




# Finstock News 75

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This issue of the *Finstock News* includes your very own **Ready Reference**, which will give you details of all those people and organisations that you will want to contact in the coming year. Once again we have a Letter to the Editor addressing dog fouling. *If you own a dog – you own their waste.*

## Four Villages Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Thanks to all the villagers who came together at Finstock Playing Fields on Sunday June 3rd to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The children started the event with a party and painted some wonderful Jubilee themed tiles. We have some budding artists amongst our children! It was lovely to see so many people join together for the community picnic despite the rain falling heavily. Having the time to sit and enjoy the company of good friends and neighbours in our busy lives made the picnic very special. We were wonderfully entertained by Mike Breakell playing his accordion. Ais Connolly started the evening entertainment with a great set and the band *Free for All* had us all dancing until midnight – starting with the National Anthem and ending with the National Anthem! Due to excellent bar sales, we were able to cover the costs of the event, and we have a small sum left over to contribute towards the children's commemorative mugs (more details below). A special thank you to the small number of villagers who made this event happen. The day took a lot of work to plan, set up, run, and then dismantle; without your help and assistance we wouldn't have had such a successful day.



Ags entertains at Jubilee



## Commemorative mugs

Local businesses and the Parish Council have kindly donated money so that each child of primary school age or under can receive a commemorative mug to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The mugs were handed out to Finstock School and the Woodpecker Pre-school children in July. If you have a child aged 11 or under who doesn't attend Finstock Primary or Woodpeckers, please contact Julie Stringfellow on 868215 to receive your mug. Spare mugs will be available to buy on a first come first served basis for £4 each. Please contact Julie Stringfellow on the number above or Karen Williams, the Post Mistress at the Village Shop.

Julie and Colin Stringfellow

## SOS FINSTOCK POST OFFICE

The shop was told some time ago that the only way we can keep our precious Post Office in Finstock is if we take over the management of it. The directors have agreed to this, and we will be employing Karen Williams to run it. Unfortunately, at a meeting last week, we were informed of the amount the Post Office will pay by way of salary for Karen, and it turned out that it is a great deal less than they were paying Joyce. In fact it is too little for Karen to agree to accept and does in fact amount to less than the minimum wage. The directors are taking this up with the Post Office, but we fear there may not be much room for manoeuvre.

In this situation the directors have agreed that we will try to keep our Post Office going for a year to see whether it is viable, and we will top up Karen's salary to an acceptable figure from our other takings.

We exist to serve the three villages of Ramsden, Wilcote and Finstock, and we will do our best to keep the Post Office, which we know is much valued. In these times of austerity the Shop profit column has been affected, therefore we rely on people to buy in the shop and use the Post Office as much as possible so that we can afford this additional expense. Please help us to do this by buying locally at our Village Shop!

Jenifer Wates



# VILLAGE EVENTS



## The Village of Finstock joins Twitter

You can now find us on Twitter: follow us @finstockvillage for the latest local and international news. Mention us in your tweets and we will spread the word. Thank you Andy!

Brad Rowles

## Finstock WI

In June, we planned our own little Jubilee garden party; unfortunately, it rained! So rather than a garden party, we had our celebration in the Village Hall and had a very enjoyable afternoon. **August 14th** We are having a talk by a jeweller, Michael Lynes from Witney on *Collectables: Jewellery and Silver*; always an interesting subject.

**September 11th** Very topically, we are having a talk about *The Titanic* by David Graham. If anyone is interested in coming, perhaps they would like to contact Kitty or Barbara (numbers below).

Meetings take place in the Finstock Village Hall at 7.30pm. For more information, contact Barbara Wells on 868776 or Kitty Turner on 868752.

## North Leigh History Group

**September 4th: The Origin of the Tudors.** This is a talk by Tim Porter at 7.30pm in the North Leigh Memorial Hall. Visitors £2, Members free. All welcome. Contact Diana Power 882301 for further details.

## Ramsden Royal British Legion (RBL)

Recent meetings of the Royal British Legion have noted that all branches report an increase in the monies raised from the 2011 Poppy Appeal, although a reduction in members. Branch Members are vital to the work of the branches and two notable members of the Ramsden RBL are **Edwin Millen**, who has organised the Poppy collection for 25 years and **Randolph Willoughby**, who made 39 welfare visits to the JR Hospital in 2011. We thank everybody who purchased a raffle ticket at the Ramsden Fete, which contributed to a sum of £93 being raised. For further information or about how to join the Royal British Legion (and you need not have been a member of the armed forces) please contact Steve MacLennan Steve MacLennan, Vice Chair and Secretary Ramsden RBL Tel: 868477 or [ramsdnRBL@gmail.com](mailto:ramsdnRBL@gmail.com).

## Finstock Community First Responder Team

The Team is run by volunteers who have been trained by the ambulance service to attend certain types of 999 calls in our community. We hope you won't need us, but we are here to help the local community when needed. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you feel you would be able to provide your time and support to someone in need, please get in contact to discuss what we do in more detail.

We also collect any old mobile phones or unwanted (new or used) printer cartridges to recycle and raise funds for the charity. These can be dropped into the village shop or please contact me ([saraanscombe@btopenworld.com](mailto:saraanscombe@btopenworld.com)) and I will collect them.

Sara Anscombe

## Scarecrow competition and Garage Sale

Would you be interested in taking part in a garage sale on October 6th? We could combine it with a scarecrow competition for the children. This would be a fundraiser for local causes, with a £5 registration and no charge for the scarecrow competition, but there would be a prize for the best scarecrow. Please let me know by phone (868710) or email [carol846@btinternet.com](mailto:carol846@btinternet.com).

We will have a **2013 Finstock calendar** for sale this year to raise funds for the community. Next year we will be asking for your help to fill the twelve monthly pictures. Stay tuned for more details. Thanks for your support.

Carol Hughes

## Witney Police Station, Welch Way opening hours

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday-Saturday: 9.00-17.00  
Sunday: Closed.

**The Plough is now closing Saturday afternoons** between 3 and 6pm. Follow the Plough on Twitter @PloughFinstock.



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## NEWS FROM THE CORNBURY PARK TEAM

*Cornbury Estate has been asked by the Editor to include more estate management news in updates from now on.*

**There has been some concern** about the new fencing along the Leafield Road. This fencing was put in place to help prevent accidents caused by deer running across the road. The Estate also had the roadside scrub cleared back and the verges regressed. It will be putting in suitable shrub trees once the grass is fully established – a similar roadside exercise was carried out on the forest road near Ranger's Lodge. This initiative was fully supported by the local authorities. Unfortunately, the fencing contractor misaligned the new fence, so all parties met in July to agree the correct alignment.

As a further safety initiative, the Estate has installed a new gate at Patch Riding. This was put in place in response to local concerns about dangerous driving in the forest. So the new gate prevents vehicle access into the forest, whilst still allowing pedestrian access.

**Cornbury Estate has always been very enthusiastic about green energy initiatives**, with strong support from the local communities in Charlbury and Finstock over the past five years, as they have investigated how to use the Estate to harness sustainable energy. Following a year-long study, during which a 100ft tall turbine was used

to gather data, research has revealed that there is no viability for wind or hydro electric turbines. The Estate did however go forward on planning for solar panels which would have been placed discreetly on land within the forest. It was estimated that the panels would have generated 30% of electricity used locally. To the Estate's great disappointment and to the dismay of local sustainable energy groups, the application was turned down by the District Council because of a report by Natural England which suggested that the local Lacewing population might be adversely affected by such panels. Natural England felt that the Lacewings might become confused and could lay their eggs on the panels, possibly mistaking them for water. This convinced one councillor that the scheme should not go ahead, so the application was rejected.

**Gardeners** will be interested to hear that several of the allotments on Wards Lane have become available. The Estate has offered one of these to Finstock Primary School, but there are still some available. Anyone interested should contact Tony Crowther on 868834.

**Finstock Primary** will once again be joining forces with Charlbury Primary to run a tea and cake tent at Wilderness Festival August 10th-12th. This proved to be a huge fundraiser for both schools last year. Discounted Wilderness tickets for locals are available from

Charlbury Post Office.

Then on **September 16th, ROSY** (Respite Nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters), one of the local charities supported by Cornbury, will be holding a Stately Car Boot Sale here in Cornbury Park. Anyone wishing to enquire about a pitch should contact Lady Rotherwick on [tr@cpark.co.uk](mailto:tr@cpark.co.uk). Again both Finstock and Charlbury schools will be running a fundraising refreshment stall. And there will be a **10k run on September 30th** in aid of Finstock Primary School - for further details email [finstockfunrun@googlemail.com](mailto:finstockfunrun@googlemail.com).

Finally, **a gentle reminder:** whilst you are welcome to walk along the permissive footpaths and use the summertime cycle route, do be aware of wildlife hazards such as bees, snakes and deer at all times. Please stick to the paths and keep well away from the river and the grazing stock for your safety and theirs. Follow us on Twitter [@CornburyPark](https://twitter.com/CornburyPark) and Facebook [com/CornburyPark](https://www.facebook.com/CornburyPark), or get in touch by emailing us at: [estate@cpark.co.uk](mailto:estate@cpark.co.uk) or phoning 01608-811276. [www.cornburypark.co.uk](http://www.cornburypark.co.uk).

### Giveacar

Through the social enterprise company Giveacar, you can get your unwanted car sold on or scrapped, whilst donating a proportion of the profits to BBOWT. In the past year we have raised over £1,500 from supporters' recycled cars. For more information about any of our recycling opportunities, including mobile phones, ink cartridges, stamps, coins and postcards, please contact Sarah at [partnerships@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:partnerships@bbowt.org.uk).

**A Free Home Security Survey** for all residents in West Oxfordshire is available. The local crime reduction adviser visits your property and makes suggestions where improvements can be made to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of a crime. To request your free survey, telephone Bill Butcher on 861638 or email: [bill.butcher@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:bill.butcher@westoxon.gov.uk).



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## DISTRICT VIEWS

A very wet Jubilee day failed to dampen or douse Finstock folk who enjoyed a terrific party which proved that adversity does bring out the best in us. Congratulations to all who made it happen. It was a very fitting tribute to Her Majesty who like us, seems immune to the worst excesses of our weather.

Recently, the media has been full of scary stories about the new planning policies. I have attended a number of training sessions on these new policies and can reassure everyone that the stories were indeed just 'scares'. There will be no concreting over of our countryside. Areas of Outstanding Beauty will be protected as they were before.

**The Localism Act** encourages communities like Finstock to decide what they want for themselves and to this end, the Parish Council are planning to carry out a very comprehensive

survey of all who live in Finstock to assemble views on what we want for our village. This will be circulated after the summer holidays. Do participate, as all views and opinions will be valued.

There was a consultation on the future development of **Greystones** (the replacement for **Dean Pit**) in July. If you have any comments, please feel free to contact me. This project, under the control of your District Council, progresses well and I am optimistic that the outcome will be very favourable. I will write more on this in the next issue.

Many of you will know John Owen Edwards who has been very ill recently, but I am delighted to say he has made excellent progress and is now in the Witney Hospital for convalescence.

Finally, I would like to say a word of congratulation for the team who work so assiduously to produce the Finstock News. It is an excellent magazine that informs and entertains.

*I hope the sun comes out soon.*

Hywel Davies, District Councillor  
868004  
[Hywel.davies7@btinternet.com](mailto:Hywel.davies7@btinternet.com)

### Scrap metal thefts continue

If you see anyone driving down your street looking for scrap metal please try and get the vehicle registration number and the person's description and telephone the police immediately.

## Dear Editor:

**To some of those inconsiderate dog owners** who walk their dogs up and down Church Rise, would you pick up your dog's mess! There are a lot of children and older people living in Church Rise, and we all know that dog faeces is one of the nastiest things to step in, besides being dangerous to health. Stop and think. Pick up your dog's faeces!

Pam Judd

NB Dog fouling notes from the WODC website: Dog faeces carry many germs that can cause illness and in extreme cases could result in blindness. It is both offensive to smell and to look at, and is extremely unpleasant to step in. Dog fouling is when a person permits a dog in their charge to foul in a public place and fails to clean it away immediately after. A public place means land to which the public has access within built-up areas of the District, which includes roads, gutters, footpaths, verges, pedestrian areas, parks, school playing fields, sports grounds and cemeteries etc. Ideally, dogs should be trained from an early age to go at home in their own garden before or after a walk, rather than during. You can report dog fouling online at:-

[www.westoxon.gov.uk/  
furtherinfo/online-services.  
cfm?frmServiceformID=279](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/furtherinfo/online-services.cfm?frmServiceformID=279)

*I used to be a banker, but  
then I lost interest.*

### THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Andy Compton	868271	Member
Sean Connolly	868561	Member
Nicky Higgins	868425	Proofing
Tony Hirtenstein	868600	Layout
Joy Murphy	868575	Editor

Barbara Pensom	868774	Member
Barbara Wells	868776	Distribution
John Wells	868776	Advertising

Photographs thanks to staff members and others.

Read the Finstock News online; visit the village website at [sites.google.com/site/finstocknews](http://sites.google.com/site/finstocknews); join the Finstock Yahoo group – [groups.yahoo.com/group/finstock](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/finstock); or write to us at 63 High Street, Finstock Oxon OX7 3DA.

– [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finstock](http://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.

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## SMALL ADS

(All numbers start with 01993 unless otherwise stated)

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Tel: 880166; Mob - 07791241905

### **OFSTED Registered Childminder available in Finstock**

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### **Looking for Childcare?**

**Call Finstock Childminder,**  
Call Caroline Stevenson on 868430

**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.**

## CAKES AND ALE

The talk in the pub was of house prices. 'The agent said you pay for the postcode round here', said a regular, his Yorkshire vowels resonating oddly around the West Oxfordshire inn.

This made me think: how best to buy wine for celebrations in times of austerity? As Sir Toby Belch says in Twelfth Night "Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?"

Somehow I think there will always be cakes and ale.

When seeking to reduce spending I think it is better to look for a genuine alternative rather than trying to buy the same product more cheaply, which almost never ends well. I think we all know that the cheaper Champagnes can be awful, but beware also Cava. One example on special offer at Tesco recently was described by a respected wine writer as 'revolting'. Unless you know what you are getting it is very risky. Cava has an alarmingly short shelf life.

This brings me to Prosecco. Prosecco is the name of both the grape and the wine. Unlike Champagne, it will not improve with age and should be drunk in its first flush of youth while its light florality is at its best. It is crisp and refreshing with an aroma of pears, peaches and hazelnut. It typically has a lively mousse with bubbles that dissolve in the mouth with impression of peach, apple and almond. The really good thing is that it is inexpensive and it is difficult to find a bad one. Look for wine from Veneto – that is where the best comes from.

It might be just the thing to cheer up the (I hope) long hot days of August without feeling that you are 'paying for the postcode'.  
Osiris

### **Saving electricity in the office!**

By making sure you switch off computers and other office equipment you can save your business or school hundreds of pounds per year and also reduce your carbon footprint!

Make sure computers and monitors are switched off at the wall when not in use. Switch off the monitor when it is not being used for 10 minutes – screen savers don't save energy!

**Fact:** Each computer (with flat screen monitor) that is left on standby overnight and at weekends wastes £20 a year. That's £200 and 860kg of CO<sub>2</sub> – for every 10 Computers left switched on!

**Photocopiers:** If you leave your photocopier is on at night and at weekends, this is costing you £42 per year and emits around 184kg of CO<sub>2</sub> (per photocopier).

**Printers:** Only print when really necessary to save energy as well as paper; switching off a laser printer overnight and at weekends instead of leaving it on standby will save you £21 a year and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 91kg.

Ben Bowyer  
Greyfusion

[ben@greyfusion.co.uk](mailto:ben@greyfusion.co.uk)

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# COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION

*What pensive beauty autumn shows.*

*William Wordsworth*

Thermal imaging surveys are a free scheme available to help residents find out where heat is escaping from their home, get advice on how to make improvements and save money on energy bills. Using a thermal imaging camera, a trained volunteer can survey your home and capture images to show where energy is being wasted. Surveys will be carried out between October and March, when you are using your heating. You will receive a report with recommendations advising on cost-effective ways to prevent or reduce heat loss, such as draught-proofing and insulation. Visit WODC website for further information: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/thermalimaging.cfm](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/thermalimaging.cfm).

## Grants to keep homes warm this winter

WODC is offering a grant for residents who struggle to keep their homes warm through the winter. The grant is specifically for households that are claiming benefits, people who are over 60 or those with a disability, that are finding it financially difficult to carry out essential repairs to keep their homes warm.

The work is carried out by the Council's Home Improvement Agency Small Repair Service, who can also help you with a range of property repairs. The Council can also offer Flexible Home Improvement Loans

for essential home repairs. Terms and conditions apply, so to find out if you are eligible, contact the Home Improvement Agency on 861000, or visit us online at: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/HIA](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/HIA).

## The British Trust for Ornithology

BTO supports our wild birds through monitoring programmes that tag and count birds throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their Garden BirdWatch scheme gathers information on the number and type of birds appearing in individual gardens throughout the year. You can support BTO's work at no extra cost to yourself. *Give as You Live* works with many of the major online stores – Amazon, Tesco, John Lewis – to give a percentage of your purchase to the BTO. There are two ways to use *Give as You Live*. Either click through their website prior to making a purchase, or install their free app. The app is now also available for Google Chrome users. To find out more or to sign up: [www.giveasyoulive.com/join/bto](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/bto).

Bird ID videos are available at [www.bto.org/bird-id](http://www.bto.org/bird-id).

## A new app to help combat the spread of three problem plants

Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Floating Pennywort are

three particularly problematic Invasive, Non-Native Species that are spreading quickly across the Midlands region.

Using a smartphone app called **PlantTracker** we would like anyone who is out and about to record where these plants are so that we can more accurately assess the situation. These invasive plants cost the British economy a minimum of £1.7 billion per annum. The **PlantTracker** app is available free from the iTunes App Store and Google Play Store by searching for **planttracker** (one word), or from the website [planttracker.naturelocator.org/](http://planttracker.naturelocator.org/) shows how to identify each species and enables users to easily submit geo-located photos whenever they find one. [ONCF Bulletin]

Oxford has become the **electric vehicle capital of Europe** with a new network comprising an initial 64 charging points across the city and surrounding area and one of the highest densities of EV charging points anywhere in the continent. More at [tinyurl.com/77qfhwpx](http://tinyurl.com/77qfhwpx)

[ONCF Bulletin]

WODC is providing new bright pink WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) banks, which allow people to recycle small electrical items including anything with electrical or electronic parts from hair straighteners to shavers, and toys to toasters. The closest WEEE Banks are at: Edington Square, Witney; Sainsbury's, Witney; Woodford Way, Witney; and Hensington Rd, Woodstock. Larger items that do not fit in the chute of the banks should be taken to a household waste and recycling centre (tip). Alternatively, for a small charge, you can order a bulky household waste collection through the District Council by calling 861025 or visiting: [www.westoxon.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/bulkywaste).

## Nice kitty, kitty – not!

One of our deadliest garden predators is the domestic cat. The simplest way to stop predation by cats is to lock your cat inside at night. (BBOWT)



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## NEWS FROM FINSTOCK POST OFFICE

Well here we are into our British Summer which obviously means plenty of rain! As a result many people are jetting off to sunnier climates. Did you know Finstock Post Office can cater for all your currency needs? The rates are comparable to high street outlets and you can order your currency to be delivered to Finstock Post Office the next day.

With the exception of certain banks we also operate a banking facility enabling you to withdraw cash from your account and deposit cash and cheques into both personal and business accounts. This is all in addition to your normal

Royal Mail and Parcel Force postage requirements.

I would like to say on a personal note how welcome everybody has made me feel on my appointment into the Post Office after Joyce's retirement. Everyone has been very supportive and Joyce can still be seen with us regularly! Come on down and see if there is anything we can help you with.

Karen Williams



**Kay with shop bag in Taos**

### Three Villages Shop at Finstock

Hi everyone:

We had another good month at the shop. Your support is much appreciated!

We now stock Woodland's Farm Live yoghurt. They contain no additives, nor GM products, nor artificial colouring. We have information for you to read and they are local! We do try to stock and support local goods.

We had a very successful wine tasting at the end of June with the Oxford Wine Company. The Special offer of Finca del Rey is red, white and rosé - three bottles for £15.

Please come by and look around our lovely shop and we are sure you will find things to your liking.

Karen is doing a wonderful job in the Post Office. We hope you will support Karen just as you did Joyce. We are having a retirement party for Joyce in the Village Hall on August 11th. Please bring a bottle! All welcome. Thank you again to all our volunteers for their continued support and help.

Mo and Sue

#### Shop opening hours:-

Weekdays 8-6

Saturdays 8-1

Sundays 9-11.30.

SHOP TELEPHONE NUMBER -

ORDERS TAKEN: 869096

### Take the local food challenge

Join CPRE's 30:30 local food challenge and support your local food web: for 30 days, source 30% of your food that is produced within 30 miles of where you live. And because every £1 you spend on local food generates £2.50 for the local economy, by taking our 30:30 challenge you'll be doing your bit for your local area.

**Cultivate VegVan** is a mobile greengrocery, bringing local food into the heart of Oxfordshire's communities! Check out [www.cultivateoxford.org/](http://www.cultivateoxford.org/) to find out if Cultivate will be coming to a neighbourhood near you. And if we're not yet, and you want us to, let us know. Your doorstep, workplace, church or school could be added to the routes in the near future. If you're interested in getting involved with Cultivate, a local food co-operative, come down on a volunteer day, or get in touch with us.

ONCF bulletin

**CPRE reports that from field to fork** the value of England's local food webs shows that local food is a recipe for economic success. We found that: across England local food outlets serve an estimated 16.3 million customers a week; local food sales through independent outlets are worth £2.7 billion a year to the economy; these food outlets support over 100,000 jobs (full time and part time).

## **CROCKFORD BUILDERS**

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# WOODPECKER PRE-SCHOOL

Last term we were pleased to welcome two more children into our group, **Ethan** and **Jimmy**. We now have 17 children on our register!



During the last term we have used lots of strategies to support the transition of our older children into Oak Class where they will be in the afternoon from September. These strategies comprise weekly class visits and joining the older children for lunch in the school hall. The move from pre-school to BIG school for our children is a gentle transition that builds up over the first two terms of each school year. For a more detailed description please read Finstock C of E School's website for their admissions policy ([www.finstock.oxon.sch.uk/policies.php](http://www.finstock.oxon.sch.uk/policies.php)).

We have also enjoyed our Sports Day, which all children participated in with great enthusiasm, both for racing and for cheering their peers on. I was very proud of them. We have also had our trip out to Cogges Farm Museum which was a lovely day out for the children and for

the accompanying adults, too.

We are continuing to investigate extending our hours. If you think that you might be interested in this please complete our online survey found at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZQGS8HB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZQGS8HB). However, we have agreed to extend our provision to award places to 'Rising 3s'. This means that children can join us from the beginning of the term before their third birthday. We have had

to restrict this to only having four 'Rising 3s' a term and for two sessions only per week. We already have a 'Rising 3' child, with two more starting in September, which is already proving that there is a need for this provision. If anyone else is interested please give me a ring (my details are below).

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 on 868280 or email on [lesley.dore@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lesley.dore@tiscali.co.uk). (Please look on the 'OFSTED' website for details of our excellent recent report or telephone Lesley and ask for a copy).

Lesley Dore

## Friends of Finstock School (FoFS)

The **Wilderness Festival** is fast approaching and so the request for cakes is now in full force!

As it is our second Wilderness Festival running the tea and cake tent in collaboration with Charlbury School, we are hoping to be more prepared and aim to have sufficient supplies without having to ask for baking to be done on the actual weekend!

Baking can start at any time; we ask for the cakes to be unfilled and undecorated, as they will be frozen ready to be thawed and finished off at the Festival. We need approximately 400 cakes, 400 scones and 120 breakfast muffins. This is a tall order but a great way of raising a substantial amount of funds for the two schools.

If you are willing to help us by baking one or more cakes, or if you would like more information, please contact Karen Williams on 868904; email: [phoenixlights@hotmail.com](mailto:phoenixlights@hotmail.com) or you can find me in the Post Office on Mon-Fri mornings!

Here's looking towards a successful Festival enabling us to raise funds to enhance our children's educational experience. FoFS

## Greystones Recycling Centre

Since Dean Pit was closed, I've been told by a great many local residents what a nuisance it is to have to drive all the way to Stanton Harcourt to dispose of items that cannot be put into one or other of our weekly bin collections WODC has recognised the inconvenience and has now put forward proposals for a new recycling centre at Greystones, just outside Chipping Norton on the A361. Local resident had a chance to see what was proposed and have their say during a consultations earlier this year. The next stage will be a planning application, and if that is approved, then I am told work will start on the new site very soon. With luck, we will have a new recycling centre open later this year.

Liz Leffman, District Councillor

*Why is abbreviated  
such a long word?*

### Water saving tips from Thames Water

1. Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth and save six litres a minute
2. Order free water saving devices at [www.thameswater.co.uk/waterwisely](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/waterwisely)
3. Shower in under four minutes (if you can)
4. Have a water meter fitted
5. Don't worry if the lawn turns brown – it will recover when it rains again
6. Install a water butt in your garden
7. Only run the dishwasher and washing machine on a full load – this uses less water
8. Fix leaking toilets – on average a leaky loo wastes 2,800 litres a week

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# WEST OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY UPDATE

The Local Development Framework Core Strategy is being reconsidered following developments relating to the proposed Cogges Link Road scheme and the reduced service personnel housing requirements at Carterton.

Publication has now been deferred to allow the implications of these developments to be fully explored. As the Department of Transport supported the decision of planning inspectors not

to approve the necessary compulsory purchase orders needed for the Cogges Link Road scheme to go ahead, we have to find alternative ways of relieving traffic congestion in Witney.

Consultation will now be taking place towards the end of the year.

Further information on the preparation of the Core Strategy to date is available on the Council's website [www.westoxon.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/corestrategy).

## Girlguiding - Finstock Rainbows and Brownies - girls in the lead

**Finstock Rainbows** – We now have places to offer any girls that are between the ages of 5-7 and would like to be part of our team. We meet at Finstock Village Hall on Wednesdays from 4.45-5.45pm.

The Rainbows have been busy doing various activities, challenges and badges: these include the **Rainbow 25th birthday badge** and **Rainbow Roundabout work**, including their own Olympic style sports night. Our last meeting for the term will end with a BBQ at Wilcote. Good news also is that Kimmy Owl (Kim Lovelock) has finally agreed to do her Leadership Qualification and officially go into uniform.

**Finstock Brownies** – Both our Monday group and Wednesday group are doing well with numbers.

We have great pleasure in adding to

our Leadership team with Nicky Blackall who now joins the Monday Brownies as a Leader in Training. This is great news as with myself being a leader involved in our three local groups, as well as District Commissioner and now newly appointed Division Commissioner, and also being heavily involved as part of the County team, this means I can now feel happy with the Leadership Team we have in place covering me for the various nights I have to attend other meetings.

The Brownies this last term have been doing their **Water Challenge Badge**, **Agility Badge** and now working towards their **Discovering Faith Badge**. We will be ending this term with a walk to Wilcote Church and then our last evening will be a BBQ at Wilcote. For the new term we will continue discovering the various different faiths and also work towards some more badges and challenges.

In September we have a **District Badge Day** organised where the girls could earn up to 18 badges in one day.

We have a fun-packed programme for both Rainbows and Brownies and if anybody is interested in joining our groups, please do not hesitate to contact either Amy Booth on 824190 or Caroline Booth on 07890-629001.

Leadership Team – Monday Brownies: Caroline Booth, Karen Williams, Bridget Myatt and Nicky Blackall; Weds Brownies: Caroline Booth, Amy Booth, Dawn Collicutt & Kim Lovelock, Rainbows: Amy Booth, Caroline Booth, Kim Lovelock & Dawn Collicutt.

Caroline Booth

## County Councillor Report

The failure of the Cogges Link Road means a rethink for our plans. Other road schemes will have to be developed to meet traffic needs in Witney. (Please see above article.)

The Queen's Jubilee was celebrated in various ways throughout West Oxfordshire. Variations on a theme would just about cover it! I went to two community events, both of which were attended by the Prime Minister – pure coincidence as I was there as the District Councillor for those areas.

Your County Council is responsible for education, highways, libraries and museums, Social Services, Trading Standards and so much more. If you need help with any problems under my control please feel free to contact me. I am here to help.

Neil Owen, County Councillor

## CHOC Films

**Sunday August 19th *The Woman in Black*** (2012) cert 12

A supernatural drama starring Daniel Radcliffe.

**Sunday September 9th *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*** (2012) cert 12

Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt and Kristin Scott Thomas in a quirky feelgood comedy.

At the Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Doors and bar open 6.45, film begins at 7.30. Tickets £5 (12-15, £3). See [www.chocfilms.info](http://www.chocfilms.info).



## 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.

Our membership packages are designed with flexibility in mind for our members. There is not a requirement to commit towards a long term contract.

We are open between the hours of 6:30am to 9:30pm, during the week and from 7:30am to 7:30pm at the weekend.

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(figure based on full dual membership)

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Another 'doesn't time fly' statement from me at the end of another academic year! I read recently that time appears to go more quickly when one is doing routine tasks, but if you step out of the ordinary, perhaps jump out of aeroplanes, take a new route to work etc., time will slow down as one becomes aware and fully in the moment. I believe that that research does not fit with life in school, where

### Malvern Challenge, a great scouting experience

Each year we enter a team or two in the Malvern Challenge, a weekend of entertainment with a 7 mile activity hike on the Saturday morning. With over 2000 scouts (this year 2700) and 600 teams the chance of winning is made all the more difficult with explorer scouts also included, so the ages range from 10½ to 16, a massive gap in ability. We were pleased with our finishing positions 51st, 98th, 163rd and 316th. The results are a bit of a mystery as the highest placed team completed fewer activities and the last placed team the most. It's all irrelevant anyway when the scouts have such a

## THE WHITE HORSE

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Angela or John on 01993 891063

## FINSTOCK SCHOOL

one day is completely different from every other, and the unexpected is expected, however, perhaps that is a routine?

It will be sad to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. They are a special group of children: high flyers, philosophical, caring and polite, with a great sense of humour. **Jenni, Verity, Ryan, Sam and Joshua** - go well and God bless you.

We also say good bye to **Erin Kennedy** and **Rhiannon Lee** who have made a difference to Finstock School and wish them well in their new placements. Two new teachers have been appointed: **Debbie Cheshire** for Oak Class (Foundation, Year 1 and 2), and **Sally Layer** for Year 5 and 6.

We enjoyed celebrating our Queen's Jubilee, picnicking with many families

great time.

As with scouting, the event relies on volunteer helpers so the leaders need to do different jobs ranging from serving breakfast (cooked by the Royal Marines) to manning stations and checkpoints. I usually help on the abseil but this year decided to run a crafting stall on the Sunday morning. Contrary to many suggestions, it had absolutely nothing do with avoiding taking the tents down!

I was running a beading stall, making key rings and bracelets: not the most manly of things to do but I have to say a lot of boys came to the stall on the basis a man was there doing it as well. But apart from the hit on the street cred, I have to say I had the best time ever, having the chance to talk to lots of scouts from different parts of the UK and varying backgrounds.

It wasn't the daughter of the head of a Home Office department or the Barnardo's Boy from Usk south Wales that brightened my day the most, but a group from Chelmsford whose Patrol leader just chatted and chatted for half an hour about everything and nothing; and her finest line was when she explained how he loved her dad so much but he was a Buddhist which meant she couldn't squash ants! Simple things.

Andy Compton

and neighbours. It was an amiable squash in the school hall as the children delivered their learning about the Royal Family, ending with that great British tradition of the Maypole.

The photo is of the **Fabulous Burger Boys, Paul Hodkinson and Ian Holyfield**, in recognition of all of the community who work behind the scenes for our school. Thank you.

Our Anglican inspection is a highlight of the year. "Christian values are lived out in the school's daily life and each child is seen as unique. Their needs and strengths are outstandingly well met. As a result, the children feel safe and happy, and make good progress."

Our vision for next year is Becoming an outstanding learner.

Jean Roden, Head Teacher

### The new Charlbury railway station 83 space car park

on the old allotment site should be complete shortly. Did you miss the new Tornado steam train as it passed through our area? This was Britain's first mainline steam locomotive, No 60163, which was completed four years ago. It is a recreation of a 1940s A1 Class Pacific express engine.



The Tornado

**First Great Western will extend a key afternoon commuter service** from Oxford to Worcestershire from September 17th. The Thames Turbo 5.32pm from Oxford to Great Malvern, which is the only westbound train to call at the halts at Combe, Finstock and Ascott-under-Wychwood on a weekday, will start from London Paddington at 4.12pm. The train will offer 100 more seats.

*Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.*

## WYCHWOOD FOREST FAIR

West Oxfordshire's Green Country Show, the 13th Annual Forest Fair, will be held on Sunday September 2nd on the Wychwood Project's land at Foxburrow Wood, Crawley Road, Witney, from 11am to 5pm, entry £6, under 16's free. Book the date now.

Over 160 stands promoting local products and services, local suppliers of food and drink, and entertainers. It is all the "Fun of a Rural Fair". This is a great Family Day Out with Morris Dancers, Chain Saw Carver, Storyteller, Aunt Sally, Ferret Racing, Coconut Shy, Model Boat Racing, Hatwells Fun Fair, Southdown Farm animals, and

other Children's Games. There will be plenty of food and drink available including Rico's Pizza Shack and John Kench's Barbecue, as well as a Vegetarian option, local Ice Cream, and the Wychwood Tea Tent and Bar supplied by Wychwood Brewery. The Witney Town Band or the ever popular Wychwood Jazz Band will be entertaining you as you wander around the site.

All the profit from the event will go towards the work of the Project of "Restoring Landscapes, Inspiring People". Further details: [michael.drew@totalise.co.uk](mailto:michael.drew@totalise.co.uk) or 702624.

### Oxfordshire Museum puts hats and shoes under the microscope

Unusual stories about Oxfordshire's past will be unveiled via a new exhibition that looks at the history of hats and shoes which runs through Sunday September 9th. The show **Head over Heels** at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock explores headwear and footwear through a range of subjects, revealing amongst many other things secretive local traditions and how the items became fashionable. The county council-run Oxfordshire Museum is open 10am-5pm, Tuesday to Saturday and from 2pm to 5pm on Sundays.

#### The Story Museum Summer Events

*Tea with Alice, a world of Wonderland illustration*

The Alice books have been translated into more than 100 languages and interpreted by countless illustrators, artists and designers. This exhibition of contemporary illustrators reveals the new golden age of Alice illustration and how Carroll's famous stories have inspired images across the world.

*Rochester's Extraordinary Story Loom*

The fabulous story of Barnabas Rochester's only surviving story manufacturing machine. Victorian inventor Barnabas Rochester had an interest in stories but little talent for writing them – which is why he is said to have built the Storyloom. But could a machine be any match for a pen, paper

and human imagination when it came to making stories? Is the Storyloom a marvel of Victorian genius or pure humbug? Experiment with the only surviving story manufacturing machine – discovered and reassembled at The Story Museum – and see for yourself.

The exhibition runs until September 16th: see [www.storymuseum.org.uk](http://www.storymuseum.org.uk) for opening times and admission prices or visit us on Twitter and Facebook. The home of the future Story Museum is Rochester House, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford, OX2 1BP. The Story Museum is part of the Happy Museum project, reimagining museums for a changing world.

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**NHS 111:** The new number for the future of non-emergency health services is coming to Oxfordshire. The new three-digit number 111 will make it easier for patients to access local NHS healthcare services. NHS 111 will be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls from landlines and mobiles will be free.

### Emergency Carers Support Service

'Carers Oxfordshire' would like all of Oxfordshire's 60,000 carers to register for this excellent and free service. If you could ensure that all those carers you or your team have contact with are aware of the service it would be an enormous help in achieving our goal. This service provides free emergency care for the person the carer looks after in the event of an emergency. To sign up carers should contact: Carers Oxfordshire telephone: 0845 050 7666 Email: [carersoxfordshire@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:carersoxfordshire@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

**Computers for Rural People** provided by the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC). If you live or work in a rural area ARC can supply a fully functioning computer for as little as £130. This scheme gives YOU a computer at extra-low CHARITY PRICES. There are: Internet ready laptops and desktops with pre-installed Microsoft software; order and pay online, by phone or by post; free delivery (UK mainland); individuals, schools, businesses, and community groups... all qualify!

ARC started Computers for Rural People to provide rural communities, individuals and groups with high quality, fully-refurbished, second-hand computers at a very low cost to encourage people to take the first step in the computing world. This deal is only available through the ARC. For further details:

[www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/communities-and-farming/computers-for-rural-people](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/communities-and-farming/computers-for-rural-people) [ORCC News Bulletin]

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## AN AGELESS GARDENER WRITES...

Most years about this time (late June), keeping the garden at Wilcote at least under control, and ideally quite tidy, seems an overwhelming task. This year, with about ten inches of rain in the last couple of months, I definitely feel the garden is winning. The grass – slow to get going after a very dry March – is now growing luxuriantly and really needs mowing more than once a week. I try to cut the larger areas often enough so that the grass doesn't have to be picked up: partly because it's quicker and partly to allow the mowings to go back into the lawns, helping to maintain their fertility.

One very noticeable feature this summer has been a big increase in the amount of trefoil in the lawns: this is a creeping yellow flowered plant with very small leaves arranged in threes and commonly known as Lady's Slipper, Bacon and Eggs and about seventy other names! With a lot of white flowered clover and plenty of purple self-heal, the lawns have been nearly as colourful as the borders. I usually spray the lawns with a general broad leaf weed killer about this time of year but the weather needs to be dry for 24 hours for this to be effective!

This summer has been as weedy as I can remember (*have I written that before?!*) and, while I am quite happy to hand weed the borders, where willow herb seems to have been particularly rampant, and among the vegetables,

spraying the areas of gravel is really the only option. Round-up works well (better in warm, dry weather) but unfortunately does not actually get rid of the dead weeds so that a certain amount of hand weeding is still necessary.

The edges also need to be trimmed more often and with the long grass in the orchard cut for the first time I can start to tidy and strim around the trees there. So, much as I might like to be dead-heading and tying in the roses, cutting back the early flowering shrubs and filling those annoying gaps in the borders with colourful tender perennials – dahlias, salvias, cosmos, etc., there just isn't the time. But by the time you read this, things will have eased off a bit and the football season will nearly be upon us!

Yesterday we visited Kiftsgate Court near Chipping Campden. In spite of the very heavy rain the whole garden looked wonderful, possibly at its best. There are semi-formal areas of mixed borders with wonderful old roses around the house and, at the bottom of a very steep slope, a wilder area around a lovely sunken semi-circular pool with "immense" views of the Vale of Evesham. In total contrast to its Arts and Crafts origins, the old tennis court was converted fairly recently into a modernist pool with stepping



stones, an island and a very unusual water feature, all enclosed in tall, tiered yew hedges. All that with just two gardeners... although they don't have much grass to cut! Lots of interesting plants to buy but, if you have to have tea-towels and lavender bags, Hidcote is just across the road.



Richard Pollard

### Types of plastics collected in Black Box include:

- Bottles (e.g. milk, drinks, shampoo and washing up bottles, shower gel, bleach and cleaning products)
- Food trays (e.g. ready meals, fruit and take away trays, biscuit trays)
- Tubs (e.g. margarine and ice cream tubs)
- Pots (e.g. yoghurt and plant pots)
- Flyaway plastics (e.g. carrier bags, polythene, small clear food packaging, cling film, bubblewrap and compost bags – NB put these in a plastic bag inside your black box).

All the plastic bottles collected from households are taken to a sorting plant where they are recycled to make everyday items such as garden furniture, fleece clothing and more plastic bottles. 15 million plastic bottles are used in the UK every day. ALL plastic bottles can be recycled but most people only recycle about 50%.

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