

Finstock News 26

Serving Finstock, Fawler, Wilcote, Mt. Skippett and Finstock Heath

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The heart of life in Finstock will reach its peak during two weeks in late June & early July. To begin we have the Church Fete on June 26th, followed by the Finstock Festival running from July 4th to the 10th, and finishing with the School Fete on July 10th. Detailed coverage of the individual Festival activities fills this issue of the *Finstock News*. Venues for the various activities will include the Village Hall, school, church, and playing field, which represents the loosely defined publicly owned portion of our village – we villagers must contribute to them if they are to survive. The two pubs also have a role during these two weeks because they are equally important meeting points for villagers. During the Festival, as you wander through gardens, take a picnic lunch to the playing field, and walk to the various venues, look at the beauty of Finstock, meet your neighbours, and think how lucky we are to be here now.

The 30th anniversary of the Finstock Festival celebrations will begin on July 4th. Maybe we villagers should have Saturday, July 3rd as **Clean up Finstock Day**. Would everyone tidy the front of their property and make Finstock shine for all our neighbours? We have company coming!

Friends of Finstock School and the School Fete - Saturday July 10th



The annual School Fete has been moved from its traditional place in the summer term so that it can become the Centrepiece for Finstock Festival Saturday. An unobtrusive note here – although the Festival events throughout will be driven by entertainment, pleasure and a developing sense of community, the School Fete is driven for funds! Of course, there will be plenty of entertainment, plenty of pleasure and a rare glimpse of much of the community mingling in the great outdoors (weather permitting). But this event still remains the **MAJOR FUND-RAISING EVENT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR** - amounting on average to over 30% of annual income.

Despite the competition from Cornbury this year, we hope that you will all turn out to support us and enjoy many of the usual attractions, plus a few surprises. All the proceeds from the Festival beer tent will be going into the school coffers during the time that the Fete is running and

The world is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel. Horace Walpole

there will be a Grand Summer Draw to finish off. At the time of going to press I'm still trying to persuade some of the teachers to take a turn with me in the Stocks – but more on that later! Look out for the posters and flyers nearer the time with final details of attractions. See you there.

Pete Welply

Save Finstock Village Hall

The potential for a new Village Hall in Finstock looks a bit distant at the moment, which means we must maintain the existing one for the foreseeable future. We will have an original quiz, to raise funds for the Village Hall. The quiz sheet will be available at both pubs; a new quiz every other week; 50p each entry; answers on a piece of paper with time and date noted; one winner only. If you have any other fund-raising ideas or want to help in any way, please contact any member of the Village Hall Committee or anyone at the *Finstock News*.

The June 2004 Ready Reference contact sheet is enclosed with this issue.

Please see pages 6-11 for details of Festival events.

Postcards of Finstock

A set of special edition Finstock postcards will be on sale throughout the Festival week at a cost of £3.00. They will include modern and older views of the village, as well as well-known properties such as the old Post Office and the pubs. You will find them available during the Festival at all the events that are going on, or by contacting Ant Linnell on 868675 or Kirsty Woodfield on 868672.

VILLAGE EVENTS

The renovation of the Finstock and Fawler War Memorial is now complete, including the positioning of a metal sign asking people not to park on the grassed area. The Landlord of The Crown has kindly promised to cut the grass, which is very helpful and much appreciated.

After making all the payments there is a very small balance in the bank account, which I propose to keep for the time being in case any other work is required.

There will be a short service of **rededication on Sunday June 6th at 12.30**, conducted by Reverend Jane Knowles. I hope a good number of people will be able to attend, as this is the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Finally, I would like to thank Miss Jean Vick, and her family for their dedication in maintaining and caring for the War Memorial over many years; and, to also thank those who contributed financially to the restoration.

Frank Schofield

Visit www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2, www.britishlegion.org.uk or tel: 0845-845945

D-Day Exhibition in Bartlett Taylor Gallery at the Witney and District Museum, High Street, Witney on June 9th and June 27th.

Dear Mr. Floyd, family & friends, Many thanks for your very kind donation of £1000 and the continued support to our unit in memory of Julie. Your dedication to raising money is very much appreciated. We will use the money for equipment and training within the unit.

Once again, many thanks

Helen Aldersley, Unit Manager,
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Critical Care Unit

A message from your local Bobbie

The summer is almost here and the motor bikes are being dusted down ready for use. If they are taxed and insured this is not a problem. If you have an off-road motor cycle and you use it on public roads, even to push it to a field, you must be insured; the only legal way to transport it is on a trailer.

If you cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public by use of the vehicle on private or public land, your vehicle can be seized by the police. This law applies to all motor vehicles. Also, if you intend to use your bike on private land, ensure you have the permission of the landowner. Please be safe and considerate of others when using your bike and there will not be a problem.

If you need to speak to me call on the new force number 08458-505505 and ask for PC Richard Conner.

There seems to be a problem with youths smoking in the school grounds, and moving furniture. PC Richard Conner reminds you that it is a criminal offence to cause a nuisance on educational property. He will be pursuing this matter seriously.

Blenheim Flower Show June 10th - 13th

Finstock WI

At our meeting on June 8th, Ms R Baker will give a talk about *Life on a Mobile Library Van* and on July 13th Mrs. P. Bannister will talk about *Paper Mache, South American Style*. Meetings are held in the Village Hall and begin at 7.30pm. Visitors and prospective members are very welcome to attend.

In addition to regular meetings, numerous trips and other activities are organised through the Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes and the W.I. Denham College at Marcham. On June 24th there is a talk and walk to *Explore the Oxford Canal* and on July 27th a visit to Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park has been arranged.

For details about these or other WI topics call the Secretary, Kitty Turner, on 868752.

WODC is committed to the prevention and detection of benefit fraud.

Every year criminals steal at least £80 from every taxpayer in the county. That

amounts to something in the region of £2 billion of taxpayer's money being fraudulently claimed in Benefits. Anyone who knows or suspects someone is committing a benefit fraud is urged to contact the Benefit Fraud Investigation Team on 01993-861234 or email benefits@westoxon.gov.uk

Finstock Church Fete June 26th, 12 noon, behind the Crown Pub



Come for lunch and an afternoon of lots of fun for the whole family. All the money raised will go towards covering the costs of the annual running expenses of the church, the maintenance of the churchyard and to cover our share in the payment of the salary of the Vicar.

Any donations will be very gratefully received. Someone will call to collect anything you care to give. For toys please contact Carol Fagg 868505. Any other donations contact Mo Pickett 869268.

Ramsden Village Fete and Companion Dog Show

Put a date in your diary for Saturday June 12th for the 2004 Ramsden Fete from 2pm held at Middle Farm. There will be all the usual events including the Morris Men, Finstock School Maypole Dancers and *Jousting Horse*. Don't forget your towel and costume for the Water Slide, throw an egg or two and bring your dog for entry into the Companion Dog Show- novelty and pedigree classes. The excellent book stall will be there as will the cakes and plant stalls. There will also be some new attractions. Hope to see you there. Susan Moore Tel: 868278

Finstock - a changing village

There is a European and District Council election in June. The draft West Oxfordshire Local Plan will be fully debated in a Public Inquiry beginning in Witney in early July that is due to last for around six months.

We also have the inquiry into the Oxfordshire Structure Plan, and who knows what the South East Regional Assembly based in Guildford will be telling us to do on behalf of the Government. Finally, there is Community Planning, whatever that really means; and in theory, we should all get involved in all these processes.

In practice it is hard to understand and influence the many changes that affect us all. There is undoubtedly a great need for more housing, particularly affordable housing for local people. There is a need for local services, none more obvious than a shop and post office. There is a need for a thriving church, a couple of lively pubs, a village hall, and particularly a school in a community like ours. We also have those all important activities for younger and older folks or for groups like the WI, Local History and the Football Club where a Village Hall or recreational ground is essential.

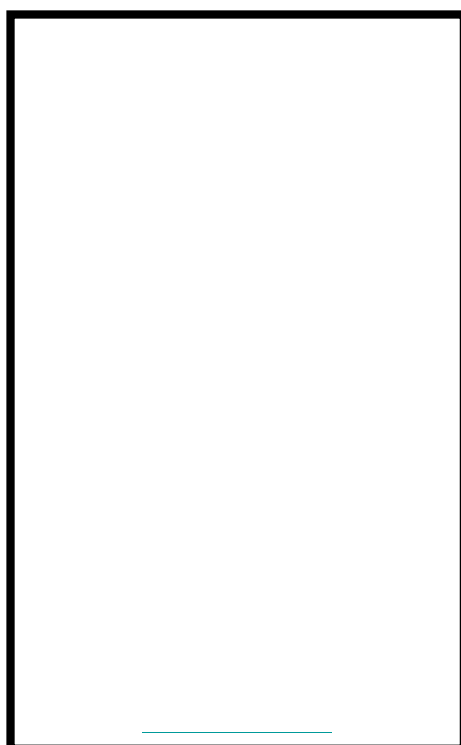
Today many of our village facilities need substantial upgrading. The problem is that the economy of the rural areas is far more complex than hitherto. Many of us work or play out of the village and have interests far and wide, in Europe and beyond. Yet somehow

we need to focus attention on what our own special community has to offer. Perhaps our Festival will provide the catalyst as there are agencies out there that are willing to aid a thriving community especially one that is looking to the future with some new ideas. I would always be happy to act as the French would say, as a local animateur.

Is there anyone willing to join me in a regular Health Walk through the woods from Finstock to Charlbury on say a Thursday morning for example?

Recycling Finstock in the widest sense is what we should all be about. As the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard once said, *Life can only be understood backwards but has to be lived forwards.*

Mike Breakell



The Wine Column - A Midsummer Bite's Dream

We may not live by an Athens wood but with midsummer approaching what could be better than dreaming of an evening picnic in our own lovely countryside. Summer picnics, with salads, perhaps ham or salmon, quiche or cheese, with strawberries and cream; they all call for young fresh fruit driven wines, wines stocked in abundance by supermarkets because of their low cost and, like Puck's flower juice, their immediate appeal.

The white wines are easy. My choice might be a Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand, a dry English wine from the wonderful 2003 vintage (Castle Vineyard, Bampton) or the Free Trade Cape Chenin Blanc (Co-op at Carterton). If it has to be Chardonnay then it would be a un-oaked one.

Reds are more difficult. Unless an alfresco nap was also planned, my reds would be light wines aimed for early drinking and served cool. From Waitrose, a young Bordeaux such as Merchants Bay 2002 with its screw cap should be fine, or their 2002 Beaujolais or Valpolicella. Light new world brands like Banrock Station and Hardys Stamp would do. If the food called for something more substantial then a young new world Merlot might fit the bill. An alternative of course is pink. Rose wines have moved on from the Mateus days and serious examples are now available which are ideal for summer drinking.

As with Shakespeare's story so with wine, things are never simple, confusion reigns. Is a BBQ not a summer picnic of sorts, does this not demand huge reds, not feeble whites. Yes, a BBQ does demand full wines, white or red, but they should still be young, as the alfresco 'air' will soon kill off any glimmer of maturity in a wine.

And finally, before midnight strikes and our dream fades, we should not forget that a crisp dry sherry or a flute of champagne make lovely summer drinks.

Chris Turner

**FIREWOOD
TREE SURGERY
& FELLING
HEDGE CUTTING**

Three Villages Shop

A progress report on the shop project was given at the Parish Council AGM open meeting on April 26th at which it was reported that, subject to approval of an increased grant from the West Oxfordshire Network and a reasonable level of additional contributions pledged from shareholders and residents of the three villages, we expect the shop to open in September and the Post Office in October. Unless there is a change in policy with respect to rural Post Offices, this is the last chance we will have to re-establish our post office for the foreseeable future.

At the time of writing (early May) we have received some very generous pledges of additional funds from residents of the three villages but we still require more. Also, Greene King has made a generous concession to the proposed rental of the Crown stables for which we are very grateful.

The shop project has encountered a long and bumpy road but we can look forward to a successful

conclusion if we can clear this final financial hurdle. If all our efforts, and generosity, can be channelled into completing this project this summer, we can all then put our full effort behind the future village projects discussed at the AGM, namely the playground and the village hall / community centre.

Christopher Turner
On behalf of TVSA

Letters to the Editor

Memorial to Hilary

Hilary much enjoyed films, which she knew a lot about, and about which she had very definite opinions, as she had about many things. She enjoyed her television and listened often to Radio Oxford. Many villagers may remember when Radio Oxford came to Finstock and Hilary gave quite a long interview about the village and people connected with it. That was when Arthur Jones's goose resolutely refused to make any sound into the microphone when he was interviewed. Many will also remember the filming around the village of James Runcie's television film about Hilary's sister, Barbara, *Miss Pym's Day Out*, which had Patricia Routledge as Barbara and Hilary played herself. Hilary and Barbara, although very different in

character and who led independent career and personal lives, spent much of their lives after the war together, in London and then at Barn Cottage. It was a great sadness to Hilary that her sister should die quite soon after they had settled here, but she rejoiced at the renewed interest in the novels after the television programme, *Tea with Miss Pym* was filmed in the garden at their cottage. Hilary continued to nurture her sister's reputation after her death and kept in good touch with the *Barbara Pym Society*. She was so looking forward to the Society coming to our village on June 13th, when the highlight of the day will be Evensong at our church, where the Bishop of Oxford will give an address.

When she knew she was going to die she gave the day her blessing. She was keen that the celebration would still take place, and that Society members would find a warm welcome in the village they will be coming to explore.

M. Collard

Riverside Festival Saturday June 19th (2-11pm) and Sunday June 20th (12-7pm) in Mill Field, Charlbury. The biggest free festival in the South of England. Entertainment for everyone. Bar and good food on site or bring a picnic.

Finstock Golden Jubilee Playground

A company that uses a community build scheme has been contacted and asked to work with us in the construction of our Finstock Golden Jubilee Playground. *From Tots to Teens* is the concept. The contractor is coming to the school June 10th to run a Design Day beginning with a site meeting at 7.30am, followed by a meeting with the children, teachers, and School Governors. Parents, adults and teens will meet around 4pm, the Parish, and District Councillors about 5pm, followed by an open meeting at 8pm to unveil the design for approval. The company will supervise the building of the play area. Target date for building is September. We will need to raise about £5,000. Anyone who is interested in this project should contact me, Mike Peck on [michael@mayfield](mailto:michael@mayfieldsecurity.co.uk)

[security.co.uk](mailto:michael@mayfieldsecurity.co.uk).

Mike Peck

So many of the former residents of Finstock, those who have lived most of their lives in the village, and have now moved to other parts of the country to be near family, enjoy receiving a copy of the *Finstock newsletter*. I am thinking particularly of Norah Pratley who loves to keep in touch with her friends in Finstock and enjoys a good chin wag on the telephone. She has recently had a minor stroke and we hope she makes a good recovery. Her days as ladies' darts champion may be over but she still enjoys an active social life. Do come and visit your old friends in Finstock soon.

Best wishes from us all

AO'C

Hamlet performed by 'All the Kings Men' on Saturday July 16th and Sunday July 17th at the Charlbury Memorial Hall at 7.30pm - £5.

CHIMNEY SWEEP

For a clean and efficient service

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS JULY 12TH

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Read the *Finstock News* online; visit *Finstock Website* at www.finstock.org.uk

A lid for your second black recycle box can be ordered on 861020 or picked up at the Town Centre Shop in Witney.

Congratulations from WODC! In the first three days of the new recycling scheme we were inundated with the amount of materials collected; demand far exceeded our expectations. The volume collected was between 160 and 180 tonnes. Previously we collected 96 tonnes (average) a week.

Please note: that materials can be mixed in the recycling boxes and these will be sorted by our collectors. (WODC Parish Link Spring 2004)

The incredibly useful A-Z of how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle locally has been delivered to every home from Ramsden to Charlbury thanks to the organising efforts of Beverley Morley and the footwork of Michael, Nick, Andre, Eliot and Reuben. If you did not receive a copy or need a second or third free copy, please Tel: Nick Murphy .

West Oxfordshire has been ranked in the Top Ten list of local authority recycling schemes issued by Friends of the Earth. Best practice guidelines call for at least five materials to be collected from households; WODC is now collecting nine recyclable materials from all households in the District, weekly. Visit Friends of the Earth website for full details of the survey: www.foe.co.uk.

Discounted home composters will be available to West Oxfordshire residents again this year. For further details Tel: 0870-844-3006.

Plastic bags litter the landscape and injure wildlife. The John Price family suggests you *stretch, twist and knot* your plastic bags before disposing of them to prevent any chance of them blowing around.

Easy and healthy cleaning materials:

Windows cleaner – vinegar, water, squirt of washing up liquid.

Disinfectant – vinegar with a few drops of tea tree oil.

All purpose cleaner or scourers – baking soda.

Abrasive cleaner – salt

Alternative to bleach – lemon juice

Read about the chemicals you use in your home and garden by visiting

www.wwf.org.uk/chemicals/glossary.asp;

www.greenpeace.org.uk/products/toxics/chemicalhouse.cfm;

www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/chemicals_in_the_home.html; and

www.money.guardian.co.uk/ethicalliving for a complete look at eco-friendly living.

Time is Running out for County Landfill

Oxfordshire County Council has started planning the long-awaited move away from landfill. Under direction by Europe, the Government has set Oxfordshire a time limit to stop land filling, and do more with the rubbish that householders throw out. Eventually, this will mean a wholesale move away from land filling, and a need to recycle, compost, or recover value from rubbish. The Government has set permits for Oxfordshire that will limit the amount of rubbish which can be landfilled starting next year – 2005. If Oxfordshire landfills more than it is allowed it will be fined. Oxfordshire will need to divert 75% of rubbish from landfill by 2020.

Adam Symons, Head of Waste Management at the County Council said: "The reason why the EU is banning landfill is because when rubbish is land filled it degrades, giving off methane, which is 23 times stronger than carbon dioxide at causing global warming. County Councillor Anne Purse, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Waste Management, said: "Rubbish is really a commodity, and we all need to change our perspective and treat it as such. We can't afford as a society to keep throwing things away without thinking of the consequences."

We have Broadband! - Janette & Kim Reed

New way to be buried – Freeze-dried

An ecologically friendly method of burial, invented in Sweden, involves bodies being frozen very quickly, dipped in liquid nitrogen, shattered to powder by vibration, sent to a vacuum chamber to remove any water, and passed through a metal separator to remove toxic metal fillings and surgical parts. The dry, odourless organic remains can then be placed in a small degradable box made of corn starch and buried in a shallow grave which turns into compost in about 6-12 months time. A tree can be planted and the compost formed can be taken up by the tree. The cost would be comparable to that of standard cremation. Britain already contains about 160 burial sites where bodies can be buried un-embalmed, in a coffin with a sapling or wooden marker as a memorial. (Thank you to John Price for this article.)

A new customer feedback system will allow residents to have their say on OCC's waste management services including recycling, waste reduction and reuse services provided. Leaflets about the scheme, called WMG Respond, are now available at all eight of Oxfordshire's Waste Recycling Centres, as well as at local libraries, in the County Hall reception area, and in Speedwell House reception area. Oxfordshire residents can also send their views to the Waste Management Group by emailing waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DECKING
FREE Estimates
(25 miles radius Ramsden)

**Congratulations Amy and Will
on your engagement!**

Sunday July 4th kicks off with a family, united service on the playing field at 10.30am with Jane Knowles. From 11.30 onwards we share a picnic lunch. Bring your own food and drink. The marquee will not arrive until mid-week. Your afternoon enjoyment may include watching football, strolling through village gardens, madrigals, enjoying the local arts and crafts presentation, looking at the '30-year-on' photos, or singing madrigals; ending the day with Jane at the Church at 6pm when there will be a service of Choral evensong, to which all are welcome.

Recycling facilities will be provided on site during the entire Festival, please use them for your paper, cans and bottles. Keep Finstock tidy! The 'necessary' will also be provided throughout the Festival located at the School on the playing field.

**Artist and Craftsmen Exhibition
Sunday July 4th**

Around twenty local artists and craftspeople will be showing examples of their work, including Rosemary Wise, Jenifer Wates, Alan Pyburn, Kath Howse, Pam Hutchings, Barbara Pensom, Eileen Dore and Neil Hanson, and others. These exhibits include paintings, photographs, embroideries, patchwork quilts, tapestries, decorated eggs, etc

The Exhibition will be on show at the Studio at Langlands, and at the Old Schoolroom.

The times and dates when the Exhibition will be open are as follows:-
Sunday July 4th. 2-5 pm (14.00-17.00)
Tuesday July 6th. 5-8 pm (17.00-20.00)
Friday July 9th. 6-9 pm (18.00-21.00)

**Finstock Festival Football – Sunday
July 4th and Saturday July 10th
(Please see p.11)**

**Festival Evensong Sunday July 4th
(Please see p.9)**

**Young People's Day - Tuesday July
6th (please see p.10)**

Sunday July 4th

A group of local singers will be assembling on the roof of the garage of

Finstock Festival Programme Events

The Finstock Festival July 4th – July 10th 2004

We have succeeded in obtaining financial support for the from the Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action, from West Oxfordshire and from our Parish Council, which approved a £200 donation. We are very grateful for these contributions which have enabled us to plan a range of events designed to appeal to all sections of our community.

The aim is to celebrate the village and its people, and to bring the community closer together through shared experiences and a common goal. If you want to help with any event, please contact the event organiser whose details were on the

green programme you received in the last issue of the *Finstock News*. In the week itself we need you to attend the events to make them a success. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Ruth N
For the committee

Barn Cottage, 2 High Street to sing a set of four part songs and madrigals by way of serenading passers-by as they visit the gardens and exhibitions in Finstock Bottom. The same set of songs will be repeated, first at 3pm and again at 4pm. If you can sight read and would like to take part please ring Ruth on 868147.

Open Gardens Sunday July 4th 2-5 pm

The gardeners have all been working hard to make their gardens well worth your visit. Please do come and enter our fun competition as you do the rounds. There will be a prize for the first correct entry drawn.

There will be a numbered 'Festival' green sign outside each Open Garden.

Maps indicating the garden numbers and their addresses as well as refreshment stops can be collected a few days beforehand from the two pubs and at the different gardens and at the tea venue on the day.

Attached to the map will be the competition entry form. Please take a pen or pencil with you.

To give the gardeners a chance to see the other gardens as well, we will meet at The Plough on Friday June 2nd at 4pm and Saturday June 3rd at 4pm to begin the tours.

**Children's Competition during the
Open Gardens**

- Children may enter any or all of these:
- 1 A garden on a tray or board etc.
 - 2 A crazy creature / person made from vegetables
 - 3 Something a child has grown.

Exhibits will be entered in the following age groups:

- Under 5 yrs., 6-10yrs., 10yrs +
- There will be prizes.

Entries can be handed in on the day to the Competition Table at the tea venue, The Orchard, High Street
Any queries please contact Mo Pickett 869268.

*TOIDS cover Britain see next issue
(TOID – topographical identifier.)*

**Complete outside bar facilities
for any occasion.
Custom made portable bar to suit
any venue.
No function too big/small.**

- **Monday-Saturday 8am-5pm**
- **Full range of quality local:
meats, eggs, vegetables,
bread, cheese, preserves,
cakes, crafts etc. etc.**

Olde Tyme Music Hall – Monday July 5th

My Lords. . Ladies . . and Gentlemen. Pray take your places on Monday the fifth of July at eight on the evening in the evocative surroundings of your own – your very own – Village Hall for an evening of delights from those Good Old Days of yesteryear.

Under the commanding musical directorship of John Owen Edwards, fresh from recent triumphs on the London stage, and the eloquent – nay coruscating – chairmanship of Mr... Peter! ...Welply!! Finstock's own panoply of stars will bring for your delectation and delight a rich and varied tapestry of diverting delights – and featuring most of all.. Yourselves! JOIN in the singing of those favourites of bygone years. FEAST on your own picnic (brought by your own selves). CAROUSE on a selection of stimulating liquors (also brought by you). WIN

prizes for the best picnic and most appropriate costume of the period.

You will need a TICKET – modestly priced at £1 – mainly so that enough tables and chairs can be provided for you enjoyment. First come, first served. Don't miss out.

The search is on for the above-mentioned panoply of so far secret stars. Get in touch with me (John Garrick, 868461, jgarrick@hotmail.com) if you'd like to take part – or why not betray one of your shy and retiring friends?

Thursday July 8th Young People's Evening – watch for announcement closer to the event.

Friday July 9th Young People's Evening with a disco, a band and soft drinks served in the marquee.

Friday July 9th is Pub Night The Crown will have a singles domino match for the Pub trophy, last won by Dave Floyd. There will also be a doubles play-off for the Pop Ward trophy. Sign-up sheets for both the Aunt Sally and the dominoes will be posted at The Crown during Festival week. There will be a £1 entry fee for each event which will go to Charity. You can learn how to play Aunt Sally outside or participate in a Barrel Roll for charity. There will be entertainment at the Plough – watch for announcements.

Saturday July 10th activities begin at noon when we assemble at Mt Skippett for a parade/procession through the village. Footballers, children and us old ones alike enjoy dressing up and laughing, so this should be fun. The procession will lead us onto the playing field for the School Fete. Friends of Wychwood Forest and Finstock Recycling will have tables set-up to provide information. The marquee will be up with a full bar running through the day. Foxbury Farm is graciously sponsoring a pig roast. Eleven-a-side football will hold their final, local bands and Morris dancing about 6.30, followed by a Barn Dance to nicely wrap up the day. Saturday will be the culmination of a week's Village Party we can look back on with a smile for years to come.

Barn Dance - Saturday July 10th

The grand finale to the Festival Activities will be a Barn Dance.

If you haven't been to this type of event in the past then you might be in for a surprise – there's far more to it than sitting around on hay bales and counting check shirts and skirts! Tickets are available from Pete Welply, Tel: 868140, or rap@rupanipete.freeserve.co.uk from May 1st, £3 + £2 concessions (unemployed/students/under 12's and over 60's)

If you fancy an evening that guarantees great fun, great exercise (if



Come and walk with us to Fawler – Wednesday July 7th

Remind yourself how interesting and pretty our neighbourhood is. Meet in the Bottom (by The Plough) at 2.30 on Wednesday July 7th and walk down Dark Lane along the river to Fawler where drinks will be provided to revive you for the return stroll. Doughtier walkers can continue to Stonesfield Common or branch off through the coverts to Hunts Copse. At a leisurely pace the walk takes about half an hour each way, giving plenty of time to chat to neighbours and make new friends. Good dogs welcome. Barbara Pensom 868774

Finstock Writers Past and Present – Wednesday July 7th

This evening is intended as a celebration of the work of local writers and we are pleased to inform you that eight of them have agreed to participate. In the first half there will be a display of books and you are invited to look at them and talk to their writers who will be in attendance. There will be some readings of brief excerpts – from the writing of Gil Phelps for instance – and some writers will speak about their work before the interval when a glass of wine will be served. After the interval we will focus on writers of the past, notably Barbara Pym: and we are delighted that local composer and music director John Owen Edwards has agreed to set to music a fragment of a play written by Barbara when she was 9 years old. He will be bringing a professional cast in especially for this event which will provide an intriguing and unusual conclusion to the evening. We are pleased to mention that *WODC Support for the Arts* has granted us £425 for this event.

you wish!) and great value, then come and join in. *Muscadin*, a local Oxfordshire band of proven talent, will also provide your step-by-step guide through the dances - you can't go wrong! Recent reviews state, "They fuse together many elements of European music into a wonderfully heady brew.... The sound is distinctive and colourful". Saturday July 10th from 7.30-11.30 in the Marquee, straight after the Pig Roast. Only £3. **Now that IS competition for Cornbury.**

Wychwood Project was responsible for hedgelaying at Finstock. The project on the Finstock playing fields used native hedgerow species, such as hawthorn, holly and dog rose to plant within any gaps. Further activities of the Wychwood Project are listed below.

The Wychwood Forest Art Trail May 29th – June 6th enquiries www.artweeks.org or 868427.

Sunday June 6th *Flower Walk on Pixey Mead* at Wolvercote Bathing Place, 2pm, contact Helen Ap-Rhisiart Tel: 01865-374227.

Wednesday June 16th *Oxfordshire Conservation Forum* at Music Room, The Gables, Queen Street, Eynsham at 8 pm, contact Jolyon Cox, Tel: 01865-880563.

Thursday June 17th *Gertrude Jekyll and her Influence on Rural Life* at Shipton-under-Wychwood Village Hall at 7.30pm, Contact Wendy Pearse Tel: 831023.

Saturday June 19th *Bugs and Butterflies by the Windrush* at Cogges Farm Museum, Witney at 2pm onwards.

Sunday June 27th an event on Plant Identification at Fifield Green Lane. Meet at Merry-mouth Inn car park, Fifield, 10am-1pm, contact Wychwood project Tel: 814143

Sunday July 4th *Bird Walk – St Mary's Fields and toward Thrupp* at St Mary's car park, Kidlington at 2pm, contact Helen Ap-Rhisiart Tel 01865-374227. ↗

David Cameron MP Activities

David is urging the Government to change the compensation scheme for communities suffering power cuts so that residents and businesses suffering six or more power cuts in a year automatically receive compensation. He has tabled a new motion in the House of Commons about the infection Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) – an infection that kills 100 babies every year. GBS is the UK's most common cause of life-threatening infection in newborn babies, causing septicaemia, pneumonia and meningitis in an estimated 700 babies per year, killing 100 of these sick babies and leaving 35 survivors with long-term problems including brain damage. The new motion draws attention to the fact that, following the debate and other action that has been taken, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have issued important new guidelines for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists encouraging treatment for GBS as a matter of routine.

David has also been meeting local farmers. He feels their industry is vital to our area and to the landscape and countryside that we all want to promote. He also spoke in a debate in the House of Commons to back the campaign to keep the ban on the export of live horses from the United Kingdom to Europe.

SMALL ADS

(All numbers start with 01993 unless otherwise stated)

The Body Shop at Home – call Amanda Osborne on 868452 and ask for a catalogue.

Airports, seaports, social occasions. **Chauffeur-driven hire**, 7 passengers, owner/driver.

Ron Kirk on 883633
Advance bookings preferable.

Use the **Village Hall** for your next event.

Contact Sue Salter on 868647

Large variety of animal and bird feeds, etc. from hamster to horses and chaffinch to chickens – all at out of town prices.

M & J Harris, Shinfield, Poffley End, Hailey
Tel: 702407

Wednesday July 7th *William Smith-Father of Geology* at Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock at 7.30pm, contact The Museum Tel: 811456.

Wednesday July 14th a guided tour of Friar's Court Farm, Clanfield (£4/person) with tractor and trailer rides, ploughman's supper (£5.25), at 6.45pm (2-hour tour). Book in advance via Wychwood Project Office 814143.

Saturday July 17th a guided half-day walk through Wychwood Forest, courtesy of the Cornbury Estate. Numbers are limited, so please reserve your plans in advance. Contact Wychwood project office Tel: 814143

Walk the Wychwood Way is a full colour 48-page booklet which contains route details for the 37-mile circular route plus shorter options to link to Charlbury and its station. Buy it from The Wychwood Project, Tel: 814143, wychwoodproject.org.

ONCF, Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum, is a conservation charity working solely in Oxfordshire – an umbrella organisation helping to co-ordinate conservation across the county. It has a vibrant membership of 58 organisations, from English Nature to local authorities, from farming bodies to wildlife groups. This co-ordination means that each group is in a really strong position to work with its partners to make a positive impact on all that lives and grows in the county through the Biodiversity Action Plan (the UK's initiative to maintain and enhance biodiversity, the amazing richness of wildlife and habitats on Earth.) If you would like more information on where to go in Oxfordshire to discover and enjoy wildlife please visit our website: www.oncf.org.uk or Tel: 01865-407034.

Why Not be a Magistrate? Are you a good listener? Can you see both sides of an argument? Do you like a good discussion? Do you like to see fair play? Then you could dispense Justice in your community! The Advisory Committee on Appointment of Justices of the Peace in Oxfordshire: Malcolm Leeding, Committee Secretary – 01865-815327.

Line ads are charged at 20p per word, payment in advance. Flyers inserted in an issue are £5. Please contact: John Wells on 868968.

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Church Activities

Summer! Now we know how wonderful it is to live in Finstock. Many thanks to Viv Wightman and her family for the magnificent efforts they have put into raising money for both the Church and the Church improvements. The list of helpers is too numerous to mention, so thank you to you all.

We have been given approval by the Diocese for the necessary work. This project will provide appropriate facilities for today's needs. The school, the toddler and preschool groups will be able to make more use of the Church. The two children's groups have provided us with some plants and two magnificent tubs containing bay trees, which enhance the entrance. We look forward to the time when the Sunday school can re-open to welcome young families with children.

June 13th is a very special day in Finstock because the Bishop of Oxford, The Right Reverend Richard Harries, will preach at Evensong, and take part in the commemorations for Barbara Pym on the 25th anniversary of her death. Most of you will be familiar with the sound of his voice

from his frequent *Thought for the Days* slots so this is your opportunity to come and hear him in the flesh. This service is open to all but because the Barbara Pym Society is providing a coach from Oxford, it would be helpful if we were to have some idea of numbers. Please let me, or one of the PCC know if you would like to come.

The Church Fete will take place in the field behind the Crown this year, on June 26th, thanks to the generosity of Mr Charles Cayzer, and thanks to the generosity of Foxbury Farms, there will be a pig roast. It will be a great day out. Tell your friends.

Have a wonderful summer. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all those who have so much to organise.

Jane Knowles

The Auction of Promises to raise funds for the Church WC and loft has reached £4592 at this time! The Church Spring plant and book sale raised nearly £500.

The Church will be open for people to pop in and have a look round during the Festival week.

The Festival Evensong Sunday July 4th

On Sunday July 4th at 6 o'clock in the evening the Finstock Festival Choir will gather to sing Evensong in our beautiful village church. The Anglican service of Evensong is a musical delight which will appeal to all – churchgoers of any denomination and non-churchgoers alike. I am grateful to Jane, the Vicar for the opportunity to take part in it and to the choir of the Benefice of Ramsden, Finstock and Leafield for agreeing to form the nucleus of the specially formed Finstock Festival Choir – especially to those from the far-flung outposts of Ramsden and Leafield for lending us their support – we promise not to revive the ancient practice of confronting such "outsiders" at the former Waterloo Arms!


The village church is an asset to the whole village, (and rightly a centre of festival activity – see the "ff" logo from the last festival etched into one of the windows) so I am hoping to enlist singers from the whole community for this special occasion. I have already contacted several people, but it is not too late for anyone I have overlooked to join us. Contact me – John Garrick – on 868461, or jgarrick@hotmail.com for the details.

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The Crown has introduced two new menus - one for Pub grub/bar snacks; the other for traditional full menu restaurant food. The Crown will be serving all day during the Church Fete on June 26th.

Pub Games – The Winter Leagues have ended with the two dominoes teams finishing respectably and the ladies' dart team happy to see the end of the season. Men's darts will be back on Thursday night for the Summer League and carry on into the Winter League. Aunt Sally is holding non-league, friendly fixtures. Check with Nick behind the bar for the schedule. New sticks and a new backdrop will make the Aunt Sally more enjoyable for players!

Oxfordshire Playbus offers IT training for parents/carers in groups of six for 6 to 12 weeks FREE.

There is a particular emphasis on those who are isolated in rural areas and can't easily access training, 'failed' at school and have few/no qualifications, and need care for children under five to enable them to access training. If you are, or know of any groups of people that would like to use these facilities, please contact: Niz Smith, Manager Oxfordshire Playbus, c/o Thames Business Advice Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 ODR, 01865-256809 or email: oxonplaybus@aol.com.

Young People's day is for children in primary school, pre-school and toddlers.

There will be a party at the Village Hall to celebrate being part of the second Finstock Festival. There will be lots of food and goodies to eat along with entertainment in the form of a magician. If enough of Finstock's children attend, it will be one of the few occasions that all the children of this age group are together, and a large group photograph could be taken to record *The Children of Finstock 2004*. What a wonderful keepsake for the children!

afternoon. More detailed information will be circulated nearer the time via Finstock School, Woodpecker Pre-school and the Parent and Toddler Group. If you are not connected with any of these, don't worry, posters will also be displayed in various *hot spots* in Finstock. If you need further information, or have any ideas on how to make this a memorable occasion for the children – please do not hesitate to call me on 868280.

The party will take place on Tuesday

Lesley Dore

Woodpecker Pre-school

Last term we had to say goodbye to Amy Burridge, who was the assistant supervisor. She was reluctant to leave but due to personal circumstances had to make this choice. So it was a fond farewell to both Jane Walker Tudge and Amy. However, Woodpecker's has been very fortunate and Polly Cooper has joined the team as Assistant Supervisor.

We have had a very exciting donation of rolls of astro-turf-type material from Jane South's father, which will change the look of our outside area completely. It will be a long awaited treat to play on once it is fitted – hopefully no more bumps and scrapes from the unforgiving surface the children play on at the moment. A great big thank you to Jane for organising this, and to her father for donating it!

also need small (real) hammers and any spare wood suitable for 3-5 year olds to play with. If you do have any item to donate please either drop them off at the Village Hall, or telephone Lesley Dore who will arrange collection.

We will be holding a **toy sale in the Village Hall, Finstock on May 17th from 11.30 am onwards to raise funds for the Pre-school**. Please come along and support this if you can. Also, please could I take this opportunity to ask everyone if they have any spare Play Mobil sets that are no longer played with – as our supplies are very low now? We

Finally, thank you very much to those of you who returned our questionnaire regarding children attending Woodpecker's in the future. If you still have not got around to it then please don't throw it away – the more we have returned the clearer the picture we will have regarding future numbers, which will aid long term planning. If you would like more information regarding Woodpecker Pre-school please do not hesitate to telephone Lesley Dore, Pre-school Supervisor, on 868280.

Your Village Hall needs YOU!

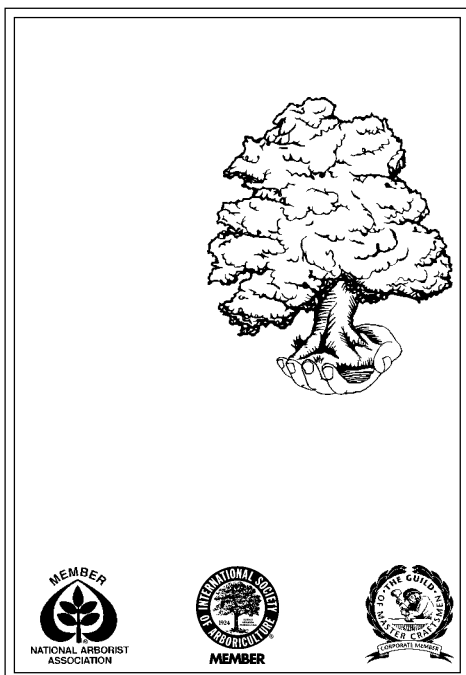
We have been very lucky that several other community-spirited individuals have assisted with maintenance tasks recently, such as decorating the kitchen, repairing the flat roof, supplying materials etc. If YOU have any particular expertise or access to resources that could be of use in the future, please contact a committee member.

you can – either indirectly through local groups who rent the hall, hiring it for your own functions, or attending fundraising events that will be scheduled from time to time in order to pay for necessary expenditure.

Unfortunately, running costs continue to rise and it's important we look after this valuable community asset for as long as possible. Therefore, we would urge you to support your local Village Hall whenever

The feasibility of a new hall IS at the very early research stage, and more news will be forthcoming in the next few months (there will be a full consultation process). Meanwhile, please continue to support your Village Hall.

Finstock Village Hall Committee



Between the Posts

End of Season Report

Well here we are at the end of another season. It all goes so quickly. Still there is plenty of work to do this summer to keep us going until September.

The first XI had a pleasing season finishing in the top half of the table. This was made all the more pleasing considering the fact that at this stage last season we didn't even think we would have a side.

The Reserves are still young and a couple more seasons in men's football will surely put them in good stead as there are some very good players coming through. Their lack of experience showed in their results and when the team was bolstered by a couple of experienced heads the results were more appropriate. Simon Bridgman has worked very hard to keep a Reserve side going. In fact on some days he had to tell players to go home as he had too many. Finstock were one of the only teams in the league that did not have a constant availability problem.

My thanks also go to Derek Bennett who has worked tirelessly with both the first team and training and also in the general running of the club. Without Derek's help, I am positive we would not have reached this stage of the season. So, thank you to all the players and committee members who have helped and members of the community who have attended our quiz nights. My thanks also go to the Crown who has been great hosts over the season and we hope to continue this relationship for years to come. Lastly, I would like to thank Steve Wilford for his wonderful quiz nights, his fun approach and enthusiasm for the night is well worth the entry fee alone. Keep looking for our events posted around the village and on the web site, and enjoy.

Next season we may be running three sides, one, of which will be playing away from Finstock as the facilities are not adequate. So if you want to play then give me a call or come to training on Tuesday nights at Witney ATP from 20.30 until 22.00. Age and ability are not a problem.

Andy Compton

Finstock Festival Football – Sunday July 4th and Saturday July 10th

This summer sees the return of the Finstock Festival Football Competition. Although in previous years it was run as a six-a-side competition we have decided on an 11-a-side format. The teams involved will hopefully be confirmed as Union Street (city league), Hethe FC (Banbury and Lord Jersey), AC Finstock and AC Finstock Reserves.

The Semi-finals will take place on Sunday July 4th with one game in the morning and one in the afternoon. The two winning sides will then battle it out after the School Fete on the following Saturday.

The club will also be joining the procession. We hope to be dressed in old Finstock football kits that we have found, so if anybody has any of the old shirts in their loft, a loan would be much appreciated.

A final word of thanks must go to the *Finstock News* team who have continued to provide the best medium possible for local clubs and events. I thank Joy for constantly allowing me that extra day over the deadline to give you the most up-to-date results (or, was I just being lazy?).

Andy Compton

Well Hill

As I was sweeping out the garage over the weekend I chanced to meet Dave Floyd, as one does, and asked him to record his recollections of Well Hill for our benefit. I gathered that 1 and 2 Well Hill were built in the 1920's; I already knew that his father-in-law Johnny Townsend, had helped to build the track in the early 1950's; and Dave moved in in 1960 or thereabouts.

It would be quite interesting to know what Well Hill looked like in those days. There was plainly a track leading to the Village Hall, and the Council's work may have been to connect the Village Hall to the Floyds' house. The three cottages at the top of Well Hill were then farm

buildings belonging to the Vicks. More I recall not. Does anyone have more details about the evolution of Well Hill?

Tony H

Margaret Rogers

Margaret Rogers, who died on April 29th, was an exceptionally warm-hearted and intelligent lady, who held an Oxford degree at a time when very few women went to university. She was brought up on the Isle of Wight, and retained a great love for the 'country' of her birth. She had a small cottage there, where she spent much of her free time with her little dog, Meg. Many of us will have happy memories of holidays that she invited us to take at the cottage.

When Margaret's husband Maurice retired, they came to live in the house in Mount Skippett which had belonged to his parents. He interested himself in his garden, especially in his collection of alpine plants, while Margaret became involved with Finstock Church and the life of the village. She, and Hilary Walton, was a founder of the Finstock Local History Society, which remains a flourishing organization, as does the Finstock WI, of which Margaret was a very active member.

Margaret was a lady who had a deep and enduring love of people. She was never intrusive but always concerned for their welfare. She had worked as a Hospital Almoner, and it is difficult to imagine anyone better suited to her profession. Since she became ill, we have missed her greatly, and now we must console ourselves with the thought that we were exceptionally lucky to have known her.

Mary Castell and Elaine Stroud

Taster sessions in rural crafts:

Greenwood Working Taster – July 3rd, 1.30-4.30pm, at Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Witney, cost £20, Concessionary £10

Felt-making and Spinning – July 10th, 10-1pm, at Lower Hall, Methodist Church, Witney, cost £12, Concessionary £6

Blacksmithing – Wednesday August 4th, 5-9pm, at Bridewell Organic Gardens, Wilcote, cost £35 (2 students: 1 instructor)

For bookings and information Tel: Rural Crafts Network on 07795 037870

The North Cotswold Chamber Choir is made up of local singers, performing a wide range of music to an extremely high standard. We are happy to email information to you on a regular basis. For more information about the choir please see our website www.nc3.org.uk

North Cotswold Chamber Choir - Music and Wine – Celebrate summer with a concert in praise of two of the good things in life! Featuring music by such French masters as Ravel and Chabrier.

Date Saturday June 19th

Time 7.30pm

Venue All Saints' Church, Churchill

Tickets £8 / £6 concessions / £3 under 14's

Starlight Children's Foundation is a registered charity which helped more than 181,000 ill children in hospitals throughout the UK. For information call 020-7262-2881, email: news9@starlight.org.uk, visit: www.starlight.org.uk