to maintain it as a community facility.

This will be a major commitment for the town and before taking a final decision councillors wish to gauge public opinion on taking ownership of the building.

To receive the following reports:

(a) Cllr. Leniec, Chairman of the Finance Committee, on the financial implications of taking ownership of the building

(b) Cllr. Price, Chairman of the Venues Committee, outlining the various venue options dependent on the final decision made.

Faringdon Youth Centre Highworth Road, Faringdon.- 3/2/09

Faringdon Youth Centre has changed massively! We have a new address and we're getting a new, very swanky interior. The Centre is currently closed for this massive £250,000 refurbishment and will be relaunched in the coming months (more details will be posted as we have them). The centre will be somewhere to come, be safe, pursue your interests and discover new ones! Anyone between 13 and 19 can get involved.

In the mean time youth workers are working in and around Faringdon

Monday

Outreach session from the 'Old Town Hall' 7-9.15pm: If you want to talk to a Youth Worker, get out of the cold or find out how you can get involved then come see us. Various activities available ask a youth worker for more info...

Tuesday

BodyZone @Faringdon Community College 1.20pm -2.20pm: Free and totally confidential advice on all aspects of health, dieting, smoking and bullying. You can also speak with a nurse who is available for all contraception worries. Non judgemental support with Emergency contraception and pregnancy testing available. Bodyzone is at Faringdon Community College every Tuesday during term times.

Thursday

Street based session 6.45pm- 9.15pm: Youth Workers will be in and around Faringdon. Stop us and say hello or ask us about anything from sexual health to bullying and anything in between. You can arrange to meet us if you need to speak with a Youth Worker just contact on the details listed. For more info, to make suggestions and get involved you can contact David Mephram via

Email: farindon.youth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01367 240155: Mob:07766 421975

Web: <http://www.spired.com/C-O-P-S/homepages.asp?id=13>

www.bebo.com/farindony

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faringdon-United-Kingdom/Faringdon-Youth-Centre/46018118132?sid=aeb85672335ae473a89f21cf1c403c94&ref=s>

David Mephram

Oh Dear !- 2/2/09

It's rather sad to see those intelligent contributors Hilary, Scott and Sam disagreeing when the question of anonymity on the website is being discussed. All their arguments make sense and it is quite obvious to most regular posters that all three make valid points

Apart from Scott and Sam..

Name Supplied (AKA HGM)

Soap box - 2/2/09

I like the soapbox idea it means that anyone can say what they want if they are so stupid that the wind up there neybers they can expect a brick throg there wiondows and it wil serve them rigt it dosnt matter if every one thinks difrent things nobody wil takeany notice anyway they never do the concil will do what they want anyway or hwoever as got the most money and if nobody can be botherd to come and spek then its there stupid falt that nothing gets don that they want you cna always were a hoody or a baclava with just your eys showing

tony

Portwell Angel Bar - 2/2/09

Lots of Town's folk have mourned the demise of the Portwell Bar. (All credit to Martin Phillips, he had the right idea at the right time). The purpose of this enterprise is to see if those people and their friends are prepared to become engaged in what is really a small community venture: to re-open the bar – and then make sure it is utilised.

We are looking to raise a total £100,000 from at least 50 (and ideally more) local, interested people who would enjoy (and use) a slightly up-market wine-bar type environment in Faringdon. The attached document suggests that a share purchase of £2,000. This figure has only been chosen because $50 \times £2,000 = £100,000$. I fully appreciate that some locals may simply not have that amount and may prefer to invest less. Some may like to invest more, buy a larger number of shares and hold a larger stake in the business.. It is the 50+ people that is important.

We will also need someone to run the bar and others to work there on a full time and/or part time basis. Anyone interested should send their CV to jane.haynes@bordengate.com
[More information in the attached letter](#)
Nick Elwell

Re: anonymity on TP - 2/2/09

I have in the past and always will defend the right of anonymity on this site. We always require genuine contact details as a safeguard and undertake to keep these confidential. People have many reasons to remain publicly anonymous, not the least of which is that their views may be perceived as unpopular and consequently they may be shy of expressing them when their acquaintances may hold strong differing opinions. Also, for example, people who have local businesses or are here in a professional capacity will not wish to risk offending their customers or clients.

It is more, not less likely that an anonymous poster expresses genuine views in those circumstances. Those who append their names, and - in the case of video, faces, to their opinions will only do so when they think they are likely to be applauded for their views.

The bullying attitude of people who don't like to read unpopular opinions, which appear critical, or conflict with their own views is unpleasant, and smacks less of the desire for 'free speech' than conformity.

Hilary Taylor

Name Supplied - 2/2/09

I'm in complete agreement with Scott Gildert re: people who post comments on talking points and then hide behind fictitious names or name supplied.

I look forward to hearing and seeing what the Faringdon soapbox on Feb 14th brings us.
Name actually supplied.
Don't forget "Storm Warning ". Corn Exchange friday 6th Feb.
Sam Prince

The Faringdon Soapbox - 1/2/09

You can hardly be surprised that 'name(s) supplied' wish to retain their anonymity when a perfectly reasonable, if cautionary comment is followed by a ranting, incoherent response. You missed the point entirely, which is that a video poll such as you propose, while being interesting and amusing, (and I meant what I said about it being so) is totally unscientific and cannot be representative of the opinions of the town population as a whole. It is misleading to suggest that it will be.

name supplied

Re Folly lighthouse - 30/3/09

I agree with name supplied on the lighthouse comment. It would be nice to see it again.
Fiona Merrick

Re Idea for Folly light - 30/3/09

I think a massive revolving Tesco sign would look great at the top of the Folly"
Actually, wouldn't that be a great April Fool's joke!
Just think of all the cars driving into Faringdon looking for a new Tesco - imagine their faces when they were driving round and round looking for it!
Hilarious!
A Twisted Sister

Skaters - 31/3/09

Nothing has been announced with regards to International events. I know of no competition in november on the International scene
Please tell all
Name Supplied

Folly light - 31/3/09

I have a suggestion for the next christmas folly light ~ PLEASE BRING BACK THE LIGHTHOUSE.
I believe we had the lighthouse in 1999/2000 so to bring it back 10 years later would be a rather fitting tribute for the most amazing folly light we have ever had, does anyone agree with me?
If so please post a plea to the remarkable Peter White to BRING BACK THE LIGHTHOUSE PLEEEEEEASE!
Name Supplied

Faringdon Skaters - 30/3/09

I was not aware that anything had been announced by the Federation in respect of International selection for this years skaters.
Name Supplied

Folly light - 30/3/09

As its a folly, perhaps the person who designed the new market place could be hung from the Folly Tower. Has made a complete mess of the Town in my humble opinion.
not broke fixit

Idea for Folly light - 30/3/09

I think a massive revolving Tesco sign would look great at the top of the Folly and really enhance the character of the town.
Not only that, but it would help attract visitors to the local shops.
Yours Seymour Munny

Cajun Thanks - 30/3/09

many thanks for everone who turned up at the Cajun afternoon on Sunday 29th At The Jam Club.
We have decided to run a once a month Louisiana Tea Dance on the 3rd sunday of every month from 3-7pm.
Good Music,Good Food and a Good Time with a great bar.
All for a reasonable price.
www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Faringdon Artistic Skaters - 30/3/09

Oliver and William Timbrell gained 6 medals between then at competition over the Weekend.
The British Championships were very disapointing with 16 events only 2 skaters made the standard that was required to be called a champion.ONLY 2 SKATERS IN FREESKATING EVENTS MANAGED TO PERFORM AN AXEL.

Although faringdon skaters won medals they were winners of competitions no Champions.
To be selected to skate at International level you have to make the standard and be a champion of Great Britain not a winner on competitions.

The only way our young skaters can skate abroad is if the federation decide to hold trials and this goes against the reason why we have Championships
Dee England

Roller Skating success for girl from Faringdon - 30/3/09

Ursula Campbell, who skates for the Downlands Artistic skating club, has won 3 gold medals at the under-10 British Roller Skating Championships and could be selected to skate for Great Britain in Portugal in November.
Thanks to her coach David Bullock for all of his hard work.
David Campbell

Peter'a problem - 29/3/09

This post is for those of you who think that the Star, like a pet, isn't just for Christmas
Do you have any suggestions for Peter White's next Christmas offering ?
Anything mounted above the existing star would be over the top in more ways than one and the suggestion of a small helium filled balloon supporting an illuminated Father Christmas does have a certain charm though it might be associated with a few technical problems as well as being a hazard to the low flying helicopters which seem to find Faringdon irresistible.
Any suggestions?
Stella Lover

Brighter future- 28/3/09

Sod that! turn the lights off.
How am I supposed to do this and watch the 20 tv's and have the house a nice balmy 80f all day.
Al Gore

Earth Hour: lights-off for brighter future 8.30 tonight - 28/3/09

People all over the world will once again turn their lights off for an hour to help enhance public awareness of environment and give the world a brighter future.
It's just your lights - you can still watch TV/listen to the radio etc
[Read more](#)
Margaret Barker

Nature watch - Faringdon Folly - 28/3/09

Friends of the Folly have been doing lots of clearance work in the Folly Woodland- thinning trees, clearing brambles
The aim is to get more light into the woodland in the hope that a wider variety of plants, insects and birds can be seen there.

We've gathered some information about the various species - see <http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/FF%20wildlife.htm>
but it would be really good if walkers told us about any others they spotted.
So if you see anything interesting please do tell me genewebb@rocketmail.com

If anyone wants to take this on as a little project that would be great
Gene Webb

Faringdon Area Project is holding a 'Well done' and 'Thank you' - 27/3/09

.....to all Faringdon and village folk for their help in running so many great events last year.

The Action Plan for Faringdon has been printed and some of those projects have been already started (a copy of the plan can be seen here <http://www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk/documents/faringdonactionplan.pdf>).

On Monday 30th March at 7.00pm in Sudbury House Hotel, all those who are interested in furthering any one of the projects in the Action Plan, or starting new ones for the betterment of our town and/or villages are welcome to this event.

We are all volunteers, and we understand that each of us can contribute only a few hours regularly. There are others who will be at this supper and who will suggest and maybe lead these projects forward. We welcome you all, and welcome the skills you can bring.

Supper tickets are £12.00 per head and are available from Jane Haynes jane.haynes@bordengate.com or tel 241162.

Car Share Wanted - 26/3/09

Does anybody in Faringdon drive to Swindon/Stratton area Mon - Friday?
I am looking for a lift in the mornings in exchange for petrol money.
I would be grateful to hear from anyone who would be able to help.
Joanne Fletcher

Congratulations to the Templars - 26/3/09

Name Supplied

Thankyou Sudbury House - 25/3/09

Just a big thank you to all at Sudbury House for their generosity in providing their function room plus staff for the evening last Friday. The event was a cheese & wine fund raiser for Macmillan Cancer Support and it turned out to be a very enjoyable and fun evening. Thanks also to all who organised the night, to those who gave generously for the raffle prizes, and those who attended.

David K.

Keep the Star - 25/3/09

We love it, it is wonderful to see from far and near. Life's too short, lets have some joy!
P Keeble

The band Templars have made it through to the final - 24/3/09

Re. an entry here a week or so ago about a competition being held by Jack FM: "Templars" (one of the bands that

played at the Youth Day on Saturday) heard this morning that they've made it through to the final 20 out of over 100 entries in the Jack FM "Next Big Thing" competition.

They're headlining at the Jericho Tavern in Oxford on Friday 17th April and anyone is welcome to come along. from Jamie Townsend (the drummer in the band - from Faringdon!)

Faringdon Star - 23/3/09

In my humble opinion, we see stars most nights, cloud permitting; so what is wrong with the Faringdon Star.

Miserable beggars the lot of you!

Be grateful someone ACTUALLY cares about the town.

GET A LIFE

Bob

Views on the Police - from the Soapbox You Tube site - 23/3/09

Listen to views of local people about policing in Faringdon on <http://www.youtube.com/user/FaringdonSoapBox>
Citizen Cane and Gildert

Faringdon Area Project- Launch the Action P Lan 2008-2012 - 23/3/09

Monday 30th March, Sudbury House, 7pm

Volunteers will speak of their progress towards having a Market Town of Vitality, Sustainability, Fun and Friendship

A toast to the Town and Buffet supper will follow

Tickets £12 from Jane Haynes 08456 580 510 jane.haynes@bordengate.com or Daphne Saunders 01367 240193
pgsaund@aol.com

Keep the Star - 21/3/09

its wonderful and my work mates all know faringdon because of it. I dont understand Neils comments, how can a star be just for xmas? they are up there all year around. In fact you can even see them better during the summer.

Another Neil

The Folly Star - 21/3/09

I have to say as much as I love to see the star. My grandchildren do comment that "Its not Christmas granma so why is the star still there"!!!!

Dee

The star - 21/3/09

I've been telling my children that the Folly Star is Faringdon's winter star. Mind you, it's Spring now, I guess I'll have to hope that they don't notice and ask any questions because I may have to invent a new story!

Any ideas?!

Anna

A star too long - 21/3/09

In my humble opinion it is not acceptable for a symbol that is designed for the festive period, to still be in place and shining into almost the fourth month of the year.

I agree it looks great in the winter months when approaching Faringdon returning home, but can I make a suggestion that in future it bears no relation to Anything Christmas or festive.

In that way it could be erected and switched on in say late October and keep glowing until late march without it looking like a Christmas decoration that has been forgotten about, which doesn't make a great impression to passers by using the A420.

Neil

Youth Action Day Saturday 21st March - 19/3/09

At Faringdon Junior School from 10am - 7pm, Ages 10+
Skate Park, Spider Mountain, Rodeo Bull
FREE ENTRY
Local Bands in the Hall Featuring Disclosure From 2pm

The Soapbox has been out and about - 19/3/09

Last weekend the soapbox was Out and about again this time gathering your thoughts on the policing of Faringdon See **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** to check out the video.
Scott Gildert

Re Ridiculous star - 15/3/09

Well, bah humbug to you too!

I think it's a great and novel idea and I thought everyone knew that we as townfolk weren't paying through taxes for it as it's been featured in the Folly newspaper often enough.

It's a voluntary payment for the power - if you pay to go up Folly Tower, you are paying a little bit towards the electricity.

I know you don't have to like it, but it's not ridiculous - surely that's a bit strong?

Fiona Merrick

Ed(GW) Lots of information about the Folly and how it's run can be found on www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

Your views on the Health service wanted -15/3/09

Are we being fair? – Oxfordshire PCT Single Equality Scheme

Oxfordshire PCT are in the midst of a consultation looking at whether we are being fair and equal in the local health services that we provide across Oxfordshire such as GP surgeries, dentists, pharmacists, opticians and local community hospitals. We are conducting a survey to find out what people think is/isn't working regarding equality of health services and are listening to suggestions for improvements so that we can focus our resources where you think it is needed most.

The survey is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/oxnhs-equality>

Sara Price

Communications & Engagement Projects Co-ordinator

Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust

Jubilee House, 5510 John Smith Drive, Oxford Business Park South, Oxford, OX4 2LH

www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk

Poll Tax. - 14/3/09

Got the latest bill today and I see that the propoganda leaflet from the Vale mentions all kinds of grants for this that and the other and yet I cant find any mention of anything in Faringdon!
And I see that even with the Town Council scaling back there budget, Faringdon is still the most expensive payer in the Vale.
Bob

Thames Valley Police want your views - 13/3/09

Saturday 14th, Market Place 1000-1600
Give your views on what you think should be the policing priorities for Faringdon

Uplifting star - 13/3/09

On my drive home from work, tired and looking forward to returning home, it is uplifting to see the illumination on the folly, it gives the feeling your that bit closer to home.
could we have a bit of seasonal cheer for each of the seasons, rather than just the dark winter months (which the star happily compensates for!!)
Steve Leech

Charity Car Wash - 12/3/09

Faringdon Fire Station Saturday (March 14) from 10am to 2pm

Ridiculous star - 11/3/09

A star at christmas, a rabbit at easter.
These things are both ridiculous and a waste of tax payers money.
Whats next? A wad of cash in neon for bank holidays?
How much are these lights costing 'US' as tax payers?
Name Supplied

Ed(GW) Have no fear- it costs you nothing. Volunteers man the tower on Open days, The £1 charge generates enough money to pay the electricity bill and other running costs. The Christmas light is chosen and constructed each year by Peter White - for which he charges £0. Sorry you don't like it - most people do. It is soon to be taken down.

Old Wellies required - 11/3/09

Do you have wellies that you dont wear anymore?
Please would you be willing to give them up for a school project?.
If so Please can you ring 07872955355 as soon as possible.
Thankyou
Dee England

Animal crime - 11/3/09

1. Pregnant Horse Brutally Attacked. Police are appealing for witnesses and urging horse owners to be vigilant after a pregnant horse was attacked in Coleshill, Vale of White Horse, crime reference MC3293203/09.
Between 6pm on 5 March and 8am on 6 March someone has used a sharp knife to cut near to the horse's stomach and behind her back legs. PC Louise Russell, investigating the incident, said: "This is a nasty, callous act where a horse has been deliberately injured. Luckily the horse and the foal both survived the attack.

I appeal to anyone who might have seen suspicious activity in the area to contact me and urge horse owners to be aware that this incident has happened and to take extra care of their horses at this time." Anyone with information

which could help the police should contact DC 3882 Jackie Murdock (contact details below) or the officer in the case PC Louise Russell at Wantage police station via 0845 8 505 505, or if you don't want to talk to the police or give your name, call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111. 2.

Missing Lurchers

At about 10am today, Monday 9 March, two lurchers slipped off together in the Harpsden Bottom area, near Henley. They are absolutely stock and pheasant proof as they live on a farm. One is a brown and white small greyhound looking bitch and the other a blue Wiemaraner cross bitch. Any information to: 07786 147730. Any information to: DC 3882 Jackie Murdock Intelligence Development Officer (Burglary Dwelling) 01865 293956 fax 01865 293979 E.Mail: jackie.murdock@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

DOGWATCH

A Dogwatch TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE is now available for the receipt of urgent information. To register send your mobile number by phone: 07831 675555 or 01491 571353 or e-mail add@culdenfawltd.com
When reporting a dog related crime on 999 or 0845 8505 505, the message will automatically be relayed to headquarters at Kidlington and a relevant communication will be "cascaded" to all interested parties including: Police Area Beat Officers; Dog Wardens; Re-homing Centres etc, as well as our own members.
If it is a theft or suspicious activity that might be related to dog theft, tell the operator: "please link this incident to the Countrywatch Ringmaster System". To enrol new members, e-mail dogwatch@culdenfawltd.com or telephone 01491 641668
Name Supplied

Oxfordshire Music Talent Competition- win £2k and airtime - 10/3/09

Our local radio station, Jack Fm, is holding a competition to find the best in Oxfordshire's musical talent. See www.jackfm.co.uk/nextbigthing/ for details as below:
Are you Oxfordshire's Next Big Thing?

The hunt is on for the best unsigned talent that Oxfordshire has to offer - is it you?

Send us a link to your demo and info through this site and you could get into the Top 20 who will get a track professionally recorded at SAE Oxford, the world's largest digital media college.

The acts will then be judged on these tracks with the best 5 progressing through to the live final at Oxford's O2 Academy!

Throughout the competition you'll be able to hear tracks from acts taking part on 106.8 JACK fm & Oxford's FM107.9 and the winning act will win a £2,000 recording session at SAE Oxford's state of the art recording facilities, even more air play on both stations and the chance to play at The Wychwood Music Festival 2009 (May 29th-31st)!

As there is so much local talent out there I thought I would pass this on so that hopefully we can have a Faringdon winner! Closing date 20th March.
Rachel

The following timeline applies to The Next Big Thing 2009 competition:

March 2nd – March 8th 2009: Tease

March 9th – 20th: Registration

March 23rd – March 29th: Top 20 announcement and start of SAE session stages (March 25th)

March 30th – April 10th: SAE session continue with radio coverage for each act

April 13th – April 28th: Announcement of Top 5 and promotion of final at O2 Academy Oxford

April 29th – 10th May: Post promotion & follow up

M.A.D.D. joins in with the French market

on Sunday 29th march. The Corn Exchange will be open from 12-5pm.

Come and join in the Cajun experience with "The Bearcats". An afternoon of music and Dance.

This is a free event promoted by the "JAM CLUB"

There will also be the M.A.D.D. Bar and Lou Smith will be providing some excellent Cajun dishes

Sam Prince

Ethical Breakdown Cover - 10/3/09

Try phoning 0845 389 1010. They're very helpful. I've just paid mine - £49.50.
Tony

Ethical Breakdown Cover - 9/3/09

I've just tried to use the link to their website to find out the costs involved but it seems to be necessary to give far too many personal details before I could find any info..
The AA provides a great service but the way they use the direct debit system is, in my opinion, unacceptable but they are not shy about advertising their charges.
I have contacted them with my view but they tell me they need to encourage more new members in order to maintain their service to the older ones.
Name Supplied

Faringdon Artistic skaters take top places - 9/3/09

Faringdon Artistic skaters competed in the Novice and Prelim Competition at Peterborough over the weekend

Richard Whitlock 1st in figures 1st in freeskating and 1st overall Novice Champion 2009
Selina James 1st in figures and Bronze medal overall
Richard Whitlock and Sophie Lewis 2nd place in the Dance competition
Mitchell Stock and Maria 3rd place in the Dance
Sophie Lewis entered the Prelim comp for first time and was place 6th out of 30 girls

Well Done Skaters should be congratulated for brilliant performances
Dee England

Re Sponsored loop the loop in a glider - 9/3/09

..and following on from Sarah's comments if you don't fancy looping the loop but want to help raise the necessary funds for this worthwhile cause by sponsoring one of the mad 16 who are taking part then do visit my Just Giving page <http://www.justgiving.com/annamarlow>...every little helps and donations however great or small are hugely appreciated!
Thank you! ;-)
Anna Marlow

Sponsored loop the loop in a glider - 9/3/09

I am organising a sponsored loop the loop in glider to help pay for a truck of humanitarian aid to go from Faringdon to Kosovo in October with the charity Hope and Aid Direct (www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk)

So far there are about 16 people taking part but I am looking for a few more!
The flight will take place on Saturday 25 April at the London Gliding Club in Dunstable (approx 1hr 20min from Faringdon)
If you are interested (or have any questions) in supporting this worthwhile cause please email me mail@saraholiver.freeserve.co.uk
or phone 01367 242769
Sarah Oliver

M.A.D.D. - 9/3/09

after a fantastic performance on Friday night at the Jam Club by Pete Boss and the bluehearts, we have decided to invite them back on Sept 4th.
Sam Prince

Re Be A Aware - 8/3/09

Forget the AA and the others - they're just roads lobbies - and join the Environmental Transport Association. You still get your car fixed if you break down, but for less per year AND a portion of that money goes towards sustainable transport networks. (They do a lot more besides.)

Go to www.eta.co.uk.

Name Supplied

M.A.D.D. MayFest. - 7/3/09

My apologies, the information should read.

The play will be performed by students from year 8 upwards.

Thank you Nial.

The performance is by "Curtain Call" Sunday 3rd May @ The Corn Exchange.

Followed by "Silvanito"

Sam Prince

M.A.D.D. MayFest. - 8/3/09

We of the M.A.D.D. organization have decided that the festival should run throughout May, featuring special gigs encompassing all areas of the arts.

Commencing on Friday May 1st with the "Dr. Teeth Big Band" jive, Rock n Roll and R/B and culminating at the end of the month with a tribute to the Tamla Mowtown sound.

50 years folks, but I'm sure you're aware of this.

Can't say much about this gig at the moment except it will feature a group of D.Js.

I know there is a great interest in this and a bus has been hired for people from Oxford.

Keep watching this site and www.maddfaringdon.co.uk for info.

Yours truly Sam.

As a post script. Gig on the hill. Folly Hill, Monday 4th May.

Anyone interested in performing please contact me. 01367-243806, 07531459179 or 01367-243856 (The bar @ the corn Exchange)

Faringdon, Park Rd. Bloor Homes. - 7/3/09

Two generations have described the new houses as Lego houses or the old Work house.

Who passed the plans

I would really love to know, what were they thinking 'or on'.

I can't wait to see the finished product. I can do with a good laugh.

Name Supplied

Be A Aware - 7/3/09

As an existing member of the Automobile Association I have just been invited to renew my membership.

The cost ?

Roadside £63.50 plus Relay £51.00 ..Total £114.50

But there is cheaper way to get the same cover

Simply apply as a new member by telephone and the nice man at the call centre will give you the same cover for £78.00 and throw in a £20 M&S voucher.

That, as David Dickinson might say, is THE REAL DEAL

Name Supplied

Play Parks and Spray Paint - 6/3/09

As someone who has worked very hard to give young people in Faringdon a better deal, I agree there is a big problem with litter and Vandals, but is the answer to go off to a nice Village park.
Do you think it maybe time to pull together as a community to do something constructive, instead of sitting on our laptops writing on talking points.
Not all parents are perfect this we all know, but its not just young people from Bin estates out at 2am that smash bottles or tag all over play parks.
Where are your teenages tonight?.
Name Supplied

As part of the M.A.D.D. MayFest.- 6/3/09

"Fortescue Phantoms" by Dr.Giles Watson will be performed by A level students from Faringdon Community College.
Please watch www.maddfaringdon.co.uk for more information.

Treasure Island the Musical - 6/3/09

Calling all young people between the ages of 10 and 17

Can you Sing, Dance or Act? Would you like to have a go?
Can you paint or make scenery?
Are you interested in sound or lighting ?
Do you play a musical instrument for example Keyboard, Guitar or Drums?
If you can say yes to any of these then
Faringdon Arts Festival wants YOU.
We are looking for 50 Talented Kids who
Over 10 Sundays we want you to rehearse in preparation for a big performance on a Stage in front of the people of Faringdon

Open Auditions for Acting/Singing/Dancing
Sunday 19th April The Old Crown Sports Bar
Registration 12.00pm Auditions commence 1pm till 4pm
Prepare Two Songs One Fast One Slow of your choice
(CD player will be available)
A Short Script will be given for you to perform on the Day

Open Auditions for Musical Instruments on Sunday 26th April
The Old Crown Sports Bar Registration 12.00pm
Auditions Commence 1pm till 4pm
Musicians please prepare Barry Manilows' Copacabana
Drummers prepare the percussion for the same song
Drums will be Available at the venue
Rehearsals for the cast Commence Sunday 3rd May 12 till 4 at the Old Crown
E mail info@sgvideoproductions.co.uk to register you interest

Scott Gildert Faringdon Arts Festival Kids events Co-ordinator

Re Play parks- to the person that decided to write 5/3/09

'Why send the litter louts to a lovely village. Let them play in the dog poo and litter. It's them that put it there in the first place.' Name Supplied
Grow up!!! you cant be that ignorant to believe everyone from faringdon litters, i am personally offended by your comments! if i want to take my children to a nice, safe park i will!
Name Supplied

My Afternoon Play- Radio 4 - today - 5/3/09

An adaptation of Iain M. Banks' 'The State of the Art' is on BBC Radio 4 at 2.15pm today (Thursday), but will for a week afterwards be available on the BBC IPlayer:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00hv1dz/b00htxt/Afternoon_Play_The_State_of_the_Art/

If you check it out, I hope you enjoy it.

Cheers.

Paul Cornell

Re Play parks - 5/3/09

Why send the litter louts to a lovely village.

Let them play in the dog poo and litter. It's them that put it there in the first place.

Name Supplied

Play parks in Faringdon - 4/3/09

I suggest you try Great Coxwell play park which is hardly used, graffiti and litter free.

Faringdon is turning into a dump and the Council should be ashamed of themselves as well as the litter offenders living here.

Name Supplied

Re- Information everyone should know - 3/3/09

Below is very good advice about strokes. Also I expect most folks have seen the adverts, but FAST is usefull. ACT F.A.S.T. is a new national government campaign aimed at helping people to recognise the signs of stroke, and act to save lives and reduce the damage caused.

Face..

Has their face fallen on one side.

Can they smile? Arms..

Can they raise both arms and keep them there?

Speech. Is their speech slurred?

Time. to call 999, If you see any single one of these signs.

http://www.stroke.org.uk/campaigns/raising_awareness/act_fast.html

Name Supplied

Used Stamps for Cats and kittens - 3/3/09

West Oxfordshire Cats Protection are still collecting used stamps. Large and small amounts.

Can either be posted to W.Oxon CP, Tihany, Hatford, Oxon SN7 8JF (please ensure you put enough postage on the envelope or it will not get to me) or can ring 01367 718761 to arrange a local address where you can post through a letter box.

Thankyou to everyone who has donated so far - we have raised over £50 with the first two batches and are now starting to collect for the third batch. West Oxfordshire cats protection are now selling items via e-bay.

You can bid on our items by looking for sellers name 'wetsoxoncatsprotection', or you can donate when you sell or buy item's.

Cats and Kittens still in need of good loving homes, donations of food and litter always needed.

Pam Smith

Hush Money? - 3/3/09

Like the other person who posted recently about the missing refunds for the Hush festival, I too have been waiting for Mr Phillips to honour the commitment he made on Talking Points at the beginning of February to make contact "over

the next couple of weeks" and repay his debts.

Despite a number of attempts to contact him, emails are either unanswered or returned as 'undeliverable' and the only phone number I can track down seems to be disconnected. So, come on Martin, make good your promise and let's have some contact details where we can get hold of you. Otherwise you will prove the cynics right and leave a bad taste in the mouth of the many people who trusted you with their hard earned cash.

Name Supplied

Re Swan Lane - - 3/3/09

it should be a one way road i nearly been hit five times comming out by davis diy on to london street
get it sorted

Name Supplied

Information everyone should know - 3/3/09

Blood Clots/STROKE:

Remember the 1st Three Letters....S.T.R.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours it is possible he can reverse the effects of a stroke

He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Remember the '3' steps, STR . Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)

R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke

Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

Message from the Ambulance Service re ICE - 3/3/09

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as 'ICE'

It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest.

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

Gateway on the Lechlade Road - 3/3/09

From VWHDC

'The Lechlade Road Gateway will be located within the grass highway verge on the approach to Faringdon within the 30mph zone.

Its aim is to welcome visitors to Faringdon but also as a visual clue to encourage cars to slow down as they approach the town.

The Gateway will be a stone wall incorporating the word Faringdon made from individual metal letters, in association with this wall will be a lower wall, seat and a new tree.

The metal letters are being made by Root and Branch in their forge at Westmill Farm, Watchfield. Root and Branch is a charity which provides therapeutic gardening and rural crafts for people in Oxfordshire who experience mental health difficulties.'

It is planned to be built in the second half of April after the Easter Holidays.

Thankyou for voting for me!! - 2/3/09

I've just heard from the Links people - and I've been elected to the Stewardship Group- so thankyou to everyone who voted for me - I know it was an unwieldy process!

Just to remind you:

Links has been set up to influence the delivery of health and social services across Oxfordshire.

'The government have taken a strong view in recent years that the general public should be involved in, and allowed to voice their opinion about, how health and social care services should be run. Each council has been required to select a local organisation that will host an independent Local Involvement Network (LiNK). Every Local Involvement Network will be created by the public. The members of the public that want to be a part of a LiNK will decide how each is formed and run. Each one will be different depending on where each is based, the type of community that it serves, the numbers and types of people that want to be involved in running it and what the health and social care issues are that face those communities.'

[More about the Oxfordshire Link on www.makesachange.org.uk](http://www.makesachange.org.uk)

The Stewardship group will:

'guide the LiNK through supporting and enabling groups and individuals to carry out the work of the LiNK. The Group will help with the development and building of better health and social care in the Oxfordshire Community through listening to individuals and groups and deciding on how resources will be best used to help improve services'

If you're interested in influencing Health matters and want to be kept informed, you can register your interest on www.makesachange.org.uk

So Thankyou again.

There's to be a meeting in the next week or two, after which I'll provide more info on what the group is planning to do.

I'm thinking it could be useful to have a 'Talking Health' section of this website.

What do you think?

Gene Webb

Swan Lane - 02/03/09

Now that the double yellows are down at last it hasn't taken long for those with colour blindness to ignore them.

I imagine with the absence of enforcement it will be back to usual pretty soon in that it will be difficult to navigate in a car along the road.

Bob

Faringdon Town Football Club - 30/04/09

Faringdon Town Football Club are playing in the final of the North Berks Charity Shield, 7.00pm Saturday 2nd May 2009 at Abingdon Utd, Northcourt Road, Abingdon against Saxton Rovers. Come and support the team!

Martin Harries

Nursery Rhyme Decorations - 30/04/09

I'm interested to find out more about the celebrated nursery rhyme decorations (Dr Foster and Four and Twenty Blackbirds) on two of the town's houses (eg. who put them up and when, what they're made of, and so on). Does anyone have further information they can give me?

Glyn Duggan

No toffees on the NHS - 28/04/09

Re Health Service - how right you are, name supplied. Certainly no toffees with the modern NHS

In a nearby practice, (**not** Faringdon) not so very long ago, community nurses actually refused to visit a terminally ill patient - a friend of mine with no family, who lived alone - over a weekend, because when they visited him on his return from hospital (on a Thursday) - I quote - "he was burning a joss stick and it was just too much". Over the next week the patient in question was refused any pain relief at all - due to a "failure in communication" A message was sent after a couple of days from one of the GPs at his surgery that he could have "two paracetamol".

On the morning of the day he died he begged for a bath. Visiting nurses refused, even though I had already prepared the bath, laughing as they said "we don't have time for that kind of thing". Later the same day I requested a home visit by his GP - I won't describe the unpleasant circs but sufficient to say that he was in the very terminal stages of liver cancer. I was told by the surgery receptionist that "We don't allow home visits unless they are specifically requested by the patient" After my insistence and visit to the surgery a doctor visited, but refused to give the patient any pain relief on the grounds that "I'm sending him into hospital, so I can't give him any pain relief" The ambulance arrived some three hours after the doctor's visit, and the patient died later that evening. The ambulance crew were cheerful and considerate, as were the hospital staff. I followed the patient to hospital, to be asked on my arrival by the staff there what was wrong with the patient as the GP's note "was very sketchy".

I was appalled by the the sheer lack of kindness or consideration for this dying man; and by the arrogance and disregard with which I as his carer, albeit in an unofficial capacity, was treated by his GP surgery. Whatever frustrations or dissatisfaction the surgery personnel may have had with their roles vis a vis the health authority, government, bureaucracy etc was NO excuse.

I cared for and attended the patient daily throughout this period. I carefully and accurately documented the episode, and yes, I did make a formal complaint; first to the GP surgery, to receive a dismissive and inadequate response; then to the Swindon Primary Care Trust. I asked for nothing more than an explanation and apology. After about nine months of obfuscation, and delaying tactics on their part, I gave up. No doubt I am one of their complainants whose case was 'satisfactorily settled'.

I hasten to repeat that this in no way reflects upon or applies to our Faringdon health centre, whose staff, despite the perceived inadequacies of the system (over which they have little control), as far as I am concerned have always been considerate and helpful.

name supplied

Health Centre Reference - 28/04/09

the recent posting about the Health Centre from the person who gets a toffee with her flu jab. Unfortunately this person suffers from an illusion because the local GPs and nurses wont be there for him/her in an emergency after 6pm or at weekends.

Unfortunately, the 'old fashioned' days are long gone when our GPs would run a local casualty service and see patients at weekends. Patients now have to rely on the out of hours service when they'll probably be asked to go to Witney or Abingdon. Have you ever tried to get your local GP or nurse to visit you in Faringdon at weekends?

Have you also tried the new 'non old-fashioned' robotic answering system to make an appointment during opening hours? Is there an option to over-ride this in an emergency? Luckily, there is still an option to talk to a human.

name supplied

Faringdon Artistic Skaters - 27/04/09

results of youth Championships
Youth ladies Figures British Champion. Hollie Fidler, 2nd Georgina Howe

Youth Ladies Free Skating Championships. 3rd Georgina Howe

Combined Championships. 2nd Georgina Howe

Youth Mens Figure Competition. 1st Ben Timbrell

Youth mens Free Skating Championships . 2nd Ben Timbrell

Combined mens Competition. 1st Ben Timbrell

Congratulations to them all in their first year as Youth

Dee England

Peace Group Event 2- 26/04/09

I agree with Councillor Alan Hickmore that the Peace Event was superb - the speakers, the audience participation and the extremely efficient organisation. It was a privilege to hear Tony Benn whose wisdom and experience must be unsurpassed. Many congratulations and thanks to all those who organised the day. In the evening the auction at the Crown for the benefit of MacMillan nurses was an enjoyable event and raised generous funds.

It just shows what Faringdon can do !

Margaret Barker
Deputy Mayor

Peace Group Event - 26/04/09

Just a quick note to thank the Peace Group for a stimulating and valuable meeting in the Corn Exchange today. The subject was civil rights and how they are being eroded in our modern society. The key note speaker was Tony Benn who was, as always, inspirational. But all the speakers, both from the platform and the floor, were excellent as was the message they were giving. The Peace Group organised the meeting brilliantly and I for one came away inspired.

Thank you very much. (PS A thank you as well to Al Cane who organised the PA system. This is not easy in the Corn Exchange with its difficult acoustics - but every body could hear and take part)

Alan Hickmore

Health Centre - 24/04/09

Thank goodness for Faringdon's old fashioned Health Centre !

I am a regular visitor to our Health Centre. Every year I go and a friendly nurse who has obviously been looking forward to my visit gives me a Flu jab and a toffee. The staff are always friendly, sympathetic, helpful and reassuring. But more importantly I know that should an emergency arise they will be there for me !

That's what I mean by "old fashioned"

Unfortunately for my daughter she lives in West Swindon where the attitude reflects the "Modern" approach to medicine which is that it would be a good job if it wasn't for the patients.

Yesterday she needed some urgent treatment (I won't give you the gory details.) She telephoned to make an appointment but was told she would have to call again this morning. She got an appointment and the doctor told her that she needed the immediate attention of a nurse. Unfortunately the nurse was too busy so my daughter, who is seriously disabled had to take a taxi to a pharmacy to get the dressings she needed. Now that's what is known as Modern Nursing

Am I bitter ?

Of course I am because I know, from past experience, that any complaint will only result in worse treatment.

name supplied

M.A.D.D. MayFest. - 24/04/09

Curtain Call, youth theatre group will be performing "Purple" a play by Jon Fosse, instead of Fortescue Phantoms on Sunday 8pm.

sam prince

Faringdon Arts Festival 2009 - 24/04/09

Well the Preparations are well underway Be Sure to check out the NEW Website for what is going on this year and for any information you should need www.faringdonartsfestival.co.uk

We are still looking for more volunteers to help with the Marshalling we are also looking for more Comedians (yes I know Faringdon is full of em)

Speciality Acts Poets you can now e mail us at info@faringdonartsfestival.co.uk

Scott Gildert

Pregnant or New Mother? (or new dad) - 23/04/09

A group of local women, variously from NCT groups, post natal groups etc. started collecting tips or comments or answers to questions most relevant to them when they were either pregnant or a new parent. This resulting text is growing all the time and we have vague plans to develop it as a small book for local families of children under age 1, who might benefit with the aim of raising funds for local groups such as The Family Centre or maybe even set up a small trust for local babies in need.

If you'd like to get involved, can you please drop an email to garthpool@btinternet.com and we'll add you to our mailing list. Please let us know your current situation, i.e. pregnant, new mother etc. and we'll send you a regular question which we'd appreciate an honest answer to.

Sample questions have been "What item of maternity clothing can you not live without?"; "What shocked/surprised you most about giving birth", "Best piece of advice you were given about labour". We see this as a real opportunity to provide real answers to real questions at a very confusing, exhilarating and unique (to you anyway) time. If you'd like to help, please contact us as below.

Many thanks Mel

Your views wanted - Urgent 999 ambulance calls - 22/4/09

The primary care trust (PCT) and our ambulance service (SCAS) are looking at ways to improve the service of attending urgent ambulance calls to getting patients seen in A&E. There are a number of factors - the initial call handling/triage, the location of the nearest ambulance, speed of admission to A&E and making the ambulance ready for another call - all affect how well the ambulance service performs.

The national target to achieve 75% calls in 8 minutes is not achieved in Faringdon. The figures show that on average they are achieved about 47% of the time - however this achievement is largely through our wonderful VOLUNTEER local responders. They achieve the 8 minute target for almost every call they are asked to make - but they are not allowed to cover all types of emergency.

They're called out for urgent situations when someone is not breathing, heart attack and the like

Please do write to this site with any views or experiences you have had about any aspect of the health service - where it hasn't been as good as you would wish, and where it has. Full confidentiality is assured.

The aim is to give the PCT information on real experiences to help them improve the services to Faringdon

In all Health matters - GP and Dental services as well as transport to hospitals, local intermediate care beds (as at Witney hospital) your views are needed.

Have a look at the [online survey on the makesachange website](#)

The FAP Health group and myself through the Links Stewardship Group are trying very hard to raise Faringdon's profile in all areas of the Health service. But your views are needed.

We need to make a bit of noise in order to be heard!

Thanks
Gene Webb

Get a grip? - 21/4/09

Having been given some vouchers by my children for Mothers Day for Therapies at Get a Grip on Coxwell Road, I haven't been able to get anyone to answer the phone and it always seems to be shut when I go passed. Does anyone know what's happened? Thanks.

Bands at the Crown 25th - 20/4/09

Hi, just a quick plug for a charity event happening at the old crown this Saturday the 25th.

It is a fund-raiser for Macmillan cancer support and features 2 live bands... Subway and Aftershock and lots of other fun and games including an auction.

Only £3 entry so please come and help us raise lots of money :)

Name Supplied

Spy camera - 18/4/09

They were put there to help motorists avoid congestion hotspots..

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/4065681.50_cameras_to_ease_city_jams/

Charlie

Spy camera - 17/4/09

I believe it is one of the automated number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras designed to catch those who don't have tax etc - problem is they probably haven't registered their vehicle with DVLA anyway.

Its been there for a few months now.

Lorraine

Spy camera - 17/4/09

In answer to Bob's question.

People may want to have a read of http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/4065681.50_cameras_to_ease_city_jams/ which explains what the cameras are for.

They may also want to read http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7964411.stm for details of what they could be used for...

David Poultney

Internet provider? - 17/4/09

Many thanks for your advice, Sheila. I don't use O2 mobile phone but I have heard good things about their broadband service.

I have setup a blog at <http://blog.thehappycomputercompany.co.uk> where other people can share their experience of their broadband provider.

Name Supplied

Spy camera - 16/4/09

What is the purpose of the camera on the A420/ Stanford-Wantage road roundabout?

How long has it been there? Who is keeping an eye on us?

Camera is situated on a pole just on the Oxford side of the roundabout.

Whats it for?

Bob

Open Stage - Madd May Fest - 16/4/09

Performers wishing to appear on the open stage at the corn exchange on Monday afternoon please contact Sam or Hilary on 01367243806 or visit www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

THE M.A.D.D. MayFest

2nd anniversary for Health Walkers - 16/4/09

40 people celebrated the 2nd anniversary of Health Walking in Faringdon on Wednesday 15th.

With kind permission of Sofka Zinovieff, owner of Faringdon House, we walked in the grounds, around the lake and through the gardens.

A real privilege, and most enjoyable

Gene Webb

Anyone wanting to join the regular walks, we leave from outside the Bell at 10.30. Arrive by 10.20 if you're new.

More info about the Health walk scheme on [the walking pages of this website](#)

Auditions for Treasure Island the Musical - 16/4/09

Dont forget Auditions for Treasure Island the Musical This Sunday the 19th April at the Old Crown Sports Bar

Registration 12pm till 1pm

Auditions Commence 1pm till 4pm

Missed this Sundays Auditions

Actors Singers Dancers Can still Audition Next Sunday 26th April At The Old Crown Sports Bar

Registration 12pm Auditions Commence 1pm till 4pm

We are Still Looking for a Keyboard Player a Drummer and Guitarists.

If your between 10 and 17 and can play these instruments then come along on Sunday the 26th April at the above times

Drummers there will be Drums at the venue

Scott Gildert

Internet provider? - 16/4/09

Zen has just been knocked off the Which?
Best Buy top spot by O2 with better value for money - especially if you use O2 mobile phone.
Sheila

Faringdon Folly on BBC Radio Oxford Breakfast Show - 15/4/09

Tomorrow morning (Thurs morning April 16, 2009) there will be a live Interview on BBC Radio Oxford Breakfast Show around 8:30am.

The Interview will be with Eddie Williams and/or myself about the Faringdon Folly Tower.

So turn your Radio on and tune to BBC Radio Oxford (95.2FM) and listen.
Raoul Van Eindhoven

I Thought I Heard A Rustling - A comedy by Alan Plater

Director: Gary Field
Thurs 21, Fri 22, Sat 23 May 2009 Faringdon Junior School, Gloucester Street, Faringdon

I Thought I Heard A Rustling - An ex-miner turned poet is appointed writer-in-residence at Eastwood branch library. However, the senior librarian soon realises the feckless but charming Geordie is no poet. Despite this she finds him highly entertaining, much to the disgust of an earnest young man who covets the writer-in-residence role. These three find themselves in an unlikely alliance when the Libraries sub-committee proposes demolishing the library.
Fiona Merrick

Well done to the Templars for their performance in the N.B.T. - 14/4/09

As the original poster, I'd just like to say well done to local band, Templars, for being shortlisted for Jack FM's Next Big Thing competition.
Unfortunately, we found out today they didn't make it through to the last 5.
Chin up guys, keep the music going.
Rachel

Anyone want VHS tapes? - 14/4/09

If the charity shops do not want them then gardeners can use the tape as plant ties or bird wind scarers.
Try the allotments, maybe?
Name Supplied

Best Internet provider? - 14/4/09

I have been with my internet provider (zen Internet) for over 6 six years.
I have had a flawless service with great customer support. Now I would like to change to another provider. I am looking for recommendations really.
What are popular internet providers that the population of Faringdon are currently with?
I am thinking about BT or TalkTalk or something else... Any others????
Name Supplied

Anyone want VHS tapes? - 13/4/09

does anybody out there know what to do with about 150 or so vhs videos. feature films, television, sport etc other than taking them to the tip is there any charity that would like them.
Name Supplied

M.A.D.D. MAYFEST. Friday, Sunday and Monday are FREE EVENTS.-

11/4/09

Sam Prince

Friendly dog walk? - 11/4/09

My friendly dog and I are looking for people and dogs to go walking with - ideally on Saturdays, for short walks around Folly Park.
If you're interested in making new human and canine friends, please contact me at annaw1677@hotmail.com
Anna Williams

Street Clutter - 11/4/09

There is also a new one outside Saffron in Coxwell St. It severely reduces the width of the pavement and makes it difficult for wider mobility vehicles and twin buggies to get past.
Jane Boulton

Buses and Skate Park - 11/4/09.

I really understand your frustrations. Things were the same 10 years ago when my son wanted a) a Saturday job in Swindon & b) to go skateboarding. He was in fact on one of the first consultative committees for the Skate Park.

1. The building of the Bloor Homes estate means that Stagecoach will upgrade the route between Swindon & Oxford to a premium route which will result in a much greater frequency of buses.
2. Bloor Homes are also required to put down the base for the Skate Park as part of their S106 agreement, so this should happen this year.

Jane Boulton

Street Clutter - 10/4/09

I thought there was a move to reduce street signage- in some places anyway.
I'm trying to understand why the Council (County?) gave permission for the bus company to erect a new bus stop sign at the top of Marlborough St.

It is about 1m from the old one - that served as a bus stop sign and a school crossing warning.
Whyever is it needed?
Name Supplied

Music at the Crown - 10/4/09

Great Tamla Motown music from Al Cane last Saturday.
How about a 60's night?
TOG

Budgens - 10/4/09

Oh and one more thing:

I just read some of the comments posted in February and, to all those who left complaints about Budgens staff, we are not all rude and unhelpful! Perhaps you could take up your complaints about individual employees with the managers, rather than whining about them anonymously on 'talking points' where no one can do anything to help you. Don't taint us all with the same brush, and don't you DARE assume it is always the younger staff.

There is a reason why young people in Faringdon are dissatisfied and unhappy. It's that people like you lump them all into the same pile and assume they're all destructive, anti-social misfits.

Kate

Lost pedometer? - 10/4/09

Has anyone lost a pedometer in the field around the folly if so please contact me on 07979726359 giving make and colour

Name Supplied

Buses and Skate Park - 10/4/09

I have two points to make:

1. The bus service between Swindon and Oxford is appalling. It doesn't go often enough, is always late, and only has two night time services, at 7pm and 10.40pm. Now, I don't know about anyone else, but I rarely have reason to go into Oxford at either of these times. No bars or clubs open before 8.30pm, and by the time 11.30 rolls around, it's too late to get into these places cheaply. If the bus company run just a few more services at 8pm and 9pm, and perhaps on till midnight or 1am on Friday and Saturday nights, they would find they had far more customers. Faringdon is already a difficult place for teenagers and young adults to live, because there is rarely anything going on that we can become involved in, and having a rubbish bus service to the places that actually do cater for this age group just makes it all the more bleak. One thing that people aged between say, 18 and 25 like to do, is go out to bars and clubs at night. Surely it would be in Stagecoach's best interests to run services at the times when a large majority of people want them? I realise this is a matter to take up with the bus company, but if there are other people out there who feel the same way, it would be helpful if they too would write a letter to Stagecoach, asking them to help us. It's not just young people either; my dad said if there was a service up to midnight or 1am, he would gladly use to get back from dinner parties/shows/gigs/the pub!

2. I read a post written by Chris Langlay-Smith, in which he asked about the long-awaited, mythical skatepark. I think the fact that the hard-earned cash raised by the youth of Faringdon in order for a skatepark to be built, was taken and put into the CHRISTMAS LIGHTS rather than the intended purpose, is absolutely disgusting. There are a lot of skaters in Faringdon. They need somewhere to go. Hell, ALL the young people need somewhere to go. My friend, Sophie Cave and I had been trying to campaign for better youth facilities for a while and were elected members of the Faringdon venues committee before we had to leave for university. Chris, if I may speak directly, you would be an ideal candidate to take over this responsibility in our place. I'm not sure if the committee has elected new members yet or not, but I can certainly put you in contact with the secretary if you want! It sounds like you really are passionate about pursuing facilities for people of your age group.

Thanks!

Kate Harrison

Shabby Town Hall - 10/4/09

Looking at the Old Town Hall today I really think that the outside walls could do with a smartening up and a fresh coat of paint. It's looking decidedly shabby.

Doesn't the focal point of the Market Place and the town deserve a little better?

I know it's a War Memorial, which deserves respect.

Can the Town Council and War Memorial Trust consider this.

Fred the Paint

Tariff Check. - 9/4/09

Had a phone call this week from someone who wanted to do a tariff check and then today a man in a really bright orange coat wanted to do the same thing.
Is Faringdon a "scam" town or something?
Why cant I check the tariff out using the tinterweb? Me thinks something smells
Bob

Faringdon Twinning Association - 8/4/09

Sunday 5th July to Saturday 11th July
A group of French children from our twin town of Le Mele in Normandy will visit Faringdon (age 12+).
Sunday 19th July to Saturday 25th July. A group of Faringdon children will visit Le Mele (age 12+).

If you are interested in hosting 1 or 2 French children and then your children returning to Le Mele then please do contact me as soon as possible.
This is an excellent opportunity for your children to improve their own French and make new friends.

We are also looking for 2 Leaders aged 18+ to lead the group to Le Mele.
All travel and accommodation will be paid for.

Great experiece for confident people who can speak French and want to develop their Leadership Skills.
If you know of anyone interested then please ask them to get in touch.
Many thanks
Carolyn Murphy 01367 240698, 07798 468 532
cmm1046@kingalfreds.oxon.sch

Skate Park - 8/4/09

chris langlay-smith

I note and understand your comments.
Can we get together to talk more?
Nick Elwell, Bordengate

Re loss of tv channels on digital and sky - 6/4/09

We lost a couple of channels on our tv and when I phoned up about it I was told to simply unplug the digibox and leave it unplugged for 3 - 4 minutes then plug it back in again and it should re-set itself.
Hope this helps.
Fiona Merrick

Joint Environmental Trust meeting notes - 6/4/09

Informal notes

Lechlade Road Gateway.

All tenders received are over budget, so the planting of the tree has been removed until a later date.
The committee gave the go ahead for the work to start.

Planters around the town.

Locations for these cast iron planters have been suggested and Market traders have been consulted. Oxfordshire County Council highways dept have to agree to these locations..
FTC will maintain the planters.

Town Park enhancement, Autumn 2009

Scheme is being prepared and will be ready for the meeting in June.

Restoration of tomb stones in All Saints Churchyard

A survey has been carried out. Stones needing immediate attention have been identified, and those within next 5 years.

The estimated costs are considerable.

JET agreed that a grant would be sought, and when money was available the work would be put out to tender.

Folly woodland grant

It was agreed to award a grant of £500 towards maintenance of the Folly woodland circumference, subject to a 3rd quote to be supplied, and input from VWHDC planning officer

Gene Webb

Ploughing practise - 3/4/09

I am looking for a field close to Faringdon suitable for ploughing practice.

This is for a 1956 Massey Ferguson and conventional plough. It is late in the year but, any offers will be gratefully accepted; as will any on site advice.

Please call Faringdon 01367-244101 if you can help, many thanks.

Pat Hayton

Pharmacy - late opening - 3/4/09

Earlier this week I visited the new(ish) pharmacy on London St. Friendly, knowledgeable, helpful staff; reasonable range of products; competitive prices AND at 10.30 at night.

Some of the more established businesses could learn a thing or two..... Lets hope this is a sign of things to come!

Name Supplied

Skate Park - 2/4/09

I am being constantly re-assured by residents of faringdon, members of the council and even the police that everything in their power is being done to gain a skate park to the town of faringdon. However, after fundraising for the past 13 years, the committee for a skatepark has seen no rewards for its incredibly hard efforts.

im sure everyone involved is with me when i say i want an explanation for why our efforts have seemed to go unnoticed.

for those in the dark, faringdon council; promised us a skatepark over 10 years ago, spent saved money on christmas lights that we didnt even need, denied every locations we put forward, ignored our attempts to get grants from the mayor.

A few weeks ago, i got a warning from the police for skating in faringdon. they told me my actions were unacceptable. however, i find the complaint made to be unacceptable. think of a youth facility in faringdon besides a normal park. cant be done. Finally a concluding question, why has it been so long?

chris langlay-smith

Digital TV Channels- 2/4/09

We had something similar happen with an old digibox. We found the missing channels had moved to 800+. It might be worth looking to see if the channels are there - apparently it's something some older boxes do.

Name Supplied

Re Folly light - 2/4/09

How about Marks and Spencer instead of Tesco lets face it there is no where that local to purchase undies.
Internet shopper

Digital TV Channels - 1/4/09

Is anybody else having problems ?. We have lost quite a few channels on two tv's. One is a digital tv, the other has a digi box but both have lost things like Sky News, Channel 5, BBC3 etc.
I've tried retuning but that doesn't help.
I have a friend in Banbury who has also lost a few but that could just be a coincidence.
Just wondering if anybody else in Faringdon is having problems.
Thank you.
Name Supplied

Skaters - 1/4/09

To Scott and anyone else wondering what the heck is going on about the posting on the skating
Little did my husband or I imagine when we posted about our daughter's achievements at the weekend that members of her former skating club would use this forum to attack an eight-year-old girl. Some people really need to sort their priorities out.
If you read my husband's first post carefully, we never claimed she was a champion, only that she won three gold medals which is true. We also never said she *had* been selected to skate internationally, only that she could be. Usually the three top placed skaters go to the Cup of Europe which is in October (so we did make a mistake there but really what a fuss to make over getting it wrong by one month).

So apologies to those of you who are bored with this topic. I don't intend to post on this matter again and hope that others will also let it drop.
Katrina Campbell

Re Folly lighthouse - 30/3/09

I agree with name supplied on the lighthouse comment. It would be nice to see it again.
Fiona Merrick

Re Idea for Folly light - 30/3/09

I think a massive revolving Tesco sign would look great at the top of the Folly"
Actually, wouldn't that be a great April Fool's joke!
Just think of all the cars driving into Faringdon looking for a new Tesco - imagine their faces when they were driving round and round looking for it!
Hilarious!
A Twisted Sister

Folly not in sight - 1/4/09

Cant see the folly anymore due to the massive ugly. 420@ business and folly park houses sign blocking the wonderful view of great folly.
Maybe we could put that in the wickelsham quarry the sign that is,not the folly.
an other

Vale of White Horse Sporting Achievements Awards across the vale - 1/4/09

These awards made by Chairman of District Council
In recongnition of dedication and Commitment to skaters Dee England Steve England

In recognition of amazing achievements and dedication.
Representing Great Britain in the European Championships 2008
- Ben Timbrell
- Hollie Fidler
- Georgina Howe
Congratulation to All
Name Supplied

Seconding the "lighthouse" suggestion - 1/4/09

I too would love it if we could have the lighthouse back again. I loved coming back from work that year as the lighthouse was visible from a long out from Faringdon.
I seem to remember that it needed special permission from the RAF though, as we are very close to Brize Norton.
I wonder if they'd be so obliging again.
Name Supplied

Just to Put an End to the Skating Arguement - 1/4/09

I got this Information from the FEDERATION OF ARTISTIC SKATERS
if you would like to look at the last line there is one entry for November and it is in Germany

INTERNATIONAL DIARY FOR 2009
2/5 April CEPA International Seminar Misano Italy
25/26 April Cup of Italy "Memorial Fabio Barbieri" (Pairs) Bologna / Italy
22/24 May Pieris Trophy (Solo Dance) Nr. Trieste / Italy
20-23 May German Cup Freiburg / Germany
30 April/May2 Precision/Show European Championships Reggio Emilia / Italy
7/13 June Memorial G.Filippini Trophy (Free/Inline/Dance Couples) Misano / Italy
19/20 June Amphora Trophy (Free Skating) Pula / Croatia
3/5 July Prestige International (Free/Inline/Dance Couples) Iss les Moulineaux / Paris, Fr
24/29 August Cadet/Youth European Championships Eaubonne (Nr. Paris) / France
14/19 September Junior/Senior European Championships Nazare / Portugal
7/10 October Cup of Europe Luso (Porto) / Portugal
16/18 October Cup of Italy (Singles) TBA / Italy
22/24 October Hettange Dance France
8/22 November World Artistic Championships Freiburg / Germany
Scott Gildert

Blimey - - 1/4/09

Just checked out the TP for the first time in quite a few weeks and Cor Blimey people moaning about Lights on the Folly and now its TUTU's at Dawn over some Roller Skating.
what is TP coming to and also it's no Good doing Name Supplied when having a go at someone after putting your name to a previous post as if you do actually read the previous posts it is not hard to work out who the comments are from
Scott Gildert

UK Bike Week SLOW bike ride, Oxfordshire, June 21, 2009 - 31/5/09

Forget Lycra (it is banned from this event). Forget fancy bicycles and weird conversations about framesets and chainsets. Forget streamlined, wraparound mirror glasses.

This is your chance to dust off the old steed and use it for what it was intended - sensible transport for going to the tea room or pub and seeing some of the countryside while you're about it. Actually, speedsters will be welcomed, too, so long as they accept the event is not about them but about those people (including their families and friends) who would normally be intimidated by cycling in a group. We will go at the pace of the slowest rider who can cover a reasonable amount of ground at a leisurely pace.

We WILL stop to view the scenery. We WILL stop to wait for people to push up hills - not that there will be many of these! And we WILL stop for tea. We might even pause for a pint towards the end of our journey. This is all about cycling sociably.

You may have heard about SLOW FOOD. For the principles of SLOW cycling, take a look at <http://theslowbicycle.blogspot.com/>

The event will start from the Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HP at 9:30 am on Sunday, June 21, 2009. Expect to take about 3 hours, including a tea stop. There will be competitions in a number of categories including, "where on earth did you get that bike", "sedate style", "most jazzed up" and possibly even a slow bike race. This is a registered event for Bike Week: <http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/index.php>

If you need some help to tweak your bike to help it make the distance, bring it down to the parking lot at the end of Woodview, Faringdon at 6 pm on Saturday, June 20 for some inexpert advice and possibly a little tyre pumping.
Mark Harrison

Saturday 23rd in Gloucester St - 28/5/09

The things I do not understand about this evening....

Why did it take until midnight and a street fight for the music to be shutdown by the police and not the council?

Why were our noise police not on the phone to the council at 1 minute past 11 o'clock, they are so good at policing the Corn Exchange?

Raoul van Eijndhoven

New street names - 1/6/09

I can confirm that the street names on the Bloor housing development come from the names on the war memorial. This seems a fitting tribute to our past heroes. The families have all given their agreement. I hope that future developments continue this tribute.

Alan Hickmore FTC Chair of Planning

Young cat found update- 1/6/09

The young cat we found on Sunday in our Close will now be in the hands of the Faringdon Cats Protection from 2.30 p.m. today. 1/6/09

Hilary Tonks

Re Past it Rockers posting - 1/6/09

Well said Trish.

Actually I start reading all Talking Points posts from the bottom - if they say "Name Supplied", I don't bother with the rest.

Mark Harrison

Loud Music- 1/6/09

The "loud music" thread on this forum has degenerated into a dreary mixture of un-funny sarcasm, self righteous ranting and puerile insults. For goodness sake get over yourselves. Some people enjoy loud music, others don't. End of.

As for anonymity, most web based forums are anonymous, and use nicknames. If they weren't, many of them, including this one, would have very few contributors. Manners, good or otherwise are irrelevant. It is up to the moderators to delete offensive material.

Athena

Re Past it Rockers posting - 1/6/09

To the one of the many who don't have the good manners to supply their name, (frightened to be recognised in case of reprisals from your perceived average resident of Faringdon - bunch of nasty, neandathal ageing hells angel rockers perhaps?) Your comment "what if middle aged past it rockers with not an ounce of music sense" What if I don't want to hear the middle of the road drivel spouted by musos who were never good enough to play anywhere else?"

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?.....YOU DON'T GO TO THE GIGS!!!!

Trish Reynolds

Young cat found - 1/6/09

We found a very friendly 6-8 month-old black cat yesterday underneath the bushes in our Close. Very thirsty and hungry we sorted him out overnight but we would like to find his owner or a good home for him to go to. He's delightful, healthy and litter trained, but we have two cats already and they're not impressed! He is not chipped (we took him to a vet last night).

You can call me on 01865 556767, extension 3823 or call the Bridge Vets in Lechlade where he's being looked after today.

Thank you Tony

Would a Turkey vote for Christmas? - 1/6/09

Steve Leniec tells me "Vote Labour" .That is a fact not a rumour.

I'm a poor OAP. Yet Steve says "Vote for Me"

I do like his warped sense of humour.

Credit Crunched Senior Citizen.

UK Bike Week SLOW bike ride, Oxfordshire, June 21, 2009 - 31/5/09

Forget Lycra (it is banned from this event). Forget fancy bicycles and weird conversations about framesets and chainsets. Forget streamlined, wraparound mirror glasses.

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Mark Harrison

New street names - 31/5/09

New Street names:- Palmer, Clements and Robins are all surnames of families who have lived in Faringdon. Whereabouts is Folly Park View, I am wondering if the families lived thereabouts.
Margaret Haddon
Ed(GW) Folly Park View is the development under construction just off Park Road

New street names in Faringdon - policy - 31/5/09

FTC has a policy on recommending street names.
We ask that they are taken from the heroes recorded on the war memorial. Of course we seek the permission of any relatives before they are used.
VWHDC has the final say
Alan Hickmore

This forum is FUN! - 31/5/09

I also agree with Mike Perks, I say on here publish my name and my name is not published?
Noel Diamond
Ed(GW) I have to add the names(or not) when I publish

New street names in Faringdon - 30/5/09

Does anyone know how the street names for Folly Park View (the new development) were chosen- or who chose them?

I walked there yesterday and found Palmers Road, Clements Way and Robins Road. Is there a theme? What is it?
Gene Webb

If you want to knowwhats behind other street names in the town, have a look at <http://www.faringdon.org/hystreetnames.htm>

Once again the Corn Exchange Limiter - 30/5/09

Sorry for bringing this up again but what an interesting night down the corn Exchange tonight

from what has been reported here on the TP website Disco's have never really been interrupted. But despite Odd Rumours that Citizen Cane was going to TAKE IT TO THE LIMTER. WELL he did tonight. the odd thing i noticed tonight is that there is a yellow light on the Gloucester street side (on the inside) of the corn Exchange that illuminates when the artiste or disco is in the warning (or i'll cut you off) zone. When the live band was playing this light was constantly flickering until at one shrieking note it cut them off.

and whilst Citizen cane was playing his recorded stuff this light stayed constantly on until one recorded song to the end of his final set nearing the 11:30 cut off he too set off the limiter and never touched a volume switch at all.

now being somewhat of an old soldier in the Royal corps of signals and a specialist in voice communications ||| know that certain substances that we build with (thats bricks and mortar, glass, wood, plastic , Metal) and also the height of the structure (that's buildings) all have different acoustic properties (thats different ways of how they bounce back voice think of the yodellers and echoes off mountains come on we've all done it in a tunnel shouted echo and lo and behold your voice keeps on coming back to you for a while then drops off.)

well if we really looked at it what is the corn exchange made of ? lots of brick and plaster and wooden panelling and it has quite a high roof that can Amplify (that's increase) the sound level that that is coming out of any speaker system.

and the odd thing is that this limiter is set to a level (and i know that everyone has the right to live in peace before you all start posting snotty responses)and cuts off the second (and it could be micro second or Nano second)that this limit is reached.

but as we all know live voice can peak and trough but im sure it never peaks for long periods

so after boring you all or upsetting you all

why? can this limiter not be set for an acceptable level for a period of time like 3 minutes or 180 seconds before it cuts off but i do know that the castle group sound limiter that the corn exchange has installed is obsolete and has been superceded so perhaps this old piece of antiquated equipment is not capable of something like i have suggested but perhaps it's successor is?

Scott Gildert

Free roadside auto repair now available in Faringdon. - 30/5/09

A rather inebriated Gentleman on a mobility scooter appears to be offering a free tyre inflation service.

I was approached, this morning, by this character clutching a portable electric pump, who asked after the owner of a nearby Volvo. When I informed him I didn't know he replied. 'Izza bin on ze drink an cam daaneer for a pizzz. Izzz sawzzz za tirewazz flat so I pumped tha c*** up'...

Bemused, I watched him roll precariously off into the distance rather hoping he won't extend this new enterprise to brake servicing or engine rebuilds...

Name Supplied

This forum is FUN!..... - 30/5/09

I strongly agree with Mike Perks' suggestion that those who regularly use 'name supplied' should perhaps use a nick-name instead. With so many contributors using the name supplied alias, it's often difficult for readers to work out those who are in fact the same person, therefore causing a little confusion.

Gof Smith

"Is the corn exchange fit for this kind of music?" - 30/5/09

Let's see if it's possible to answer the question."Is the corn exchange fit for this kind of music?"

"Storm Warning" (perhaps that's apt) will be appearing at the Jam Club. Corn Exchange, friday june 5th 9pm. Free entrance.

Be sure 58s to wear your ear goggles.

A note about the band."Blues workout par excellence,this British groups second album oozes class.... Love to see them live-this is joyous, uplifting stuff" Sunday Express.

There is also a low priced bar.

Thank you,Have a good weekend.

Sam Prince. Camp Prince, Eh! Harry, sweetly.

Great night at the Crown - 29/5/09

What a great night in the crown faringdon on the 29th of may, but people still moan about when the music has stopped.

Surely the singer is allowed a 15 min break, or may be not????????? I for sure will still be going to the crown & have a good time.

Keep the music LOUD.

So what im a ageing rocker, at least I am visable to people.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Arts Festival - 29/5/09

Hi Everyone, the Faringdon Arts Festival is nearly here and I wanted to let you know what is going on before the actual weekend in the Market Place (11, 12 and 13 July 09).

On Saturday 27 June at 7.30 we have the Oxfordshire Theatre Company coming to put on a play called 'Dancing in my Dreams'. Its a musical play inspired by the many children whose lives were changed for ever by the experiences of war time Britain. This is a ticketed event. Tickets cost £7.00 full price, £5.00 concessions and £20.00 for a family ticket (1 adult and 3 children, or a combination as long as there is a child and adult).

Louise Woodgate will be performing at Buscot Park Theatre. She will sing a variety of operatic arias and classical songs. Louise will be accompanied by Lyndall Dawson. Performing with Louise is Mark Viner, our local Classical Pianist. This is a ticketed event and we only have 50 seats available. Please come along and enjoy the beautiful grounds with a wine and canapés reception. Tickets are only £17.50.

During the weekend we have some spaces for those of you who would like to do some boxing or find out about Yoga. Please contact me.

For further information please contact me on 01367 246003 to reserve your ticket or email me at julie@mypabusiness.com

If you would like to put on a workshop or seminar please let me know.

Visit our website at www.faringdonartsfestival.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

Julie Farmer

Music venue for hire - 29/5/09

I have a stunning venue that is available for hire.

Suitable for bands, clubs or anyone looking for a venue to hire.

We are located on a farm so noise can be kept away from the town centre and there is plenty of parking....

April Thrush

See <http://www.faringdon.org/nvclassifiedsfs.htm> for contact details

This forum is FUN! - 29/5/09

However, could I make a small request? Would all the Names Supplied please use a nick-name, handle, call it what you will, but it would be extremely helpful to have an idea Who is Whingeing about What.

It would make comments much easier to reply to.

Keep 'em coming!

Mike Perks

Ed(GW) Thanks Mike. Sounds a good idea

Comments re Saturday night in Gloucester St - 28/5/09

The posting that claims an over reaction is understandable.

The editors (quite rightly) edited the original posting and removed the (near) libelous reference. Incidentally they also edited my response.

Unfortunately the original posting had already been published, if only for a short time. Hence my response.

The main part of my response remains as is.

Alan Hickmore

An Ageing Rocker's view - 27/5/09

"Due to popular request, PowerTrain WILL be performing LAYLA at this year's Faringdon Arts Festival" Great one David, it seems to have provoked some comment - and we will make sure we can learn it.

I have been closely associated with the Music scene in Faringdon since I moved here in 2003. I also play with PowerTrain and I may be "an ageing rocker" but I do it because a lot of people like what we do and I love playing. It took me nearly 40 years of practising before I got up the nerve to do it in public but now I'm there. If people don't like it, that is fine but it isn't reasonable to stop those that do like it so long as it is restricted to appropriately LICENSED locations and reasonable finish times - may I suggest this should include The Corn Exchange.

While on the subject of what people like, don't make assumptions that ageing rockers are sad people with limited musical taste. The most popular radio station in our household is Classic FM, I have promoted a classical music event in Faringdon (not very well attended - did Name Supplied ever buy a ticket?), I always attend the annual Music and Fireworks at Shrivenham (military bands etc), and get to the opera and ballet whenever possible.

Culture is as wide and diverse as we want to make it and we should encourage artists, musicians, poets, actors etc to produce "art" in the widest sense to improve our lives. Look, watch and listen and you might be surprised at what you enjoy if you go in with an open mind.

Steve Wright, PowerTrain bassist

A good night in the Volunteer - 27/5/09

Can say a big thank you to everyone that put on such a good night on Saturday in the volunteer !!
Banging music, a stripper and a couple of fights. most people would pay good money to see this !!
Name Supplied

Tsk, tsk, Tsk, Naughty Volunteer! - 27/5/09

It has been brought to the attention of this court that on the night of Sat the 23rd May 2009 you where responsible for the promotion of an Anglo Saxon style Fracas of Lumpenproletariat proportions.
It is my duty to inform you that any repeat of such behaviour will result in the following sanctions.

1. The confiscation of Cigarettes, strippers, tattoos, pool cues, darts, aunt sally sticks, and any other miscellaneous hardware including firearms.
2. You will enjoy a compulsory evening of European culture commencing with a three and a half hour German Opera with intermittent readings of the Poetry of Byron and Shelly. The evening will end with a live recital of Bach's F minor concerto by the Wantage Baroque chamber orchestra. Any heckling will result in a comprehensive critique of James Joyce Ulysess.
3. Refreshments will consist of lightly chilled mineral water and a selection of herbal tea's. Anyone attempting to consume lager with be forced to write the words Musical Genre a thousand times.
4. The Evening will be supervised and patrolled by heavily armed Nuns brandishing swear boxes. Estimated financial profit forecast £3.4million. This will be donated to the refurbishment and sound proofing of the Corn Exchange. No applications for the funding of duck islands, balmoral sized toilet seats, or moat cleaning will be considered.
5. Objectors will be dressed in tights and required to perform Hamlets soliloquy from Act three scene one, hanging from the port well by a codpiece.

Name Supplied

Editor note- 27/5/09

Thanks for all the comments, but I felt I must edit some posts
Gene Webb

Saturday 23rd in Gloucester St- 27/5/09

A somewhat defensive overreaction to that one I fancy!
Where does the posted statement actually accuse the Town Council of any inappropriate activity? Where does it mention your Name? Why should you be insulted?
I should try reading the post again if I where you, preferably with at least some empathy towards the victims of drunken violence and preferably before the clock strikes midnight.
Name Supplied

Saturday 23rd in Gloucester St response- 27/5/09

For information:
The opinions in the original post regarding Saturday night in Gloucester St are coming from a 34 year old Woman who was attempting to park a car in Gloucester St, late at night after a long drive from Scotland with two very tired small children. Suddenly being faced with a violent drunken mob is something that might just bias my otherwise open minded judgment.
If my reactions offended any 'innocent' parties then please accept my profound apologies. Being afraid of drunken violence DOES NOT MAKE ME A COWARD!

Talking points enables people who have strong opinions regarding controversial local issues to express them and hopefully generate a useful debate with the protection of anonymity.

Name Supplied

Saturday 23rd in Gloucester St response- 26/5/09

In response to all of the narrow minded and frankly far too generalising comments regarding the events of the above date, I would like to make it clear that not all of the people who frequent the Volunteer pub are "obnoxious individuals who are unlikely to be served in any of the other Pubs in Faringdon due to their previous history of violence and anti social behaviour".

The majority of the patrons are local Faringdon people, living, working and helping withing the community, who use the pub because of it's relaxed, accepting and non excluding nature, which is often found in public houses elsewhere in the town. You will often see them playing Aunt Sally, darts and drinking real ales, hardly the activities of a bunch of jobs!

The evening in question was never intended to be a regular event and I think you will find that many people were happy to see a group of youngsters enjoying themselves, despite the music not having been to everyone's taste, which quite frankly is near on impossible with any genre of music.
By all accounts, the trouble was caused by a visiting male from the Swindon area, not a raging group of youngsters without social skills, again a sign of people jumping the gun to blame a handful of people who are living with a reputation long forgotten by those who know them.
The only arrests made on the evening involved people from outside of the town and not the moronic individuals described in the previous letter.

I will end my own letter by asking that people stop their fruitless tittle tattle and report on factual happenings.
Rumours and gossip undoubtedly cause more harm than a one off evening of loud music ending in a scuffle.

Given the current climate the town should be focussing on coming together, involving people from all walks of life and keeping businesses afloat, not pointing the finger of blame at the easiest targets!
Name Supplied

Saturday night in Gloucester St - 26/5/09

I write with regard to your contributors comments surrounding the events of Saturday 23rd May 2009 shortly after midnight on Gloucester Street, Faringdon. Their ill informed comment surrounding the Volunteer allowing "obnoxious individuals who are unlikely to be served in any of the other Pubs in Faringdon " I find extremely preudice, as a respectable member of the community I wouldnt use the establishment were it full of the riff raff and yobbo's of the town.

Since the current licences took residency the establishment has gone from strength to strength establishing itself as one of the towns favourite watering holes, ofen the only public house with anyone in it !!

Pub sports such as Aunt Sally, Darts, Pool and Dominoes have become favoutites with the regular's, excellant food is served at lunchtimes, all the big sporting fixtures are televised live, be it football, horse racing or rugby, there is even a free play duke box and free website access !!!

The current landlord and landlady David & Audrey have an extremely sucessful record of running public houses in the Lancashire area, to say they are not responsible in who they allow to use the premises is totally tosh !

Its always a shame when high spirits at the end of a jolly good knees up result in a punch up by folks who cannot handle more than a couple of ales, but to tanish this establishment as your contributor did I find wholly unfair.
Name Supplied

Saturday night in Gloucester St - 26/5/09

Don't let the facts get in the way of a good story/rant.
Jane Boulton

Calling all Avon ladies/gents - 26/5/09

Are there any of you about who would deal with the gals in Davis', London Street? You seem to have disappeared off the horizon.

We need a ding-dong! thanks,
Hilary (242806)

Saturday night in Gloucester St - 25/5/09

I have no knowledge of the events reported in Gloucester Street. I am however disgusted by the childish and ill informed comments made by the coward (he will not include his name) who posted this entry.

Neither I, nor any other members of Faringdon Town Council, made any attempt to keep the Volunteer open. It was closed for commercial reasons, sold by the then owners (who were planning to turn it into flats) to a company that decided they would maintain it as a pub. An entirely commercial decision that had nothing to do with the wishes of FTC.

The comments are insulting. Local councillors are not paid, nor do they claim for expenses that are not genuinely incurred - and then very very rarely. That comment was nothing short of disgraceful.

Town Councillors give their time, knowledge and help in order to help and support the Town and it's people. This sort of insult is uncalled for and frankly very insulting.
Alan Hickmore

RE: Gas Fitter - 26/5/09

I've had similar experiences with silly quotes from companies that advertise locally. You would expect them to be keen to attract local custom.

Have just had a new boiler installed by Mike Lee, 07710 776088 or mike@cosycatheating.co.uk.

Friendly, polite, did some minor works to the radiator valves too and for half the price.
Sarah Weston

Saturday night in Gloucester St - 25/5/09

The previous contributor is actually referring to events that took place in the Volunteer Pub in Gloucester St on Saturday night. Which, to clarify things, had nothing to do with the rock band Powertrain. > Despite all the arguments and well documented controversy surrounding noise levels from the Corn Exchange, the Volunteer took it upon itself to organise an evening of unbelievably loud, D J dance music (which is definitely not to everyone's taste) attended by a well known collection of obnoxious individuals who are unlikely to be served in any of the other Pubs in Faringdon due to their previous history of violence and anti social behaviour. Responsible landlords in Faringdon have had the decency and common sense to ban them!

Along with moronic shouting and foul language the base resonance from the sound system apparently shook windows half way up Gloucester street and beyond. This continued way past the legal cut off point for music on licensed premises. Predictably, shortly after the clock struck midnight and the one brain cell on the premises turned back into faeces, the inevitable lager fuelled brawl started. This spilled out into Gloucester street, requiring the attendance of several police vehicles and terrifying the living daylights out of any normal person in the vicinity at that time of night. Social tolerance? I think not. This is disgusting and unacceptable behaviour which should be an embarrassment and a disgrace to an otherwise thoroughly acceptable and vibrant Market Town. It is also totally unfair on responsible businesses and other parties attempting to promote visitors and tourism.

The big, big question has to be, why, in the light of the Corn exchange sound limiter debate is this allowed to take place a matter of yards away??

Here is some interesting information.

The Volunteer, which has a continuing reputation for noise and anti social behaviour was due to close two years ago, presumably due to complaints. It was, allegedly, somehow saved from its demise by the intervention of Faringdon Town Council who campaigned vigorously to stop live music in the Corn exchange and heroically improve the lives of those living nearby. Perhaps they would like to give us an explanation for this raw hypocrisy which I hope is making a lot of people very angry!

Here endeth the rant.

Name withheld to protect the no claim discount on my life insurance.

Re Hush Festival refund posted 5th May - 23/5/09

Anyone had theirs in the last few weeks?

We haven't.

Name Supplied

Noisy music, fighting in the streets - 23/5/09

...it is almost midnight and the music plays on. Simmering tensions boil over and abusive drink fueled anger spills over into the street, and the music plays on. Fighting breaks out, women start screaming and people use foul abusive language, and the music plays on.

The police then arrive to control the situation and it is only then that the music stops. These people that cannot behave bring shame on themselves and shame on the town.

Late heavy drinking and late loud music seems to be a formula for violence, that could result in injury or damage to property.

Then some people wonder why the local residents start complaining.

Name Supplied

Lack of Street Cleanliness in Faringdon - 23/5/09

Well done Gen for pursuing the street cleaning.

Agreed it wouldn't hurt the occupiers of houses 'on the street' to clean & weed their own bit of pavement, but I suppose these days when folks expect to have everything done for them it's too much to ask.
name supplied

Re: New allotment site. - 23/5/09

This was intended to be the Willes Close Triangle.
We have a major problem in that it is landlocked. We need to get vehicles in to prepare it and we need vehicle access for health & safety reasons.
There is a possible solution to this but until it's been investigated fully I can't tell you any more.
This is my "pet" project and I'm doing all I can to push it forward.
Jane Boulton

PowerTrain playing Layla? - 22/5/09

How exciting.
I hope you 'middle aged past it rockers' (if, indeed, you are they and not the mooing chorus of cows beloved by some!) have enough time to learn it by 10 July! I don't think I've heard you play it before.
Meanwhile, as I look forward to joining hundreds of others, of all ages, at FAF09 there are bands who don't live in Faringdon - Storm Warning and BluesMix (check their credentials on <http://www.myspace.com/stormwarninguk>, <http://www.bluesmix.com/about.html>) and DJ Citizen Cane (playing professionally produced recorded music) at the Corn Exchange.
Perhaps there will be something for Name Supplied to enjoy?
Sheila

The Bell - 22/5/09

I understand the previous people have left - rather suddenly I believe.

I can't help thinking if The Bell and the Crown were excellent - accommodation and restaurant lots of people would come to Faringdon to stay or eat.
The vitality of the town would be boosted. Shops and businesses would get more trade, the town would be more alive.

They're our most important hostelrys and significant in the towns history - they deserve to be well maintained and used.
Has anyone got a spare few million to take them on?
Name Supplied

Lack of Street Cleanliness in Faringdon - 22/5/09

I've been on the case for cleaner streets recently. It struck me that Veolia, the contractor, is not doing the job properly, nor were VWHDCs inspections identifying the problem areas.

The person from VWHDC who came over here today has confirmed that pretty much all our streets in [Zone 1 and 2](#) are substandard in terms of cleanliness. Most lack of cleanliness on pavements is where the far edge of the pavement hasn't been swept, and weeds are growing very large.
Responsibility for vegetation seems unclear - if its growing it might be the County (or Veolia) if it's dead/not growing, it's definitely Veolia.
Spraying happens in some towns, so I've contacted Oxfordshire CC to see if it can be done here.

Kerbs are weedy in places - mostly where cars are often parked. The contract with Veolia indicates that 'every effort' should be made to clean these areas. This could be using a flick brush, or restricting parking for time enough to clean.
It looks as if the effort Veolia has made is 'none at all'

There are some places where the road sweeper cannot go, as it's too big. It seems the smaller sweeping vehicle was the victim of arson, and not replaced (possibly because the contract is coming to an end)
The good news is that the contract is to be relet to [Verdant](#). The bad news is that it's not for 17 months, and I've heard from another source that Veolia are pulling out of the street cleaning business altogether.
All in all they won't be very interested.

Contact is to be made with the Veolia with a view to getting an action plan in place to give our streets a good clean. I'm to be told when this is in place and will post the information here.

To end on a positive note. There are some small patches throughout the town where the pavement is clean and there are no weeds. It seems likely that it is the business or the householder who has kept it clean- just like we used to in olden times!
Those were the days!

Grumpy old woman
aka Gene Webb

To report cleanliness problems either use http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/website/report_it_intro.asp or e-mail waste.team@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Live Music Events coming up over the next few weeks.- 22/5/09

All are at the Old Crown, Free Entry and start at 9pm.
Friday 29th May - Rick Chase
Saturday 6th June - Dirty Deeds
Friday 12th June - The Pimps
Friday 19th June - The Follys
Saturday 26th June - DJ Citizen Cane's SKA NIGHT
Friday 26th June - Dave Reynolds
Friday 3rd July - Resurrection
Please call us for any further info on 01367 242744
The Old Crown

Re Land Development - 22/5/09

Thanks for the information about the land off Park Road.
So can I ask where is the new allotment site then please if it is not this development?
Name Supplied

Noise, music, neighbours. - 22/5/09

Is there a chance you could all agree to disagree and put an end to all of this?

Name Supplied

Daily Mail-reading Middle Englanders. .- 22/5/09

Sounds exactly like the 'not in my back yard' posse who try to get public entertainment events stopped just because they have no interest in attending.

Just to clarify:

- 1) I wouldn't know if the Daily Mail sells out by 11 as I do not, nor ever shall read it (I can however, confirm that getting a Guardian can be tricky on a Sat afternoon)
- 2) Middle England - being a Brummie I guess I am, in the literal sense. Sorry, I just can't be offended by that attempted insult (but that's not what you meant was it?)
- 3) I do not blindly (or should that be deafly?) attend all events in Faringdon - I choose which I go to. I have no interest in country and western nights, line dancing, salsa, school discos, madrigals, opera, am-dram, bell-ringing, or the WI

unusual egg timer competitions; however, I don't consider my lack of interest to be sufficient a reason to stop other residents from gaining pleasure from such pursuits. I let them get on with it.

4) Not all music events are of the rock genre (past-it or otherwise) - your opinion of the Faringdon music scene (and vitriolic attack on this) seems to be tempered more by personal dislike of one resident, rather than being based on any knowledge of the true situation. (Before you accuse me of being part of some sort of local Mafia, I've never even spoken to Dave R and can take or leave his music).

Now I've had my say I'd like to invite you to expand a bit on some of your other comments.

It seems your complaint is not so much that music events are happening, but that the standard is too low. Only someone who can turn their hand to any task, instantly reaching world-class standard in any field in which they choose to dabble could possibly make such a statement. You clearly do not comprehend the need that most of us have for practice; cannot even begin to understand that most people make mistakes, and learning how to deal with these is not only an integral part of performing, but also an important life skill. What a charmed life you must have led. At least now I know why you do not provide you details - surely you must be an international household name who wishes to keep their anonymity and the paparazzi from their door. Indeed, we mere mortals of Faringdon are not worthy to walk the same streets as you! In fact, why stop at banning less-than note-perfect music? Surely we must close the leisure centre and stop those poor, deluded individuals from making a spectacle of themselves in the pool and on the squash courts. Anything short of Olympic-standard activity must not be allowed - think of the damage it could do to the developing minds of the students at FCC next door. Participating in a pastime for enjoyment, when you have no chance of becoming world number one? Shameful.

Moving on, how do you propose to get world-class acts to Faringdon? Why should they come if they know their performances will be hampered by limiters and complaints from petty-minded locals backed up by a spineless local council? It seems acoustic music is not even acceptable, so classical and unaccompanied vocals must surely be out too.

On a slightly more serious note, have you thought of the (hopefully unintended) consequences of banning live performances in town? Just suppose we do have a budding John Lennon, Jimmy Page, Jacqueline du Pre or Pavarotti in our ranks. What then? They may be note-perfect in their own bedroom but will have nowhere locally to hone their performing skills. They will not benefit from the support of the local community and we will not be able to say 'I saw them before they were famous'. Instead, their enthusiasm, drive and ambition will be crushed as they are made to feel like a failure and a pariah just for trying to gain some experience. Exceptional talent alone is not enough - support, (dare I say it) practice, knock-downs, false starts, perseverance and a bit of luck are all essential. Furthermore, should those not blessed with such talent not be given the opportunity to do something they enjoy, and which will entertain some others?? Whatever happened to having fun?

One last question. You may, of course, live wherever you choose and do whatever you wish with your spare time (what a pity you cannot extend the same courtesy to others). I am, however, having difficulty reconciling your obvious contempt for Faringdon and its residents with your claim that you want to live here. Perhaps you could enlighten me?

Wishing you a long and happy life

Andrea

PS Mike - just seen your reply. I too am glad I'm not like 'Name supplied'. Takes one to know one!

Journey to Bristol on skateboards for Charity - 21/5/09

Between 14th and 16th June 4 young skateboarders from Faringdon are going to skateboard to Bristol and back - 100 miles. All in aid of mental health for children and young adults.

You can donate via www.justgiving.com/skate

[More information](#)

There will also be a DJ workshop and youth night to raise more funds
Daniel Langley-Smith and friends

The street light 'switch off' situation - 21/5/09

The converting of lights to 'part night' operation is only being trialled in rural parishes at the moment. The Parish

Councils were asked for their views on the scheme in January.
Oxfordshire County Council will be canvassing Parish or Town Councils in more urban areas once the results of the initial scheme have been looked at and the effectiveness measured.
Owen Brazell

Poetry Book with local poets - 21/5/09

Readers may be interested in this publication , Featuring among others local author Cleve Gibson, and Poetry competition participant Diane Smith.

In the Silence of this Room
ISBN ISBN: 978-0-615-28002-8
Grey Sparrow Press, co-published Cyberwit in India
Fiction & Poetry

A cross-cultural collection of writings that through poetry, narrative, and photos grapple with some of the most pressing issues of the world we live in: war, poverty, health care, environment, family, beauty, and lastly--the ever-present need to connect--love.

The book represents the efforts of dedicated artists around the globe, some who have been nominated or awarded literary prizes, to express a personal vision. Many of the writers here have experienced in some way the terrors of war and poverty, the lack of adequate medical care, and oppression.

For them, this book represents both the vision of the world as it is and what it can be. It also expresses the belief that no matter our culture or belief, no matter what distance separates us--we are more similar than not. We are all very much human.

Will be available in Borders Scotland, Amazon and A1 in India as well as other stores in the area around Mid-May.
Diane Smith

Powertrain at the Arts Fest - 21/5/09

Due to popular request, PowerTrain WILL be performing LAYLA at this year's Faringdon Arts Festival!
David Reynolds (Non-Daily Mail reader)

Land in park road- 21/5/09

Land between the Health Centre and Park Road.

No, this is not the new allotments. The land is owned by developers Kingerslee. It is designated for mixed residential and light commercial use.

Jane Boulton

Work on Youth Centre stopped- 21/5/09

Work on the Youth Centre stopped because the builder went into liquidation.

It is a Youth Support project and the Town Council are already aware of the problems.

They are currently providing a free venue for the time being.

Jane Boulton

Land in park road- 21/5/09

The former Kingerslee site next to Faringdon Upholstery is now (apparently) under the ownership of Builder's Ede.

I believe there are plans for a small block of flats in place but don't quote me on that, it's hearsay! I haven't seen the official paperwork...yet!

Name Supplied

Land in park road- 21/5/09

The owners are just putting a access road in for the time being,as the two year planning was about to run out . You would have to regain planning permission if work has not start on site. Due to the downturn in the market the owner is rightly so sitting tight on building the planned 22 flats and 6 units for b1 use.

I spoke to a sales person in bloor homes showhome and the person said that they worked for bloor homes in 90s ,and they said the current market is worst than the 90s slump.
Name Supplied

A thought for Faringdon Arts Festival - 21/5/09

A thought for a new spectacle for Faringdon Festival,
How about a Soap Box Derby, starting from Stanford Road. London Street is just made for it!
Why let Goodwood have all the fun (have to watch the speed humps though).
Mike Perks

To NAS, (name and address supplied). . - 21/5/09

Quote: "Am I not allowed to live here if I am not like you ? Very welcoming. Typical middle England really, no wonder the Daily Mail sells out by 11 AM here.
" First response, you forgot the "TY"on the end of "NAS". Second response:
Your "reasoned reply" to polite comments from others rather says it all, maybe you should order YOUR copy of the Daily Mail, then you can get up as late as you wish.
Your attitude of: If I don't like it, you must all be retards, is typical: Democratic free speech is OK, but only if you agree with ME.
You are rather rude Sir, hiding behind anonymity to slag off other people is not a good personality trait.
But, on a redeeming side, perhaps you are right, some of us are not like you, for which I for one am greatly thankful.
Mike Perks.

Astronomer wanted - for BBC TV filming at the Folly - 21/5/09

We're looking for somebody – preferably an astronomer – who can help us use a quadrant at the Folly on Tuesday 26th May
The person probably won't need to speak on camera, though if they were enthusiastic and interested then that might be possible.
We are looking for somebody to help us between 1700 and 2100. Travel expenses would be paid.
Please contact Jess Phillimore on 07870 586 054

Gas mains maintenance - 21/5/09

In Marlborough St starting 1/12/09 fro 12 weeks
Gas customer Enq team: 02920 270653

Work on Youth Centre stopped- Help! - 21/5/09

I do wonder if the town council can do anything about the cease of work on the new youth centre. It will be of great value to the community, why do we have to wait so long?
Please help us.
Name Supplied

Past it rockers - 20/5/09

Your comments just typify the attitude of Faringdon residents, fit in with us or be gone !

You suggest going to the events and joining in, what if middle aged past it rockers with not an ounce of music sense and mostly people who never leave Faringdon is not how I want to spend my evenings really.

What if I don't want to hear the middle of the road drivel spouted by musos who were never good enough to play anywhere else?

Am I not allowed to live here if I am not like you ? Very welcoming. Typical middle England really, no wonder the Daily Mail sells out by 11 AM here.

Name Supplied

Activity on land between Health Centre and Park Road - 20/5/09

I saw diggers today on this patch of ground next to Faringdon Upholstery. They appear to be clearing the turf. Is this the new allotment site? Or something else?

Name Supplied

Presentation Gifts, 6 London Street - 19/5/09

new website just gone live - sounds very grand!! check it out www.presentationgifts.co.uk

Denise Palmer

Following on from the garage..... - 19/5/09

can anyone recommend a good (and honest) gas fitter?

Been getting some hilariously huge quotes to install a 3-radiator central heating system! I'd like to think it's not because I'm female (it being 2009), but I'm beginning to wonder after speaking to other people who've had similar work done recently.

My sense of humour is starting to wear thin.

Name Supplied

The Jam Club presents TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT(ER) - 19/5/09

A night of great music from the 60's 70's and 80's at the Corn Exchange. **12th June 2009**

With DJ Citizen Cane and 5.8-30-11-30, Free Entrance, Licenced Bar at affordable prices.

A selection of Soul, a slice of ska, a taste of Tango, a bucketful of Rhythm and blues, a piece of PunkPie and a few tunes you may want to hear again....

Sam Prince

Good garage - 18/5/09

I've recently had a couple of big jobs done on my 15-year old car at Rectory Lane Service Centre (Frilford Farm, Hinton Road, Longworth).

If your car is good for the 7 mile drive I'd recommend giving them a try. They were a bit slow but admitted they were at fault and did some extra bodywork repairs for free (result of long-ago vandalism that I'd never have bothered paying for), valeted and generally spruced it up. It was like getting a new one back! They also held off doing any work for a few weeks until car was within a month of MOT due date incase MOT was catastrophic and I decided not to go ahead!

V nice people, and I think they're part of the Good Garage Scheme (<http://www.goodgaragescheme.co.uk/>).

Name Supplied

19/5 Thanks for the garage/mechanic info - it's very useful.

Oily Person - 18/5/09

Try Brian Burgess, Park Road, 01367-240082 or Rob Viner Thrupp 01367 240693

Name Supplied

Faringdon Street Map..... - 17/5/09

The Community Responders are wondering if any local organisation has produced an updated Faringdon Street Map lately.

We are currently using the brilliant version produced by the Faringdon Walk and Cycle Project but it's a bit out of date now.

If you know where we can get a new version, please phone Gof Smith on 01367-242448. Thanks.

Ed(GW) : Updated map can be found on

http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random49089ba450b35/1225300970_fin_map_fin.pdf

Good garage? - 17/5/09

I have an oil leak on my car so a garage or an independent mechanic(preferably not Peugeot or Second to None) that could deal with that would be helpful

Name Supplied

Sarah Savoy and the Francadians, from Louisiana and France are to appear at the "Jam Club" - 17/5/09

Corn exchange, Faringdon. On Sat 25th July.

This is a M.A.D.D. Free event.

For details please see www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Sarah and her band will be performing at the W.O.M.A.D festival on sunday 26th july.

Urgent appeal for Faringdon recruits for Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service - 15/4/09

We are urgently seeking new recruits from the Faringdon area to join the local station as retained (part-time) firefighters, in a bid to keep two fire engines at the station. Due to a shortfall in staff numbers, one of Faringdon's two fire engines has been temporarily relocated to a neighbouring fire station to ensure that Faringdon still receives the same level of fire cover in the event of an emergency.

Group Manager Bob Swanton said: "We are doing all we can, but it's now up to the people of Faringdon to come forward. Without local people it's not possible to crew the second engine. Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service is proud of the service provided by the crew at Faringdon, saving lives and working to protect their local community 365 days a year, but they do need more staff.

"We would love to hear from anyone who thinks they can help make a difference, or anyone who would just like to find out more about the role of a part-time firefighter."

He added: "Being a firefighter is tremendously rewarding and provides many skills that will benefit people throughout their life, as well as offering people a second income and a chance to put something back into their local community. We are appealing for new recruits to become part of this team, regardless of age, background, race, religion or gender."

Faringdon Fire Station will be holding a series of events over the coming weeks to try to find new applicants, including an open morning due to take place on June 6 from 10am to 12noon.

For more information please email joanna.bonner@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call the Oxfordshire's South/Vale Area office on 01235 213028

Location location. - 15/5/09

Many thanks to Sheila, for her "An incomplete guide for Faringdon"
thanks also for the video of Hans Theessink in performance at The Corn Exchange.

I urge the people on the committees of the council to view this, it points out that the limiter is a burden on all performers and can only destroy more than it protects? If it doesn't change, then groups who have booked the hall for their function and require live music will be very disappointed.

This has its knock on effect towards the income of the building. So please councillors do something and not just waffle. Is the Corn Exchange destined to be another Skate Park saga,
Why was the venues committee meeting cancelled?

Please come along to the next free M.A.D.D. event on Friday 6th June with "Storm Warning" to witness the problems.
Sam Prince

Good garage? - 15/5/09

It all depends what you wish, tyres, service, etc.
Please be a little more specific with your requirements and I am sure there will be usable advice.
It may be helpful if there is an email address, then a PM could be forthcoming.
Mike Perks

The Mews, In response: - 15/5/09

Dear Andrea,
As another resident just up the street from yourself, your views are balanced and concise.
Welcome to Faringdon, enjoy, and I hope that if and when you have to move on, you will have the same happy associations that I have.
Wherever you've been, in this country or another, Faringdon is a great place to return to and call home.
Mike Perks
Ed(GW) Hear hear - and I've been here forever!

Community job vacancy - 14/5/09

Age Concern Oxfordshire has a new and exciting post based in and around the Vale of White Horse.
The role is for a Community Development Outreach Worker to join our expanding Community Development Team.
The post is full time, part time/job share will be considered.
Please follow this link for full details and job description. <http://www.charityjob.co.uk/Jobs/144091/Community-Development-Outreach-Worker>
Many thanks
Helen Grimwade Community Development Manager (Rural)
Age Concern Tel: 01235 849400 Mobile: 07920 576386

Free exercise sessions for over 50s and free lunch - 14/5/09

The KFA level 2 chair based exercise tutor training course that has been running in Faringdon for the past 10 weeks is coming to an end with the final assessments for the candidates taking place on the 20th and 22nd May.
The organisers are looking for volunteers to participate in the 20 minute classes that will be run for these assessments.

If you know of anyone, family, friends or neighbours who might be interested in helping out with this please let me know.
They will be rewarded not only with a stimulating and enjoyable seated exercise class, but will also be provided with lunch.
The dates and times are Wednesday 20th May 10.30am – 12.30pm, and Friday 22nd May 10.00am – 1.00pm, both at Faringdon Leisure Centre.
Please pass this email on to anyone else that you think may be able to help

Jo Paterson
Sports Development Manager Vale of White Horse District Council
Tel: 01235 540379 Mobile 07818 014472

Meeting of Venues Committee 19 May - Cancelled - 14/5/09

Please note that the FTC Venues Committee meeting, 19/5 has been cancelled. A new date will be advised shortly
Faringdon Town Council

Good garage? - 14/5/09

Could anyone recommend a good local garage please?
Name Supplied

Begging Lady - 13/5/09

Hi just thought i would post a notice to let everyone know that there is a lady with a brown dog begging around Faringdon at the moment. She claims that she needs the money for her dog etc however she begs and gets cash and then goes and buys drink with it.
Please be aware and don't give her any money or report it to the non emergency number for Thames Valley Police.
Name Supplied

Cortege passing Faringdon - 12/5/09

A repatriation cortege will pass Faringdon on the A420 at approx 14.30hrs on Wednesday 13 May.
Could people please pay their respects at the Folly Hill A420 layby.

The four soldiers killed are:

Cpl Sean Binnie,3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland(The Black Watch)

Cpl Kumar Pun,1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles

Sgt Ben Ross,173 Provost Company Royal Military Police

Rfn Adrian Sheldon,2nd Battalion The Rifles

Thanks John Gillman

Ed(GW) Sorry this is posted too late- have been away

Corn Exchange again - 12/5/09

I would like to thank John Bird for alerting me to my, previously unnoticed, hearing loss in my 30s. Despite living half way up London St, I cannot hear the music from the Corn Exchange, The Crown, nor (I am embarrassed to admit) from The Wheatsheaf, yet it seems it can be heard in Coxwell St. I'm off to book my hearing test forthwith!

And as for the comment about renting vs owning your home - I've rented in various towns and cities for many years and it's much easier to move house if you rent than own. In fact it was noisy neighbours (screaming woman and kids, not music) that drove me to sell my last flat and revert to renting for several years due to the 'quick get out clause' this provides. If you again have to move somewhere you don't know, you could always try sticking your stuff in storage and lodging with someone cheaply on very 'loose' terms while you get to know the area and find somewhere you're happier to live in the longer term. I did this when I moved here, and found a lovely little house in Glos Mews where I lived very happily for over a year and often enjoyed free live music while lying in bed (as a city girl it made me feel like I hadn't dropped out of society entirely by moving to Faringdon after all!).

I guess it's all down to personal perception....perhaps if some of the complainants actually tried attending the events rather than sitting at home watching tripe on the telly they might start seeing them as an asset, not a nuisance. The events are attended by all ages and mostly free (so you'd even save on electricity by going out!).

Just a thought....
Andrea

Energy cold call? - 12/5/09

On Monday someone from EDF energy came to my house to try to get us to change suppliers. He left fairly quickly when it was clear we did not want to change BUT he was still hanging around outside on the street 4 hours later.
Did anyone else notice him and find it as strange and disturbing as I did?
Name Supplied

A Vote of Thanks- 11/5/09

I would like to say how much I and the family enjoyed this year's MADD events. I saw three acts all of high quality. The events were well staged and, very pleasingly, well attended.
Thanks are due to those who put the work in to make it happen.
We were very lucky to have such a high quality event in Faringdon and for free!
Mike Fraser

Skaters Selected for Europeans in August - 11/5/09

Great news all three Skaters Ben, Hollie and Georgina selected to skate for GB in France at the Europeans in August
Congratulations to them all
Dee England

Faringdon Skaters more success - 11/5/09

Inter-Silver Competition held in Faringdon yesterday 10th may
Mens Figures 1st Ben Timbrell
Mens Free Skating 1st Ben Timbrell

Competition winner Ben Timbrell

Ladies Figures 1st Hollie Fidler, 2nd Georgina Howe
Ladies Free Skating 2nd Hollie Fidler, 3rd Georgina Howe
Over all Placings 2nd Hollie Fidler, 3rd Georgina Howe

Thankyou to John Gillman our Town Mayor who sponsored this competition
Thankyou to the leisure Centre Staff who did a great job in preparing the centre for this event to take place support and patience is essential during these events
Dee England

Re Corn Exchange limiter - 11/5/09

M.A.D.D. has decided that if the problems with the sound can be sorted, enabling us to continue with the jam club, then most of the performances will be free of charge.

Our next planned night is June 6th with Storm Warning.
For those interested we have been asked if we could accommodate Sarah and the Francadians for a gig on the 25th July. A band from Louisiana, Who will be performing at W.O.M.A.D. that weekend.
It's not all to do with fat belly middle aged crises.
Sam Prince

Corn Exchange again - 10/5/09

Corn Exchange again. In response to Sam Prince, who should understand the position of the Town Council as he attends Venues committee meetings.

It would be highly irresponsible if the Council spent significant sums of money on the building before having either a long term lease or ownership. If we were unable to reach agreement with the Vale it would be tax payers money down the drain. The quote for secondary glazing, part of the proposed solution amounts to £16,000, if we went ahead without agreement and lost the building we would loose that as well!

I agree that now is the time to plan for the future and if we need to raise a significant sum to update the hall then let's have the debate. Not everyone would accept that a music/arts venue in the town centre is desirable or achievable, it is upto supporters to make the case as we did during the debate over the future of the 15 minute club.

However in the interim I would be happy to request a recalibration check on the sound limiter, but don't expect that to appease complainants or the Vale who both take a hard line on the issue.

Steve Leniec

Ed(GW) I think I remember that the £16k budgeted for double glazing has now been moved to a General fund, and will compete with other FTC projects.

Open Farm Sunday 7th June - 10/5/09

As part of this national event, Wicklesham Lodge Farm will be opening up to the public. It's a day to see and taste the countryside, and discover what lies beyond the farm gate. We're keen to get local food producers involved. Our own produce will be available, and the Kinches (who farm at Buscot and also do the farming here at Wicklesham) will be bringing their own venison sausages. But we'd like to get more people involved.

We're looking for people who grow their own food within 15 miles of Faringdon. It must be the producers themselves – we don't want people who have made bread, cakes, sauces and the like from ingredients they have bought. They must provide and man their own stall (electric and water will be available) and actively promote the way their food is produced.

It's entirely free, both for visitors and stall-holders, and we're hoping for at least 200 people during the day.

Anyone interested should contact me direct on tom@wickleshamlodge.com by 31 May.

Tom Allen Stevens

[See poster with more information](#)

Location, Location, Location - 10/5/09

An incomplete guide for people intending to purchase property in Faringdon Town Centre.

REASONS TO CHOOSE TO LIVE IN FARINGDON TOWN CENTRE

Close to shops, chemist, hairdressers, banks, solicitors, opticians, pubs, restaurants, coffee house, take-away, food outlets, information centre etc;

A few minutes walk to library, primary school, junior school, churches, vets, dentists;

Up to 15 minutes walk to Health Centre, Community College, Leisure Centre, Folly Park, pre-school nursery; Hourly bus service between Oxford & Swindon;

Community bus and other local bus services;

Regular Farmers and French markets;

Good broadband connection;

Historic buildings;

Low crime rate;

No need for a car;

Good public venues for meetings, exhibitions and many social activities including live music, dance, drama (see

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hr5K1hhZIC4>);

Friendly people.

REASONS AGAINST LIVING IN FARINGDON TOWN CENTRE

Main road used by lorries, tractors, buses, cars and motorbikes - can be noisy (especially those in-car music systems set at 11);

Dangerous crossing the road as some drivers can't read road signs;

Close to shops - deliveries block the roads and can be noisy;

Close to pubs - noisy deliveries; people enjoying themselves - can be noisy, particularly in the evenings and late at night;
Close to the only public performance venue - people enjoying themselves, can be noisy on Friday, Saturday nights and the occasional Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hr5K1hhZIC4>);
French market, Faringdon Arts Festival, Festive Faringdon - town centre very crowded, open air music, food, people of all ages enjoying themselves - can be noisy;
requires road closures and traffic diversions;
Close to schools - children can make a real racket!
Close to take-away food outlets - cooking odours and litter can be a problem;
Nearby churches - the bells, the bells! Poor Freeview reception;
Limited local employment;
Lousy bus services, especially evenings - need a car to go to work or to travel further afield for entertainment;
Insufficient parking places for car; Historic buildings - attract those pesky tourists;
Nothing for young teens - resort to hanging around town centre, skateboarding;
Mindless vandalism;
Dog mess;
Complaining neighbours.

I hope this will prove useful to people who can't be bothered to do essential research before making a considerable financial investment in Faringdon.
Sheila

Corn Exchange Live music - 10/5/09

I have had an amusing read this afternoon, catching up on the latest observations on Faringdon life. I was intrigued by John Bird's comments on "Layla", apparently from the Corn Exchange, John lives in Coxwell St? You have incredible hearing sir.

I was also at the Dr Teeth evening and when Hans Theessink was playing, quietly. Quiet enough to be able to converse without raising ones voice, and yet the limiter kicked in.

I think there must be an internal fault with the system, it really must be checked and sorted.

On the comments from Dave Reynolds, I could not agree more, on all his points. Well said Dave.

As for Name Supplied, I personally do not find the minor noise from the Corn Exchange an issue, it's certainly way less than the Volunteer kicks out, on the other hand I wouldn't buy a house next to a pub then complain about noise.

So where do I live that apart from traffic, parking, Sunday lawnmowers, dogs, children and TV noise, is mainly quiet and peaceful? Gloucester Street! Just a few doors up from the Corn Exchange, but there again, I have only lived there for 18 years so what would I know.

Mike Perks

Corn Exchange Live music - 9/5/09

I went to the Crown Inn Sat night. The band playing there was a nine piece R/B band playing at a reasonable level but they were clearly audible outside. perhaps they have more tolerant neighbours.

I'm under the impression that the Council was fully aware that they might take over the control of the Corn Exchange some time before the public voted to keep it and even if not, they could not afford to lose the only venue in the Faringdon area capable of accommodating up to 200 people.

The issue of the sound leakage, as according to councillor Leniec (earlier posting), has been known for some years. Why was there no contingency plan to deal with the problem? All that seems to have happened is a slanging match created by lack of planning. As far as I can see, the priority for this building is, if what councillor Leniec intimates, a centre for the arts, we should be dealing with this problem.

May I just make one request - that the Noise limiter is checked out and dealt with properly and set at a reasonable level to allow live music to happen in the building. I believe if these steps are taken, the district council could take into account the fact that the town is working towards solving the problem and at the same time keeping the building alive. Councillor Leniec also says there are meetings to discuss this. Tuesday 19th may is the next Venues committee

meeting- 7pm Pump Rooms.
Have your say on this subject.
Sam Prince

Radio 1 big weekend - 9/5/09

has anyone got any spare tickets for tomorrows radio ones big weekend.
if so please contact Alice on 07896740140
thankyou

Dear David Reynolds - 9/5/09

Perhaps you could arrange for the farmer next door to you to bring the cows down to the corn exchange and they can moo in there all night.
I would rather listen to that than one more rendition of 'LAYLA'.
John Bird

Support for Macmillan Cancer Support - 9/5/09

Congratulations to Peter King for attempting this cycle ride. I am the great-grandson of CA Harman who completed the journey on a penny farthing in 13 days and have a postcard sent by his friend H Blackwell from the John O'Groats hotel on 24 July 1880. Good luck.
Charlie Harman

Streetlights to be turned off? - 8/5/09

I note with interest that Oxfordshire county council is trialing a scheme whereby streetlights maybe turned off after 12:30.
Does anyone know if Faringdon is likely to participate in this scheme.
As an amateur astronomer I should declare an interest :-)

Owen Brazell
*Ed(GW) Maybe worth emailing steetlighting@oxfordshire.gov.uk or our County Councilor judy.heathcoat@virgin.net
I'd be interested to know*

Corn Exchange- 9/5/09

John, I'm from London originally and chose to live in Faringdon because of the wonderful people and lifestyle here. I didn't come here to change it to suit me as you and your cronies seem intent upon.

I make no apologies for pointing out again....it is YOUR choice where you live. If you don't know the area, surely it's even more essential to check it out beforehand?
I don't live in a big detached house but I do live next to a farm. Do I complain when the farmer is still revving his tractor at 11 O'clock at night? Or the cows are starting to get restless at 3 in the morning? NO I don't! I CHOSE to live here and accept it as part of the package!

As regards 'midlife crisis rock' I haven't stopped playing guitar for over 40 years (so hardly a sudden crisis). During this time I've played with some of the best session musicians in the world and I can tell you there are a few people in Faringdon who could easily match them. Faringdon has a unique musical (and other artistic) leaning.
Why can't you accept and support that instead of trying to destroy it?
So yes, John, you're right there is a world outside Faringdon.
Perhaps you and the other complainants might like to try it again.
David Reynolds

Re Name Supplied- 8/5/09

Somehow you think that i am trying to give you information. ALAS i am not, this information is for all others as you seem to be best friends with the Environmental Health Dept
But if you had Complained about the volunteer then they too would not be allowed to have amplified music and would have their entertainments licence taken off them as you seem to call the environmental health quite often

But if you wish to live in a town with no music and no culture Or as John Bird put it Midlife Crisis Rock but personally i can not stand Rock Music
then all please carry on complaining and we can live in a quiet backwater town full of organisations like the Derby and Joan Club
Scott Gildert

Midlife Crisis Rockers LOL - 9/5/09

Well said Mr Bird. I think we are all getting tired of the grey haired, beer bellied, forty something gentleman pulling on tight T shirts to support them through the male menopausal stage of being wannabe rockers.
I am not sure when this stage lapses and the grumpy old man emerges, but I will warn the bowling club and golf club they have some noisey recruits on the way.
Clare Boyle

Noise limiter @ The Corn Exchange - 8/5/09

If this gets posted in time I would like to invite all councillors to the Crown in Faringdon to-night. May 9th.
There you will witness a local band Skin the Cat. A band not very different to The Dr. Teeth Big Band. I doubt if they will have any problem with a noise limiter.
All i'm asking for is a level playing field.
Sam Prince

Support for Macmillan Cancer Support - 8/5/09

On 16th May I'm setting off to cycle from Lands End to John O Groats. The ride is entirely unsupported and self financed. Its not one of those schemes where you raise a certain amount of money and get loads of freebies, like accommodation and meals, and a support vehicle. I am carrying all my own gear. The route is about 1040 miles and I am planning to take 12 days, that's about 87 miles a day.

I am trying to raise as much as possible and am asking for donations. It would be great to receive the support of the people of Faringdon, even if you do not know me. Even a pound will make a difference because they all add up.

I've been getting up at 5 O'clock every morning since February and cycling before work, and then again in the evening. The last few weeks I've been averaging over 350 miles. I've been pretty committed and would appreciate any support, however, small that you can give.

Please visit my just giving website for more details about the trip.
Many thanks for taking the time to read this.
Peter King (Coxwell Road)
<http://www.justgiving.com/peterkingcycle>

Roadworks in Gravel Walk. - 8/5/09

We have received written notification from Wales & West Utilities regarding works they will be carrying out, as follows.

"Proposed Schedule of Works/method statement for upcoming works in Faringdon.

Work is planned to start in Gloucester Street and in Station Road as there is a team available that can carry on with the open cut at the same time. This will require two way traffic lights throughout.

4 way traffic lights will be required to cross the roundabout at the junction with Coxwell Street, Marlborough Street in order to cross into Gravel Walk, make connections in Coxwell Street and insert across the junction into Marlborough Street. The lights can then be removed permanently at which point we will carry on inserting the main running down Marlborough Street in sections down to the Corn Exchange where we will make final connections prior to commencing the remaining work in Gravel Walk which will need to be done under two way traffic lights throughout.

Once the lay in Gravel Walk is complete, we will make the connection in the roundabout at the junction with Gloucester Street under two way traffic lights.

The final part of the job will then involve dropping back to Station Road junction with Eagles to cut off the last connection to the old main. This will entail digging one pit in order to cut and cap the main and will be done under a ten day notice as agreed on site this morning.

This represents the best estimate we can give and will be achieved providing there are no significant obstructions/ground problems encountered.

Wales & West Utilities Gen Enquiries tel 0870 165 0597 "
Hilary Sherman
Faringdon Town Council

Re Corn Exchange - 8/5/09

I am also a local resident (in Coxwell Street) and a flabbergasted by those who firstly blame us renters for 'choosing' to live next to a known music venue. There is a world outside Faringdon you know, and some of us lived there before, without an intimate knowledge of all the buildings of the town's uses. We have to live above shops and such like and unfortunately cannot sit in our detached properties in peace and quiet. Secondly 'music lovers of the town' is pushing it at bit. 'lovers of middle of the road middlelife crisis 'rock' should ALWAYS have a sound limiter as an act of public decency.

Thanks for the numbers, adding to my phonebook ready to call when need be.
John Bird

Corn Exchange- 8/5/09

While I fully understand and share the frustration felt by everyone who would like to hear live amplified music in the Corn Exchange I would ask for a little patience as the Town Council seek to resolve the future of the building. We have sought to address noise issues, however as most will be aware the Vale stalled on lease negotiations and finally left us with no option but to take ownership of the hall or loose it as a town facility. This has meant that all of our focus has been on resolving these issues before investing on improvements to the building. We expect to take ownership in March 2010, but once final terms are agreed this year we can begin to invest in the future of the building.

It is my personal opinion that we must find a way to use the building for live music as a core part of it's future use. This will mean spending money on reducing sound "leakage" from the building. The issue of the noise limiter and it's setting is something which needs further investigation, some time ago we carried out a series of tests using live bands and local residents and found that the level set on the limiter to avoid potential complaint excluded most amplified live music even though the decibel level outside was lower than passing traffic. As has been said elsewhere some local residents have the Vale Environmental Protection Team on speed dial and they have warned the Council of the consequences of future complaints. This places us in a situation where if we ignore complaints we loose our license.

I too am suprised that other local establishments playing music are apparently ignored and good luck too them, but that does not solve our problem. In the meantime I hope that any estate agent selling local properties discloses the fact that the Corn Exchange is a music venue and anyone purchasing local housing should be aware of that fact. As we plan the future of the building I believe that it cannot be just a village hall for jumble sales and WI markets, it must become a focal point for performing arts in the town.

This is your opportunity to lobby the council, we are begining to address the future use of the building and if you feel that local taxes should be spent providing a hall which can accommodate live music get your voice heard. The Venues committee of Town Council will be planning for the future of the building, check the Town Council

website for meeting dates and agendas.
Steve Leniec

Re 'Go Active' Kids - 8/5/09

I think it's not too expensive at all to have fun with the kids. It will cost you £15 each to go to the Wildlife Park.
We all like to have fun and be happy
Name Supplied

MADD May Fest - 8/5/09

Serious mal-function here. I completely forgot to say mega-thanks to Al Cane for his continual and unpaid help on the promotional side!
Thanks Al - owe you several and I wish more people would give the same sort of physical and mental support to Faringdon as you do.
Grovel, grovel and thanks again
x Hilary M.A.D.D.

Re Name Supplied Corn Exchange limiter - 8/5/09

How do you know that I haven't complained about the Volunteer?? LOL in fact when is that place being closed down?
And thanks I already have the phone numbers and they are fully supporting us.
Name Supplied

Re Name Supplied Corn Exchange limiter - 8/5/09

Many thanks to the people who are being supportive and informative about the limiter in the Corn Exchange.
I have asked the council if they could supply the name of the company who installed it and who maintains it.
Sam Prince

Re Name Supplied Corn Exchange limiter - 7/5/09

Dear Name Supplied
when I made the comment on how loud your TV's were, I was not supporting you as the volume of the TV and the music was up loud when there was no event on at the Corn Exchange. Perhaps the rest of the Music loving Public of this town should have the County Council sound dept on their mobile speed dial ready for when your TV's are too loud
contact details are below
Environmental Protection Team 01235 520202, 01235 531981
Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abingdon, OX14 3JE or you can fill out a form online at the following url http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/website/report_it.asp?formtypecode=NN

Also why have you never complained about the volume of the Music coming from the Volunteer Public House when they have a disco this somehow puzzles me.
as if you had complained they would have also been made to have a sound limiter installed.
or maybe this your local hostelry and you don't want to see it closed down because of a few complainants ?

Perhaps both Sam Prince and Godfrey Smith are Right we should make the town council pull their finger out or perhaps maybe a few fresh faces on the town council as this lot don't seem to be doing as good a job as they should.
Scott Gildert
Good old Commonsense Party

Old Berks Hunt Open Day - 17th May.... - 7/5/09

Just wondering if the animal incinerator on the Stanford Road kennels site is going to be open for all to see at their open day.

Name Supplied

Jewellery on sale at the TIC - 7/5/09

Please take the time to come and look at the hand made jewellery from this months artist, Laura Hounam, at the Community and Tourist Information Centre. The jewellery is beautiful and very reasonable.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE JEWELLERY WILL GO TO AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Sally Thurston

Corn Exchange limiter - 7/5/09

I used to be a volunteer sound technician at Wantage Civic Hall and encountered the same limiter problem there. Indeed, I remember a trumpeter from the Pete Allen Jazz Band found a specific note on his trombone which would cut the stage power even if he played the note at a barely audible level without amplification. If the Corn Exchange limiter is set at 95db but cuts the power at much lower levels, there's a fault in the instalation (as there was at Wantage Civic Hall).

Hans Theessing may well have been right when he said "95decibels I will not be as loud as that".

I suggest that someone gets the limiter instalation checked - is it still under warranty?

Godfrey Smith

Re Corn Exchange - Name supplied - 7/5/09

I want to bet that the estate agents told you that the corn exchange was not used for music.

Offcourse they will tell you this as they want you to buy the house.

Anyway. I was there on Friday night to see Dr. Teeth. They where great if we were only to be able to hear them in full force.

Last thing... Does "Name Supplied" also call council sound dept when the Volunteer has a party?

Please local council, follow the advice of Sam Prince and get your fingers out. Faringdon Council has taken the Corn Exchange back from the Vale and now has the burden of this White Elephant. It will be us (the people of Faringdon) who will pay for the non use of this great building.

Rant over, thank you very much.

Raoul Van Eyndhoven

'Go Active' in Half Term week

How can the Sports development team justify £8 for orienteering in our own folly park. What do you need map and compass. How expensive is THAT in this time of money short.

You can run around folly park pointing out areas of interest, getting exercise and fresh air for nothing.

Come on guys you are sports development. This is a ripoff. Take a stand parents and just take your kids out for long walk, bike ride, up to white horse.

£8 can buy you petrol to take them place of interest not to our own folly park.

These people make me so mad trying to make money out of our kids.

Dee England

Corn Exchange limiter - 7/5/09

Thanks David.

Interesting to note that someone has even noticed how loud we have to have our TV's on just to hear them in our own houses.

Thanks also to for the many messages of support i have had from my neighbours.

Name Supplied

Corn Exchange limiter - 7/5/09

'Name supplied', I'll leave it to the good readers of this website to take a view on your latest comments. The fact is though that the Corn Exchange is redundant as a music venue. This knocks out a vital revenue stream to help support the building at a time when it is about to be handed back to the town. Who will end up paying for it? We all will. Enjoy your peace and quiet.

David Reynolds

Corn Exchange and limiter - 7/5/09

M.A.D.D. has been organizing it's once a month Jam Club for the past eight months, in that time there have been to my knowledge only three complaints, two of those from one person.

So I have to ask if this is such a pressing problem why was it not dealt with sooner. It seems the timing of this decision could not have been worse.

The M.A.D.D. MayFest. Although as my wife Hilary points out the weekend was in areas successful the performances were marred by the noise limiter. (I do not consider music to be a noise) We have for nine years tried to promote music of a wide variety and thought that with the Corn Exchange, a community venue, recently agreed by the town council to take on board, at the tax payers expense, there would be an opportunity to become more involved in promoting the the arts in general. hence the Black Box Youth theatre, and the Loisiaana tea dances.

I personally am dismayed and dissapointed that a town council can be bullied into a decision by one or two people. Where is the stand up for your rights gone to. I'm writing this because it means that next years planning will have to be abandoned, artist cancelled and a nail in the coffin of culture. As the Dr. from the Dr. teeth big band said "A town with out culture" We will not be seeing them again in this town. My good friend Hans Theessing said before his concert "95decibels I will not be as loud as that". According to the limiter he was wrong. This is from a man who has toured the world over the last 40 years.

There is obviously a problem at the Corn Exchange and the way to solve it is to deal with it. So come on town council get your fingers out and deal with it otherwise The Corn Exchange will end up another white elephant, like the pump rooms, becoming an empty shell of a place unable to be used by anyone who wants to have a good time.

Sam Prince

Bus Lane misuse. - 6/5/09

When are the Highways, Police and other interested bodies going to do something about the misuse of the bus lane in the Market Place? And also those still continuing to flout the new double yellows in Swan Lane?

Thought my Poll Tax went to pay for "policing" or am I mistaken.

Bob

Corn Exchange and the sound limiter and Gloucester St. Residents - 6/5/09

I totally agree with the comments of Mr Reynolds and also neils Comments > Corn Exchange- 5/5/09

Yes The Corn Exchange is a Venue for all to use and not just the Guitar Twangers of this great Town.

but what about all the Disco's that go on there

have they to be silenced as well.

but we could revolutionise disco's by everybody bringing their own music on IPods or MP3 Players and have a silent disco > or perhaps Ban Music all together.

but then again shouldn't the residents of Gloucester street have a sound limiter as i have walked up gloucester street and someone has had their music or TV up loud and the sound has ended up in the street.

Scott Gildert

'Go Active' in Half Term - 6/5/09

The Vale Sports Development Team, in partnership with GO Active have a selection of activities on offer for families to have fun, try something new and get active to coincide with National Family Week and the May half term (May 25-31st).

Spend some time orienteering in the fresh air and have fun exploring the countryside. The session will begin with some fun physical activities introducing you to basic orienteering skills. Parents/guardians and their child/children will then work in teams to find their way between the control points marked on a map, deciding the best route to complete the course and having lots of fun along the way!

It does not matter how young, old or fit you are, as you can progress at your own pace.

All equipment will be provided. DATE: **Friday 29th May** TIME: **10am-12pm** VENUE: Folly Park, Faringdon **Folly Park, Faringdon** (entrance to the park is signposted from Park Road just past the turning to Volunteer Way. Follow the track until you reach the entrance and parking).

COST: £8 for adult and child Booking is necessary and can only be taken over the telephone by calling the Vale of White Horse District Council's Sports Development Team on 01235 547646.

MADD May Fest - 6/5/09

M.A.D.D. would like to say thank-you to all of the people who supported the Festival this year. There was a much more respectable turn-out with the free entrance which allowed us to recoup more funding through the bar. All of the bar staff in the Corn Exchange are volunteers and the profits go into the M.A.D.D account. This also applies whenever you hire the venue with bar throughout the year so every time you use it you are helping us.

Generally speaking it was an enjoyable weekend and the Cajun band's audience including lots of children was a delight. Apart from problems with the sound limiter all of the performers were excellent and John West made a wonderful job of sound-engineering.

This year saw the launch of the new Youth Black Box Theatre Co. performing "Purple", a play by Jon Fosse. Well done Nial, Hermione, Lewis, Charlie and Sophie. Keep going please. Particular thanks go to our home-grown Madrigal singers and John Gilman for organising and funding the Krazy Kombat Golf complete with free mulled wine, nibbles and prize-money on Folly Hill.

Faringdon Town Council were there for us again with financial support and general encouragement. Next year will be our 10th year so keep an eye on our website maddfaringdon.co.uk and don't forget the jam club on the first Friday of each month. Cheers, Hilary and Sam

Re: David Reynolds fancy a house swap? - 6/5/09

(pulls up armchair and grabs popcorn)

Name Supplied

Corn Exchange - 5/5/09

David. i certainly cant afford to be choosy where i live (i suspect you can tho) and i was told that it was not used for music concerts.

But dont worry i have the council sound dept on speed dial on my mobile... They are very good- they always come out when myself or my neighbours call them.

Name Supplied

Corn Exchange - 5/5/09

I was present on Friday and Monday night to witness the problems with the sound limiter in the Corn Exchange. Surely any reasonable person would suspect the decibel limit is set too low, especially when the soft quiet strumming and soft mellow vocals of singer/guitarist Hans Theesink caused it to cut out.

I really felt sorry for the Dr Teeth band on Friday having to restrain themselves so much. Would love to see them in full flow and hear their fantastic sound unleashed properly, rather than watch them being made to look like a bunch of naughty schoolboys rehearsing at home in their bedroom as quiet as they can because their parents downstairs will complain and shout at them.

If this limiter issue is not addressed properly soon, there is only one form of live entertainment that will be suited for this great venue.....Mime!!

(budding Marcel Marceau's please form a queue down Gloucester Street

Neil

Hush Festival refund - 5/5/09

Just to reassure everyone that has not yet received their refund for the Hush Festival, that all is now in hand. I must take full responsibility for any monies not returned; this was a technical error on my part. Martin had entrusted me with the final list of all the names and addresses of those due a refund, this he sent by email in excel format. Unfortunately his version is newer than mine and I was unable to open the document. Having downloaded a program from Microsoft to enable this, I had no way of knowing that only half of the list had in fact transferred. I assured Martin that everyone had now been refunded as requested and was surprised when he then contacted me this week to say that some people had still not received their refund. Just previous to this contact I had been experiencing serious PC problems and Raoul (who I would highly recommend!) took away my PC, repaired it and returned it better than ever. I then uploaded the excel document from the saved email again, to check the details given to me by Martin regarding those not refunded, I was then presented with the entire list and only at that point realised that previously only half of the list had transferred and not everyone had been refunded.

I can only offer my sincere apologies for this genuine mishap, and ensure all concerned that I have now accessed the full list and all refunds will be made over the coming week.

Martin had every reason to believe that all refunds had already been received.

Sincerest apologies to those concerned. Dee

Proceeds from Giant Jumble sale - 5/5/09

A wonderful £762.08 was raised and donated to Parkinsons and Riding for the disabled.

Thankyou for everyones support.

Next sale will be 28/11/2009

Name Supplied

To "Name Supplied" - 5/5/09

I'll come back to the basic question...did it not occur to you before you moved into a house near a building that has been used for live music for decades that it might just be a tad noisy?

David Reynolds

Corn Exchange - 5/5/09

It doesn't take a band playing for the ridiculously low noise limiter to cut the power. Last night the fabulous Hans Theesink - acoustic guitar, voice, harmonica - fell victim to it!

Sheila

Hush Festival refund?? - 4/5/09

In response to the other poster - I can confirm that I have received my refund of £80 from Martin for the Hush tickets I purchased last year.

It has taken a while and there was a period when I too thought I was never going to see my money again, but Martin did eventually come good.

Given the recent news of another gig being strangled to death by the Corn Exchange noise-limiter, it's timely to thank Martin again for his many efforts to keep music alive in Faringdon.

A 'Guitar Twanger'

David Reynolds fancy a house swap? - 4/5/09

then you can hear the music from the corn exchange thumping through the house while you are praying for a sound limiter.

Name Supplied

Abingdon Air Show - 4/5/09

What a great event, first time I have been myself, and with so much to see and do you need the whole day to get around it. The aeroplanes and glider pilots were amazing, not that I know much about them being a female!

The family event gives all proceeds to charity (Air Ambulance this year) and I will definitely be going every year from now on, such a historic family day out for any age group.

Name Supplied

Corn Exchange sound limiter - 2/5/09

Last night I went to the Corn Exchange to see the superb Dr Teeth Big Band. For an eight piece band they started playing at an almost inaudible level and I waited in anticipation for them to 'break out!' Unfortunately they never did break out because it transpires the dreaded noise-limiter is now back in action after month's of being inoperative!

It explains how so many live bands have been able to play at a higher sound level over recent months but, presumably, as no one has complained why has the sound limiter been restored to a ridiculously low level again?

The Corn Exchange is about to be handed back to Faringdon. What is it going to be used for? It's certainly not a viable live music venue with such restrictive sound limitations.

One town Councillor recently made the statement that the Corn Exchange is not 'just for those twanging guitars'. Well you soon won't have any activity in the Corn Exchange that involves anything above a whisper!

David Reynolds

Begging and Unsolicited calls - 2/5/09

Went down to get a paper this morning and approached by a lone woman in her fifties who was begging. Asked "can you spare 50p" No I replied and so did about 12 others she approached. This is the same woman who lives near the Tennis courts who came to the door once and asked to "borrow" a Fiver. Said no then and hopefully more will say no.

As for the unsolicited calls, there must be money in this energy caper as we have had in the past week a woman who doesn't have English as her first language wanting to know and almost demanding who are our Energy suppliers. When pushed for a contact name, Sharon; she then continues with her script which is hard to understand and ask again and then she gives up.

Cant complain as have no details from the 1471 service.

Bob

Kombat Golf Competition - 02/05/09

The Kombat Golf Competition will have its third year of competitive jungle busting on MADD Mayfest Monday morning, starting at Faringdon Folly at 10 a.m. and finishing at lunchtime. Entry is free and there are prizes of £50,

£30 and £20 for the golfers who can complete the course in the fewest strokes.

Refreshments for all the family are provided completely free of charge, together with hot mulled wine for any adults who have missed breakfast. The weather forecast is good, unlike last year....

The choir will be singing from the Tower, to provide a musical accompaniment to the families struggling to knock tennis balls through the surrounding woodland. Please bring some form of racket, bat, stick or cudgel to hit the tennis balls, which are provided.

This year I hope to reduce the number of balls lost into badger holes - last year we lost 13! The Folly Trust volunteers have spent many hours getting rid of brambles, so the 14 hoop course should be much easier to complete without getting tangled up in the undergrowth. This should also make it much easier for young children to take part (supervised) and competing head-to-head with adults.

The course consists of 14 large white hoops about 20 yards apart set in a circle in the woodland around the Folly Tower. Participants have to persuade tennis balls to go through the hoops and finish back at the Tower. Simple?

Beware badger holes, nettles, rabbit holes etc. Come and have fun at the Folly on Monday morning! If you have any queries please contact me on jjillman@btinternet.com or on 01367 24009

John Gillman

Hush Festival refund?? - 02/05/09

Has anyone had theirs yet? My partner and I responded to an email from Mr Phillips on 7th March asking us to confirm our contact details were the same so he could send us a cheque.

Two months later, we are still waiting... We don't suppose we'll ever see the money again (£80) despite being promised the refund in the email.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Artistic Skaters - 02/05/09

Selected to Skate at Europeans Championships Hollie Fidler

selected for figures Georgina Howe

selected for figures and freeskating Ben Timbrell goes to trial on 5th july.

Congratulations to them all

dee england

Wrong Number - 02/05/09

There is an ad in the window of McColls/Post Office for a headboard for sale. I am very interested, but the telephone number given of 01367 710330 gets me a "this number is not recognised" message.

I'm hoping that this message will alert the person advertising and that I can get a corrected number.

Jill Dean

Folding Bike - 30/6/09

Has anyone got a folding bike that I could hire/buy/borrow. I'm going to Norfolk where I want to try and build up my cycling fitness(where there's not too many hills!)
Gene Webb

Bus Service Arts Festival Weekend - 30/6/09

All buses will be diverted from the Market Place, and will pick up from the Fire Station on Park Rd, From 1700 on Friday 10th July and throughout the Weekend.
Normal service will be resumed on Monday 13th July.
Sally Thurston
Faringdon Tourist Information Centre

Well done the local Police Force! - 29/6/09

So the three youths who terrorized, assaulted and robbed the 15 year old in the Faringdon Market Square have been caught. They will eventually be judged and punished. Congratulations to the police involved because I know that while the police on TV would have had no difficulty catching the culprits it is quite conceivable that in real life it may not have been quite as easy.

Now some people might suggest that the three robbers, including the 15 year old, should be locked up and the key thrown away.

But of course we don't know their backgrounds.They may be from deprived and broken homes, they may not have intended to hurt their victim, they may have just been "having a laugh" .In fact there are many reasons why they should only be reprimanded as long as they are really sorry and promise not to do it again.
BUT..

Despite the fact that these three may not be the viscous yobs that they seem to be it might unfortunately for them, be a good idea to lock them up anyway. Not as a punishment, or revenge, merely in order to discourage others who might be a bit bored or broke or just "want a laugh"

As I always tell my cellmate Godber "If you can't do the time . Don't do the crime"

Cyril Fletcher c/o Slade Prison

Gypsies - 29/6/09

I say we round them up and "see them orf". Damned pikies, get them orf and away
Lord Kitchener

Louise Woodgate concert - 29/6/09

This is now FULLY BOOKED.
Fiona Merrick Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre

Weeds around Faringdon - 29/6/09

Gene, there IS only one answer - do it ourselves and withhold the cost from our council tax. Same applies to litter. If enough of us do it, it won't be too big a job and the Council won't be able to victimise individuals.

And, BTW, I have it on reasonably good authority that you can actually drink full-strength Roundup without too many ill effects!
Mark Harrison

Weeds around Faringdon - 29/6/09

I have been trying to get the Council (Oxfordshire County) to spray the weeds growing in pavements and kerbs on Faringdon Streets. This is the response I got :

In general terms, regarding the grass and weeds growing on the highway, three years ago, The Cabinet of Oxfordshire County Council voted to cancel the budget for preventive weed spraying and none has been carried out since then. The reality is that even when weed spraying was carried out, under Health & Safety rules, the strength of weed killer allowed to be used in public places was so weak as to be largely ineffective. There is no budget for the removal of weeds, by hand, on cosmetic grounds. Any issues with this need to be directed to your local County Councillor.

VWHDC contractors Veolia have been removing some of the weeds, but they continue to grow!

Any ideas on action we can take?
Gene Webb

Bike Week - what's next? - 29/6/09

Let's make Faringdon cycling MORE INCLUSIVE. A lot of people of both sexes and wide-ranging ages have said they want to get together and have fun while staying healthy. There is a bunch of us that does this already - called the Farcycles :) We do regular (weekly) on and off road rides and cater for the slower and quicker riders. It's pretty casual and we are very happy to welcome newcomers - you don't have to be good or wear Lycra and there is NO PRESSURE to attend every week. Even the most ardent members have holidays or just stay in bed sometimes.

If you are interested in hearing what we have planned on a regular basis, please contact Mark or Shelley on mfh_2001-shopping@yahoo.co.uk

Or you can visit

http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/activity_search.asp?section=000100100004&view=list&keywords=Enter+search+keywords...&activity=30000084&search=%BB+Search

Gypsies - 29/8/09

Be Fair. Give them a chance ! If they have come back they may have come to collect the rubbish they left last time ?
Name Supplied

Gypsies - 29/6/09

Whats with all the Gypsies up by the folly? anyone know.?

Craig

Ed(GW) I understand they have returned to the field behind the Folly Park

New Limiter - 27/6/09

the new Limiter has been installed at the Corn Exchange.

We have been assured that this one will not switch off the music immediately but will give a 10sec delay.

Why not come along on Friday 3rd July to a free gig by Bluesmix and see.

Sam Prince

The Crown is great - 27/6/09

I just wanted to post a note to say how pleased I am with the Crown Coaching Inn these days. So yes, this is an advert, but one the pub itself didn't ask for, but a genuine testimonial from me.

The new landlord and landlady have been really welcoming, doing things like bringing round the new olives they're thinking of buying for us to sample, or said landlord (a proper chef), appearing suddenly in the front bar to hand out spoonfuls of his latest dessert.

The food is great, the music's been kept in place, including the Fifteen Minute Club, and there's a proper sense of life and charm about the place.

I haven't really had a local since the Portwell Bar closed down, and now I feel I do again, and it's all down to those two.

And at the Faringdon Arts Festival, they're going to be providing a hog roast.

No disrespect to other pubs in town: I just wanted to register how nice it feels to have a place 'where everybody knows your name' again.

Paul Cornell

Don't Panic Mr Mainwaring! - 27/6/09

My ISP is Orange Broadband.

At the moment changes are being made to their system which means that from 24/06/09 for about ten days anyone using Orange may find they have problems. Before calling Raoul be patient try unplugging then reconnecting your USB connection and crossing your fingers

Anyone else having problems?

Cpl. Jones

Rural Crafts wanted for Heritage Open Day - 26/6/09

I am looking for some Rural Craft demonstrations for Heritage Day on September 13th 2009 (e.g Basket makers etc) If anyone has any contacts I would be really grateful if you could forward them to me at

sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Gas Maintenance work update - 25/6/09

For all of you expecting the lights to be gone today, i received a phone call this afternoon from the guy at Wales and West who i spoke to on Tuesday.

He wanted to let me know that due to the hot weather today, the tarmac was not setting as quickly as it should and the lights will be removed tomorrow (Friday) after it has had a chance to harden overnight.

Trish Reynolds

Road works - 24/6/09

Dont worry everybody you are all complaining about the delays.

Wait for the proposed housing in park road all the land between town end road to a420 ,including rogers concrete old quarry .

1500 plus houses x 2 equal approx 3000 cars going on the national average now.

420 houses at folly view park estate 860 cars.

Tescos traffic we will in the not too distance future has traffic delays that will make the current roadworks seem tame.

Yes there are plans to improve transport and roads ,but will are small rural town be able to cope.

Simon cook

Gas maintenance work - 23/6/09

After taking half an hour from the A420 roundabout to Canada Lane because of the works and 4 way traffic lights at the gravel walk/Park Road junctions yesterday, which doubled my normal time getting home (part of my journey which normally takes 2 minutes!), I called Wales and West Utilities to complain about the slow progress of the work.

I spoke to the guy in charge who apologised and told me they had been trying to get the contractors to work overtime (although i haven't seen much of that).

Anyway, i have good news to share with all you frustrated motorists who have had to put up with this enormous disruption for far too many weeks.

This particular part of the works will definately (don't quote me on that) be completed by Thursday at the latest. The tarmac is supposedly going down tomorrow and will be left to set, with everything being cleared on Thursday.

Hang out the flags!

Trish Reynolds

Ref: Gas maintenance works - 23/6/09

"It's probably better that Faringdon is temporarily dug up than accidentally blown up."

Well it would help if the contractors do not openly smoke roll-ups on site, throwing their unextinguished stub into the hole that they are digging for said gas main. I just hope that the mains are very firmly turned off at the source.

I saw this rather terrifying event on Saturday morning in Marlborough Street, just below the Gravel Walk junction (outside the garage). I did mean to report it, but it slipped my mind until now.

Perhaps some Health and Safety training would be in order - so long as it doesn't slow down the works.

Name Supplied

Slow Bicycling Collective of Faringdon - 22/6/09

The Slow Bicycling Collective of Faringdon held their inaugural ride to Coleshill café on Sunday morning as part of national bike week. Over 30 riders joined the tour around the lanes and back roads to Coleshill café. Everyone made it round the route without puncture or breakdown, even though some of the bikes were 40 years old and some of the riders even older.

Fantastic to see so many of all ages out riding together through the countryside. Buzzards, kites, poppies, turbines, cows and countryside were just a few of the scenic highlights.

A slow race was held over a distance of 1/12th Furlong, no putting your feet down and no turning round: The under 12s race set the benchmark with brilliant riding and dedicated enthusiasm. The ladies race was marred by a tremendous crash in the peloton after some of the female riders achieved speeds in excess of 2mph, completely losing control and subsequently being disqualified due to all gently falling over in heaps of giggles. The mens race was unsettled by a doping scandal but this was cleared up after allegations of tea and cake consumption being performance enhancing were withdrawn. The eventual winner was Tom, the Berkshire athlete, who had travelled from Reading to compete in this event. He was promptly disqualified after further scurrilous allegations of having a bike with aero spokes and secretly enjoying wearing lycra underneath his shorts were upheld. The whole event was applauded as being a tremendous success and a second round of tea was consumed in celebration.

The Coleshill café was opened especially early in the day as the official tea stop and provided a superb location for excellent cakes, a perfect distance for a slow ride from Faringdon.

If you want to slowly ride from Faringdon on a Saturday morning then come and join Farcycle at 9am in the marketplace, see What's On for contact details

Small thanks to the organisers of the ride, Big thanks to the participants who we hope enjoyed a fabulous group ride.

I love my bike
Andrew Robertson

Faringdon Town Youths Six a Side - 21/6/09

This Sunday see's a number of local youth football sides from the Vale, Witney and Swindon areas competing in a six-a-side at Tucker Park.

Please be aware that Park Road may be busy during certain periods of the day, but please do come along and support the young footballers of Faringdon.

The opening matches start at 9.45am.

Martin Harries

Road Closures during Faringdon Arts Festival . 10,11,12 July- 19/6/09

To the residents and visitors of Faringdon

On 10th July we will be positioning the performance area in Market Place, Faringdon.

This performance area will be in use from 6pm to 11pm Friday 10th, 10am to 11pm Saturday 11th and 10am to 6pm Sunday 12th.

In conjunction with the Safety Advisory Group for Oxfordshire (SAG) it has been agreed, during these times, to close the slip road outside The Old Crown Coaching Inn (bus lane) and Church Street (the road leading to All Saints' Church from London Street).

It has also been agreed that Coach Lane will become a two way traffic road during these times. Traffic lights will be located at each end of Coach Lane and the entrance to the A4095 to ensure that the traffic will move as easily as possible.

Access for residents only will be available leading from the A4095 on to Church Street (turning right).

These road closures are for the safety of Festival goers and the Faringdon Arts Festival Committee hope that they do not inconvenience the residents of Faringdon.

If you would like any more information please contact 01367 246003. Faringdon Arts Festival Committee
Scott Gildert

Re Open Farm Sunday- the weight of the stone - 18/6/09

Apologies to Tim Koder and others who guessed the weight of the stone at Open Farm Sunday and are still wondering if they were right.

According to Grundon the actual weight was 5.68 tonnes. The winner was Pat from Swindon who guessed 5.5t and gets the model loader shovel.

Pat also apparently was the closest at guessing the number of stones in the heap of gravel. Mmm... might get in touch with Pat and ask her about the 3:30 at Chepstow...

Tom Allen Stevens

Re the bell - 19/6/09

as you may or may not know the bell has new owners and within time will be brought back to a good standard. these things take time and money with which no one has a unlimited cashflow at present.

also with regards to the scores on the doors the current score is based on findings from the previous landlord and not us.

Name Supplied

Falls Awareness event - 18/6/09

Age Concern Oxfordshire's Oakwood Day Centre in Faringdon will be holding an event on **Tuesday 23rd June 2009** to mark National Falls Awareness Day.

Organised as part of a national awareness campaign, the day aims to raise awareness about the risk of falls among older people and will include a coffee morning from 10.30 - 12 noon and information and advice sessions from 1.30 -

3pm.

The overall aim for the day is to raise awareness of the risk of falling as we age and to promote simple practical ways that can reduce the risk of falls and fractures.

The event will be held at Oakwood Day Centre, Faringdon Day Hospital, Meadow Bank, Faringdon.

All older people from the area are being invited to come along to find out what they can do to prevent falls.

For further information please telephone 01865 717615

Faringdon's Ecoweek has won an award - 18/6/09

Business & EconomyWireless Godalming
Environment & CultureButterfly Gardens
Partnership & Strategic WorkingCaterham Meets Storrington
Social and CommunityFaringdon ECOWEEK

and the South East Market Town Awards Presentation, part of the South East Rural Towns & Oxfordshire Rural Community Council is to be held here at at the Sudbury House Hotel

Name Supplied

Faringdon Arts Festival - 18/6/09

To see what is happening both before and over the arts festival weekend the arts festival website has up to minute information www.faringdonartsfestival.co.uk

Brief Summary

Yoga and Pilates Sessions

Boxing Demonstrations

Artistic Skating Demonstration

Youth theatre Productions

various workshops

Scott

FAF Webmaster

Do you know the history of your house? - 18/6/09

We need your help!

On Sunday September 13th 2009 we are holding a Heritage Day here in Faringdon. Please see www.heritageopendays.org.uk for an explanation of what Heritage Day is about.

Many buildings will be open on the day including The Old Town Hall, Corn Exchange, Pump Rooms, The Folly and All Churches. Many activities are being planned including several activities in the Market Place and hopefully a Farmers Market.

Watch this website for full details coming up!

We thought it would be a lovely idea if historic houses in Faringdon Town Centre displayed a short history of the building in their windows on this day for people to read.

A brief piece in clear easy to read font on an A4 sheet would be perfect. If you are unsure of any facts about your property, but would like to take part, we may be able to find some information for you.

If you feel you could help please contact Sally Thurston on 01367 242191 or email

sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Corn Exchange Limiter. Going, Going, nearly gone - 18/6/09

The old noise limiter has had it's day.

After many complaints about its performance investigations found that it was indeed faulty, the councillors, after an

extraordinary meeting have decided unanimously to purchase an up to date version.
this should be in operation soon. At least in time for the next jam club on Friday 3rd july with BluesMix, a funky blues outfit who have been receiving rave reports about their latest c/d "Biding my Time" www.bluesmix.com
This is the only gig they play outside of London.
Free entrance, Low priced bar and great music.

Thank you Councillors.
Sam Prince.
www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

re Broadband (Mad Hatter) - 18/6/09

I have just switched to TalkTalk and get more than 6Mb/s. (Tiscali averaged 1.6Mb/s).
It was very easy to transfer, £10 a month cheaper, has a free telephone help line and on-line queries are actually answered!
Sheila

Gas maintenance works - 17/6/09

A representative of the contractor for the gas works attended a meeting of FTC Planning Committee on Tuesday. The work was necessary to replace 60 year old cast iron gas mains that were designed to last 60 years! It's probably better that Faringdon is temporarily dug up than accidentally blown up. The work will last until mid August but the main problem at the roundabout at Coxwell Road should be complete next week.

The company was aware of the Air Show and plans to remove traffic lights that weekend. We made them aware of the Festival and they will do the same for the Festival weekend.
Let's hope that they are able to stick to these promises.

Alan Hickmore
FTC Chair of Planning

ED(GW) Looks as if it should be all done by the 13th Sept- the Heritage Open Day- that's good

Scores on the doors - 17/6/09

Anyone intending to eat out or drink in Faringdon might be interested in a website that I recently saw featured on the BBC website. This rates hygiene standards in local cafes, pubs and restaurants in Oxfordshire and some other areas. The website is supported by the Vale of White Horse District Council, who also supplied the hygiene ratings.

It makes for very worrying reading about hygiene standards in at least 3 establishments in Faringdon (a coffee shop, kebab van and fast food outlet).

The website is : <http://www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk>
Name Supplied

Lost teddy - 17/6/09

just wanted to say a big THANK YOU to the lovely young lady that found my daughters soft toy, we are both very happy to have it back.
kind regards
laura

Road Closure- Faringdon Arts Festival - 17/6/09

Hi david
Can you say what roads that will be closed for arts festival.

Regards simon

Live Music at the Old Crown - 17/6/09

Friday 3rd July - Resurrection Saturday
18th July - Blouzers Friday
24th July - Tom Corneal
Saturday 25th July - Electric Head
9pm - Late
Free Entry
Kate Emmery

Slow Broadband in Faringdon - 17/6/09

Thanks for the link Sheila, I had not come across this one before.
Checking the average download speed of the main ISP's listed on the site, presumably based on people using the site to test the speed of their ISP, it would seem that even with a 8Mb/s connection the average download speed found by users is under 2Mb/s. So what I am finding in Faringdon seems normal across the country and it is not worth the trouble of changing ISP just to improve speed, unless we ever get cable in Faringdon!!!
The Mad Hatter

Road Closure- Faringdon Arts Festival - 16/6/09

I notice there is a posting indicating that the gas works will continue until 27th July.
May I take this opportunity to remind everyone that there will also be road closures during the Faringdon Arts Festival. Friday 10th (6pm-11pm), Saturday 11th (10am-11pm), Sunday 12th (10am-6pm).
Please take this into account when planning your journeys.
Many thanks David Reynolds
Faringdon Arts Festival Chairman

Re Open Farm Sunday - 16/6/09

We had a lovely relaxing time, and just hope our gaggle of babies didn't ruin anyone else's peace!
But the big question remains - how heavy was that rock?
Tim Koder

Street Cleaner - 16/6/09

I met this very nice man in the lane leading from Gravel Walk to Meadowbank, and I asked him if he was going to be regular and he said he was.

Brilliant - it's so nice to see a street cleaner back in Faringdon. It would be nice if we didn't need one and people took responsibility for their own rubbish but hey, ho! When I was a girl in the 1970s there was a big Keep Britain Tidy campaign with everyone encouraged to bin their rubbish responsibly and keep the place clean and neat, but that seems to have drifted away.

By the way, what happened to Pete the street cleaner we used to have? He disappeared.
Fiona Merrick

Lost teddy - 15/6/09

hello all, i am hoping there might be a good samaritan out there, after having a lovely time at pye street park we got home and later realised my daughter had left a teddy there, as it is a special teddy i ran back to see if it was still there but sadly it had gone, it is a soft pink/purple alien teddy called angel (from the film lilo and stitch)

please if anyone did pick it up for 'safe keeping' we would really like to have it back. please contact; laura 07920426565. and make a little girl very happy
kind regards
laura

Haul of medals for Faringdon Skaters - 13/6/09

16 skaters from Faringdon competed in the Soham competition on saturday 12 June.
What a great day seeing many of our newcomers winning medals and all seeing top 10 places. Many events having 30 skaters competing With this our experienced skaters took top places
Hollie Fidler 1st in figures
Georgina Howe 2nd and Ben Timbrell 3rd
William Timbrell 2nd in figures there were 30 skaters in his group fantastic performance.
Oliver Timbrell 5th in free skating again 26 skaters in group.
Richard Whitlock gave the performance of his life in the inter bronze competition coming 5th his first time in this group Well Done Richard.
Sophie lewis who has been working for her exams placed 4th in figures. Sophie hasnt had much time to train over this passed few months but did herself proud Well Done Sophie.

This was a great day for Faringdon families coming together looking after each other encouraging and having fun travelling together to take the stress out of long journeys.

We would like to thank the leisure centre for there support during this time of training. We could not gain these results without the support of management. Faringdon skaters require a great deal of training time and the centre management have always when possible to accomadated us
Thankyou Congratulations to all our skaters
Dee England

Open Farm Sunday - 13/6/09

Would just like to say a huge thank you to all those who came to our Open Farm Sunday at Wicklesham on June 7. Thankfully the clouds rolled back and around 2-300 people joined us for a marvellous afternoon around the nature trail, tractors and garden and soaked up the tastes and sights of the countryside.

Many thanks to those who filled in the survey and entered the competition - we asked how many Weetabix you'd be able to produce from the wheat we harvested at Wicklesham last year. We received answers ranging from 1,000 to 6 billion! The actual answer was 33,570,666 (or thereabouts). The winner was Alastair Binney of Eynsham, who guessed 22 million and receives a bottle of champagne.

Spurred on by the success of the day, we've decided to open a small farm shop here at Wicklesham, where our free range eggs, garden produce and home-made yums will be available. We'll be opening in about 2 weeks time.

Tom Allen Stevens

Ed(GW) Glad it all went well - we're getting more and more like The Archers

Re Slow Broadband? - 12/6/09

Try this http://www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk/guides/improve_internet_speed.aspx
Sheila

Re Slow Broadband? - 12/6/09

Yes I have noticed that the Broadband speed is poor at times. I use TalkTalk but of course it comes via the copper wire supplied by BT.
Colin

Lack of Street Cleanliness in Faringdon - 12/6/09

VWHDC are really on the case for cleaning up our streets.
I've seen a man and a handcart several times over the past week - and on 1 occasion he was using a broom!

I've just heard from the young woman at the Vale who is making this happen. ie making the contractor achieve the cleanliness targets they're contracted for.

Zones 1 and 2 are being concentrated on - the town centre and busy streets ([see Zone information](#))

Next week should see a marked improvement - that's the plan anyway.

To help her out please contact VWHDC on http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/website/report_it.asp?formTypeCode=STC to tell VWHDC if your street is in need of a thorough clean.

I've yet to hear from Oxfordshire County Council about the weeds- that's their responsibility

Gene Webb

Gas Maintenance work.- 12/6/09GAS

In answer to Goff and any other townsfolk who are cheesed off with the pace and organisation of these works - I am fresh off the phone to the Network Management Team at Oxford County Council who have foisted this upon us - I asked why they hadn't considered making Bromsgrove and Gloucester St two way thus avoiding the lights and keeping a free-flow of traffic through the town - apparently that would have required a "road closure consent" - well they've certainly got a road closure now!

Goff - the works are scheduled to continue until 27th July - which is the week AFTER Fairford Airshow - so that should be really fun and games!!

AJG

Ed(GW) I hope they keep to this timescale - it won't be good for the Heritage Open Day 13/9 if the roadworks are unfinished

Re Slow Broadband? - 12/6/09

Who is your broadband provider? Also, broadband does slow down in the evenings as people start logging on to use the internet or playing online games.

You may want to investigate any connection issue between exchange and your house. Tweaking the computer can also help with speed increase.

BM

Re Slag off Colin. - 11/6/09

Seems I have hit a raw nerve with some people.

I can remember when I was burgled, Police couldn't be arsed to attend. Had a vehicle accident and 2 Police cars despatched to sort it out. The first one despatched crashed on the way, so another one sent.

Was scammed by someone on Ebay. Police not interested even though an act of fraud was committed.

There can be no comparison between Faringdon and Hot Fuzz as Faringdon doesn't have full time Police. Perhaps,,, if Police WERE to PATROL the Town at regular intervals and perhaps if they did do a good job most of the time and not occasionally, and IF they were to stop illegal parking more than happens now and IF the Bus Lane WAS a BUS lane then perhaps I will change my mind.

I do believe that the THAMES VALLEY POLICE are Rubbish.

There Slag me some more you do gooders
Colin
Ed(GW) Everyone - let's end this

Incident Saturday evening Colin's comment - 9/6/09

Colin, I think your last comment is totally unnecessary and very insensitive!
This incident is totally not what the town is used to or what most citizens want to see happen.
The incident was very serious and although you may have felt your comments were bait, I certainly don't believe you.
Now go and put your fishing line somewhere useful, like Radcot where most fishing in the area happens and not play on people's emotions when lives have been threatened.
Martin

Dancing in my Dreams - 10/6/09

If you would like to see the play *Dancing in my Dreams* on the 27 June by the Oxford Touring Company please give me a call to reserve your tickets.
There is a small charge for the tickets of £7.00, Concessions are £5.00 and a family ticket is £20.00.
For more information about events during the Faringdon Arts Festival please visit www.faringdonartsfestival.co.uk
Julie

Boxing - 10/6/09

If anyone would like to reserve a place on the Boxing course taking place during the Faringdon Arts Festival please give me a call on 01367 246003.
All ages and levels welcome.
Julie Farmer

Faringdon in Bloom - 10/6/09

What a pity Faringdon in Bloom gardens will be judged on neatness.
My 'traditional cottage garden' (out back of my traditional cottage) is far from neat. Wild and native flowers are allowed to grow where they seed to encourage bees and other beneficial insects. Flowers and veg grow alongside each other and fit in where they can, due to lack of space - no regimented beds here.
My lawn is also a disgrace owing to my use of a highly effective and environmentally friendly approach to keeping it short (two guinea pigs who, despite my requests, just refuse to eat in straight lines!).
Yes it's a jumble, but I like it!
Name Supplied

When you're in a hole.....Stop digging. - 9/6/09

Colin's explanation that his ill-advised comments about the disgusting Saturday mugging were a joke is probably as close as he is prepared to go by way of an apology.
When he said condoning he obviously meant condemning. Maybe that was another little joke ?
No, I am not giving my name because I have a feeling that in a slanging match with Colin I would not stand a chance.
Name Supplied

Re Freeview BBC channels - 10/6/09

Rachel
We have an older freeview box and we have had a similar problem. We found the "missing" channels had moved to 800+ so if you look at the end of the channel list you may find BBC etc there.
If your freeview box is as old/cheap as ours is, it is probably not possible to update the software.
Name Supplied

Incident on Saturday evening. - 9/6/09

Seems that a lot of you are good anglers. Certainly took the bait and bit real good. I wasn't condoning the cost of the "paraffin Budgie", just the fact that we hardly ever see the boys in Blue in the Town. When was the last time you saw them writing tickets, or just walking the streets. Life is too short, you are dead a long time, so enjoy our time on this lovely planet. Now what can I get to go fishing on next?
Colin

Re Freeview BBC channels - 9/6/09

It is possible that you may have to update the Freeview box's software. If you have the user guide it will explain how to update the software.
Name Supplied

Incident on Saturday evening. - 9/6/09

As the mother of the teenage boy who was circled by a number of youths, hit in the face, robbed of £10.00 and subsequently threatened with a knife at 4.15 pm on Saturday 6th June, can I just take the time to thank all those who have supported us.

The police and Faringdon Community College have been very supportive. I note that some people are concerned about the amount of money spent on sending up the police helicopter and hope, now they know the reason why, they are more understanding.
Name Supplied

UK Bike Week SLOW bike ride, Oxfordshire, June 21, 2009 - 9/6/09

Forget Lycra (it is banned from this event). Forget fancy bicycles and weird conversations about framesets and chainsets. Forget streamlined, wraparound mirror glasses.

This is your chance to dust off the old steed and use it for what it was intended - sensible transport for going to the tea room or pub and seeing some of the countryside while you're about it. Actually, speedsters will be welcomed, too, so long as they accept the event is not about them but about those people (including their families and friends) who would normally be intimidated by cycling in a group. We will go at the pace of the slowest rider who can cover a reasonable amount of ground at a leisurely pace.

We WILL stop to view the scenery. We WILL stop to wait for people to push up hills - not that there will be many of these! And we WILL stop for tea. We might even pause for a pint towards the end of our journey. This is all about cycling sociably.

You may have heard about SLOW FOOD. For the principles of SLOW cycling, take a look at <http://theslowbicycle.blogspot.com/>

The event will start from the Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HP at 9:30 am on Sunday, June 21, 2009. Expect to take about 3 hours, including a tea stop. There will be competitions in a number of categories including, "where on earth did you get that bike", "sedate style", "most jazzed up" and possibly even a slow bike race. This is a registered event for Bike Week: <http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/index.php>

If you need some help to tweak your bike to help it make the distance, bring it down to the parking lot at the end of Woodview, Faringdon at 6 pm on Saturday, June 20 for some inexperienced advice and possibly a little tyre pumping.
Mark Harrison

Freeview BBC channels - 9/6/09

We have not been able to watch any BBC channels on our Freeview box for a couple of weeks now - they show as 'No Service'. Terrestrial BBC and non-BBC Freeview channels are fine.

Is anybody else experiencing this? We have done numerous retunes of the Freeview box.

Rachel Hopper

Incident on Saturday evening. - 9/6/09

For those that are interested, not long after 4pm on Saturday afternoon, one of the towns youths (and as previously mentioned, one of the 'good' ones) took some money out from the cashpoint at Lloyds bank. He was then approached by a number of individuals who demanded his money and after the USE of violence and the THREAT of a blade he handed over his money.

The police were called and attended immediately and noting the severity of the situation used all the necessary assets to enable them to apprehend the accused offenders which involved disturbing a celebration in the centre of town. One of the accused evaded arrest resulting in the helicopter being called in however he subsequently turned himself into the police. 3 individuals have been charged relating to the offense.

The rest of the details if anyone wants to know will come out during the court case that will follow, I am sure our local news hounds will follow the case.

What has surprised/angered me so far is that some comments have shown more concern about how much this event will have cost them and not that something serious must have occurred for these resources to have been used in the first place! My apologies to all those whose evenings were disturbed by the noise of the helicopter, I will let the family of the victim know that you would prefer them not to use a cashpoint in future just in case it happens again, which hopefully due to the rapid response and decisive actions taken by the police it will make anyone else contemplating such an acton think again!

For the record the police were excellent in their handling of the situation and support provided to the victim.

This is not something that is representative of our town although it is a sign of the decline of the town centre that this could happen in middle of the afternoon. No doubt this will again raise the issue of CCTV in town due to the minimal residential police coverage, and no doubt the council will think of some other project that will 'provide' more (cosmetic) benefit than address some of the real issues.

Name Supplied

Faringdon in Bloom - 9/6/09

For over 10 years the annual Faringdon in Bloom gardening competition has been one of the features of life in Faringdon. This year the judging will be on the weekend of July 18th and 19th.

The judging is by independant judges from the RHS.

The competition is free to enter and each category winner receives a small prize.

The categories are:

Private Garden (front)

Private garden (back)

Private garden (new - up to 2 years old)

Business garden

Residential garden.

Your garden does not have to be at "Chelsea" standards - the judges are looking for neatness, colour and the condition of the plants. They will judge small gardens and large ones on exactly the same basis (one of the winners last year had a very small (well kept) front garden that delighted the judge).

To enter all you have to do is pick up an entry form from the TIC (the Pump House Market Place) or the Town Council office. Or, if its more convenient email me at a.hickmore.1471@btinternet.com and I will send you an application.

Faringdon in Bloom is sponsored by the Joint Economic Forum for Faringdon.

Alan Hickmore - Faringdon in Bloom organisor.

Spell Checker for Windows Mail - 9/6/09

To BM and Nit Picker.

I do appologise. It is correct that my solution only works with Windows Live Mail.

Regards,
Raoul van Eijndhoven Quidne IT Ltd.

Incident on Saturday evening. - 9/6/09

Was an unfortunate incident where a young lad was held at knife point for £10 he had just got from a cashpoint. Police had to search for the gang of youths involved which then escalated into the Lees where a wedding party got involved.

So not such a waste of taxpayers money after all!

Martin Harries

Slow Broadband? - 8/6/09

Is it the BT exchange in Faringdon or something else.

Broadband is getting slower and slower in Faringdon, what was 4000 is 608 tonight?

Anyone else had this problem?

The Mad Hatter

Re Help ! - 8/6/09

Unfortunately the script gives an error when I tried to run it.

The error msg says... Script: C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\ukspellwm.vbe

Line: 26

Char:1

Error: Path not found

Code: 800A004C

Source: Microsoft VBScript runtime error

The reason this dows not work is because I do have Windows LIVE Mail installed on my Vista laptop.

I believe Nit Picker was asking if there was UK spell checker for Windows Mail. This is different from Windows Live Mail. Windows Mail if the Vista equivalent of Outlook Express.

BM

Incident on Saturday evening. - 8/6/09

Colin, A young lad (and I hasten to add a very responsible member of this community and not a teenage tearaway!) was mugged at knife point at one of the cashpoints in town in broad daylight. The police were apparently brilliant and three people have been apprehended (one suspect fled the scene when the police raided a venue to make the arrests - hence the 'paraffin budgie')

Personally I am thrilled to spend my taxpayers money on this policing and lets hope we don't see any more incidents like this on the streets of our quiet Market Town again...though I guess it's inevitable that we will (especially if the people apprehended don't get put away?!)

Name Supplied

Incident on Saturday evening. - 8/6/09

I heard a Swan had escaped from a local farm. Despite FAZ's finest boys in blue being on the case... said Swan is still at large....
Raul Duke

Thank you Raoul. - 8/6/09

The solution you offer only seems to work with Windows Live Mail but I only have Windows Mail and I daren't change it. Hilary,(as in Poetry Competition), had already sent me that solution.
Anyway thankyou both.The solution suggested by BM is the one I have adopted.
Nit Picker

Re Help ! - 8/6/09

I have put a solution to your Windows Mail problem on my website.
Please go to <http://www.quidne-it.co.uk/ITSupport.html>
Regards, Raoul van Eijndhoven
Quidne IT Ltd.

Re Help ! - 7/6/09

Unfortunately, you cannot get Windows Mail to spell check in English UK.
You can "add" the words during spell check, like favourites, colour, centre etc.
BM

Incident on Saturday evening. - 7/6/09

Does anybody know what the incident was which caused a whole bus load of Police and there "paraffin budgie" to be over Faringdon for some time on Saturday evening?
Must of cost us ratepayers a fortune in seed for the "budgie" as well as the overtime for the Police. Havent seen so many in the town for a while.
Wonder what all the fuss was about.
Colin

Re - Faz - 7/6/09

I'm reliably informed that apparently, Scott, Faz is Chavspeak for Faringdon! Not that facts should stand in the way of a good film idea! Let's get together on this sometime - I feel a red-carpet opportunity coming on!
Time to go frock-shopping!
Fiona M

the Madness of the limiter . - 7/6/09

Once again the live music sessions at the Corn exchange were severely disrupted by the ear in the air. "Storm Warning" were completly annihilated on friday, 30sec is all it took .
The inoffensive C/Western band on Sat night also received the same treatment. This club has been running for some years and has a substantial membership that includes both local and travelling members.

Are we about to see the demise of all events which have to go through the limiter?
I'm informed that Discos are safe and will not trip the limiter.
We shall see on Friday 12th june.
Sam Prince

What a great night in the Crown. - 5/6/09

Totally enjoyed by a ageing rocker, it took me back to my youth. The band in question was DIRTY DEEDS, thanks guys.

Power train could learn a lot off this band.

Name Supplied

Help ! - 5/6/09

I use Windows Mail and, being old fashioned, I like to use the Spellchecker. Unfortunately when I select English it only recognizes American Spelling.

Can anyone tell me how to make it use "Proper English"

Nit Picker

Gas Maintenance . - 5/6/09

As co-ordinator of the Faringdon First Responders' Team I regret to inform you that we are experiencing significant delays in getting to emergency calls because of the traffic lights. As always, we will do our best to get to troubled community members as soon as we can, but because the town is effectively split in two at the moment, delays are inevitable unless our responder-on-call is on the same side of the town as the incident.

Does anyone know how long this work is going to take?

Godfrey Smith

Was Guy Fawkes really so wicked? - 5/6/09

Just over 400 years ago Guy Fawkes attempted to blow up Parliament and he came to a sticky end.

For centuries his execution must have deterred anyone trying a similar explosive solution to a political problem.

Nowadays he would probably only receive a suspended sentence (No! I don't mean hanging) and a £50 fine payable in instalments.

Just a thought.

CCSC

Re Gas Main Maintenance in Marlborough St starting 1/12/09 for 12 weeks. - 4/6/09

Judging by the mayhem caused to date and grim memories of the work in Gloucester Street some years ago, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Perhaps the nice Gas Man will pay for free parking in the Council car park in Gloucester Street for all those displaced?

Just a thought.

Mike Perks

Re Hot Fuzz? - 3/6/09

Could i have the part of Simon Peggs Colleague the small fat one that crashes into the fence ha ha ha what an apt part for me or perhaps all you

Playwrights out their could write our own version of it and call it Hott Faz

(Apparently FAZ is the youngsters name for Faringdon) we could make our own film

Scott Gildert

The Age of Harmony - 2/6/09

An alien could be forgiven

If he thinks this place is riven
Torn apart by music hounds,
But how limited your ground
Only modernists allowed
And then, be warned, we must be loud.
Where are champions to be found
For centuries of other sound
Listen to Gregorian Chant
So chaste would conquer any rant
Lassus, Byrd and Gabrielli
Had their version of some welly
J S Bach will still be live
When time has buried shuck and jive.
Current bands can't hold a candle
Up to George Friderich Händel
And you don't need to be pissed
To enjoy some Brahms and Liszt
Should your taste run more to rock
Don't shrink from turning back the clock
Open your minds
And raise your game
Your squabbling is unseemly lame.
Soar beside the Lark Ascending
Glide with the Trout downstream descending
Sure, be one with Janis' wails
Get hammered with those Nine Inch Nails
But spend a Night upon Bare Mountain
Sing beneath St Agnes' Fountain.
Live, let live, each to his choice
Don't strangle a dissenting voice.

Music to my aged ears
Must be the music of the spheres
My years are an infinity
My discord turned to harmony
So on I fly with wingéd feet
Safe home to my own planet suite.

Alien

"How old am I?..Who am I?" - 2/6/09

Do I win a prize if I guess?
:-) Fiona

Re Hot Fuzz? - 2/6/09

Seen the film and been to the location where they filmed it - ha, beat that! (It was Wells in Somerset, in case you didn't know).

By the way, they have a shoot out in the deli in Somerfields - don't fancy that in Budgens, at least not while I'm at work there! The only things us deli assistants are armed with are blunt knives and a (very heavy) slicing machine! Wary deli assistant!

Faringdon Arts Festival - 2/6/09

The Faringdon Arts Festival is funded mainly through the kind contributions from Faringdon Town Council and local businesses. All the funding goes back into the event: staging, sound system, road closures, licences etc. The event is

organised by local volunteers who receive no financial gain from their involvement. It has come to the attention of the Faringdon Arts Festival Committee that some local businesses and organisations have been approached by a third party requesting financial support to put on events during this year's Arts Festival. These events are absolutely nothing to do with the Faringdon Arts Festival. The Arts Festival Committee do not endorse these and we would like to make it clear that the Arts Festival certainly will not see or benefit from any moneys paid by businesses as a result of these events.

All the official events are listed on www.faringdonartsfestival.co.uk . If you would like to support Faringdon Arts Festival you can do so by contacting us at 01367 246003 or info@faringdonartsfestival.co.uk . Please also use these contacts if you would like to inform us of any approaches for finance or support that might have given you concern.

We look forward to seeing you at a great Arts Festival 10th-12th July.
David Reynolds
Chairman Faringdon Arts Festival

The Age of Music - 2/6/09

Now I am really confused, I still listen to Adam and the Ants, Culture Club, but mainly to have a run down memory avenue.

With regards to Meat Loaf, you never grow out of that.

I do have an Eminem CD in my collection and of course John Barrowman.

Is there any hope for me?

Julie Farmer

Fiona, this is a great game.....! - 2/6/09

Kings of Leon
Rage
Against The Machine
Elvis Presley
Dr. Dre
Pink Floyd
Killers
Peggy Lee
Jane's Addiction
Girls Aloud

How old am I?...Who am I?

Name Supplied

Has anyone on this forum seen the film Hot Fuzz? - 2/6/09

The similarities between the fictional town in the film and Faringdon are staggering. Swap the Sommerfield for Budgens, the church tower for the Folly and its near on perfect.

If you comment/complain on this forum on a regular basis and havent seen it then I urge you to do so. Perhaps then a Faringdon Neighbourhood Watch Alliance could be established, which could quickly resolve the ill's this town suffers.

Lets just hope we dont get some big shot ex met cop sent here to police the town though!

Yours (with tongue firmly wedged in cheek) faithfully

Raul Duke

Info about the film on <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0425112/>

Holiday info - 2/6/09

Has the lovely weather got you thinking about your holidays?

We have brochures on some of the most popular destinations in England and Wales, and if we don't have a brochure on the area you are looking for, we can get one sent direct to your door.

We also have leaflets on most of the popular attractions and theme parks in the UK, and if we don't have it in, we can get it, or get it sent to you.

Come in and see the work of our featured artists each month - this time it is poems and pictures of Nick Owen. Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre, The Pump House, 5 Market Place, Faringdon (next to Faringdon Coffee House)

RE - The Age of Music - 2/6/09

I'm afraid I'm going to confound your theories completely. My name is Fiona and I am a music lover.

In my teens I bought Jim Reeves cassettes, alongside my Dollar, Showaddywaddy, Adam and the Ants, Status Quo, and Bucks Fizz among others.

In my 20s and thirties I liked Rod Stewart, Eurythmics, David Bowie, Michael Jackson, Culture Club, Meat Loaf, Squeeze, Spice Girls, and whatever was either in the charts or played on the radio.

I'm now 44 (whew - well-old!) and I like Beyonce, Green Day, Fall Out Boy, Sugababes, Eminem, The Prodigy ... the list is endless. About the only stuff I don't like much is be-bop Jazz (think Cleo Laine), trance and Hip Hop. So, if you looked at my music list, would you be able to tell my age?

Doubt it!

Fiona Merrick Ageing Rocker and Proud of it!

CCSC to SL - 2/6/09

. I have kept an eye on your comments on this website in the past and would be quite happy for you to speak for me on a local level. So here's the deal. Sever your connections to LABOUR and I'll vote for you as I suspect would a lot of locals.

As to my claiming that you try to tell me how to vote I'll admit (If it isn't already obvious) that I never let the facts interfere with a good story.

Good Luck on Thursday

CCSC

Re Saturday 23rd in Gloucester St - 2/6/09

the police didn't shut the music down as the music licence runs until 12pm thursday friday and saturday in addition to this as it was a bank holiday weekend there was an extra hour on the licence which meant the music could have played until 1am

as it was a 28th birthday party i had already discussed with the dj that the music was to be off at 12pm as of the nature of the music.

I personally can not tolerate this kind of music but had to endure a grooving 4 hours of it maybe young people should stop having birthdays or change their taste in music.

Name supplied

"Old piece of antiquated equipment" - 2/6/09

Many thanks to Scott for his observations made at the corn Exchange on Sat night and his information posted on this site. An updated version of the limiter would seem to be a logical step.

Sam Prince.

Road names - 1/6/09

I'm interested to know who Palmer, Clements and Robins were/are and why they were chosen for street names in Faringdon?

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) See info from Alan H below. Would be good to have a bit of info about them

Turkeys and Christmas - 1/6/09

Dear Credit Crunched Senior Citizen,
thank you for taking the time to read my election leaflet, which you seem to have wilfully misrepresented or misunderstood. I would never "tell" an elector how to vote, however in a democracy choice is all that separates us from dictatorship.

As an active trade unionist, proud of my working class, I spend much of my free time representing low paid workers of this country, just as I did through the Tory years of mass unemployment and "get on your bike" mentality. The Thatcher legacy still taints national politics in my opinion, remember who broke pensions link to earnings, gave us double figure inflation and created the greed is good mentality.

Yes Labour should do more for pensioners, restoring the earnings link would be a start, but don't forget Pensioner guaranteed minimum income, winter allowances, free travel and free tv licences. In reality the County Council election is about who you want to represent Faringdon at County Hall.

Remember that it wasn't Labour who closed the Vale office, withdrew pensioners travel tokens, abandoned the Tourist Information Office, ignored us during the snow, pretend the A420 is safe and threatened the Corn Exchange with closure.

I do have a warped sense of humour, but I do not have a moat or a helipad let alone a duck island or a man to do my garden! In recession Britain that is a real insight into those who would form an alternative to Labour and no, I do not justify Labour mp's excesses either.

So CCSC on Thursday you may not support me and I will not take it personally, however my warped sense of humour will be tickled, how else can I react when all the nations ills are credited to me.

Solidarity

Steve Leniec

Gas mains maintenance - 1/6/09

Those of us living in Gloucester street are having to develop seige tactics as a result of a proliferation of traffic lights controlling traffic around the site of the gas road works.

When will this misery end!!!!!!!

Name Supplied

Once again the Corn Exchange limiter - 1/6/09

Scott Gildert has recently published some very interesting and useful observations on this forum about the limiter. His observations and his comment that the limiter is obsolete confirm my previous suspicions that this equipment is either faulty or set up incorrectly.

Has anyone yet taken up my suggestion that the installation is checked and fixed by an audio engineer? From what Scott describes it looks like nobody has!

Godfrey Smith

News of Ken? - 1/6/09

anyone know any news on ken stickley

no one knows anything any more

Name Supplied

Music is all age related - 1/6/09

Not wanting to add fuel to the fire on live music, but reading through the music thread there seems to be a theme. Music is all age related and when you reach a certain age your music tastes must change:

Just to make sure I understand what I should listen to and when, I have attached a list of what I think it should be, but please put me right if you think I have made a mistake:

- 1 New Romantics (Differently did this one in my teens)
- 2 Rock (Must be your 20's I've read this thread)
- 3 Jazz (to grow into so maybe in my 50s)
- 4 Country (I know this one, as my father likes this so that's in your 60's)
- 5 Rock and Roll (my mother likes this so another one when your 60)
- 6 Opera (my grandfather liked this, so got to wait until I'm in my 80's)
- 7 Punk (think I did this one)
- 8 Folk (Hope I've passed this one)

Slightly worried that there is no music for those in their 30 and 40. Maybe its listed below?

- 1 Bluegrass (not sure that is so hope I haven't missed it)
- 2 Classical
- 3 Dance
- 4 Electronic - this is far to loud for me so passed that that age limit.
- 5 Ethnic
- 6 The Blues
- 7 Ragga
- 8 Death Metal

Name Supplied

Saturday 23rd in Gloucester St - 28/5/09

The things I do not understand about this evening....

Why did it take until midnight and a street fight for the music to be shutdown by the police and not the council?

Why were our noise police not on the phone to the council at 1 minute past 11 o'clock, they are so good at policing the Corn Exchange?

Raoul van Eijndhoven

New street names - 1/6/09

I can confirm that the street names on the Bloor housing development come from the names on the war memorial. This seems a fitting tribute to our past heroes. The families have all given their agreement. I hope that future developments continue this tribute.
Alan Hickmore FTC Chair of Planning

Young cat found update- 1/6/09

The young cat we found on Sunday in our Close will now be in the hands of the Faringdon Cats Protection from 2.30 p.m. today. 1/6/09
Hilary Tonks

Re Past it Rockers posting - 1/6/09

Well said Trish.

Actually I start reading all Talking Points posts from the bottom - if they say "Name Supplied", I don't bother with the rest.

Mark Harrison

Loud Music - 1/6/09

The "loud music" thread on this forum has degenerated into a dreary mixture of un-funny sarcasm, self righteous ranting and puerile insults. For goodness sake get over yourselves. Some people enjoy loud music, others don't. End of.

As for anonymity, most web based forums are anonymous, and use nicknames. If they weren't, many of them, including this one, would have very few contributors. Manners, good or otherwise are irrelevant. It is up to the moderators to delete offensive material.

Athena

Re Past it Rockers posting - 1/6/09

To the one of the many who don't have the good manners to supply their name, (frightened to be recognised in case of reprisals from your perceived average resident of Faringdon - bunch of nasty, neandathal ageing hells angel rockers perhaps?) Your comment "what if middle aged past it rockers with not an ounce of music sense" What if I don't want to hear the middle of the road drivel spouted by musos who were never good enough to play anywhere else?".....

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?.....YOU DON'T GO TO THE GIGS!!!!

Trish Reynolds

Young cat found - 1/6/09

We found a very friendly 6-8 month-old black cat yesterday underneath the bushes in our Close. Very thirsty and hungry we sorted him out overnight but we would like to find his owner or a good home for him to go to. He's delightful, healthy and litter trained, but we have two cats already and they're not impressed! He is not chipped (we took him to a vet last night).

You can call me on 01865 556767, extension 3823 or call the Bridge Vets in Lechlade where he's being looked after today.

Thank you Tony

Would a Turkey vote for Christmas? - 1/6/09

Steve Leniec tells me "Vote Labour" .That is a fact not a rumour.

I'm a poor OAP. Yet Steve says "Vote for Me"

I do like his warped sense of humour.

Credit Crunched Senior Citizen.

Used stamps wanted - 31/7/09

Used stamps needed to help Faringdon pre-school.
Any quantity- large or small
Contact 01367 718761

Free Self Defence classes, adults only - 31/7/09

Gateway Primary School, Carterton
Monthly on Wednesdays
Enq: 07977 560086

M.A.D.D. on youtube. - 31/7/09

Check out Sarah Savoy and the Francadians at the Jam Club.
Great quality sound.
Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

Great new Farm Shop in Faringdon - 31/7/09

Little Lodge farmshop is open Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 1000-1400 and Sunday 1000-1200

Buy fresh, free range eggs, garden produce, home-made jam, ice cream, and more
Relax with a freshly brewed tea or coffee and a delicious homemade cake.
Lunch - hot panini, noodle salads; other lunches made to order

Little lodge farm shop is in the grounds of Wickelsham Lodge and business park, just across the A420 from the Park Road roundabout.
Probably about a mile from Faringdon. Plenty of parking, and walkable in 10-15 mins

Cheryl@wickleshamlodge.com
Tell: 07771 883741

Cash Prize announced as Faringdon Business Owners host MAKE MONEY from CLIMATE CHANGE Roadshow - 31/7/09

The Oxfordshire Roadshow "Make Money from Climate Change" comes to Faringdon on 18th August. This free event aims to stimulate new business ideas and revenues in traditional companies by sharing real-life examples.

The Federation of Small Businesses has launched a £1,500 cash prize competition to find the best idea from existing companies in tackling climate change, and this roadshow is a great way for business owners to be inspired.

ALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND SOLE TRADERS ARE WELCOME

Just why does Oxfordshire need low carbon innovation in the small business sector?
How do small businesses make money?

- by treating climate change as a spur for developing new products and services, > - rather than seeing it as a threat?

- What can you do to steer your business into the Low Carbon Economy and succeed?
- It's about more than changing lightbulbs!

Speakers include Oxfordshire large business, Amey, three case studies of local business owners who have made changes to help with climate change, climate change consultancy Ems2, and an expert panel including Envirowise and Business Link's environmental representative.

Frank Pavy, a local Faringdon businessman and Chamber member who specialises in environmental accreditation, is the MC for the evening. Case studies of inspirational businesses include the Phone Co-op who will be joined by others to share their experience of greening their products to offer customers a climate-friendly choice.

Be inspired. Take part. Book up.

Venue and time: Tuesday 18th August 2009 at the Faringdon Business Centre, Faringdon
Arrival from 6:40pm for buffet, presentations commence 7:15pm. Informal networking before and after the event.
To Book:
phone 0845 600 9 006 quoting the venue and date and "make money from climate change"
or email info@businesslinksolutions.co.uk

More information from sue.priest@ems2.com - if you cannot come on 21st July, contact Sue for the dates of the rest of the roadshow.

Press Contact:

Sue Priest, for Oxfordshire Federation of Small Businesses 07753 581 460.

Faringdon in Bloom - 31/7/09

This year we had a record entry and a very high standard.

The winners in the various categories were:

Business garden Wicklesham Commercial Properties Ltd.

New Garden David Keeble

Private Garden (Front) Goff Smith

Private Garden (Back) Ann Garratt

Residential Garden Eastfield Court

Overall winner Ann Garratt

There were a further 21 highly commended gardens that showed the really wonderful depth of beautiful gardens that we have in Faringdon.

The judging was by Jim Ludlow who is an RHS judge and used their marking system. Jim gave his time and knowledge freely and deserves our thanks.

The presentations of the prizes will be on the Faringdon Heritage Day (13th. September) in the Pump Rooms at 11.30.

Faringdon in Bloom is sponsored by the Joint Economic Forum For Faringdon (JEFF)
Alan Hickmore

The folly tower tax - 31/7/09

I think if thats the case then I should be able to claim a coucil tax refund for what I consider a fully scenic eyesore, in the way of the the huge ugly sign in the field next to esso garage .
simon cook

Music @ The Old Crown - 30/7/09

Friday Night - CADILLAC (Blues Band) from 9pm

Sunday Night - 15 Minute Club from 8pm

Free Entry to both events!!

Town Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council exchange agreements for the handing over of the Corn Exchange- 30/7/09

On 30 July 2009, Town Councillors and staff were joined by the Chairman and the Chief Executive of the Vale of the White Horse District Council to witness the exchange of agreements which will eventually lead to the handing over of the Corn Exchange to the Town Council on 1st April 2010.

The agreement sets out the terms of the gift by the VWHDC and will mean that the future of the Corn Exchange now rests firmly with Faringdon residents themselves.

Plans for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange can now begin and the first step will be the relocation of the Faringdon Community & Tourist Information Centre to the area adjacent to the Town Clerk's office at the Gloucester Street end of the building.

June Rennie, Town Clerk

To Worried Pensioner - 29/7/09

As a Staunch Labour Supporter I can assure Worried Pensioner that he/she can stop worrying.

The increased tax will only be levied if he/she looks at the view and he /she will be able to opt out of the increased charge by applying for a Form PN2L (Promise Not To Look") and submit it to the VWHDC. .

Under the 1000 year old Coventry Rule anyone claiming this refund caught "Peeping" will no longer automatically go blind but may be liable for a Fixed Penalty Fine.

As to his/her disparaging remarks about our leader I would like to make a comment in his defence.... and as soon as I can think of one I will publish it on this website

SLS

The cost of the Folly Tower View - 29/7/09

Under the proposed Council Tax increases the Valuation Office Agency has decreed that homes will be given 'value significant codes' which will make virtually every desirable feature taxable. I understand that The Folly Tower is, quite reasonably, considered to be a "Partial Scenic View" and as such will attract a tax increase. However I presume I am not the only one who cannot see the Tower during summer as it is hidden by the leafy trees.

Does this mean I will only have to pay the increase during the winter months while those Faringdonians with a year round view will pay for a full twelve months ?

This new tax is so outrageous that even some staunch Labour supporters consider Mr Brown may have blundered.....yet again !

Worried Pensioner

TIC to move to the Corn Exchange - 28/7/09

The old Vale office will be released as soon as FTC have signed the lease for the Corn Exchange- imminent. Alterations to the space are needed, so the estimate is that the TIC will move in Sept/Oct.

No idea what the plans are for making use of the Pump House space

Gene Webb

Music at the Crown - not me - 26/7/09

I read with interest that I was promoting a gig at the Crown in Faringdon on Sat 25th July.

I dont fink so.

I have nothing to do with the music at the Crown.

On that particular night M.A.D.D.had a Cajun night with Sarah Savoy and the Francadians at the Jam Club.

Thanks to everybody who turned up and supported it.

Sam Prince

Tom needs help with Coleshill Spy School - 24/7/09

Did you know that Coleshill, Wiltshire was the home of Churchill's Secret Underground Army? More than 5,000 men from across the UK were secretly trained to kill and protect our shores during World War Two at the stately home near Highworth.

Local marketer Tom Sykes from Highworth has set up a community website www.coleshillhouse.com which offers an inside look into Coleshill House and the secret training that took place there. He is appealing for help from locals and villagers as well as any local historians who might know more about the house, which sadly burnt down in 1952.

Between 1940 and 1944 locals knew very little about the goings on at Coleshill as it was all Top Secret. My aim is to speak to as many people as possible who may have had relatives that trained there during the war and to build up a picture of just how relevant the site was in the overall war effort. □ Outlines Tom.

His research has already shown that Coleshill House played a large part in the training for some key missions undertaken during World War Two, including The St. Nazaire Raid (also called Operation Chariot) which was recently documented in a programme presented by Jeremy Clarkson.

Many weapons and gadgets were also tested in the grounds of Coleshill House before being issued to British service personnel, this included the Thompson sub-machine gun.

Tom, 31, who used to work as a Television cameraman, plans to shoot some reconstructions in Coleshill before writing a film about the house and Highworth and the helpful post mistress Mabel Stranks on completion of his research.

If you are able to help with the project, with any knowledge, photos or as a writer/researcher please contact Tom through the website www.coleshillhouse.com

Live music at the Crown - 24/7/09

SATURDAY 25TH JULY Electric Head
Top Bar From 9pm Till Late
Free Entry
Sam Prince

Faringdon's Ecoweek win South East award - 21/7/09

As you may remember from the email I sent round in June, Faringdon ECOWEEK were declared winners of the "Social & Community" Category for Market Towns South-East - thanks to all your hard work!

Thanks once again - and MANY thanks also to all those ECOWEEK coordinators who managed to make it to the Market Towns SE Event today, which - by an amazing coincidence, was held at Sudbury House (the extreme western edge of the SE area !) . Could have equally well been held in Folkestone.....

As part of today's events - we were given the opportunity to give a brief presentation about ECOWEEK , and were also given our "certificate" (a rather large framed affair!) .

When the Tourist Information Centre moves to the Corn Exchange (imminent) then this framed "certificate" will undoubtedly take pride of place on the wall of the reception area. You'll be able to go there & feel "I was part of that!"

And now for the BIG news!

As part of today's events, the OVERALL winner for the SE was also announced.

Yep - you guessed it!

Faringdon ECOWEEK were indeed awarded the OVERALL winners for the SE . Hopefully the 60+ attendees also thought that we were worthy winners (I did - but then I AM slightly biased).

This meant an even bigger framed "certificate" (stupidly big) which will also undoubtedly try to find a place in the new entrance area of the TIC.

Anyway - in short - WELL DONE TO ALL - AND THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK LAST YEAR !

This means we now go forward to the national UK market towns "finals" in October. Not sure what this means - except that it's in Melton Mowbray.
Will keep you informed....

Yours low-carbon-footprintally,
Sj

Monthly open stage - 21/7/09

M.A.D.D. is to commence running a regular once a month open stage event.
This event is to be organized in conjunction with people from the music and Drama departments of the Faringdon Community College.
It is open for any person who wishes to perform or just come along. the first session is on Tuesday 8th Sept 8pm At the Jam Club.
Any inquires please contact: www.maddfaringdon.co.uk
Sam Prince

Film venue needed - 20/7/09

I have received an email from someone at BBC Scotland who wants to film around this area and would appreciate some help in this.

I have several ideas and have contacted some people towards these, but would appreciate help on any of this.

The gentleman's requirements are laid out in his email thus:

"The main space we require will consist of an interior and exterior - ideally a piece of land with a building that is large enough to park our VW van in. Here we film the links for the programme, which are filmed both inside and outside the van. In the past we have used farmland, with outbuildings (barns etc) and often with a cottage nearby (with running water, toilets etc.). We would need to film at the location for approximately 2 days, and leave the van in a locked interior overnight. Core crew on set will consist of 9 people approx."

Also, if anyone knows of any travelling fairs or shows due to be on between 18th and 21st September near here, please could you let me know?

Please email Fiona at tic@faringdowntowncouncil.org.uk

Thank you,
Fiona Merrick

Sarah Savoy and The Francadians - 19/7/09

On tour with Sarah Savoy and The Francadians.
Sat 25th July at The Jam Club, Faringdon Corn Exchange.
Free Entrance, doors open 8pm. Low priced bar.

Sara Savoy from Louisiana-the latest off spring of Marc and Ann Savoy to continue the family Cajun heritage- with her French group, The Francadians.

This is a party night, be expected to be moved on to the dance floor.

"You don't have to be M.A.D.D. here, but it helps"
White Horse Draught Beer on offer at £2-00 per pint.

Arts Festival Thankyou - 18/07/09

A special thank you to everyone who turned out to support this year's Faringdon Arts Festival. In my view one the best ever and certainly the largest attendance I've seen on Friday night and Sunday afternoon.

Striking while the iron is hot to ensure the future of the Faringdon Arts Festival we really do need more volunteers to come forward to help. We certainly need more people to help with marshalling on the days etc but we are particularly interested in hearing from those who would like to pick up the organisational roles.

If you are interested please email me at david@reynolds46.fsnet.co.uk.
Once again thank you.

David Reynolds
Chairman, Faringdon Arts Festival

The Boozers - 16/07/09

Don't forget THE BLOOZERS will be playing at The Old Crown this Saturday, 18th July from 9pm - Late.
Once again the event is Free Entry.
Everyone welcome.
name supplied

Restored Rabbit. - 16/07/09

It was good to hear that the rabbit was found and restored to its owner but I still have one worry which keeps me coming back to the website for news.
So Gene.
Did you get the bike you needed ?
HGM

Lost Toy Rabbit Found! - 16/07/09

Thank you to all who stopped me and asked if my son had found his rabbit yet. It is testament to the special people and community spirit in Faringdon that I can post up something up here, and the next day get stopped 10 times on the way into town with people genuinely concerned that it was found.
Thankfully the rabbit has now been reunited with its owner (and has been dragged around by its ear all day, not to be separated again!)
Jen

Funeral Cortege - 15/07/09

Yesterday morning my newspaper said the Cortege would leave Lyneham at about 4.30pm. It is 27 miles to Faringdon. I know this well because I was stationed at Lyneham many years ago. I thought the driving time would be about an hour and a half and I assumed there would be many areas where the Cortege would be even slower. The radio at lunchtime said the departure from Lyneham would be delayed until about 5pm.
I assumed the Cortege would pass within a mile of my home at about 7pm but I had a social engagement at that time so I didn't join those who were prepared to line the route.
Ashamed of Faringdon

Nut Tree Clock - 15/07/09

Yes the clock is a significant feature of Faringdon Town centre. It is not the responsibility of the Town Council - but the Joint Environmental Trust for Faringdon (a joint body made up of the Town Council, the District Council and Faringdon organisations) did agree at the last meeting to make the restoration of the clock one of our projects for this year. We will be contacting the owners of the building and the occupiers to find out what needs doing.

Actually it was JET that last repaired the clock some years ago and it worked well for quite a long time. The mechanism is very old and is a fascinating example of its type.

Hopefully it will be working again in the not too far distant future.

Alan Hickmore
Chair of JET

Nut Tree Clock - 14/07/09

Look on the bright side...It does in fact tell the correct time twice a day
optimist

Repatriation - 14/07/09

14th July I was just one of many Faringdonians assembled out on the A420 this evening, to pay my last respects to the brave souls who lost their lives last week in Afghanistan. I often see these very sad corteges on my way home from work, but this is the first time I have had the opportunity to pull over, stop and get out.

All the way on my journey home, from Southmoor to Great Coxwell, people were parked in laybys, out on the road, large numbers of cars, and even lorries and artics, stationery, drivers stood waiting. The procession passed me at Fernham road end, but long before that, the A420 southbound came to a standstill around our town, vehicles stopped in the middle of the road, engines turned off, as locals and motorists stood in tribute to the fallen.

It was so quiet - the only sound was from the noise from the vehicles of the cortege.
It was so dreadfully, dreadfully sad, humbling and deeply moving - but I felt incredibly proud that Faringdon rose to the occasion and was the location of a very fitting display of thanks and respect.
name supplied

Faringdon Town FC - 14/07/09

PRE SEASON TRAINING & FRIENDLIES

Pre Season will start at 7.00pm Tuesday 7th July 2009 at Tucker Park, Faringdon.

All new, old and existing players are welcome.

We will also train on a Thursday at 7pm.

Our pre season fixtures have been confirmed, see below.

The season starts Saturday 29th August 2009

1st Team

Sat 25th Jul - Home 4.00pm ko - vs Purton Reserves

Wed 29th Jul - Home 6.30pm ko - vs Purton

Sat 1st Aug - Clanfield 2.00pm ko - vs Witney United (Jim Newman Memorial Trophy)

Tue 4th Aug - Away 6.30pm ko - vs Childrey (Faringdon Thursday Memorial Cup)

Sat 8th Aug - Home 4.00pm ko - vs Witney Utd

Reserves

Tue 11th Aug - TBC 6.30pm ko - Stanford ITV or Wantage Town Res (2nd Round of FTMC)

Sat 15th Aug - Home 2.30 ko - Bletchingdon

Sat 22nd Aug - Home 2.30pm ko - vs Shrivenham Reserves

Wed 26th Aug - Home 6.30pm ko - vs Swindon Supermarine Reserves Reserves/A Team

Sat 25th July - Home 1.30pm ko - vs Pembroke

Sat 8th Aug - Home 1.30pm ko - vs KMLC Dolphin

Thur 13th Aug - Home 6.30pm ko - vs Fairford Town Res

Thur 20th Aug - Home 6.30pm ko - vs Appleton Stars

Wed 26th Aug - Away 7.30pm ko - vs Shrivenham A

The Town's support would be most welcome

Martin Harries

Lost teddy - 14/07/09

Jen when my daughter lost her teddy i posted on here but it got returned due to a 'lost teddy' sign i put in budgens, so id advise to do a little sign for there. hope your toy gets returned too.
laura

'Nut Tree' Clock - 14/07/09

Why does the clock attached to the Nut Tree not work? Does it belong to the nut tree and are they responsible or are the town council?

If so, why can't and hasn't it been fixed?

It has not worked or at least read the correct time for a while and I personally think it is a very nice feature of the town.

name supplied

Faringdon Town Council Community Awards - 13/07/09

Nominations Wanted Nominations can be for anyone in the Faringdon area who you feel should be recognised

There are three categories:

Community Hero - Sponsored by Faringdon Town Council. To be awarded to a member of our community who has made a difference to the lives of others.

Group Award -Sponsored by RH Coach Hire. Open to any Faringdon group who has enriched or improved the lives of its members.

The Business Award - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. For a Faringdon Business that has made a contribution to the common good of the town. Nominations will be short listed by a selection panel and put to the public vote in September.

Nominations can be made by email (sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) , letter or using a nomination form available from the Community and Tourist Information Centre or Town Council Office and returned to either office.

Closing date for nominations is 6th August 2009. Further details from Community and Tourist Information - 01367 242191

Sally Thurston

Plea for lost Toy Rabbit - 13/07/09

Thank you for a very enjoyable Arts Festival - great music, great atmosphere.

Unfortunately my son lost his treasured toy rabbit whilst watching the bands on Saturday. It has a pale blue and white stripe cloth body (knotted at each paw) and a small head with long floppy ears. It was pretty grubby to start with! Despite having a 'replacement', he can tell the difference and is distraught. We were around Budgens / Budgens car park / town centre for the majority of the day.

Please do contact us if you find it, my son is distraught. Many thanks in advance. If anyone finds it
Jen Farquhar

lost 1 pair of tortoise shell glasses - 13/17/09

lost on a really bad bend near or about budgens car park area if found please return to the owner tel 07707838713
dave

More help for artsfest - 13/07/09

Well what a great arts festival may it continue, But what it needs is more helpers, mainly MARSHALS.
The lone marshal

French Market? - 12/07/09

It's in Wantage.

name supplied

Missing Persons - 12/07/09

Dear people of Faringdon, is there anybody here who knows a Richard and Sandy Williams who live in the Faringdon area as I need to contact them on an urgent matter, if the local beat officer for Faringdon reads this could you please get in touch with me if at all possible, failing that does anybody know someone who knows everything about everyone in Faringdon who could possibly help in this matter,

I have tried the police and even the local churches but so far no luck, if anyone can help or suggest someone or something please contact me at the email address below,

many thanks for reading and with any further help that you may be able to give in this matter Adrian.

radian1968@hotmail.co.uk

French Market?? - 12/07/09

Where was the French market, advertised for today?

Name supplied

Faringdon in Bloom - 12/07/09

The judging for the annual competition is being held on the weekend of 18/19 July. I am putting together all the entries received to date, but there is still time to enter right up to Friday.

If you want to enter your garden please pick up an entry form from the Town Council offices or from the ITIC in the Pump Rooms. Or you can email me and I will send a copy to you, my email number is a.hickmore.1471@btinternet.com.

Remember that your garden can be of any size and certainly does not have to be up to "Chelsea" standards. There is a new category this year for new gardens up to two years old so all our new residents are welcome.

The judging is by independent judges qualified by the RHS.
Look forward to seeing your garden next weekend

Alan Hickmore

Diversity in the Shops 12/07/09

OMG wines and spirits in the post office.

tv licence in the off licence.

and finally..... penguins in the "REALY USEFUL SHOP"

what next ????

dave

Tony's Fruit and Veg - 12/07/09

Tonys Fruit and Veg now own Sevenacres nurseries in Stanford in the Vale and are operating from there 7 days a week. I believe that they are still in the town on Monday's and Friday's.

Sam

Gas maintenance work - 11/7/09

Liz Gallagher, i think you need to read through the postings properly, that was someone else's posting!
Trish Reynolds

Faringdon Arts Festival - 10/7/09

I have just spent a wonderful evening with my children at the opening night of the Faringdon Arts Festival. Isn't it fantastic to see so many of the townsfolk out having a great time and forget about all the other grumbles we see on this site. Well done to all those involved.

Long may it continue!
Guy Robinson

Our Travelling friends!!!! - 10/7/09

good news they have gone and just to clarify they are not the nice romany type of traveller, they were thieves and trouble makers just ask any of the shop keepers in the town, me included.
They come into the shops trying to distract you while the other kids and adults nick whatever they can get their hands on.

I have no problem with gypies, travellers as we have regular travellers coming into the shop and we have no problem with them, so lets stop all this polictical correct nonsense and be thankful they have gone
Name Supplied

Remembering our fallen service men & women. - 10/7/09

I was driving home from work today and was quite moved to see the number of people gathered in the lay-by on the A420 by the Stanford Road roundabout. Retired service men were waiting, with the standards of their regimental colours, for the passing of the funeral cortège for the latest victims of the war in Afghanistan. I have seen them waiting to pay their respects on previous occasions, however, this is the first time I've seen so many 'civilians' also waiting to acknowledge one of the final journeys to be made by these unfortunate souls.

I think it's a shame the news and press don't publish this compassionate show of respect (as they do for the larger congregations in Wootton Bassett for example) in order to let our service men and women know that even if we may not necessarily support the conflicts they are sent to we will always support them and the risks they are confronted with.

Liz Conyers

ref:gas maintenance work - 10/7/09

i have read certain comments about the contractors that need to be put straight, my husband is the team leader here and he has had a load of hassle from a few of you, this is his job that he has been doing for over thirty years so ms reynolds if you have an issue with health and safety about roll up stubs being thrown in the hole you should have reported it, by the way my husband has never smoked.he works very long hours and he really does not need a bunch of moaners like you on his case all day, between him and the gypsies you lot are having a field day, the sooner he is out of faringdon the better, but i am quite sure you will find another cause to fill up your day.
liz gallagher

Where is Tony's veg? - 10/9/09

Does anyone know what has happened our wonderful open air veggie stall? I liked Tony's stall. The food was fresh.
Joan

Re Gypsies - 9/7/09

before anyone writes into correct me on my mistake, I am aware that 'romany' was probably the wrong term to use, as the travellers in Faringdon are just as (or more) likely to be Irish travellers, a totally different group.

However, apart from that my point below remains the same.

B. McSpadie

Swine Flu Friends - 9/9/09

The Oxfordshire PCT have asked that this information about dealing with Swine Flu is circulated as wide as possible. Have a look at <http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/news/Flufriends02July.aspx>

Swine flu may become a pandemic in the UK over the coming months, so now is the time to choose your 'flu friend'. The national swine flu information leaflet that was delivered to households across the county in May makes reference to people setting up a network of 'flu friends'.

A 'flu friend' can be relatives, neighbours or friends who will collect medicines, food and other supplies for you if you get swine flu, so that you do not have to leave home. Preventing people who may be suffering from swine flu from having to go outdoors will help restrict the potential spread of flu to others.

It is a good idea for each person to identify up to five 'flu friends' as if your flu friend is also ill or unavailable then they cannot help you, but having at least one is very important

Oxfordshire PCT

Tel: 01865 334638

07500 070911

Re Gypsies - 9/7/09

This town never fails to astound me. Could you ever just once not conform to the middle England stereotype. "round them up and send them on there (sic) way" would you Lord Kitchener? Where to exactly? Stanfort in the Vale ? Fernham ? Do they need a good moan about nothing too ?

We live in a world where some people choose to live differently to you. I suspect the Romany community temporarily in Faringdon have as much disdain for your way of life as many of you do for theirs. The people who live here on a more permanent basis do not own the town. Yes we pay taxes here, but we reap the benefits that brings. Romany communities will always visit Faringdon. Some people live like that. They have to stop somewhere sometimes, and yes, sometimes it is going to be in your back yard. Life is not perfect. But guess what? They are nomadic, one thing you can be sure about is that they will move on. That is how it works!

Ok, when they leave there may be a mess, yes, they are on land that doesn't 'belong' to them (but Faringdonians constantly let their dogs defecate all over that land, which is totally disgusting) and perhaps they are stealing hanging baskets (but I can't for the life of me imagine why they would !!) but I am pretty sure the angry mob were making those accusations the day they arrived. I don't think it is going too far to say that this is racism. Romany people have been judged and run from towns and treated like second class citizens for hundreds and hundreds of years. Continue to get yourself in a flap, they are used to it. I am sure they neither know nor care what the people of Faringdon think.

And Mr A Gypsy, I apologise profusely on behalf of the town about the dog poo EVERYWHERE. It is disgusting how some people in this town live. If I see anyone in this town letting their dog foul the pavement again I am actually going to follow them home and put it through their letter box so I don't have to cycle over it any more.

B. McSpadie

Re Gypsies - 8/7/09

I wonder if the pikies on the top of the hill had pitched up in Abingdon, Didcot or Wantage, I suspect they would have been rounded up and sent on there way by now.

I do suspect that because this is Faringdon, a backwater town; that our locally elected Councillor has little or no

interest in the matter.
Apologies to backwaters.
Lord Kitchener

Re Gypsies - 7/7/09

Hello- ive just found this website and as a newcomer to Faringdon i would like to say thanks to you all for your warm welcome. However i was out late the other night collecting hanging baskets and opening refuse bags when i stepped in some dog poo, can you owners be a little more considerate?
Also i dont suppose you could turn the music down at the corn exchange as the walls of my caravan are very thin.
A gypsy

New Nursing Home - 7/7/09

Some months ago Mr. Ede of Builders Ede suggested at an FTC planning committee meeting that this is a planning application that could be made at some time in the future. At the time we and he (wrongly) thought that this would come within the area for which we are responsible. On investigation the area is within the Great Coxwell parish and so is their direct responsibility. This does not mean the Faringdon Town Council planning & highways committee cannot comment - in fact we will be asked to do so.

There are a number of issues that will need to be considered if this application comes forward:
The impact on the next door estate. This is important because, unless considerable work is undertaken, the hospital will overlook the houses.
The benefits to the working people of Faringdon. The unit could employ up to 160 people.
The need for such a unit in Oxfordshire.
The effect on the SSSI and access to it.
The pressure that could be created on local roads.

The P&H Committee will be looking carefully at any proposal and will invite any members of the public who are interested to comment before we make our submission to the final arbiters (VWHDC).
Please watch the Town Council website to find out when (and if) a planning application is made.
Alan Hickmore
FTC Chair of Planning

New Nursing Home on the Fernham Road - 7/7/09

Apparently Builder Ede are looking in to building a 60 bed recuperation centre for patients who have suffered head injuries on the Fernham Road- just beyond the new houses, adjacent to the SSSI.
The proposed building has been carefully placed just outside the limits of Faringdon so the FTC will not be involved in any planning application that may be made - it will be a matter for the Gt. Coxwell Parish council and Vale of White Horse DC.

Access to the SSSI seems to be satisfactory for most of the site and there appears to be a path to the south side of the proposed building leading round to a part of the SSSI on the NE corner of the building which was an area where Faringdon Fossil Trust had hoped might be available for visiting parties of students to hammer

Does anyone know anything more?
Name Supplied

Enthusiasts wanted for the African Childrens Fund - 6/7/09

African Children's Fund is looking for enthusiastic people to take part in sponsored events.
For example 10 km fun run in Longworth on 20th September, or Sky diving, or cycling from London to Paris. Even walking to Great Wall of China. All things are possible.

If you have any interest in doing something really positive towards helping our projects in Africa please contact Alison tel 01367 243743 or e mail me alisonacf@aol.com.

We really would welcome your support.

Thank you

Alison Moore

Dr Who at Faringdon Arts Festival - 6/7/09

As part of Faringdon Arts Festival, on next Saturday, 11th July, Doctor Who, Torchwood and Sarah Jane Adventures scriptwriter Phil Ford will be doing a 'live DVD commentary' on one of his Sarah Jane Adventures episodes in the Breakfast Room at the back of the Crown Inn, from 2pm, after which he'll take audience questions.

Then I (Paul Cornell) will be doing the same for one of my Doctor Who episodes, from 3pm.

Admission free, children of all ages (who are old enough to enjoy Sarah Jane and Doctor Who) welcome.

And yes, the Daleks will be back in the Market Place this year too!

Paul Cornell

Faringdon Junior School Ameriganza Saturday 4th July - 5/7/09

We would just like to say a public congratulations to the staff/parents and children that organised and ran the 'music festival' on the school field Saturday afternoon. It was yet another extremely successful and enjoyable afternoon. The weather was also very good and helped to make a great time for all there and we look forward to next years event.

It just goes to show what a dedicated group of people can put on.

Darrell Thomas

International Skaters - 5/7/09

Ursula Campbell from the Downlands Artistic Skaters Club attended an assessment for international selection for roller skating on Saturday. We are pleased to say that she has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Mini (under-10) girls' free event at the Cup of Europe in Portugal in October.

On Friday her team-mate Nathaniel Williams was also assessed and was selected to represent GB in Paris at the Cadet (under-14) European Championships. He had already been selected to attend the Cup of Europe. Good luck to them and the rest of the GB squad, which also includes other local kids

Katrina Campbell

Faringdon Skaters off to Europe - 5/7/09

Three faringdon Artistic Skaters Ben Timbrell Hollie Fidler and Georgina Howe are to represent GB in Disciplines figures and Free skating at the European Championships in Paris and Cup of Europe in october.

We would like to thank all those who have sponsored all Faringdon club

over this passed year in extra training. We would also like to Thank Meriel and John Gilman who are sponsoring these skaters for the forthcoming trips abroad.

We would like to thank the Leisure Centre staff who have prepared the floor for our training sessions. Thankyou

Faringdon skaters are committed to training 7 days a week in order to achieve the standard required.

Well done to you all well deserved

Dee and Steve

Re Gypsies - 5/7/09

Didn't know about the new residents until I ran into the Jesper's Hill field and found the predictable angry dog and smell of urine - and less predictable police car, engine on and ready for action.

Another car at the entrance to the Bloor development and two patrolling slowly around town, at 5 am on Sunday morning.

It was hard to work out if the police presence should be reassuring or worrying, but there didn't seem to be anything in particular happening.

Name Supplied

Pumpkin and Napoleon? - 4/7/09

Just to say, if they haven't already found new homes, after a while dogs and other pets should be ok. I had rabbits when I got my terrier puppy (a few years ago now). He was obsessed with them and desperate to get them. However, a few sharp words everytime he went near the run soon made him realise he was doing wrong. Eventually he'd carry a carrot out to the hutch every morning !. They'd greet each other all the time - nose to nose through the wire and I'd make him sit while I'd bring one out to see him - always holding it obviously. In the end they were happy to roam in the garden together but I never left them unsupervised.

Anyway, just thought I'd mention it - I know I could never have got rid of the rabbits and I'm sure you'll miss the GP's.
Name Supplied

Budgens milk up by 10p. - 4/7/09

Well, I decided to pop up to Costcutter to get a pint of milk for my Mum this afternoon. Considering today is July 4th, and with expiry dates of the 3rd(!), 5th & 6th July.....I decided to go back to Budgens !. Maybe it is 10p dearer now but at least it's fresh !.
Name Supplied

Limitter proves workable - 4/7/09.

A greatly improved sound limiter made last nights appearance of the band BluesMix a thoroughly enjoyable night. With the assistance of our now resident sound engineer, John West and the ability of the musicians we were able hear an undisturbed couple of sets from this excellent band."It's more the groove then the volume" keyboards and sax player Bob Morgan, BluesMix. They will be back in December. next up is the Cajun night Sat Sept 25th with Sarah Savoy and the Francadians. No club in August but back on Sept 4th with "Grapevine Blues."
www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Can you rehome Pumpkin and Napoleon? - 3/7/09

Could anyone give my two friendly, talkative guinea pigs a new home (before the new dog helps herself to a tasty snack)?

Brothers, aged about 3-4 years and in good health(GPs can live till they're about 7 but they won't if the dog has her way!). Both happy to be handled (one more so), and are always pleased to see you, especially if you have a carrot in your hand. Favourite pastimes are running around on the lawn, squeaking and eating grass/dandelions etc. Large hutch, run and various hutch covers so they can stay outdoors in all weathers available.

If you think you can help them out, please call 240955 or email andreaplant@hotmail.com

Budgens is expensive - 3/7/09

Another brave anonymous message regarding Budgens and the proposed Tesco's. If you feel the prices are too high, shop elsewhere, there are plenty of options in nearby towns and on the internet. Alternatively, you could have the balls and speak to Mr Tiensa or his management team and discuss the price hikes you feel are unreasonable. I'm sure you will then get the reasons why etc. If you don't, take your business elsewhere.....
Martin Harries

Gypsies - 2/7/09

Ok, so they drop litter and rob lead from houses, but as I am sure dog walkers will have noticed, they now have an outside loo, complete with (used) toilet paper and piles of excrement.

I think it best that youngsters do not walk through the field.

Name Supplied

Budgens is expensive - 3/7/09

Why do people insist on using this site to attack local businesses? Budgens prices may have increased slightly, but they also reduce their prices at times too. You may not be aware, but all supermarkets increase and reduce their prices every day and from my experience from working as a price controller could have as many as 2000 price changes, not including special offers going on or coming off.

A couple of weeks ago, Budgens was selling their Hovis Granary bread for £1.00 for an 800g loaf, compare that to Sainsburys who were selling the same product for £1.49. Who's got more buying power???

Budgens offer convenience at prices lower than a convenience shop, give them a break and moan about the weeds or litter of something.

Thanks

Name Supplied

Budgens is expensive - 2/7/09

Has anyone noticed how expensive Budgens has got over the past 2 weeks. Milk gone up by 10p, Bread as well. No wonder everyone is hoping Tesco's is coming

Sooner the better

Name Supplied

Music and the new Limiter - 2/7/09

Just to let you know, the Corn Exchange has its first function with the brand new sound-limiter this Friday, 3rd July, with "BluesMix" from 8p.m.

Entry is free and there is a low-cost, well-stocked bar. Please support your local venue.

Thanks Hilary

(Music Art Dance Drama)

Gypsies - 2/7/09

Your right they have come to collect the rubbish, not theirs mind you. I noticed several items missing from the rubbish yesterday and again this morning!

could have been a cat or even a bird but i doubt they could get away with a plastic bin so who else then our (not so) friendly neighbourhood gypose.

Does anyone have an idea how long they will be there. will the police be moving them on anytime soon?

Craig

Nordic Walking is coming to the Vale! - 1/7/09

For the first time ever adults aged 50 and over will be able to access free Nordic walking courses in the Vale District thanks to a successful bid to Age Concerns Big Lottery funded 'Fit as a Fiddle' wellbeing programme.

The Vale District Councils GO Active Co-ordinator will be running the programme that they hope will provide older adults with the opportunity to try something fun and new. Nordic Walking is one of the fastest growing activities in the World, invented by cross country skiers for their summer training it offers a unique way to keep fit and enjoy the

outdoors.

An enhancement of normal walking yet twice as effective, Nordic Walking uses poles (provided) to add significant benefits to normal walking. Upper body muscles are used as well as lower, it reduces the pressure on knees and joints, is great for posture and, if done correctly, can burn up to 46% more calories than normal walking! Active Recreation Manager at the Oxfordshire Sports Partnership, Toni Bridges said, 'This is a really exciting project. Nordic walking is a fantastic opportunity to increase fitness while having fun at the same time.

We hope people will make the most of this chance to try a new activity. We are also offering volunteers the opportunity to get involved and undertake some new training to lead future walks. Giving more people the chance to try Nordic Walking in future. The free 8 week Nordic Walking courses are being held in the Uffington and Abingdon areas and are for anyone aged 50 and over. There will be taster sessions at the end of July and beginning of August with both courses due to start in August.

If you are interested in taking part or volunteering please contact your local GO Active Co-ordinator Anna Capel-Davies on 07768 567 876 or email anna.capel-davies@whitehorsedc.gov.uk alternatively go to our website www.getoxfordshireactive.org. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Please contact Gavin Walton, ADDRESS Vale District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE Tel: 01235 540376 email: gavin.walton@whitehorsedc.gov.uk. www.fitasafiddle.org.uk
Sponsored by Age Concern under the [Goactive](#) initiative

Theft of garden pots and hanging baskets - Beware!!! - 1/7/09

A number of people have had garden pots and hanging baskets stolen from their gardens. People in Harding Close, Berners Way and Wessex Close have been affected. Apparently the police know who is responsible. Two young lads with whippets were mentioned.
Name Supplied

August 2009

Operation Christmas Child - 31/8/09

Meet every Monday at the United Church, 2pm
Wrapping shoe boxes, making up craft and stationery packs, dressing dolls, etc etc
Tea and chat too
Ann Jerome, 01367 241566

Trustworthy electrician? - 30/8/09

Please can anyone recommend a qualified and trustworthy electrician in Faringdon??
Dave McCallum

Re Chinese Food lovers beware - 30/8/09

Its been like that for nearly 20 years no one else cares. Or are you running out of things to moan about? Where does it say that they have to provide forks.
Youve bought the food and decided you didnt want it thats your problem.
Name Supplied

Chinese Food lovers - 30/8/09

could have used your fingers! How do you eat fish and chips straight out of the Chippy?. We were given a set of cutlery.
Personally, I find Mings, minging. Mayflower, good
Colin

GO Cycling in the Vale of White Horse - 30/8/09

A fun and supportive cycling experience for beginner adult cyclists(16+) who want to gain confidence and skills for cycling both on and off road.
It is possible to bring children (8 yeras and over) but please note that adults are responsible for them

FARINGDON LEISURE CENTRE, FERNHAM ROAD, FARINGDON, SN7 7LB
COST £1 children ride for free!!

Please bring a snack, water and helmet. Limited places so please book today!

Contact Anna Capel-Davies, GO Active Coordinator for the Vale, anna.capel-davies@whitehorsedc.gov.uk, 01235 540369

ED(GW) I went to todays session - very helpful for someone like me who hasn't ridden a bike for ages- I can use some of my 21 gears now!!

Market Place- 30/8/09

Just out of interest, I scrolled through the TP archive (May - July 04) to see that the general disgruntled view of the Market Place 'improvements' has hardly changed in the last five years.

My own opinion is that it isnt so much bad/inconsiderate drivers that are the problem as confused ones. Consider the following.

1.I arrive at the Corn Exchange end of Cornmarket (from Gloucester Street). I can't see what is approaching from

London Street. I'm half way along the narrow bit - because there was nothing at the other end - and there is a convoy behind me. A large van appears, coming towards me beside the chemist. The van has priority but there isn't room for it to pass. What am I supposed to do?

2. I wait at the Corn Exchange end of Cornmarket - because I can see a bus about to turn towards me, but I am intending to turn left towards Witney. The bus driver can see me and waits to turn, beckoning me forward, but he doesn't know that I am intending to turn left; then what - do I stay where I am, attempt to signal my intentions to him (how?) and cause the bus driver and everyone else to become impatient; do I drive forward and go up the service road illegally, or do I come forward through Cornmarket and then get stuck because there is insufficient room for me to turn left/the bus to turn right?.

3. I am on my way to Witney from Swindon. I negotiate Cornmarket and turn left towards the church. As I turn a car reverses from a parking place, say, level with the Market Restaurant. There is a stationary car waiting to reverse into the vacant space. I must stop. There are several cars behind me, and a bus waiting to turn right from the service road. A car approaches from the church end of the Market Place and starts to pass the portwell, because...it has priority. The reversing car has nowhere to go, since there is another car waiting to reverse into the vacant space, blocking his way down. Everyone stops.

Had the pavement by the Portwell not been inappropriately widened we would all have room to manoeuvre.

In those scenarios there is no inconsiderate driving, but much confusion. Everyone does what they think to be the right thing, but the ambiguous priority signs and lack of space on the narrowed carriageways give rise to uncertainty and irritation - which in turn causes bad judgement.

Confused Driver

Market Place/Merlin - 30/8/09

Just because the market place is not unattractive is not a good reason to say that the new layout isn't awful. Next time I nearly get hit by a car ignoring the fact I have right of way, it won't be much consolation that the surroundings aren't bad."

I think this obliquely hits the nail on the head - the problem with the Market Place is not the focus on aesthetics over road layout, but more to do with the fact that people are appalling drivers, and completely ignore the VERY clear 'Give Way' road signs, rather than poor road layout/design. Perhaps the Highway Code Theory test is too easy?! If you see a car turning right from Church Lane (and they are CLEARLY visible), DON'T go past the 'Give Way' line until they have passed you, rather than chancing it and meeting at the narrowest point and beeping your horn at the oncoming traffic (who have right of way). Bus, SUV, White Van & Royal Mail drivers, I am particularly looking at YOU!

Re. the Merlin - I love that they then reported that tree-encounter as a 'precautionary landing', rather than a near-collision! Perhaps they should try navigating the Market Place, that should sharpen their 'driving' skills ;) They often use that particular field for landing practice; whilst driving past it every other morning for the last two years, a sneaky chopper has caused me several near hedge-collisions on that corner, when buzzed very low by helicopters barely clearing the hedge (and often dropping personnel out on ropes whilst hovering - rather than me!). Takes you by surprise every time... I am not complaining, as it is a significant improvement to living under the Heathrow flight path, and decidedly quieter and more interesting!
Name Supplied

Faringdon lovers of Chinese Food beware!!! - 29/8/09

Whilst out and about this Saturday evening, I became peckish for some Chinese food. Sadly, Mings was closed over the bank holiday, so I ventured up the hill to the Mayflower. What a mistake. After ordering and paying for my food, I politely asked for chopsticks. No can do, apparently. I then asked for a fork. No luck there, either. I enquired whether I could use any of the chef's utensils, but was refused this too.

I explained that this rendered my meal inedible, and was greeted by a blank stare as if this was my problem.

What poor customer service. The food was duly left on the counter and I headed off to find something I could eat with my fingers - without even an offer of a refund!

Hopefully a subsequent customer with the foresight to carry a set of chopsticks around benefitted from a free dinner. No wonder Mings has a queue of customers five deep each time I walk past.

Name Supplied

Market Place - 28/8/09

Just because the market place is not unattractive is not a good reason to say that the new layout isn't awful. Next time I nearly get hit by a car ignoring the fact I have right of way, it won't be much consolation that the surroundings aren't bad.

I also must say I chuckled at Mrs England complaining about being criticised in an anonymous posting on this forum, when as recently ago as March this year, she or one of her friends did the exact same thing to someone else.

"What goes around comes around" perhaps?

Sue Denim

Councillors in the Stocks - 20/8/09

Councillors will be in the stocks in the Crown between 1.30pm and 2.30pm on Heritage Day.

Sponges will be sold for people to throw in aid of the Folly Trust.

Faringdon TIC

Totally agree with Athena myself - 28/8/09

I think why certain other dont find it a huge problem is because they have there staff go there instead of them, eg there gardener to get there newspaper. Well done and just because there is bigger problems outside of are only little world does not mean we can comment on own smaller problems.

Yours sincerely

Name Supplied

Re Merlin landing in Faringdon fields - 27/8/09

Funny that - on my daily journey from Faringdon to Uffington on Monday evening I came across a helicopter in a field at the Baulking Road end junction and a team of chaps clearing what to me looked like a rather large partially fallen tree obstructing the road.

As I slowed down I became aware of the noise from the rotors that made me realise a helicopter was uncomfortably close by - and when I looked to my left there it was - maybe it clipped the tree on its way down. The cows in the field were not happy!

I actually see a lot of military helicopters landing in these fields, especially on dark winter nights, the only give away being the noise and the lights. Makes you wonder doesn't it!

Next time maybe I should stop and ask!

Name Supplied

Congratulations Athena - 27/8/09

Your phrase "put the aesthetic cart before the functional horse" sums up the problem of our Market Place perfectly. I wish I had thought of it (and in the future I may well claim I did.)

HGM

ED(GW) I like it too

Market Place - 28/8/09

My initial post seems to have been somewhat misinterpreted. Perhaps I should have called it "Market Place/Cornmarket new road layout and its consequences"

The quaintness of the town, the stunning buildings, the philanthropic townspeople, (including Ms England who has

always done her best for the town), and their good works are not in dispute; and completely irrelevant to the topic. As for not being able to see the wood for the trees, surely attention to the trees makes a well managed wood.

The purpose of design, be it industrial, packaging, graphic, architectural, or in this case Market-Place layout, is primarily to enhance functionality, and secondly to be aesthetically pleasing.

It simply seems like whoever was responsible for the design of the new layout put the aesthetic cart before the functional horse.

Maybe with hindsight some modifications might be made.

Athena

French Market 6th Sept- CANCELLED - 26/8/09

The French organisers of the market send their apologies and we are currently discussing another date later in the year...more on this later.
Thanks

Market Place - 24/8/09

For what it's worth, I think Dee's right, and those people who are having a pop at her, or at the Market Place, are in danger of being seen as small-minded as well as failing to see the the wood for the trees.

We're very fortunate to have some stunning market town architecture in Faringdon. The Market Place itself is almost completely unspoiled. It may have some practical bad points but it also has some good bits, and perhaps we're at fault for not plumbing its true potential

As Dee pointed out, there are many good people in Faringdon who have given up their time to make the town a better place, and they're actually doing quite a good job. I like the Market Place - it's not perfect, but then there's something that's quite endearing and eccentric about the fact that it isn't, that I think suits Faringdon rather well

So next time you're stuck in one of those Market Place jams, my advice is to sit back and enjoy the fact that it's actually not such a bad place to be.

Tom Allen-Stevens

Donation? - Vacuum cleaner for the Folly - 25/8/09

Has anyone got a Vac to give to the Folly - ours has packed up - all those stairs!!
Thanks very much - in anticipation
Gene Webb

Merlin landing in Faringdon fields - 24/8/09

A news article on tonight's BBC Oxford News (TV) mentioned that a Merlin helicopter from RAF Benson had to execute a 'precautionary' landing in a Faringdon field this afternoon (Monday).

Any idea of where it was?

They are certainly flying lower and closer to the houses than they used to - thankfully this one landed in a field and not in a back yard!

Name supplied

THANKYOU, Thankyou - 24/8/09

I would like to publically thank the lovely lady that brought us out an umbrella on Friday in the sudden downpour. It may only seem a little thing, but it does make me wonder whether it would happen in other places. I'm glad my children are being brought up in this community.
Sherrie

Keen Knitter - 23/8/09

Aeons ago, sometime in the early-mid 1970s the Sunday Times published a free knitting pattern for a beautiful aran sweater with a sheaf-of-corn pattern on the front. I think it may have been illustrated on the front of the magazine

A long shot, I know, but if there is anyone out there who remembers this, or even better, still has a pattern, please can they get in touch? - (just contact the website)

HT

Out of Hours GP service - 23/8/09

I had to call the out of hours service last night 0845 345 8995., and was advised to make a doctors appointment for this morning. The on call doctor in Witney prescribed some anti histamine.
Thank goodness for the Faringdon Pharmacy in London St - open 0900-1305 on a Sunday morning (Boots is closed all day Sunday), as well as 0700 - 2300 on every other day of the week.
While I was waiting for my prescription I noticed they have quite a few good priced items too.
See <http://www.faringdon.org/hhhealth1.htm> for details
Name Supplied

Pressure washer free to good home. - 23/8/09

I have 2 pressure washers, the free one is a working model with a healthy length of high pressure hose and a good cleaning lance for cleaning. It does work but needs a little tic. As I have another, rather than landfill it; its free to anyone that cares to pick it up from Faringdon.
contact at kebab10@hotmail.co.uk

OH Deer! - 23/8/09

It seems that a "Name Supplied" has struck a nerve in an ex-Town Mayor... In fact two nerves.

So to clarify:

1..Our Town Mayor, past or present, is not directly involved in decisions made by Council Committees but does have a casting vote so must, most of the time, be aware of any decisions taken.

2..Posters on this site use "Name Supplied" or pseudonyms for two main reasons. The first is fear of getting a brick through a window or a car keyed, this is not the same as cowardice. And the second is Modesty. D is saddened by comments offered under the Name Supplied banner so would be devastated to know that I have used 26 pen names.....so far, simply because I am fundamentally a shy, retiring person with no desire for the fame associated, for example, with public office..

Finally everyone always has the option of maintaining a dignified silence if they do not wish to be part of the, often childish but usually amusing, badinage which is the corner stone of this parochial website.

Long may it prosper

Power to the People (Whoops 27)

Faringdon ? Beautiful ? - 21/8/09

Some people say that Faringdon is beautiful.

I don't agree... for beautiful... IT AIN'T.

Ask anyone who LIVES here what they think of it.

The kindest comment might be that....IT'S QUAIN'T.

Car Owning Resident.

Live Music @ the Crown - 21/8/09

Friday 21st August - PHIL BAKER DUO

Saturday 22nd August - JACK DAVIES

Both events free entry and are 9pm - Late

Great drinks offers..... Fantastic Night to be had by all

Market Place - 21/8/09

I was not directly involved in market place refurbishment. It a shame that the person responded didnt have the courage to put name to response.

Dee England

Thankyou first responders - 20/8/09

I just want to say thank you to the First Responders who came to my aid so quickly on tuesday night and to everyone that helped my son, who is back to his cheeky self.

many thanks

laura

Ed(GW) I have figures that indicate ambulance reponse times for Faringdon are nowhere near the nationwide 75% target. Without our excellent first responders we would be in trouble!

For Dee England re Market Place - 21/8/09

So we need to look further afield. Why? I LIVE here and would like to be able to navigate around the town in a manner that befits a market town and not a badly designed one by an absentee non caring landlord.

Why should we have to put up with illegal parking, misuse of disabled bays and bus lanes and the everyday saga with the buses trying to negotiate a very poorly set out turning area for said vehicles.

It should have been sorted out by our elected councillors at the planning stages and not the subject of some debate on a public forum.

No, look at the mess that WE have created and THEN we could help out others ONCE ours are sorted.

Colin

Reply to Dee England. - 21/8/09

Was Dee England anything to do with the planning which at the moment is occupying the minds of a large part of our community ? ...Just a thought.

Taking her advice I look further afield as I do every morning.

I see troops being killed needlessly, I see Politicians abusing their expenses, I see the NHS falling apart, I see many people suffering real financial hardship, I see children being tortured and killed...the list is literally endless but all these earth shattering problems have one thing in common.

Neither I nor anyone else in Faringdon can do anything about them.

I prefer to stay in my box and comment on things in my home town where there is a chance, albeit a small one, that someone might take notice.

Name Supplied

Does your house have an interesting history or features? - 20/8/09

Faringdons Heritage open day is on **Sunday 13th September 1000-1600.** (see nvwhatson.htm)

There are many, many activities planned - we're hoping that locals as well as people from further afield all come on the day, where the rich history and culture of Faringdon will be evident.
There'll be something for all the family- fun things as well.

Visitors will be encouraged to walk around our town.

We would love it if householders put some information about their house in a front window- it needn't be lengthy - maybe just the age of the house, former uses (pub? shop? church?), existing original features (& photo if internal?) - whatever you think would be of interest

Thankyou

Sally at the TIC

Ploughing practice wanted - 20/8/09

I have a Massey Ferguson TEF with conventional plough, and I intend to be a passable Ploughman one day.

I need some space for practice; if anyone can help with the offer of a field I would be grateful.

Please call Pat, on 01367-244101.

Many thanks.

The Market Place - 20/8/09

Folks of all the troubles going on around the world we have folks moaning about the layout of our town centre.

Faringdon is a beautiful market town with many groups working hard to make it a better place to live.

Come out of your boxes and look further afield.

Dee England

Thank you, Eds.- 20/8/09

Every morning my first port of call at my computer is my Emails. I then quickly go to Talking Points.... I have even been known to make the occasional modest contribution myself.

As a child, before going to a party, my mother would remind me to say "Thank you for having me" and my dad would add "If you are going to be sick go outside"

Bearing in mind my mother's advice and ignoring, as I usually did, my dad's.....

Ladies, thank you, yet again, for providing this website.

Sometimes it has all the excitement of a church noticeboard and sometimes the views expressed leave me

wondering if the posters are serious but always I enjoy reading them. I am particularly impressed by the recent Colour Coding System which makes it easier to skim through subjects which don't interest me.

So, Ladies, on behalf of myself and all those many readers who were not as well brought up as what I was.....

Thank you for having me !

HGM

Ed(GW) Thanks HRM- I wish there were more regular contributors like you

Knock the Planners Week ! - 20/8/09

It seems we are now into yet another round of criticisms of our Market Place and Police Force.

It isn't the first time this has happened and I don't imagine it will be the last so I think it's time that someone defended these local organisations

Throughout the country many attempts have been made to reduce deaths caused by speeding drivers. Sleeping policemen(No dig at out local force intended), chicanes, flashing speed warnings and of course the ever increasing and lucrative speed cameras.

Our Council, ever careful with our Council Tax, decided that none of these was totally cost effective and six years ago they came up with The Restricted Flow Plan. This was not widely publicised as it was felt, quite correctly, that there might be public opposition.

The result is the present Market Place layout and it has proved to be an unqualified success.

Athena, Lord Haw Haw and Names Supplied must admit that they have never seen anyone speeding in The Restricted Flow area as the average speed is slightly less than that recorded in 1843 when transport was usually 1 HP.

For reasons which are hidden in the mists of time there is a special dispensation for drivers using the Bus Route.

But seriously folks!

Why do we never hear any comments from our Councillors ?

Why do the Local Police ignore those drivers who make the rest of us law abiding (for the most part) drivers feel like spineless idiots ?

Law Abiding Spineless Idiot

ReThe Market Place - 20/8/09

Is Market Place really so bad? It seems to me that inconsiderate motorists create problems for other road users (and pedestrians), just as they did before the changes were made. And as for the area only being used a couple of times a year - what about the Farmers' and French Market days and the welcome presence of the fruit & veg stall?

Sheila

ReThe Market Place - 18/8/09

I was one of those caught up in the "logjam" in the Market Place and I saw a Range Rover drive up the Bus Lane. I also see daily, cars belonging to able bodied drivers parked in the disabled bays, London Street is a park and no display car park, Swan Lane double yellows are ignored, cars park across the pavement in Church Street, the waiting restrictions are ignored in the Market Place, and yes you dont have to look hard to see untaxed cars.

Report them as abandoned and they may be moved. I have had a couple of successes in that respect so give it a go. And yes overall, the Market Place is a shambles.

Lord HawHaw

Ed(GW) Perhaps it's time the police told the council of the problems it's causing- perhaps they have? Could local police comment?

Report abandoned cars via http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/website/report_it.asp?formTypeCode=AV

ReThe Market Place - 18/8/09

I have to agree with Athena on the "improvements" to the Square, when it was first muted, there was considerable opposition, most people I knew said NO. The plan went away, Hurrah! We've won!

No we hadn't, six months later up it floats to the rim of the bowl, again the process of consultation, again the answer was probably no, I say probably as I do not have access to those records, if indeed there are any.

Again it all went quiet. But, some considerable time later when the wreched work began, I was speaking to a gentleman involved with the Faringdon Health-Check of the time, said person happily told me that during the consultation there had been NO objections to the plan.

Well I had, the wife had, a large number of our friends had, so what happened to our objections?

Obviously not the right answer. A bit like the Irish referendum.

Mike Perks

The Market Place: Worst of All Worlds - 17/8/09

Athena I understand your views regarding the cso / police .

I have been reporting a car for no tax and park illegally in faringdon in park road the golden vw golf on the left coming into town. After reporting it the police said they would go round to owner and ask them to remove it.

But wait for it, this is the very best bit after to talking to a dog walker, it would seem the owner is non other that a police officer

I wondered why nowt was done. We have no hope of law enforcement .

Your sincerely

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) Belongs to a police officer? Unlikely I thinkare any local police officers likely to own and leave an uninsured car on Park Road? I dont think so.

The Market Place: Worst of All Worlds - 17/8/09

At approximately three thirty this afternoon I was stuck in a stationary line of traffic in the Market Place, facing up towards the church. A similar line of stationary traffic was waiting to come down through the Market Place, and was stuck up beyond the portwell. The reason for the hold up was a stationary car, waiting on the carriageway for a parked car to reverse out of a space outside the Pump House. As I sat there I saw a community support officer stroll past the Pump House. He stopped and observed the traffic for a minute or two, then carried on, completely ignoring the silver four wheeled drive vehicle which had driven the wrong way up the slip road and which was waiting to turn up towards the church. Eventually the traffic moved, and I drove round the corner into Church Street, where I was able to see this myopic young man ignore a car parked *completely* across the pavement on the opposite side of the road to Swan Lane, which was as far as he went before turning back towards the Market Place.

It seems we now have the worst of all worlds. We have been saddled with a poorly planned and executed Market Place. The crossing places give rise to confusion for both pedestrians and drivers. There is often insufficient room for vehicles to pass when turning into Cornmarket from Market Place, and vice versa. The signage at each end of Cornmarket is inexact and confusing, and simply ignores the fact that traffic in Gloucester Street cannot see what is approaching from the other end. To avoid inextricable situations involving drivers who wish to turn left into Market Place when a large vehicle is trying to turn into Cornmarket from Market Place, sometimes the only exit strategy is to go illegally the wrong way up the slip road. The general reduction in parking has led drivers who wish to make very short trips to shops in London Street, to park illegally on double yellow lines; thus effectively turning it into a one way street. Normally the illegal parking is ignored.

My observation is not a one-off. Every day I see some form of traffic hold up in the town centre, caused primarily by the poorly thought-out planning. Every day I see illegally parked vehicles. That the CSOs/police are unable or unwilling to enforce the traffic regulations is testament to the dilemma they face. Strictly speaking the parked cars and those using the slip road illegally should be booked. This is often unreasonable, however, given the impossibly frustrating situation for traffic passing through the town centre, but the lack of enforcement is maddening for the normally law abiding, considerate drivers and anyone booked for minor misdemeanors elsewhere. The town centre may look 'pretty' and make a jolly venue for everyone to stand around in for the one or two days a year of festival; but it is impractical, illogical and simply doesn't work. Can we not have some modifications?

Athena

Help with photocopying and lamination - 17/8/09

I've got some Folly posters that I'd like to have laminated to display in the (fairly damp) Folly tower. They are non standard sizes, but with a big enough colour photocopier (A2) could be reduced, to simplify the lamination

Can any businesses out there help?

Thanks v much
Gene Webb

Lost Cat. - 16/8/09

Ginger and white long-haired tabby named Leon. He roams the woods behind the library (Faringdon Estate) at times but has been missing for almost 10 days.

He is a very handsome cat and very friendly so he may have found a new "home" but we would very much like him back!

If you have seen or know anything about our beloved pet, please contact Andrea Porter at 01367242408

Faringdon Photos - 16/8/09

It's interesting to see the photo's of Faringdon as supplied by John and Julia Strevens.

One small change though. The McCarthy & Stone retirement buildings as shown in Swan Lane is actually affordable housing also built by McCarthy & Stone called 'Granary Mews' and is situated to the entrance of the the retirement development in Swan Lane.

Anne

Ed(GW) Thankyou- I'll change it. For those who haven't found the photos see
<http://faringdon.org/hy%20mapsandphotos.htm>

Returned: One Disney Cinderella Doll - 14/8/09

Thank you very much to the lovely lady who made my daughter very happy.
Hope you enjoy the chocolates!!!!
Name Supplied

Regarding the Portwell. - 14/8/09

Your readers who are interested in the developments at Portwell House can find out more on the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce website <http://www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk/faringdon-chamber-news?start=1>
Jane Haynes

Dear impoverished - 14/8/09

I think the best way to deal with this is for me to invite you to our next jam Club Free event, which is on Friday 4th Sept at 8pm in the Corn Exchange. Where this can be resolved.
Sam Prince.

Lost: One Disney Cinderella Doll - 14/8/09

On the afternoon of 13th August at Tuckers Park
She is a much loved soft dolly with a blue dress and yellow hair.
My 3 year old daughter took her to the park on the back of her elder sister's bike and at bedtime she was nowhere to be found.
Please call Bev on 07740427529 if you have found her.
It will make my little girl very happy!

Wiki Faringdon - 13/8/09

I've just found this
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faringdon>

Sign the Petition re live music - 11/8/09

There is a petition at number10.gov.uk about live music at venues and the restrictions and anomalies therein (which as you can see below are somewhat ludicrous). The details of the petition are :- "Under the Licensing Act, a performance by one musician in a bar, restaurant, school or hospital not licensed for live music could lead to a criminal prosecution of those organising the event. Even a piano may count as a licensable 'entertainment facility'. By contrast, amplified big screen broadcast entertainment is exempt.

The government says the Act is necessary to control noise nuisance, crime, disorder and public safety, even though other laws already deal with those risks. Musicians warned the Act would harm small events. About 50% of bars and 75% of restaurants have no live music permission. Obtaining permission for the mildest live music remains costly and time-consuming.

In May, the Culture, Media and Sport Committee recommended exemptions for venues up to 200 capacity and for unamplified performance by one or two musicians. The Government said NO. But those exemptions would restore some fairness in the regulation of live music and encourage grassroots venues

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/livemusicevents/>

The last one received 80,000 signatures - and yet that was ignored. Presumably this one needs at least that amount. If you agree with this email, it would be great if you could copy and circulate it.

Allotment alert! - 11/8/09

My father has had his allotment decimated over in Chilton near Harwell. This was not an act of vandalism as a large amount of produce was taken, cabbages(his best in 60 years), potatoes, onions, beans etc. He also had polytunnels stolen so just be aware, he is only 17miles away and if there's some dispicable individual prepared to steal some produce from an old man whos allotment is his life, then that sad specimen will travel to Faringdon!

Please be vigilant.

David Keeble

English Sword Dance team? - 11/8/09

Does anyone have any information about the Faringdon Sword Dance team?

I work for BBC Oxford and we'd love to hear more about it.

Can you phone me on 01865 889099 or email oxford@bbc.co.uk with any more details and contacts.

Thank you, Sinead Carroll

BBC Oxford

Re-whisky cost- 11/8/09

Reason I did not complain at the time is because I have not bought drinks at a function like that in a long time (cue comments on length of arms/depth of pockets!) and I thought it was normal. I know enough to know a good whisky is expensive, so I didn't quibble.

How much should it have been? Can I claim my money back? :)

Impoverished

Regarding the Portwell. - 11/8/09

I have been trying to find one of the mysterious yet angelic shareholders of the Portwell to bend their ear regarding the future plans. My twopenneth is worthless as I do not have the money to buy a reasonable share and air my views in the proper way at the shareholders meeting. However, and for what its worth, these are my talking points:

The Bar. Wouldn't it would be fantastic to have the bar open again; keeping variety, choice and competition in the town centre. However, plans must not fall into the trap of offering more of the same. There are plenty places where you can go and have a quiet pint, a noisy pint, a live band, pub games, watch sport or eat cheap pub grub. What the centre need is something more: somewhere women are welcome, somewhere with a classy interior, somewhere there is always ice, limes and lemons and where there is a choice of good gin. Perhaps a cocktail hour with tapas, and a decent selection of worldly bottled beers, great unobtrusive music selection and where you receive service with a smile whether you are a regular, old friend or just popping in for the first time. In short; a great bar.

Please bring back an intelligent quiz, where the question master clearly knows their stuff and entertains banter with the customers.

The Bistro. There are already a number of places to eat in town from modern British, Thai, Indian and the ubiquitous pub grub. Do something different, keep it simple, do it well. Soups? Salads? Pie and mash? Sausages? Vegetarian? Wholesome, hearty, healthy, somewhere to take the family? The parents? Somewhere to laze with a bottle of red? Somewhere fuelled by relaxed conversation rather than buy one get one free?

I look forward to dining out and having a drink in Faringdon's latest offering when the building reopens.

I'm no Angel

Update on Ken Stickley - 11/8/09

We went up to see Ken a couple of weeks ago. Physically he looks thin and fragile but otherwise relatively healthy, but he's now very old mentally; so much so that visitors do easily upset his routines and throw him into a panic.

On previous visits he immediately recognised us, but not this time, and he didn't really want to make eye contact. In many ways he's now more settled however - which is also easier on the staff! He's been moved downstairs which is much better, and is now right next to the communal areas, where he also has his meals. The staff encourage him to leave his room - which he's comfortable doing, but again he then does keep to himself.

In short - I'm really not sure that visiting Ken is actually the best way for us to keep in touch.

What he DOES still enjoy is POSTCARDS! The staff read them to him - and this really perks him up. And teddy bears...

So - Do drop him a postcard, especially when you're on holiday!

His address is : Ken Stickley Brooklands, 14 Dashwood Road, Banbury, OX16 5HD
01295 268522 <http://www.carehome.co.uk/carehome.cfm/searchazref/20001055BROB>
Karen, Sjoerd & Barnaby

Portwell Bar and Bistro - 10/8/09

Does anyone know what is happening here? Scaffolding has gone up and also it looks like the basement is applying for a premises licence?

Intrigued of Faringdon

English Sword Dance team? - 10/8/09

Hello, I am interested in the sword dancing team. Pls can you let me know how to get in contact.
Thank you.

Name Supplied
Ed(GW) Contact organiser on 01367 241180.

Dear impoverished - 10/8/09

If you were charged that much for a single grouse,(an interesting and apt word)I must apologize for this obvious mistake.

The question is, why did you not complain at the time?

Sam Prince

Bunnyfoot – Participants Sought for Paid Market Research (Harwell) - 10/8/09

Have you ever wanted to tell your local radio station what you REALLY think of their jingles? How about telling your bank how confusing their website is, or your preferred online supermarket just how annoying all their flash advertisements are? Well, here's your chance ...

Bunnyfoot, based on the Harwell Campus at Chilton, are looking for members of the public, like you, who would be interested in hearing about market research opportunities taking place online, over the phone or at our offices. Most of our projects involve an incentive of some kind (for example, a one hour website testing session at one of our offices pays around £30 cash, often more. A telephone interview might offer a cheque payment and most of our online surveys offer you the chance to win something lovely in return for your time.

It only takes a few minutes to sign up to our database of local participants, if you're interested, please click below to be taken through to our website, where you'll find further information about Bunnyfield (the recruitment side of Bunnyfoot), and the all-important sign up form: www.bunnyfield.com/signup/ ... and if you like the sound of us, please ask your family and friends to sign up too.

Sylvia Crack?? - 10/8/09

Does anyone know what has become of Sylvia Crack?

She was residing at The Lodge on Church Street, Faringdon. A letter has not been answered and I tried to call her but the recording said, "The number you have dialed is unallocated."

Ms. Crack, who was elderly, may have recently passed away.

I've been trying to find an obituary or other info on her.

Thank you.

Bob Canning

California

Harvest at Wicklesham - 9/8/09

Isn't it great that the sun is shining again? Wheat harvest has started in earnest at Wicklesham Farm, just south of the A420 at the Park Road roundabout. Do come up if you'd like to see the action - the mighty combine is quite a sight. But it won't be here for long, as, weather permitting, it zips through at quite a pace.

While you're here, drop in to Little Lodge Farm Shop for more info about the farm (and of course please treat yourself to home-made ice cream, cakes, etc, etc).

We've just opened two Nature trails - parts of the farm not usually open to the public but we reckon take in some of the best bits. These will be open at weekends only and dogs must be kept on a lead. This is to give nesting birds and other wildlife the privacy they need. Again, there's more info at Little Lodge.

Look forward to seeing you soon at Little Lodge or on the farm and swapping ideas and stories. Don't leave it too late, though - summer won't last forever!

Tom Allen Stevens

Re Madd - 8/8/09

Sam Prince says "All profit from the income the bar generates is put back into events"

At one private function I attended, I bought a single measure of Grouse for my partner, and it cost £4.50.

So this is how he can afford to make MADD events free!

Impoverished!

Faringdon Arts Festival - 7/8/09

I need to be very clear about the future of the Faringdon Arts Festival.

Both Julie Farmer and I (along with many others) have volunteered considerable time and effort over the past six years to stage the Faringdon Arts Festival. Julie and I are now stepping aside.

I'd like to thank those who have already volunteered to help with next year's event but I must stress that what we are seeking are people to take over the full organisational role. Julie and I will not be involved so if an organiser/s does/do not come forward there will be NO event next year.

Recent postings and publications would suggest there are many out there with lots of good ideas on how to take the event forward so maybe now is the time to grab the opportunity.

If you'd like to contact me please email david@reynolds46.fsnet.co.uk or call 0771 421 8825.

David Reynolds Chairman Faringdon Arts Festival

FREE Wellbeing Day - 7/8/09

We would like to invite you all to a Wellbeing event on the morning of **Monday 5th October, between 10:30am-**

1:30pm, at the Corn Exchange, Faringdon, SN7 7JA.

As well as providing information about local health and social services, and maintaining good physical and mental health, we will be providing refreshments and an opportunity for you to take time out for a while, rest and relax. We will have different areas within the hall so our guests can listen, read, learn, or give us their feedback and views, but in an entirely informal way.

The event is free and everyone is welcome.

The event is hosted by us but we hope to also have Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust, Oxfordshire County Council, The Vale of White Horse District Council as well as many other organisations join us to share information about the services they provide. This is an open drop-in session, so you are very welcome to join us anytime between 10:30am and 1:00pm.

As well as various giveaways and a free raffle, there will be optional taster sessions for the visitors throughout the day, including free hand massages, Tai Chi demonstrations and tips for exercising at home. Refreshments will be available free of charge.

If you'd like to come along and want more information please contact Emma Heath on emma.heath@obmh.nhs.uk or 01865 782191.

Also contact Emma if you're a local group and you want to tell people about your activities

Otherwise, please feel free to just drop in and enjoy the day. We look forward to seeing you then.

Your views on transport in Oxfordshire - tell the County - 7/8/09

Oxfordshire County Council has started to develop the county's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3). Previously only a five year document, this LTP will cover a twenty year period, supporting our Sustainable Community Strategy, Oxfordshire 2030, and responding to the strategic objectives of the economy, community, climate change and reducing deprivation.

LTP3 is due to be approved in January 2011 and will come into effect in April 2011. As part of the development of LTP3 consultation will be undertaken at various points between now and autumn/winter 2010. Consultation is currently taking place on the objectives for the Plan and you are invited to give your views on the draft objectives by taking part in the online survey at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltpconsultation before 4 September 2009.

Further information on LTP3 and the various stages of consultation will be given in the next edition of the Oxfordshire Partnership newsletter.

You may also wish to visit the county council's website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltp, email the LTP team at localtransportplan@oxfordshire.gov.uk or telephone 01865 815546 (Joanne Clegg) or 815659 (Roger O'Neill).

Ed(GW): It's a very short survey about their transport objectives. It's a tick box survey but gives an opportunity to enter your views at the end. It's very high level - what struck me was that there appeared to be no differentiation afor rural and urban areas. - but maybe that's thought about later

Employment info on VWHDC site - 7/8/09

Have a look at http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Business/Business_advice_and_support/Employment.asp VWHDC have gathered together a number of employment sites on their website

New performance venue - 7/8/09

Please take a look at the following page if you would like a little more info about the proposed performance venue. Any feed back will be welcome.

<http://www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk/community-area/faringdon-area-project/50-performance-venue>

Please do pass on this information and let me have any feedback.

I believe that this will be a major project for Faringdon and one that will assist wealth and prosperity in the future – but

one that we will have to fight hard to pull off.
Nick Elwell

It was free,don't ask me how they do it - 7/8/09

In reply to Al Cane in his review of Cajun sounds at the Corn Exchange.("It was free,don't ask me how they do it.)
M.A.D.D. is a not for profit organization. It's aim is to promote Music, Dance and Drama within Faringdon. to fund this
M.A.D.D. applied for the Franchise of the bar at the Corn Exchange. This was agreed on and we are now in our
second year.

All profit from the income the bar generates is put back into events like the Cajun dances, the blues nights and soon
to be open mic sessions on Tuesday nights. Our bar prices are kept low and when possible we have some excellent
local beer on tap. In short we rely on people using the Corn Exchange, not only at our events but through the hiring of
the hall and using our bar.
You help to keep this volunteer staffed organization alive.

Look foward to seeing you at our next event which is the Jam Club Blues night with, "Grapevine Blues" on Friday
Sept 4th.
Thank you for your support.
Sam Prince
<http://www.maddfaringdon.co.uk/>

PRE-FAB 4 - 7/8/09

Playing tonight (Friday) @ The Old Crown 9pm - Late
Free Entry as always
Kate Emmerly

Sound Limiter - 6/8/09

In reply to Scots comments on the Corn Exchange limiter. I must apologize for not thanking him for his observations
about the old limiter. It all helped in convincing the council to replace it.
We are now learning how to operate within these limits.
Sam Prince (M.A.D.D.)

More Culture for Faringdon -6/8/09

The obvious widespread interest in the Faringdon Arts Festival and the suggestion that Sword Dancing may soon be
part of the Faringdon Cultural Scene encourages me to ask for sponsorship for the iðěå ðåôääÿyää Greek Dancers.
Traditionally their dance culminates in the smashing of up to 200 white 10" dinner plates.
If anyone is prepared to donate sufficient plates for a minimum of 5 appearances I may be able to persuade them to
perform in the Corn Exchange
Regrettably the sound limiter may have to be turned off.
Name Supplied

Free electric blanket safety checks - 5/8/09

There are free safety checks for electric blankets at Faringdon Fire Station on 9th October.
Tests must be booked by telephoning 01865 815607 or emailing trading_standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Sound Limiter in the square.... What a good idea - 5/8/09

I did discuss that with the environmental health prior to this years bash, but agreed to let it slip till next year, pending
phoning the 'out of hours noise complaint number'.
Which is 01235 524888, should anyone need it.

Thanks to my Investigation about the old Limiter and my post on talking points No Honestly Town Council or MADD or even the residents of Gloucester st no need to thank me for finding this out for you it all in a days work and in the community spirit
Scott Gildert

Re Faringdon Arts festival critique - 3/8/09

The music may for a short period, over the 3 days, have had an attendance . But the amount of locals who were sick to death of the continual 'drone', because of the high volume and bass of the PA system, far exceeded any visitors who could be bothered to turn out.

Do not cancel the event, but why not relocate to the Folly Park or away from built up areas.

Maybe this explains why many towns do not put on this type of event, because it is antisocial to the people who actually LIVE HERE.

Jo Rewley

Faringdon Arts festival critique - 2/8/09

Dear Sue Lind

Thank you for your comments (below) with regards to the article in the Faringdon Folly.

I will be honest I was a little perplexed at the comments.

Julie Farmer

Faringdon Arts festival critique - 2/8/09

An interesting response to my 'critique' of the arts festival in this month's Folly from Sue Lind. In fact it was not an attack on the festival or the people running it, who I know spent a great deal of their own time voluntarily to make it happen. They deserve credit.

If I had disliked it so much I wouldn't have submitted a full page of my photos from the event inside the paper.

My piece was an attempt to stimulate some debate on the future of the festival, my opinions were also informed by talking to several people around the event who shared similar views. I hold to my view that the event needs refreshing and should aim to provide wider provision of the arts catering for different tastes and age groups. Of course that takes new people to come forward with their ideas and the energy to help realize them. Some funding would help too.

On reflection perhaps the heading for my piece should have been 'Thank you for the music' instead.

Al Cane

Nil Desperandum SC - 1/8/09

Simon Cook may write to his local Councillors asking for help in removing the hoardings gracing the main route into Faringdon but to be honest (not easy for me) they may not actually do anything as they must have given planning permission for their erection.

(Mustn't they ?)

Even I find it hard to believe that these flammable structures have been built only 200ms from a petrol station but I am sure that this respectable site is never visited by Pyromaniacs and their location will have been carefully checked (at great expense) by the 'Elf and Safety Directorate

I am still looking for favourable comments about my leader but am open to suggestions before he resumes his arduous duties in just over 2 months time

SLS

Little Lodge farm shop - 1/8/09

My grandchildren visited the farm shop on Saturday and enjoyed the walk, feed the chickens and was greeted with

enthusiasum.

It is a breath of fresh air. Hope that it will expand in the future.

Thankyou for making the wet day feel enjoyable to the children

Dee England

Faringdon Arts festival critique - 1/8/09

I have just read Al Cane's critique of the recent Faringdon Arts Festival with a great deal of sadness (Faringdon Folly). It came across not as a critique but as a side-swipe of snippy comments which serve no useful purpose other than to hint at the writer's hidden agenda.

We are fortunate in Faringdon in having people who are prepared to put in a huge amount of effort to organise something which brings the town together over one weekend of the year. It brings the town alive, there is no trouble and the audience often consists of generations of the same family all out in the square having a good time.

Mr Cane appears to be at issue with the use of the word Art. Art is subjective, what is art to one is drab to another. Some observers will look at a photograph and see a marvel, others will look at the same photograph and see an out of focus orgy of self indulgence. That is their prerogative.

As Mr Cane has now put his head above the parapet, perhaps the organisers can expect a free flow of ideas from him on how to improve the event in future. Don't hold your breath guys.

This event is organised by volunteers and is free. The performers & contributors are people of this town. The audience is made up of Faringdon people. In criticising the event he is criticising every single one of us who organised, performed or simply turned out to watch.

To Julie, David & the others involved, perhaps this is Mr Cane's way of volunteering to organise the 'artistic' side of the Festival in future.

Very few towns of this size can boast an event of this nature. No it's not perfect. But nothing ever is. Always looking for the negative is not the way to 'improve' it. It's the way to lose it.

Sue Lund

Drinking and Drug advice - 30/9/09

A new weekly advice session has started in a mobile unit which visits Faringdon's Gloucester Street car park and offers a place to go for anyone with concerns about their drinking or drug use. The sessions are on a Thursday from 10.30 am to 12.30pm where key worker Eamon O'Malley is on hand.

The private one-to-one room will be available for people to speak confidentially to get advice, have an assessment, or to see a drug or alcohol worker on a regular basis.
For further information call the SMART Helpline on 01865 403151

Get yourself some bargain advertising space AND help charity! - 30/9/09

I am editor of In The Vale magazine and for one month only I am auctioning a page in the November issue of the magazine via ebay.

The auction is for a full A5 page, full colour advert including ad design - the winning bidder can use it for anything - to promote a business, event or website, to showcase a sports club or pub or other hobby, anything at all!

I will also be giving 20% of the sale price to the cancer charity Tenovus.

The short link for the auction is <http://bit.ly/KPcBS> (the full link is <http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=290354739416&ssPageName=STRK:MESELX:IT>) and it closes on Fri 9th October so far it's up to £36, but the usual cost is £160 so there's definitely a bargain to be had there!

Please do tell people about this auction - the more who bid, the more I can donate to charity!
Thanks, Alison

Huge Birthday Bash @ The Old Crown - 30/9/09

Rod Green (Lighting Extraordinaire) & Kate (Landlady) are holding a Joint Birthday Do
Saturday 3rd October 2009

Live Music from:

The Follies

Out of The Blue

Al Cane

8pm - Late Free Entry

Re Faringdon Pre School possible closure - 30/9/09

Many thanks to all those who showed their support at last Friday's meeting.

A new committee has been formed and the pre school has been saved, for now.

They are still looking for a manager and another post, it's in your yellow advertiser thing and on internet, so keep on supporting them.

Long live the pre school!

Antony not Anthony

Budgens' cycle track - 30/9/09

To the previous poster.

Why didn't you immediately speak to a member of the management when this cyclist was doing his stuff, instead of raising it on the Town's website.

I am sure the management would be happy to take the relevant action, as I know they would not want any legal action being taken.

Martin Harries

CPE - 29/9/09

Alas it's all true. In the not too distant future, we shall see our parking offenders' cars clamped and then briskly taken away on big yellow vehicles driven by burly bruisers with earrings (and I don't mean me) and tattoos on each finger spelling out L-O-V-E and H-A-T-E.

See how the Market Place 'improvements' have helped the parking situation. Not. (I thought it was a skate park that we were pleading for, not a refurbished market place)

It is at least partly the planning authority's fault that parking has become such a mess in the town centre, and it is right that they should clear it up....but as usual, it will be we, the taxpayers, who pay the bill, in every sense.

Ms. D. Meenah

Shop n Drop for Kosovo - 29/9/09

The local Rotary Club is involved again this year with the Hope and Aid Direct charity. The charity collects food and hygiene items and delivers them direct to the people in need - in this case those in abject poverty in Kosovo, an area still suffering drastically from the after effects of the Balkan wars.

To help with the collections Rotary will be running Shop-n-Drop on **Saturday 3rd October from 9.00am to 3.00pm outside Budgens in Faringdon and Coop Swift in Watchfield.**

The Rotary Club of Wantage will also be collecting from outside Waitrose in Wantage.

Please help by purchasing one or two extra food or hygiene items which you can then donate to the charity. All items will then be collected and loaded onto trucks which will be driven in convoy by volunteers to Kosovo. The journey will start later in October and Sarah Oliver from Faringdon will be joining the trip

CPE??? - 28/9/09

This website is famous for the spoof postings so often taken seriously by gullible readers and I have to admit that the item about the so called "CPE, Civil Parking Enforcements" had me fooled.

Was it a clever joke making fun of some bureaucratic gobbledeygook or was it in fact an explanation of what might happen sometime in the dim and distant future?

Sadly it seems, according to Google, that there is a scheme which will eventually hand over the policing of parking problems to the Council.

You couldn't make it up !

But until this stupidity becomes Law in Faringdon it seems the Police are responsible for sorting out Parking Infringements so it is not unreasonable to ask them to do their job.

If I give my name I reckon I would be the first to be "collared" by our "Bobbies"

Name supplied

Faringdon Avon Rep - 28/9/09

Call me on 01367 240826

June

Budgens' cycle track - 29/9/09

This afternoon I encountered a teenager riding her bicycle around Budgens. I gathered from staff that this was not the first time this has happened.

Please, manager of Budgens, stop this now. Ban the cycling kids from your store, ban anyone with a bicycle from entering the store, and stop this silly showing off before it results in you being sued when some vulnerable person gets injured.

Remember you will have no-one but yourself to blame, as in this idiotic culture we live in, it will be you, not the culprit, nor the company whose video promotion sparked this stupidity, who will be held responsible.

name supplied

Start that healthy lifestyle today! - 28/9/09

Does your heart, body and mind need an uplift?

No better way to do that than to exercise the most important muscle in your body. You will not only look great but feel even better.

So how can we motivate you to come and see the team at Faringdon Leisure Centre? How about the best unlimited membership deal for years...contact us for more information. 01367 241755.

Why not just come and have a casual swim or a game of squash on the recently refurbished courts or try out Studio cycling on our new spinning bikes.
One visit and you'll be hooked.

Don't delay and we'll see you all soon

Faringdon Leisure Centre

On street parking enforcement - 28/9/09

Quote from Oxfordshire CC

'Thank you for your enquiry regarding parking enforcement in Faringdon. Oxfordshire County Council has no firm plans at present to extend Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) into the Vale of White Horse District Council area.

The county council is currently working with West Oxfordshire District Council to introduce CPE in that district and Cherwell District Council has also asked that we seek these powers for their area. There are no firm plans to extend this to the other two districts at present though there is a general intention to do this in time. Also, within the Traffic Management Act 2004, the government did reserve powers to require the remaining councils that had not introduced CPE to do so. Eventually, therefore, it is very likely that CPE will be introduced in the Vale of White Horse area.

When CPE is introduced it is the county council that seeks the authority from the Department for Transport and then passes the responsibility for enforcement to the district council.

It will be a decision for the district council as to whether they use an in-house team or a contractor to fulfil this responsibility.'

Group Manager - Traffic enforcement Oxfordshire County Council

Number for Avon Rep? - 28/9/09

Would anyone have a contact number for the local Avon rep?

I have a brochure, but no contact details.

Many thanks Sarah

Boy racer on the old Stanford road - 28/9/09

Boy racer on the old Stanford road between 23:00pm & 23:30pm every night thrashing his car at 60mph from the Nursery view estate.

Thank so much for awakening other people up who live here!!

so if any body would like to view this selfish idiot in sight before he kills a dog walker/walker you can view him at those times,thank you soo much.

Name Supplied

Social housing tenants - more perspective needed - 28/9/09

The previous post regarding 'many burglaries' and the ensuing 'vigilance' required is of course helpful - and I thank the person posting the warning.

The problem though, is that the warning carries with it a direct implication that tenants of social housing have a higher probability of committing crimes. This may be so - but a little more thought gives a little more perspective: this kind of judgement (whether from the person posting, the unnamed source or anybody else for that matter) reflects a mindset of inflated self-importance and arrogant superiority, encouraging social division and alienation.

The result of value-judgements like these - (typically made by privet-clipping, Daily Mail reading, middle-class comfortable folk who are force-fed ideologically-prescribed Conservative values) - is often the self-fulfilling prophesy of the crime so feared in the first place

From a Sovereign housing tenant - therefore, much more likely to be part of a 'trouble' family!

Many burglaries - be vigilant - 25/9/09

I've heard that there has been a spate of burglaries in Faringdon recently - largely late evening and overnight. Perhaps the police are busy dealing with these rather than illegal parking- this will soon be outside their remit anyway.

I was told too that Vale Sovereign Housing have accommodated a high number of 'trouble' families in Faringdon. I wonder if there is a connection with the burglaries?

Name Supplied

Yet More Parking. - 25/9/09 .

Suggesting that the Police should enforce the Law is perfectly reasonable.

Reporting an individual, for breaking it, is not.

If we all popped notes through the Police Station letterbox every time we spotted a minor infringement of the Law the Police would have to take notice simply because the pile of letters would make it difficult opening their door.

Name Supplied

Re Parking. Another whinge. - 25/9/09 .

I go to work at 0600 and return at 1830 and the Police Station is only "manned" for a few hours some days each week.

Anyway, why the hell should I go to them. They are paid officials who SHOULD do the job they are supposedly paid to do.

No brainer, name supplied respondent.

Real Problems in this town - 25/9/09

What exactly are they? You should be thanking your lucky stars that you live in this town, where "real problems" are rare.

While the population increases, however, and respect for the law diminishes, so will any problems become more

serious/widespread.

As per the previous post, if you really have worries why not be the responsible citizen and actually go and discuss them with the people who are able to deal with them? (making sure that you keep a record) If after that things don't improve, then you'll have something to complain about.

There are of course many wider issues here; for one, (if we are talking of police) the amount of tedious and unnecessary bureaucracy which accompanies dealing with any incident however insignificant. Try putting pressure on those in authority to dismantle some of that.

Sadly, though I guess you'd probably be on a hiding to nowhere with that approach.

Athena

Parking - 24/9/09

Lord Haw Haw

If you're that worried about it, instead of whingeing on this forum, why not make a complaint, as you're the one who sees the offending vehicle every day. All you have to do is write down details of the vehicle and the place you see it every day, and pop it into the police station. The police will do something about it then.

No-brainer, really, isn't it?

name supplied.

Another gripe about parking/lack of supervision - 24/9/09

it's unfortunate but i don't think that the police around here care about any real problems in this town!

Perhaps it's about time they showed us otherwise.

Trish Reynolds

Roadworks Gravel Walk - 24/9/09

Seems they just enjoy causing travel hold ups in Faringdon!

Has anyone else noticed that it doesn't appear to be necessary to have the traffic lights up during the hours they are not working? No holes left in the road, no need for the lights.

They obviously cannot be bothered to remove them and replace them as necessary, they only need to move them over and turn them round!

Hope this fiasco comes to end very soon!

Trish Haxham

Barn for Olympic archery training wanted - 24/9/09

To start my preparations for the 2012 Olympics, I'm looking for a place in/near Faringdon that I can do archery training in the evenings (after 7:00pm) over winter.

Last year, a farmer was kind enough to loan me one of his barns as and when I needed it but there were a few problems with this setup. Ideally I'd like to use a hall or room (good lighting, heating not so important) and a minimum of 20m is required. But I'm open to any other suggestions, a barn is fine provided it is easily accessible - I just need somewhere to stay out of the wind/rain/snow.

If you think you know of someone, please drop me a line. 01367 242890 or [grantwomack\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:grantwomack@hotmail.com)

Grant Womack

Re The Big Stir - 24/9/09

This is to let you know that our annual Worldwide Coffee Morning takes place this Saturday, 26 September at the Old Town Hall in Faringdon.

Coffee/Teas cakes etc upstairs and sale of homemade jams, cakes bric a brac etc downstairs.

Do hope you will be able to join us as part of this nationwide event to raise money for Macmillan!

There are some great raffle prizes too!
Bring all your friends!
Chris

Another gripe about parking/lack of supervision - 21/9/09

As one who regularly transits Swan Lane, why is the same vehicle parked outside Swan House on the double yellows. I pass it in the morning, and again in the evening. Doesn't move.
Obviously the PCSO or a proper constable doesn't come this way or has the VWHDC taken over traffic enforcement?
No idea.
What I do know is that no one is above the law and the law should be enforced.
Lord HawHaw

Dancing Girls at the Portwell Angel - 23/9/09.

- Ooh, can I be one, please? It's a long time since I dusted off the sequined boob tube, leggings and white stilettos.
Note to self - must look out tongs because I'll need them for the 'big hair' again!
A new career beckons ... !
FCM

Faringdon Pre School possible closure. - 23/9/09

Due to financial, staffing and resignations from people on the committee Faringdon pre school could close as early as the end of this week.
This is a vital part of our community and children's education.
If you are able please attend the meeting at 3.30 this Friday 25th and save our pre school!
Anthony Palin

Re Portwell Angel - 8/9/09.

I could not agree more with Mike Perks comments. So your opening another drug haven, really, why not have dancing girls just to finish the evening off??? Come on!!!
Support a new business, don't worry about the whingers down the road as that's all they seem to do these days.
Maybe the imitation police or even the real thing might like to ticket the illegal commercial vehicles parked on the pavements being there has been so much presence from them in the past few weeks.
Noel Diamond
Ed(GW) Sorry Noel I failed to post this when you sent it

New pcso - 21/9/09

Any chance this new fellow could start by writing a few parking tickets. Just walk around ANY double yellow line and someone is sure to be there.
Not exactly rocket science is it.
Colin

Volunteer drivers needed - 20/9/09

The Advice Centre at Wantage offers low cost transport for hospital, dental and other appointments- to those who are elderly, disabled, without or can't use their own transport and unable to use public transport.
It is based on volunteer drivers (they get petrol costs), but there is only 1 driver from Faringdon. Wantage drivers will pick up in Faringdon, but because the cost is based on mileage this means that is higher for Faringdon people.

More drivers based in Faringdon would be great.
Contact 01235 756348 or help@advicecentreonline.com

Tribute to the troops - 20/9/09

i have heard and seen evidence that when our troops are making there last journey from lynham to oxford most of the villages and towns and this includes faringdon form a guard of honour
can any one tell me why this act of tribute is not reported on
desmond goddard
ex royal berkshire regiment

Welcome to the new pcso - 20/9/09

I would like to welcome the new pcso to faringdon having spoken with him twice already, i have found him to be an extreamly pleasent man and an asset to the town, he should also aid the battle against the growing problem of teen drinking in the town, one which concerns me greatly!
thank you and welcome.
Name Supplied

Heritage Day - 18/9/09

Thank you everyone for all the positive and conctructive comments regarding Heritage Day on Sunday. I would just like to say a big thank you for all the help I had in organisation. The town really came together from the leisure centre pumping up balloons to the fantastic day in Budgens - too many to mention all by name!
Everyone gave their time and help for free giving everyone who attended a memorable day.
Please watch out for coverage of the event in this month's Folly.
It really is a pleasure to work in Faringdon!
Sally Thurston

Support your local firefighters and have your car washed this Saturday, September 19th, 10am - 4pm - 18/9/09

at FARINGDON FIRE STATION.
Also if you are thinking of becoming a firefighter come along and have a chat, it is a very rewarding and necessary job that will fit around you full time work.
Name Supplied

Parking - 17/9/09

I know - another moan about parking !.
Over the last few weeks there have been an increasing number of cars parked opposite the Southampton St junction (at the top of the road as you leave the car park). Today I noticed there were six of them, just short of Hart Avenue. All these years it's never been a problem but suddenly it's a free parking !. It's not a safe place to park at all, crossing the road is getting tricky as you have to be half way into the road now to be able to see. Driving along there I've had two near misses as cars pull out of the junction heading up Ferndale St (only looking right) as I've been overtaking these cars with nowhere to pull in.
Surely common sense should tell these people that parking opposite a busy T-junction isn't a sensible idea ?. I've been wondering who to contact - Vale, Ox CC ?. I
'm not sure what they can do - eventually put double yellow lines there - but as we know, will anybody take notice of them ?!.
Name Supplied

Trim Trail at the Infant School- 16/9/09

The only trim trail I am aware of in faringdon is the one in the grounds of the Infant School which is surely not available for all and sundry to use?

Kat

Wellbeing Day on Monday 5th October.- 16/9/09

This event will be held at the Faringdon Corn Exchange and members of the public are invited to drop in any time between 10.30am and 1:30pm.

The theme of this event is 'Get Moving' which follows the theme Time to Change have setup to celebrate World Mental Health Day.

Visitors will be offered free personal training advice, free exercise demonstrations, a free Tai Chi taster session and Soll leisure will be offering a free health and fitness screening.

The day is supported by a number of local health and social care partners from across Oxfordshire, and other organisations in this area.

Staff from all of these organisations will be on hand to offer advice and answer any questions.

It is hoped that local people will be able to use these few hours to find out more about local services and to take away information and practical tips on health and wellbeing.

There will be free refreshments, free hand massages, free manicures, a free raffle and a book stall with free books for people to take away.

Members of the public are welcome to drop in any time between 10.30am and 1.30pm and stay for as long as they like.

Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (OBMH)

Raising funds for the New Oxford Heart Centre - 16/9/09

I am a Radiographer who has been working at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford for the past 30 years and living in Faringdon for the last 27 years

On 18th October my family and I are taking part in, it's just not a walk in the park to raise money for The New Oxford Heart Centre which opened on September 1st.

This is a significant date for me as I lost my father on October 18th 1984 at the age of 54 to a massive Heart Attack. This was before the days of Angioplasty and Stents, Ambulances did not carry automatic defibs, and there was no internet or mobile phones for the chance to make an early diagnosis.

If you would like to join me in Fundraising you can email me at judith.timber@btinternet.com or visit my just giving site. <http://www.justgiving.com/Judith-Timbernotjustawalkintheparkoct09>

The new Heart Centre needs to raise another £2 million pounds to make life for the patients and there families more relaxing, by building a garden and providing areas to sit in quietly away from the hustle and bustle of the wards.

Thank you for helping
Judith Timber

Park and Guide us car park survey - 16/9/09

People parking their cars around the Vale are being given the opportunity to have their say over the next month. The Vale of White Horse District Council is conducting a survey of car park customers to help understand their views about the service and any improvements that could be made. Council staff will be stationed in the car parks in Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon to ask customers to fill in a quick survey. The survey is also available on our website <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/> and will be sent by post or email to permit holders.

The survey will provide information about how and why people use the council car parks, the safety of the car parks, their tidiness, space and their value.

Cllr Jenny Hannaby, Vale Council Executive Member for car parks, said: "I hope people will stop for a few minutes and help us with this survey. We want to understand if our customers are satisfied with our car parks and to understand what improvements we may be able to offer, for instance, providing larger spaces for families to make it easier to get buggies in and out of their car. We may not be able to offer people free parking, but we want to offer them a good service that is value for money."

[Click Here to complete the car park survey](#)

Keith Floyd - 15/9/09

Sad to see that an old Faringdon resident has passed away. Nice bloke.
Colin

Trim Trail and Green gyms - 15/9/09

I read this in an VWHDC Health improvement plan 2008 - 2011 document
'Trim Trail in Faringdon has been a success over the last 10 years and is currently being updated'

and

'Green Gyms - Support the development of sites at Wantage and Faringdon'

Does anyone know anything about either of these?
Gene Webb

Heritage Day - 14/9/09

I would like to thank Sally and the TIC team and The Town Council Team and the Town Council, and all the organisations and individuals who worked hard to get it going.
It was a wonderful day, with so much going on, and so nice to have something aimed at all the the family, old and young.

The Corn Exchange was filled with townspeople and visitors from both America and Canada.
Obviously Faringdon is a good place to live, because we have so many ghosts who have stayed here for hundreds of years.
And thank you to all the people who attended, with out them nothing is successful
Alison Moore

Derek Fish - 14/9/09

i am so sorry to hear of the death of derek fish.
i worked for derek from when i left school in 1953 unill i joined the army in 1957 after i came out of the army i moved to reading so i have lost touch with every one who i worked with
desmond goddard

The Lechlade Road Entrance Sign - 14/9/09

Thank you Jane.
The sign was designed and erected for the Joint Environmental Trust for Faringdon. The Trust is a joint group made up of the District and Town Councils along with local interested people and organisations. It is one of the little known but very valuable groups that help to improve our Town
Thanks for your kind comments.
Alan Hickmore Chair of JET

Benefits advice at the Pump Rooms

09.30 - 12.00
24th September
29th October
26th November
17th December

Book through Jane.Haynes@bordengate.com Tel: 01367 241162
or just turn up

This service has been available for some while, but very little used. I suspect if it is not well used on these dates we'll lose it

Heritage Day- another well done - 14/9/09

How lovely to see so many people in the town on a Sunday.
Great gangs of people following Alan Hickmore for ghost walks and John Gillman for history walks.
and I saw Margaret Barker being pelted with wet sponges - what a sport!
A full community bus to visit the SSSI in Fernham road
Super graffiti art in the Town Park- 20 young people involved
Lots going on in the Pump House and the Market Place
Over 200 people visited the Folly Tower (some from China and New Zealand- but I guess the journey was not made specially)

Budgens was great- they really made a huge effort.
Hopefully the few shops that opened did really well (I thought retailers wanted people to come to Faringdon and shop- so why weren't more shops open?)
Sally from the TIC put in a huge effort - all for the benefit of the town- a pity many shops didn't support her efforts.

Thankyou Sally - it was all great
Let's have another one sometime!

Gene Webb

Heritage Day- well done - 14/9/09

Congratulations to Sally from the TIC for a wonderful day on Sunday.
Heritage day was a huge success.
Budgens also out did themselves. Free coffee, soup, crisp and biscuits with a live band play.
Town councillors in the stocks with people throwing wet sponges and I didn't know that Faringdon had so many ghosts.
Good photo display at the folly (Once you climbed to the top - a lift would be such a good idea).
Excellent day
Julie Farmer

Faringdon sign, Lechlade Road - 13/9/09

i would like to congratulate who ever is responsible for the new faringdon sign as you enter faringdon on lechlade road

i think its very good well done!

Jane Lewis

VERY DISAPOINTED IN OUR POLICE FORCE - 13/9/09

LAST NIGHT THEY KEEP WALKING AROUND SAYING THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO BE BETTER FOR ALL.YEAH RIGHT????????? LAST NIGHT THERE WAS A MAN NOT SURE IF HE WAS DRUNK OR ON ANY THING OR JUST NEEDED A CHECK UP FROM THE NECK UP SLEEPING IN THE SHOP DOOR WAYS AND NOT RESPONDING TO ANY ONE.BUT WEN HE DID ALL HE WOULD SAY WAS "WHERE AM I" THERE WAS PEOPLE WALKING PAST HIM GIVEING HIM A REAL HARD TIME.SO I SAID TO MY BOSS I WAS GOING TO RING THE POLICE,SO I DID ON THE 0845 NUMBER THAT WAS USELESS. I TOLD THEM WHERE HE WAS WHAT HE WAS LIKE AND PEOPLE GIVEING HIM A REAL HARD TIME THEY SAID OK THEY WOULD SEND SOME ONE TO SEE HIM ONE OF THE GUYS FROM BEST FOOD STOPED HELPED HIM UP AND TOOK HIM TO GET HIM FOOD AND COFFE FAIR PLAY GUYS. 45 MINS LATER WITCH I MIGHT ADD WAS A JOKE STILL NO POLICE

THERE WAS A AMBULANCE OUT TO FIND HIM SO I THORT ID RING THE 999 NUMBER THEN ABOUT 20 MIN LATER 2 OF THE FEMALE COMUNITY POLICE WALKED DOWN WENT OVER SPOKE TO HIM FOR ABOUT A MIN AND LEFT HIM. THEN ABOUT A HOUR AND HALF LATER TWO MORE POLICE CAME DOWN ON FOOT ANT 1 OR 2 IN THERE VAN AND THEY SPOKE TO HIM FOR ABOUT 3 TO 5 MINS AMD ALSO LEFT HIM.NOT BEING FUNNY HE CLEARLY NEEDED HELP AND I PERSONALY THINK THAT HE NEEDED TO BE TAKEN IN TILL THE MORNING TO FIND OUT WHERE HE FROM IM DISCUSTED WITH THE WAY HE WAS LEFT FOR SO LONG AND LEFT OVER NIGHT THINK THIS SAFER COMUNITY NEED THE BEST FOOD GUYS TO TAKE ON THE ROLL OF THE POLICE FORSE,AND THE POLICE TO START FLIPPING BERGERS

Robert Stanton

Swan Lane. - 11/9/09

I see that navigating through Swan Lane is difficult a times due to the number of illegally parked cars again. Always the same lazy people. When will Faringdon get a Traffic Warden or certainly an official who takes interest in keeping the streets clear. London Street is a chicane most of the day. Hopefully the contractors in Gravel Walk will get it right this time.
Colin

Re. The "old" wine bar - 11/9/09

Illegal substances, antisocial behaviour... it sounds far more interesting that it actually was...namely the same half dozen people and a dog, night after night, playing random games like Spooft
Name Supplied

ROTARY CLUB OF FARINGDON & DISTRICT SHOP-N-DROP - 10/9/09

The local Rotary Club is involved again this year with the Hope and Aid Direct charity. The charity collects food and hygiene items and delivers them direct to the people in need - in this case those in abject poverty in Kosovo, an area still suffering drastically from the after effects of the Balkan wars. To help with the collections Rotary will be running Shop-n-Drop on **Saturday 3rd October from 9.00am to 3.00pm** outside Budgens in Faringdon and Coop Swift in Watchfield. The Rotary Club of Wantage will also be collecting from outside Waitrose in Wantage.

Please help by purchasing one or two extra food or hygiene items which you can then donate to the charity. All items will then be collected and loaded onto trucks which will be driven in convoy by volunteers to Kosovo. The journey will start later in October and Sarah Oliver from Faringdon will be joining the trip. Hope and Aid Direct are helped by volunteers who are expected to raise their own funds to get there and back and where possible borrow, hire or provide their own trucks. Two convoys a year drive to Kosovo (one at Easter and one in October). Each trip lasts around two weeks. To ensure that all the food and goods donated get to those in need the drivers, on arrival, sort and then deliver what is required direct to families or individuals.

If you want to know more please see the website: <http://www.hopeandaiddirect.net/howtohelp/> When Rotary ran a Shop-n-Drop previously 85 banana boxes of food were collected locally and in total 55 to 56 tonnes of food and goods were taken to Kosovo. Over the last 20 years some 1,200 tonnes have been delivered, bringing much needed relief to the area.

Rotary would like to thank Budgens and the Coop for allowing us to collect outside their shops. Please remember Shop-n-Drop on Saturday 3rd October outside Budgens in Faringdon, Coop Swift in Watchfield and Waitrose in Wantage.

Not a lot of people know this.- 10/9/09

Most drivers belong to a Breakdown Service e.g. RAC or AA. Most people assume that they can call on these services if they have a car related problem in the middle of the night in the middle of nowhere. They assume that the nice man/woman at the call centre will send a Knight in Shining Armour, disguised as a driver in a breakdown truck, to help .

What most people do not know is that these widely advertised services are as much use as a chocolate teapot if you are involved in an accident.

The small print in the Terms and Conditions will make this quite clear of course so there is no cause for complaint and the nice man/woman will explain this to you as you stand in the rain suffering from shock or worse.
A call to 999 will provide an ambulance if needed and the police will ensure that the accident isn't causing a traffic hazard and probably give you a free breath test and a check to see that your tax disc is current..
But does anyone know of an emergency service which will offer help apart from that offered by your Insurer ?
HGM

Recommendation - gas engineer - 10/9/09

Just a quick thank you to the lady who recommended Mike at Cosy Cat Heating in response to my request from months ago!
What a gem - did a great job, polite, trustworthy, respectful and considerate of my home and about £5k cheaper (yes, that's right) than the more local firms.
I too am recommending him!
Name Supplied

Electrician - 10/09/09

Try Iain at Ashbury Electrical (turned up on time, did what I wanted, cleaned up after himself!)
Name Supplied

Electric Blanket Testing in Faringdon - 10/9/09

The District Council is helping to fund electric blanket testing days in Faringdon (9th Oct) and Wantage (23rd Oct). As of yesterday there were 53 places available at Faringdon and 17 available at Wantage.

It's important that we make as many people as possible aware of the service as this reduces the risk that it is withdrawn through lack of demand.

If you click on the following link you will see a press release with further details:

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news_views/press_releases/article.asp?id=tcm:4-6508&rtn=D

Toby Warren, VWHDC

New Talking Health pages on this site - 8/9/09

There are quite a few people in Faringdon seeking to improve the health services available to local people. It will be a long job, but an important part will be to get opinions and experiences from local people.

Have a look at <http://faringdon.org/nvtalkinghealth.htm>. (It's in the Health section of this website).

There is already some useful information about medical services - transport to Oxford, extended GP surgery hours, new services from our GPs, out of hours pharmacy+++.

Maybe you have more information that would benefit other people knowing about?

Please do contribute- together we will build a useful information repository for everyone.

FAP has formed a health and social care pressure group. We meet every 2 months or so. Already we've had people who provide healthcare come along and seek our views.

If you want to join in, contact Jane at Jane.Haynes@bordengate.com

Gene Webb

Gravel walk - 8/9/09

As one of the drivers who got caught in the complete gridlock on gravel walk today, can I just remind fellow drivers

that green means go ONLY if the way is clear!
Its enough of a problem without bad driving making the situation worse!
Name Supplied

Portwell Angel - 8/9/09.

We just wanted to wish Nick & Mark all the best in their venture at The Portwell Angel. What a relief to finally see this unused building put to good use.

As mentioned by Sam & Hilary, it can only be a good thing for the town. Something different!!!

Lets all support our local businesses rather than put them down and write them off before they've even opened.

We look forward to experiencing it for ourselves in the near future.

Kate & Lee @ The Old Crown

Dog walker desperately needed!!! - 8/9/09

Does anyone know of anyone offering dog walking facilities in Faringdon or the surrounding area? I have looked for adverts in Budgeons, Danetree Vets and the Pet shop but there doesnt seem to be any at the moment.

A while ago a lady from Faringdon placed an advertisement at the gate entrance to the Folly. She was advertising day care in her own home for dogs. She sounded brilliant - any chance anyone knows who she might be?!

We have a one year old Bichon Frise who is adorable and (mostly) well behaved.

His current walker is no longer able to continue.

Please help!

Gill Day

Portwell re-visited - 7/9/09.

I note with some amusement the objections from some "neighbours" of the new venue. It seems that from a certain perspective, all will be well with Faringdon if innovative thinking and the provision of evening leisure should be confined to watching television, or being a disciple of Marcel Marceau.

Urinating in the street, noise, opium dens, poor community officers dragged from their beds at the wee hours before midnight?

Methinks the Bard and Macbeth have been invoked, for this is pure fiction.

Unlike dumping rubbish all over the pavement and fouling the footpath with large vans, which of course is totally acceptable?

Mike Perks

Gasworks Gravel walk update - 7/9/09

6 weeks of misery to go so i've been told. Apparently John Peters at Highways has absolutely no control over what happens on our roads.....Why is he in the "highways" dept then i wonder. If he is given the correct notice period by a company wanting to do work, he is obliged to give them the licence to do it! He cannot make any decisions as to whether it's an appropriate time etc. All due to a Government Act of 1991 so he says.

But, he needs to receive all your calls, letters, so they can be logged on the PEMS system (although he couldn't tell me who is proactive in taking them forward, if they would be at all, i have a very nice lady at OCC looking into this for me). Make sure you mention that you want your call logged on this system, you will need a reference number (which he has never given me on the numerous occasions i have spoken to him, wish i'd known this before).

Again, the numbers to call Tim Shepherd, Wales and West 077704 35302

John Peters 0845 3101111

JP agreed with me that writing to Ed Vaizey was a good idea as he needs ammunition against this act for the good of everyone.

Trish Reynolds

Portwell Angel licence opposition - 7/9/09

I just want to wish Nick good luck with this venture. The reasons given in opposition are complete nonsense, have no validity in view of the fact that it is a completely NEW venture.

Reasons for opposition are given by the VERY small "usual" group of individuals who will never be happy until prohibition is introduced in Faringdon!(but who would be mortified if anyone complained about the way they conduct their businesses of course).

Trish Reynolds

Portwell Angel - 7/9/09

It sounds as if the proposed site could be a great asset to the town centre. Having taken notice of the diminishing amount of people out and about, on Friday and Sat nights in particular, I would have thought that a new business should be encouraged. It is a town centre and therefore should have some nightlife, not as some people would like, a town that goes to sleep after 5pm.

We all know that times are difficult at the moment but there are people out there trying their best to make things work and have a good time.

"Let the good times roll."

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

Will you share your wartime memories? - 6/9/09

Would you be interested in talking about your memories of the Second World War? The Second World War Experience Centre is carrying out a nationwide project, recording the personal experiences of people who lived through the war years, to ensure these stories are preserved for future generations. With the recent passing of the last veterans of World War One, this has brought into focus the increasing urgency to record people's memories before it is too late. The Centre is a registered museum and charity, and more than 4000 people have been interviewed for the Centre's oral history archive.

The Centre would like to record the stories of ex-servicemen and women, civilians, children, factory workers, or anyone who has first hand memories from that time. Its website can be found at <http://www.war-experience.org/>.

Recent interviewees in the Oxfordshire area have included a nurse who worked in London during the Blitz, a lady who worked at Bletchley Park as a decoder, an evacuee who left London to live in a mining village in South Wales, a Prisoner of War captured at Dunkirk in 1940, a gentleman who served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Italy, and a Merchant Navy seaman who was on the Atlantic Convoys.

If you think that you may be interested in having your wartime memories recorded for posterity and inclusion in The Second World War Experience Centre archive, or would like further information, please contact the Centre's volunteer recorder in the Oxfordshire area: Matthew Smaldon, Tel: 01235 526734 (please leave a message if there is no answer) email: matthew.smaldon@gmail.com

The Mysterious Floating Polystyrene - 6/9/09

People who have deliveries should dispose of their rubbish accordingly and not leave it under the Town Hall to be blown around Faringdon... did we have a snow storm in the last few days???

How disrespectful for it to be scattered around the Churchyard.

Name Supplied

Portwell Angel licence opposition - 6/9/09

We learned on Thursday that we have received some opposition to our being granted a license.

The main concerns are:

1. our neighbours are concerned about late night opening. It is not our intention to open very late other than on special occasions. Unfortunately, in filling out the licence application it is not possible to say this as one cannot

predict which day might be a special occasion.

2. our neighbours are concerned about noise. The wine bar is to be developed so as to offer an a different and "upmarket" place in Faringdon to have a glass of wine or cocktail. It will not be suitable for the "disco" type event that people are concerned about. When the bar is open late, we will not allow entrance to the "overflow" from other pubs in the town.

3. one of our neighbours wrote as follows:

1 Reignite the 'heavy' noise pollution in what is an quiet unassuming Market Town

2 Encourage more late night drinking(until 3am!!)

3 Increase pollution to our pavements ie butt ends, broken glasses, urination etc etc

4 Mean restricted public access through the Portwell Corner should outside seating be granted

5 Potentially create a premises for the sale of illegal substance as was before

6 Increase the number of individuals drinking in the Market Place intself encouraging possible 'unruly' disturbances

7 Encourage the blatant disregard and lack of respect to the many long standing residents, both very young and old, in the Market Place re: the playing of live amplified music with the premises doors wide open until the early hours of the morning (as was previously experienced)

8 Mean more hours for the CPOs and the local constabulary who we're sure have seen a dramatic change for the good- post Portwell Wine bar.

1 Bearing in mind that we are proposing a "Piano/Cocktail" bar, I doubt that this will have a significant affect on the level of noise in the Market Square. However, I could take issue with the term "Unassuming Market Town" as this sounds a very negative appraisal.

2 If people want to drink until 3.00am they will no doubt do so. We plan to be in bed long before then!

3 I anticipate that most people to whom this e-mail has been sent will visit the wine bar at some point. I would ask you please not to urinate on the pavements. If glasses are damaged, I would ask that you let us know so that they can be cleared away. And should you decide to smoke on the street rather than in the area that we are providing, please consider our neighbours.

4 This is an interesting point. Is one table on a narrow footpath more or less of an obstruction to several tables in a larger area?

5 Having looked at the figures from the previous owner, there was no suggestion of enhanced profits from the sale of illegal substances. Indeed, had there been it seems probable that the business would not have failed. Perhaps we should all take this as a personal insult. (One of our shareholders is actually involved in stopping the development and import of drugs!)

6 Encouraging more people to eat beef on the bone might lead to an increase in Mad Cow Disease. Now there's a thought... Mad Cow Disease? Mmm

7 I spend quite a lot of my time doing what I can to improve the quality of life in the town. I work with the Chamber of Commerce, with Faringdon Area Project, and I have established the "Focus on" identity. (see **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**) I am vice chair to the joint economic forum. I live in the town. My office is in the town and will relocate into Portwell House when renovations are complete. One of our shareholders plans to live in the apartment above the wine bar. Between Bordengate, Focus and The Portwell Angel we will be employing some 40 people. I take objection to the allegation that anything we might do could encourage "blatant disregard and lack of respect to....". Mind you, I might remind all that respect is not given freely: it has to be earned.

8 Another fanciful and emotive comparison with history.

The current shareholders should not be tarred with the same poison brush as the previous entrepreneur.

Nick Elwell

Let's try and use the London St Pharmacy - 6/9/09

Please everyone, use this pharmacy for your prescriptions.

They are efficient, friendly, lovely people and we need to ensure they do a good business so they remain in Faringdon.

They open long hours, the service is 100% better and friendlier than Boots.

By the time you've walked up London Street, you'll probably still be quicker than queueing in Boots waiting for someone to take any notice of you!

Trish Reynolds

Ed(GW) Hear hear

Gravel Walk Roadworks - 6/9/09

The ongoing, badly organised fiasco of these gasworks continues.

Whilst it is appreciated this work is essential, the whole project has been badly managed and has been going on for far longer than they should.

They were supposed to have restarted these works after Fairfold in July and were scheduled to be finished mid August. It would all have been done and dusted nicely in time for the return of schools, people to work etc when the roads got busy again. But, Wales and West Utilities do not appear to be the most efficient organisation and the VWH highways department don't seem at all interested.

If anyone encounters problems with these works, or just wants to find out why the whole project has been handled so badly these are the people to ring:

John Peters is the contact at the VWH District Council Highways department.

Tim Shepherd is the guy in charge of these works for Wales and West Utilities. 0777 04 35302 (the one who gave me the original timetable).

Perhaps the more badgering of these people, the more likely things will get done.

Trish Reynolds

Garden party at Little Lodge farm - 5/9/09

Many thanks to those of you who braved last weekend's atrocious weather and joined us for the Little Lodge garden party to open our new Spork garden tools shop.

Congratulations to the Adams family who guessed the closest to where we had hidden a Spork on the farm and wins a hand Spork and a free slice of our delicious home-made cake.

And well done to Mark Glynne-Jones who threw the Sprooter a staggering 20m, winning a Dinky Spork and a free slice of cake.

Tom Allen-Stevens

Ed(GW) I now know what a spork is- but I had to look it up!

Illegal parking - 5/9/09

Can someone tell me who owns W657 DCT and explain why it was parked on the pavement outside the Corn Exchange on Thursday evening: causing an obstruction both to those using the pavement and those entering and leaving the Corn Exchange.

There is a car park less than 50 yards away!

A local pedant.

FOUND: - 4/9/09

Found in Faringdon nr Coleshill Drive - a small blue & white soft-toy dog that rattles. Obviously a well loved toy.

Was a bit grubby when I found it so has now had a bath :)

Photo here: <http://tiny.cc/LNGvL>

Please call 07930 490474 to arrange collection.

Jen Farquhar

Davis Home Centre - 3/9/09

I thought I would let you all know as said in the Faringdon Folly, that we will try and keep all present stock. There will be some go that we cannot fit in to the No17, but this is stock that has not sold in the last 3 years or just sells very

slowly. Putting that aside, nearly anything can be got within a week to two weeks and as our regulars will know we try hard to get any product in. I had to make the decision to close half of the shop down as it was that or all of the shop going, this I thought would be something no one wants!

I appreciate all the support the community has given over the last 3 years, but as I say and this goes for all of Faringdon's businesses, if we don't use them we will lose them! Now more so than ever.

Many thanks,
Adam Blackwell owner of Davis Home Centre

Gravel walk - 3/9/09

Did someone make a conscious decision to wait till the kids went back to school to start the road works????
Why couldn't they have gotten it done while the kids were off school and the roads were quieter?
Emma Riddle

Fun and fitness dance sessions - 3/9/09

GO Active is running sessions from the beginning of October.

In the Vale District there beginner ballroom and latin dance classes are being held at three different locations:

- * Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, every Monday 7.30-9.00pm Monday 5th October to 30th November 2009 (please note no session is being run on 16th November)
- * Little Coxwell Village Hall, every Tuesday 7.00-8.30pm Tuesday 6th October to 1st December 2009 (no stilettos)
- * Blewbury Primary School, every Wednesday 7.00-8.30pm Wednesday 7th October 2009 to 2nd December 2009 ...

1 hour fitness dance sessions (including cha cha, foxtrot, waltz and jive) followed by socializing and practice time £2 per class

Then join us for a joint Christmas social event being held on Monday 7th December at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, 7.30-9.30pm ...

If you are interested please feel free to come along- alone or with a partner.

Anna Capel-Davies
GO Active Co-ordinator (Vale of White Horse)
Oxfordshire Sports Partnership
Tel: 01235 540377 Mob: 0776 856 7876

Heritage Open Day. 13/9/09 - 3/9/09

Loads of activities - Walks and Tours, open buildings, deputy Town Crier competition, art in the park++++++
[Download the full programme](#)

Community award finalists and voting form - 3/9/09

Delighted to announce the finalists for our 2009 Community Awards.
Below each finalist is a brief synopsis of reasons for nomination.

Business Award:

1. White Horse Hire White Horse Hire go above and beyond the call of duty on taxi trips. They provide support and company on hospital and medical visits. They help with shopping and are always reliable.
2. What's on What's On keep the community informed and help to strengthen community spirit with free listings of community events. It is an invaluable free source of local information especially for those without computer access
3. Pure Me This business has been supplying Faringdon for over a year and a half with organic products. This has

really served to fill a need. Along side this the shop proprietor has organised some interesting talks and events on the subject of organic products, herbal remedies and holistic therapies. There have been free taster sessions and consultations. This has been a great addition to our community shops and we should really support Pure me.

Group Award

1. Community Bus. The Community Bus is run by a voluntary committee and voluntary drivers. It provides first class service to the town. All the drivers are helpful, kind, cheerful and cooperative. The bus is a reliable form of transport for those who otherwise would be unable to do their shopping etc. independently. The afternoon and weekend trips are enjoyed by all ages and are excellent value. An asset to the town

2. U3A. The U3A is a not for profit, locally based organised open to ANYONE who has reached their 3rd age and no longer works fulltime. Formed in 2002 it quickly became the largest group of like minded people in the Faringdon area. This organisation brings stimulation and companionship to many people. There are opportunities to learn new skills, exercise and socialise. For people who are bereaved, lonely, new to area or in need of stimulating activity it is invaluable. Interest groups meet weekly or monthly and range from Astronomy to appreciating opera, computers to Bridge, Sunday Lunches to local history. Members share their knowledge voluntarily. The group is run by members for members.

3. Dramatic Society The group has been running for over 60 years. It brings arts to the community. There is an annual panto that involves any members of the community wishing to take part. Giving many children their first opportunity to be involved in a theatre production. It is very welcoming to new members giving local people the opportunity to work on stage, back stage, front of house or simply enjoy theatre at a local level as part of the audience. The best group in Faringdon!

The Clive Davis Community Hero Award

1. Les Sears. Les Retires as Chairman of Faringdon Town Football Club this year. His services to the club and town have been outstanding. He has been involved with FTFC since 1965. He has seen many developments at the club including club house improvements, youth and girls football. The football club is an important part of our town providing sport and social for many residents. The club has also raised over £\$0,000 for the baby unit at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

2. Frank Callanan. Frank does a huge amount of voluntary work in Faringdon and beyond. Frank has volunteered for the Mustard Seed, Community Bus Breakfast Club amongst others. He also travels to Kosavo at least once a year to deliver humanitarian aid.

3. Sjoerd Vogt Sjoerd has worked tirelessly on behalf of fair trade ensuring Faringdon became the first fair trade town in the area. His works with Eco Week have really brought Faringdon into the limelight and won an award. He also volunteers as Town Crier.

4. Julie Farmer. Julie's work with the Arts Festival over the last 6 years has put Faringdon on the map. She is a dedicated person and puts in many late nights. She deals with acts and artists, venues and local councils. She makes sure that everyone who attends the festival is kept safe and enjoys local and very talented bands. She has exceeded anything that should be expected of a volunteer putting the happiness of others before her own.

[Download Voting Form](#)

whats happening in gravel walk now???? - 3/9/09

Name supplied

Coach/Manager required for Faringdon Football Club Youth Team (Under 8s) - 2/9/09

We currently train on Friday evenings (6-7) and matches are played on Saturday mornings. Please contact Jo on 01367 244919 or 0790 1533968 for further information.

Exhibition 'Photographs around the Folly' Graham Fletcher and Al Cane - 2/9/09

In the Belvedere room in the Folly Tower

Sunday September 6th 1100-1700
Sunday 13th September Heritage Open Day 1030-1630
Sunday October 4th 1100-1700

The chinese drama goes on - 1/9/09

Both the Mayflower & Mings was closed on monday eve. What is a man meant to eat????
Noel Diamond

Let's try and use the London St Pharmacy - 1/9/09

It's open 0900-1300 on a Sunday morning (Boots is closed all day Sunday), as well as 0700 - 2300 on every other day of the week.
I've no idea how well it is being used, but without it we all could face significant travelling time to get prescriptions out of normal hours.
Name Supplied

Business changes in Faringdon - 1/9/09

I've heard that Davis DIY is contracting to the area where the paint and garden items are (+ some more space at the rear). The 'first' shop area is to be let.
This is one of the best shops in Faringdon - let's hope they can still provide a wide range of goods.

Peugeot Garage.
The maintenance service is to be provided from the Marlborough St premises, as well as the car sales. The Pioneer Road premises is to be closed.
Name Supplied

re Clashing Date of Faringdon Fireworks and the Folly Tower - 30/10/09

In spite of the number of years that the Faringdon Fireworks have been held, and the large sums of money that they have raised, the correspondent has ignored the most important fact. Hallowe'en is on the 31st October (every year!) and events to mark this day are held on the day itself. Whereas Fireworks displays seem to be held on any day between 1st November and 15th November. By holding the Firework display on 31st October and therefore clashing with other Hallowe'en events, I think that both events are compromised.
Name Supplied

Four Months Later? - 29/10/09

In June some jobs assaulted and robbed a teenager in the Faringdon Market Square. The police did their job by catching them but does anyone know what, if anything, happened to them ?
A.Cynic

Half Price Swimming Lessons - 29/10/09

We have various slots in our SOLL Swim School that are half price until 13th December 2009. To book your child please contact our Swim School Co-ordinator dmorrell@soll-leisure.co.uk

Church Street. - 28/10/09

At last. The County Council has found Faringdon! There are new bollards in Church Street opposite the Church to stop those motorists who parked all day and night with either the arse of the car in the road or the nose of the car blocking the pavement.
How long has it taken for them to listen and act. A B**** long time.
Now for the Bus Lane in the Market Place to be dealt with.
Be about 2012 I would think.
Colin

Missing cats update - 28/10/09 -

Both cats now home.
One safe and well, one safe and not so well, but on the mend!
Thanks
Name Supplied

Bad customer care - 28/10/09

Just though I would share my experience today at your local service station.
An employee approached me in a very aggressive manner and shouted across the forecourt to indicate that the pumps were closed. I indicated that I was sorry but I had not seen a sign. He continued to shout at me and indicated that the two cones placed at the entrance to the petrol station was the indication that petrol was not available. Two other cars had also followed me in to the service station at the same time.

I was interested to see that I am not the first person to come across such bad customer care. I feel so intimidated by this member of staff that I asked him to back off as I felt that he was so aggressive he may have hit me. I am a long

standing customer of this service station but feel so unhappy that I will not return to use it again.

Name Supplied

P.s.I just feel that it is such a shame that a Lovely Town should get a bad reputation over one or two people.

reply to stephen concerning basketball team - 27/10/09

I have just moved to Faringdon and would be really interested in playing basketball.

I have not played for a while but would love to start again, Let me know if there is anything going on

Steve Hampshire

ED(GW) Let me know if you want your email address passed on to Stephen

No room for an Advice Service in Faringdon - 26/10/09

A new style Information and Advice Service has been launched in Oxfordshire.

This unique service uses the Internet to bring high quality advice and support services to isolated and vulnerable people in Oxfordshire.

The project is designed to allow the residents of Oxfordshire to access **face to face advice** from Health Trainers, solicitors, Business Link advisors, Domestic Violence support workers, Mental Health workers and carer's centre workers, via a web cam link.

Many clients - older people, young people, people with disabilities, those fleeing domestic violence and those living in isolated communities - do not, or cannot, access face-to-face advice.

The aim of The IASS service is to create a network of video-linked access points from agencies within communities, making advice and information easier to obtain. It not only allows the client to access advice in a convenient location but also allows them to talk with more than one agency at a time. These agencies will eventually form the part of the IASS Network.

The project is going well and we will have around 21 access point's set-up. A majority of these are in the City due to the lack of interest and support outside of the City. The services available will include Business Link, Health, General legal advice, Carers support services.

Marlan Higgins, Legal Advice Direct Solicitors. Project Leader

Faringdon Family Centre had hoped to provide space for the computer (provided free) but because they have mothers and children using the centre it is not really feasible.

Faringdon Library were asked, but their available space is upstairs, so security is an issue.

The Business centre was approached, but have said they could not help (not an ideal location)

Faringdon Town Council were asked to provide space - before they moved the TIC to the Corn Exchange but as far as I can see the possible space has been used as offices for staff and a storage area.

This is the only type of information and advice service that Faringdon is ever likely to have. The equipment and software is provided free. No staff are needed to manage/monitor it. All that is needed is a private office in a manned building, broadband and someone to turn the PC on in the morning(and off at night!)

and yet we don't seem to be able to provide it - can this really be the case?

Has anyone got any suggestions?

Gene Webb

New service for Older people, provided by Age Concern - 26/10/09

Old Town Hall, 3rd November, 9.30-11.30

Coffee, cake and chat

Talks, demonstrations, singing, craft taster sessions, information and advice

1st Tuesday of the month

Enq: 01235 849400

Age Concern

Please help spread the word - Church Groups, U3a, British Legion - any group or anyone who may be interested in a social occasion with contemporaries.

Faringdon Town Football Club in Cup Final - 26/10/09

Faringdon Town face Saxton Rovers in the final of the North Berks Football League Centenary Cup on Wednesday 28th October at Abingdon Town Football Club, 7.45pm kick off.
Your support would be most welcome!
Martin Harries

New Faringdon Sign - 27/10/09

I think it's really boring. Why couldn't we have a row of giant garden gnomes, say, along Park Road as you come into town off the by-pass, each with a different message about the town. Perhaps they could have the faces of notable townspersons or dignitaries. Much more appropriate than a dismal black and white sign. Perhaps they could be made by local artists. I don't think I'd add anything to the sign as it is.....The gnomes could say it all.

name supplied

Faringdon Sign - 27/10/09

Where is it for? What is it for? Do we need even more signage?

If it's really for the roadside, too distracting. As for "King >>>> Alfred woz'ere....." well, was he? Yuk. Cringeworthy

Name Supplied

Regards the clash of dates with Halloween - 26/10/09

- the score at the moment is : Faringdon Fireworks 37 - Folly 2. This is how long each organisation has been holding their event. We (Faringdon 41 Club - ex Round Table members) have always held our event on the Saturday before the 5th and the past years when it clashed in 1981, 1987, 1992, 1998 it has been great to see children in Halloween dress enjoying the firework display. Can the Folly committee also note future years of dates clashing with us will be 2015, 2020, 2026 and 2037. Over the past 37 years we have raised many thousands of pounds and the majority spent locally on good causes. One of the beneficiaries has been the Folly Tower. Records show approximately £2000 being given to them from funds raised at our firework display. One of our more recent donations was the purchase of a new vehicle for Faringdon First Responders.

For someone from the Folly Tower committee to invite people to watch the fireworks from the Folly is frustrating because of course without patronage to our event this annual firework display, like so many will fail. PLEASE SUPPORT US. Faringdon 41 Club.

Name Supplied

Singing Lessons - 26/10/09

Is there anyone in Faringdon that provides singing lessons? I dont want to sing opera, but would like to be able to hold a tune or two.

Please post on here

Thanks

Name Supplied

ED(GW) Do come and join in with Sing Faringdon 3/11/09, Roman Catholic Church, 7pm-8pm, £2

Electric Blanket testing - 26/10/09

	No. OF	No. OF	No. OF	No. OF	No. OF	No. OF
VENUE	BLANKETS	BLANKETS	BLANKETS	BLANKETS	PLUGS	FUSES
	TESTED	PASSED	REPAIRED	FAILED	CHANGED	CHANGED
		WITH NO				
		FAULTS				
Faringdon	50	22	1	27	1	0

This service is carried out by the Fire Service for VWHDC.

VWHDC have said that the owners are advised not to use those found faulty and officers offer to dispose of the dangerous blanket. Depending on their circumstances (and the discretion of the testing officer) they maybe offered a new blanket free of charge or a voucher towards the cost of a new one. I have been told that whilst some of the blanket (that fail) are very old others are quite new.

In The Vale magazine (formerly Community Times In The Vale) is under threat of closure ... - 25/10/09

the recession has hit us hard and we can't afford to keep printing without the support of local businesses advertising with us.

Since 2007 In The Vale has worked hard to promote events and organisations in the local communities of Faringdon, Longcot, Grove, Wantage and surrounding villages and I know a lot of people will miss the magazine if it goes.

As things stand now the December issue will be the last one. If you value In The Vale magazine and want to keep it around, please either advertise your business in it or support those businesses that already do, and let them know you saw them In The Vale!

Thanks :) Alison,
Editor, In The Vale
www.inthevalemagazine.co.uk

New Faringdon sign?? - 25/10/09

<p>What do you think? What would you add?</p>	
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To Tom Allen-Stevens from Wicklesham Lodge Farm - 25/10/09

Sorry to hear your signs are being vandalised. Myself & some friends have a favourite running route along the paths through the farm (my friends are the speedy ones - I am the one who is usually plodding along slowing them down!) & we noticed the new signs so followed them to find out where they led.

It is nice to see this type of welcome initiative, so I hope that you will not be put off by the unfortunate activities of those few dimwits who have small enough brains to think that damaging or destroying your signs shows how clever they are. There are, I am sure, plenty of us locals who appreciate being welcomed into and invited to enjoy our local countryside.

Anne Rogers

Roadworks - 24/10/09

Why couldnt these works have been done all in one go rather than doing the work spasmodically?
Poor planning methinks

Name Supplied

Reply to Stephen - 24/10/09

Many years ago I joined a new RAF squadron. My boss heard me whistling The Harlem Globetrotter's signature tune, Sweet Georgia Brown, and promptly made me Squadron Basketball Officer. I protested that I had never played basketball in my life. He assured me this was no problem as there was no intention of having a Basketball Team. Good luck with your search Stephen
Name Supplied

Roadworks, Gravel Walk - 22/10/09

Just to inform you the road works are back.
We have been advised they will be in operation Friday 23rd October, Saturday, 24th October, Sunday 25th October, Monday 26th October off peak 9.30 am – 3.30 pm.
Back to normal Tuesday 27th October !!!!
This is to carry out necessary remedial works.
Diane

Basketball Team in Faringdon Area? - 23/10/09

Am just wondering if there is an adult team in the area that are looking for players.
Been a while since I played but am itching to start again.
If not would anyone be interested in starting a team?
Not looking for anything too serious just a game or two a week!
Reply through forum if interested or know of anything!
Thanks
Stephen Day

War Memorial Trust Remembrance Exhibition - 21/10/09

The War Memorial Trust and the Royal British Legion will be holding an exhibition of war time memorabilia in the Old Town Hall to reflect how wars have impacted on local families.
If you have any memorabilia that you would like to share with others please bring it to the Faringdon Town Council offices between 9:00 and 12:30, Monday to Friday, before Thursday, 5th November.

Any precious items that you may think to be too valuable to exhibit can be photocopied and the Trust will take care to return original items to their owners.
The exhibition will be open from 10:00 until 4:00 on the 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th November and after the ceremonies on Sunday 8th and Wednesday 11th until 1:00 pm.
Any volunteers who would like to help in manning the exhibition should contact the Council Offices on 01367 240281.
Mike Wise, Town Mayor

Whats On pages on this site - 21/10/09

I spend quite a bit of time keeping <http://faringdon.org/nvwhatson.htm> up to date, and after many years quite a few event organisers send me their information (Thankyou, I wish there were more).
Other events I pick up from posters or the local press.

I'm happy to do this but have no idea if people look at that part of the site?
DO YOU??
Please let me know
genewebb@rocketmail.com

Talking Points and Whats on - 21/10/09

I think Gene does a great job at running Talking Points and it seems to me that if an event at a local pub is a talking point then it should, quite rightly, be included.

The What's On and the Faringdon Advertiser both give information free of charge to the reader and most current and future events can be found on the events page of www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk.

Lets use every opportunity to promote and support events in and around our Town.

Nick Elwell

Ed(GW) Anyone who has tried getting the word around about events in the town know how difficult it is - so I think the more ways there are, the better. I wish we had a big event notice board in the Market Square(like they have at Witney)

Please can you help?

I am trying to find out about the mural room in The Bell Hotel for someone, and so far am drawing a blank (pun not intended!).

I have found out that it was painted in 1969, but the lady wants to know who painted it, and where one of the views in particular is from.

Most of them are fairly obvious local landmarks - Folly Tower, White Horse Hill etc.

I have already done some research, but any more information would be gratefully received.

Please contact: Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre, Corn Exchange, Corn Market, Faringdon. SN7 7JA or phone 01367 242191

Police Presence - 20/10/09

I dont think the police presence in Faringdon is there to stop people having a good time in their pubs .I think they are there to help prevent and deal with troublemakers .

Of course they should be dealing with anti social behaviour from teenagers too.

Diane Huddle

Reference Mike Perks phone scam (16/10/09) - 21/10/09.

Mike, promise it wasn't me!

Nick Elwell

President: Faringdon Chamber of Commerce

Good Boy, Colin - 20/10/09

I'm delighted that you clear up after yourself.

I hope you also clear up after your dog

Name Supplied

Never mind dog walking - 20/10/09

Never mind dog walking in the grave yards, how about moving the untimely, obnoxious, rude, arrogant, foul mouthed youths who hang around in the town square and outside the shops and the take aways? Im a 26 year old male, who I would say is quite steet wise, find it lets say uncomfortable when I come across these scally. If I feel uncomfortable about these youths, I wonder how, lets say for example a middle aged female, feels when they cross paths with them?

I feel this is quite an important issue of the town. Never mind the music in a couple of places a couple of times a year, or the odd pub staying open for a few late drinks, or as I mentioned earlier the TRIVIA of someone walking their dog while visiting the grave yard!!

Over the last few months there has been an increase of police presence in the town, but this is mainly to stop people

having a good time in their boozers.

My suggestion is, rather than the local constabulary turning up in the town at 11.30pm and checking the pubs, try coming out around 2pm/4pm/6pm and show yourselves to these kids!!

What is everyone else's opinion???

Name Supplied

Dogs in the Graveyard - 20/10/09

Did the person who was so incensed by the graveyard dog-walker actually see the dogs messing? Or see any dog mess there?

I too sometimes walk my dog through the graveyard, in Coach Lane after we have been walking elsewhere. She has never made a mess there. Rather more upsetting to me than dog-walkers was the theft of a beautiful Christmas wreath from my son's grave a year or so ago.

name supplied

Re To my amazement... - 20/10/09

What is wrong with walking a dog around a graveyard???????????

Nothing if you are a responsible dog owner AND clear up after yourself.

Why no fuss about the many young folk who migrate to the Churchyard and get up to whatever young folk get up to.

No mention of them.

Why should one section of the community be excluded from an open space because they happen to have a 4 legged companion.

Sorry, but get a life, you are a long time dead!

Colin

CAMPSOLL - 20/10/09

Looking for somewhere to send your kids during half term?

Faringdon Leisure Centre will be holding its normal Camp Soll from Monday until Friday.

Open to any children from 5 years up.

Monday is an extra special day next week with indoor go-karts coming in for an hour at no extra cost.

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Call on 01367 241755 or contact me on dmorrell@sol-leisure.co.uk to book your space

Dog's In Churchyards - 20/10/09

I often walk my dog through the Coach Lane graveyard when I visit the grave of my Dad. I never allow my dog to make a mess and he is always on a lead.

I've never seen any dogs mess there but often see bottles and cans.

I hope the actions of a few bad dog owners don't give all of us a bad name.

I find comfort in visiting Dad's grave, and my dog was much loved by him.

Name Supplied

Witnessess ?.. Fat chance ! - 20/10/09

Many of us have grown up with a fear of the totalitarian states led by such as Stalin, Hitler, Mao Tze Tung and Che Guevara. Under these reigns of terror friends "reported" on friends, neighbours on neighbours and even children on parents.

At school we were brainwashed by such as Billy Bunter and William Brown into believing that "Sneaking" was despicable.

Among the criminal classes "Grassing" is still regarded as a sin !

So for Tom Allen-Stevens or the person whose car was vandalised expecting anyone to report the offenders is a non starter.

There are three main reasons for this reluctance.

1...It just isn't British.

2...It requires a certain amount of intestinal fortitude.

3...If the police catch the offenders the courts will probably be lenient because the said offenders had a deprived background, or were drunk and didn't mean any harm, or were considered to be above the law such as Footballers, Pop Stars or Members of Parliament.

So what can "Normal" Faringdonians do about it?

In my opinion "Damn all" except be consoled by the fact that there are over 6000 Faringdonians and probably only about 1% are in the mindless slob category. We can even hope that eventually some of their friends may have doubts about the cleverness of such cowardly anti-social actions

Name Supplied

To my amazement... - 19/10/09

The local All saints churchyard is now a regular DOG TOILET exercise area.....

How discusted was I when walking passed to see not one ..but three dog owners walking their dogs in the local graveyard

If you cant be bothered to walk a dog ..DONT HAVE ONE....

Is it me or is the town going to the dogs !!!!

Name Supplied

Car damage in Coach Lane - 19/10/09

Is this the layby by the boneyard in Coach Lane? Understood that to be for VISITORS to the remains of the departed. Serves you right then.

Nevertheless, not a nice thing to have done to your car. But, if you want to steal fuel why not just drive off with false plates. I do it all the time.

S Moss

Witness or informant appeal for car damage - 18/10/09

My petrol tank was stabbed with a screwdriver last Sunday night, while the car was parked in the Coach Lane layby. Perhaps £20 worth of fuel stolen but £420 worth of damage, more than my car was worth.

Did anyone see or know of the person who could have committed such an awkward, unrewarding, antisocial and dangerous crime? Please call the police (0845 850 5505) or Crimestoppers (0800 555 111).

This is pretty minor compared with the recent burglaries, but seems safe to assume whoever did it is not a first-time criminal, so any information reported could be more widely useful.

Name Supplied

Missing - much loved cats - 17/10/09

Please keep a look out for two missing cats from the Bromsgrove area.

Pumpkin - tubby tabby with a white mouth/chin, missing since Wednesday 14th October.

Please contact Lynne on 242545.

Pebbie - mainly grey with white/peach coloured markings.

Missing since Thursday 15th October. Please contact Sarah on 07795 034 843.

We'd appreciate you checking your sheds and outbuildings. Many thanks

Faringdon has just won THE National Market Towns Award - 17/10/09

- for its ECOWEEK event last June !

Not bad considering that there are just over 1600 eligible market towns

And now - to the tune of "I am the very model of a modern Major-General" I would like you to sing :
Ecoweek is really something that is quite extraordinary,
It's friendly and it's neighbourly and makes a green community,
We learn from one another so we benefit each other,
As we all do strive to live our lives a little more sustainably!

Here's extracts from the official press release: "The winner of the prestigious National Market Towns Award is an innovative eco-project in Faringdon, Oxfordshire.

The winner was announced yesterday (Tuesday October 13) at the Action for Market Towns Convention in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire." "ECOWEEK was a project aimed at moving Faringdon to a smaller and more sustainable footprint. 2,300 people enjoyed 33 separate low-carbon events, from visits to hi-tech plasma waste facilities to tours of low-tech allotments. The local community ate ecoburgers, cycled into the summer solstice, and even broke a world record for hugging a wind turbine along the way! ECOWEEK involved the whole community - from birdwatchers right through to bread-baking watermill lovers."

"Announcing the winner, the judges said they felt it was 'a multi-faceted project which motivated and involved the whole community' and that the Faringdon team deserved national recognition for all their hard work and positive outcomes.

" MANY thanks to all those who helped make ECOWEEK a success!
Sjoerd

Vandalism - 17/10/09

Can anyone explain why the signs we've put up around our farm at Wicklesham are being vandalised?

We took the step in April, because there are many people in Faringdon who enjoy the circular walks through the farm, but we realised the footpaths and bridleways were not very well signposted. We were also keen to ensure those with dogs respect the needs of ground-nesting birds, since we've made huge progress in recent years developing habitats and increasing the biodiversity of the farm.

I'd hope the signs we've used are informative and polite. We've opened up a couple of nature trails and welcome those who want to enjoy what we reckon are some of the best bits of the farm.

But quite a few of the signs have been ripped up and tossed into hedgerows, or deliberately broken. I simply don't understand why. I'm not sure whether there was a perception that there was a right to roam at Wicklesham, and we're now constraining that. Or is someone upset at our attempts to welcome more people to Wicklesham? If we knew, we could address the situation.

If anyone has information, please come forward, either anonymously or in person. We've spent a lot of time, money and effort trying to make Wicklesham an even more enjoyable place to walk, without jeopardising its wildlife value. We're happy to put more into it, but can't warrant it if there's a minority that's keen to scupper our plans.

Tom Allen-Stevens
Wicklesham Lodge Farm

Dance at the Jam Club - 16/10/09

With all these exercise and dance events being advertised why not come along to the Jam Club at the Corn Exchange Faringdon on Friday 6th Nov and get the Cajun dance experience.
Dance to a Cajun Band and meet other people who already enjoy Cajun music.
Cajun music originates from the Arcadian people in Canada but has its roots firmly in Louisiana U.S.A. the entrance for this event is free and the doors open 8pm.

There is also a low cost bar with alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks on sale

www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Sam Prince

Mounted Police in the Market Square - 16/10/09

Some years ago, two mounted police, (Tim Dunning and Colin Gibbard from memory) rode around the town in full Victorian police Uniform.

When I asked why they were both on horseback that day, I was given the reply: "To prove that Faringdon is not a One Horse Town"

I rather miss those two!

Mike Perks

Phone scams: For amusement - 16/10/09

I just had a call from "The Chamber of Commerce" re the new EU directory they are sending out - could they have the Directors name please?

Why says I?

"Because it's the law" he says.

Me: Which chamber of commerce are you?

"Faringdon",

Oh says I, and who is in charge there?

"I am"

Who's you I ask,

"Nick Smith" (with a Manchester accent)

If you are from Faringdon CoC you know my name says I

The poor love then hung up.

So sad, I was beginning to enjoy myself!

Mike Perks

Annoying Clash of Events - 16/10/09

While understanding the frustrations of the writers pointing out that the firework display clashes with the Folly Tower Halloween Opening, please note that the Firework Display is not organised by Faringdon Rotary Club, but by The 41 Club - a separate organisation.

Faringdon Rotary Club is this year helping the Faringdon Retailers to organise Lights On on 28th November with Father Christmas and Thomas The Tank Engine making an appearance.

Rodney Benson, Faringdon Rotary Club

Recent burglaries - 16/10/09

On Sunday the 4th October between 7pm and 10pm some one saw fit to enter my home and help them selves to my personal belongings while I was away being taken care of and given some respite after being involved in a serious car accident. Those of you who know me know that these two incidents have been just the very tip of the iceberg for me in recent months. Not that I expect that anyone who can reconcile breaking into another's home and taking their hard earned possessions for their own personal gain, would be bothered by another's personal circumstances or misfortunes. Or that this should make me any less of a consideration to these 'people' than anyone else who has worked hard for what they have. Wrong is wrong.

Apart from feeling a need to fight back, my reasons for making this entry are threefold:

I wish to make as many people as possible aware that the two young men who were arrested for 11 burglaries in Faringdon in the last three months, were apparently not responsible for mine, and there has been another burglary since mine - since their arrest. On this occasion another flat screen TV was taken and some jewellery. Everyone

should be aware that houses in Faringdon are still being broken into and possessions stolen.

Willes Close and Westland Road so far this month.

I also wish to offer a reward of £100 to anyone who has information which leads to the return of my 42" LG LCD flat screen TV. (They also took the remote (!) so it should not be taken for granted that a TV or any other equipment is 'above board' because it is complete.) I do not wish to go into great detail here but due to my increasing misfortune this past year, I had no contents insurance cover (stupid I know, Hein sight is a wonderful thing), and this was just about the last of my luxuries. I cannot afford to replace it and my children and I would quite like to have it back. Call it retrospective insurance.

Finally, if I am to believe in human nature, then I am to believe that people of this nature could not possibly have earned the favour and loyalty of true friends, and I'm sure several someone's in Faringdon know who is breaking into people's homes and where those stolen items are going. Hopefully an incentive may help to finally have them caught. I for one would like to see this happen so that I can feel safe to leave my house, and safe to go to bed!

Also, as an aside, I'm told that it is very common for the burglars to return to the same house within a few weeks of the first break in as they can then collect the new items supplied by the insurance company! Should you read this, hopefully it is now abundantly clear that it would be a complete waste of time for you to return to my home ..you already have the last of anything of any value.

Anyone who may have information about these latest burglaries, or my TV, should contact Thames Valley Police Tel: 08458 505 505, or Abingdon Police Station, who are aware that I am offering a reward.
Name Supplied

Poetry Event at Wootton Bassett - 15/10/09

Sue Chad, winner of the 2008 Faringdon poetry competition has sent me details of a poetry evening at Wootton Bassett on Thursday 22nd October 7 - 9pm. Gloucestershire 1000 Poet Laureate supported by a number of other local poets including Sue, will be taking part.

Places are limited - please ring the Wootton Bassett library on 01793 853249 to book.

HT

Fireworks Clash - 15/10/09

I don't suppose that it has crossed anyone's mind that the people doing the fireworks can only fit in that date. I do not know if the rotary fire them or if its someone else, but what I do know is that many companies are booked between Halloween and nov 11th.
Name Supplied

October Half Term Dance workshops - 14/10/09

Monday 26th Oct 10am til 2pm for ages 7 - 10.
Tuesday 27th Oct 10am til 2pm for ages 11 - 14.
Faringdon Junior School, main hall.

These workshops will cover contemporary, musical theatre/jazz and freestyle/street dance styles. All abilities welcome.

A great chance to have some fun and learn some new dance skills along the way.

For more details please feel free to call Kealy Whenray on 07920776529 or email on kealywhenray@hotmail.co.uk.

Faringdon Artistic Skaters return from Cup of Europe in Portugal. - 14/10/09

Fantastic results for our Great Britain Skaters.

Ben Timbrell 3rd in the Long Program and 4th overall.
Georgina Howe Skated to 16th and beating our current ladies champion.
CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH

We welcome back to Faringdon Artistic Skate Club Tamara and Nathaniel Williams

10 skaters from Faringdon will be taking part in the Tiptree Competition on 1st November
Good Luck to them all
Dee England

Dog Mess. - 13/10/09

I walked into the town centre today with my two year old but when I got home I found that he had picked up some dog poo on the soles of his shoes. Luckily I noticed before he had had the chance to get his shoes off and transfer the said poo onto his hands.

What is it about these irresponsible dog owners, why can't they clear up after their animals ?

If anyone has spotted a dog fouling the footpath then please let me have the address of the owner and I will happily return the compliment and deliver some of my son's nappy contents to their letterbox.
Name Supplied

Looking for web research participants - 13/10/09

Bunnyfoot Ltd based on the Harwell Campus at Chilton (OX11 0QG) are looking for web research participants for hour-long sessions taking place during the daytime on either Monday 19th or Tuesday 20th October 2009.
Payment is £30 cash.

Participants will be required to take a look at a website relating to money disputes.

If the description below sounds like you, or like anyone you know living in the area, please apply to take part (or ask them to apply) by completing the survey at the end of this
Money dispute – you are currently (or have recently been) in dispute with someone or a company over money they say you owe to them, or over money you are claiming they owe you
Your computer and internet experience is fairly basic – you use it for emailing and for a little research, but don't shop online or use the internet every day
You don't have access to a computer at home, so use a public computer or a friend or relative's computer when required (this is preferable, but not essential)
Personality – your personality traits may include you being reactionary, anti-authoritarian or insecure
Occupation – you are long term unemployed
Income – you rely on benefits to keep you going whilst you're out of work
Education – you left school with little or no qualifications
Literacy level – low to medium
Relationships – cohabiting, no children (again, this is preferable, but not essential)

Link to the survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=37ipXIOB_2bffVFuVjRdJP_2fg_3d_3d

Please note that Bunnyfoot fully comply with the data protection act, 1998, and will never disclose any information you provide to any third parties.

Events at The Crown - 13/10/09

I think its fantastic that The Crown are using the message board especially as not everyone always checks the Whats On

On that note - Mr Tyla, this time with his Dogs are making a welcome return to the Faringdon music scene on Sat 28 Nov at The Crown to help celebrate (not clash with) festive Faringdon.
He'll also be ably supported on the night by Mr Tommy Hale all the way from Dallas.
As well as fantastic acoustic and electric sets the night will also be the launch party for his new double CD (Bloody

Hellfire)

Tickets and more information as always from Hamish (07879 418969 / fbpromotions@tiscali.co.uk)

Hamish

Ed(GW) I would rather people looked at the Whatson - I do work hard at keeping it upto date.

I'm happy to promote significant events in Talking Points - ideally with a bit of blurb to expand on the basic info given in Whatson

In reply to Sarah 28/9 - 12/10/09

I am an Avon Sales Leader & can help you out.

Please give me a call on 07740427529 or e-mail me on Bevsavon@hotmail.co.uk

Look forward to hearing from you soon

Thanks Bev

Annoying clash of events - 12/10/09

What better place to watch the firework display than from the top of the Folly Tower? Spectacular view and cheaper too!

Great planning if you ask me!

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) There were more than 200 visitors to the tower last year - a bit of a squash on the top!!

Mounted Police in the Market Square - 12/10/09

How good is that? I've not seen them in town before.

Apparently it's to increase awareness of police presence given the increase in burglaries recently

Also on Thursday the neighbourhood police will be in the square also to increase their visibility and be able to advise on crime prevention

More ways to get fitter - 12/10/09

Got a passion for jogging?

Do you live in the Vale? Do you have a passion for jogging? Could you help others find that passion? Get Oxfordshire Active is looking for motivated individuals to lead local jogging groups for adults of all fitness levels. No qualifications are required - just bags of enthusiasm, motivation and a like for socialising. Jogging is a great way to get fit. It's free to do, and easy to fit around your lifestyle.

All the training and support is provided by GO Active in collaboration with the Vale of White Horse District Council, and leads to a qualification in jogging and fitness, and comprehensive insurance to lead jog groups is included.

For more information on how to become a jog leader contact Anna Capel-Davies on 01235 540377 or email

anna.capel-davies@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Jazzercise

Starting Monday 19th at Faringdon Community College, 7pm
and Thursdays, 7pm

www.witneyfitness.co.uk

01993 891444

Tell the PCT what you think about our out of hours GP service - 12/10/09

I've heard quite a few people comment on the need to go to Witney to see a dr when our health centre is closed- for some people it is difficult to get there and for everyone quite a long journey.

Now the Primary Care Trust is seeking views on the Urgent Care services they provide - Out of Hours, emergency dentist, pharmacies, minor injury units.

Read more on our [Talking Health pages](#) and/or click on email to Urgentcare.feedback@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk or via the Online form on www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk

I completed the online form - but it restricts what you can say- I suggest using email. But remember to tell them you're from Faringdon, and say if you want to be kept informed

Lets inundate the PCT so they cannot fail to hear the strength of opinion from Faringdon

Gene Webb

Annoying clash of events - 12/10/09

I totally agree with the other people on this forum that the rotary club have made a big mistake choosing to have their bonfire and fireworks display on saturday 31st october, a full 5 days before the 5th nov.

Given the large variety of events going on in Faringdon on the evening of halloween including the popular spooky folly tower, I believe saturday the 7th of november would have been a better date. If the numbers of spectators are down this time compared to previous years, they only have themselves to blame.

G Fawkes

Annoying clash of events - 11/10/09

I agree with the comments about Faringdon Fireworks - we have attended this event for years with our family. What on earth has possessed the organisers to arrange it for the weekend before Bonfire Night and on Halloween of all nights?!

This event is normally one of the true highlights of the Faringdon Calendar, it's a fabulous display and an awful lot is put into its organisation.

It's such a shame the date wasn't a little more carefully thought through as there are bound to be a large amount of people who will opt for events in surrounding villages the following weekend instead.

Name Supplied

Annoying clash of events - 11/10/09

How annoying that the Rotary Club has arranged their firework display on the night of Halloween - 5 days before Bonfire Night

It clashes with the Halloween at the Folly Tower on 31st

Surely it could have been possible to avoid this

Thank goodness Fernham Fireworks are on Friday 6th and Fireworks at Ferendune on Thursday 5th - so it will still be possible for families to be able to go to fireworks and Halloween at the Folly

Name Supplied

Macmillan Tea Party - 9th October

We made £400 today at our MacMillan Tea Party. Thanks to everyone who helped, baked cakes and came and supported the event

Name Supplied

Getting rid of Ivy - 9/10/09

I struggled for ages to get rid of ivy in my garden, but then found the secret extra ingredient for effective weedkilling: Fairy Liquid.

I now use Roundup with Fairy Liquid in a spray and it works brilliantly. The Fairy Liquid helps the weedkiller penetrate the oily leaves. Without the detergent the weedkiller just drips off the leaves.

The foam also gives a good indication of what has been sprayed.

John Gillman

Dear Ed - 6/10/09- 8/10/09

is this really the place for the Crown to placing ads for birthday parties poker nights etc surely the correct place for them to advertise is on the whats on page not as I mentioned on this page where they get free coverage of forthcoming events.

Name Supplied

Mail Strike - 8/10/09

"Staff at the Thames Valley Mail Centre at Swindon will also be taking action on Friday 9th October, affecting the processing of mail for the SN postcode." Friday 9th October:

All collections will be made as usual except in the SN1-7 postcode areas where they will be limited.

All deliveries will take place as usual Business customers in affected areas are advised that when their collections are disrupted, they can take their mail to any Post Office or to the centre shown below to get mail into our network:

Thames Valley Mail Centre, Rowland Hill Close, Wheatstone Road, SWINDON, SN3 5TQ

Recent burglaries - 2 young men from Faringdon on remand - 7/10/09

This is a good news message regarding 11 burglaries which all took place overnight in Faringdon since the end of August.

2 young men have been charged with 7 burglaries, with 4 taken into account, one with driving with no insurance and no licence and the other with criminal damage.

The burglaries took place at Century Close, Berners Way, Nursery View, Coxwell Road, Lansdown Road, Meadow Bank and Marines Drive in Faringdon.

There were also burglaries at Van Diemens and Glebe Road in Stanford in the Vale.

Both offenders have been remanded.

If you want to be kept in touch with police issues for Faringdon, sign up on [TVPcommunity messaging site](#)

Huge thankyou - 7/10/09

I would like to express a huge thank you to all the people who have bravely modelled in the Catwalk Fashions Shows for Cariad Bride at Sudbury House Hotel and Four Pillars Cotswold Water Park during the past few weeks.

They are Caroline Ride, Jo Ride, Tara Whenray, Laura Monticelli, Hannah Crook, Kirsty Barradell, Leanne, David Lund, Matthew Curtis, Gary Sutton, Paul Kelly, Mike Kelly, Peter Ride, Adi Barradell and Ben Henley.

Thanks also to Charlie, Lynne & David for backstage support, sound and compering services. Your efforts are much appreciated. Without your continued support these shows would not happen and as we are unable to get any coverage in the Folly newspaper I felt this would be the best place to register my appreciation to you all.

Many thanks too for all those from Faringdon who come along to watch.

It is heartening to see so many people supporting a local independent business.

Sue Geldard

Cariad Bride

How do I kill ivy in the garden? - 7/10/09

Does anybody have any idea how I can kill with maximum effect the ivy that is creeping through from next doors garden and is damaging my fence?

Any ideas anyone please.

Colin

Too many police- 6/10/09

The majority of the people on this site worry about 'fake police' and 'traffic violations'

We live in a town that doesn't mean every time you walk to the shops to get some items you aren't abused or threatened by youths. Crime isn't massive in this area meaning that the police station isn't needed to be manned 24/7 or a squad car is needed to be permanently deployed over here.

If you feel this is the case why not get onto Thames Valley about it, make a petition, Band together and write a hurtful letter but please...Don't keep going on about it...If you don't agree with people parking on double yellows, Don't do it? If you don't like the PCSO's in faringdon don't respond when they say hello (which they do without fail every time)
Name Supplied

Too many police? - 6/10/09

If the person who recently complained about the number of police in the town on Sunday is the same person who has complained about the police before on 'talking points' then I suspect there's nothing they will ever be able to do to please him/her.

I think policing of the town has improved, particularly since the introduction of community support officers who, presumably, name supplied refers to as "pretend police".

Name Supplied

Poker @ The Old Crown - 6/10/09

Poker Night, every Wednesday from 8pm.

£5 entry for each game.

Sports Bar Friendly competition and no experience necessary.

Contact: The Old Crown 01367 242744 or Olly Reed 079162843984 for more information

Too many police? - 5/10/09

On this site the police are frequently criticised for their lack of presence. I've done it myself.

Now some whinger is complaining because there are too many.

I know which I prefer!

Name supplied

Neighbourhood Watch - 5/10/09

I think there are some schemes within Faringdon, but maybe all streets are not yet covered.

Neighbourhood Watch (in some areas known as Home Watch), is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention schemes ever. It is based on simple ideas and values that are shared by many people around the country: 'Getting together with your neighbours to reduce local crime and disorder in the bid to make your neighbourhood a safe and better place to live, work and play'.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing crime – it is about building community spirit and good relations. It brings local people closer together with common goals; to tackle crime and disorder and to keep an eye on each other's property

Perhaps we should try and get more schemes going in Faringdon to help combat what appears to be a growing crime wave.

If you're interested contact Clare on 01235 556957 clare.stroud@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
More information on the [My Neighbourhood watch website](#)

You can also get crime reduction advice from Roger Foster 01235 556611 as well as a Free Advice pack from 0800 456 1213

Too many police - 4/10/09

Well I have now seen it all on Sunday eve.

A lad damages the Town Hall with a football, So "PRETEND" police arrive, then say you will have to give your statement to the proper police. So they arrive in 2 cars 25 minutes later. The lad is taken away without a problem.

Tell me does it take 3 proper police and 2 pretend police to deal with this problem. If you ask me its just a waste of council tax money.

Name Supplied

Anyone interested in Sword Dancing? - 4/10/09

Sword Dancing is a traditional form of English dance. It is the north eastern equivalent to the Cotswold Morris that you may know of. Unlike the "cotwold" it would normally have been a winter dance, now dance all year around. The swords are held and pattern maid, usually finishing with a "lock" or "nut" The rapper dance is normally done with 5 men, and the Yorkshire Longsword with a minimum of 6.

I have been dancing both forms, as well as the Cotswold Morris, since 1965, but have only moved to Faringdon in June.

If you are interested please contact me on 01367 241180, or slparker@fsmail.net

There is not a set date or venue yet as that would need to be worked out with anybody showing interest.

Steve Parker

Fireworks clash with Halloween - 3/10/09

i would just like to say i am disappointed to find out the fire work display and the halloween night at the folly are both on the same night!! and the same time which shows very poor planning.

i would like to go to both but will now have to pick!!

please in future can the ex round table people not hold the firework display on halloween and actually have it on or after nov 5th!!

Name Supplied

ED(GW) Fernham have fireworks on 6th Nov

Use it or lose it - 2/10/09

The Vale of White Horse District Council runs Housing and Council Tax Benefit surgeries in Faringdon to help local people. These services are currently under threat due to lack of support. District councillor, Matthew Barber, has secured a reprieve for the surgeries. He has argued that more work should be done to promote them locally before abandoning them.

The next surgery is on 29th October at the Pump Rooms, 9.30-12noon.

Details are advertised on <http://www.faringdon.org/nvwhatson.htm>

Cllr Barber said, "Clearly if people don't want or need this service then there is no justification for keeping it, but we have a second chance to publicise it more widely".

Fundraising for the New Heart Centre in Oxford - 2/10/09

I would like to Thank many people in Faringdon who have Sponsored me in the last 3 weeks I have raised over

£1,000 pounds.

My Special Thanks go to Omar at Cost Cutter, Ian at Faringdon Autoparts and Trevor at the Nut Tree for there generous support.

I am walking on October 18th in It's not just a walk in the park in Aid of the new Oxford Heart Centre. I would like to raise £5,000 pounds

If you would like to take part please see the posters in many locations round town.

If you would like to make a donation please visit my just giving page. Judith Timber.or e-mail me at judith.timber@btinternet.com

Do you listen to Jack fm 106.8 ? if so listen to hear me on the trailers from next week in Support of the Oxford Radcliffe Appeal, to hear why this cause is so important to me.

Thanks for all your good wishes

Judith Timber

Evacuee wanted. - 1/10/09

An evacuee 1939/45 who would be willing to share memories and adventures with school children in Stanford.

The date has yet to be arranged but transport is available.

Please contact Val at: tic@faringdowntowncouncil.org.uk

Young Blood - 1/10/09

Just a quick note to say how good it was to see so many students from the Community College giving blood on Wednesday.

Fantastic. Keep it up.

Nick Elwell

Calling all SOLL Swim School parents - 29/11/09

For those of you who have children on the SOLL Swim School at Faringdon Leisure Centre please be aware that next week (30th - 5th) is re-enrolment week.

Please make sure you re-book your children on during this period or there is a risk your space may be lost! For those who are looking to start swimming we have "open enrolments" starting on 7th December.

If you would like to find out more about SOLL Swim School please email me dmorrell@soll-leisure.co.uk

Thanks Dave

Tyla gig on sat night. - 29/11/09

Two excellent bands. Nice one Hamish. Could never happen at The Corn Exchange. I thought the corn Exchange was a community hall, pity it only serves a particular section of the community. Something not quite right there.

Sam Prince

Local transport consultation - 28/11/09

HT and Gene Webb are spot on. It is ridiculous that there are no buses between Faringdon and Witney. At Witney and Wantage there are x-ray units and other hospital services- we can only get there by car.

We pay our Council Tax to the Vale at Abingdon - but we no longer have Vale officials to deal with questions in Faringdon. re Shopping - we have a very limited range of shops here - and sadly getting fewer - while Witney now has many new ones e.g. M and S and Debenhams - which do not greatly compete with our local shops - and a cinema.

Our transport situation makes us the poor relation of other local towns. The new homes being built should give us more frequent buses between Oxford and Swindon. But we shall still be cut off from other nearer towns. The missing buses affect employment opportunities, medical care, shopping etc. Faringdon deserves better.

Margaret Barker

Flashing Santa.... ? - 28/11/09

A Flashing Santa? Ho, Ho, Ho!.....Surely, you jest!

name supplied

Flashing Santa - 28/11/09

I'm sure many local residents are waiting with great anticipation to see what we're having illuminated on top of the Folly Tower this year.

How about a flashing Santa?

Whatever it is, I'm sure it will be appreciated by many.

name supplied

Transport Survey - 28/11/09

Having looked at the transport consultation document (You have to register first) I was interested to see that so far there are only two suggestions in the 'Long List' of schemes, that are for Faringdon. These are solely to do with cycle lanes.

In this context, this document - [The VWH Local Transport Plan 2006-2011](#) makes interesting reading.

Here are some quotes (my formatting) :

**The Vale Community Strategy was developed by the Vale Strategic Partnership.
The main issues relevant to this Plan are:**

***Transport** - the most frequently identified priorities for action in the consultation exercise were:
bus services and linkages with community transport services;
traffic congestion;
improved and expanded cycle tracks;
improved road maintenance;
greater consultation to ensure a more systematic and co-ordinated transport system and parking provision.

Access to services – some of the priorities identified under this strand were also relevant to transport including more local access points.

Delivering Accessibility

Accessibility mapping has shown that much of Oxfordshire shares broadly similar accessibility characteristics, particularly with regard to rural bus accessibility. The **notable exceptions** in the Vale of White Horse are:

Faringdon suffers from particularly poor access to healthcare; and Many of those living in the south west of the district look towards Swindon for their needs.

Healthcare

All of the district is within 25 minutes and about half within 10 minutes of a hospital by car.

By bus, only about 25% have access of under 60 minutes. In general access to hospitals is poorer than to other facilities reflecting the concentration of provision in the Oxford and in Banbury.

Faringdon in particular suffers from poor access. "

The population of the town has grown since this report was formulated. It is set to grow more.

There are many more elderly here who will increasingly need access to healthcare and services. That many older people no longer wish or will be able to drive does not yet seem to have been addressed within this latest list. Improved cycle routes cannot be bad, but given also that most of the working population commute to and from their workplaces by car, I would guess that cycling is mainly a leisure activity, so should it take priority over such items as better frequency and links for public transport.?

I have completed the survey - but now that after a public consultation exercise the Market Place 'improvements' have actually reduced convenient short term free parking and increased the traffic congestion, confusion and inconvenience in the town centre, in spite of the 'strategy' (see quote under Transport*) above, I have doubts as to the value of these public consultations.

HT

Mammoth and the Drum - 28/11/09

We have just been into The Dacoit studios in Great Coxwell and recorded three tracks of our first album (as yet untitled - release date early spring 2010). If you want to hear what we are about then listen to what we do on www.myspace.com/mammothdrum

Thank you

Sean

Local Transport Consultation - 28/11/09

Please give your views on the Local Transport Consultation

See ***The Local Transport Plan 2011- 2030 Consultation pages***

<http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/LTPconsultation3/consultationHome>
on Oxfordshire County Council Site.

It's our opportunity to suggest transport improvements in Faringdon (we're in the small town list)

Currently the only suggestions for Faringdon are for more cycle lanes - good but what about:

Buses, parking, speeding, road conditions?

Please add your views, unless things are added to the strategy, it will be really difficult to get improvements.

For what it's worth my suggestions are:

- More frequent bus service between Faringdon and Oxford and Swindon
- More buses in the evenings as above
- Regular bus service between Faringdon and Witney
- More frequent bus service between Faringdon and Wantage
- Occasional bus service between Faringdon and Abingdon
- Free parking at certain times in Faringdon

Because:

Faringdon's secondary care health services are provided from Oxford, Witney and Swindon, currently it is either difficult or impossible to get to these places without a car/taxi.

Better public services are needed to encourage people to use their cars less (pollution/climate change).

VWHDCs strategy has been to reduce the amount of parking for residents to encourage them to use public services.

But the public services are inadequate

Free parking will attract shoppers into the town (improved viability) and discourage illegal on street parking.

This also has an impact on the safety of in town cycling

I forgot about opening the station at Challow (it has to be asked for however unlikely) and to point out that the population of Faringdon is growing (£10k by 2020?)

Gene Webb

Portwell Bar - 27/11/09

Great opening night on Friday - wish you every success with your venture, and how good to see the historic Portwell House restored

HT

Jumble Sale - 27/11/09

the contact number for the jumble sale is 240130 if you havnt already found it thanks

darrell thomas

Village Lost and Found - 27/11/09

Further to Jim Horton's post about the book on Hinton Waldrist by Brian May we are happy to advise that 2 copies are held in Faringdon Library stock. One copy is available for loan and the other is for reference only therefore there will always be a copy in the Library if anyone wishes to have a look. Both books come with stereoscopic viewing glasses
Regards

.Faringdon Library

Word! - 26/11/09

I have noticed a very offensive word in the centre of the town (where you would sit and wait for a bus).I do not know if it has been removed , but it has been there for weeks .

Diane Huddle

Ed (HT) *If you are you are talking of graffiti...report it here*
http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/website/report_it.asp?formTypeCode=GRF

Shop closures. - 26/11/09

There is a famous tennis player one of his best known sayings was "You cannot be serious" there is such a thing as a recession and there have been redundancies and reduction of working hours. In short there is not the money to go around. Take a walk around the town on a Friday or Saturday night, that is a reflection of the times in Faringdon

Sam Prince

Jumble sale info? - 26/11/09

After having one of those pre-christmas clear out, i have some toys that are too good to throw away and would like to donate them to the giant jumble sale on saturday, does anyone know who i should contact with this matter?

Laura

Shop Closures - 26/11/09

I noticed this morning that both the shoe shop and the "cheap" shop opposite have notices in the window to say that they are closing down. I think they are run by the same person.
It's always a shame when local shops close, especially the cheap shop which has been very useful.
However does anyone know what's brought this on ? The cheap shop was recently "refitted" so it doesn't look as if this was planned. Hopefully someone else will take the shops on.

name supplied

The Portwell House Cellar - 25/11/09

The Portwell House Cellar selling real ales and whiskys Has been open over the weekends for the last month or so and has been home to the Faringdon Conker Championships, The Faringdon Real Ale Society (who are visiting again on thursday 26th to test the four real ales on tap. Henceforth, the cellar will be open from 7.00pm to 11.00pm and for lunch on Fridays and Sundays. The Portwell Angel has enjoyed a "soft opening" this week. The "full on" opening day will be Saturday 28th November (Festive Faringdon and French Market day). The Portwell Angel opens at 9.00am (or earlier) for coffee, pastries and light meals and stays open until 11.00pm or later as appropriate, every day.

Nick Elwell

New Youth Centre - 25/11/09

The new Youth Centre looks great! Can't wait to start using it and I look > forward to being involved. :)

Grace

A VILLAGE LOST AND FOUND. - 25/11/09

Just thought you would like to know that Brian May,(rock god, and all > round nice guy) has published a stereoscopic photo book of Hinton > Waldrist, from the original stereo photos of T.R Williams from the 1850s. > Absolutly

fascinating, check it out.

Jim Horton

Festive Faringdon - 25/11/09

Yes festive faringdon Saturday 28th, we have crafts in the corn exchange from 1pm if you wish to display them on a board in there you are welcome. Just call me on 241111

Denise

New Youth Centre project - 24/11/09

Wow, the new Youth Centre looks fabulous! Well done to all involved! I wish I could take a closer look at those photos, is there anywhere else we can view them?

Anna

Ed (HT) *Click on the images*

New Youth Centre Photos - 23/11/09



click on the images to see larger versions

Jogging ladies- 23/11/09

To the lady interest jogging I jog three to four mile (with dog) around and about Faringdon 10 to 11 minute miles so very slow if she interested

I do not think there is a Faringdon running club but mayeb one should be started

name supplied

Portwell Bar - 23/11/09

Do we know when it is re-opening???

name supplied

New Group at the Corn Exchange - 23/11/09

A chance to see and hear the new youth group The Guinness Project. Part of M.A.d.d.s open stage night at the Jam Club in The Corn Exchange on tuesday 1st dec, 8pm. All ages are welcome and it is open to all performers and non performers.

Sam Prince

ANNIVERSARY TRIP TO FRANCE! - 19/11/09

Next year sees the 20th Anniversary of Twinning between Faringdon, and its surrounding villages, and Le Mele sur Sarthe in Normandy.

A special visit to our twin town in northern France is planned for early June 2010 for celebration of the anniversary. In addition to 'door to door' transport by luxury coach for the majority, a group of local people are planning to make the trip to Le Mele by bicycle! .

The cycle group will leave Faringdon on Tuesday 1st June, splitting the 80-mile journey to Portsmouth by over-nighting halfway. After an overnight ferry crossing to Caen, the cyclists will make their way through the beautiful 'fairly flat' countryside of Normandy, arriving after 60-odd miles in our twin town, hopefully at the same time as the coach, late afternoon Thursday 3rd June. There will be a support vehicle in attendance if needed. A second group plan to cycle to Portsmouth in one day, joining the first group on the Wednesday overnight crossing. The return home is on Sunday 6th June by coach with bicycles carried in the support vehicle (although some very keen souls may opt to cycle back!). .

The long weekend of celebrations will include the legendary hospitality that is always freely given by our French hosts, together with a sight-seeing trip and entertainment. .

If you wish to register interest in the anniversary cycle trip to Normandy, please contact **David Williamson on 01367 240033** or by e-mail: dlim.williamson@btinternet.com. For general enquiries about the twinning trip contact **Jeanie Pugh on 01367 240374**.

Folly Tower on TV - 19/11/09

The latest Escape to the Country programme(BBC) has a couple of minutes about the Folly tower. Great shots of the tower and the views Go to exactly the right place on BBC iplayer by clicking on <http://bbc.co.uk/i/p2dsw/?t=29m36s>

Raoul Van Eyndhoven

Community Awards - 17/11/09

The winners of the first Faringdon Town Council Community Awards were announced at an award ceremony in the Jubilee Room at the Pump House on November 16th 2009.

The Clive Davis community Hero award was presented by his widow Christine Davis.

The Community Group award was sponsored by RH Coach Hire and presented by Richard Dick High Sheriff of Oxfordshire.

The Community Business Award was presented by Nick Elwell from Faringdon Chamber of Commerce who jointly sponsored the award with Cotswold Life.

Winners:

Clive Davis Community Hero - Les Sears

Les received his award for outstanding services to Faringdon Town Football club. He has been involved with the club since 1965. He has overseen many developments at the club including club house improvements, youth and girls football. The club is an important part of Faringdon providing sport and social for many residents. The club has also raised thousands of pounds for Princess Margaret Hospital.

Community Group Award - Community Bus

The Community Bus won its award for providing a first class service to the Town. It is a volunteer run organisation providing a service for all members of the community of all ages. The weekend and afternoon trips are enjoyed by all giving excellent value for money.

Community Business Award - What's On

The Faringdon What's On won their award for keeping the community informed and helping to strengthen community spirit. It offers free listings of community events and is an invaluable source of local information especially for those without a computer. Look out for special features about the awards in December's edition of the Folly and January's

edition of Cotswold Life.

Sally Thurston

Faringdon is Filthy...Oh Yes it is ! - 17/11/09

A stroll round our town will reveal dog mess and rubbish almost everywhere. Some of it has been there for weeks. There are two simple solutions.

One involves Council Intervention and the second, Civic Pride.

NEITHER involves rocket science

The Council solution is straight forward... Employ 50 cleaners with modern equipment. Problem solved. Of course our Council Tax would increase but "No Pain No Gain .

The Civic Pride solution would cost nothing..It just requires those householders who do not feel that dog mess, etc enhances the kerbside appeal of their homes to remove it. They don't have to enjoy removing it and some people obviously accept that squalid surroundings like old cars, toys, bottles,etc are normal.

I am very grateful that my neighbours don't share their view.

HGM

Ladies Jogging? - 17/11/09

Wondering if there are any ladies out there who would like to start gentle 'beginners' jogging?

Are there any local jogging groups already out there...?

Jogger

Home is where the heart is - 16/11/09

I am a 32 year young woman, working as a painter over here,.. living in the most beautiful place on Earth, South Africa.

Waking up every morning to the sounds of the whales outside my kitchen window, and ahh, the beauty of the feyn boss fragrant hanging in the air, and as December approaches it's summer here,... the beauty of cloudless mornings and pure blue sky, the walks in forests, and faery folk everywhere,.. the white sandy beaches and incredibly sun sets,.., and as evening approaches I pick up shells on the beach, the happy japping of my jack russels as they jump in and out of the waves,...which reminds me,... there is nothing like home, I miss faringdon, the cozy winter evenings of chimney smoke everywhere,... the dark Christmas walks up the folly, and friendly community feel,... there is nothing quite like home,....

If only to remind one self that home truly is where the heart is,..

Nicole

Car Parks...? - 15/10/09

Car parks eh. Normal people who have values do not risk using Marineville's car parks because of the hostile Aquaphibians who have been attempting to fill the car parks with spit. They had better be careful though because if they succeed in their misson Troy and Phones may have to lauch stingray to crush Titans forces.

Erbart

Folly Tower Queue Solutions. - 15/11/09

As an ex fireman I would suggest that a fireman's pole erected on the outside of the Folly Tower would provide an exhilarating and rapid means of descending without impeding the ascending visitors.

A more sedate though more expensive alternative might be a Helter Skelter Helical Slide.

Fireman Sam

Unsung heroes of the Vale - 14/11/09

On 6 March 2010 I will be hosting the Chairman's Annual Community Awards Lunch at the Guildhall, Abingdon. The theme for this year's awards is 'Unsung Heroes of the Vale' and I would be very grateful if you could complete the attached form if you know of anyone that you feel should be recognised for their achievements in the local community. Nominations can be for anyone who lives within the Vale and you feel is worthy of recognition for their contribution to the Vale's community; either on a personal level or as part of a group.

Please feel free to nominate as many people as you wish. It would be great to have as wide a variety of award winners as possible.

Cllr Alison Rooke
Chairman of the Council

See [nypressrelease.htm for more information and application form](#)

Positive activities for young people in Oxfordshire - 14/11/09

Oxford County Council want anyone who organises activities for the young to put the information on a database. See <http://www.activitiesoxfordshire.info/wps/wcm/connect/PositiveActivities/Home/>

I couldn't see age ranges - but activities like sport, drama, dancing, sports, brownies, duke of edinburgh are mentioned, so I guess it's fairly wide

Gene Webb

[This document has some helpful information about adding an event](#)

Use of the car parks - 14/11/09

There is another time cost in using the Faringdon car parks.

Since the council decided to introduce the new machines, it now takes ages to buy a ticket at peak times because everyone seems to find it hard to work out which buttons to press to enter their car registration number. I have to say that I think this was over-kill to stop people passing on a ticket worth 40p.

I would love to know how long it will take for that extra income to cover the cost of the new machines.

Name Supplied

Re: Fireworks and Folly Event - 14/11/09

Halloween on the Folly was once again a great success.

We would like to thank all the visitors for climbing the tower on Halloween night this year We had over 360 visitors this year, which is 58% more than last year.

We are well aware of the queuing problem and we do apologise for the long wait. The problem is the last 2 set of steps to get to the top of the tower, which are too narrow to allow people to pass each other (going up and down). You can say that we have become a victim of our own success (58% increase over last year).

The Folly committee has already identified the queuing as a problem, and if we know we need to find a solution for this.

Once again thank you for visiting the tower on Halloween night and apologies for the long wait.

Folly Committee.

Re Union Flag - 12/11/09

Well Rob, there are pensioners and pensioners!

David (around the 90yr mark) has been assisted atop the Pump House by a sprightly 65 year old woman.

You'd still be welcome to join Faringdon Association of Residents, as would any one else out there.

Sheila

Town Parks. - 13/11/09

Alongside Folly Park there are two other fine parks in Faringdon which myopic readers of this forum you may not yet know of. They are named after the roads to the two fine cities of Southampton and Gloucester and there is a clue in the name as to their usage. Gloucester Street Car Park and Southampton Street Car Park. Can you guess what they are?

If you are looking to park a car and access the town centre these parks are a good place to start. Both are seconds away from the town centre, tickets can be redeemed when making purchases over 5 English pounds at about 25 local shops and magically they are free (nada, nothing, gratis) in the evening and over night, as well as all day Sundays. A short stay of under an hour costs 40p if you are not purchasing from a local shop offering the buy back scheme, this seems to me to be a relatively low price for those who can afford a car.

The other cost however, is that of time. Tragically they are located almost 250 meters away from the Market place and this could take up to 1 minute to stroll to from the town centre. This level of sheer inconvenience makes them unpractical for most users, hence why they appear to be empty most of the time.

Good luck.
Sir Caustic

Free table and chair - 13/11/09

Would anyone in Faringdon like, free to pick up from the town centre, a leather (or fake leather) backed wooden chair, and a small low wooden table with a well-loved top?

If so, drop me a line at cornellpaul@googlemail.com to arrange pick-up.

Paul

Great evening at the Crown - 13/11/09

What a great evening in the crown last night.
It was good to have live music on a thursday eve.
Better still it was from someone who had not played there before,
Well done to Kate & Lee.
Noel Diamond

Our Town

Well done to all for 1st night of 'Our Town'
Zara Warner

Union Flag - 12/11/09

Thank you very much Sheila, for informing me about the Union Flag on the old community centre.
Your comment about me attending to it myself was rather inappropriate, as I am also a pensioner.
At least I was taking an interest!
Rob

Death by Non-Availability. - 12/11/09

I have to say that Faringdon is the worse place I have ever come across for parking.

I commute twice a week to visit my girl friend, and always have problems parking in Faringdon. The increase in

double yellow lines, if you see anyone actually handing out parking tickets is obviously lost and now the bollards by opposite the church. I came foul of that this morning, arriving last night and parking correctly. When I came to leave at 0610hrs the car next to me had not left enough space (because of the angle they had parked) for me to pull out, and I could not pull forward because of the bollard. Although tempted to just reverse into the car next to me, smash a window for the alarm to go off, thankfully I managed to borrow my girl friends car. Before anyone says "SO WHAT, YOU GOT IT SORTED" - it depends on what you do for a living, why I was leaving that early and also what if I couldn't legally drive the other car.

Some consideration would have been nice or more parking.

I also understand that a taxi rank is also planned, who ever is the town/village planner, they must live outside Faringdon and needs to be shot!!!!

Name Supplied

Local artist's work selected for national competition - 13/11/09

Inez Brinsden is our local artist, she has entered her painting 'Market Day Faringdon' in to an EAC over 60's art awards competition.

Her work of the 'Market Day' has been chosen to be exhibited at the 'Bankside Gallery' in London in December.

Anyone wishing to see her entry can go online at eacartawards.org.uk where you can **VOTE**

It would be lovely if the people of Faringdon would support her.

Ann Morris

Link to actual picture <http://eacartawards.org.uk/picture-891-market-day-farringdon.aspx>

Community Awards and Charity Cards - 11/11/09

The winners of the three awards, Clive Davis Community Hero, Community Business and Community Group will be announced at an award presentation on Monday 16th November.

We had almost 2000 votes which was an amazing response.

I will post the winners on this site on Tuesday morning.

Winners will also be announced in local press.

Cards for Good Causes Charity Cards are on sale in the Community and Tourist Information centre now! At least 75% of the purchase price goes back to the charities.

The Faringdon Calendar and Christmas cards are selling fast.

We have re - ordered the Calendar and currently have a waiting list.

Please visit us in our new Corn Exchange home!

Sally Thurston

Faringdon Tourist Information

How did the Union Flag get there in the first place - 11/11/09

It has been funded and erected by Faringdon Association of Residents with particular thanks to David Hughes and those who pay a small subscription as members.

Perhaps it is time that some more people joined one of the few groups in Faringdon that actually cares about and supports the concerns and interests of Faringdon residents.

A new flag is available, would Rob care to climb atop the Pump House to attend to it, rather than leave it to a group of pensioners?

Sheila

Darling!. - 11/11/09

How sad to get hung up on being called darling by a very pleasant young lady at the service station. I have always found most of the staff very amenable and friendly at the Petrol Station. On the odd occasion when I have encountered service with a sneer then I have gone out of my way to cheer the poor beggar up.

As for closing the forecourt, this is a dictat of Elf & Safety.

When there are cones at the entrance, I have the intelligence not to attempt to drive in in the first place!

Some people just seek to be offended.
Sally Lund

Local artist's work selected for national competition - 11/11/09

A talented local artist and resident at Dove Court in Faringdon has had a painting of the Market Square selected and entered into a national competition.

Click the link to access all the finalists and vote for your favourite <http://eacartawards.org.uk/voting.aspx>

The same lady has hand painted a beautiful picture depicting the three services in wars dating from World War I to present day conflicts.

This is being auctioned on the afternoon of 19th November at Dove Court with all proceeds going to Help For Heroes charity.

Do please give them your support.

Parking. - 10/11/09

When I manage to find somewhere to park for a few minutes, which I have tried to do 6 times so far this month, can any one tell me where I can buy my tv licence which was due 31st October.

With regards to the esso garage, theres far worse things you could be called darlin!!!

Chris Higgs

Ed(GW) Try <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/> and buy online?

Speaker available for meetings/events - 9/11/09

If you organise local meetings or events and would like a speaker on the subject of Oxfam's work then please contact me!

I work for Oxfam and have travelled to see programmes in Mozambique and South Africa and would be happy to come along and give a talk on my experiences or any other aspect of Oxfam's work that you may be interested in.

Please contact Paul on 01367 240398 or email p.vanags@btinternet.com

Halloween Photos at the Folly - 9/11/09

Great photos on <http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/>

Do have a look

Raoul Van Eyndhoven

Television reception. - 9/11/09

How is everyones television reception , we have found it particularly poor over the last few days

Diane Huddle

Remembrance Day - 8/11/09

Yes it was good to see such a large attendance for the Remembrance Day Parade.

The Union Flag flying from the old community centre needs replacing, can this be attended to?

Rob.

Remembrance Day - 8/11/09

I have never seen All Saint's so packed on Remembrance Day before.

I have seen it so crowded that a few people had to stand, but there were a lot of people who couldn't get a seat this time. It was very, very moving.

When the 2 minutes silence started there was only the sound of The Crown's air con and the odd cry from couple of toddlers in the crowd.

Apart from that the silence was almost absolute.

Faringdon, you did yourselves proud.

Name Supplied

Paying respect - 8/11/09

For my sins today had to go shopping at the time of the 2min silence. As the supermarket announced the 2 min silence all stood still with head down.

All except the children many aged 10 and above they just carried on as normal.

The parents of these children stood still. Isn't it about time parents educated children to have respect. I was appalled.

Dee England

Remembrance Day - 8/11/09

It was wonderful to see a packed square for the Remembrance Day Parade.

I think Faringdon has a right to feel proud today.

Mike Perks

Love proposal. - 7/11/09

Via the worlds biggest sender of Spam Email I have received a proposal from Vera. Lord knows where she is from but alleges to have my profile from this website.

Odd that I dont have my email address on my profile as all I have is address and phone number.

I did have a pressure washer to give away the other day and all I can assume is that she has trawled through the pages of gossip and gripe and has used that.

so shall have to ditch that one and have also been on to Yahoo who dont give a damn.

Just thought I ought to let people know that spammers are using this website.

Be careful.

Colin

Ed(GW): If anyone has any advice re the website and spam, please do get in touch

Fireworks and Folly Event: - 7/11/09

Just a quick note to point out that we (Like so many others!) really enjoyed watching the Firework display from the Folly on Halloween night.

We had a fantastic night and should do this every year. Well done Folly committee!!!

A very happy person.

PS : Folly committee should try to ensure that queue time is kept to a minimum;our kids waited for 1 hour!!! But it was worth it!

Faringdon Champion competition - 6/11/09

I think this closed at the end of September.

Have the winners been announced?

Name Supplied

Co-operative Wine Bar to Open in Faringdon - 6/11/09

Another first for Faringdon! Enterprising townfolk including those who were involved in establishing the first fair trade town in the country, have decided to invest co-operatively in the establishment of a niche Wine Bar, the Portwell Angel.

The Portwell Angel Wine Bar will be open from 28th Nov 2009, 7 days a week from 09:00 a.m - 23:00 hrs offering

breakfast, lunch and Mediterranean platters in the evening.
The Portwell Cellar will open on Thursday-Saturday and Sunday lunchtime.

DARLING - 6/11/09

As far as our Service station goes I have found that one of the members of female staff has the need to address all of the customers by the name of Darling, personally find it quite offensive, what's wrong with just a thank you, or maybe even Sir. I found "would you like a carwash today" a bit less annoying!!!. I am also amazed that we appear to have the only service station in the country that has to shut its customers out of its premises for a period of time every night.

It's a good job the BP Service station is just 5 minutes up the road and it doesn't feel the need to treat its customers in this way.

Name Supplied

Fireworks to music - 6/11/09

Did I miss read the sign ?

I have to say I was really looking forward to seeing the fire works this year, the thought of fireworks shooting up into the night sky with perfectly timed music sounded really good, it reminded me of a time when I saw fireworks in the grounds of Highclere Castle To music it was really nice and memorable.

Needless to say I was a bit disappointed to see Faringdon's nice fireworks shooting into the night sky with the theme tune to the A-Team, playing quietly in the back ground.

Sorry but it just didn't do it for me!.

Name Supplied

Al's poster of Faringdon street signs is great. - 5/11/09

Our twinning guests from Le Mele sur Sarthe were delighted to be presented with a souvenir copy at the twinning function in the Corn Exchange last Saturday.

Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the Faringdon-Le Mele twinning.

I wonder how many of those street names wouldn't have been there 20 years ago?

Helen Barter

Any village pubs/clubs/organisations interested in entering a team into the Oxfordshire Winter Quiz League (South Division) - 3/11/09

Please contact James - tel: 01865 712028

For teams of up to 6 players.

League starts Thursday 19th November. Runs to June 2010

All affiliated pubs/clubs are given the opportunity to host any of the leagues many themed table-top competitions.

This seasons competitions include Film, 1940's, Rock & Pop, Valentine, Literature, A Night at the Theatre, Around Britain, Nature, Cockney, Football, Sport Quizzes etc etc.

Entry Fee £90.00.

There are currently 34 pubs/club signed up for this popular event.

Basketball Team in Faringdon Area- one more needed - 3/11/09

One more needed - please email me

Not looking for anything too serious just a game or two a week!

Thanks

Stephen Day

sday01@hotmail.com

A few comments - 3/11/09

I would like to make. I would prefer too many police than too few. Like everything in life it is not easy getting everything " just so ". The police are there for our protection and I that makes me feel safe and privileged .

Regarding Halloween ;We had children knocking on our door .They were very sweet well behaved children , with good mothers accompaying them quietly in the background. Halloween occurs but once a year , and i was thrilled to see the effort that has gone into the costumes.

Diane Huddle

Great new poster of Faringdon Street Signs - 2/11/09

[Have a look at it here](#)

You can buy an A3 copy (£7.50) from Faringdon's Tourist Information Centre at the Corn Exchange

Be quick - only 100 have been produced

Al Cane

Surprising music - 1/11/09

The Faringdon fireworks display was brilliant as always this year, however we did find the choice of musical accompliment quite surprising / interesting from Gerry Anderson's greatest hits to the theme from A- Team.

I guess though it makes a change for the typical classical music link.
Name Supplied

Employment land in Faringdon - 31/12/09

Please read the Vale's draft core strategy and the FTC response.

You will find that the suggested development to the South of Park Road includes an element of employment land. Probably at the existing Rogers Concrete site. That said, the same draft changes the use of the land next to the Willes Close triangle from employment to housing. The net result is a *reduction* of potential employment land that we must fight to reverse.

It is the policy of FTC that any increase in housing must be matched with an increase in employment opportunity. The objective should be that anybody living in Faringdon should have the opportunity to work in Faringdon.

The Vale is strangely reluctant to accept this simple proposition. The land available at Wicklesham Quarry would go a long way towards meeting the employment objectives of the Town. Again the Vale planners are very reluctant to include it in their planning.

Pressure from our local organisations working together changed the last District plan. We need to be doing the same with this one.

Alan Hickmore
FTC Chair of Planning

ED(GW) It would be good to hear from Faringdon's VWHDC Councillors- they have access to the planners in VWHDC - maybe they can throw light/suggest ways to make sure our needs are properly considered for the Vales's Core Strategy.

Alan- have you any suggestions what the local people can do?

HEALTHY debate in 2010 - 31/12/09

Recent debate in Talking Points about town planning has been most encouraging. After all, we care about our town and everyone's opinion counts. Let's have more of it.

Remember, there are NO stupid opinions; only stupid people who won't listen to someone else's view. My personal summary of the debate we have seen so far:

* Tom Allen-Stevens - I wish more people would think as laterally. This is what Faringdon needs right now; big ideas to lift us out of mediocrity. We should support the 4&20 Business Park. It is in the right place, both for access and to push the envelope in terms of the town's expansion.

* Various people supporting jobs for Faringdon - absolutely!

* Tesco - don't knock it, a Park Road supermarket could lift the area if done properly; AND act as a bridge between the town's historic centre and 4&20.

* Turning the historic centre into housing - what a waste of an asset that would be. Let's collectively think of how we can turn it into the commercial nugget it deserves to be ?

* The VWHDC - we'd better make the town great without the district council's help. We won't get what we need or want if we leave it up to the Vale.

* Empowering the local council - Local councillors care much more about Faringdon; support them or vote them out. Whichever, make yourself heard.

* Support local - Support local people who TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Try the excellent teas at Wicklesham Farm. Visit the Portwell (both bits). Try the White Horse Bookshop. We have good butchers, too.

Vote with your feet - you do not have to accept rubbish. Maybe, just maybe, we can get the town centre to grow organically.

So, if you care, keep the debate going.

Mark Harrison

What should we ask/say to Tesco?? - 31/12/09

They say it would be a food store - but I think that means with upto 20% non food- what do they mean?
Chemist/Pharmacy? News? dry cleaning? clothes? electrical goods? How can Faringdon retailers influence this
Car parking - more than 2 hours is needed if people are to be encouraged to walk into the town for other shopping
and services eg hair salons, pub lunch, coffee shops
The walk into town - Quickest way? Needs to be as pleasant as poss- what is planned

There must be more questions- any thoughts?
Gene Webb

The Folly indicates that the consultation is 12th 2.30- 8pm, 13th 1000 to 5pm

Business space - 31/12/09

The comment that "VWHDC believes it has enough land earmarked for business - but it's not in Faringdon", has a horrible ring of truth. The development site at the end of Park Road seemed to be a good idea but has stalled?
Perhaps Tom Allen-Stevens could provide an update.

Rogers Concrete is also a possible development site, currently access is a little limited but this could be improved.
One area I do have concerns about, is moving to the other side of the A420. Currently the road structure forms a very convenient boundary stopping expansion on a massive scale. Once (if) permission is granted I would expect to see a growth in ribbon development alongside the road, then infill. Thus effectively in time, all land from Stanford in the Vale to Watchfield would be fair game.

Going back to the original theme, we do have existing industrial sites in Park Road. Giving this area a makeover, with a move away from what could be called "warehousing" would really improve the aspect of the approach to Faringdon.
Perhaps a few sympathetic office buildings would be in order?

Housing and Industry can live side by side, as long as the development of both is planned and sympathetic.
Discuss
Mike Perks

More space for business needed - 31/12/09

Mike- I absolutely agree- we need more local jobs to keep people in the town to keep it and the retail businesses alive and thriving.

However the Park Road industrial area cannot grow as the population increases - it is surrounded by housing. Other places are needed.

What was once an ideal place for industry is now the centre of town and more suited to housing.

As the planners include more housing into the plans for Faringdon, so should more space for local business be included. For some reason they don't appear to want to do this.

I've heard it said that VWHDC believes it has enough land earmarked for business - but it's not in Faringdon!

How about more business the other side of Park Road nearer the A420? or Wicklesham quarry, or Rogers concrete area.

Name Supplied

Re Christmas Lights and the Folly Light -30/12/09

The Faringdon lights are quite pretty when they're working but they look so cold and more fitted to "Winterval" than a festive Christmas. All the local towns seem to have the same chill white and blue and naff shapes.

Please could we have some warming red and gold? I used to like our old multicoloured bulbs and they seemed to work for longer.

I would offer to help with the lighting but I'm not an electrician so would not be let anywhere near them.
I love the searchlight to "guide me home from work" and have enjoyed the succession of Christmas lights on the Tower.

Frodo's idea of the eye of Sauron would be fun and very striking. We're so lucky to have Faringdon Folly as our landmark rather than the likes of Didcot's cooling towers.

Name Supplied

Boxing Day mummers - 30/12/09

I would like to thank Sam and Hiliary for the warming post-mummers drinks in the Corn Exchange from their well-stocked bar, and also Alan for providing the presence to let it happen. Needless to say the Mummers performance was great fun and the afternoon musical entertainment topped off a most enjoyable Boxing Day.

I look forward to next year

Rachel Kenward

VWHDC strategy for Faringdon? - 30/12/09

Dear NAAS, you make an interesting observation that Park Road was a dead end? Since when? When the station closed? When an island was constructed to ease traffic onto the 420? When Tucker Park was gifted to the town as a charity? 1463? Come on!

I appreciate that Park Road is not the most beautiful of Faringdon's aspects and I hope that this will change with future development, but where else would you propose to site "industry" Folly Hill?

This town needs people working in it and using the shops. Sure we have very few shops, but that is a self fulfilling prophesy. We need a vibrant economy and that does not mean more housing estates for people who just commute and exist as a grey underworld.

If you live in Faringdon, use it, if there are reasons why you shop and work elsewhere, shout about it, stop whinging and let's get this town on the map!

MIke Perks

Tesco Consultation. - 30/12/09

The consultation (12th and 13th January 2010) seems devoid of times available for comments and responses. As, believe it or not, there are quite a large number of working people in Faringdon who would like to visit and be "part of the consultation process".

Can we be reassured that this "consultation" will be available after normal working hours?

Mike Perks

Re The Bell was the best - 30/12/09

As I recollect, I did bring the poor standard of my/our food to the attention of the staff, after finding one!

After reporting our concern, the member of staff agreed that the veg was over cooked and the meat was still raw.

Having discussed the problem out the back he returned offering us a free dessert, we didnt feel like eating dessert after such a poor main. The waiter dissappeared out the back again for 10 minutes, reappearing was a waitress who was quite addament that all they could offer us was a free dessert. I then asked to speak to management. After 20 minutes, both members of staff returned with the agreement to waive the food bill. I was disgusted with the managements inability to come to us in person when asked to try and resolve this matter and couldnt help but feel sorry for the poor members of staff having to run around back and forth, red faced with embarrassment!

So, in short. Our concerns were reported, BUT the management didnt want to do anything about it...

Name Supplied

Boxing Day mummers - 30/12/09

many thanks to people who turned out to enjoy the mummers performance on Boxing day morning . It was a pleasure

for us to be part of this historic and amusing entertainment. It was also good to see so many people enjoying the facilities of the Corn Exchange, unfortunately these are not used enough over the festive period because of the restrictions placed on it by the Town council.

Surely a venue like this should be made available?

It is then a double thanks to councillor Hickmore for making himself available on Boxing day.

For next year M.a.d.d. has decided to organise the day as a fund raiser (charity to be announced)

Sam Prince

VWHDC strategy for Faringdon? - 29/12/09

What are the VWHDC planners trying to achieve for Faringdon? What is the point of planning more shopping space (presumably because there will be more residents) and not planning in more space for business.

Before the bypass Park Road was a dead end and highly suited as an industrial area.

Now it is the main road into town, it is surrounded by housing- and I understand there are to be more houses opposite the new Bloor homes/the garage.

Park Road is 'the centre of town' and not the most attractive road into the town.

Surely it's time to plan an alternative area for businesses- an area that can grow to provide more local jobs as the town grows.

The current business area can then become housing- much more appropriate

I can't think why they are being so blinkered. Perhaps someone knows?

Name Supplied

Thank you Mark - 29/12/09

I agree there is a real problem obtaining any meaningful detail about two of the potential retail developments. By the time we hold the meetings on 26th January (2010) we will all have had a lot of detail made available to us from Tesco. They are launching a major information offensive with letters to every household and a two day exhibition in the Corn Exchange.

From the other two potential developments - nothing. I would really like to know why they are not giving us all the information we need to take a reasoned and balanced view. They have both been invited to make presentations to the FTC planning committee (in private or public) but so far we all remain in the dark

It would be tragic if the only project that has, and is, giving us information became the preferred one by default. Perhaps the hour that Vale officers have set aside (6.00pm to 7.00pm on the 26th Jan. in the Corn Exchange) will be enough for them to fill in all the details of their current thinking.

Alan Hickmore FTC Chair of Planning

Re Christmas Lights - 29/12/09

Its very reassuring to know that there's a band of dedicated people and councillors walking the streets at night to check the Christmas lights. Its just a real shame that all this effort cannot be channelled into actually making them work!! I understand the problems you have had with the scaffolding, indecently that has been up for several months now. But the lights have been working so why cant they just be repaired ???. I would have thought this would be considered to be a serious fault.

Faringdon deserves to look its best at Christmas, the town centre traders need it for trade and the people of Faringdon want to be proud of there town!.

So come on Councillors do your job and make us all proud of you!.

Name Supplied

More space for local jobs needed - 29/12/09

Whether you support a new site for a supermarket on Park Road or not, the impact on Faringdon as a whole MUST be taken into account.

Park Road is currently Faringdon's industrial estate providing jobs and a livelihood for many. As such it's woefully inadequate and a new site has been identified in Wicklesham Quarry, supported by FTC, Faringdon Chamber of Commerce, Faringdon Residents Association and others.

But VWHDC is currently blocking the plans.

Redeveloping Park Road could truly breathe new life into Faringdon. Tesco's may not be the best route, but it is a route that we should all seriously consider. If it does happen we MUST ensure Faringdon reaps the benefits.

But first we must consider how to preserve the hundreds of jobs that are at risk, not just at the JDS/Redlake site, but elsewhere on Park Road and in Faringdon in general. These will move to Swindon, as has happened countless times before, unless the Vale planners listen to what Faringdon is asking for.

So on the 26th of January our message to VWHDC MUST be clear: **jobs and shops go hand-in-hand in Faringdon – don't consider one without the other.**

More info on this is now available on Faringdon.org: there's a [survey carried out by Kemp and Kemp](#) – the only one done that looks at Faringdon's local needs. [And a report to VWHDC to justify development of the quarry has now been published](#) – this sets out in detail some of the opportunities and threats the town faces.

Tom Allen-Stevens - owner, Wicklesham Quarry

Dear Councillor Hickmore - 29/12/09

First of all, I'd like to thank you for your dedication. The town should be grateful that you and others put so much into the council for no material gain.

I am also reluctant to lay the blame for our general planning confusion at your door. The VWHDC is hardly transparent. Nonetheless, my answer to your rhetorical (question?), "I hope this helps", would be "not a lot".

I have previously asked if there is one place to go for citizens to obtain comprehensive and clear information about proposed developments in Faringdon. Maybe there is a place? It certainly isn't reached via the URL links we have been given. The VWHDC has a map, and has stated its preference for the grounds of Faringdon House, but there is no detail to speak of. The VWHDC "leaflet" at http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Images/Faringdon_tcm4-7000.pdf also states that: "A new road for service vehicles from the Lechlade Road may be needed so lorries would not have to travel through the town centre. The existing car park access from Gloucester Street may also need to be improved for car access."

Where are the details of this access?

Where, too, is the market research to suggest that people will visit other Faringdon shops if they are 300 metres from the town centre but not if they are 600 metres away? Surely the quality of the shops would be the primary draw card?

Finally, given this scant information, the VWHDC is proposing to publish a "draft core strategy" by June 2010. Council officers will "answer questions at the Faringdon Corn Exchange, on 26 January at 6pm to 7pm" (in which year?). Given the apparent lack of detailed thinking, the intervening 4-5 months is a very short time in planning terms, believe me.

Mark Harrison

Re The Bell was the best - 29/12/09

thankyou for your opinion, but what a shame that you couldn't have told someone you were not happy with your food and it could have been resolved. as for you being in the bar an inconvenience.....how wrong you are. sorry that you may of had a bad experience but nothing can be resolved or rectified if we are not told.

the bell

Folly Light - 29/12/09

If Owen feels so strongly about the light on the Folly and its impact on the environment and the light pollution, why oh why does he live here? Perhaps he ought to go back to the land of his birth and whinge there. In the meantime, its not for ever and the stars will still be there. And considering how many clear nights we get; its not the end of the world. Man up!
Colin

Folly Light - 28/12/09

It is interesting to see some of the comments that has been said when the folly light has been criticized. I know one poster hoped that even more lights would be set as the Fame? of light in Faringdon spread. Perhaps next year we should try the opposite and allow people at Christmas to see the wonder of the heavens as they used without lights. This would perhaps be even more appropriate in a time when energy costs soar and wasting energy should be at the forefront of our minds.

One also hopes that the searchlight will have a duration of the 12 nights and not, as with previous lights, go on for two months and destroy the pleasure for others.
Owen Brazell

Re Christmas Lights - 28/12/09

We are lucky to have any lights or Christmas Tree at all. The organisers were hampered by the scaffolding around Portwell House which was in the way of the anchor bolts which transfer the power from the Pump House to the lights. This problem was resolved at absolutely the last minute and the contractor only had half a day to put the strings up and test them instead of the usual 2 days.

I think under the circumstances he and everyone else did a sterling job.

There is also a rota of people who go round and check and report on the lights each night (I'm on it). Any serious faults are sorted out at the first possible opportunity.
Jane Boulton (Chairman of Recreation & Open Spaces Committee) Town Councillor

Re The Bell was the best - 28/12/09

To the person who went to The bell hotel over the festive period. Are you sure you went to the Bell hotel in Faringdon? The few times I have been in there since the new managership, the staff have been far from welcoming, in fact I would go as far to say that me being in THEIR bar was a BIG inconvenience. As for the meals, the last time ate in their the peas were like bullets, the veg was cold, the meat was raw. I havent been back since and I wont be back until the managership is changed!!!
Name Supplied

Tesco - 26/12/09

As I wrote in one of my postings, Tesco will be contacting a number of organisations in the Town to explain their plans. This has been known for about two - three weeks and reported on .org.

The point of the meeting on the the 26th. is to consider the plans for retail development in Faringdon from the VWHDC which are:
a possible extension of Budgens
a possible development in the grounds of Faringdon House
a possible Tesco site in Park Road.

It is true (as I reported on this site) that Tesco plan to make a planning application in the new year. That does not mean that they will get it. The meetings on the 26th are firstly the VWHDC to answer questions on their preferred plans from 6.00pm until 7.00pm, followed by a meeting of FTC planning committee when members of the public can put their views so that these can be considered and passed on to the Vale.

I hope this helps
Alan Hickmore
FTC Chair Planning

THANKYOU Christmas Lights - 26/12/09

I am Sorry if the organisers of the Christmas lights found my comments about the strings of lights in the market place not working, offensive. But you know what they say. The truth hurts, and light strings are still not working!! As for helping I do have an old wooden ladder in my garage your very welcome to borrow.
Name Supplied

Owt before Nowt at Christmas - 26/12/09

To misquote Abe Lincoln "You can't please all the people all the time" and this is so obvious from the comments about the Folly Light.

Dave has complained that the searchlight is "over the top" but where else should a searchlight be?

This year it may not be anything to do with Christmas but until comparatively recently neither did a decorated tree, a red Santa Claus, mince pies or crackers . Maybe next year every town will have a searchlight as the fame of ours spreads.

So Dave please feel free to dig tunnels in your garden when you see the light but let most of the rest of us enjoy it without having to feel that we are in some way being disloyal to the spirit of Christmas.

Incidentally for anyone unfortunate enough not to have been born "Up North" the expression "Owt before Nowt" simply means it is usually better to have something rather than nothing.

Happy New Year !
HGM

Boxing Day Blues? - 26/12/09

No! Today I had the experience of hearing a Hurdy-Gurdy being played, it was also the first time I have ever been able to hear, let alone touch one these amazing ancient instruments and understand it's workings. I am not a musician, being more mechanically bent, so today was rather a revelation.

Thanks to "Dorset Dave" (Hurdy-Gurdy, Hammer Dulcimer and Guitar) for his spirited performance in the Corn Exchange, Brilliant!

Thanks also to MADD for staging the performance and also to Alan Hickmore who provided the presence required to allow it all to happen.

Mike Perks

Tesco - the latest - 24/12/09

A man from Tesco contacted Faringdon Association of Residents on 24th to ask if he could attend their next meeting to talk about Tesco's plans for a supermarket here. He was under the impression that it would be well known that they had arranged a 2 day consultation in the Corn Exchange (**12th and 13th January 2010**), where the plans for the 15000sqft Tesco along Park Road would be on view and there would be Tesco people there to answer questions, including their planners.

In conversation he said it would be:

15000sq ft food store

90% would be food, 10% other goods (it is not known whether that's 90% of turnover, space or range of goods)

137 parking spaces, + 16 parent/toddler and disabled.

Plans are about to be submitted and approval hoped for by April.

He gave the impression that this consultation has been discussed with the Town Council(possibly at the private part of last weeks meeting).

So what is going on?

How long has this been known?

What is the point of the consultation on 26th, when it appears that Tesco are well advanced in their planning. Will our views influence the Tesco planning application?

Are other supermarket chains taking an interest in Faringdon?

Please - someone who knows- tell us

Gene Webb

Boxing Day News - 26/12/09

What a glorious morning for the Mummings Play, I have always enjoyed their performances and the end of year eulogy. This year was no exception, a good audience and an excellent start to the Boxing Day celebrations. There was an added bonus this year, as we were able to repair to the Corn Exchange for some warming mulled wine and a natter after the show, with music to follow.

Thanks to Hillary and Sam from MADD for the extended entertainment, Faringdon just gets better every year.
Rachel Kenward

Thank You GWH.- 26/12/09

I am aware from personal experience that some parts of The Great Western Hospital, like so much of the NHS, are a disgrace. I am also aware that complaints to such as the local MP are a waste of time and any complaints within the hospital can be very counter productive.

But.

On the 23rd of December my daughter broke her leg and a large part of Christmas for my wife, my Grand daughter and me was spent in the Kingfisher Ward.

The Hospital carpark was not very full and I have the feeling that the Traffic Wardens were not on the prowl. (but I didn't risk testing my theory by incorrect parking.) On Christmas Eve the reception Area was visited by a choir and I was invited to join in the carols and the Cafe was offering a splendid Christmas meal for £5.95

On Christmas Day a Salvation Army band toured the wards and distributed bars of chocolate, even to the visitors. The patients were given a nice little M&S goody bag and the staff were friendly and cheerful.

Leaving the ward I became hopelessly lost but one of the staff rescued me by taking me in one of the Bed Lifts. As he said " It is Christmas"

So my thanks to the staff generally and Kingfisher Ward in particular and I just hope the Christmas Spirit isn't thrown out with the remains of the Christmas Turkey. Unfortunately we will have about a couple of week to find out.

Name Supplied

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE! - 24/12/09

and all the best for 2010

from all of us at Faringdon.org (that's her and me, or me and her)

Keep those messages coming in the New Year!... Eds GW & HT

I'm with you Mr Brazell!! - 23/12/09

Christmas lights I love, the multi coloured star last year was great. But what on earth has a search light got to do with Christmas? Perhaps it's a guide for Father Christmas??

It reminds me of a POW camp, I feel I should run and hide when it sweeps overhead and I've had this urge to dig tunnels in the garden.

I have great admiration for all who do are Christmas lights each year, but think this is a bit over the top.

Dave Saunders

Happy Christmas all. - 23/12/09

Having just finished decorating the tree, ably assisted by a cat who's sole purpose in life is to remove the baubles I had just carefully placed in strategic positions, I thought it was time to thank all the hard working folk at .org for making this site as informative and entertaining as it is.

I think it is also in order to thank all the various posters on Talking Points for their contributions over the year. So, a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all of you, even the grumpy ones.

Mike Perks

ED(GW&HT) Thanks Mike- and yes thanks to the posters - without you it would not be such a lively site.

Love the new Folly Lighthouse - 23/12/09

Love the new Folly Lighthouse and I agree with other posters that its a nice sight to see the beams as you trudge along the A420 on your way home.

A suggestion for next year though. Can we just go all the way and make it the "Eye of Mordor" from Lord of the Rings?

Randomly casting its gaze over those walking up and down folly hill.

Frodo Baggins

Cycling in the Long List 2011-2030 - 22/12/09

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) recently invited suggestions for a "long list" of ideas to be incorporated in its strategic transport plan for 2011-3030. [The accompanying document](#) is an attempt by a group of about 100 interested cyclists in Faringdon to coordinate suggestions from a cycling perspective.

For further details on the OCC invitation, have a look at the link at the top of Talking Points. If, having read the document, anyone wishes to comment or contribute further, contact details are contained therein.

Mark Harrison

Ed(GW) The deadline for the consultation is now 1st Jan - so there is still time to add your comments.

Please..... The link is at the top of this page

Hurrah for the Lighthouse - 22/12/09

Bah Humbug to all those who seek to spoil the splendour of one of our eagerly awaited annual pleasures - and thank you to those who put in the hard work to make it possible. I so look forward to discovering what Folly festive delights are in store for the people of this wonderful town each Christmas and am never disappointed.

I know many Faringdon folk feel the same. I was up on the Folly in the heavy snow last night - the light from the beam made my daily dog walking experience quite magical!

Thank you again from a grateful resident!

Faringdon lighthouse - 22/12/09

May I say that I too LOVE the "Faringdon Lighthouse" especially when driving home at night. I know I'm nearly home when I see its beam. I can also see it from my bedroom window and love to watch it. But I also love the night sky which, in my opinion, the lighthouse does not detract from.

Two years ago, at the grand old age of 55, I took the Astronomy GCSE (as a then staff member of Faringdon Community College) gaining a B grade. And to help with my viewing of the night sky, I was delighted last week when 3 lamp posts in my cul-de-sac in Faringdon were upgraded to have the less light polluting lamps installed. I don't know whether I have to thank the SEB, who did the replacement. or the council for this.

Whoever it was - a big THANK YOU!

Jill Dean

Faringdon lighthouse - 22/12/09

Aah, now things make sense. I really failed to understand why anyone would complain about our lovely Folly

searchlight but I see that Mr Brazell has sought Faringdon out as one of the best dark sky areas in the world!
<http://www.webbdeepsky.com/committee/brazell.html>

Whilst I can understand how frustrating it might be if you want to watch the night sky please understand that a huge amount of Faringdon residents, and those in our surrounding villages, absolutely love it!
Huge thanks to Peter White for his efforts...
Name Supplied

Faringdon lighthouse - 21/12/09

Absolutely delighted to see the lighthouse return to Faringdon again this year. It's 'light pollution' of the very best kind and it's loved by a great many people.
I seem to remember that when the beam first radiated in 1999 the organisers had to seek all sorts of permissions due to air-traffic etc and I am quite sure they will have done so again.

Might I suggest to Owen that he attempts to get into the festive spirit and celebrate the fact that we have volunteers in Faringdon willing to work hard to bring peace and joy to all in the town.
Perhaps there's only one thing to add to Mr Brazell...Bah Humbug!
Name Supplied

Tesco or not Tesco - 21/12/09

I am not surprised that people are confused about what supermarket is being considered for which location and by whom! One could be forgiven for thinking there is a lot of deliberate obfuscation afoot. There is no one place to go for clear and concise information about the options. And the scary thing is that the "draft core strategy (is) to be published in June 2010" That is just six months away!

The VWHDC favours "the land north west of Gloucester Street car park as it has closer links to the town centre" but admits that "a new road for service vehicles from the Lechlade Road may be needed so lorries would not have to travel through the town centre"

Just where would this road go, exactly? Cars bound for the supermarket would evidently still travel down Gloucester St. Really?

With a little imagination, and a bit of Tesco arm-bending, an extremely pleasant walkway and cycle route could be built along Southampton Street from the Park Road site to Faringdon town centre. Perhaps even a small electric bus could be deployed on the same route.

Face it, the only way people are going to visit Faringdon shops is if they offer quality and value, irrespective of whether they are 300 or 600 metres from the supermarket.

Otherwise people will just buy what they need from Tesco and be done with it.
Mark Harrison

Re Faringdon searchlight - 21/12/09

You might have noticed that the Christmas Light has been switched on on the Top of the Faringdon Folly.

The Faringdon Folly Christmas light (aka Search light) will be on from dusk till midnight 7 days a week. The Friends of the Folly have published a NOTAM (Notice To AirMen) with the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) to notify aircraft in the area of the light.

So far we have had no complaints from official bodies about the light. Rather the opposite.

Last night one of the Friends of Folly was out on for a walk to admire the light and had this story: "Last night about 9.45 I wandered along Park Road to have a good look at the Folly Christmas light. I stood outside JDS taking in the random path of the light and mesmerised by the beam pattern, only to be interrupted by the words, "Good evening sir. Are you alright?" A police car had pulled up with two puzzled policewomen who were wondering if I had frozen to the spot! When I told them why I was there they said that they had just driven from Stanford in the Vale and that the searchlight looked wonderful."

Regards, The Friends of the Folly.

Christmas Lights - 21/12/09

As I said earlier we work very hard raising funds for the christmas lights which are repaired or renewed each year. As you can see yes we have had some problems which are being addressed. So rather than posting comments that can offend how about putting a name underneath your comments and start helping.

Have a very merry christmas and enjoy the lights when they are working!!
Denise

Oh Dear I'm back again - 21/12/09

Mike Perks is absolutely correct. Faringdon does need a Town Council that is produced by a competitive election. However, it is hardly fair to blame the present councillors for the lack of elections. They were willing to put their names forward and to be held accountable.

There are 14 Honest and hard working councillors. All of whom are working their best to support and help the Town (even if some of you disagree with their policies). At election time we need 15 candidates. Since I and a group of others, were elected during contested and hard fought elections, we have not had another one - for one reason only - there have not been enough candidates. This means that those who have put their names forward are "elected unopposed".

Over the years there have been a number of byelections none of which have been contested. To stand is very simple, you just have to get 12 members of the community to nominate you. Then if two candidates stand there is an election.

In the last year I have made a number of presentations with the aim of explaining what the Town Council does (and can do), to various organisations including the Chamber of Commerce. I am more than willing to talk to anybody or organisation that would like to know more, and how to contest an election. But remember that being a Town Councillor involves hard work and commitment to the Town and it's people. It is not as easy as putting a blog on Faringdon.org. You need to take responsibility as well.

I truly hope (and believe) that the next full election in May 2011 will be contested and the problem that Mike identifies will be overcome.

If you want any further information on how to put your name forward for Councillor on Faringdon Town Council please contact the Town Clerk at the Corn Exchange.
Alan Hickmore

Dear Jane- 21/12/09

I quote ref The council is considering whether a site for a supermarket should be identified out of the town centre. There are 2 locations. Land owned by faringdon estate north of the council car park. Or the tesco's owned jds site in park road.

The only thing I misread was the tesco's comment . Be it tesco's bugdens or any other retail business it will cause a massive problem for gloucester st .
Simon

The Bell was the best - 21/12/09

This year I've had the pleasure to go to three of the town's restaurants for Christmas meal and evening out. My top marks go to The Bell, for the best meal, beautiful real turkey. Warm welcome in the bar and restaurant, excellent service.
Brilliant price.
Thank you.
Name Supplied

Retail consultation- 21/12/09

Last week I asked VWHDC for some factual information about the consultation. This is the reply:-

On Tuesday 26 January, VWH officers will be at the Faringdon Corn Exchange from 6pm to 7pm to answer question about the Faringdon retailing issues which are set out in the VWH leaflet which has been distributed with the recent 'What's On in Faringdon' magazine - (distribution starting today).

These retailing issues are about whether shopping should be improved, and what the public think about the following ;

- extending Budgens supermarket,
- identifying a site for a new supermarket out of the town centre
- either north west of Gloucester Street car park
- or east of Park Road

This current consultation is about alterations to the core strategy options (published in January 2009) and, as you have stated, not the final draft core strategy.

Planning is principally concerned with land use & that is why the outline above of the retailing issues refers to sites not possible retail operators.

However, the council understands that Tesco's has acquired an interest in the land east of Park Road and that Tesco's is currently seeking to promote this as a possible retail site.

The continued work on the core strategy will take into account the comments the council receives as a result of its current consultations. This will inform what is set out in the final draft core strategy with regard these retailing issues, as well as with regard to all the other matter on which comments are being sought.

Regards,

Nick Burroughs

VWHDC Planning

Seasons Greetings. - 21/12/09

For almost two months I have seen, and tried to ignore, signs that Christmas was imminent. Thomas The Tank Engine turned up with a reliability that British Rail and Eurostar would envy and our Market Square lights were switched on. Christmas cards started arriving and she who must be obeyed said that despite the fact that we receive no social security benefits I must decorate the house. I still tried to ignore the signs but now I have to accept the inevitable because I now see the light, literally. on the Folly Tower.

Once again the past year has allowed us to use this website to participate in some lively and occasionally acrimonious discussions. Contributors have used their own names or pseudonyms or hidden, as in my own case, modestly, under the name supplied banner. It has been made clear that ignorance and illiteracy will be no bar to publication

But now I feel able to offer a rather unusual post, for it is one which I am sure will not be criticised.

So here goes:

Gene and Hilary... Thank you for yet another year of hard graft providing us with an alternative to phoning The Samaritans.

Peter White..Thanks for providing a ray of light despite the efforts of this government to keep us in the dark.

To all contributors including those who are so stupid that they make the rest of us seem quite rational.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 2010

HGM

Ed(GW) Thanks HGM

Shopping Survey.- 21/12/09

Just for info: the results given on www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk can be used by anyone. We have not published our own conclusions and have not coloured anyone elses.

There were several purposes behind the survey. One of them was to identify what shops or services might be used if shops in town became vacant. Suddenly we have a number of empty shops in Town. May I suggest that anyone considering a new business venture in town might find the poll useful. Name Supplied has also written "The three hundred respondents were self selected. Self selection is the least reliable of any survey method". This might or might not be true - but as it is the basis of our general elections I guess it will pass the test of acceptability.

If Name Supplied would like more information regarding the survey we will be happy to provide it.
Chamber of Commerce

Re: The Local Development Framework- 21/12/09

The report clearly states that in order 'To strengthen the retail offer of the town and help recapture the expenditure that leaks to other areas (particularly the edge of Swindon) the council is considering whether a site for a supermarket should be identified out of the centre.

There are two opportunities' one of which is identified as 'on land owned by Faringdon House Estate north of the council owned Gloucester Street car park'

So with respect we are reading what is actually being written and are rightly concerned
Name Supplied

Re Oh dear I'm back again.- 20/12/09

Hear hear Mike Perks...I couldn't agree more!
Anna

Shopping Survey- 19/12/09

I have read the shopping questionnaire report and wonder what exactly is/was its purpose? There is no analysis of the results and no conclusion, nor suggestions on how the results should be interpreted.

Without in any way wishing to denigrate the Chamber's efforts, I think that the survey is not really very meaningful. The questions are sometimes not thought out with clarity. If, for example you ask a question such as "what shops and services would you like to see in Faringdon?" you will, of course lead respondents to make suggestions, which they may not have done without prompting. Their answers do not indicate that the shops and services would actually be used regularly.

The three hundred respondents were self selected. Self selection is the least reliable of any survey method. There there is no guarantee that the sample is representative of the population as a whole. Was there, for instance any indication of the ages of the respondents?

If the Chamber want their survey to carry any weight, then they should have very clearly defined goals and know how they want to use their results. Perhaps they could commission a professionally designed survey with a reliable and representative sampling method, and then it would be taken seriously.

name supplied

THANKYOU Christmas Lights - 20/12/09

I know its good to get excited about Christmas lights and the thought of extending them to other places In the town would be nice.

But hold on a minute, are the organisers of the lights that blind that they cant see that the lights in the town centre spend most of the time broken. This weekend most of the strings were off. I think the reliability of the lights this year is a poor show. Maybe the organisers should spend a little more time looking up!. Before they try to look forward.

Name Supplied

All the talk about Tesco's. - 20/12/09

Re: Tesco's have bought the JDS/Redlake site, they are seeking to develop it as a supermarket. They haven't yet put in for planning permission.

The VWHDC would like to expand and develop the Budgens supermarket site. How they can do this is anyone's

guess as there is no space.

Faringdon House are offering land for redevelopment for retail purposes. Where in this proposal does it say "supermarket" or "Tesco's".

Could people please, please read or listen to what is actually being said rather than interpreting it as what they THINK is being said.

Jane Boulton
FTC

Faringdon searchlight - 20/12/09

I hope that the searchlight I saw tonight is not going to be the Folly light for Christmas. This is light pollution of the worst sort and will destroy the night sky for miles around.

They perhaps ought to know that this form of light beam is also illegal under light trespass laws.

Owen Brazell

Shocked re Tesco on Faringdon Estates land - 19/12/09

Shock horror I am really shocked by faringdon estates wanting the the new tescos on there land . Nowt to do with the huge amount of money they will get what a rubbish idear gloucester st will be to small for the traffic numbers artic delivering which is a nightmare for bugdens. Park road too far away from the town centre .

I cant see the logic in it myself apart from lining the pockets of others . IMO some of the wealthy locals dont like it that a bigger dog is in the town eg Tescos.

For years faringdon has no in my back garden types. Now the real threat is here to stay they all want a piece of action . And for years the landowners have not wanted to have a supermarket in the town. Tescos have bust there bubble with having more money and power and bought the old jds site.

I am no tescos fan but I am sure happy some have had there noses put out of joint in the town. This subject is about giving the locals what they want eg a shop that can provide a decent quality of service with value. We cant all afford to shop in waitrose and sainsburys.

I have spoken to many locals and have really only found support for a tescos in faringdon.

Regards

Simon Cook

Card Cloning in Faringdon - Beware - 19/12/09

Please warn everyone about this story about card cloning happening in faringdon

http://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/4804052.Card_skimmers_target_bank_cashpoints/?ref=mr

Two people's bank cards were swallowed by a device on a Lloyds TSB Bank cashpoint in Market Place, Faringdon, between 7am and 9am on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

From Oxford Mail, web site. In case you missed it, be aware.

Name Supplied

Shopping Survey- 19/12/09

I wonder if the County Council or the Town Council took a look at the shopping survey that Focus on Faringdon undertook last year.

Take a look at <http://www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk/shopping-questionnaire-report> for the analysis.

There were some surprising results.

Chamber of Commerce

For the attention of Gloucester Street residents - 18/12/09

The council are seriously considering a site for Tesco at the Faringdon House end of the Gloucester Street car park – entrance possibly via Gloucester Street

Consider the impact on Gloucester Street, access to the school (pupils to and from the school), impact on residential parking and of heavy goods vehicles accessing the supermarket, and act now!!!!

To read the entire report go to: http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Planning/Planning_policy/DetailPage-6980.asp

Executive Committee, 4 December 2009

Report no. 77/09

Report of Head of Planning Services

Author: Katie Barrett

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Local development framework: towards a core strategy

Faringdon town centre

32. The preferred options report proposed that part of Faringdon town centre, including Budgen's supermarket and the Southampton Street car park, be identified in the core strategy for comprehensive redevelopment and environmental improvement. This would involve retail and other town centre uses including improved car parking. Since then officers have had a number of discussions which show that

a) It may be difficult to significantly expand the Budgen's store given the need to provide additional car parking and the other established land uses around the site

b) Tesco has indicated it will submit a planning application east of Park Road on the employment site

c) Faringdon House Estate has suggested that land it owns north of Gloucester Street car park could be used for additional retail floor space. A plan of these sites is in Appendix 2 to this report.

33. The advisory group agreed that these should be subject to further consultation along the following lines.

- The expansion of the town centre store (currently operated by Budgen's) is the council's preferred option subject to the satisfactory resolution of car parking and servicing issues, and the impact on the conservation area, listed buildings, other properties and nearby residents being able to be satisfactorily mitigated. Given the historic character of the town centre there are no other sites that could provide a large new retail store in the area defined in the local plan.

- To strengthen the retail offer of the town and help recapture the expenditure that leaks to other areas (particularly on the edge of Swindon) the council is considering whether a site for a supermarket should be identified out of the town centre. There are two opportunities

- On land owned by Faringdon House Estate north of the council owned Gloucester Street car park

- On land owned by Tesco that is currently used by local businesses and protected for employment use in the local plan east of Park Road.

The council's preference is land north of the Gloucester Street car park as it is closer to the town centre and attractive links could be provided that would encourage linked trips to the centre, thus helping to retain its viability. The land at Park Road would involve a longer, less attractive walk to the town centre and would be unlikely to encourage linked visits to the town centre. It could be argued that it would be likely to draw trade away from the town centre. Although the site is closer to the new housing areas, most trips to the supermarket will be by car, and the benefits of shorter journeys to the store would be offset by greater harm to the town centre and the loss of an existing well-located employment site.

... and don't forget to respond to the council's planned changes for Gloucester Street parking – why don't we request residents parking permits!

Name Supplied

Oh dear I'm back again.- 18/12/09

Nick Burroughs from VWHDC has stated the current position with clarity. Alan Hickmore, FTC Chair of Planning, has stated his take on the situation even if P&H and FTC are not the same? Now it only remains on who we accept as a credible source of accurate information.

As often in the past, we are expected to follow the lead? of certain councillors who frankly have been incumbent for far too long.

There was a time, (just over twenty years ago from memory) that FTC was run by the Chamber of Commerce, the opposition (Labour) made great claims that change was due, and indeed they prevailed. Since then, the same dead

hand has hovered over FTC.

We need a proper election in this town to re-engage the people that live here.

We need to put enough names on ballot papers that a true election takes place. We need this so that Councillors have a true mandate to put forward the views and aspirations of this Town and those that live and work here. Change can be a realization of this.

Please don't get me wrong, there are some honest folk on FTC at the moment, but we need to change the current mindset that the status quo is acceptable, it is not.
Mike Perks

Perplexed no- 18/12/09

Tesco were not surprised that the item was held in closed session neither was anybody who had read the agenda.

One of the problems about closed sessions is the difference between the District and the Town planning committees.

In the case of the District there are a number of planning officers who are very willing to talk to planning applicants in complete privacy both during and before the planning application. This is sensible because it gives the applicant a possible direction that they should take. The chair of the Chamber of Commerce has very recently benefitted from this system.

The FTC planning committee does not have the benefit of these officers. We have to investigate and listen to applicants as a committee. At times the sort of information that the Vale officers receive comes our way and helps us with our recommendations. In the case of the Vale this type of information is released at officer level in private. We (the FTC planning committee) have to hear it in committee and sometimes it needs to be in private as well, for commercial and other reasons. If we failed to go into private session in these circumstances then developers would not continue to talk with us before making applications.
That would be very bad for Faringdon.

Alan Hickmore
FTC Chair of Planning

Puzzled re Consultation -18/12/09

I've had a look at http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news_views/press_releases/article.asp?id=tcn:4-6994&rtn=D and this looks to me as if the consultation is about the Core Strategy - described on this page as '*In January the Vale of White Horse District Council published options for development in the Vale up to 2026 setting out where new homes, jobs, shops, roads and community facilities should go. As a result of comments received from the public a number of changes are being proposed and the Council is now asking people to comment further before finalising its draft Core Strategy*'

For Faringdon the subject on 26th is: *possible improvements to shopping in Faringdon resulting from the extension of the existing Budgens supermarket or the identification of a site for a new supermarket.*

On the http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Planning/Planning_policy/DetailPage-6980.asp page it says '*Improving shopping in Faringdon- Extend Budgens supermarket in the town centre or Identify a site for a new supermarket. If Faringdon is to have a new supermarket it will have to be out of the town centre. We prefer a site north west of Gloucester Street car park rather than an alternative east of Park Road as it is closer to the town centre.*'
There's more detail [on this leaflet](#) - we'll all get one with the next Whatson

So if this meeting is only about shopping, when will we be consulted about other aspects of the Core strategy? - more homes, jobs and community facilities?. The subjects under discussion in other areas are about homes and roads.

I've heard it said that a further 400 houses are to be included in the core strategy. Surely if this is the case then more local work will be needed? Where will that go?

Hopefully all will become clear

Gene Webb

Singing dog? - 18/12/09

Good to hear the dog enjoyed the night, I'm hoping someone captured the dog singing on video. Well it was a blues night.

The HURDY GURDY man is featured in M.A.D.D.s boxing day open mic session. At the corn exchange
Sam Prince

Perplexed - 18/12/09

It would seem from Alan Hickmore's explanation that Tesco was invited to attend the open meeting by the planning committee: we assume on behalf of the Town Council. It would seem that Tesco was surprised that the open meeting was then closed?

It is disappointing that all those working for the benefit of Faringdon cannot be included in Council's plans and agendas: however strange those plans and agendas might seem to an outsider.
Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for the clarification Nick Burrows - 18/12/09

I was under the impression that the core strategy will be considered, but I am apparently wrong. That is a pity as it has been under consideration now for over a year - whilst many other LPAs are already going ahead with their strategy and plans.

That said, the retail consultation will be of great interest and significance for Faringdon. It is very important for the future of Faringdon that members of the public attend and give their views as to how retailing will be supported in our Town at these meetings (the VWHDC meeting and then the following meeting of the FTC Planning meeting).

There is a danger that those with their own agendas could dominate the discussion.

Alan Hickmore
FTC Chair of Planning

THANKYOU Christmas Lights - 18/12/09

I would also like to say thankyou to all the lovely comments regarding the towns lights. I have chaired the Retail group for the last few years and we have worked hard with the town council to improve the christmas lights. All Festive faringdon funds, which I organized each year, is done so we can help improve the lights year on year.

I would like to extend the lights so they are not confined just to the town centre, so any ideas or thoughts please get in touch. I would also like to thank June Rennie for all her hard work, also to Rotary without them Festive faringdon wouldn't have been the same.

Merry Christmas to all
Denise Palmer

RE.item 'Tesco/planning consultation(16.12.09) - 18/12/09

In this item Alan Hickmore refers to consultation by VWHDC officers on 26 January. I would be grateful if you would make the following points of clarification:

1)In the phrase 'The consultation will culminate with an exhibition by officers of VWHDC' the consultation is that being carried out by Tesco. The wording infers that VWHDC's involvement is part of the Tesco consultation. This is not the case. 2)VWHDC officers will be at the Corn Exchange on 26 January but this is for a Question and Answer session (on any points in the VWHDC's leaflet). There may be some material on display but the main purpose is the Q & A session.

3)On the 26 January, the Q&A session will last from 6 to 7 pm, not 6 to 8 pm.

4)This Q&A session has been arranged primarily to discuss retailing in Faringdon. It will not "cover the final draft of

the core strategy". The final draft of the core strategy is timetabled for publication in June 2010.

Nick Burroughs
VWHDC

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY Noel

Mike Barker Helen Gerrard

To Sam Prince - 17/12/09

Many thank for a fantastic last night of music in the corn exchange.
Jedd(the dog)

Re Tesco's Planning consultation - 17/12/09.

I am pleased that Alan Hickmore (cllr) has replied to the concerns of Faringdon residents with his comprehensive reply. It is heartening that such multinationals as Tesco should have involved FTC (sorry the Planning Committee), in its proposals for it's expansion plans. Comments such as:

"Invited to attend the meeting to explain and take advice from us on the consultation process that they will undertake prior to making a planning application early in the new year." Are extremely encouraging, it would seem that the Committee (not FTC) has real standing in the scheme of things. I can well understand that excluding the public is a wise move, not least in the given example of:

"There has been a case recently when a developer was talking to us on a completely unrelated topic and mentioned his early plans for a hospital in Faringdon. This caused a great deal of distress and worry for residents"

Oh my, a HOSPITAL??? What do they know that we don't? But in reality not having the public in attendance serves a different cause; What you don't know you can't laugh at, that includes the "influence" wielded by FTC (sorry, P&H, my mistake).

Oh I am a sad soul!
Mike Perks

Our Voices ignored- 17/12/09

I fully expect the Tesco consultation to be as for the Market Square improvements, when all dissenting voices were ignored and lost. We will end up with Tescos to the benefit and convenience of some but not Faringdon.
Name Supplied

Re Tescos meeting update - 17/12/09

Apparently it was not the Town Council but the Planning and Highways Committee that excluded the public". Glad about that, I thought they might all have been town councilors, just shows how wrong you can be.
Mike Perks

Of Christmas Lights and Tesco's and Testicles and Things - 17/12/09

Well, we all have a dose of Christmas Cheer don't we! I think that A. Doctor may be onto something here, not only do some posters not know their own names, it is amazing how they can even see the festive lights, given the degree of blindness obviously incurred through their diligent handy-work. On parking, it is not often I agree with Steve Leniec, but his summing up of the parking ticket debate is spot on, I heartily concur. One of the reasons Witney has done so well, is that it told Oxfordshire Council where to get off when they tried to browbeat them into abolishing the car.

I also thank David Keeble (Cllr)for reminding us that we are all welcome to attend council meetings, unless of course Tesco's turn up. However, I cannot end this rambling response without addressing Lord Thresher. I assume that this pseudonym is due to Threshers being decidedly empty, It could also be that Lord Thresher is of female gender,

should be Lady Thresher dear, but I can assure Lord Thresher with all kindness and understanding, that if they ever do drop, there will be no shortage of willing helpers to shove them straight back up again.

Happy Christmas One and All!
Mike Perks

Tescos /planning consultation - 16/12/09

Thank you Nigel for asking for the facts regarding the Planning & Highways committee meeting on Tuesday. I'll try to explain the situation.

Mr. Felix Gummer of Tesco was invited to attend the meeting to explain and take advice from us on the consultation process that they will undertake prior to making a planning application early in the new year.

The possibility that this part of the meeting would probably be held in private session was clearly indicated when the agenda was published. There were also a series of emails between the Town Clerk and Mr. Elwell on the matter prior to the meeting. He was fully aware of the probability but chose to make some sort of point about it.

The reasons for going into private session were:

- 1) It was considered to be unfair to the other possible retail developments in the Town if Tesco was able to use this meeting to launch its position in public before the other two were able to do so.
- 2) No planning application has yet been submitted. It is not unusual for developers to talk to FTC P&H committee before making a formal application. In those circumstances most developers prefer to talk in private and seek our guidance. There has been a case recently when a developer was talking to us on a completely unrelated topic and mentioned his early plans for a hospital in Faringdon. This caused a great deal of distress and worry for residents - an application has not yet been received. We do not want a repetition of this situation.

A large part of our conversation with Tesco concerned their consultation programme. I think I can tell readers (without breaking confidentiality) that this will be extensive following our discussions. It will include a leaflet to every household and a two day exhibition at which they will receive comments from the community. In addition Tesco have asked us for a list of organisations that they should approach to explain their proposals.

Included in the list are : The Chamber of Commerce, the Womens Institute, Faringdon Association of Residents, Probus, Rotary and some others. They may not all take up the offer but a request will be made to them.

The consultation will culminate with an exhibition by officers of VWHDC in the Corn Exchange from 6.00pm to 8.00pm on 26th January that will cover their final draft of the core strategy within the Local Development Framework. This will include retail development. The Vale are also issuing a leaflet to all households explaining their position on retail development - this will be issued in the December edition of What's On.

I hope that the other two possible retail developments will also issue information to the residents.

Following the Vale exhibition on the 26th. there will be a meeting of the FTC Planning Committee during which at least an hour will be set aside for members of the community to put their views on the core strategy including retail development.

In the next few days I will be publishing a note on the FTC website that explains the planning laws in regard to retail and employment development.

Far from trying to keep the public in the dark, the committee have been working hard to ensure that any decision as to the recommendations that we will make next year takes clear account of the whole public view. We will listen to groups that have a clear monetary interest, but we would particularly like to hear from members of the public.

It is not clear which, or if any, of the developers will attend this meeting, but by then we should all have a clear knowledge of the facts.

I hope that this helps.

Alan Hickmore
Chair FTC Planning

Tescos meeting update - 16/12/09

Apparently it was not the Town Council but the Planning and Highways Committee that excluded the public. This has happened previously when applicants are presenting incomplete plans to avoid undue distress to those who may, or may not, be affected if the plans are eventually approved.

I guess there could also be commercial sensitivities involved. (Thank you to June RENNIE Town Clerk for clarifying the point)

We'll have to wait for the January consultation to find out what's proposed.
Nigel

Thankyou re Christmas Lights - 16/12/09

Thank you "Name Supplied" for your comments on the Christmas Lights

As chair of the Christmas Lights Committee my thanks comes from all those involved - Rotary, the Retail Group, the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Council.

We hope to continue the display for many years to come.

Alan Hickmore

Tescos not at meeting- 16/12/09

In response to the comment made by ED(GW) to the article entitled Tescos: please note that Tesco, Budgens and Faringdon Estates will NOT be attending the meeting on 26 January.

This public meeting will be attended by the Vale planners only.

Laura Howard

VWHDC Planning

Fantastic Christmas Lights - 16/12/09

The Christmas lights in town are fantastic the market place is a picture post card we should be proud that a small town provides these for us every year.

Thank you

Name Supplied

Tescos- 16/12/09

Can anyone shed any light on what happened at yesterday's Town Council meeting? Apparently Tescos were invited to present the plans for their proposed new store on Park Road.

However the public were excluded at this point by invoking 'Section 65' as it was deemed not to be in the public interest for the public to be present!

All sounds a bit bizarre.

Will the minutes of the meeting ever become available? Any suggestions as to what could be so secretive about a supermarket?

Nigel

ED(GW) I understand there is to be a public meeting on 26th January about 'Shopping in Faringdon'. Look out for the leaflet in the next Whats on. I understand that VWHDC planners and Tesco, Budgens and Faringdon Estates will be there to answer questions. The leaflet asks for your views by 29th January!!

Has The Town Council got it wrong? - 16/12/09

At the Town Council meeting yesterday, Tesco were invited to present to the Town Council their plans for development of a store along Park Road in Faringdon. It was a public meeting and representing the Public were: Nick Elwell representing Focus on Faringdon & The Chamber of Commerce Daphne Saunders representing Faringdon Area Project and the Food Group Simon Tiensa representing the Retail Group Al Caine on behalf of the Folly News Paper.

They were all excluded from the meeting. Standing Order 65 was quoted as the reason. Standing Order 65 states that the Public may be excluded if such exclusion is in the Public Interest. It is felt that excluding the public on this occasion was not in the public interest.

If you agree that the Council members have exceeded their authority or manipulated the Rules to suit their own purposes register you opinion on www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk

Memories of Christmas - 16/12/09

My mother very busy cooking the Christmas dinner- she did everything- carols on the radio, me and brothers and sisters milling about, probably getting in the way, and my father standing in the middle of the kitchen saying 'I hate Christmas'

Memorable!!
and that was when Christmas was a much more modest occasion
I could live without it too! (Bah!!)
Name Supplied

A Doctor Writes, part 2- 15/12/09

Seems I may have to visit A. Doctor as he could be right in that my testicles havent yet descended.
As I am now 80, is this a problem?
Lord Thresher

Faringdon Youth Club funding may be cut - 15/12/09

As you may be aware there are proposed cuts in Youth Service budgets from 2012 of around two thirds. This is roughly £2.3 million! This could lead to the closure of some youth centres accross the county including Faringdon which is not nice considering the time its taken to get a youth centre that the town deserves. If you think this is a bad thing, not only for Faringdon but all of the young people in Oxfordshire then make your voice heard by contacting the following people...

This will affect young people and because Faringdon Youth Centre is shiny, bright and new doesn't mean its immune from the cuts in 2012. Please pass this onto others who may want to have their say...

Member of the Council with the portfolio for Youth Work. louise.chapman@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Friend and keen supporter of FYC also the County Councillor for the local area judith.heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Your local Member of Parliament. vaizeye@parliament.uk

This will affect young people and because Faringdon Youth Centre is shiny, bright and new doesn't mean its immune from the cuts in 2012. Please pass this onto others who may want to have their say...
David Mepham

A Doctor Writes.- 15/12/09

I have been reading with some concern the messages emanating from the subject of Christmas lights. As we all know , the season of goodwill is upon us, but alas for some this can signal the approach of a very stressful period. In my experience, these stressful times of the year, when perhaps family proximity and extra expense is anticipated, are particularly problematic for individuals who suffer from low self esteem, chronic self pity, or plain old fashioned jealousy when we feel that someone is getting 'something for nothing', especially when it is something we aren't getting.

There does seem to be a quite a little epidemic of 'ignorance', and 'prejudice' going round this site at the moment, which is affecting the aristocracy (rhymes with 'hypocrisy'?) rather more than the rest of the contributors. Of course we all like to get something for nothing, even we doctors; and I dare say the aristocracy like Lords Thresher and Hawhaw, deep down, are just like the rest of us and would like to get their snouts in the trough if only they could. Their assertions that mostly workshy individuals occupy 'social' housing are quite misleading, rather like the old Victorian adage that masturbation causes blindness. My goodness if that were true none of us would have need of illumination at all, now would we?

My advice to you all then is to get out and enjoy the Christmas lights. They only occur once a year and give a great

deal of pleasure and allow us all to be creative. I know the wife and I like to get lit up, anyway. Remember, we may have no lights at all in the future so feast your eyes while the going is still good and ignore the detractors.

A word to our 'Lords'. Although I have no reason to suppose you don't actually have aristocratic credentials, I do feel it is my duty to point out that those who perhaps suffer from delusions of grandeur, do so out of a deep sense of inferiority, - and quite often have a few problems 'down there' as we doctors say. If that is the case, and you are finding the strain of the festive season is bringing out your symptoms more than usual please don't hesitate to get in touch with me via the website, in confidence of course, and I will be very happy to recommend a reliable counselling service. I am here to help.

A.Doctor.

Triple Whammy - 14/12/09

The Roman Catholic church had standing room only for The Faringdon Singers Christmas Concert yesterday. At the end of a wonderful concert by Faringdon Singers, Sing Faringdon joined them for the Hallelujah chorus, so there were nearly 60 singers. A huge treat for Sing Faringdon to sing something complex with experienced singers. We normally sing more modern songs in unison.

This was part of the [BBC Radio 3 initiative](#) to get people to discover the joy of singing. You can hear our performance on www.faringdonsingers.org.uk/

AND

The retiring collection raised £850 (normally c £200) - to be shared between Macmillan Cancer support and Children in Need.

How good is that - singing for many, entertainment for even more while raising money for such a good cause.

If you want to sing:

Faringdon Singers. Thursday. United Church 1945-2100

Sing Faringdon: Tuesday. Roman Catholic Church 1900-2000, 5th January- 9th Feb. Just turn up

Cotswold Voices: Tuesday. St Christophers School, Langford. Tuesday 12th 1930-2030

Gene Webb

Blood doning in Faringdon. 17th December

1.15pm - 3.30pm & 4.30pm - 7.15pm at The Corn Exchange, Corn Market, Faringdon.

For more information or to book an appointment to attend the session (this is recommended), please call 0300 123 2323 or visit www.blood.co.uk

Do something amazing - Give Blood & save lives!

New donors are welcomed

Re Christmas Lights.- 14/12/09

In regards to Lord Threshers comments my parents always make the effort and decorate their house, it is worth it to see my childrens faces and also the children that come sighseeing, neither of them are on benefits my dad is still working in spite of turning 65 last year and my mum has only recently retired due to ill health after working all her life , their house was featured on this very website last year which made them very proud, Christmas is a time for celebration not for judging other people.

Name Supplied

Re Christmas Lights.- 14/12/09

It is nonsense to suggest that only those on benefits put up Christmas lights. Have a look at the displays at the Berners Way part that overlooks Pitts Park. There are two lovely displays.

This fairly new Christmas lights display outside of people houses that has become popular in recent years, is something that makes the whole season even more fun for us all.

Keep it going everybody despite the Scrooges.

Alan Hickmore

Re Christmas Lights.- 14/12/09

Successful post then. I did say majority, so by that there are always some in the minority. But, I do still believe that some of those majority are indeed workshy.
If i offended, tough; dont read it.
Lord Thresher

Christmas Lights.- 13/12/09

I take offence to the comment about benefits and christmas lights!! It is not always the "workshy" that find themselves on benefits, I am a newly single parent due to a bereavement and after finding myself stuggling i have finally come to terms with claiming benefits to survive financially, I would ask you to read your comment again before sending it next time and think who you might offend!
Are you really that small minded to believe that everyone who claims a benefit is as you put it workshy!! some people are honest have been hardworking and find themselves in need of a little help.
But thank you for showing everyone how Compassionate you are Lord Thresher
Dave

Re Postage Stamps.- 13/12/09

Poster is obviously a Royal Mail employee going by the tone of the reply. This "facility" has been going on for years. Hardly depriving Royal Mail of income. If there was better management locally and nationally at the Royal Mail, and they did a reasonable service at a decent price; then perhaps they wouldnt be such a militant bunch.
Carry on steaming off the stamps!
Penny Black

Postage Stamps.- 13/12/09

Can believe somebody is so tight but one question to the said poster. Do you want a post service in future if no then carry on . If yes stop being so tight and buy another stamp. This is one of small factors of lost revenue that the royal mail have yes maybe it there own fault for not franking the letter but it does not make it right to reuse it.
The other lost of money is free redirections for say children that have gone to uni. Where the parents write the new address and when have to deliver it a second time for the same flat cost it was posted for. Part of the rules they are held to under the inland posting regs. That none of the rivals has to abide to. Most of the customers who do this own half of oxfordshire because they have a job to make ends meet and cant afford a proper redirection service.
Name Supplied

Re car Parking -12/12/09

May I suggest you take a look at the Faringdon Town Council website, lots of information on there with a link from this site, and you're welcome to pop along to council meetings to find out more or ask a question you may have.
Regards David Keeble (Cllr)

Christmas Lights.- 12/12/09

Why is it that the majority of the houses decorated up to the nines with lights and other Christmas paraphenalia are those on benefits? Glad to see that the hard earned money I earn from 2 jobs is going to pay for the workshy to brighten up the place.
Lord Thresher

Parking Machines. 12/12/09

Name supplied makes some rather bold assertions in his defence of Vale parking charges. To tax and insure a vehicle for 12 months requires a few moments at the computer once a year, it is not a memory test of the registration number. To suggest that anyone who cannot instantly recall their registration number is operating illegally is obvious nonsense. On the issue of theft of council resources I beg to differ, indeed I would argue that the council could be said to steal my resource. If I pay for a parking bay for two hours, but leave after one hour I have paid for that place for the second hour, what right do the council have to let my space before the second hour has expired?

Under the old system a few tickets were passed on as an act of generosity, however the actual cost to Abingdon must have been miniscule and smacks of mean spirited desperation. Remember I have already paid for the space and could choose to stay for the entire two hours. Car parks are one of the few facilities left in the town provided by the Vale, they are clearly bent on maximising the revenue they take from the town. Faringdon, as we are constantly reminded, has parking problems which drive visitors and shoppers away, what hope regenerating the town centre with this attitude to customers? Perhaps Vale councillors should look to the example of Witney/Carterton etc where parking is free and the town centres are thriving, current policy simply drives customers into the free car parks of Tescos et al.
Stewve Leniec

Recycling Postage Stamps.- 12/12/09

When reusing stamps that havent been cancelled, just make sure you dont reattach with sticky tape as the recipient will be charged the penalty fee. Restick using a pritt stick or similar. Oh, there is only 1 post these days, just that they arent as good as they used to be.
Penny Black

Open Stage event on Boxing Day - 12/12/09

M.A.D.D. will be running a special Christmas open Stage event at the Corn Exchange in faringdon throughout the day on Sat 26th (Boxing Day) december .
this is open to all performers and non performers.
Commencing at 10 am with the Mummers Play .
Come and see the traditional Christmas play and help us to celebrate Christmas. mulled wine on offer and a low cost bar.
Sam Prince

Local transport consultation - 12/12/09

The deadline has been extended until 1/1/2010

See link at the top of this page
Please complete it - it's very short- with most opportunity to add your views and suggestions
Gene

Re: Car Parking Machines. - 11/12/09

Since a car driver is legally required to satisfy himself that his vehicle is taxed, insured and roadworthy before driving on the public highway, surely they must have sufficient knowledge of the vehicle's registration for it not to be difficult to use the ticket machines.

If people are having difficulty, it must therefore mean they don't know whether the vehicle they're driving is legal - I believe that state of affairs to be an offence under the Road Traffic Acts.

Car parking is a resource that has a cost like any other resource and must be paid for - transferring a ticket to another vehicle is fraudulent misuse of a Council asset, ie, theft.

Name Supplied

ED(GW(female)) I have to look at my car reg before I go to the machine - but I've only had it 2.5 years(and it's legal). The reg of the car I learned to drive in in 1963 is AMO 290B. It was blue.

Recycling Postage Stamps.- 10/12/09

I'm sure that what I am advocating may be illegal so I hope Gene will not give me away.
As the Christmas cards arrive, usually by the second post in the afternoon (we don't get a first post) I realise that many of the stamps are unfranked.
So I remove them and re-use them... Seemple !
To those of you who think it is a waste of time today I helped the environment by rescuing 2 2nd and 1 1st class stamps.
Name Supplied

I see that the VWHDC has made £924,000 accounting error! - 10/12/09

See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/oxfordshire/8404391.stm>
They claim that there has been a marginal adverse impact on services, is it because they ignore the fact that services like street cleaning are just not happening in the way they used to?
Makes you wonder what other errors they have made on our behalf.
Happysnap

You can see the detail on http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news_views/press_releases/article.asp?id=tcm:4-6963&rtm=D. Includes a pdf file with 50+ actions of how the budget deficit is to be resolved

Key savings are:

- closure of the Wantage local services point, saving around £160,000 a year. The services point is used by a relatively small number of people and offers a costly method of dealing with basic transactions such as ordering brown bins, paying council tax or seeking information about council services
 - significantly reducing spending on sports development from £150,000 to £50,000. Sports development is not a priority for the council and the revised level of spend reflects this reducing spending on grants to outside bodies, particularly through - withdrawing funding for one-off grants in 2010/11, saving £100,000
 - reducing various special responsibility allowances for councillors, including those to leader and deputy leader; overall saving £25,000 removing essential car user allowances from those staff that undertake low levels of official mileage; ultimate saving £80,000
 - modest increases in various car parking charges to generate extra income of £71,000, offset by offering free parking in all car parks after 4.00 pm
-

Re Parking

Firstly sorry I did mean Swan Lane.
Secondly I would not mind not having anywhere to park as long as I was not expected to work.
I suppose I could move to the new social housing development then I guess I may not be expected to.

Serious question. Can someone please explain how Faringdon Town Council works if they do not have any control over the Town?

Without wishing to be rude, have no lessons been learnt from the Lees social housing experiment? why is it being expanded heaven help us.

I do not think I am the only one who thought that they were re building the old folks home ?

Name Supplied

Swine Flu Jabs - 8/12/09

White Horse GPs say that very few people have contacted them for a flu jab.

Anyone with a chronic illness such as asthma, diabetes or an immune deficiency illness, or is a carer or is pregnant can have one.

Apparently it comes in batches of 10, so they need to take names and organise.

Ring you doctor
Gene Webb

Re Parking in Church Street - 8/12/09

Just to clarify, the 'council' you are referring to was not our local town council, they have no restriction over road markings... They can only make recommendations, most of which are completely ignored by the district and county councils.

Name Supplied

Christmas tree sale? - 8/12/09

In response to Liz below, the FCC PTA Christmas Tree sale is this Saturday, the 12th, from 8am - 3pm outside the storage company on Park Road.

A variety of non-drop trees for sale (so the ad. says!)

Nigel

Re Parking in Church Street Part 2 - 8/12/09

The new development is the new "social Housing" going up where one of the old folks homes used to be.

Lots of flats going up, no parking so there will be the inevitable log jam on the flyover all day.

Lord HawHaw

Faringdon Folly - please complete this questionnaire - 9/12/09

Faringdon Folly Tower is our most notable landmark and as such is very important to the town and people who live here and nearby.

Most people love it and many visit the tower or the hill frequently. We all look forward to the Christmas light on the tower.

The tower is in need of extensive repairs including a new roof and electrical wiring. We also want to invest in the woodland to increase biodiversity, plant trees and provide information boards, and maybe provide some public art to encourage visitors to the hill whether the tower is open or not.

Friends of Faringdon Folly are busy applying for grants to carry out this work and your support will increase our chances of success, so please complete the [Folly questionnaire](#) (it is very short),

This will help to ensure that the Folly Tower and Woodland are well-maintained and available for years to come for the benefit of the Town and surrounding villages.

Please return it to genewebb@rocketmail.com

Christmas tree sale? - 8/12/09

Does anyone know if real christmas trees will be on sale, on Park Street, this year in aid of the school??

(I've lost my "what's on!")

Liz

Re Parking in Church Street - 7/12/09

Park in Swan Lane as that has double yellow lines which mean absolutely nothing like the rest of the town.

Cant wait to see what happens when the new development in the Portway opens.

Lord Hawhaw

Ed(GW) What new dev?

Corn Exchange/music.- 7/12/09

I have just been re-reading the posts c.November 2006 about the demise of live music in the Corn Exchange. Since then Faringdon Town Council has taken over full responsibility for the venue from VWHDC and, supposedly, problems with the sound levels tripping the limiter had been resolved. Nevertheless many events since then have been blighted by sound (and lighting) being cut off. Last Friday, for the first time in ages, I enjoyed an evening of uninterrupted live music. Does this mean that pre 2006 sound levels are now restored? I do hope so.
Sheila

Faringdon Leisure Centre Pool Refurbishment - 7/12/09

Our local Swimming Pool will be closed from 14th December and will re-open on Monday 4th January 2010. The pool is getting a new Air Handling Unit at a cost of approximately £80,000. Usually a keen swimmer? why not try an exercise class? or even have a gym programme tailored for your personal fitness goal.
Contact the centre to find out what is on offer. 01367 241755

Corn Exchange - great venue.- 7/12/09

Many thanks to Sheila for her comments on the Friday Jam Club. I agree it was a fantastic night which we would like to carry on with but until the limiter is set to the level we had on Friday night or gotten rid of because it is a piece of equipment which is not required by law it would be stupid to book any more bands. M.A.D.D. has received support from many musicians to come and perform at the club as a support to keep it going in their words, "Keep music live" This would have to be done on a more acoustic level, so there is still hope for the club to continue next year. All I can say is watch this space or www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Car Parking in Church Street - 06/12/09

I have great empathy for the Nice Lady who lives in Church Street. Faringdon is a lovely town which because of its age has numerous housing that does not have parking facilities. I do not consider she and others park intentionally to irritate people. I for example sometimes work shifts and returning home after midnight can take up to 20 minutes to find somewhere to park. This problem has been made worse by the council decision to ban parking in church street.
Name Supplied

Sing Hallelujah! with Faringdon Singers, next Sunday - 6/12/09

13th December, 3pm Catholic Church Joined by Sing Faringdon to sing The Hallelujah Chorus, as part of Radio 3's Sing Hallelujah!
Faringdon singers will be singing from their repertoire and there will be carols to join in with
Afterwards mince pies and punch in the Hall
Retiring collection in aid of Save the Children and MacMillan Cancer Care

Faringdon and the Folly in Cotswold Life - 6/12/09

We're in the January edition that is available to but 16th December
Gene Webb

Corn Exchange - great venue.- 5/12/09

To all the people and dog who came to the Jam Club on Friday 4th Dec. Many thanks. For M.A.d.it showed what a great venue for live music the corn exchange could be. It's the only one in town. I would like to know how many people feel the same?
Sam Prince

Fantastic evening at the Corn Exchange Jam Club . 4/12/09

For once (surely not the last time?) the sound was at an appropriate level for the band, Giles Hedley & the Aviators, who were superb.

As was the young boy who 'sat in' with the band and played excellent blues guitar.

A talent to watch out for - you might catch him at the 15 minute club or Open Stage on Jan 5th.

Sheila

Richard Todd - 4/12/09

Yet another famous name who used to live near Faringdon has passed away.

My condolences to the surviving members of his family and those who knew him

Colin

Car Parking in Church Street - 01/12/09

To who ever wrote on my car It was not parked dangerously, but legally and near a street light, and a common place for people to park. In addition, I live on Church St and when all the legal spaces along the entire length of the street and down swan lane are taken, where exactly am I supposed to park? on the double yellows ?

I have 2 very small children and lament the parking for residents in town, when I struggle to find a space remotely near my house. Free parking for those who shop and work in town would free up spaces for those who live there. Or perhaps some residents only allocated places, as I imagine I'm not the only one who has to resort to less than ideal parking places when returning home .

name supplied
