

Finstock News 117

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

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This issue of the Finstock News includes a copy of the very useful Ready Reference. You will find on this sheet contact information for all of our official representatives, village organisations and activities, the school and children's groups, the medical centre and utility companies, transportation, police, leisure activities and churches. Keep it handy for future reference.

Finstock Ale Returns to the Village Hall in September



At a recent local (and well known) beer festival, entry cost £10, for which you also got a half pint glass and half a pint of beer. On a sweltering day, the only cooling for the beers was damp sacking, which meant that by late afternoon some of the beers were not in best condition. But, said their slogan, this was "all in a good cause".

At the Finstock Ale, we raise money for local charities and good causes too. But our philosophy is to balance this with an affordable and enjoyable event for the village which is why entry is only £5, including a commemorative full pint glass and your first pint. After that,

all our beers are just £3 a pint. And what beers! We'll feature the best of Oxfordshire's newer breweries, as well as our regular "best of Bristol" selection, plus several eclectic brews from other brewing icons across the country. And they'll all be served at optimum temperature thanks to our thermostatic cooling jackets.

The fun begins at 7pm on Friday September 6th, when we feature our famous Race Night. Bring the family to enjoy the fun of the races, sample the beers, and tuck in to the tasty foot-long hot dogs. On Saturday the 7th we open at noon and run through 'til midnight. There is musical entertainment, fabulous Filipino food, the Annie McEwan Gin Bar, plus a wide range of other drinks.

Big thanks to Derek Bennett of Howse & O'Reilly, the electrical contractors, for their continued sponsorship of the Festival, and to Sonnox for sponsoring the sound stage. And of course to those wonderful people from the village who each sponsor a cask of beer. Without you, all this would not be possible. Look out too for this year's Big Lottery. The first prize winner will receive their height and weight in beer! We have Formula 1 jackets and t-shirts; a day's brewing experience, and many other prizes. Tickets will be on sale at the shop and from other clubs and groups who use the Village Hall.



Finstock beer festival

Get those dates in your diary now: Friday September 6th and Saturday September 7th.

Rod Ireland

Cornbury Classic Run

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd - Cornbury Park, Charlbury, Oxfordshire, OX7 3HL

September 2019 sees the much anticipated return of The Cornbury Classic! Set in the idyllic grounds of Cornbury Estate, the 5k race is a one-circuit course, across fields, along footpaths and through the beautiful Wychwood Forest. Whether you want to walk, jog or sprint, dress up as a superhero or wear your finest trail shoes - we'd love you all to come along and show your support for the school, and the event itself. We've had runners from across Oxfordshire take part, and despite the winds and rain of last year's event, it remains a popular run for all ability runners.

The one-mile children's race is again a circuit course, carefully manned by a large number of encouraging marshals who are set to inspire, cheer and point everyone in the right direction.

Sign up today to ensure your place. All finishers receive medals and winners of their categories will receive trophies. There are also spot-prizes, cakes, bacon sarnies and hot drinks. Sign up on the website - www.cornbury-classic.co.uk.



VILLAGE EVENTS



August

1st-4th Wilderness Festival

September

1st Wychwood Forest Fair
4th School begins
4th Baby and Toddler begins
6th-7th Finstock Ale
22nd Cornbury Classic Run

October

18th Finstock Local History meets again

Ladies, give us your support!

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

Finstock Local History Society

The Society is on holiday during August and September, but returns on October 18th

Current and ongoing work on Shakenoak Roman Villa by Professor John Blair.

The very latest research and interpretation on Shakenoak Villa, North Leigh, providing further insight into this important heritage site and its environs. John is Professor of Medieval History and Archaeology at the University of Oxford.

As always meetings are in Finstock Village Hall, doors open at 7:30 for refreshments and talks begin at 8pm.

North Leigh History Society

September 3rd: Recent archaeological finds in Oxfordshire.

A talk by Annie Byward 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.

Charlbury Medical Practice

Text Messaging Service

The Practice is pleased to announce that from July 9th patients will receive appointment reminders via text message. Please ensure that the Practice has the correct mobile phone number for you and members of your family. There will also be an option to cancel the appointment if no longer needed by the "touch of a button". Missed appointments are costly in terms of time and money. Thank you for your co-operation.

Summer at the Shop

Summer's here, with school holidays and (hopefully) plenty of sunshine to encourage us outdoors. It is time to visit the shop and stock up on cooling drinks. And why not enjoy an ice-cream? If you're planning a barbeque, there's no need to trek into town for your supplies. Did you know that you can pre-order everything from burgers and wonderful Finstock Royal sausages to bread rolls and sauces? Just place your order at the shop and collect on the day.

Saturday's often the day for a barbeque, and it's also one of the busiest days for the shop. Yet we're struggling to find volunteers to man the shop on Saturday mornings. If you can offer just a couple of hours a month, that would make a huge difference, and you'd be giving something to the community, which is proven to increase your personal feeling of wellbeing! Just come in and talk to Karen at the shop if you can help here.

Shop opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday 8am - 5.30pm
Thursday 8am - 3.30pm
Saturday 8.30am - 1pm

Post Office is open 9am - 1pm weekdays only.

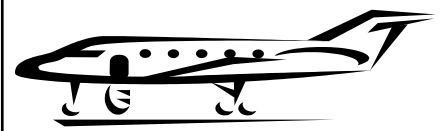
You can collect currency for your travels from the Post Office.

Witney parkrun

Weekly Free 5km Timed Run
Every Saturday at 9am

www.parkrun.org.uk/witney

Meet at West Witney Sports & Social Club, Burford Road, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX29 0NB. Organised by volunteers, the run is free, but please register before your first run. Only ever register with parkrun once. Don't forget to bring a printed copy of your barcode (request a reminder). If you forget it, you won't get a time. We all run for our own enjoyment. Please come along and join in whatever your pace! www.parkrun.org.uk/witney.



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Village Hall

Good news from the Hall, the empty Tuesday evening slot has now been filled by a new user who will start classes in the Autumn.

Generally bookings are good with many local people using the the Hall for their activities.

The next big event is the Beer Festival in September and Rod Ireland and the other volunteers look forward to welcoming all who wish to sample the many beers and spirits that will be on offer.

As always - check the Village Hall website on line for the variety of activities on offer.

Mike Ruse

Finstock Craft Club

Preparations are underway for the Finstock Annual Arts and Crafts Fair which will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday November 16th, from 10am to 4pm. Entrance £1 (under 18's 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

On behalf of Finstock Craft Club

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



Wychwood Forest Fair Sunday September 1st, Cornbury Park 11am-5pm

There will be displays by the Wychwood Project, the Wychwood Barn Owl and Flora groups, and many other local conservation and community groups; arts and crafts, a wide range of rural crafts men and women (some of which allow you to 'have a go'); trade stands and Hatwell's Fun Fair. The Wychwood Project second-hand book stall is a must for book-lovers.

As well as an arts and crafts tent, there is a children's Fun Fair, local Morris dancing sides, Witney Town Band, a horse logging demonstration, a fun family dog show and other entertainers. There are plenty of local food suppliers and farm produce, lots of refreshments, locally produced ice cream and a beer tent selling beer from the local Wychwood Brewery, based in Witney. www.wychwoodproject.org.

The Wilderness Festival 2019

August 1st - 4th

Wilderness is the multi-award winning 4-day festival combining live music, contemporary arts and an array of theatre, craftsmanship and dining experiences. www.wildernessfestival.com.

A backward poet writes inverse.

A new local cinema venture

"Portable Pictures" brings the big screen to your home or party venue.

Brek and Luke of Fawler have set up an Oxfordshire branch of Portable Pictures and are offering residents of Fawler, Finstock, Stonesfield and Charlbury 15 percent off summer bookings (ends October 31st) as part of our launch. Whether it's for a children's birthday party, entertainment at your wedding or you just fancy screening your favourite film in your garden, we can tailor a cinema package to suit your needs.

We will set up a large portable cinema screen, professional PA system and full HD projector in any location turning your living room, back garden, village hall or local pub into a movie experience to remember. A popcorn and hot dog machine are also available if you fancy authentic cinema catering!

Brek and Luke have both worked in film Brek as a director and Luke as a sound technician; "We love that films bring people together for a shared experience and that a mobile cinema allows people to be more imaginative with how they screen their films". If you have an innovative idea for bringing people together in Finstock to watch films and/or want support with a fundraiser then get in touch as we like to work locally as much as possible.

For more details please visit: www.portablepictures.co.uk or call us on 898 937.

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News from the Parish Council

The new council began work in June and planning for the year ahead is well advanced. As reported previously, the Parish Council has taken on responsibility for the Churchyard as well as the burial ground. This has resulted in some careful financial planning as there are a significant number of tasks to maintain the Churchyard to an appropriate standard for those visiting the graves and to ensure the correct standards of safety.

The first task in order of priority is the rebuilding of the dry stone wall that forms the eastern boundary. There are several areas in need of attention and we are very fortunate to have volunteers to complete this task, a group from the Wychwood Project. They give their time free and this is very much appreciated as dry stone walling is highly skilled and extremely costly.

Our valiant volunteers are Roger Newman, Chris Trevitt, Mick Mills, Pete Bennion, Robin Brown, Sam Holder and Trevor Townsend. We heartily thank them for their excellent work which saves so much for all who pay for the Parish Council.

Much work needs to be done in relation to the trees some of which are causing damage to walls, some pose threats to safety in the future. These jobs have been prioritised and quotes from appropriately qualified tree surgeons are being sought.

Finally, the Parish Council has not given up the long running battle to fix the flooding and sewage issues. Thames Water has improved the speed in which they provide ameliorative cover but still seem reluctant to tackle the core problem. We will keep you updated on developments.

Hywel Davies for the Parish Council

New Yatt Riding for the Disabled

New Yatt Riding for the Disabled Group, based in North Leigh, is celebrating 35 years of providing therapeutic riding services to West Oxfordshire residents. We are currently seeking new recruits to help in the sessions and around the site. If you are available on weekday or weekend mornings please visit our website for more information www.newyattrda.org.uk.

Our Annual Charity Golf Day is being held at North Oxford Golf Club on Friday September 13th. Teams of 4 @ £50 per person, includes coffee and bacon rolls, 18 holes of golf and a light meal, followed by prize giving. Format: 18-hole team Stableford, best 2 scores on each hole.

Entry forms are available to download from the website www.newyattrda.org.uk. For all information about entering a team (or as an individual, as we will pair you up) please contact Adi Hughes, Organiser nyrdaeevents@gmail.com, the closing date for entries is September 6th.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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

Plan ahead – Know the deadlines

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

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



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.

The Theory of Relativity

In 1919, England attempted to prove Einstein's theory of relativity. They did this by monitoring a total solar eclipse. Einstein had calculated that massive objects cause a distortion in space-time, which is felt as gravity. He showed that the speed of light within a vacuum is the same no matter the speed at which an observer travels. As a result, he found that space and time were interwoven into a single continuum known as space-time. Events that occur at the same time for one observer could occur at different times for another. We are celebrating the 100 anniversary of the experiment that proved Einstein's theory correct. www.space.com/17661-theory-general-relativity.html

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County Council report

For the past couple of years, all County Councillors have had a fund of £15,000 to distribute locally. Nearly all of my fund has now been allocated, with money going to several groups in Charlbury and Finstock, including the Charlbury Day Centre where I funded a first aid course (I am now a qualified first aider, as I was invited to join the course), and the library at the Community Centre. Most recently, I have been able to fund a new netball court at Finstock Primary School, and an "In and Out Trail" painted on the playground, designed to encourage the children to run around more at break times. I hope that this will mean that the children will get more exercise and that more of them will take part in netball and develop an interest in team sports generally. The playground is open to all children to use at weekends, so I hope that it will be a well-used asset for the village.

At County level, the move to combine roles between Cherwell District Council and the County is moving on, plus a number of new initiatives have emerged. For example, we are looking at combining the teams that look after trees and verge grass cutting, and a single depot that will look after the vehicles owned by both councils. This will result in some savings as well as greater efficiency.

Waste and recycling has been on the agenda for both WODC and the County recently, as while our recycling rates are good and among the best in the country, we are not recycling as much food waste as we could be and a lot of food waste finds its way into people's general rubbish bins. The more we recycle the more we can save. It has been estimated that we could save £3 million a year if we all make sure we put our waste into the right bin. We are looking at ways in which we can make it easier for people to recycle their waste, especially packaging, and there will be a communications campaign shortly to help people know what to do.

Liz Jeffman

*200 years since
Stamford Raffles arrived
on the island of Singapore*

Keep burglars out this summer

You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary by taking a few simple steps:

- When going out, remember to light up your home using timer switches or a TV simulator.
- Don't leave valuables or cash on display and store your house and car keys away from your letterbox.
- Move bins away from any side gates to prevent easy access into your property.
- Lock any tools away to prevent them being used to break into your home.
- Consider fitting a motion activated external light or installing a CCTV system.
- Finally, mark your valuables using a UV pen and register them on the national property register at www.immobilise.com.

For more advice on how to keep your home secure, please visit the burglary pages on our website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/burglary

Marking and registering your property

Marking your property is one of the most simple and effective ways of protecting your possessions; property marking puts burglars off because it lets others know that the item has been stolen, making it much more difficult to sell on. The other big advantage is that it makes tracing and returning your stolen property a lot easier for police.

There are two main types of property marking: the first is known as permanent marking, when you etch your property with your house number and postcode. Invisible marking is the other method of property marking. This is best for antiques or valuable property that would lose value if spoiled by permanent marking.

It's worth keeping a property list or inventory of all the valuable items you mark, especially if using invisible marking. If you would like either a UV pen or your property etched please contact your local Neighbourhood Watch group or local police team on 101 or via Twitter @TVP_Westoxon.

Stonehenge Skyscape

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/skyscape

Holiday Travel

gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.

Deborah Manning School of Dance

Classes are held weekly in many villages around Oxfordshire.

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COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION

Nature is often hidden, sometimes overcome, seldom extinguished.

Essays, Francis Bacon

Oxford together on Climate Change

<https://change4climate.uk>

It has never been clearer – we need to act urgently to tackle climate change. That means action by governments, by businesses, by councils and by all of us. Oxford Together on Climate Change invites you to play your part. We've got ideas on how you can act on any of six key issues. Whether you're making your first moves or looking to step it up further, choose the one that interests you and get some ideas.

The Environment Secretary announced the creation of 41 new Marine Conservation Zones, the most significant expansion of England's 'Blue Belt' of protected areas.

Cosy Homes Oxfordshire

cosyhomesoxfordshire.org/services

Cosy Homes Oxfordshire is a new home retrofit service that supports Oxfordshire residents to live in cosier, healthier and more energy efficient homes. It is supported by local and national partners: Low Carbon Hub, the National Energy Foundation and RetrofitWorks. From small jobs that can make a big difference like installing insulation and fixing heating systems, to major home improvement projects like whole house eco-refurbishments,

Cosy Homes Oxfordshire have the trusted team to help you take steps towards making your home more green and energy efficient. (CAG project newsletter)

9th Oxfordshire Waterblitz September 20-23rd

Of all the counties in the Thames Catchment Area, Oxfordshire submitted the most samples. Next Waterblitz April 24-27th 2020; register for the Waterblitz: freshwaterwatch.thewaterhub.org/group/thames-blitz (Wild Oxfordshire)

Bird Aid helps Skylark and Yellowhammer

Bird Aid is a West Oxfordshire initiative that works closely with the Wychwood Project to help feed our threatened farmland birds during the 'hungry gap' from January to early May. Bird Aid particularly targets help at three key farmland bird species: yellowhammers, skylarks and linnets.

Local community volunteers distribute seed throughout the winter from November to early May. The project's regular surveying suggests almost 150 yellowhammers and chaffinches, almost 300 linnets and

over 330 skylarks were fed over this last winter.

Bird Aid would welcome more bird watchers to help with the surveys from November to end of March. The charity is also keen to hear from farmers or landowners who could provide a feeding site. If you would like further information on how to get involved please contact: judy.anders66@gmail.com. The Wychwood Project www.wychwoodproject.org.



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Finstock School

What a busy year we have had at Finstock School! We started our year with a successful Ofsted report where the inspector agreed that we continued to provide a 'Good' education to our children. Safeguarding was deemed to be effective, "Pupils say that they feel safe because they trust adults to help them deal with issues when they arise. One pupil said, 'They will always help us' and another said, 'This is the safest place.' Pupils are taught about different aspects of safety, such as keeping themselves safe online and personal safety." We have continued to ensure that our curriculum is irresistible by igniting a passion for learning through our memorable experiences. "The curriculum interests pupils, is broad, and is designed carefully to excite and stretch pupils so that learning is rapid. Pupils enjoy a wide range of activities that link subjects together well." (Ofsted Sept 2018) We have studied an array of projects and have been fortunate to provide our pupils with a variety of memorable experiences. Our children have been able to go to Warwick Castle, Didcot power station, a working Farm and an amazing trip to Blenheim Palace to experience Shakespeare inside the 'Pop-up theatre'. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Finstock School for supporting us; we couldn't do any of this without them! We aim to have an ambitious curriculum for all of our children; we are truly inclusive and ensure that our children are more than ready for the next stage of their education. We are a Read Write Inc. school and pride ourselves on ensuring that every child learns how to read accurately and fluently before they enter Key Stage 2. We do this by providing high quality training for all of our staff and grouping our children in progress groups that are fluid and flexible. To ensure a child keeps up with their peers, we use pre- and post-teaching to enable all children to access our curriculum. We do not believe in taking children away from subjects that they may love to work on for something that they find difficult. We have also been working really hard to improve the way we teach maths - we use the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach. We have already seen some great results: 71% of our Reception children have achieved a 'good level of development'(GLD). 86% achieved their GLD in reading, writing and maths. 80% of our Year 1 pupils passed their phonics screening check and a whopping 100% of our Year 2 pupils passed theirs. Our End of KS1 data shows an increase from last year and that our Reading data is better than the National Average in 2018. We are still awaiting our KS2 results, but we are incredibly proud of the determination, positivity and resilience they all showed during the testing.

Key Stage 1	Reading Expected	Reading Greater depth	Maths Expected	Maths Greater depth	Writing Expected	Writing Greater Depth
National Average 2018	75%	26%	76%	22%	70%	16%
Finstock (15)	86% (+29%)	20% (+6)	73% (-13%)	20% (+20)	67% (+10%)	20% (+20%)

Our Key Stage 2 children have been taught Physical Education by a specialist PE teacher from The Henry Box School on a Monday afternoon. They have been learning how to play a range of different sports; I think we have some 'Ultimate Frisbee' superstars! Our Year 5 and 6 pupils are also benefiting from having an Art teacher from the Henry Box School teach them on a Thursday afternoon. They all have their own sketchbook which I'm sure they'll be proud to share. This term we have started a gardening club. You'll see our beautiful flower garden at the front of the school, and pupils have been busy planting vegetables and flowers around the school grounds. A huge thank you to our parent and staff volunteers for inspiring our future generation. As a Trust, we plan to have an Eco committee in each school to work on a 'planting plan for 2019 onwards. We received copies of Greta Thunberg's book No one is too small to make a difference kindly bought by our Chair of the Board.

Our Local Governing Committee attended the MILL Academy Conference in June, which was led by the Trust's Chair of the Board, Professor John West-Burnham and one of the Trust's Members, Dame Patricia Collarbone. We are incredibly fortunate to be part of the home grown Trust which consists of The Henry Box School, Queen Emma's Primary School and Finstock Church of England Primary School. The Trust was formed in 2015 and is one of few Multi-Academy Trusts to boast that all schools are Ofsted 'Good'. Not only do we benefit from economies of scale, we also benefit from accessing high quality professional development. The Henry Box School is a designated OLEVI Centre and our staff in Finstock has access, for free, to their programmes. As a Trust we have worked incredibly hard to raise the standards of education in our schools, but also to reduce staff workload and improve their wellbeing. We are research informed and continually reflect on our practice and make changes to benefit our whole community.

The Finstock Festival was a super day for all involved: highlights have to be our children sharing their Maypole and Morris dancing skills, the incredible raffle and the Year 6 stall of games. A huge thank you to everyone who was involved with the organisation and running of this successful event. The end of the school year was filled with the Key Stage 2 performance of Shakespeare Rocks, which was, as expected from the rehearsals, filled with lots of fun and laughter. We also had a successful Sports day; the Leavers service at the Church; our Year 6 leavers assembly/Awards ceremony; and our end of year picnic.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us this year with their time, donations and positive feedback. We absolutely love being part of this warm and friendly community! Over the summer, whilst the children and staff are having a well-earned break, you will notice a buzz of activity around school as we get underway with our exciting outdoor area project. You will see the old Beech classroom being pulled down and the outdoor space being regenerated. We plan to fundraise over the next year to create a Rotunda Roundhouse which we hope will play a pivotal part in our community. We will continue to offer 30 hours nursery provision and are exploring ways to provide wrap around care.

Miss Ellie Henderson

FINSTOCK FESTIVAL 2019

Yet again Finstock Festival was blessed with glorious weather. We were faced with a mixed weather forecast for the festival build but the rain managed to stay away.



We started the build on Monday evening putting up the storage tents. The

real deal kicked off on Wednesday morning. We had a very impressive team of well over ten making the task so much easier.

We worked solidly through until Friday to complete this huge build. At 3pm on Friday I had to pinch myself to believe the job was complete. In previous years we were still working as the festival opened at 7pm.

Just over a week before the Festival our headline band that we booked before Christmas told us they could not play as they had lost their lead singer. The same day Wood Green School Band backed out due to exam pressures and pupils unable to make the date. This could have been a disaster, but after many phone calls and emails, replacements were secured.

The Festival started Friday evening with Growler returning to Finstock giving us a great and flamboyant night of music. The evening continued well into the wee hours with everyone having a fab time.

Saturday at 2pm the School Fete and Dog Show began. With many stalls and attractions the field was full with people having fun and spending to support Finstock School.

Our usual array of talented local musicians entertained us: our very own Ags Connolly, Derek West and Paul Burrige. Witney Town Junior Band and Jeff & Mandy. We would like to thank them all for the time and effort throughout the afternoon of great music.

The bar yet again was admirably staffed by a team of volunteers. There was a fine array of six ales kept in perfect condition with their refrigerated jackets. There were two lagers and a cider. Plus we had all the usual soft drinks wines and spirits. We also had our very successful and dedicated Gin and Pimms Bar.

As the school Fete and Dog Show drew to a close, Finstock Festival began its entertainment starting with the brilliant young musician singer Tom Davies followed by the very well received James and The Blue Flames. The evening was brought to an end with our final band Mid Life Crisis.

During the two festival days we had a comprehensive choice of food including our very own barbecue supplying burgers and hot dogs. The Codfather returned for the second year and a new addition the Pizza Van.

All in all we had great music, great beer, great food, great company and a truly great Finstock Festival.

As chairman it would be easy to thank and name individuals. The committee as a whole and the small army of helpers did an outstanding job organising, building, running and dismantling Finstock Festival. I would like to thank every one of them for all the hard work, well done!

The finances of the Festival are as follows:

Total takings: £5825.00.

Costs: bands £850, PA hire £400, table and chair hire £260, toilets £125, insurance £413 plus the stock for the bar and food.

We achieved a profit for the year after all outgoings of **£1425**. At our next meeting the committee will decide distribution to village projects. Any group wishing to be considered for a payment please get in touch with us.

All that's left to say is thank you for supporting and attending your festival and Rock on Finstock Festival 2020

Colin Stringfellow. Chairman

Sleep better with the help of Digital Medicine

An online support programme to improve sleep is to be offered free on the NHS for the first time to every adult living in Oxfordshire. From October 10th Sleepio will be available to all over-18s in the county through the first NHS rollout of direct-access digital medicine. You won't need a prescription or GP referral. For more information click here www.oxfordahsn.org/our-work/sleepio-project.

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Friends of Finstock School (FoFS)

Our school summer fete took place on June 22nd and was a terrific success. We had the school Maypole dancers and Morris dancers out to demonstrate their skills. Tombola prizes flew off the tables, children bounced to their hearts' content, faces were decorated, nails were painted, ducks were hooked and rats were splatted.

In the marquee there was a lovely display of miniature gardens, and the Year 6 children ran a series of fun games. Outside the tents there was a fierce competition to see who could score the most football goals and children (and adults) were fascinated by the JCB, fire engine, classic car and tractors. Two governors were covered in gunge and there were cakes, popcorn and candyfloss.



Dog Show 2019

Our thanks to the Festival Committee for sharing their tents with us again, and to Beverly Morley for organising her dog show, which raises funds for FoFS. It is great having so much going on at the same time.

The raffle followed, and as it raised nearly £1000 for the children of Finstock School we sincerely want to thank all the local businesses that donated such outstanding prizes and,

of course everyone who bought tickets.

On September 22nd we have the return of the Cornbury Classic run, a great chance to run in the Cornbury Park Estate. Please see the Cornbury Classic article on page 1.

Future dates:

Sunday September 22nd - Cornbury Classic run

Thursday October 10th - AGM

Saturday December 14th - Christmas Fayre

Finstock Baby and Toddler Group

It's hard to believe we've finished another year at Finstock Toddler Group and are currently on our summer break - we hope you're enjoying it so far! We've had a fun packed year, during which we have introduced some regular Music Time sessions (once each half term), tried out some yoga, and purchased new equipment using funds we've saved up, as well as providing different themed activities and crafts throughout.

At the end of the summer term we had a big party to see out the year in style! We said goodbye to the older ones who will be starting full-time school in September - some of them have attended since they were babies so it's very sad to see them go, but we wish them the very best in their next adventure! We will now be looking ahead to the new term and planning exciting themed sessions as well as new ideas to try out.

Our group will return in September after the summer holiday - our first session will be Wednesday September 4th in the Village Hall, where we will be each week (term-time) from 10-11.30am. We set out a variety of toys each week, as well as arts/crafts and provide a snack for the little ones, with cake and a cuppa for the adults - all for only £2 per family! The group needs volunteers to help run it - we thank each and every one of you that attends and gets involved, whether that's setting up/packing away, or bringing in snacks and cake on a rota basis. Thank you! We have a page on Facebook - come and find us on there and keep up-to-date with what's going on. If you haven't tried us out yet come along and meet our friendly bunch - the first session is free!

Thank you,

Helen Fallows

Food hygiene standards rise again

Food Safety officers working for West Oxfordshire District Council have been visiting local businesses to ensure legal standards are met, protecting the public from food poisoning. Premises receive a food hygiene rating with five stars representing the best and zero the worst. Since 2015, the number of five star premises has risen from 57 per cent to 84 per cent of the total while those rated from zero to two stars has fallen to two per cent from six per cent.



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Welcoming Net Zero Legislation

Many of my constituents across West Oxfordshire are passionate campaigners on the environment, and I have many regular meetings with different environmentalist groups across my constituency. I am proud to represent such an environmentally conscious area, and protecting our beautiful local, and global, environment is a key priority of mine.

That is why I hope you will join me in welcoming the legislation passed unanimously by the House of Commons to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The UK is a world leader in climate change legislation, first in the world to implement legally binding targets in 2008, and now the first leading economy to legislate for net zero.

Climate change is the biggest challenge our world faces. This net zero target is the first step to addressing that challenge – now we need to ensure that we have the right policies in place to meet the target and end the UK's contribution to climate change. By enshrining net zero in law, we have shown the world the UK has the ambition and drive to combat this most serious issue.

Robert Courts, MP newsletter

Wellbeing and the countryside

CPRE www.cpre.org.uk

Proximity to open green spaces in urban areas has been shown to reduce stress levels, and one study by Mind, for example, found that a walk in nature led to 71% of participants feeling more positive, with 88% experiencing an overall boost in their mood.

England's countryside can offer a wonderful experience of nature free to all, with stunning landscapes, tranquil spaces, and the opportunity to explore.

Research consistently shows us that using or having a connection with nature is good for us in many different ways. The living world can focus and restore our attention. It can help give us the space to ease our pain and allow us to heal. Unlike concrete, nature can re-invigorate children's concentration and strength, and could even make us more caring and generous towards each other.

The Oxfordshire Way

A new guide to the 66 mile walk from the Cotswolds to the Chilterns has been published.

This edition has been sponsored by CPRE Oxfordshire with support from the Oxford Fieldpaths Society. Copies are available direct from CPRE Oxfordshire. www.cpre.org.uk

Walking the Wychwood Way for Finstock School



At 5am on Saturday June 1st, a group of intrepid walkers left Finstock to embark on a 38-mile sponsored walk of the Wychwood Way. This was not before a quick trip to the Plough, where Guy and Jordan had opened (very early) to provide the walkers with bacon sandwiches. The plan was to do the circular walk in one day and be back in time for last orders.

The walkers were well looked after by our three brilliant volunteers (John Danks, Hellen Fallows and Noah Derrington), who provided drinks and snacks at the 10, 20 and 30-mile points of the walk – we couldn't have done it without them. Our volunteers were also on-hand to return any retiring walkers but I'm happy to report that everyone managed to complete the walk – a fantastic effort!

In total the 28 walkers covered 852 miles and have so far raised just under £4000 for Finstock School. This donation is timely, as Finstock School is about to re-develop the nursery and its outdoor learning environment. It is not too late to add your sponsorship to this fantastic project, we still need more money. www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/wychwoodway.

Rob Barkworth



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District Council report

I wish to thank all those who voted for me in the local elections, endorsing me to represent you for the next four years. I will do my best to champion the things that matter most to you. Do feel free to contact me should the need arise.

The saga over Thames Water continues but as I promised I am collecting evidence so that the records kept by Thames Water are brought up to date and they are challenged on their lack of action to find a permanent solution. We may well need a new pump or should I say an additional one as the current pump working on its own is inadequate. Furthermore, it is totally unacceptable to have sewerage overflowing and leaking as it has done. Please be patient (I know you have shown it), I am committed to seeing a positive end to this debacle.

On a positive note, the District

Council has opened a building for the homeless in Chipping Norton after much pressure by the Liberal Democrat group. It is already helping people in need and although it is not the answer, it is a step in the right direction.

The recent debate on climate change in the Council Chamber following strong pressure, means we are now looking at ways the Council can play its part to cut carbon emissions, improve recycling rates, ban single use plastic and provide more energy efficiency schemes affecting housing and other infrastructure. A working group proposed by the Lib Dems has now been set up to get all parties around the table! There will be more news to follow in future editions with what we can do in our villages and towns.

Wishing you all a great summer,

*Cllr. Andy Graham,
Finstock, Fowler and Charlbury*

Finstock Village Music

This year's Finstock Village Music held in May was full of family picnics, live music in the village bower, kids' crafts, Morris, mini-Morris and maypole dancing - all of course taking place in the delightful May sunshine.

For our "Grand Opening" at noon we were treated to a rousing brass ensemble featuring village children followed by an introductory talk by a nattily-dressed Tony Cooper of Finstock Local History Society. Tony's job was to

explain why on earth we were all there: namely, to honour the age-old tradition known as the Finstock Youth Ale, a regular Maytime village celebration. The Day's focus is thus on folky rural pastimes with a vintage slant; previous events have hosted spinners, weavers, willow horn-making sessions, ceilidh dancing and pipe and tabor players. This year saw children making flower flagpoles from Finstock-grown bamboo and recycled materials, and stone-painting with members of Finstock Craft Club. Those flags were used in the afternoon procession marking the

transition from village bower to The Plough via the village Well, led by musicians playing the now traditional procession melody "Garrick's Delight". Prior to that, the assembled crowd had been enjoying real ale, cider, home-made cakes and freshly baked pizza whilst seated on straw bales surrounding the bower - our foliage-and-flower-decorated "stage" - where fantastic local musicians Henderson/Hooper, Under One Umbrella (of Plough



Mondays),
P a u l
Burridge
(accordion)
and Karaván
p l a y e d

mostly acoustic folky tunes and songs. Finstock school pupils did us proud with their maypole and "mini-Morris" demonstrations - it was a joy to see the next generation effortlessly weaving giant ribbons and merrily clashing sticks. Long may these traditions continue. At 4pm we all processed down to the Plough to watch Charlbury and Finstock Morris and enjoy our final pint of ale before heading home.

Many thanks are due to all our dedicated bar staff, craft helpers, organisers, dancers and musicians, without whom the event would not take place. Next year's date is set for Saturday May 23rd 2020; please put it in your diary now! We look forward to seeing you there.

Su Starling

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Exotic beauties



As a child I had no experience of lilies, the limit of our small town garden flora was two rose bushes, "King Alfred" daffodils, followed by a row of red and gold tulips and the purple of Clematis "Jackmanii". Rupert Bear and the stories of the magic Tiger lily were my only early experience in pictures of these beautiful flowers.

The history of the Lily has been closely linked with human culture from earliest times, first valued as a fodder plant and quickly becoming associated with domestic and religious décor. Easy to grow, lilies bring a magic of colour and perfume to any garden. All they need is a good free draining site, and a cool root run.

Wild lilies belong to the northern hemisphere; in India, they approach the equator, while further north they grow in Korea, Japan and Siberia. Ernest Wilson gives vivid descriptions of huge populations of *L. regale* in flower in precipitous mountain valleys. In the Caucasus ranges, hillsides turn yellow by masses of *L. monadelphum*. North American lilies once coloured valleys in Oregon and California, but rarely now, as these have been eliminated by building and agriculture. Collectors have grubbed up bulbs and many remaining eaten by animals. Survivors cling on to banksides and sloping scrubland where they get shade from scrubby neighbours with good drainage. Elsewhere, Martagon Lilies are found sheltering in woody places while *L. arboricola* grows in the nooks of trees in Burmese forests.



Lilies set the borders alight when many occupants have gone past their best. I grow pots of lilies in gritty compost (70:30 John Innes no3/grit) and move them into key positions to give a dazzling display. Tiger lilies are still my favourite, with their bright orange, pink, red or yellow, turban like flowers. I also love the natural purples and whites of

Martagon lilies enjoying the shady woodland area in the garden, and now the range has been enriched with the breeding of many new colours. The short Asiatic lilies grow well in patio pots with acid based compost and flower well, if given a high phosphorus feed when the flower buds show. Lily bulbs need

planting at least 3x their own depth as they are stem rooted. After flowering the seed heads can be removed to preserve the bulb for next year or the ripe seeds collected and sown into pots to produce more plants which flower after 3 years. Beware of the red lily beetle on leaves and that rodents can eat the bulbs.

I always enjoy the colours; form and fragrance lilies bring to my garden,

Happy days,

Robert Bigwood

RHS garden Wisley plant trail
for 8-12 year olds until October 4th.
Rhs.org.uk/wisley.

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