

Finstock News 119

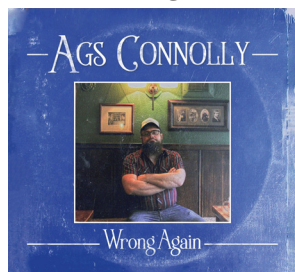
Serving Finstock, Fawler, Wilcote, Mt. Skippett and Finstock Heath

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The Finstock News welcomes Kay Connolly, Barbara Wells and Nick Murphy to our Editorial Committee. It will take three people to replace the loss of Nicky Higgins. Please see page 4 for her final words to us.

Everything changes in time, but sometimes we can influence those changes. **Vote December 12th**; your future depends on the result. According to the Chinese zodiac The Year of the Metal Rat begins January 25th 2020. It will be a year of new beginnings! New opportunities, love, and money. 2020 is going to be successful! **A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers and advertisers!**

Ags Connolly new album



On November 1st my third album, *Wrong Again*, was released on CD and digitally. It's a self-release but the publishers needed a 'label' for their database, so I used the name *Finstock Music*.

The album was recorded at Woodworm Studios in Barford St.

Michael (near Bloxham). This studio was originally opened by Dave Pegg of Fairport Convention but was later sold as a private house. It eventually reopened as a studio, with some of the living areas used as band accommodation. The band I used for the album was mostly from London, so it was handy for some of them to stay at the studio.

As with my last album I also used two US-based musicians who recorded their parts remotely – those being accordionist Michael Guerra (who plays with The Mavericks) and fiddle player Eamon McLoughlin (who is originally from London but now plays with Emmylou Harris and on the Grand Ole Opry). The album came together in just five days, including mixing. It was fairly intense work.

Prior to release there has been a fair amount of coverage and radio play for *Wrong Again*. The US music magazine Billboard premiered one of the tracks, while another song was played by Bob Harris on his BBC Radio 2 Country show. Bob called the album "modern day traditionalism of the very, very best kind". Elsewhere, the Iain Anderson Show on BBC Radio Scotland made *Wrong Again* their album of the week.

The release was marked by a successful launch gig (with the full band) at Fat Lil's in Witney on October 30th. I was happy to see so many Finstock folk in attendance. You can buy the album online and from all good record shops, including Rapture in Witney.

Finstock Rainbows, Brownies and Guides news



This October all Finstock guiding units were busy taking part in Finstock's Harvest Festival church service, which saw them proudly carry their unit flags to the front of the church and distributing food and drinks to parishioners. It was lovely to see the girls at the heart of the church community. The units have been working hard to start building towards new badges as part of the new guiding programme rolled out at the beginning of September. This has seen all units building towards the Innovate badge with a go robot session. The Rainbow unit raised an amazing £160.50 with their one mile sponsored walk as part of their Make a Change badge. The money raised was split between the unit and Sobell House charity.

All sections meet on a Wednesday.

Rainbows - for girls aged between 5 and 7 years. Contact for Rainbows is Sian - tinker.sian@hotmail.co.uk

Brownies - for girls aged 7 to 10 years. Guides - for girls aged 10 to 14 years. Contact for Brownies and Guides is Kimberley Kimberley.lovelock@yahoo.co.uk

Nobel Peace Prize 2019

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation and for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea.



VILLAGE EVENTS



December

7th – *Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall

12th – GENERAL ELECTION – VOTE!

13th – FLHS Morris Music

14th – Finstock School and Church Fayre

19th – Carols around the tree

19th – School is out

January

6th – School reopens

8th – Toddlers meet again

17th – FLHS William Morris

Ready Reference

Friends of Finstock School (FoFS)

Su Jordan

susannastarling@gmail.com

Tel: 869004

The Winter Solstice is Sunday December 22nd. It will be the shortest day and the longest night of the year.

Ladies, give us your support!

Give all your unwanted old bras a new lease of life and help raise money for breast cancer research. Bring them to Joy Murphy at 63 High Street. Against Breast Cancer will receive a donation based on the weight of bras we collect, so every bra counts!

Finstock School and Church Fayre

Saturday December 14th, 2-4pm
In Finstock Village Hall

Games, Crafts, Mulled wine, Refreshments, Wreaths, Books, Raffle.

Father Christmas and tons more. Please come and support us.

Bottle caps raise funds

Your soft plastic bottle tops can be donated to me to help raise funds for The Gift of Sight. We collect only milk bottle tops; that is, blue, green, orange, yellow, and red variety. We cannot accept anything else.

Please drop your milk bottle tops off at 63 High Street, Finstock. Joy Murphy

Local ladies singing

Janet Lever and Ann Sullivan will be singing in The Really Big Chorus *Messiah* conducted by Brian Kay in the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday December 7th at 7pm. Janet and Ann are both members of WOAPA, West Oxfordshire Academy of Performing Arts.

Puss in Boots continues to entertain at The Theatre Chipping Norton through to January 12th. Box Office 01608 642350 or chippingnortontheatre.com.

North Leigh History Society

December 3rd -- **24 Square Miles**
A film based on a 1943 study by the Agricultural Economic Research Institute giving a wonderful insight into rural life in 1940s Oxfordshire. The meeting includes festive refreshments. There is no meeting in January.

We meet in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh, OX29 6TX at 7.30 p.m. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power 882301.

Christmas tree Festival

St Mary's Church, Charlbury
December 5th – 8th
10am – 4pm daily
£1 admission; Children free
All proceeds go to St Mary's Church Roof Appeal

Long ago and not very far away a Marathon Domino game that was to last 48 hours began.

Marathon Dominoes

(June 1981)



'It was not a case of one too many when four pub regulars began to see spots before their eyes. Brothers Charles and Christopher Holifield, Brian Moss and Peter Holcombe clocked up 48 hours of non-stop dominoes at the weekend with the help of Richard Dosset-Davies and Malcolm Woods. By Sunday night the men, the regular dominoes team for the Royal Oak pub at Ramsden, were sick of the sight of little white spots; they had netted a valuable £250 from sponsors.

The marathon match was the latest sponsored event by customers at the Royal Oak to raise money for Witney hospital. Hospital worker Richard and League of Friends supporter Malcolm stood in while other players took a breather. The money will be used to buy essentials like blankets, pillows and chairs at the community hospital which opened earlier this year.' (Our thanks to John Chipperfield at the Witney Gazette.)



Sat 21st Dec	7.00am – 5.30pm
Sun 22nd Dec	7.00am – 2.00pm
Mon 23rd Dec	6.00am – 6.30pm
Tues 24th Dec	6.00am – 2.00pm
Wed 25th Dec	CLOSED
Thurs 26th Dec	CLOSED
Fri 27th Dec	7.00am – 2.00pm
Sat 28th Dec	7.00am – 5.00pm
Sun 29th Dec	CLOSED
Mon 30th Dec	7.00am – 2.00pm
Tue 31st Dec	7.00am – 2.00pm
Wed 1st Jan	CLOSED

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Village Hall

www.finstock.org.uk/village-hall and follow the booking instructions,
Email villagehallfinstock@gmail.com

Finstock Craft Club

Craft club members would like to pass on their warmest wishes to all readers of the village newsletter, especially to those behind the scenes, (The Editorial Committee), **a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.**

We would also like to say thank you to all our loyal members and look forward to greeting new members in the coming year.

Craft Club Dates: Our last meeting of 2019 will be on Monday December 23rd. We will return on Monday January 3rd 2020, and continue to meet as usual, every Monday except Bank Holidays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Rosa Charlesworth on Behalf of Finstock Craft Club

Finstock Woodpeckers Bowls

Our short-mat bowls group at the Village Hall continues to have very strong support and is growing in strength of both numbers and ability. We meet every Monday and Thursday at 2pm and new members/beginners are always made welcome with fees just £1 per session. Guidance and basic coaching is given to all new players with plenty of encouragement. Just turn up or email Shaun at morley.shawn@gmail.com.

We now have two teams in the Witney Town Triples League, called the Woodies and the Peckers! Both teams are doing very well, with Peckers second in their section and Woodies lower down with a game in hand. It is a long season with 24 games throughout the winter and spring. Seven of our members now play for Charlbury in the West Oxfordshire evening league, and Oxfordshire Afternoon league, while three play for the County Premier side.

Shaun Morley

Finstock Festival and School Fete 2019/2020

At our last meeting we set the dates for next year's Festival and agreed the distribution of this year's profits as follows:

The Village Shop - £1000.00, Finstock School - £ 250.00, Village Website - £124.00

We also agreed to fund a new notice board to replace the one on Hill Crescent, making our total donations to village groups in excess of £1500 -- a figure we should all be very proud of.

The music for 2020 has been planned, which puts us well ahead of our game.

FRIDAY June 19th: 7.00pm the Eron Robert's Band. - 9.30pm - Late Growler

SATURDAY June 20th: 2.30pm – 4.00pm	Wood Green Band
4.00pm – 5.30pm	Jimmy James & Bfs
5.45pm – 7.00pm	Innuendo
7.15pm – 9.00pm	Warren James & the Hot Band
9.15pm – Late	Subway.

I am sure you will agree a very impressive band line up. We hope the above will hold but alterations are sometimes beyond our control.

On behalf of myself and our committee, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Remember the Dates! Get them on your calendars and in your diaries:

FRIDAY June 19th and SATURDAY June 20th

ROCK ON FINSTOCK FESTIVAL 2020

Colin Stringfellow Chairman

"One ton of food waste has the impact of three tons of packaging waste when it comes to climate change." Tesco Chief Executive Dave Lewis (FT) Packaging is bad but it appears that food waste is even worse. Find ways to use your left-overs. What you cannot eat, put in the food bin so it can be used in other areas.

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Nicky Higgins

For many years Nicky Higgins was a familiar face in Finstock. She played darts, dominoes, table tennis, bowls and was always a good person to have on your side in a quiz. After her retirement she worked at the school as a volunteer assisting teachers and helping children to read. Nicky was a member of Finstock Community Projects helping with the annual village celebrations. And, she was a member of the *Finstock News* Editorial Committee for many years proofing each newsletter for errors and contributing content.

Nicky was diagnosed with breast cancer many years ago. She underwent treatment and improved, but the cancer kept coming back. In October this year the cancer spread to her brain and Nicky sadly passed away in early November. Everyone who knew her will miss that special contribution she made to our lives with her intelligence, humour and enthusiasm.

Her last missive to readers of the *Finstock News* follows.

I am in Katharine House Hospice near Banbury. Apparently three people are doing my job as proof reader of the newsletter!

I am feeling much better each day and I am sure that this is because of all the lovely messages, cards and visits I am receiving from friends, family and the Finstock community. Thank you all, I really appreciate it.

*Lots of love,
Nicky Higgins*



THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Kay Connolly	868561	Member
Lesley Dore	868280	Distribution
Tony Hirtenstein	868600	Member
Joy Murphy	868575	Editor
		joy.nick@gmail.com

Nick Murphy	868575	Member
Ann Sullivan	868597	Advertising
Barbara Wells	868776	Member

Photographs thanks to staff members and others.
Read the *Finstock News* online at www.finstock.org.uk; join the Finstock Yahoo group – groups.yahoo.com/group/finstock; or write to us at 63 High Street, Finstock Oxon OX7 3DA.

Plan ahead – Know the deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Feb/Mar	First of January
April/May	First of March
June/July	First of May
August/September	First of July
October/November	First of September
December/January	First of November

Please keep articles short. As space is limited, the Editors reserve the right to shorten long pieces in the interest of balance. *Finstock News* does not necessarily share the views expressed in readers' letters.

News from the Parish Council

As 2019 draws to a close, the Council has begun the financial planning process for next year. Budgets are being increased as the Council assumes greater responsibilities particularly for the churchyard. This involves regular grass and hedge maintenance but also emergency work on trees and the stone walling surrounding the site. These activities can be very expensive in their own right but also very difficult to predict when work becomes necessary. However, the churchyard is an important place for many villagers and deserves to be kept in good order.

A new initiative has been started by a group of villagers to make a contribution in the fight against climate change. They plan to plant as many trees around the village as possible and they have the support of the Council. Please support them if you can. The Council is evolving plans to improve the sports field which will involve a good deal of new planting. It is hoped a meeting will be organised for those interested in the near future. More details from Ros Faith, 868 498.

The Council will be organising a village wide survey in the New Year to get an up-to-date understanding of what villagers think about Finstock and what improvements they wish to see.

This year marks the 50th year that June Pratley has served as Clerk to the Parish Council. This is a truly remarkable record of service. We thank her.

The Parish Council wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Hywel Davies for the Parish Council

Deborah Manning School of Dance

Classes are held weekly in many villages around Oxfordshire.

A Jazz & Commercial Class for age 7-18 years is held at the Finstock Village Hall every Thursday as well as Adult Ballet, Tap & Jazz Classes being held every Wednesday Evening.

Please contact Connie Manning on

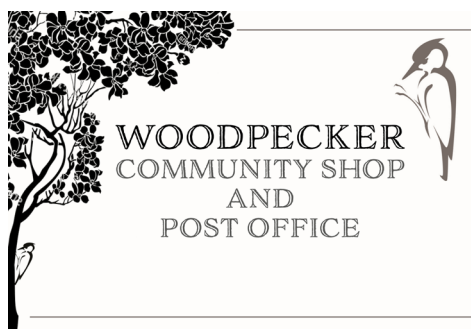
01993 779125

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Have you tried the new dispenser at the Village Shop yet? We enjoyed a great deal of positive comment and support from across the community on our Facebook site when we announced the installation of our dispenser, which allow you to weigh into your own container exactly the amount of pasta, rice, cereal, washing powder and other staples you need. But I have to tell you that despite the warm words, it's only a small number of committed customers (thank you, you know who you are!) who have so far taken advantage of this opportunity to reduce excess packaging and benefit from our bulk purchase prices. We need this initiative to be successful if we are to restore the fortunes of the shop and maintain its place at the heart of the village, so come and give it a go.

Since the last issue of the *Finstock News*, the shop directors have been busy as ever. We've succeeded in getting grant money to cover the costs of the dispense equipment (so a huge thank you to Councillor Liz Leffman, and to Finstock Community Projects, for your generous donations). But at the

same time, we've had to spend nearly £1,000 on electrical improvements to comply with health and safety requirements!

The question is how to increase footfall to the shop? One way is through improved signage. We told you earlier in the year that we will be trading as Woodpecker Community Shop and Post Office; our research told us that the local Woodpecker connection had far more meaning than "TVSA", which few understood. By the time you read this, our new signs (with our Woodpecker logo) should have started to appear, directing passing motorists and walkers to the shop. We are hoping to erect more on the approaches to the village, but this will be dependent on permission from the landowners.

To find out more about our plans to keep the Shop and Post Office, please come along to the AGM, at 7.30pm on Monday December 2nd, in the Evenlode Room of the Village Hall. Your continued support keeps this village amenity open.

Rod Ireland

Shop Opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8am – 5.30pm

Thursday 8am – 3pm

Saturday 8.30am – 1pm

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COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION

Seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness - John Keats' Ode to Autumn

The government has ditched fracking!

It has announced an end to their support for fracking in England, conceding to years of hard-fought campaigning from local communities, CPRE and other environmental groups. This amounts to a moratorium on fracking in the UK.

Holiday recycling

Extra recycling - WODC will recycle all your extra recycling material if you put it in clear open bags or cardboard boxes. Please keep your glass bottles and jars separate in your recycling box.

Extra food waste - WODC collects your food waste every week. Simply put your kitchen caddy out for collection too if your food waste bin is full. If you need a food waste bin or caddy, please get in touch.

West Oxfordshire residents recycle almost 60 per cent of their rubbish making the District one of the best performing in the country but there is still room for improvement. Recycling an item rather than throwing it in the general rubbish bin means it will be dealt with in the most environmentally friendly way, keeping materials in use.

Anyone unsure about what can be recycled in the district, when their

kerbside collection is due or to order a new bin can find out more on the Council's website:

www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/bins-recycling.

You can power a 60w lightbulb for three hours with the energy saved by recycling one plastic bottle.

Clean your carpet

Spray equal parts white vinegar and water on stains, then sponge up with warm soap and water after a few minutes. For tougher stains, a mixture of vinegar, borax, and salt might do the trick. Leave it on overnight, and vacuum it up in the morning. Baking soda also roots out many organic stains.

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Oxon walking guides

There are three recently revised guidebooks by local author Nick Moon available, costing £10 each.

The Oxfordshire Way - a long distance path across Oxfordshire between Bourton-on-the-Water and Henley-on-Thames.

The d'Arcy Dalton Way - a long distance path following the boundary of Oxfordshire with Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

Oxford Green Belt Way - a 50 mile walk created by CPRE Oxon around the Green Belt of Oxford. Visit www.cpreoxon.org.uk/resources/publications for more information, including how to purchase.

The world is losing an area of forest the size of the UK each year, most of it in tropical rainforest, with dire effects on the climate and wildlife.

Plastic pollution is being deposited into the fossil records, new research has found, with contamination increasing exponentially since 1945. Since the 1940s the amount of microscopic plastics in the sediments had doubled every 15 years. A study in 2016 showed a single clothes wash can release 700,000 microplastic fibres.

Humans are believed to consume at least 50,000 microplastic particles a year via food and water. The health impacts are unknown, but microplastic can release toxic substances and may penetrate tissues.

Ocean clean-up device

The Guardian newspaper ran a story in early October about the Ocean Clean-up project, which uses a 600 metre-long free-floating boom that has captured and retained debris from what is known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which is three times the size of France. The new device, designed by Dutch scientists can catch plastic from one-ton ghost nets (abandoned fishing nets) to tiny microplastics.

The plastic gathered so far will be brought to shore in December for recycling. The project believes there may be a premium market for items that have been made using plastic reclaimed from the ocean.



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**Armen Sarkissian,
Armenian President**

Friends of Finstock School (FoFS)

On September 22nd we enjoyed sharing the annual Cornbury Classic 5k run with the Friends of Leaffield School. Much fun was had by the approximately 150 adult and child runners, who were not dampened by the slightly inclement weather. Pictures of the event appeared in the Oxford Mail! At our October AGM, we said goodbye to valiant outgoing Chair Dawn Simpkins and hello to new Secretary Maisie Copestake. Theresa Crawford stayed on as our eagle-eyed Treasurer and our outgoing Secretary Su Jordan moved into the position of Chair. We also welcomed some new parent members onto our committee. This was much needed, as FoFS can feel spread rather thinly with the large number of school and public events we organise throughout the year. Speaking of which, please see our list of upcoming events below. This includes our famous Christmas Raffle, for which we're currently gathering prizes (and for which tickets will be on sale in Woodpecker Community Shop soon). If you are able to donate a prize of any kind, do please email susannastarling@gmail.com.

Much fun was had at our half term Spooky Disco in school in October, with a limbo dancing competition, a prize for worst dancing (!) and even two former Finstock pupils (now at Wood Green) returning to be our DJs for the night. FoFS is proud to be able to help create these fun memories for our school's children.

Very exciting plans are afoot at school currently (you may have seen that the rear temporary classroom was removed over summer) and it is likely that FoFS' fundraising efforts will be more important than ever during the year ahead. We always welcome involvement from the wider community, and are very grateful to Finstock Community Projects, who donated £250 to FoFS after this summer's Finstock Festival. We must also thank quizmaster Aaron Copestake, Guy and the quizzers of The Plough from whom we have so far received over £300 in donations! And: did you know that as well as supporting us via our public events, you can also fundraise FREE when you shop online. Visit easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/finstockprimaryschool to sign up.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of the events below. Thanks for reading!

Su Jordan, Chair

Keep up-to-date with FoFS events and news on Facebook: facebook.com/FriendsOfFinstockSchool

Upcoming FoFS events for the whole community:

School and Church Christmas Fayre: Saturday December 14th, 2-4pm. Games, crafts, mulled wine, wreaths, books, Father Christmas and tons more! In the Village Hall.

Carols around the Tree and Christmas Raffle Draw: Thursday December 19th. Come to school to hear the children sing and find out if you're a lucky winner!

If you would like to advertise in the Finstock News please contact Ann Sullivan at Tel: 868597 advertfinstocknews@btinternet.com

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Finstock Baby and Toddler Group

We have enjoyed being back at Toddler Group over the autumn term with fun seasonal activities and crafts celebrating Halloween and Bonfire Night, as well as pirates, space and road safety. We're looking forward to the Christmas season now and getting stuck into some festive cakes!

The last session before Christmas will be on Wednesday December 18th - cue a fun filled festive party to finish off the term! Check out our Facebook group for more details on this nearer the time. The group will return again on Wednesday January 8th.

Our group meet in the Village Hall every week during term-time from 10-11.30am. There are a variety of toys set out each week, along with crafts/arts, small world toys, role play and ride-on vehicles for kids of all ages to have fun with. We provide a snack for the little ones, with a hot drink and cake for the adults - this is provided on a rota basis so we are grateful to all our attendees for joining in and helping out with this!

We are a friendly group and love to see new people, come along and join us! It's only £2 per family - if you haven't tried us out yet the first session is free!

See you there!

Tammy Judd

*There are men running governments that
shouldn't be allowed to play with matches.
Will Rogers*

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FINSTOCK ALE 2019

After all the drinking and music is over and we've thoroughly cleaned the Village Hall, you might think the Finstock Ale team goes into hibernation until next year. Not a bit of it!



Apart from looking at how we can offer you an even better festival in 2020, there's one more significant event. Early in October, many of the team members travelled down to Bristol to present the winners of the 2019 Champion Beer with their certificate. Our picture shows Rod Ireland handing over the certificate to Noel and Maria James of the New Bristol Brewery, whose Wonderland IPA, had been chosen by our drinkers votes

as the best beer at this year's Ale. Noel and Maria have been brewing their extraordinary beers in the St Philips-based brewery since 2013, but this was their first appearance at Finstock.

While there, as you can see, it only seemed proper to sample some of the other six beers on offer, and we plan to welcome New Bristol Brewery back in 2020. The team then moved on to assess other local favourites, including Wiper & True, Arbor, Left Handed Giant, Dawkins, Lost & Grounded and Moor. And we only scratched at the surface of the more than 20 leading breweries to be found within Bristol. Thanks to our intensive research, we can promise you many more exceptional beers next year, cementing our reputation as one of Oxfordshire's leading festivals.



There's another change we've decided on too. We think that beer and conversation go together very well. And we're concerned that some of our amplified bands are just too noisy within the Village Hall to provide a comfortable environment for those who want to simply drink and talk. As a result in 2020 we're going to make the Finstock Ale

"Finstock Unplugged". That's right. There will still be music and Morris dancers and lots more to keep you entertained, but there will be no big PA system and all performers will be limited to playing in an acoustic form. We know that this is a bold move, but then we're a festival that likes to push the boundaries, as well as caring about the great traditions. We're sure you'll enjoy it more than ever, so get those dates in your new 2020 diary now: September 4th and 5th. And if you'd like to join our wonderful team, then let us know.

Rod Ireland

The Oxfordshire Craft Guild – Christmas Selling Exhibition

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

November 16th – December 29th

Featuring many of the county's leading contemporary craft designers and makers – the perfect place to find that special Christmas gift!

Smocks Exhibition - Until March 2020

The smock-frock is present through many generations in various styles and fabrics. Using our collection from Oxfordshire and Berkshire, we take you on a journey looking at working life, The Great Exhibition, Sunday best, revival and reproduction, Arts and Crafts, fashion and nostalgia.

The museum is in a large 18th century house with 10 permanent galleries and two touring galleries, a beautiful walled garden which is perfect for picnics, the Garden Café and museum Gift Shop. Admission is free and the town has free parking.

The Plough, Finstock

The Plough will begin serving from the Christmas Fayre Menu on December 3rd for lunch or dinner on every day but Sunday when they will serve their usual Sunday lunch items. Menu choice must be placed prior to date of booking. Please contact Guy on Tel: 868333 or at guywallis01@gmail.com.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD.

There will be a Christmas Day lunch, a Boxing Day lunch, New Year's Eve celebrations and a New Year's Day Brunch Buffet.

December Schedule:

Monday 23rd	closed day; bar open evening - no food
Tuesday 24th	Lunch and Dinner
Wednesday 25th	Lunch only
Thursday 26th	Lunch only
Friday 27th	Lunch only
Saturday 28th	Lunch and Dinner
Sunday 29th	Lunch only
Monday 30th	bar open in the evening – no food
Tuesday 31st	Lunch and Dinner
Wednesday 1st	Lunch only
Thursday 2nd	Lunch and Dinner






Finstock

Our Bar is open:

Mon: 6pm – close
Tues – Fri: 12 noon – 3pm & 6pm – close
Sat: 12 noon – close
Sun: 12 noon – 6.00pm

Our kitchen is open:

Tues – Sun
Lunch: 12 noon – 2.00pm
Dinner: 6.30pm – 9.00pm
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The Plough Inn
High Street, Finstock OX7 3BY
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www.theplough-inn.co.uk

Finstock School

What a fantastic start to the academic year we have had here at Finstock C of E Primary School! It has been a busy half-term with the children enjoying some wonderful events. To kick off the school year, some of the older children went on a trip to Legoland Windsor, as part of their 'Scream Machine' topic. Staff and children had an incredible day and some children even managed to face their fears head on and ride some of the more hair-raising roller-coasters! A great day was had by all.

We continue to work closely with our partners at Queen Emma's Primary School in Witney and they invited us over for a colourful carnival day at the start of the term to kick off our 'Rio de Vida' topic. We enjoyed dancing, drumming, arts and crafts. Children from all classes look forward to showcasing their work to the school community after half-term.

As the leaves start to change colour and the nights begin to draw in we start to think about saying thanks for all that we have during the time of Harvest. It was a delight to see the community come together at Finstock Church at our recent Harvest Festival. We enjoyed a thoughtful sermon from Paul the Vicar and listened to the children sing beautifully. As a school we collected many harvest donations which we were pleased to take to the church and donate to West Oxfordshire Food Bank. Thank you to all who donated and joined us in our celebrations.

As ever, the children have continued to improve their form and skill on the games pitch and have partaken in a range of sporting activities, from dance to dodgeball! Some of our pupils recently took part in a Cross Country event over in Bicester and all had a brilliant day, despite the wet weather! We were so proud of all of the children that took part but special recognition goes to Hattie who secured third place!

We would like to offer our continued gratitude to Friends of Finstock (FoFS) who work tirelessly to support the school and raise funds. They continue to organise their weekly cake sale and at the end of term held a very successful 'Spooky Disco'. They have many more fun events planned so if you would like to get involved in supporting them and the school please do speak to a member of staff.

We seem to have crammed so much into just one half-term! And yet we have so much more planned for the coming months! We have some exciting news about the development of a truly inspiring outside learning space in our grounds coming soon – we look forward to sharing more information with you in due course - watch this space!

We break up at 1.30pm on Thursday December 19th, and return on January 6th 2020.

Finstock School

Save your eyesight

When using digital devices, follow the 20-20-20 rule: look up from your screen every 20 minutes and focus on something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. Save your eyesight.

ChOC

Sunday December 15th at 3pm: The Christmas Family Matinee is: Arthur Christmas

Free popcorn for children and mince pies for adults.

Family ticket (2 adults & 1 or 2 children) £12;

Adults £5; U15s £3.

Memorial Hall, Charlbury; doors & licensed bar from 2.15pm.

Postmodernism

The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines postmodernism as "a late 20th-century movement characterized by broad scepticism, subjectivism, or relativism; a general suspicion of reason; and an acute sensitivity to the role of ideology in asserting and maintaining political and economic power." The assertion that all truth is subjective and individualistic has become widely accepted in academia and throughout Western educational systems. As a result, it can now be found in nearly every aspect of Western society.



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County Councillor report

I was very disappointed to learn in October that the planned road repairs in Sheep Street and Park Street in Charlbury are to be postponed until March. This is because there will be gas works happening in Charlbury in January and if the roads had been repaired in November as planned, they would have had to be dug up again just a couple of months later. I am assured that the repairs will definitely be done in March. However, this postponement could have been avoided if Oxfordshire had been using the permit system for managing utility roadworks that other councils have been using for years. Unlike most other councils, up to now Oxfordshire has been allowing the utility companies to dictate when they want to conduct works that require digging up the road. This has meant no co-ordination of work, resulting in unnecessary disruption to residents and poor-quality roads with lots of filled-in trenches. At last, in November the council introduced a permit system, which means that utilities will have to apply for permission to dig up the road in future and the council will be able to require utilities to group their programmes and work together. Sadly, this has come just too late for us, but at least in future things should be better co-ordinated.

Both West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council have recently declared a Climate Emergency. Unfortunately, however, this has not been backed up with much in the way of action. At West Oxfordshire, the proposed Citizens' Assembly has not happened, and instead of getting on with the job by forming a working party to look at things we can do immediately to mitigate the emergency, WODC has delayed meeting until a Climate Change Officer has been appointed. So much for the emergency! The Cabinet member at the County Council presented a paper to the November council meeting which praised OCC for its waste and recycling record. I pointed out that for those who live in Charlbury and the surrounding villages, recycling means travelling 40 minutes to Stanton Harcourt. If we genuinely believe that we need to improve recycling and re-use, and cut the emissions from car travel, then the only sensible solution is to open a recycling and re-use centre near here – something I have been campaigning on for years. I haven't given up yet and will continue to demand that we replace Dean Pit.

On a more positive note, I was delighted recently to have been able to use my Councillor Priority Fund to donate towards the new fittings in the Village Shop, and I hope the refurbishment will help to make the shop a success, and ensure that we keep this vital resource for the village.

I would like to wish everyone in Finstock and Fawler a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Liz Jeffman
County Cllr

Get help or report a scam

If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help. Contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at Action Fraud. Call us on 101 if you know the suspect or they're still in the area.

If you think you've uncovered a scam, been targeted by a scam or fallen victim to fraudsters, call 101. Reporting crime, including fraud, is important. Remember that if you're a victim of a scam or an attempted scam, however minor, there may be hundreds or thousands of others in a similar position. Your information may form part of one big jigsaw and be vital to completing the picture.

Thames Valley Police

Act FAST if you recognise any symptoms of stroke; call 999.

Face – has their face fallen on one side? **Speech** – is their speech slurred?
Can they smile?

Arms – can they raise both arms and keep them there? **Time** – to call 999 if you see any one of these signs



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



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MP report



I hope all readers are as delighted as I am by the announcement that the Government is giving Oxfordshire County Council £102 million in funding for A40 improvement works. The money will be used to extend the dual carriageway to the proposed park and ride.

I am sure readers know just as well as anyone in West Oxfordshire how awful A40 congestion can be and how it affects daily life, business, and our economy, which is why I am so pleased to welcome this funding that I have been lobbying hard for. The funding comes as a result of the excellent bid put forward by OCC led by Ian Hudspeth, with the help of the District Council led by James Mills. This is the biggest step forward on the A40 for a generation and is a cause for celebration for businesses and motorists in West Oxfordshire alike.

As most of you will know, there will be a general election on December 12th. I will, even more than I already am, be out and about all across West Oxfordshire over the next month braving the cold to earn your vote. During the campaign you can still contact me with any issues you are having or if you would like to talk through the issues that matter to you. Please do drop me an email at robert@robertcourts.co.uk if there is anything I can do, or say hello if you see me around!

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in and around Finstock who has met with me or welcomed me into their home or business over the past year, it has been a pleasure to meet you all and I hope to see you all again soon.

All that's left to say is a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Robert Courts, MP

Charlbury Medical Centre

Dr Nikki Jones has joined the practice and Dr Slowther has left the practice.
GP weekly attendance:

Dr Brookes-White: Monday, Thursday, Friday

Dr J Maroni: Monday, Tuesday, every other Wednesday afternoon

Dr K McIntyre: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Dr N Jones: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, every other Thursday morning for a women's health clinic.

Charlbury Medical Centre will be closed on December 25th and 26th and January 1st.

More information can be found on the Medical Centre website:

www.thecharlburymedicalcentre.nhs.uk. Click on opening times and then go to surgery days and times.

Online booking

- Patients wishing to use the internet to book appointments with a GP, request repeat prescriptions and view their GP medical record and blood test results can register for Patient Access by filling in a form available from the Medical Centre. Photo ID and proof of address is required when returning the completed form to the Centre.
- When registered, patients can book GP appointments online. When visiting the Patient Access service at any time, available appointments can be viewed and booked for the following week and for two weeks beyond that.
- Same day appointments only appear online at 8am on each working day – only appointments for the day in question can be booked. Appointments for the remaining working days in the current week are not shown. Each day's appointments will appear on the site at 8am on the day.


Charlbury Patient Group

Download the Health App to find services quickly

OCCG's phone app can help you stay well and healthy over winter. 'Health and Care Oxfordshire' provides advice on when it might be best to visit a pharmacist or a GP, when to call NHS 111, or if self-care at home might be more appropriate.

It highlights the type of injuries or illnesses seen at minor injuries units and first aid units in Oxfordshire. You can locate your nearest health service via interactive maps. To download the app for iPhone click [here](#) and for Androids click [here](#) tinyurl.com/phxl6op





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Thursdays: 7.00pm – 8.15pm

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Facebook: Mandy Nichols Pure Relaxation Yoga

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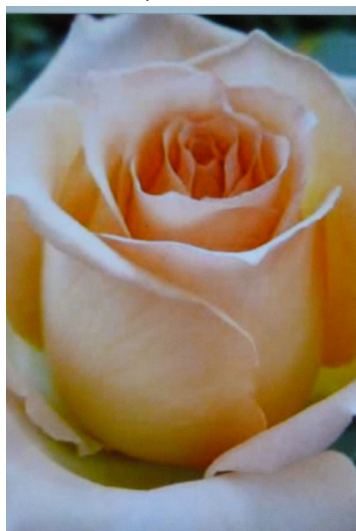
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Hidden messages of flowers

When giving flowers on Valentine's Day to a loved one, everyone associates the red rose with passion but may not know that a pink rose symbolizes happiness or a thank you.

Flowers can express your feelings or thoughts to someone special and there exists a whole language in flowers, full of colour, scent and natural harmony. The groom wears a flower which also appears in the bridal bouquet, in his button-hole. This originates from the medieval tradition of wearing his Lady's colours, as a declaration of his love.

The symbolic language of flowers has been recognized for centuries in many countries throughout Europe and Asia. They play a large role in folklore, traditional ballads and songs. Shakespeare's works and the plays of the ancient Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and Chinese are peppered with flower and plant symbolism. Nearly every sentiment imaginable can be expressed with flowers. The white orange blossom with its perfume means purity and loveliness, while the red chrysanthemum is a symbol of love and deep passion.



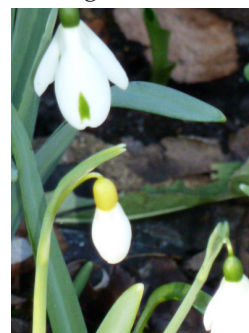
Nearly all Victorian homes contained books for deciphering this "language," and the learning of the special symbolism of flowers became a popular pastime during the 1800s, although definitions shifted depending on the source. Plants had their associated human qualities during the Victorian era such as Rosemary for remembrance and Bluebells symbolised kindness. The shade of colour was important; a red rose for I love you, whereas a very, dark crimson rose was for mourning. A yellow rose stood for joy, an orange one desire, whilst the giving of a lavender rose meant love at first sight.

The gift of a small bouquet of flowers carried coded messages of passion at a time when public displays of affection were frowned upon, and were

sent by lovers. This communicating of hidden messages using bouquets and floral arrangements is called floriography from the Latin meaning "flower writing"; its origins aren't clear, partly because flowers have held various symbolic meanings throughout history. Much of the Victorian meanings behind flowers and their arrangements have continued into modern Floriography.

Like a painter, the floriographer spoke through his or her art, creating each bouquet, corsage and floral arrangement with messages of hope and strength, hidden melancholy or any number of symbols. Blue flowers were a central symbol

of inspiration for the Romanticism movement, standing for hope and the striving for the beauty of things.



One of my favourites is the simple snow drop, the symbol of rebirth, announcing the start of a new gardening year.

Robert Bigwood

Finstock Local History Society (FLHS)

Friday December 13th meeting will be a fun-filled historical review of Charlbury and Finstock Morris Music and Dance over the past 35 years. This will include research by those involved in ancient Cotswold Morris traditions with particular reference to local seasonal mummers' plays. It will include a lively presentation involving well known characters like Father Christmas, King George, the Turkish Knight, the Doctor, the Devil and little Johnny Jack! What could possibly go wrong on Friday the Thirteenth? Seasonal music and light refreshments too!

Friday January 17th will be an introduction to the world of William Morris of Kelmscott Manor. Morris regarded Kelmscott as 'the loveliest haunt of ancient peace'. Mike Breakell will talk about Morris and his background whilst Glenna Chadwick will talk about her research into his life at Kelmscott.

All meetings at 8pm on Fridays unless otherwise stated, at Finstock Village Hall, OX7 3BU. Refreshments available from 7.30pm. Entry £2.50.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FinstockLocalHistorySociety.

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