

The Folly Tower and Woodland had a very successful 2017

The average number of visitors to the Tower on each open day was over 300, just slightly more than in 2016. Private booking numbers almost doubled. Halloween attracted over 200 visitors - mostly families with small children dressed up for the occasion.

We can only open the Tower if we have sufficient volunteers. Each Open day needs at least 6 volunteers, so over the 14 open days 84 volunteer sessions are needed. It's a very pleasant thing to do for a couple of hours. Visitors are lovely and very interested in the Tower. Please get in touch if you can help.

The Tower is now more than 80 years old and in need of significant repairs. We've started this with refurbishing the 21 windows, and repairs where water ingress has caused damage. We will also be decorating the Lantern and Belvedere Rooms to make them even more attractive venues for private bookings. Further water proofing work will be needed in the next 2 or 3 years. We have launched a Just Giving campaign to help fund this work

The wonderful Christmas light was brighter than ever this year. As always, a huge thank you to Peter White who installed electricity in the Tower in 1999 and has erected a light almost every Christmas since.

Many people, with or without children spend time in the Folly Woodland. Many are regular visitors, and a good number come from outside Faringdon. On any sunny day there will always be family groups, walkers, dog walkers enjoying the woodland and having fun seeking out the sculptures, getting lots of fresh air and exercise (there's a list of sculptures on the Folly website). We estimate there could be between 15,000 and 30,000 visits to the woodland each year.

In September 2017 we were delighted to be listed 5th in the Telegraph's 10 best picnic spots in the UK.

The woodland is looking good too; largely due to a band of volunteers who each have agreed to look after their own patch. They do as much as they wish when they have time. It has made a huge difference. It would be good to have a few more such volunteers.

Most of you will know that the snow and wind in December and January caused significant damage to our trees. Our contractors spent more than 2 days making damaged trees safe and releasing hung branches from high up in the pine trees. This was in addition to the work done by volunteers who collected together broken branches and Simon Cook who chipped them for us. Poor trees. The trees are vulnerable, being exposed and on a hill, and the damage this time was extensive. The total bill was £2800 of which Faringdon Town Council and Faringdon United Charities each gave us £500.

We've planted many shrubs and trees since 2011. Most shrubs - hawthorn, hazel, hornbeam, privet, holly, and yew - have survived though they are taking far longer than I would wish for them to grow to a substantial size. When they do they'll provide mid layer habitat for birds and insects. The trees - Scots pine, beech, oak and field maple - seem to be taking even longer to really thrive and grow. Hopefully, these trees will be well established as and when some of the very old (over 200 years) trees die.

Clearing some areas of the woodland has resulted in the appearance of more interesting plants - campion, foxglove, oxeye daisies and lots I don't know the names of. We've also planted a large number of spring bulbs - aconite, snowdrops, scilla, crocus and more English bluebells. All of these will take a few years to multiply into wonderful swathes of flowers.

You may have wondered where the huge stones came from. They were generously donated by Grundons, of Little Coxwell. They transported them to the Folly for us and a local farmer kindly moved them to their current position.

You will know that there are no waste bins around the Folly. This is because the waste collection service is unable to empty them. We, therefore, rely on visitors to take away their own and their

dogs' waste. There are bins at the start of each path on the Stanford Road. Thank you to those people who help us by picking up rubbish left by other people.

Please do keep to the paths or where it is obvious nothing is growing (mostly the side near to Faringdon) It's distressing to see young shrubs damaged and new plants trampled on.

The Folly Tower and woodland are privately owned by the Faringdon Folly Tower Trust (Charity No. 284795) It is not public land though we do allow permissive access. It does not receive financial support from public funds.

Our dedicated band of loyal volunteers take care of all of the work associated with maintaining the Tower and woodland and provide stewards for Tower open days. If you would like to help out I'm sure we could find something that suits you for the amount of time you have available. Just contact enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

[Please like us on Facebook](#)

enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

April 2018

FARINGDON UNITED CHARITY

**Clerks Office: Bunting & Co Brunel House. Volunteer Way Faringdon
Oxon SN7 7YR
Tel: (01367 243789)**

REPORT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2018

During the last year, this Charity has continued to provide grants to organisations, families and individuals in need within Faringdon, Littleworth and Little Coxwell.

During the year ended 31st March 2018, £8366 was paid out in grants with the largest grant to any one organization or individual being £2000. Organisations helped included Faringdon day Centre, Faringdon schools, Folly Trust, Living Nativity and My Life My Choice.

Where organisations are based outside of the benefit area a grant is given only where Faringdon and district residents are helped.

The Trustees expect that the income receivable from investments and royalties together with rents from the letting of agricultural land will continue to cover all the grants and costs of administration of the Charity in the coming year.

The Chairman of the Trustees is Mr David Keeling and the committee includes three other permanent Trustees.

Other Trustees are the Vicar of All Saints Church, Faringdon and two representatives from the Town Council, Ms J Farmer and Mr A Cane. The parishes of Littleworth and Little Coxwell each have their own representative on the committee.

The charity works in liaison with health care workers, social workers, church workers, local schools, youth organisations and early learning centres as well as other voluntary bodies in the town.

Applications for grants or requests for further information should be made in writing c/o Mrs V J Checkley, Clerk to the Trustees, Bunting & Co, Brunel House Volunteer Way, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7YR. (Email vivienne@buntingaccountants.co.uk)

REGISTERED CHARITY (NUMBER 237040)

2018 Brief Report from Faringdon Fire Station – By Crew Manager Rimmer

Incident to date

Since our last report April 2017, Faringdon have attended 155 Incidents consisting of:
Alarms actuating at Residential and Domestic Properties.

Road Traffic collision

Special service calls i.e. lock in-outs, Animal Rescues,

Primary Fires i.e. House Fires

Secondary Fires i.e.: Bin Fires, Fire in the open.

Chimney Fires

Over the Boarder incidents, assisting crews from Wiltshire.

Several major Incidents that we have helped assist with other emergency services, Police and Ambulance.

In addition to the above we continue to carry out our weekly training sessions as well as whole day annual refreshers on core skills i.e. Breathing Apparatus, Road Traffic Collisions, Working at Height, Water Rescues and other Life critical training.

Station Support

We said goodbye to Watch Manager Alan Mcfadyen, he left Faringdon Fire Station to join the Fire Protection department within the organisation. Our new Station Support officer is Watch Manager Alastair Letchford, he has been working at the fire station since March, this year, continuing the role for Recruitment, Training, Fire Protection and community safety - Safe and well visits as well as being operational. He is available on Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm, If you require any information you can contact him on 07775827260 or alastair.letchford@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Recruiting

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service are recruiting for 'On Call' personnel over the age of 18ys. Currently Faringdon is in a position to recruit new members. We are looking for day, night and weekend cover. Any one that may be interested or know of anyone that would be interested in becoming a Firefighter, please get in contact with us at the Fire Station on: 01367 240134, or you can visit the station on Wednesday's from 19:00-21:00.

The following website will also give you any information you will need to become a firefighter
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighter

Social Media

We are on Face book, if you would like to see what incidents or events we have been involved with then 'like' our page 'Faringdon Fire Station', you will be able to contact us on there too.

Community Responding

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and South Central Ambulance Service are still in partnership, training fire fighters as IEC (Immediate Emergency Care) so we can support and attend cardiac arrest patients.

Update on 365 Alive.

365alive is Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's vision to ensure that we are working every day to save and improve the lives of people across Oxfordshire.

The vision is supported by Road Safety, Trading Standards, Emergency Planning and Gypsy and Travellers Services.

As Oxfordshire thrives we anticipate a significant change in three key areas. There will be more homes, this will support new workplaces and miles travelled will increase in line with this growth.

We have recognised that:

Extra people travelling more miles on our roads mean that we will see an increase in the risk of Road Traffic Collisions.

The growth in the number of home and workplaces built means that we will see an increased risk in the number of domestic and commercial fires.

The expanding and increasingly ageing population means that we will see an increase for an immediate medical response.

What do we want to achieve?

The vision will run for 6 years from 2016 to 2022, in this time we would like to achieve

PREVENTION, PROTECTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE	EDUCATION	VULNERABLE / LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN & ADULTS	BUSINESSES
6,000 more people alive as a result of our prevention, protection and emergency response activities.	85,000 children and young adults (to include looked after children) to be better educated to lead safer and healthier lives.	37,500 vulnerable children and adults helped to lead more secure and independent lives supported by safe and well-being visits.	20,000 businesses given advice and support to grow.

1.6 Million
Safety Messages

Biker Down – Road Safety

Attend a FREE Biker Down workshop to learn the practical skills of what to do if you are first on scene at a crash involving a motorcyclist. Motorcycle 'Biker Down' Courses are available see below that still have spaces available:

Saturday 8th September 10:00-1pm at H Café, Berinsfield

Thursday 4th October 7:30-10:30pm at FRS HQ Kidlington

For details on 365alive, please visit our website www.365alive.co.uk

Smoke Alarms

We are still visiting many properties to fit Smoke Alarms and give advice on Fire Safety/Home Safety, If you know of any one that may need us to visit then please get in contact with us on 08000 325999 or visit our website on

www.365alive.co.uk

Fire safety Leaflets will be available at the end of the meeting if you require any information.

Report from Councillor Kiera Bentley for Annual Town Meeting 2018

Wantage Independent Advice Centre

I have attended various Board meetings and project meetings in my capacity as Council Representative and have taken on the role of Trustee.

WIAC continue to provide independent advice and information to people in our area and funding has been secured from the District Council for the next 3 years. The challenge of volunteer recruitment, training and retention is on-going as is organisational leadership and management issues. A stable staff core provides continuity and ultimately an effective, quality service for local people.

Town Councillors Report 2017-18 – Cllr. Anne-Marie Wright

The Place

Following the withdrawal of the Children's Center in Faringdon over £100,000 has been raised to run a Children's and Faringdon Project for three years, with the help of Faringdon Town Council, OCC, Churches Together and other local benefactors and fund raising events. Owing to the regulation and oversight that is needed to provide any service involving children and vulnerable adults, The Place committee recommended to Faringdon Town Council that they outsource the service. After reviewing the service providers available to meet the needs of Faringdon, it was decided that Spurgeons would take on role.

The Place committee were closely involved with Spurgeons in find the right level of service needed with in Faringdon and the employment of the staff to a run the service.

The Place committee changed it terms of reference to be a fundraising committee and to help oversee the performance of the service provider. Funds are still need for the operation of the service and to ensure it continues for many years to come.

Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber committee have had a hard year. Most of the chamber members have not been able to help with volunteering for the committee or in giving support and consideration to the direction the Chamber of Commerce should go in. As a result, the Chamber committee organised their normal annual activities and a visit to Kelmscot Manor.

I would like to thank the Chamber committee for their work on organising the Community Ball and the prizes for the Faringdon Community College.

PAD Committee

The PAD (Public Access Defibrillator) Committee is made up of volunteers from the local community: consisting of volunteers from the First Responders, Girl Guides (Faringdon), Faringdon Town Council and residents. Following the purchase of a PAD sited at Budgens car park; the committee monitors, maintains and promotes the use of the PAD. A grant from Faringdon Town Council (July 2016) allowed the committee to purchase a warranty package, training unit, room hire and provided for professional training facilitator fees. Faringdon now has 4 PADs in place and the PAD at Southampton St car park (what was Budgens) has been used once.

Over the course of the year the PAD awareness programme has gone from strength to strength. Public awareness sessions have been provided:

2 December 2017 during Festive Faringdon – members of the public were able to practice CPR and familiarise themselves with the use of a Defibrillator.

14 April 2018 – A car wash and fundraiser was organised at the fire station and the Committee was invited to attend and set up a stall as a community awareness exercise and demonstrated AED and CPR.

The PAD Defibrillator, situated at the fire station, was handed over by 41 club and Rotary club to the care of the PAD Committee on 10 March 2018. Whilst it is in the Committee's care, the 1st Faringdon Cubs will monitor the unit on a weekly basis.

Upcoming events:

We are looking at the possibility of a community Safety Display and demonstration at 'live in the Park' on 20 June 2018

Additional activities:

Ongoing Discussions with members of the community about how to support them in considering installation of PADs in more locations in Faringdon,

The Committee is also working with the Brownie and Cubs to produce a PAD Defib map to be circulated in town, showing the sites where the PADs are located.

We shall continue to engage with the community to raise awareness, provide equipment demonstrations, CPR demonstrations and to support the local community.

Cllr. Angela Finn

Annual Town Meeting

Updates

1. Parish Transport Representatives

These meetings are attended by representatives from across the county to discuss associated public transport matters. During the course of the year there have been no significant matters relating to or impacting on Faringdon

Minutes from meeting held on 19th February 2018 attached for reference.
The date of the next meeting is the 4th June 2018

2. Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee (FATAC)

FATAC has principally been involved in dealing with routine highways and associated signage matters, particularly complaints around parking on London Street, Coxwell Street and Coxwell Road – these being key themes for the year. Police are aware and have, where resources permit, been sporadically advising, running campaigns and ticketing offenders. There remains some work to do here over the next 12 months.

As well as the above I have held meetings with a couple of residents around the creation of a 20mph speed limit for the centre of the town and this matter is due to be discussed at the next meeting due to be held on the 1st June 2018

3. Grants Sub-Committee

This is, I think, just a matter of creating a list of activities and events that we have supported throughout the year to date.

FTC continue to fund a wide range of community based activities designed to add value to the town and the wider community

4. Faringdon Community Bus:

- Have sufficient funding to carry on until 2022 with existing reserves. (Losing circa £6k per annum)
- Working with FTC re S106 funding to support future activities
- Resignation of Richard Smith
- Smaller numbers using the bus causing concern
- Change of timetable being planned to increase frequency of service to Waitrose and Aldi – every half hour instead of hourly
- Plenty of private bookings generating a pleasing level of income. 52 so far generating a profit of £4k after fuel costs

Faringdon Twinning Association

Cllr Mark Greenwood and I have attended meetings of the committee of the Faringdon Twinning Association throughout the year to advise and co-ordinate Twinning Association and Town Council events.

As mayor, I formally welcomed the bi-annual twinning visit from Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe 28th April-1st May 2017.

From 25th-28th May 2017, together with four other members of the Twinning Association I represented Faringdon as mayor in Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe for the 50th anniversary of their twinning with Falkenstein in Germany. Although Faringdon is not formally twinned with Falkenstein, or Libcany in the Czech Republic, we have always taken part in each other's significant events. Over 100 people from Germany attended and four from the Czech Republic. At the formal proceedings, after making a speech in French and German, I presented a water jug made by the Uffington Pottery to the people of Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe from the people of Faringdon to mark the occasion. I was also honoured to attend a formal lunch with the President of the Department of Orne for visiting dignitaries and Presidents of the Twinning Associations.

I took part in the bi-annual visit to le Mêle-sur-Sarthe from 21st-24th October 2017 and from 28th April-1st May, together with ten members of the Twinning Association, as mayor I formally represented the Faringdon in Falkenstein at the return celebration of the 50th anniversary of their twinning with Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe. Over 100 hundred people took part including delegations from France, the Czech Republic and Poland (Falkenstein is a district of Königstein and its Twinning Associations in France and Poland also took part). After giving speeches in French and German, the Chairman of the Twinning Association, David Williamson, and I presented a framed print of the Old Town Hall to commemorate the occasion at the formal dinner. I was also honoured to attend a formal lunch given by the Mayor of Königstein for visiting dignitaries and Presidents of the Twinning Associations.

At both formal occasions in France and Germany the Faringdon delegation was made most welcome and our presence was much appreciated. It is hoped that these bonds of friendship with our families in France, Germany and the Czech Republic will continue into the future.

Cllr Dr Mike Wise
21-5-18