

# **Finstock News** 142

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***“Autumn - It looked like the world was covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon.”***

*Sarah Addison Allen*

Well, what a summer of two halves – and, now with autumn creeping on, are we prepared for the winter ahead? Have we managed to sort all those draught or insulation challenges that we wanted to or devised our energy saving strategies for the months ahead? On a much wider scale climate change has brought about many huge disasters globally this year with fire, flood and famine. In spite of this, there continues to be much talk and discussion, along with fudging and hedging, about the different targets for reducing global emissions that have been agreed on the international stage to combat the climate crisis. We are lucky on these isles to have both the gulf stream and the jet stream that offer us some protection and variation in our seasonal weather. Here’s hoping for a “normal” winter that is cool and wet, with just enough snow in the New Year to be able to dust off the toboggans again!

## SCHOOL NEWS

The beginning of the new academic year got off to a great start! All of our children settled in brilliantly to the new school year and have continued to be great role models, demonstrating our school rules and values.

Cherry and Oak Classes thoroughly enjoyed their project “Let’s Explore” this term. They had a wonderfully memorable experience exploring Finstock Village and creating their very own maps. The children also had a big focus on friendship and demonstrated what excellent friends they are to each other. Both classes will be taking part in Forest School on the Cornbury Estate later on this term.

Cedar class joined Queen Emma’s Primary School for their memorable experience to launch their project ‘Dynamic Dynasties’. The class engaged in drama activities to explore the ancient Shang Dynasty. The children flexed their mental muscles during the workshop and shared their knowledge. The class have also worked on their teamwork and leadership skills this term.

The development of our outside areas continues this year with a focus on creative play. Creative play is essential to all aspects of children’s development and is a source of joy and happiness. Our children love using “loose parts” for imaginative play.

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## Girl Guides news

Charlbury District Guides need new volunteers for units in Leafield, Charlbury, Finstock, Chadlington and Shipton under Wychwood. Could you be one of them?

Girl Guiding provides fun and a wide range of experiences for girls aged 4-18 through a structured programme of activities; teaching leadership, resilience and life skills for their future and leading to badges and challenging adventures.

Being a Guide leader is a really rewarding volunteer role, making a real difference to girls' lives, showing them that 'girls can do anything' leading by example and having loads of fun. This is true for all age groups -

Rainbows 4-7, Brownies 7-11, Guides 10-14, Rangers 14-18.

The pandemic hit the volunteer work we do with children and young people very hard, and as a result we are struggling to rebuild our network of groups across the district. Some units remain closed, with a waiting list of girls wanting to join, and need new adult volunteers to be able to reopen; other units have leaders but numbers of girls are low.

We are looking for women, aged 18+ to help girls to problem solve, play games, meet challenges, do badge work and have fun. You need patience and enthusiasm, and to be a good team player. Girl Guiding has a strong support network nationally

and locally and full training is given. All the resources needed for running the programme are already in place. Girls work in small groups and take a part in deciding what they do. Girl Guiding will require an enhanced DBS check and two references for all new volunteers.

Anyone who would like to know more about what is involved can get in touch with District Commissioner Claire Saxby, [clairesaxby1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clairesaxby1@tiscali.co.uk), or Division Commissioner Jane Digby

[janedigby@btopenworld.com](mailto:janedigby@btopenworld.com).

**In Girl Guiding we believe 'girls can do anything' – that includes you!**

## DURING THESE MONTHS

**3rd October, 1863** - President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

**9th October, 1940** - John Lennon (1940-1980) was born in Liverpool, England. He was a member of *The Beatles*, an influential rock group.

**19th October, 1990** - Beset by a seriously eroding economy, Soviet Russia's President Mikhail Gorbachev won parliamentary approval to switch to a market economy.

**1st November, 1995** - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

**11th November, 1992** - The Church of England voted to allow women to become priests.

**14th November, 1666** - The first experimental blood transfusion between animals took place in Britain.

## THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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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.

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## News from The Plough

It's been a crazy few months for us here at The Plough, but we're so excited to announce that the wait is finally over. Our two beautiful cabins are now available to book!

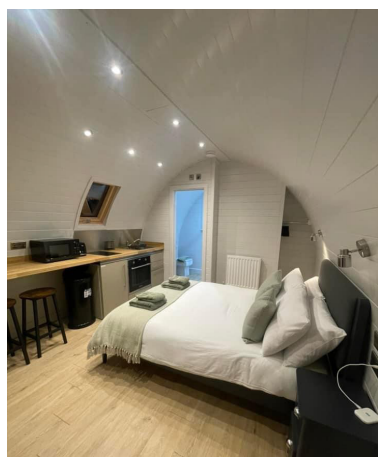
Both cabins are equipped with comfortable double beds with Egyptian cotton sheets, kitchenettes, bathrooms with a double shower, plus 43" flatscreen smart TVs, Nespresso coffee machines and high-speed Wi-Fi.

Currently, the cabins can sleep a maximum of 2, however, this will be expanding to a maximum of 4 in the upcoming weeks (stay tuned).

We accept pets in one of our cabins, so no need to worry about trying to find a pet sitter. With the gorgeous scenery, you'll have no issues finding a breathtaking walk.

Staying for a special occasion? Let us know prior to your stay, and we'll do our best to try to accommodate your requests.

Whilst each cabin does have a fully functioning kitchenette, you don't need to worry about the cooking and washing up! Each booking will receive a 10% discount on all food served at the pub, meaning you can put your feet up whilst you are winned and dined. The hardest part is choosing from our blackboard menus!



We truly cannot thank everyone enough for their support and kind words already. The cabins have been something we've dreamed about for so long now, and we cannot believe that they're finally ready.

We'll be sharing more photos and information soon on our Facebook page, so please make sure you follow us to keep up to date with the latest pub and cabin news!

To enquire about booking, please call us on 01993 868333, or pop in for a chat!

## Age with Joy

Many of us elderly complain that we can't do what we once did when we were younger. This is part of the grieving process.

Where once we used to walk for miles, dance all night, sing with our favourite songs, now we walk carefully so as not to fall, we rarely dance and sing only when no one is listening. We cannot hear as well as we once did, our hair is turning grey and the eyesight is failing. It could be worse.

Grieving for the loss of our youthful vigour is a phase that will soon pass as we realize how wonderful it is to not move quickly through life. We slow down and notice things. We don't look down the road, but study things close to hand. We stop listening to all the noise and listen to nature instead.

We see joy in the seasons and thrill to birdsong. We read and spend time just sitting still. There are no mountains to climb or waters to cross as achieving has lost its control of our purpose. Little things bring joy to our lives.

*Joy Murphy*

**Nuak! Thai**, Finstock's very own street food pop-up restaurant had a fantastic Friday night supporting The Finstock Ale and beer festival. Hundreds of people gathered to enjoy the fresh and authentic Thai food along with the ales from the bar. Noah and Chris would like to thank the community of Finstock for supporting Nuak! and look forward to welcoming you to a number of exciting events over the coming year. The best way to hear about what's happening including the upcoming ten course tasting menu banquet, takeaway open evenings and other Nuak! events including cocktails, DJs and live music, is to join the mailing list. Scan the QR code with your phone to join and one lucky winner will receive 2x free VIP tickets to the banquet worth £130!



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*"Nothing is ever as good as it is in the beginning" – Lauren Bacall, quoted on Literary Hub.*

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# VILLAGE HALL

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## Finstock Local History Society

Dear Finstock Local History Society members, we are delighted to announce the dates and details of our programme of talks for the Autumn. We are very excited about these excellent talks and hope that you can come along and support them. All talks will be in Finstock Village Hall starting at 8pm with a drinks bar from 7.30pm.

Next year is the society's 50th anniversary and we plan to put together a special event to mark the anniversary. More details to follow but if you are interested in helping with any aspect of this event then please get in touch.

It would be good to hear from anyone who would like to organise the programme from the Autumn of 2024 and into 2025. It's not a particularly arduous task and can be done with the support of the society officers. Do get in touch with Mike in the first instance or talk to David or Tony at the October meeting.

**Friday, 20th October 2023** - John Randall-The English Civil War in the Cotswolds

**Friday, 17th November 2023** - Melanie King - Can Onions Cure Earache: Medical advice from the 18th century.

**Friday, 8th December 2023** - Tim Healey - A 17th Century Christmas.

## Note from the Parish Council

The PC doesn't meet in August which gives us an opportunity to highlight a few of the ongoing issues that you might not be aware of.

In the Adventure Playground work recommended by RoSPA last year has been carried out and has been inspected by RoSPA this year. The shelter supports have been replaced and the structure firmed up; the tyre swing has been removed pending further safety checks; the bark safety surface has been topped up (but more filling is needed); the old goal posts have been replaced with new ones, the scramble net has also been replaced to make for a safer and more interesting feature. There is still a lot of work that needs to be undertaken – weeds constantly threaten to take over; part of the fence separating the Tot Land section from the rest of the playground has been removed and could do with being replaced. Another 'tidying -up' working party will be arranged for this autumn. The Church Rise play equipment has reached the end of its useful life but the PC has plans to refurbish it over the coming 12 months.

Work on traffic management is on-going and you will have no doubt noticed that white lines have been introduced to improve visibility at hazardous sections of the road; these, the new signage and the imminent introduction of a 20mph speed limit next year will hopefully make the village a safer, calmer and more attractive place to live.

We've replaced the Notice Board and repositioned it nearer to the centre of the village, the previous position was fine while we had the shop but was less than ideal now it's closed.

Finstock is already a leafy, green, environment and the nurture of existing trees and the careful and considered introduction of new ones is an important feature of keeping it that way – but with trees come costs and it's important that any trees we plant now don't impose a burden in the future - consequently any introductions on the village green or common land must be sanctioned by the PC.



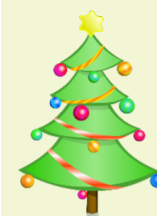
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## Friends of Finstock School - Autumn Updates

We're all settling back into the new term and first on our Agenda is our **AGM** to be held in the school hall on **Wednesday, 4th October** at 7.30 for an 8pm start. At this meeting we will vote in our three trustee roles, review our constitution and fundraising achievements for the past year - and then follow up with a discussion on fundraising targets and events for the year ahead. We always welcome new people from the community and different fundraising

ideas so please come and join us! Refreshments will be available to enjoy too.

We can't wait to share our upcoming fund-raising events with you. Before we know it Christmas will be here and we always have a fun packed schedule at school and in the community, so we hope you can come along and support us! Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information and event details. Thank you!

*Helen Fallows*

## Charlbury Patient Participation Group and Charlbury Medical Centre

**Staffing.** Very fortunate to have another salaried GP, Dr Natalie Mason who started in September. There has been much re-scheduling of routine appointments for patients during the changes.

Drs Hurney and Gillgan are on maternity leave. As a result there are new members of the clinical team:

Dr Ade is providing maternity cover for Dr Hurney. Dr Ade works on Tuesday and Friday.

Dr Ema Osanyinlusi provides maternity cover for Dr Gillgan on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Dr Khan will step in when volumes of work are exceptionally high.

Dr McIntyre is the senior clinician.

Ben is an advanced paramedic who you may also see or speak to.

We all hope that things will settle down now as we become accustomed to new names and faces in the practice.

**How can we help?** Please be patient. There may be a longer than usual delay to routine appointments. Routine appointments may have to be changed to take account of staff absences. Patients may not be able to see or speak

to their usual doctor or clinician.

**Covid booster vaccinations.** We are concerned about the number of elderly patients and clinically vulnerable younger patients who did not receive a letter from CMC or the NHS, or do not have a smart phone so were unable to book an appointment for the booster clinic. Insufficient vaccine was delivered to CMC.

**Prescribed medication.** If you have a question about prescribed medication, please ask to speak to the clinical pharmacist at the medical centre. Please also check to make sure that hospital letters have been received and actioned by the practice.

**Urgent, same day consultations.** As always, only ring the practice at 8am if you need a consultation urgently. Please call later in the day for all other appointments. In exceptional circumstances the practice will only be able to offer urgent consultations.

**Rowan Tree.** Sadly, the small rowan tree planted to commemorate the work of NHS and care staff during the covid pandemic has been "removed". We'll consider re-planting in the autumn.

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## THE FINSTOCK ALE 2023

"Landlord! This beer's cloudy". "Indeed it is, sir. It's brewed to be like that, and it's delicious. In fact, this beer is the wonderful ZZ Hop from Arbor Brewery in Bristol, which was voted Champion Beer of the ninth Finstock Ale by a landslide majority. So, drink up!"

Were you one of the hundreds who joined us on a sunny weekend at the beginning of September for the ninth Finstock Ale? Record crowds, record takings (and yes, record costs to match). Many of our beers completely sold out, including two which had all gone down the hatch on Friday evening.

We have had universally positive feedback on everything - from the range and condition of the drinks, the wonderful food from Nuak Thai and Sartorelli's Pizza, as well as Guy's delivery service from the Plough; the music and the dancing - and so many of you told us that it was a special opportunity to be able to have long conversations with folks from around the village that you might pass now and then, but never get the time to stop and chat.



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A huge thanks as always to all of the generous sponsors whose kindness allows us to put on this community event, and at the same time raise funds for the Village Hall and all of its associated good causes throughout the year. A special mention as always to Derek Bennett of Howse & O'Reilly, who have been the overall event sponsors now for many years. There can't be many houses in the village without a Howse & O'Reilly pint glass somewhere in the cupboard.

For those interested, The General, from Sandford, was voted the best cider, and Cotswold No. 3 was the best gin. The box of craft ales was won by Peter Child, who may now discover he has even more thirsty friends than he realised.

Please mark your diaries to be with us next year for the tenth Finstock Ale. Friday 6th and Saturday 7th September 2024. We look forward to seeing you there.



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Toby is back out on the reserves preparing for the coming winter and we're busy putting together the Autumn/Winter edition of the WFT magazine. Talking of which, we'd like to introduce a new section of the magazine - a letters page. Do you have any burning questions about our work, our reserves or nature conservation in general? WFT's team of experts can provide answers and advice about everything from walling, hedge laying, flora and fauna, to nature photography, local history and folklore, or any other Wychwood-related things you can think of! Or perhaps you've got a story you'd like to share with us? Email [maeve@wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk](mailto:maeve@wychwoodforesttrust.co.uk).

Drop us a line - we'd love to hear from you.

### Reserves round-up

with Toby Swift, WFT Countryside and Reserves Manager

August is the final quiet month prior to the hard work of autumn and winter beginning, with mainly small strimming and clearance tasks being carried out.

I also met with Ian Gourlay, a retired dendrologist, at Gibbets Close to discuss the tree coring project. In order to get accurate data with regard to the age of the trees, we will take some core samples from a selection and count the rings. This is an invasive process but one that is well established and widely used. A core is extracted and mounted on a suitable board where it is cleaned so the rings are easy to see and count. Such cores also give information about growth rates, good years and hard years, and will be very informative. Ian has been

doing this for most of his working life, so we are in safe hands. We'll publish the results when we have them. It'll be interesting to see how close the estimates are to the true ages of our veteran trees.

#### Toby's tip:

I suggest that you should all get out and forage. A book such as 'Food for Free' by Richard Mabey is an essential bit of kit and I urge you to buy a copy. Foraging in the UK is generally safe, but always use a good guide like Mabey's and if in doubt, leave it!

Thank you!

### Hedgerow survey

at Gibbets Close, with Lauren Knight, WFT Conservation Intern

As part of my work experience this month, I've been working on a project to survey all the hedgerows up at Gibbets Close. The aim of this survey is to have a record of all the various species that comprise the hedgerows. I measured each one separately, taking note of what species were present and in what abundance.

The hedgerows boast some really nice diversity - at least 18 different species are present including elm, ash, oak, hawthorn, blackthorn, willow, field maple, aspen and many others, providing great linear habitat for birds, bees and butterflies. Elm, hawthorn and blackthorn were particularly abundant, and the prominent canopies of mature ash and oak trees are also worth a special mention. The results of this survey, as well as the project I worked on earlier this year to map and measure the beautiful mature oak trees around the site, will really help build up some useful baseline data for the flora at Gibbets.

Additionally, I've also been regularly running the reptile survey

I set up back in May. Unfortunately, there have been no sightings yet, but this is typical of the hotter mid-summer months of June-August, where the reptiles don't require the warmth of the refuges quite as much. I'm hopeful that as we approach September and move into the cooler autumn, I'll start to see some slow worms, grass snakes or common lizards at Gibbets. However, some small mammals and a few frogs have been making use of the refuges in the meantime!

### Local Nature Recovery Strategy

I was delighted to hear the recent announcement from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to award Oxfordshire County Council £238,000 to work on a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Through the adoption of a more localised approach to nature recovery, local communities will have greater autonomy to identify areas to create, enhance and restore habitat to maximise environmental benefits. This funding comes as part of a £14 million government package to regenerate our natural environment nationally.

Last week marked the launch of the first round of funding in the £25 million Species Survival Fund, targeted towards environmental charities, voluntary organisations, local authorities, national parks and AONBs and their partners, as well as eligible farmers. The fund will support early action for the 2030 Species Abundance Target, supporting the creation and restoration of wildlife-rich habitats, including on protected sites.

This welcomed news shows the government is delivering on a commitment to invest in nature to protect and restore our natural environment.

**Robert Courts, MP**



## County Council News

August is usually a fairly quiet month in local government, but this year has been something of an exception as far as the County Council is concerned. Trials have been going ahead looking at innovative ways of filling potholes which will be longer lasting, and a new type of road surface is being tested, which uses recycled materials and which we hope will prove to be much more resistant than the old-style tarmac.

Those of you who are Oxford United supporters may also be aware that the County Council is in discussion with the Oxford United football club about relocating their stadium to a piece of land owned by OCC near Oxford Parkway station. This will be decided at the Cabinet meeting on September 19th. There has been extensive engagement with residents, especially those in North Oxford and Kidlington, and we have had over 5,000 responses to consider.

Locally, perhaps the most important news is that the X9 bus has been taken over by the Oxford Bus Company and as a result, the £2 bus fare which Pulhams did not sign up to, is now available on the X9, which means you can travel anywhere along the route for a

maximum of £2. This will go up to £2.50 in October. It represents very good value for money and makes travel by bus much more attractive.

Finstock and Fawler are very fortunate in having bus routes running through them and the County Council, recognising how important it is to have viable bus routes if we want to encourage people to use their cars less, has recently launched a grant fund of £250,000 for community bus services. Grants are available for volunteer-run scheduled bus services like the West Oxfordshire Community Transport bus that goes through Leafield, but also for minibuses and voluntary car schemes. The deadline for applications was 29th September.

Another initiative that OCC has been involved in with WODC is finding permanent accommodation for Ukrainian families. We are encouraging people with vacant properties to consider letting them. People with suitable properties will receive one month's rent in advance, a security deposit payment, and a £1,000 Thank You payment. If you are interested, please contact [oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordshirehousingcapacity@southandvale.gov.uk)

**Liz Jeffman. 01608 81153, 07741 073088**  
**[Liz.Jeffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Jeffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

## District Council news

### Crowd funding

Pleased to report that the crowd funding platform scheme is about to be launched which gives community groups and young people opportunities to raise funds with added grant support for their activities and events in their communities. Greater access, more opportunities and greater fundraising capacity will make this a significant grant funding. More details to follow.

### Local Plan

Your chance to have a say on the local plan, go to the West Oxfordshire district council website now and have your say - go to <https://tinyurl.com/4rp4d6d2>

It covers homes for the future, protection of our environment, infrastructure, culture, sports, travel, employment sites and much more.

It is the future for us and the generations to come. Let's get it right - but we need you to engage!

### Assets of community value

Pleased to report that WODC supported the establishment of the asset of community value to preserve The White Horse pub in neighbouring Stonesfield and I personally supported the massive community effort which brought about securing it.

Pubs are often at the heart of our community and we should promote them and preserve them across the district.

**Cllr Andy Graham**

# RAMSDEN CHRISTMAS MARKET

## SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 1-4

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medical insurance,  
according to a  
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Pulse.*

## Finfolk Update

Finstock Unplugged at The Plough, July/August 2023 and a quick update on concerts.

In July and August our numbers were again into the 20s, and in July we were delighted to welcome another visit from Gordon Raitt, of Scarecrow, who on this occasion chose to accompany Rebecca Mileham (of Liam Vincent and The Odd Foxes) in some lovely versions of Joni Mitchell songs. An extra pleasure was to catch up with long-time supporter Mandy Woods, who paused in one of her cross-country tours to treat us to an early version of her latest composition along with another excellent song from her existing repertoire. Her latest CD has been favourably reviewed and at the time of writing this, one of her songs, *The Possibility of You*, is at no. 4 in the FAB charts (fabchart.net).

These performers found themselves in great company, as our cohort of brilliant singer-songwriters was also present in full strength. Colin Pitts, Dave Oakley, Jim Driscoll, Pete Joshua and Craig McLearnie all contributed original music to the evening. And this is not to minimise the importance of our other regular 'musos' who gave us original verse (thanks, Cathy and Ian!) and much good music by Dylan, Gillian Welch, Mississippi John Hurt and Anon during the evening - special thanks to Kim Hobday, Colin Greenway and Claire O'Brien Johnson.

For our August meeting, numbers were still good, despite the Bank Holiday and the absence of some members who were still making their

way back from the Shrewsbury Festival. It was good to see Enda McCabe again, who, with fiddler Colly Moore, has recently launched a new CD.

As for our concerts, the Scarecrows were enthusiastically received, and the audience much enjoyed being able to chat with Gordon, David and Ray in the interval and at the end of the evening. Now we have just one more concert before we take a break over winter. The Owl Light Trio will entertain us with their detailed and imaginative rendition of traditional tunes on Friday, October 20th, just before the clocks go back. 25% of the tickets had already sold before the end of August, so I think this concert could be sold out, as indeed it was the last time they came, in 2021.

For those interested, samples from these musicians can be found if you scroll back through the posts on the Finstock Unplugged Facebook group page.

**For info:** the dates of our next two 'Finfolk' meetings after August are: Monday 30th September and Monday 27th November. There is no meeting in December, as the date coincides with Christmas Day!



### The West Oxfordshire District Council's 'Ideas and Objectives' consultation is now live

The consultation runs from **30th August – 25th October 2023** and is focused on three particular elements:

**Draft local plan objectives** – a series of draft objectives which are intended to guide the future evolution of the plan in terms of its overall approach and anticipated policy content;

**The future pattern of development in West Oxfordshire** – different scenarios for how and where we might look to focus future growth

in the period up to 2041;

**Call for sites, ideas and opportunities** – an open invitation for stakeholders to put forward their thoughts on how land in the district might be used in the future such as new housing, employment, infrastructure, community use, green space, nature recovery and renewable energy.

More on this can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/3zn8mu49>

### Start a community tree or woodland project!

If you have a great idea for a community tree-planting project that will benefit people and nature, then Oxfordshire County Council's Community Tree and Woodland Opportunity (CTWO) team would love to hear from you!

Oxfordshire needs more trees, and you can help find the best places for them. The CTWO team is looking for community planting projects to support, to increase our tree cover and the environmental benefits they provide. They're especially looking for projects where they're most needed, such as areas without many trees or where local people have limited access to green spaces.



## Finstock Festival 2023/2024

All the kit is safely packed away. We have a great set of tents and marquees all in good order and the only thing we should replace this year is our barbecue, that is looking rather sad and past its best!

We have provisionally set the dates for next year's Finstock Festival - Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd JUNE 2024.

We will be holding our AGM in November on a date yet to be confirmed. This will be an open meeting and you are all welcome to attend and contribute – look out for further notices!

Still unresolved is the damage to the playing field gates and post that occurred during the festival weekend. If anyone has any information helping us to trace the person(s) responsible for driving through them in the early hours of Saturday 24th June, we would be very grateful to hear from them.

At our September meeting, the committee decided on how much could be re-distributed from the funds from this year's Finstock Festival to other village organisations.

All that's left to say is - **ROCK ON FINSTOCK FESTIVAL!**

*Colin Stringfellow, Chair.*

## A Roebuck visitor

Early morning or late evening dog walkers may well have chanced upon two visitors to the church allotment field during late July and right up until the field was harvested in August. We had a roebuck and his doe present for most of this time. They appeared to be unphased by those that walked past, often quite close, and continued to browse the few green plants surviving in the wheat. If they were spooked then you could watch the long leaps that they make as they put distance between them and the encounter. The roebuck will 'bark' and if you imitate its call and bark back it will sometimes bark at you once again.

I expect they spent some time in local gardens and although they can cause a lot of damage to plants and flowers it is still a pleasure to see them at close quarters. They are fairly abundant in our area and spend most of the year alone until the rutting season in July and should not be confused with the fallow deer which roam our fields and woods in small herds.

The buck was in top condition with short antlers and brown into red coat and a delight to stand and watch. Those large black eyes and nose make the deer a very attractive looking animal. The buck would follow the doe closely; this was rutting season for roe deer and having found a mate he was keeping close guard. No doubt during daylight hours they would hide up in a local field with tall grasses and await their chance for the village to fall quiet once again.

I hope that they will find their way back safely across the road to the forest where they should find plenty of cover and less disturbance.

*Vicus*



## Cornbury House Horse Trials

The horse trials this year took place under blazing blue skies and provided some brilliant days out, with something for everyone.

The local New Yatt Riding for the Disabled group were joined by other colleagues and a Horse Simulator, Charley, who was very popular with the children. Phew!



**Pop-Up Cafe**  
at Ramsden Memorial Hall  
~ Dates for 2023 ~

The next Pop-Up Cafe will take

Starting from October the Pop-Up Cafe will be on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

**Tuesday 3rd Oct 11.00 – 2.00 pm**

**Tuesday 7th Nov 11.00 – 2.00 pm**

**Tuesday 5th Dec 11.00 – 2.00 pm**

## On at the Oak

• **Cotswold Game Night  
Supper Club,  
10<sup>th</sup> October, £48pp**

*The very best seasonal  
Cotswold game served  
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• **Pie Night, 24<sup>th</sup> October**

*What's a pub without a pie? Take your pick  
from our selection of homemade pies!*

• **Winter Warmer Supper Club  
November 21<sup>st</sup>, £47pp**

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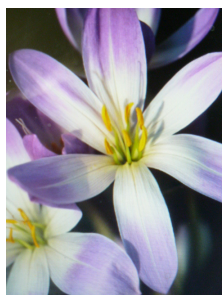
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## Garden Corner - Flowers that Light up autumn

At this time of the year when falling leaves are making a carpet of many hues, as trees prepare for their winter nap, the sudden appearance of large lollypops of pure white and purple crocus shaped flowers is a pleasant surprise. These are the blooms of **Colchicum** (Meadow saffron) springing from the earth without any accompanying foliage, commonly called "naked ladies". In late September into October, a succession of groups of magnificent flowers are produced and then the corms become dormant until the following spring, at which time leaves appear and remain until early summer. Colchicum is a member of the lily family, and my favourite variety is the pure white **Colchicum autumnale album**. But other varieties to look for are the purple-red **C. agrippinum** and the tulip like blooms of **C. speciosum**, which are cream coloured to begin with and gradually darken into their rosy purplish hues. The variety "Dick Trotter" has violet-pink flowers with white star centres, "Waterlily" is a double, but you have around 70 in the genus to choose from.

Meadow Saffron have blushing mauve satin petals on top of a slender white stem and are a welcome late food supply for honeybees, providing



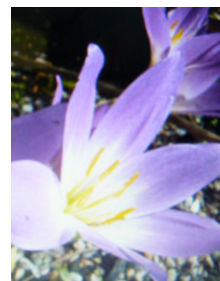
lots of pollen. **Colchicum autumnale** is a British native, and found growing in damp hayfields and in open sunny areas of woodland, mostly flowering mauve, occasionally white, but the Irish one is pink. In days past, farmers' children were sent out early to pick any flowers in the grazing fields as the flowers are poisonous to livestock. The plant contains the chemical **colchicine** which has been known as a remedy for gout since olden times, as well as a treatment for joint pains, gastritis, constipation, headache, pain in ears and eyes, palpitations and cancer. It is also effective in healing tearing pain in the joints. Some Farmers would grow it as a cash crop for the pharmaceutical industry, and this became very important in WW2, when overseas supplies from Europe, North Africa, and Asia were cut off. But now that foreign sources and synthetic substitutes are available, demand from the UK has fallen away. It was commonly found in the Cotswolds and the Mendips, as well as the Welsh borders. Meadow saffron



is threatened through loss of habitat. Changes in forest management and farmland (in particular increased use of fertilisers) have had a negative effect. The Wychwood forest was believed to have the largest numbers and clumps do still appear on verges, such as the one from Chipping Norton to Hook Norton.

The large corms are best planted in groups in full sun or light shade in moist but well drained soil at a depth of about three inches with a sprinkle of bonemeal. They grow well amongst groundcover plants and provide a joyful surprise treat to the eye in autumn.

Happy gardening!  
**Robert**



### Garden Tasks for October/November

- ✿ Lift and pot up tender perennials, such as chocolate cosmos, gazanias and coleus, to protect over winter
- ✿ Reduce the height of shrub roses to avoid windrock damage over winter
- ✿ Take hardwood cuttings from ornamental trees and shrubs
- ✿ Lift Dahlia tubers after the first frost, clean them off and store in dry compost in a cool, frost-proof place
- ✿ Cut down faded perennials that are looking tatty, then mulch the surrounding soil with garden compost
- ✿ Protect plants that are borderline hardy, such as agapanthus, with a thick mulch of straw or garden compost

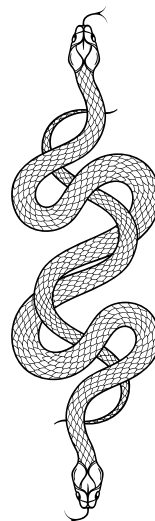
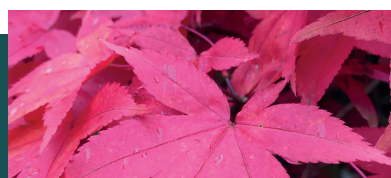
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- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report – some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.

**CONTACT LORRAINE:**  
lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk  
07516262560  
www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk



*There are an estimated  
700,000  
pet snakes in  
Britain,  
up from  
400,000  
in 2021*