

Finstock News 92

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

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The front elevation of our new Village Hall shows the bright new face of village life.



CONTRACT AWARDED TO BUILD VILLAGE HALL

Steve Peters, local builder, was awarded a JCT contract to build our new Finstock Village Hall. Demolition is scheduled to begin on June 1st.

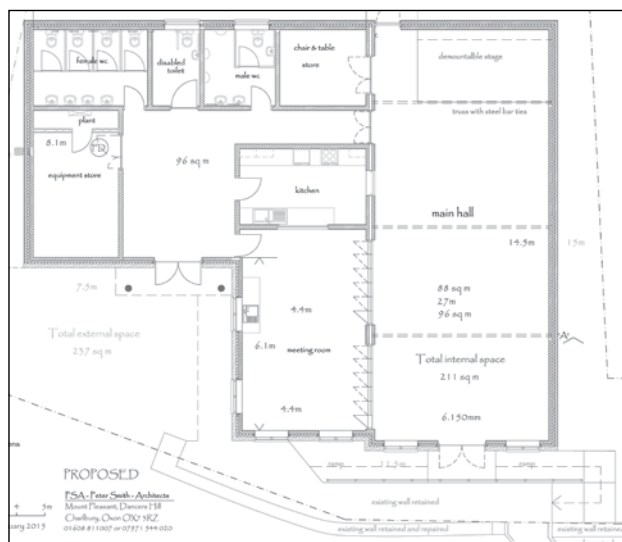
Work to build the new hall should be completed by spring 2016. Steve has indicated that he intends to use all local sub-contractors and at present his plans include: Craig and David Pratley (demolition and groundwork), Chris Smith (plumbing), Howse and O'Reilly (Electricians), Coombe Roofing, Justin Guy (plastering) and Nathan Randall (decorating).

Parish Council vice-chair Mike

Woodfield said, "We were impressed with the detailed tender and understanding of our proposals submitted by Steve Peters. We look forward to working with him over the coming months to deliver an excellent community facility of which we can all be proud".

Steve Peters said, "I am delighted at the Parish Council awarding me the tender and showing faith in Luke and myself, and the other local sub-contractors. We are all committed to producing a high-quality building that will benefit Finstock and nearby villages for generations to come".

Current funding report and further details: see p.3.



Finstock Festival

Friday June 19th 7pm-1am; Saturday June 20th 2pm-1am

Come one, come all and enjoy our annual Finstock Festival, which supports village groups.

On the Friday we have some up-and-coming bands and the ever popular Karen on the Disco. If anyone has any spare time to help with erecting tents, etc., we start on Wednesday the 17th in the evening and all day on Thursday the 18th and Friday the 19th. We will also need help for the big clean up and pull down on Sunday the 21st. Any help will be much appreciated.

Saturday afternoon will showcase Rare Breed Animals, a Football Game and family games. We also have a magician and balloon artist, fun fair roundabout, bouncy castle, maypole and dog show, as well as our famous Finstock Bake Off. There will be strawberries and cream, a barbecue on Friday and Saturday evening, a kebab van on Saturday afternoon, and a bar.

We have booked the ten-strong band Standard and the Wood Green School Big Band for Saturday night.

Please join us by attending the Festival. You cannot beat Live Music!

Colin Stringfellow Chairman



The Great Finstock Bake Off

is back for its third year at the Finstock Festival on Saturday June 20th. The competition is open to everyone with Sweet and Savoury categories for adults and children. All child entries will receive commendation certificates and a prize. Entry forms available at the Village Shop now. *This year, the Great Finstock Bakeoff is raising money for Finstock School and for Finstock Shop.*



VILLAGE EVENTS



June

- 7th** Open gardens in Charlbury
- 13th** Ramsden Fête
- 14th** Bridewell Organic Gardens
- 19th** Finstock Festival
- 20th**
- 27th** Charlbury Beer Festival Saturday

July

- 4th** FoFS Summer Fête
- 10th** Second Anniversary of Guy & Jordan at The Plough
- 10th** Cornbury Music Festival
- 12th** at Great Tew
- 17th** End of term at Finstock School
- 19th** Bridewell Organic Gardens open

August

- 6th - 9th** Wilderness Festival
- 28th - 30th** Big Feastival

September

- 12th** Finstock Beer Festival

Ramsden Fête and Companion Dog Show

Saturday June 13th

1pm-4pm (Dog Show entries 12.30 on field). Entrance adults £1, children 50p.

'Car Park' field north of Old Hall. Raising funds for Ramsden Memorial Hall and St James Church.

The traditional English Village Fête with Companion Dog Show. Attractions include Spitfire fly-past, mini-steam traction engines, Owl Rescue, mini-big wheel, tug o' war, egg throwing contest and water splash! Free parking on site with disabled parking right next to the Fête. Dog Show entries 12.30 on field. Contact telephone: 868764.

ChOC films

www.chocfilms.org

The Theory of Everything – Sunday June 14th Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne stars as Stephen Hawking.

Paddington – Sunday July 12th – The Family Matinée

Paddington, the talking bear from Peru, arrives in London searching for a new home. A prize for the 'best dressed' teddy-bear will be awarded (this doesn't have to be a bear dressed like Paddington).

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!

I'd like to thank the women of Finstock for their support for the Against Breast Cancer Bra Amnesty scheme. The donations I sent provoked a toast to the women of West Oxfordshire! Please, ladies, keep tossing out those old bras; any type, be they lacy, grey, big or small – anything helps the appeal.

Nicola Morgan

Toddler Group

Our final group in the Village Hall was one to remember, with a huge party for past and present attendees, full of fun and games; a great send off! Now that the Village Hall is no longer in use, Finstock Toddler Group has decided to take it outdoors for the summer months, meeting at local parks, playgrounds etc. If you would like to join us, call Caroline Stevenson on 868430 to find out more details.

Bridewell Organic Gardens – Open Afternoons

The Walled Garden and Vineyard at Wilcote (OX7 3EB) will be open on Sunday June 14th and on Sunday July 19th from 2pm to 5pm. Admission £3, children free.

Refreshments, plants, Bridewell produce, products and our own organic wine will be for sale. For further information please call 01993-864530 or www.bridewellorganicgardens.co.uk.

Gardening for Better Health
reg. charity 1158456

June 7th Open Farm Sunday

10am-4pm including Ramsden Rare Breeds at Hilltop Garden Centre
farmsunday.org

A YouTube video 'Blue Light Aware' encourages us to be alert and considerate when ambulances or other emergency vehicles are on the road. See it at tinyurl.com/p4fxah7.

First Responders

Summer seems to have started nice and early this year. Hopefully the good weather will continue. As many of you will be aware, your South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trusts Community First Responder Team remains active in the local area. We respond to life-threatening 999 emergency calls. We are sent by the Ambulance Service as an additional resource.

If you are not aware of the service we hope that the support of the local volunteer team means that help reaches those unfortunately in need of our services as soon as possible. As an example the chance of surviving a cardiac arrest decrease 14% per minute before defibrillation occurs, meaning that every minute counts. The local presence and those few minutes can make a difference.

As usual we continue to ask for any unwanted new or used printer cartridges and mobile phones which we can recycle and add to our fundraising. Collection boxes are available in many locations including the village school, village shop and Charlbury doctor's surgery. If you would like more information regarding Community Responding, visit www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk/.

Sara Anscombe

150th anniversary of Alice in Wonderland

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FINSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

The building contract awarded by the Parish Council followed a tender process and enables the group managing the hall redevelopment to deliver building work a full two months ahead of schedule. You are able to follow near real-time progress on the Village Hall Facebook page at www.facebook.com/finstockvillagehall. Please note that you do not need to be registered with Facebook to read the updates.

Shaun Morley, chair of the Village Hall trustees said, "We are excited at the prospect of a new village hall being built that is welcoming to users. Our efforts are now on ensuring it is fully equipped for use on opening day".

We will need continued financial support from the Parish Council and the community of Finstock through to the Beer Festival on September 12th to finish the £35,000 event fundraising required. The new building has been funded by Finstock Parish Council, community donations and fundraising, and many grants, most notable from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited), with funds donated by FCC Environment to the Landfill Communities Fund and WODC's Community Facilities grant.

We have received an award of £5,000 from the Cotswold Conservation Board (CCB) towards a solar water heating panel, SMART heating and lighting controls, benches and picnic tables for Well Hill, and other associated work. We



The village hall contract awarded
have also received £1,000 from the Doris Field Trust towards the general rebuilding; the second grant in two years.

We have begun applying for grants to furnish and equip the hall under the project name **Realise the Potential of Finstock Village Hall**. Our first grant award from Cotsway Wellcommunity fund was for the £2,272 requested. This will fund the final kitchen white goods, internal and external notice boards, and additional small and larger tables. Many thanks to CCB, Doris Field and Cotsway.

The list of desirable items for the hall

The Plough Inn Finstock



A very warm welcome awaits you at The Plough!

Guy and Jordan Wallis invite you to celebrate their Second Anniversary on Saturday July 10th, with plenty of treats for the whole family including free Prosecco and canapés until they run out. Come and join us 7pm till closing!

We would like to thank all of the children who joined us for lunch. We loved the many hand-written 'Thank You' notes; many with lovely drawings.

Don't forget Tuesday's two for the price of one Fish & Chips! The first Monday of every month is a Quiz night, raising funds for Finstock Village Hall.

Watch the signs out front for our continuing celebration of food from around the world.

Guy

was arrived at by consulting the users and others amounts to over £22,000. Many Finstockians are assisting in this, and special mention must go to Noah Derrington for his enthusiasm and advice, to musical performers Braham Levy, Dave Menday and Kath Lucas, as well as many other supporters who provide their professional guidance.

The Steve Knightly event saw a packed hall of 120; film and TV star Toby Jones gave us an entertaining evening for free in an equally filled Village Hall; and Nick and Judith Hooper organised the Irish music and poetry night. These events raised over £1,420 between them!


Remember to purchase your village walkway engraved brick (we shall be at Finstock Festival) and please continue to use the Rag Bag recycling for all your clothes, shoes and usable textile recycling. The bin will be relocated to Well Hill opposite the Village Hall next to the hedge and telegraph pole, north of the bower until the hall is complete. It will then return to its previous location. This is a significant fundraising initiative for the Village Hall, run by the Brownies, and brings in about £500-600 per annum in funds.

Shaun Morley

The Domino Night in April raised £142 for the village hall! Dave and Barry Floyd won the doubles and Sheena Dale won the singles match.

*There's music in the sighing of a reed;
There's music in the gushing of a rill;
There's music in all things, if men had ears;
Their earth is but an echo of the spheres.*

Byron, Don Juan XV



— Finstock —

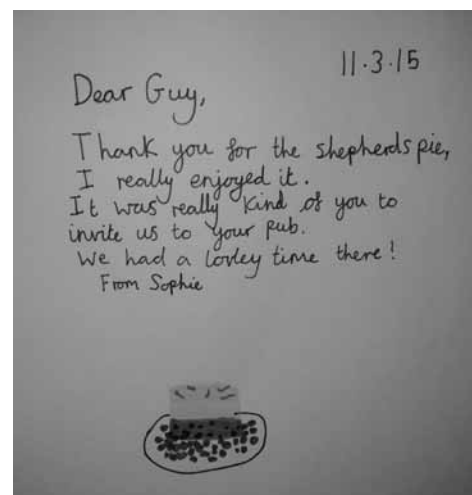
Our Bar is open:

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

Our kitchen is open:

Tues – Sat
Lunch: 12 noon – 2.30pm
Dinner: 6.00pm – 9.00pm
Sunday Lunch: 12 noon – 4pm

Come & visit us, we'd love to see you.
01993 868333
www.theplough-inn.co.uk



Dog Mess

It has been brought to my attention that dog mess has been seen on the Playing Field adjacent to the school. If you walk a dog to school you will need to come via School Road or through the old allotment field (the farmed field behind the adventure playground) and down the lane at the side of Pre-School.

Sue Dawe
Headteacher

The Parish Council adds: We would urge any dog owners to clean up after their dog and everyone to challenge those that do not. The Playing Field (including the children's play area and hard court used by the school) is owned by the Parish Council in trust as an area for sport and recreation.

This issue will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on Monday June 22nd, and we have approached Woof! as part of the consultation on the approach we should take. Should dogs be permitted on the Playing Field? And should permission be given for dogs to be walked through the children's play area? Woof! are co-ordinating community responses, or please let your views be known to any of the Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Andy Compton	868271	Member
Sean Connolly	868561	Member
Nicky Higgins	868425	Proofing
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Barbara Wells	868776	Distribution
John Wells	868776	Advertising

Photographs thanks to staff members and others.

Read the Finstock News online at sites.google.com/site/finstocknewsonline; join the Finstock Yahoo group – groups.yahoo.com/group/finstock; or write to us at 63 High Street, Finstock Oxon OX7 3DA.

– www.finstock.org.uk

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.

MEETING THE QUEEN

On March 18th two Finstock ladies were invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace and both were presented to the Queen and Prince Philip. The occasion was to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Winston Churchill. Before his death he had agreed to the concept of travelling Fellowships and public money was donated in his memory to set up the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Each year upwards of 100 grants have been awarded. Out of over 5000 fellows to date, just three hundred were selected for this very special occasion.

Shane Winsor's Fellowship took her to the Karokoram Mountains of Pakistan to support an international team of researchers studying natural hazards such as earthquakes and landslides. She now runs the Expedition Advisory Council at

the Royal Geographical Society, helping 500+ teams a year.

Rosemary Wise's Fellowship in the Seychelles made her aware of the endangered status of the 80 endemic plants. She returned to the islands 12 times, found and painted all these rarities and her book, *A Fragile Eden*, was published in 1998. Rosemary has just celebrated 50 years as the botanical illustrator for Oxford University (and has no plans to retire!)

The reception was a wonderful evening, also attended by the Duke of Gloucester and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.

Rosemary

Supporters of the Three Villages Shop

At the beginning of the year our shop was in very imminent danger of closure; now, as a result of your wonderful support, the shop is doing well. Obviously we cannot sit on our laurels, as the shop will only ever be kept up by the amount of money going through both the shop and the post office tills; so we urge you to keep your support going and spread the word.

Essentially this is a huge thank you for the way so many of you rallied to the aid of the shop, whether by helping with maintenance, websites, Facebook, by volunteering in the shop or by coming in to buy just that one extra item.

Both I and the volunteers look forward to serving you as best we can for a long time to come!

Thank you

Karen Williams

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Remembrance Sunday organizer needed

This note is to inform the village that I, Frank Schofield, will no longer be responsible for planning and supervising the service at our War Memorial Remembrance Sunday this year or in any future year.

I am prepared to supervise the Poppy Collection for this year only, unless a volunteer comes forward.

I would wish to thank all the helpers who have given their time over the years on both occasions. *Thank you so much.*

At 88, I need a rest.

Frank Schofield

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www.eynshamhall.com events@eynshamhall.com

SMALL ADS

(All numbers start with 01993 unless otherwise stated)

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Email oxon@barkingmad.uk.com
www.barkingmad.uk.com

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

Please contact John Wells on 868776. We will no longer be accepting inserts for the newsletter.

Finstock Dog Lovers Wanted!

Barking Mad is an alternative to dog kennels and offers home-from-home care for dogs.

We would like to hear from anyone in the Finstock area who might be interested in looking after dogs for short holidays. You may be retired or semi-retired and have a little more spare time. You may work during term time but would like to look after dogs during holidays. If you'd like to get a bit more exercise and enjoy the increased social interaction that you will get while looking after a dog, please let us know.

01865-922004

oxon@barkingmad.uk.com

Uncontested Election for Finstock

There were only six candidates for the six Parish Council posts. In alphabetical order the new Parish Councillors are: Hywel Davies, Shaun Morley, Julie Stringfellow, Graham Sutton, Roy Townsend and Mike Woodfield.



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BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

"Wine writers generally have a collective mindset of never having met a wine they didn't like".

Robert Parker Junior

It is an uncomfortable but irrefutable fact that nearly all wine publicity, including promotions, advertising, newspaper articles etc. are funded by winemakers themselves. This has provoked intemperate individuals like former wine writer Malcolm Gluck (author, 'The Great Wine Swindle') to claim that the world of wine is populated by 'liars, scroungers and cheats'. Gluck also used to be an advertising copywriter so certain allowances have to be made, but his point about winemakers paying for publicity is a valid one. Wine writers are the natural prey of winemakers. They all go on the same trips, tastings and dinners and are given plentiful free samples in the hope that they will write something favourable. You can see what Robert Parker was talking about.

However while subsidies by winemakers to promote sales are one thing, subsidies by Government agencies are quite another. If, like me, you had assumed that the EU would currently be far too preoccupied by bailouts and potential bankruptcies to worry about subsidising wine, think again.

The EU has increased the sum available for promoting wine to €1.15Bn for the period 2014-18. France's share has been drastically cut after one beneficiary presented a bill for €3,405 for 'informative travels for journalists' which turned out to be for three VIP tickets for the French Open Tennis Championships: which is not surprising but shows that some do not take it seriously.

The overall sum is still going to EU winemakers, which might make you pause for thought the next time you see a price cut applied to an EU wine. It rather takes the shine off if they are trying to bribe you with your own money.

Osiris

A day without sunshine is, like, night.

Pedal your bike

In February, I rode 553km in six days across Vietnam and Cambodia in support of Save the Children. It was a fantastic but arduous experience cycling for five to six hours a day in temperatures nearing 40C with high humidity. However, compared to what children around the world have to endure on a daily basis, my hardship was insignificant.

Twenty-three of us took up the challenge and to date we have collectively raised over £103,000. All donations welcome and for ease, my Just Giving page is:-

www.justgiving.com/Steve-Maclennan1

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Oxfordshire Energy Efficiency Knowledge (oxoneek.org.uk)

EEK provides Oxfordshire with energy efficiency knowledge. Here you can expect to find useful information about how to reduce your carbon footprint. You may be interested in the money you will save or you may be interested in reducing your own personal climate impact. Either way you will find here information on:-

- Reducing your energy use and waste at home
- How you could generate renewable energy yourself
- Tips from local people who know about doing this
- Links for further reading
- Case studies from local people who have done it recently

Every home has a different energy profile

Whatever yours is, you are likely to be losing heat through the roof, walls, windows, doors and floor. This site is designed to help you reduce the heat losses you are experiencing and to think about whether you could also generate your own energy and move towards more energy efficient homes. (The Key)

New Internationalist have created an infographic detailing how much energy we generate, how it's used and what we really need.

newint.org/features/2015/03/01/renewable-energy-facts
(The Key, Oxfordshire's sustainability newsletter. ONP)

Help keep our ducks healthy

The Canal and River Trust states that every year over six million loaves of bread are thrown into our canals and rivers by well-intentioned people feeding the ducks. However, this bread is not great for them or their habitats, and so they are asking you to swap the bread for healthy snacks and to exercise some portion control.

Feed ducks: birdseed, grapes, earthworms, mealworms, uncooked oats, rice, chopped lettuce or other green salad leaves. To learn more about feeding ducks or to visit canals and rivers this summer go to canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Compost for the Climate

2015 has been declared the International Year of Soils by the United Nations, making it the perfect time to start composting your food scraps to help rebuild soil health. Healthy soil stores carbon in the ground where it provides multiple benefits for climate stability, food security, and fresh water availability.

In a compost pile, food scraps decompose with the help of air, heat and micro-organisms, eventually becoming healthy soil. Food in landfills, on the other hand, is compacted so tightly that it decomposes without oxygen, creating methane: a greenhouse

gas with 23 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Diverting your food scraps from the landfill to the compost pile is a low-cost, easy and effective way to help the climate. (tinyurl.com/mps8z27)

WODC provides a compost programme through the weekly collection of our food waste at the kerb. However, if you have a garden, you can make your own compost. Visit www.wrap.org.uk/category/materials-and-products/compost

Composting at our school is a great way to teach children about the benefits of healthy soil.

Cotswolds

Greentraveller Guide

Check out the new, free Greentraveller's Guide to the Cotswolds, highlighting great days out and holidays that can be enjoyed in a way that is low impact on the environment while also benefiting livelihoods, landscapes and biodiversity within the AONB. You'll find plenty of tips on eateries that serve local food, heritage gems and inspiration for walking, cycling and other activities. Get planning at www.greentraveller.co.uk/cotswolds-aonb

(Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Spring Update; ONP)

Reducing our Food-print

Did you know that by the time it gets to your plate, your Sunday lunch could have clocked up over 6500 miles across several continents? Environmental learning charity Earth Trust is encouraging everyone to eat locally in 2015 – one day a week. Earth Trust has a series of videos on its blog, 'Our Footprint', containing advice and information on shopping locally, eating seasonally, and even growing your own. Visit www.earthtrust.org.uk/OurFootprint. On Twitter (@earth_trust) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/EarthTrustUK). (Wild Oxfordshire)

Hubble Space

Telescope turned 25

NASA's space telescope, Hubble, costing \$1.5 billion in 1990 and weighing eleven tonnes, has produced some of the most stunning pictures: over one million, and revealed thousands of galaxies. Take a few minutes to look at these pictures: hubblesite.org/gallery

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SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE SHOP AND POST OFFICE!

Summer is here and your village shop can supply a lot of the things you need to enjoy the good weather and the time off that you may be planning.

We can supply barbecue food, like sausages, burgers and chops, mixed salads, salad leaves and ingredients, part-baked rolls, cold drinks, beer and a good selection of reasonably priced wine. Strawberries and ice-cream as well! Buy from us whether you are having a family meal or a party with friends.

We always have delicious things from local suppliers, such as mustards, jams, marmalades, chutneys, cakes, bread and ham.

There is a good selection of daily and weekly newspapers and magazines and, of course we stock all the basic grocery and household requirements.

Don't forget that you can still join the 100 Club, which pays valuable prizes every month and provides important financial support to the Shop. Come into the shop to find out the details and get your application form.

Many people are very generous with their contributions to the Food Bank for which we are very grateful. Please continue to help.

Look out for Ramsden Fête on June 13th and Finstock Festival on June 20th.

Our volunteer Julia Noble will be running a stall for the Shop at both events.

Please note that we have new opening hours on Wednesday: 8am to 6:30pm.

You can do many things at the Finstock Post Office:-

- mail your letters and packages
- pay the majority of your utility bills
- access your bank account for a cash withdrawal
- foreign exchange

The Post office is open 9-1pm Monday to Friday.

Karen Williams and all the Volunteers

A party of well wishers gathered

at the shop in the last Saturday in March to bid Mo a fond farewell and grateful thanks for all the hard work she has put into the shop in the last six or seven years.

Mo has always been a very happy and

smiling face in the shop and an agony aunt for many folk. She will be greatly missed. We all wish her well in her new job.

Finstock's loss is Charlbury's gain!

Well done Mo. **Thank you for everything.**

From all the Directors of the TVSA

Shop opening hours:-
Weekdays 8-5.30 (6.30 Wednesday)
Saturdays 8-1
Sundays 9-11.30
SHOP TELEPHONE NUMBER -
ORDERS TAKEN: 869096

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Email: wendy@wychwoodgrooming.co.uk
Website: www.wychwoodgrooming.co.uk

Open Monday - Saturday by appointment only. Please contact us to book an appointment.

Wendy Heather
Rock Glen, The Bungalow
Leafield Road, Finstock
Oxfordshire, OX7 3DB

County Councillor Reports

Implications from the General Election

Honours

Oxfordshire's Chief Fire Officer and the person responsible for managing the Olympic Torch route through the County was named in the Queen's New Year's Honours list. David Etheridge, who joined Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service 28 years ago, has been made an OBE while County Network Co-ordinator Katherine Powley has been awarded the MBE.

Bus Services

Service X10 (Pelham's Coaches: Wychwood - Burford shuttle)

Service continues, but final evening peak journey from Burford withdrawn along with single lunchtime round trip. There are still some services that are under review.

Implications from the General Election

In the run up to the General Election David Cameron made it very plain that deficit reduction would be the main promise made to the country. Most people will know that defence, health and education will be well protected from the cuts, but to save extra billions that are being talked about will leave a heavy burden for local government, especially for those Councils responsible for Adult Services and Child Protection.

Currently we spend 50% of our annual £600million revenue budget on Adult and Child Care and, it is interesting to note that this is spent on only 2% of the Oxfordshire population. It is projected that by 2020 75% of our budget will be spent in this area.

We will be attempting to streamline and improve such things as Children's Centres, but it is fair to say that such things as supported transport, highways maintenance, external grants and other such items will be left to carry the brunt of the cuts we will need to make at County Hall.

Cllr Rodney Rose

Who were the Wards of Wards Lane?

Answers on a postcard please.

Could they have been:-

The Two Wards;
The Four Wards; or
The Home Wards?

FINSTOCK PRE-SCHOOL

We had a surprise visitor on the second day of term 5: an OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) inspector! All was good, we did not quite reach the heady heights of outstanding – but our inspector was very complimentary about our setting, staff and environment and understood the constraints of being small in numbers. She said we should feel very proud of ourselves; and we are. Since July 2004 to date we have had five inspections, all of them 'good' and most of the inspectors saying that we are so close to being outstanding. We are consistent; yes it would be great to have tipped the scales; but as we all know settings and schools that reach 'outstanding' can fall to satisfactory or inadequate a few years down the line. There are merits in consistently being good.

On to every day 'business' now. We are enjoying the Spring weather, and seeing everything come into bud and flower, even the occasional butterfly. We have enjoyed walks in the laying fields exploring as well as finding a slope to roll down! We have learnt a few new songs – one from Jamaica about dumplings, a Scottish one called Three Crows and a fun one about Five Enormous Dinosaurs that roar very LOUDLY. Obviously these are just a few of the many activities that we have enjoyed, all fun, but also full

When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, and then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.

of learning opportunities, new words and numbers to learn, new concepts, gaining new skills. Also helping them to gain independence and the confidence to wonder and want to learn; this means allowing them the time to practise and the confidence to get things wrong and to keep on trying. It's not always easy being a child ... think how frustrated we can get when we can't achieve new skills or succeed with the tasks we set ourselves; and we have a greater understanding about the patience and perseverance sometimes required to master new skills!

We have had a new starter, **Joshua**, who we hope will have a great time over the coming years.

Also this term we have had the pleasure of a student from Abingdon and Witney College, she has been a thoughtful helper and a happy addition. On her second day with us we had our OFSTED inspection and she was not fazed at all and was a great help, the inspector was very impressed with her attitude. Thank you Mimi, we enjoyed your visit and good luck with all your future plans!

Lesley Dore

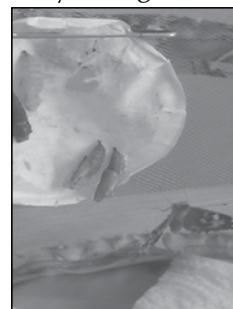
For further information please contact Lesley Dore 07964-817165 or email woodpecker.pre@outlook.com.



Rainbows and Brownies

Finstock Brownies – We have two Brownies groups in Finstock which meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm until 7.30pm. At present there are places in both the groups.

During the last term we have been busy doing various challenge badges



including the Butterfly Challenge. We purchased a butterfly home kit and have been excited watching the progress from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly

and once they have all transformed we very much look forward to releasing them.

Recently we celebrated Earth Day with a litter picking adventure both in Hailey and Finstock which the girls enjoyed and did very well with the idea of looking after our community.



We are also pleased to say that **Finstock Rainbows and Brownies** will be meeting in the school hall for our weekly sessions from the beginning of June, which means we are very happy to be staying in the village.

This term we have more badges and challenges and also are hoping to be out and about as much as possible doing activities like climbing and swimming etc.

Any questions or queries regarding Brownies, please do not hesitate to contact Caroline Booth – 07890-629001 or email carolinebooth4@gmail.com.

There's nothing common about sense.

CPRE AGM

The West Oxfordshire District Committee of the Campaign to Protect Rural England will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday July 18th at 2.30pm in Bampton Village Hall. All members are welcome. We also welcome non-members and representatives of Parish Councils who are concerned about the countryside. For more information please contact CPRE Oxfordshire: 01491-612079 or email administrator@cprexon.org.uk.

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FINSTOCK SCHOOL

Spring and summer are always really exciting times at School. The early sunshine has meant that the children are able to make the most of our outside areas and playtimes can be spent on the school field. The flowers within the school ground have started to bloom, and everything looks much brighter. We have started working on our allotment, with all children helping to plant seeds in preparation for planting out. Over the next few months you may well see small groups working down at the allotment with our army of helpers.

One of our priorities for Finstock School this year has been the development of an awareness of ecological practices. We have been awarded the Bronze Eco-schools award, and are working towards our Silver. Part of this has, of course, been the development of the allotment, but we also had a great week learning about 'Recycling, Reusing and Reducing' waste. During 'Waste Week' children carried out a number of activities to support this, including: weighing how much food was wasted at lunchtime, recycling their waste to make items of clothing and useful objects such as bags, and using junk to create characters from books. We even fed it into World Book Day, when children dressed up as their favourite book character – with one item of their costume being recycled.

The support that we get from parents and the local community is one of the things that make Finstock School so special, and I would like to thank everybody

who helped to provide equipment for the allotment, rototilled the soil, constructed the shed and the 'Pirate Galleon'. We value all our volunteers, and were very pleased when one of our volunteers, Rob Symonds, won the 'Unsung Hero' trophy at the West Oxfordshire Sports awards for his hard work supporting reading, hockey and orienteering at school.

I look forward to the summer term with great excitement – we have a large number of events coming up to celebrate the end of the year, many of which are a great opportunity for the school to take part in village events.

Sue Dawe
Headteacher

Term 6 Monday June 1st to Friday July 17th

Term 6 INSET day Monday July 20th
Term 6 school finishes at 2pm.



Unsung Hero Rob Symonds

We are very pleased to announce that after the school nominated Mr. Rob Symonds for an Unsung Hero Sports Award arranged by WODC, he was announced as the winner at an awards evening. Mr. Symonds is very active within the school, coaching hockey and teaching orienteering and mapping skills to our older children, as well as doing reading support. He does all of this voluntarily, and we are very grateful for all the support he gives the school; it really adds to the range of experiences we can offer the children of Finstock School. Many thanks and our congratulations to Rob.

Rob Symonds, a volunteer hockey and orienteering coach at Finstock School. In addition to coaching, Mr. Symonds also supports Year 5 and 6 lessons and has purchased equipment to help the children's development. He was described as an "excellent role model" who had made the children feel like they were part of a "proper team."

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Mark Twain

Friends of Finstock School (FoFS)

I am happy to report that the FoFS chocolate bingo night was a great success. Many families came along and it was eyes down and pens at the ready for one little duck, legs eleven and top of the shop! Plenty of fun was had by all, winners awarded with chocolate prizes

and all children presented chocolate raffle prizes. The only difficulty for little winners was which prize to choose! It was a lovely event which raised £174.24 for Finstock School.

We were sorry that the Ladies Pamper Evening had to be cancelled. Apologies to all those who planned to attend.

Our next planned event is the **Finstock School Summer Fête: save the date, July 4th**. Look out for more information around the village nearer the time. We hope you can come along.

FoFS Social evening is scheduled for July 10th, a great chance for parents and families to socialise and relax at the end of a busy academic year. Hopefully the sun will shine and we will have music, food, drink and lots of fun.

Thanks again to all those who support FoFS in fundraising for our fantastic school and have a great summer.

Rachel Shaw, FoFS Chair

rachelandwarren@warrenshaw.plus.com

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PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS OCTOBER-MARCH 2015

Shaun Morley has been detailing the work and fundraising of the Parish Council in each issue of the Finstock News. Therefore, we would like to mention only a few items in this regard.

Tenders received for this work were £260,335 – £384,766.

Bier Shed sold for £6511, less estate agent fees £513.

The Parish Council (PC) is not empowered to spend money on items such as the road to the Village Hall, which are not in their ownership. However, there will be brash left when the hall redevelopment is started and this could be deposited in the road.

The PC will continue to use the Playing

Field for four days each second weekend in September to hold an Annual Beer Festival and, they will use the Playing Field on one occasion each year in July or August for a Car Boot Sale or other fundraising event to raise money for the Village Hall Charity.

Gadden Well – Registration of Title submitted for approval. Council agrees that only the small area of the well itself to be included.

Adventure playground – various works need to be undertaken to maintain a safe playing area.

Footbridge at end of Dark Lane has been repaired.

Pumping Station Dark Lane – County has jetted the drains and put a mini-digger down. They spread excavated soil over the path. The Parish Council working with the District Councillor have pursued this matter every month.

Website domain renewal – Sue Starling has complete control of the village website. Transfer of domain name finstock.org.uk is now complete.

Fast broadband is available in some areas of the village.

Parking off Wards Lane – the triangle grass at the top of Wards Lane is classed as roadside verge and therefore is the responsibility of OCC. Without enforcement lines being placed on the road, people can park there.

Finstock School – The Parish Council is instructing our Solicitor to proceed with the Lease with the OCC at this time. The possibility of Finstock school becoming an Academy is being considered.

TVSA – No money had been allocated for TVSA in the precept. It was agreed that this be considered a priority clause when the next precept was discussed. The Clerk presented the accounts and it was agreed that things are improving for the shop thanks to a number of donations and increased sales.

Police report – only three crimes including criminal damage, stealing of cable and a catalytic converter. A question was asked about the compound, which will be set up when work on the Village Hall is under construction. It was stated that this needs to be securely stored with metal container. Police will pay attention when visiting the village.

Planning applications - Wilcote House alterations to include new doorway and terrace to rear of dwelling and internal reconfiguration of rooms – granted conditionally by WODC 26/9/14.

Mr. C. O'Connell, 79 High Street for single storey front extension incorporating a garage and rear first floor extension. No objections.

Mr. and Mrs. Liam Braeger, 37 High Street – single storey infill side extension. Minor alteration and conversion of garage. Repositioning of existing front door. No objection.

CHARLBURY POST OFFICE THREAT OF CLOSURE

Finstock has a new Lib Dem District Councillor, Andy Graham, who joins Liz Leffman. Liz and Andy will be working together on behalf of everyone in Charlbury, Finstock and Fawler, and the first thing that they will be doing is campaigning to save the Sub-Post Office in Charlbury, which has recently been threatened with being moved to different premises and the service downgraded. If this happens it will be bad news for all of us in this area, as although Finstock has its own Post Office, the hours are limited, and many people use the Charlbury facility. At the District Council meeting on April 29th, Liz asked the Council to back the town's bid to prevent our Post Office

from being compulsorily downgraded. The District Council unanimously agreed to write to the next Post Office Minister, asking for a review of the Post Office's strategy for rural communities, and to write to the Post Office asking them to reconsider their decision to move and downgrade the service. It is vitally important that we protect our rural Post Offices; the alternative is a 10 mile round trip to Witney, which is not only costly, but also puts more traffic on our roads, which no-one wants.

Liz Leffman

Liz.leffman@westoxon.gov.uk

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FINSTOCK NEWS EXPANDS TO SOCIAL NETWORKING

Finstock News Extra is a new group on Facebook which gives the Newsletter greater scope in sharing all the breaking news as it happens in the village. Due to restricted space in the printed edition some articles don't make it and can become outdated if we wait for a suitable space.

This Group will address this problem and publish them online for members to see and read. In addition to regular village news we now have greater scope for publishing photographs and videos. Unfortunately no advertising will be accepted on this page.

You can also find three other groups on Facebook that should meet all your requirements to keep up to date with what is going on in the Village:-

Finstock Village: Everyday news and gossip, help and information for members to chat and share their daily experiences from parking to fund raising and general airing of grievances to thank you.

Finstock Memories: As it says, join and share all that has happened in Finstock in its rich History. Photos and stories from Nativity plays from the past to old fetes and general memories of things past and present. Build your love for the village based on its stories and then talk and listen to the Local History Society to enhance your interest.

Finstock Village Hall: As it says, news and updates on the village hall with Events and News on its progress and

development. How we can all make the village hall the centre piece of this Village and build a strong community.

Give them a try: you can always leave if you don't enjoy them, however I think you will.
Andy Compton

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

A new exhibition this August, ***Above The Dreaming Spires – Oxfordshire's Great War Aviation Story*** will chronicle the impact of the first air war on individuals and families across the county from airfields and depots at Bicester, Milton, Port Meadow, Upper Heyford, Weston-on-the-Green and Witney, to ground training at Henley and at Christchurch and Merton Colleges.

The Museum would like to hear from members of the public who have a personal or family connection with early military aviation or who have stories, documents and photographs about military aviation in Oxfordshire that they would be willing to share. Please contact Ursula Corcoran at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum by Tel: 810212 or email: airpowerteam@sofo.org.uk.

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Wychwood Forest Fair

From Morris dancers to ferret racing and bee-keeping to basket-making – join us for a day of celebrating all things rural at the 16th annual Wychwood Forest Fair.

The Wychwood Forest Fair, one of West Oxfordshire's leading Green Country Shows, takes place this year at Lodge Farm, Ditchley Estate (off the B4437) on Sunday September 6th. Set in a beautiful countryside location, at the heart of the ancient Wychwood Forest area, the Fair is a great family day out offering a wide range of entertainment, rural craft demonstrations, music, food and much, much more.

All proceeds from this event go towards our on-going work of "Restoring Landscapes, Inspiring People" in the Wychwood area.

All the Fun of a Rural Fair

Big Band Be-Bop Bash

Featuring Blake's Heaven Big Band
Saturday June 27th 7.30-11.30pm

At Meadow View Park – home of Thame Football, Thame

Tickets £19.50, Includes Be-Bop barbecue and licensed bar, from www.sofo.org.uk/shop.php and Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock; tel: 810213.

Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane


Witney OX28 3LA Tel: 772602

June: Experimental Felt Making; Stick Day; Introduction to Spoon carving Workshop; Growing Food in Small Spaces; Freestyle Machine Embroidery; Dry Stone Walling; Practical Photography for Improvers; Alteration and Upcycling Clothes. **Wednesday July 15th:** Growing and Cooking with Lavender; Henry IV Part I and II combined.

How Much Fossil Fuel Has Been Used In Your Lifetime?

The Guardian have produced a handy tool to demonstrate the amount of oil, coal and gas being taken out of the ground at all times.

www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2015/apr/10/how-much-fossil-fuel-are-we-using-right-now (The Key, 23rd April 2015)



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SUMMERTIME

The sun and warmer days of summer brings a kaleidoscope of colour. The herbaceous border first appeared in the formal gardens of Nuneham Courtenay in the 18th century when William Mason developed the idea of arranging plants in rows with the biggest at the back and in descending height towards the front. The backdrop in my herbaceous border is the blue gorgeous majestic velvety delphiniums. In front of these, a palette of deep reds and pinks of herbaceous peonies. All are completely hardy and love our alkaline soil, fortified with farmyard manure.



Peonies embody romance and prosperity and are regarded as an omen of good fortune and a happy marriage. The Peony has a distinct history, in China, Japan, Europe and North America. They were known before 1000 BC and very popular in the imperial Gardens of China. As new dynasties began and emperors moved their courts, peonies were also moved, adding to the widespread cultivation of peonies throughout China. At the beginning of the eighth century peonies reached Japan. They were originally cultivated in Europe for their

medicinal value. It was not until much later that peonies began to be grown in Europe, solely for their ornamental qualities. Initially European gardens included only herbaceous species. It was in 1789 that the first tree peony came to Europe. Tree Peonies with exotic foliage, which make lovely flowering plants for the shrub border, covered with golds, red or yellow single flowers, others clothed with enormous double pom-poms of rich red, white orange or pink flowers.

I also love **Hostas**, which I surround with very sharp grit, before the spear-like growths appear, to deter hungry slugs and snails. It is a Genus of some 70 species naturally occurring in China, Korea, Japan and East Russia. Ranging from the sun-baked volcanic cliffs, the rocky stream sides, to the alpine meadows and woodlands. Numerous hybrids have now been raised in the West, providing a vast range with spectacular leaf form, and colour. The textured leaves are of every hue of green, yellow, grey-blue or variegated, followed by spikes of lilac or white flowers, some which have a gorgeous perfume. Sizes range from giant ones to very small, producing a spectacular display in many parts of the garden.

Under the tree canopy, the majestic tree ferns make a spectacular feature complemented by the shuttlecock ferns and the painted ferns with others providing lots of interesting leaf shapes

in various shades of green.

Happy gardening!

Robert Bigwood



Wald-Akelei

Pond workshop – Wednesday July 1st 10am-4pm, Oxford

This Flora Locale pond workshop will demonstrate why ponds are important and how making new ones can have an almost immediate effect on local biodiversity. The workshops will discuss basic pond ecology and construction techniques and show how new ponds can be successfully made and managed; basic do's and don'ts of site selection; construction and planting; guidance on planning; and legal considerations. Fee: £100/ £75. Concessions for employees and volunteers with charities, parish councils, full-time students and the unemployed. tinyurl.com/p5joade

Cornbury Park

This June Cornbury Park is hosting the **Race for Life Pretty Muddy 5k**, a fundraising event for ladies, organised by Cancer Research UK. The Oxfordshire Race for Life takes place at Cornbury on 27th June – more details and registration at raceforlife.org.

Wilderness Festival returns to Cornbury Park from August 6th-9th. Tickets are available online and also from Charlbury Post Office where they can be bought without paying the online booking fees. More details at www.wildernessfestival.com.

Looking ahead, on September 13th the Finstock 10k takes place at Cornbury, in aid of Finstock Primary School.

Several allotments on Wards Lane are still available. Anyone interested should contact Tony Crowther on 868834.

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

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