

# Finstock News 98

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

Events: Queen's 90th birthday; events list..... 2  
 Shakespeare & Music contd; plays & musicals .3  
 Broadband; council tax; Village Hall; CPRE..... 4  
 Small Ads; Wine; First Responders ..... 5  
 Lyme disease; volunteers; Fair; Bridewell ..... 6  
 School; Foundation Stage Unit; the future ..... 7



County; subsidized buses; Baby & Toddler .... 8  
 Craft Club; Footlights; Table Tennis Club ..... 9  
 Girlguiding; district updates..... 10  
 Shop & Post Office; FoFS; Health.....11  
 Gardening; growing without pesticides .....12

**D**uring this 400th anniversary year of all things Shakespearean, our renowned resident conductor John Owen Edwards has written about Shakespeare's influence on the world's greatest classical composers.

## SHAKESPEARE AND MUSIC

Given the fact that William Shakespeare posthumously fathered probably more musical works than any other writer, it is strange and frustrating that only around a dozen songs from his plays should have survived in contemporary settings. None of the dances or other incidental pieces has come down to us, and yet music inspired by Shakespeare is around us all the time.

No-one who has been to a Church wedding will be ignorant of Mendelssohn's *Wedding March* (written as incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), but how many viewers of *The Apprentice* will realize that when they hear the striding opening music, they are in fact listening to the *Dance of the Knights* from Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet*? Also the number of times the love theme from Tchaikovsky's Overture-Fantasy *Romeo and Juliet* has been used in film and television productions is overwhelming.

The great explosion of Shakespeare-inspired works really began in the 19th century; but appropriately enough it was an English composer, Henry Purcell, who started the ball rolling in 1692 with his semi-opera *The Fairy Queen*, which was really a series of interludes designed to be inserted into performances of an edited version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It must have made for a pretty long evening.

Of the great classical masters only Haydn and Schubert set any works of Shakespeare, a total of three songs, two of which were in translation, while Mozart and Beethoven were regrettably more concerned with their own nation's literary

masters, or the popular Italian texts of opera.

1827 saw the first performance of the precocious teenage Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream Overture* to which he later added incidental music for the entire play.

At about the same time Charles Kemble's company was giving performances of *Hamlet* at the Odéon Theatre, Paris, in which a young English-Irish actress, Harriet Smithson playing Ophelia, cast her spell over the entire city. In particular the 24-year-old Hector Berlioz who was instantly transformed into an ardent Shakespearean, and shortly thereafter became Miss Smithson's husband. Shakespeare ran through Berlioz's life and among the works he later produced, the *symphonie dramatique Roméo et Juliette* and the opera *Béatrice et Bénédicte* (based on episodes from *Much Ado About Nothing*) are reckoned to stand among his finest achievements. A minor piece of great charm, *La Mort d'Ophélie* for female voices and orchestra and written as a tribute to Harriet is included in a collection of pieces intended for a production of *Hamlet*. (contd. on page 3)

### FINSTOCK FESTIVAL & SCHOOL FÊTE 2016 FRIDAY JULY 1ST & SATURDAY JULY 2ND

The Finstock Festival begins on Friday night in the marquees on the Playing Field. We are sure you will be entertained.

The Great Finstock Bake Off returns. Stop in the Shop for your entry form.

Saturday afternoon the School Fête begins at 2pm followed later by the Wood Green School Big Band playing from 7pm to 8.30pm. Vinyl Daze, a five-piece band, will play from 9pm. We will have a well-stocked bar and a barbecue supplying hot dogs and burgers.

We hope to see as many villagers as possible supporting this long-running event, so come along and bring your friends!

If anyone has any spare time on the Thursday and Friday prior to the Festival & Fête to help put tents up, etc., or on Sunday for the big pull down, it would be much appreciated.

Finstock Festival and School Fête 2016  
 Colin Stringfellow Chair FCP



Mike Woodfield has become the Chairman of the Finstock Parish Council.

### Liz Leffman says Thank You!

I am delighted to have been elected for a second time as your District Councillor. My thanks to everyone who voted for me. I look forward to working on your behalf for the next four years, and to partnering my fellow councillor, Andy Graham.



# VILLAGE EVENTS



## Finstock Local History Society

**Friday June 17th: *Modern mapping and its use in historical studies*** – Geoff Griffiths

The Finstock History Society mapping group will be producing a topographical historical map of our local area. Geoff, who is an expert in the field, will be giving us some insight into modern mapping techniques and their application to historical enquiry.

**Friday July 19th: *Lost Villages of Oxfordshire*** – Deborah Hayter

Decline, decay and desertion: why do the Midlands have so many deserted villages? There are over 120 in Oxfordshire, including Tapwell adjacent to Finstock; these are usually explained by 'the Black Death', or 'sheep and the wool trade'. Deborah Hayter will look beyond these rather too easy explanations at the life and death of deserted villages and at the research into their decline, using many local examples.

## North Leigh History Society

**Tuesday June 7th:** There is a visit to the North Leigh Roman Villa at East End led by Stanley Jenkins, the former curator. We meet in the Roman Villa car park in East End at 7pm. Cost £4 per person. All welcome. Under 16's free.

## 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 Village Hall

To hire the fabulous, new Finstock Village Hall, email [villagehallfinstock@gmail.com](mailto:villagehallfinstock@gmail.com) or book directly online at [www.finstock.org.uk/village-hall](http://www.finstock.org.uk/village-hall).

For local and regular users the hire fees are just £5 an hour (session rates of morning, afternoon or evening are just £20). No hidden extras for use of our equipment. Bar can be provided on request for parties and large bookings. **We now have WiFi!**

## Blackthorn at Evenlode Folk, Finstock Village Hall

Our new occasional folk club promote Blackthorn, loosely described as a folk-rock band, from Oxford on **Saturday July 23rd** from 7.45pm. Songs about clapped-out nags, cross-dressing sailor girls, gruesome murders and cheating philanderers are their ingredients for a great night. Real ale bar. Tickets £5 in advance from [villagehallfinstock@gmail.com](mailto:villagehallfinstock@gmail.com) or [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com). £6 on the door.

## Board Gaming Night

Saturday June 4th from 6.30pm at Finstock Village Hall. Participate in a range

of board games from Carcassonne to 7 Wonders, Ticket to Ride to Catan, Agricola to Euphoria, or simply bring any of your own favourites with friends or other like-minded individuals for an evening of fun and entertainment. Bar open. £2 per person entry.

**All England's Euro 2016 football** matches live on the big screen at Finstock Village Hall from June 11th. (See page 9 for further Village Hall coverage.)

## Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock – it's FREE!

Oxfordshire in 50 Objects, until September 11th. Fifty fascinating objects, each telling a unique story, and brought together to celebrate Oxfordshire Museums Service's half century.

We are having a birthday celebration and exhibition opening on Thursday June

JUNE	
4th	Board Gaming Night, Village Hall
5th	<b>Queen's 90th Birthday party in Finstock</b>
10th-12th	Cornbury Field and Country Fair
11th	England's Euro Football Ramsden Fête Queen's Birthday
12th	Charlbury Open Gardens
23rd	<b>EU Referendum</b>
25th	Charlbury Beer Festival
26th	Bridewell Gardens open

JULY	
1st-2nd	<b>Combined school and Village Fête</b>
20th	School's out
23rd	Blackthorn at Evenlode Folk
23rd-24th	Riverside Festival, Charlbury
24th	Bridewell Gardens open

AUGUST	
4th-7th	Wilderness Festival



The new Village Hall

## Celebrate the Queen's Birthday

On Sunday June 5th after 5pm in and around the Village Hall. Bring your own picnic or plate of goodies to share. Tea, coffee and squash available and the bar will be open. Family fun!



### Our Bar is open:

**Mon:** 6pm – close  
**Tues – Fri:** 12 noon – 3pm & 6pm – close  
**Sat:** 12 noon – close  
**Sun:** 12 noon – 6.00pm

### Our kitchen is open:

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## SHAKESPEARE AND MUSIC (contd.)

Another Frenchman, Ambroise Thomas, had a crack at adapting Hamlet for the operatic stage which premièred in Paris to great acclaim in 1868 and was presented in London two years later where it met with a more muted response. Probably the over-simplification of the plot and an aria called *Être ou ne pas être* proved insuperable barriers for an English audience. Thomas had previously dabbled with Shakespeare with *Le songe d'une nuit d'été*: not what you might think, but a bizarre stage concoction in which Shakespeare and Falstaff meet.

In Falstaff we have a character probably as often portrayed in music as Goethe's Faust or Cervantes's Don Quixote. The earliest example is Salieri's 1799 opera which contains a scene where Mistress Ford pretends to be German to charm Falstaff. The Dublin-born Michael Balfe adapted *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 1838, as did Otto Nicolai in 1849, a version still often performed in Germany, but it was an 80-year-old Italian who showed them all how to do it. Verdi's Falstaff is unquestionably his masterpiece and he draws on Henry IV Parts I and II as well as *The Merry Wives* for his version. He had already tackled Shakespeare in *Othello*, easily outshining Rossini's earlier gelded version (which had included an alternative happy ending) and the early *Macbeth*.

Three English composers then turned their attention to the Fat Knight: Elgar in a symphonic poem of 1913, Vaughan

Williams in his opera *Sir John in Love* in 1929 and Holst in *At the Boar's Head*, a so-called musical interlude of 1924 taken from Henry IV.

Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream* (1960) has held its place in the repertory and has real magic in the fairy music, and a recent addition, a wonderfully imaginative setting of Shakespeare's other music-filled play *The Tempest* (2004) by the British composer Thomas Adès, seems to be doing similarly.

It is not only in the opera houses and concert halls that Shakespeare-inspired music is being performed. Our popular theatre would be the poorer without *West Side Story* (Bernstein's 1957 updating of *Romeo and Juliet*), *Kiss Me Kate* (Cole Porter's brilliant 1949 take on the *Merchant of Venice*), *The Boys from Syracuse* (Rodgers and Hart's version of *The Comedy of Errors*) and even *The Lion King*, whose plot owes more than a little to that of *Hamlet*.

Shakespeare's own attitude to music can be found in the scene between Lorenzo and Jessica in Act V of *The Merchant of Venice*, which Vaughan Williams uses (with a few amendments) as his text for the delicious *Serenade to Music*.

*"The man that hath no music in himself,  
Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,  
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils;  
The motions of his spirit are dull as night  
And his affections dark as Erebus:  
Let no such man be trusted."*

Hear, hear! John Owen Edwards



*John's career has encompassed all aspects of music, theatre and opera. He has worked around the world orchestrating and conducting, especially throughout the United Kingdom. For a number of years he was Music Director of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. He has produced nearly 30 CD recordings. For the last few years before his retirement in 2012, he worked extensively at the opera houses of Graz, Klagenfurt and at the Volksoper in Vienna, Austria.*

### Shakespeare plays and stage musicals

Alexander Dumas said, "after God, Shakespeare created most."

*Romeo and Juliet* was first performed in New York City in 1730.

*West Side Story* is an American musical from a book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and conception and choreography by Jerome Robbins. It was inspired by William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* and opened on Broadway in 1957.

*The Boys from Syracuse* with music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Lorenz Hart based on William Shakespeare's play, *The Comedy of Errors*.

*The Lion King* (*Hamlet*) is a musical based on a Disney animated film of the same name with music by Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice along with the musical score created by Hans Zimmer with choral arrangements by Lebo M.

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is an absurdist, existentialist tragicomedy by Tom Stoppard. The play expands upon the exploits of two minor characters from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

*Kiss Me, Kate* based on *The Taming of the Shrew* is a musical written by Samuel and Bella Spewack with music and lyrics by Cole Porter.

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## Broadband in Finstock

As we have received no comments from villagers about the broadband service in Finstock we accept that everyone is content with their service.

Dark red glasses and a long silver mortice key were found in the lane that leads from High Street across the farmer's field and old allotments to the back of the school. They will be in the school office.

## Modest council tax rise agreed to protect services

An annual increase of £5 for WODC tax payers will protect frontline council services, allow free car parking to continue and provide ongoing grant support for valued services provided by the voluntary sector. This council tax increase will place an annual charge of £86.63 for a band D property, equating to £1.66 per household each week for all district council services. West Oxfordshire is the lowest levying of all five district authorities in Oxfordshire and charges less than some local parish councils.

*"June is busting out all over..."*

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## THE FINSTOCK VILLAGE HALL



## Sports Awards 2016

The cream of West Oxfordshire's sporting talent joined unsung heroes of the community to be honoured at a special awards ceremony. The awards are organised annually by WODC in conjunction with the GLL Sports Foundation to support budding sports stars and pay tribute to clubs

and volunteers. Winners receive grants ranging from £100 to £1,250 as well as free access to Council-owned leisure facilities in the District to assist with training. Named in the Regional Awards was **Georgina Duff**, 14 – swimming, Finstock. **India Thompson**, 14, received an Achievement Award.

### THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Sean Connolly	868561	Proofing
Nicky Higgins	868425	Proofing
Tony Hirtenstein	868600	Layout
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Ann Sullivan	868597	Advertising
Barbara Wells	868776	Distribution

Photographs thanks to staff members and others.

Read the Finstock News online at [www.finstock.org.uk](http://www.finstock.org.uk); join the Finstock Yahoo group – [groups.yahoo.com/group/finstock](http://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.

## CPRE seeks eyes and ears in West Oxon!

If you have an interest in the local landscape or planning issues the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) would love to hear from you. CPRE West Oxfordshire District has a small committee of volunteers who monitor and respond to planning and landscape issues across the area, and provide advice and support to local communities.

A great deal of development is proposed in the District over the next few years. CPRE is fighting hard to make sure that it is appropriate development, helping to provide genuinely affordable housing and necessary infrastructure, whilst protecting our much loved landscapes and the area's rural character.

Want to find out more? Just email [campaign@cprexon.org.uk](mailto:campaign@cprexon.org.uk) or call 01491-612079. We'd love to hear from you!

Helen Marshall  
Director – CPRE Oxfordshire

# SMALL ADS

(All numbers start with 01993 unless otherwise stated)

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Charlbury Methodist Church Monday 7-8pm, Tuesday 10.15-11.15am, Wednesday 7-8pm. Trial Class £3. Louise 07879-685579; [123dancercise@gmail.com](mailto:123dancercise@gmail.com); Charlbury website 'Business/Lifestyle'. If I get a good response, I will consider starting classes in Finstock!

**Line ads are charged at 20p per word, payment in advance.**

**Please contact: Ann Sullivan on 868597. We do not accept inserts for the newsletter.**

*"Italy is the only workshop in the world that can turn out both Botticellis and Berlusconis."* Beppe Severgnini

It was announced this year that Sting has managed to impress the rarefied world of Italian wine connoisseurs.

A robust red, named Sister Moon, produced on his country estate in Tuscany has been named as one of Italy's finest 100 wines.

Tuscany has not always been associated with fine wines. Remember the days when wine from Tuscany (Chianti) was in those ubiquitous straw-covered flasks? The wine was poor and so were the winemakers. Living was harsh and there was a movement to rip up the

## STING IN THE TALE

vines and put cows on the hills instead. The winemakers' answer was to aspire to make better wine, even though it meant breaking the rules governing grape varieties and techniques. They adopted modern French winemaking methods which eventually brought success and many of Italy's best wines now come from Tuscany.

Italy is the champion of small producers and diversity. It is also the champion of the contradictory and the absurd. Tuscany embodies diversity in its wines and ignores the classification laws. Sting's vineyard was in decline when he bought the estate, so, like the winemakers before him, he invested in an expert makeover.

"We're very proud that the wine has been recognised," he told Corriere della Sera.

The youthful Gordon Sumner was nicknamed 'Sting' by a Jazz Band leader who thought he looked like a bee in his yellow and black jumper. Now he has a Star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, several homes on two continents and 100 people on his payroll. He also wants to save the rain forest. Newcastle Brown to Tuscany might seem quite a leap for some. In fact Sting fits in perfectly.

*Osiris*

## First Responders

Our lovely community is rural, which is one of its charms, but equally at times this can make a difference. The Community Responders are a local volunteer team whose aim is to provide support whilst the ambulance is en route.

We remain an additional resource and you will still receive the nearest available ambulance. However as the chance of surviving a cardiac arrest decrease by 14 percent per minute before defibrillation occurs, every minute counts. The local presence and those few minutes can make a difference.

As we head into the summer I wish you lots of fun. I hope to attend many of the upcoming events and look forward to seeing you there. If you would like any more information with regard to Community Responding visit [www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk](http://www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk).

Sara Cooper

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# COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION

*And winking Mary-buds begin  
To open their golden eyes;  
With everything that pretty bin,  
My lady sweet, arise.*

Shakespeare, *Cymbeline*, II, 3 (Song: "Hark, hark, the lark")

## Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is carried by ticks, which can be found in long grass, woods and moorland, although it is not exclusively in these habitats. Some ticks live mainly in the homes of their hosts (hedgehogs, foxes and badgers) but can be found wherever these animals travel. Anyone can get Lyme disease if a tick that is carrying the infection has bitten them.

If you do find a tick and it has bitten or attached itself to you or your pet, you will need to remove it safely. Carry a 'tick twister' with you or use a sharp ended pair of tweezers to remove the tick from the point of contact. Never put petroleum jelly or something similar on the tick and never squeeze it with your fingers. This can make it sick into your blood stream, and if it is carrying something you are much more likely to be infected by something nasty.

If you do get bitten you need to get the right treatment as soon as possible, especially if you have symptoms. Find out more at [www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk](http://www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk).

## Wild Oxfordshire Community Resources

Managing gardens and small spaces for wildlife: Amphibians; Birds; Wildlife on allotments; Reptiles; Minibeasts; Focus on Bat; Mammals; Moths and butterflies; Composting; Garden ponds; Pollinators. [www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk)

## Wild Oxfordshire - volunteer for the Wychwood project in West Oxfordshire

Wychwood Project is a small charity based in the old hunting forest just to the west of Oxford. We aim to restore and conserve the landscape and character of the Wychwood forest and help to enable communities to engage with and act to sustain the landscape. We have just started to run volunteering opportunities on the third Thursday and first Sunday of each month. Check out our Facebook page for up-to-date info [www.facebook.com/WychwoodProject/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/WychwoodProject/?fref=ts).

## Witney Woodland Volunteers

We meet every Monday at 10am under the clock by Waitrose in Witney to do a range of interesting and rewarding conservation projects in the Witney area, finishing at midday. Further details are on our website at [www.witneywood.org.uk](http://www.witneywood.org.uk).

## Eynsham Hall

### Hotel

We've made a few changes, come and see. Always open.

### The Brasserie

We poached the head chef from The Randolph in Oxford, come and try his food. Open from 7.00pm - 9.30pm

### The Gun Room Bar

We transformed ours into a relaxing bar for everyone, come for light meals and snacks. Open from 12.00pm - 9.30pm

### Leisure Club

Swimming pool, gym and fitness classes.  
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## Conservation Work

We usually meet at 9.30, with an approximate finish of 3pm: please check website for up to date information or call the office on 01865-815423. [www.wychwoodproject.org](http://www.wychwoodproject.org).

## Wychwood Forest Fair

Sunday September 4th from 11am to 5pm at Little Park, Cornbury Park, Charlbury, OX7 3EH. The Wychwood Forest Fair is one of West Oxfordshire's leading Green Country Shows offering a great family day with a wide range of entertainment, rural craft demonstrations, music and food. We will have 175 stalls showcasing the best of local rural crafts and trades, community and conservation groups. For further information please contact Helen at the Wychwood Project office on 01865-815423.

## Forest Fair Volunteers Wanted

Preparations are in full swing for the next Forest Fair at Cornbury Park. We have many volunteer opportunities should you wish to give us a helping hand either in the run-up to the event and/or on the day itself. We need able assistants for every imaginable task including setting up tents, sorting and selling books, booking entertainers, being part of the team on the entry gate, litter picking and recycling. All Forest Fair volunteers receive free entry to the Fair - and a voucher for refreshments in the Wychwood Project tea tent! We are also looking for someone to help in the office for up to a day a week in the office at Eynsham.

## Bridewell Organic Gardens - Open Afternoons Sunday June 26th and Sunday July 24th.

The Walled Garden and Vineyard at Wilcote (OX7 3EB) will be open from 2pm to 5pm. Admission £3.50, children free. Refreshments, plants, Bridewell produce, products and our own organic wine will be for sale. For further information please call 864530 or go to [www.bridewellorganicgardens.co.uk](http://www.bridewellorganicgardens.co.uk).

# FINSTOCK SCHOOL TAKES ITS LEARNING OUTSIDE

At last we are beginning to see a little sunshine, and the trees and flowers within the school grounds are beginning to spring into life. We are so lucky at Finstock School to have access to so much outdoor space, both within the school grounds and within the local community.

Ofsted stated that:-

'Learning outside the classroom contributes significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development and also contributes to the quality and depth of learning'.

With this in mind, and being situated at the centre of a wonderful, rural community, we feel it is very important that we engage with the outdoors, and 'Outdoor Learning' is a real focus, and strength, at Finstock School. All our children (from Nursery to Year 6) attend a series of sessions each year at Cornbury Park, as part of 'Forest Schools'. Our specially-trained teacher leads these sessions expertly, allowing children to practice their skills of problem solving and team work as they learn about the outdoors and develop their confidence, while taking risks in a 'safe' environment. Each Class also spends time working on our allotment: preparing, growing, reaping and then, of course, eating our own produce.

These activities are quite clearly linked to the science curriculum; e.g. learning about



## Finstock School

Monday June 13th Sports day  
Saturday July 2nd Finstock Festival  
Wed. July 20th End of Term 6 at 2pm

seasons, plants and animals, lifecycles and ecosystems. But, at Finstock we extend our learning to encompass ALL areas of the curriculum, creating and using opportunities for children to use their skills in a broad range of contexts and within a range of experiences, the aim being to deepen understanding. For example, our oldest children used shooting netball goals in PE as a prompt for working out the fraction and percentage of shots that went in. Years 1 and 2 combined science, art and maths by looking for patterns in nature (including symmetry) and then creating their own patterns and art work. Lessons such as these happen daily, and examples

are reported to parents in the weekly newsletter so that they can share in the activities.

By physically carrying out the activities outside, we find that children are more engaged and that the learning experiences are more memorable. As a final comment, let me leave you with a selection of words the children have used to describe their 'Outdoor Learning': 'Memorable', 'Real-life', 'Fresh', 'Adventurous', 'Creative', 'Exciting' and 'Fun'.

Sue Dawe

## Finstock School - Looking to the Future

There have been many positive changes for our school in the past year. We're seeing the benefits of becoming a founder member of the MILL Academy; our Foundation Stage Unit is thriving; and the number of children "on roll" continues to rise. We are confident about our strengths but are also planning our path ahead, and there are two areas in particular where we would welcome help from the wider community.

We want to take time to look again at our 'Core Values', those special traits which underpin the behaviour of all our children. To that end, we are holding an open meeting in the School Hall on Tuesday June 14th at 6pm and would like to invite you to join us. We will tell you about the progress we are making, and get you involved in some of our choices.

Before too long, we'll need to think about replacing the temporary classroom at the back of the school with a more permanent purpose-built classroom, and at the same time, take advantage of the opportunity to extend the School Hall to allow more space for assemblies, celebrations, sports and other events. The first step is to put together a feasibility plan so we can estimate the cost and understand the fundraising challenge ahead. Is there anyone out there willing to give us time and expertise to create such a plan?

If you would like to join us for either of these exciting opportunities, please contact the School Office on 868314 or email: [office.3040@finstock.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3040@finstock.oxon.sch.uk).

## FINSTOCK FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT

It has been another exciting few months in Finstock Primary School's Foundation Stage Unit (also known as Cherry Class). We ventured out to Oxford on a trip to the Story Museum, which was very exciting. We took part in a workshop called 'Time for Bed', which included putting on dressing gowns, listening to bedtime stories and exploring nursery rhymes with instruments and toys. Our highlights were: the bus journey; sitting on a gigantic bed all together and experiencing the 'Talking Throne'!

We have also been exploring a new topic all about Dinosaurs. The children have been learning (alongside the adults!) lots of dinosaur names; what dinosaurs looked like; how they moved around; what they ate and also, where they went! The children now understand and use the word 'extinct'. Reception has collected a range of facts using all of the information to tell

everybody during our class assembly. Our creative activities have included potato-printing dinosaurs; using fruit to make dinosaurs and junk-modelling dinosaurs!

Recently, we have loved welcoming Saltbox Music Company in to run weekly sessions with us, where we get to sing, move to music and play a variety of instruments. The children build their confidence by becoming familiar with a lovely welcome song and being able to join in as much or as little as they are comfortable with.

The first year of Cherry Class at Finstock Primary School has been a fantastic and very positive experience for all of the staff and children. As we continue to welcome new children to both Nursery and Reception, we are all very excited about what next year and the future has in store for us!

Mrs.Daniel

Rod Ireland

## RODNEY ROSE EXPRESSES HIS VIEWS

### Update on the Proposals for Unitary Council(s)

Without consulting the public or the County Council, on Thursday February 25th a surprise announcement was made by Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council. It called for the abolition of the County Council and the establishment of four district quasi-unitary councils, to include parts of Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire. (A unitary council combines the functions of a county council and a district council into one body.) In addition, the announcement called for the creation of an unelected quango to be known as a 'Combined Authority' to take on difficult areas of responsibility currently with the County Council, such as social care and major road projects. This would mean four councils spread across three counties, plus an over-arching unelected quango.

The Districts are now in the process of commissioning management consultants to produce a report to evaluate their proposals. Initially their brief to consultants stated: "The District Councils' view is that a single county-wide unitary authority is not the right solution for Oxfordshire". It went on to say that any finding suggesting a single county-wide unitary would not be approved. The status quo would also NOT be considered.

The Oxfordshire County Council view was that a single county-wide unitary authority was an option that should be

considered (along with the Districts' proposal and other options for two or three unitary councils), and had thus been forced to begin the process of commissioning a separate management consultant's report. Any change along these lines will need powers devolved down to local areas, and appropriate funding to match. A larger unitary authority could not properly oversee small local planning and other general issues.

Despite County and public pressure, District Council leaders have not agreed to commission a report covering all the options. Council tax payers will now have to fund two separate reports, as the County Council cannot agree to any study that does not compare all options, and ideally be run by an independent body of some sort. Results of both studies can be expected from early July.

Clr Rodney Rose  
Oxfordshire County Council

### Subsidised Buses and Dial-a-Ride

The County Council has confirmed that funding for all subsidised bus services will be withdrawn on July 20th. However, OCC wish the X9 service to be retained. The county's Dial-a-Ride service has been withdrawn. Go Ride services will NOT continue. Routes affected and timescales: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/supported-transport](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/supported-transport).

## Seeing in the summer with Finstock Baby and Toddler Group

Finstock Toddler Group has been happily settling into the new Village Hall. We LOVE our new home and all the facilities and space available to us! We have been sorting through our toys and will be treating ourselves to a few new ones to fit in with our fantastic surroundings. There is now plenty of room for toddlers to have a run around, a slide, a ride on some of their favourite vehicles, or just a chill in our reading corner, and for babies to have a play in our sensory area.

Since we've been in the new Hall some new tots and adults have joined us. Thank you for trying us out, we hope you're enjoying our friendly group! All little ones from 0-4 with their parents or carers are welcome. We meet in Finstock Village Hall from 10am-11.30am on Wednesday mornings (term-time). There is plenty for everyone: toys, activities and snacks for the kids, and chat, cake and hot drinks for the adults! Every week we organise a craft or activity for the toddlers (and adults!) to have a go at and over the last couple of months we've been busy creating St. George's Day shields, spring flower pictures and cake decorating, amongst other things.

Over the next couple of months we'll be running some summer themed activities and will also be celebrating Father's Day and the Queen's 90th Birthday. We will also make use of the outdoor space available at the hall (British weather permitting!) and we'll finish off the summer term in our usual toddler group style with a party! Hopefully, we will plan a few outings over the summer holidays for those who can make it. Keep up-to-date with our weekly goings on by joining our Facebook group, or ask us to add you onto our weekly email. We also arrange a few social events during the year for the adults, which is a chance to let our hair down without the kids!

For further details contact us via email: [finstocktoddlergroup@gmail.com](mailto:finstocktoddlergroup@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you there!

Helen Fallows

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## FINSTOCK CRAFT CLUB

Finstock Craft Club got off to a good start in April. The Girl Guides join us for a half hour of their time. We enjoy their company and they have learned how to make lovely cards using the *Spirelli* method, as instructed by Bev Morley. We also had an experienced quiller (another card making technique) in the room who successfully passed on some of her expertise to someone who was new to crafting.

Throughout the evening, sewing machines can be heard humming and knitting needles clicking, with plenty of chatter in the background as we learn a little more about the crafting community in our village. It is lovely to see the enthusiasm in the room. I think I can safely say that everyone enjoyed themselves.

We invite anyone, whatever your crafting ability, to come to one of the two monthly sessions. We look forward to seeing what you do and learning more about many crafts including: hand or machine sewing, knitting, crocheting, card-making, deco patching, weaving and spinning, felting and paper mache, embroidery, cross stitching and much more. All of these crafts encompass their own variety of techniques, which many of us would like to add to our particular crafting ability.

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month from 10:30am to 12:30pm and in the evening on the fourth Wednesday of every month from 7:30pm to 10pm.

We would love to see more crafters at the morning session, so please spread the word! Talk to your friends and neighbours. Also, if you love to teach, why don't you come along to either session to help and encourage those who are new to crafting. Does anyone in the village do 'Book Folding', for instance? And if you have any crafting materials which you no longer need, might you consider donating these to the club.

We meet in the Evenlode Room at the fabulous new Village Hall, which can be arranged, each session, to accommodate you and your tools, i.e. sewing machines, dye-cutting/card-making machines, etc. Refreshments are available throughout. Tea (the variety includes fruit and herbal teas) and coffee are just 10p per cup. Or, if you prefer a cup of "posh" coffee, 50p.

The cost of joining, is minimal, just £1 per session to cover hall fees plus a nominal amount of 50p, to enable the club to purchase any reasonable tools or materials needed, especially for those who are new to crafting to use.

If you have any questions regarding the craft club, please do email me at [rosacrafts@btinternet.com](mailto:rosacrafts@btinternet.com).

Rosa Charlesworth

## Table Tennis Club

We have had a very good start to the club with excellent interest from juniors; we were even short on bats. Luckily we were contacted by Stella Marks from Ramsden's Senior Citizens Table-Tennis Group who donated kit including a dozen bats from a youth club they used to run. We are having a lot of fun with the Junior session and it is great to see the improvement already being made over a few weeks!

The Senior session is rather different as we all know the basics of how to play it is just that some (they know who they are) are more skilled at putting the ball where they want it to go. Shaun Morley has implemented a grading and handicap system, which is great as it makes the games more competitive, closer and fun for all.

We welcome new members for either group, so if you have not yet come along and fancy having a go, please either turn up on a Tuesday or contact me ([mikesimpkins1@gmail.com](mailto:mikesimpkins1@gmail.com)).

Meeting every Tuesday during term-time at Finstock Village Hall

Dates for table tennis: June 6th - July 20th

6.30pm-8pm	Juniors
8pm-10pm	Seniors

## Forest Footlights

If you are interested in the theatre (on stage or back stage), come along to Finstock Village Hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm.

We are a new group, gathering material for a cheerful showcase that we hope to put on in the early autumn. We've already decided on some pieces but are still experimenting with different stories, sketches and play readings so we have some fun while deciding what to include in our show.

If you don't mind standing on a stage and have a story to tell, poem to read, song to sing, or favourite sketch to perform, come along and try it out.

If you don't want to go on stage but like to deal with props, costumes, sound or lighting, please let us know. You can sample the smell of the greasepaint and roar of the crowd from backstage!

Eagerly talent scouting,

Ginnie and Janette

Contact for info: [vljredston@gmail.com](mailto:vljredston@gmail.com) (Follow the Finstock Village Hall Facebook page for updates!)

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## FINSTOCK GIRLGUIDING

We are now back in the Village Hall and we love it!

Finstock Girlguiding is also doing great. We now cater for three sections all on Wednesdays starting with:-

**Rainbows** are for girls aged between five and seven years. This group meets from 4.45pm to 5.45pm.

They started the term off with 21 girls which include several new ones.

Then onto **Brownies** where we have 18 girls. This group is for girls aged between seven and ten years and meets from 6pm to 7.30pm. This term their programme contains designer and craft badge work, plus many Challenges including swimming, climbing and abseiling, bike night, sponsored walk, cooking and generally making the most of having space to play games. We are also hoping to fit in an adventure outing to Oxford by train and visit the Pitt Rivers Museum. And then, hopefully during the summer holidays, we will hold a sleepover in our new hall.

Finally our newly opened group is **Finstock Guides**. This section is for girls aged between ten and fourteen years and meet from 7pm to 8.30pm. We have at present ten girls attending which is a good number to start with. Their programme this term will contain many challenges: Go For Its, climbing and abseiling, swimming, fire lighting and outdoor cooking, knots, team building skills, compass work and lots more including camping. Once a month Guides will be running alongside

the evening craft group where the girls love trying different crafts and being part of the community.

In July, three Guides and Caroline (Brown Owl) will be attending an event called **The Big Gig** at Wembley. This is a pop concert solely for Girlguiding members only which is fun but VERY noisy.

We also had leaders and three girls, one from each section, at the official opening of the Village Hall.

All of the above groups will be attending our Division Challenge Day at Blenheim on the July 17th and we hope that they will come back with cups for each section (if not, then fingers crossed for one out of three!)

And finally our very own Little Owl (Amy Booth) is getting married on the July 9th. Congratulations and we all wish you well.

Contact for Rainbows is Amy Booth: [ajb5@btinternet.com](mailto:ajb5@btinternet.com) or 07495-064634

Contact for Brownies is Caroline Booth: [carolinebooth4@gmail.com](mailto:carolinebooth4@gmail.com) or 07890-629001

Contact for Guides is Kim Lovelock: [kimberley.lovelock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kimberley.lovelock@yahoo.co.uk) or 07792-907252

*We shall never know  
all the good that a  
simple smile can do.*

*Mother Teresa*

## WODC updates from Andy

Charlbury Youth Theatre's first production since restarting last September will most likely have taken place. The 11-14 year olds have been working with professional actor Ben Lawrence alongside Geoff Gibbons to produce an inspiring production of *The Beast*, loosely based on the ideas of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. I am immensely proud of their ability which once again shows young people's creativity and enjoyment of the arts.

The 6-8 year olds continue at The Shed on a Saturday morning 10-11am working on a new piece of work called *The Magic Kite*. It's the story of how the young generation of children can support the older generation through sharing, friendship and care. A showcase will take place on Saturday June 25th.

Watch out for summer Creative Arts Days in the Summer Holidays. For further details contact me: 07908-832632 or 01608-659462

My role as a District Councillor continues to challenge me as I attend planning meetings and other committees. But, above all, I am here to represent you as promised when I was elected. Please let me know what priorities you have. Should you wish to talk to me about specific matters or arrange to meet or chat over the phone or email me, I will be available for you. I will not always have the answers but I will do my best to find out who does.

Andy Graham

[Andyg2439@gmail.com](mailto:Andyg2439@gmail.com)

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# VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE

In the last issue we promised you our new Swirl ice-cream machine. It has now been working for over a month whipping both ice-cream and frozen yogurt, and has proved very popular. Ice-cream flavours are Cappuccino, Chocolate Chip and Vanilla, and yogurt flavours are Natural, Mixed Berry, and Mango and Passion Fruit. We have lollies and other ice-cream in the freezer: wonderful in the warm weather.

We also have lovely fresh bread and filled rolls, delicious local cakes, tarts, scones, jams and honey, very reasonably

priced wine, and beer from Hook Norton.

## Shop opening hours:-

Weekdays 8-5.30

Saturdays 8.30-1

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For the moment the Shop is  
not open on Sundays.

Patrick Strainge in Bampton supplies local sausages, Scotch eggs, bacon and ham. Also in the chiller we have salad, vegetables, local smoked chicken and

fish and dairy products. In our freezers we keep a wide selection of frozen food.

We sell a big range of newspapers and magazines, which can be ordered to ensure you get the one you want.

The 100 Club is still producing winners every month. If you haven't joined yet, ask Karen how to go about it.

Everybody is still being very generous with their gifts to the Food Bank. We are very grateful.

Of course we welcome any help in the Shop. If you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours a week or can offer a relevant skill, please talk to Karen any weekday morning.

## Friends of Finstock School (FoFS)

The end of the school year seems to be approaching very quickly so we are pleased to make the most of every fundraising opportunity before the summer break. We held our annual Quiz with a spicy theme of Spanish Stew served in the interval. The ticket sales were down on last year's success, but an entertaining evening was had by all. We raised just over £200. This was a good result as this was just short of the amount we needed to raise to meet our fundraising target of £600 by the end of April.

By meeting the very small shortfall from our reserves, we are now able to fulfil our pledge to the school and present them with £600 towards refreshing the reading books in the four school classrooms. Thank you to everyone who came along from the school and the

wider community to make this event such a success and to all the hard workers who helped to make the evening a success.

Our main fundraiser of the summer is the **School Summer Fête** which this year is being held in conjunction with the Finstock Festival on the afternoon of Saturday July 2nd from 2pm until 4.30pm. There will be the usual stalls and stands along with a Fun Dog Show which should be great entertainment for all.

Please look out for posters around the school and village and on the Finstock website for full details of all our upcoming events and to find out how you can get involved.

Thank you for all your support to the school and FoFS.

Rachel Mackenzie (FoFS Chairperson)  
[htcfinstock@gmail.com](mailto:htcfinstock@gmail.com)

## Post Office Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-1pm

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Karen Williams

## Talking Health

### Diabetes in Oxfordshire

Diabetes is a growing health problem. NHS Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. [tinyurl.com/jx38orz](http://tinyurl.com/jx38orz)

### One You

Our lifestyles can be unhealthy than we think. Start the fight back to a healthier you. Take the One You quiz and see how you score. Notes on smoking, drinking, eating, moving, sleep, stress. Read more at [tinyurl.com/hrakl5v](http://tinyurl.com/hrakl5v).

### Healthwatch Oxfordshire

01865-520520

[Healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://Healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)

### John Radcliffe Patient Advice and Liaison

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This telephone number has been very useful to people seeking to get appointments brought forward.



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## THE LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

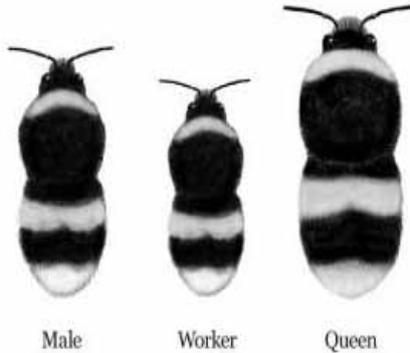
One of the sounds of sunny weather is the buzzing of bees: bumblebees and honeybees buzzing busily around the garden visiting flowers. Bumblebees are up earlier than honeybees and busy even on cooler days due to their larger size and hairy body. The tail may be red, white or buff and the abdomen has coloured stripes, which may be lemon and black. Others have just buff coloured bodies. While collecting food (nectar and pollen) for themselves, they carry pollen from one flower to another. Only bumblebees are capable of *buzz pollination* (producing the high-pitched buzz) which causes certain flowers to release their pollen, essential for the production of fruits such as tomatoes, beans, peas and raspberries. Other insect visitors which help pollination of other flowers are the solitary bees, hoverflies, beetles, butterflies and moths, attracted by the flower colour and scent.

Since the 1930's, meadow flowers have been reduced by 97 percent due to intensive agriculture; gardens have been covered with paving and pebbles; and hybrid varieties are being grown which have no pollen. This leaves the pollinators homeless and hungry.

### Growing a Healthy Garden or Allotment, without using pesticides

Pauline Pears gives an introduction to the diverse range of organic methods that gardeners can use to keep their garden or allotment healthy, including encouraging wildlife, predators and parasites, companion planting and a participative exercise 'Know your friends'.

Where: Charlbury Scout Hut, Nine Acres Lane, Charlbury, OX7 3QZ; Friday June 17th at 7pm; cost: £3 per person (gardening club discount for 10+ people). Refreshments will be on sale. Booking online is essential: [tinyurl.com/zeetnyw](http://tinyurl.com/zeetnyw).



before cutting are ways homeowners have been encouraged to contribute. The delay in cutting the road verges has produced more yellow cowslips, blue geraniums, pink mallows and even orchids. Many eco-friendly garden designers are now planting patches of ground with colourful wild flowers as part of their grand garden designs.

Planting Bee-friendly climbers such as the fragrant Honeysuckles and Jasmines, which come in many colours, as do shrubs such as *Ribes* (flowering currants), *Buddleias*, *Berberis* and the perennials, *Pulmonaria*, *Aquilegia*, *Verbena* and Lavender. Late flowering food sources are the *Sedums* and the heavenly blue *Caryopteris*.

So we can sit in the sunshine with our tea, enjoying the garden and letting the insects do their work.

Happy days, Robert

### News from Cornbury Park – Summer 2016

On June 10th-12th we will be hosting the **Field and Country Fair**. This fair celebrates the British Countryside and is presented by Time Inc. UK, home to a stable of country and sporting magazine titles, including The Field and Country Life. More information can be found at [www.fieldandcountryfair.com](http://www.fieldandcountryfair.com).

A reminder that the **Wilderness Festival** returns to Cornbury Park from August 4th to 7th this year. This award-winning festival combines live music, contemporary arts and an array of theatre, craftsmanship and dining experiences. More information can be found at [www.wildernessfestival.com](http://www.wildernessfestival.com).

In other news, the estate has been busy clearing the scrub from verges on the roads surrounding the estate. This will improve visibility and safety for motorists. At Cockshoot Hill, a wood of diseased conifers has been replanted with native hardwood and more tree planting schemes have been undertaken at Rangers Lodge and at Kingstanding, with the aim of returning the landscape to its original state.

Follow us on Twitter @CornburyPark and at Facebook.com/CornburyPark, or get in touch by emailing us at: [estate@cpark.co.uk](mailto:estate@cpark.co.uk) or phoning on 01608-811276.

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