



Finstock News 28

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

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Have bag, will travel: at the Great Wall...

Beginning with the article about Charlbury Medical Centre changes, continuing with information provided by South East and South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust concerning new out of hours emergency care services, and concluding with comments from our District Councillor and MP about changes at Chipping Norton Hospital, we hope to get a glimpse of all the changes throughout the Health Care system. We will have to watch closely to follow all the action.



...and Fragrant Harbour, Hong Kong

Finstock Recycling held two very successful events in September. Changes are afoot both at the Crown, where we shall keep two familiar faces as the new landlords, and at The Plough, as we say goodbye to Keith Ewers after ten entertaining years. And Mike Peck found some interesting information about life in the 1500's. Enjoy your read.

Charlbury Medical Centre changes

The Charlbury Surgery will now be open only from 8.30am to 6pm, Monday through Friday. The Saturday morning emergency surgery has stopped. The *Out of Hours* cooperative, in line with neighbouring GP practices, will now cover this service. Outside the new surgery hours

you should call 0845-345-8995. (Note: the doctors will not be in surgery on the following days: Dr.Helen Bayliss on Tuesdays, Dr.Pippa Brookes-White on Wednesdays, and Dr.Neil Golder on Thursdays.) p.4 has further information on Out of Hours emergency care services.

A memorial service was held for Iris Kate Lever 4/5/21-19/8/04.

Congratulations Nigel and Tracy on the birth of Martha!

Village Hall

The Village Hall has served Finstock for many years but it needs our help now. The Hall is our main village meeting place where you can have a birthday or anniversary party; where you hold your meetings and recycling events (about £25 was raised at the September 4th coffee morning); where events are held; and where entertainers perform for you as they did during the Finstock Festival. Some in the village may love the old Hall. Some may feel that it is time to replace it with a new meeting place. But either way we have to keep the one we have for the foreseeable future.

The Village Hall committee tried to run a Pub Quiz to bring in a few pounds but very few people played the game, therefore very little money was earned. The Pub Quiz has ended. Anyone with fundraising ideas who is interested in working to keep the Village Hall as an integral part of village life, please contact a Village Hall committee member.

Post Offices are still an option for pension payments

In an effort to cut costs the Government's Department for Work and Pensions are looking to pay the State Retirement Pension directly into bank accounts. However, the District Council wants to ensure that residents know that it is still possible for them to draw their pension from their local Post Office by using the Post Office Card Account.

Cllr. Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Finance & Economic Development said, "The Council continues to support Post Offices, particularly in rural areas. This was a factor in deciding to move to Swipe Cards for payment of Council Tax a couple of years ago as these can be used in all Post Offices." (Please see the latest on our Village Shop on p.7.)

The Crown Inn is sponsoring a Bonfire Night in the Cornbury owned field behind the pub.

English Heritage is looking for a State Jester - the first in England since 1649.

Buy Nothing Day is on November 27th. If you would like more information see <http://www.buynothingday.co.uk/index.html>.

It is the 100th anniversary of the publication of 'Peter Pan' by J.M.Barrie. The play was first performed on December 27th 1904 at the Duke of York Theatre, London. I hope you have your fairy dust ready?



VILLAGE EVENTS



Sunday November 14th: a short service of remembrance will be held at the Finstock and Fawler War Memorial at 12.30pm. The service will be conducted by the Vicar, the Reverend Jane Knowles; wreaths and crosses will be laid, and war veterans who have medals should wear them.

The service at our War memorial on the Anniversary of D-Day was very well attended and it is hoped that there will be a similar response in November. If there are any ex-service personnel with war service, not necessarily the '39 to '45 war, who would wish to take an active part in the ceremonies, please contact Frank Schofield

Finstock Local History Society

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, beginning at eight o'clock; members are free, non-members are £1.

Friday October 8th Stephen Yeates, Department of Archaeology, University of Oxford *the 'Spirit of the Place' in the Roman Cotswolds.*

Friday November 12th Ron Prew, Director, Charlbury Museum Pictures, *Postcards and Local Life.*

Finstock WI

Finstock WI are looking forward to celebrating the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Evenlode WI group to be held at Stonesfield on **October 1st**. Fellow members of the Evenlode group are Stonesfield, North Leigh, Freeland and Combe.

On **October 12th** the Finstock harvest supper will take place at 7.30pm.

On **November 9th** a talk by Mr P. Sheasby entitled *The Flowers and Butterflies of Wychwood Forest* will take place at our winter meeting time of 2pm. Guests are very welcome to attend this talk.

For more information about Finstock WI contact the secretary, Kitty Turner

Julie Floyd Trust Fund now has their annual Fundraising Christmas catalogue available. The catalogue is filled with Christmas cards, wrapping paper, and small gifts. Please contact Donna

North Leigh History Group

Tuesday **October 19th** at 7.30pm in the North Leigh Memorial Hall – Talk by Carol Andersen, *Stonesfield Embroidery*

Tuesday **November 2nd** at 7.30pm in North Leigh Memorial Hall – Talk by John Steane *Recording Buildings*

All welcome. £2 entry. Members free.

Rural Crafts Network Programme

For prices, bookings and any other information call the Rural Crafts Network Project Worker on 0779-503-7870 or email nwilliamson@cftb-hq.org.uk.

October 3rd at Tar Wood, South Leigh, 9-3.30: a day of woodman's crafts in a woodland setting. Learn to make a range of items of your choice, from your own pole-lathe or draw-horse to rustic furniture, fencing etc.

October 17th, Foxholes Wood, Nr Bruern, 1.30-3.30: A family afternoon of discovery in woodland, and the chance to make a small tool. Free, but places limited, so booking essential.

November 14th at Tar Wood, South Leigh, 9-3.30: a day of woodman's crafts in a woodland setting.

December 11th: Living Willow Workshop at Oxfordshire Museum. Create your own living sculpture for the garden. 10-3.30, £25, concessionary £15.

**Living on earth is expensive but it does include
a free trip around the sun every year.**

Finstock with Fawler Church
Christmas Bazaar
2pm Saturday November 20th

Recital for the Witney Music Society

Edmund Connolly (Finstock School 1984-1990) is a lyric baritone and won the Thames Valley Young Musicians Platform in 2003. He is giving a recital for the Witney Music Society on November 12th at Wood Green School, 7:30pm as part of their *Winter Classical Concert* series. His accompanist will be John Reid (piano). Entrance is £5 at the door or from the Music Stand, High St, Witney or Greenway (Antiques), Corn St, Witney. Edmund studied music at Cambridge and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Finstock Festival 📷: Post cards are still available. We would like to thank the Local History Society for providing the historical photos. Our special thanks go to Sarah Tyzack for her excellent colour photos of contemporary Finstock. An 📷 **follow-up** will appear in the next issue. About 20 people attended a September meeting to review the Festival and discuss future special community events in Finstock, such as an Old Tyme Music Hall.

Ruth Nissim

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The 2003 Licensing Act may see 24-hour pub drinking by next summer.

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Finstock - a Changing Scene

There was a well attended public meeting (about 800 people) held in Chipping Norton to discuss the improvement of health care provision in and around the town.

The all important Primary Care Trust Board acknowledged that X-ray and maternity services should remain, but that beds would be reduced whilst domiciliary services would be maintained. However, the general public wanted no cuts at all, and cited serious difficulties for the towns and villages of North West Oxfordshire. The loss of *out of hours minor injuries provision* and cuts in the ambulance service could affect us all as out of hours service may only be provided in Abingdon or Banbury in future. Clearly there are many issues of great concern in the delivery of health services in north and west Oxfordshire.

There are similar concerns over **public transport** in our area which will be reviewed later this year. There are already proposals by the rail operator, First Great Western, to restore the stopping train to 17.22 from Oxford, from mid-December, rather than the present one which runs an hour or so later. This service will revert to stopping at Hanborough and Charlbury only. However, at present the stopping train would be a crowded two-coach unit, although I gather that First Great Western is endeavouring to find another solution to this problem.

The Charlbury Rail Link minibus issue is difficult too, as it currently has to operate to a fixed timetable due to

regulations. These regulations are changing, however, and this could have the advantage of allowing more flexibility. In the meantime do use it and do let me know if it fails to connect with late running trains. This has always been a problem but could help ensure its existence for those loyal customers who really find it very useful. Hopefully the popular bus service from Charlbury to Witney will be retained in its present form.

Mike Breakell

P.S. How wonderful to see our **cycle track progressing** through local initiative and effort. It should complement the new skate board facility that has recently been approved in Charlbury.

David Cameron, our MP, is helping to promote a scheme run by The Rollright Trust to raise cash to improve physical access to the Rollright Stones.

The Rollright Stones near Chipping Norton are steeped in legend and remain a significant part of the local area's history. The site includes a stone circle known as *The Kings Men*, a famous outlier known as *The King Stone* and the remains of a megalithic tomb called *The Whispering Knights*. The site is in critical need of better public access and safe paths for visitors, who currently have to walk on the road (which can be quite busy) to get from the stone circle to the *Whispering Knights* tomb.

David addressed the fall in the number of **Special Constables** who support the

Police and help to tackle crime. He has spoken out in support of **special needs schools**, which are being closed across the country. He said: "Take it from me, as the father of a severely disabled son who has just completed his second day at a special school, that for many of those children a special school is the only place outside home where they can obtain the love, care, attention and therapy that they need." He addressed the question of **Community Hospitals**. David noted that the Witney hospital now looks secure. The debate on what will happen to the Chipping Norton hospital is continuing at

a time that bed blocking remains a problem and the John Radcliffe management think there are too few beds in Oxfordshire. David noted the issue of reducing beds should be addressed.

David Cameron used Health questions in the House of Commons to raise an important local NHS issue following the introduction of the new GP's contract, which means that **out of hours cover will be the responsibility of local primary care trusts**. In West Oxfordshire concerns have been expressed that whereas current cover is provided by a GP, in future the first port of call will be a paramedic. This will mean that Abingdon Hospital will be the "hub" for the service and Witney hospital will merely be a "spoke". (Please see Primary Care Trust article on p.4.)

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Letter to the Editor

According to an article in the *Daily Express* (August 31st), householders on a Reading estate have discovered that for the past ten years or so their properties, though practically identical, have been banded differently. Many in band C should have been paying band B rates all that time. And according to the *Express*, Reading Council has known about the problem since 1994, but tried to keep it secret.

My own suspicions about errors in tax banding in Finstock date from over a year ago when a colleague and I were discussing our respective council tax rates. We both lived in 3-bedroom middle-of-terrace houses, he in Hill Crescent and I in Walkers Height.

His house was built in the late 1960's as part of a private estate, and came with its own garage. Mine was built in 1972 as a council-owned property, and did not have its own garage. His house was placed in band B, and mine was placed in band C.

I wrote to the Valuation Office to point out this discrepancy. The reply stated that the banding was correct!

After reading the article in the *Express*, I decided to look into the matter deeper. The Valuation Office has a website, which is voa.gov.uk. On that site I was able to see a complete list of all the properties and their tax bands in Hill Crescent. Of the 75 properties listed for that estate, 20 are in band B, 53 are in band C, and 2 are in band D. It would not surprise me if further investigation by the residents of Hill Crescent uncovered the same anomalies as on the Reading estate.

I shall be contacting the Valuation Office again. I hope that others will do the same if they believe they have been overcharged.

Jim Breen

Note: Jim also found another way to access this information: Go to ask.co.uk, then select "UK only". Then type in valuation office, and click on 'go.' In the next list there will appear "Council tax valuation list." Follow that trail!

NB The old *after hours* phone number for the Charlbury Surgery should be deleted from your files. The new number to call for Out of Hours is 0845-345-8995.

Your chance to have your say in the NHS

The *Oxfordshire and Area Consortium for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (PPI)* are volunteers who are effectively independent of the NHS with a role of representing the public. The main objective is to ensure adequate public involvement in any proposal to change services by the *Primary Care Trusts*. The most important thing for the *PPI* is to make health services better in

the future for you, your family and the community. If you are interested in representing local views or would like to make your views known to the forum please contact Alison Bell at 5 Long Hanborough Business Park, Long Hanborough, OX29 8LJ; Tel: 886643; FAX: 886638; alisonbell@oacppih.org. Additionally, the *Independent Complaints Advocacy Services (ICAS)* are completely independent and will support you in making a complaint about local NHS services. In this area ring: 01869-325535.

DEADLINE FOR DEC/JAN ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 1ST

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Photography provided by Chris Turner
Read the *Finstock News* online; visit the village website at www.finstock.org.uk

Our local Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing urgent health care services outside GP surgery opening times. The change to *Out of Hours* forms part of the new arrangements for GP's that were introduced nationally on April 1st this year. The new service will offer care for urgent health care problems when GP surgeries are closed between 6.30pm & 8.30am Monday to Friday and 24 hours over weekends and bank holidays.

The *Out of Hours Service* can be contacted on **0845-345-8995**. This number will also be available on your regular GP surgery's answer phone. Please remember – **if the situation is an emergency and you need immediate care: Dial 999** and ask for an ambulance; or, go straight to your nearest Emergency Department at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. **NHS Direct** is available for advice (e.g. on minor ailments, coughs, colds and head lice etc.) 24 hours a day, on 0845-4647. Your local pharmacy can also offer you a range of services, including advice and medicines to relieve symptoms of minor ailments.

The new model of care is unchanged from the existing service in that *out of hours* calls should be restricted to genuine urgent health care problems only. We would like to remind you that **out of hours cover does NOT deal with the following**: Prescriptions for medicines that can be bought at the chemist; Repeat prescriptions; Second opinions on problems being dealt with by your doctor; Problems that can wait until your surgery is open.

For more information about changes to out of hours services please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0800-052-3225 or 01235-205565.

From the South East and South West Oxfordshire PCTs

**FIREWOOD
TREE SURGERY
& FELLING
HEDGE CUTTING**

**Alastair McKnight
Tel. 01608-642830 (evenings)**

Friends of Finstock School

Looking back on past events, the School Fete, on the final day of the Finstock Festival, seems a very long way away now. The day itself did go very well, despite a couple of torrential showers that put paid to the Bouncy Castle and a couple of smaller side shows.

Officially opened by Carl Carter from Fox FM, the afternoon rushed by, with the school Maypole dancers and Finstock & Charlbury Morris performing, the Foxbury Pig Roast, the busy beer tent and many of the usual attractions. Extra this year were displays by local organisations, the Dray from Hook Norton brewery and an impressive display of motorbikes, all of which proved to be very popular. A huge thank you to all those who contributed in kind or in time for making it a great afternoon!

The down side is that the Fete was not a financial success, by comparison with past years. Too much competition on the day or too many demands on local pockets? More on that elsewhere or in the future.

Talking of the future, the **FOFS Annual General Meeting** is coming up on Tuesday, October 19th, 7.30 for 8pm in the school hall. This is an open meeting and we welcome anybody who would like to comment on our ideas or add to them! There are two vacancies on the committee and new faces and families are welcome to join. Oh, and there's a supply of cheese, wine and maybe a bit of beer to get the evening going.

It's been said before, but it bears repeating – over the next couple of years at least, the school, with FOFS support, needs to increase fund-raising to keep its head above water. Please come along and support us.

Pete Welply

Church Activities

The Harvest Festival Service will take place on October 17th at 10.30 in Finstock. Do come as this is one of the most popular services in the year. Finstock still retains two old *prayer book* services every month, Evensong on the 1st Sunday of the month and a prayer book Holy Communion service on 2nd Sunday at 9am. These services are becoming increasingly rare throughout the country, so if you would like to see them maintained come and join us. On the 3rd Sunday there is a family service at 10.30. Please see the Church Newsletter for further details.

Those who visit the churchyard frequently will have noticed that we have a new path between the church and the Charlbury road. Beneath the path there are drains and soon the church will have the appropriate facilities in keeping with the new legislation requirements for the disabled, and when visitors to weddings and funerals ask me "is there a loo?" I won't have to say no.

Just recently there has been a spate of burglaries in churches in this area, and Finstock was one of those. The money box was broken into, but I know there was very little in it as it is emptied very frequently. Once again I would ask churchyard visitors to keep an eye out for anything suspicious.

Jane Knowles, Vicar

- Full range of quality local: meats, eggs, vegetables, bread, cheese, preserves, cakes, crafts etc. etc.
Check our weekly specials!

t y p e w r i t e r

SMALL ADS

(All numbers start with 01993 unless otherwise stated)

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

Use the Village Hall for your next event. Contact Sue Salter on

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

*The Body Shop at Home
Autumn/winter catalogue and Christmas catalogue now available.
Call Amanda Osborne*

*Airports, seaports, social occasions.
Chauffeur-driven hire, 7 passengers,
owner/driver.
Ron Kirk on
Advance bookings preferable.*

Funeral Directors

"Say not in grief that he is no more,

*But in thankfulness that he was"
– traditional saying*

- Private Chapel of Rest
- 24 hour personal family service
- Pre-paid funeral plans

What is the longest word that you can make using only the top row of keys on a QWERTY keyboard?

Finstock Recycling had a very successful Clothes, Shoes and Textile Jumble, though no one seemed to understand that this was all free to bring or take – we were not raising money. Many items of clothing were new. All of the items collected were donated to charity. Only one person took advantage of the opportunity to speak with representatives of Finstock projects from the playground, the Church, the Shop or the Village Hall.

Finstock recycling collection schedule: October – no collection; November 6th – green garden waste; December – no collection; January 8th 2005 - green garden waste and Christmas trees. CD's, buttons and corks are also collected. If you are interested in joining our group, please visit with us during one of our collections or call Nick Murphy on 868575.

Recycling Collection Service will accept: aerosols, aluminium cans, aluminium food trays, bottles and jars, brown corrugated card, cardboard packaging, catalogues, drink cans, foil, food cans, greeting cards, household batteries, junk mail, magazines, metal tops from jars, milk bottle tops, mobile phone batteries, newspapers, old clothes (must be dry) plastic bottles, plastic tubs and containers (e.g. ice cream), shoes and trainers, steel cans, take-away containers, telephone directories (not Yellow Pages), towels/blankets.

Please rinse your jars, bottles and cans. **Everything must be placed in the bins** for collection because if it doesn't fit in the box it will not fit in the truck. If you need additional black bins or lids, please contact WODC Town Centre Shop at Welch Way in Witney, Tel: 861020 or env.services@westoxon.gov.uk.

Remember waste is a problem created by every household in the country. Each household produces around one tonne of waste a year; and, rubbish buried in landfill sites produces methane gas, which contributes to global warming.

Re-use your vegetable and bread rolls plastic bags week after week when you shop.

The Co-op introduces degradable plastic bags for bread

Traditional polythene bags can endure for 100 years. The plastic bread bags produced by the Co-op will rot away within a maximum of four years, breaking down into a small organic residue, carbon dioxide and water. "Some 1.67bn bread bags are produced in the UK every year," said a spokeswoman for the supermarket chain. "With each bag weighing an average of six grams, **10,521 tonnes of waste are generated by bread bags every year.** That is equivalent to 30 jumbo jets or 120 tanks." (*The Guardian, Green light for degradable bread bags, by Owen Bowcott, August 2nd 2004.*)

More than 25,000 households in Oxfordshire have stopped receiving junkmail. Learn how by contacting waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk; tel. 01865-816070.

OCC reports that overall recycling has increased by 20% since last year and has doubled in the last four years. This makes Oxfordshire one of the best performing councils in the country.

Dean Pit at Chadlington will be part of the Oxfordshire County Council change to standard opening hours of all recycling and waste sites. New hours: 8 to 5 seven days a week, with a late night opening every Thursday until 8pm during summer

The Finstock Recycling Cloth bag declaring that *Plastic Costs the Earth* is seen around the world: in Sandringham at an archaeological dig; and with John Edwards at the *Fraser Harbour* in Hong Kong and the Great Wall of China on a performance tour! How far has your cloth bag travelled?

WODC has entered a contract that will supply 100% green electricity by renewable sources such as wind, wave or solar power which includes council offices, Cogges Manor Farm Museum, Visitor Information Centres and public toilets. The deal has been brokered by the government for public sector organisations and is supported by the Thames Valley Energy Centre. To learn how to make your home as energy efficient - Free Advice on energy saving schemes and grants is available to all householders by calling 0800-512012.

Computer recycling

Manufacturing any electrical goods requires large amounts of energy and materials. A UN report found that a PC weighing 24kg needs at least 240kg of fossil fuels to provide the energy to construct it, and a further 22kg of chemicals. Add to that the 1.5 tonnes of water required as well as the seven litres of crude oil it takes to make the plastic casing, and your average PC uses up the weight of a sports utility vehicle in materials before it even leaves the factory. This is far worse than, say, cars or refrigerators, which use between one and two times their weight in fossil fuels. Contact WODC for advice and call the manufacturer, as an increasing number are offering "take-back" due to legislation coming into force in 2005. For your nearest recycling facility, visit www.wasteconnect.co.uk, or ring 01743-343403.

From an article by Leo Hickman in The Guardian

Computers for Charity (www.computersforcharity.org.uk 01288-361177), Community Computers (www.community-computers.co.uk , 0113-293-0168) and Computer Aid International (www.computeraid.org, 020-7281-0091).

European directive Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) becomes effective after August 2005. It will be the manufacturer's problem to handle computer disposal.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

The Wine Column - A Village Shop Wine List

With expectations of a village shop running high, one's thoughts naturally turn to 'what wines should be on a village shop wine list?'

A local shop must serve those pressing needs; an overlooked empty wine rack, unexpected visitors, an impromptu party or an urgent gift, but it should also provide day to day needs, including that 'nice' bottle at the weekend. And for those who do not need a full bottle, a thoughtful selection of half and quarter bottles would be welcome.

If the need is really urgent almost any bottle would do, but really, the local shop should provide a reasonable choice of wine styles from everyday value wines to something more special; certainly some premium wines and even a few classics. A balance of new and old world wines is required, light and full bodied, young fresh wines and more mature wines. Wine is now a fashion item, it changes with the season and it reacts to popular trends - the revival of rosé wine for example. The local shop needs to react to these trends and also vary the wines from time to time, perhaps with a few weekly or monthly specials to enhance interest. Most of all the shop needs to ensure that, for all price ranges, the wines are not only good value but are reliable and enjoyable wines as well.

Finally, one should expect an all round service from the local shop. Good information and advice, help with glass hire, an order and delivery service for cases of favourites, and even the occasional wine tasting! Hopefully OUR local shop will go a long way to meeting these aspirations.

CPT

The Crown Inn

For anyone who has not heard, Foxbury Farm are giving up the tenancy of The Crown. I would like to invite you all to join me for a

PIG ROAST

on Sunday October 3rd - the crackling will be sizzling from 12 noon

All the money is going to be donated to Finstock local charities, which is how I started that memorable day with car park and bar overflowing. I would like to thank you all for your support during the last 12 months in which we have seen the trade for both our Foxbury meat, local fresh vegetables and well kept beers increase by 182%, a challenge many locals told me would be difficult to achieve when I first took over the pub, and I must say that during that initial week cleaning the pub, even I had my doubts!

Using products from 100% traceable local sources has certainly been the key to the success. I look forward to seeing you all on October 3rd.

Colin Dawes

Three Villages Shop and Post Office

You may have noticed that our builders, RMD, have begun work on the shop. Some of the formalities necessary before work could begin took longer than we had planned so the start date for this work was delayed by a couple of weeks. We still expect to be up and running during the build up to Christmas, with the Post Office installed, but as P.O. training is difficult in the Christmas period, the opening of the Post Office may take place after Christmas.

We have a good number of volunteers to assist with the shop and several people expressed an interest in helping while visiting the shop stand at the Wychwood Forest Fair. There are many ways that volunteers can help and Gail or Mary will be pleased to discuss these with anyone interested without any commitment being made.

Survey sheets on preferred brands so far returned have been very helpful. If you have not yet returned your sheet please do so, even if only a few items are noted, as this will be of great help in selecting products for the shop.

It's two months before Finstock News is published again so the best way to keep track of this venture is to watch progress by the builders. However the building site is fenced off as it is a dangerous area so please do not go inside the fenced area at any time.

TVSA

You can talk to members of the shop committee at various occasions, including the Crown's Pig Roast ↗.

Quality local produce Direct from the field to your fork

******* New Home Delivery Service in your Area *******

**Lamb, Beef, Pork, Game,
Poultry, Fruit, Vegetables,
Herbs, Cheese, Fresh
Bread,
Apple Juice, Milk,
Cold Meats, Cream, Butter,
Eggs,
Home-Made Cakes, Pies,
Preserves, Ready Made
Meals, Flour suitable for
bread making machines**

HOME DELIVERY IN YOUR AREA

**Can't get to the Farm
Shop, don't worry, we
now deliver in your area
every Thursday evening.
Telephone for details.**

LIFE IN THE 1500'S

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500's.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence, the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married!

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children, last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw – piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a

sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale

or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, one out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth... Now, whoever said that History was boring!

Thanks to Mike Peck for finding this story.

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The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 will give people a new right to walk, responsibly and subject to some common sense restrictions, over areas of open countryside and registered common land in England and Wales. The Government introduced these new access rights on a regional basis in England, starting with the South East and Lower North West in September. In Wales, access becomes a reality in the summer of 2005. The new access rights give you the chance to explore more of our magnificent landscape. Walkers have been campaigning for decades for the opportunity to roam across wide-open spaces. The Peak District is one of the first to open with 400 new gates and stiles, plus 250 new signs to show walkers the way. www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or www.ramblers.org.uk.

Councils all over England and Wales will start to take over responsibility for licensing pubs and clubs from the Magistrates on February 7th 2005. The old and new regimes will run concurrently during a period of transition expected to last until November 2005. WODC has published its first *Draft Statement of Licensing Policy* and Members of the Council will be discussing it during the next month prior to a period of consultation, when the public will be able to comment. The consultation period will last until October 24th. Public roadshows are to be held in Witney at the Council Offices, Woodgreen on Wednesday October 13th at 7pm and in Chipping Norton at the Town Hall on Thursday October 21st at 7pm. Further information about the new legislation is on the Council's website.

The Crown Inn cooking competes nationwide again!

Gail Wilkinson with husband Nick, the new licence holders at The Crown, will continue serving Farm Fresh meat and vegetables from local producers. Gail's decision to use fresh, local ingredients has won her the Favourite Lamb Dish award for the Southeast Division from the English Beef and Lamb Executive, with her *Foxbury Slow Braised Lamb Shoulder served on a Rosemary Mash*, beating 594 other pubs in the Southeast Region. Gail was subsequently asked to enter the Pub Chef of the Year competition and she has won through to the last four in the country.

"Knowing where your ingredients are grown or produced gives me reassurance when cooking and serving my food," said Gail. Well done, that girl!

The Crown Inn is sponsoring a Bonfire Night in the Cornbury-owned field behind the pub. Bobbing for apples, toffee apples, chilli and chips £1. Bring your own fireworks to add to the display! See you all there around 6–6.30 Friday November 5th!



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Finstock School

The summer term accelerated as it progressed!

Apart from the run-up to the Finstock Festival, the second half of term was full of activities that broadened the school curriculum. Children were involved in the many aspects of PE: taking part in athletics at Wood Green School; football coaching sessions for each class by an Oxford United coach; orienteering for Y5 and Y6 at Combe; and, of course our very own Sports Day.

All the year 2 and year 6 took their SATs tests during May and the results were pleasing.

Class 3 (years 4, 5 and 6) had 'an amazing time' on the Residential visit to Dorset, visiting places like Swanage, Studland Bay, Bovington Tank Museum, Weymouth and Corfe Castle. This was followed by two weeks of activity to produce a presentation of work to friends and parents at an Open Assembly. The 3D models were commented on particularly.

We said goodbye to our year 6 children in a slightly different way this year. They were treated to a 'Day-out'. Starting with a Treasure Hunt at Finstock then bowling at Eynsham followed by a picnic with parents at Mrs Hutt's house. The day finished off with a prize Day presentations in true tradition back at school. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day, even the parents!

Mrs.Sambrook, our school secretary, left at the end of term to take up a full-time post in Oxford. She has been a great asset to the school and will be greatly

missed. We wish her well. A collection is being made and anyone wishing to contribute towards a gift may do so at the school.

Summer holidays have now passed and everyone is back at school. We welcome Woodpeckers on site and look forward to a partnership that benefits all the children of the village.

Can I remind everyone to keep clear of the school premises out of school hours as there has been a small amount of damage to gates and fencing over the holiday.

Before we look around it will be Christmas and all that brings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support both financial and otherwise.

Paul Barnett
Headteacher

Finstock Golden Jubilee Playground

Thank you, thank you, to all the people who turned out to make the dream of a new bike track come to life.

Over two Saturdays during the summer your skills, muscle and machinery have started the process for redeveloping the playground area into a reality. We have some more work to do over the coming weeks to finish this facility, including a fence around the track and a final top surface to seal the stones in place. But we could not have got this far without the tremendous efforts of the youngsters involved, and the help from a lot of adults, particularly Tim Hall, Rob Collicut, Derek Bennet,



Amanda and Dean, Paul Fagg and Dave Pratley to name but a few.

The main playground structures should be demolished by the time you read this in readiness for the ground works, ahead of the new playground being built. The target date for this is still March 16th-20th, with a lot of preparation during the weekend before.

Over the winter we have to flatten the area, and hopefully take the level down to take the new safety surface. The alternative is to build the playground on a raised plateau with ramps for access. This would lead to a higher maintenance need, to keep the edges in good repair. Our target is to lower the area by 400mm. Clearly this is a big task and any help or advice will be gratefully

received.

On the money front we have been successful with another of our grant applications, meaning we now have secured funds totalling £34,000 of the target £47,000 for this project. We still have three applications outstanding and expect more good news.

We shall soon be gathering signatures for the build days, and asking people to sign up for one or more of these. We shall need a lot of people each day to achieve our target, so stand by, we will be asking.

We have an active group working on all aspects of this project but always welcome assistance. For instance, we would like donation finders, a treasurer, caterers, child care, researchers, logistics assistants and media assistants. If any of these seem like something you could do please email me on finstockpecks@btinternet.com, ring me on 868735 or just come and have a chat.

Thank you again for all who have supported us so far, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Michael Peck

BETWEEN THE POSTS

Finstock AC receives a surprise!

Norman Sullivan, in league with John Townsend, surprised the Football Teams of Finstock with two trophies for our use. We thank them for their generosity and thoughtfulness. The trophy is called the "Kirk Connell Cup" and will be awarded to the sportsman of the year at the end of the season.

Kirk Connell, Scotland, is where Norman was born and lived until he was 20. He served for six and half years during the war and has been in Finstock ever since with his wife Edna. Norman reminded us of all the football pitches there have been in the village over the years, including one on Hill Crescent before the homes were built.

Bennett Secures First Trophy

Derek Bennett secured his 1st trophy as 1st team manager when AC Finstock beat a strong Hethe FC side in the Finstock Festival Cup. Finstock came from behind to secure an excellent win with only minutes remaining. In an end to end classic Simon Williams scored a hat trick, an own goal and a stunning chip from debutant Kieran Davies with only 90 seconds left made the final result 5-4.

A full report of the match is available online at www.acfinstock.co.uk or in the July/August edition of the Finstock news.

New boss for reserves

Robbie Moore has been posted as reserve team manager for the season 2004-2005. Robbie comes to us after a couple of years away from football. A serious leg injury cut his career short whilst playing for Brize Norton. Robbie should add maturity to the team and his influence in bringing in experienced players to play alongside the youngsters should put them in good stead for the coming season.

It was a tough introduction to men's football for the young reserves last season and despite good organisation and commitment from Simon Bridgeman it was decided that the job was too great a burden on his young shoulders. Simon is now an important member of the committee.

New Sponsor - May "Ernigrip" On Title

We are pleased to announce a new sponsorship deal for the 2004-2005 season. Ernigrip Motor Services of Enstone have agreed a kit deal for the 1st XI.

Ernigrip are well established performance car specialists based at the airfield. They have worked with Benetton F1 team and have been highly recommended as engine specialists by BMW enthusiast magazine. Due to increased demand Ernigrip are opening a new MOT bay in the autumn and if their previous history is anything to go by then this will be a great success. They are also specialist in LPG conversions. We highly recommend a visit as we are sure you will find no better customer service from an independent garage anywhere in the county.

Fund Raising High on Agenda

AC Finstock will be running their regular quiz nights again this winter.

Although the prizes are not large (as this would defeat the object of fund raising) the evenings are fun and make a welcome break from the winter TV schedules. Keep an eye on the web and newsletters for these events and also around the village on the various notice boards and telegraph poles.

We are also hoping to hold a couple of discos and even an evening of live bands. If you would like to have a band or music type covered in these events then e-mail me at comptona@ukonline.co.uk and we will see if it can be arranged.

You can also contact me with ideas for fund raising or events you would like to see and again we will give it our full consideration.

Facelift For pavilion?

AC Finstock are about to embark on a project to enhance the pavilion. Due to the age and general condition of the building we intend to draw up plans for the complete restructuring of the changing area. An improved disability access and a more open plan changing and shower area are the main priorities. Another idea is



to have a veranda type seating area at the front of the building. This would give the older spectators a nice place to sit during the winter. A general tidy up around the building is needed and the dead space to the side is to be tidied and used. A car parking area was planned but at present this needs to be reviewed by the parish council. The funds will be applied for via the Football Association; Michael Peck will oversee our application and give advice throughout.

Contact us:

Fixtures are on the Finstock website www.finstock.org.uk or Notice Boards in the village. They will also be on display at the pub.

CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory talking science 2004

The CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory carries out world leading research ranging from the vastness of space to the invisibly small world of nanotechnology.

Friday **October 8th**, 7pm, Age 8+ , *Let's look at light* – Bryson Gore

With demonstrations we shall show that light travels in straight lines, but that prisms, mirrors and lenses can change its direction. These ideas are then combined to build a simple pinhole camera which is subsequently improved to produce a simple 'eye'.

Friday **November 12th**, 7pm, Age 11+ , *Physics v Sport* – David James of the University of Sheffield Engineering Research Group

The lecture will examine how science and technology is helping athletes push the boundaries of human performance in the javelin, pole-vault, wheelchair athletics, football and tennis.

Friday **December 10th**, 7pm, Age 13+ , *Big Bang: the story behind the origin of the universe* -
Dr.Simon Singh

The Big Bang theory tries to explain the origin of the universe. Simon Singh describes the Big Bang theory, tells the story of the scientists who invented it and explains why we believe that it is true.

Admission is by ticket only. Reservations must be made in advance from four weeks before the date of each lecture. Please contact Lisa Faircloth on 01235-445789 to book your tickets.

North Cotswold Chamber Choir

Our series begins with three contrasting pieces for choir and organ; **Fauré's beautiful requiem**, Finzi's dramatic festival anthem and Bernstein's exhilaratingly rhythmic Hebrew Psalm settings, as well as the famous Miserere, originally for exclusive performance in the Sistine Chapel. Saturday October 16th, 7.30pm at SS.Peter and Paul, Deddington. Tickets £10 / £8 conc / £4 under 14s. tickets@nc3.org.uk.

A concert of anthems and motets drawn from the great English cathedral tradition of choral music. Anthems / You Have Loved, Faire is the Heaven/ . Saturday November 20th, 8pm at St. Mary's Church, Charlbury. Tickets £8 / £6 concessions / £3 under 14s. tickets@nc3.org.uk.

Presented in conjunction with the Friends of Music in Adderbury, **Christmas Carol Concert** Guest Conductor: Bob Chilcott. Saturday December 11th, 7.45pm at St.Mary the Virgin, Adderbury. Tickets £8 / £6 conc / £1 under 14s. tickets@nc3.org.uk.

Travelling? Visit www.transportdirect.info for current information on roads, trains, planes.

And www.travelinescotland.com is an excellent website that functions with ease.