

Finstock News 118

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

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Our climate is changing as we see the four seasons change what was normal to abnormal bringing this issue to the fore in our lives. Barbara Pensom has written an article on page 6 entitled *Climate disaster threatens: a fact now hardly disputed.* This along with many other articles in this issue should focus our minds on our own individual responsibility to do our bit to save our world from human extinction. The planet will survive but humans will not.

Finstock Ale 2019



The sunshine and the lure of excellent beers brought the crowds to Finstock Village Hall over the first weekend in September for the seventh

Finstock Ale. It all started with the Friday Race Night, when the Hall was filled with adults and children cheering on their horses on the big screen. But it was Saturday afternoon when the crowds came to drink, talk, eat and spill out onto the grassy banks as they listened to the lilting tones of Paul Burridge's famed accordion playing and the sweet voice of Laura Jones and cheered on the perennial favourites of the Charlbury Morris. Beer lovers, thirsty walkers and cyclists, and the simply curious came to try a range of 25 beers, from traditional bitters to pale and golden ales, hoppy IPAs and this time a strong dark Old Ale, a wheaty Saison and not one but two beers in the sour-style so loved in Belgium.

Huge thanks must go to the wonderful sponsors, especially Derek Bennett of Howse & O'Reilly and Sonnox Ltd. from Finstock Barns, but also to the many other companies and individuals without whose generosity this very affordable event (all beers at £3 a pint!) could not take place. Thanks too to the hard working team who do all the heavy lifting, serving and clearing up: Jim and Sara Cooper, Paul Fagg, Shaun Morley, Mark McVeigh, Mike Simpkins, Chris Skerrett, Colin Stringfellow, Rupert Welply and the irrepressible Karen Williams and all those others who offered their time and help to run the bar.

There were winners too – this year's Big Raffle top prize goes to Julie Stringfellow who wins her weight in beer (the sponsors will be very happy). The case of Craft Beers for the winning voting slip was won by Keith Rigley of Charlbury, one of a large group who walked over for the event. And budding artist Luka won the children's colouring competition. The

champion beer of 2019 was Wonderland, a hazy golden beer from the New Bristol Brewing Company and your favourite gin came from much closer to home – it was Mark McVeigh's delicious Ginstock.

We raised nearly £3,000 for the Village Hall charity. We'll be back next year on the first weekend in September, so don't go booking holidays or you'll miss us.

Rod Ireland



Two different photographers captured the Finstock Ale celebrations; one a graduate from Falmouth University's very prestigious photography school (Angus Child) and one about to start there next Friday (Jenni Ireland).

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.

The Gift of Sight Appeal was established with the aim of funding world-class research into the prevention and treatment of blindness. www.giftofsight.org.uk. It supports students, technicians and provides equipment for use in research studies; supports the clinical trials teams; fundraises to support vision science research; and funds post-doctoral positions.

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

British Summer Time ends October 27th



VILLAGE EVENTS



October

18th FLHS Shakenoak Roman Villa
25th – Nov 1st - Half Term
27th **End British Summer Time**

November

10th – Remembrance service at the War Memorial
16th – Arts and Crafts Fair
18th – VH AGM

December

14th – Church and School Christmas Fayre
21st – Good Companion dinner

October 18th Shakenoak Roman Villa with Prof John Blair

The new season of the Finstock Local History Society kicked off on Saturday September 21st, a little earlier than usual this year, with a Victorian and Edwardian Music Hall. The programme of monthly meetings and talks will start on Friday October 18th (at 8pm in the Village Hall) with Prof John Blair who will update us on current and ongoing work at the Shakenoak Roman Villa site with an emphasis on its history from the late Roman to early mediaeval times. The programme for November and December is still fluid so that we can fit in the launch of the Society's book 'Two Wychwood Villages - Finstock Upon the Hill, and Fawler Down Derry' which, by the time you read this, will have gone to the printers!

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.

Royal Oak Ramsden

The Royal Oak will be closing October 14th for some very exciting investment as the new owners refurbish the pub. Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Google where updates will be issued. @theroyaloakramsden.

North Leigh History Society

October 1st: *Ridge and furrow - what's it all about?* A talk by Dr Deborah Hayter

November 5th: *The Slapton Sands Disaster in the Second World War.* A talk by Paul Barnett.

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.

Finstock Good Companions

Christmas dinner will be held on **Saturday December 21st.** This is free to all those aged over 65 from Finstock and Fawler. Arrive 12.30 for 1pm lunch, followed by entertainment and singing. Booking is essential due to limited numbers – to reserve a space contact Eileen Peters on 868746 or 0797 6480756.

Ready Reference corrections

We apologise for the various errors that were found in the Ready Reference this time. Please make the changes to your reference sheet as noted below.

Finstock and Charlbury Morris Men Tel: 868711

Contact David Retter at davidretter@btinternet.com

District Councillors for Finstock, Fawler and Charlbury

Andy Graham Tel: 01608 659462

Witney Minor Injuries Unit

Tel: 01865 903841

Village Hall contacts

Please remove Mike Ruse as contact

Add: Witney parkrun

Weekly Free 5km Timed Run
Every Saturday at 9am
www.parkrun.org.uk/witney

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!

The Plough Christmas menu is available from October 1st. Wednesday October 23rd British pie night at £10.95 per person. Facebook - ThePloughinn or @PloughFinstock



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Village Hall

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

Finstock Village Hall AGM is on Monday November 18th at 8.15pm at the hall. This is an open meeting and anyone is welcome to attend to hear an update on the hall and the plans for the future.

Finstock Village Hall is managed by a registered charity and the managing committee are always keen to appoint new Trustees from the community with appropriate skills to support the charitable objectives. Anyone interested in becoming a Trustee should submit a letter of interest setting out any relevant skills or abilities to the charity secretary, Angela Hall at the Village Hall by October 30th.

The Charity Commission document *The Essential Trustee* sets out the roles and responsibilities of a charity Trustee and it can be found online: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3.

Finstock Woodpeckers Short-Mat Bowls

The bowls club at the Village Hall goes from strength to strength with twice weekly roll-ups on Mondays and Thursdays at 2pm throughout the year.

In addition, the Woodpeckers will have two teams in the Witney Town Triples League to be played every Wednesday from October 9th through

to the end of April. Seven Woodpeckers now also play for Charlbury Bowls Club in the West Oxfordshire division of the Oxfordshire Short Mat Bowls League. Two Finstock bowlers, Dave Evans and Shaun Morley, have been selected for the Oxfordshire County squad for 2019/20.

New members, especially beginners are always made welcome and given tuition by experienced bowlers. If you wish to try out bowls, just turn up any Monday or Thursday by 2pm. All you need is a pair of flat shoes as we have all the rest that is needed. The first week is free and just £1 for each session attended thereafter.

Finstock Craft Club
The Finstock Annual Arts and Crafts Fair will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday November 16th from 10am to 4pm. Entrance £1 (under 18s Free). Light lunches will be available throughout the day. If you are interested in booking a table email: rosacharlesworth@icloud.com. Demand for tables last year was high so early booking is essential.

Craft Club meets every Monday except Bank Holidays from 7.30 to 9.30pm, at Finstock Village Hall. £1.50 per session, monthly in advance. (First taster session is free). As always, a warm welcome awaits experts and first time crafters alike.

Rosa Charlesworth

Finstock Church and School Christmas Fair Saturday December 14th 2-4pm Finstock Village Hall

An Earthly Paradise: William Morris & the Thames

September 14th – November 10th
Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

This exhibition, with loans from the V&A, The William Morris Gallery, British Library, and others. In partnership with River & Rowing Museum, Henley on Thames. Free parking, free entry. Oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshiremuseum Tel. 814106.

Museums Resource Centre Open Day

Sunday October 6th, 10am – 4pm
Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Discover our collections, what we collect, why we collect it and how it's used. Go behind the scenes in our Museum collection Store in Standlake, Oxfordshire. Free parking, free entry, free tours.

ChOC Films

Sunday October 13th at 7.30pm
The Keeper (www.charlbury.info/community/2)

The Theatre Chipping Norton Pantomime

November 13th – January 12th

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Sharing a life can change a life

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. Could you give someone the chance to learn and grow, develop new skills and gain the confidence to become as independent as possible in a family environment? Become a Shared Lives Carer in a home based, paid role oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives.

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Parish Council

Recent meetings, as is generally the case, have been taken up with the management and maintenance of the facilities and services the Parish enjoys: keeping our 'green' spaces trimmed and cared for, the playground safe, the churchyard looked after, our roads repaired etc. We are fortunate in the time and dedication of our District and County Councillors who regularly attend PC meetings to advise and when issues need District or County Council action to take up cudgels on the Village's behalf.

The PC has been championing works to reduce the risk of flooding and to prevent the reoccurrence of sewage leaks, both of these are issues that have caused considerable distress to residents. With regard to flooding, the recent road closure was to enable work to be done to provide escape routes for storm water, repair a broken drainage gully and insert additional ones. On the less savoury issue of sewage discharges the PC – together with the District Council - are continuing to press Thames Water to both tighten their sewer maintenance programme and invest in more substantive preventative measures. While TW have responded to complaints with improved maintenance, the Company have been more resistant to investing in the engineering work needed to reduce the root cause of problems and so the PC has lodged a formal complaint

with Consumer Council for Water. We'll keep the newsletter posted on developments there.

Residents are reminded that in the case of emergency the Village has defibrillation equipment installed in a bright yellow box on the gable end of the first garage block on the right when entering Hill Crescent from School Road. Access to the kit is via an access code that will be given to callers via the 999 emergency service.

The Wychwood Project team are working in the churchyard repairing sections of the dry stone wall between the two gates from the lane. On behalf of the PC, they have permission to park their vehicles on the playing field alongside the container. They will be sensitive as to where they stack stone and will ensure a pathway for coffin bearing.

Volunteer with Citizens Advice

West Oxfordshire and make a difference. No previous experience required as we provide the training and support. We have a variety of roles to suit your needs and interests and you will develop new skills and meet new people from a range of backgrounds. As a volunteer it can be very satisfying to know you help make a real difference to the lives of local people. If you can spare half a day or more a week we'd love to hear from you. To find out more call 01993 892 068 or email training@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk

org.uk or visit our website at www.citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk.

DIY video tutorials:
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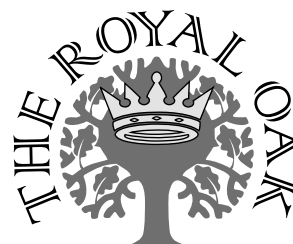
Single-use plastics ban

Plastic straws will be banned from sale and use in England from April 2020 (5 billion currently). Also banned will be plastic drink stirrers (300m currently) and cotton buds (2 billion currently).

Common sense is not a gift, it's a punishment. Because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it. (Unknown)

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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.

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Martial Arts Classes

Finstock's very own England and Wales International and World Kickboxing Champion, India Mae has decided to take time out from her hectic martial arts career and give something back to the community. She was due to travel with the England Squad to Glasgow then fly on to Croatia to meet up with the Welsh Squad, however having competed for the last seven years without a break, she felt it was time to put in place the next phase of her journey.

India recently had meetings with MP Robert Courts and has been in contact with Thames Valley police re-implementing her Anti-Knife Campaign in schools which she hopes to roll out soon.

But her passion is to teach and she will be opening her first martial arts school **White Tiger Martial Arts** and Ladies Only Boxercise classes in the village. White Tiger Martial Arts starts on October 1st, then every Tuesday and Friday evening at the Village Hall.

Finstock Village Hall has been no stranger to martial arts in the past. In 1977 over forty years ago the hall hosted one of the first martial arts schools in West Oxfordshire co-founded by India's Grandfather Michael. At that time, martial arts or Kung Fu as it was known was relatively unheard of until it hit the west and our TVs via the late legend Bruce Lee.

Forty years later martial arts has evolved into a sport, an Olympic one at that, in certain disciplines with many British fighters achieving Gold.

India said she is extremely excited about her new venture. "Starting the school at the Village Hall was so important to me. You could say I owe my success the hall. In fact without Finstock Village Hall I would probably never done martial arts. Not only did my grandad start the school with his friend Brian Green, but they took a young Finstock lad on called Chris Hoyles who then went on to take his own martial arts journey. Chris was my first coach and mentor and still helps me with advice to this day. This year I was honoured that Chris awarded me with my Second Dan Black Belt and has pushed me forward with my coaching, so the Village Hall is a part of me and has a lot to answer for - ha ha."

The kickboxing school will offer classes for children only to start with. Mini Cubs 4-6 years old and White Tigers 7-12 years old



KIDS KICKBOXING CLASS

START'S
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The eight week Boxercise Bootcamp was sold out in a matter of weeks with massive support from our Finstock ladies and surrounding villages prompting India to open classes in Chipping Norton on a Monday night and two Witney classes starting in the New Year.

For more information or to enrol, contact India Mae: Tel: 07557533144; india@imkickboxing.co.uk; Facebook – White Tiger Martial Arts and Fitness or India Mae Boxercise.

EU countries face targets for 50 percent municipal recycling by next year, rising to 65 percent by 2030 and 75 percent packaging waste. Single use plastics, such as straws and stirrers will be banned within two years. (FT August 24th 2019)

250th anniversary of Cook's arrival in New Zealand (October 8th 1769)

No batteries please

Please do not put small batteries or electronic goods into the grey bin. Small batteries will be collected separately by placing them in an envelope and putting the envelope on top of your regular recycling. You can also take them to the Co-op in Charlbury and hand them in at the counter. Electronic goods can be recycled if they fit into a separate black recycling box.

Studies show that worms fail to thrive in earth containing microplastics. If the presence of microplastics inhibits earthworm growth on a wide scale, it could have implications for soil health and farming, as worms are a vital part of the farmland soil ecosystem. (The Guardian)

Periodic Table of elements

150th anniversary of the discovery/invention by Dimitri Mendeleev in 1869 (Russian Chemist) of the Periodic Table of elements. The first Table included 71 entries; today there are 118. [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodic_table"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodic_table)



COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.

Mahatma Gandhi

Climate disaster threatens

Climate disaster threatens: a fact now hardly disputed. It has been caused by the extravagant use of Earth's finite resources by the greedy West; this too is almost universally accepted. However, when it comes to acknowledging the probable implications, accepting responsibility and determining action to be taken by our Government and by us as individuals, agreement falters.

On Sunday July 28th, Witney Town Council hosted a meeting in the Corn Exchange to explain and explore action on climate change. They are to be applauded for this initiative but, regrettably, only two Finstock people were there.

We were addressed by seven speakers of varying political conviction and experience: four from the local councils, town, district, city and county; two from Friends of the Earth (FoE), one from Extinction Rebellion (XR) and one from Witney Youth Council. Speeches ranged from XR's position: 'Tell the Truth', bluntly, via techniques of non-violent direct action and conspicuous disruption of daily life, through practical powers available to local councils, e.g. insistence on installation of economical heating in homes at time of construction, to individuals' responsibility for what we eat, how we travel etc.

It was emphasised that political will, supported by strong leadership and community involvement is indispensable. The City Councillor described action taken in Oxford to reduce traffic pollution through use of electric cars and car-sharing. The District Councillor congratulated Witney on improvements already implemented and encouraged us to "do the best you can, and then try to do better!" Personally, I find this approach more motivating than being harangued with extinction statistics and details of irreversible damage, which makes me feel powerless.

Suggestions were made by FoE to increase 'carbon-capture' by more tree-planting and to reduce emissions by more pedestrianisation and 'car-free' days in Witney. With a reduced bus-service this will not help villagers who need access to services paid for via our Community Tax but change must come and we, the community, must be that change.

Already in Finstock some people have planted trees, installed solar panels, reduced water- and fuel- consumption, changed shopping-habits to use our shop more or share lifts to town. What more can our community do or you do as an individual?

Barbara Pensom

There has been a 90 percent fall in plastic bag sales in the UK since the introduction of the 5p charge. In Pakistan the government is moving to eliminate plastic bags with stiff fines: \$31 for using a single bag, \$63 for selling one and up to \$31,000 for manufacturing them.

Investment in fossil fuels ends

The European Investment Bank has vowed to end its multibillion euro financing for fossil fuel projects by the end of next year in order to align its strategy with climate targets.

The National Trust has announced that it will sell off the shares it holds in fossil fuel companies. At present, four percent of its £1bn stock market investment is in such firms. The Trust, the biggest conservation charity in Europe, said it wanted to invest in green start-ups and portfolios that benefited nature and the environment.

It said it had set a three-year timescale for the change, but most shares would be sold within a year. That same threshold was also adopted by the Church of England in 2015.

The Norwegian parliament approved plans for the country's sovereign wealth fund, which manages \$1tn (£786bn) of the country's assets, to sell coal and oil investments worth \$13bn and invest in renewable energy projects instead.

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Finstock School

The leaves are changing colours, the tractors are busy in the fields and here at Finstock we have launched into a fantastic school year. A whole year has passed since Ofsted graded us a Good School: we are incredibly proud of our children, parents and staff and are excited to see what this year will bring.

We have welcomed Mrs Hickin to our staff community and welcomed back Miss Adair from maternity leave; thank you so much for your support and warm welcomes!

There are currently three exciting projects happening at Finstock this term: our youngest children are finding out how many colours there are in a rainbow, the rest of the school are learning about Rio de Vida and Rollercoasters. We have been on exciting trips to Legoland and a Brazilian dance workshop, we had such fun!

We are busy putting dates and events into our calendar- we think this is going to be the best year yet for Finstock Primary School!

Finstock School

Half-term is October 25th - November 1st.

Friends of Finstock School – FoFS

Welcome to our new school families from FoFS.



FoFS is a charity raising funds for our village school. Over the summer holidays, the school was able to purchase three new interactive whiteboards for the class room thanks to FoFS fundraising. In this last year we have funded a Christmas pantomime trip for the children, purchased learning aids to support teaching and subsidised school trips to reduce the cost to parents.

Parents, governors and teachers, with support from others in the village, comprise the FoFS organisation. Anyone is welcome to join our committee, you

don't have to be a parent, please contact us on dawnsimpkins77@gmail.com to come along to a meeting.

We finished our school year in the summer term with a social event for school families held on the playing field. This was a chance to relax with music, drinks and BBQ and games.

Upcoming FoFS events for the whole community:

Thursday October 10th - AGM

School and Church Christmas Fayre

Saturday December 14th, from 2pm in the Village Hall

Father Christmas, tombola and more

Dawn Simpkins

Finstock Baby and Toddler Group

A very warm welcome back from Finstock Toddler Group after the summer holidays. We hope everyone had a brilliant time and is settling into the new term. Over the next couple of months we'll be having fun with some autumn themed activities and crafts including Halloween and Bonfire Night, as well as pirates, space and road safety week, so we look forward to seeing you all at our weekly group!

We shall be planning ahead for the year to cover seasonal celebrations and special events, as well as music sessions and other activities. If there is anything you would like us to include do let us know, or you could even run/set up an activity that you're interested in. The group will be here every week until Christmas, except for the half term week of October 28th - November 1st, but we'll fit in a fun Halloween party before we break up as we all love a party!

Our group meet in the Village Hall every week on Wednesday 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, 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 welcome new faces as well as catching up with our friends. It's only £2 per family to join us – if you haven't tried us out yet the first session is free! We are also on Facebook and post regular updates on there so please have a look and see what we have been up to, or what is coming up.

See you there!

Tammy Judd

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Robert Courts MP

I do hope you have all enjoyed the typically mixed British summer weather we have been having. While Parliament may have been in recess over summer, my work certainly did not stop. I spent a very enjoyable few weeks getting out and about all across West Oxfordshire, meeting a range of constituents, businesses and local officials. It has been good to see many of you on the High Street, in a surgery or at one of my 'Meet Your MP' events.

One issue that is frequently raised with me is law and order, and policing. Everybody, all across the country, wants to feel secure and safe in their homes and communities and as they go about their business. We are lucky here to have an excellent police force in Thames Valley Police which has some of the country's most professional officers, but the Government recognises that more needs to be done.

I am therefore absolutely delighted to welcome the Prime Minister's announcement of a recruitment drive for 20,000 more police officers across the country. Starting in September, there will be a national campaign to recruit these officers over the next three years. These officers will be particularly welcome in rural communities like ours: I want to see more police in West Oxfordshire and I am delighted that the Prime Minister has started his time in office by boosting the brave officers who work so hard to help us all and, as recent events have sadly shown us, often risk a great deal as well.

As well as more police, our officers need to be better supported during and after their vital work to protect us. I have been campaigning with a group of Conservative MPs for the Government to adopt a Police Covenant, which commits the Government to supporting our serving and retired police officers when it comes to mental and physical health, which is an important step in improving British policing. I am pleased to tell you the Government has committed to delivering a Police Covenant and will begin to consult on its contents.

Law and order is one of my key priorities as your MP, and I hope you would agree these are important, positive steps. I look forward to discussing them in detail with Thames Valley Police at the next of our regular catch up meetings.

It is raining plastic

Rainwater samples collected in the Rocky Mountains showed multi-coloured microscopic plastic fibres, beads and shards. This raises the question about how much plastic waste is in the air, water and soil almost anywhere on Earth.

Part of the problem is that more than 90 percent of plastic waste is not recycled

Abundant microplastic pollution has been found in snow from the Arctic to the Alps which scientists say indicates "significant contamination of the

atmosphere". New research has found samples from ice floes on the ocean between Greenland (Not for Sale!) and the Svalbard islands in the North Sea, contained an average of 1,760 microplastic particles per litre.

Another study shows that people eat at least 50,000 microplastic particles per year. Significant microplastics were found falling from the air in the Pyrenees Mountains, implicating wind as a transport mechanism. (The Guardian August 15, 2019)

The Trillion Tree Solution

Earth currently has about three trillion trees—about half of what existed before human civilization. Scientists estimate that even after excluding agricultural and urban lands, we have room for another one trillion trees—enough to capture up to 25 percent of global annual carbon emissions. "Reforestation alone won't be enough to solve the climate crisis," says Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune. "It can, though, be one of our single most effective strategies."

Think trees this Christmas

The Committee on Climate Change recently outlined that 32,000 hectares annually of net woodland increase is required for the next 30 years to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This would move the UK from 13 percent to 17 percent woodland cover. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. (Wild Oxfordshire)



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District Council

The season of festivals including the Wilderness Festival plays an important part of our cultural life even if we, as locals, do not always go or want to attend. One thing that is undisputed is its popularity, which is great to see with people enjoying coming to our area. It raises our place on the great places to visit list and that is no bad thing considering how important tourism is to many people who work here.

The drawbacks are increased traffic and noise largely and we need to improve this to keep the balance of community support and general enjoyment. I would be particularly interested in hearing any issues you may have on this subject particularly in regard to improvements that organisers can make. Please feel free to email me and I will pass this on to organisers.

My colleagues and I are looking to carry out a review of culture arts and tourism and as the group leader of the Liberal Democrats here in West Oxfordshire we have met with the leaders of the Cotswolds and Vale to jointly work on this and engage with the public so we can sustain our communities and grow at manageable levels for generations to come. I will keep you in touch with this to let you know how to get involved in future issues.

Cllr Andy Graham

County Council

You may have noticed recently how much work is being done to repair our roads. I am delighted that nearly all of the road repairs that I have requested in our area have now been completed, or will be completed before the end of this year. This has been possible in part because of a grant made by the government to councils following years of austerity, when our roads were left to go to rack and ruin, but partly also because the Liberal Democrats persuaded the Conservative administration to borrow money from reserves to make significant repairs. This has resulted in potholes being filled, drains being cleared, lines being re-painted and major patching being done, for example on the B4022 running through the village. The workmen who did this left a rather noisy drain cover just before the turning into Finstock, which I am happy to say has now been fixed, much to the relief of residents living nearby! Major drainage work has also been carried out in the centre of the village, and work done to restore the verge near the Village Hall.

If you know of any work that needs doing on our roads, the best way to report it (apart from directly to me) is to put it on the Council's website Fix My Street. You can find this at fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk. This site is now being monitored daily by the Highways officer responsible for our area and he will schedule an investigation as quickly as he can.

I am happy to be able to report that I recently made a donation from my Councillor Priority Fund to the Village Shop in Finstock, to help with refurbishment. *The convenience of having a shop in the village especially the Post Office, is very important to many people. So many villages these days do not have a shop, a pub or a bus service – we are very lucky here to have all three, and I will do whatever I can to ensure that we keep these important local facilities.* These are what make Finstock a special place to live for people of all ages.

Liz Leffman

November 9th marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall; followed shortly thereafter by the reunification of Germany

Charlbury Christmas Fair

is on Sunday November 24th from 10.30am – 3.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

Oxfordshire Roadworks

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/
<https://roadworks.org>

Remembrance Sunday

November 10th at 12.30

at the War Memorial

Finstock's Holy Trinity Church will hold an act of Remembrance at 9am. All are welcome.



The Codfather Fish & Chip van's last night in Finstock was July 14th.

The van in Charlbury at Spendlove to the end of August on Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday From 4-9pm

From September the van is at Charlbury Spendlove on Tuesday and Saturday From 4-9pm only.

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Woodpecker Community Shop and Post Office

There's a transformation at the village shop, with the introduction of sales of many of your favourite staple foods in your own containers! Now you can help to reduce the amount of food packaging used, and at the same time buy exactly the amount you need.



Here's how it works. Bring your own container to the shop. We'll weigh it and attach a label. Now you can fill your container from the new dispensers (pictured here with Karen Williams, postmistress and shop manager). It's weighed again and you only pay for the amount you took; convenient, cheap, simple and better for the environment.

Whether its rice, pasta, cereal or washing products, we aim to stock what you need. We listened to your suggestions and these are reflected in our first stock. If the new venture is a success, we aim to expand further, so come and tell us what you'd like to see on offer.

The Woodpecker Community Shop and Post Office continues to serve our communities with a good supply of food, drink and household products that you may need. Please use the shop and Post Office as they are a village amenity that increases the value of your home and provides a convenient place to find the missing items for your lunch or dinner. Your support of this facility will keep the shop part of our community.

Remember that the Post Office can handle all your mailing needs plus give you access to your bank account, pay your utility bills and provide you with foreign currency.

Karen would like to give a personal thank you to all the volunteers at the shop for their support and a very special thank you to Michael and Heather Harvey-ricce who have worked so hard in getting our new self-serve units up. I couldn't have done it without them.

Your continued support keeps this village amenity open.

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

Thursday 8am - 3pm

Saturday 8.30am - 1pm

Post Office Monday- Friday 9am - 1pm

Last acceptance time for postage 12.15

Finstock Horse Show



These three young riders were among competitors who shone at

Finstock Horse Show. They finished first, second and third places in the leading rein class at the 1971 event. There were the handy-hunter event, best farmer's pony, jumping events and show events. Shown in the picture are from left to right: Tania Kindersley on Treherne Matthew, Richard Cambray on Foxfield and Gordon Franklin on Little Boy Blue. The event was held only once in Finstock and took place in the field behind the former Crown pub. (Our thanks to John Chipperfield at the Witney Gazette.)

Girl Guiding meeting times

All sections meet on Wednesdays

Rainbows - for girls aged between 5 and 7 years. This group meets from 4.45pm until 5.45pm. Contact for Rainbows is Amy Fox; 07495 064634

Brownies - this group is for girls aged between 7 and 10 years and meets from 6pm until 7.30pm. Contact for Brownies is Amy Fox; 07495 064634

Guides - for girls aged between 10 and 14 years. This group meets from 6pm until 7.30pm. Contact for Guides is Karen Williams – phoenixlights@hotmail.com; 07809 724065

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Measles and protection with the mmr immunisation

Key facts

Measles is a highly infectious viral disease which can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). In addition, measles infection damages and suppresses the whole immune system. This means that people who have had measles are more likely to catch other infectious diseases. This effect can last for as much as three years. Worldwide, measles is still a major cause of death, especially among children in resource-poor countries.

At the moment most UK measles cases are linked to travel in Europe. Measles cases have also been linked to music festivals and other large public events. *Public Health England is advising people to check that they are vaccinated against measles before they travel abroad or go to large public events in the UK or elsewhere.* Children and young people who have missed the MMR vaccine are particularly at risk.

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, red painful eyes and sensitivity to light, a high temperature, and greyish-white spots in the mouth and throat. A red-brown confluent rash usually appears a few days later, spreading from behind the ears to the rest of the body.

Why childhood immunisation is important

Immunisation prepares the body to fight serious infections that might happen in the future. Young babies are very vulnerable to infections, so they need to be protected as early as possible. Your child needs several different vaccines to be fully protected, so it's important to complete their childhood immunisation programme. Some infectious diseases can kill children or cause lasting damage to their health. Your child's immune system needs help to fight those diseases. Immunisation gives protection against some infectious diseases. Vaccines stimulate the body to produce antibodies that fight infection.

Charlbury patients' MMR immunisation rates:

In 2018, 97.9% of eligible 2 year olds and 89.1% of eligible 4-5 year olds (the preschool booster) were immunised. (Source: NHS Digital)

In the first quarter of 2019, just over 98% of 2 year olds and just over

93% of 4-5 year olds received their MMR. (Source: Charlbury Medical Practice)

In order to have full protection against measles, mumps and rubella, the preschool booster is essential.

Getting your child immunised

Before your child starts school, they usually get their vaccinations at your doctor's surgery or local health clinic. The Child Health system or the doctor's surgery usually sends you the invitation to make a vaccination appointment.

Your child can get some vaccinations in school. The school will contact you before they give your child a vaccine.

If you have any questions, please ask your health visitor, doctor, school nurse or a practice nurse in the doctor's surgery.

I'm sure that if people missed the vaccination first time round the practice will be pleased to vaccinate their child at any time. Young adults whose parents declined the MMR vaccination are also welcome to come forward for their vaccination.

Charlbury Patient Group

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Go Climate Positive -

www.worldwildlife.org/pages/offset-your-travel-footprint

Carbon calculators -

www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx;

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Dazzling Late Borders

I was amazed at an explosion of colour on a visit in late October to Bourton House garden, Bourton on the Hill. This was my introduction to Salvias bringing a rich and lustrous palate of colour to the borders. The Oxbridge blues of *Salvia patens* and deep rich red of *Salvia greggii* "Royal bumble", with a background of violet asters and pink Japanese anemones, patches of silvery white grasses, made an outstanding display of rich autumn colour.



The colour range is outstanding; intense blues, vibrant scarlets, soft yellows, apricots, pinks and even the occasional black. Surprisingly there are only a few salvias with white flowers. All have nectar-rich flowers that are brilliant for attracting bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects and they come into their own in mid-summer, continuing their colourful display throughout autumn when many other plants are looking tired. Most garden pests ignore them and they are disease resistant. Some are hardy in the southern counties of Britain whilst others are tender and require glasshouse protection over winter, but all are immensely garden worthy. I take cuttings in August or September as insurance against a hard winter, but most salvia are

hardy and just need a prune in late spring. Salvias are so versatile, working well in a variety of situations. They are excellent subjects for a sunny border, mixing happily with shrubs and English roses, or they can be used in a traditional herbaceous border where taller salvias are invaluable. Andean *Salvia discolor*, with its silver foliage and deep blue/black flowers are a real star for a sunny patio pot. For the more adventurous gardener, try them in a sub-tropical border where you will find that they are perfect companions for exotic subjects such as cannas, bananas and ginger lilies.

Salvia's botanical name comes from the Latin



word "salvere," meaning "to be saved." *Salvia officinalis* (culinary sage) is a natural antiseptic and preservative for meat. Sage leaves, made into a drink, is called the "thinker's tea". It also has shown promise in treating Alzheimer's patients, and treating symptoms of depression. Three-lobed sage contains the flavone *salvigenin*, which may help prevent cardiovascular disease. Sage has also been shown to improve or eliminate hot flushes in menopausal women. It can also be used as a part of your dental health routine; not only is it proven to help soothe sore throats, but it can treat gum disease as well. In addition, sage can be used externally for your hair, skin, and nails.

Enjoy gardening, Robert

Houseplants

The sale of houseplants is on the rise. Houseplants can add colour and architectural highlights as they purifying your air. Studies by NASA prove certain plants help keep the air in your house cleaner and increase oxygen levels. Studies show they can even remove toxins from the air, such as benzene, formaldehyde, and trichloroethylene. Plus, most air-purifying plants are pretty easy to keep alive. There are many health benefits to being near plants. tinyurl.com/y4q9txje. And, there are plenty of flowering houseplants that will brighten your home including begonia, bromeliad, African violet, scented geranium, the peace lily and many more.

Microfibre pollution

"Around .5m tonnes of microfibre leakage in oceans is caused by the washing of textiles. More than \$500bn of value is lost every year due to clothing under utilisation and lack of recycling." Ellen MacArthur, Foundation's Make Fashion Circular report.

Do you use an inhaler? The Co-op pharmacy in Charlbury will recycle your inhaler containers once they are empty. Watch for cartridge only supplies due soon.

Anyone requiring additional free recycling containers - food caddies or a larger recycling bin should contact the Council on 861025 or see www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins

Hilltop's Christmas Grotto

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