

Finstock News 89

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We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The Editorial Committee of the Finstock News would like to thank all of our advertisers, contributors, and distributors for their support throughout 2014.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

After a day of downpours on Saturday, Remembrance Sunday turned out dry and sunny. There was a very good attendance at the Finstock and Fawler War Memorial; probably a record.

The Vicar Reverend Paul Mansell assisted by Reverend Sarah Jones, officiated throughout. The two minute silence was observed. The Brownies read the names on the Memorial (1914-18) with considerable dignity, which was commented on. Crosses were placed by the Brownies to represent the fallen. Credit is due to Karen Williams who had obviously worked hard to achieve this perfection.

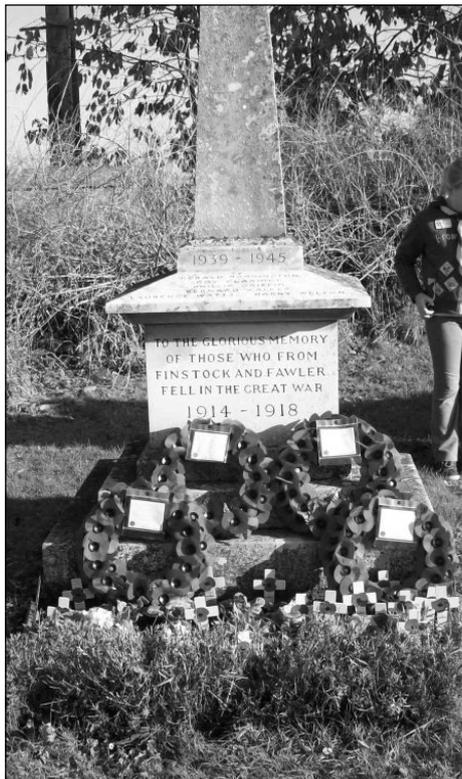
Mrs Ellen Russell read the names for Fawler and Mrs Rosa Charlesworth for Finstock (1939-1945). Wreaths were laid for the Royal British Legion by Steve MacLennan, Vice-chairman of the Ramsden Branch; Derek Bennett for the Finstock Parish Council; Mrs Janet Schofield for the Falklands; and Carol Andersen in memory of her husband Flight Lieutenant Bill Andersen. Bill was a gallant Spitfire pilot who flew single-handed in an unarmed Spitfire with extra fuel tanks while photographing the damage caused by the Dambusters raid. Bill's comment was, "Well, the Germans didn't seem very pleased about it." Carol herself served throughout the war in the ATS ack-ack defending London and other cities.

Mr Len Nichols gave the exhortation and Mrs Vivian Wightman the Kohima.

We had two Second World War veterans present; more if we count my nine months of war service as an 18-year old. It was good to see Mr Reg House, who served throughout the war, and his wife making what must have been a considerable effort to be present with Mrs Anderson.

It was a very dignified and satisfying ceremony. I thank all who were involved in the preparations for the service and also those who ensure that the War Memorial site is clean and tidy all year round.

Frank Schofield



Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Pakistani Malala Yousafzai and Indian Kailash Satyarthi

The Norwegian Nobel Committee cited the two children's rights activists "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education".

**In No Man's Land
Christmas 1914
St Mary Magdalene Church,
Woodstock**

Sunday December 14th at 3pm
Tickets £15 available from:
Kate Burrows Tel. 810215;
Email fundraising@sofo.org.uk.
Sunday December 14th at 3pm

The Chinese Year of the Sheep begins February 19th 2015.

**Finstock Christmas Fair
Saturday December 13th in the
afternoon**

Once again the church and school are joining forces. There will be lots of exciting things from wreaths, cakes, refreshments and lots more. Watch for the posters nearer the time.

Fast Broadband is available for some homes now. Visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/nxwlbdm> then click on Line Checker; enter your phone number and you will learn if your home is included in the current upgrade. If not on the list, you can register to be notified when your phone line is upgraded.



VILLAGE EVENTS



Finstock Local History Society

Friday December 12th – Christmas special

To commemorate the anniversary of The First world War we have invited members of the cast of *Singing Histories* to perform a sketch set during this period. The setting is The Plough Inn, Finstock from 1914-1918 and we hear in words and music an account of the war as told by the Finstock and Fawler fathers who are too old to fight in the war but represent their sons who are at the front. If you missed this performance in May during Finstock Village music then do book this date in your diary now!

The evening will begin with prose and poetry spoken by members of the society and there will be an opportunity to join the cast for seasonal songs after the performance; in the Village Hall at 8pm.

Friday January 16th 2015 – The History of Finstock and Fawler

This will be an update of the written history of our villages with new and interesting stories and facts concerning previous generations of residents. We learn what early field and place names can tell us (where was the valley of

goats in Finstock?), what medieval personal names reveal (where did William of Pachedich live?), how did St John's College, Oxford become Lord of the Manor, and who received a decoction of bark for their ailment from the doctor in Finstock workhouse? All will be revealed as a forerunner to the publication of a book on the history of our villages.

The History Society meets on the third Friday of the month at 8pm in the Village Hall, Finstock. Members free; non-members £2.50.

North Leigh History Society

December 2nd The Water Gypsy.
A talk by Julie Ann Godson.

February 3rd Charles Dickens as Social Reformer and Medical Observer. Talk by Professor Gregory Stores.

North Leigh Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Members free, visitors £2.50. Further details from Diana Power 882301. (Please note that there will be no talk in January.)

Charlbury Society

Friday December 12th - A talk by Dick Robinson: *Sister Edith Appelton - Front Line Nurse and Diarist in the Great War*

Friday January 9th - A talk by Bill King and Helen Bessemer-Clark: *Dad's Underground Army - British Resistance in WWII.*

Both meetings are held in the Memorial Hall Charlbury at 8pm. Refreshments from 7.30pm Visitors £3 Students Free. More information on website or call 01608 811414/810130.

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!

Cogges Winter Fayre and Market on Sunday 7th December, 10.30am - 4pm

Meet Father Christmas in the back kitchen with an open fire and present for every child.

A feast of wonderful treats for the day including home-made mince pies and Cogges Christmas Puddings to take home. Warm up with a spicy mulled wine in the kitchen, stir the christmas pudding and make a wish! (<http://www.cogges.org.uk>)

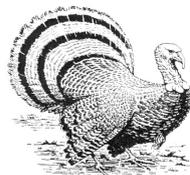
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FINSTOCK FESTIVAL 2014

Finstock Festival 2014 was again bathed in sunshine, long may it continue in years to come. The weekend started with the children's party followed by our Friday night music, featuring up and coming bands and a few oldies; The Reaper, Mike Rouse, David Fitzgerald, Laura King and Martha Bailey.

Saturday afternoon was well attended. The Finstock Bake Off was yet again a baking success story. A large number of entries made judging a tough call. It was great to see the school hall so full of cake admirers.

On the field we had two bouncy castles, welly wanging, egg throwing, kid's races, a fire engine and tug-o-war. In true Finstock tradition there was no shortage of people to grab the rope and tug! And, last but not least the famous Hussain Kebab Van from St Giles Oxford.

Saturday night we had our first musical set - *Raised by Hypocrites* followed by *Standard*.

All in all a great festival, slightly spoiled by a group on the field causing a disturbance late into the Friday night. We will make sure there is no repeat of this next year.

Ideas for next years Festival are being put together. I have had a yes from Wood Green School Big Band. If any of you have been to the school concerts you will agree they are well worth seeing. As long as the dates fit they have agreed to play. We also hope to book a popular high-end local band for the Saturday night.

The Saturday afternoons are always difficult to fill with activities especially for the younger ones with the small number of volunteers that we have to run the weekend. If any groups would like to put on an activity to raise funds they are more than welcome to do so.

There is a big thank you to the committee and all the many villagers that turned out on Thursday and Friday to put it all in place; not to mention the **Horrible Sunday Pull Down**.

Thanks again.

All that's left to say is 'here's to Finstock Festival 2015!'

Colin Stringfellow

Chairman, Finstock Community Projects

New Village Hall

By the end of December we shall know exactly what assistance we have been awarded through grants and be able to assess how close we are to the final cost of c. £300,000.

We will have raised £22,000 from community events and donations at year end, well on our way towards the target of £35,000. However, we still have that gap to close.

You can help by:

- sponsoring an engraved brick in the new hall walkway for £30 or £60 <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/finstockvillagehall> or cheque

- making a direct donation of any amount <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/finstockvillagehall> or cheque

- Take your unwanted clothes, shoes, and linen to the Rag Bag bank outside the village hall – simply tie them in a plastic bag, like a bin liner. All are sorted by the charity and resold to the developing world

- For your Christmas shopping online use search via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>, select Finstock Village Hall as your chosen charity (you only do this once), and when you shop at Amazon, John Lewis and many other online stores, the hall gets about 1.5% of what you spend at no extra cost to you.

Provided the remaining funding is secured, the existing Village Hall will be demolished in July and construction for the new hall will commence.

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**Advance notice
of a performance by
Steve Knightley
(of Show of Hands).**

Finstock Village Hall
on Thursday March 5th.

Doors 6.45pm, performance 7.30pm.

Tickets £16 going fast: <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/278192>.

Ramsden Christmas Market

Saturday December 6th the Ramsden Christmas Market will be held from 2pm – 4pm at Lower Farm End with thanks to Richard and Ratty Lord. Entrance fee is £2 per adult (including a complimentary raffle ticket). Children under 16 are free.

Dog mess

The age old problem of dog mess in the village has been raised once again by a mother who regularly walks along the lane from the playground towards the Church and onwards into Cornbury Park with her four-year old. She also noted that the old allotment area is being used as a dog loo. Dog mess has also been found on the playing field, which is awful considering the number of children that play there.

I am sure that the majority of dog owners use the bins provided and it is just an irresponsible few who ignore the safety of others as dog mess is extremely unhealthy, but it is making our village less of a pleasant place to walk in.

Improvements to Council's online planning services

West Oxfordshire District Council is improving the planning section of its website www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning to give better access to information.

The changes will make it easier for people to find information about planning, building control and Local Land Charges quickly and easily online,

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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Photographs thanks to staff members and others.

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

– en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finstock

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 views expressed in readers' letters.

including 'live' information about planning applications and associated documents.

Improvements include:

- Better access to planning documents
- Online submission and viewing of planning consultation responses
- Tracking of specific applications
- The opportunity to register for email alerts and get the latest information about planning applications within a chosen area.

Anyone with queries can contact planning services via planning@westoxon.gov.uk or 861420 during this time.

Register to vote

Young people in West Oxfordshire, 18 to 21 years old, are being urged to make sure their names are on the Electoral Register so that they can vote at next year's local and national elections.

The registration process is extremely simple asking for a name, address, date of birth and National Insurance Number. It can be done online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and will only take a few minutes.

Young people from 16 years of age should register to have their details on record ready for when they turn 18.

From West Oxfordshire Planning Policy Consultations

A brief update on the progress of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan notes

that a focused consultation on housing related issues took place from August 8th to September 19th 2014.

In response to the consultation the Council received over 3,000 comments from over 500 individuals and organisations. These comments can be viewed online at <http://tinyurl.com/llknn2c>.

The large volume of responses and the fact that some representations have raised technical issues which require further work, evaluation and discussions with relevant parties, means that it will not be possible to report the final draft version of the Local Plan to Cabinet and Council in October 2014, which had been the original intention.

India Kickboxing Champ



India Mae Thompson, aged 12, became the new Unified World Kickboxing Champion in the 42kg Girls category on Sunday afternoon in Carrara Italy. The former Finstock school pupil took the crown with a 7-0 win in the final having faced opponents from Wales, England, Romania and Czech Republic. India narrowly missed out on Bronze by two points in the 47kg category after bowing out in the semi finals.

India's focus now is on the ICO World Title held in Germany in March 2015.

Marc Thompson

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(All numbers start with 01993 unless otherwise stated)

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

Please contact: John Wells on 868776. We no longer accept inserts for the newsletter.

Grape Expectations

If I were to describe the French wine authorities as inflexible and over-cautious I suspect that many would agree. However if I claimed that this very attitude had led to sustained commercial success for their top white wines you might well raise an eyebrow. But consider the tale of Chardonnay.

"When it comes to wine I'm an ABC man: anything but chardonnay" John Major 2002

At the time he might have had a point. The quote aptly reflects the fact that Chardonnay did not and still does not have a great image, mostly due to the grossly over-oaked, high octane wines emanating from the New World since the 1980's. You may remember the deep yellow, banana-coloured stuff which did so much damage that its reputation still lingers. This type of wine has become what the Australians refer to as a 'dead dog' and is undoubtedly what Major was referring to. The consequence is that poor quality Chardonnay has, at least temporarily, poisoned the well for the others.

In the early days the eager adoption of Chardonnay by the New World was accompanied by high levels of hype. All the wines were labelled 'Chardonnay' and French authorities were pressurised to amend the labelling laws for French wines to include the grape variety. They steadfastly refused.

Amid the welter of bad publicity it is often forgotten that there is another, quite different side to the story. Consider this list:-

Chablis, Puligny Montrachet, Meursault, Montagny, Pouilly-Fuissé, St Veran and Blanc de Blancs Champagne.

These top white wines are lauded and loved the world over and they are untainted by crimes against the palate committed in other continents. They are all made from Chardonnay, but they are not called 'Chardonnay'.

I mark that one up to the French.

Osiris

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<http://tinyurl.com/o8gdygc>

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Christmas 2014 - Waste and recycling information

Christmas trees and festive greenery From Monday January 5th, real Christmas trees and greenery such as holly, ivy and wreaths can be put out and recycled with garden waste. Place your tree in your garden waste bin, or if it is over 4ft cut it up and leave beside it. Please remember that all pots and decorations need to be removed.

You don't need to be signed up for garden waste collections to do this - simply leave your tree out on your green collection week. Please note there are no garden waste collections from December 22nd until January 5th.

Over the festive season WODC will collect

- Extra recycling can be put next to your black recycling boxes in open cardboard boxes, clear sacks or carrier bags, but not in black bin liners. Please ensure that there is only one type of recyclable material per box/bag. (For safety, glass must be put inside recycling boxes.)

- Your kitchen caddy and your outside food waste bin can be put out for collection over Christmas. Don't forget your food waste bin can be used for any raw or cooked food waste, such as peelings, bones and meat - ideal for turkey carcasses.

Christmas collection dates for Finstock remain the same.

Cooking oil recycling

WODC is one of only a few local authorities to offer cooking oil recycling as part of household collections. As well as putting the waste to good use by turning it into green energy, this service helps reduce the amount of leftover cooking fat and oil being poured into sinks and drains.

Fat can be left to cool and, when hardened, scraped into your food waste recycling bin. Or, when cooled, leftover oil can be poured into a clear plastic bottle and put out next to your kerbside recycling boxes on collection days.

British households throw away seven million tonnes of food worth £700 for each household per year. Best before and sell-by dates: these labels are used by retailers for quality control. Key information for consumers is the use-by date.

Oxfordshire Top of the Class for Recycling Once Again

OCC has been named as one of the best performing county councils in the country for waste disposal and recycling, coming top in three of the seven categories. Figures compiled by the

Department for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that Oxfordshire was top of the tables for recycling and composting, and had the lowest amount of residual waste produced per household in the country.

Recent initiatives at the Household Waste Recycling Centres include trials to recycle bulky waste such as mattresses and carpets, which has led recycling rates to increase to over 80%. Furthermore, with residual waste now being delivered to the Ardley energy recovery facility and used to generate electricity even more waste is being diverted from landfill sites.

Recycle more plastics

Pledge4Plastics is a government-backed initiative, which encourages us to recycle more of our waste plastic. Last year, 5bn plastic bottles alone were sent to UK landfill sites and the campaign is urging people to make a pledge to recycle at least one extra plastic bottle a week. Of around 12,000 tonnes of waste recycled in 2013-14, more than 10% was plastics.

Plastic recycling includes more than water and drinks bottles. It includes all types of plastic bottles ranging from shampoo bottles and shower gels to domestic bleach bottles and cooking oil. You can also recycle food pots, tubs and trays (like yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and lasagne trays), as well as 'flyaway' plastics.

See www.westoxon.gov.uk/waste for details of recycling services, including what can be recycled and what happens to items once they have been collected for recycling. More information about the campaign is available online at www.Pledge4Plastics.co.uk.



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FINSTOCK SCHOOL

It is a great pleasure to be writing my first entry for the Finstock News, having taken over the headship at the school in September. I can honestly say that the past two months have been an absolute delight – everybody associated with the school has been so welcoming and friendly, and it is now really beginning to feel like home!



It has, of course, been a very busy time. As a new headteacher, I have had numerous courses, meetings and events to attend. Perhaps the most exciting of these was an Induction Service for New Headteachers of Church schools at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford. The service, which I attended with Rod Ireland (Chair of Governors) and Paul Mansell (Vicar), was a perfect opportunity to reflect on the responsibilities and opportunities that working with the wonderful young children of Finstock School presents.

The children of the school have been busy too! The whole school has been working on topics based around the theme of 'Journeys'. This has resulted in our youngest children comparing Africa and Antarctica, the middle class learning about Greece and the Ancient Greeks, and our Years 5 and 6 finding out about the journeys

Hello Fellow Finstockers:

Our School needs your help please: In order to get FREE Samsung touch screen Tablets for the children please collect the tokens from promotional packs of Flora or Stork Margarine from TESCO's stores. Tesco only are running this offer. Just 50 Tokens = 1 Tablet. We hope we can smash 200+ tokens and get at least four tablets for the children to use as a learning aid. Please start collecting today and ask your family and neighbours to help too. Offer ends January 25th 2015. Please take tokens to the School reception. Thank you so much. More info can be found at: www.flora.com/tubs4tablets.

and events of World War 1. This topic was brought to life by an informative and very interesting trip to Blenheim Palace – a chance to experience history in our local area.

Alongside their studies, they have still had time to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, by providing friends and family with some fantastic biscuits and cakes at a coffee afternoon. You may also have spotted a few 'superheroes' around the village, when the whole school dressed up as heroes to raise money for Children in Need. I do hope that many of you were able to join us at our Open Day, and enjoyed seeing the school in operation – although persuading the children to come back to school on a Saturday was tricky!

As we start our build up to our Christmas events, I hope that this will provide opportunities to meet more of the wider Finstock community – the school is very grateful for all the support that it receives. With this in mind, we are looking for some help in maintaining and developing our school website. If there are any budding web-

The Plough Inn Finstock

A very warm welcome awaits you at The Plough!

Quiz nights, serving drink only, to raise funds for the new Village Hall will continue on the first Monday of each month.

Christmas Fayre Menu lunch and dinner will begin on December 1st and run through to December 24th -- two courses £17.95; three courses £22.95.

Christmas Day we will be serving a four course meal priced at £70 from 12noon to 2.30pm; bar open until 6pm.

Boxing Day we have a three course meal at £25.50 served from 12noon to 3pm; bar open until 6pm.

New Year's Eve we will offer a FREE hot and cold buffet and a glass of Prosecco at midnight. Bar open from noon to 3pm and 6pm until late

New Year's Day Brunch £13.95 served from 12noon to 3pm. Booking is essential!

designers, young or old, in Finstock who think they may be able to help, please could they let me know?

Seasonal greetings to you all.

Sue Dawe, Headteacher

Christmas Holiday

Monday December 22nd
to Friday January 2nd 2015

Term 3 2015 - INSET day

Monday January 5th

Term 3 2015 -

Tuesday January 6th
to Friday February 13th

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Our Village Shop and Post Office

Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night have been and gone, and now we look forward to Christmas and New Year.

We will have lots of Christmas goodies in the Shop – puddings, cakes, ingredients for home baking, lovely wines and, of course, there will be Christmas cards and wrapping. You can order your Christmas turkey, goose or duck before December 8th (a deposit is required) for delivery on December 23rd. Please pick up a leaflet in the Shop to see what there is on offer.

On Christmas Eve please join us for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. We will close at 12:30 on that day.

All our usual local supplies are available – smoked chicken, kippers and bacon from Upton Smokery, cakes and tarts from Sweet'n'Tasty and Cakes Unlimited, yogurts from Woodlands Farm, mustards from Shaken Oak, Maggie's jams and marmalades, Bennett's wines and Hook Norton beers. We are also stocking sandwiches and snacks from a new supplier.

Our thanks go to everyone for your kind support for the Food Bank and to all our volunteers, without whom the Shop could not stay open. Please consider helping us for a couple of hours a week if you possibly can.

The 100 Club still has some spaces available. You could win £100, £50 or a £30 voucher for a meal for two at The Plough or a combination of these! Forms to join can be obtained from the Shop.

Opening hours for December - the Festive Season:-

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd	8:00 - 5:30
Wednesday 24th	8:00 - 12:30
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
Saturday 27th	8:00 - 1:00
Sunday 28th	9:00 - 11:30
Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th	8:00 - 5:30
New Year's Eve	8:00 - 12:30
New Year's Day	Closed
January 2nd 2015 back to normal	8:00 - 5:30

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our customers and volunteers!*

Mo

Finstock Food Bank

Until the Government tackles the ever-widening gap between the Have-Plenties and the Have-Barely-Enough-To-Live-Ons there are still people who, through no fault or mismanagement of their own, cannot feed their families or themselves adequately. So, we continue to receive whatever you can spare and it is collected and taken to the North Oxfordshire Foodbank collection point for redistribution in parcels for those who need this help. This is a confidential scheme and there is no publicising of those who receive parcels. If you know of anyone in our village for whom such a parcel would help them through a bad patch, vouchers can be obtained from the Vicar (868 687) or for more information contact Barbara Pensom (868 774).

The following are welcomed by the food bank which sadly can accept no perishables or alcohol.

Sugar, 50gm packets rice, semolina etc., tea, coffee, drinking chocolate etc., breakfast cereals (not oats), tins of:- meat, ham, fish etc., peas, beans, potatoes carrots etc., custard, rice pudding, sponge pudding, fruit, soups, long-life semi-skimmed milk, long-life juices, dried fruit. Non-essential treats like small bars of chocolate may be sent; also tins of dog and cat food, as it is recognised that in a sudden emergency, getting rid of a family pet is not going to ease a situation!

Finstock people have been very generous since we first placed our Tub in the Village Shop just over eighteen months ago but sadly the need continues. Thank you for anything you can spare.

Post Office

Post Office Opening Hours:

Monday – Friday 9am-1pm

We're now well into the season of parcels and packages flying all over the UK and the rest of the world. It's so nice to see the many brightly coloured packages coming in. The size of a 'small parcel' has now almost doubled in size, thus allowing you to send bigger parcels at the small parcel rate. A special offer from Royal Mail and the Post Office until January 18th 2015 means that any small parcel between 1 and 2kg can be sent 2nd class at the special rate of £2.80! So get those parcels in and take advantage of this great saving.

Thank you for supporting the Post Office!

*I wish you a very Happy Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

Karen Williams



**THIS YEAR,
BE A NAME,
NOT A NUMBER**

At Eynsham Hall Health & Fitness Club, it is our objective to welcome our members into an environment of informality and relaxation. There is not a requirement to commit towards a long term contract.

We are open as follows:-

- 6.30am to 9.30pm, during the week and
- 7.30am to 7.30pm at the weekend.

**Full Membership is available
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(figure based on full dual membership)

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Friends of Finstock School (FoFS)

As you may know FoFS are a dedicated group of parents and teachers who are committed to raising valuable funds for Finstock School. FoFS has had a successful year in 2014 which has seen Finstock 10K fun run at Cornbury Park, Cycle Leafield at Caterham F1, Finstock School social evening as well as seasonal fêtes and fayres, discos, cake sales and 100 club draws. These events are fun family day's out and a great boost to school funds. FoFS have also contributed to the renovation of the school library and disabled toilet facilities, purchased laptop charging lockers (a metal cabinet in which laptops can be neatly stacked in a tower whilst charging and locked up for safety at the same time) and funded a Theatre Company Pantomime performance in school.

We would like to say a big thank you to outgoing FoFS members including **Karen Williams** who has been Chair for four years and was involved in committees at Finstock School for over 14 years. She has dedicated much time, energy and discos to school and in her efforts has given the children a lot of fun times. Also to **Judy Burrige** who was on the committee for well over 10 years and who has always been calm in a crisis and had the knack of being in the right place at the right time! Thanks again to them both for their much valued contributions. New members joining are Sue Dawe, Headteacher and I as Chairperson.

Plans for 2015 are underway. The joint school/church Christmas fête will be held in the school hall on Saturday December 13th from 2-4.30pm; do come along and visit Father Christmas, have a glass of mulled wine and join in the fun. We also plan to have a ladies pamper evening amongst other things – watch this space for future announcements.

Rachel Shaw, FoFS Chairperson

rachelandwarren@warrenshaw.plus.com



Finstock Brownies

Our Brownies were very honoured in this very special year to be asked to attend and read out the names of the Fallen from Finstock from the Great War 1914-1918 at the Remembrance Service at Finstock Memorial on Sunday November 9th. It was lovely to see 11 of our Brownies attend and take part in such an important role. They did very well and made us all very proud.

Our Brownies are in the midst of making lots of Christmas stocking fillers that I am sure you will see on sale at local events so please remember to support them!

Finstock Brownies meet in the Village Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm until 7.30pm. Brownies are for girls aged between 7 and 11. Contact Caroline Booth on 07890 629001 or carolinebooth4@gmail.com to add your daughter to our units.

Finstock Rainbows meet in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 4.45 until 5.45pm.

Rainbows are for girls aged between 5 and 7. Please contact Amy Booth on 824190 or ajb5@btinternet.com.

Extra FoFS

As you may be aware I have now stood down as Chair of FoFS. I would like to say thank you to all past and present members of the committee who have made being a Chair an absolute pleasure. I have genuinely enjoyed every minute of being part of this committee and would urge anybody who may be thinking about joining or helping out at an event to do so. FoFS is an essential part of the school and enables funds to be raised to enhance the educational experience of our children.

Rachel Shaw has now taken on the position of Chair and I wish her all the best. I know she will do a sterling job with a bunch of good reliable people behind her as I have always found. I will miss it!

Karen Williams

Chipping Norton Christmas Panto

Mother Goose runs through
Sunday January 11th. Tickets £9.
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chippingnortontheatre.co.uk.

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Report from Your District Councillor

At the full Council meeting at the end of October, I proposed a motion expressing deep concern about the recent cases of severe child sexual exploitation and abuse. The motion exhorted Thames Valley Police to investigate all reports of such abuse to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice and Oxfordshire Social Services to prioritise all allegations of child abuse and to ensure everything is done to prevent such abuse happening in future. You will be pleased to hear that this motion was carried unanimously with significant and vocal support by all Councillors.

The publication of the Rix report into the cases in Rotherham highlighted the extent of the problem – over 1400 children abused. The report said, “There was a vast amount of truly horrific material. I was taken aback.” Professor Rix continues, “How callous, how violent the operations were. These were girls of 11 and 12. They were children”.

Of course we all know that the first case to be prosecuted through the courts occurred in Oxford, just last year. But this has proved to be just the tip of a very large but until recently, a rather hidden iceberg. There are active investigations in Northamptonshire, Hampshire and many other towns and cities.

At present there are no active investigations under way in West Oxfordshire. But is this an issue that need concern us in Finstock or Charlbury? I say yes. Oxford is a handful of miles away where many young people shop, study and socialise. There are cases emerging in Banbury and Aylesbury. We need to ensure these horrific crimes are revealed and dealt with by the relevant authorities without let or favour.

This is a very depressing and dispiriting message to be writing about at the season of the year when families and friends gather to celebrate an optimistic and wholesome belief in the essential goodness of us all. I make no apology for that but ***I do wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.***

Hywel Davies
District Councillor

Liz Leffman writes

I continue to fight for a Dean Pit replacement. Thanks to the pressure that I and some of the Chipping Norton councillors have maintained, WODC recently conducted a survey of users of recycling centres around the district. Unsurprisingly, respondents in the Charlbury and Chipping Norton area almost unanimously asked for a Dean Pit replacement of some sort. I hope that their voices will be heard, and that we may see something emerge in the coming year.

In the meantime, ***I wish all readers of the Finstock News a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.***

Liz Leffman

County Councillor report

On November 5th, I was privileged to travel on the first passenger train from Oxford Station to Cowley since 1963. Chiltern Rail ran the train and with help from Network Rail, had created a temporary platform at the Oxford Science Park in Blackbird Leys. Their aim was to demonstrate the advantages of reopening the line beyond its current use for freight. At first glance this is of little interest to those who live in our part of the world; but you would be wrong. The Science Park and the Oxford Business Centre are becoming an area of much

employment, as is the Cowley area, and will be of interest to some who live in Finstock, Charlbury and Witney. From Hanborough Station, this area would be but a 15 minute journey by rail, when at the moment this would not be a daily commute that would appeal. We shall all be exploring in the coming months how the idea can now be taken forward.

Bus Service changes in West Oxfordshire

Go-Ride buses have withdrawn their commercial bus services in West Oxfordshire effective on November 29th. New commercial services W1, W1A, W2, W3 and X10 were introduced June 1st this year when OCC made changes to their subsidised bus services in the area.

Services W1, W1A, W2 and W3 operate in Witney whilst service X10 operates between Witney, Burford, The Wychwoods and Chipping Norton.

I am sorry that Go-Ride Buses cannot continue to operate these bus services but, Stagecoach has agreed to reinstate the 213, 214 and 215 routes from Monday December 1st. Pulham Coaches will run a Monday to Saturday X10 shuttle service between the Wychwoods and Burford where you would connect to Stagecoach 233 to Witney.

Rodney Rose
County Councillor

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Finstock Pre-school



The first bit of news may surprise you, but our name has been changed to 'Finstock Pre-school'. It is quite a lot to take in, as for many of you, like me, it has always been Woodpecker Pre-school. Many years ago, about the time we moved onto the school site a very wise lady said to me 'don't let them abbreviate it to 'Woodpeckers'. Somewhere along the way though, this happened and the 'setting' is referred to as this, and so are the children that attend pre-school. The problem with the former is that it does not highlight what we are, so it is a marketing disaster; and the latter is confusing as well as a little demeaning for our young ones, who are just learning about their

identity. I have tried hard to get folks to use our full title but I am afraid it had already stuck and it was being used left, right and centre by all. So it has been agreed by our committee with the support of the school's board of governors that we will become Finstock Pre-school. This has given me some peace of mind, tinged with sadness as for my memories of when my girls were little the name was 'Woodpecker Pre-school'. I am sure this will be the same for others too.

Nothing else has changed though! Despite being small in numbers we are still keeping happy and busy and adapting our routines to match our uniqueness. It was only the other day when one of the little charges said 'I don't like the holidays – I like pre-school'. What a compliment!

At the beginning of last term **Triston, Vivien** and **Clio** joined us on a Thursday. All three are very young, and only attend one session at the moment, but so far all is great as every Thursday they all come in with smiles and excitement, feeling happy and secure in our environment. This is another great compliment.

We have enjoyed many activities, some are one-offs like celebrating occasions like Rosh Hashanah, Diwali, Harvest Festival, and some are more topical such as finding out about autumn. We have taken two trips out, about four weeks apart and have taken a photograph of 'our' tree (as it is the 'chosen one') and

the changes to it are remarkable – really proving what autumn is about. We are going to photograph this tree throughout the whole year so we can really watch the changes through the seasons. Also on a weekly basis we sing songs, practice counting, looking at numbers, letters and sounds, carry out experiments, exercise to music, read LOTS of books, and wonder about everything and anything.

Two final requests, one I have made before but I just want you to keep it in mind, if you have a skill or are in a profession that you think you could share with the children, please, please get in touch? It is great for the children to learn about people outside their immediate circle, and to learn more about what goes on in the 'wider' world. The other is if you get offered a raffle ticket – please buy one. There are some fantastic prizes and you will be helping us to continually refresh and create activities that support the children's play and their learning and development.

We all hope you have a lovely Christmas and a very happy 2015

Lesley Dore

Our opening hours are 8.45am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday, and we are situated at Finstock School, School Road, Finstock. For further information, or to organise a visit, please, contact Lesley Dore 0796 4817 165 or email woodpecker.pre@outlook.com. (Please look on the 'OFSTED' website for details of our excellent recent report or telephone Lesley and ask for a copy).

ChOC

Friday December 5th ChOC live in association with Good Night Out, presents The Chamber Music Company performing the work of three composers, Mozart, Beethoven and Jadasohn. Tickets £10, Students and U16s £6, on sale at Charlbury Post Office now. www.chocfilms.info

Sunday December 14th Our pre-Christmas screening is one for the whole family to enjoy and sing along to together. ***The Lion King*** will be shown during the afternoon and there will be free popcorn for children.

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Winter cheer in the garden

Winter can be a spectacular soul lifting time in the garden, highlighting a range of evergreen plants and giving a new perspective on many others, once the foliage has gone. Shrubs and trees with interesting shapes and textured barks, the silver birches, golden and purple barked willows, red barked Acers glowing in the winter sunshine, the red and yellow Dogwoods, reflected in water in parks. Old seed heads take on a sparkle with a coat of frost, or the round shaped conifers with a topping of snow can look like king-size Christmas puddings.

There are a large range of dwarf slow growing forms of conifer, which come in lots of interesting shapes with a range of foliage in various hues of blue, yellow and green which can provide a structural backdrop, giving colour all year. Some even change their foliage colour, such as *Cryptomeria japonica* from dark green to bronze in the winter months.

The flamboyant orange, red or yellow tassels of flowering witch hazels

(*Hamamelis*) are star performers with the variegated evergreen shrubs, such as *Eunonymus* and *Hedera* (ivy) in silver and gold forms and *Osmanthus heterophyllus* "goshiki" with gold flecked, holly like leaves, tinged with bronze. Then there are the glossy leaves of the red and yellow berried hollies, coming in various forms, the hedgehog holly with the surfaces of leaves covered with prickles (*Ilex aquafolium* "Ferox"), the weeping holly (*Ilex Argentea Pendula*) and golden leaved holly (*Ilex altaclerensis*).

Some early flowering snowdrops are in flower in December, such as the snowdrop "Three ships", named after the carol "I saw three ships come sailing by on Christmas Day in the morning". Hardy flowering **Cyclamen coum** have flowers resembling small boat propellers, which range in colour, from the deepest carmine to the purest white, but all have a magenta blotch at the base. They appear on 2-inch tall stems in late December or early January, and continue well into March. The kidney-shaped or rounded leaves appear in autumn, then die down in

summer. *Cyclamen coum* is found growing in the mountains of Turkey, the Caucasus and northern Iran, and varies widely in the wild, usually with dark green round leaves but some have a variety of lovely marbled ones, good silver-leaved strains include 'Pewter Group' (pewter leaves), 'Maurice Dryden' (silver leaves, white flower) and 'Nyman's Group' (silver leaves with a dark-green border and deep-crimson flower).

Robert Bigwood

Fromage to Eternity

Ramsden Fridays' Cheese and Wine Evening with Juliet Harbutt (www.cheeseweb.com) at Ramsden Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on December 12th; booking by December 8th. Tickets: include four wines, ten cheeses, and other lovely grub. £20 per person from Holly Deans Tel: 868645 email: deans.ramsden@btinternet.com. There will be a bar available for residents to purchase alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. There may even be a quiz.

Santa on the Run - Festive Fun Run for a good Claus!

Sunday December 14th Starting and finishing on Catte Street, Oxford City Centre, 9am start. A two mile festive family fun run with a FREE Santa suit! Sign up online at www.helenanddouglas.org.uk or Tel: 01865 799150 Email: santa@helenanddouglas.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS

at Hilltop Garden Centre



SANTA'S REINDEER
Saturday 29th November - Tuesday 23rd December
Come and see Santa's Reindeer before they leave for their magical journey around the world! **FREE**

SANTA'S GROTTO
Every weekend from 6th December, 11am-3pm,
PLUS 22nd, 23rd, 11am-3pm & 24th December, 11am-1pm
Bring along your wish list and see Santa in his grotto.
Each child will receive a sticker set. **FREE**

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Hilltop
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*All information correct at time of going to print. Children must be supervised by an adult. Whilst the Grotto is FREE, donations to our two chosen charities are gratefully received. We cannot accept bookings for the Grotto. *Prices start from £2.50 for Seasons Card Members, join for FREE in-store. **Visit our website to see our Christmas Lunch Menu.

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