

Boogie Me , 11th February - 31/1/12

Hope and Aid Direct proudly present A local 15 piece Rhythm, Blues and Boogie band, performing with DJ CITIZEN CANE

www.boogie-me.co.uk

Saturday 11th February 2012 8pm to 11:30pm Faringdon Junior School Tickets £6 available from the Nut Tree, Faringdon, or call Sarah on 01367 242769

All proceeds to Hope and Aid Direct delivering humanitarian aid directly from Faringdon to Kosovo

www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk Registered Charity Number: 1077146

The Second A Cappella Spring Fest Date: Sunday 11th March - 31/1/12

The Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot , 9am to 5.15pm, £41

A CAPPELLA SPRING FEST is a Choral Harmony Workshop being run for the second year at the Cornerstone Organised by local choirs Oxford Harmony and Harmony InSpires, participants have the opportunity to take part in chorus sessions and classes in singing techniques. Expert tutors include well known Gospel Director Ken Burton, and ex-Swingle Singer Joanne Forbes L'Strange.

Beginners to expert singers welcome

For booking or more information contact: Peter Johnson on peter270744@gmail.com or text 07580 752422.

Dogwatch - 31/1/12

Yesterday 30th Jan a large Dalmation dog (mostly white with black patches) came around our house and garden and easily jumped the cattle grid and made off towards Badbury Hill, Highworth Road, Faringdon.

He barked, was big and strong and would not let us get near him.

Daphne Saunders

Rotary – Annual Senior Citizens' Party- 21st April - 31/1/12

at Faringdon Community College

We will be delivering invitations in good time as usual to all those on our list and transport will be provided for those who need it.

Numbers are limited by venue capacity so if you know of a family member, neighbour or friend who is not on the list and would like to attend, please, as soon as possible, contact Mike Bell on 01367 241681 or by email:

josroh77-rotary@yahoo.co.uk

Cheaper room hire, Feb and March - 31/1/12

Faringdon Town Council are offering a 20% discount on bookings of the Corn Exchange and The Pump House during February and March

Contact 01367 240281

Gym membership - 30/1/12

I am not sure if Stephen (posting 6/12/11) is still stuck with his membership at Faringdon Leisure Centre but I have just read a news story which might offer a way out:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2012/jan/25/gyms-contract-crackdown-of>

<http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/news/article-2092676/Gyms-face-crackdown-lengthy-unfair-membership-contracts.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

If anyone has a gym membership contract for more than 12 months and their circumstances change there has been a recent legal ruling that should be taken into account. In one recent case, it was deemed illegal for the gym in question to enforce their contract. Although this is currently not binding on other gyms, such as SOLL: "The OFT said that the ruling should give other businesses in the sector which use similar terms an 'understanding of how a court would rule' if its terms or contracts were unfair."

If you still have the contact it might be worth going back to SOLL and pointing out that in the light of this recent court case and the forthcoming guidance from the OFT, they might be better to release you now.

Name Supplied

Shop in the Old fish shop, Cornmarket- 30/1/12

Loads of useful things - tools, screws, light bulbs, kitchen things, seed potatoes, flower seeds and I understand they're expecting more stock- of what I don't know
Ed(GW)

Thieves' Description for Name Supplied - 29/1/12

1 Male, 1 Female, 1 not sure, aged 20-45, medium coloured hair, average height, local accent, black and white striped jumpers, bag marked Swag, Jemmy in left hand, Balaclava and gloves in right.
Police anticipate an early arrest !
Seemple !
Joe King.

Compostable Bags - 29/1/12

In the Really Useful Shop they have compostable bags which fit really well inside the food caddies we have been given.
You don't need to go all the way to Tesco - just down town.
Fiona Merrick

'Faringdon Local' on Faringdon Radio - 15/1/12

New show out now - in this show interviews with Sjoerd Vogt talking about this years Eco Week and Mo Miller talking about Zanoba - Faringdons Middle Eastern Dance Group. Music from Ben Walker, The Man with The Stereo Hands and Rumour Shed.

Also don't forget to check out our music show '...from the Ladder Factory'.

www.faringdonradio.com

Thieves - 29/1/12

Descriptions would be helpful: genders, ages, build, hair colour, clothing ..
Name Supplied

Compostable Bags - 29/1/12

This is why we need Tesco's. Then we can get decent good sized, sensible priced food bags!
When will the store construction start? What is happening to the site that was Cameo Glass? Just a big pile of rubble now.

Come on Councillors, Town, Vale and County. When is Tesco coming and when will the Park Road area look a little tidier?

Colin

Compostable Bags - 29/1/12

Thanks to everyone for the replies. I'll try the recommended bags out. I did get a response from Biffa, telling me that they did not have the details of their suppliers. I considered putting in a freedom of information request to VVHDC, but as the reply I had received was prompt and amiable, even I ;-) couldn't be that mischievous.

name supplied

Compostable Bags for Food Caddies - 28/1/12

Compostable bags for food waste caddies. I have tried several makes but have found Tesco's sell the ones that I find fit the best.

Hope this helps.

Millie :-)

Thieves - 28/1/12

Beware, there is a gang of thieves around Faringdon. They are using distraction tactics and have already stolen from at least one household. They tried to steal from our shop (Karja at Uptown Fashions). Had it not been for the vigilance of Denise at Presentations, Jess downstairs and Karen at Karja they would have got away with about £60 of our stock.

The police were called but have not turned up. No change there then!

Jane Boulton

Door Step 'Charity' Sellers - 26/1/12

Why is there a growing tendency for Charities to unleash an "army" of doorstep sellers trying to get me to sign up to a direct debit for their organisations?

S** off. Go find someone who ACTUALLY gives a damn.

Colin

Wher to get compostable bags for Food Caddies - 26/1/12

Available from Sainsbury's stores or online at:

<http://www.sainsburys.co.uk/groceries/index.jsp?bmUID=1327589075701>

and

Try the Mustard Seed, they keep a supply. I have used one roll and found them very satisfactory.

Dog Fouling - 25/1/12

I am pleased to report that a dog walker has been issued a fixed penalty notice for the offence of dog fouling in the Faringdon area. This was due to the support of the public in providing information to identify the person responsible and supplying the intelligence needed to stop this irresponsible dog walker from continuing to allow his dog to foul the highway.

Colin

Compostable Bags for Food Caddies - 25/1/12

I don't know whether anyone else is having problems with the food caddy bags, or whether I am especially unlucky/picky. I sent the enquiry (below) to the VWHDC today, so perhaps if there is anyone else out there who has solved this one perhaps you'd be kind enough to recommend a brand which works.

Please could you tell me where to obtain the correct sized compostable bags for the recycling caddies? When the caddies were delivered they came with a supply of bags which were exactly the right size for them, however there seems to be no way that these same bags can be bought. I have tried others, - from shops as recommended by you, but they have been so far too loose or tight and none really fit the caddies comfortably. The ones you supplied were just right, so please can you give details of the firm which supplied them to you, and the item/catalogue number/description, so that I can investigate how to get them.

One way or another I might find the answer

name supplied

Town Council Precept increase of £3.58 pa - 24/1/12

The increase for Band D homes will be 3.5% (or £3.58pa per household). VWHDC and Oxford County Council plan no increase. It seems the budget is very tight (even though there is an extra £10k from new properties). A proposal to increase the precept by 5% to allow some contingency (amounts to about £4k) was not carried.

FTC have needed to budget £30k to cover the salary and rental costs of the Faze Youth Centre (Oxford CC cut the budget for this). It was generally felt that continuing the Youth Club is good for local youths. FTC have a 2 year lease(from Sept 2011). During this time purchase of the land and premises from Oxford CC will be investigated)

The Pump House budget includes some ££ to tidy/pave the area behind the Pump House (now the Club House has been demolished)

Expected income from renting venues (Pump House and Corn Exchange) has been reduced.

£500 has been budgetted for the Queens Jubilee. This was generally thought to be a small amount. However Clubs wishing to apply to the £13k grants fund are able to do so.

There are no capital projects planned for 2012/2013
ED(GW)

FARINGDON RADIO '...from the Ladder Factory' - 24/1/12

Third instalment of our music show now available on Faringdon Radio. Music, chat, interviews and nonsense (nonsense from Graham Fletcher).

Also watch this space as we've just recorded Paul Cornell reading his book 'The Sensible Folly' - to be released very shortlyanyone else out there written anything we could record and release?

www.faringdonradio.com

£1 single fares on any Sunday Stagecoach bus operated in Swindon- 24/1/12

To celebrate launch of the Gold Service
From 22/1 until 26th February

<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/SwindonSundayPromo.aspx>
[Timetables](#)

Pretty certain it covers Route 66(Oxford), route 55(Chippenham) and route 5 (Salisbury)
If you have to wait for more than 60 minutes for a scheduled bus, then you can take a taxi and Stagecoach will refund the cost of the taxi see <http://www.stagecoachgold.com/StagecoachCustomerCharter.pdf>
ED(GW)

Boogie Me have found a new home - 24/1/12

Those lovely people at The Bell have offered Boogie Me a home to practice in so thank you very much to Eddie and Mel.

Also, many thanks to all those of you who contacted me with suggestions too.

Looking forward to a "Boogie at the Bell" in 2012!

Mel Lane

New buses for Route 66 - 22/1/12

I travelled for the first time this morning on one of the new buses and I have to say they are a great improvement on the old ones.

They also offer free (if a bit intermittent) WiFi.

Katrina Campbell

New buses for Route 66 - 21/1/12

3 of the brand new Stagecoach Gold buses for the 66 route between Swindon & Oxford were in Faringdon today at the Sudbury House Hotel.

There are some pictures here: <http://bit.ly/66buses>

Apparently there are 7 vehicles for the route, so a very significant investment by Stagecoach Swindon, and the new vehicles begin operating next week.

Anne Rogers

Window Cleaner - 21/1/12

Local, Reliable Window cleaner

Bill Murray 7 meadow way faringdon sn7 7ul

bill.mintwindows@gmail.com contact me via e-mail or phone 07500420702

Bell Hotel Sunday Carvery - 21/1/12

We have Extended the Hours for our Carvery. It now runs 12 pm to 3 pm. Booking is advisable.

Eddie & Mel Gravestock

The Bell Hotel

01367 240534
www.bellhotelonline.co.uk

Tesco- what's happening? - 21/1/12

Tesco are having second thoughts about opening a supermarket in Faringdon due to the fact they only made £3 Billion profit last year. Times are hard for them just like the rest of us NOT.
Name supplied.

Poker clubs? - 21/1/12

Is there any poker clubs locally?
Name Supplied

Folly Tower opening this Sunday - 20/1/12

Sunday 22nd 4pm-7pm
Come and see the star closeup, while it's still there
Gene Webb

Tesco- what's happening? - 19/1/12

Does anybody have any idea when the proposed Tesco Store on Park Road wil start construction? Been a while now since they won "supermarket wars", so does anybody know?
Colin

Dog Fouling - 16/1/12

I have been receiving more complaints about dog fouling in the Faringdon area again and would like to post this notice to remind all dog walkers of their responsibilities and what the public can do to report any intelligence in as to who may be causing the issue. This matter will then be investigated further to help resolve the situation.

The main areas of concern which have been recently reported are: Gloucester Street, Southampton Street, Marlborough Gardens, Folly View Road.

Dog Fouling Awareness Notice

I am writing to you as a resident of the Vale to highlight the problem of dog fouling in your area. Unfortunately, dog mess is on the increase in your locality and the Council needs your support in helping to eradicate the problem. Dog mess is not only unpleasant but it spreads diseases which can cause illness and even blindness. Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 a person who is in charge of a dog must clean up after it when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access. It is a crime to allow a dog to foul in any public area without cleaning it up. By doing so you could face a fixed penalty notice of £50 or prosecution.

Advice for Dog Owners

In order to ensure that you do not fall foul of the law, simply follow these pointers:

- Never let your dog walk a great distance from you as this makes it difficult to see when they foul.
- Always carry a bag when walking your dog so you can clean up after it.
- Encourage your dog to stay on the perimeters of fields or pitches to ensure that any remains of the fouling do not

cause any harm to innocent bystanders.

- Do not just park up next to a public area and let your dog roam on its own. This dangerous practice could result in not only a fixed penalty for your dog's fouling – your dog could also be taken away as a stray. A collar and ID tag are also required by law.
- Please report any dog mess that needs clearing up to the Council's Waste Contractor Biffa on 03000 610 610 or email Biffa at admin.vale@biffa.co.uk identifying the exact location, eg on pavement outside 114 Green Lane, Dean Court, Cumnor.

If you see another dog owner committing this offence please keep a record of anything that can identify them and contact the Vale of White Horse District Council's Environment Wardens on 01235 520202 or email environmental.protection@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Colin Marshall

Environment Warden, Vale of White Horse District Council Abbey House Abbey Close Abingdon Oxon OX14 3JE
01235 547641 colin.marshall@southandvale.gov.uk

Boogie Me need rehearsal space - 15/1/12

Boogie Me, Faringdon's home grown big band, have lost their practice venue at the Crown while it is undergoing re-decoration. We currently have no-where to practice. We have a number of gigs planned in the local area in 2012 and we really do need to practice to make sure we can put on a good show and do the very best we can.

Boogie Me are happy to offer a free gig in return for Practice space and we need somewhere once a week from 8pm to 10pm.

Can anyone help us or suggest anywhere? My number is 07836 208800 or email garthpool@btinternet.com
Mel Lane

Tea Dance with Henry and June, 23 Jan CANCELLED

It will be rescheduled in the Spring
Faringdon TIC

Faringdon Schools agree to go for academy status - 15/1/12

- Faringdon Infant School, Faringdon Junior School and Faringdon Community College have agreed to proceed with their applications to form a multi-academy.
- Each governing body agreed with the proposed governance structure for the multi-academy Trust which will comprise 4 members and 15 Directors.
- The multi-academy trust will be called Faringdon Academy of Schools.

[Full report](#)

FARINGDON RADIO - 15/1/12

Two new shows now on line: 'Faringdon Local' featuring interviews with Uptown Fashions and an update on the Faringdon Brewery at the The Swan pub following the consistent popularity of our special show on the Faringdon Brewery from last March '

'...from the Ladder Factory ' the second episode of our new music show.

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT FARINGDON RADIO

www.faringdonradio.com

Classifieds- wanted and for sale - 15/1/12

Worth having a look at these pages occasionally - there are often some useful things advertised

[For Sale](#)

[Wanted](#)

Ed(GW)

Fire Service in Faringdon - 15/1/12

Thanks to Bill Law and Rosemary (Faringdon History Society) for providing the photos and information.

You see these in the history section of this site on <http://faringdon.org/hy Fire Service.htm>

Gene Webb

Cannon on Folly Hill, pointing at Faringdon - 13/1/12

Have no fear- just like Cromwell's cannon, it doesn't have the range to strike any part of Faringdon.

Also - it's made of wood- chainsawed by Rob of Greenshave, South Marston.

The Battle of Faringdon, 1645, was a significant event in the Civil war, and led to the surrender of King Charles I. I think this is the only mention of the Civil war and Faringdon in the town- unless you know different

Gene Webb

Annual Town Precept Meeting, 23rd January - 13/1/12

7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available from the Council office from Thursday morning 19th.

Next year's budget has been quite a challenge, bearing in mind the extra cost which the Council have committed to the future operation of the Youth Centre, whilst trying to keep any increase in Council tax to a very minimum.

The Council would welcome residents' views on whether they have got their priorities right!

June Rennie

Town Clerk Faringdon Town Council

Tel: 01367 240281

Email: june@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Tea Dance in the Corn Exchange, 23/1 - 13/1/12

2pm- 4p, £2.50 includes refreshments

Tickets from Tourist Information Centre

Solar Panels- 12/1/12

Whats this with kilometres? Could of sworn we still use miles on the highways in the UK. Or, has Cameron banned the use of miles. BBC and ITV have.

Miles and pounds and ounces till I die.

Name supplied.

Solar Panels and Nuclear power- 12/1/12

Seems odd that a nation that was bomber into submission in WW2 was so reliant on Nuclear power and also sits

on the Pacific Ring of Fire fault line! They are now only thinking its not such a good idea since the tsunami wiped out a lot of the country and paralysed the nuclear plants. Tis safe if used in the right places. I have nothing whatsoever to do with the industry but feel that unless this country invests in it, in 10-20 years time we will be in a situation where the industry wont be able to cope with the demand. Solar, wave and wind are just too fickle to have any real impact on our energy needs, so we need sustainable energy plants. Open up the welsh coalfields and use that source to make power. Stuff the carbon emissions and all the doom mongers. How are we going to keep the lights on?

If Hinckley Point was nearer I would love it as I would love to work there. Good clean power. Better than a hideous windmill or a silly solar panel. Not much wind or sun around for a few days now. The Watchfield site must be in trouble by now.

Colin

Thankyou from MacMillan - 12/1/12

Thankyou to the people of Faringdon and surrounding villages for the amazing £13,754 raised in 2011 which has now gone directly to Macmillan Oxfordshire!

Many thanks again for your continued support especially during these difficult financial times.

Many thanks

Poppy Fergusson Secretary

Tel: 01367 358213 07919 174958

Faringdon & District Macmillan Cancer Support

Bookshops - 12/1/12

The White Horse Bookshop in Faringdon, where we kept part of our stock since 2007, sadly closed down on 19th December 2011. Please note that we would be more than happy to help Faringdon residents with their orders for new books or searches for out-of-print titles. Please phone 01367 - 240056 , Fax to 01367-241544, E-Mail or write to us.

Web Site: <http://www.thorntonsbooks.co.uk>

Our catalogues are here:

<http://www.find-a-book.com/services/catalogues.php?membernr=871&custnr=&source=&lang=en>

We also recommend 2 bookshops in our area:

In Abingdon:

Mostly Books in Stert street

Mostly books opened its doors in July 2006. It is owned by Mark & Nicki (bookselling novices when they started) and assisted by a fantastic team of hardworking book lovers: Ellie, Karen, Julia, Oliver and Simon.

In Grove:

John Booksellers in Savile Way

See their recent ad and the history of the bookshop on the front page of the Folly.

Scharlie and Wim Meeuws

Thornton's Bookshop

Booksellers and Publishers since 1835

The Old Barn - Walnut Court - Faringdon - SN7 7JH - United Kingdom

Member of the ABA since 1907, [also member of ILAB and BA]

The blackbird has come home!!!- 11/1/12

Thankyou so much to the person who found and returned our black bird. It's not yet back in the tree, but it soon

will be
Gene Webb
Friend of the Folly

Solar Panels - 10/1/12

I don't think the people living in a 30km radius of Fukushima Daiichi in Japan would say that nuclear power is clean!!
Name Supplied

The Bell doing food - 10/1/12

Our Food Choice is very wide from Bar Lunches costing from £4.95 for Baguettes, Jacket Potatoes, Salad Bowls, Starters, Main Courses & Steaks. We also have Specials Up on the Boards in the Bar. The whole Menu runs throughout the day during the Meal Times.
Eddie & Mel Gravestock The Bell Hotel 13 Market Place Faringdon Oxfordshire SN7 7HP 01367 240534
www.bellhotelonline.co.uk

Missing Cat! - 9/1/12

Beau our 2 year old Birman lilac point (white fluffy cat with a beige mask and blue eyes!) has been missing from home on Rawdon Way for about a week.
Any sighting - good or bad - please contact Chris & Cheryl Taylor on Faringdon 01367 240658

More Thank you David - 9/1/12

HT's comments about David Turner forgot to mention his expertise in the meteorological department
The first signs of spring for me had nothing to do with birds or spring flowers.
For me David donning his shorts meant I could get rid of my woolly vest.
Thank you David
name supplied

David Turner at Faringdon Library - 8/1/12

I'd just like to say a heartfelt thank you to David, now that he has retired from the library, for all the help and knowledge he has given me and countless others during the years he has been the manager (if that's the correct word)

I daresay that there are many people out there who have no idea what resources are available through the library service. Not only is every book available to order from anywhere, but - for instance - TV series', DVDs, audio material; and there is a massive amount of educational and reference material, newspaper and other archives available online to library members. Once this more or less freely available service is diminished it will never be restored, so use it or lose it, as they say.

David's cheerful, helpful and expert presence was greatly appreciated, so once again, a big "Thankyou!"

HT

Faringdon Multi Academy - 7/1/12

As the date of the consultation process comes to a close I feel it is important to note that the three Faringdon Schools have not taken this decision lightly
I know a few people feel that the consultation process has not been long enough but this process has been on-going since the end of November
I know that the staff of the three schools concerned have had three meetings about the conversion and at each step of the way they have had the chance to air any concerns that they have.
The students (especially at FCC) have had the chance to be listened to by the Academy steering group I know as I have two children at the community college. It is also important to note that the Community College have been thinking about this process for the past 12 months so a lot of thought has gone into this process and all the relevant research has been done.
All the parents of the three schools were given all the relevant information (I know just before Christmas) but surely this is enough time to have your thoughts on the process and now you have the chance to air any concerns at a public meeting that is being held at the Junior School on Thursday the 12th Jan.
Now my personal view is that this move to Academy Status Can only be a good thing
Scott Gildert

The IT Van - 7/1/12

It's not often that I feel the need to recommend a service. However, I feel compelled to do so in this case.

My laptop had become unusable. It was too slow and following the purchase of a new router refused to connect to the internet via wifi. My computer was essentially a brick with no use.

Herman who runs The IT Van arrived very quickly, and on a Saturday. Assessed the problem and got to work. I now have a laptop with a future, it connects well, is infinitely faster and very useable. As a person Herman is very friendly and very good value. He's saved me buying a new computer. His website is www.theitvan.co.uk
Pete King

Solar Panels - Listed Building Consent - 7/1/12

Sorry but I would rather have my "hideous" UPVC doors and windows than those ridiculous solar panels.
Saving the planet. Get a life. We need a lot more nuclear power stations and not these ridiculous very costly and frankly wasteful energy sources. Nuclear power is cheap, clean and a lot better in the long term than wind, wave and solar.
Get real.
Colin

Westmill Solar Cooperative launch - 6/1/12

The Westmill Solar Cooperative will launch its share issue in Spring 2012, it will offer local people the chance to benefit financially and take positive action on climate change.
Watch out for more information locally, and visit www.westmillsolar.coop to register your interest before the official launch.
Frank Gordon
Westmill Solar Cooperative

Stop 999 calls for non life threatening reasons - 6/1/12

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) is launching a campaign this Thursday in a bid to stop people calling 999 for non-life threatening reasons. With the service receiving 1,235 hoax calls and many more inappropriate calls from January 2011 to October 2011, this is an increasing problem that is putting people's lives at risk.

In a concerted effort to address this issue, SCAS is headlining the campaign with a hard-hitting video shot in the style of a movie trailer, which showcases interviews with paramedics, real life emergencies and re-enactments of

inappropriate calls and the impact they have. The video will be available to view on www.999southcentral.co.uk as well as on YouTube.

Please promote the campaign and post this link on your websites, intranets and newsletters, as well as sharing it with your family and friends.

The video will be supported by extensive PR activity and to date interviews have been undertaken/are scheduled with a range of national, local and industry specific media, including ITV Meridian, BBC Oxford, Berkshire and Solent, The Sun, The Portsmouth News and The Journal of Paramedic Practice.

The campaign also comprises a number of educational case study films which will be used to target and engage schools, care homes and GPs to help raise awareness of this increasing problem and encourage appropriate use of the service.

For further information on the campaign, please contact Gill Hodgetts, Head of Communications and Public Relations, SCAS (tel: 01869 365097, email: gillian.hodgetts@scas.nhs.uk).

Solar Panels - Listed Building Consent - 6/1/12

Last evening, at a full Planning Committee meeting, my application to fit solar panels to the rear out-of-site roof of my house was rejected. I'm obviously very disappointed, but also stunned by the attitude of the planning committee. The town council is fully supportive as are my neighbours and its only from one of their gardens and part of a courtyard parking area that the panels would be visible. All but two of the Planning Committee voted against the application. The vast majority took the view that simply because the property is listed the panels should be disallowed. They seemed to completely disregard the fact that we've already been allowed to substantially rebuild the interior of the house as well as the exterior rear to which they even allowed us to fit hideous UPVC windows and doors. It seems crazy to me.

So be warned if you live in a listed house and are planning to do your bit to save the planet it might all be in vain. We're doomed!!

Ifor Phillips 15 Gloucester Street

Open Day Faringdon Leisure Centre - 3/1/12

Faringdon Leisure is having an Open Day this Sunday (9th Jan). All activities are FREE and there is plenty to do from Parent and Toddler dance, Zumba and Body Balance classes to squash, badminton, swimming and Face painting.

Doors open at 10am so why not come down and join in the fun.

Steve Gilbert Health & Fitness Manager

SOLL Leisure

More People More Active More Often

visit <http://www.soll-leisure.co.uk> Faringdon Leisure Centre, Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7LB t: 01367 241755 m: 07534 913624

Faringdon Country Market - 3/1/12

It has come to my attention that there is a misunderstanding regarding the restart of "Faringdon Country Market" in 2012 due I believe to peoples' confusion with "The Farmers Market".

The Faringdon Country Market takes place in the Corn Exchange every Friday from 9.15 a.m to 11.00 am and we restart on January 20th.

Regards Ken Dawes

Chairman Faringdon Country Market

Lost Cat - 3/1/12

Lost. Black & white female cat. Black spot under chin. 1 yr old. Wearing collar with phone number on, but that

could have come off. Went missing 4th Jan from A417/A420 area.
Special pet & two distraught children would like to see her again.
Any news, good or bad 07788918713.
Thanks. Mandy Scott

Christmas tree recycling - 3/1/12

Faringdon & District Rotary Club will be re-cycling Christmas Trees Saturday 7th January 9am - 3pm Faringdon Market Place, Shrivenham High Street, The Green Clanfield and Stanford Village Hall. Donations to Local Charities
Please Visit www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk to see how active Faringdon Rotary Club Are in your Area

Mike Bell

Pruning and General Maintenance - 3/1/12

Now is the time to start thinking about pruning roses and fruit trees. If your looking for help or just some general advice give SG Garden Maintenance a call on 07584244937 or email Contactus@gardensandlawns.co.uk . for a free no obligation quote.
All Garden work undertaken. fully insured and free advice given.
Happy new year. Sean

Rubbish Tip? - 02/01/12

Does anyone know what is going to happen top the Old Nursery site on the corner of Butts Road and Townend Road. The old building stood empty for some time and was knocked down a couple of months ago and just left. Now it is becoming a rubbish dump.

Name supplied

FARINGDON RADIO - 01/01/12

New 'Faringdon Local' show out now on Faringdon Radio. Featuring interviews with the FDS about their new production of Cinderella and Michael O'Keefe about his new internet cafe business in London Street 'lcafe'.
Music from The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm band, Les Clochards & Ed Alleyene-Johnson
Dont forget to check out our new music show '...from the Ladder Factory' www.faringdonradio.com

Sean

Calling Back - 01/01/12

As a decorator, I charge by the hour, I always give an idea of what I think the job will cost ,and always state clearly on the estimate the exact hourly rate, you only pay for the hours I work on your behalf, I always send a full written estimate, any materials I supply are itemised, and, I only charge you what they cost me. I have been running my business this way since 1984...and up until recently been based in Faringdon...(soon to move back)...so look me up in the Faringdon Whats On...I don't ride a horse or wear a cowboy hat.....I don't have a builders whistle...sheet everything up....I do however have a couple of rubbish jokes...which most of Faringdon has already heard.....including the dear Ladies that run this site (sorry)....so give me a call....estimates and advice are free....some of us take a great pride in what we do...

James Horton

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR LOYAL 'CUSTOMERS' !
Hil and Gen

The bride magazine National Awards - 29/2/12

We are absolutely thrilled at being shortlisted for Bridal Supplier of the Year by The Bridal Magazine. The phone call notifying us of our selection came as a complete shock.

We are competing with 4 other bridal shops which have a much larger 'catchment' area than us so this is really a call to arms.

Please vote for us by going to **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** & registering to vote.

Whilst it is a huge honour to be selected, it would be an even greater thrill to win so please support us by voting.

Many thanks

Sue Lund

Cariad Bride

Planning APPLICATION, Grove Airfield development - 29/2/12

A planning application has been submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council for a new housing development on the old airfield to the west of Grove. The proposal is for 2,500 dwellings in a mix of market and affordable houses and flats. The council is keen to hear the views of local residents on the proposed development. The application can be viewed at <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/groveairfield> and people can also leave their comments through this page.

VWHDC

[More information](#)

Faringdon Hum -29/2/12

I live in Marines Drive and could definitely hear the hum, more of a drone, last night (Tuesday 28th) at about 11pm. It was intermittent and the sound was getting longer about 5-10 seconds at a time.

It was not the electric substation in Park Road as I had just walked passed there half an hour before and its a very different sound. It also wasn't the traffic on the A420 as I know that sound having lived nearby for 10 years

. the plot thickens.

Sean The Mammoth

Sponsorship for Brighton Marathon- 27/2/12

In June last year Sarah Oliver put an appeal in this site for volunteers to run in the Brighton Marathon on April 15th on behalf of the Charity Hope and Aid Direct. There are a group of nine of us running for them and two of us are from Faringdon.

The charity has lots of support from Faringdon both in terms of fund raising and people taking aid out to Kosovo in the twice yearly convoys. It is a very worthwhile cause to support.

It would be great if some of you could sponsor either of us either by the just giving pages or sending to me.

Please make out any cheques to "Hope and Aid Direct". If you want us to increase the value of your gift by claiming gift aid tax relief please indicate that you are a UK tax payer and want us to claim gift aid.

<http://www.justgiving.com/ginge-is-running>

<http://www.justgiving.com/Steve-Bunce>

<http://www.hopeandaiddirect.net/>

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Steve Bunce, Faringdon

'Faringdon Local' from Faringdon Radio - 27/2/12

A new show has just been released featuring interviews with Paul Mayhew-Archer the writer of Vicar of Dibley and Michael O'keefe an update on the newly opened Faringdons lcafe.

Also don't forget to listen to our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' episode 5 released last Thursday or maybe our most successful show our first book reading 'The Sensible Folly' read by the author Paul Cornell.

Any comments about the shows are welcome or if you have something you wish to promote your club, organisation or an event then please get in touch.

Sean

www.faringdonradio.com

Underground tunnels - 27/2/12

I was wondering if anyone could shed light on the supposed tunnels that run under Faringdon?

To my knowledge 2 tunnels run from the Crown public house and another one that runs to Faringdon house.

Does anyone know if this is true or if others exist?

I would be really appreciative if anyone has any information as I have trawled the internet!

Thanks to everyone involved in producing such a good local website.

Sam

samstrangewillows@hotmail.com

07717 495577

Marlborough Gardens Reunion - 27/2/12

I am trying to organise a reunion of children who grew up on the Marlborough Gardens Estate at the start of the housing development in the 50's.

I have managed to find quite a few of the families but obviously tracking them is painstaking, if you or you know the whereabouts of any of the families I would be most grateful to hear from you.

You can contact me at gloria.foley@sky.com on 01235 523347.

Thankyou Gloria Foley (Nee Stallard)

Old Crown Coaching Inn - 25/2/12

Has any one tried the food in the old crown coaching inn the service is excellent and the new layout is 100% better than it was 2 months ago

come on faringdon you wanted wanted it to get a refit now its got one

name supplied

'...from The Ladder Factory' Faringdon Radios music show - 21/2/12

Another show of '...from The Ladder Factory' Faringdon Radio's music show is now available to listen to.

www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Sean

Faringdon Town Football Club New Players Wanted. - 24/2/12

Faringdon Town Football Club operate 3 mens sides in the North Berks Football League. The club are always on the look out for new players of all talents, and also run an excellent youth system with teams taking part in the Oxford Mail Boys League. or more information on joining please contact Simon Harrington on 07789 437227 or email simonh@handydistribution.co.uk

Faringdon Hum -24/2/12

Could it be the Faringdon Singers tuning up?
Name Supplied

Cotswold Volunteers Need Your Help.... - 23/2/12

Cotswold Volunteers have opened a charity shop in Marlborough Street, Faringdon (opposite Budgens) . We need your help to make it a success!

Just one half-day per week can really help. There are many 'behind the scenes' roles such as sorting, steaming, cleaning and polishing that are vital to the successful running of the shop as well as 'front-facing' display, sales and till work.

Special skills are not required as you will be fully trained but if you have any relevant experience it will certainly be put to good use!

Volunteering is not only a fun way to get involved with the charity but, with a real team atmosphere, it's also a great way to make new friends.

Cotswold Volunteers is a charitable organisation set up to promote volunteering and to help disadvantaged people in the Cotswolds to live life as fully as possible with the help of volunteers.

- It recruits and helps to place volunteers so they can provide vital support within the local community.
- It provides transport for the disadvantaged, frail and elderly and those who are isolated for whatever reason.
- It provides day care facilities for older people and others in need of care.

Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Judy at Cotswold Volunteers on 01285 651246. Email judy@cotswoldvolunteers.org

Faringdon Hum -23/2/12

Re- the humming noise - have you checked out the transformer in Park Road, opposite Second 2None? Low frequencies travel a long way - this could be the answer
A Fox

Population of Faringdon - 23/2/12

As of May 2011 the population was 7,021. Since then more people have moved into the new housing being built so the answer is probably around 7,500.
Jane Boulton

Faringdon Radio - 21/2/12

'The Sensible Folly' an audio book by the novelist Paul Cornell
Our first book reading on Faringdon Radio has been a resounding success with almost 300 downloads in just over a week. This makes it the 2nd most popular show on Faringdon Radio after our Faringdon Brewery Special (and

that has been available to listen to for 10 months).

Why not you take a listen to 'The Sensible Folly' and enjoy a short audio story by a local novelist.

Sean

www.faringdonradio.com

ED(GW) It's a super story- and worth re reading, especially if you don't know too much about the Folly's past.

Facts about the Folly at the back of the book.

You can buy a copy from the Tourist information office for £2.50. All proceeds go to maintain the Folly and Tower.

London St Chemist - 17/2/12

Brilliant to be able to go to a chemist in faringdon this morning at 7am

london street - would recommend as helpful polite and good service so much better than other chemist in faringdon
tony

Scrummy Sunday lunch at Rats - 16/2/12

Best Sunday lunch I've had for years- beautifully cooked- home made Yorkshires, freshly roasted potatoes and
puds from the normal menu

I shall go again

Name Supplied

Population of Faringdon - 16/2/12

Does anyone know the current population of Faringdon? I see that it was 6,000 in 2001 but I can't find any more
recent information.

Can anyone help me out?

Dave Morrell

Centre Manager SOLL Leisure

Faringdon Ecoweek 2012 - 16/2/12

Yes - the last ECOWEEK was in 2010; which means that there's going to be another ECOWEEK in 2012 : and it's
going to be Sat 16th thru to Sat 23rd JUNE (gives us a week to recover from the Jubilee celebrations) .

The more people involved in putting it together - the easier for all! For over a year now, we've been meaning to
create a more permanent ECO-group in Faringdon - rather than operating under the existing ad-hoc structure. The
name we agreed on is "Sustainable Faringdon".

First Meeting of "Sustainable Faringdon" is THIS SUNDAY 19th Feb: 7.30pm - at 7 Leamington Drive - and of
course the focus will be on ECOWEEK-2012 .

Hope you can join us!

If you CAN'T make the meeting, but still want to help in organising ECOWEEK, please DO let me know.

Best,

Sjoerd

01367-241707

Community Awards Shortlist - 16/2/12

Clive Davis Community Hero award

Ann and Gordon Dowell

Mike Robinson
Peter Wentworth

Group Award (Faringdon Town Council)

Faringdon Fire and Rescue
Faringdon Scouts and Explorers
Free Church Cemetery Trust

Business award (Faringdon Chamber of Commerce)

Cost Cutters
Mobility Shop
Past Thomas Butchers

[Profiles for each of the shortlisted candidates](#)
[Voting from](#) (deadline 23rd March)

Faringdon Hum -15/2/12

Since moving to Faringdon three years ago, my family and I have noticed an occasional audible hum. It is usually noticeable at night (when quiet), especially on cold nights. It appears to be some sort of resonance in the air. We can hear it outside as well as indoors. Over the last couple of weeks, the hum has been very continuous and so pronounced that it has prevented us from getting to sleep and has on two occasions woken us up. Even ear plugs don't work.

My neighbours have heard it and reckon the noise is from Brize Norton, but I don't think so. The noise is too continuous, having heard it nonstop for three days this week. I was wondering if its noise/air movement from the wind turbines at Watchfield.
Any ideas where its coming from?.
Regards Mark

Faringdon Radio - 15/2/12

Faringdon Radios first book reading 'The Sensible Folly' read by the novelist Paul Cornell is now available to listen to on Faringdon Radio. If there are anymore local (ish) authors out there who want to get in touch maybe we could do a reading of your work.
If you don't want to do the reading yourself we can find someone who can do this for you. www.faringdonradio.com

Toy Found in Oakwood Park - 15/2/12

An electronic game has been found in Oakwood Park and kindly handed in to the Tourist Information Centre, Gloucester Street.
If you know who this belongs to please pop in or call 01367 242191.

The-icafe.com in Faringdon update! - 15/2/12

The-icafe.com in Faringdon is now open for internet or PC use, with hot and cold Drinks & Snacks.
PC and Laptop repairs for Hardware and Software,
We now do Repairs for all Smart Phones (including all iPhones !) also Phone unlocking service now offered for iphones. Mobile repairs for computers and mobile Phones now offered .we also do photocopy, Fax and Scanning, and you can print from our computers as well as your laptop. large screen Internet gaming room to hire by the hour for parties and groups. Mothers and toddlers area in mornings soon to be open . If you just want to pop in for a coffee then that's fine! easy wheelchair and pram access to toilets.

Opening hours at the moment are, 9.15am to 6pm Mon-Sat and Sunday 12 to 5pm will stay open later if the shop

is busy. Call 01367 243567 or 07732 775190

Second to None car servicing - 15/2/12

I would like to express my thanks to Bob and his team at Second2None for helping me out with a car problem. Rang 4pm on Monday, took it in for 8am the following morning and fixed by 0830! Cracking service and cheap to boot.
Thank you
Colin

Boogie-Me for Hope & Aid Direct 14/2/12

A huge, huge, sincere thank you to everyone who came and supported Hope and Aid Direct on Saturday night at the Boogie Me gig with Citizen Cane. It really was so much fun and the great thing was we made a fabulous £1640 to boot.
We loved it so much, we're going to do it all again next February...can't wait!
We would also like to thank the Nut Tree for selling the tickets and the Portwell Angel for most generously supplying us with the 'glasses' and thank you to Scott Gildert for his technical expertise!
Our next fundraiser will be A Choir Concert on Friday 27 April.
We hope you will be able to come and enjoy an evening of singing with us.
More details to follow soon.
Sarah Oliver

'Faringdon Local' on Faringdon Radio - 13/2/12

In this weeks show we have an interview with Paul Cornell about his book 'The Sensible Folly' and Karen Vogt about the Arura Faringdon Friendship Association.
If you would like to promote your club, event, charity or have an interest that you would like to tell us about then please get in touch so that we can make a feature of it on one of our shows.
Also don't forget to check out our music show '...from The Ladder Factory'.
Sean
www.faringdonradio.com

Cat Found - 13/2/12

Friendly Cat found on the edge of Faringdon near Great Coxwell.
Is it yours? or do you know of anyone whose pet Cat has gone missing in the last few weeks or months??
Would like to return it to it's rightful owner. Call 07523 985364 if this could be your missing cat.
Name Supplied

Dog Fouling - response from Environment Warden VWHDC- 13/2/12

Allowing your dog to foul and not picking up after your dog is not only disgusting but against the law. I will attend the area (viewpoint Highworth Road) to assess the situation and place some new dog fouling signs in prominent locations. Any dog walkers that I come across will be approached to ensure that they are fulfilling their responsibilities as a dog owner. Dog fouling is a difficult crime to catch as many dog walkers use the cover of darkness or make sure that no one is around before moving on without picking up after their dog.

Ideally, I need the intelligence of who is causing the issue and any description of the person and the dog would assist me in identifying the culprit.

Any signs of dog fouling can be reported to the Council's waste contractor Biffa on 03000 610610 who will arrange for the mess to be cleared up.

Alternatively they can be emailed on admin.vale@biffa.co.uk

Regards, Colin Marshall Environment Warden Vale of White Horse District Council Abbey House Abbey Close Abingdon Oxon OX14 3JE

01235 547641 colin.marshall@southandvale.gov.uk

Red Lion - 11/2/12

Good to discover that attempts are being made to pull round the Red Lion in Faringdon. A temporary management family is in place and we found yesterday that they are determined to restore it to its former popularity. Main meals are being offered at £5 for two and they are bending over backwards to provide an amiable atmosphere .

You'd think,at this similarly amiable price,that quality might suffer . No it doesn't . We had table service,there's a simple menu and the food was excellent....

Bill Rennells

Great Coxwell Teas - 11/2/12

I'm not really sure that I want to share this because it's a gem of a secret at the moment.

On the first Sunday of the month, in the Reading Room at Great Coxwell, tea, coffee etc and THE MOST DELICIOUS cakes are available....

it's like a very quaint little country tea room that not many people know about (I mean tablecloths, flowers, heating on etc!).

The organisers are fundraising for the play park in Gt Coxwell.

The tea room is open from 2.30pm – 5pm.

Sarah

Incident at the Duke of Wellington- 10/2/12

I was talking to the present Officer in Charge of the Fire Station, David Arlott. He told me that a water pipe had burst (due to being frozen) in the empty building and flooded the premises including the cellar, which after turning off the water supply they pumped out the cellar, apparently neighbours spotted water coming from the empty building.

Bill Law, (Retired O.I.C. Fire Station.)

P.s. Anybody know whats going to happening to the Duke?

Faringdon Cricket Club new players wanted. - 10/2/12

The winter is nearly over which means its cricket time once again. Faringdon & District Cricket club will be starting senior winter nets sessions at Faringdon Leisure Centre on Sunday 19th February from 12 - 2pm.

New members are welcome regardless of age and ability.

For more information please contact Mike Hume 07968 651230.

'...from The Ladder Factory' - 9/2/12

Faringdon Radios music show '...from The Ladder Factory' has a new episode out now. SPREAD THE WORD

www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Good food all sewn up - 9/2/12

Great article about Rats Castle in the Swindon Advertiser, 9th Feb

See http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/leisure/fooddrink/reviews/9523100.Good_food_all_sewn_up/

Ed(GW)

Local History - 9/2/12

Do have any photos or documents about Faringdon, people or events from the past? Maybe you'd like a safe place for them, a place where others can see them or maybe you would allow copies to be made.

If you have something of interest please contact Rosemary Church, she'll include them in the artefacts in the History archive room above the library.

Rosemary also offers a deed transcription service. If you lend her your old deeds, she will transcribe them and return the old deeds to you with a copy of the transcription. She'll put a copy in the history room. This will cost you nothing.

Contact Rosemary on fdahs@eurobod.co.uk

Duke of Wellington- what's happened? - 8/2/12

Does anyone know what was happening at the Duke of Wellington last night, police/fire crews there all evening?
Name supplied

This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police. - 7/2/12

Burglary – London Street, Faringdon Overnight between Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd February, a property in London Street, Faringdon, was burgled.

Offender(s) gained entry via an insecure rear door and stole a handbag from the kitchen.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Ringmaster message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Illuminated Shop Signage - 7/2/12

I notice that the new VIP hair salon near the Fire Station has illuminated exterior signage. I was always under the impression that planning regulations did not permit this.

Has there been a change of policy in planning recently or have I been mistaken for all these years?

Name Supplied

ED(GW) I think planning permission is needed for an illuminated sign

Community Bus trips - 3/2/12

Thurs 23rd February

Faringdon Community Bus trip to Milletts Garden Centre, depart Market Place 1:15pm, tickets £5.00 from Faringdon TIC

Thursday 22nd March

Faringdon Community Bus trip to Banbury Castle Quay Shopping Centre, depart Market Place Market Place 1:15pm, tickets £10.00 from Faringdon TIC

Tuesday 10th April

Faringdon Community Bus trip to Lechlade & Lechlade Garden Centre, depart Market Place 1:15pm, tickets £4.00 from Faringdon TIC

Thursday 26th April

Faringdon Community Bus trip to Aston Pottery & Witney, depart Market Place 1:15pm, tickets £5.00 from Faringdon TIC

<http://www.faringdoncommunitybus.co.uk/>

Dog Fouling - 2/2/12

Here we go again, a new dog dumping ground appears to be along the grass verges from Orchard Hill to the viewing point on the Highworth road. Someone with a large dog is leaving large piles of dog's mess along these verges and believe me there is a lot of it.

Perhaps the dog warden could take note, this person needs to be caught and fined.

Name supplied

ED(GW) Contact colin.marshall@southandvale.gov.uk the VWHDC Dog warden- he'll sort it out

Second round for sport facilities funding opportunities - 3/2/12

Sports clubs in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire looking to extend or modernise their facilities have another chance to apply for funding.

In total, £50 million of Inspired Facilities funding, provided by the Lottery Plus Partnership, is available until 2014, with money allocated equally over five rounds.

The first round of applications took place in August with Henley Tennis Club being awarded £50,000 towards a new pavillion and Cumnor Cricket Club receiving just under £32,000 to help pay for a new three-bay cricket net.

Applications for the second round of £10 million funding begins on Wednesday 1 February. There will be another round later in the year, with the final two in 2013/14, so there will be plenty of opportunities for clubs to apply.

Inspired Facilities is part of the Sport England's Places People Play initiative, which aims to bring the inspiration and magic of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to the heart of local communities.

Up to a thousand grants are available throughout the country between £20,000 and £150,000. Those applying for funding are required to identify an appropriate amount of money from other sources to support their application.

Applications for the funding can be submitted by any organisation entitled to receive public funding, including voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, sports clubs, playing field associations and educational establishments.

For further information, to apply for Inspired Facilities funding and for ideas of possible improvements that could be made to your club's facilities, go to <http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/>

Faringdon Youth Club 1949-1963 - 2/2/12

Russell Spinages' Youth Club transformed the lives of many young people in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Have a look at the photos and scrap books(compiled by Peggy Spinage) in the [History section](#) of this site
Many of the young people (now less young!) are still around Faringdon. I'm sure you'll recognise a few
ED(GW)

The icafe.com Faringdon has now opened - 2/2/12

Hello all, just a quick note to say that the icafe.com has now opened !!!
not all products and services will be available from the opening but we will be adding to the list of many things that will be going on at the café over the next few months.
internet, pc use, A4 printing, coffee, tea ,snacks and cold drinks, lessons, repairs and some parts are now up and running,

So pop in and say hello, even if its just to look around! any ideas you have on what I should do and sell please let me know and I will see what I can do!

The icafe.com

10 London Street Faringdon oxon SN7 7AA tel 01367 243567

Plants for Sale - 31/3/12

Val Hudspeth of 14 Fernham Road has been selling plants for the past 4 years with proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support. Val has a range of plants which include perennials, herbs, veg. as the year progresses. Later (end April beginning of May) she will have begonia and verbena (bedding plants). Val wants to encourage us to grow plants that will attract 'pollinators' into the garden and, to that end is trying to produce as many plants as possible for that.

Fancy having a go at growing your own? Val has broad bean, runner bean, french bean and pea seeds available. Broad beans and peas can be sown now but it's a bit early for the french and runners, but you can be prepared!

Easter is traditionally the time when the gardening year begins in earnest. If you have nay gaps that need filling, come and browse.
Val

Skate Park - 29/3/12

I walked past the other day, many of those using the park were well over 18 years old. So it is not open? Why are these people using it then and who is insured?
What have our elected representatives got to say about this other than there usual nothing, just claim your expenses to attend meeting but don't dare interact with the community.
The Consultant

Vale of the White Horse Branch, Berkshire Family History Meeting - 30/3/12

21 May 2012	The common lodging-house in Victorian England	Liz Woolley
16 Jul 2012	Fair Mile Revealed: the Victorian Asylum	Mark Stevens
17 Sept 2012	Berkshire's Manorial Records	Sarah Charlton
15 Oct 2012	My Grandfather knew Lloyd George	Peter Preston
19 Nov 2012	Horatio Davis: Abingdon's local hero?	John Foreman
21 Jan 2013	Abingdon Malting Industry	Bruce Hedge
18 Feb 2013	The Social History of the English Civil War Solider	Alan Turton
18 Mar 2013	Gallon Loaves & Fustian Frocks: The Wantage Poor Law Union	Hazel Brown

For more information phone 07851206313 or email vale@BerksFHS.org.uk
We are hoping to attract people from the Faringdon area and will hopefully be holding an event in Faringdon soon
Sue Matthews

MUSTARD SEED: What's a Hindu at Easter? - 30/3/12

[Click here to read on](#)

GO activities

New activities in Faringdon for you to try every Thursday evening starting on the 5th April:

Social Rounders at 5.30-6.30

Beginners Jogging at 6.30-7.15pm.

£2 each, meet at Faringdon Leisure Centre Field.

More information ring 01235 547646

Skate Park- delayed opening - 29/3/12

I see that the long running saga of the Faringdon Skate Park has now made it to the BBC News web site

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-17539341> .

After all this time I am not surprised that the members of SK8 extremely frustrated.

Mugshots

'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' - 26/3/12

AmEgos are producing Jim Cartwright's 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' this September and are looking for an outstanding male actor to take the part of Ray Say

Ray - playing age 30 - 55, bit of a wide boy, is an agent for performers on the northern club circuit but only has 'a crooner, a dog act and two strippers' on his books at the moment. The actor needs to be able to sing (but not necessarily well!!) Roy Orbison's It's Over.

This is a fantastic part, played originally on stage by Pete Postlethwaite and in the film by Michael Caine. The play is set 'in the north', so an accent is required although we'd be happy to hear other accents if it fitted the character. You might want to check out YouTube clips to get a 'feel' for the role.

We will audition for this role on **Sunday 22nd April at Sudbury House Hotel**, Faringdon. Please contact Lesley at lesleyannep2@btinternet.com to register your interest.

Little Voice will be staged in the first week of September - venue to be finalised - in the Local area. Rehearsals will take place in Wantage and Faringdon and will be flexible dependent on cast availability.

AmEgos is a new not-for-profit company that brings together the best actors and stage technicians from around the area to put on plays and musicals that they are passionate about.

Lesley

AmEgos

Faringdon Radio - 26/3/12

In this show: new Faringdon's women's drop-in group and details of a 5 choir concert in support of Hope and Aid Direct.

www.faringdonradio.com

And don't miss our music show www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Folly Tower open this Sunday 1st April - 26/3/12

Our very own Folly Tower is open for the first time this year this coming Sunday, 11am-5pm.

Adults £2, 11-16s 50p, under 11s free

Check out the fantastic views over 5 counties and find out about the history of Folly Hill, Henry James Pye (of sing a song of sixpence fame), Oliver Cromwell and the very eccentric Lord Berners (the creator of the tower).

Seek out the 24 black birds and giant willow pie, Cromwell's cannon, the fairly useless bridge and more. Please do not feed the giraffes!!

Calling all Faringdon businesses: only 7 days left to join the FREE Faringdon loyalty card scheme - 15/3/12

Faringdon Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Vale of White Horse District Council and Faringdon Town Council will shortly launch a town-wide loyalty card scheme in Faringdon.

There is a very similar scheme operating successfully in Wantage & Grove, with over 60 participating businesses of all shapes and sizes from a wide range of sectors (hairdressers, shops, pubs, restaurants, cafés, garages, vehicle repairs, beauty therapists, etc). The scheme would be very simple to introduce and for the first 12 months, all businesses would be able to join, without incurring a financial cost.

The only commitment you would have to give would be a 'loyalty offer' to all card-holders.

Shoppers would be invited to buy a loyalty card that would entitle them to a 'special offer' in each of the participating businesses. This 'offer' would vary from business to business and might be something like 5% off all purchases; or for a business with low average spend could be 5% off all purchases over £7. Businesses may also like to offer variable offers to clear end of season ranges and in which case you would simply have to state 'see monthly offer'. Ultimately the business would decide the offer and this would be communicated to all households in Faringdon and the surrounding villages on a regular basis.

[More information](#)

Deadline for committing to join this scheme is 31st March because we will launch the scheme in Spring
Email : denise@presentationgifts.co.uk or telephone 01367 241111 to register your interest in this scheme.

New Faringdon Maps

The walk map created by a Faringdon walkers and cyclists group in 2004 has been updated. You can download it from our [maps and photos section](#)

A map showing all the businesses in Faringdon has been produced through Faringdon Chamber of Commerce. This can be found in [the business section](#)

Would a Turkey vote for Christmas ? - 24/3/12

Highly unlikely and yet many pensioners will continue to Vote Conservative because they always have done and the other lot would probably be just as bad, if not worse.

The Granny Tax, so called, will not break anyone's bank but it shows that Mr Osborne thinks of Pensioners as an easy target,

If you feel that he should be disillusioned go to the Government E-Petition Website. Put "Restoration of Age Related Tax Allowances" into the Search Box and register your protest Vote.

Power to the Geriatrics !

Community awards and Annual Town Meeting- 23/3/12

At the Corn Exchange 7pm for Community awards followed by Town Meeting 8pm

Everyone is welcome to attend both events

June Rennie

Town Clerk

Faringdon Radio - '...from The Ladder Factory' - 12/3/12

Our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' - episode 7 is out now.
www.fromtheladderfactory.com

£250,000 still available to support rural businesses - 22/3/12

£250,000 in grant funding is still available for rural businesses in Southern Oxfordshire looking to develop or expand.

The Southern Oxfordshire LEADER Programme has funding available to support a wide range of projects for farmers, tourism and community based businesses.

In 2009 the Southern Oxfordshire LEADER programme, a joint initiative involving South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, was awarded £1.89 million of European funding to support rural projects, including farms, up to 2013. So far 44 businesses have received a significant boost after successfully applying for a share of the funding.

[More information](#)

MUSTARD SEED: Take Action NOW: Stop Cruelty to Chocolate Chickens ! - 21/3/12

[CLICK HERE TO READ ON](#)
Sjoerd

Garden Plants for sale - 21/3/12

Please watch this space for details of our plant sale next month in Stanford In The Vale.
All proceeds go to Marie Curie.

Excellent car repair service - 22/3/12

It's not often I feel the need to recommend any service or business in the area, but an exception must be made! Mr Jonas, of ALEX JONAS CAR & LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REPAIRS, really does deserve exception. I had the misfortune of a broken exhaust system during a return journey from work late in the evening. I was able to contact Alex the same night and he arranged to collect the vehicle the next day from my home in Faringdon. Not only did he manage to replace two sections of the exhaust, but also checked all fluid levels, replaced a faulty headlight and corrected an overinflated tyre (recently replaced by another garage), at no extra charge! Mr Jonas returned the vehicle the same day and only charged one hours' labour (£30) for the whole job.

It is not often, in this day and age, that such an honest level of good service and genuine value can be obtained. I will certainly be using the services of Mr Jonas again and have no hesitation in personally recommending this excellent business to you all.

Thank you Alex!
Ian Hazell

Blue Plaques - 16/3/12

Faringdon -unlike neighbouring towns -has no blue plaques so I am trying to remedy this but there are various problems.One is re Judge Jeffreys (1645 - 1689) - the notorious Hanging Judge who held his court in the Crown.This seems to have been after the Monmouth rebellion but I have failed to find the date for when he was in Faringdon - which I must get to obtain a plaque. There is a very strong tradition that he was here - hence the

Courtroom and the Judge's Stairs in the Crown- and that he hanged local people at where is now the florist's shop. He is said to have greatly enjoyed watching executions - so whenever he was here it was probably for too long as far as the town was concerned!

If anyone can help me find the date I shall be very grateful.
Margaret Barker

Who was Jasper? - 15/3/12

The cricket, rugby, sk8 and hopefully soon also tennis clubs are on a field that Faringdonians call "JASPERS HILL" < yes - that's the more authentic spelling.

The cul-de-sac off Berners Way is probably a developer's corruption!) . Does anyone know who JASPER was ? (Or - perhaps still is!)
And is it a first name or surname? Or is it JASPERS perhaps ?
Sjoerd

A FREE Loyalty Card Scheme for Faringdon businesses - 15/3/12

Faringdon Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Vale of White Horse District Council and Faringdon Town Council will shortly launch a town-wide loyalty card scheme in Faringdon.

There is a very similar scheme operating successfully in Wantage & Grove, with over 60 participating businesses of all shapes and sizes from a wide range of sectors (hairdressers, shops, pubs, restaurants, cafés, garages, vehicle repairs, beauty therapists, etc). The scheme would be very simple to introduce and for the first 12 months, all businesses would be able to join, without incurring a financial cost.

The only commitment you would have to give would be a 'loyalty offer' to all card-holders.

Shoppers would be invited to buy a loyalty card that would entitle them to a 'special offer' in each of the participating businesses. This 'offer' would vary from business to business and might be something like 5% off all purchases; or for a business with low average spend could be 5% off all purchases over £7. Businesses may also like to offer variable offers to clear end of season ranges and in which case you would simply have to state 'see monthly offer'. Ultimately the business would decide the offer and this would be communicated to all households in Faringdon and the surrounding villages on a regular basis.

[More information](#)

Deadline for committing to join this scheme is 31st March because we will launch the scheme in Spring
Email : denise@presentationgifts.co.uk or telephone 01367 241111 to register your interest in this scheme.

Not again - 15/3/12

Forget the Faringdon Hum It seems that the season has returned, the dreadful moronic thud-thud of monotonous music in the Market Place at 1.30 AM. This added to the door being opened and closed, giving a whar-whar effect. Does not set me in a good mood for the rest of the day when I cant get a restful sleep until after 2.00 AM. Seems time has come for the annual grumble to the noise pollution and licensing people.
Andy

Bus Users Forum- 15/3/12

Bus Users UK Oxford Group has pleasure in inviting you to the next Bus Users' Forum for Oxford. It will be on Thursday 22 March in the Assembly Room at Oxford Town Hall. As usual, doors will open at 6 pm and the meeting will be from 6.30 to 9 pm.

Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Bus Co, Stagecoach in Oxfordshire and Thames Travel will be represented throughout the evening. Arriva the Shires is unable to provide a representative this time, but remains committed to taking part in future Bus Users' Forums.

On this occasion Oxford City Council will also be represented during the first part of the evening. This is to answer questions about shelters and seats at bus stops in Oxford. In the last three years ClearChannel has installed about 180 new shelters for Oxford City Council, including some at stops that have not previously had a shelter or seat. However, passengers are concerned that some busy stops that still have no shelter or seat, and that some of the new shelters give less shelter than the old ones they replaced.

I have placed a notice about the Forum in The Oxford Times and Oxford Mail and on their websites, and sent a news release to those papers and the Oxfordshire Guardian, BBC Oxford and Heart FM. I have advertised the Forum on Oxford's three e-democracy forums and on Facebook. I have asked bus companies to display Bus Users UK posters on their buses. I am notifying tenants' and residents' associations, community groups, disabled people's groups, parish councils, city and county councillors, and individuals who have attended previous Forums.
[Poster](#)

Tesco - 14/3/12

Re: Tesco construction start date, the only information I have appeared in the Faringdon Folly newspaper approx. 6 months ago namely 'construction to start in the New Year [which one?] with an opening date of late Autumn' Maybe Tesco have got cold feet?

NB Aldi's new store in Carterton opens tomorrow 15th March 2012, also Morrisons are planning a new store in Carterton with an opening date of late 2013 according to their website. Seems Faringdon is being left behind - again!
Name Supplied

: Extra Garden waste to be collected - 13/3/12

Customers of the garden waste scheme in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being reminded that they will be able to leave extra garden waste out in the next couple of weeks. This is available for existing customers of the councils' subscription based brown bin service only. The extra waste should be no more than an extra brown bin load, should be able to be lifted by one person and should be in either a sturdy box or bag, which must be left open.

These collections will take place in South Oxfordshire in the week commencing 19 March and Vale customers will receive them during the following week, commencing 26 March. The councils are providing this larger collection because over the Christmas period, the garden waste scheme was suspended for two weeks and the crews were used to help clear the extra waste created during the festive period. VWHDC

CSO's - 12/3/12

I wouldn't normally criticise the police or CSOs, but there is a car which regularly parks on double yellows in the narrowest part of London Street; sometimes for days at a time. It is often in a place where it causes a traffic hazard. Last week a nearby resident (not I) reported this to a CSO, mentioning that the position of the car had caused a minor incident. No action resulted and the car remained on the yellow lines.

This morning I reported the very same car to the CSO patrolling the lower part of London Street. The young lady CSO assured me that she would go further up the street. Shortly afterwards though she was heading back in the opposite direction, obviously having done nothing, as the car was still parked on the lines, without a parking ticket. What are we paying these people for? The odd parking transgression is excusable, but whoever owns this regularly illegally parked vehicle is taking the p*** and clearly getting away with it.

name supplied

Vale set to Vote on Housing Plans - 12/3/12

The [Press Release](#) indicates there is an open consultation - but I can't find it. Maybe just letters/emails is intended. You can see the documents www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/SPDS

Gig Date error in 'The Advertiser' - 12/3/12

Thought it was worth mentioning that the "the man with the STEREO hands" gig at The Swan Inn on Park road this weekend is NOT on Saturday 17th March as stated in the focus on Faringdon 'Advertiser' what's on page, but in fact will be FRIDAY 16th March from about 9pm onwards.

Also worth mentioning that it's not a Saint Patrick's Irish theme night in any way, just one man, his acoustic guitar and a bit of banter!

Neil

Faringdon Radio - one year on - 12/3/12

'Faringdon Local' One year old - A new 'Faringdon Local' show, our magazine show, has been released every two weeks for one year with a new one out now.

'...from The Ladder Factory' Our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' and has matched the same level of interest, in just under two months, with musicians in Oxford & Swindon as 'Faringdon Local' has in Faringdon

We now have three specials available to listen to and a couple more up our sleeves.

We are always keen to hear from people if you have a club, organisation or event you want to promote or perhaps an unusual business you'd be happy to talk about.

The Current 'Faringdon Local' is now available.

www.faringdonradio.com

www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Stewards wanted for the Folly- only 2 hours of your time - 11/3/12

Everyone loves our Folly (well I guess almost everyone). There's lots to do there as well as climbing the tower. You can find the 24 blackbirds, seek out the Civil War cannon, walk over the pretty useless bridge (I saw a man and his dog walking over it the other day) as well as walk in the woodland.

It's a great place for families and so close to the town.

The tower will be open as usual from Sunday 1st April, 11am-5pm. It's always open the 1st Sunday of the month and Bank Holidays until October.

We'd love to open it more often, but need more stewards to do this. We have a band of stalwarts who help us already, but it would be good to have more.

Every opening needs at least 6 people (2 per 2 hour shift); Some people like to have a friend with them- that's fine too.

Would you give us 2 hours of your time to help out?. If we get enough people we could open more times during the fine summer months and maybe a few times during the winter.

If you're able to help, please email enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk or Tel: 0845 475 8386

If you want to hear more about the Folly, come to the meeting on 5th April, 7pm, Bowls Club, Gravel

Walk.Thankyou
Gene Webb

Rubbish in Ferndale Street- 11/3/12

I know that rubbish tip. It is very unpleasant. It isnt fly tipping though, the rubbish is on private land and appears to belong to the adjacent house. It will not come to the attention of the local council unless you make an official complaint of nuisance, so if you feel strongly about it ask yourself does it present an environmental hazard, for instance harbours rats, harmful bacteria, ie is a health hazard, or other grounds for complaint? If the answer is "yes" do something about it. (you can do it online)

name supplied

MUSTARD SEED - How many typewriters does it take to ? - 10/3/12

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Diabolical Rubbish Dump in Ferndale Street Faringdon. - 10/3/12

Hi there Faringdon News

I thought you would like to publish these photo's of an outrageous Rubbish Dump in Ferndale Street Faringdon. This is a classic example of mindless Fly Tipping which should attract the full weight of the Local Authorities.

Name supplied



Once again~ Apropos absolutely nothing.- 10/3/12

Three little Pigs

The Three Little Pigs were untidy. Their mother said "you're a disgrace
I really do try to keep a clean sty it's time you each got your own place"
The Wolf heard the first Pig protesting and smiled as he heard the Pig say
"I think it's a bore. I'll make mine out of straw and I'll get the thing built in a day."
The rhyme states quite clearly what happened. Mr Wolf ate the Piggy of course.
He ate him with chips and then licked his lips where lingered some crab apple sauce.
The second pig wasn't as lazy. The house that he built would be tough.
Wood's quite easy to fix, he made his out of sticks. But sticks were not quite tuff enuff.
The third piglet wasn't a builder he loaded a gun that he had.
Shot the Wolf in the head and when he was dead he moved into Mr Wolf's pad !
Thatman

Washing Machine repair man - 8/3/12

We recommend Electromec - 012357 67060. Mr Humpries. Very good.
Name Supplied

Activities for pre-schooler - 8/3/12

Moved to Faringdon a couple of months ago. Four and a half year old daughter starts at the school in September and I'm looking for any clubs or activities for her to make some friends in the area/before school. I work in Abingdon, so we can't attend any local clubs in the day.
Would be interested to hear of anything – dance groups, craft groups – I can't seem to locate any!
Many thanks
name supplied

All Saints 'Barber' Rooms appeal launch - 8/3/12

If you want to find out more, and hear about the fund raising:

- Sunday 11th March Appeal Launch
- 8.00am Holy Communion Service
- 10.30am Holy Communion Service

- Tuesday 13th March
- 10.00am Refreshments followed by
- 10.30am Appeal Launch meeting (Corn Exchange)

- Wednesday 14th March
- 7.30pm Refreshments followed by
- 8.00pm Appeal Launch Meeting (All Saints' Church)

•Sunday 18th March
•6.30pm Appeal Launch Holy Communion Service
We look forward to welcoming you at any of these services and meetings

[Planning application 12/00494/FUL](#)

'...from The Ladder Factory' - Faringdon Radio's music show ?' - 8/3/12

'...from The Ladder Factory' - Faringdon Radio's music show ?'...from The Ladder Factory' - Episode 6 out now.
Erudite chat...mmm maybe, insightful interviews...working on it, relevant sponsors....try again - Great music...One out of 4 can't be bad.

SPREAD THE WORD - TELL THE WORLD
www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Longcot Village Fair and Fun Day - 8/3/12

Building on the success of last year's inaugural Longcot Village Fair, planning is now in full swing for this year's event. The afternoon will be packed with activities for all the family and their four-legged friends and George Scarrot will once again provide a mini fairground with some fabulous rides.

Thanks to the generous loan of a giant marquee, the day will be one for villagers to remember, come rain or shine. Once again, the organisers are looking to fill the marquee with stalls and charity displays to create a local 'covered market'. Outside activities include a Bouncy Castle, a Fun Dog Show organised by The Dog Studio and an opportunity for villagers to test their athletic talent by taking part in Longcot's very own 'Games'. Delicious food and hot and cold drinks will also be available.

The Longcot Village Fair & Fun Dog Show is in aid of the St Mary's Open Door Project which aims to raise funds to build a kitchen and toilet facilities to enable wider community use of the church.

Tickets can be purchased on the day to include a lucky raffle ticket: Adults £2, Children £1. Free car parking with access from Mallins Lane.

Anyone wishing to take a stall, exhibit or offer help on the day should contact Glenice Larcombe on 01793 783515 or email glarcombe@talktalk.net.

Rotary Club of Faringdon and District News - 7/3/12

[News about events and overseas projects](#)

PRESS RELEASE: Faringdon joins the Neighbourhood Planning revolution - 7/3/12

Faringdon has been granted 'front-runner' status to produce a Neighbourhood Plan under new powers to be introduced through the Localism Act.

The Vale of White Horse District Council worked in partnership with Faringdon Town Council to bid for the grant of £20,000 that accompanies the award of front-runner status.

Neighbourhood planning is the government's initiative to empower local communities to help make and take forward planning proposals at a local level. The idea being that local people will be the driver to help shape how their local communities grow and develop.

The Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan will be driven by the Town Council, but the Vale will provide support in helping to ensure that the process conforms with the guidelines for neighbourhood planning.

Cllr Roger Cox, cabinet member for planning at the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the people of Faringdon to help develop a vision for the future of their town. Being awarded front-runner status means that Faringdon is one of the early communities to benefit from the Localism Bill and it provides an exciting path forward for its residents, for the town council and for the Vale."

Cllr Alan Hickmore, Chairman of Town Council's Planning and Highways Committee, said "Faringdon Town Council is delighted to be one of the "front runners" to produce a neighbourhood plan for our community. We look forward to working with the Vale of White Horse District Council and, most importantly, our townspeople in producing a plan that will benefit us all".

Andy Roberts
Shared Communications Officer
Corporate Strategy

Washing Machine repair man - 7/3/12

Does anyone have any recommendations for a good washing machine repair man? Preferable someone who doesn't charge for call out to look at the problem?

Name Supplied

Smoke gets in your eyes - 7/3/12

If anyone was wondering where Faringdon's very own ash cloud was coming from on Sunday afternoon, look no further.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BN5ieP2131>

Don't miss the punchline
(Brize Norton has resumed normal service, by the way).

name supplied

Calling all freelancers/self-employed ... join a Jelly! - 6/3/12

I popped into the new i-cafe today and was really impressed with the set up, and after having a chat with Mike I can see a really great use for it that would benefit anyone who works from home in Faringdon.

Jelly is an informal co-working event where freelancers, home workers and small/micro business owners bring their laptop or other work and work, chat and collaborate with other small business owners. It's basically an opportunity for people who work at home to get out and meet other freelancers, exchange ideas and support each other.

The i-cafe would be perfect because the wifi there is free so the only expense would be the copious cups of coffee we all drink and, I guess, parking if you're there more than two hours.

If anyone is interested in coming along for a "Jelly" session please contact me at Alison@theprooffairy.com – I'm thinking of holding the first one on the 26th March, and then on the 4th Monday of every month if it's a success.

More about Jelly groups here: <http://www.uk-jelly.org.uk>

Faringdon's Craft Competition Rules Queens Diamond Jubilee - 6/3/12

Competition Categories

- 1 A stitch in Time (could include any of the following Cross Stitch, Embroidery, Knitting, Tapestry, Appliqué)
- 2 A Photo in Time
- 3 Craft Flair (Free Style crafts)
- 4 If I'd known you were coming (Baking)
- 5 Artistic Flair (Drawing, Painting, Water Colour)

General Contest Rules

1. The Arts and Craft Contest is open to anyone who is a resident of Faringdon Town or our hinterland.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official entry form that can be collected from the Town Council Offices or down loaded from the website www.juliefarmer.co.uk or call Julie on 01367 246003.

3. Entry forms must be sent to Julie Farmer at Brunel House. Volunteer Way, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7YR by the 18th May 2012 with an SEA which will returned to you with your entry registration.
4. Entry by proxy is not allowed.
5. There will be no restrictions on the number of articles entered by a single entrant.
6. Articles will be displayed to permit the maximum inspection (based on space available).
7. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Judges, but they will not be held responsible for any damage that may occur.
8. All entries but be completed by 1st June 2012 and will be displayed in The Pump Rooms during the Queens Diamond Jubilee weekend. No entries will be accepted after Noon on Friday.
9. Judging will be done on Friday evening (unless otherwise posted). The contest room will remain closed from viewing during judging. The room will reopen for viewing Saturday morning.

C. Judging

1. Judging will be done by a team of judges
- 2 Construction and Materials
- 3 Difficulty/Complexity
- 4 Finishing & Display

D. Awards

1. A ribbon will be awarded for First (1st) place in each category.
2. Ribbons will be awarded for Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) place in each category.
3. Honourable Mention ribbons will be awarded at the discretion of the judges.
4. Most Popular will receive a Ribbon. This is based on the entry receiving the highest numbers of votes from the ballots submitted in the ballot box located in the Contest Room. It can come from any category.

[Entry Form](#)

Warning on Latest internet Scam! - 6/3/12

We at the-icafe.com in London street Faringdon have had a few People come into the café stating that they have been contacted by Microsoft Windows and have been told that there is a problem with their computer and that they need to follow the instructions that they give you over the phone for you to do something on your Computer , THIS IS A SCAM !! Microsoft will NEVER Call you! Do NOT Fall for it and just Hang up!! They will put a virus on your Computer or charge you for the scam they are doing to you!

If you need to know more then just pop into the icafé and we can advise you of the latest Scams.

While I am here, we Now repair iPhones and other smart phones, so if you have any problems then pop in with it and we can sort it out for you.

We are Open for people who just fancy A Coffee and sit in the sofa area!! We sell LavAzza Coffee in our Latte, Cappuccino, Espresso and B/W Coffee's
Thanks from all at the icafe the-icafe.com

Treasure Hunt - Queens Diamond Jubilee - 6/3/12

I have some wonderful news, Pat Thomas butchers have kindly agreed to sponsor the treasure hunt during the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Thank you so much.

To Take Part in the Treasure Hunt please contact Julie Farmer under the Old Town Hall on Saturday 2 June at 11 AM.

The treasure hunt is aimed at young children and families.

Julie Farmer
01367 246003

Faringdon Skate Park- 3/3/12

It is such a shame that there is no convenient delay with the signing off and opening of the skate park. There are a lot of talented kids in Faringdon and surrounding areas and it is attracting a lot of interest from talented skaters of all ages.

The police move the kids out of the skate park when they are trying to use it which is understandable but it would be better if they concentrated on the kids that hang around Faringdon and especially the town centre causing nothing but loud and sometimes offensive behaviour.

This has been reported so many times but they still continue to hang around in areas that to the older generation or in fact most people, intimidating.

Hurry up to the opening of the skate park!!!!

Name Supplied

A blanket to return - 5/3/12

...To the kind lady who assisted me with a blanket to nurse a flat coat retriever on the Folly hill last month. Tel 244085

Much thanks Dave M

Focus on Faringdon- 5/3/12

From the minutes of the Faringdon Town Council ([available here: http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random48ef618175c69/1299678688_Mins_Town_Council_meeting_9_2_11.pdf](http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random48ef618175c69/1299678688_Mins_Town_Council_meeting_9_2_11.pdf)):

“37/11 Legal Matters: Focus on Faringdon – Outstanding Hiring charges and Road Closure Fees for Arts Festival 2010 To receive recommendation from Finance Committee to choose Option 3 as outlined in the letter from the Council’s Solicitor dated 14th January 2011, with the proviso of being able to make use of either of the alternative options at a later date if this became necessary. Members considered the Solicitor’s advice and the recommendation from the Finance Committee. It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that the Solicitor’s Option 3 be accepted and that he be instructed to write to Focus on Faringdon asking for full settlement of the debt owed to the Town Council and the Faringdon War Memorial Trust within 28 days of receipt of the letter, and warning them that failure to do so will result in further legal action being taken to recover the debt.”

Name Supplied

Budgens, Waitrose and Tesco - 5/3/12

Over the past few weeks, several people have said to me that Waitrose are in discussions with the owners of Budgens, to purchase the store and convert it into a Waitrose.

Does anyone know whether there is any truth to this rumour or whether this might just be wishful thinking.

Likewise, does anyone know of Tesco’s intentions for a construction start. Is it going to be this year??

Name supplied

MUSTARD SEED - A blonde walks into a bookshop... - 5/3/12

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

What a racket -4/3/12

Last night at about midnight I was woken by a droning noise which appeared to be coming from the Lechlade

Road end of the town. Very loud sounding like maybe aircraft or heavy machinery?. Could this be the dreaded humming sound that people have reported. All I know is that whatever it is it's a damn nuisance.
Name supplied.

Smallish Child's bike - 5/3/12

Found in Jespers Hill a pink metallic child's bike, which arrived during Saturday night.
I have placed the bike in our garage for safe keeping.
Jane R Smith.

Re lost cat message posted on 2nd March - 4/3/12

Our cat is home!! He had gone back to our old house and thanks to the new occupants they took him in till we could collect him.

Alison

Planning application 12/00494/FUL by All Saints - 3/3/12

Erection of a single storey extension to existing church to accommodate new church hall, kitchen and accessible WC with associated landscaping works to include single track driveway and replacement gate.

Comments/objections can be made on
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=12/00494/FUL> by 29th March

Apparently a number of skeletons were found when the bank at the rear of the church was excavated ([see Archaeological Excavation report](#)) and some trees will be at risk when the foundations are dug.
More related documents can be found on the VWHDC website
ED(GW)

Skate Park - what's happening? - 3/3/12

The skate park looks finished to me, apart from the landscaping. It's still fenced off.
I've heard that there is a delay in opening it for use because of land ownership issues.
Anyone know anything?

This has been so long in coming- the young people need to use it now the winter is nearly over.
Name Supplied

Focus on Faringdon - 3/3/12

Does anyone know what the story is about Focus on Faringdon and the (town?) council? There's something in this month's Folly about Focus on Faringdon going out of business because of a legal case brought by the council ... I must have missed the gossip, can anyone bring me up to speed? Name supplied

Lost Cat - 2/3/12

We've just moved house and one of our cats has gone missing. He is called Chester, male, 4 years old and

completely white. He has been neutered. He's not wearing a collar though he is microchipped. He went missing from Rawdon Way (by the doctor's) on the evening of Wed 29th Feb. We used to live on the Berners Way estate so are worried he may be trying to find his way home.

If you spot a lost white cat around town please can you call me on 07927 330293 or take him to either Elms or Danetree vets - I have registered him as missing with them both. I am offering a small reward for his safe return. Many thanks, Alison Neale

New to Faringdon! Women's Drop-In - 1/3/12

Starting Thursday 22 March 2012

Thursdays 12.30-2.30pm United Church Hall (on the roundabout) (term-time only)

For ALL women in Faringdon and surrounding villages.

Pop in for a cuppa and a chat... we'd love to meet you!

Contact: Billie Hayter Tel: 07709 102791

Email: faringdon.womensdropin@gmail.com

Faringdon Hum -1/3/12

Hi Sean. Yes we heard it, and it was particularly noticeable last night(Thursday 1st March) around 9-11pm. Mark

The Mustard Seed- Dickens in Wonderland - 1/3/12

It's the 29th February; the March hares are leaping a day early, and we need your help. There's not a second to waste.

Because the earth is slowing down as it whizzes round the sun, every few years astronomers very sensibly add an extra second to our clocks, just to make sure that Universal Time is in synch with Solar time and International Atomic Time. They're called "leap seconds" and the next one will be added at the end of June 30, 2012 . But - Hang on a minute?! [CLICK HERE TO READ ON](#)

Sjoerd. 01367-241707

Email: shop@mustardseed.org.uk

Place regular OR one-off order: Mustard Seed Order Form

Live what you preach: Mustard Seed Ten Commandments

Share your feedback: Mustard Seed Facebook Page

Order HAMPERS: ORDER YOUR GIFT BASKETS HERE

Check out the new Books: The Christian Marketplace Shop@MustardSeed

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

Best of British Review- Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May

A Very British Review

An evening of Great British music, comedy, drama and food

(A Fish and Chip supper is included)

A review celebrating the best of British entertainment including singing, comedy, drama

An evening where we can be as patriotic as we want to

From Shakespeare to Hancock

Flanders and Swan to Spice Girls and Eric Clapton

Music and singing from the musicals

Sketches, solos, groups,

Chorus singing with song sheets so everyone can join in with some rousing choruses from Old Time Music Hall and war songs.

Fish and Chip Supper

Wear your patriotic best in red white and blue ready to wave the flag for the Best of Britain

Faringdon Junior School, The Elms, Faringdon. SN7 7HZ

Doors open 7pm for 7.15pm supper

Curtain Up 7.45 pm

Tickets £10.00 available on-line at www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

or from The Nut Tree, Cornmarket, Faringdon,

Cotswold Volunteers Charity Shop

The new Cotswold Volunteers Charity Shop opposite Budgens would like to thank the people of Faringdon for helping to make the shop a great success. The shop is also now selling electricals so come and find yourself a bargain or just come in and have a chat!

The team of volunteers staffing the shop would love to hear from you if you would like to join the team. Its proving to be great fun and a good way to meet people. No particular skills are needed! Training will be given and you can help out in the shop or behind the scenes.

For more information call into the shop and speak to Sue or email volunteers@cotswoldvolunteers.org

Judy Mills

Cotswold Volunteers

Follow us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/cotswoldvolunteers>

Choir Concert for Hope and Aid Direct - 29/4/12

Super concert on Friday- 5 choirs all very different. The stars for me were Bel Canto- a group of 14 young (over 17) singers from the Witney area. Beautiful arrangements, beautiful voices and young people

Joe Moore the leader of Cotswold voices has written songs and formed a group called The Yearning

<http://www.theyearningmusic.com/>

Jukebox Romance, a debut EP/10"(Elefant records), is to be released 30/4.

ED(GW)

Aerial photos of Faringdon 1953 and 1962 - 28/4/12

<http://faringdon.org/hy%20mapsandphotos.htm>
courtesy of Geoff Edgington

Choir Concert for Hope and Aid Direct- Tonight - 27/4/12

Faringdon Junior School, 7.30pm
Faringdon Junior School Choir, The Folly Singers, Sing Faringdon, Bel Canto, The Cotswold Voices
Tickets are £5 for adults and £1.50 for children up to the age of 11yrs
Available from The Nut Tree, Faringdon or from a representative in each choir.
www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk

Feeling stressed, anxious or low? Need some support? - 27/4/12

Oxfordshire Mind Wellbeing Service in Faringdon offers:
Peer Support at Faringdon Coffee House
Fridays 10.30am - 12.30pm
Come along for support with a wide range of issues.

5 Week Course: Five Ways to Wellbeing
19 June - 17 July
Tuesdays 2.00 -4.00pm

Meet & Greet session: Tuesday 12 June 2.00-4.00

The Five Ways to Wellbeing are to Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and to Give. This course will look at what wellbeing means to us, and will look at ways of maintaining and promoting our wellbeing using the five ways.

The course is interactive, informal and open to all.

at June Rennie Rooms, The Pump House, 5 The Market Place, SN7 7FL.

For more information or to book a place contact Lorraine 07435 760799 or Lynne 07435760807, or visit

www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

General information on mental health and wellbeing: 01865 247788 Oxfordshire Mind is Registered Charity Number 261476

1st Faringdon Scouts Walkabout Garage Sale - 25/4/12

This Saturday, 28th April, 10am to 2pm

Maps of all the Garage Sales locations are available, free of charge, in the following places:

Faringdon Infant School Reception

Faringdon Tourist Information Centre

Martins Newsagent

Renaissance Hairdressers

Stylers Hairdressers

Budgens (near the poster board at the car park end of the shop)

iCafe Barbershop

May all you sellers make a profit and you buyers find bargains galore!

Fiona Merrick

Skate Park is officially open - 25/4/12

The skate park opened officially on 13th April when a licence was finally granted although an official party is being

planned, probably in July.

The Vale does not yet own the land as Bloor Homes have not yet fulfilled all their obligation agreed under the 106 agreement so the skate park has a temporary licence.

The skaters are now covered by insurance for accidents so do come and use it but as there are neither refreshments nor toilet facilities on the site, will skaters please avail themselves of the facilities in the town centre before arrival.

Skaters should also requested not park on the site or to block access to the cricket club.

Alison Thomson

Chairman of the sports complex steering group.

New Boogie-Me website - 24/4/12

The new Boogie-Me website is now up and running. It contains lots of band information, links to You-Tube for video clips, a small but growing photo gallery, contact info so you can book the band and some reviews. So please visit www.boogie-me.co.uk to keep up with the best Boogie Band in Oxfordshire!

Squash Ladder at Faringdon Leisure Centre - 24/4/12

Ladders are on going throughout the year with the next Ladder starting on May 14th.

Prizes include:

1st Prize- Free 3 month membership

2nd-5 Free courts anytime

3rd- Free 3 courts

1 free court for the person who plays the most games at the end of the ladder

Please contact ccurtis@soll-leisure.co.uk for me details

Social Rounders - 24/4/12

Faringdon Rounders Group is now £1 per session at the same time of 5.30-6.30pm every Thursday at Faringdon Leisure Centre Field.

No need to book, just turn up and play!

Beginners to the sport welcome along.

More information contact Ashley Chapman on 01235 547646.

Faringdon Hum - 24/4/12

Ever since the Hercules fleet of aircraft has been re aligned at Brize Norton there has been noise issues. There have in fact been a record number of complaints regarding the noise they make, but don't forget in a few years time it will get worse. When the larger A400M aircraft enter service, these will be similar in size to the C17 that carry out the repatriations and they will also have 4 large propeller engines which will be a lot noisier than the present Allison engine that powers the Hercules.

I would suggest that although the noise is apparent it may NOT be the Hercules fault after all. There is a "hum", perhaps the underused service the Vale have in a Noise monitoring Officer could find out. We pay his wages. Let him come and find out what it is.

Colin

Faringdon Radio - 24/4/12

Faringdon Local out now. In this show interviews with Tara and David Parker-Woolway about their forthcoming art

and photography exhibition in town and Denise Palmer (Presentations) about the new Loyalty scheme for shoppers that will begin in May.

www.faringdonradio.com

Our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' is also out and we have a guest appearance at the end of the show from a new vicar in town.

www.fromtheladderfactory.com

...and check out our promos on You Tube see the link on the home page If anyone has anything they wish to promote please get in touch

Sean

Faringdon Hum - 22/4/12

As an ex squaddie, I am familiar with "Fat Albert" (Hercules nickname) and whilst I would agree that the continuous hum is very much like that of Hercules aircraft. The problem is that the hum is often non stop for more than 12 hours at a time- do they run the engines up all night?, and we have been hearing the Hum for at least two to three years now, which is over a year before the Hercs moved from Lyneham.

If it is Hercules, then why are they run all night and what do the people at Brize think. Are they kept awake?.

Mark

1st Faringdon Scouts Walkabout Garage Sale- 21/4/12

The addresses of those taking part in the 1st Faringdon Scouts' first ever Garage Sale, which will be held all over Faringdon between 10am -2pm on Saturday 28th April, are as follows:

23 Highworth Road SN7 7EG

30 Westland Road SN7 7EY

30 Orchard Hill SN7 7EH

37 Elm Road SN7 7EJ

9 Beech Close SN7 7EN

8 Maple Road SN7 8BE

21 Fernham Gate SN7 7LR

25 Fernham Road SN7 7LB

40 Bromsgrove SN7 7JQ

48 Harding Close SN7 7SJ

41 Gloucester Street SN7 7JA

47 Gloucester Street SN7 7JA

5 Pulling Close SN7 7JS

50 Folly View Road SN7 7DH

12 Folly View Road SN7 7DL

72 Gilligan's Way SN7 7FX

To take part, go to addresses close to you and find a bargain! If this event is successful we would like to run it annually. Please help us to make it a success by visiting your nearest participants. Maps will be available in some local shops and at the participating addresses.

Thank you

Faith Carpenter

Fundraising Chair

1st Faringdon Scouts

Choir Concert for Hope and Aid Direct This Friday - 20/4/12

Friday 27th April

Faringdon Junior School Choir, The Folly Singers, Sing Faringdon, Bel Canto, The Cotswold Voices

Faringdon Junior School, 7.30pm

Tickets are £5 for adults and £1.50 for children up to the age of 11yrs

Available from The Nut Tree, Faringdon or from a representative in each choir.

www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk

Faringdon Hum - 20/4/12

Thought I'd provide the solution to the apparently mysterious "Faringdon Hum". It is the noise from the C-130 Hercules aircraft at RAF Brize Norton. For the non-aircraft spotters amongst you, they are quad-propeller cargo aircraft and make a distinctly different low frequency noise than the normal jet engined aircraft that fly from there. These were the aircraft that relocated there as a result of the closure of RAF Lyneham as an active airfield last year.

Name Supplied.

MUSTARD SEED: Hey - I Moushtache you a Queshtion.... - 20/4/12

[CLICK HERE TO READ ON](#)

Faringdon Hum - 18/4/12

Having had a couple of weeks of blissful "hum" free sleep over the Easter period, it now seems the dreaded hum has returned with a vengeance. Started last Thursday night and have heard it nonstop every evening and morning since.

My neighbours and I are still none the wiser where it originates from.

Mark

Tesco - 18/4/12

Probably wont affect us at all. We were only ever going to get one of the medium size Tesco stores, not a large, out-of-town development. They've got virtually no competition here so it won't matter to them what they do. What a great pity the vociferous objections to Waitrose were uncritically listened to. The Tesco appeal could have been delayed with sufficient political will, and the Waitrose application heard before it; but of course, as usual, our elected representatives lacked vision and pandered to the few with the loudest voices.

name supplied

Thankyou from Anne and Gordon, Community award winners - 16/4/12

Gordon and Anne Dowell would like to thank the person(s) who nominated them for the Clive Davis Community hero award 2011/12 and to everyone who voted for us.

We are thrilled with our award

Gordon and Anne Dowell

Faringdon Store- Tesco - 16/4/12

I wonder how this will affect their Faringdon store?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/retailandconsumer/9203332/Tesco-to-scale-back-hypermarkets-to-concentrate-on-the-internet.html>

Name Supplied

Faringdon Folly - 15/4/12

Just been for a very nice walk with my dog up to the Folly, first time in a while. Must say how impressed I was with all the improvements made up there. The tidy-up and new information signs are great, not to mention the wood canon for the kids to play on.

Lets hope people respect it and keep it nice as its now a real asset to the town.

David Saunders.

ED(GW) Thanks David. Friends of the Folly have made many many improvements over the past 2 years. There's more in the woodland- Big black birds(sing a song of sixpence) a giant willow pie, the fairly useless bridge and now Lord Berners in a tree!. Inside the tower is hugely better too- great information boards in the Entrance Hall and Lantern Rooms as well as Vista panels on the roof. Next opening May 6th

Sofka Zinovieff- book at bedtime on radio 4- 14/4/12

Monday, 22:45 on BBC Radio 4

1/10 Sofka Zinovieff's novel explores the long and tragic legacy of the Greek Civil War through a gripping story set in contemporary Athens. When Maud's Greek husband Nikitas dies in a mysterious car crash, Maud becomes curious about his family's troubled past. His mother, Antigone, now lives in Moscow, estranged from the family for nearly sixty years after abandoning her young son. Antigone has never been back to Greece, but now Maud needs to let her exiled mother-in-law know that her son is dead. Abridged by Sarah LeFanu

Readers: Lucy Briers and Ann Beach

Producer: Sara Davies. .

Sofka is the owner of Faringdon House

Shop Closures - 14/4/12

Seems as if the party shop in Coxwell St has closed, and the Bargain shop in the old fish shop in the Cornmarket Anyone know whether others will make use of these premises?

Name Supplied

Faringdon Store- Tesco - 12/4/12

I enquired to the CEO of Tesco as to when the store would open as our elected representatives have been so quiet. Not soon is the reply. This is the email I received forwarded to you. Please publicise.

From: Petar, Simon [mailto:Simon.Petar@uk.tesco.com]

Sent: 11 April 2012 09:38

FW: Faringdon Store

Dear Mr Eddy

Many thanks for your email on 30 March to our Chief Executive, Philip Clarke. I have been asked to reply on his behalf as I am the Corporate Affairs Manager for Faringdon. Tesco were granted permission to build the Faringdon store following an independent inquiry in July 2011. We are committed to building the Faringdon store, but we do not yet have a start date for the building works.

We hope to start construction on the site before the end of 2013 and we will keep you informed of progress.

We believe our Supermarket will provide additional choice, value and convenience for local people and look forward to creating up to 150 valuable new jobs for the town.

I hope that has answered your question but if you require more information do not hesitate to contact me.

ED(GW) Thanks v much- at last a communication from Tesco. I've heard that they are trying to buy more land.

MUSTARD SEED: Your Belly Button - an Innie or an Outie? - 12/4/12

[CLICK HERE TO READ ON.....](#)

1st Faringdon Scouts Walkabout Garage Sale- 12/4/12

The deadline to register for the 1st Faringdon Scouts' Garage Sale has been extended to Saturday 21st April. Register now!

Make our sale a success and pick up a bargain!

Call Faith Carpenter on 241237 and leave a clear message with your name, house number and street, postcode and phone number.

Community award winners - 11/4/12

Business Section: Pat Thomas Butcher

Organisation Section: Faringdon Fire Fighters

Community Hero: Ann and Gordon Dowell

Jockey added to ancient white horse - 11/4/12

A WHITE jockey has been added to the 3,000-year-old carving of a chalk horse on White Horse Hill near Uffington.

The figure was unveiled this morning in a stunt from betting firm Paddy Power to promote next week's Cheltenham Festival. The 110ft tall and 200ft figure is made up of more than 200 metres of canvas.

Paddy Power has made a donation to the National Trust, which maintains the landmark.

[Oxford Mail March 8th](#)



Family History Surgery. Saturday 19th May - 10/4/12

Faringdon library 1000-1200

It is being hosted by The Vale of the White Horse Branch of The Berkshire Family History Society
They would like people to book a slot (30 mins) - telephone the library for this 01367 240311 but have allowed for a few people popping in for quick questions
They are happy to help with all family historians wherever your ancestors come from.
We have Ancestry and Find My Past for the public to use at any time on our computers
The History Room (upstairs at the library) is also available for members of the public to use. History Room opening times are the same as those of the library

1st Faringdon Scouts Walkabout Garage Sale - 10/4/12

28th April, 10am and 2pm.

Sellers register their sale with the Scouts for a minimum donation of £5. The Scouts then produce a map showing the locations of all those taking part, which will be available from local outlets before the event and from sellers on the day.

Buyers choose which sales they'd like to visit, turn up and hunt for bargains.

Sellers do not need a garage: a driveway, garden or front room will work just as well.

All profits from registrations go to 1st Faringdon Scouts. Sellers keep all their sale profits and buyers reuse items which might otherwise have gone to landfill.

Everyone's a winner!

To register your sale or find out more, call Faith Carpenter on 241237. The last date for registrations is Saturday, April 14th.

Community awards tonight at the Corn Exchange - 10/4/12

Faringdon Community Award votes have now been counted and will be announced at 7pm 10th April 2012 The Corn Exchange.

Everyone is welcome.

The awards will be followed at 8pm by The Town Meeting.

Sally Thurston

Faringdon Radio Two shows out - 10/4/12

Faringdon Local featuring interviews about this years Faringdon Arts Festival with Sam Prince and Debbie Lock about the forthcoming show 'A British Review' by Faringdon Dramatic Society www.faringdonradio.com

'...from The Ladder Factory'

Also our music is now out - episode 8 - www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Vogts Cycling Lands End to J'Groats in July! - 9/4/12

In just over three months time all five Vogt-Peppers (Karen, Sjoerd, Gabriel, Adam & Barnaby) will be cycling the 1000+ miles from Lands End up to John O' Groats (or Jan De Groot we should really call it) over a period of two weeks, averaging 73 miles a day.

We're raising money in aid of CAFOD, in memory of a dear friend Antony Mahony who died last year.

We'll need all the help we can get, including sponsorship!

Here's the JUSTGIVING page:
<http://www.justgiving.com/velovogt> if you can help us on our way.....

And you may even want to meet up en route - or join in for a leg perhaps?

There's links to the daily legs also on the justgiving page.

Now - must get back to the training.....



Wantage Folk Dance Club- 9/4/12

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month (except August) at 7.45pm Charlton Centre, Charlton Village Road, Wantage, OX12 7HG

We dance for pleasure only. It's a fun way to exercise and meet people. We dance a variety of dances, traditional, modern, Playford, American squares and contras.

Beginners are welcome.

All dances are walked through and called so that everyone can join in.

Every day clothes and comfortable shoes are recommended.

No partner required.

Contact:- Linda 01235 831482 or e.platon@btinternet.com

Find Lord Berners at the Folly. Tower open Easter Monday- 7/4/12

Our very own Folly Tower is open this Monday, 11am-5pm.

Adults £2, 11-16s 50p, under 11s free

Check out the fantastic views over 5 counties and find out about the history of Folly Hill, Henry James Pye (of sing a song of sixpence fame), Oliver Cromwell and the very eccentric Lord Berners (the creator of the tower).

Lord Berners (in a tree) is the latest addition to the art and craft installation- can you find him?
Seek out the 24 black birds and giant willow pie, Cromwell's cannon, the fairly useless bridge and more. Please do not feed the giraffes!!

Sport Relief Mile - what a fantastic opportunity sadly missed.- 5/4/12

My children and I took part in the Faringdon Soll Sport Relief Mile held at the Leisure centre and I am sorry to say that we were all very disappointed with the total organisation (or lack of it), and indeed the profile of the event

Firstly it appears that it was very poorly advertised which may account for the relatively small turn out, there were no clear instructions on the day with the route not clearly marked out and a very quick mention of where you had to run. On top of this, the planned route for the longer run had been changed from a run through the picturesque villages in the area to six laps of the school field! .

The marshalls were simply not interested and were most definitely there because they had to be – they did not even manage to encourage the runners on the way round (including the few very young ones who were taking part), and it was a complete mystery as to where the route took us, and where the finish was. One marshal was far more interested in drinking the bottles of water (that I assume were meant for the runners) than actually handing out the refreshments to the participants!

My six year old would have loved some encouraging cheers along her mile route and to be able to run through a ribbon at the end would have really made it very special; however all she and everyone else had was a banner laid on the floor (as they had with the start) and a plastic bag containing a medal and a bottle of water and then we were sent home.

To actually enter the Sport Relief mile we had to pay a fee, which was to cover the cost of organising the event; and I wonder where this money was spent and why indeed as a charity event it was not being done voluntarily? There was such a great opportunity for a larger scale event to be held, with the opportunity to raise further money for Sport Relief, with additional events and attractions (as was shown all day on the BBC) but unfortunately the event at Faringdon had an atmosphere of 'get it done and get off home' .

The only glimmer of light was that we knew we raising money for such a worthy cause.

Name Supplied.

Bell Hotel Senior Citizen menu - 5/4/12

Senior Citizen Menu At The Bell Hotel Faringdon
Starting This Weekend.
Monday To Saturday.
2 Courses for £5.00
Choice of Starter & Main OR Main & Dessert
All Welcome

Found teddy - 5/4/12

2 people emailed the webiste about the teddy- and he has now found his way home.
Owner syas Thankyou- we have been re-united.
ED(GW)

Lost teddy - 4/4/12

I think we may have lost it somewhere after getting off the Oxford bus (wasn't left on the bus) in the Market place and The Pines, on Friday 30th March. He is pale brown and has the remains of a sticker stuck to his tummy.

Name Supplied

The Rotary Raffle Results - 4/4/12

Over the past few months, the Faringdon & District Rotary Club have been selling Raffle tickets to friends and colleagues, members of other Rotary Clubs, and also to the general public, raising an impressive sum of around £3,700.

The draw took place on Wednesday March 21st, watched by Rotary President Glyn James, and ably assisted by Rotarian Roddy Benson, witnessed by the whole club at a Rotary meeting held in the Bell Hotel, Faringdon. Our guest speaker for the evening, Miss Sam Biddle accepted the responsibility for making the draw. There were a total of 16 prizes to be won, and below is the list of those successful.

1. T. Goddard - Costa Blanca holiday.
2. N. Carter - Lake District Holiday.
3. J Thorpe - Hand Made Quilt.
4. R. Clark - Visit to Mercedes F.1. Headquarters.
5. M. Breakspear - Weekend at Kings Arms Hotel.
6. A. Marsden - Boat trip on the Solant.
7. K. Holman - Weekend at Pinewood Hotel.
8. K. Holman - Racing at Cheltenham.
9. G. John - Weekend at Western Hotel.
10. A. Lee - Bottle of Champagne.
11. T. Goddard - Gas Barbeque
12. P. Saunders - Case of Wine
13. C. Gittott - Marks & Spencer Voucher
14. Breakspear - Round of Golf at Hinksey Golf Club.
15. N. Swancott - Deep in Wood Wine Rack.
16. L. Slater - Massage Voucher.

The money raised will go towards a project in Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the World, organised by 'Habitat For Humanity'. Nine members of The Faringdon & District Rotary Club, will during October this year roll up their sleeves, and for 9 days help build sustainable housing for the local inhabitants.

It is important to note that all the money raised will be used for the building project, materials etc., and not a penny towards travelling or accommodation costs as all participating Rotarian's will foot their own bill for this, as well as freely giving their time.

The Faringdon & District Rotary Club would like to offer our sincere thanks to all those that purchased a ticket and for the very generous people that donated the prizes.

Thank you all very much indeed.
John Nightingale. Public Relations Officer
Faringdon & District Rotary Club.

Buscot Park Archers - 2/4/12

The club shoots on National Trust property and shares its venue with Buscot Park Cricket Club. Club shooting times are Wednesday and Friday evenings from around 6:00 PM and Sundays mornings from around 9:30 AM. The archery field is available to members at other times. The club also shoots in the adjacent woodland between February and October each year.

Our Open Day in 2012 will be held on Saturday 28 April from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Why not come along and see if archery might be the sport for you?

Two beginners courses are held at Buscot Park each year. In 2012 these will start on Monday 14 May and Monday 9 July. They last for five weeks, are held on Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 PM and cost £30 per adult

and £10 per junior. Juniors must be over 8 and under 18 years of age. All equipment is provided and booking is essential.

See our website for further information or contact the Club Secretary, Pete Wright.

Tel: 01367 240 095

Email: secretary@buscotparkarchers.org.uk

Web: www.buscotparkarchers.org.uk

Rotary? What a load of Rubbish!! - 2/4/12

It's Saturday 31st March, I have just arrived home after completing a couple of hours litter picking, feeling rather, let's just say, less than hygienic! My wife Carol calls out "Hello darling, have you had a good time?" (We have not been married that long - hence the greeting) the seconds of silence that followed her question spoke volumes. I suggested that she should refrain from approaching me until I had a shower.

A 'good time' is not exactly how I would describe the task of collecting other peoples rubbish, but yes, I enjoyed the company of my fellow Rotarians. This was my second year of litter picking, and I am more than ever disappointed by my fellow Human Beings for their total disrespect of our Countryside.

Wearing my yellow High Visibility jacket, and fully equipped with a mechanical litter picking stick and some plastic bags, I confidently set off on my task of collecting litter along the A420. Within minutes, the stench of decaying nappies, copious bottles of urine, fag packets and last month's attempt at 'family planning' was so nauseating that I had to stop to take a deep breath, even the petrol fumes of passing lorries felt refreshing. The body of a dead Fox lay nearby.

If I see another box with a picture of Colonel Saunders grinning, with the words "Sooooo good", I'll scream. And as for 'Buy One - Get One Free!!' Then there's the Pharmaceuticals left over's, is it any wonder the NHS is so expensive to run when so much ends up the lay-by's around Faringdon. I have seen and removed remedies for diarrhoea to constipation, for carbuncles and ear drops, even some dental floss. Suppositories were found in a bag that read "Every little helps" - err, I don't think so.

The next time I see on my Bank Statement my Council Tax payment, I may feel a little resentful. I hope The Vale of White Horses District Council and Biffa are grateful for this unpaid work, although we are grateful to them for providing the Litter pick sticks and Hi Vis jackets.

The heading : Rotary? A load of rubbish, could hardly be more inappropriate. I am but one of the group of Rotarians that gave up a few hours of their time today to tidy up the roads surrounding Faringdon. The Faringdon & District Rotary Club, is made up of friendly, like minded local Men & Women who enjoy a great social calendar whilst helping others. It is part of an international organisation that has for years help others around the World, such as the eradication of Polio.

We organise various fund raising events in and around Faringdon, in order to raise money, so that we can then donate to carefully selected causes. We respond to appeals from local charities, children's clubs, Senior Citizens homes etc. We also respond to worldwide natural disasters.

In a few weeks time it is our annual Presidents Night held at the Sudbury House Hotel, and I shall be donning my DJ, black tie, accompanied by Carol wearing her latest gown, looking stunning and smelling a darn site better than I experienced today. The Rotarians that also endured these past few hours will be transformed from 'litter picking' junkies into smart 'Ladies and Gentlemen', and as we dance the night away, all memories of today will also fade away - until next year!

John Nightingale. Public Relations Officer
The Faringdon & District Rotary Club

MUSTARD SEED Tackles HELMET HAIR - 1/4/12

[CLICK HERE TO READ ON ...](#)

Bunting again - 30/5/12

It's not, and never was, the cost of the bunting. Apart from stringing it along buildings, if you want it to straddle the highway it costs a lot more money. The comment was made re our Council Tax, some of this goes on stringing our Christmas Lights every year in conjunction with the Retailers Association. Someone might corroborate this for me as I can't remember off the top of my head but if I remember correctly this is in the region of £3,000. The bunting has to be above the height of vehicles driving through our town, and would cost the same to put up. This is my own point of view and does not reflect that of the Town Council.

Jane Boulton
Town Councillor

Bunting - 30/5/12

The council members responsible for decorating our town (Corn Exchange, Old Town Hall, Pump House...) complain they can't afford it. What rubbish. 10 metres of bunting costs less than £2 at the Really Useful Shop. We bought some there today, so there is not the excuse that it can't be found in Faringdon. Or that it is expensive. So, what's the real reason for neglecting the town where we pay the highest council tax in the whole Vale?

Carolyn Williams

Cherry picker or equivalent needed - 30/5/12

We have been given some bunting from the Faringdon Rotary, but need a cherry picker or equivalent to install the bunting, are you able to help? We cannot pay for the help.

Please call me on 07970 717789
Julie Farmer

Local builder with £10m public liability insurance needed - 30/5/12

Does anyone know of a local builder who holds £10m public liability insurance to come and do some work for us on our garden wall? It is on a public highway hence the need for the insurance. The council are working with us and are fully aware.

Please call me if you do on 07836 20 8800
Many thanks Mel

New management for Uptown Fashions - 30/5/12

Now open under New Management with plenty of new lines and variety!
We aim to bring in lots of new fantastic lines and trends of all different varieties and ages. We have an excellent range of men's, children's and ladies now in store!!
So stop by and have a browse for yourself.

We stock :
Ladies clothing
Men's clothing
Children's clothing

Baby clothing
Fashion Accessories (Bags,Purses,Scarfs,bracelets etc.)
Silver Jewellery and gifts
Fashion jewellery
And much more....

Open hours: Monday – Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday – Closed
Uptown Fashions Ltd
6A London Street
uptownfashions@btconnect.com

Faringdon Treasure Hunt - 30/5/12

Faringdon treasure hunt is now on my website www.juliefarmer.co.uk ready to download. Once you have finished it, return it to PT Thomas the butcher to collect your medal (kids only get the medal). There are questions for the kids and some mum and dad questions.

If you can't download the questions I will be in the Pump Rooms on Saturday from 10.30 taking care of the craft competition and you can collect your questions from me.

Good luck everyone.

Julie Farmer

[Download question sheet here](#)

Tucker Park Fair - 30/5/12

I just wondered if anyone could tell me how much the rides etc are at the fair? Wondering if I have to get a bank loan to take my 5 kids for a treat or whether we're better off avoiding it completely

lol

Many thanks

Emma Riddle

How to Shape Where You Live! - 29/5/12

We are one of the first communities in England to be selected to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This means Faringdon residents now have an exceptional opportunity to control the future development of their town. For this to happen, the Neighbourhood Plan for Faringdon needs to be agreed. This includes consideration of essential services, such as:

- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Leisure facilities

Most importantly, we need to ensure that the final plan reflects what the people of Faringdon want.

As the first step in this process, you are invited to a public meeting to discuss the potential of the Neighbourhood Plan on **Tuesday 12th June at 7pm in the Corn Exchange**

Do please invite your friends, colleagues and neighbours to come as well - it is important that as many Faringdon people as possible are involved in the decision making process.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a unique opportunity for you to influence the future of your town - don't leave it to someone else.

Please join us on June 12th.

Hilary Sherman

Deputy Town Clerk Faringdon Town Council

hilary@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Lost Ergo baby carrier - 29/5/12

We have lost a grey Ergo baby carrier (the baby wasn't in it at the time!), we think on Sunday 20th May somewhere between Coach Lane, Stanford Road and Folly Hill. It looks a bit like rucksack straps without the bag and has an 'ergobaby' label on the front pouch.

We'd be very grateful if anyone has found it, as it's fairly new and we're a bit gutted to have managed to lose it already!

Lizzie Koder

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration - 28/5/12

Come on Folks let's be relaxed!

It's half term holidays next week – we've got a long weekend break, the weather will be great so let's put things in to perspective. Community events are about communities so 'heads up' and be part of the community of Faringdon, It might just be having a cuppa with the neighbours or joining the treasure hunt.

Some folks like the idea of celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee - others don't – well it's up to you, if you don't find something else to occupy you and be cool. If you do, there's lot's to do and see. You will get out of it what you put in – so go find somewhere you can help and enjoy. Here's a few things happening organised by the Churches over the weekend period and beyond:

- Sunday 3rd June 10.30 am Open Air service in the Market Square followed by refreshments in the Corn Exchange
 - Monday 4th June from 10.30 a full peel of All Saints' bells with up to 5000 changes – listen out and enjoy
 - Tuesday 5th June All Saints' church a live screening of the service of thanksgiving from St. Paul's Cathedral the screening will start with the procession from 9.15 – refreshments will be served. Come and join in as if you were there – service sheets available.
 - Saturday 9th June 7.30 pm a return of Lance Pierson with his 'In Voice and Verse' trio presenting 'Elizabeth to Elizabeth. A programme of music and verse from Elizabeth the 1st to the present day. Tickets from the TI, The Nut Tree, the Mustard Seed or call John Seedell on 01367 242440 ascf@btinternet.com Many will remember last year's highly acclaimed visit by this group.
- John Seedell
-

Diamond Jubilee Celebration - 27/5/12

Not whinging just commenting. Some of the residents of Faringdon will fly the flag and hang out the bunting and we will be two of them. We enjoyed the Coronation and the Silver anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and we will also enjoy this Jubilee celebration. I don't expect every-one to feel as I do and I will take the criticism but what a sad time we have coming to if every comment is taken and turned from a mole hill into a mountain.
A Faringdon lover.

Diamond Jubilee Celebration Concert - 27/5/12

Last nights concert at All Saints was so enjoyable and moving, with such a varied programme.

The Corunna Band and Bugles (Army Cadet Force), and the Bletchington Silver Band were wonderful. Jeffrey Slater songs were spellbinding and Lucy Eyles played her viola beautifully.

The video display covering scenes from The Queen's life was so well done with splendid and very appropriate organ music from Tim Eyles.

All the proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The evening was the Faringdon and Shrivenham Branch of the Briish Legion's tribute to The Queen.

Ed(GW)

Lord Berners' Bizarre Magical walks - 26/5/12

A new season of walks

Old Town Hall, 6.30pm

£5 pay on the night

If the weather is inclement the walk may well have to be cancelled. Call Peter 01367 240925

See <http://faringdon.org/nvwhatson.htm> for dates

Flags available- 26/5/12

Faringdon Dramatic Society has about 100 union jack flags left over from our Best of British. Most are unused.

Would anyone like to buy them for £20. Can use in displays or just to wave.

Please send reply on here with details on how to contact you or send e mail via our website-

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Raise Money for Buckland School - Oxon- 25/5/12

It's very simple - just visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bucklandsch/> to register and shop with over 2000 well known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay and many more.

Whenever I buy something, the retailer makes a donation to Friends of Buckland School - Oxon. They've helped other causes raise over £2,000,000 so it really does work.

I'd be really grateful if you could use easyfundraising too. It won't cost you a penny extra to shop through easyfundraising and you can even save money with special offers and voucher codes.

Plus, if you register before 1st June you'll automatically receive one entry into a free prize draw to win a Sony Playstation 3 and accessories worth over £400 – all courtesy of Viking!

So please make a difference to Friends of Buckland School - Oxon and take a look at easyfundraising today
Friends of Buckland School

Wantage Association for Retired Persons - 25/5/12

WARP is a welcoming club promoting friendship for older people in the area. I would be grateful if you could please include the following details of one of our member groups in your next publication and on your website? If possible please could you also keep the programme dates in the diary for a NIB just before each presentation. Thank you very much.

Wantage Association of Retired Persons (WARP) brings together local people socially from Wantage and surrounding areas including Abingdon, Didcot and Stevenson. Meetings are held at Wantage Civic Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm which include a topical presentation followed by refreshments and a raffle. The group also organises monthly pub lunches, line dancing, outings and holidays. Guests are welcome at the door with an entrance fee of £4 per person.

Programme of presentations

13 June Windsor Castle and Jubilee

4 July Tall Ships

1 August History of Grove Airfield

4 September Oxford Botanic Gardens

3 October Lady Carnarvon, Highclere Castle/Downton Abbey

7 November Mitford Girls

WARP is a member of Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA), the main support service for community and voluntary groups and charities in Oxfordshire

Sarah Beer

Communications Officer (part time Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm)

Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA)
The Old Court House, Floyds Row, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1SS
Direct dial 01865 258 915

Loyalty card scheme to be launched in Faringdon on Saturday 9 June - 25/5/12

Residents in Faringdon will soon be able to get their hands on a brand new loyalty card offering discounts in many of the shops in the local area.

The new scheme, which will be launched on Saturday 9 June, will give people the opportunity to take advantage of offers in 31 outlets around the town, ranging from food retailers to hair and beauty. Offers that card holders will be able to take advantage of include exclusive money-off deals, special product give-away deals and many more.

The new loyalty card will be available for the first time to the public at a launch event on Saturday 9 June. People will be able to pick up a card from a stall manned by local businesses in Faringdon's Market Place between 10am and 4pm, as well as from the 31 business outlets taking part in the scheme.

The cards which feature an illustration of the Folly Tower, cost just £2 each with all funds raised from the proceeds going back into developing the scheme and to benefit local business.

As well as receiving a fantastic array of potential discounts, anyone purchasing a loyalty card will also receive a regular emailed newsletter telling them about new offers and events in and around the area that they maybe interested in.

The scheme is being funded by Faringdon Chamber of Commerce and being delivered in partnership with the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Paul Brame, Chairman of the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce, said: "The Chamber is delighted to support this scheme and are very pleased that over 30 local businesses will now benefit."

Cllr Elaine Ware, cabinet member for Economy, Leisure and Property for the Vale, said: "This scheme has received great support from traders in Faringdon who have provided some fantastic discounts for card holders to take advantage of. We hope that as many people as possible come along and get hold of a loyalty card and help support the local businesses involved."
VWHDC

Oxfordshire Artweeks continues Great Coxwell, Faringdon and surrounding area this weekend, 26th & 27th May - 25/5/12

In Great Coxwell

14 local artists invite you to meet them and view their work in venues around Great Coxwell village. 11am-5.30pm.

Painting, drawing, photography, stone carving, ceramics, green woodworking, blacksmithing, silver-smithing/jewellery, bookbinding.

Demonstrations, Children's art work, Art Trail Map.

Delicious coffees, lunches and teas in the Reading Room.

Plant stall in the church.

Proceeds to the Village Park, Reading Room and St. Giles Church.

Contact Annabelle Zinovieff on F.242768 for more information.

annabelle.zinovieff@googlemail.com

John Betjeman poetry competition for young people - 25/5/12

The John Betjeman poetry competition for young people 2012 is open to 10-13 year-olds until a closing date of

31st July. The first prize is £1000 (£500 to the winner and £500 to the English department of his or her school or local library). The winning school and the school that generates the most number of entries will win poet visits. There are also Eurostar tickets and book tokens for winning entries.

Each child is invited to send in (by post or online) one poem on the theme of 'place'. They can choose anywhere that is important to them – from their bedroom to somewhere they visited on holiday, from their favourite park to their favourite building. The subject of their poem could be a city or a garden or a beach or a street. We are asking them to capture in words what that place means to them.

Winners of the poetry competition are invited to read their poems aloud to an audience at an awards ceremony held on National Poetry Day, Thursday 4th October, on the upper concourse of St Pancras International, next to the bronze statue of Sir John Betjeman.

The competition is free to enter and online entry form can be found at our website

<http://www.betjemanpoetrycompetition.com/>.

Poems can also be sent via the post and should be addressed to: The John Betjeman children's poetry competition, PO BOX3770, Royal Mail, Swan Lane, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JB.

Justin Gowers

Administrator

The John Betjeman poetry competition for young people

<http://www.betjemanpoetrycompetition.com/>

Beacons in and Around - 25/5/12

From the official Beacon Website -

<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=8c28ba47b81143e6b1c2c0dc43d000d2>

Here is the list of 'local' Beacons, and if the weather is fine we should see many more, as far as the Chilterns and beyond

Barbury Castle, Wroughton

Upper Pavenhill Farm, Purton

Cricklade

Milton Farm Fairford

St Peter's Church, Mill Lane Alvescot

Shifford Manor Farm, Old Shifford

The Leys Recreation Ground, Station Lane, Witney

Cumnor Hill, Oxon

Boars Hill

Wittenham Clumps

Highlands Farm, Brightwell-cum-Sotwel

East & West Hendred

Lord Wantage Monument on the Ridgeway

Challow Hill Farm, East Challow

Charney Bassett

White Horse Hill

Baydon, Marlborough Downs

Faringdon Beacon 10.01

The Big Lunch - 24/5/12

The Big Lunch is taking place next Sunday in the Corn Exchange. Free food for everyone - thanks to the Town Council and Budgens. When the runs out its all gone so do come early. Doors open at 11.30 and we aim to close at 2.30.

Looking forward to seeing you there - Julie and the team.

Julie Farmer

Jubilee Events - 24/5/12

Check out the Faringdon town council website for events taking place during the QDJ

Julie Farmer

Re Bunting Bores - 24/5/12

Whilst I agree that we can all do our bit in our own gardens wouldn't it be wonderful to see Faringdon looking pretty and showing it cares about this special weekend.....would have put Faringdon on the map ..so to speak! as it is it looks like the parish council couldn't give a fig! doesn't matter what your politics, this is a National Celebration not a local one, why are we so embarrassed to celebrate what is British.
I despair I really do! I will be the usual 'Flag Waver' anyway x

Faringdon Jubilee Events - 24/5/12

Town residents might like to compare the events in Faringdon to other areas:
<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/diamond-jubilee-local-events-and-projects>
Faringdon seems to be holding its own after all
Please come and join the fun!
Sally Thurston

Beacon Bore - 24/5/12

Looking forward to the Jubilee Beacon events around the Folly and thank you to the organisers for all your efforts.....BUT is it too late to get someone other than an MP to light it? A local child or resident? Seems a shame to allow any political party to benefit from 'our' celebration.
Or is the event for higher rate tax payers only? Keep it nonpartisan. (Or will he be dressed as a Queen along with the children?)
Name Supplied

Bunting Bores - 24/5/12

What on earth is stopping those of you complaining about a lack of bunting or events from just organising something yourself?

What is preventing you from buying or making your own bunting and dressing your own house or garden with it?

Our little cluster of houses has managed quite nicely to order balloons, bunting, flags and also procure a cask of ale; we've split up making sandwiches, baking cakes and playing music between us and may even get a bbq going with some local bangers on it! We're really looking forward to it too!

So... quit whining, buy some local produce and beer...dust off your rusting barbeque and get some music playing. What better excuse do you need?

You don't need to be a royalist to have a good time but you do need to take a bit of responsibility for your own fun!

Melanie Lane

New cafe to open soon - 24/5/12

In the Cornmarket in the old Fish shop
Good Luck!
Ed(GW)

Ecoweek 16-23 June - 24/5/12

All the evnts for Ecoweek can now be found on [Watson pages on this site](#), and the [Ecoweek website](#) or [you can download the event list here](#)
The printed ECOMAP will go out next week with the printed Whats On
Sjoerd Vogt

Jubilee Celebrations- 23/5/12

Having read all the comments about the Jubilee Celebrations, I really feel sorry for the three organisers, they appear to have done a tremendous amount of work but seem to be receiving nothing but criticism. Perhaps the criticisers would like to roll up their sleeves and do something themselves instead of being completely negative. Why is it that the people who don't do anything always whinge about people who do!
Name supplied

Celebrate being British- 23/5/12

Hello, as a new resident of Faringdon, I am disappointed to see the lack of Bunting, I agree we shouldn't waste money but this is England and we are real English people lets celebrate our country!!
A couple of weeks ago I went to the 'Best of British' evening and felt I had come home.
I am proud of my country and proud to be an English person so this special evening was right up my street, so yes we should have Bunting we should celebrate everything that optimises being British...this is telling the rest of the world we love our country, you don't have to be a monarchist to enjoy this feeling, just be proud to be English.
Land of hope and Glory and all that jazz. by the way.....I have learned how to say..."what colour's your tractor".....
Flag Waver.

Jubilee Beacon on Folly Hill- 23/5/12

Faringdon and District celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee on Monday June 4th on Folly Hill

The Curate will lead a small number of hymns, the National Anthem and say a prayer for our Queen

The beacon will then be lit at 10.01pm by Ed Vaizey MP (Steventon's beacon will be lit at 10.02pm)
A photo shoot will take place with Ed 6 children aged 10 = 60 years as Queen: 10 children aged 6 = 60 years as Queen
The photos will be sent to London where a book is being made for the Queen of the events on Beacon lighting night.

The Folly Tower will be open 19.30-22.30
There will be a Pimm's bar, courtesy of the Portwell Angel
There will be Coronation Chicken Quorma courtesy of Saffron - Indian restaurant.

----- below NOT YET COMPLETELY ORGANISED

The Faringdon Scouts and Beavers and parents will come for photos - and talk with Radio Oxford.
The Faringdon Young Farmers will also come and talk to Radio Oxford
Groups of friends, clubs and families are invited to come with their own picnics, rugs and picnic chairs

Still needing a professional photographer
The Beacon will be built from 10.am on the morning of 4th. Please all help will be appreciated.
Pat and Daphne Saunders 01367240183 07770445266

Jubilee Celebrations- 23/5/12

I thought there was going to be a Jubilee Queen/Princess. It would have been nice to have returned to the time when every event had a Queen/Princess.
Old fashioned I know but then some things are worth keeping.
A Faringdon lover.

Jubilee Celebrations- 23/5/12

Thank you everyone for your comments on the Queens Diamond Jubilee in Faringdon. I thought I would reply to everyone in this post. The Town Council set up a working party in October of 2011 to help co-ordinate events for the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The members on the working party are Cllr Jane Bolton, Cllr Karen Draper and myself. On the 2 November we posted a note on talking points and sent out over 30 emails to various groups in Faringdon asking if anyone would be interested in helping to organise a number of events. The first meeting was arranged for the 30 November 2011. The plea was also published in The Folly, we put a notice on the board in Budgens and we told anyone who would listen to us. We have held a number of other meetings since then, been into the local shops (Jane and Karen went into each shop in Faringdon with a personal invitation to other meetings) and spoken to many local businesses and the Police. If we have missed any businesses please accept my apologies for this.

A small number of businesses within Faringdon have been kind enough to sponsor some of the events we have organised. I would like to thank those companies, Quidne IT, Pat Thomas Butchers, Budgens and my company JCF, we have also been working with Church's and the Faringdon Area Project.

At present we have not organised any Bunting within the town as we just don't have the budget for purchasing or installation. If any shop or business would like to organise some bunting please contact me, it would be lovely to have some installed in the Market Place.

I agree with Name supplied when they mention that looking at my website would not be the first place you would look for a list of events taking place in Faringdon. There are notices displayed in some of the local shops about the events being held, there is information available at the Tourist Information Centre and on the Town Councils website. The events have also been published on faringdon.org and I have asked focus on faringdon to put links on their website. I have also created a page on my website for events as I wanted to let people know of the events and I have been contact by a number of people wanting me to put more information on my site with regards to events.

People are finding the events, indeed Radio Oxford are looking to interview various members of the organisation team over the weekend. If anyone would like to take part or help out during the weekend please let me know, you would be very welcome.

Julie Farmer

Faringdon and Jubilee- 23/5/12

i would like to ask are we faringdon the only town in the uk not helping to celebrate our queen, yes i know there are people who do not wish to celebrate, but there are people who do and as a town i think we should show people of our town, that we all count in this celebration., as none of us will ever see the likes again
from jan francis
sweet paradise

More Bunting- 23/5/12

Karen and I walked the whole of Faringdon with a handout asking for people and businesses to attend the Jubilee Committee meetings should they be interested, want to be involved and wanted to donate. We went in every business that we could find that was open that day and went back and handed out more later. I know for a fact that Sue received the handout as we gave it to her personally ourselves. This sheet has been posted up in pubs and shop windows all over town, it includes the contact details for Julie, Karen and myself. It had some effect as the police, representatives from Pat Thomas, The British Legion and several others have turned up.

As far as I am aware the the cost of bunting was not a particular problem but the cost of putting it up is.
Jane Boulton

Bunting in the Town- 23/5/12

I haven't been to Wantage or Witney lately but I am sure the towns will be decorated ready to celebrate the Jubilee week-end. I am sure the shops in Faringdon will decorate their windows but will it be enough to bring visitors to the Town for the celebrations I don't know. We all realise that the Town Council does not have enough money to give to every event, but did they invite all the shop-keepers to join them when they were planning for the Jubilee. Did they invite the community to decorate their houses and streets, have street parties and to enjoy the Jubilee week-end if they did then I must have lost my invite.

I have seen the Town celebrate lots of events from the Queen's coronation to the present day but this time I think they may have got it wrong.

I have no doubt that Councillor Farmer has worked hard in organising this event but I think she needed a lot more help from the Town Council.

A Faringdon Lover.

ED(GW) There is Jubilee stuff on [our For Sale page](#)

Jubilee and FTC- 23/5/12

Who would think of looking on Julie Farmer's website to find out about the Town Councils Jubilee arrangements.?

I had a look on the Council site <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/index.php?section=10>- if you look hard you'll find the information about the Treasure Hunt (though where to meet JF seems to vary)- nothing about any other events

It would be helpful to have something about what was being planned earlier in the year, and what was not ie bunting

Name Supplied

Reply to Sue Lund- 22/5/12

Dear Sue

Thank you for brining to my attention the issue of bunting for the Queens Diamond Jubilee. I do not go on to this website very often so it was a surprise to see that you are of the opinion that 'we' (the Town Council) have not organised anything for the celebrations. We have been planning events for the QDJ since October and have put posts on this website, in Budgen, in the Folly and emailed every group within Faringdon that we could think of to help organise the celebrations.

If you want to find out what has been planned please visit my website on www.juliefarmer.co.uk to find a long list of events.

There are many events going on to celebrate the QDJ, but as the budget for this event is very small and we are relying on the generosity of local businesses we have not investigated bunting. The Town Council are putting on 'The Big Lunch' in the Corn Exchange which will provide a finger buffet for those people who would like to join in the celebrations which is free. If you or any of the shops within the Town would like to provide the bunting or the funds to purchase and install the bunting I am sure we can arrange for it to be put up.

Julie Farmer

Re Where's our bunting? - 22/5/12

In reply to Sue, as an ardent republican and an "ordinary folk", I am glad the council have not wasted money on bunting. I find the whole aspect of celebrating the Monarchy nauseating. If you want to raise some money to pay for some fine, but don't use my council tax money please.

We are suffering cutbacks, with local hospitals making nurses redundant. The idea of spending millions celebrating this event and the Olympics as well, are in my opinion ridiculous.

Regards mark

Where's our bunting? - 22/5/12

Further to my previous post, I have now been told that the Town Council did not vote against us having bunting. The apparently incorrect information regarding this was given to me by a Councillor so it's anybody's guess!

Apparently the decisions regarding the bunting, or the lack of it, was in the hands of Julie Farmer, Jane Boulton & Karen Draper who form the Jubilee Celebrations working party.

We retailers are doing our best to liven up the town with bunting in our stores so feel the Council should do there bit. I await a response with considerable interest. Please do not cite financial restraints as I organised last year's Royal Wedding Tea Party with no budget at all!

Sue Lund

Fun Quiz for adults with a 1950s theme - 22/5/12

Prize for the winner. Collect a quiz sheet from the library
closing date 8/06/2012

Where's our bunting? - 22/5/12

Travelling around the area over the weekend, everywhere we went there was bunting for the Jubilee. It made the towns we visited look festive & 'lifted'. Needless to say Faringdon does not have any. I have enquired when we are getting some & surprise, surprise... the town council voted against us having any!

I know that a number of our Town 'Councillors' are republicans and it would appear that their opinions are more important than those of us ordinary folk.

Perhaps a reminder that they are there to reflect the views of the town rather than impose their own views on the community is required.

We would like bunting please.

Sue Lund

Photography Venue Now available at the-iCafe London Street, Faringdon - 22/5/12

The icafe now has available a Large room for hire to all Photographers at good rates, Double doors from our car park straight into the Venue, So that makes it easy for you to load and unload your gear. Size is 40 ft X 18 ft. Plus front shop can be used at certain times.

For more information call mike on 01367 243567 mike@the-icafe.com

The iCafe.com 10 London Street Faringdon Oxon SN7 7AA

Jubilee Beacon on Folly Hill 4th June - 21/5/12

Despite the slightly quirky map to be found on <http://www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk> the Faringdon beacon will be sited on Folly hill rather than in someone's back garden. A good opportunity to enjoy the Folly Hill (and the Folly Tower) as the sun sets and a plethora of Jubilee Beacons are lit on high points in every direction. See www.FaringdonFestivals.co.uk for times.

A Bar will be available from 7.30pm if the weather is warmish and dryish!

A network of over 4000 Beacons will be lit by communities and others throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, along with the Commonwealth and UK Overseas Territories on Monday 4th June 2012 to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

10pm: The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Beacons.

10.01pm: The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I), along with farms, Stately Homes and Private Estates, English Heritage and the National Trust etc and Folly Hill

10-10pm: Beacons coordinated by the Marine Society and Sea Cadets, Air Training Corps, Army Cadets and Combined Cadet Forces, along with the Scout Association, Girl Guiding UK and Boys Brigade.

10.12pm: The Beacons along Hadrians Wall, coordinated by Hadrians Wall Heritage Ltd

10-15pm: Local Authorities including Borough, District, Unitary, Metropolitan, City, County, Town, Parish and Community Councils. Societies, Associations and Committees

10.20pm: Beacons linked with Churches of all denominations, Cathedrals, The Salvation Army and the Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple of the United Kingdom.

10.21pm: The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

10.24pm: Commissioners of Irish Lights, Trinity House and Northern Lighthouse Board.

10.26pm: All other charities, organisations and individuals etc, including hospitals, clubs, pubs, Lions, Round Table and Rotary Clubs, Masonic Lodges, Caravan Club, Trinity House, commercial companies, Private Households and others etc.

10.29pm: The Four Peaks - Ben Nevis - Scotland (Help for Heroes), Mount Snowden - Wales (Walking with the Wounded) Scafell Pike - England (Cancer Research UK) Slieve Donard - Northern Ireland (Fields of Life)

10.30pm: Her Majesty The Queen will light the National Beacon at a central location in London, following the BBC Concert that night.

Jayne Haynes

Hovis bread is back in store - 21/5/12

Due to popular demand we have been able to source it from another supplier
Budgens

No disability access to the path around the Cricket Pitch - 21/5/12

I used to be a keen walker but unfortunately, due to a back problem, I am unable to walk very far any more. However, I still enjoy taking my dog out and now use a mobility scooter. Having watched the new cricket pitch and skate park being built I was excited to see a great circular path put around the perimeter of the cricket pitch. I set off on Friday afternoon to sample this path, unfortunately there is no dropped curve so I was unable to use it. I was very disappointed and cannot believe that in this day and age of equal opportunities a path should be laid without thinking of access for less able people.

Just because we cant walk very far it does not mean we no longer enjoy going for "walks" with or without our

doggies!
Helen Cooper

Diamond Jubilee Celebration Saturday 26th May - 21/5/12

Faringdon British Legion is marking the Diamond Jubilee of its Patron, The Queen, with a special Celebration in All Saints' Church, Faringdon, on Saturday May 26 at 7pm.

It will be an evening of music, with stirring sounds from The Corunna Band and Bugles (the Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force) and from the Bletchington Silver Band. Other musicians will include an organist, cellist and pianist and possibly a children's choir. There will be a video display covering scenes from The Queen's life and refreshments afterwards.

All the proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Tickets cost £5 a head and are available from Faringdon Tourist Information Office by the Corn Exchange, Faringdon Motor Parts in Gravel Walk, or by ringing Faringdon 242114 or 241927.

They will also be on sale on the night of the performance at the church door.

The evening will be Faringdon and Shrivenham Branch of the Legion's tribute to The Queen, our Patron, in this special year.

We hope to welcome as many people as possible to the show.

Costcutter - 20/5/12

Costcutter in Marlborough Gardens used to be a poor shop. Now it is really good. Very clean, well stocked, good prices and open a darn sight longer than Budgens. Budgens is now like a very poor corner shop. It is crying out for investment. Do hope one of the big chains buys it up and changes it as at the moment it is dreadful.

I must also point out that I have nothing whatever to do with Costcutter, just shop there.

Colin

Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio - show 32 is now out - 20/5/12

In this show info about The Faringdon Arts Festival and its new site, Party in the Park in Tuckers park and The Loncot village fete and Dog show.

www.faringdonradio.com

Our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' show 11 is also out. www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Faringdon Festival goes green. - 18/5/12

The Festival this year runs over the dates of 6th-8th July. Folly Park, Faringdon.

A free Festival with music running from the Friday to Sunday evening.

www.faringdonfestivals.co.uk

Response to Budgens Shooting themselves in the foot - 15/5/12

In response to Steve Wright's comments about Budgens no longer stocking Hovis, perhaps he'd like to visit Costcutter in Folly View Road, who do stock Hovis. Since the refit and expansion it is a much improve store with many top brands cheaper than other local stores. It now also has a cashpoint up and running as well outside.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Grammar School 1957 - 13/5/12

Did you go to the Elms in 1957? If you were there in that year you may be interested in the school photo on <http://www.faringdon.org/nvmemories.htm>
Ed(GW)

Ecoweek - June 16th-23rd ++ - 11/5/12

All the events are now in <http://faringdon.org/nvwhatson.htm>
[Download the full programme](#)

MUSTARD SEED: Tickets for the Olympics- 11/5/12

Now Available from the Mustard Seed!
[CLICK HERE TO READ ON](#)

Jubilee events- 11/5/12

Keep an eye on <http://faringdon.org/nvwhatson.htm> for Jubilee events leading up to and following the June 4th

Rotary Club News- 11/5/12

Rotary information morning at Sadler's coffee shop in Faringdon.

The Rotary Club of Faringdon & District is looking for enthusiastic new members. We are holding an information morning at Sadler's coffee shop in Faringdon on **Saturday the 9th June from 10.00 am until 12.30 pm**. For nearly 35 years Faringdon and District Rotary Club have been supporting local causes and international charities. We would be delighted to chat with you over a coffee and explain why we enjoy being part of this great service organisation. If you think Rotary might be for you and would like to find out more please come along. We look forward to meeting you.

Rotary Annual Senior Citizens Party.

On Saturday 21st April the Faringdon & District Rotary Club once again hosted its annual Senior Citizens Party at the Faringdon Community College. Rotarians and their partners provided tea, sandwiches and cakes for some 150 guests. A good time was had by all.

Sally Fox, our Community Chairman, was pleased to receive letters of thanks from grateful senior citizens. They thanked her and her committee for the wonderful sandwiches and cakes made by Rotarians and their partners, for the drivers who took and collected them from the party and The Kentwood Choir who entertained them with their singing.

This year we have also agreed to provide transport to take around 40 Senior Citizens to a performance of the Kentwood Choir at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon on 19th May.

10K Road Race & 5K Fun Run at Buscot Park.

On Sunday 24th June, we are once again holding a 5K fun run and a 10K road race through the beautiful and landscaped gardens of Buscot Park. This is a scenic course in a country park setting with mixed terrain and surfaces. It is a measured distance with regular water stations. Times and enrolment fees are as follows: 10k road race starts at 10.30am and the fee is £12. The 5K fun run starts at 11.30am and the fee is £7. You may download an application form from our web site: www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk/page19.htm Please send your form together with a cheque to: Mr Rodney Benson, 2 Carters Crescent, Faringdon, SN7 7LA.

The closing date is the 10th June and the event is limited to 250 runners.

For more details about this and other events, or simply to find out more about The Faringdon & District Rotary Club please visit: www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk
John Nightingale PRO

The Bell Hotel Sunday lunch - 10/5/12

This Weekend Sunday Carvery Options
Carvery Only £6.95 for the Large
2 Courses £9.00 Starter or Dessert
3 Courses £10.50
Both Starter & Dessert 12 pm till 3 pm
01367 240534
www.bellhotelonline.co.uk

Budgens parking notice - 10/5/12

It also says "Gloucester Green Car Park" which as far as I know is in Oxford.
Jane Boulton

Question time May 8th - another correct answer - 10/5/12

May 8th 1945 was VE Day - Victory in Europe.
VJ Day - Victory in Japan came on August 15th 1945.
I remember it well !! All the street lights were put on and there was dancing in the streets. Wonderful after the blackout.
Kay Fox

Question time May 8th - the answer - 10/5/12

Fiona.... Full marks and I'm sure you know VE stood for Victory in Europe.
Sheila. ...Nice try but you need to brush up on your Mental Arithmetic.
Sean. ...Mock Witches at your peril... But I'll forgive you this time.
J.A.

Budgens- shooting self in foot? - 9/5/12

In a conversation in Budgens today, I discovered that a "corporate" decision has been taken to stop stocking Hovis bread products. This may seem insignificant, but it is yet another reason why I will now drive to out of town stores to shop. This is at a time when Budgens should be taking advantage of the fact that Tesco have significantly delayed their Faringdon project and should be encouraging more business, not less.
Steve Wright
ED(GW) I noticed today that Budgens has a big banner over the shop saying 'Free parking after 4pm'- it's been there a while!

Question time May 8th - 9/5/12

To Jerry Atrick - was it for VE Day? Fiona Merrick

King George & Queen Mary Silver Jubilee 6 May 1935 Sheila

Dancing around the fire in the road??? Are you a witch maybe Sean

Lost and found- anoraks at the Folly^{9/5/12}

We have 2 navy blue childrens anoraks at The Folly- left there on Monday 6th.
If you think either belong to your child contact 01367 242222

Jubilee events - 9/5/12

Information provided by Julie Farmer. [website](#):

Saturday 2 June

- Fair at Tuckers Park - Everyone welcome.
- Exhibition open for Competition entries and general public vote.
- Disco at the Corn Exchange - up to 11 years of age 2pm to 3pm.
- Disco at the Corn Exchange - up to 16 year of age 4pm to 6pm.
- Karaoke/Disco at The Volunteer from 7pm onwards.
- Treasure Hunt for all the family - collect your map from Julie at the Pump rooms on Saturday.

Sunday 3 June

- Service in the Market Square - the Market Square will be closed from 8.30 to 12.30.
- The Big Lunch - Corn exchange from 11.30 to 2.30

Monday 4 June

- Bonfire on top of the Folly. The fire will be lit at 10.01pm to join in with the Beacon project suggested by the Queen

Tuesday 5 June

- Televised Service of thanksgiving from St Paul's Cathedral. Service sheets will be available so we can join in with the service. (Refreshments will also be available) .
-

Faringdon Radio- 9/5/12

New show out now featuring an interview with Julie Farmer talking about the Jubilee celebrations in Faringdon.
Also an interview with Faringdon's newest busiest band The Tramp Aviators.

www.faringdonradio.com

New website boost for southern Oxfordshire tourism

A new website has been launched to help boost tourism in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, highlighting what the area has to offer for both visitors and residents, and raising its profile as a key visitor destination both within the UK and internationally.

www.southernoxfordshire.com offers visitors information about the various towns and villages across the two districts, highlighting the rich history, things to do and see; where to stay, eat and drink; and some fascinating facts which help to bring the area to life.

The site also contains information about food and drink festivals and a "What's On" events database, which will not only help to attract people to the area but also keep residents up to date about what is happening and when. Anyone wishing to submit details of events to be included on the site should contact tourism@southandvale.gov.uk.

ED(GW0 Looks like a good site, but there needs to be much more information about Faringdon - events, activities, accommodation, places to eat (none for Faringdon) I guess all the interested businesses/organisers need to get in

touch with them

Question time May 8th - 8/5/12

67 years ago my dad and our neighbours built a bonfire in the middle of our road and I and my friends danced round it.

Why ?

Jerry Atrick

Bluebells on Badbury Clump- 8/5/12

Hi could you tell me if you can still see bluebells at Budbury Hill? Or the rain washed them away??

Many Thanks

Angelica Newton

Faringdon's Craft Competition Queens Diamond Jubilee - 7/5/12

Competition Categories

A Stitch in Time

A photo in time

Craft Flair(freestyle crafts)

If I'd known you were coming..... (Baking)

Artistic Flair (Drawing, painting, watercolour)

If you have any questions or queries please call Steph Jordan on 01367 246003

[More details](#)

[Entry Form](#)

Sponsored by QuidneIT; Segais; Julie Farmer

Faringdon's Treasure Hunt - Queens Diamond Jubilee - 7/5/12

This is a family friendly event that gives you all the fun of a treasure hunt, but with a twist to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Join other residents of Faringdon in the treasure hunt starting in the Town Centre and ending at Tuckers Park.

Suitable for all ages, from 5 upwards.

We look forward to seeing you and taking part in the fun.

Collect your 'Treasure Map' from Julie at the Pump Rooms from Saturday 2 June 2012 between 10 and 11 or download the questions from www.juliefarmer.co.uk available from 28 May onwards.

If you have any questions or queries please call Steph Jordan on 01367 246003

Sponsored by Julie Farmer; Pat Thomas Butchers

Lost Cat - 5/5/12

Has anyone lost a ginger and white cat in the Faringdon area? We have just seen this cat this weekend. He/She is extremely skinny and looks to be undernourished. He/She is very affectionate and has a very plaintive cry.

The RSPCA advise that the cat needs to be contained until they can come and rescue it but we are unable to do this ourselves. Is there anyone out there who can help?

Many thanks

Vanessa Hill

What a shambles - 5/5/12

When will the powers that be pull their fingers out and get a grip with all the potholes in our so called roads. With the state of them it's like we live in a third world country, after all we pay enough road tax. Oh I forgot they don't spend the money on the roads it's just a green tax. Don't bother painting round the holes with white paint. It doesn't make them look pretty, mind you the guy that does it must have a job for life. It ain't funny, get on with it.

Name supplied

Jubilee Beacon on Folly Hill 4th June- 5/5/12

Every one in Faringdon and District will have the opportunity to have two celebrations on one day.

We celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee on 4th June and will light a Beacon on Folly Hill at one minute past ten o'clock (10.01pm.)

We celebrate the award for culture and environment made to Faringdon as winner of Market Towns in the South UK. Congratulations to the Friends of the Folly who have worked tirelessly and with imagination to restore the Folly Tower and Woodland so impressively that they have WON the award. It only remains for Faringdon, representing the South UK to compete with 5 other Market Towns, one from each of North, East, West, Wales and Scotland.

Help to build the Beacon will be appreciated on 3rd June afternoon.. Ben Gristwood is kindly supplying the wood and Derek Belcher (tel.240716) will loan the Ropes, stakes, cones and direction signs.

Groups of friends, families, schools, the elderly, churches and social clubs are invited to book a site where they can have their picnic and enjoy the evening. Please no glass. Comfortable shoes. Daphne on 01367240183

We are hoping 6 little girls aged 10 and 10 little girls aged 6 will come forward for a photo shoot with Ed Vaizey who will light the beacon.. And the boys too. This photo will be a keepsake for them in years to come.

There is no cost for entry

Daphne Saunders

Faringdon Dead or Alive? - 5/5/12

Are Faringdonians going to stand by and watch our little town die, rather than supporting it? Does no-one worry about shops closing down, about retailers not even making enough money to pay their rent? It's all very well being patriotic about the Jubilee or the Olympics, but what about loyalty to the town we live in? I don't know anyone who doesn't think that the i-cafe is brilliant, that the owner is very enterprising with all his different ideas, but why is this not being translated into support for him? Everyone will moan if such a great facility disappears. Shops come and go and nobody seems to notice or to care. Some shopkeepers seem reluctant to open - a self-defeating attitude. Then there are the Craft Fairs, already reduced in number and size. How sad. But who cares? The town centre appears deserted a large part of the time, and yet we hear it being described as "vibrant"! When Tesco does eventually deign to grace us with its presence, there's likely to be only a skeleton of a town centre left if we, the consumers, do not bring our trade back and start thinking seriously about loyalty to the place in which we live.

Carolyn Williams

Faringdon Folly - open Sunday 6th and Monday 7th- 4/5/12

Our unique unusual 100ft tower is Faringdon's icon and the last major folly to be built in England. It sits on Folly Hill, within a charming 4 acre, circular woodland of splendid Scots Pine and broadleaf trees, some more than 200 years old.

Check out the fantastic views over 5 counties and find out about the history of Folly Hill, Henry James Pye (of sing

a song of sixpence fame), Oliver Cromwell and the very eccentric Lord Berners (the creator of the tower).

Seek out the 24 black birds and giant willow pie, Cromwell's cannon, the fairly useless bridge, Lord Berners in a tree!.....and more. Please do not feed the giraffes!!

10 minutes walk from Faringdon's historic market place where refreshments are available, and 2 hours free parking.

The tower is open from April to October on the first Sunday of the month, plus Bank Holidays and is available for private openings. The woodland is always open. The best place for access is a footpath from the Stanford Road (the nearest post code is SN77AQ)

www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

Tel: 0845 475 8386

11am-5pm

Adults £2, 11-16s 50p, Under 11s free

Plus £2 vouchers when you spend more than £10 at Sudbury House

MUSTARD SEED: May the 4th be with You ... - 4/5/12

[Click here to read on](#)

Volunteers for Olympic Torch relay event - 4/5/12

Oxford City Council is working to recruit over 500 volunteers to help with the Olympic Torch Relay events in Oxford, and is asking OCVA member organisations to get involved.

The Olympic Torch will be coming to Oxford during its tour of the UK on the afternoon of Monday 9 July and will be leaving the city on the morning of Tuesday 10 July. Whilst in the city, the torch will travel down 5.7 miles of Oxford's roads and streets; giving our community the opportunity to be part of the London 2012 celebration. This event will not only attract residents of Oxford, but will also be a show stopping event for residents of Oxfordshire, the wider counties and the city's tourists.

On the evening of 9 July there will be a celebration event in Oxford's South Park. The torch will then leave Oxford University's famous Iffley Road running track on the morning of Tuesday 10 July to continue its journey out of the county on to Berkshire.

The City Council needs over 500 volunteers; with the majority needed to steward the torch route through Oxford and this is where they need your help...

To attract this high number of volunteers they are asking you to volunteer at this once in a lifetime experience. Ideally they would like each organisation to identify a group of willing volunteers and a lead to be the point of contact for each organisation.

Various times are available, which can be found on the volunteer registration form at this link:

<http://eepurl.com/kGgBr> and more details are available here www.oxford.gov.uk/london2012

The registration form asks volunteers to name the organisation that they are from, enabling the Council to keep a track of the numbers of volunteers they have. Should you wish to sign up volunteers yourselves, then there is a spreadsheet which you can request from the events team on the number below. If you are taking the responsibility of signing up volunteers yourselves, please contact them as soon as possible.

Places are limited, so volunteers need to sign up asap.

For further questions or queries please contact the events team at Oxford City Council on 01865 252407.

Faringdon Radio - 4/5/12

Our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' - episode 10 is out now ...meet our new friend Brenda O'Lox the music critic.

www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Faringdon Folly Regeneration project - category winner South East England - 3/5/12

Wonderful News!

The Folly Regeneration Project is the winner of the Environment and Culture Category for the Action for Market Towns Award in the South Zone - (the whole of the South of England.)

We will now go on to compete against category winners from each of the other 5 zones for the national Highly Transferable Project Award.

[See Action for Market Towns website](#)

Eddie Williams

1st Faringdon Scouts Walkabout Garage Sale - 3/5/12

Thank you to all those who took part in the garage sale, both as sellers and as buyers - thank you to all those buyers who made the effort to turn out and support us on such an awful day and to all the sellers, who perhaps didn't get such a good turnout as hoped.

We hope that next year's sale, which will be held at around the same time of year, will be a sunnier event. We made £80 for the Scouts which will go towards buying new items such as axes, saws, sports and camping equipment.

Faith Carpenter

Fundraising Chair

1st Faringdon Scouts

Littleworth Car Boot Sale and Family Fun Day- ERROR re date in May's What's On - 2/5/12

Senior moment, I'm afraid!!

Our Car Boot Sale will be held on Sunday June 24th, NOT June 12th as advertised in May's What's On. From 1pm, in Littleworth Playing Field.

Please ring Jill on 01367 241328 to book your space in advance (£5 per boot)

Re illuminated sign- 30/6/12

To the person complaining about illuminated signs in Faringdon.
GET A LIFE.
name supplied.

Peugeot Garage application for illuminated sign - 29/6/12

If you feel that illuminated signage is inappropriate in a conservation area, then comment on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P12/V1321/A>

You may think that it is not important- especially in one of our streets that has been so decimated over time, but if it is allowed here, it could be allowed elsewhere.
Name Supplied

Customer (dis) satisfaction - 29/6/12

Hi there, couldn't help having a laugh at the lady who asked for 4mm of Cheese to be cut off of her Cheese. in the Cheese shop , for goodness sake no wonder Rob was so upset, so funnylets not knock the shop keepers in Faringdon they are doing a wonderful job in our lovely little town, heaven forbid we should be patronising our local shops to keep this little town going and stop being so upset about nothing...
Rob we think your shop is great please don't leave Faringdon so that another charity shop can take over.
Jim

Faringdon Academy of Schools Consultation on our Vision Statement - 29/6/12

Please see below the Vision for the Faringdon Academy of Schools. We are going through a short consultation period with parents, guardians and members of the local community to ask for any feedback on the Vision Statement.

Please send any comments to Alun Williams c/o academyqueries@fcc.oxon.sch.uk; by completing the Contact Form on the FCC website (www.fcc.oxon.sch.uk); or in written form via FCC Reception. The deadline for any responses is Monday 9 July 2012.

FAoS Vision Statement

The Faringdon Academy of Schools will create a seamless educational experience for our students across all key stages to develop responsible, capable and confident young people who are active citizens in the 21st Century. We will achieve outstanding progression and maximise pupil achievement in all Academy schools through a rich and motivating curriculum. The Academy will be recognized by our staff, parents and the local community as providers of a safe, creative and ethical environment reinforced by a vibrant Community Dimension. Overall, we will ensure that the Academy proactively adds value to each partner school so that the sum is always greater than the individual parts.
Alun Williams

VWHDC Screening opinion for Planning application - Land to the East of Coxwell Road Faringdon Oxfordshire - 29/6/12

It's the triangle of land between the A420 and the road to Great Coxwell. I think technically it is in the parish of Great Coxwell (though I can see no mention of this). Clearly , being adjacent to the Faringdon boundary- and in fact nearer to Faringdon than Gt Coxwell, it will impact the town.

You can see a description of what is planned and make comments on [VWHDC Planning system](#)

Consultation end date 11th July
ED(GW)

Vogts on Velos from John'send to Land 'O'Grotty! - 29/6/12

In three weeks the Vogt family (= bunch of bananas + Karen, Sjoerd, Gabriel, Adam & Barnaby) will set off on their two-week 42,393,046 inch bike ride.

Here's one of them in training.

If you want to help them on their way or find out more, go to www.justgiving.com/velovogt.
Many thanks !



Alumni Day at FCC - 14th July - 28/6/12

We would like to promote our upcoming Alumni Open Day at Faringdon Community College on Saturday 14 July 10 am to 2pm. This is part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations of the school being on the current site on Fernham Road.

We are trying to have as many ex-students, staff and members of the local community to join us and bring back some memories, meet some old friends and see what the school looks like today!
All the departments will also be open to have a look around and have a taste of education in 2012.

Although we have chosen 1962 as a reference point for our celebrations we would be delighted to see members of the community who go back to the days of The Elms and other Faringdon educational establishments!
Anyone in this broader category is very welcome to come to our Open Day and share some memories
Alun Williams

More housing - 28/6/12

It's no surprise that Faringdon is to have yet more houses. Quite why the majority are squeezed along the Park Road side of the town I don't know, I'd like to see it spread the other way, perhaps the outskirts towards Highworth for a change. Whatever, more are coming and the towns facilities will be stretched yet further.

The town has long been a dormitory town and it hasn't been a problem. Unfortunately nowadays, more and more people are being moved here, quite often not of their choosing, and it appears that a number are unemployed. Talking to lots of new residents, they don't like it here, they don't want to be here (let's face it, what is there for young families who are used to being near Oxford, Reading etc ?) so few will ever feel part of the community and so sadly I think old Faringdon has gone forever. We can't change it back so have to accept it.

The town centre can no longer cope with the traffic. It has to be one of the most uninviting places to drive through as a visitor, particularly if you are unlucky enough to need to drive through at school start and closing times. The two hours free parking was a nice idea, but it hasn't stopped illegal and dangerous parking and it seems nobody wants to enforce any rules. The promised and strongly fought for Tesco supermarket appears to be on the back burner. Seems the way of Tesco apparently, once they know they have permission and have beaten any competitors they step back until they can be bothered. So much for them seeing a need for the people of Faringdon to have a new supermarket !.

My thoughts to help some of these problems would be to build a new joint Infant and Junior school on the Park Road land which is, I understand, wanted for housing. Putting the new schools at the top end would also mean they would be just a few feet away from the Community College playing fields and the Leisure Centre. Put in a decent road and car park and enough space for parents to drop children off safely. A footpath through to the College would see one drop off for all ages. There would still be plenty of room for new housing towards the bottom of the field.

I don't like the idea of losing the current schools but they are too small now anyway so would have to be converted or knocked down for housing, along with the playing fields. I'm sure it would make up for what's lost where the new schools would be. Perhaps then, with no school in Gloucester Street, the possibility of a supermarket there could be looked at again.

Name Supplied

Missing cat- have you seen it? - 28/6/12

We moved within Faringdon recently, from near Folly Hill to The Pines Area, and our cat went missing 4 days ago. He could be on his way to the old house or hanging out near the new one so he could be anywhere in Faringdon. He is a light ginger colour with a very saggy light cream coloured belly that is very distinctive.

If you think you may have seen him please call 07786 120847 or email hellouhai@gmail.com

Thanks

Name Supplied

Photo and interview Opportunity - Retailers celebrate Independents' Day - 28/6/12

Members of the media are invited to join photo and interview opportunities across southern Oxfordshire as towns celebrate Independents' Day.

On Wednesday 4 July 2012 local independent shops throughout South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse will be flying the flag this July in a show of support for diversity on the high street.

People across the country will be encouraged to buy at least one item from their local independent shop to celebrate Independents' Day 2012, and retailers across Southern Oxfordshire's seven towns will be playing their part.

As part of the day members of the media are invited to attend photo and interview opportunities with local shopkeepers and civic leaders at the Tourist Information Centre in each town at the following times -

Abingdon (The Old Abbey House, Abbey Close) - 12 noon

Faringdon (The Corn Exchange, Gloucester St) 10am

Wantage (Vale and Downland Museum)- 2pm

Henley (Henley Town Hall)- 10am

Thame- (Thame Town Council) - 4pm

Didcot- (Didcot Town Council) - 2pm

Wallingford (Town Hall, Market Place) - 12 noon

"Independents' Day", a national campaign organised by Skillsmart Retail and the National Skills Academy for Retail, champions the local retailers who make the UK's villages, towns and cities so special.

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan - have your say - 27/6/12

Many local people are working with the Town Council to produce a plan for Faringdon. This plan, once finalised and agreed, will be the guidance for future developments in Faringdon - whether housing, employment, schools, +++++

Find out about it on <http://faringdonplan.webs.com/>

Do give your views about the future of Faringdon and it's needs on the Forum on this site

ED(GW)

Folly Woodland

I visited the Folly woodland yesterday and very impressed with the improvements made since my last visit. The sculptures that are appearing throughout the woodland blend in perfectly and are fun and hands on. Anyone would enjoy a walk there to experience this fantastic facility just a few minutes from the Town Centre. How lucky we are!

- Well done the Folly Trust you are doing a great job.

Sally Thurston

ED(GW) [Become a Facebook friend of the Folly- lots of great pictures and news](#)

Foundation Trust Public Consultation Meeting - Corn Exchange, Faringdon - Tuesday 3 July 2012 - 26/6/12

The Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust is working towards becoming a Foundation Trust – we hope to achieve this in 2013. NHS foundation trusts have more freedom to decide how to run their affairs and deliver services. They meet the same standards of care and principles that guide other NHS organisations, but they are more accountable to their local communities through public membership.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has established a membership scheme which we hope you and your members will consider joining. By becoming a member you will be part of our organisation and what we do. You will be able to have a say in how we develop our services and also help us make our patients' experience the best it can be. Anyone in England aged 16 and over can become a member. Please join us by completing the membership form which can be found at www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft

We will be holding a formal consultation event in Faringdon on the evening of Tuesday 3 July and are hoping for as many people as possible to attend.

Tel: 01865 231472
Email: caroline.rouse@ouh.nhs.uk
Web: www.ouh.nhs.uk

More new houses in Faringdon - 26/6/12

According to the plans on the council website, the 200 planned houses are at the end of Coxwell road in Faringdon . They would stretch as far as Rogers paving.
With all the extra houses, where is the infrastructure to support this expansion as my sons school is already full up.
Regards Mark

VWHDC Press Releases - 26/6/12

Have your say- they'll be knocking on doors to ask what you think of the services they provide

Fabulous Faringdon leaflet- things to do in and around Faringdon
[See our Press Releases page](#)

Faringdon Radio - live from Party in the Park- 26/6/12.

Faringdon Radio This Saturday (30th June) there will be live music in Tucker park as part of the 'Party in The Park' event.
Find out more about the event on a earlier Faringdon Local show on Faringdon Radio - show 32.
Listen here now: <http://faringdonradio.jellycast.com/files/audio/Faringdon%20Local%20-%20Episode%2032%20-%202020.5.12.mp3>
www.faringdonradio.com

More new houses in Faringdon? - 25/6/12

I think you'll find that the area in question is in Great Coxwell not Faringdon. They will get the S106 money for the extra strain on our infrastructure and Faringdon will provide the services.
The extra 400 houses in Park Road are more likely to happen before then.
Name Supplied

Wellies, Muddy dogs and kids make it a day to remember at Longcot's Village Fair & Games - Sunday 24th June 2012 - 25/6/12

Despite a torrential downpour on Saturday night causing flooding and a waterlogged field, the Longcot Fair committee and stall holders worked unbelievably hard on Sunday morning to ensure that the event went ahead. As luck would have it, the sun shone throughout the day drying the ground and the organisers' hard work was rewarded by the hundreds of locals supporting the event.

The Fair was opened by Sky TV's, Kay Burley, who also acted as official starter for the first children's race of the Longcot Village Games which included an Egg and Spoon race, a Three-Legged race and a Sack race.

During the afternoon, Kay was also signing her second novel, 'Betrayal' and donated book sales to the Church project.

The Dodgems and other rides were very popular as was the Fun Dog Show which, in keeping with the conditions, included 'The Muddiest Dog' class while the Hog Roast, BBQ, Bar and Cafe did a roaring trade throughout the

afternoon.

A spokesperson for the Longcot Fair Committee said: "The dreadful rain on Saturday night was a real concern as the ground had become really saturated. However, we were determined that the show should go on if at all possible. The sun helped and because of the extraordinary support and understanding we had from our local community and our stall holders, we were ready to open our gates on time. The Fair was enjoyed by over 700 visitors and their dogs who have all helped us raise more funds for the St Mary's Church Open Door Project."

The Longcot Village Fair is in aid of the 'St Mary's Church Open Door Project' which aims to raise funds to build a kitchen and toilet facilities to enable wider community use of the church.

For further information visit Longcot Village Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LongcotVillage)

For further press information, photos or interviews, please contact Belinda Boyd at 20-20 PR:

belindaboyd@2020pr.com or call 01793 780780

More new houses in Faringdon? - 25/6/12

I see that permission for 200 more new homes is being sought for an area at the southern end of Coxwell Road stretching down as far as the A420.

I can understand why the land owner might want to cash in, but do we need yet more new housing in Faringdon ?

Details here :

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P12/V1362/SCR>

Name Supplied

Excellent service at Second to None - 25/6/12

On Friday late afternoon I had a flat tyre, phoned Second to None, who said to bring it in at 445pm. They took it off - unfortunately couldn't repair it but put the 'spare' on.

They didn't have the tyre in stock so ordered it, which was delivered today (Monday). Went back to the garage where they fitted the tyre while I waited (ten minutes or so).

They were extremely friendly and helpful, also I was able to use my 'Faringdon loyalty card' for a discount = 1 happy customer.

Name supplied

Lost Ergo Baby carrier on Folly Hill

I lost a grey Ergo baby carrier on Folly Hill earlier this month. If you found it, please get in touch - bottle of wine or similar reward of your choice!

tim.koder@hotmail.com

01367 243674

Customer (dis) satisfaction - 25/6/12

As a big fan of small shops, I try and support local businesses where I can. So despite having just done a big shop at Sainsburys, I made sure I came back to Faringdon to do my 'real cheese' shopping in Rob the Cheese. I don't like to name and shame but on this occasion I was so appalled and upset by my experience, that I feel strongly enough to do so.

Well, I wish I hadn't bothered coming back to support a local business. The atmosphere was pretty strained when I asked for something else that was out of stock, but then when I dared to ask for a smaller piece of cheese to the one offered, it was like I'd asked someone to cut their arm off! I suggested that if that size was a problem I could go elsewhere... and the cheese was promptly and aggressively removed and rewrapped, and I was told to go elsewhere! Understandably upset, I left the shop.

I wasn't aware at any time that a 4mm difference in cheese size was a problem, nor is it written anywhere in the shop that there is a minimum cheese weight. I have successfully bought cheese here many times before, without it being an issue. I'd have happily bought more if it had been explained to me - politely - that the piece of cheese was too small. But instead I get rude, aggressive behaviour worthy of a 2-year-old's strop (and my 2 year old certainly wouldn't have got away with that behaviour!).

This is the second experience of appalling customer service in Faringdon in as many months, and is deeply saddening for someone who appreciates the hard work the rest of the town's businesses put into their shops. It is no wonder that Faringdon is going to the dogs, with such a poor attitude to customers. It unfortunately gives a bad name to the rest of the town. I therefore hope that this same treatment is not offered to out-of-towners, as they certainly wouldn't come back to that shop, nor the town.

I do hope that this was a one-off occasion, and that a lesson has been learned that customers can, and certainly will, go elsewhere.
Name supplied.

Flying the flag for the forces - 23/6/12

At 10 am on Monday 25 June, the Armed Forces Day flag will be raised from the County Hall museum in Abingdon.

The event will be attended by Cllr Alison Thomson, Chairman of White Horse District Council; Cllr Monica Lovatt, Mayor of Abingdon; and Colonel Ed Newman, Station Commander of Dalton Barracks.

A bugler from the 7 RIFLES will perform in the market square while five soldiers from Dalton Barracks will ascend to the roof of the County Hall for the raising of the flag.

Armed Forces Day takes place on Saturday 30 June and the flag will fly in Abingdon for a full week to commemorate the day on the Saturday to raise public awareness of the contribution made to our country by those who serve and have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces

. The day also gives the nation an opportunity to show their support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to service families and from veterans to cadets

Cllr Thomson, said: "We are very proud to be flying the flag, to honour and commemorate the outstanding bravery of our men and women of the armed forces. They put their lives at risk for our safety, which is something we must never forget."

John Higgs, Station Staff Officer at Dalton Barracks, said: "We are very grateful to the people of Abingdon and the Vale of White Horse for all of the support they show us. To have such a good relationship with the local area is very important to us."

Andy Roberts

Shared Communications Officer

Corporate Strategy Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils

01235 540528

Text phone users add 18001 before you dial

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk>

Local builder recommended - 23/6/12

Would recommend Darren Dancey who blocked up a doorway, knocked out a new doorway, hid an artex ceiling, put up coving, did plastering, installed a woodburner and patio doors and found someone who would remove our enormous hideous eight feet high patio. On time, polite, professional and a good price.

Faith

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan - have your say - 22/6/12

The system for creating planning policy in England has changed recently - local people now have the power to establish their own plans for their communities by writing a Neighbourhood Plan. We need your help to write the Neighbourhood plan for the parish of Faringdon.

Faringdon is one of the first areas in the UK to start preparing its own plan. A team of local people has been established to lead the project, working with the Town Council, the Vale of the White Horse District Council and consultants appointed to help with the process.

Over the coming weeks and months the team will be reviewing all the existing planning policy and local documents, gathering views on what should be in the plan and working to shape a draft strategy for Faringdon which meets the aspirations and needs of local people.

The Neighbourhood Plan can include a wide range of topics, and deal with all sorts of issues and opportunities. However, there are some limits on what we can do and the plan must be 'in conformity' with the strategic policies of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan which is being drafted at the moment. This simply means that our local policies can't contradict the main points in the Local Plan, but we can add more information about how we want to see those policies applied in Faringdon.

Get involved - this is your chance to shape the future of Faringdon! Please contact us by July 16th

[Full details on this leaflet](#)

[Area covered by Greater Faringdon parish](#)

[Town centremap](#)

If you want to send us your ideas or have any questions about the project you can contact the project team:

Neighbourhood Plan Administrator: Peter Anderson 07703 050 533 / peter.h.anderson.t21@btinternet.com

Lead consultant: Steve Walker, Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners 020 7921 0109 / swalker@am-up.com

Ecoweek events on Saturday 23rd - 22/6/12

ECOBIKES: Cycling through the countryside to end up at the Wind & Solar Farm at Watchfield for the Open Day (see ECOWIND, ECOSUN & ECOFAIR) . Join the Farcycles to leave the Market Place at 9am for longer rides of 30 miles & 40 miles; with shorter rides also being organised (see www.farcycles.org.uk for more details) . Huge world record attempt at 3pm at the new Solar Farm : join in the fun and CIRCLE THE SUN .

ECOWALK: Leave Coleshill Village Café at 12 midday - and walk through the rolling countryside (1.5 miles one way) to end up at the Wind Farm for the Open Day (ECOWIND, ECOSUN & ECOFAIR) . More details from Stu Priest on 01367-240118. Returning to Coleshill after taking part in Huge world record attempt at 3pm at the new Solar Farm : CIRCLE THE SUN .

ECOWIND & ECOSUN : Wind & Solar Farm Open Day 11am-4pm . MANY different activities for ALL ages! Friendly family fun - AND informative! Free Entry & Free onsite car parking. Food, music, tours, displays, activities, and also ECOFAIR. Huge world record attempt at 3pm encircling the new Solar Farm, the largest Solar farm in the UK. Join in the fun and CIRCLE THE SUN . Be there!

ECOFAIR: 11am-4pm at the Wind & Solar Farm Open Day. FREE ENTRY. Find out how you can SAVE MONEY by reducing your impact on the environment! There will be companies and organisations who can offer advice and services relating to:

- Green energy & micro-generation
- Insulation & energy efficiency
- Recycling & waste reduction
- Water saving
- Devices around the home
- And much more!

ECOCHIEF: Masterclasses at the Wind & Solar Farm Open Day at Watchfield- in hedgerow cooking, roadkill cooking, and low energy cooking. The Pudding Pie Cookery School will be helped by Andrew Kojima - 2012 Masterchef Finalist! Just one of the many events taking place at the Open Day: 11am-4pm .

ECOGLUG: 7pm till late. Organic wines, local beers, and locally sourced food at the Portwell Angel. All welcome!

Local builder - 21/6/12

We had Darren and his family too, they did a splendid job of converting our garage into a room, and laid a patio and path. Would certainly recommend them to anyone, book quickly though he gets very busy (also have lots of tea bags in!).

contact number 0798 056 2962

John Seedell

Drummer wanted - 20/6/12

Lifemaker are currently looking for a new drummer.

We play our own original material (from rock/progressive/blues to a more mellow psychedelic).

Gigs waiting including our first festival of the summer (Faringdon 8th July).

Here's a link to one of our songs. http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xmbtdn_lifemaker-unite_music

We rehearse in Grove, Wantage.

if you're interested or know someone who maybe please email chrisharbert@sky.com

Chris Harbert

Faringdon Festival- From the Ladder Factory- 17/6/12.

'...From The Ladder Factory' - Faringdon Radios music show has a special show promoting the Faringdon Festival.

Please spread the word

www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Town Council By Election - 20/6/12

Despite the polling cards which went out recently, there will not be an election on 28th June. This is because no nominations were received by the deadline. Another election will be called but we don't have a date for that yet. Because an election was called to fill this vacancy, the only way it can be filled is via a by election, and the process will be repeated again and again until a candidate comes forward.

June Rennie

Town Clerk

Local builder - 20/6/12

I would second Darren Dancey. He lives in Faringdon so his reputation is everything. We had a large two story side extension built by him and his team. He did a wonderful job, worked around us, kept us fully informed and came in on budget.

He has turned our nice house into our dream house. Peter

Ecoweek events - 20/6/12

Wednesday

ECOVEG: Open Evening at Coleshill Organics 5.30pm onwards. As part of Faringdon ECOWEEK, Coleshill Organics in Coleshill will be welcoming visitors on Wednesday 20th June from 5.30pm onwards - with horticulture tours - and a glass of wine or juice to finish with. Very family friendly - lots to see and do! If you're on your bike,

Why not pop in to ECOVEG and then continue on to ECOBARD at Westmill Farm?

ECOBARD: 7-9pm. Not to be missed! Takes place on Westmill Farm near Watchfield. This is the ultimate in carbon-negative living! Includes story-telling, traditional skep bee-keeping, hedgerow harvesting and cooking round the campfire . Numbers limited: please phone 01367-241707 to book and for more details. £2 charge to cover costs. If you're on your bike, Why not do ECOVEG at Coleshill first?

Thursday

ECOTRASH: Have you ever wondered how the contents of your green bin are magically sorted into all the useful materials that can then be recycled?

ECOTRASH is a Minibus trip to the BIFFA Recycling Centre (North London) where you will see exactly how it all works.

£10 to cover costs. Leave Faringdon 9.30am ; return 2.30pm . Numbers strictly limited. Call 01367-241707 to book.

ECOBEER: A Cycle ride with a difference with the Faringdon Beer Society! Celebrate the local microbreweries that are bubbling up in abundance around Faringdon. Lycra NOT required.

Set off from the Market Place at 7pm sharp. No need to book - just turn up on your bike.

Friday

ECOTRUST: The National Trust Headquarters at the Swindon Outlet Centre has been built with many very impressive state-of-the-art eco-credentials. Tour will start at 12.30pm and will last approx. 1.5hrs . Either make your own way there, or be prepared to leave Faringdon in pooled transport at 12 midday . NO CHARGE. Phone 01367-241289 to book.

ECOVINE: Guided Tour (and tastings!) of local Vineyard at Frilford Heath with many green credentials - starting at 6pm. £10 to cover transport & entry. Booking essential . Phone 01367-241289 to book. Either make your own way there or be prepared to leave Faringdon 5.30pm in pooled transport.

Sjoerd

Activities at the Library - 19/6/12

The Summer Reading Scheme' for all young readers runs from Saturday 14th July to 15th September...this is great fun, stickers and prizes for each book you read and a fabulous gold medal at the finish!... for information and to collect your 3D starter pack please come along to the library. There will be a fun treasure hunt and balloon for all those who join at Faringdon on launch day, Saturday 14th July.

Anyone interested in setting up or joining a reading group please contact Sheena or Jane at the library 01367 240311

'One to One' computer sessions available at the library starting in July 2012 beginners welcome.

Library opening times

Monday and Wednesday 2.00 - 5.30

Tuesday 10.00 - 1.00 2.00 - 5.30

Friday 10.00 -1.00 2.00 - 7.00

Saturday 9.30 -1.00

tel 01367 240311

faringdon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

For information on our other events and activities throughout July come along to see us or check, libraries, Faringdon, activities at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Key found on Stanford Road - 19/6/12

Single key with a Viceroy Restaurant fob found on Tuesday morning.
Please call 242923 to claim.

Bruce

Local builder - 19/6/12

We had our house made open planned with walls removed and doorways blocked up and moved. We also had a ceiling replaced.

The Builders were Darren Dancey (mobile 07980562962) and his brother.

We were very pleased with the work they did and we would not hesitate to use them again.

Regards Mark

Ecoweek events - 18/6/12

Monday 18th

ECOFILM:

7.30-9.30pm . As part of ECOWEEK, the film "The Truth about Climate Change" - will be shown in the Catholic Church Hall (entrance behind Budgens Car Park) starting at 7.30pm . Excellent far-reaching two-part documentary with Sir David Attenborough. FREE ENTRY and opportunity for discussion/questions afterwards.

Tuesday 19th

ECODANCE: Lilly Sell runs the Faringdon Tuesday morning Circle Dancing from 10.30-12 midday in the Corn Exchange, and will be adding an eco-themed slant on the 19th June! ALL NEWCOMERS WELCOME - AND FIRST SESSION FREE OF CHARGE!

ECOBEEES & ECOBIRDS : 6-7pm . One hour presentation on Bees & Beekeeping - with sealed demonstration hive & queen - at Carswell Farm on the Thames (down lane past St Hugh's School off the A420) .

ECOBEEES leads into ECOBIRDS at 7-9pm for Farm, River & Flower Meadow walk - led by RSPB expert. To sign up for "Birds & Bees", phone 01367-241707. FREE ENTRY. Collection for RSPB.

Sjoerd

Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio - show 34 is now out- 17/6/12.

Faringdon Local show 34 is now out with interviews about the proposed new Bloor Homes development towards Rogers Concrete and an interview with The Faringdon Branch of Amnesty international

www.faringdonradio.com

Also a new episode of a music show is available. www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Sean

Gift aid on donations of goods - 16/6/12

I've just learned that if you sign up at the charity shop in Marlborough St and I think the African Fund in the Market Place, then give goods to them. When they sell the goods they can claim tax back on the value of the sale- 24% I think.

Worth doing!

Gene Webb

Ecoweek starts on Saturday 16th - 14/6/12

Saturday 16th

ECOSWAP: 11am-1pm in the Corn Exchange. FREE ENTRY. Swap Shop where you can save goods going to landfill by taking or swapping. All welcome - no entry charge.

ECOGROW: 11am-4pm. As part of Faringdon ECOWEEK, Faringdon Allotment Society would love to share with you the joys (and pains!) of having an allotment. Stroll down to the Canada Lane Entrance at any time between 11am and 4pm to feast your eyes and palates on home-grown fruit & veg. Looking forward to seeing you there!

ECOQUEST: 7pm-9.30pm at the Old Crown Inn. As part of ECOWEEK, enjoy a Slow Food" Supper together with a special edition of Question Time - focusing on the countryside, farming and food. Beautifully prepared food from locally sourced organic ingredients. Prominent local farmers will be in the chair to answer questions. Only £10 a head. Tickets available (cash only please) from the Crown behind the bar. Numbers are limited so book early!

Sunday 17th

ECOMILL: 12pm-5pm. A 200 year old working water-powered flour mill in wildlife friendly surroundings (ancient mill site mentioned in the Doomsday book!) , open as part of Faringdon ECOWEEK. Wholemeal flour ground at the mill from local wheat will be on sale. Well signposted - on the A338 between Frilford & Grove. Small entry charge to cover costs. No need to book. For exact location see map on www.ecoweek.info .

ECOSCREW: Tours at award-winning Dandridges Mill in East Hanney - a fantastic example of high-tech low energy living, with Archimedean Hydro Screw Turbine in the Letcombe Brook, together with water source communal heatpump and Solar Panel arrays. Tours start at 12pm & 2pm , lasting approx. one hour (you want to make sure you are there for the beginning of the tour).

Why not combine ECOMILL with ECOSCREW to make the perfect bike ride from Faringdon? There will be a donations bucket with proceeds going to Water Aid. No need to book. For location see <http://www.dandridges-mill.co.uk> .

And lots more! See www.ecoweek.info

Activities for Toddlers - 14/6/12

Rebecca Du Plessis has sent a great list of places in and around Faringdon that are suitable for toddlers- a list she put together with the help of help friends and local parents
Some are suitable for older children too.

Worth printing and pinning to your notice board

[Download it here](#)

Ed(GW)

Queen's Diamond Jubilee- 14/6/12

Please don't stop reading when I say 'when I was a boy'..... but, when I was a boy and it was the Queen's coronation the country was struggling to recover from the devastating war that had only finished less than a decade earlier. People's expectations of what the government could provide were low but their hopes and aspirations were high. So when we had something to celebrate we did it and arranged things ourselves. This made for lively thriving communities where if anything was going to get done you did it together. Faringdon should not be considered to be a dormitory town where you rest while making a life elsewhere. We do that at our peril, seeing our beautiful market town shrink to a skeleton of its former self, unable to sustain an infrastructure that stimulates and excites the residents.

Many Faringdon residents do want to belong to community where neighbours look out for each other, without living in each other's pockets, the idea of 'the big society' has always existed it was true in 1952 and it's true in 2012. Life is richer and fuller if we take the shovel and put something in not waiting for the hand-out. So thank you to Faringdon Town Council (don't forget these are people serving the community) for the effort you put in to the Jubilee Weekend, thanks for The Royal British Legion concert ,the CTIF church service followed by the 'Big Lunch' event at the Corn Exchange, the Beacon at the Folly, the deputy town crier who gave his services prior to the screening of the service of thanksgiving from St Pauls at All Saints' church, the Fernham Road street party and other parties and numerous events. Most of all thank you to all who did something, no matter how small or large to make this Queens Diamond Jubilee weekend a time of celebration, a time of Jubilee. Our children and grandchildren will remember this Jubilee. Just as some of us remember squeezing into a neighbours front room to

watch the Queen's Coronation on a 9" screen mono TV 59 years ago! With paste sandwiches , butterfly cakes (now pretentiously branded as 'cup cakes') and copious cups of tea.

Oh yes, and what will we do to remember the 60th anniversary of the Coronation next year?
John Seedell

Local builder wanted - 14/6/12

Would anyone be able to recommend any local builders who we could get a quote from for a 2 storey extension please?
Julie Griffiths

Cariad Bride are delighted to announce that our Charity of the Year 2012/13 is Against Breast Cancer. - 14/6/12

Ladies join our Bra Amnesty and deposit any unwanted bras in the Bra Bank which will be located at Cariad Bride, 3 London Street, Faringdon. Your bras will be given a new lease of life and in the process will raise funds for breast cancer research, the main aim of which is to develop a vaccine against the condition.

Against Breast Cancer will receive a donation based on the weight of the bras collected so every bra counts. Thanking you all in anticipation.
Sue Lund
Cariad Bride
01367 243526

Faringdon loyalty card is now launched! - 12/6/12

One card which gives a great range of benefits at many retailers in the town including Pat Thomas Butcher, Faringdon Motorist Centre, The Nut Tree, Presentation Gifts, Sadlers, Costcutter, SOLL Leisure, BGI, Sandwich Fillers, Stylers, the Barber Shop, Sudbury House Hotel, the Cellar Bar, Second to None, Goddard & son, the Mustard Seed, Faringdon Coffee House, the Pet Shop, Den Boer Wines, Frenchies, Harpers, Faringdon Lifestyle & Mobility, Tranquility Tans, Deacons Jewellers, the i-cafe and many more!
For details on their specific offers that are only offered to card holders please see attached leaflet ([Front](#), [back](#)).
You can get your own loyalty card for only £2 at any of these businesses.
Definitely the best value loyalty card on the market today!
VWHDC

Pigeons - 12/6/12

.....and the relatives are yours are in my garden- eating the seed for little birds and making a mess!
Name Supplied

Pigeons - 12/6/12

The little b****rs are in my garden.
name supplied

My Carer - 12/6/12

Thinking of a career in the Health & Social care sector?

My Carer has an office near you!

Due to our excellent reputation we are now expanding!

We need people like you, caring and a car driver, over 18?

We deliver first class training s...o don't worry if you have never worked in care before.

Full and part time hours, mornings, evenings, weekends.....

Generous hourly rates including enhancements for weekends and bank holidays, mileage paid, free uniform, a chance to gain a diploma in care & paid annual leave.

We are a friendly, locally based, independent team.

Delivering care and support to adults in their own homes.

Like what you see.....

Go on give us a call

Check out our web site and email us, we want to hear from you

Tel; 01367 244 014

www.mycareoxfordshire.org.uk

Care Quality Commission registered & contractors for Social Services

Pigeons- where are they? - 12/6/12

please could someone tell me where all the pigeons have gone from the town

Mandy

Faringdon Junior School's SUMMER SPORTS FETE - 12/6/12

Saturday June 23rd from 1 - 4pm

In celebration of London 2012, the Friends of Faringdon Junior School would like to invite you to attend our Olympic themed summer fair on the Faringdon Junior School playing fields (Woodview entrance).

Fun for all the family with our very own opening ceremony including a performance from the school choir. Relax with a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake at our café whilst your children play on the bouncy castle or visit the many exciting stalls. Enjoy a delicious BBQ for your lunch with a cool beer or glass of Pimms.

Enter our fancy dress competition by coming dressed up as a competitor at the Olympic Games. There will also be novelty races throughout the afternoon in the arena; tennis, football and golf activities, plus a raffle with the chance of winning some amazing prizes including £100 cash! (Raffle tickets cost only £1 each and are available to buy on the day or in advance from the Junior School office or the Nut Tree).

So, don't miss out on all the fun whilst at the same time helping us to raise funds for the school. Please put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you on June 23rd.

Please contact Jane Allum on: 01367 240861 for more information.

Keys Found - 11/6/12

Found Monday morning on farm path extending from Church Street in Faringdon towards Littleworth direction, large bunch of house / office keys

Here today, will drop at police station tomorrow when open

John

Jubilee photographs wanted - 10/6/12

Would all those taking photos of the Beacon and around the Folly Tower or in it - and photos of friends and family who were there on 4th June. please leave copies of the photos in the bag in the library with names and telephone numbers.

As promised we were requested to send the photos to London where a book is being made to give to the Queen so that she can keep and enjoy the memory of the event.

At the same time we intend to make a similar record of the event - to be kept in the Faringdon Library for future generations to see.

Daphne Saunders

Jubilee Events- thankyou - 9/6/12

Many, many thanks to John Seedell who organised the celebratory church services on Sunday 3rd and Tuesday 5th, and the superb concert "Elizabeth to Elizabeth" by "In voice and verse" at All Saints' on Saturday 9th.

Thanks too, to the Defence Academy, who gave a party in Watchfield with the Light Infantry beating retreat and the Battle of Britain flypast with a Lancaster and two Spitfires.

Not forgetting the Saunders, and that wonderful beacon on Folly Hill.

It's been an exciting Jubilee week, during which was also celebrated the diamond jubilee of Father Leo Targett, an inspirational priest and friend to many Faringdon folk.

Carolyn Williams

How to Shape Where You Live!- Public Meeting - 9/6/12

We are one of the first communities in England to be selected to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This means Faringdon residents now have an exceptional opportunity to control the future development of their town. For this to happen, the Neighbourhood Plan for Faringdon needs to be agreed. This includes consideration of essential services, such as:

- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Leisure facilities

Most importantly, we need to ensure that the final plan reflects what the people of Faringdon want.

As the first step in this process, you are invited to a public meeting to discuss the potential of the Neighbourhood Plan on **Tuesday 12th June at 7pm in the Corn Exchange**

Do please invite your friends, colleagues and neighbours to come as well - it is important that as many Faringdon people as possible are involved in the decision making process.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a unique opportunity for you to influence the future of your town - don't leave it to someone else.

Please join us on June 12th.

Hilary Sherman

Deputy Town Clerk Faringdon Town Council

hilary@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

BUSCOT PARK 5k FUN RUN & 10k RUN. - 9/6/12

10k Race & 5k Fun Run will be held at Buscot Park, Faringdon on Sunday 24th June. This popular event, organised by The Faringdon & District Rotary Club, will be run through a Scenic Course in a Country Park setting with mixed terrain & surfaces. A measured distance with regular water stations.

10k race starts at 10.30am and costs £12.00 The 5k fun run starts at 11.30am and costs £7.00 With concessions for the over 60's & under 15 year olds. Under 5's free of charge.

To apply and for further information / payment, please contact Rodney Benson on 01367 243864. 2 Carters

Crescent, Faringdon, SN7 7LA.

Or you can register on-line at <http://www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk/page19.htm>

We look forward to hearing from you and to your participation.

www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk

Lost Cat - 9/6/10

My cat has gone missing, since Wednesday, from Lechlade road/ Canada lane area. He is a neutered male, dark grey/blue, very friendly, answers to Casper.
Please can you check your sheds and outbuildings, he may have been sheltering from the recent heavy rain. He is microchipped, and registered with the local vets.
If found please phone 07505149390 any news good or bad, will be greatly appreciated and a reward will be offered.
Many thanks.

ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, GO! Sky TV's Kay Burley to open Longcot Village Fair and games - 8/6/12

Sunday 24th June 2012 – Noon to 5pm

Building on the success of last year's inaugural Longcot Village Fair, planning is now in full swing for this year's event, which will be opened by Sky TV presenter, journalist and novelist, Kay Burley.
The afternoon will be packed with entertainment and activities for all the family including the first Longcot Village Games. Following the opening ceremony, Kay, who recently published her second novel, 'Betrayal', will act as official starter for the first of 22 races which will get underway in the main arena at 1pm. The traditional races and games such as Egg and Spoon, Three-Legged, Sack and Running races, will be open to adults and children (from four years) and will culminate in an all-age children's relay.

A traditional Funfair will include Dodgems and other rides plus a Bouncy Castle and there's plenty to do if you're a dog owner too. A Fun Dog Show, organised by The Dog Studio, starts at 12.30 and will hold over 15 classes including Waggiest Tail and Prettiest Bitch.

Inside a giant marquee, visitors will find 'indoor games', a cafe serving tea, an Art and Sculpture Showcase by local artists and a wide range of stalls selling home-made cakes and other local produce, plants, jewellery, skincare and toys.

Outside, a range of food and drinks will be on offer including a traditional Hog Roast, Barbeque and a Bar. There will also be a Vintage & Heritage Car Display and musical entertainment provided by Faringdon's acoustic duo, 'The Melancholy Clones'.

Tickets can be purchased on the day: Adults £2, School Age Children £1. Free car parking will be sign-posted from Mallins Lane (SN7 7TE).

The Longcot Village Fair is in aid of the 'St Mary's Church Open Door Project' which aims to raise funds to build a kitchen and toilet facilities to enable wider community use of the church.

For further information visit Longcot Village Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LongcotVillage)

For further press information or interviews, please contact Belinda Boyd at 20-20 PR: belindaboyd@2020pr.com or call 01793 780780

Faringdon Festival - 8/6/12

Please take a look at the Faringdon Festival Website for any updates and information... www.faringdonfestivals.co.uk

Thank you

Arts and Music Festival- 8/6/12

It appears those that do not wish to take part want it out of town, those who enjoy it want it in the Market Square.

I have spoken to many who normally attend who are unlikely to go now that it has been moved. It sounds to me that the event is now likely to fail. Such a shame for a great event.

What contingency is in place if it happens to rain? I cannot imagine those that will attend will have the Glastonbury mentality of enjoying deep mud.
Jason

Arts and Music Festival- 8/6/12

Mmmmmmm- 'the majority' - bold statement - based on.....?
But you have some good ideas- best get involved and help for next year
Name Supplied

Le Mele Youth Exchange - 8/6/12

7th to 14th July Our Le Mele Youth Exchange friends arrive.
21st to 28th July Faringdon Youth visit le Mele.
If you would like your family to get involved please contact: Carolyn Murphy cmur7240@kingalfreds.ocnmail.net
Carolyn Murphy
Vale PE and School Sport Partnership Development Manager
www.valessp.co.uk

Arts and Music Festival- 7/6/12

That is your opinion, not the majority!

I agree that the organisers should have closer knowledge of costs.
So why is it that we had a last minute kneejerk reaction to what must have been obvious?
The Council want paying for venue hire and road closures, fixed costs are they not?
Yet' until recently, all publicity stated that the Music Festival would be held in the Market Square.
Perhaps a little more planning was required?
To ask landlords of local Public Houses to cough up £750.00, each, to ensure the event remains in the centre of Faringdon is totally ludicrous.
I am sure that they benefit financially but, you would have to sell a lot of alcohol to make £750.00 profit.
I suspect that most Public Houses and local businesses would be happy to site donation boxes on their premises, twelve months prior, to support the Arts and Music Festival each year.
Then you may find that the true supporters do put up!
Name Supplied.

Retired volunteer- 7/6/12

I'm not surprised Julie Farmer is now a "retired volunteer", if I had received so much criticism and flack over the last couple of weeks I would have also have given up. I would like to thank all those volunteers who have given up their free time and done their best to give others in the community some nice things to do.
Name supplied

12 fabulous things to do around Faringdon - 7/6/12

The Council working with Faringdon TIC have recently produced a leaflet showing 12 Fabulous things to do around Faringdon.

This shows that Faringdon is an ideal base for a holiday / short break from which you can reach a large number of interesting places / attractions.

Download the leaflet (pdf, 3mb) from [This website](#) or

[http://www.southernoxfordshire.com/assets/Fabulous%20Faringdon%20A3%20Leaflet%20\[web\].pdf](http://www.southernoxfordshire.com/assets/Fabulous%20Faringdon%20A3%20Leaflet%20[web].pdf)

The new tourist web-site is the platform from which we will be promoting the town and the districts.

<http://www.southernoxfordshire.com/faringdon.php>

VWHDC

Arts and Music Festival- 7/6/12

I think it is good that the Faringdon Festival will be in Folly Park

In the first few years when there was a more even balance of loud music and other 'art' activities, the Faringdon Market Place may have been the most appropriate venue.

It seems to me that in the past 2 years it has been dominated by mostly loud music and people standing around drinking- so the Folly Park seems ideal

I suspect the pubs and food places benefited well from the event. My guess is that other businesses did not.

The people who organise this event- all volunteers- have a much closer knowledge of people's attitude's, the costs of such an event and where the money is to come from.

They are putting in the effort- it is up to them how and where it happens. If it wasn't for these volunteers, it wouldn't happen at all

Didn't someone quote 'put up or shut up'

Name Supplied

Arts and Music Festival - Fantastic news?? - 7/6/12

I have no idea what or how many friends you have spoken to? It certainly cannot be any of the local residents who have enjoyed the entertainment in the Market Place for years! Every comment I have heard regarding the move to Folly Park has been negative.

What this is all down to is MONEY..... There is still a debt outstanding for previous road closures to the Council.

Obviously they would want paying for the same this year too.

Thats it, simple as that!

Name Supplied.

Arts and Music Festival - Fantastic news - 6/6/12

I have been asking around all of my friends to find out what they all think of the music moving out of town.

Overwhelmingly, people seem to think that it should always have been in a park area, so as those that want to see (and hear) it are free to enjoy the event in wonderful surroundings, not disrupting the locals or interfering with the towns trade. Those who wish not to listen, will be free to come into town and shop as normal.

On the other hand the 'Arts' side could be housed all over the town, bringing people in for art, not just alcohol.

Name supplied

Lost Wallet - 6/6/12

We have found a wallet in the park between Ash Road and Maple Road. Call 241237 if you've lost it

Jubilee Events - 6/6/12

Faringdon Town Council did put events on during the Jubilee weekend. The Town Council paid for the food at the Big Lunch, it was a working party of the Town Council that organised all the events and asked for local businesses to help. The Businesses that did help were Budgens, Quidne IT, myPA Virtual Services, Pat Thomas Butchers, Seagas, JulieFarmer, The Church's and the WI.

As to street parties, it was up to the residents to organise them if they wanted one as they have done so in the past. There were, to my knowledge four street parties in Faringdon. The working party of the Town Council made the decision to put The Big Lunch on, which was free to all Faringdon residents.

With regard to bunting, there was a lot of Bunting around the Market Place and Thanks a Bunch decorated the tree in the market place with ribbon and many of the railings. I am sure you have read the other posts here, but just to clarify, at the town meeting that was held in January we asked the members of the town if they would be prepared to spend an extra £2500 to put up the bunting. This extra money would have to be added to the precept, which means that your council tax will have increased. Members of the town voted against this additional cost. It is such a shame that when people spend a lot of time and effort organising events for the town some members of the town just complain. We have lost a number of very good volunteers who are no longer prepared to organise events for this very reason.

All of these events are arranged by VOLUNTEERS, they do it because they want their town to celebrate joyous events, they want to share the wealth of talent that is around.

Julie Farmer- now a retired volunteer

Parking Gloucester Street - 6/6/12

Please, can people stop parking in the 'Keep Clear' section of the road outside the junior school. Over the bank holiday weekend I've 'legally' parked in the Glos Street car park but each time I've driven out I've had to creep well into the road to see past a mini parked in the box. If anybody knows the owner then please mention it to them. It's often parked there so I'm guessing he/she lives nearby, but that doesn't give them the right to park in such a ridiculous place. Same could be said for many others in the town. The words 'Keep Clear' mean just that and I see it along Coxwell Street /Road also.

I know parking is an issue all over the town but will it take an accident to happen before people stop parking where they are so obviously not supposed to ?!

Name Supplied

Jubilee Beacon on Folly Hill - 5/6/12

Somewhere near 700 people- adults and children- were on Folly Hill enjoying the music and picnicing. Many climbed the Folly Tower to see beacons all around and fireworks.

It was a super evening- and no rain!

All thanks to Daphne Saunders and her family

Name Supplied

Craft Comp winners - 5/6/12

Hi Can you please post a list of all winners of the craft competition. It had been reported that results would be announced at 11:30am on Sunday not 2pm!

'Name Supplied'

ED(GW)- one is named below- that's all I've been given

Faringdon Arts Festival's move to Folly Park - 5/6/12

To find out more about this listen to the interview with Sam Prince, organiser of the music for the festival, on Faringdon Radio episode 32.

www.faringdonradio.com or go direct to to the show here [Faringdon Radio episode 32](#)

Sean Hodgson

QJD non event- 5/6/12

Faringdons jubilee celebrations haha what a joke everything that has been on has all been privately done- the town council what the hell is wrong with them just cant be bothered no street partys not even bunting!!!! And as for the arts festival in folly park !why ? Just to keep a few moaning people who cant put up with a littke noise for one weekend happy everbody else has to suffer. This town sometimes really annoys me.

j Townsend

Faringdon Music Festival 2012 - 3/6/12

Julie

Thank you for your response, are you one of the organisers? Do you have some answers?

My point still is, why was nobody asked where they would prefer the Music festival?.....

In the local newspaper it stated the reason as being "local opinion".....

Nobody I have spoken to has been asked or seen the question raised?...

Is it true the pubs were asked for £750.00 each to retain the Music Festival in the market place?

Thank you for your time.

Sabina

Craft Fair winner - 3/6/12

Joy Mitchell winner of Artistic Flair and the public vote at the craft fair this weekend.

Julie

Faringdon Music Festival 2012 - 3/6/12

I can understand that you are upset at the move, why not join the committee who organise the vent and put your suggestions forward. I am sure the would appreciate all help given.

Julie

QDJ- 3/6/12

I would like to give a big thank you to all the people who helped put on a number of events today and Saturday. Firstly I would like to thank Steph Jordan from myPA Virtual Services for her help in organising the Craft Fair, Faringdon Town Council for their support and the money used to purchase the food for the big lunch, to the WI for making sandwiches and cakes, to Budgens, Simon and Fiona for more sandwiches, cakes, crisps etc and decorating the Corn exchange. All these organisations went above and beyond the call of duty. For Raoul and Anita Van Eijdnhovan from Quidne IT and Seagas the hairdressers for sponsoring the Craft Fair. I would also like to thank John Sedall from The Church and www.juliefarmer.co.uk. Thank you all.

Thank you to the 300+ people who joined us for the Big Lunch, the entrants for the craft fair and visitors, the organisers of the children's disco and pub crawl, Karen Draper and Jane Bolton.

The craft fair was such a success that I have decided to run it next year, but apart from that I'm going to take a step back and let others have an opportunity to get involved in some of the larger events for our town.
Julie Farmer

Craft Comp and show - 2/6/12

Thank you all so much for your part in the craft comp and show in the Pump Rooms today. I have been blown away by the support.

Thank you.

Results announced at 2pm on Sunday during the QDJ Big Lunch in the Corn Exchange.

Entry is free. Food is free. See you there.

Julie Farmer

Faringdon Music Festival 2012 - 2/6/12

Im very upset to read they are moving the Music Festival to Folly Park.

We have all gone to it every year and had a fantastic time.....

In the town centre we have pubs, shops, toilets, its easy to access, our children are safe there.

We can carry our fold up chairs, food & drinks, enjoy the event.

Why does Amanda Huxford-Biggs say.....

The reasons for moving The Music Festival from the town center is:

Local Opinion.....who was asked?..... Ive asked around and no one was asked, just told it was moved.

Were you asked?....

Safety and Security...In a field, in the dark, people partying, who can monitor security over there in Folly Park?

If it rains it will be a mud bath.... I dont think safe or secure.

Amanda Huxford-Biggs, when or how did you ask our opinion?

Sabina

Faringdon Folly - open Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th, 11am-5pm and 7.30pm-10.30 pm Monday 4th - 1/6/12

Our unique unusual 100ft tower is Faringdon's icon and the last major folly to be built in England. It sits on Folly Hill, within a charming 4 acre, circular woodland of splendid Scots Pine and broadleaf trees, some more than 200 years old.

Check out the fantastic views over 5 counties and find out about the history of Folly Hill, Henry James Pye (of song of sixpence fame), Oliver Cromwell and the very eccentric Lord Berners (the creator of the tower).

Seek out the 24 black birds and giant willow pie, Cromwell's cannon, the fairly useless bridge, Lord Berners in a tree!!.....and more.

Look out for the new installations - a buzzard and a bat- high in the trees

www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

Tel: 0845 475 8386

Adults £2, 11-16s 50p, Under 11s free

Plus £2 vouchers for when you spend more than £10 at Sudbury House

Faringdon Radios music show '...From The Ladder Factory' - 1/6/12

New show out now www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio - show 33 is now out- 1/6/12.

www.faringdonradio.com

Sean

Faringdon Music Festival 2012 - 1/6/12

I've heard a rumour that the Faringdon Festival is moving to Folly Park this year. I've enjoyed it for many years and must say that I am shocked at the thought of it out of town. My friend is in a wheelchair, will there be disabled access?.....in a field! What about parking? Its so far out of town to walk to, and we are not as young as we used to be. A local pub landlord said he was asked to pay £750.00 towards retaining the event in the Market Place, is this true?

He believes all the local pubs were asked to contribute this amount. Understandably, the pub trade is going through hard times at the moment and all had refused.

I would have thought that by keeping the musical attractions in the town centre, all businesses would benefit from the event. Are the Council asking too much for road closures?

Robbin

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Open Air Service- 1/6/12

The weather forecast is not great for Sunday, however I'm pleased to remind everyone who intends to come along at 10.30 am that we will meet in All Saints' Church if wet – So don't let the weather put you off!!!

John Seedell

Dog walking in Faringdon - 31/7/12

Hi Sue,

Glad you like our town. I moved here from a small village seven years ago and love it here. I don't have a dog but enjoy walking. You will find elsewhere on this helpful site

<http://www.faringdon.org/lwalking%20and%20cycling.htm> It isn't particularly for dog walkers but I think most of them are suitable.

I have seen quite a few dog walkers around the Folly and I think Badbury Clump on the way to Highworth is probably pretty good too. Most of the dog walkers I see around here are responsible and take bags to clean up.

Happy walking
Steve Bunce

Lost Property - 31/7/12

I found a bundle of London 2012 stickers on the road outside my house last weekend. It looked like they'd fallen out of someone's bag. If you think they may be yours or your kids, please get in touch, telling me where you think they may have fallen out and approximately how many there are. 07787 434331

Grant

The iCafe Has Changed !! - 31/7/12

Over the past few weeks we have made a few changes to the- icafe at 10 London street Faringdon.

We are no longer called the-iCafe but now have a new name called THE-iCENTRE.COM but is still run by Mike. We do computer repairs of all sorts hardware and software problems sorted, with printing, website design and hosting and sometimes second-hand computers are bought and sold, we still have computers for access to the internet available as are the lessons. Computer parts are still stocked or can be ordered if we do not have them in.

Computer speed ups, virus removal, upgrades, broken screens, backing up data, factory resets are just a few jobs we do from the-iCentre

We do not do any food or drink as there was no demand for it. And we have also closed down the gaming room/kids party with the 150 inch screen, again due to lack of demand. What seems to be in demand is repairs of all sorts which is why we are focusing on this.

Mobile phones including iPhone, iPads and iPods are NOT BEING DONE at the moment due to the fact that the Company who we had to do our work from the icafe no longer works from the iCentre, we hope to find another company who can offer this service for us within the next month or two.

Two new counters are being made in the shop with the view to renting out these counters to two small businesses on a monthly basis (which both will have window space) and it will be a fixed price inc all bills. As we do not need a big space to do our repairs that we are focusing on now. Contact mike for more details. 01367 243567

Hope this update puts you in the picture and Mike looks forward to dealing with you very soon.

For sale at the iCentre at the moment is a quad core gaming pc's with 24 inch screen £440.00 and a newish laptop £210.00
mike okeefe

10 london street
sn7 7aa

Bike, scooters, skateboard coding - 31/7/12

Tuesday 7th August

I am Emma Eyley the local PCSO in Faringdon and I have teamed up with Sean Mienie the Fire service watch manager for Faringdon fire station.

We will be in Faringdon market place 07/07/12 at 12:00 – 15:00 property marking bikes/scooters/skateboards/etc for free and giving advice on wearing bicycle helmets.

Emma

Binfo- 30/7/12

Mark, You're spot on. 'Binfo' has all the hallmarks of something which has been 'sold' to the councils by slick salesmen. The councils operate 'hugely successful' waste disposal schemes already and of course most of us are too daft to work out when the regular refuse collections are, so we really do need 'binfo' dont we, just when everything like social services for the elderly are being cut back. In due course, maybe. I wonder how much it is costing and how long it will take to 'save' the council money? In the meantime, don't be completely reassured by chinese whispers that the waste service at Stanford tip is being retained. Talk to the staff there, before you swallow the rumours whole. Educate yourselves about what a 'press release' really is.
name supplied

Faringdon Radio - 30/7/12

Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio Episode 37 of Faringdon Local out now with interviews from Penny Ling hypnotherapist and Tivon Rivers artist.

If you have an interesting hobby, new business or event or organisation you would like to promote and talk about then please get in touch with Faringdon Radio

Sean

www.faringdonradio.com

Moving to Faringdon; dog walking - 29/7/12

We visited Faringdon recently, loved it and are seriously considering moving there. We have three very active irish Setter dogs, however, and were wondering if anyone out there could let us know of any good walks for energetic dogs.

We don't mind driving out up to four miles to walk them. Thanks, in anticipation,
Sue

re Binfo your recycling buddy - 25/7/12

Cllr Reg Waite, cabinet member for waste services at the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "It's hugely important to us that residents are kept well-informed and up to date with information about our services. We're excited to be able to tap into an emerging technology such as this while also expecting to save money in the long run."

I would be rather more "excited" if they spent the same amount of effort in keeping Stanford refuse Tip open, rather than it closing permanently next year. I will certainly not consider driving 40+ miles on a round trip to get rid of my refuse.

regards Mark

Third round for sport facilities funding opportunities as more clubs are set for big upgrades - 27/7/12

Sports clubs in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire looking to extend or modernise their facilities have another chance to apply for funding.

In total, £50 million of Inspired Facilities funding, provided by the Lottery Plus Partnership, is available until 2014, with money allocated equally over five rounds.

The first round of applications took place last year with Henley Tennis Club and Cumnor Cricket Club among those who were successful.

The second round, which was earlier this year has seen huge amounts awarded to fund projects across southern Oxfordshire. The biggest allocation was £150,000 to South Oxfordshire District Council to help pay for a new artificial football pitch in Didcot.

Funding was also awarded to Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust which was awarded £50,000 to upgrade their pavilion, Grove Rugby Football Club secured £32,951 to refurbish their facilities, while Abingdon rowing club received £50,000 to upgrade their gym facilities. Finally, Chinnor Rugby Football Club will receive £38,700 to fund an upgrade of the existing showers and boiler which are 26 years old.

Applications for the third round of £10 million funding began on Monday 23 July, with the deadline for submissions on Monday 17 September. The final two rounds for applications will be in 2013/14, allowing plenty of opportunities for clubs to apply.

Inspired Facilities is part of the Sport England's Places People Play initiative, which aims to bring the inspiration and magic of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to the heart of local communities.

Up to a thousand grants are available throughout the country between £20,000 and £150,000. Those applying for funding are required to identify an appropriate amount of money from other sources to support their application.

Applications for the funding can be submitted by any organisation entitled to receive public funding, including voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, sports clubs, playing field associations and educational establishments.

For further information, to apply for Inspired Facilities funding and for ideas of possible improvements that could be made to your club's facilities, go to <http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/>

Cllr Bill Service, cabinet member for leisure at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for clubs and sports facilities to get much needed funding which could help pay for new pitches, club houses or equipment. What better way to celebrate this incredible year of sport than to provide your local community with a new facility to be proud of."

Cllr Elaine Ware, cabinet member for leisure at the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "The second round of funding proved to be a hugely successful process for many communities across southern Oxfordshire. This should act as real encouragement to other clubs who are looking to upgrade their facilities to get their applications in for the third stage and try to secure a lasting legacy for their community."
VWHDC

re Folly Park mess - 27/7/12

I agree with the comments about putting the park back as it was – the deep furrows need to be levelled over, it's a complete mess. I had no interest in the festival, nor will I in the future. I walk my dogs occasionally in the park and would expect whoever uses it to at least restore it to its former state. Pretty disgusting!
Paul Gale

Demonstration Outside The Portwell! - 26/7/12

What about a Faringdon Folk Demonstration?

Faringdon Festival Organisers should restore Folly Park. Have you seen how the organisers of Faringdon Festival have left Folly Park?

How many weeks has it been now? It is disgusting..... Is anybody interested in a protest outside the Portwell Angel.

I bet Faringdon Radio may help us out!

SRose

Festival survey - 26/7/12

Here is a link to a survey which is completely anonymous and free and which asks 7 basic questions regarding Faringdon Festival 2013.

Please take a minute to give your views which will assist whoever is involved in the Festival to understand local feeling.

I will also publish the results. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WHXFTG5>

Please note that I have had nothing at all to do with the planning or organisation of any festival so far but have offered to lend a hand fundraising for next year.

Best wishes

Mel Lane

Rounders and jogging in Faringdon- 25/7/12

Faringdon Rounders Club

Come and join in a game of Rounders in the Park and see how fun it is, suitable for beginners.

More information contact Ashley Chapman on 01235 547646 or email ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk.

Every Thursday Time: 5.30pm-6.30pm

Faringdon Leisure Centre Field

Free Sunday Morning Jog. 19th August

Come along for a free social jog around Faringdon. Slow pace so suitable for beginners.

More information contact Ashley Chapman on 01235 547646 or email ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk

10am-11am Meeting

Faringdon Leisure Centre Field

INTRODUCING..... Binfo, your waste recycling buddy - 25/7/12

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils are joining the smartphone revolution by providing a new free waste collection notification app for Android and iPhone users.

The app, which is called Binfo, is now available on Apple's Appstore and the Google Android Play Store. Further information can be found at www.southoxon.gov.uk/binfo or www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/binfo.

The two neighbouring councils already operate a hugely successful joint recycling and waste collection service and are seeking new avenues to communicate accurate, real time and high quality information about the service to residents.

The service informs residents when their next collection is due and which type of collection it is, recycling or landfill. Perhaps more importantly, the app will automatically notify users when there are alterations to the service due to bank holidays or adverse weather.

Residents simply input their postcode and then select their home address from a list, or use the handy GPS location feature when they're at home, and Binfo will tell you when their next waste collection will be. He will also

let them know whether it's your green or grey bin that will be collected.

Binfo will be regularly updated with new features, so residents are being asked to keep an eye out for notifications on their phones informing them that there are updates available.

The app will also save money for the councils. They already run a successful and popular text message notification service to advise residents of changes to the waste collection service. While this is a vital avenue of communication, there are associated costs. The new smartphone app will communicate these messages direct to people's phones without incurring any of the charges.

As a result, the councils are asking any residents that decide to download the app and are subscribed to the text notification service, to unsubscribe by sending a text containing the word Binfo to 07797 870370 (South Oxfordshire residents) or 07797 870371 (Vale residents).

Residents who don't have an iPhone or Android phone will continue to be kept up to date using all of the traditional channels such as regular waste collection calendars delivered direct to letterboxes in South Oxfordshire's residents newsletter Outlook and in council tax booklets in the Vale. The councils' websites will remain the best place for up to date and comprehensive information about all of the services they provide.

Cllr David Dodds, cabinet member for waste services at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We are always seeking efficient and cost-effective methods of communicating information about our services to residents. More and more people are using on-the-go technologies like smartphones so it's an ideal avenue for us to explore."

Cllr Reg Waite, cabinet member for waste services at the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "It's hugely important to us that residents are kept well-informed and up to date with information about our services. We're excited to be able to tap into an emerging technology such as this while also expecting to save money in the long run."

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting. 26th July - 24/7/12

7pm Corn Exchange

Following the successful Public Meeting held on 12 June to discuss the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, several focus groups have been working towards proposals for the plan.

A further Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, 26 July to discuss these reports.

Do please come along and have your say!

See the agenda and the documents from the sub groups on <http://faringdonplan.webs.com/>

Positive Steps Nursery, in Shellingford exciting new project.- 24/7/12

We are Positive Steps Nursery, in Shellingford and we would like to share an exciting new project.

We have been successful in securing a place on a Jamie Oliver Food Programme which we are really excited about.

[Read all about it](#)

Positive Steps Children's Day Nursery

01367 718888

www.positivestepsnurseries.co.uk

VWHDC grants- Community projects and festivals - 23/7/12

Community projects, events and festivals across the Vale are being invited to apply for a share of £110,000 being awarded by their district council.

The Vale of White Horse District Council has launched two new grant schemes to support local community projects and local events and festivals.

The council has launched a new capital grants scheme that offers grants of up to £5,000 towards a wide variety of community projects. The £100,000 fund is available to help with capital expenditure, such as spending on buildings, extensions or equipment will be considered under the scheme.

The capital grants scheme opens on 23 July 2012 and the deadline for applications is 28 September 2012.

Community groups can also benefit from the new festival grant scheme that offers grants of up to £1,000 towards local festivals or events to be held in the district. This scheme will also open on 23 July 2012 and will remain open until the £10,000 budget has been allocated.

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We are looking to support projects that work at the heart of their communities to help keep the Vale thriving as a great place to live. Ongoing projects can improve or expand their services with the capital grants, but I am also excited about helping out local events and festivals which really help give our towns and villages a distinctive character."

Information on how to apply for one of these grants is available on the council's website at

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants>

Private helicopter - 24/7/12

Dont know who is using the Community College playing field as a helicopter pad - but it is happening most Saturdays. I just hope the dog walkers keep out of its way or it could get even more of a mess out there!
Name supplied.

The Reynolds clan - I know little about them .. can anyone help? - 23/7/12

My grandfather, Thomas Edward Stuart Reynolds was born in Islington during the Sep 1/4 of 1896 and he married Annie Tynemouth in Lewisham during the Dec 1/4 of 1923. There is a lot more on the Reynolds - for example, Austin E (surgeon) and Gertrude can be found visiting Thomas Henry Reynolds in Witney, Oxon in 1901. Thomas was born in Faringdon c 1830 and lived with his wife Elizabeth who was born in Manderton, Suffolk. Also there were 2 sisters of Elizabeth, Mary A and Ann A Rix. Thomas married Elizabeth in Suffolk. The connection is, of course, with Edward K B Reynolds (surgeon), father of Austin and brother of Thomas Henry (he was also born in Faringdon).

More information on

<http://www.stempublishing.com/hymns/biographies/reynolds.html>

Jon Quirk

jonquirk@iafrica.com

ED(GW) There are some Reynolds in All Saints Churchyard see <http://www.faringdon.org/hysoc.htm> and a Bryan Reynolds on <http://faringdon.org/nvmemories.htm>

Burglary in Faringdon - 23/7/12

I loved the film that the Police have put up on this site to prevent a Burglary in your home, I had a parcel stolen from my front step back in February, we checked with the post office and everyone concerned with sending it so I am in no doubt that it was stolen, if you post any parcel to anyone get it registered, the person who sent mine didn't and it disappeared so quickly.....these horrible people who take things are around our little town
Jim

Fund Raising for Faringdon Festival 2013 - 23/7/12

Boogie Me would be delighted to offer their services for a gig to fundraise for Festival 2013. We managed to raise over £1000 for Help for Heroes a couple of years back by charging a small entry fee.

If there are any organisers who would like to contact me I'm sure we can come up with some dates.

info@boogie-me.co.uk or 07836 208800

Mel

Raising monery for Festival - 22/7/12

Thank you Julie for all of your information regarding the Faringdon festival and the council's past involvement, I agree with the points that you have made, it must be difficult to know where to allocate limited funds to such events, however, the point I was trying to make was that to get more people involved in future festivals, fund raising, grants etc need to be common knowledge, and the spending of the money more transparent to the town as a whole, I am sure more people would get involved and give their time (and money) freely by helping in all manner of ways from fund raising to being marshals on the day, if they knew all of the money raised was being spent on the festival itself and not as a money making venture for one or two businesses, also the more people that give their time to this venture the better the information regarding the festival will be to the ones that don't, Programmes I'm sure could be funded by advertising revenue, they don't have to be flash, just informative, make extra cash by selling a raffle ticket with the programme, a meal for two as a prize for a pound outlay wouldn't break the bank, make a DVD of the weekends entertainment to be sold afterwards, and any profits going to start the funding for the following years event...things like V.I .P tents really don't go down well , neither does getting slagged off just because someone voices an opinion, people shouldn't be shouted down because they may disagree with other of "firmly held beliefs",all that does is frighten people off from putting up posts on here, and smacks of bullying. Putting things on like Festivals and community events is a thankless task, if you want praise for doing it then your in the wrong line of work, especially in a small market town like Faringdon.

Jim.

Private helicopter - 21/7/12

Any know who was picked up this morning at the Community College playing field this morning and returned again this evening by helicopter?

Where did they go? Does the college charge a landing fee?

Name Supplied

Fund Raising the Festival 2013 - 19/7/12

In response to Jim's post re the Town Council taking part in the the Festival. I think I am probably uniquely qualified to comment. I organised the the Faringdon Arts Festival for a number of years with David Reynolds and I am now a Town Councillor.

The Town Council have always supported Faringdon Arts Festival, they did this by giving us a grant of £3,000 and letting us rent the venues at a very favourable rate. One year we were given a grant of £1500 but given the venues free of charge (the credit crunch had hit so cash was very limited). In addition to this the venues manager Lesley would help set up the road closures, put out the signs, take them down and organise the venues ready for use.

It would be very difficult for the Town Council to give more support to the Festival (this is my opinion only and not the Town Councils), there are so many different groups in Faringdon all doing good work and giving their time as volunteers free. How would the council choose which group to help, the scouts, the guides, the family centre, party in the park, Faringdon Christmas lights etc. which group would deserve the time. Currently the town council helps by providing grants, all the groups that need support just have to apply. Not only that, the council have to ensure that they represent the entire community. Not everyone is in favour of all the events organised by volunteers. It is a very difficult situation and a lot of work is involved in putting on any event.

Julie Farmer

Flying Pig Festival sat 21st July - 19/7/12

This weekend come and see about a dozen bands playing at the Flying Pig Festival in Shrivenham at the gliding club " IT'S UNDER COVER'

<http://www.flyingpigfestival.co.uk/main/>
Sean www.mammothandthedrum.com Hodgson

2013 Calendar - 18/7/12

It is time to plan the 2013 Faringdon Calendar.
This year we would like to have a calendar with paintings of the Town by local artists. Artists can be any age. Paintings /drawings must be of Faringdon. Artists chosen will get a free calendar and a credit / telephone number on the painting.
Please contact Sally Thurston on 01367 242191 or send a copy the work you would like considered to sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk
Sally Thurston
Faringdon Town Council
The Corn Exchange SN7 7JA
01367 242191 www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Faringdon Radio Faringdon Festival. - 18/7/12

Still looking for a couple of people to sit round a table for a recorded panel discussion with Festival organisers Sam Prince and Nick Elwell ...This Thursday or Friday
Sean www.faringdonradio.com 07712 530405

Location for Festival 2013 - 18/7/12

To A Notsob.
I think your idea of using the field on the Radcot Road is a fantastic idea,(Why didn't i think of it?) Do you have any contact with the Saunders and could you please ask them for the benefit of the Festival.
Sam

Fund Raising the Festival 2013 - 18/7/12

I like the idea in the other post about making the Festival fundraising a year round thing. All manner of events could be done to raise money for the Festival weekend...remember those thermometers that used to be outside churches when they were fund raising for a new roof ect...well, couldn't something like that be used to show everyone just how much money was in the pot, perhaps put it in the council notice board, it really has to be that transparent...the more Faringdon people know what's going on, the more they will get involved, if it's seen as a way of making money for just a business they just wont bother, and that's a fact Faringdon is brimming with talent, lets put on a community event (Festival, Party in the Park, call it what you will) that once a year showcases all of it..it has worked in the past, no reason why it shouldn't carry on doing so, it has to be done by more than just two people, that really is just to much pressure...the Council should get more involved and help to sort out what can and can't be done, and grease the rails to make sure whatever needs to be done on a legal level gets done, everyone wants the Festival as a community event, the local Council should take this on board and help. If it's done properly the whole town could benefit from it for months afterwards.
Jim.

Burglary - Faringdon - 17/7/12

On Monday (16/07) between 08:45hrs and 17:00hrs, a property in Radcot Road, Faringdon, was burgled. Entry was gained by forcing a back door. Property stolen included laptop computers a camera and jewellery. Please click in the link below to obtain crime prevention advice, information and tips to help you prevent becoming a victim of burglary: <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crprev/crprev-home.htm>
If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this

message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.

Boot Camp - 16/7/12

Outdoor group exercise class. Designed in a way that pushes the participants harder than they'd push themselves and, in that way, resemble a military boot camp. During the session, participants can perform activities such as sprints, push ups and various forms of plyometric and interval training with little rest between exercises. These fitness classes have grown in popularity over the years primarily because they offer a new way to get a low-cost, efficient and challenging workout.

Also, getting fast results and create a supportive and motivational community of like-minded people.

If you are interested in coming along to a weekly Boot Camp session in Faringdon then please register your interest by e-mailing ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk with your preferred days/time or to find out any more

Festival 2013 - 16/7/12

I like the earlier idea, has anyone asked (or begged), our wonderful local eco-organic farmers, Pat and Daphne Saunders, if the field next to Faringdon House could be rented at a reasonable cost. It was used for the successful war re-enactment. It is close to the Market Place without swamping the local traders or messing up the traffic. If the stage was set NOT to annoy the residents of Church Lane, it could be the ideal site.

A Notsob

Party in the Park

Following this year's successful Party in the Park, arrangements are already underway for next year's event. Party in the Park will again be held in Tucker's Park on a Saturday at the of end June/begin July where the live music stage will be bursting with musical talent from 2pm til 10.30. I am now looking for local bands/artists who are interested in playing. The only proviso, as this is a local community event, is that the band/artist has at least one member connected to Faringdon. Please send your links, info etc to info@peluche.co.uk .

Many thanks.

David Reynolds

Faringdon Festival - 16/7/12

But here is an idea.

Rather than it being a once a year thing with loads of fundraising in the 6 weeks before, why not make it a year round festival. Have regular events – gigs, comedy, jumble sales, quiz nights, anything really – with proceeds going to the festival fund. Get local pubs involved – I'm sure someone can provide a decent band or run a quiz or pool tournament in exchange for a donation from the pub or entry money towards the festival. Make programmes free, but ask for donations. And have people with collection buckets at the actual festival – if you're there, enjoying it, you're much more likely to put your hand in your pocket and donate some change. Use the example of seaside carnivals, who fund themselves this way, with proceeds from one year's event almost completely funding the next year's carnival.

By making the festival more of a year-round, community event more people may get involved with running it because the town can take ownership of it, rather than it being perceived as one business' chance to get rich, which is the way a lot of people I know see it now.

Name Supplied

Indoor Festivals - 16/7/12

I saw this and thought of the ill fated Faringdon Festival: <http://www.thedailytrash.co.uk/news/arts-entertainment/music-best-enjoyed-indoors-2012071734518><http://www.thedailytrash.co.uk/news/arts-entertainment/music-best-enjoyed-indoors-2012071734518><http://www.thedailytrash.co.uk/news/arts-entertainment/music-best-enjoyed-indoors-2012071734518>

Cheryl Hanrahan.

New to Faringdon - 16/7/12

Hi, I have just moved to the area with my husband and two children and don't know anyone. If you are in the same situation and would like to meet for coffee then please contact me.

Name supplied

Ed(GW) Try Women's Drop in. United Church Hall, 12.20-2.30 Thursdays Term Time. 07709 102791. Welcome to Faringdon

Faringdon Festival - 16/7/12

Here's a little challenge for the Town Council.

Because of all the complaints re: running the Festival in Town, or out of Town and the lack of a decent venue for music or performance, that could be used on a regular basis.Perhaps you could find us one?

Faringdon has very little to offer as an attraction for visitors.

Sam Prince

Volunteering in Faringdon - 16/7/12

If it wasn't for volunteers in Faringdon there would be no:

Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Cricket, Football, Town Councillors, Folly Tower Open, WI Market, Faringdon Singers, Folly Singers, Cadets, Farcycles, Drama Group, History Society, Peace Group, Mustard Seed, Tennis Club, Twinning, U3a- and I'm sure there are more.

Name Supplied

Meandering - 16/7/12

I know it's not a current topic, but I have to say that this afternoon we had a meander around Faringdon...we first went to the Post Office where Sue met us with a cheery smile and a pleasant chat.....ok, it was a very small queue..but, none the less, it was a pleasant experience...we then meandered up to the Coffee Shop, where again we were greeted with a smile and a chat by Val...and ate a lovely lunch...we wandered back through the town...a chat with several people as we walked... (and no, not one mention of that Festival)...then a little wander into Budgens, where we had a friendly greeting from Kelly and the girls...then we went home...quite happy at meeting and greeting the " Real people of Faringdon"....what a pleasure it is to live in such a friendly little market town.....makes me realise just how lucky I am to live here. I know I wont be agreed with, but it's my opinion and entitled to express it. Faringdon, and it's people really are not that bad, in fact they are quite lovely.
Jim.

Faringdon Festival - 16/7/12

As i am the retired unpaid member of two, who organized the festival. I have to say my part was staging,lighting,sound and performers.just a small piece of the jigsaw.I know how difficult and stressful organizing a festival can be ,having organized the M.A.D.D. MayFest for 10yrs plus being involved with promotional shows for "Hasbro".

I guess the point i'm trying to make is , ease up on all the complaints ,think that if it hadn't rained so much ?

It does take money to run the show.

It takes more than two persons to organize it.

So if you ,the Faringdon community would like to see a festival next year, get on board and help.

Sam Prince

Faringdon Radio Faringdon Festival. - 16/7/12

OK im looking for a couple of people to sit round a table for a recorded panel discussion about the Faringdon Festival ...already got Sam Prince on board anyone who feels strongly about previously festivals, the recent event and its future please come forward ASAP.

I assure anyone taking part that despite my openly strong views on the subject I will act as an independent arbiter and allow all to express their views.

Contact me on 07712 530405 or through the link on **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Sean

Faringdon Festival: Folly Park - 15/7/12

As a past member of 'Friends of Folly Park' I'd be interested to know where were all the concerned people who care so much for the Park when we were calling for volunteers?

Apart from the fishermen (and women?) and dog walkers, it appeared that the only regular users were those who wrecked the living willow structure a week after it was completed, burnt the picnic table, stole the life-belt, built fires by the lake, trashed the daffodils, daubed and smashed the sculpture and the surrounding stone seating and lettering, left bottles and cans strewn around the benches and used the field to practice dirt track racing (the field recovered).

But hey, at least people in Faringdon now have some idea that Folly Park exists, and some even know where it is!
Sheila

To Ex Co-ordinator of Faringdon Festival - 15/7/12

As somebody who has done varied voluntary work, organised events (in the town) and helped at events (in the town) you learn to take the rough with the smooth. It's not something I intend to do again anytime soon though. However, I have already posted on here about the Festival and I do take exception to some of your comments.

People don't keep referring to it as the 'Arts Festival', only that until a couple of years ago music was an equal part of a much larger event. From 2010 music became the main event. Personally I preferred it as it was but others would disagree.

'So it was up in the field and the field got muddy....have you ever left your garden unattended? Nature grows back!!!' Yes I have, but that's my garden and only effects me. The park is for everybody's enjoyment and respect hasn't been shown.

I did see the children singing under the town hall but like most people I was at work and could only watch from the window. Unfortunately many of the events were during work hours.

I like Tivon's art very much and saw his display in the Tourist Information Centre some time ago. I rarely use the Portwell Bar I'm afraid so didn't see it there this time. Also, being Mon-Fri maybe it proved a bit tricky for many workers and school children to attend his classes. It certainly wouldn't have been a reflection of his work so I hope it's something he'll consider again. Perhaps taking the classes to the schools would have worked better and possibly have grabbed the attention of many budding young artists.

'Pushed out by the businesses'. I'm not sure the pubs, cafe's and takeaway's would agree with that and I'm certain they would welcome the festivals return. If it's true they were all asked for £750 then I can see why they refused. Were they asked for this fee from other organisers ?. As for some of the residents lack of sleep, I'm sure with a bit of give and take on both sides this could be sorted. I see even Bruce and Sir Paul had the plug pulled last night in Hyde Park !.

I don't know the ins and outs of getting a licence I'm afraid but it's obviously been done in the past and I believe the backing and support of the Town Council would be necessary if this event is to work again like it used to. Presumably until the problems of the 2010 festival are sorted this won't happen. I also feel that it would be nice if our Councillors could offer their help for town events. They should be the people ensuring that everything is done to the guidelines of the Town and County Councils. There would then be no arguments as to what is and isn't

allowed. Not necessarily involved with the organising but just being a presence. After all they are here for the residents and the town.

Wootton Bassett as you say is a wonderful place that stood united during it's time as a route for repatriations, as I'm sure every town would for such an important role. I don't suppose for one minute though that Wootton Bassett residents agree on everything else that goes on. Have you been to the Arts Festivals they hold ?. Pretty upmarket and although I hate to say it, Faringdon has a way to go.

It's a worry that had it been cancelled for whatever reason (not just weather issues) you'd have lost your own money. I thought there had been fundraising going on for some time. If there wasn't enough raised then was it sensible to take the risk ?. What about the festivals insurance, wouldn't that have covered it ?.

Many of the comments have been good, some offering suggestions re music venues etc and some who attended obviously enjoyed it. They haven't all been hurtful like you say, but it's perfectly understandable that given the weather people aren't happy that the park was used and that there was no backup plan despite the forecast. Some people may wish to obtain the 'true facts and figures of the situation' you talk of. Maybe they could help.

Yes, I was one of the ones sitting at home. The weather and muddy field put me off and I missed the fact that it wasn't in the town. I preferred the community feel of the old 'Arts Festival' I admit.

If you do change your mind and help organise another Music Festival then I do wish you kind weather as I know there are many people who would have attended had it been better.
Name Supplied

Grand Peace Fete Coleshill - 15/7/12

"It's one of those events that we NEVER miss!" - was one of the comments (made from under an umbrella) last Saturday at the Peace Fete - held in the beautiful grounds of Clockhouse, Coleshill. In spite of the interesting weather (as well as competition from Wimbledon Finals & Faringdon Festival), this 31st Peace Fete was clearly the place to be.

Thanks to all those involved in the organising, and to all those who came. Together, we made it the 2nd best Peace Fete (in revenue terms) ever - since the very first one in 1982. So - see you **Saturday 6th July 2013**. Clockhouse, Coleshill. And - it WILL be sunny.

Faringdon Festival - 15/7/12

Blimey! the recent Faringdon Festival is certainly stirring up quite a storm on here.

Festival co-ordinators resigning, our town described as full of bitterness and slurs on the residents of Faringdon as whingers!

This surely has to tell us something, don't you think?

There can be no doubt that the organisers worked very hard to put this event on, I for one, would not fancy the job. Yet despite all their efforts, this Festival was not as successful as previous years, why? I believe there are several reasons for this, all of which, have been highlighted on here before. The Festival has been established in the centre of town for years, the main stage ideally located, stalls for most tastes, several pubs to choose from and firm concrete underfoot. Unlike Folly Park, the centre offers shelter from the elements, it poured with rain three years ago, but did little to dampen spirits, the place was buzzing all weekend!

Despite all the warnings, the selected venue for this year was unsuitable, bad drainage combined with weeks of rain could only result in a boggy mess and to slag people off for not being willing to get plastered in wet mud is a bit much!

Organisers have stated that people don't want the event in the town centre, I understand that a few businesses did object, but everyone I have spoken to, bar none, would prefer it. What is the honest reason for moving the venue? Did the Council want paying for the outstanding 2010 debt as well as this year's costs? Did they refuse to provide road closures unless payment was made? Who knows????

Honesty is the main problem, if you try to cover over the issues with B.S., then you are going to come up short, this

year smacked of commercialism and mistrust!

To be positive, (yes Sean, I do know the meaning of positive comments) I understand the organisers are the same group of people who ran the event in 2010 and 2011, both of which, were an overwhelming success, so it's well within their capabilities. Transparency is the answer, let residents know the full cost of hosting the Festival and help find ways of raising the funds, the earlier the better!

The Faringdon Festival promotes local talent at it's best and provides a fantastic party atmosphere for all who take part, it would be a great shame to lose it!

Robbin Black.

Ex Co-ordinator of Faringdon Festival - 15/7/12

You did not listen to the People of Faringdon, what they wanted.
If you had they would have supported you.

Trying to charge local pubs £750.00 to retain the Festival in the town centre, proves you had no problem obtaining the licence. Fact was; they said "on your bike" we have no money, have never been asked to pay this in previous years, made YOU take the Festival to Folly park, to gain the beer and wine revenue for yourself..... People will not support that kind of business.

Programmes should have been out a month before the event, free of charge, given to anyone who would take them.

How would they know what was on and where?

You had the money from the advertising as revenue.... greedy to charge for them as well..

As for Folly Park what a mess.. the deep furrows can't be left like that to grow over, you would kill yourself and your poor dog.

If your moving to Wootton Bassett though, it won't bother you, will it?

Name Supplied

Faringdon Festival - 15/7/12

Sean

I do think you have been horrible to the Faringdon people.

You being around normal people (not the organisers), know they wanted the Festival in the town centre.

All they were doing was voicing their opinion.

You're on the wrong side.

You have been dazzled by prestige..

You're not helping Faringdon Folk, just aiding the organisers and their pockets.

You're in a very good position to voice your views, if only you could put your energy into encouraging them to pay the Faringdon Town Council their money and get the Faringdon Festival back in Faringdon Town Centre next year.

Come on Sean!

Join us normal Faringdon Festival Folk..... Bring Back our Festival.....

S Rose

Faringdon Festival - 15/7/12

Putting aside where Faringdon Festival should have been held, what I'm concerned about is who is going to restore Folly Park to the condition it was in prior to the Festival so that the people of Faringdon (whether or not they attended the Festival) can use it again.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Festival - 14/7/12

Putting aside where Faringdon Festival should have been held, what I'm concerned about is who is going to restore Folly Park to the condition it was in prior to the Festival so that the people of Faringdon (whether or not they attended the Festival) can use it again.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Festival 2013 - 14/7/12

Now we are through the first week after the Faringdon Festival and all the feverish, disgruntled, sometimes uninformed harsh criticism of what should have been done and what you want to do remarks have trailed off, like so many jet streams, it's time to think about next year's Festival.(if there is to be one)

That is what i'm now in the process of doing.

So I ask you, is there anybody, or groups out there who would like to be involved and add something to a community event?. It could be fantastic.

I have started a group on Facebook which already has over 50 willing participants.(Faringdon Festival 2013)

Please join, or leave your musings on this site

Sam Prince, (M.A.D.D.)

Faringdon Festival - 13/7/12

The people complaining on this site do amaze me. They are the biggest free loaders I have ever come across, always wanting something for nothing. This town is a damaged town that is full of bitterness and insult.

So why did you have to pay for a programme? Well where the hell do you think the money was going to come from to pay for the festival? I don't see you putting you hand in you pocket or volunteering to help.

So it was up in the field and the field got muddy....have you ever left your garden unattended? Nature grows back!!!

Why wasn't it cancelled? Well how about you work on something in your spare time for 6 months, then throw it all away and then find the money from your own salary to pay for it. No it wasn't a business organising the festival it was 2 ordinary people one retired and one with a full time job!!

Where is the arts part of the festival? Firstly it is called FARINGDON FESTIVAL you keep calling it the ARTS festival....Move on!!! Also if you bothered to buy a programme you would have see Tivorn was the artist give free art lessons all week that know one came to, We had the infant School singing in the Market Place, which only the parents came to, We had poetry reading and other events in the performance tents...What do you all want blood!!! I was already working 6.30am to 11pm on the festival and all over the weekend to get together what it we did. There was not enough hours in the day.

And as for not having it in town, we were pushed out by the businesses who thought they would lose trade and the residence who thought they would lose sleep. We was always intending to have it in the town centre but if you can't get the licence for it you have to move it!!! The Vale of the White Horse gave us the field for FREE so we took it!! This Festival was meant to try and bring in much needed trade to the town and if it had been in the town centre it would of done. The businesses and people have brought on this mess themselves by not contributing anything to it, Plenty of people wanted it but know one wanted to help....what will you complain about next year when there is no festival!!!

In a time of recession you should be grateful that someone tried to carry on a long tradition of music and celebration. The people that counted came up to us and shook our hand at the festival as a job well done including Cllr Mohinder Kainth Vale of White Horse District Council, who told us this is what the town needs. The Ladies in the Baptist Church tea tent comforted me when I had a break down on the Saturday morning because of the weather. Where were any of you? Busy sitting in your homes wait for something to complain about, supporting nothing!!!

All your comments have very hurtful, nasty and unthoughtful. As usual you don't wish to obtain the true facts and

figures on the whole situation. This town has upset me so much that I am looking to move away, this is bitter and twisted town. I would like to move to a town like Wootton Bassett, a town that stands together and supports everyone and who will stand by a festival like this!!!

Sorry Sean I have turned into one too!!! Thank you for all your support, but needless to say I will not be organising Faringdon Festival again!!

Regards
Ex Co-ordinator of Faringdon Festival

15 Minute Club - 13/7/12

I'm pleased to say that 7 years after starting the 15 Minute Club I am still running it on the first Sunday in every month at the Portwell Cellar Bar, the spiritual home where it all started. The format and ethos remains the same; artists get 15 minutes to sing, play an instrument, tell jokes, perform magic tricks, tell stories...it's your stage, your 15 minutes of fame in front of a friendly, enthusiastic audience. The 15 Minute Club is for performers of all levels. Some have already gone on to achieve even more success...I recently learned that a very talented 15 MC performer has just been signed by one of the largest music publishers in the world. Entry to the 15 Minute Club is free for both performers and audience.

Come along and try it! www.15minuteclub.co.uk

David Reynolds

Faringdon Festival non music events - 13/7/12

In reply to 'name supplied' 13/7/2012

I was going to list all the non-music events that were put on during 2010 and 2011 Faringdon Arts Festivals, but they were poorly attended (not a solitary soul at one of the poetry readings, perhaps 4 or 6 people at others) but, like those who didn't attend, I can't be bothered!

Sheila

Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio Episode 36 out now - a couple of days early. - 13/7/12.

This show has interviews with Mike Wise about the future of Faringdon and the significant local public consultation programme the town council is engaged in. An interview with Stuart Macbeth of The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm band the headlining band at the Faringdon Festival.

Also I may comment on The Faringdon Festival and the response from some of 'the people of Faringdon' - many of which I am proud to know and associate with but unfortunately my response relates to that vociferous small minded and sometimes 'anonymous' minority that make many of us want to give up. Oh dear I'd never make it as a politician would I.

Sean

www.faringdonradio.com

Faringdon Festival - 13/7/12

It's been quite interesting looking back at the Talking Points Archive and reviews of previous festivals. Until just a couple of years ago we had Arts Festivals which involved every form of the arts, music was just one of them. I for one enjoyed and supported them. However, a couple of years ago the music side became the predominant factor and the other arts took a back seat. It all appeared to run smoothly and happily until 2010, the year I understand fees weren't paid to the council (as read in the Folly). These may have been paid now although I haven't read it anywhere. I don't understand how the previous festival organisers managed to pay and still run successful events. The current organisers I believe are the same people since 2010 so I doubt they are in a position to run the arts

festival as it used to be using the venues as before.

I love the idea of a music festival but this year really did have a feeling of a private venture, excluding all other the towns businesses and facilities. The weather was a huge factor of course in it not being well attended and although I appreciate the effort that went in to the organising it should have been cancelled. All over the country events have been postponed or cancelled but with some arrogance this was allowed to go ahead causing the destruction of the meadow and picnic area. Other posters here have talked about volunteers for events, well what about the people who give up their time to look after the woodland in the park, building the walkways, placing nesting boxes etc, they must be completely disheartened. Surely the organisers could step forward and take responsibility because at the moment around the town I hear little about the actual event but plenty about what's been left behind.

Also, reading back a few more years I was able to learn more about the 15 Minute Club. I didn't know a great deal about it but it seems to have been a really popular Faringdon event. Can it be restarted ?. The Corn Exchange has been revamped, extra soundproofing to the windows I understand and disco's and country music events are held there. So ok, maybe the noise can't be at festival level but is it a possibility ?. Or, how about the FCC or Junior School halls ?. Maybe not ideal but still venues where people who enjoy music can go. It would be lovely to have bands play in the town centre more often but it's unfair to expect residents to put up with some of the noise levels. Hopefully the annual festival can find its way back to the town, or if not, please not on such unsuitable land.
Name Supplied

Faringdon Radio Our music show - 12/7/12.

Faringdon Radio Our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' episode 15 is now available to stream/download. Please check out the new improved website with the embedded playerhopefully this makes it easier to listen to.
Sean

www.fromtheladderfactory.com

PS Hardly any mention of the Faringdon Festival....but I might do in Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio out on Sunday

What Planet - 12/7/12

Oh how I laughed at that witty little gem ...well I did when I was your age ...10yrs old. Being witty has moved on ...still watching repeats of The Comedians from the 1970s?

For one to have an anus one first need some guts which you are clearly lacking in - still hiding mr mouse... anonymous squeak squeak ..fancy a pice of cheese ...oops of course not NO GUTS to digest it with.

Not telling you who I am this time...so there

Name Supplied

VWHDC Screening opinion for Planning application - Land to the East of Coxwell Road Faringdon Oxfordshire - 29/6/12

It's the triangle of land between the A420 and the road to Great Coxwell. I think technically it is in the parish of Great Coxwell (though I can see no mention of this).

Clearly , being adjacent to the Faringdon boundary- and in fact nearer to Faringdon than Gt Coxwell, it will impact the town.

You can see a description of what is planned and make comments on [VWHDC Planning system](#)

VWHDC have only just enabled commenting online- even though the consultation end date shows 11th July you can still comment.

Please do comment, especially if you think this is a bad idea. If this gets permission then I guess it's only a matter of time for the opposite side to be developed too.

ED(GW)

Faringdon Festival - 12/7/12

To the person who thinks I was being horrible to 'the people of Faringdon' obviously didn't fully read my comments. I admire 'the people of Faringdon' for their tenacity to get on with organising events, running clubs and volunteering for all sorts of things despite 'the other people' of Faringdon who knock the ones that commit to undertaking these activities. Yes the Festivals held in the market place were more successful (that's not in dispute) but if anyone thinks that those Festivals didn't have to deal with a level of whinging (yes it is the right word to describe the attitude of some people - in fact it's an understatement) that would put many people off from organising it again then they are out of touch.

Again I stress I support 'the people of Faringdon' for organising this event and others who similarly put themselves out for other volunteering activities - I was far from being horrible to such 'people of Faringdon'.

Robin - my comments about the sound system etc (in fact the variety and quality of bands playing and the stage management for keeping it on time)) was to show that despite the effects of the weather there were positive elements to the event - many similar events are poor in this respect. Do you know the term 'positive comments'?

To S Rose - Just because I run a Faringdon business (well sort of - your term not mine) I will not hold back from expressing my strongly held views and I hope I never will - shame on me if it did. I'm a little shocked someone might suggest that someone should keep quiet just because they run a local business - that would smack at a dereliction of civic duty to put my business needs above my beliefs (oh getting heavy now) - I challenge you to review that comment S Rose - or do you have more facts that you believe I'm not aware of as you claim.

If anyone feels so strongly about all of this then join that small team and make it happen next year as I wouldn't be surprised that the current volunteers give up in despair. If you do get involved remember one reason for moving it out of the market place was in response to strong criticism about the disruption, noise and road closures of the previous market place held events. In other words yes put it back in the market place (if you can get permission) but be prepared to deal with the whinging you will get on TP (and other real obstacles not just whinging) and then see if you have the stomach to organise it the following year. We all wait with baited breath to see which 'whinges' volunteer or will they just snort & snigger but DO nothing.

The negative attitudes of some of 'the people of Faringdon' have been holding this town back for years - as I said in the previous rant (yes I do realise this is now heading in that direction...oh dear the irony I'm becoming a whinger myself) is 'Put up or Shut up' stop whinging from the sidelines (and don't do it anonymously - stand up and be counted (as a few are now doing).

Having said all of that perhaps it's just easier to snort and snigger like long term dead Jim wants us to.

Sean Hodgson - Faringdon business Faringdon Radio

Ecoweek 2012 - 12/7/12

A quick note to thank all those wonderful people who were involved in organising ECOWEEK-2012 - which again turned out to be a really successful celebration of all things sustainable . Teaming up with WeSET (Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust) , we had seventy six separate events during the week; nearly all of which were well attended (in spite of the competition from Euro-2012!) - and I hope also enjoyable & stimulating for those attending. Thanks also to the many event hosts and sponsors, including the Town Council. ECOWEEK-2012 represented an urban-rural partnership of places and people that we can truly be proud of.

Well done to all!
Sjoerd

What Planet - 11/7/12

I love Jim's humorous comments it brightens this site up a bit....In response to what planet is Sean Hodgson on it's Planet 'Sean Hodgson'that'll be the one next to 'Uranus'!!
Name Supplied.

All Saints Churchyard- memorial inscriptions- 11/7/12

The Faringdon History Society has recorded all the information on these old gravestones in an Excel File, making it easy to find your relative using the filters (Surname, Christian name and date of death)
You can now look through this online on [the History Society page](#) on this site
Ed(GW)

The Duke of Wellington - 11/7/12

It's being renovated/refurbished and turned into a house- a big one I guess
ED(GW)

Faringdon festival - 11/7/12

I think that J Rewley is still a little drunk from the booze and photo sessions at the Festival to make a statement like that.

If you look at the photos posted, you'll get my drift.

I went, saw what we were expected to stand in, looked at the facilities and went home, how disappointing!
So very sorry for the bands and the few stalls that did turn up.. blooming organisers.....

Sean Hodgson I don't understand why you are being so horrible to the people of Faringdon?

You are a Faringdon based business and I'm sure, want the support of Faringdon.

I don't think you have all the facts..

S Rose

lighten up...long time dead! - 11/7/12

Thankfully the ability to laugh at oneself and those around us still makes this site very addictive, and a sheer joy to contribute...personally, and thankfully, I am not a political person (they are all as bad as each other).....but.....I so enjoy winding up the people that are...nice to know you're still out there.. (snort, snort, snigger snigger)...

Jim.

(just let out of the Silly Farm and free to roam and contribute!!)

Faringdon festival - 11/7/12

Reading the comments made by Sean Hodgson, I have to wonder what planet he's living on?

Is it really just about the success of the organising of this event and how good the sound system is, when you can't get through the mud to participate?

The slur on the people of Faringdon is both arrogant and insulting, but sadly expected from someone so closely connected to the organisers!

Unlike his comments suggest, local residents support this event each year by turning up in their droves and putting their hands in their pockets.

It would have been no different this year if the venue wasn't a boggy marsh!

The sponsors held events to support the Festival, again residents participated and parted with their hard earned cash.

The Faringdon community are not whingers, as he states, when it was announced that the Festival would move to Folly Park, people showed their concern as the weather forecast predicted heavy rain for weeks, it turned out they were right!

The simple facts are - great bands aired their music to very few people, stall holders lost money and even sponsors wouldn't brave the mud.

But hey' the organising was a success and the sound system was great!!!

Robbin Black

P.S. Jim - keep the witty and entertaining comments coming in...

Police Station opening hours - 11/7/12

To the person moaning about Jim....It's only a bit of fun so lighten up please...this site is for having a laugh too, so don't take things to heart....

from Chris, Jims other half.

For those who like Music Festivals in fields - 12/7/12

21st July

Flying Pig Festival

10am til late

The Flying Pig Festival is back for its fifth year with more great bands, great food and great beer! Raising money for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance, this is the perfect anecdote to the British summer.

Held at the Sandhill Farm Airfield, Shrivenham

There are 15+ bands including; The Guy & The Girl, Janey and the Vagabonds and Mammoth and the Drum.

Camping & Parking is provided FREE and with a bouncy castle, face painting and stalls on offer, it is not to be missed. For more information, please visit www.flyingpigfestival.co.uk

Advanced ticket sales: Adults £15, under 16s £5, under 10s free, available. Gate price: £20 if still available

Faringdon festival - 10/7/12

J Rewley, "good idea" yep agree there. We're lucky to have these events on our doorstep. "great location" hell no! Anyone that's ever stepped foot in that field knows how muddy it is normally, let alone with all the rainfall we've had in the past couple of months. It was always going to be a muddy mess and it's completely ruined a natural meadow. "good toilets" cant comment, I wasn't able to get that far into the field, "good stalls" well... I saw the sweet stall and the refreshment stall at the very entrance, and the poor cake lady that had braved it into the field but that was about all I noticed/was able to get to. As for "good entertainment" what I heard from my garden was excellent as always. I have spent many a year sat in the rain in the market place enjoying this event and had the location been better, may have done so again this year. It's just a shame no common sense was applied when making all these grand plans. Hopefully be a bit better planning next year!

Emma Riddle

Faringdon festival - 10/7/12

Faringdon Festival was a success from an organisational perspective the variety of music was great, the sound system was great the variety of stalls would have been great - poor weather hindered its overall success. To those whinges in particular name supplied (at least have the guts to stand up and be counted) who go on about it being our town festival why cant it be brought back into our town centre for 'the people of Faringdon'. The people of Faringdon get what they deserve - 'the people of Faringdon' close down music venues and complain about the noise, the road closures the disruption, 'the people of Faringdon' won't put their hands in their pockets or get up off their sofas (I'm being polite now) to support so many events, 'the people of Faringdon' so easily point the finger when things are not going the way they want it to be but won't contribute, participate and support those few people who put themselves out to create and maintain events.

Fortunately the above is not quite true and there are a lot of 'the people of Faringdon' who are very committed to the running of all sorts of clubs organisations and events, people who's names we all know people who do stand up and be counted and manage to weather the criticism despite 'the same old middle England suck the life out of everything whinges'. Faringdon has too many insipid little characters that I think Roald Dahl must have based a

few stories about them - I say 'put up or shut up'.
Sean 'name supplied and freely published' Hodgson

Police Station OFFICE opening hours - 10/7/12

To the silly person, Jim I believe, with his political views on his sleeve (oh yawn) commenting on the information about police station office opening hoursthe clue is in the line 'police station OFFICE opening hours' key word OFFICE and not about patrol officers working hours.
Sean 'name supplied and freely published' Hodgson

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting. Thursday 26th June- 10/7/12

7pm Corn Exchange
Following the successful Public Meeting held on 12 June to discuss the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, several focus groups have been working towards proposals for the plan.
A further Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, 26 July to discuss these reports. Do please come along and have your say!
Hialty, FTC

Re- Moans and Groans- 9/7/12

I think the "Festival" had a good "turn out.".....so no real need for an enema.....I despair.....I really do....hehehehehe. .
Jim.

Music festival - 9/7/12

Great idea, great location, good toilets, good stalls, good entertainment, much better than clogging up the town. The whole thing would have been fantastic if the sun had shone for longer than 5 minutes and if it had been dry. All that could have been done ,was done.
So best of luck for next year, thanks for all the effort that must have been put in to this event.
J Rewley

How uninviting Faringdon has become - 9/7/12

i took a drive out at the weekend, and came back into faringdon via radcot, where the hill and footpath starts its all overgrown and looks a state, also the verge where the faringdon sign is overgrown and very uninviting, what do we pay our taxes for?
ryan enevoldsen

Moans and groansI - 9/7/12

Having just read the latest in TP and the moans and groans, I find that despair is the only term that comes to mind. Whatever is offered, provided, even muted, is met with disapproval. What this town needs is an enema, work it out.
Mike.

Short, thick, floppy hair - 9/7/12

Mitch at Segais will sort your mop out for you!
Name supplied

Faringdon festival - 9/7/12

Well done to all, I think the festival organisers did a fantastic job in arranging such a well thought out venue for the music this year. I went up there a few times and was very impressed by the layout, the facilities and the number of stalls on offer. It had the look and the feel of a 'proper' festival. If the weather had been on our side it would have definitely been the best event the town had ever laid on.

Looking forward to next year with fingers crossed for warm and dry music and art in the park.
Andy Boston

Funding and brambles - 9/7/12

I am afraid I have to despair yet again...no.....I really do,. We, the good folk of Faringdon have to suffer because of government cutbacks, we have brambles as big as Triffids....and weeds that are taking over like the red weed, (only ours are more pinky colour, quite pretty really).....we even have to stand on old pallets, and pay twenty five pounds for the privilege (please don't start me on that one) just to watch an event that should have stayed in the centre of Faringdon..... anyway back to my point...on the BBC news this morning I heard that if you live in a high rise council flat in the capital of our wonderful country, you can get funding to have a surface to air missile put upon your roof.... some thing about protecting London during that two week, eight billion pound sports day they are putting on, commonly known as the Olympics.....luckily though our ragwort problem will be sorted out soon.....and I suppose if we let all the cars park where they want to, it will disguise the roadside weeds....and of course we don't have to have the S.A.S holding up the queues in Budgens while they buy their sandwiches and fruit shoots.....so I suppose living here really isn't that bad...is it?.....suddenly I find I'm not despairing.....anyway.....back to those pallets.....
Jim.

Faringdon festival - 8/7/12

I walked through the festival site today - such a shame it has been so wet.
I think it a great location for a Music festival- easy to get to whether you are walking or have a car.

The organisers must have spent a good deal of money- stage, marquees/tents, portaloos. Quite a challenge to cover the cost of these (and probably lots more) even if the weather had been good..
I think they're unlikely to get anywhere near enough money to cover the costs.

Interesting too- lots of people seem to have a great deal to say about the festival, but I saw only the few stalwarts helping out.

Name Supplied

Faringdon festival - 8/7/12

'Stick it in a field.....' but sadly it isn't in a field, it's in our park, used and enjoyed by many. How do we get it back the way it was ?. The footpath from the lake up through Nursery View is so overgrown it can't be used easily and now because of the destruction of all the grass we can't walk across and up to the higher level around the cricket field. I love the clips they've posted on the festival page showing what fun can be had in mud. Personally I think it was far nicer as a picnic area.
Having it there wouldn't have been a problem in good weather but they needed to rethink this on Friday.

Is the park maintained by the VWHDC or the Town Council ?. Do they know what's happened ?. I understand they were given permission for the festival but I'm surprised after the state it got in to on Friday they allowed it to continue.

The festival could easily be back in town centre but it's understandable that venues, caretaking staff, electricity, road closures etc have to be arranged and paid for. I'm not sure if the unpaid fees from a couple of years ago have been settled yet so as with the mess in the park I presume it will be coming out of our council tax ?. Perhaps, like the Watchfield Festival of 1975 they should find some waste land somewhere for future events or have a word with a friendly farmer or better still come back to the centre under tighter rules on times and volume.
Name Supplied

Short, thick, floppy hair - 8/7/12

As you have lived in Faringdon for quite a while, Gene, you have presumably tried all the hairdressers. If you still have problems with your short, thick, floppy topknot why not try the Vets in Coxwell Road.
Good luck ! HGM

Faringdon festival - how do we win it back.- 8/7/12

I fear my comments, echoed by so many others on here, maybe lost as I think most Faringdon folks agree it was not as successful as previous years, to say the least. So please tell us how we locals can get involved next year?

Charging for programmes, I worked in publishing for many years, in advertising sales, typesetting, graphic design and finally art editor and I am at a loss to understand why we were charged for programmes, the advertising revenue alone should have covered printing costs, and if they didn't why wasn't an online version available?

VIP tent, utterly ridiculous idea! Was anyone stupid enough to buy a ticket?

Booze, why wasn't there any choice in beer tents up there? Or was it that the organisers were afraid they would be undercut by other Farindgon drinking houses running their own stalls.

The whole event smacks of commercialism, profiteering in the name of community spirit.

I understand that in the past the previous organisers met a brick wall with regards to volunteers and locals getting involved. Well let this be a lesson to them, if we want the festival back from the money grabbing clutches of commercialism we better do something about it.

name supplied

Help- I need a hair cut! - 8/7/12

Can anyone recommend someone in Faringdon who can cut hair really well - short, thick, floppy - my hair that is
Thanks
Gene Webb
genewebb@rocketmail.com

Music Festival- 8/7/12

1st Faringdon Scouts would like to thank those few brave and muddy souls who turned out and supported the Scouts at the festival. We made a profit of £82 which could be used to buy the Scouts some waterproofs. The raffle was won by Ashley Clifton, who wins a family ticket to the Ceilidh which will be held in the Corn Exchange on 20th October (put it in your diaries!).

The guess-the-sweets-in-the-jar game was won by Rosen Ellacott, whose teeth will not thank her. We would also like to thank Amanda for all her hard work and for allowing us to participate.

If it's on in the town centre next year we'd love to come again!
Faith Carpenter
Fundraising Chair
1st Faringdon Scouts

“Independent Day” July 4th - 8/7/12.

Is this a new celebration in the English calendar or have I not been keeping up to date with all the new days that we now celebrate. I always thought that the 4th July was an American High day.
Old Faringdon supporter.

Music Festival- 8/7/12

What a pity about the weather, but such a wonderful idea to take the noise and nuisance out of residential areas, allowing local businesses to carry on as normal. Maybe a bit of prior reasearch and asking of local benevolent farmers, could find a dry field location with parking. Maybe like the very successful war reenactment of a few years ago, or fields at the end of Canada lane.
Music (and beer) lovers could be close to town without disrupting the locals.
Good luck.
'Name supplied'

Footpath Volunteer Way & Faringdon Festival!- 8/7/12

Jim
You have made me laugh! re your "chat to the council today about the brambles" I could picture exactly what you were describing!..... brilliant well wrote!..... Totally LOL!....
Jim you are just what we need in all this doom and desolation we live in now!... a good sense of humour to lighten our days!..
I find everyone is so self centred... all out to make a quick buck..
Look at the Faringdon Festival... taking it away from The Town, The People, The Families.....
Stick it in a field.....
Why? Because someone may have not paid a bill, so can't do it in the town centre anymore!....

Programmes, should have been handed out free of charge to encourage people to go £2 & £3 around town shops!
.. over charged Stalls!..... how much?.... £60.....
VIP tent..... £25.00 each, to stand on pallets in a tent no more than 10 people can stand in.....
This is not for Faringdon Folks
Sorry Faringdon maybe next year someone nice will give us our festival back in the Town where we can all enjoy it!
Sabina

All things bright and beautiful - 7/7/12

Travelling around the county I noticed that Witney, Wantage, Abingdon, Didcot and several other smaller villages are, despite the awful weather we are having, looking very colourful and summery with hanging baskets and flowers everywhere and the occasional bit of Bunting left over from the Jubilee weekend.....
not to be left out, we in Faringdon are doing our bit by growing 'colourful weeds' along the paths and road, even with all of the cut backs and funding shortages it's nice to see that we can still put that little bit of effort in and see our little market town look nice and summery, thankfully some kind soul has put a little pot of 'Sweet Williams' on the 1st world war memorial.....(sigh)...I also despair, I really do!! (don't I Jim?).
Chris.

Music Festival- 7/7/12

have also walked through Folly Park and agree completely.

Perhaps this years event should be called "Folly in the Park", anyone with the smallest amount of local knowledge is aware of the drainage problems in this field.

During long spells of decent sunny weather (remember those?) parts of the field remain constantly wet underfoot. It has taken the family feel of the festival away from Faringdon, only hardened festival goers will brave the weather predicted for this weekend in a boggy field! The beer tent is a riot waiting to happen, too small by far and no shelter from the rain for queing customers.

I gather the Angling Club are also bracing themselves for the mass of rubbish expected to be thrown into the lake. Organisers have a thankless task, but come on get it back in the Town centre where it belongs!!!

Name Supplied

Music Festival- 7/7/12

What a pity the music festival isn't in the market place. Anybody who uses the Folly Park knows that the land gets very soggy even after just a short rain shower. I've just walked there, already the grass is churned up where vehicles have been allowed to drive inside. The weather isn't due to improve so I can see the whole area being totally ruined for people who use it the rest of the time. I know land recovers, but unless there is a contingency plan to flatten the area etc, I fear it could be an unsightly mess.

Music in the market place isn't a new thing, it's been going on during different events for many years, successfully and happily. Quite why the last couple of years have caused such controversy I don't understand. Unfortunately taking it away from the centre, removing potential revenue from the other pubs, restaurants, cafes, shops etc is making it appear like a private venture, it's not for Faringdon at all. We need new people visiting the town centre, not a muddy field behind a petrol station !.

I don't see this years event throwing a new Michael Eavis into the spotlight somehow.

Name Supplied

Street vegetation - 6/7/12

The council are not interested in the fact that our town like others are starting to look disgraceful. I complained last year about the pot holes and the Knee high weeds growing in the pavements and gutters in our roads. After some months some of the pot holes were marked, then filled in. The weeds were not touched and this year are worse than ever.

The council may think they are saving a small amount of money in the short term, but they fail to realise that the weeds will eventually destroy the road and pavement surfaces. This will then require far more expensive re-surfacing and any additional money they will have to pay out in compensation for trips and falls due to the awful state of the pavements.

I have de- weeded the area outside my house and I would be prepared to spray and kill off the weeds in my entire road for free, if the council will supply the equipment which I am sure they already possess.

Mark

Footpath Volunteer way - 6/7/12

Well, I had a chat to the council today about the brambles, I eventually got through to the bramble Dept, and told them of my displeasure, and the fact it was virtually impossible to walk along the path without getting scratched (not to mention tripping over the Whipper-Snappers bleeding from badly scratched legs who were using a piece of paper with the opening hours of the Police Station on it to stem the flow of blood, they had run away from a crime scene obviously, there they were lying in a heap texting their lawyers), they assured me (the council..not the Whipper-Snappers) that all would be well as they were loaning us all horses to ride along the offending path, when pointed out about all the ragwort I was informed that there was enough money in the ragwort pot to pay for it's removal....so worry not brave folk of Faringdon, once again three cheers for those good ol' Tories.....funny how Tories and horses seem to go together.....tally ho! pip pip ol' gal.....once again.....yes you guessed it....I despair, I really do!

Jim.

PS, if anyone wants me to put up "no parking" signs up London St I have plenty left over from my battle with builders in Gloucester Street blocking our driveway.....
but that's another story.....still despairing though....sigh!.....(isn't it nice when we can inject a little humour on here)

Street vegetation - 5/7/12

So, the council have budget to remove ragwort, which is dangerous to horses, from a footpath that horses don't use, but not to make it safe/pleasant for human pedestrians. Makes perfect sense.

Their response to Cheryl seems at odds with their Council Tax propaganda (sorry, information booklet), which states under the Council's priorities: 'Excellent delivery of key services, we will: deliver high performing services with particular emphasis on achieving excellent levels of recycling, keeping streets and public spaces clean and attractive and ensuring good quality sports and leisure provision'.

Presumably they have no intention of clearing up and resurfacing Stanford Road pavement either - the path is sprouting much vegetation and is pretty much covered in a mat of it towards the A420 end. There's also quite an alarming hole appearing in the pavement not far from the entrance to the cricket club. Quite small at the mo, but holes in tarmac aren't known for spontaneously resolving, as far as I'm aware. Presumably 'compensation' comes from a different pot of money from 'vegetation to footpaths'.

I hope Jim doesn't mind me quoting him.... I despair... I really do.
Name supplied

Call for Directors - 4/7/12

Following the AGM on 3rd July 2012, Faringdon Pre-School has decided to become an incorporated business. It will still keep its charitable status and run as a not-for-profit company but the advantages will be that the trustees will be financially protected and the committee will no longer need to be made up of 50% current parents, which had previously been a struggle to find.

In place of the current committee there will be appointed a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 voluntary Directors who will oversee the running of the Pre-School, one of which will be a member appointed from the staff at Faringdon Infant School. They will attend approximately four meetings per year, plus be in additional contact with the Supervisor throughout the year for advisory matters. The Directors will stand for three years and are able to be re-elected.

The Directors will be appointed on Monday 16th July at 7.30pm at the Pre-School. We would like to invite interested members of the community to help shape and run the Pre-School by becoming a Director. If you would like more information on what is involved or would like to become a Director, please make yourself known to the Secretary by Friday 13th July at 5pm via secretary@faringdonpreschool.co.uk.

Parents and members of the community are invited to come along at anytime on Monday 16th July to the Pre-School to view the proposed Directors list and let us know who you would like to run the Pre-School. The candidates will also be able to be viewed online via facebook, be emailed to you if you are on our mailing list and you will be able to make any preferences known via email at secretary@faringdonpreschool.co.uk by 5pm.

The Pre-School will also form a 'Friends of Faringdon Pre-School' group who will take part in fundraising activities, support the staff with day trips and crafts and organise the promotion of the pre-school. If you have some spare time and would like to get involved, please let us know.

Carol Keegan, Interim Chair
keegancarol@hotmail.com
0797 185 6445

So refreshing under the Tories - 4/7/12

I find it so refreshing to find out that under the Tories we can rest easy in our beds at night knowing that the local Police are also in theirs. Putting up the new opening times to the station was such a brilliant idea..thankfully for us the criminal element can't read or write, so that's OK then. Hopefully should any scally cause any trouble and be shouted at (I know, I know, we can't upset anyone these days...quite right too) and they run away, the brambles will trip them up and give them a nasty scratch on their legs...a good thing too...that way when our Police Station opens for those four hours we can drag the Whippersnappers and show the Policeman/woman their scratches...sadly this also means that the little blighters will phone up Injury Lawyers for U and sue the council... a council who sadly wont be able to pay (because of all the cut backs, see what I did there hehehehehe)..... I commend this statement to the house.....I despair.....I really do!

Jim

The Bell Hotel Kids Cinema Afternoon - 4/7/12

It all sounds like a good idea...except that charging money to look after children and show them copyrighted material has more legal implications than most people would dare to consider. Even if you insist parents stay to be responsible for their children, you still have the film copyright/broadcasting hurdle to overcome. Please make sure you have done your homework and that you stay on the right side of the law.

Name supplied

London Street, Faringdon - carriageway resurfacing - 4/7/12

On the 16th July 2012, the above road will be closed between Market Place and Sudbury Court for up to 5 days. A signed diversion route will be in place and a plan of the route is shown overleaf. During this period, the on-street parking will be suspended so that our contractor can carry out the work unhindered. During the working day, our contractor will have gatemen positioned at either end of the closed road to redirect through traffic and permit deliveries that have been agreed in advance with our site agent. There will also be pedestrian marshalls available to assist pedestrians through the site when required.

Whether you are a pedestrian, cyclist or motorist, please follow the instructions given by our contactor for your safety.

If you have any special requirements, please let me know before the work starts or contact our site agent, Allan Sibley on 01865 896190. Finally, may I apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused. However, with your assistance, it is our intention to complete this work safely and as quickly as possible.

The Bell Hotel Kids Cinema Afternoon - 4/7/12

Thinking about running a kids cinema afternoon once a week.

Dvd & food for £ 5.00.

Just wondering how many people would be interested if I started it up. School holidays coming up.

Eddie & Mel Gravestock
The Bell Hotel 13 Market Place SN7 7HP
Tel: 01367 240534 Fax: 01367 358085
www.bellhotelonline.co.uk

Change to Police Station office opening hours - 4/7/12

Opening Times
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 1000 -1400

Wednesday: 1000 -1400

Thursday: 1000 -1400

Friday: Closed

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-find-station/yournh-tvp-pol-area-loc-stats-st0024>

Footpath Volunteer Way - Southampton Street and play park - 4/7/12

I have spoken to the vale council today with regard to the footpath that runs from Volunteer Way (near the Health centre) to Southampton Street (by the tennis courts) with regard to all the brambles etc, which quite often scratch the kids as they go past etc.

Apparently the funding for 'vegetation to footpaths' was cut so there isn't any money to have it cut back. That said there is 'ragwort' there and the guy from the council said that would be cleared.

He also said that they are trying to get it 'funded' by another means and he has spoken to our local councillor Judith Heathcoat to see if the town council can help fund this.

I have also chased up the play area by the health centre that has had herris fencing around the broken slide for a number of months. The council said the 'contractors' should be out this week (weather permitting) to fix it. So watch this space! When I enquired in April they said it would be done in May and we're now July! They also said there is no funding to make the play areas ie Pye Street any better eg painting equipment etc.
Cheryl

Root & Branch 2012 Garden Open Day - 4/7/12

Sunday 29 July 1 – 4pm

Root & Branch is holding an Open Day on Sunday 29 July from 1 to 4pm to which everyone is welcome! Our beautiful organic garden will be open for you to browse and sit in, and you'll find us at Westmill Farm (on the B4508, the road between Highworth and Watchfield.)

There will be sales of plants, crafts and woodwork as well as bric-a-brac and books. Delicious refreshments and cakes are available throughout the afternoon. There will be music and a raffle with some great prizes.

Root & Branch helps people to improve their mental and physical health and there will be activities on display including wood, metal, art and craft work.

There is a small entrance charge of £2 for adults, £1 concessions and 50p for children.

Details: 01793 780380 rootandbranch@btconnect.com

www.rootandbranch.info

Charity no. 1143294 Company no. 7685042

Tracking your household energy use- 1/7/12

A really convenient way of keeping track of your meters (eg gas & electricity) , is to use <http://imeasure.org.uk> . Totally free - very little effort - and doesn't try to sell you anything. Created by Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute.

You get a weekly email with a link, and you simply plug in the readings. It doesn't matter if you miss the odd week - it fills in the gaps for you.

Fantastic to be able to see your seasonal energy usage over the days - or weeks- or years - especially when you've taken measures to try to reduce your energy footprint! You can really see the impact of cavity wall insulation, or solar panels, or loft insulation, or led lighting, or turning down the thermostat slightly....

Brilliant!

Questions answered here: <http://imeasure.org.uk/faqs>

Sjoerd

Everyones a winner - 1/7/12

Dizzydays day is a non-profit organisation organising a day of fun and games for the whole family, incorporating a fun dog show, games and various entertainments throughout including child & adult fun like Rodeo, Bar Fly, 2 Bouncy Castles 1 for the young & 1 for us older people plus fab fun stalls like spin the wheel and pin the tail and even more rides, we also have some great food stalls with not a greasy burger in site.

A whole variety of animal rescues will be involved inc. dog rescues, reptiles rescues and rat and rodent rescues plus great small businesses selling wonderful things bringing the whole community together for a great family day out for all.

Shows inc Fun Dog Show, Agility, Zumba (with audience participation) children's dance shows, Fastest Recal, a Glee type show, belly dancers! and a whole range of fun things to watch and do.

We even have camping available at only £10 a pitch...and there's a fire pit!

Opening at 10am by the Mayor of Faringdon, taking entries to the shows at 10.30am, Fun Dog show to begin at 12 noon.

ENTRANCE is £1 per person, 12's and under and dogs free

FREE PARKING

8th September @ Farmer Gows Fernham Road, Longcot, nr Faringdon, SN7 7PR

Scarecrow Trail in Folly Park- 1/7/12

Theme: A Night at the Movies

1ST FARINGDON SCOUT GROUP

CANCELLED.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/490173101009115/>

Faringdon Local- Episode 35 on Faringdon Radio- 1/7/12.

In this show find out about the Faringdon Academy of Schools from Bob Wintringham Chair of the Board of Directors.

Also find out about the RAF Benevolent fund who were the beneficiaries of the 'Park in the Park' event at Tucker park.

Listen directly here: <http://faringdonradio.jellycast.com/files/audio/Faringdon%20Local%20-%20Episode%2035%20-%201.7.12.mp3>

Sean

World War 1 Names - 31/8/12

I've just started a project to try to find out about the names on the Faringdon War Memorial for WW1 in time for the centenary in 2014. I'm trying to find out about where they lived in Faringdon, what they did before the war and what their family did. I'm then trying to work out where they were buried or remembered on a memorial overseas.

I'm hoping to pull all this together for a book and hope to sell it to raise funds for perhaps a local charity or an armed forces one.

Can anyone help me who may have any pictures, stories etc. of any of the people on the memorial? Even if the project doesn't complete I'd be happy to share anything I've discovered with anyone who donates information.

I'd be very grateful, thanks very much
Please email to garthpool@btinternet.com
Mel Lane

Seats round the Skate Park - 31/8/12

The skate park is a great place for children of all ages. Some are old enough to get there unaccompanied, some need parents or grandparents to be there with them.

It would be really good to have some seating nearby- not really very comfortable to have to stand around or sit on what maybe damp grass while your little darling does his or her stuff on a skateboard.

Maybe Sk8 can help?

Name Supplied

Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio- 31/8/12

Well done with your interview.... with Mr Nick Elwell, Mrs Amanda Huxford-Biggs and Mr Sam Prince!

<http://www.faringdonradio.com/>

I use to have the impression your very supportive of, Nick Elwell and Amanda Huxford-Biggs.....

I do think you asked all the right questions.

He didn't get away with too much!....

Must say he sounded very nervous!.....

Defiantly worth a listen to!

Well done Faringdon Radio!....

Nothing has been done at Folly park and after listening to that I don't think, will be.....

It's such a mess.... it use to be lovely and is now a mud bath....

It can't just be left its really dangerous!...

I had a jogger run past me and nearly break his neck.....

A few dogs I have now seen stumble and roll over.....

I don't suppose they ever walk or enjoy the countryside, so it will be of no consequence to them.

Just us mortals.....

There are old carpets still up there and cardboard boxes rotting!...

The furrows are ridiculous!....

Such a terrible shame.....

Sad dog walker!

Faringdon Gets Funding to Help Retailers - Come and Have Your Say - 31/8/12

The Faringdon Chamber of Commerce has been asked by the Vale of White Horse District Council to help facilitate a discussion as to how to invest £22,500 of Government funding into helping improve our "high street" right here, right now, in Faringdon. This is great opportunity to contribute to how we might help retailers and businesses generally in our wonderful town. But you need to hurry, we must get our comments back to them by Friday 7th September.

The funding has been allocated as a result of the much publicised "Portas Review" and the only stipulations are that the projects must be sustainable, the money must be spent by the end of March 2013 and help improve the high street.

There will be an open meeting to discuss this on Tuesday 4th September from 6:30pm at The Swan, Park Road, Faringdon.

Please try to come along but if you are not able to and you would like to comment or share an idea then please reply to this email or contact Paul Brame at Paul.Brame@morgan-cole.com

If there is anyone that you know that would be interested in coming to this meeting please feel free to invite them. I look forward to seeing you on 4th September.
Faringdon Chamber of Commerce

More Binoculars at Faringdon Folly - 31/8/12

We now have 3 more pairs of binoculars available at the top of the tower - a big THANKYOU to the people who gave them. Aren't Faringdon people great!

The tower is open this Sunday 2nd. 11am- 5pm. Come and try out the binoculars. The weather is forecast to be fine and sunny- and if clear too the views will be wonderful.

It might be a good day to see if you can find all the arty installations in the woodland too- blackbirds, Lord Berners, cannon, buzzard, mole, hare, heart
Gene Webb

Recognition for young people in the Vale - 31/8/12

A generation was inspired by the Olympics, and now young people in the Vale are being encouraged to be inspirational themselves.

Whether it be through excellent citizenship, sports achievement or brilliance in the arts, residents aged 11-18 can now apply for an award from the Vale of White Horse District Council.

A total of £5,000 is up for grabs with individual awards worth up to £100 each to recognise achievement and help develop talents.

The application process opens on Monday 3 September and there are three different awards available.

The citizenship awards are for those who are dedicated to helping out in their community, for example through helping in an old people's home or acting as a mentor for other young children.

The arts awards recognise achievement in music, dance, drama, creative writing, painting, sculpture, photography, video production, multimedia and crafts.

The sports awards are intended to reward those representing their county in any sport.

Matthew Barber, leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "This is a very exciting new award we're launching – young people get a bit of a bad press these days, yet there are so many talented and hard working young people in the Vale. They really deserve acknowledgment for their work and achievements."

The closing date for applications is 21 December. For applications visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants

Smoking in pubs - 31/8/12

thought it was illegal to smoke in pubs, is standing in the entrance of the volunteers pub, classed as smoking on the premises. a lot of people find this quite intimidating to walk past the pub with every one smoking and drinking in the door way
Brenda

Travelling to Spain and its Islands - 31/8/12

If you are travelling to Spain or its islands I would advise taking enough Euros with you and not to depend upon Banks where you are staying. Last week I was in Ibiza in a quiet area and there was only one cashpoint in the village. This had not been operational for over three weeks and was not dispensing any Euros. Fortunately one local shop was offering a cashback facility otherwise many of the visitors would have been in difficulties and the nearest large town was 25 miles away and buses infrequent.
Chris Moorhouse

Quiz for Kosovo - 31/8/12

In aid of Hope and Aid Direct
Faringdon Junior School
Friday 21 Sept 7.15 for 7.45pm start Max of 6 per team £4 + a bag of pasta per person - we will take these to Kosovo in October Bar (and free nibbles) and raffle
Quiz masters: Dan & Kate Butcher
To book contact Sarah Oliver: Home: 01367 242769 or [mail@saraholiver.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:saraholiver.freeseve.co.uk) or text 07974 938 265
18 teams booked already, if you would like to come, please let me know as soon as possible as we will stop around the 25 mark.

Anonymity - 28/08/12

Joe! or should I call you Cyril? (I know who you are...) How could you! You've just pinched MY name. Now I shall have to blow my cover and call myself by my real name.

A. Lias

Anonymity - 28/08/12

I think Hilary has explained why anonymity is desirable when concerns of a small community are involved and I must admit to being one of the shy ones. However Carolyn will be pleased to hear that I usually add a signature to my offerings. Indeed I have just checked and find that I have so far used 44 different ones in the last 9 years

Joe King

Anonymity - 28/08/12

Most website forums nowadays are automated and ask that users register and adopt user names. We don't, simply because we have never had the appropriate technology. No-one needs to post their real names on here, and there are many reasons for anonymity on a site like this. This is a small town. You may have

neighbours/friends/acquaintances whose views differ strongly from yours on a particular subject, but with whom you don't wish to quarrel; you may own a shop or business which depends on goodwill; or you may hold unpopular views but are too fragile to withstand a backlash of angry (and sometimes uninformed) comment. Just because you are in a sensitive social, business or professional situation, or simply aren't thick skinned enough not to care what everyone thinks of you, it doesn't mean you don't hold valid opinions. Remember also that sometimes, even when contributors' comments are quite innocuous, that those people are not necessarily bursting with confidence. They may simply be self conscious or shy.

Hilary Taylor

Anonymity - 27/08/12

What is it with people who don't have the courage of their convictions and prefer to remain anonymous? If they really believe what they are writing, why hide their identity? What is there to be afraid of? Strange, strange.

Carolyn Williams

Local Builder Wanted - 27/08/12

You could give A + K Arlott a ring. They are local, well-established and reliable - 01367 240793

Fiona Merrick

Faringdon Community Festival of Flowers - 25/08/12

Excellent display - what a lovely collection of beautiful flower arrangements, and a marvellous selection of delicious home made cakes! Thankyou

Bystander

Faringdon Community Festival of Flowers - 25/08/12

At last, a real community event attracting a steady stream of visitors to All Saints' church : 27 clubs and organisations coming together to celebrate 2012, year of the Jubilee and the Olympics, every one making a great effort and producing a magnificent display.

Who did not take part? The town council.

A good opportunity to show community spirit missed.

Congratulations to Joy Blake and all the exhibitors for a truly splendid show.

Geoffrey and Carolyn Williams

New Bridal Shop - 25/08/12

The old hairdressers/party shop opposite Saffron is going to be a new Bridal Shop according to the notices in the window.

Jane Boulton

Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio - 24/8/12

This weeks show consists of an extended interview with Nick Elwell, Sam Prince and Amanda Huxford-Biggs about this years Faringdon Festival responding to many of the questions posed in Talking Points on Faringdon Online.

www.faringdonradio.com

We welcome any feed back about the show

Also out now is the latest show of '...from The Ladder Factory' our music show www.fromtheladderfactory.com

Waitrose - 23/8/12

I'm becoming very tired of the Town Council being blamed for events that it has no control over. Would everybody please take note that Faringdon Town Council does NOT make planning decisions, that is normally the responsibility of the District Council whose offices are in Abingdon but in the case of Waitrose the company withdrew its planning application when the planning inspector's review went in Tesco's favour.

And for what it's worth the Town Council has spent years trying to get the District Council to increase the amount of land designated for commercial use so that there might be a better chance that people can find work in the town and not have to leave it for their employment. Moany and everyone else who thinks that Faringdon's in decline should understand that there is now a good chance that, under the new town plan, more such land will become available.

Andrew Marsden

Stagecoach bus prices - 23/8/12

I have just found out the cost of some of the day tickets on the Stagecoach bus from Faringdon to Swindon and Oxford and I thought others may be interested.

Faringdon to Swindon Adult single - £3.50 Adult Day return - £6.00

Faringdon to Oxford Adult single - £4.00 Adult Day return - £6.80

Day Explorer ticket - £6.30v > Family Day Explorer ticket which is valid for up to 2 adults and up to 3 children - £12.00

Group Day Explorer ticket which is up to 4 adults - £14.00

The Day Explorers can be used on any Stagecoach West services and most services in Southern England and can be used as many times in one day which means that you can get on and off buses and break journeys as often as you wish.

Therefore, if one adult is going to Oxford it appears cheaper to buy the Day Explorer than the return ticket.

Rachel

Local builder wanted - 23/6/12

Has anyone used a local builder recently and been really pleased with their service and quality of work? I urgently require a builder who is willing to do brickwork re-pointing and able match it to the light, buff coloured mortar prevalent in the Faringdon area.

Alun Watkins

ED(GW) Have a look in June Talking points archive

Waitrose - 23/8/12

Please, please, please stop blaming the Town Council for the decision about Waitrose/Tesco coming or not coming – it was the District Council who made the decision!!

Name supplied

London Street yellow lines - 23/8/12

The contractors put in the parking restrictions incorrectly. Several residents complained about the removal of 3 parking spaces without consultation and (power to the people!) the council acted to attempt to reinstate the correct restrictions. However, several people decided the cones put out to keep the area clear didn't apply to them and it doesn't look like they've been able to complete the job. So what we have now is a botch job. Of course, this is of no interest to those residents who seem to think the double yellows are there to stop their pesky neighbours using 'their' parking space....

Name supplied

Sale at Cotswold Volunteers - 23/8/12

Don't miss the Sale which is now on at the Cotswold Volunteer Charity Shop in Marlborough Street, opposite Budgens.

Hundreds of bargains on clothes, children's wear, homewares and lots more at 50% or more reduction

Shaena Whitney

Waitrose - 22/8/12

I want to echo Bystander about Waitrose and about the town council's planning decisions. As he says, and depressingly, the opportunity is long lost. Boxy new estate houses are built which add to the traffic on the A420 as people work and do their shopping elsewhere. There are few jobs in Faringdon and the town centre limps along - hairdressers, charity shops, estate agents, cafes and takeaways. It's all been said before, many times. There is still a tiny market but Faringdon is now primarily a dormitory town. Downmarket dullsville. One can only assume this is the council's 'plan'. I didn't input into the recent meeting for the town plan because I have no faith in anything changing, improving. Only myself to blame then, I suppose, but there is no going back in time and Faringdon's heyday is behind it.

'Moany'

p.s. There are still a lot of things about Faringdon that I like, and lots of admirable, positive people doing great things. It feels very 'British', strength in adversity. But the missed opportunities, and the feeling of general mis-direction, grate.

Resurfacing in London Street - 21/8/12

It looks and sounds SO much better now, and it was done really quickly and efficiently, but why, I wonder, did they bother repainting the double yellow lines...?

name supplied

Hare Coursing - 21/8/12

The police response might seem way OTT for hare coursing, but hare coursers aren't just a bunch of jolly local lads having fun with their dogs, they are often part of large criminal gangs, who travel from disparate parts of the country, and whose hare coursing activities go hand in hand with casing the rural areas, hamlets and villages for other future and concurrent 'activities'. They are usually from a particular culture, living together in impenetrable groups, who have been known to terrorise their own neighbourhoods. Sometimes there are known and wanted felons among these gangs. The hare coursing also forms the basis for lucrative illegal gambling syndicates. I doubt very much whether the police are really interested in protecting the bunny population.

Name Supplied

Lord Berners Bizarre Magical walks this weekend- 21/8/12

Friday, Saturday and Monday
Old Town Hall, 6.30pm

£5, or any two people who come together 2 for £5.00 pay on the night

If the weather is inclement the walk may well have to be cancelled. Call Peter 01367 240925

Butts Rd and Town End Rd - 21/8/12

I contacted the council nearly a year ago about the rubble pit on the corner of Town End Road and they were non-too helpful about it, stating that it was privately owned and I could, if wanted, contact the person who owns the land. They didn't provide contact details though! I too am fed up with the eyesore and also concerned as the area is not secure and I have seen children playing in amongst the rubble. Not only this, but people have been using it as the local tip site for old washing machines, and fridges! I have emailed the council again today.. ! Next plan, a petition?!

Update from VWHDC

"Thank you for your email you sent earlier on today. I have been dealing with this investigation (Enforcement Reference: VE12/077), I have been in discussions with the developer and they plan to start building works on the site within the next couple of months. I will be monitoring the site to ensure that building works do begin on the site. If you have any more questions please do not hesitate in contacting me. Craig Allison"

I have replied and requested that as an interim, could they look at getting the weeds and brambles cleared that overhand the pavement and also get the inadequate fencing around the site secured properly to stop children playing amongst the rubble and people tipping their rubbish.

Sheryl Chambers

ED(GW) These are the entries on VWHDC Planning register. I can't find GFA/14696/4 but I think permission has been given for 4 terraced houses.

P10/V1945/DIS 9 Butts Road Faringdon Oxfordshire SN7 7PG Request for compliance with Conditions 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 of Planning Permission GFA/14696/4. 14 October 2010

P10/V0718 9 Butts Road Faringdon Oxon SN7 7PG Proposed erection of four terraced houses. (Re-submission) 25 June 2010

P09/V1898 9 Butts Road Faringdon Oxon SN7 7PG Erection of 4 semi-detached houses with new car port and parking. 9 October 2009

P08/V0161 9 Butts Road Faringdon Oxon SN7 7PG Demolition of existing single storey building. Erection of a three storey block of flats and parking area comprising of 6 x 1bed and 2 x 2 bed flats.

Faringdon Triathlon 2nd September - 21/8/12

8am Start , £30 (or 45 for relay team)

Contact Information: <http://www.soll-leisure.co.uk/faringdon-leisure-centre/triathlon.html>

01367 241755 Or call in to Faringdon Leisure Centre

Short sprint Triathlon, good challenge for beginners!

400m swim

20km bike

5km run

Butts Rd and Town End Rd - 20/8/12

Re 9 Butts Rd

I totally agree with Sarah it is an eyesore I have complained to the council on a couple of occasions, who for some unknown reason are reluctant to anything about it. Also parking two large white vans across the pavement only adds to the problem for pedestrians who have to step into the road to get past.

The council's E mail address is: - planning.enforcement@southandvale.gov.uk

Dennis Stayt

Theft of vehicle - Uffington - 20/8/12

On Sunday (19/08) between 15:30hrs and 16:30hrs, a grey Nissan Navara pick up vehicle, registration number OV54 GHB was stolen from Uffington. The vehicle was left parked up on a track off the B4507 opposite the West Cote turning.

If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://online@crimestoppers-uk.org).

No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Parking charges - 17/8/12

"It costs £2.80 for a days parking in Gloucester St. car park."

I remember paying £6 for a day when I worked in Bristol probably 20 years ago and it costs £6.20 today for commuters at Didcot station. £2.80 is significantly less than half a gallon of fuel so those who work in the town every day should get real or maybe walk/cycle or catch the bus to work.

Steve Wright

Tesco update - 18/8/12

From Corporate affairs manager

'I can confirm that it is still our intention to build the store and we hope to start building works on the Faringdon site before the end of 2013. I will keep the community informed of a likely start date. We believe our Supermarket will provide additional choice, value and convenience for local people and look forward to creating up to 150 valuable new jobs for the town.'

ED(GW)

Numbers at the Nut Tree - 18/8/12

I called into the Nut Tree today and asked for a number 3 and a number 12.....it's the best sweet and sour chicken and egg fried rice I have ever had....well done gentlemen....seriously, the Nut Tree is one of the best shops in the town...a few more quality shops like theirs would improve the town greatly and draw shoppers into our lovely town.....very classy and much appreciated....and they have the best selection of cards in Faringdon, why the hell would you want to buy a card off the market?.....I despair....I really do.

Jim.

Binoculars Wanted - Faringdon Folly - 17/8/12

I wonder if anyone has any binoculars that they would give to Faringdon Folly?

If you have, please contact me

THANKYOU

Gene Webb

genewebb@rocketmail.com

Parking- overheard - 17/8/12

'I had to drive round the town 4 times before I could find a parking space'- this was by someone working in the town

It costs £2.80 for a days parking in Gloucester St. car park. and £324 pa for a permit.
The 2 hours free parking in the town is good, but the cost of a full days parking (for those who work in the town every day) doesn't encourage people to use off street parking.
It needs to be sorted, so that the streets are not cluttered with cars of those who park all day.
Name Supplied

A question of priorities- 17/8/12

With the event of hare coursing in Gainfield and the use of Officers from the Faringdon neighbourhood policing team, assisted by the police air support unit to protect the local bunny population, I do hope that the same level of Police resources has been applied to catch recent local burglars and moped thieves. I don't recall seeing such effort when I have needed Police assistance.
Strange priorities in my eyes.
Mark

Hare Coursing - Gainfield - 16/8/12

At 1700hrs on Wednesday 15th August 2012 the police received a report of possible hare coursing on fields in Gainfield. Officers from the Faringdon neighbourhood policing team, assisted by the police air support unit, located five men and five Lurcher dogs in the area. The men were arrested for offences relating to the Hunting act.

If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.
Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://online@crimestoppers-uk.org).
No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Plot on corner of Butts Rd and Town End Rd - 16/8/12

I wondered if anyone knows what the plans are for the plot on the corner of Butts Rd and Town End Rd. It's an eyesore and it's so overgrown that it's getting difficult to pass it, on the pavement, without being attacked by brambles.
Sarah

Customer Friendly Shopping in Faringdon - 16/8/12

Having bought a birthday card at Faringdon market for my Great Granddaughter I forgot to get a number "8" to stick on it. However thought I'd be able to get one in the town later. Went to four shops in Faringdon, three apologized,said they don't stock them (fair enough). the "Nut Tree" said they do stock them but would only sell me one if I bought a greeting card from them!!!!
If this kind of attitude is supposed to promote a good customer relationship then It's no wonder people shop elsewhere.
David C.Saunders.

Theft of moped - Faringdon - 15/8/12

Between 18:00hrs on Monday (13/08) and 10:00hrs on Tuesday (14/08) a red Honda moped was stolen from outside a property in Walker Drive, Faringdon. The moped has been found with damage to the ignition in the park area of Pye Street.

If you have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://online@crimestoppers-uk.org).

No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Comparison - 15/8/12

Can we compare Faringdon Festival with helicopters?

One complaint from persons unknown = strongly worded letter from local council warning about the need to monitor this problem.

Noise from local airfield 958 complaints.

Sam Prince

Helicopters more - 14/8/12

Hello, After reading all the comments about helicopter noise, I thought you might be interested to hear about an investigation we did last month.

We found out that in the year before the Hercules arrived at Brize there were 23 noise complaints. After the Hercules arrived - so in the last year up to July 2012 - there were 958 complaints about noise – 896 were specifically about the Hercules. When we spoke to Brize they said they are aware of the complaints and have done an independent noise survey because they are concerned about the increase in complaints and want to address it.

Results are due to be published imminently and BBC Radio Oxford will of course be reporting that information when we get it.

BBC RADIO OXFORD

Local girl climbs Kilimanjaro - 14/8/12

I am a local 24 year old looking for support and donations towards my climb of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for cancer research. My Justgiving page is www.justgiving.com/Keren-Mcnally.

I am hoping the local community will be able to help me reach my goal of £4000 by June 2013.

Thank you for your time, Keren McNally.

King Alfred's/Faringdon Girls grammar School reunion - 13/8/12

Final reminder that the Faringdon Girls Grammar School/King Alfred's Wantage reunion of pupils who knew each other in the mid to late 1960's – will take place at The Shoulder of Mutton Pub, 38 Wallingford Street, Wantage, OX12 0DH on the evening of Friday 17th August 2012.

Partners are also welcome.

This is a chance to discover your long lost friends.

Best wishes Patrick Hulme (Ex King Alfred's 1965)

You can also contact me on patrickhulme@blueyonder.co.uk

Fantastic Sunday roast at Red Lion - 13/8/12

Great news .

The Red Lion is under new management, and is doing great homemade food again. we have just had a fantastic roast Sunday lunch very good value for the quality , we will be going again and taking lots of friends

Trevor Wynn

The Nut tree

Helicopters over Faringdon - 13/8/12

Thanks to every one for your replies. Some a little sarcastic but I expected that and certainly can understand where they are coming from. I am by no means having a moan about them and do know we now live close to Brize etc. I was just enquiring that is all.

Loving the area and look forward to becoming part of the community.

Rob.

Helicopters late at night - 13/8/12

Welcome to Faringdon. We love it here, even with the Helicopters. This web site is very useful for most info, especially regarding Child care and Schools. It is also a good place to have a whinge and let off steam!. Re- the Helicopters are coming from Brize Norton and Dalton Barracks near Abingdon. As a former Marine, I have no problem with Low flying in general, you can't beat hands on practice. I have however, witnessed in the past and complained to the MOD about low flying helicopters(Merlin & Chinook) passing over my sons Infant School. One of my work colleagues has also complained of low flying Helicopters passing over his sons Secondary School in Compton. The standard reply we have both received, said that the low flying was permitted as the areas are of low population density. How you can count a School full of hundreds of children low density I do not know. I hope the MOD don't regret allowing this to carry on. The droning of the aircraft engines can sometimes be heard at night, and can be quite annoying at times. We can hear this, even through our closed double glazed windows!.
Regards Mark

re Helicopters - 12/8/12

I'm sure Rob knows where he lives and what's nearby !. He's quite correct in that recently a couple of Chinooks have been flying extremely low over Faringdon. It obviously depends where in the town you live but they have been over populated areas and not around, as they are supposed to do. My husband is based at Brize and was quite concerned at the low altitude one in particular was flying. If a VC10 flew that low the whole town would know about it but they'll be gone soon and it's replacement, the Voyager, is as quiet as a mouse !.

Rob, do report it officially if you wish, they won't think you are having a 'whinge' at all.

Name supplied

Faringdon is great despite the Helicopters - 11/8/12

Welcome to Faringdon- it's a great place for families- Good schools, plenty of clubs and activities for children of all ages, interesting history and we have our wonderful Folly Tower and woodland.

Hope you get used to the helicopters

ED(GW)

Helicopters late at night - 11/8/12

I love the helicopters. We have really been enjoying the Chinooks and Merlins these last couple of days. If you've just moved to the area, you may not know that RAF Brize Norton is just a few miles to the north of Faringdon, and that Faringdon's Folly Hill is one of the visual reporting points for all air traffic transiting the airspace from North to South (or vice versa). It is good to see that our taxes are being spent wisely, providing our troops with the aviation support they need. There are regulations in place to restrict the timing of flying training activity – crews normally have to have landed and shut down by midnight, but in the summer months, owing to the long evenings, they can (and obviously do) apply for extensions until 1am or even later – this is necessary to provide sufficient training

opportunities for night operations. By the way – what we've been experiencing this last week is not low. For proper low flying, you need to take a drive down to Salisbury Plain (people live there too, by the way).

As for limiting the noise ... try fitting double glazing. Apparently it is also good for reducing your carbon footprint, but I've always found it an effective form of sound insulation. If it gets too hot, buy an air conditioner.
Regards, Mark Greenwood

Helicopters late at night - 10/8/12

So moving to Oxfordshire and near to RAF Brize Norton didn't strike you as odd? Wait till you hear the drone of the Hercules running at all hours of the night while the crews are training or training others in loading/unloading a "hot" aircraft. Hot being one engine running. You will hear and see, Chinook, Apache, Lynx, Gazelle, Sea King, Merlin, Squirrel and more as well as the Tristars, AN-124, 747, VC10, Hercules and of course the new Voyager.

Sorry but the noise is inevitable but you can always have a whinge at the RAF. Google the RAF Brize Norton website and you will find a link there to how to complain about aircraft noise. You can also find out when low flying may occur. But, the only way for people to learn how to do these things and keep the country safe, is to practice. This area is a busy crossroads for this so disruption is inevitable. You will have to live with it.
Colin

Helicopters late at night - 10/8/12

I think you will find that the helicopter traffic is military helicopters in transit to RAF Brize Norton from RAF Benson and RAF Odiham and while there is activity in various parts of the world in which our armed forces are involved I expect this traffic will continue. I believe that there is a minimum altitude but I have been unable to find the details quickly but you might find some information at <http://www.mod.uk/nr/rdonlyres/8fbe2382-9eb6-49d8-9b6e-9ccb8712bf6a/0/lowflying2011.pdf>
Mugshots

Helicopters late at night - 10/8/12

My wife and I have very recently moved to Faringdon with our 7 month old son. This will be a long term move where we hope to raise a family and make use of the good educational services in the area and countryside for walks etc. So far we love everything about the place and have been made very welcome by all we meet. The only gripe we have is about helicopters that seem to fly low and loudly at night coming down over Folly Park.

Do helicopters always fly so low over the area? Is there any restrictions as to what time of night they can fly like that? 11PM last night one was so loud it woke our son.
If anyone has any information about where these helicopters are coming from and to and if there is anything that can be done to limit the noise and occurrences of them?
Thanks Rob.

Waitrose- 9/8/12

It is a shame, but to be expected. The real shame is that our district councillors don't seem to have any real concern for Faringdon at all. I cannot believe that the original Waitrose application could not have been heard *before* the Tesco appeal – with a bit of real determination from the 'powers that be'; instead of which the one, yes – one - opportunity to drag Faringdon from the gently fading and seedily down market little place it has become into a place to attract 'everyday' shoppers from a much wider catchment area than we now have and thus improve the town's fortunes, has been lost for the foreseeable future.
Faringdon will never attract tourists in the numbers which flock to Burford and the surrounding Cotswold villages, but we could hold our own in that we have an attractive, if not spectacular town centre which could be immeasurably improved by the adoption of a pretty decorative scheme and the banning of ugly shop signs in garish colours. The one thing which really lets us down – and I mean in the eyes of visitors as well as some of our

residents, is the one and only dismal, dreary, town centre supermarket with its ghastly repetitive, tinny music and 'Marie Celeste' ambience. Those of us who remember it as Carters must rue the day Budgen's came to town. The range and quality of goods then was exemplary, and Norman, John, or both Carter brothers always on the premises to see that standards did not slip. People came from the villages all around to shop here, but not any more.

Our district councillors are not directly responsible for the supermarket but I DO blame them for their utter lack of spirit, lack of vision, lack of concern for the state of the town, for their failure to fight for our amenities and services, and their feeble performance as our elected representatives. I get the impression that their loyalty has always been first to their political party, second, to Faringdon. It should be the other way round.

Bystander

Faringdon Library events - 10/8/12

Rhyme time sessions Every Friday 10.30 -11.00 Free

One to One Computer Sessions

From September every Tuesday 2.30 - 4.00 run by The Rotarians, beginners welcome.

Please contact the library to book an appointment. 01367 240311

We are hosting some special Junior Poetry workshops starting Saturday 1st September 10.30 - 11.00 for six weeks .ages 31/2 to 61/2

For more information please contact the library 01367 240311

the workshops are free

No substance to Waitrose rumour - 9/8/12

There has been a rumour around that Waitrose are considering buying the Budgens store.

I have been told, from a credible source, in communication with Waitrose, that THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN.

Waitrose have no intention of creating a store in Faringdon, while Tesco is still destined to build here. They believe that Faringdon cannot support 2 major supermarkets.

What a shame!

Name Supplied

Faringdon Youth Project - calling all 16-24 year olds

We are a group of local Volunteers who wish to help 16-24 year olds to begin their working life with dignity and to allow them an opportunity to discover and develop their place in the world. We were blessed with help when we were this age, and we want pass this on. Today's climate is disheartening for many young people, and their talents remain hidden.

We offer practical help within a supportive environment, such as we will :

- Talk through your interests and skills,
- Look at your school/college results afresh,
- Help you find your talents,
- Look at education or training with you,
- Look at apprenticeships with you,
- Look at your applications for work or work experience,
- Help you present yourself to employers,
- Help you prepare for an interview.

<http://www.faringdonyouthproject.yolasite.com/>

Folly Park - 7/8/12

I have been reading the blogs from various users of the park following the "festival". I visited the park yesterday and was appalled, not only by the damage caused by the failure to realise that huge damage would be caused by going ahead with the festival despite appalling weather, but also by the neglect of the park by its owners - the Vale of White Horse District Council.

The car park is a disgrace. It is a series of large pot holes surrounded by a rank weed infested muddy banks.

The gateway is filthy and the wall is broken. There is another pothole in the middle of the access.

The entrance is made up of uncontrolled brambles and weeds, there has been no effort to keep it tidy and attractive.

The stream that runs under the gated entrance is completely choked with weeds.

Inside the park the damage recently caused by the festival makes dog walking and any other activity (except fishing) impossible.

The fishing club should be congratulated for keeping the pond looking very attractive.

Generally I found that I was in a park that started out as a very attractive and useful addition to the facilities that Faringdon has to offer, has been allowed through the neglect of VWHDC to become a depressing experience to visit. This would not have been allowed to happen in Abingdon!!

Alan Hickmore

Hare Coursing - Coleshill and Buscot - 7/8/12

At 1230pm on Monday 6th August 2012 the Police received a report of Hare Coursing on the land around Snowswick Lane, Buscot.

Officers from the Faringdon neighbourhood policing team attended along with officers from Wiltshire police. Two men and five Lurcher dogs were located in the area. The men were arrested for offences relating to the Wildlife act.

If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://online@crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Free Sunday Morning Jog 19th August - 7/8/12 - 7/8/12

Come along for a free social jog around Faringdon. Slow pace so suitable for beginners.
More information contact Ashley Chapman on 01235 547646 or email ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk
10am-11am Meeting
Faringdon Leisure Centre Field

re Festival survey - 6/8/12

I think we may be missing the point here. The people who responded to the survey were asked very direct questions. The one which produced all the ideas was: "What do YOU think would make Festival 2013". Of the 107

submitted responses, plus several more I've received on Facebook, only a small handful were shall, we say, "optimistic" in what they would like to see, i.e. pay £1.90 and see Katherine Jenkins on-stage in the Market Place (with programme including raffle ticket).

The vast majority and I'd say, around 90% of the submitted responses requested activities that were in the main very low cost and required nothing more than sensible planning, time and consideration by motivated people who want their town to succeed. Examples here being "Skate demonstration", "Country Fayre type activities", "music concerts" etc.

So...having run an anonymous survey on the subject and analysed the results, I would hazard a guess that the majority of the residents keen to see the Festival keep going actually just want a varied, cheap and cheerful weekend of activities which are split between art and craft, commercial ventures (food, drink and gifts), music, children's activities, competitions and local history. They want it to be in multiple locations around the town, including the Market Square and attractive to a wide ranging audience. They don't mind paying for certain events or programmes.

What they don't want is any single person or business making a profit under the banner of the Festival. Conversely, retailers in Faringdon should all be encouraged to make a profit IN THEIR OWN RIGHT during Festival time because profit drives investment and expansion in our town. Investment attracts new residents and new businesses so maybe, one day, we could attract big names to Faringdon Festival.

Also, given 37 people out of the 100 who submitted their responses said they would like to help out then that is a significant number higher than in previous years and it would be nice if this were noted and a plan kicked off to try to work out how they can be engaged to assist effectively, i.e. in organising events or activities which make best use of their interests, their skills and their time available.

Melanie Lane

Noise in Gloucester St - 5/8/12

In response to Dave. By all means enjoy the pub but why do drinkers need to stand outside, and worse, on the opposite side of the road to the pub? How about some consideration for others? Why can't the smokers smoke in the garden at the back of the pub? Why can't they use the ashtrays provided? I walk down each Sunday morning to buy a paper and am fed up of walking through dozens of fag butts on the pavement. Faringdon's run down enough without this anti-social behaviour.

Sadly, the Volunteer isn't the only pub to be affected by the smoking ban like this though.

Steve

Faringdon Festival. - 5/8/12

having read name supplied re: costs of bands ,performers it would seem this person at least has a grasp of the situation. £400 + is a good starting point,in reality £1000 plus is more likely, having experienced such charges as this when organizing the M.A.D.D. mayFest for several years. Then there are some heavy pluses to go with it. Ryders is good, food, wine ,beer,special tipples ,Freshly laundered towels,chiller areas.If you step into that area of festival then the gestimate of £10,000 is peanuts.

So ,What do you want Faringdon,or not . I read that Al Cane states that it is a community Festival, all i can say is where was the community when asked in January if they would like to participate. A big ,Long blank was the answer.something for nothing eh! "Wake up,It's nearly dark.

Sam Prince

Noise in Gloucester St - 4/8/12

reallymove in next to a public house and moan about people enjoying themselves on a weekend get a life surely this is like jumping in a swimming pool and not getting wet.

dave

Volunteer Pub - 4/8/12

I agree about the noise coming from this place. It appears to be compulsory to stand on opposite side of the street and then SHOUT VERY LOUDLY to each other....perhaps it's an old time custom of the pub..also, you have to have the obligatory screeching girl whose voice could shatter glass, to squeal with laughter at every inane comment made by the alpha male of the group....I have thought about parking outside the place say about five or six in the morning and play very loud music and shout a lot....it would be interesting to see what the response would be.

Sleep deprived resident.

Name supplied.

Noise in Gloucester St - 4/8/12

Can anything be done about the noise from the Volunteer pub in Gloucester Street on Friday nights and weekends? My neighbours are complaining about it and I have long been aware of it. Also, the pub's communal ash tray seems to be the pavement outside the pub.

I've no idea if anyone else considers this a problem.

Name Supplied

Festival survey results - 3/8/12

Looking at those findings (might i suggest it is kept open for a bit longer) it is rather depressing that people would be happy paying an average of £1.90 each for an outside music event (or any event) with multiple acts and talent even point 97 "a big band" or point 30 "comedy" costs for a name that you have heard on tv that will be £400 for CONSIDERING a 60 min slot let alone doing a 45 min slot in a field.

I just skimmed again and someone suggested a BIG name³⁴, Names like that wont get out of bed for less than a grand and a 4 star hotel. + a big name will bring BIG issues. Imagine the bitching that "my drive was blocked by some out of towners going to see xxx" when the town fills up with 7000 people and security has to stop people coming in.

I can tell you you need to spend at least 7 - 10k on such an event if not more! BEFORE you get acts to appear. By all accounts the "festival" should be held up, stopped if you will for a few years until someone can spend some time creating a solid plan of events. Hell you could combine a large number of those "ideas" to make a rather good event like the 1st couple were but that is not 1 person over night, that is several people over several months hoping and praying that the weather is good so they break even.

But as the survey suggests no one wants to help in the things they suggest so maybe not.

As for a programme of events advertising IN the programme should pay for the programme. simple as that. If you cannot break even on that ...

Name Supplied

ps I assume "academy" is the school with the big field that is owned IIR by vowhdc

Theft from sheds and vehicle crime - Faringdon - 3/8/12

Between Wednesday (01/08) and Thursday (02/08) offender(s) broke into a number of sheds at an allotment in Lechlade Road, Faringdon, and stole gardening equipment. During the early hours of Thursday morning (02/08) an attempt was made to steal a vehicle which was parked on a road outside a property in Carters Crescent.

During the same period a vehicle parked in Fernham Road had its door prised open to gain entry although nothing appears to have been stolen and there was theft of property from a roof box of a vehicle parked in London Street, Faringdon. Residents are advised to be extra vigilant. If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area try to obtain vehicle details, including make, model and registration number and description of any occupants. Please report anything suspicious as soon as possible.

If you have any information relating to this message please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://online@crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Festival survey results - 1/8/12

In July 2012, having read the published comments, both negative and positive around Festival 2012 and preceding years, I thought if the local Faringdon population were asked to give their honest feedback and ideas about some basic questions relating to the Festival then these could be collated and passed back to the organisers for consideration for next year.

It should be noted that the comments for 2012 were especially vitriolic, even for Faringdon who do generally enjoy being very vocal about their feelings. I had not attended the festival for several years as we had been away on the last few occasions so consider myself to be an unbiased. I am sympathetic to anyone who undertakes the organisation of an event, whether profit making or otherwise and the task is generally noted to be "thankless"; however, there are lots of high feelings, evidenced on the local website "Faringdon.org" and also on the local Facebook Groups. Some of these were communicated too during this survey.

Feelings are always good; clearly there is a passion and a desire for a Festival. People who are ambivalent don't bother to fill out surveys (although I did wonder about the person who bothered to submit "Feck off" into every free text box within in. Clearly a rebel without a cause!)

The survey asked 7 basic questions:

1. Where is the best location for a Faringdon Festival in 2013
2. Would you be happy to assist in planning the next festival?
3. Would you like to see...?
4. What suggestion would you like to make in order to make Faringdon Festival 2013 the best ever?
5. Would it be reasonable to pay for a Festival weekend ticket for Festival events in a venue such as school or pub?
6. Would you pay for a programme of events?
7. If so, how much is reasonable?

The results have been collated and an explanation for the reason for the question has been provided where applicable. For obvious reasons, some of the more "strong" comments or feedback which critically named organisers or decisions has not been published; this was not the aim of this exercise and isn't fair or sporting to publish unproven statements regardless. However, the entire survey including original comments has been passed to the organisers.

I repeat, as at today, I am not an organiser of the Faringdon Festival but have offered to assist in Fundraising for 2013.

[Here are the results...happy reading...](#)

Mel Lane
1st August 2012
Garthpool@btinternet.com

Stolen Scooters - 30/9/12

Six scooters have been stolen from Faringdon Junior School this past week, my son's being one of them. He has waited for three years to get a 'proper' stunt scooter and it is his pride and joy. He has had it for six weeks. We didn't force him to lock it at school because we believe that a) people in Faringdon are nice and b) surely nobody would be selfish and enough of a complete git as to steal from small children, surely? Obviously I was wrong. Lock up your scooters. And if anyone would like to be a tiny bit honourable and replace it that would be lovely.
Faith Carpenter

Slightly abusive call 30/9 - 30/9/12

Last night at about 11pm we received a slightly abusive phone call from a drunken female. We will pass the number to the police of course but perhaps some of her friends might point out to her that when she is a bit more grown up she'll realise that it was very childish and not particularly clever. Without wanting to sound vindictive I do hope she has a dreadful hangover this morning.
Name Supplied

Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting - 27/9/12

This will be a public meeting on Tuesday 2 October 2012 to be held in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon, commencing at 7pm.
This meeting will be informed of the progress being made by the consultants and the major emerging issues. It will also consider issues outside of planning policy.
I do hope that you can attend. We would be really grateful if you could encourage friends and neighbours to come along as well.
Peter Anderson

Events at the Faringdon Library - 27/9/12

every Friday Rhymetimes 10.30 till 11.00
every Tuesday free one to one computer tuition. Beginners welcome please tel 240311 to book a session.

Photography competition starts beginning of October open to all ages entitled 'My Summer!' entries in by Saturday 27th October. We will be displaying your photographs in the library, the last week of October, so please come and have look.

Spooky story and creepy craft time Friday 26th October 4.00 - 5.00 creepy craft, treasure hunt, yucky cauldron trick or treat and of course a spooky story! Come along in fancy dress.
please telephone or email the library for more details on any of the events 01367 240311 <mailto:%20faringdon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Neighbourhood Policing - Burglary – Coleshill, Faringdon- 26/9/12

On Tuesday (25/09) between 13:15hrs and 16:18hrs a property in School Lane, Coleshill, was burgled. Offender(s) used a garden trowel to force open a ground floor bathroom window to gain entry. A silver necklace

with a silver guitar on it and loose change in 20p coins were stolen.

If you have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or <mailto:online@crimestoppers-uk.org>.

No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Out and about in Faringdon - 26/9/12

Once again, the Year 7 pupils from Faringdon Community College are out and about on their annual Geography Field Trips around Faringdon. I feel I have to express my disgust at the state of the toilets in the car park. Being out all day, we have no choice but to use them. At 11am the girls went in, and soon came out, some actually retching. One was locked, the other two "full of toilet paper and poo". As they were all refusing to use them, I went over the road to The Bell and the staff very kindly agreed to let us use theirs. (Thank you so much to The Bell) They said it is very common that they are asked, and sometimes people dont even ask, just go in??? How rude. We phoned the number on the wall, and were told it would be reported as urgent. On our return, the locked one was opened but the other two were still in the same state. I phoned again and said what a poor picture it paints of our town....how would we feel if faced with this when visiting.

Surely it is time they are knocked down and new up- to- date ones built in their place. My usual gripe, the dog mess is much improved, although there was a lot along Coffin Path. No need for it.....
Chris Higgs.

Children in Need at Faringdon Leisure Centre. - 26/9/12

We are currently looking for ideas to raise money for Children In Need on Friday 16th November. If you have any ideas please contact sgilbert@soll-leisure.co.uk.

We have one fund raising activity set up at present. If we get to 250 likes on our facebook page Craig Curtis (Operations Manager) and Steve Gilbert (Health & Fitness Manager) have agreed to have their legs waxed!! Be sure to visit our facebook page to get the numbers up!!

<http://www.facebook.com/faringdonleisure?ref=hl#!/faringdonleisure>

Dave

Small group walking - 25/9/12

I was wondering if anyone else in the area would be interested in small group walking at weekends. I'm asking because I dislike walking in large groups, but also I'm not keen on walking on my own. What I'd like is to walk in a small group (max 6 people). For myself, this offers the best experience-large enough to encourage varied conversation/mix of people, but small enough to reduce unwanted stops along the way, and also prevents the swamping of a pub/teashop at the end of a walk!

Despite the impression that may be given above, I am very easy going, honest! I'm a single, 53 year old guy, reasonably fit, into walking and photography, living in Faringdon. I envisage walks of 5-10 miles in the local area, (Ridgeway, Cotswolds etc), with a packed lunch and maybe end at a pub/teashop at the end), on Saturdays/Sundays, with an aim to maybe extend this to weekends away camping next year to the Lakes, Snowdonia, Peak District etc). I should say that I don't actually know the local area that well, so some local knowledge would be very welcome.

To be honest, I'm not sure what we would do if I get a massive response-I'm guessing at this point that we'd have to operate on a strictly first come first served basis to keep the group small, or have multiple small groups, but I'm open to ideas on this. But at this point I just want to see if there's any demand for this. To this end I've created a an e-mail address for anyone interested.

Please send an e-mail to smallgroupwalking@hotmail.co.uk if you're interested. I promise that I won't pass on any personal details to anyone.
Steve

1st Faringdon Scout Group CEILIDH Sat 20th October

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!! At Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre, Corn Exchange, Faringdon (Open 9am to 2pm Mon to Fri, 9.30am to 1pm Sat) AND The Nut Tree, Cornmarket, Faringdon.

(See What's On and Facebook Page for details)
Fiona Merrick

Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio- show 40 out now - 23/9/12

.....with interviews with Tracy Collen about Macmillan cancer support and the Big coffee morning on Sat 29th Sept at the Corn Exchange .

Also an interview with Caroleena Elvinstone local clairvoyant and Tarot card reader about her work and two events at the Corn Exchange on Wed 26th and Friday 28th.

<http://www.faringdonradio.com/>

Also our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' is also out.

New '....Ladder...' 20 out now. Interviews with Bateleurs, Moogiemans and The Fixed - co presented by Sean and Dave Franklin of Green Man Publications

<http://www.fromtheladderfactory.com/>

Paper Round Cover - 21/9/12

Hi

I am looking for someone to cover my paper round job between the 20th and 26th of October as I am on a school trip. It's a Monday to Saturday job so you wouldn't do the Sunday (21st), and only would only do Saturday the 20th and Monday to Friday (22nd to 26th). There are 14 houses to deliver to in Faringdon, must be delivered by 9am each day. You will be payed £15.

If you need any more details please contact me on 07983377481. If you don't get through to me I always call back, and if you are considering taking up the the job then I will be more than happy to show you the round if I need to :) Please get back to me as soon as possible, preferably by the 5th of October at the latest.

Thankyou,
Daisy

Excavation in field South of Park Road - 20/9/12

I guess this is an investigation to do with possible house building on this site- or does someone know something different
Ed(GW)

Re Considerate Parking - 19/9/12

Perhaps those same people who park inconsiderately are also the same people that park without consideration on double yellows all night long and ignore pavements to park on! Wish the law enforcement types would keep the problem in check by actually doing there jobs.

Just a thought
Colin

Broadband - analysis of survey results - 13/9/12

[Attached](#) is an analysis up to today's date of residents and businesses that have answered the OxOnline survey. A handful of respondents have been omitted because of incomplete postcodes. Each stub is minus the last two letters to avoid identifying small groups of houses and businesses.

5 areas have over 100 people or businesses who have registered with the survey. Whilst numbers are of course swayed by density of population, I hope it enables you to see where champions have been successful in driving up demand for broadband even in more rural areas.

Regards. Eddy McDowall

M: 077 86 277 972

E: <mailto:eddy.mcdowall@oxfordshire.gov.uk>

ED(GW) Only 1 business in SN7 7 and 1 in SN7 8. Perhaps the businesses are not interested

Budgens closing- 19/9/12

have Budgens notified their customers they are closing , have not seen any notices.

Brenda

Budgens- temporary closure - 19/9/12

I've heard it said that Budgens is to close for 3 weeks from 21 Oct while the refurbishment is taking place.

They've chosen to do this rather than have an upheaval for much longer

Will be good to have a smart store in the town

Ed(GW)

Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting- 19/9/12

Corn Exchange 7pm

Using the views from earlier meetings the Consultants will present the draft plan.

This is your chance to have your say

<http://faringdonplan.webs.com/>

NBFL Groundhop – September 2012 - 18/9/12

On 22nd September Faringdon Town Football Club (FTFC) will be hosting a 'Groundhop' – groundhopping is a hobby that involves attending football matches at as many different stadiums or grounds as possible on any one day, participants are known as groundhoppers, hoppers or travellers. FTFC are expecting approximately 200 groundhoppers for this event and a further 100 spectators, many of these will be local supporters, ex-players and members of the club.

The committee are organising many great things including a full colour programme where there will be advertising space. Tasty food and 4 guest ales in our large clubhouse bar will be available as well as tombola and a music quiz in the evening.

This special event is open to all and we would very much welcome any new residents of Faringdon who have an interest in football especially if you have girls or boys who would like to join a team. We are currently running 3 senior teams and 5 youth/junior teams. Our first team play in North Berks League Division One.

Phil Tyler

Considerate Parking - 18/9/12

As most of you may be aware, parking spaces are in rather short supply within the town. So, it would be helpful if people were more considerate in their parking habits and not just abandon their car in the middle of what could have been two spaces?

Mike Perks.

Ceilidh in the Corn Exchange - 18/9/12

Something exciting at a dull time of year - a Ceilidh in the Corn Exchange on Saturday 20th October!

Bring your children, friends and family as this will be a fabulous fun family evening.

A ceilidh is a great way of involving everybody of every age and the caller will explain every move of every dance - they are used to non-dancers with no idea and no movement skills, so don't be shy!

Ticket prices: Adults £7.50, U16s £5, Family £20.

Tickets are limited and can be bought in advance from Faith Carpenter on 241237 and will be available in town.

Doors open at 7.30 - please join us! Search for us on our Facebook page.

Thankyou from Faringdon Fire Station - 17/9/12

Faringdon Fire Station would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all that supported the 'Firefighter Charity' night on Saturday the 8th September.

It was a huge success raising just over £700.00.

Special Thanks go to 'White Horse Road show Disco for donating it for free. Tim Friers and the Mercenaries live band, Diddy Cook for the Buffet food, Ben Gristwood 'Platinum Chauffeuring Security' for giving us 2 security men for the door. Bellaviso, Pat Thomas Butchers, Cost Cutters, Folly Flowers, and Goddard & Son all of which donated a prize for the raffle

Rebecca Rimmer

National Pool Lifeguard Qualification - 16/9/12

Learn CPR, 1st aid and lifesaving skills on your way to becoming a qualified Lifeguard.

The course will run from 29th October-3rd November 2012 at Faringdon Leisure Centre for £250 per person.

Candidates must be 16 or over.

For more information or to book please contact FLC on 01367 241755 or ccurtis@soll-leisure.co.uk.

The Faringdon Youth Project- 16/9/12

.... aimed at helping young people aged 16 – 24 to find their place in the working environment.

- We'll be talking to young people about their interests and what they're good at,
- as well as practical help writing a CV, preparing for an interview,
- doing an apprenticeship or internship,
- finding a useful course etc.

We start Wednesday 19th September, 4pm to 5.30pm in the Faringdon Library, Upper room.

We meet every fortnight, on Wednesdays afternoons, 4pm -5.30 pm.

We generally meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month

We welcome more volunteers. If you're interested in helping come for a Training Session 3.30pm – 4pm, on 19th. See our web site www.faringdonyouthproject.yolasite.com for more details!

Traffic survey - 14/9/12

Cameras at the top of Marlborough St had gone this morning, Thurs. I wonder what it is about traffic on a Tue and Wed that is of interest?
ED(GW)

Better Broadband in Oxfordshire - 13/9/12

Information from <http://www.oxonline.co.uk/Information/Faq>
[Broadband mythbusters](#)
[Express interest and complete a survey](#)

Traffic survey - 13/9/12

Lots of wires across the roads and cameras(installed Monday night) at the top of Marlborough St. collecting traffic data.
Anyone know what for?
Ed(GW)

House wanted in Faringdon - 12/9/12

Me & my husband have been house hunting in Faringdon for the last 18 months but have still not found the right place.
If you (or anyone you know) own a 3/4 bed period property with off road parking that you have been thinking about putting on the market then please get in touch as we would be very interested in having a chat with you.
We have sold our house and live in rented accommodation so are ready to proceed with a purchase.
You can contact us at chocsaway@live.co.uk. We'll look forward to hopefully hearing from you!
Many Thanks
Julie G

Mobile Phone Repairs Back at the iCentre - 12/9/12

Mobile Phone repairs are back at the iCentre.
A new individual has taken on the Mobile Phone repairs of Faringdon running from the iCentre.
For all phone repairs, digitizer replacements and mobile peripherals then call on 01367 243567 or pop in to the shop on 10 London Street. @Thephonedesk www.facebook.com/thephonedesk

Brandy Island - 12/9/12

The National Trust and Local Residents of Brandy Island, on the Gloucestershire / Oxfordshire Border, are up in arms over the development plans of the river Thames. The proposal outlines the development of several moorings for a boat yard close to where the designer, artist and writer, William Morris wrote his "Earthly Paradise". In-fact it was this very spot that inspired some of his most respected works; Including his "Willow" pattern on which found inspiration from walking along the river banks, when he often escaped the pressures of modern life by staying in the near-by Kelmscot Manor. This area of vast countryside by the river Thames is well loved by many across England for it's water meadows and thriving golden ecosystem of bats, voles, kingfishers and otters.

However locals feel that not only would this destroy a rare place of beauty but would also create a potential health and safety risk with the roads near by which have a reputation for their narrowness, blind spots and usage by agricultural vehicles, cyclists and horse riders. The road, designed when there were only a few small settlements

between Lechlade and Faringdon, was never meant for the heavy traffic which can be generated by a boatyard, especially during summer. In fact in 1997 an Inspector concluded that there was substandard visibility at the junction of the nearby village road with the A417., "I acknowledge that the Highway Authority's concern that the increase in residential traffic would make matters worse at the junction." , Locals argue though that nothing has change since 14 years ago and the road is just as suitable now as it was back then.

Tonight at 6:30pm in the Abingdon Town Hall, Oxfordshire, a meeting is to take place which will be the final decision on the future of this development. "What we're asking for is a deferral so we can have a on-site meeting so that all of these issues can be discussed" says Ellen Ann Hopkins, who has lived in Buscot's Old Parsonage for over 30 years which like near-by Kelmscott Manor is a Grade 2 Building, "The solution is for the National Trust to purchase the island back as it was forced to compulsory sell it when a water treatment centre was being built which never happened".

For more information on the Brandy Island Appeal here are links to a Youtube video and website for the campaign for more information:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmSOXzP6hg4>

<http://www.savebuscot.com/>

For any enquires please contact Graham Hill at 01367 253 046 or Ellen Hopkins at 01367 252 287. James Campbell jscampbell.05@googlemail.com

Get Back into Rounders - 12/9/12

6 week course starting 20th September at Faringdon Leisure Centre.

Learn how to play the game with skills and matches. 5.30pm-6.30pm, cost £2 per session (16+).

Bring a friend and get your session free!

Book your place by Wednesday 19th or for more information contact Ashley on 01235 547646 or email

ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk

BOARDgoats at the Horse and Jockey - 12/9/12

What's this?

An invasion of herd animals at the H&J - Fear not, actually it stands for Board Games

On Alternate Tuesdays, Stanford in the Vale First session 8pm on 2nd October at our very own H&J;

ALL NEW! a Euro Boardgaming group at the Horse and Jockey. Monopoly and scrabble are shunned in favour of more glamorously illustrated boards strategic thinking and co-operative play, apparently.

Grab a pint or a coffee from the bar and join us.

New club contact details Chris Cook chris@cookconfusion.plus.com website: <http://www.boardgoats.org/>

Parking on lower London St - 12/9/12

I am referring to the economic end of the street, with the shops and takeaways. Why with newly painted lines are e not surprised by the same cars parked there all day and some overnight? Have also seen no change in the misuse of the bus lane in the Market Place either. Saw this week someone driving down Marlborough Street the wrong way to get to the Police Station!

Come on Police and Wardens, ticket cars every day please. Only way to tackle the problem, hit them in the pocket
Colin

Boogie-Me play at The Trout Lechlade - 12/9/12

Saturday 15th September,.....

and the weather forecast is GOOD.

Come on down and Boogie by the Thames, have a few beers, enjoy!

From 8:30 pm – we look forward to seeing you.....

<http://www.boogie-me.co.uk/>

Neighbourhood Policing Team Update for Faringdon - 10/9/12

See <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/pub-pg-nh-upds-N165?id=229946>

Covers confiscation of alcohol, allotment shed thefts, possession of cannabis, hare coursing

Faringdon Radio- 10/9/12

New Faringdon Local show out now featuring interviews with local band The Yearning with Joe Moore and the President of the Faringdon and District Rotary Peter Walker.

<http://www.faringdonradio.com/>

Also our music show '...from The Ladder Factory' is also out featuring an selection of songs submitted by listeners.

<http://www.fromtheladderfactory.com/>

Sean

Events at Faringdon Library - 9/9/12

Every Friday Rhymetimes 10.30 till 11.00

Saturday Rhythm and Rhyme 10.30 till 11.00

Every Tuesday free one to one computer tuition. Beginners welcome please tel 240311 to book a session.

Photography competition open to all ages entitled 'My Summer!' entries in by Saturday 27th October. We will be displaying your photographs in the library, the last week of October, so please come and have look.

Spooky story and creepy craft time Friday 26th October 4.00 - 5.00 fancy dress if you dare!

Please telephone or email the library for more details on any of the events 01367 240311

<mailto:farindon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Congratulations to all our Summer Reading Scheme competition entrants

Winners James Bannister, Olivia Bannister, Kacey Bugden and Evie Rogerson

Thank you to all the children who took part in Story Lab Reading Scheme, GOLD MEDALS were well deserved!

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal - 8/9/12

The above appeal starts on Monday 12th November - Friday 23rd November, at the United Faringdon Church.

The church will be open at the following times to receive boxes and filler items.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am - 12.30pm Tuesday and Wednesday 7.30pm - 9pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and see what happens to the boxes before they are sent abroad.

Come in and you may even want to stay and help.

Enquiries regarding the above ring Ann 241566 or Kate 241201

Beryl Atkin

Theft from vehicles at beauty spots - Vale of White Horse area - 7/9/12

There have been three theft from vehicles between the 5th and 6th September at beauty spot locations. Recent incidents have occurred at Ashdown Park, Wayland's Smithy and on the Ridgeway.

Previous Hot Spot locations for theft from vehicles have included car parks at White Horse Hill, Bury Down, Ashdown Park and other car parks along the Ridgeway

Anyone visiting beauty spots or out walking dogs are advised not to leave anything of value in their vehicles, even a carrier bag or an item of clothing left on display could attract someone to your vehicle. If you have to take

valuables or other items with you it is advisable to take them with you whenever you leave your vehicle. If you plan to leave items in your vehicle you should put them in the car boot before leaving home as someone may be watching you at a beauty spot and you don't want to be seen leaving anything in the vehicle.

Please click on the link below to obtain crime prevention advice on car security & information on security devices:
<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crprev/crprev-auto/crprev-auto-protectvehicle/crprev-auto-protectvehicle-car.htm>

Please be extra vigilant. If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area try to obtain vehicle details including colour, make, model and registration number and a description of any occupants if possible. Please report any information to the police as soon as possible.

If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or <mailto:online@crimestoppers-uk.org>. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Budgens split - 7/9/12

I've just been told by a member of staff that the Budgens deli is closing and that the shop will be split in two in the very near future.
Name supplied.
ED(GW) I wonder what the non Budgens bit will be?

Saturday Farmers' Market - 7/9/12

Can we please have a market/farmers market on a Saturday in Faringdon.
I wish I could attend the Tuesday market in Faringdon but as I work full time it's just not possible
It would be nice to have a market at the weekend to bring the locals into our pretty little town.
I'm sure not the only one who thinks this!
Sarah

Why worry about a name - 7/9/12

I couldn't agree more with the person who wrote about the comments on their grammar etc., lets face it when you come on here you are usually angry about what someone has said so you rattle your little note out without worrying how it looks ...the point is to get the point acrossthose with nothing better to do will pin point all of the wrong bits....sad old sod's. This is not an important document it's just a comment site for the angry or informative....so live and let live please.
Regards Jim and Chris

Faringdon Newspapers - 6/9/12

I've just discovered the website <http://www.faringdonfolly.com/>
Not sure how often it's updated- but I guess after each monthly paper.
ED(GW)

Coach Lane Cemetery - 6/9/12

I have not visited my parents grave for 3 years due to illness. I have to say a huge thank you to the maintenance

crew who look after the cemetery. It was well cared for and the two men who were cutting the grass while we were there showed respect and consideration for their surroundings. Thank you very much
Lynda Newman

Tests and flu jabs at Faringdon Pharmacy - 3/9/12

The pharmacist can check your cholesterol and sugar levels (costs £10) and your blood pressure there and then and give you the results straight away.
Flu jabs are also available (£10) for those not eligible under the NHS program

Better Broadband in Oxfordshire - 5/9/12

Oxfordshire County Council have put the specification out to tender
For techies who are interested <http://tenderise.eu/notice/245798-2012>
ED(GW)

Why worry about a name - 5/9/12

There is always going to be someone ready and waiting to comment on your spelling and your grammar. Does this make them better than you, does this make your comment/view worthless, no it doesn't but using a nick- name gives you the courage to have your say. Do I always make sense when I am writing to people, I very much doubt it but then the people I know are kind and forgiving of my use of the English language. Do I always sign my name, judge for your-self when some of the comments differ from your view of things.
Old Faringdon O.A.P.

Theft of Faringdon Market signs - 5/9/12

Between Thursday 30th August and Tuesday 4th September, signs advertising the monthly farmers market in Faringdon were stolen from Park Road and the Little Coxwell roundabout at the junction with the A420.

If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.
Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or <mailto:online@crimestoppers-uk.org>.
No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Housing on land South of Park Road under consideration - 5/9/12

This is only a 'screening option' but you can comment still
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P12/V1562/SCR>
ED(GW)

New signage for Budgens - 5/9/12

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P12/V1747/A>
You can comment up to 20th September
Application says non illuminated signs, in one place, then illuminated in another.
From the plan it looks as if the splitting of the shop into 2 is going ahead
Does anyone know?

Ed(GW)

Possible solar farm at Wicklesham Lodge - 5/9/12

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P12/V1743/SCR>

The new NHS changes and what they mean for you- 4th October, Medical Centre - 5/9/12

The White Horse Medical Practice is hosting a meeting at Faringdon Medical Centre on Thursday October 4th between 6.00pm and 7.30pm.

Dr Gavin Bartholomew will talk about how health services will be delivered at this practice from April 2013. We will also discuss increasing the membership of the White Horse Patient Participation Group.

Why not drop in and hear about this idea that would enable you to become involved in your practice. For more information, contact the Practice Manager, Caroline Beaney on 01367 242388.

Free Sunday Morning jog - 4/9/12

Next free Sunday Morning Jog sessions will be on the 9th and 16th September. Slow paced and very informal group for anyone to join.

More information contact Ashley Chapman on 01235 547646 or email ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk. 10am-11am meet at Faringdon Leisure Centre Field.

NBFL Groundhop - September 2012 - 4/9/12

On 22nd September Faringdon Town Football Club (FTFC) will be hosting a 'Groundhop' - groundhopping is a hobby that involves attending football matches at as many different stadiums or grounds as possible on any one day, participants are known as groundhoppers, hoppers or travellers.

FTFC are expecting approximately 200 groundhoppers for this event and a further 100 spectators, many of these will be local supporters, ex-players and members of the club.

The committee are organising many great things including a full colour programme where there will be advertising space. Ploughman's Lunch and 4 guest ales in our large clubhouse bar will be available as well as tombola and a music quiz in the evening.

This special event is open to all and we would very much welcome any new residents of Faringdon who have an interest in football especially if you have girls or boys who would like to join a team.

We are currently running 3 senior teams and 5 youth/junior teams. Our first team play in North Berks League Division One.
Phil Tyler

Dance Classes with Kealy @ Faringdon Leisure Centre - 4/9/12

As of next week I will have the following dance classes available at Faringdon Leisure Centre:

Tuesdays 8pm-8.45pm Salsacise (Dance/Aerobics) - Adults
Wednesdays 10am-10.45am Parent and Toddler Dance
Thursdays 11am-11.45am Salsacise (Dance/Aerobics) - Adults

Thursdays 8.15pm-9pm Dance Fit (Dance/Aerobics) - Adults
Thursdays 9pm-9.30pm Dance Tone (Ballet/Pilates toning exercises) - Adults

No sign up required, pay as you go available.

Week beginning 10th September all classes are only £1.00, so come and have a go! No experience needed (2 left feet welcome), all you need is the ability to have a giggle. Additional spaces have been added to Salsacise and Dance Fit classes.

For information on these classes please contact Faringdon Leisure Centre on 01367 241755.
For any other local dance information contact Kealy Whenray on 07769172820.

Cotswold Woollen Weavers at the TIC - 4/9/12

Cotswold Woollen Weavers have brought a lovely display in to Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre as the Artist of the Month for September.

Please come and have a look!
Sally Thurston

Faringdon & District Charity Darts League Facebook page... - 4/9/12

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Faringdon-District-Charity-Darts-League/438541159517782?ref=hl>

Faringdon Pharmacy - new Club Card - 3/9/12

The Pharmacy in London St has just launched a loyalty reward card scheme.

- Access Healthcare services and advice
- Internet Shopping
- Collect loyalty reward points
- Free personalised Healthcare
- Prescription Services to save you time and money
- Special discounts, vouchers and coupons

To register complete a form from the pharmacy, then get your card validated by the pharmacist
It's already a great service- open 6 days a week from 7am til 11pm, and on Sunday 9am- 1pm. AND there is always a pharmacist there!

<http://www.faringdonpharmacy.com/index.php?route=common/home>

Smoking outside pubs - 1/9/12

Why pick on the Volunteer. When I walk around town the clientele of the Crown smoke under the porch canopy, when it's raining; inside the porch of the Bell, on the steps of the Folly. The Swan has a smoking area outside but it is still within the curtilage of the premises, on the steps down to the Portwell Bar. I don't and have never smoked, but I do understand that those that do are severely penalised for their addiction. It's not the pubs' fault or the smokers' fault that people feel intimidated by smokers having to go outside to smoke. In fact, unless there is a fight ensuing (which I have never, ever seen) the comment is ludicrous.

The Green Witch

Royal British Legion Remembrance Service TICKETS ON SALE NOW - 31/10/12

Friday 9th November at 7.30pm in All Saints' Church.

Featuring the Highworth Silver Band together with readings and music.

Tickets £5 in aid of the Poppy Appeal - available from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre at the Corn Exchange, Faringdon Motorparts on Lechlade Road and from Joy Blake (01367 242277).

Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre The Corn Exchange Faringdon Oxfordshire SN7 7JA 01367 242191

Cre8iveU. Be Creative. Be You. - New Faringdon Community Project- 31/10/12

Cre8iveU is a new community project in the area of Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Using the creative arts to engage children and teenagers.

Cre8iveU looks to fund free/low cost inclusive creative workshops in the local area. We hope to include all art forms including dance, drama, art, creative writing, music, singing, crafts and much more. Our aim is a fun atmosphere while giving children a chance to express, explore, be inspired and create.

Cre8iveU is a branch of Cre8ive Steps an already established local dance company working throughout Oxfordshire based in Faringdon.

It is only possible for this project to work with the support of the local community, so, Cre8iveU needs your help!!! Are you local to Faringdon? Do you work for/own a business that would be interested in supporting community projects for local children and young people? Or do you have a skill within the arts that you feel we may benefit from? We are especially looking for artists/painters at the moment. Also, if you feel you could support us in other ways we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Kealy at info@cre8ivesteps.com.

We currently have a Facebook and Twitter page with all the most recent updates and goings on, you will find them at <http://www.facebook.com/Cre8iveU%20and%20@Cre8iveU>. Please like/ follow these pages for up to date info. We are very much looking forward to a launch in the new year with some exciting creative workshops.

BE CRE8IVE. BE YOU.

HALLOWEEN at the Folly Tower - 30/10/12

Climb the Tower at night. It will be SPOOKY! ! Spooky People, Creepy lights, Scary things

5.30pm- 8pm

Adults £2, Children 11-16 50p Free for Children under 11

A famous scary character will be there to greet you!

For more information at <http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/>, or 01367 241142 or

<mailto:enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk>

Faringdon Folly Tower Trust – registered Charity No: 284795

OX-FEST 12,13,14 July 2013 - 29/10/12

Ox-Fest are looking for STEWARDS - We are looking for a sponsor and/or volunteers to assist with stewarding

and directing traffic and visitors safely around the festival site.

Stewards will get FREE TICKETS and we anticipate they will work 'one hour ON, one hour OFF', so they can enjoy the festival too. Stewards must be 18+ and will be expected to attend a minimum of 1 training day prior to the event to ensure they are familiar with the festival site and are properly briefed and suitable for this important position.

IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN ASSIST IN ANY WAY PLEASE CONTACT HADYN WOOD - 07973 559 203 or email: info@soundfoundation.co.uk

Hadyn R Wood (Director)
The Sound Foundation PO Box 4900 RG10 0GA
Cell: +44 (0) 7973 559 203
<http://www.soundfoundation.co.uk/>
<http://www.bestofbuble.com/>
<http://www.ox-fest.com/>

!! Hope & Aid Direct have places for Brighton Marathon 2013 !! - 29/10/12

Would you like to take part in Brighton Marathon on April 14 2013?
We would ask that you aim to raise around £500 and we will provide you with a running vest and as much support as we can muster.
www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk <http://brightonmarathon.co.uk/2013.php>
Any questions, do ask. Sarah Oliver mail@saraholiver.freearmy.co.uk or call 01367 242769

Re Parking - 28/10/12

So GW has spoken to the PCSOs in the market place and been reassured that the police are doing their best to deal with anti-social parking. So that's all right then!

Around two years ago the Town Council formally minuted that Thames Valley Police had given an assurance that they were adopting a policy of 'zero tolerance' towards illegal parking. But some while later, when the Town Clerk asked the police why, if that was the case, they were refusing to act on advice from Oxfordshire County Council's highways officer that parking on Gravel Walk was causing a problem and the local police should deal with it. A police officer called Sergeant Balls (you couldn't make it up) told the Town Clerk that the police are too busy dealing with "anti-social behaviour" and didn't have the time to deal with anti-social parking.

The absurdity of that reply becomes less farcical and more sinister when you appreciate that the police and the PCSOs in Faringdon are actively encouraging anti-social parking, and tacitly supporting outright criminality. Make no mistake the anti-social parking in Faringdon is not happening despite the best efforts of the police; it is happening because of the best efforts of the police. It is actively being encouraged and condoned by the police and PCSOs themselves.

It may be that the police have grand ambitions. Perhaps they'd rather drink tea and police the twits on twitter than supervise their subcontractees to police the streets. It may be that they want decriminalised parking enforcement, and are using their best efforts to get it by creating the parking problem. If anyone is under any illusion that CPZs and privatised traffic wardens prowling the town for prey will improve the quality of life generally, they should think again. What is needed is that people, including motorists, behave reasonably and with consideration for others. It is not possible to change human nature, but it is possible to employ a few persons of integrity who are part of the community and answerable to it, to patrol the streets and maintain order. That is what the police are supposed to be and do. I'm sure it's not an easy job, but then it's well paid and lots of jobs aren't easy. The police should stop having their time wasted pursuing new thought-crimes and the vagaries of 'anti-social behaviour'. They should concentrate on policing and much of the rest will take care of itself. The real problem is not thought-crime, but the absence of thought that has gone into directing and employing the police so that yet more people in uniform have to be employed to not do the job that the police are not doing. And whilst all these people in uniform aren't doing anything useful they're getting up to mischief.

Finally a word of advice to your correspondents: beware. If you cross a pavement-parker you risk a brick through the window. You risk abuse, threats and intimidation from crims and jobs, and from the police themselves and their pals. GW is risking life, limb and liberty talking to the PCSOs. I strongly advise anyone not to talk to any PCSO or police officer, except in writing and after first engaging a lawyer. And if there are any little old ladies in the town who need assistance crossing the road, they should keep an eye out for any passing hell's angel to oblige them before asking a police person.
Name Supplied

Lost pug - 27/10/12

We lost a fawn coloured Pug at around midday on Saturday the 27th October, from London Road, at the top of the hill towards the A420 but just before you reach the main road. Any information, good or bad, would be greatly appreciated, there will be a reward if she is found. Please call Sue on the number on her collar 07795 690281
Sue

2 New jobs advertised - 24/10/12

See details on [Our jobs page](#).

If you are a local business and have job, trainee or apprenticeship, or work experience opportunities, please send an email to

<mailto:enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk> with job details, suitable candidate information, start and end dates and contact information.

Free posting on this site

The Bell and the boards - 24/10/12

I counted 11 advertising boards outside The Bell today.

I wish they worked on the basis that 'less is more', they're so unsightly.

Seems to me there are far too many too many to be effective

Name Supplied

OX-FEST 12,13,14 July 2013 - 24/10/12

Having read the Findings of the Online Survey (following Faringdon Festival 2012) local entrepreneurs Gerry Lisi (Metisse Motorcycles), Hady Wood (The Sound Foundation) and Asad Ahmed (The Snooty Mehmaan) are in the process of planning a new annual event for Faringdon (and surrounding areas), incorporating much of what the survey suggests.

WHAT IF IT RAINS? - We've got it Covered !!!

We have designed the Main Arena so that large marquees will offer a view of the stages and shelter from the rain - and the sun. Other marquees and tents will offer cover and provide a varied programme of amusements and events for all ages.

There will also be a covered Crèche and soft play area, courtesy of The Old Station Nursery.

The Event: - Ox-Fest is a Family Festival with broad appeal (ALL AGES) showcasing local talent and established tribute bands (including but not limited to Bob Marley, Beatles, Abba, Queen, Take That, Girls Aloud, etc - all TBC) Local acts competing in Ox Factor and other local competition winners may also be invited to perform at Ox-Fest.

WebSite:- Work in progress but content will be updated regularly at <http://www.ox-fest.com/>

Stages: - 2 or 3 stages (main stage, acoustic stage, dance/disco tent)

Proposed Site: - circa 20 acres of land at Carswell Golf & Country Club, A420, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 8PU - [See Attached](#) (exact layout to be agreed by licensing authorities)

Proposed Timings & Tickets:

Friday - 6pm to midnight (possibly later) - FREE ADMISSION

Saturday - 12pm to midnight, (possibly later + fireworks display) - £25 (18+) / £12.50 (U18)

Sunday - 12pm to 10pm, (possibly earlier/later - subject to licensing) - £20 (18+) / £10 (U18)

Weekend Tickets: - Sat + Sun - £40 Adult (18+) / £20 (U18), FREE for Under 5s (age TBC)

Parking: - FREE ON-SITE PARKING for 1500 cars (max licensed limit is 3000 people per day)

Camping: - for circa 200 tents (camping TBC)

Catering: - Hot and Cold Food + Bars, VIP Seated Dining and Coffee Shop

Alcohol: - Adult tickets are for persons aged 18+ and wrist band will permit access to bars. Additional ID will be required prior to sale of alcohol.

Trade Tents: - Local Arts, Crafts, Food, Drink, etc

Attractions: - Zorb Balls and pool, Inflatable Boats and pool and kids go-karts with inflatable track surround, Climbing Wall, Rodeo, Inflatables, Rides, Stalls etc....Kids Soft Play, Crèche and Children's Entertainers. All TBC so we're open to ideas.

Dance Tent: - A colourful, funky tent for kids and adult discos (possibly Silent Discos running during day)

VIP Enclosure: - Covered Silver Service Dining area, Bar, Comfortable Seating, View of Main Stage

Comms: - Call signs have been devised for all key locations within the site including but not limited to; Main Entrance/Access points, Artist areas, Security, Control Room, Lost Children, First Aid, Stewards, Car Park, etc.

The Budget: - The costs of staging this event are to be funded from ticket sales, exclusive trading rights (catering, amusements, etc), advertising, sponsorship, grants and donations

STEWARDS

We are looking for a sponsor and/or volunteers to assist with stewarding and directing traffic and visitors safely around the festival site.

Stewards will get FREE TICKETS and we anticipate they will work 'one hour ON, one hour OFF', so they can enjoy the festival too. Stewards must be 18+ and will be expected to attend a minimum of 1 training day prior to the event to ensure they are familiar with the festival site and are properly briefed and suitable for this important position.

IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN ASSIST IN ANY WAY PLEASE CONTACT HADYN WOOD - 07973 559 203 or email:

info@soundfoundation.co.uk

TRADERS & CATERERS

We are inviting offers from potential Traders, Caterers and Suppliers, to provide a varied and high quality selection of food, drink, amusements and attractions, which will appeal to families and people of all ages. Traders will pay a pitch fee to appear at Ox-Fest 2013 but will keep 100% of takings.

FOR TRADER APPLICATIONS PLEASE CONTACT HADYN WOOD - 07973 559 203 or email:

info@soundfoundation.co.uk

SPONSORS & DONATIONS

There are a number of opportunities for Sponsorship and local businesses are invited to contact us to assist.

Sponsors and Donors will be listed in the Festival Guide and receive a FREE Classified Advert for their contribution. Traders will be listed & can buy Ad Space at rates shown below.

FREE FESTIVAL GUIDE - Delivered to 100,000 homes in the local area about 2 to 3 months ahead of event to promote sales. OX2, OX10, OX11, OX12, OX13, OX14, OX28, OX29, SN7 (Delivery by Royal Mail, based on 'Round & About' postal code areas - R&A)

We hope the Festival Guide will be referred to regularly on the lead up to the event and may even be retained as a souvenir. Addition copies can be purchased at the event.

There is an opportunity for Paid Advertising (See Ad Rates Guide below)

ADVERTISING

Advertising is available in the FREE Festival Guide to be delivered by Royal Mail to 100,000 homes in OX2, OX10, OX11, OX12, OX13, OX14, OX28, OX29, SN7 areas

As a Guide, Ad Costs range as follows (TBC)

FULL PAGE - £1500 (R&A all areas £2,252 including 20% discount)

HALF PAGE - £1000 (R&A all areas £1,380 including 20% discount)

THIRD PAGE - £750

QUARTER PG - £600

SIXTH PAGE - £400

EIGHTH PAGE - £300 (R&A all areas £356 including 20% discount)

TENTH PAGE - £240

SIXTEENTH PG - £150 (16th page in R&A all areas £213.60 including 20% discount)

IF YOU WISH TO ADVERTISE IN THE FREE FESTIVAL GUIDE, PLEASE CONTACT HADYN WOOD - 07973 559 203 or email: info@soundfoundation.co.uk

Thanks so much for your interest.

If you'd like to know more or would be happy to meet me discuss your possible involvement in OX-FEST 2013 please feel free to email me or call any time. [Printable document covering all this information](#)

Kindest regards

H Hadyn R Wood (Director)

The Sound Foundation

PO Box 4900

RG10 0GA

Cell: +44 (0) 7973 559 203

<http://www.soundfoundation.co.uk/>

<http://www.bestofbuble.com/>

Sponsor Amy - she's cutting off her hair - 24/10/12

Im a profoundly deaf single mum of 4 and live in Faringdon, children attend Shellingford Primary. Am isolated, Felicity's father doesnt have anything to do with her. I have long thick auburn hair!

Read her story on <https://www.justgiving.com/Amy-Barcy>. She is supporting [Group B Strep Support](#) (Charity Registration No. 1112065)

Keys Found - 23/10/12

Having only posted a couple of hours ago about my lost keys they have already been safely returned. Thank you to the great site that is Faringdon.org and to the generous lady who went out of her way to return them. Name Supplied

This is a message from Thames Valley Alert Information sent on behalf of Thames Valley Police

Between Sunday (14/10) and Tuesday (16/10) a property in Orchard Hill, Faringdon, was burgled. Offender(s) gained entry by forcing a rear kitchen door. An untidy search was carried out before stealing jewellery and a Dyson vacuum cleaner.

On Sunday (21/10) between 13:30hrs and 16:30hrs, offender(s) broke into a vehicle parked in Ashbury, and stole a wallet and a mobile phone which had been left in the footwell.

Police are urging anyone who saw any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area to report it via the101 number. We are particularly interested in receiving information from anyone who may have seen either a silver Audi sports car (possibly with chrome wing mirrors and blacked-out rear windows) or a black BMW in the area at the time of the incidents. If you have any information please call the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number 101 and quote URN 250 of 16/10. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or <mailto:online%20@crimestoppers-uk.org>. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Lost Keys - 23/10/12

Lost- A house key in the Faringdon area, lost when jogging around lunch time on Monday 22 October. I would really appreciate a call/text if you have found it. 07734176109.

Name Supplied

Re Parking - 22/10/12

Thank you for the quick update on that. Something needs to be done as the enforcement at the moment seems to be a joke!

Colin

Cinema in Faringdon - 23/10/12

The Regent Cinema presents: The Avengers Assemble at the Corn Exchange, 8th November 2012

Cert 12a

7.30pm The Corn Exchange Adults £4 Under 18's £3 Family 2 Adults 2 Under 18 £10

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2012/apr/26/avengers-assemble-review>

Update - Faster Broadband in Oxfordshire- 22/10/12

See Hugo Pickering's offer to set up a Google group to enable ongoing conversation between Broadband Champions in Oxfordshire: -

You can join the group Hugo has set up at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/oxon-bb-champs>

Then request permission to join emailing oxon-bb-champs@googlegroups.com

[Have your say](#)

Eddy McDowall M: 077 86 277 972

E: eddy.mcdowall@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Want to Zumba? - 22/10/12

Ever wanted to try Zumba? New Zumba Classes in the Corn Exchange, every Monday. Starts at 11.15am and finishes at 12pm, only £4.00 per person.

Contact Denise Tuesday on 07732 971398 for details.

Parking - 22/10/12

Had to drive down London Street today and then up Coxwell Street and noticed the following. There is always a Blue Ford Galaxy type car parked on the double yellows on London Street day and night and on Coxwell Street parked right across the pavement were perhaps 5 or 6 cars!

I know in Faringdon double yellows mean parking for free all day long, but why should drivers feel it is okay to park across the pavement. Pavements are for people and pushchairs, not cars and cycles.

Just when are the Police, wardens or whoever going to do the job they are supposed to do?

Colin

ED(GW) I spoke to Community police in the square last Sunday. They said they are no longer giving warnings to those who have illegally parked - they issue tickets straight away. They told me there are people in Faringdon who constantly park illegally and have a whole row of tickets proudly displayed on their windscreens. The police also said that Oxfordshire County are meant to be taking over onstreet parking enforcement (I've asked the County when this will be- am awaiting a reply). In the meantime the police, using only a paper based approach (rather

than having devices that collect the evidence and issue the ticket automatically) said they are 'doing their best'

LOST - Child's grey 'fur' scarf with Koala bear one end - 22/10/12

My 3 yr old daughter is devastated to have lost her precious 'fur' Koala scarf between Budgens car park and the corn exchange at 9.45am on Monday 22nd October. Only 5 minutes of it being lost we retraced our steps but to no avail. If you've found it please call 07786 231130 to make a little girl happy once more.

Thanks
Samantha Brady

VWHDC Budget Consultation workshop - 22/10/12

VWHDC have employed consultants to run a consultation workshop about the budget- they say 'We value the opinions of residents. If we are meeting your needs, we want to know what we are doing right, to ensure that we continue in the same way. More importantly, if we are not meeting your needs we want to know where we are going wrong, so that we can look at ways of improving in future' . I'm told several people from Faringdon are going.

If you are one of the people going and want to hear the views of other local residents you can always ask for comments here.

Anyone can give their views on the budget by taking part in an online survey by Wednesday 7 November at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/haveyoursay - for paper copies of the survey please contact Kate Prince, Consultation Officer on 01235 547614.

1st Faringdon Scout Group CEILIDH- 20/10/12

1st Faringdon Scouts would like to thank everyone who attended and supported our Ceilidh in the Corn Exchange yesterday. We made nearly £300 for the group which is fantastic. Horseplay, the band, were great and sounded amazing - in fact, we had such a good time that we'd like to do it again next year!

Also, don't forget that we will be having a garage sale at the end of April or early May and it will be a good opportunity to clear out your spaces for the coming year (and re-purpose any unwanted Christmas presents). Many thanks to you all Faith Carpenter
Fundraising Chair 1st Faringdon Scouts

Faringdon Radio- 20/10/12

I have only occasionally listened to Faringdon Radio and thought it fitted in nicely with all the other means of finding out whats going on in the area but after reading the comments on this site I thought I'd check it out again and see what the fuss was about. WOW now that's what I call a change in style and for me it really works - lets have more of this.

Beth

Write a poem about Faringdon - Free to enter poetry competition -

17/10/12

Anyone can submit up to 3 poems. The top prize will be £1000 cash.
No age limit. The poem can be about someone or something from the poet's home area.
It can be descriptive, historic, romantic, factual or personal- anything as long as there is a local connection
25 lines, no ore than 160 words

Deadline 31st December

More information and online form <http://www.unitedpress.co.uk/free-poetry-competitions/>

HALLOWEEN at the Folly Tower. Wednesday 31st October - 18/10/12

Climb the Tower at night. It will be SPOOKY! ! Spooky people, Scary things, Creepy lights

5.30pm- 8pm

Adults £2, Children 11-16 50p Free for Children under 11

For more information at <http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/>, or 01367 241142 or

<mailto:enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk>

Faringdon Folly Tower Trust – registered Charity No: 284795

Lucky Wantage- free wifi - 17/10/12

Retail, leisure and hospitality businesses in and around the Wantage and Grove area are being given the opportunity to attract extra custom through a town centre advertisement service.

The free Wantage town centre Wi-Fi service, which launched in April, offers space on its landing page for local businesses to advertise to members of the public who log on to use the popular service.

The service, which covers the Market Place, allows people visiting, living or working in the town centre to access the internet easily and for free using their smartphones, lap-tops, tablets or PDAs to find out information about the town.

Since launch, there have been over 6,400 individual visits with 57 per cent of these, or 3,800 users, new visitors, meaning that the service offers a way for businesses to reach a great number of potential new customers at a very competitive rate.

The free Wi-Fi service was introduced to encourage visitors to extend their stay in the town centre by providing them with an easy to use information source, encouraging them to stop for longer in the town for refreshments or to do some shopping.

The service was paid for by Vale of White Horse District Council and is partly supported through income generated from the advertisements.

Businesses interested in taking advantage of the opportunity to advertise to a wider audience in Wantage should contact Karen Ogden on 0844 99 11 200 or email Karen.ogden@cts-group.co.uk

Cllr Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure and Property at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "Many businesses are looking for new and innovative ways to reach more people and bring in extra custom. The free Wi-Fi service in Wantage is great for people visiting the town, but it also offers local businesses an opportunity to get their messages out to a large number of people in the same area."

Burglaries - 17/10/12

Five burglaries in one day. Hopefully the Police had the helicopter up looking for the culprits and weren't trying to catch dogs chasing bunnys again.

Regards Mark

Carterton has another supermarket - 17/10/12

I see in the news that Carterton just down the road from this little backwater, is to get its THIRD supermarket. Next year it will have Aldi, Co-op and a Morrisons supermarket. Where is Tesco, Waitrose, Sainsburys, Aldi, Lidl, Asda

and any others I may have missed. Just when are we going to get a decent shopping experience. The Costcutter up Marlborough Gardens is very good though. Can even send Parcels from there, cheaper than another brand in the town.

Colin

Burglaries in Faringdon, Longworth and Buckland - 17/10/12

Thames Valley Police is asking members of the public in the Faringdon area to be extra vigilant following reports of five burglaries in one day. The burglaries took place during daytime hours on Monday 15 October, in Faringdon, Longworth and Buckland.

Between 08:45hrs and 16:10hrs, two properties in Coxwell Road, Faringdon were burgled.

Between 08:50hrs and 15:35hrs, one property in Cow Lane, and a second property in Longworth were burgled.

Between 11:15hrs and 13:50hrs, a property in Buckland was burgled. Property stolen included, jewellery, cash, laptop computers, cameras and a sat nav.

Police are urging anyone who saw any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area to report it via the101 number. We are particularly interested in receiving information from anyone who may have seen either a silver Audi sports car (possibly with chrome wing mirrors and blacked-out rear windows) or a black BMW in the area at the time of the incidents. If you have any information please call the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number 101 and quote URN 250 of 16/10. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or <mailto:online%20@crimestoppers-uk.org>. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Birds Of Prey Experience - 17/10/12

Looking for something to do at the weekend?

Try something different.

Why not have a Bird Of Prey experience or party?

You can fly a Harris Hawk, Kestrel, Barn Owl or a Falcon.

If you are interested please contact us at: birds4alldoccasions@hotmail.co.uk

We also offer wedding ring delivery for your special day.

Faringdon Radio- 15/10/12

Now, tell me this a wind up? Please?

I once listened to a phone-in on Radio Caroline I think, the poor soul explained that he had cancer in his right leg, but the surgeons removed the left leg in errata.

When the mistake was discovered they then removed the right leg.

The presenter was incandescent "Have you spoken to a lawyer about this!!"

The response was predictable, the presenter exploded and I laughed 'till i cried.

Some 46 years ago, but so memorable.

Mike

Update - Faster Broadband in Oxfordshire- 14/10/12

[Update from the event c September 2012, County Hall](#)

1st Faringdon Scout Group CEILIDH Sat 20th October- 12/10/12

Tickets for the Ceilidh are suddenly selling fast, so if you are intending to dance the night away, either reserve in advance by calling 01367 241237 and paying on the door on the night, or purchase from the TIC or the Nut Tree. The Ceilidh, in aid of 1st Faringdon Scouts, is on Saturday 20th October with doors at 7.30 for an 8pm start.

Family £20, Adult £7.50, Child £5 Bar, Raffle.
Faith Carpenter Fundraising
Chair 1st Faringdon Scouts

House keys found - 12/10/12

Found a set of house keys on the circular path around the new cricket pitch. If they are yours and you are sat outside your house considering breaking a window.. Tel - 07799 367096
Robbin.

Faringdon Radio and basket weaving - 12/10/12

Faringdon Radio mentioned freestyle basket weaving - I have run a many basket weaving courses over the years and support the publicity given to the art on the show. Research has shown that it is very a therapeutic pass time and can heal a whole range of illness from car sickness, boredom, violent tendencies and constipation (there is an enzyme in many British willows that has a positive laxative effect). I have taught basket weaving in prisons and and seen the transformational effect on many hardened criminals. Im very interested in learning about freestyle basket weaving and look forward to hearing that Austrian chap hear how it changed his life. If anyone wants to come to one of my courses please see below

Robert Overton

<http://www.arca.uk.net/join-arca/member-testimonials/autumn-winter09-004/>

Re Red tarmac - 12/10/12

The first lot was laid at the top of Marlborough St by the roundabout. It is supposed to help stop drivers going the wrong way on a one-way street. It obviously doesn't work as it is still happening, I had to walk in front of a driver this evening who had turned right out of Bromsgrove into Marlborough Street.

Jane Boulton

ED(GW) I see we now have repainted white and yellow lines around the town. I suppose they're necessary- but I wonder what places like Lacock do to minimise such things? I guess too repainted lines mean there are no plans to do any more resurfacing.

Health Walks in Faringdon and other places - 12/10/12

Faringdon's walks start from underneath the Old Town Hall, leaving at 10.30. We have 2 walks, 1 for 45 minutes, 1 for 1hr 15minutes, approximately.

Each walk has a leader and a back marker. The back marker walks at the pace of the slowest so there are no worries about keeping up.

[See more about Healthwalks](#)

Watch out!! - 12/10/12

On the drive home from work today (Thursday 12th), two boys aged around 14yr/15yr standing at the side of the road near Sudbury house, threw a good sized stone at my husbands car, leaving the windscreen chipped.

Hopefully this is a one off!!

Please be careful :(

Name Supplied

Festive Faringdon - 12/10/12

Does anyone know when 'Festive faringdon' is this year.

Thanks

Cheryl

ED(GW) 2013?

Radio Faringdon To James Lee- 11/10/12

I think you've missed the point that man was desperate for proper advice and irrelevant if his wife is having affairs with his father, brothers and best friend to imply that it was all his fault because he's boring was simply unforgivable and unprofessional. I dont think that an NVQ level one in psychology is sufficient training to give marriage guidance support. I suspect the presenter was sort of joking when he said his Bi**h ...wife should be burnt in the market place for what she did but this sends a wrong message about how to resolve conflict.

I do like the idea of freestyle basket weaving and again although I think the presenter was trying to be funny it does have therapeutic effects and maybe that mans wife would value it. I can't make the date mentioned in the show for the talk - does anyone else run any such courses.

Sharon

Hideous Red tarmac - 11/10/12

There appeared today, a large patch of red tarmac (presumably laid by Oxford County) at the junction of Bromsgrove and Marlborough St. Presumably this is to improve safety.

How has this been decided as a priority? I live nearby and I've never seen a car fail to stop at this junction. Cars approach very cautiously as the visibility into Marlborough St is poor, due to parked cars.

I thought the County was short of money and couldn't deal with potholes and poor pavements?

Can't we have a say in what happens in Faringdon, especially in the conservation area?

Gene Webb

Oxford County Council Transport Strategy for Faringdon (April 2012) -

11/10/12

You can see what Oxford County Council are planning (or not) for Faringdon, in terms of transport and roads on: <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/faringdon-area-transport-strategy> and you can comment using the Contact us link on the right of the page.

I'm not convinced they know Faringdon very well!

Ed(GW)

Re Faringdon Radio- 10/10/12

I heard the advice given to that person on the 'phone in' (well I think it was actually someone in the studio as this is a podcast not a live radio show) and felt it was about right. Only a small amount of the issues were relayed on the current show and if you heard all the other stuff I'm sure you would agree that that man Jeff was quite boring ...assuming Jeff is his real name.

Faringdon Radio are organising a special trip with The Faringdon Protection League to Westmill Windfarm - I didn't know that's what happend down there - about time too these hoodies have been getting away with it for far too long. The problem is the show was cut off or forced off by the sounds of it so they didn't give any details of the trip and they are not answering emails - does anyone know anything about the trip as I feel very strongly about this

subject and want to participate.
Lee James

Re Faringdon Radio- 10/10/12

I've been listening to Faringdon Radio for a while now and found the show useful and interesting but in the last show I was shocked by the presenters attitude and quite understand why he has had his licence suspended by the Internet Broadcasting Standards...the way he disregarded that poor mans situation was insensitive and unprofessional. I suppose he thought he was trying to be helpful and make light of the situation but his apology didn't seem that sincere to me. Plus on another issue I don't think there are too many coffee shops in town and I look forward to hearing the interview with the person who was protesting about them...when ever the show comes back on line.
Sharon

Neighbourhood Policing Monthly Update- 9/10/12

Welcome to October's Faringdon neighbourhood update.
There has been a noticeable difference in the weather over the past few weeks and it is quite clear that autumn is now upon us.
In September we continued with Op Mojito the Anti Social Behaviour operation in an effort to combat ASB across the Faringdon sector. We had some excellent feedback regarding the operation in Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize where we had a noticeable drop in ASB over the past few weeks. If you need to report ASB in your area the quickest and easiest way to report this to us is to call it in on telephone number 101.

Faringdon extract

There were several reports of hare coursing in September across the Faringdon sector. I would ask everyone to keep a look out for activity of this nature as it is most prevalent between September and February and we have a zero tolerance policy on dealing with offences of this nature.

To get instant messages relating to offences like this and others please go to the Thames Valley Police website or register your interest at <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/> to receive alerts via text phone or email

HAVE YOUR SAY MEETINGS

The following Have Your Say Meetings are being held in your Neighbourhood: **Sunday 14th October between 3pm – 4pm Faringdon Market Place**

Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have.

If you are unable to attend but wish to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers, please call 101.

Faringdon Radio- 8/10/12

'Faringdon Local' on 'Faringdon Radio' - show 41 out now

This week my idiot twin brother takes the mic while I think about the future. In the show hear about naked alligator juggling, Faringdon's first Eco-friendly execution centre, The Womens Institute and Faringdon Dramatic Society's next panto.

Music from:

Don't call me baby by [The Yearning](#)

The Happy Song by [The Tramp Aviators](#)

Dr Paranoia by [The Man with the Stereo Hands](#)

<http://www.faringdonradio.com/>

You tell us what you want and we do what we want

New Greengrocers? - 7/10/12

Does anyone know if a greengrocers is coming to Faringdon? There's a sign in the i-centre window about 'Five a Day' coming soon opposite the Red Lion. Would be a great addition to the town, esp if they stay open at least one evening a week to get custom from folk who work full time. The guys on the Tues morn market are great, but it would be nice to have access to decent fresh fruit and veg in town a bit closer to the weekend. Thanks!
Name supplied

Oct 15 - Nov 2 – Kicking the Bucket Festival - 6/10/12

This festival will invite you to ask the questions you haven't dared to ask. It will inspire and inform, support and challenge. By engaging with death we can revitalise our lives – this Festival is a celebration of that possibility. See the festival website for the full programme <http://www.kickingthebucket.co.uk/>

Folly Tower Open- last opening this year(apart from Halloween)- 6/10/12

Sunday 7th, 11am-5pm
Adults £2, 11-16s 50p, under elevens free
Lots more to see and do at the Folly - Vista panels on the roof to help interpret the surrounding countryside, information boards- Henry James Pye, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Berners, Robert Heber-Percy +++
Come and walk round the woodland - find the civil war cannon , the 24 blackbirds and giant pie, Lord Berners high in a tree, the fairly useless bridgeand more.
<http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/>

Half Built House - 6/10/12

Are you at your wits end?
If this is you then 'Half Built House' wants to hear from you.
Sian Astley and her team are ready and waiting to help you fix up your house and make your property dreams come true!
If this sounds like you, please email us at Half Built House and tell us about your DIY disasters
halfbuilt@zodiakmedia.com or call our hotline on 0207 013 4227
[Channel 5 Half Built House website](#)

Annual Shopping evening. 6th November - 5/10/12

Corn Exchange 7.30pm-9.30pm
IN aid of Sunshine and Cat Rescue and 'Little Heart Matters'
£2.50 to include a drink and mince pie and chance to win a luxury food hamper.
Our stalls are varied and aim at something for everyone. It's a chance to get your Christmas shopping started or even finished in a relaxed and friendly environment.
Refreshments will be available on the night, including homemade cakes
For a last minute booking for one of our tables which cost £15 , please contact Ruth on 01367 242613 or Sarah on 07837978440
Please come along and support two great charities , as all profits will be split between them.
If you are interested in having a stall contact 01367 242613 or ruth10mitchell@hotmail.co.uk

Operation tackling rural crime across Wantage and Faringdon. - 5/10/12

On the nights of Thursday 27th and Friday 28th September 2012, officers from across the Vale of White Horse were deployed in a policing operation aimed at tackling rural crime in our area.

The operation was also run in partnership with officers from the West Berkshire local policing area. As a result of the operation valuable intelligence was gathered and one man was arrested on suspicion of taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent.

If you have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or <mailto:online@crimestoppers-uk.org>.

No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan

Further to the public meeting that was held in the Corn Exchange on the 2 October when members of the public were updated with progress made on the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, a copy of the presentation made can be found <http://www.faringdonplan.webs.com/>

At the meeting a questionnaire was also circulated which members of the public were able to fill in outlining their views on the key questions raised. These views would then be forwarded to the Planning Consultants to help inform the drawing up of the Neighbourhood Plan.

For those people who could not attend the public meeting on the 2 October, a copy of the questionnaire can also be found at <http://www.faringdonplan.webs.com/>

Completed questionnaires should be forwarded to hilary@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk to be received no later than 5.00 pm on 9 October 2012.

Digital Radio Signal - 4/10/12

Thinking of getting a DAB Digital Radio but the coverage checker is unsure if many channels will be received in Faringdon.

Could anyone else with a DAB Radio please comment on the channels they receive in the area please?

Name Supplied

Cinema in Faringdon - 4/10/12

The Regent Cinema is returning to the Corn Exchange.

First Showing November 8th 2012! 7.30pm

Film announcement coming soon.....

Sally Thurston

Faringdon Town Council

Don't tell anyone - 3/10/12

Many thanks to Andy for his kind words about Faringdon's walks. As one of the farmers looking after the countryside around the town, it is something we take care over. At Wicklesham, we've taken steps over the past few years that I believe enhance the diversity of what you can see and enjoy, and it's really nice to hear that's been noticed. Farmers in the area work with the county council to keep footpaths and bridleways in good condition.

One point to note, however – please stick to those footpaths & permitted ways. A lot of what we do is specifically to encourage wildlife, such as ground-nesting birds who, for the most part, like to be left in peace. Wicklesham Copse (near the red brick railway bridge) doesn't actually have a footpath through it, and should be considered out of bounds, although there is a nature trail that we open at certain times of the year. It may be Lyde Copse you're referring to, which does indeed have a bridleway running through its northern side.

Tom Allen-Stevens

PRESS RELEASE: Vale residents urged to help shape 2013/14 budget - 2/10/12

Residents in the Vale of White Horse are being encouraged to take part in a survey to help shape the 2013/14 budget.

Between Wednesday 3 October and Wednesday 7 November people will be able to take part in a survey asking their opinion on a variety of topics relating to next year's Vale of White Horse District Council budget.

Residents will have the chance to have their say on what services they think the council should prioritise and how the council should spend funds in these financially uncertain times

Those responding to the survey will be asked for feedback on the scheme introduced last year to give two hours free parking in council car parks. Other topics include investment in promoting sport and physical activity, and whether the council should use powers to change the amount of Council Tax paid on properties such as empty and second homes.

As part of the consultation the Vale will also be carrying out a workshop with members of the council's Residents' Panel, which will allow issues to be discussed more in depth, with closer consideration of the costs involved.

This year the annual budget consultation is taking place much earlier than normal. This will allow more time and opportunity for residents' views to be taken into account in the decision making process.

Once the consultation period has ended the Vale's cabinet will consider all responses prior to making its budget proposal ahead of the council meeting on Wednesday 20 February

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader and cabinet member for finance, said: "Financially we are in a much more stable position than we were a few years ago, however with less funding coming from the government each year coupled with the ongoing economic problems, it is very important that we continue to be robust in how we manage our spending.

"While we have to ensure our finances are secure our primary goal is to deliver first class services for our residents. Therefore we encourage people to complete the survey to let us know what they think should be the priorities for our next budget and how they think we should develop our services so they provide better value for money."

"While we have to ensure our finances are secure our primary goal is to deliver first class services for our residents. Therefore we encourage people to complete the survey to let us know what they think should be the priorities for our next budget and how they think we should develop our services so they provide better value for money."

To find out more about the 2013/14 budget, and to take part in the survey please visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

If you would like a paper copy of the survey please contact the Vale's consultation officer on 01235 547614

Don't tell anyone - 2/10/12

There are many great walks around Faringdon, increasingly they are updated and well maintained. Over the last 15 years access to these paths has been getting better and better. I don't know who is responsible, whether it is land owners, local council or country side commission, but whoever it is needs to be thanked. One of my regular strolls today, to Hatford, Stanford in the Vale, over to Shellingford through Wicklesham Copse and home (about 10 miles) , has just been enhanced with a lovely walk though 'Chinham Copse', with new bridges perfect to play 'poo sticks' with.

The walks need to be used, but not too much as they will become boggy, so use them yourselves, but don't tell anyone else.

And, thank you to whoever maintains the good paths.

Andy

Job, Work Experience, Volunteering opportunities- advertise on this site - 2/10/12

If you are a local business and have job, trainee or apprenticeship, or work experience opportunities, please send an email to

<mailto:enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk>

with job details, suitable candidate information, start and end dates and contact information.

[Free posting on this page](#), which you can find from the Business section of this site

Maybe you are a voluntary group or organisation who can provide a young person some invaluable work experience that will help them get a paid job. Please do get in touch as above if you could do with some help.

Faringdon Youth Project was started in September 2012 with the sole purpose of helping young people find work.

Advice sessions are every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 4pm- 5.30pm at Faringdon Library

You can see more about the advice and assistance on offer on [Faringdon Youth Project website](#)

Faringdon Family Centre offers debt advice - 2/10/12

Do you need help with your financial planning?

Are you getting behind with a loan repayment?

Concerned about debt?

Free and confidential advice from a trained advisor.

Practical help in dealing with creditors

Call 01367 242432 or ffcdcs@gmail.com

Re Market Square Ambience - 2/10/12

I agree. The Bell is one of our most important historic buildings. The style of the advertising is not at all suitable and detracts from the whole appearance of the building.

Name Supplied

Market Square Ambience - 1/10/12

What an untidy image at The Bell Hotel forecourt: Sky banner and numerous advertising boards. Surely there are more aesthetic ways to get the message across without cluttering the market square and demeaning a once-proud old coaching inn.

Name Supplied

Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting. Tuesday 2nd October - 1/10/12

Corn Exchange 7pm

Using the views from earlier meetings the Consultants will present an outlinedraft plan and ask our views on some of the issues

This is your chance to have your say

<http://faringdonplan.webs.com/>

No action on double yellow lines - 30/11/12

I see that if any of the traffic regulation enforcement types are around, there are still the usual suspects who continue to flout the use of double yellow lines all day and night as well as parking on pavements and causing obstruction!

When will something be done.

Colin

FollyFest Fundraising Update- 30/11/12

Well....we started the fundraising effort in early November and have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people in Faringdon either residents or local businesses.

Special thanks this month go to the sponsors of the FollyFest calendar which are: Budgens, the Portwell Angel, Quidne-IT, MyPA, Focus Data, the Cellar Bar and Eda Louise – without their sponsorship we now wouldn't have a calendar printed. The photographs in the calendar are of Faringdon and the surrounding areas by Al Cane, Graham Fletcher and Teresa Reynolds and are very well priced at £5 each. You can buy them by emailing follyfest@btinternet.com but from tomorrow you can buy them from the Cellar Bar too and we also have a stand at Festive Faringdon tomorrow 1st December.

This month we also had some very generous donations from local businesses: Pete from Pat Thomas has given us a great deal on a medium sized Peachcroft turkey (Patricia) which we will be raffling at Festive Faringdon; we had a iPad donated by Ray from Focus Data, a John Lewis 2012 Christmas Teddy and Pete from Webbs Wood donated us the wheelbarrow for the Barrow of Booze raffle. The iPad, Teddy and Barrow will all be drawn at the Carols in the Red Lion at tea-time on 23rd December so make sure you're there.

Here are our fundraising totals so far:

- Target: £10,000
- Raised so far: £651.53
- Left to Raise: £9,348.47

Forthcoming Events:

- Festive Faringdon – 1st December – FollyFest have a stall and will be selling calendars and raffle tickets – come and have a chat and keep us warm!
- Carols in the Red Lion – 23rd December at 5.30pm – FollyFest will be drawing the raffles in time for Christmas!
- Recruitment Night in the Cellar Bar – first of 3 – Wednesday 9th January 2013 – if you'd like to run a stall, lend a hand, be in a play, help build the stage, fundraise, marshall, judge a competition or run an event come and have a chat with us...
- FollyFest Quiz Night (2) in the Old Crown Coaching Inn – 23rd January 2013

Don't forget you can keep up to date with fundraising, events and news on our website which is <http://www.follyfest.co.uk/> or on Facebook which is www.facebook.com/FollyFest

Your support and attendance at our events is greatly appreciated. We are doing our best to consider every angle at a time when cash is tight for local residents and trades alike and make sure the events are good value for money as well as building a sense of community pulling together. We really hope we can achieve what we set out to do and look to you to keep us on track.

Very warmest wishes to you all...

The FollyFest Team

World Aids Day - 29/11/12

World Aids Day in 1st December.

Red ribbons for World Aids Day are available in The Portwell Angel

Oxfordshire County Council Consultation Portal Fire and Rescue Service - 26/11/12

Community Risk Management Plan 2013-2018 and Action Plan 2013

To find out the latest information about what is happening in the consultation, please go to:

<https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/CRMP13/consultationHome> (If clicking doesn't work, "Copy" and "Paste" the line above into your web browser's address bar.)

You may be required to create a password for the site if you have not done so already.

Ends 11 Feb 2013

Selling through this website - 24/11/12

Seeing the recent suggestion that you can sell items through Faringdon.org classified ads, I thought I would give it a try having unsuccessfully tried to sell my bike carrier on eBay and Gumtree.

Immediate success – I sold it to a chap in Swindon inside 24 hours!

Local is often best and it's free.

Steve

Tax dodging campaign

Businesses based in the UK aren't playing on a level playing field. From our local bookshops, right up to big names like John Lewis they're being undercut and put out of business by tax dodgers.

Something needs to change. [3] Alongside this, scores of high profile business people and celebrities have been dodging tax on their incomes. Our public services are being cut and we're being asked to tighten our belts whilst others are being let off scot free.

Complete the survey. Takes 2 mins

<https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/tax-dodging-poll>

The Sensible Folly - a Faringdon Fantasy.... - 23/11/12

Have you got your copy yet- good stocking filler

See <http://www.faringdon.org/ttfolly%20story2.htm> or from Faringdon Tourist Information

Cold Callers - 24/11/12

Police have received reports of an alarm company cold calling on residents in our area. The most recent incidents were reported yesterday (22/11) from residents in Shrivenham, near Faringdon, stating the callers said they were working with the police and offering free alarms systems.

These systems are NOT free; there is usually a £300 installation fee plus a monthly fee. The police do not work with any companies who cold call.

If you are interested in receiving free advice on home security please contact the police on 101 and ask to speak to a member of your local neighbourhood team who will be happy to carry out a free home security survey of your home.

Lists of approved alarm companies can be obtained through the Trading Standards buy with confidence scheme, please call 0845 051 0845 or visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk for details.

If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, please try to obtain vehicle details, including colour/make/model/registration number and a description of any occupants/people seen. Please report any information as soon as possible on the non-emergency number 101 or call 999 for crime in progress.
Thames Valley Police

Vale of White Horse residents: have your say on boundary changes - 22/11/12

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking people across Vale of White Horse to comment on its draft proposals for new electoral arrangements for Vale of White Horse District Council.

A public consultation on the recommendations began last week and will end on 7 January 2013. The consultation is open to anyone in Vale of White Horse who wants to have their say on new council wards, ward boundaries and ward names across the district.

The Commission's draft recommendations propose that Vale of White Horse District Council should have 38 councillors in the future – thirteen fewer than under the current arrangements. The recommendations also outline how those councillors should represent two three-member wards, eleven two-member wards and ten single-member wards across the district. The full recommendations and interactive maps are available at consultation.lgbce.org.uk and on the Commission's website at www.lgbce.org.uk. Hard copies of the Commission's report and maps will also be available to view at council buildings and libraries.

Max Caller CBE, Chair of the Commission, said: "We are publishing proposals for a new pattern of wards across Vale of White Horse and we are keen to hear what local people think of the recommendations.

"Over the next eight weeks, we are asking local people to tell us if they agree with the proposals or if not, how they can be improved.

"Our review aims to deliver electoral equality for Vale of White Horse's voters. This means that each councillor represents a similar number of people so that everyone's vote in district council elections is worth roughly the same regardless of where you live.

"We also want to ensure that our proposals reflect the interests and identities of local communities across Vale of White Horse and that the pattern of wards can help the council deliver effective local government to local people.

"We will consider all the submissions we receive whoever they are from and whether your evidence applies to the whole district or just a part of it.

"We have an open mind about suggestions from local people to change and improve these recommendations.

Please note that the Commission is also carrying out an electoral review of neighbouring South Oxfordshire District Council and will consider each authority separately throughout the process. Write or email by 7 January 2013:

The Review Officer (Vale of White Horse)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk Have your say directly through the Commission's consultation portal: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Link to the dedicated web page for the Vale of White Horse electoral review: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire/vale-of-white-horse-fer

Oxtails Project Update - 22/11/12

"Creating stories and attracting visitors to your businesses across Southern Oxfordshire"

Welcome to the Oxtails project update Supporting tourism and attracting visitors to our area is key to South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils. Consequently, we're working with Hidden Britain to produce a series of trails and travel itineraries, including maps

and smartphone apps, which will really bring the area to life for visitors and locals alike.

This is a great opportunity for businesses located in and around market towns and villages to get involved and work with Hidden Britain to make sure we include the best of what we have to offer to visitors. The end results will enable us all to promote our area and support sustainable tourism revenues.

We hope you enjoy this first update on the project and feel inspired to get involved.

Trudy Godfrey

Shared Economic Development Team Leader

<http://www.hiddenbritainse.org.uk/oxtrails.htm>

Fernham Fields - 22/11/12

I agree with John Seedell, local residents need to keep an eye on this development, as well as the Town Council. It's worth keeping an eye through <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application/planning-application-register>. You can search for all undecided applications for Faringdon.

Sadly VWHDC site doesn't have an alert option that tells you when a new planning application for Faringdon/your area has been submitted, so it's a case of looking every now and again.

Name Supplied

Reminder about Christmas parking days - 22/11/12

People in the Vale of White Horse can park for free for two hours every day of the year in district council car parks and, once again this December, will be able to take advantage of an entire day of free parking in the run up to Christmas.

Drivers in the Vale of White Horse will be able to park for free in district council car parks in Abingdon and Faringdon all day on Saturday 1 December, while motorists in Wantage will be able to park for free on Saturday 8 December.

The annual free parking tradition is provided by the district council in December to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents, helping to boost the local town centre economy in the process.

For this day only people can park for free and do not have to display a ticket.

Elaine Ware, cabinet member for economic development and parking for the Vale, said: "We hope as many people as possible will take advantage of the free Christmas parking to get their presents from their nearest Vale market town centres. And remember, for those who already have other plans on those Saturdays, they can still park for free for two hours all year round."

To John Seedell - 21/11/12

So that would be your elected members. The Planning and Highways Committee of your Town Council.

Jane Boulton (FTC)

52 things to do far from the maddening beaches business survey -

21/11/12

One year ago, the Council was successful in obtaining European funding from the Southern Oxfordshire LEADER programme to write a book to promote the area to visitors. Working in partnership with the business partnerships in the towns of Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon, we held a competition and used written, photographic and art-work entries from the public to produce a book highlighting the strengths of the area.

We are now required to evaluate the impact that this has had on businesses in the Vale.

We welcome your feedback, and hope you can spare two minutes of your time to give us some feedback .

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/88QQW2T>

Fernham Fields proposed development - 19/11/12

As has already been observed this development is outside Faringdon parish but what has not been publicised is that the houses will not be counted when Faringdon's council tax precept is calculated and so no money will be payable to Faringdon despite the fact that to all intents and purposes it will be part of the town using the town's services and facilities!

Name supplied

Businesses to give their verdict on free parking scheme- 21/11/12

Surely, the customers are more important than the shops and a questionnaire should be aimed at them? Or am I just old fashioned and out of date?

Come on VOWH, get real!!!!

The Consultant.

Businesses to give their verdict on free parking scheme- 20/11/12

Town centre businesses in the Vale of White Horse are being asked to assess the impact that the introduction of two hours free parking in district council car parks has had on their business.

The two hours free parking scheme was launched across Vale of White Horse District Council car parks in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage in December 2011. The aim of scheme was to bring more people into town centres, allowing them to visit local shops, cafes and places of interest without having to worry about the cost of parking, and helping to boost local trade in the process.

The scheme, which was widely welcomed when it was introduced, resulted in an immediate increase in the numbers using Vale car parks for short term visits and this has continued throughout the year.

The scheme was seen as especially important in Abingdon where significant development work to Abbey Shopping Centre is taking place throughout 2012 and has temporarily reduced the number of shops open in the town centre.

The Vale is now keen to hear whether the introduction of two hours free parking provided a boost to businesses in the three town centres. Businesses are being asked to complete a survey asking them to assess what impact the scheme may have had on their turnover and footfall, and whether it has had an overall positive or negative effect on their business.

Cllr Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure and Property at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We introduced two hours free parking a year ago primarily to give a boost to local traders as we were confident that allowing people to park free would help encourage them to visit our town centres more often and spend more time there.

"We are now keen to hear from business whether they benefited from the scheme, and if so to what extent. It's therefore quite important that as many organisations as possible take part in the survey and give their honest assessment."

To take part in the survey please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F5LKR5D>.

The consultation closes on Friday 14 December.

Sell items for free on For sale, Wanted or Free Vale of White Horse.-

20/11/12

If you have anything you are selling, giving away or wanting then you can put it on Facebook page - For sale, Wanted or Free Vale of White Horse - which is specially for people in the Vale area keeping it local.

Swindon area runs one which has over 23,000 members so we are hoping to emulate their success, the more

members the more potential buyers, so if you feel it is something you could benefit from please join us.
Name supplied

ED(gw) Advertise free also on <http://faringdon.org/nvclassifiedsfs.htm>

Southampton St Car park - 20/11/12

Now that the interior of Budgens has been completed to make it quite a tiny shop, it does indeed look a lot better but the exterior needs attention. The footpath that runs past the shop to the Red Lion has a wall that looks decidedly unsafe. Look at the corner of the "flower bed" at the Red Lion end and you will see it is crumbling and due to its proximity to the path, needs an expert eye on it.

We still need a "better" place to shop as this town is very much behind the times compared to ANY other town in the VWHDC area.

When will the town get the facilities we deserve?

Colin

Fernham Fields proposed development - 19/11/12

I visited the exhibition in the Pump Rooms on Saturday and as one would expect found the proposals fairly basic in content. I guess that the whole process is designed so they can calculate how they can achieve an acceptable proposal that will render the greatest profit for the developers.

It was interesting to establish that the developing company has a right to purchase the freehold from Argent Group Plc., if they should decide to move ahead. As yet they have not put their hands in their pockets above the cost of this marketing exercise.

Having said that, it seems reasonable that people should be attracted to come and live in a very lovely part of Oxfordshire, albeit, for some adjacent to the A420.

The issues that seem important are:

*Density of development

*Suitable drainage provision

*Adequate sewage disposal infrastructure

*Access to the new development without compromising current traffic flows especially at peak commuter and school run times

*Provision of shopping facilities

*Provision of school places locally

*Assurance that traffic and parking will not spill in to Fernham Road

*Provision of footpaths

*Adequate car parking for the homes and their visitors (we can see the problems created by high density housing without such provision already close to the A420)

The question of density of development is a major factor.

I would have thought that the model established in Coleshill Drive or in Fernham Gate would be good. If this impacts on the price of the houses then the developers should be encouraged to price the properties accordingly. In any event it would be good to see the establishment of a committee of local residents that would keep a close eye on proposals and engage suitable qualified representation to ensure a satisfactory result.

John Seedell

CHRISTMAS CONCERT by the COTSWOLD VOICES, featuring The Yearning

Corn Exchange, 7.30 for 8pm

Tickets are NOW ON SALE in the Nut Tree, Cornmarket, Faringdon and in the Community and Tourist Information Centre, Corn Exchange, Faringdon.

They are also available at Beaver/Cub/Scout meetings and at choir practice.

Adults £5, Under 16s £3, Family (2 adults + 2 children) £12
In aid of 1st Faringdon Scout Group

Fernham Fields exhibition for proposed housing - 18/11/12

Many people went to see the outline plans for 200 more houses at the top of Coxwell Road.

I'm concerned that the 'Share your Views' form lacked a fundamental question and so the results will be open to misinterpretation

Do you want this development to go ahead?? or similar should have been the very first question

All the questions asked were about the development, so by answering them it could be interpreted as support for the proposal.

If you want to object to it entirely, or make more comments email StephenOsborne-Brown@core-marketing.co.uk

Key features:

Mix of family housing, including social housing

No pavements

Some houses with no allocated off road parking, some with only 1 space

Average density 27 houses per hectare. (ranges up to 40+, presumably the social housing)

1 access road onto the old A420 towards Gt Coxwell

In Gt Coxwell parish

No mention of water, sewage, schools, traffic- any amenities

No details of road widths

More info (but not much) on <http://www.fernhamfields.info/>
ED(GW)

New Budgens prices - 17/11/12

Budgens may have put the prices up, but don't all shops? How do you know the price wouldn't have gone up anyway?

If you are only looking at one product (incidentally, was it like for like, ie a 4 pints carton of milk in Budgens compared with a 4 pints carton of milk in Costcutters?

It didn't seem to be.) then:

Before the refit - 4 fresh crusty rolls = £1 After the refit - 4 fresh crusty rolls = £1

and

Before the refit - fresh baked parisien = £1 After the refit - fresh baked parisien = £1

Fiona

Running/Triathlon Club - 17/11/12

I am new to running and have thoughts/plans of taking part in my first triathlon next year. The Oxfordshire and Wiltshire areas seem to have a strong tradition of running and triathlon clubs.

On my regular laps of Faringdon I often see the same faces doing their own training. The closest running group I have spotted on the net is Highworth Harriers, Faringdon also seems to have the Vale Tridents Triathlon club for juniors but nothing for adults.

Would any like minded people in the area be interested in starting a running club or triathlon club?

The Faringdon Farcycles seems to be a successful group it would be nice to have something similar.

Steven Diboll, sdiboll@yahoo.co.uk

Leisure Consultation, VWHDC - 15/11/12

Both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are consulting on a draft arts, sports and leisure participation strategy.

This will outline how the councils will work together, and with local communities and other organisations, to encourage participation in sport, physical activity, art and community activities.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/about-us/tell-us-what-you-think/current-consultations/arts-sports-and-leisure-participation-strategy>

Closes 17th December

New Budgens - 15/11/12

Yes, agree its now a lovely store. However they have put their prices up.

Before refurb - 4 pints milk £1.25

After refurb - 4 pints milk £1.49, an increase of nearly 20%

I would like to think this extra money £0.24 has gone to the farmers, however I fear this is unlikely and they are trying to claw back the money they spent on the refurb.

I wonder what other price increases there have been?

Costcutter milk 2 for £2, much better price!

Name supplied

Faringdon Town Football Club- 16/11/12

Faringdon Town Football Club live in Tucker Park, which is situated opposite Storage4All on Park Road. We are currently in the process of looking to expand our changing facilities and clubhouse and therefore, we are looking for the local community to become involved in the football club. We would be very grateful if as many people of the town, would participate in a questionnaire, which would allow us to gauge who is aware of the club and it facilities.

We would like to thank in advance those people who participate.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GWMFQZ9>

Kind Regards

Martin Harries Secretary Faringdon Town Football Club

New Budgens - 15/11/12

The store looks super- so bright and clean. A much better message to people who visit our town.

Well done Budgens team

Name Supplied

New Budgens - 15/11/12

Made my first visit to our new Budgens this evening and was impressed - friendly staff, bright lighting, new clean floor, well stocked with the usual ranges and some very interesting veg to try. I thought it rather like a small Waitrose and look forward to seeing it in daylight.

Good to have them back again in the town centre where they're needed.

Cassandra

Grass Cutting- 15/11/12

My flymo strimmer uses an automatic cable feed off a small reel. The thickness of the cord makes a real difference as to whether you have to keep re-releasing a length of cord to carry on cutting.

I have a plastic bladed shredder /Vac and the blades last a long time on that. I would imagine that they would work well on a strimmer as long as you are not hitting too many stones or rocks while cutting the grass.

Regards Mark

ED(GW) Thankyou. Can anyone rec a cordless one too- I'm still undecided because of the distances needed to be covered

Park Road - 15/11/12

On Sunday my wife and I went to the remembrance parade in the market sq left the car at my mates house near butts road And walked down park road and what a mess the foot paths on the houses side of the road . i wonder when the last time they were cleaned as well as the kerb side not very good advert for the main road in to town.

When we came back we went down Southampton st to Park road best not to say to much about that .

Come on FARINGDON COUNCIL YOU CAN DO BETTER

Thanks Roy Cook

ED(GW) The street cleaning is the Vales responsibility . You can report issues on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment/street-cleaning>. That's not to say Faringdon Town council shouldn't take an interest and report accordingly to VWHDC

!! Jive Aid !! (Jive Temptation for Hope & Aid Direct)- 15/11/12

Faringdon Junior School Doors open at 7.30pm

A good, fun lesson in basic jive from Jive Temptation from 8-9ish followed by freestyle dancing until midnight.

Even if you think you have two left feet, come and give this a try – it will be a lot of fun.

No need to bring a partner.

Entrance £6 or £7 after 9pm - please note: just turn up, no tickets needed Bar

Enquiries -[mail@saraholiver.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:saraholiver.freeseve.co.uk)

Grass Cutting- 14/11/12

I have always used cheap mains cable Flymo strimmers. I tried a cheap qualcast cordless but it only lasted two years. My electric Flymo strimmer is still going strong after fifteen years.

If you buy from one of the DIY chains, if it breaks within twelve months, just take it back with the receipt and get another.

Think I paid around £45.

Please don't forget to buy an RCD plug(cuts the power if the cable is cut or if water gets in the motor etc.) for the mains lead or buy an extension lead with one already built in.

Regard Mark

ED(GW) Thanks Mark. Hope to get rid of nettles and big weeds eg docks - will it cope do you think. Cord or blade cutter?

Re Noise Limiter - 14/11/12

I'd be interested to know about it as well.

Also,if it wasn't working have there been complaints about noise from nearby residents following Friday nights event.

I thought the problem was originally caused by music which was too loud and too late at night with little consideration to people living nearby.Perhaps recent events have been at a suitable volume anyway.

Name Supplied

Fairtrade Christmas Hampers from The Mustard Seed - 14/11/12

Christmas Hampers full of delicious Fairtrade goodies can be ordered now to be ready for Christmas. Available in 3 sizes-£14.99, £19.99, £24.99 or made up to your individual requirements

Solve your Christmas present problems and experience the joy of giving knowing that you are supporting small-scale farmers in the developing world at the same time.

To place or discuss an order by phone or email contact Karen Vogt: 01367-241707 or karen@vogt.org.uk

Or order via the website: www.mustardseed.org.uk

Orders must be received no later than Friday 23rd November.

Free delivery within Faringdon or collection from Mustard Seed by Sunday 16th December.

Electric Strimmer for the Folly - 13/11/12

I've been looking at buying a strimmer for the Folly. It can't be a petrol driven one because we're not allowed to keep fuel in the tower.

So it must be electric or cordless. I've trawled the internet, but there are so many to choose from

Please, anyone out there, if you have one that you're impressed with, please tell me about it.

Thanks

Gene Webb

Joint Economic Forum for Faringdon - JEFF - 13/11/12

This is a joint working group- VWHDC, FTC and local groups- working on revitalising the town centre and increase commercial investment in Faringdon.

If you want to find out what they're doing currently have a look at tajeff.htm

ED(GW)

Weebly- website development - 12/11/12

Is anyone using this? <http://www.weebly.com/>

I've just been playing around with it for a little while, and think it is really good. Some limited functionality, but still easy to use to create a website very quickly

I'm interested in hearing about live sites- any performance or support issues?

Please let me know

Thanks

genewebb@rocketmail.com

More jobs posted - 12/11/12

If you're looking for a job see

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

Santa's Schedule - 12/11/12

Rotaries Schedule in Faringdon and around starts on the 1st December.

The time of year is here again, and Father Christmas and Thomas the Tank Engine are on the road bringing seasonal good wishes (and sweets) to as many homes in and around Faringdon as is possible. So, listen out for

the sound of Christmas carols, fling open those curtains, and join Santa and Thomas to make this Christmas a special one.

A band of his little helpers will be knocking on doors, hoping for a repeat of the usual generosity from local people and for which The Rotary Club of Faringdon & District are very grateful. All monies received are carefully donated to chosen Rotary Charities, helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Christmas Tree recycling is on 5th January

[See attached for the details](#)

The dates are on our [Whatson pages](#)

Thankyou i-cafe guys - 11/11/12

Having purchased a small computer for one of our off spring for Christmas, (and the children being so much more technology aware than us!), we did the responsible thing, and called into the i-cafe today to talk about parent lock software, and prices.

We were reliably informed that the best product to be found is free and easy to install ourselves, but they will be happy to help if we have problems. We left feeling pleasantly surprised and extremely lucky to still be living in an area where people do not sell you something just for the sake of a sale!!

With their friendly manner and patience with the computer illiterate, I will certainly be relying on them over the next few years to try and keep up and keep control of the technology at home!

Thanks guys.

Sherrie

Corn Exchange Sound Limiter - 11/11/12

Having spent an enjoyable evening at The Corn Exchange on Friday listening to three musical act I was surprised to find out that the dreaded noise limiter wasn't working. As a promoter of music I was on more then one occasion a victim of said noise limiter.

Is this lack of noise limiter the new stand by the Town council to encourage the use of the Corn Exchange as a music venue

I would really like to know.

Sam

Trace your Family History - 10/11/12

Would you like advice tracing your family history?

There are still appointments free at the Berkshire Family History Society surgery at Faringdon Library on 17th November, 10-12am.

Please call in to Faringdon Library or phone on 01367 240311 to book your place.

Sheena Gutteridge, Faringdon Library

Regent Cinema- 9/11/12

We had our first showing last night at the Regent Cinema in the Corn Exchange.

I was amazed to see the Corn Exchanged transformed it felt every inch the real cinema. It was easy to forget where you were and there was the added bonus of being able to buy a drink to enjoy while watching the film!

Thank you to those who attended, everyone was buzzing after the film full of suggestions for the future.

Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre

The Corn Exchange

SN7 7JA

01367 242191

Policing Update - 9/11/12

To quote "Unfortunately a minority of drivers took it upon themselves to warn oncoming vehicles that an enforcement operation was being conducted by flashing their lights. The team would like to remind these road users that this behaviour is illegal as it is both obstructing a police officer and inappropriate use of the headlights. Upcoming enforcement operations will be planned to tackle any such behaviour from road users in the future."

So you want help to catch burglars which you seem to struggle with but will fine people with relish who flash their lights to slow drivers down. And the Police wonder why they don't get the support of many of the general public.
Mark

Sponsored Swim - 9/11/12

Join us in a Sponsored swim in memory of Michael Poole.
On Saturday 1st December at Faringdon Leisure Centre.
The pool will be open from 7.00 -8pm with swimming from 7.15-7.45pm

Donations will be welcome in aid of MacMillans Nurses, charity number 261017

The event is organised by Michael's friends.
For details contact Anne Dowell on 01367 241753.
Thankyou to Soll Leisure and its staff for donating their time and effort.

Desperately required - 8/11/12

I am desperately and urgently seeking old/unwanted towels, pillow cases and sheets for local hedgehog rescue. If you have any that you would like to donate please contact me, Marian, at carlmaz@uwclub.net. Your help would be so much appreciated by all the baby hedgehogs.
Name Supplied

Neighbourhood Policing Update - 8/11/12

Faringdon West

The team are disappointed to report a small spate of burglaries took place in our area this month. Three burglaries occurred in short succession around the Coxwell Road and Orchard Hill area on the 15th October. Several further burglaries are reported to have taken place on the same day in villages east of Faringdon. All the offences are believed to have occurred between the hours of 0900 and 1600. The investigation is ongoing and is a priority for Vale officers. If you have any information about these burglaries that may assist with our enquiries, please contact us on 101.

The time of day that the offender(s) have chosen to commit these crimes acts as a reminder that our homes are potentially vulnerable even during daylight hours. Being vigilant during the day for suspicious people or vehicles and remembering to fully secure our homes when we leave in the morning can prevent burglaries occurring. If you would like a review of your home's security by a member of the neighbourhood team, please feel free to contact 101 and we can arrange a visit.

A traffic enforcement operation was conducted on the 25th October along the Coxwell Road, Faringdon. The operation involved several officers from the neighbourhood team and targeted vehicles travelling in excess of the 30 mph speed limit, driver and passengers not wearing seatbelts and drivers using a mobile phone. The team issued several tickets and will be conducting the enforcement again in the near future.

Unfortunately a minority of drivers took it upon themselves to warn oncoming vehicles that an enforcement operation was being conducted by flashing their lights. The team would like to remind these road users that this behaviour is illegal as it is both obstructing a police officer and inappropriate use of the headlights. Upcoming enforcement operations will be planned to tackle any such behaviour from road users in the future.

The neighbourhood team have successfully expanded the neighbourhood watch membership particularly in the Folly View Estate. The Neighbourhood watch scheme provides a two way street for information to be shared between the police and the community. If you would like more information about the scheme please call 101 and a member of the team can provide you with further details.

Faringdon East

This month has seen the PCSO's out and about at the local schools making the children aware of the Do's and Don'ts for Halloween and Bonfire night. We hope that both occasions are a great success and would like to remind all that tricking people because you don't get treats is not appropriate and any complaints will be taken seriously by Police. Bonfire night carries a different warning and we hope that you all stay safe and follow the safety advice for both occasions which can be found on the Thames Valley Police Website www.thamesvalley.police.uk

On 3rd October we had some fly tipping in the Littleworth area between Littleworth and Thrupp. Environmental Health are conducting a full investigation into the matter and any new information regarding this should be directed to them.

On 8th October we had a couple of overnight Thefts from Motor Vehicle in Littleworth. All vehicles were parked either on drive ways or the street. There is limited lighting in Littleworth and it is not clear how offenders have entered the vehicles. A car stereo was stolen from the boot of one car and a number of power tools taken from the front passenger seat of another. I would urge you to be extra vigilant especially as the nights are drawing in and keep everything fully secured and park under lights if possible. If anyone has any information about these crimes please contact us on telephone number 101

Sadly we had a number of Burglaries on our area at on 15th October 2012 where six occurred in the same day in daylight hours. We have arrested two offenders who are currently being dealt with for the offences at this time. If anyone saw or noticed anything suspicious between 0800-1600 hours in Longworth, Buckland or Faringdon please contact police on telephone number 101. You will note that there is an increase in Police patrols in the area and our PCSO's have done door to door enquiries in these villages.

On 18th October we had a Burglary at Littleworth which was again during daylight hours between 0800 and 1500 hours. If you noticed anything suspicious or have any information regarding this please contact us on 101. There was nothing taken during this burglary.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that you live in a safe low crime area and if you need any help or assistance in any way including crime prevention advice please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the Neighbourhood Team who will be more than happy to assist. I look forward to seeing you all out and about in November but in the meantime if you do have any issues please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Neighbourhood Team on 101.

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 101 but if your call is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email: FaringdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk - please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crime stoppers charity on 0800 555111.

ED(GW) I recently discovered that the 101 number costs 15p per call(irrespective of length of call). You are connected to a call centre- somewhere

Lost Rabbit - 7/11/12

Hi, we have managed to lose our black and white French lop rabbit from the Cromwell Close area of Faringdon. He's called Alfie and is a giant breed so not easily missed!
If anyone sees him please call 07920084519.
Thanks, Gill and Steve.

Jolly Singing on Tuesdays - 7/11/12

Sing Faringdon will be meeting for 5 Tuesdays from 13th November (until 11th December) in the Portwell Bar at 7pm (til 8pm)

We're taking a slightly different approach for these session, but we'll still be singing well known songs, and given the time of year, some Christmas ones.

Just come along for a sing- it leaves you with a good feeling

Please let me know if you can , but do just turn up if you decide on the day

genewebb@rocketmail.com

01367 242222

Sustainable housing- to Mark - 6/11/12

New developments (normally) attract S106 agreements. These are requirements that the developer has to pay a specific percentage of the development proceeds to pay for the extra burden on the infrastructure of the locality. There are exceptions....the Tesco site has no such agreement as it was opposed by the District Council and when the Planning Inspector made her decision the DC had omitted to ask for an S106.

Google S106 to find out more information.

I hope this helps.

Jane Boulton (FTC)

Sustainable housing - 6/11/12

After reading the marketing spiel(more like BS) regarding the building of these houses, I noticed no mention of hundreds of extra cars onto a small rural road which has a very difficult Junction at the A420 end.

No mention of where the dozens or potentially hundreds of extra jobs would be to employ the extra people.

No mention of building additional Schools to cater for the children, as the current Schools are full.

Can the doctors surgery cope with hundreds of extra patients.

It's all very well talking of building extra houses, but the developers who are only interested in making money should have to help fund infrastructure as well.

I hope potential purchasers of these properties don't mind the traffic noise from the A420. At least that will drown out the noise from the wind turbines.

Regards Mark

Please help tidy the Folly Woodland Saturday 10th November

So many people are enjoying the woodland and all the quirky woodland creatures and installations now- it is so good to see. We want to keep the woodland in good condition so that people can continue to enjoy it. This means we need to do some Autumn tidying.

Please come along on Saturday 10th November, from 10am, to help us. There is no really heavy work, just clearing small self seeded elder, sycamore and brambles, some weeding round the very young trees and shrubs to encourage their growth, and some litter picking. We have some tools but not enough for everyone, so it would be helpful if you would bring secateurs, loppers, hand tools, gloves and the like.

Please do come and help, it needn't be for the whole day, just as much time as you can manage.

Just turn up as and when you are able.

We're likely to be there until around 3pm I really hope it will be a dry day- but who can tell- we'll 'carry on regardless' of the weather

More info from: 01367 242222 or genewebb@rocketmail.com

Current planning applications in/around Faringdon

Screening for Planning P12/V1362/SCR for 200 houses on land north of A420

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=FolderView&ID=93294752&CODE=8E1E20C2D9A35C65&NAME=Decision&REF=P12/V1362/SCR> (200 houses on 7 hectares)

Tennis Club redevelopment

(<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P12/V2057/FUL> 11 houses on .18 hectares

Landiew, Canada Lane

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P12/V1948/FUL> 1 house

Public Exhibition - 200 Sustainable houses near Faringdon - 6/11/12

SUSTAINABLE HOUSING PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED FOR FARINGDON AREA

Preliminary proposals for low carbon, sustainable housing near Faringdon have been announced by SGR (Faringdon) Ltd.

The proposals, known as Fernham Fields, on land to the east of Coxwell Road and north of the A420, are being made public to enable active engagement with communities and stakeholders in order to fully involve local people and help inform the design process prior to submission of an outline planning application.

A 'drop-in' public exhibition will be held in both Great Coxwell, where the site is located, and Faringdon over a two day period in November. The Parish Reading Room in Great Coxwell will be open for visitors to view the proposals between 2pm and 8pm on Friday 16th November and between 10am and noon on Saturday 17th November. It will then be moved to the Jubilee Room in The Pump House, Faringdon for viewing between 1pm and 5pm on Saturday 17th November.

Comprising up to 200 homes in a low density new neighbourhood, the plans focus on making best use of the area's natural landscape setting and include generous, high quality open spaces with play areas. Additionally, landscaped pedestrian and cycling 'green corridors' will connect directly to the existing local facilities, while a network of well-connected bus routes will further minimise the need for car journeys.

[More information](#)

[Artist impression](#) (2mb)

SGR (Faringdon) Limited was formed specifically to develop a number of residential sites in the local area. The company was set up by Gary Taylor, Steve Tillman and Rob Bolton of Altitude Property LLP. Gary and Steve are former board directors of Argent while Rob was a director of Berkeley Homes.

Altitude was formed as part of the restructuring of Argent; a major regeneration development company that has Brindleyplace, Birmingham and the redevelopment of the Kings Cross area to its credit in a portfolio of high quality urban schemes it has delivered. Altitude is now developing an interest in its own projects including having an involvement in the nearby North West Bicester Eco Town.

Stephen Osborne-Brown, Core Marketing <http://www.core-marketing.co.uk/>

E: stephenosborne-brown@core-marketing.co.uk

T: 0121 232 5000 M: 07717 883 200

Budgens Update - 5/11/12

We would like to thank all our customers for their understanding of our need to close the store to carry out our refit. All works are going to plan and the store will be ready to re-open on Thursday 15th November at 9.30am. We hope you like the changes that have been made and invite you to join us for the re-launch. Events will be taking place instore to mark our re-opening on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Simon Tiensa - Owner
David Woodruff - Store Manager

Public Exhibition Proposed Urban Extension - Faringdon - 5/11/12

SGR is proposing new residential development on land between Coxwell Road and Fernham Road, north of the A420.

Members of the public are invited to a drop-in exhibition on the proposals where the project team will be available to answer any questions and to receive feedback on the proposals.

The exhibition will be held over 2 days:

The Reading Room Great Coxwell: Fri. 16th November, 2pm – 8pm Sat. 17th November 10am – 12am
Jubilee Room, The Pump House, Faringdon: Sat. 17th November, 1pm – 5pm

ED(GW) does anyone know who SGR are?? I haven't been able to find out

Music in Faringdon. Three in one- 9th November - 3/11/12

The Corn Exchange, Faringdon

Tramp Aviators - winners of Ox Factor

The Yearning – debut performance from Faringdon's newly signed band

Gorgeous Moron – timeless Faringdon legends

Doors open at 7.30pm, music begins at 8pm

Bar

Entrance £3 tickets available from The Portwell Angel

Jive Aid- Jiving in Faringdon, 16th November - 3/11/12

Faringdon Junior School Doors open at 7.30pm

A good, fun lesson in basic jive from Jive Temptation from 8-9ish followed by freestyle dancing until midnight.

Even if you think you have two left feet, come and give this a try – it will be a lot of fun.

No need to bring a partner.

Tickets £6 from The Nut Tree. £7 after 9pm if you don't have a ticket. Bar

Enquiries -[mail@saraholiver.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:saraholiver.freeserve.co.uk)

Jive Temptation for Hope & Aid Direct

A new community festival for Faringdon - FollyFest - 2/11/12

We are submitting this to bring people up to date with plans at this early stage for the Faringdon Festival 2013 or "Folly Fest". Our small team have been working together over the last month or so to try to understand what makes a good Faringdon Festival and whether it is viable to try to run one again, located mostly around the Market Place. We are delighted to advise that we think it is; none of us has ever had any involvement in running any of the previous festivals, but we feel we can try to put a new perspective on it for the future and try to build on the good experiences of the past eight or so years whilst learning from the not so positive experiences.

First of all, our primary focus is that Folly Fest 2013 is a not-for-profit event in entirety. This means we have to fundraise and apply for grants for staging, lighting, acts, insurance, entertainment, road closures, advertisement etc. This won't come cheap and we will need as much of your support as you can give us in terms of supporting and turning out for various fundraising events which are to be held locally and monthly until the Festival.

Any help you can offer from fundraising to admin to book-keeping will be gratefully received so please email us with help, suggestions and advice.

Our website is www.follyfest.co.uk and our email is follyfest@btinternet.com.
We're also on Facebook if you search for "FollyFest".
Mel Lane, Graham Fletcher, Al Cane, Fiona Merrick, Simon Holmes and Roger Clarke.

Tramp Aviators Video - 1/11/12

Ladies and gentlemen, Faringdon's finest*, The Tramp Aviators, are proud to release their first ever music video. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gU3Ff9x_m0
On the back of the bands' recent OxFactor triumph, they recorded the video for their winning "Happy Song" in and around their home town of Faringdon. The video features local people and well known landmarks including the Faringdon Folly, culminating in a performance at the famous 15 Minute Club.
We hope you like it, if you do, please share it with people you love.
Please check out www.thetrampaviators.com
*possibly not true
Dave Porter

Windy Halloween night at the Folly - 1/11/12

....but we still had 230 people climb the tower.

So many people with children, nearly all dressed up for the occasion.
Super lighting in and on the tower, courtesy of Ade of Starsound express; scary characters Peter (aka Lord Berners) and Rosie the scary witch; great decorations in the whole of the tower (courtesy of Asda)
Huge effort by the Folly Team

and here are the photos on flickr (Thanks Nigel) <http://www.flickr.com/photos/83591430@N00>

Thankyou from the Scouts - 31/12/12

1st Faringdon Scouts would like to announce the very kind and generous donation of £300 from The Berkshire Masonic Charity to our group.
We are using the donation to buy a new camping boiler which will be used at all events and Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer camps.
We are looking forward to being able to have hot drinks and good washing up water!
We would also like to thank Silverio Ostrowski for his work in arranging the donation.

1st Faringdon Scouts' Fundraising Team would like to thank everyone who supported the 2012 Christmas Post. By posting your local letters with us, you have helped the group raise almost £300 which will be used for the benefit of our members.
We would also like to remind you that at the end of April we will hold our Garage Sale, so don't clear out your garages just yet!
Further details will appear on the What's On page very soon.
Happy New Year to you all from 1st Faringdon Scouts.

Faith Carpenter
Fundraising Chair
1st Faringdon Scouts

Free beginners' jogging group starting Sunday 13th January at 10:00am. - 29/12/12

Meeting in the Car Park of Faringdon Leisure Centre.
Please email mareaandpaul@aol.com for more information

Free Intermediate jogging group starting Thursday 10th January at 6.30pm at Faringdon Old Town Hall.
Please email mareaandpaul@aol.com for more information.
Marea Brown

Auditions for the Pyjama Game 7th January - 29/12/12

Do you fancy joining us on stage for our next production, the musical comedy, The Pajama Game?
We are holding open auditions in Faringdon on Monday 7th Jan and the show opens in Wantage on 2nd May.
Please do email me for further details (and encouragement!) amegos.theatre@gmail.com or have a look at our website www.amegos.weebly.com
A Happy New Year to you all

FollyFest - 29/12/12

· FollyFest Recruitment Night in the Cellar Bar – first of 3 –
Wednesday 9th January 2013 – if you'd like to run a stall, lend a hand, be in a play, help build the stage, fundraise, marshal, judge a competition or run an event come and have a chat with us... ·

FollyFest Quiz Night (2) in the Old Crown Coaching Inn – 23rd January 2013 - Another of our slightly batty quiz nights - even more so this time with a special mysterious guest! £2.50 per player and maximum 5 in a team ·

St George's Dinner and Dance - 20th April 2013, 7.30pm at the Old Crown Coaching Inn, Faringdon.

Reserve your table by calling into the pub or call 01367 242744. £15 a head for two courses of traditional English food (veggie option available on request) followed by live music and dancing by BOOGIE ME!!! (a FollyFest event) Happy New Year!

Climb the Tower and see the light! Sunday 13th January - 27/12/12

And enjoy the wonderful views of the town at night.

5.00 till 7.00pm.

Free for under 11 years old, 50p for 11-16 and £2 for over 16

In aid of the Faringdon Folly Tower Trust

www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

Has anyone worked out the light's message yet?? Morse Code?

Broadband Champions deadline 31/12/12 - 27/12/12

I've completed the broadband online survey as requested by recent contributors to this site. Any initiative that could get us better broadband is welcome.

However I see from the BT website that we are due to get 'fibre to the cabinet' broadband early in 2013.

Presumably this will mean faster broadband which will be good, but how does this fit into the broadband champions campaign - will that give us even faster broadband ?

Name Supplied

Site for bench- corner of Station Road - 26/12/12

Someone has laid the base for a bench on the corner of Station Road and Marlborough st- facing the VIP hair/ the Fire Station.

The town council don't know anything about it; it's said that planning permission hasn't been sought. I guess it's either VWHDC or OCC.

Who on earth thinks that's a good place to have a bench- so near the busiest roundabout in the town.

Name Supplied

The ladder factory - 26/12/12

To everyone who has supported '...from The Ladder Factory' in our first year of broadcasting it's great to have you all on board. Keep spreading the word about our shows ('...Ladder...' and 'Green Ladder') to support local under-the-radar music - it's the lifeblood of what we are all about.

If you want your band to be featured in a future show then please do get in touch. Sean Hodgson Peter George Rowe Graham Fletcher Dave Franklin

<http://www.fromtheladderfactory.com/>

Faringdon is one of top five markets - Sustainable Food Trust - 23/12/12

FARINGDON FARMERS MARKET, OXFORDSHIRE

First Tuesday of the month, 8.30am – 1pm.

The Faringdon Market is a small food market that's been going for over ten years. It runs every Tuesday but the first Tuesday of the month sees it triple the number of stalls to become the Faringdon Farmer's Market. Becky Pugh is a regular shopper here especially now she and her husband have vowed not to enter a supermarket for a year! She says, "The people are friendly and passionate – they care about the food they sell. They invite you to try

and handle your food with care". Becky's favourite product is the rape seed oil from Stainswick Farm which she says is "lovely, cheap and tastes great on about a million things". (You can follow Becky's food shopping experiment at www.ayearwithoutsupermarkets.com)

See others on <http://www.sustainablefoodtrust.org/2012/12/sfts-favourite-christmas-food-markets/>
Market nominated by Becky

Live Music in Coleshill CANCELLED - 23/12/12

Regret to announce to anyone who was making plans to spend Christmas Eve in the Radnor Arms, Coleshill with The Man with the Stereo Hands that due to a recent change of management this gig has been cancelled. Pleased to say that the New years Eve gig in The Swan in Faringdon will still go ahead however and remains unchanged.
Feliz Navidad!
Neil

Broadband Champions deadline 31/12/12 - 23/12/12

This is IMPORTANT for anyone living in Oxfordshire - and particularly in & around FaringdonIt doesn't matter if you access the internet for posting on Facebook or uploading to YouTube or Skyping or just for keeping in touch with family via e mails ...or more importantly for Business - This affects us all.

Me ... Why am I "Bothered" Well I use the internet for essential business needs & also social "off work" time too..... I have lived in Faringdon for 8 yrs now & work for a small Cotwolds based company & often work out of hours when I finally get home off the M4 or the M40by using the internet to access my work computer, which is sitting in an office 20 miles away, through "gotomypc" - This makes stuff possible - but frustratingly slow!

You are obviously online if you saw this post - I need all of you to make things even faster and better and NOW - time runs out on New Years Eve ! Your County Council "wants" to spend £13M to upgrade Broadband Capability throughout the County, BUT they can only do this if they can get STATE funding to pay for better broadband services If they don't get enough interested people to reply to a questionnaire this won't happen. So to make this actually happen we have to show some interest & involvement - please don't complain when it is too late - DO something Now - Register Interest in Better Broadband by New Years Eve... or we just won't get it! I have signed up for this "Parish"(Faringdon) as a Broadband Champion to spread the word, but lots of other local parishes haven't even bothered - but it's not about just being a "Champion" it is just about just joining in to fill in the online questionnaire so Oxfordshire County Council can show there is enough interest locally to make it worthwhile, & then they can get the funding for infrastructure investment. So far only 5,660 Oxfordshire residents and 497 businesses have signed up to the campaign. Not enough! We need far more publicity & questionnaires answered to make it happen IT HAS TO BE DONE BY NEW YEARS EVE OR IT WILL BE TOO LATE! If you have friends that are not online - no problem the Library has lots of unused cards that can be filled in - you don't even need a computer Local Parishes not interested so far areEaton Hastings, Filkins and Broughton, Fyfield and Tubney, Grafton and Radcot, Great Coxwell, Kelmscott, Littlemore, Uffington, Watchfield, & West Challow

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/broadband-oxfordshire>

Please just fill in the questionnaire - we have more residents just in this town, than have so far responded over the whole of Oxfordshire - PLEASE make a difference - get involved!

Kind Regards
Teresa Reynolds

Looking for a job? - 22/12/12

See njobsandcareersfaringdon.htm for details of a job at the Junior School. Closing date 7/1/13
Ed(GW)

Merry Christmas Faringdon. - 22/12/12

Maggie

Light on Folly Tower - 21/12/12

The light appeared today at 4.10pm..Thank you Peter White
Name supplied

Light on Folly Tower - 21/12/12

In answer to your question – No, I haven't seen it yet, but then I am 150 miles away in Devon. However, looking forward to seeing it next week when we make our annual Xmas pilgrimage back to Faringdon.
Richard King

Broadband Champions deadline 31/12/12 - 21/12/12

The numbers are soaring. The number of people who have registered their demand for better broadband has risen enormously in the last two months. So far, 5,658 Oxfordshire residents and 496 businesses have signed up to the campaign.

A reminder to those of you who have recently joined as Champions, getting communities to register demand not only helps us to understand communities' broadband needs, it is also essential for our application to State Aid funding.

Registration closes on 31 December and people can [join the campaign](#) or by filling out a postcard at their local library.

The role of the Broadband Champion: the final push

With just ten days to go until demand registration ends, we are asking as many people as possible to pass on the message about our broadband campaign.

Lifted from our Champions Toolkit, here are a few suggestions if you are a Facebook or Twitter user:

Facebook or Twitter user? Do you know an Oxfordshire resident who is? Why not post, or get them to post, these updates? Help @OxfordshireCC get Oxfordshire online: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/broadband - don't forget to RT #BetterBroadband

[See more information](#)

Mission statement issued on Vale's Local Plan - 21/12/12

Work is now well underway on the document that will allocate housing supply for the Vale of White Horse for the next 15 years.

The district council has employed extra staff to work on the Local Plan, which will be drawn up over the next 12 months, after which it will be submitted to the Secretary of State.

The plan will help the Vale urgently address the district's shortfall in housing which has led to concerns from residents about vulnerability to speculative planning applications.

To address these concerns, the Vale has issued a mission statement to reassure residents that the district council will do everything in its power to ensure that all housing being brought forward is appropriate and sensitive to local communities and their needs.

The Vale is planning two large, district-wide consultations over the course of the next year to ensure that the

thoughts of all local communities are at the heart of developing the plan.

The council has committed to communicate openly and regularly with everybody in the district to keep residents informed with the progress of the plan. An email community has been set up called The Vale Community which the district council will use to send regular updates to all those signed up.

In the updates, the council plans to include messages from leading councillors and officers, first looks at press releases, priority invitations to exhibitions and Q&A sessions and the direct mailing of committee agendas and minutes. They also hope to invite local steering groups and community representatives to write updates on how they're working with the district council on local housing allocation issues.

Cllr Matthew Barber, leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We are meeting the Vale's housing supply questions head on. We're drawing up a Local Plan that will bring forward the housing the Vale needs, while protecting what makes our district so special. We all love living here and we are determined to retain the character and desirability for generations to come."

To sign up to The Vale Community and receive regular email updates on the Local Plan, simply send an email containing the word 'subscribe' to localplan@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Light on Folly Tower - 21/12/12

Have you seen it yet?
ED(GW)

Faringdon Pharmacy- Christmas and New Year opening times - 20/12/12

24/12 0700-2300
25th and 26th Dec Closed
27th Dec 0700-2300

31st Dec 0700-2300
1st Jan 1000-1600
2nd Jan 0700-2300

28a London St
01367 244632

More Blood donors wanted - 19/12/12/

1000 more donors in 100 days
See <http://www.blood.co.uk/news/100k/>

Residents happy in the Vale - 19/12/12

95 per cent of residents in the Vale of White Horse are satisfied with living in the area according to a new survey. The survey was carried out on behalf of the district council to find out how residents feel about life in the Vale, as well as their opinions of the council and the services it provides.

The survey demonstrated a sense of community in the district, with a particular enthusiasm for volunteering. Around one in three respondents have formally volunteered in the last 12 months. Around 60 per cent have informally volunteered by helping friends or neighbours; by looking after their house while they are away on holiday for example.

The most important services provided by the council according to the survey were reducing crime, making the area clean and litter-free, and the waste and recycling collection service.

The survey results showed that 89 per cent were satisfied with the waste recycling service.

Just over three quarters of respondents said they were satisfied with the way the council runs things in the Vale of White Horse.

Only six per cent of respondents were dissatisfied with the council; with the most common reason given being that they felt the council doesn't listen to residents.

Cllr Matthew Barber, leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We plan to run this survey every two years to keep an eye on how residents think we are doing. It is good to receive positive feedback on services like the successful recycling and waste collections, but it is more important to us to hear where we can improve. We are looking at the results in detail and will be coming up with an action plan in the new year to address the issues raised by the survey."

Note to editors The survey was a face to face, doorstep survey with 1,100 residents. It was carried out by a professional survey organisation and the range of residents surveyed reflected the profile of the district.

A report into the results of the survey can be found online at

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Resident%20survey%202012%20final%20report.pdf>

01235 540300

ED(GW) 121k residents in the Vale District. 1100 surveyed = .91%

Household collections- recycling and rubbish over Christmas and New Year- 18/12/12

Monday 24th not mentioned- so I guess it's collection of rubbish as normal

Monday 31 December will be on on Wednesday 2 January Green (no garden waste)

Monday 7 January will be on Tuesday 8th January Grey

Hare Coursing and burglary- 18/12/12

I was recently burgled by someone I employed. During two visits to my home she took jewellery worth thousands of pounds, and of great sentimental value. I rang the non-emergency police number, and was told that a police officer would contact me within a few days. The case was assigned to an officer from a different town, and I was telephoned, but received no visit. I was extremely upset and confused by the incident, but never had the opportunity to speak face-to-face with the officer and eventually withdrew the complaint because I was becoming too distressed to keep going. In retrospect I regret giving it up, as there is no doubt who the guilty party was. I appreciate that the goods would have been swiftly disposed of, and that the police are busy, and that I was, temporarily, a flaky witness. Had I had the opportunity, though, to actually speak to the officer assigned, I would have been able to explain properly and calmly the circumstances of the incidents instead of leaving fragmented messages, which were sometimes misinterpreted; and the perpetrator would have been interviewed. The thief has 'got away with it' and I am now fearful of having any help in my home, even though circumstances demand it. I am no longer sure where police priorities lie. (The thief, incidentally, is not resident in Faringdon)
Name supplied

Hare Coursing - 17/12/12

Mark,

Sadly I was a victim of one of the many burglaries from a few months ago and can confirm that the burglar wasn't caught, the line of enquiry ran dry (as their one suspect wouldn't confess) and my file has been closed.

Make of that what you will.

Anonymous

Regent Cinema in the Corn Exchange 21st December - 17/12/12/

Elf PG

4pm Will Ferrell A Christmas Carol PG

7pm Jim Carrey

Adults £4 or 2 films for £5 Children £3 or 2 films for £4 Family (2 adults 2 children) £10 or 2 films for £12 Advance

tickets available now - at Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre

London St Parkng - 17/12/12

Do I take it that if I park my car on London Street all day and all night on the double yellows and don't get a ticket, but park further up again on double yellows and get one that is unfair?
Why are different areas of London Street treated differently.
Are people just to lazy to check further up/down?
Strange this.
Cynical Colin

JEF and Traffic Advisory???????????????? - 16/12/12

These a partnership committees of Faringdon Town Council, VWHDC, Oxfordshire CC plus local people.
Heard of them??
Know what they do??

You can [now find out on this website](#) - see the terms of reference, meeting dates, agendas and minutes.
You can speak at the Traffic Advisory meeting (with notice), not sure at the JEF meeting
ED(GW)

The second show of 'The Green Ladder Show' is... Sean Hodgson - 25/12/12

The second show of 'The Green Ladder Show' is now out from the creators of '...from The Ladder Factory ...
if you like please spread the word and share. <http://www.fromtheladderfactory.com/>

Regent Cinema in the Corn Exchange

21st December, Friday
4pm Elf PG Will Ferrell

7pm A Christmas Carol PG Jim Carrey

Seeking enthusiastic person to provide administrative services for Faringdon projects - 14/12/12

Vale of White Horse District Council (the council) is inviting competitive proposals for the provision of 12 month contract to deliver projects on behalf of the Faringdon Joint Economic forum.
If you are interested in providing a proposal please complete this attached submission and e-mail it to economic.development@southandvale.gov.uk by 5pm on 8th January.
This person will be responsible for delivering projects that are to be funded using High Street Innovation funding and Portas funding.
[The full list of projects is in the attached document.](#)

Some Christmas Cheer - 14/12/12

Folly view park are please to announce their first community event!
Please join us on Sunday 16th December at 4pm on the Palmer road green for Carol singing, mulled wine and

mince pies.

Its a perfect opportunity to come and meet your neighbours.
Please email Emma Riddle at emn2111@yahoo.co.uk
if you have any queries. Look forward to seeing you there.

Hare Coursing - 13/12/12

With the resources used to try and catch bunny chasers again, I can only assume it's a quiet month on the Burglary front and that the culprits that committed the 83 recent burglaries were all caught. If not then I shall be speaking to our new Crime Commissioner about re directing the Police's Priorities.
Regards Mark

Folly Park- Conservation. - 13/12/12

Kia, as bystander mentioned, you missed the point on my posting. I have nothing against the conservation project. I think it is a great idea. As dog walkers we use the park on frequent occasions. The local fishing club has done a stunning job with and around the fishing pond and we should not stop there.

But, as bystander mentions, you need to do a bit of research on FocusOn and you will start to understand the politics and why so many people are unhappy with the behaviour and actions by FocusOn (especially in the last 3 years).

As another posting mentioned "As I understand it Focus on Faringdon already seems to have debts it cannot or will not pay", combined with what FocusOn has done this summer to Folly Park, their hiding behind so many company names (Focus On Matrix, Focus On Faringdon, Focus On Wine, etc, etc), the none transparency of their organisation and funding and trying to device schemes to get out of paying for the damages done to Folly Park and outstanding bills to our local council.

It gives FocusOn a bad name and people/businesses do not want to be associated with them.

Last the reason for saying "Folly Park, Left for rotten but not forgotten". This is me saying that I love Folly Park but hate what has happened to it this summer and the attempt of, if we leave it long enough people will forget.
Name Supplied – Folly Park, Left for rotten but not forgotten.

Hare Coursing - 13/12/12

I see the vast resources have been tied up chasing men and a dog and then they don't even do that properly and have to release them! Surely these highly paid "professionals" ought to know how to do the job properly? Instead of chasing men around a field, why not ticket all the cars on yellows in Faringdon every day. Start on London Street, Coxwell Street and of course the "bus lane".

Surely they couldn't get that wrong!
Cynical Colin

Hare Coursing – Wantage and Faringdon- 12/12/12

At 1100hrs on Sunday 9th December 2012 the police received a report of hare coursing on fields in Compton Beauchamp.
Officers from Faringdon and Wantage, assisted by officers from the Ministry of Defence Police, attended and located two men and two Lurcher dogs in the area. The men were arrested for offences relating to the Hunting act. Their car was seized and the dogs taken to an animal sanctuary.
Regrettably, as is often the case with these offences, the evidential criterion wasn't met in order to charge the men and they were later released. Whilst this was frustrating for all involved, we were at least successful in disrupting the suspects' activities.
In a recent Thames Valley Alert message sent on the 4th December it was disclosed that 3 men had been

arrested for offences under the Hunting Act. This investigation is now complete. All three men have been charged and will appear in court shortly. This was a small but very important victory in our fight against rural crime. If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](mailto:online@crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.
Thames Valley Police

Cat found - 11/12/12

Has anybody lost a male fluffy tabby cat ?. I'm really sad to say that I found one which had been involved in an accident this morning. He was towards the top of Coxwell Road near the Highworth Road turning. I rang Danetree vets and they kindly collected him to check if he was microchipped – unfortunately he wasn't. Perhaps if you think he's yours you could contact Danetree and they can help identify him for you. Sorry to pass on such sad news.
Name supplied

Christmas Carol Concert in the Corn Exchange - 11/12/12

Thank you to all who came to the recent Christmas Concert by the Cotswold Voices - to Joe Moore and The Cotswold Voices Choir and to The Yearning (who have a new single out - I Just Wanna Hold Your Hand on Christmas Day - watch on YouTube here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=jKjogQW2V6c).

I've done the calculations and, minus expenditure and some ticket money, the total you have helped us make for 1st Faringdon Scouts is £522!
Thank you to you all,
Faith Carpenter, Fiona Merrick, Nicky McGurk, Emira Shepherd 1st Faringdon Scouts Fundraising Team

Missing dog - 8/12/12

Good news - Lola is home! Many thanks to Jeremy Hayden who brought her home safely Saturday evening.
Nikki

Running Club - 10/12/12

I recently posted (17/11/12) about starting up a running/triathlon group in Faringdon. Having had some interest, a small group of runners has started to take shape. We are looking to arrange a first gathering/jog in the near future. All standards are welcome.
Please could any additional interested joggers/runners email us at farrunners@yahoo.com
There is also a basic Facebook page forming called 'Far Runners' so please feel free to spread the word locally.
Stephen Diboll

Conservation. - 9/12/12

Good that someone with a fresh perspective can point out what opportunities we short sighted (but long term) residents are taking for granted; on our own doorsteps, too! Just shows what ignorant saddos we all are. In the two comments by the name(s) supplied though, nowhere was it suggested that a conservation project is a bad thing. Anyone who knows a bit about conservation in this vicinity would realise that there are plenty of people here who are enthusiastic about bees and butterflies etc., and some are even quite knowledgeable about them

too. I have no doubt that everyone wishes the project well.

But Kia...I think if you were to do a little research about the 'history and politics' involved, you might not have completely missed the points made.

Incidentally, there are only *some* species of frog which are endangered. The European Common Frog 'Rana temporaria' is still plentiful, as is 'Rana lata colorat' or 'Wide-Mouthed' variety, the latter especially in and around Faringdon.

Best of luck with your project.

Bystander

Missing dog - 8/12/12

Our dog, a border terrier called Lola, disappeared this morning whilst walking in Badbury Woods. We have searched all day to no avail. She is wearing a tag and is chipped. We would be grateful if all dog walkers could keep an eye out for her; we are distraught.

Many thanks

Nikki Luce. Nikkiluce@hotmail.co.uk

Folly Park – Conservation.- 8/12/12

I am always glad to see comments regarding my articles. It means that people still read print!

I hope there is more than one person that thinks that it's "Great to see that there is now a conservation project for Folly Park (as per the Faringdon Advertiser)", and that there are even more people who would like to get involved in the project, whatever their interests and skills are.

Dear "Name Supplied", whatever your reasons to wish to remain anonymous, you obviously care deeply about the Folly Park.

As you obviously know The Folly Country Park project was started years ago with foresight. And has not exactly been forgotten, but rather dwindled over the years.

I only moved to Faringdon in May of this year. But maybe as an outsider I can see opportunities you may be taking for granted. The new locals residents of the 400 new homes may simply not realize or not know about the richness that lies on their doorstep.

Folly Park can be so much more than just a muddy dog-walking field.

I can't help feeling I may have done "Name Supplied" a personal offence by suggesting to plant flowers. Am I missing something? Or are comments meant to be 'constructive criticism'? I feel the need to set straight some wrong assumptions I seem to have created, while writing about history and bees.

I am part of the FocusOn team: I am the editor of the Fairford & Lechlade Advertiser. I didn't see the history and Politics behind the festival, but I was really impressed by the real community spirit and great collective effort of Faringdon's people. I had only lived in the town three weeks and I was impressed by the efforts of so many dedicated individuals that made the Festival happen (and so much more in the town), under a proverbial British Summer.

The Faringdon Advertiser is published and distributed, under the FocusOn umbrella, thanks solely to the effort of Lou Guthrie. She does a brilliant job at promoting Faringdon businesses and activities. However, she is not involved in the Conservation project, except kindly publishing my article. And to the best of my knowledge, she was not involved in the organization of Festival either. As for the photos that accompany my article: they are current photos. They were taken by myself, only a few days before publication.

The Project is about preserving the Biodiversity of natural environments. Many people may have heard of the plight of the pollinators. But how many of you know that frogs are gravely endangered of extinction? And what about the Butterflies? Don't take my word for it. David Attenborough explains it in his brilliant documentary; you can still watch it on IPlayer.

So Tom, Dick and Jerry, read about what people are doing and come to join the project!

Full Article and more links can be found here: [Folly Park Conservation Project](#)

Kia Gambirasio

Buckland Pre-School - 8/12/12

Will your child be 4 years old on or after 1st September 2013? Would you like your child to attend a Pre-School in a caring village school setting which promotes Christian values? If so, then we invite you to apply to Buckland Pre-School (just outside Faringdon) for September 2013.

Our Pre-School was rated Outstanding by OFSTED in 2010/2011 and is set within a beautiful, rural location within Buckland CofE School. Pre-School teaching follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and alongside this we offer our Forest School experience.

We offer sessions every weekday morning from 9am-12pm, plus lunch club until 1pm and your free 15 hours Government funding can be used towards payment.

Please go to www.bucklandpreschool.org to find out more and download an application form for submission before 1st March 2013 or telephone Buckland School Office on 01367 870236 or come and visit, we would love to show you around.

Samantha Brady

Buckland Pre School Committee

bucklandpreschool@gmail.com

www.bucklandpreschool.org

Pink Doves - 6/12/12

I was delighted to see that we have a vivid pink dove in Littleworth and have spotted it several times this week. Has anyone else seen any of these around recently? Do you know who is dyeing them pink?

I am glad to see this Faringdon tradition being kept alive. The dove looks happy and flies around with a few other doves adding a lovely splash of colour to the sky!

Name Supplied

ED(GW) *I'd love to know who is doing the dyeing- for the Friends of the Folly and Pink Pigeons groups*

Ed Vaizey in Faringdon - 5/12/12

FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2012 7.30 - 9.15

Ed will be making his traditional visits to sorting offices around the constituency to thank our postal teams for all their hard work in the run up to Christmas.

He will be visiting the following locations at these approximate times:

07.30 Wallingford, Lupton Road, OX10 9WA

08.00 Didcot, 130 Broadway, OX11 8ZZ

08.30 Wantage, Church Street, OX12 8ZZ

09.00 Faringdon Swan Lane SN7 7JB

Folly Park – Conservation. - 1/12/12

Who or what exactly is the FocusOn team, who are the individuals concerned? There appears to be a number of 'Focus On' companies (Focus on Faringdon, Focus On wine, Focus On Matrix) so Name Supplied's curiosity is quite understandable.

Maybe another limited liability company will be set up. Focus On Conservation perhaps.

Before the 'Focus On team' whatever it may be, actually leads any further projects, there should be a bit more transparency. Surely an important consideration *before* money is raised is who exactly will be responsible should there be unpaid debts arising from the project?

As I understand it Focus on Faringdon already seems to have debts it cannot or will not pay.

Name Supplied

Festive Security bag £3 - 3/12/12

Are you stuck for a present idea then why not give a gift with a difference and pop along and pick up a Festive Security Bag from your local police station. These bags cost £3 each and include a personal attack alarm, a purse bell, an ultra violet marker pen and other small security items.

This treat sized bag of goodies would be ideal as a present for a student, parent or elderly relative and at £3 would make a great stocking filler.

Thames Valley Police

Message from Thames Valley Police alerts system - 3/12/12

We live in a world of mass communication, being fed information which is usually neither relevant to us nor wanted. With Thames Valley Alerts this couldn't be further from the truth. Thames Valley Police not only promote a flow of localised information between the police and community; we actively encourage it. That is why we want to build our Alerts system into something which is not only an integral part of living in the Thames Valley Area but a functioning tool to keep our communities safe and informed. We are constantly trying to enhance and develop the messages we send to you. With only 62,000 members subscribed to our service we know there are more people who could benefit from receiving Thames Valley Alerts.

Are your neighbours and friends signed up? Would a relative benefit from signing up? Every member of our community will gain from the knowledge that our Alerts system provides.

So as one of the 2.2% of Thames Valley's population who is already signed up please help spread the word and remember this service is available to everyone.

Please help us to increase sign up by encouraging people to visit: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk and sign up to receive text, phone or email alerts.

Jobs and Volunteering- 1/12/12

Opportunities for volunteering for Cotswold Volunteers charity shop in Marlborough St
See njjobsandcareersfaringdon.htm for more information

Vale high streets set for major funding boost- 3/12/12

The four town centres in the Vale of White Horse could be set for a major boost in 2013, if an increase to the district council's budget is approved.

This week (Friday 7 December), Cabinet will be recommended to approve the addition of £155,000 to the Vale's economic development budget, money received from external funding which will go towards high street innovation projects.

The extra money will be allocated to schemes in Abingdon, Botley, Faringdon and Wantage, designed to bring more people to the town centres and boost local trade.

The majority of the additional funding, £100,000, was received from the Department of Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) High Street Innovation Fund. This money will be split evenly, with £22,500 going to each town.

A further £35,000 from Scottish Widows Investment Partnership has been allocated to Abingdon as part of their lease agreement for the town's Abbey Shopping Centre. Abingdon and Faringdon will also each receive an additional £10,000 DCLG funding following their successful applications to become town team partners.

The funding that has been allocated to each town will go towards schemes that are in line with recommendations laid out in Mary Portas' 2011 review into the future of our high streets. Projects will focus on addressing problems with vacant shops, improving the appearance of high streets, improving the visitor experience, and attracting

footfall to the towns.

Allocating funding in this way will also support the council in working towards its strategic objective of "building the local economy" and corporate priority to "continue to invest to improve the viability and attractiveness of our towns." Council officers have been working with individual town councils, chambers of commerce and key stakeholders to develop High Street Innovation Fund action plans for each location and these will be used to help determine and guide future projects.

If Cabinet approves the increase in the economic development budget the proposals will then be submitted to Council to be rubber stamped on Wednesday 12 December.

Cllr Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure and Property, said: "This funding could provide a huge boost to our town centres. It would allow us to proceed with a number of projects which will help to increase footfall and hopefully have a very positive effect on local trade."

Christmas Carol Concert in the Corn Exchange - 3/12/12

1st Faringdon Scout Group would like to sincerely thank the Cotswold Voices for their fabulous concert on Friday night. The hall was packed out, the music was wonderful and the evening raised over £350 for the Scouts. They put on the concert to help raise funds for the group and it was a huge success - what a great sound! Thank you to the Volunteer for providing the bar and the Fundraising Team for organising it. It was an exciting start to Christmas in Faringdon.
Faith Carpenter
Fundraising Chair 1st Faringdon Scouts

Folly Park – Conservation.- 1/12/12

Great to see that there is now a conservation project for Folly Park (as per the Faringdon Advertiser). But a few comments and questions regarding this.

Comments:

The conservation project is being led by the FocusOn team. The people behind FocusOn are the same people who wrecked Folly Park earlier this year with their Festival.

In the words of The Advertiser (owned and run by FocusOn) they say "Folly Park is a wet field".

Okay, in fairness, the article does mention the Festival and how it transformed it in a mud bath, but they do not mention that they, the people behind FocusOn, were responsible for it.

The county council was re-assured by the Festival Organisers that they would rectify the damage made. So creating a Conservation Project is trying to put a positive spin on the harm they have done and try to be seen as the saviours of the Park.

So a few questions:

In the article in the Faringdon Advertiser, why did they not use photo's of the state of the park as it is today. Wrecked?

Who will fund this conservation project?

In 2002 a significant grant from the Countryside Agency's Sustainability Fund enabled the first phase of the development of Folly Park, as per the article. So is this Conservation project phase 2, for which they will ask for another grant? If so, they (FocusOn and Festival Organisers) will not have to tip in to their own pockets to rectify the damage for which they are responsible.

At the time they said that this was the perfect location for a festival and now they say in the article "A natural spring in the area combined with clay-rich soil deposited on the lower field have transformed it into something more akin to a wet marsh rather than its classification as wildflower meadow". Are they saying that they cannot be blamed for the state of Folly Park because the council had it classified differently? Well every Tom, Dick or Jerry who walks their dog there knows it is a Marsh Land and it has been like this for years.

Folly Park, left for rotten but not forgotten.
Name Supplied

Jobs and Volunteering- 1/12/12

Opportunities for volunteering for SWINDON 105.5 is a non-commercial radio service in Swindon
See nyjobsandcareersfaringdon.htm for more information

Reply from OCC re (onstreet) parking enforcement - 1/12/12

The Government are now actively encouraging Local Authorities to take on Civil Enforcement in their areas to free up Police resources. Notwithstanding this, the Department of Transport also seek to ensure that both public on-street and off-street parking is included within any applications for Civil Enforcement, indeed the City of Oxford, being an early adopter of the powers, is unique in being the only operation in the Country which does not include off street parking within the Secretary of State approval. Similarly, they also require that applications for Civil Enforcement cover a sufficiently large geographical area to give a consistency in Enforcement practice and policy and to ensure that they are of a sufficient size to derive efficiencies of scale and be self-funding rather than a draw on the public purse.

As you will be aware the District Council are responsible for Off Street Parking and to this end the County Council have been in discussion with all District Councils with a view to jointly adopting powers at a District level and indeed had an Application for powers in West Oxfordshire granted in 2010.

Unfortunately, we have not managed at present to come to a similar agreement with the Vale of White Horse, but discussions are on-going and I will write to you again to advise if there is any change in the position.

Deputy Civil Enforcement Manabger

OCC

ED(GW) *I've asked for comment from our OCC and VWHDC councillors- yet to hear*

Morning jog - 1/12/12

Start your day off with a jog and find yourself with more energy at work. Jog or even walk at your own pace from 5 to 30 minutes - how long its up to you! Ideal after the Christmas break and best of all, its free!

Anyone interested in joining is invited along to the 'Welcome Meeting' in January to chat to the instructor and fill in the registration.

To come along to the meeting please contact Ashley on 01235 547646 or email

ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk
