

# Finstock News 134

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*Our thoughts about our Royal Family, whether monarchist or republican in nature, will be mightily submerged in a sea of celebration this summer. When you receive this copy of the Finstock News, preparations will be highly advanced for a variety of activities that will take place here in the village and, I daresay, many colourful photos and maybe a few sore heads will testify to our appreciation of the chance to celebrate. Hopefully, we'll also pause and think about the value of public service. Seventy years is a pretty healthy stint, whatever you believe!*

## PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN FINSTOCK - The events

**Friday 27th May at 10.30am – Jubilee Avenue tree planting.** Each pupil at the school will be given their own tree to plant on the playing fields. If you have a spade, come along and help! Other children not attending the village school will be able to plant a tree as part of the Finstock for Nature project (see page 7).



**Thursday 2nd June from 6.00pm – Pub BBQ, Pub Quiz and lighting of the Finstock Beacon.** The BBQ will be open from 6.00pm, registration for the pub quiz is 7.00pm (£2 per entry, 6 people max per team). Just turn up and enter. Quiz starts at 7.30pm. Lighting of the Finstock Beacon, in line with beacons across the UK, will take place after 9pm, on Nicola Vick's field, behind the pub.

**Friday 3rd June, 7.00pm -10.30pm Race night** – Hosted by Karen in the Village Hall. Cash and sweets prizes! Bar open. Families welcome. 50p and £1 entry per race.

**Saturday 4th June starting at 1.00pm Finstock Day of Music** - on Well Hill and in the Village Hall - following the pattern of previous May Music Weekends, this day will celebrate different forms of music and dance, with plenty of scope for participation! There will also be a Barbeque at lunchtime, and entertainment carrying on into the evening at the Village Hall.



**Sunday 5th June starting at 1.00pm - The 'Big free Finstock Jubilee BBQ Lunch'** - on the playing fields.

On this day parties and lunches are taking place all over the country. Finstock is no different, but we are going one step further by having a free lunch for all – courtesy of some nice donations from lovely residents. Underneath a canopy of donated gazebos this is a great chance to come together – enjoy some scrummy food and drink, meet other villagers that you know – and hopefully some that you don't. We have a team of helpers ("Stars") already to erect gazebos; attending the two BBQs; helping and stewarding on the day; and clearing away at the end.

**If you are on your own – or part of a big family just rock up and enjoy the day!**

Many thanks to the following for donating towards the Jubilee Big lunch:

**Frank Boshier, Colin Crosby, The Plough, Andy Shephard, Graham Sutton, Pete Welply and James Woollard**

**How can you help?**

Do you have a gazebo we can use? If you do, we'll pick it up on Saturday 4th June and return it on Monday 6th June, at times convenient to you. We'll be putting up the gazebos from Saturday 2.00pm to 6.00pm so if you can join the team to help out for a while that would be great. Just let us know.

**Fancy helping for part of the big day?** You can join the team on the playing fields at 12pm on the 5th June. You even get to wear

a red ribbon on your arm to show you're a Star! Don't worry - you'll be fed – just a little later in the afternoon!

Can you bring a Salad dish to the BBQ? It would be much appreciated. Anything that would suit a BBQ. You'll be able to drive onto the playing fields earlier from 12 noon to drop off your salad and then return later. Difficulties getting to the playing fields? Just call, text or email on the details below and we'll come and fetch you at 12.30pm on the Sunday.

We need you to tell us how many are coming! We need to cater for this accordingly. Just email us or text us as soon as you receive this. If you email me now - I can keep you up to speed of this and other Jubilee events happening in the Village.

Financial donations. If you'd like to make a donation to ensure the day goes with a bang you can do so at Finstock Parish Council A/C: 20344257, Sort code 40-17-19. Reference 'Jubilee lunch'. All contributions, however big or small, will be gratefully received and anything left over will be donated to the Finstock school.

**Julian Stewart, Finstock Jubilee Team**

### Q & As

#### What happens if it's raining?

Bring a brolly and then stay dry underneath the gazebos. The Stars will serve you!

#### Loos

The school loos will be open for use.

#### Can I be a Tik Tok star?

Possibly – Ken Franklin is the official Video producer so prepare your moves if he's there with his camera!

Email is: julian.stewart87@gmail.com  
or 07712 871250.

# VILLAGE HALL

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



You may well have seen this picture before. It's the Finstock Band, and it was taken around 1900. There are hundreds (if not thousands) of pictures depicting Finstock life during the last 130 years, but until now they have largely remained in the vaults of the Finstock Friendly Society, or have been stored away in cupboards. Well now we plan to change all that, and offer a pictorial history of our community for all to see. We recently mounted a screen in the entrance hall of the Village Hall thanks to a generous donor, and have created a rolling display of pictures of the village which we hope will make the story of how Finstock has changed come alive for everyone. It will take time to digitise all of the images we have, and we're experimenting with the technology to ensure we do them justice. If you have old and rare pictures in your cupboard at home, which you would like to share with the village, we'd love to hear from you (just see Tony Cooper at the Hall).

We're not stopping there. We also plan to install a display cabinet in the entrance hall very soon to show you artefacts and documents that chart our history over many more years. Roman coins and brooches, old leases and news cuttings - they all have a story to tell, and one that merits sharing. Let's make our history come alive!

The Village Hall internet is sponsored by Gigaclear

*Rod Ireland*

## Woodpecker Bowls at the Village Hall

Short-mat Bowls at Finstock continues to go from strength to strength as we enter our seventh year - having started when the current Village Hall opened in April 2016. As well as our twice-weekly roll-ups on Mondays at 2pm, and Thursdays at 1pm, we

also play in the Witney Triples League on Wednesday mornings. After 24 league games that ran from October to April, Finstock Woodpeckers finished second in the league of 13 teams, just two points behind winners Witney Mills. Our best ever performance since joining the league in 2018 and earning £100 prize money for club funds.

New members are always welcome - just turn up on one of the days above - we meet all year round except Public Holidays. All you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes like trainers and we have the rest.

## Finstock Craft Club

We meet at the Village Hall, every Monday, except Bank Holidays, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. A warm welcome awaits, for crafters from Finstock and the surrounding area. A free taster session followed by just £2.00 per session. This can be an ideal opportunity to relax and catch up with friends over a chat and a cuppa at the end of a busy day.

Contact Rosa for more information: rosacharlesworth@icloud.com

## Finstock Quilters

Meet at the Village Hall every Wednesday afternoon, between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, so if quilting is your preference, with or without experience, all are welcome. A free taster session followed by just £3.00 per session.

Contact Rosa as follows, for more information: rosacharlesworth@icloud.com

## Finstock baby and toddler group

We have had a tricky few months upon our return to the hall after the many lockdowns, due to rising Omicron cases and illnesses which have meant we couldn't open. When we have been able to, we have really enjoyed seeing our regular attendees and also welcoming some new members to the group with their little ones! We're grateful to you all for your understanding and sticking with us.

We've been coming up with some ideas for the coming weeks before we finish for the summer holidays (our last

session will be on Wednesday 13th July) so we hope you'll be able to join us each week! We recently had some Easter and spring themed activities and an indoor scavenger hunt and have been having a play around with the set-up of the hall to accommodate everyone, as well as keeping the little ones entertained. By the time this edition comes out, we hope to have had some royal fun leading up to the Queen's Jubilee making crowns and having our own tea party!

We are open Wednesday mornings (during term-time) from 10-11.30am in the Village Hall and provide a healthy snack/drink for the little ones with hot drinks and cake for the adults. Follow us on Facebook for regular updates on the group or what we're up to each week, or contact us via email on finstocktoddlergroup@hotmail.com if you would like further information. If you haven't joined us before, your first session is free (only £2 per family thereafter) - we would love to see you!

*Helen & Tammy*



## 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.



## Finstock Summer Festival and School Fete

Friday 24th and Saturday 25th June on the Playing Field

It will soon be Finstock Festival time and after a two-year absence we are back -come and join us and help us make this year's Festival a rip-roaring success!

We have booked some fantastic Live Bands:

Friday night - 7.30pm to 9.00pm we have Studded Rose (the Eron Roberts Band) playing AC/DC, Sabbath/Metallica. Then 9.30pm until late, Growler - Punky /pop side of rock.

Saturday night - 5.00pm until 7.00pm The Bankers or Fraud Squad TBC.

7.15pm until 9.00pm Warren James & The Hot Band playing high energy Americana.

9.15pm until Late Midlife Crisis - Pop covers.

FOOD. Friday - BBQ. 7.00pm until late. Saturday - BBQ. 2.00pm until 5.00pm. Mobile food van. 6.00pm until late.

BAR. We will have six real ales, one cider and two Lagers. All served at the correct temperature and condition. A selection of wines, spirits and soft drinks and our very successful Gin & Pimms Bar will also be returning.

The SCHOOL FETE and SUMMER RAFFLE DRAW" is on Saturday at 2.00pm until 4.30pm. Many stalls and activities will be on offer, alongside "Buskers in the Bar" throughout the afternoon with various local musicians, backed up with Bar and BBQ. If anyone would like to come along and busk for a short slot, please just let us know!

HAPPY HOUR FROM 6.00 – 7.00 pm – don't go away!

We start the build at 9.00am Wednesday 23rd June.

The first job is erecting the four large marquees and this requires a minimum of eight people, so any help that morning would be much appreciated. The build is then continuous, day and evening, until we open at 7.00pm on Friday - so if you can help for any amount of time at all please come along and join in. Really, everyone is welcome!

Sunday 26th is taking down day - again the more help the easier it is. As an incentive we will give away free drinks including beer and soft drinks and any remaining food to anyone helping.

Finally, if the sun shines on us, bring your fold up chairs to sit on the field "festival style".

Please, please refrain from bringing your own drinks as the bar profits are the only source of revenue that finances this FREE event.

Look forward to seeing you all. Rock On Finstock Festival!

*Colin Stringfellow (chair)*



Spring is here and gardens are blooming. And the Woodpecker Community Shop is bringing you the best from local suppliers. Beautiful fresh cut flowers and pots from Wilcote Blooms, delicious asparagus from Mayfield Eggs, and locally grown strawberries by the time you read this article. We will also stock plenty of bunting to deck your home and garden.

Finally, a reminder that we are always happy to accept any surplus produce from your garden or allotment. What a great way to support your local community shop!



### DURING THESE MONTHS

**1st June 1967** - Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band released by The Beatles.

**8th June 1978** - Naomi James broke the solo round-the-world sailing record.

**21st June 2003** - JK Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" released and becomes the fastest-selling book ever.

**3rd July 1998** - Rolls Royce Sold to Volkswagen.

**13th July 1985** - Live Aid was a series of rock concerts held, to raise funds for famine relief in Ethiopia, around the world in cities including London, Philadelphia, Sydney and Moscow.

**18th July 1976** - The first perfect 10 ever recorded in Olympic gymnastics was achieved by Romania's 4-foot-11, 88-pound Nadia Comaneci on the women's uneven parallel bars.

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Tues - Sat - 6:30pm - 9pm  
Sun - 12pm - 4pm

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## Thatch

Walking down Plough Lane recently it was interesting to see the thatch on one of the outbuildings at the rear of The Plough being replaced. The work was looking pretty neat and no doubt the main ridge of the pub itself will soon look equally impressive.

It made me think about other cottages in the village which are still thatched and how few we have left. No doubt there were other cottages with thatch which have either disappeared completely or have been re-roofed and perhaps heightened and modern materials have been used. The use of stone slates in the village has proved very popular.

There is no Thatcher listed amongst the occupations of our nineteenth-century workforce. Maybe there was one in the previous century when many of our cottage properties were built and there was a demand for his skills. At that time the straw for thatching must have been abundant and, as a by-product of cereal production, it allowed a dual use for the landowner although it would have to have been of the required length.

The thatched properties you see in the village today, which are mostly in the High Street, are all good looking cottages and are an attractive feature and worth noticing when you walk the village. I have added my favourite thatched cottage photograph to this piece. I love the way that the thatch comes off the roof and covers the smaller extension. It all looks to be in good order. The photograph was taken around 1900 and the cottage is no longer thatched and today is hard to recognise. It has a much older look



to it than our 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century cottages. Can you work out where it is?

*Vicus*

## The Plough

Summer is finally on its way, and we couldn't be more excited! As the weather starts getting warmer (we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be seeing more sun than rain!), you can expect to see exciting, fresh new dishes on our menu. From refreshing salads, to meat, fish and vegetarian platters to share with your friends, to beautifully light linguinis - we know you're going to find something to satisfy those summer cravings. And of course, it wouldn't be summer without a few cocktails now, would it? That's why we'll be offering cocktails every single week throughout the summer, so keep an eye out on our social media to find out what you can expect for each week! Of course, the fun doesn't stop there. We will still be offering our three incredible deals - 2-4-1 Fish and Chip Tuesday, Steak House Thursday, and half price fizz Friday.

We highly recommend booking in advance to guarantee a table. If you have any specific requests, like dietary requirements, highchairs, or a table in our pub garden (we now have limited outdoor tables with heaters!), please let us know when you book. For any more information on menus, our offers, opening hours, or booking details, please visit our website ([theplough-inn.co.uk](http://theplough-inn.co.uk)), or find us on Facebook (The Plough Inn - Finstock). Let's make this a summer to remember, with good weather, great friends, and quality food and drink!

*Brooke*

## Charlbury Medical Centre News

Please remember we can use NHS 111 for advice and treatment when the practice is closed. NHS 111 can now refer patients to the new Witney Out of Hours service. **The Witney Out of Hours service** provides urgent medical care from **6.30pm to 8.00 am** on weekdays and around the clock at weekends and during Bank Holidays. It can help, for example, if you have a fever or sickness but do not need to go to a hospital Emergency Department.

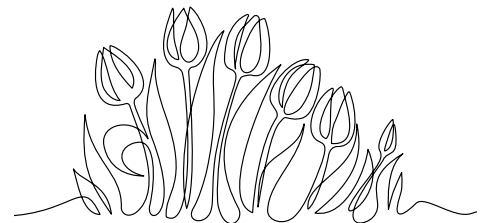
Remember to call 111 first before going to the urgent care centre in Witney hospital.

## Ambulance calling!

Please remember that the ambulance service and out of hours service must be able to see house numbers and names clearly. During spring and summer as greenery begins to flourish signs can become hidden under new growth. Please ensure they are easily read from the road.

That's all for now,

*Susan Smith, Charlbury Patient's Participation Group steering committee*





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## The Finstock Ale

After two years' absence, for reasons we're all aware of, the Finstock Ale is back in 2022 in its eighth incarnation, and better than ever. The dates for your diary are Friday 2nd September, when our famous Race Night takes place in the Village Hall (7.00pm start). Fun for all the family, we'll have horse races to lose your shirt on, and as requested pig races for the children. There will be a full bar, plus your chance to sample the wide range of ales and ciders - and not forgetting our fabulous Gin Palace, with rare and special brands to tempt the palate.



On Saturday 3rd September, from noon, it's our full festival. We'll offer 24 cask ales and six craft keg beers, plus a wider range of ciders than in previous years. Unlike other festivals, all our beers are carefully chosen and collected from brewers whose beers you are unlikely to find in local

pubs. Once again, we'll feature the very best from that mecca of brewing, Bristol: Arbor, Moor, Dawkins, Good Chemistry, Left-Handed Giant, New Bristol and others.

What also makes us different is our commitment to offering exceptional beers at affordable prices. Forget rampant inflation, all our



cask beers will be once again sold at £3 a pint. There will be food to soak up the drinks, and we've also decided to turn down the music this time. We believe ale and good conversation

go together, and we know that at previous festivals the amplified music sometimes made it impossible to talk. Don't worry, we'll still entertain you with some of your favourites – we'll have singers to enchant you, Paul Burrige will charm you with his accordion, and we'll be bringing in

other acts throughout the day. But we'll take better care of your eardrums this time.

One last thing, we couldn't run this event without help from our wonderful sponsors. We will be looking for three new donors to each sponsor a cask of ale. £85 will ensure we bring a new beer to the village. You'll get two free entries with beer or cider and a commemorative glass, as well as the gratitude of your community. And you'll be helping the Village Hall charity, for whom we put all this together, enabling the free Christmas lunch for the Finstock Seniors, keeping hall hire rates the cheapest in the area, and other good causes. Would you like to help us? Contact me via the Shop, Finstock News, or directly on 868634.

**Rod Ireland**



*"Good memories are  
our second chance at  
happiness"*

*Queen Elizabeth II,  
quoted in Harper's Bazaar*

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## COUNTRYSIDE – CONSERVATION – ENVIRONMENT

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead.*

### National Park – or not?

West Oxfordshire District Council has welcomed the Government's response to the 2019 Glover Review which does not include any proposals for the Cotswold AONB to become a National Park as initially proposed.

Councillor Jeff Haine, Cabinet Member for Planning, said; “We are pleased to see no recommendations to make the Cotswolds AONB into a National Park. Many people live and work in the Cotswolds, it is not just a tourist attraction. The environment and visitor economy are important to West Oxfordshire but so are the residents.

By converting the area into a National Park, it would have a negative impact on local communities. It would limit local decision making and planning decisions on the future of the area would be granted by an unelected body. It would also have a big impact on house prices which are already unaffordable for many local people.

We agree that we need to protect our landscapes and environment, and we have made a lot of progress doing that in West Oxfordshire, however, a National Park is not the right way to do that.”

An area of the Cotswolds AONB stretches into West Oxfordshire, North of the A40, around Woodstock, continuing to Chipping Norton. The whole area has a population of 139,000 residents and attracts 38 million visitors per year.

The Government is currently inviting comments on its response to the Glover Review with West Oxfordshire District Council due to formally respond, to ask for clarity that there is no further intention to turn the Cotswolds AONB into a National Park - and also to ask how more could be done to benefit the areas of West Oxfordshire not covered by the AONB.

West Oxfordshire has already taken many steps to help protect local landscapes and the environment including the publication of a Net Zero Carbon Toolkit to promote low carbon house building and the introduction

of a Biodiversity & Countryside Land Management Officer amongst others.

The Government is also interested to hear any wider views from the public on other aspects of their response to the review. People can view the Government's response to the Landscapes Review consultation. Residents can also give their views using an online survey.

### Air Pollution

Virtually every home in the UK is subjected to air pollution above World Health Organization guidelines, according to the most detailed map of dirty air to date.

More than 97% of addresses exceed WHO limits for at least one of three key pollutants, while 70% of addresses breach WHO limits for all three.

The map, produced by the non-profit group the Central Office of Public Interest (Copi) and Imperial College London, combined 20,000 measurements with computer modelling to produce pollution estimates every 20 metres across the country. People can check their address at the website [addresspollution.org](http://addresspollution.org) for free.

*The Guardian 28 April 2022*

### SUSTAINABLE CHARLBURY

(Also relevant, and accessible, to surrounding villages including Finstock.)

Grant scheme for community environmental projects is open.

Sustainable Charlbury is a charity which administers funds on behalf of Southill Community Energy. Surplus revenues from the operation of Southill Solar are transferred each year to Sustainable Charlbury and made available for community environmental projects. Applications for grants are requested from organisations with projects of relevance to lowering carbon emissions and combating climate change.

Projects are considered that fall within the following activities or are similar in intent:

Co-operation e.g.: Food miles/ Allotments, fruit & veg/Orchards/ Fair share & garden share. Education e.g.: School engagement/ Events, talks/Open houses/Food week. Transport e.g.: Car clubs/pooling/PAYG charging points/Speed restrictions/ Buses, bikes, walking. Health e.g.: Water Use (conservation & reduction)/ Healthy homes/Climate resilience/ Good food/Particulate reductions.

State of Infrastructure e.g.: Housing condition/Grid strengthening/Insulation and energy demand reduction.

Energy e.g.: Generation/Smart grid/ Storage. Biodiversity e.g.: Open spaces/ Gardens/Wildlife habitats.

Recently funded projects include: Finstock for Nature – public consultation; Charlbury Primary School – sustainability officer; Chadlington Kitchen Garden People – polytunnel provision; Charlbury Bowls Club – building survey.

Please do get in touch and tell us about your ideas: [info@sustainablecharlbury.org](mailto:info@sustainablecharlbury.org)

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## FINSTOCK FOR NATURE

The Finstock for Nature Public Consultation was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. A PowerPoint presentation was held each hour between 10.00am and 2.00pm and the small organising group provided detailed information about Finstock for Nature's aims and objectives and proposals for possible community projects around the Village. The hope is that the proposed projects will encourage and enhance nature conservation and provide an opportunity for anyone who may be interested to take part in addressing some of the difficulties facing our environment as a result of climate change etc. Information was also provided in respect of funding streams and links to other local groups engaged in similar work relating to the issues that are currently threatening our native trees, plants, birds and wildlife.

A tempting array of tea, coffee, homemade cakes and biscuits and other refreshments was provided and these went down well with those who attended. In total, about 28 people came to the consultation at various times during the morning and afternoon and offered their views and ideas about the proposals as well as making suggestions for other projects for consideration, including hedgehog access points in gardens, a nature education hub in the old football pavilion, a frog pond, a communal vegetable plot and the need for more owl and bird boxes.

The Group was encouraged by the interest shown but also aware that those who attended represented only a small percentage of the village population and more needs to be done to seek the views of people in the village who were not able to attend the Consultation, especially younger members of the community. Further thoughts will be given about how best to do this (any ideas gratefully received!) in the hope that Finstock for Nature can reach everyone in the village who may be interested in taking part or contributing in any other way to what we're doing.

*Annie Stockford*



### “Plant a tree for the Jubilee”

You'll have seen on page one that the Jubilee Avenue of trees will be planted on the playing field by pupils attending Finstock School. Finstock for Nature are keen to ensure that all children and young people in the village, including those that don't attend Finstock School, also have an opportunity to Plant a tree for the Jubilee.

Our proposal is to invite children and parents who would like to have a tree with their name on it to let us know and we would look to include you in the proposed planting of a small orchard, across the field from the Jubilee Avenue. This would take place later in the year, to allow for further details and siting to be worked out, but will still be marked as a part of the Jubilee celebrations in the Village.

If you'd like to be involved in this tree planting project, or Finstock for Nature, please contact either Geoff Griffiths at [geoffgriffiths@landscape-matters.org](mailto:geoffgriffiths@landscape-matters.org) or Pete Welply at [petewelply@btinternet.com](mailto:petewelply@btinternet.com).

We look forward to hearing from you!



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## County Council News

Recently, I have been working with the Parish Council and local residents to improve safety on the roads through the village, and on Witney Road. We will be introducing a 20mph speed limit in the village, and we have been looking at whether the speed limit on Witney Road should be reduced from 40 to 30mph. To that end, speed checks were conducted in April, which showed that in fact most cars were driving within or close to the speed limit and therefore it was concluded that 40 is the correct speed. However, there is still a concern about safety near to the footpath that crosses Cornbury and exits onto the main road by the Manor. New signs have been erected there warning drivers, but it may be possible to introduce a lower limit at that point and I will continue to explore this possibility with OCC officers and the Parish Council.

We also walked through the village recently with an officer from WODC to look at places where visibility could be improved, especially on School Road, by marking spaces near to driveway exits with white lines to discourage people from parking there. These white lines would not be "policed" by traffic wardens, but they have been proven to work in other places and residents generally understand why they are there and respect them.

I have also been working with Thames Water, and there will be opportunities for parishes to meet with them and with the County Council as the Lead Flood Authority over the next few months. The purpose is to establish where the flooding "hotspots" are, so that preventative work can be carried out. The area of the village near The Plough is of particular concern, and we hope to be able to prevent some of the flooding that has happened there in the past.

The County Council is now entering the second year of the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance. We have recently won some money from government for a Bus Service Improvement Plan, which will help to keep our bus services going and improve general connectivity. Unfortunately, because this fund was over-subscribed, we were awarded a lot less than we hoped for but we did

a lot better than neighbouring counties who did not get any funding. One of our key objectives is to improve rural bus services, and I will be working to ensure that the X9 bus continues to run through the village. However, passenger numbers are still only 70% of what they were before the pandemic. We were told then to stop using buses in order to stay safe – now we all need to get back on the bus to make sure that our bus's future is safe and that we keep this very important service.

**Liz Jeffman.**

[liz.jeffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:liz.jeffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## STOP PRESS

Increasing numbers of road accidents in Finstock have triggered new calls for road safety measures across the village.

The Parish Council wants to hear your views on the proposals to lower speed limits and other road safety measures. We must make Finstock a safer place for us all to enjoy!

Please join us for a vital public meeting at the Village Hall on

**Monday 13th June  
at 7:30pm.**

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## Ramsden Summer Fete – June 11th

You are all welcome to the Ramsden Fete, Dog Show and Craft Fair in its new location at the Playing Field on Akeman St.

Lots to do and see with fifty craft and food stalls, bouncy castles, adventure playground and numerous other children's games, Pimm's bar, teas and catering, a brass band, clog dancers, ukulele band, maypole dancers, Morris men, Spitfire flypast, donkey rides, vintage car display and many other attractions. See you there!

Keep in touch via the Ramsden Events Facebook page. Any enquiries to: [ramsdeneventscic@gmail.com](mailto:ramsdeneventscic@gmail.com).

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– Ronald Reagan,  
quoted in *The Times*

If you would like to advertise in the Finstock News please contact Su Jordan at Tel: 07824 567765 [advertfinstocknews@btinternet.com](mailto:advertfinstocknews@btinternet.com). Very reasonable rates:

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## FINSTOCK FOLK



**David Pratley**

### **You're one of the originals left in the Village. What was it like in the 50's?**

My grandfather bought the three cottages in 1915, after serving in the Royal Marines in the Great War. I was born in 1951 in the same house that I live in today. My classmates in my year were Alan Lever, Alan Bridgman and Barry Sullivan - all still going strong in the Village. The headmistress was the Du Maurier smoking Miss Hope, who if you stepped out of line would give you a whippy cane over your non-writing hand. As a kid all the fields around were ploughed by two horses and if I'd changed out of my school clothes I was allowed to ride them. Life's pleasures were a little simpler then.

I married Carol in my 20's and by then the Village had two buses a week. One on a Thursday for the Witney market and the other on the Saturday. A big double decker would arrive to go to Witney to the pictures. It would be back by 9.00pm. We'd go to Stow to buy a horse when the gypsies arrived - it was all legal back then. We then did a lot of banger racing and Motocross with our son Craig.

### **What's been the biggest change over time?**

Without doubt when they built Hill Crescent in 1966. It was planned to be 25 large houses but the developers made it into 72! They were known as the Luton Teddy Boys. The price for a mid-terrace house was £2,750 and an end of terrace was £2,950. It was the best thing for Finstock, as it meant that young families moved in and breathed life into the Village. Then in the 70's they built Walkers Height. This meant that several older folks who lived in Church Rise could downsize to the bungalows in Walkers Height, such as Jack Griffin and his wife and Mr & Mrs Sid Pratley. It was good as it kept them in the Village.

### **If you had to change one thing, what would it be?**

Reduce the speed limit coming down the High Street. They bomb down from Leafield through to Oxford.

### **Why is Finstock special to you?**

It has a mix of residents from all walks of life - that is great. There are very few second homers here which is good (as Carol points out).

### **Your garden's looking good. Is that all you or all Carol?**

Carol does the garden and the house – I just mow the lawn and see to the horses!

*David Pratley was talking with Julian Stewart*



## **North Leigh Roman Villa**

Following a very successful Easter holiday opening of the Roman mosaic at North Leigh Roman Villa, we are very pleased to share the dates of future mosaic openings over the Summer.

The mosaics will open 11am - 5pm on:

Sunday June 12th, Saturday July 23rd and Sunday July 24th .

Wednesday August 10th, Saturday August 20th and Sunday August 21st

Saturday September 17th and Sunday September 18th - See mosaic clean in action this weekend!

For more details about openings and access to the site (which can be arduous if you have mobility issues), please visit: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/)

Follow us on Twitter: @villa\_north

Thank you for your continued support for our work.

*Matthew Lee,  
North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteer*



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## Welcoming Ukrainians: a work in progress

Ukrainian guests are beginning to arrive locally. There are as many different stories of their journeys here as there are families; and as many different needs for support. CRAG will continue to post information about support and advice that is on offer and requested.

Local MPs and the great organisations Opora (set up by a Ukrainian expat only in March), Asylum Welcome and quite a few others have been offering help and support.

Working with local authorities is a challenge for the hard-pressed local officials, no doubt, as much as for the rest of us. There must be a home inspection, sometimes more than one. Is the gas checked for safety, the electricity, the smoke alarms? And so on... Safeguarding checks must be in place.

All these perfectly reasonable requirements come in real time as the problems with visas and travel are addressed, and all at speed. For our Ukrainian guests, we can only hope that being here safely is what matters most and the warmth of our welcome will compensate for the blocks placed in their way by officials struggling to manage a completely new and untested system.

That, in the end, is what it's all about: the warm welcome and the safety. People in Charlbury and all over the country are getting together to offer not just room, but bedding, equipment, children's toys, books, food, transport, English lessons, group meals, free haircuts, guided tours and more. Our guests will be anxious to return home when they can do so safely. They will go with good memories of Britain that, we can hope, will last long after this war is over. And we too will have been changed forever.

### Some helpful links

- Asylum Welcome
- Opora
- Homes for Ukraine scheme: frequently asked questions
- West Oxfordshire District Council

## Ukraine support

Please contact us at [ukraine@charlburyrefugee.org.uk](mailto:ukraine@charlburyrefugee.org.uk) if you'd like to offer your support or have specific knowledge or skills, e.g. claiming benefits, advice and help with school places, driving lessons, teaching English, etc.

We've set up a WhatsApp group for hosts and potential hosts to share information and support. Please let us know if you'd like to join. For more information please visit the CRAG Ukraine Welcome Hub

# STOP PRESS

## COMING SOON

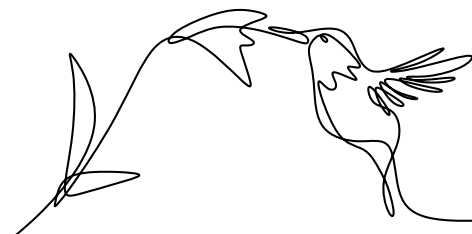
We're going to be setting up a WhatsApp group to link Ukrainian guests in the area.

More details to follow.



## A SIGN OF THE TIMES

The new signpost that created great discussion when it appeared recently! Not ideal for seeing **where** you're going maybe, but the dual purpose is helpful – as long as the businesses are there. All the more reason to keep them going!






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## Finstock Unplugged

It was impossible to separate two events in April, as a number of us were closely involved in Folk Weekend Oxford 2022. From the beginning of April up to the beginning of the FWO festival itself, on April 22<sup>nd</sup> things became increasingly manic, though in an exciting way, so that our 'Unplugged' session which followed on the Monday after the festival ended was like a cool down at the end of a long workout. Beforehand there was much trekking round the county to distribute programmes. Then there was the checking of the various pubs, the Pitt-Rivers and Ashmolean museums, other galleries and concert halls to make sure everywhere was fully prepared and correctly booked, health and safety appropriately cleared. Further checks were made with Oxford City Council about the use of the open spaces round the centre and then there was the inevitable last-minute Covid-related amendments and replacements to the programme. Fortunately, the weather was kind; all went off well and we were heartened by the positive feedback reflected in local press coverage and individual comments. One of the things I thought was most fun, having briefly been in charge of the camera for one of the events, was the organisation and management of the live-streaming of key concerts online so they could be seen by followers in Canada, Australia, all points in Europe and elsewhere. This was made possible with the expertise of Live to Your Living Room, a partner organisation which grew out of the necessity to take the 2020 and 2021 FWOs online. On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April we cooled down in a mellow and good-humoured gathering in a well-attended meeting at 'Unplugged'. It was good to share our usual eclectic mix in a relaxed setting, no photos this time, but plenty of music and cheery chat.

Ginnie

*You can also view the  
Finstock News, in colour,  
online at [finstock.org.uk/](http://finstock.org.uk/)  
the-finstock-news*



## What's on at Bridewell?

The entire site will be open to the public during our Open Days on:

**Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June,  
Sunday 11th September**

**11.00am-4.00pm**

There will be a pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake. Plants for sale, juice, home produced jams and chutneys and our organic sparkling wine. Make a day of it, bring a picnic blanket and relax in the vineyard with friends and family. Dogs on leads are very welcome. No booking required. Suggested donation £5 per person.

## How can I get involved and help Bridewell?

Not having transport is one of the biggest barriers potential gardeners face to accessing Bridewell's recovery service.

The Bridewell minibus collects from Witney but we receive many referrals for people from other areas. We are looking for volunteer drivers who might be able to help us reach our local towns and villages like Chipping Norton, Kingham, Woodstock, Burford & Charlbury.

Do get in touch with Rachel Green if you are able to help ([rachel@bridewellgardens.org](mailto:rachel@bridewellgardens.org) or tel: 01993 259058).

Bridewell Gardens, The Walled Garden, Wilcote, Oxfordshire OX7 3DT

## COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER

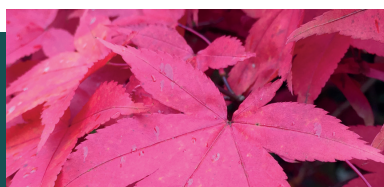
- Looking to improve your outside space but stuck for ideas on how to make the most of it?
- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



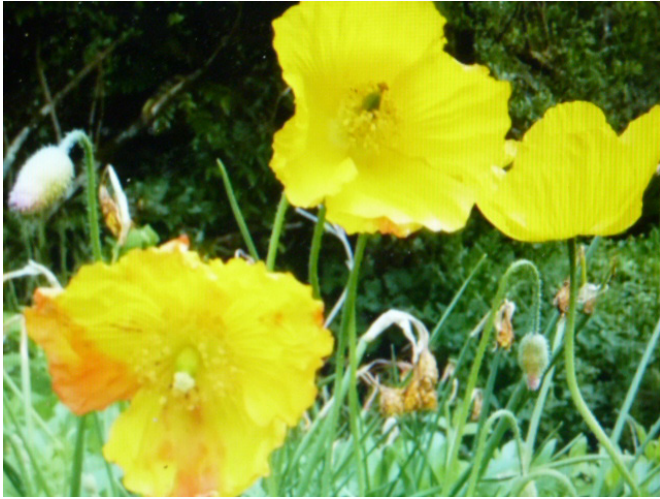
I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report – some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.

### CONTACT LORRAINE:

[lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk](mailto:lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk)  
07516262560  
[www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk)



## Poppy Power

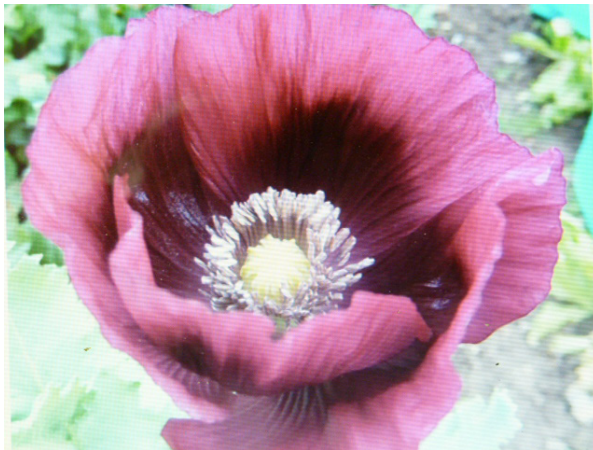


up a shady corner in a garden as it self-seeds and spreads freely. My seed came originally from my mother's West Country garden which has yellow and orange varieties. Flowering from April to August, it acts, as a magnet for pollinating bees. The Welsh poppy (*Meconopsis cambrica*) is distantly related to the gorgeous blue poppy (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*) of the Himalayas, favouring a humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil in partial shade with shelter from cold, drying winds and ideally suited to woodland gardens but also does well in moist, shaded beds.

Another ancient introduction to Britain is the red Cornfield Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), known to Iron Age farmers who brought them here with their crops from Europe, bearing scarlet, single flowers, each petal often marked at its base with a black blotch. Although now rarely found growing in cultivated arable land due to use of herbicides the sudden appearance of the red cornfield poppies lighting up any recently disturbed ground, such as building sites and road verges, is due to the dormant seed being stimulated by being brought into the light. This is the Flanders poppy used as a symbol of remembrance. Their seed can survive in the soil seed bank for up to 80 years, bursting into life if given a chance. Flowers of the field poppy have long been used as a painkiller for soothing mild aches and pains (e.g. toothache, earache and sore throat).

Red poppies are easily grown in any light, well-drained soil in full sun. Sow seed in shallow drills where they are to flower in spring or autumn. A range of varieties are available, including the 'Shirley' series of pastel and semi-doubles developed by the Reverend William Wilks, vicar of Shirley in London, following his discovery of one picotee flower in 1880.

Another poppy that can suddenly appear in gardens and make delightful patches of colour and large seed capsules is the Breadseed Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*), widely grown as an agricultural crop. The edible seeds have been cultivated in Europe since Neolithic times and are widely used in baked goods, such as bread, muffins and cakes. Since the seeds contain 40- 50% oil it can be pressed for cooking oil or used in oil-based paints. Native to South-eastern Europe and Western Asia, its latex contains alkaloids which have excellent painkilling properties.



I enjoy the welcome splashes of colour that poppies produce to brighten my garden.

**Robert**

## A few garden tips for June and July

- Use water wisely - Established trees and shrubs do not generally need watering, whereas newly sown or newly planted areas should be high priority.
- Make sure hanging baskets don't dry out, keeping them moist but not too soggy. Research shows that just a mugful of water per day can keep hanging baskets healthy.
- Hoe regularly to control weeds - For maximum effectiveness, choose a dry day with a light wind, so seedlings dry out on the surface of the soil rather than re-rooting into moist soil.
- Deadhead perennials and summer bedding - deadheading perennials will encourage new flowers to grow throughout the summer.

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