

Finstock News 129

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“Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.” — Sam Keen

Summertime, and the livin’ is easy,” wrote George Gershwin, and here we are at high summer where we may traditionally take a bit of a break and enjoy some rest and relaxation with family or friends. It’s a time of year for being outdoors more than ever, enjoying the benefits of the amazing landscapes, interesting buildings and thousands of miles of coastline that can be explored, as well as a multitude of festivals that are going ahead – and that’s just in the United Kingdom! This year the doors and gates are opening once again as the Covid related restrictions are eased or lifted. We’ve also had cause for celebrating in different sports, including football, tennis and cycling. Well then, here’s to summer – cheers!

Wychwood Forest Fair to take place on 22 August at Foxburrow Wood

The ‘Wychwood Forest Trust’ (formerly the Wychwood Project) can announce that this year’s Forest Fair will take place on **Sunday 22 August** at Foxburrow Wood, Witney from 11am–5pm.

To keep things safe this year’s Fair will be largely open-air and use more space than previous years. Advanced bookings are encouraged to help monitor numbers: tickets purchased in advance cost £8, while tickets on the door cost £10. Under-16s can enter for free.

With heaps of entertainment including rural crafts, ferret racing, falconry, food stalls and more, the fair is a fun way to enjoy a summer Sunday while supporting the Wychwood Project, a local conservation charity dedicated to restoring habitats across the historic Wychwood Forest area and which encourages local people to understand, conserve and restore its rich mosaic of landscapes and wildlife habitats.

The Wychwood Forest Trust would welcome donations of second-hand books in good condition for the Fair’s thriving second-hand bookstall, or offers to volunteer for a few hours at the Fair.

Please email miranda@wychwoodproject.org.uk or call the Wychwood Project’s office on 07584 262437.

A historic event

The Wychwood Forest Fair was founded in 1796 by three Wesleyan Methodists living in Finstock as a calmer counterpart to the annual Witney Feast. More of a picnic than a fair, the original event saw locals coming together to enjoy the Wychwood Forest.

As the Fair grew in reputation and scale it started to change. The 19th century Fair operated outside parish jurisdiction, and many seized it as a chance to settle scores in skirmishes and fights. Non-locals travelling miles to visit the Fair were blamed for contributing to its increasingly riotous atmosphere.

After the 1853 Parliamentary Act of Disafforestation placed the historic Wychwood Forest under private ownership, the Fair was banned for good.

The Wychwood Forest Trust revived the Forest Fair in 2000 to celebrate the area’s rural traditions, arts and crafts, and conservation work. Today’s family-friendly, peaceful Fair looks back to its 18th-century origins.

Join the Fair

You can book tickets for the Fair directly by visiting the Wychwood Forest Trust’s website at www.wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk

If you would prefer to contact the Wychwood Forest Trust directly to book tickets, or would like to apply to host a stall at the Fair, please email info@wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk. Tel. 07584 262437.



**Don’t forget you can view
the *Finstock News*, in colour,
online at [finstock.org.uk/
the-finstock-news](http://finstock.org.uk/the-finstock-news)**



VILLAGE EVENTS



Farewell to Finstock

It's hard to say goodbye after 37 years of living happily in friendly Finstock, but age, infirmity and Lockdown have conspired to convince me that it is time to move nearer my family. I have enjoyed being involved in the life of the school, the Parish Council, the shop and Holy Trinity Church during this time and I have met many good people working unobtrusively to make the village into the special community in which we all share. It is not easy to leave.

My dog Fancy, being a 'country girl', has decided not to move with me to town life and she will be staying here with her special friend Val. I shall miss everything about Finstock, except for the mud!

Thank you to all my friends and neighbours for your kindness to Roger and me over the years. I hope you'll give a warm welcome to your new neighbours at Well Corner.

Barbara Pensom

The Lending Library Lives!

We are pleased to say that the Lending Library has moved rather than closed. The library is now at 35 High Street. Its hosts will be Matthew Abigail, together with Caroline and Hannah.

You will find interesting reads from across genres, plus the odd jigsaw puzzle. Thank you for your continued use.

"Some of the best memories are made in flip-flops."

Kellie Elmore

Update from FoFS

How lucky that the sun shone for us on Saturday 3 July for our first in-person event of 2021: the Finstock Garage Sale. It was great to see so many folk from the school and village come together to sell, buy and support the event. A big thank you to all those who took part, helped set up, served refreshments, baked cakes - and of

course to Karen and her shop staff for selling our pitch numbers. Thanks also to Bunkers Hill Garden Shop, who provided a beautiful selection of plants for us to sell, donating 20% of sales to the event. A SPECIAL thanks goes to Barbara Pensom of The Bottom - who we are sorry to be losing from the village shortly - as her generous donation of a third of her sale profits meant that the event raised a very respectable final total of £268.00! We hope this will be the first of many more events as lockdown restrictions are lifted; we're already planning a September Social for the existing school family to welcome new members, and we hope that we'll see the return of most of our seasonal events by Christmas. In the interim, please enjoy the new promotional video for school - proudly supported by FoFS - online on the school's website / via the FoFS' Facebook page.

FoFS would also like to say a special 'goodbye and thank you' to both Mrs Sykes and Mrs Burrige, both retiring this year after 30 years of assisting at the school. Your care for the succession of children passing through our little school has been invaluable and we are sorry to lose you. We hope you have the relaxing and enjoyable retirements you so fully deserve!

Fingers crossed for a sunny, healthy summer,

Helen Fallows & Su Jordan



Guides and Brownies

Girlguiding have been enjoying being back in Finstock Hall. All units have been working hard towards skill builder badges and Brownies are working towards their camping badge, a first favourite with all units.

At Rainbows we enjoyed celebrating the achievement of some of the girls reaching their bronze and silver awards.

All sections meet on a Wednesday.

Rainbows - for girls aged between 5 to 7 years. Contact for Rainbows is Sian - finstock-rainbows@outlook.com

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

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Tues - Sat - 6:30pm - 9pm
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VILLAGE HALL

www.finstock.org.uk/village-hall • villagehallfinstock@gmail.com

We have been welcoming our regular hirers back to the Hall, and all bookings are going smoothly. We hope very soon to be able to accommodate all bookings, with the bar and kitchen fully open. Just like the old days.

Finstock Baby and Toddler Group

We hope you're enjoying the summer so far! We've really missed our Wednesday group over the last 18 months and seeing you all together in the Hall, but the good news is that we plan to re-open the group in September! We are currently finalising our plans for opening and how many attendees we'll be able to accommodate - it all depends on the final restrictions lifting (at the time of writing this will hopefully be 19th July) but we will start cautiously and minimize numbers at least to begin with and see how things go. There will be a few changes to how the group used to run, with fewer toys/activities out at any one time to help with cleaning. We will keep you all updated on our plans via our Facebook group - alternatively you can email us on finstocktoddlergroup@hotmail.com for further information. We can't wait to see you back in the Hall soon! Happy holidays to you all. Many thanks,

Helen & Tammy

Finstock Craft Club

This is just a reminder that we are open for business. Meeting every Monday, except Bank Holidays throughout the year. It's a 7.30pm start at the village hall. We are a drop in club (just £2.00 per session), so if you can't make the precise time, that's ok or if you can't make every Monday, that's ok too. We look forward to welcoming you, no matter what your skill level.

Any questions, you can email me at: rosacharlesworth@icloud.com or call on: 01993 869283.



Well

59 per cent of Britons say they do not know what the term "woke" means. 29 per cent of those who do know what it means consider themselves woke, while 56 per cent do not!

Well, Well, Well

Access to water today is so easy. A walk to the kitchen and you turn on the tap. Tea can be made in minutes.

But what did Finstock villagers do before running water made it to their houses?

Our excellent village local history book 'Two Wychwood Villages' tells us that water came to the village in 1928 in the form of the roadside hydrants that you might be familiar with if you live on the High Street. There are three remaining on roadside; alas all of the others have long since disappeared. Anyone know what happened to them?

The 1888 six-inch Ordnance map of Finstock shows the locations of many of the known wells throughout the village - from the Old Vicarage to Well Cottage - and this was of course the main source of water for all villagers.

What a chore it must have been to have to take your bucket and yoke to fill up every time you wanted to wash some dishes. Baths once a week must have been a luxury. No doubt every precious raindrop was saved in buckets to help with garden watering and in times of drought water would have been the talk of the village.

You may have come across 'Gadding Well' just off the High Street. It has to be an ancient spring-fed well. It is sited at the top end of the village and would have been on the heath. Today it forms part of a private garden and is a curious leftover from our village past.

Lastly, the Town Well on School Road was capped off in the 1950's and the well head gear has gradually fallen into a poor and sorry state. Will no one step forward and offer to repair it as a remembrance of an important site in our village past?

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SPOTLIGHT

A major figurehead of the alter-globalization movement as well as a major role player in global Ecofeminism, Dr. Vandana Shiva is recipient of several awards for her services in human rights.

There are a lot of videos featuring this lady on YouTube - and a number of attacks have been made on her according to Wikipedia, probably on behalf of vested interests that she has offended with her directness. The Guardian has called her "One of the world's most prominent radical scientists."

Vandana Shiva is the most forthright environmental activist I know, and in India there is no one who has done more to resist the onslaught of commercial interests that seek to appropriate seeds. Here are some of her books that I have read: -

Patents – myths and reality (Penguin group, India, 2001)

This is the book that opened my eyes to the history of patents. Among the first we know of were letters patent issued by the King of Spain to Christopher Columbus, authorising him to take anything he found in the New World on the ground that it did not belong to anyone.

"In today's world, patents affect all of us - whether we are farmers whose right to save seed is threatened, or consumers whose right to food and medicine is eroded, or researchers whose freedom to exchange knowledge is blocked...Dr. Vandana Shiva details how under Intellectual Property Rights laws natural resources are taken by western corporations without recognition or payment; how local communities are prevented from using their centuries-old knowledge by corporations who have patented that knowledge; and how Third World countries are forced to buy products based on their indigenous knowledge at much higher prices than if they were produced locally."

Water Wars - Privatization, Pollution, and Profit (2002)

Vandana Shiva details how water shortages are the ultimate cause of today's wars. (What about emigrants from Africa, where the same situation exists today?)

"Recently, when I was travelling to Rajasthan's capital, Jaipur, in western

India, for a public hearing on drought and famine, I experienced the clash of these two cultures of water. On the train from Delhi to Jaipur, we were served bottled water, where Pepsi's water line Aquafina was the brand of choice. On the streets of Jaipur, there was another culture of water. At the peak of drought, small thatched huts called *Jal Mandirs* (water temples) were put up to give water from earthen water pots as a free gift to the thirsty."

Who (Really) Feeds the World? (2016)

This book "is a powerful manifesto calling for agricultural justice and genuine sustainability, drawing upon Shiva's thirty years of research and accomplishments in the field. She proposes that... we should look to agroecology – the knowledge of the interconnectedness that creates food – a truly life-giving alternative to the industrial paradigm."

Here are some of the chapter headings: –

"Living Soil Feeds the World, Not Chemical Fertilizers";

"Bees and Butterflies Feed the World, Not Poisons and Pesticides";

"Small-Scale Farmers Feed the World, Not Large-Scale Industrial Farms";

"Women Feed the World, Not Corporations".

Vandana Shiva has set up Navdanya, which means both Nine Seeds and New Gift, to protect farmers' seed from exploitation. It is "a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seed, the promotion of organic farming and fair trade." The initiative established over 40 seed banks across India to provide regional opportunity for diverse agriculture. In 2004 Shiva started Bija Vidyapeeth, an international college for sustainable living in Doon Valley, Uttarakhand, in collaboration with Schumacher College.

Tony Hirtenstein

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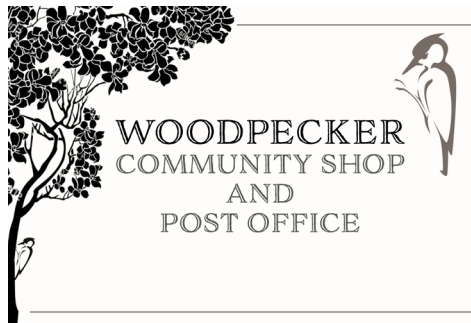
Photographs thanks to team members and others.

Contact us as above, e-mail the Editor, or write to us at 53 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.



Some things haven't changed. No new volunteers. No new directors. But some things have! With no beer festival this year, the shop is now stocking the range of exciting beers from Little Oxbrew, our award-winning neighbours from Freeland. You can try their impressive range of IPAs, lagers and one-off specials. Who knows, if this venture is successful, we could rebrand as a craft beer shop.



By the time this article goes to print, you should also see our new picnic table and benches, kindly installed by one of our supportive customers. Just the job for weary walkers and those who simply want to sit and watch the village go by.

Opening times –

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 8.30am - 3.30pm (last time for posting 12 noon; P.O. shuts 1pm) Tue: 8.30am - 1.30pm (and P.O. as above) Sat: 9am - 1pm (no P.O. services) Sun: CLOSED.

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Perfect Pepper and Pepperoni Pasta (serves 2)

Recipe submitted by Sue Hazell

Ingredients –

100g sliced pepperoni
1 red pepper, diced
1 teaspoon of fennel seeds

1 tablespoon tomato puree
1 tin chopped tomatoes
200g fusilli pasta

Method –

Place every ingredient except the pasta into a saucepan. Cover and simmer the ingredients for 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Boil a pan of lightly salted water and cook pasta until soft enough. (9-11 mins, depending on how firm, al dente, you like it. Slightly longer if wholemeal). When pasta is cooked, drain thoroughly and mix in the pepper and pepperoni sauce. Serve immediately.

If you've got a recipe you'd love to share, send it to the Editor – details on page 4

DURING THESE MONTHS:

- August 2, 1990 - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait resulting in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military build-up, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.
- August 6, 1945 - 105,000 persons died after the first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the centre of Hiroshima. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.
- August 15, 1969 - The Woodstock festival began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York.
- September 9, 1976 - Long-time leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died.
- September 16, 1908 - General Motors was founded by entrepreneur William Crapo "Billy" Durant in Flint, Michigan.
- September 19, 1893 - New Zealand became the first country to grant women the right to vote.

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COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it" – Robert Swan



Same charity, new name

A decade after merging with the Friends of Wychwood to become an independent charity, the Wychwood Project has recently changed its name to the Wychwood Forest Trust. The new name reflects the fact that projects have endings, whereas need for the charity's work to preserve the unique historic Wychwood area's habitats and rural traditions will outlive all of us. The Wychwood Forest Trust's goals and ethos remain the same, but the charity hopes their new name will help them engage more people with local conservation.

West Oxfordshire Field Club

No, it's not a club devoted to field management! Founded in 1963 to study nature and to promote its conservation, West Oxfordshire Field club is a natural history society based in Witney, Oxfordshire.

We have indoor meetings with invited speakers on the first Friday of the month from October till May which take place at the Methodist Church Hall in Witney. Examples of past topics have included 'Dragonflies and Damselflies', 'Sri Lanka, the Jewel of the Ocean' and 'Britain's Best Wildlife'.

In addition, we have walks throughout the year to places of natural history interest, where members are happy to share their knowledge.

Membership runs from January but in the meantime visitors who wish to attend either a walk or an indoor meeting are asked for a nominal charge of £3 at each event.

You can find all details of the Field Club on thefieldclub.org.uk

Alternatively, please contact me on 01993 868457 for more information

Julia Reid

Finstock for Nature

We are a small, recently formed group of Finstock residents with an interest in improving the natural environment within the parish. The main ideas that we are exploring include planting a

community woodland; tree planting for carbon storage; tiny forests (see FN issue 127, April/May); small orchards; flood mitigation and the establishment of wildlife friendly sites.

We are interested in engaging with local landowners to try and identify a potential site as a start point, from which to explore the options for alternative land use and management that would be sustainable and environmentally constructive. We would see this as a venture that could involve the whole community, both in the creation or ongoing management of the site, as well as being a recreational space within the village that could engage everyone in learning more about the natural environment at this critical time. If you would like to find out more, contact Kath Lucas/Geoff Griffiths (868487) or Pete Welply (868140).

Community Woodlands in our area – how many have you been to?

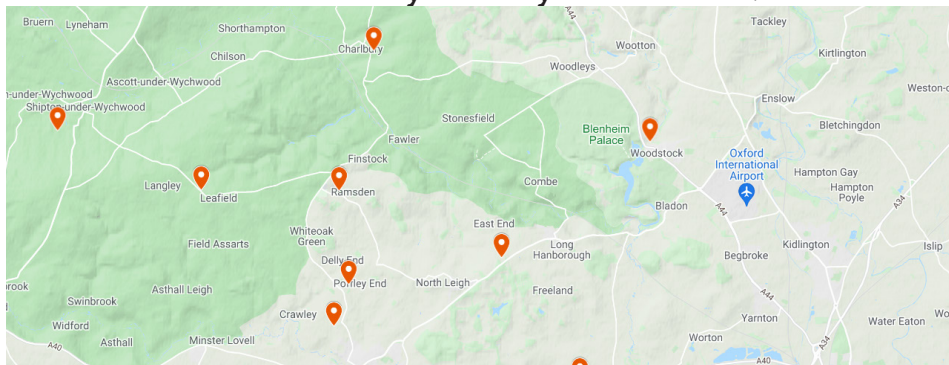


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Some of the recent work contributed by pupils
at Finstock C of E Primary School



We have been looking at impressionist artists like Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir and Edgar Degas. In Impressionist painting, colours are applied side by side, with as little mixing as possible, creating a vibrant surface. Pure Impressionism avoids the use of black paint, and wet paint is placed directly onto wet paint without waiting for applications to dry. This produces softer edges and blending of colours. Look at our attempts.

From our County Councillor

In mid-May, Oxfordshire changed. For the first time in 16 years, the Conservatives no longer had a majority on the County Council and instead, an alliance was formed between the Liberal Democrats, the Green Party and the Labour Party to form an administration. We named this the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, and I was elected the Leader of the new council.

The electorate have made it plain that while they no longer wanted the County Council to be run by the Conservatives, at the same time they did not endorse a single party to take over. They wanted us to co-operate and work together, which is where the Fair Deal Alliance comes in. This may well be the future shape of politics, both locally and nationally, and I am proud that Oxfordshire is leading the way. I am regularly asked whether I think the three political parties can work together given that for years we have been campaigning against each other, and the answer I give is "Yes!". It has become plain to me over the past few weeks that there is far more that unites us than divides us and we have all agreed on what our priorities will be. Absolutely top of the list is climate change and the environment. We are committed to putting decarbonisation and climate resilience at the heart of our policies, as well as tackling inequalities and supporting everyone in the County to achieve their full potential. That means better education for people of all ages, better social care for adults and children, and better infrastructure, including buses, train services and cycle routes.

In four years' time voters will be able to judge whether we have been able to achieve this. Meanwhile we have an exciting time ahead of us – and we are all up for the challenge!

Liz Jeffman, County Councillor for Charlbury and Wychwood.
07741 073088, liz.jeffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

News from the Parish Council

Due to a recent resignation, the PC is one councillor short. In these circumstances between election dates, the PC is empowered to co-opt a new councillor.

If you are interested in helping the village, the PC would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the chairman or Clerk. The time involved is not onerous but it is interesting and rewarding to be able to make a visible contribution to the well-being of Finstock.

PC meetings have returned to the Village Hall and anyone is welcome to join the meetings held on the last Monday of each month.

The Adventure Playground is due its annual inspection from Rospa in July. They rate the quality of the facility and make recommendations for any improvements necessary. These are then built in to the rolling upkeep programme initiated and financed by the PC.

At the June meeting, the updated budget was reviewed and approved as in line with annual planned expenditure.

Hywel Davies for the Parish Council

Constituency Boundary Changes

As you may have seen in the press, the Boundary Commission has put forward their proposals for new constituency boundaries. West Oxon, and the whole of Oxfordshire, is quite significantly altered by these proposals. The independent commissioner's job

is to ensure that constituencies must have no less than 69,724 Parliamentary electors and no more than 77,062. With 84,000 registered voters at the 2019 General Election, it has been clear that changes would be proposed to the Witney constituency to reduce this. Indeed, it has been clear for some time now that significant changes would be required to constituencies across Oxfordshire during the next Boundary Review, owing in large part to the level of growth in and around Bicester. This constituency therefore would change significantly. A new constituency would include the Eynsham & Cassington, Freeland & Hanborough, North Leigh, Stonesfield & Tackley, and Woodstock & Bladon wards. Witney constituency wards of Chadlington & Churchill, Charlbury & Finstock, Chipping Norton, Kingham, Rollright & Enstone, and The Bartons would become part of the Banbury constituency. To compensate for this, a number of wards currently in the Wantage constituency would join Witney. These are only proposals currently and will undergo a huge deal of scrutiny and consultation. I would encourage all residents of the constituency to make your views known to the Boundary Commission however you feel about the changes. You can do so on the website - www.bcereviews.org.uk/

Robert Courts



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Tree House Development – Witney Road, Finstock

The original plans were submitted to WODC in 2016 by Mr Nick House, acting on behalf of a family business, (Quality Unearthed Ltd. in Haverfordwest Pembrokeshire), as their agent. Quality Unearthed at that time was run by a Mr Timothy Rees but I believe the owner may have been a member of the Rees family, based in Berkhamsted.

The plan was and still is to build seven units of accommodation for short term holiday let.

As mentioned in the Finstock News by our then WODC councillor, the development could benefit the local economy. Specifically, this was based on additional trade for the Plough and Village shop and the employment of three housekeeping staff, 'preferably' from Finstock. (I think this was because some quick responses to guests might be necessary.)



The plans were approved in February 2018.

Since the approval, no development has taken place, therefore no local benefit has been obtained.

The Key question of interest to the village is, I believe, 'are the benefits to the village still applicable?'

The new development appears to still be under Mr House's name but under a new company, TreeDwellers Ltd, to which Mr House seems to be closely related.

Quality Unearthed Ltd were due to manage the site along with their existing 'tree related' holiday letting business. Is this still the case? - not that it is that important to Finstock.

Another benefit of interest to the village that was quoted for the previous and now the new plan was that local people short on bedspace when short family visits are planned, etc., could use the accommodation for them, assuming space was available. Would this be on normal terms or



are some special arrangement or terms envisaged? – this is unclear.

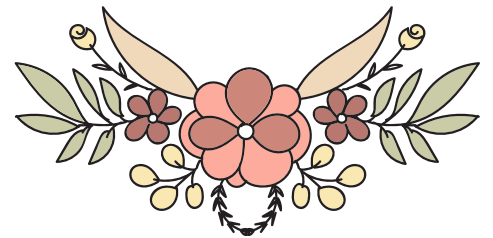
Finally, it is of interest how the 'rules' for guests (re. such things as noise, late night traffic etc.) can be enforced with no site supervision. Will there be some local arrangement to report and get quick corrective action, or would using the local council procedures be necessary?

Does Mr House wish to make any other comments that might interest the Village I wonder?

Chris Turner

Research on the website (www.treedwellers.com) indicates that Treedwellers Finstock is opening for Easter 2022 with 7 eco luxury treehouses. "This is much more than glamping, this is Treedwellers". Bookings will be taken from 15 July 2021! - Ed

Half the world's population lives in urban areas, but cities only account for about three per cent of global land surface





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CPPG Information on Government Proposals for NHS Data Sharing

Most of us would agree that medical data is indispensable for research and planning and are happy for our data to be collected and used to improve health care, but with certain provisos.

There are 2 kinds of medical databases important to the NHS. The first allows clinicians to access the records of patients they are treating. For example: if you arrive in A&E it is useful and may be life-saving for the medical team to be able to identify relevant medical history quickly and easily. A new national system called **Shared Care Records** is expected to be in place in September, though there are still questions about privacy and access.

The second, which is under discussion here, is the proposal from NHS Digital to collect all data from GP practices and place it in a central data base where it could be accessed by researchers, planners and private corporations. This has given rise to concern from patients and the medical profession in part fuelled by the way in which the scheme was introduced, the lack of time allowed to opt out, the uncertainty about who would be allowed to access the data and for what purposes, and the impenetrability of the document. It is particularly difficult to access the opt-out forms within the document.

Concerns.

1. Track record. In 2013 NHS England launched a similar care data project but was forced to close it after a lawsuit preventing the government handing a contract to Palantir (a CIA backed tech corporation) to start using the NHS data store.
2. What will happen to the data? There is insufficient assurance in the document as it stands that large companies will not be able to buy the data, for example, pharmaceutical companies and private companies considering taking over GP surgeries.
3. Potential for identification of individuals from data. The document asserts that all data is pseudonymised which means that details which directly identify patients are replaced by unique codes. The NHS will hold

keys to unlock the codes 'in certain circumstances and where there is valid legal reason'.

4. Cyber Security. Given that it is impossible to give assurance that cyber-attacks will never occur, many would like assurances that their personal data is fully anonymised.

Following threat of legal action and protests, the government has agreed to delay rollout of the scheme until **September 1st**. However, it would seem that any opt-out would need to be submitted **at least a week earlier than that**.

The chief executive of NHS Digital has acknowledged that '*we need to take our responsibility to safeguard the data we hold incredibly seriously.*' There has been some suggestion in the press that a longer time is required before rollout takes place.

Opting out: There are 2 types of opt-out, each requiring a separate form.

Type 1 opt out form will stop NHS Digital taking your data held by your GP. This form has to be printed out and handed in to the Medical Centre.

Type 2 - National Data opt-out form prevents NHS Digital sharing your NHS data with others. This form has to be filled in online as a PDF and e-mailed to NHS Digital. It is impossible to sign it as requested online, but you can print off a hard copy and sign and post. You can request e-mail confirmation.

You can at any point change your mind and opt back in, but if you have not opted out by 24th August your data will be collected, and cannot be returned.

In response to concerns the Government released a document on the 22nd June entitled: 'Data saves lives: reshaping health and social care with data'.

<https://tinyurl.com/46zvxxee>

Given the amount of work that the Department of Health and Social Care recognises in this document that needs to be done to ensure secure collection and storage of medical data, the question arises as to why there is such a rush to rollout enforcement of data collection.

Would it not be better to wait until the systems are in place?

Deborah Hofman (Charlbury Patient Participation Group, steering committee)

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Finstock Unplugged – June Session

We had really hoped to be back in The Plough, but the need for wide spacing and further delays on ending lockdown meant that wasn't possible. We were resigned to another Zoom session, but then luckily Richard, of Wilcote Art Studios, who had sometimes played with Rachel, Claire and me in the past, agreed to let us meet in the courtyard of his studios. This gave us access to a spacious area, enclosed on three sides, with good natural acoustics. Of course, numbers had to be limited and people had to bring their own refreshments and take away their empties with them afterwards, so only our loyal Zoomers, founder members and a couple of bona fide Finstockians could be included. It was wonderful to be able to meet and play music LIVE again! We were timing ourselves to the longer summer evenings, so ran from 7.30 to 10.00pm and included everything from traditional songs and jigs (thank you John G, Frances W and 'Brixen'), folk blues (Ben W with Mike; Dave O; me), to Dylan (Colin G), to original songs from Laura A, Claire J, Jim D, Kim B and others. A lovely evening!

Ginnie Redston



The Cotswold and Malvern line

Older folks will remember the Beeching cuts of the sixties which were to lead to closure of smaller stations and halts on the Cotswold line between Worcester and Oxford. However, some like Finstock and Combe were reprieved although only the statutory service of two up morning trains and one evening return from Oxford were retained. These served the remaining users well as most were employed in Oxford or at the Cowley Motor works. This was maintained until the 1980's when various improvements like the Saturday shopper were introduced, including one big train that stopped at Finstock by request and finished at Paddington and gave one a great sense of achievement.

An improved platform was rebuilt on the other side of the track at Finstock and passenger numbers grew into double figures for the second 'up' service from Moreton, (arriving in Finstock about 7.50 a.m.), but the earlier service around 6.00 am was discontinued. Meanwhile both Charlbury and especially Hanborough were growing, especially as they now had more space for parking.

Finstock is now the least used station in Oxfordshire and risks closure especially if dual tracking occurs here due to the cost of a second platform (see the photo on page 192 of the Two Wychwood Villages book of the halt in 1959). Ideas like re-introducing a Saturday shopper, or re-timing the morning train to suit growing school traffic, or providing a second evening service may help, but do suggest your own ideas or join the Cotswold Line Promotion Group to learn more.

Mike Breakell, Cotswold Line Promotion Group, Halt representative

Toxic Productivity – an unhealthy compulsion to do too much work. "The pandemic hasn't made workaholics of us all, as Netflix's swelling subscriber count attests, but the blurred distinction between home and work means that "every waking moment" has become "a slot to achieve things".

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Old Cottage Garden Favourites



Many pictures of old cottages have a statuesque clump of colourful Hollyhocks in the garden. The plants are thought to be originally native to East Asia, and they spread across Asia, making their way to the Middle East, where the English first encountered them during the Crusades. The plants were used to make a healing ointment for the Crusaders' horses which were injured on their hind legs, or "hocks." This is almost definitely where the name comes from – holly, as in holy (as in Holy Land) and hock, as in the part of the horse the plant was used to treat. Hollyhocks prefer sun but are very adaptable and forgiving plants to grow. Different varieties of the plant exist in virtually every colour and are happy to grow in soils from clay to sand, acid to alkaline. Hollyhocks are perhaps the definitive cottage-garden flower; certainly, they are the tallest and most picturesque. One of the most popular hollyhocks of all time, is 'Chater's Double' named after the English horticulturist, Chater of Essex, who developed this variety in the 1880s. Hollyhocks are part of the Mallow family, which also contains a pink flowered hollyhock-like plant, 'the Marshmallow' used for the ever-popular toasted dessert.

Another fashionable plant of cottage gardens, famed for their height and colour are the Lupins, giving a gorgeous display of large colourful flowering spikes year after year. By deadheading the old spikes, the plants will continue to produce more and more new spikes. Lupins

originated from the Mediterranean but can be found growing in the wild around the planet. They have been grown and eaten throughout the Mediterranean for millennia and even the early Egyptians were known to eat them. There is also evidence that Roman gardeners and farmers used lupins to improve the fertility of the soil. As a legume they can fix nitrogen into the soil improving it for other plants, they are commonly grown as green manure. George Russell (1857-1951) developed the 'Russell Lupins' using natural pollination by bumblebees to develop hybrids and selecting plants with larger and more colourful flower spikes than the original. He was 79 when he first exhibited at Chelsea and the Royal Horticultural Society awarded him the Veitch Memorial Medal in 1937 for his achievements. Lupins do best in moist but well-drained soil with full sun or dappled shade. Like many other perennials with tall flowers, lupins benefit from a sheltered position. Although a traditional cottage garden plant, lupins can be planted in more contemporary planting schemes.

These old favourites are useful additions to any garden and always attractive to the eye. Happy gardening,

Robert



Bridewell Open Day

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