

Finstock News 136

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

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HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926 - 2022

It's hard to credit that it was only in the last issue of the *Finstock News* that we were reflecting on the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, marking the seventy years that Queen Elizabeth II had dedicated to serving Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Her reach was undoubtedly far wider and more extensive, as we've seen in the copious columns devoted to her reign since her passing on September 8th.

Whatever our beliefs I'm sure

that most, if not all, of us have been moved and stirred by the many, many tributes paid to her from so many quarters and the profound respect shown and shared by everyone.

It's striking that many of the comments and reflections since her death have focused on the enduring nature and the sense of continuity that the institution of the monarchy provides, and how strongly it has impacted on people's lives during Queen Elizabeth's long

reign. Her successor, King Charles III, has been on the receiving end of many remarks, both in the past and more recently, about how he'll reconcile his strong views on many issues with the role of constitutional monarch - where he is expected to remain above politics. The qualities that seemed to personify his mother so clearly, i.e., dignity, humility and integrity, appear also to be a key part of his repertoire as he develops his role and honours the legacy of his mother. Long Live the King!

"...may flights of angels sing you to thy rest"

William Shakespeare, from *Hamlet* (Act 5, Sc2), quoted by King Charles III

VILLAGE HALL

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

The next time you visit do stop in the reception area to view the amazing display cabinet that has been installed.

The Finstock Local History Society now has its own 'cabinet of curiosities' at the Village Hall, and you are invited to lend or donate any item linked to Finstock or Fawler such as photographs, letters, old documents, clay pipes, old coins, pottery or maybe items that were made especially for the villages. The cabinet is kept locked so items will be safe.

If you have an item which you might want to display, please contact Tony Cooper on 01993 868743.

DURING THESE MONTHS

3rd October, 1990 – After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.

12th October, 1492 – After a 33-day voyage, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas.

26th October, 1951 – Winston Churchill became Britain's Prime Minister for the second time, following his Conservative Party's narrow victory in general elections.

2nd November, 1959 – The first section of the M1 motorway was completed in the UK.

14th November, 1994 – Eurostar train service between London and Paris was launched.

25th November 1952 – The Mousetrap, written by Agatha Christie, opened in London's West End – and is now in its 70th year!

Finstock Local History Society 2022.

We are delighted that meetings will be starting up again in October after a

long-enforced break.

As well as welcoming back members and other supporters we are keen to include those of you who have not been before.

Meetings are generally held in the Village Hall on a Friday evening at 8.00pm but we run a bar and the doors open at 7.00 so why not come a little early, enjoy a glass of something and a chat with others from the village you may not have met before. Or catch up with people you know.

We are planning a full programme to run up to May 2023. Please find details of the next three events in 2022 below.

Friday 21st October: The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS): Oxfordshire's contribution to over 1.5 million finds!

Speaker Edward Caswell, Finds Liaison Officer for Oxfordshire.

The PAS is run by the British Museum and the National Museum of Wales to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales.

Every year many thousands of objects are discovered, many of those by metal detector users but also by

people out walking, gardening or going about their daily work. Finds recorded with the Scheme help advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England & Wales.

There will also be displays of finds made by local metal detectorists who will be pleased to tell you about their finds and how they work alongside the PAS.

Friday 18th November: History Through Art: Young Thomas Gainsborough and the woodmen. Speaker: Ros Faith, Historian of the English Countryside.

We will look at one of his best-loved landscapes together and discuss how the 18th century painter portrayed the people working in woodlands very like the ones we know around Finstock.

Friday 9th December: Mulled wine, mince pies and minstrels. Led by Kath Lucas with the Finstock Festival Band

This evening is a pre-Christmas celebration with some traditional music, songs and dances to which all are welcome. Your active participation will be encouraged but is not compulsory!



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School News

Our children had a fantastic start to the school year. Oak have been learning through the project 'Childhood' and Cherry have been learning about 'Me and My Community' and 'Exploring Autumn'.

Cherry have learned about the school community and building friendships. We explored the school grounds and found out about all the people in school who are there to help them. We took part in practical activities to support them to build new friendships and explored what makes a good friend. We also found out about people in the community who help us, including doctors, nurses, and the emergency services.

In the Exploring Autumn project, we went on a woodland walk to learn about the seasonal changes that happen in autumn. We learned about birds and animals that live in the woods and how they survive as the weather gets colder.

Oak Class have explored artefacts

loaned to us from the Oxfordshire Museum to help them to understand childhood in the past and how childhood has changed over time. We looked at timelines and family trees and also at everyday life in the 1950s, including shopping, transport, family life and childhood. We also learned about the significance of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 by studying photographs and online sources. We used maps to explore how places have changed over time and highlighted any similarities or differences between childhood today and childhood in the 1950s.

Cedar Class have enjoyed our 'Maafa' project so far, where we have been learning all about the origins of the slave trade and we had a brilliant memorable experience where we looked at many African objects which allowed the pupils to really understand what our unit of learning is all about. We have also engaged with 'Dancing in the Street' as part of our music curriculum and

looking at other examples of music from the time period.

We have written some really wonderful work in line with Shaun Tan's 'The Arrival', which has allowed us to think about our value of Compassion in greater detail as we follow the story of a father who, desperate for his family to prosper, leaves his loving wife and child behind in search of a better future for them all. The children have blown me away with their brilliant sentences!

The pupils in Year Six took part in Junior Citizens this month, learning how to keep themselves safe in different aspects of day-to-day life.

Our children are looking forward to Christmas and can't wait to start practising our Nativity!

Leanne Dixon, Head of School

You can also view the
FINSTOCK NEWS,
in colour, online at
finstock.org.uk/the-finstock-news



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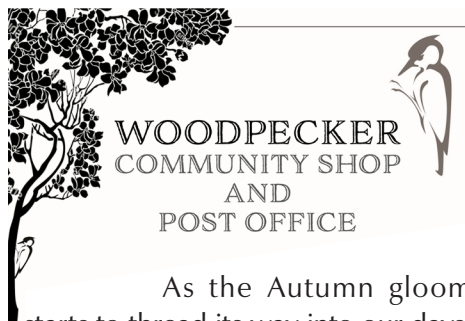


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WOODPECKER COMMUNITY SHOP AND POST OFFICE

As the Autumn gloom starts to thread its way into our days, there's a very scary evening coming at the end of October. Yes, it's Halloween, and the wicked witch in the shop has been stirring her cauldron, and has created a special competition to bring everyone under her spell. There will be gruesome prizes and a few ghostly surprises too. Make your way to the shop (if you dare) and find out what all the hocus pocus is about. And while you're there, get mum or dad to fill up their trick or treat goody store. Good spooking!

Our opening times are:

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri:

8.30am – 3.30pm (last time for posting 12 noon; P.O. shuts 1pm)

Tue: 8.30am – 1.30pm
(and P.O. as above)

Sat: 9am – 1pm
(no P.O. services)

Sun: Closed

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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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- a platform for exchange of views

Dear Pete,

I learned a couple of things by talking to the two men working on the Charlbury Road bridge. No One: the bridge belongs to the county council. Two: the middle will be filled with stones rather than concrete.

Exactly what precautions will be put in to stop another collision on a road where so many people speed by is not known. I have heard talk of chevrons. But surely the speed limit needs to be reduced on the corner; it is definitely not safe to exceed 40mph.

Tony Hirstenstein

Dear Pete,

I would like to mention a couple of things that people can do to raise money for charity simply by using their computer.

1) Use a search engine that raises money for charity, using a small part of the commission paid for any search everyclick.com: here you can give to any charity you nominate.

ecosia.org: "We use all our profits for climate action, with at least 80% financing tree-planting projects around the world." And: "Our solar panels produce enough energy to power your searches twice over, meaning more renewables (and fewer fossil fuels) in the energy grid."

2) Use GiveAsYouLive when making purchases -

giveasyoulive.com: it's a free way to raise money for charity when you



shop online. Whereas Amazon gives 0.5% of purchases to charity, using GiveAsYouLive can raise 5% or even more!

Tony Hirstenstein

News from The Plough

We cannot believe how quickly Christmas has crept up on us. It feels like it was only last week! However, with that being said, we're happy to announce that our Christmas menus for this year are now LIVE! To see what beautiful dishes you could be feasting on this festive season, please either visit our website (theplough-inn.co.uk/eat), or pop into the pub and pick up one of our brochures!

But that's not all... We're aware of just how much the cost-of-living crisis is affecting each and every one of our customers, and because of this, we have lowered the price on all of our festive period menus. We believe that everyone should be able to enjoy this time of the year, and we wanted to help in any way that we could.

If you're planning on spending the holidays with us, we HIGHLY recommend booking in as soon as possible. We start receiving Christmas bookings the year prior, and with limited spaces, we typically get booked up extremely quickly, and we would hate for you to miss out. To book a table, please call us on 01993 868333.

Continuing with the good news, if you follow us on Facebook (The Plough Inn - Finstock) and on Instagram (@theploughfinstock), you would have seen that we recently expanded our Plough Family! After Oscar crossed over the rainbow bridge, we knew we wanted to adopt another ex-racing greyhound, and as soon as we saw Hugh on The Blue Cross' Facebook page, we knew he would be a perfect fit! Hugh is still fairly new to pub life, but he's settling in more and more every day.

As always, we are still offering our incredible weekly deals! • Every Tuesday - two-for-one Fish and Chips • Every Thursday - Two Steaks and a Bottle of House Wine for £45.00 • Every Friday - Half Price Fizz •

Finstock Ale 2022

"The best ever Finstock Ale" was how so many people summed up our eighth festival held over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd September. The weather stayed warm and dry, despite adverse forecasts, and people flocked from near and far, villagers and hardy beer folks from Oxford, Moreton, and Gloucester alike. The Finstock Ale team had promised their most adventurous line-up of extraordinary ales yet, and they did not disappoint.

The fun started on Friday evening, with the famous Race Night. The hall was full of noisy cheering as race after race brought tense finishes and success or failure. Bottles of fizz, cash pay-outs, and toys for the younger punters were handed out aplenty, and highlights of the evening included a five-race Greyhound jackpot, and a manic melee as eight pigs complete with miniature jockeys squealed their way around the track (Nyree Dawn Porker, anyone?).



If Friday had been the opportunity to sample the first of the beers, Saturday saw the drinking in full flow. Eighteen pale and hoppy ales, together with stout, porter, bitter, black IPA, and a world premiere of the launch of Rye Smile, a rye IPA from Little Oxbrew - we can't say more here, but at the Finstock Ale you could drink this heady brew (6.1%, fruity and spicy) before anyone else in the country. There were ciders, there were exotic gins from as far away as Australia, and all at prices seldom seen at other beer festivals. The food came courtesy of a takeaway service from the wonderful kitchen of The Plough

Inn, where Guy and Jordan had created a special festival menu, and meals were brought directly to customers in the hall.

At this festival, it was decided to



entertain the crowds in a different way. Gone were the big PA systems and the rocking bands of previous years and instead there was a delightful succession of gentle minstrels, harmonious sea shanties, swinging ensembles, and fertile Morris men, all creating the perfect environment to sway in harmony without good conversation being drowned out. We may just try this approach again.

The Finstock Ale is an event for the village put together by a small hardworking team, all embracing a passion for good beer combined with the desire to create a fun event for everyone. Hats off to those who worked for weeks behind the scenes, whether it was sampling beers in far flung places to determine if they were up to the standard needed for the good folk of Finstock, or the toil of building the bar and heaving casks of ale onto racks, or serving behind the bar for hours watching their friends drink pint after pint. Our model is to offer you beers (and other delights) you won't find in local hostelrys, at a very affordable price. We couldn't do this without the generous sponsorship of numerous companies, families and individuals, including local pubs and even the Holy Trinity Church (whose Bishop's Finger received a special blessing from Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester). A special mention to Howse & O'Reilly, and Derek Bennett, who have been the main sponsors of the Finstock Ale for years. This could

not happen without the help each of you kindly gives.

Each festival, we ask everyone to vote for their favourite beer, cider, or gin. We also draw a winning voting slip to receive an enormous box of special craft beers. This year, the gin winning most votes was Silent Pool, from the Albury Estate in Surrey. The top cider was Gladiator, at a head-banging 8.4%, sponsored by those Charlbury Morris Men. The winning beer was perhaps something of a surprise - at a festival dominated by pale and hoppy beers, the ale chosen by more voters than any other was a smoky oat milk stout called Foresters Black, from Dawkins Ales, a wonderful little brewery in St Phillips, Bristol. The team will travel down there in November to present Dawkins with their champion's certificate (and maybe reacquaint ourselves with their stout and other brews). And the case of craft beers was won by Stuart Bridger, who runs the Standlake beer festival. Bottoms up, Stuart.

Did you come to the Finstock Ale 2022? Did you miss us? Don't be disappointed next year. Finstock Ale 2023 will be held on the weekend of 1st and 2nd September 2023 at the Village Hall. Put the date in your diary now, and book your holiday for a different week!

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COUNTRYSIDE - CONSERVATION - ENVIRONMENT

Little things mean a lot

When my son was born, I was thrilled. He represented so much love that my heart sang.

Today, my three sons and three grandchildren remain the heart and soul of my life. For them I save water, recycle, reuse and grow food for pollinators. For them I have spent a lifetime signing petitions to save whales, wolves and beavers in our ecosystem. For them I turn off electrical devices at the wall. For them I take many small steps to improve life on earth so that they too will be able to enjoy birdsong, spring flowers, clear skies, rich soil, safe water.

A cleaner, safer, healthier environment will preserve our own health and the health of our children and grandchildren. Nature is screaming at us in these unprecedented days of scorching temperatures, massive forest fires, flash flooding. We wonder if anything positive we do as individuals will make a difference.

You may think that your waste is nothing compared to the waste that others make. But consider the last time you bought something and kept it for a short time before replacing or disposing of it. How many things are sitting on shelves in your home that are never used? Your small leak is nothing compared to what others are wasting filling their pools, watering their lawns, keeping golf courses green. You monitor your energy use which is small compared to that of large corporations. Yet, the earth has a finite amount of resources available. As individuals, we can use our resources responsibly to continue to survive. Individually we outnumber them.

Why bother with being a good citizen of earth when so many others disregard responsibility for their own lives? Look to the indigenous people on earth who have lived in harmony with nature for millennia. They only take what they need. They nurture life. They respect nature. They do not waste anything.

Why should we do anything? Because it does make a difference.

Joy Murphy

Last one in shuts the gate

Have you ever been in a 'gated community'? You know, big gates, high wall, press a button to gain access? You can't get in if you drive an old car or look a bit suspect. If you do get in you might end up in the stocks.

Well, Finstock used to be a gated community too. But our gates had a much more practical use - keeping the animals out. There was a gate on Gadden Hill (now shamefully called the High Street) which led onto Finstock Heath. It was near the entrance to Blackberry Lane; a much more interesting name. Up until enclosure, and at certain times of the year, villagers with grazing rights could let their cattle, sheep or pigs into the heath to feed and of course you wouldn't want them straying back down Gadden Hill until it was time to round them up.

John Kibble mentions a Finstock branding iron used to mark animals from our village in case they got mixed up with those from Ramsden. That would never do.

The other gate, less well known, was on Wilcote Riding and must have had the same use. Pride's map of 1767 doesn't show it but it is on the hand drawn map of 1853 so perhaps Mr. Pride didn't notice it when he came to visit his mother, who may have been a baker!

Maybe we should reinstate the gates and charge a toll for access? They were much quieter days with limited passing traffic, if any - so unless we go back to horse and carts the days of gates in Finstock are long gone.

And yes, Finstock also had its own stocks, but I'm saving that for another edition.

Vicus

*"Most of the trouble in the world
is caused by people wanting to be
important"
- TS Eliot, quoted on the browser*

Water Treatment

The Council is calling on Thames Water to do more to stop raw sewage being pumped into local rivers by increasing the capacity of sewage treatment works and also provide more transparent monitoring of sewage discharge.

"The Council will work closely with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and other key local organisations such as Windrush Against Sewage Pollution, and other community groups to achieve these aims and protect our watercourses."

Thames Water discharge raw sewage into West Oxfordshire rivers for many thousand hours every year.

Currently, most major treatment works in West Oxfordshire are fitted with monitors measuring lengths of time of sewage discharges. The Council is calling on Thames Water to also measure and share the information about the amount of sewage that is discharged.

Specifically, the Council is asking that by December 2022, Thames Water to have fitted volume flowmeters to all larger treatment works; and by December 2023 to have them fitted to all works in West Oxfordshire. These flowmeters should be linked to real-time open-source monitoring which is accessible online, and on social media so there is full transparency around the issue.

(Source: WODC newsletter)

On at the Oak



October

21st, 12:30pm:

**Trafalgar Day Bar Talk with
local expert Hayden**

**30th, 6:30pm: Halloween Quiz
in the restaurant; teams up to 6**

November

**15th, 7:15pm: Pie & Ale Night
celebrating the best of local,
seasonal ales & game**

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DISTRICT COUNCIL INITIATIVES

West Oxfordshire District Council has made solid progress against its climate and ecological objectives in the past six months, as outlined in its Climate Action Biannual Report presented to a meeting of the Council's Full Council this week.

The report summarises the achievements that have been made between February and July this year against the Council's Carbon Action Plan and the Climate Change Strategy for 2021-25 – the authority's two frameworks for prioritising and taking forward local climate action.

The Carbon Action Plan defines the Council's pathway to reducing climate-warming carbon emissions within the scope of its own activities and operations as it looks to deliver on its commitment to become a carbon neutral council by 2030, while the Climate Change Strategy sets out the authority's vision for addressing and supporting positive climate action in the wider district.

The strategy is themed by five areas: protecting and restoring natural ecosystems; energy; low-carbon transport and active travel; standards in new developments; and engage, support and educate.

Councillor Andrew Prosser, Cabinet Member for Climate Change at West Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This report details some of the really positive and varied work that has been happening in the district over the last six months - from making carbon efficiencies in the delivery of waste, recycling and street cleansing services to how the Council manages its land areas to boost biodiversity and protect habitats for local wildlife - and we can be rightly proud of what's been achieved".

"However, we must continue to push forward and there is a lot to do. The extreme weather of the last few days is a stark reminder for the need to prepare our homes and buildings so they are sufficiently equipped for a changing climate. In partnership with councils in the South East, the District Council has delivered on, and continues to help those facing fuel poverty through a number of projects. The most recent award of £1 million Sustainable Warmth funding will allow more households to benefit from the retrofitting of energy improvement measures to some of the district's least energy efficient homes – which are not only harder to heat but also hard to keep cool. This latest programme will start shortly".

"By contrast, the recent and very disappointing decision by the Planning Inspector to reject our net-zero homes policy for Salt Cross Garden Village has been a massive set back in achieving our goal of placing sustainable building practice and energy self-sufficiency at the very heart of new developments."

With transport accounting for over a third of all district CO2 emissions, some of the other notable highlights in the report are the Council's acquisition of its first all-electric road sweeper, its plans for further decarbonisation of the street cleansing fleet, as well as the installation of 32 electric vehicle charging points, covering 64 bays, in five district council-owned car parks which have been rolled out in partnership with Park and Charge Oxfordshire.

Councillor Prosser continued: "We are delighted to report that since going live in April, the new charging points are being well-used with over 1,600 charge sessions to date. In collaboration with our partners, we are exploring more opportunities to now widen the infrastructure available, to support more motorists in making the switch to cleaner, greener transport in the future."

Residents wanting to keep up to date with climate action in West Oxfordshire can sign up to receive the Council's quarterly climate news bulletin: <https://tinyurl.com/539b662r>

The full Climate Action Biannual Report is available online: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9du3wu>. West Oxfordshire District Council is moving forward with plans to invest the £750,000 New Initiatives Fund to support the delivery of the council priorities and help local people with the cost-of-living crisis.

Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council, said: "I want to go further to give an indication of the types of schemes we are looking to support with the remainder of this funding. In particular we have in mind to allocate £500,000 of this funding to the following areas: -

- Support for residents impacted by the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

- Community based environment schemes to help protect the environment and reduce West Oxfordshire's carbon footprint.
- Youth initiatives that help tackle inequality within the youth of our district.
- Business support for our towns and villages to help ensure our vibrant economy is not impacted by a potential economic downturn".

"We will be working with officers to rapidly work up schemes that can help deliver these initiatives and will be communicating with residents on what we will be doing as soon as we can".

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County Council News

I am writing this during the week of mourning for the late Queen, and I was very privileged to have taken part in the proclamation of the new King in Oxford on Sunday September 11th. It was a very moving occasion, but a joyous one too as we sang God Save the King for the first time. I look forward to welcoming him and the Queen Consort to our County in the future. He has visited many times in the past, and the County will offer him a warm welcome when he returns in the future.



As reported in an earlier edition (FN134 – June/July), I have recently been working with Finstock residents, OCC officers and the Parish Council to look in detail at how we can manage traffic better, both along the Witney Road and also within the village. There have been ongoing discussions for some time now about reducing the speed limit on Witney Road to 30mph from 40mph,

and we are also considering a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. This would be part of a scheme that was introduced by OCC recently to offer 20 mph speed limits to any community that wants it. Over seventy communities have already taken this up, including Witney, and I hope this will soon become the norm. We are the first council in the country to do this and we hope this will set an important precedent, making walking and cycling safer for everyone.

The need to do something to improve visibility within the village for cars and pedestrians was brought into sharp focus a few months ago by

the accident in which a child was injured, while cars were diverted through the village during road works. An emergency closure of Witney Road to repair a gas main in September served to emphasise yet again the vulnerability of residents when there is a lot of traffic going through the village. (See article below – Ed).

Liz Leffman. liz.leffman@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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festive music, food and drink, all
in the centre of the village.

Entry: £3 adults, children free.

Dogs and children very welcome.
Free parking.

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ramsdeneventscic@gmail.com

TRAFFIC DISRUPTION IN FINSTOCK

The weekend of the 10th September saw the B4022 closed for the second time this year and massive disruption through the village yet again. Unfortunately, a very large gas leak required emergency action, and the main road had to be closed with an official diversion through the village. Regrettably, this coincided with the Cornbury Horse Trials, so not only did we have the normal daily traffic from the main road but we were engulfed with horse trucks coming through the village, their fumes adding to the terrible stench of gas. You may remember from a recent traffic survey that during a seven-day period an average of 225 vehicles an hour pass by the village on the B4022 - with a major event on, that number could be doubled.

On the last occasion we had a child knocked over - fortunately she is now making a full recovery. This time we had a number of vehicles damaged by passing traffic, with some drivers not having the common decency to stop after causing it. What will it be the next time?

The gas contractors worked overnight on this incident, for several days awaiting parts - and they were as helpful as possible given their limited authority. The organisers at the horse trials posted on their social media asking eventers not to use small village roads, including Finstock. Unfortunately, unless you see it, you don't read it. On the Sunday a sign went up asking drivers not to turn towards Finstock but it was rather too late and it was ignored by many.

A number of residents put themselves out during this period; contacting the County Council, the gas board, Cornbury Estate, and even marshalling traffic on School Road. This is great, and it's appreciated that people are leaping into action to help make a difference in the village. The Parish Council were also very active in making contact with Cornbury quickly and liaising with County and District Councillors, as well as the gas contractors. As for Thames Valley Police, let's just leave it there! There are currently lots of things being implemented with regard to speed, parking and HGV access, but like everything that entails bureaucracy it all takes time and money. But the question I have put to our County and District Councillors is - how can we be "better" prepared for this in the future? If we have a diversion through a village unsuitable for HGVs, why are HGVs being routed through it? Who is responsible for the risk assessment, and was the diversion of HGVs and large event traffic taken into consideration? When big events are on at Cornbury there has to be better coordination with signage to ensure the village is not used as a rat run, even if the main road isn't closed. Perhaps we could have a sign saying No Event Traffic at the three entrances to the village that can be used when needed? Maybe this is something we need to buy as a village? Of course, the difficulty is that no amount of speed limits or parking restrictions can prevent the volume of traffic coming through as it did. Although advising HGV drivers that Finstock is "not suitable for HGVs", it's not an offence to drive through a signposted area. It's also very easy to say "send the traffic to Leafield", but we just move the issue elsewhere. As for reducing the volume of traffic when the village is an official diversion, we have to work together on this. Rome wasn't built in a day!

Marc Thompson



COTSWOLD GARDEN DESIGNER

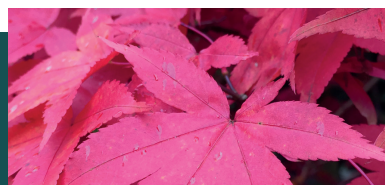
- Looking to improve your outside space but stuck for ideas on how to make the most of it?
- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



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:

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TREEDWELLERS UPDATE

Unfortunately, since our last update about the development on Finstock Heath timelines have been significantly delayed as our partner factory is in Ukraine where some of the treehouses are being made. The team are all safe and well, but progress has been understandably impacted.

We had been hoping to open for business by the 15th of November, however we have been recently told that SSEN (installing power) are still unable to give us a date for when it will be installed.

My top priority is to establish this date. In reality it's likely to be another couple of weeks at least before I hear from SSEN with confirmation. As a curious aside, we applied for power on the 18th February, 2021 - so it's taking quite a while!

I remain keen to do an Open Day for the village, and also remain committed to seeking staff from the local area - if anyone is interested in managing the site; reception staff; or cleaning staff we would love to hear from you, so do please contact us. Job Specs will be made available if anyone wants to get in touch. Experience or interest in mindfulness is favourable.

Follow up on www.treedwellers.com
Thanks and kind wishes.

Tim Rees, CEO and Founder

FINSTOCK UNPLUGGED

Although it was a Bank Holiday, the meet on Monday night 29th August went well and we had fun mixing solos with duets and singalongs—some rehearsed, some improvised – besides our usual experiments with instrumental jamming! I'd received apologies from Colin Pitts, who was in demand at a festival, Brock and Kim (gigging elsewhere), Ruth (at a Prom), Frances (busy working on a project) and also from Gordon, Anabel and Claire who were respectively on holiday or still at Shrewsbury Festival. As a result I was expecting a very small group! But as it turned out Jim, Mike B, Craig and Sylvie were all present and correct, as were Colin G, Ben, Steve from Coombe, Rachel F and her ex-student Rosie, who we were delighted to welcome again. Performers had the opportunity to perform four times if they wished and it was also good to meet two new guests who arrived to listen and join in the chat in between times.

Future meetings, always on Mondays: 31st October; 28th November; 26th December – though this one may be moved forward. In 2023 the dates for the first six months will be: 30th January, 27th February, 27th March, 24th April, 29th May and 26th June.

Future concerts:

Friday 14th October – An evening with singer-songwriter Colin Pitts.

Friday 2nd December – The Boot Band with the Hex Collective.

Ginnie Redston

*“There are decades when
nothing happens, and there
are weeks when decades
happen”*

Lenin, quoted in The Atlantic

*“Until the lion learns how
to write, every story will
glorify the hunter”*

*J. Noyz Maraire,
quoted on Medium*



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"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day" - Shira Tamir

GORGEOUS AUTUMN BORDER PLANTS

The great range of colours and forms make Salvias indispensable border plants, while their spires of nectar-rich flowers are magnets for bumblebees and butterflies. Hummingbird hawk moths repeatedly visit to feed on the salvia flowers. Growing salvias is easy, planting them in a moist but well-drained soil in full sun in a sheltered spot. If you have a heavy soil, add gravel in the planting hole to aid drainage. Shrubby and hardy, herbaceous salvias can be overwintered in the garden if they're given good drainage and as much sun as possible. In colder spots, tuberous half-hardy salvias, like *Salvia patens*, will need to be mulched to protect them from frost. Alternatively, lift them like dahlias, and overwinter them in pots and move indoors in late autumn. I take salvia cuttings in summer as a precaution against any winter losses and to get free drought resistant colourful plants for tubs.



Dahlia blooms light up sunny borders throughout summer and into late autumn, suiting

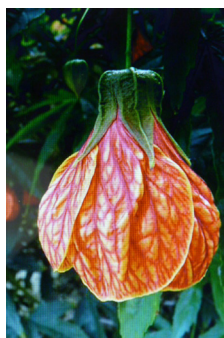
most garden styles, from tropical to cottage borders, and smaller types can be grown in containers. I plant my tubers, when shoots begin to appear in May. The sprouting tubers are put in the borders which had lots of humus (from the compost heap). This year they have revelled in the hot sunny weather and the tubers hold a water reserve to tide them over dry spells. As dahlias aren't hardy, I lift them after the first frost, cut the stems back to 5" and leave to dry off in a frost proof place. Later I wrap them in newspaper and store in a dry frost proof place over winter. Dahlias can be increased by cuttings in spring or from seed.



White flowering *Crinum powellii* album lilies make an exotic feature but are fully hardy and come back year after year with a larger clump in a sunny well drained

border. They have very large bulbs like their relation the *Amaryllis*, are easy to grow and do not suffer from deer or the dreaded lily beetle like other lilies.

Sinking pots of *Abutilons* in borders make an extra feature, with large rich red/orange bell-like blooms and attractive lush maple leaf foliage. They were favourites of the Victorians, and nick-named "parlour maples". Many come from warmer climes but some are hardier and survive the winter in sheltered walled gardens. I grow them in 10 inch pots and bring them inside for the winter. Cuttings can be easily



taken from non-flowering shoots in summer. I've found that these plants have shrugged off the hot dry weather and being perennial come back year after year making a glorious show. Enjoy your garden

Robert

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council doesn't meet in August but that doesn't mean that nothing happens – it's traditionally a time when we are able to catch up with the 'housekeeping' jobs and prepare for the winter – not very exciting but necessary if we wish the assets the PC is responsible for to remain 'assets' and not become 'liabilities'! Over the summer we've inspected the state of the trees in the churchyard, surveyed the adventure playground and swings, and contracted grass cuts (as much as the wonderfully dry weather has required it).

Readers will have seen in the August/September Newsletter the initial work that has been done exploring the need and public appetite for traffic measures to reduce speed in and around the Village and the safety measures we might take. Work has continued on this and some of the fruits of that work are beginning to show - two new pedestrian warning signs have been sited on Well Hill (generously funded by the Village Hall Committee); and replacement, but more visible, HGV signs will be coming shortly – as will vehicle activated speed awareness signage. We are preparing

to conduct a questionnaire survey on whether or not to try to regulate parking and questionnaire leaflets will be distributed to all households – probably via the next newsletter.

Parish Council meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month (except August and December) at 7:30 in the Village Hall; meetings are open to the public and the draft agenda will be published on the PC website (<https://finstockpc.org.uk>) the week before the meeting.

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A DIFFERENT SORT OF TRAVELLER'S TALE

September 9th 2022 - As an anecdote for the newsletter I recalled today just how impressed I was on my voyage to New York on the wonderful old liner Queen Elizabeth back in 1966. Then how much Kate and I enjoyed our invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party whilst representing Finstock and Charlbury on West Oxfordshire District Council some years later. My name came out of the hat, whilst other Council Members cheered and someone wisely shouted 'don't go in your Morris gear'. I was apparently allowed to take Kate (my daughter) as, if I remember correctly, she was unmarried and between 18 and 25 years of age! We drove to London in the trusty Morris Minor and parked with the other posher cars off Constitution Hill near the Palace. We queued to enter amongst other smart public servants, colourfully attired Commonwealth citizens, and the clergy (I remember well chatting to the Bishop of Oxford at the time). Then we were briefly ushered through the palace itself to the wonderful gardens with the band playing and tea and cakes and cucumber sandwiches for all. The Queen was to be seen but always surrounded by those chosen to meet her, whilst the Duke of Edinburgh and other Royals moved around in a less controlled manner. It was great fun and over far too soon and I remember we stopped in a smart riverside restaurant for a meal on the way back home after a memorable day out in London.

Regarding our wonderful Jubilee project to build a Community Playground in Finstock, some of you will know how much Hugo Brunner, then Oxfordshire Lord Lieutenant, was aware and most supportive of our efforts. It was certainly a big story at the time with much media coverage so perhaps it is now time to reveal that thanks to the Lord Lieutenant the Queen herself knew all about the Finstock project and was apparently much impressed!

Mike Breakell



On Saturday 10th September I was honoured to speak in the House of Commons to pay tribute to Her Late Majesty the Queen on behalf of everyone in West Oxfordshire. While celebrating Her Majesty as the greatest servant that this country could ever hope to have, I noted perhaps the earliest contact she had with West Oxfordshire. This came in 1928, during the reign of King George V, when our area's most famous son, Winston Churchill, stayed with the Royal Family at Balmoral. He wrote to his wife Clementine:

"There is no one here at all except the Family, the Household and Princess Elizabeth - aged two. The last is a character. She has an air of authority & reflectiveness astonishing in an infant

I think it is extraordinary, yet perhaps not surprising, that Winston Churchill picked out so early the very qualities in Her Majesty that would make her the most revered monarch in our history.

Robert Courts MP