

2022-2023 Brief Report from Faringdon Fire Station – By Watch Manager Becky Rimmer

Incident to date

Since our last report April 2022, Faringdon have attended 195 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 have a new Station Support Officer Watch Manager David Long, he has been working at the fire station since January this year, supporting our recruitment campaigns, training, fire protection and community safety - Safe and well visits as well as being operational.

Recruiting

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service are recruiting for 'On Call' personnel over the age of 18ys. This year we have lost two of our firefighters due to moving out of Faringdon, but thankfully we have gained three more by them moving into Faringdon. We are in a position to recruit new members for day and weekend cover. So, anyone that may be interested or know of anyone that would be interested in becoming an On Call firefighter then please email:

rebecca.rimmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk or you can visit the station and have a chat on Wednesday's evenings from 18:00-21:00. You can also get further information about the role and the recruitment process on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighter

Community Responding

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and South-Central Ambulance Service are still in partnership, training all fire fighters as IEC (Immediate Emergency Care) so we can support and attend cardiac arrest patients. For those that may not be aware of, we have a Defibrillator located on the front external wall of the fire station to be used in an emergency by members of the public. It is regularly checked and online with the national circuit, which means in the event of any cardiac arrest the emergency operator will be able to advise you the exact location and confirm the security code to gain access.

Safe & Wellbeing Visits

We continue safe & wellbeing visits, delivering fire safety talks, check and fit smoke alarms. If anyone would like information on fire safety or request a visit from us, then please contact 08000 325999 or visit our website on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Social Media

Follow us on the following platforms



Faringdon Fire Station



Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (Official)



OxonFireRescue



OxonFireRescue

Biker Down – Road Safety

We are still offering 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 throughout the year, for more details please visit the website www.365alive.co.uk

FARINGDON UNITED CHARITY CIO

Clerk's Office:
Bunting & Co,
Brunel House,
Volunteer Way,
Faringdon,
Oxon,
SN7 7YR
Tel: 01367 243789



REPORT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2023

Faringdon United Charity CIO has an area of benefit consisting of the three original parishes of Faringdon, Littleworth and Little Coxwell along with adjacent parishes.

During the last year, the Charity has continued to provide grants to organisations and to families and individuals in need within the area of benefit.

During the year ended 31st March 2023, £57338 was paid out in grants with the largest grant to any one organization or individual being £17950 to pay for a family support worker at The Place. Other organisations helped included Faringdon Learning Trust, Oxfordshire Play Association for Faringdon Youth Club, COGS at the Pump House, Faringdon Football Club and Faringdon Rugby Club

Where organisations are based outside of the area of benefit a grant is given only where Faringdon and district residents are helped. Help was also given to individuals and families in need in Faringdon.

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 a further five appointed trustees. Other Trustees are the Vicar of All Saints Church, Faringdon and two representatives from the Town Council. The parishes of Littleworth and Little Coxwell each have their own representative on the committee.

The charity works alongside health care workers, social workers, church workers, local schools, Citizens Advice Bureau, national charities, 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. There is an application form and contact details on the website www.faringdonunitedcharity.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY 1186581

FOLLY TOWER AND WOODLAND – REPORT FOR TOWN MEETING - May 2023

Our two much-loved follies (tower and hill), together with the woodland and its secret sculptures, are as iconic to Faringdon as the civil war and our 800-year market charter. First and foremost, we are very grateful to the Town Council, the Faringdon community, and in particular our team of 100+ dedicated volunteers for all their support. Together, we're all involved in keeping this important part of Lord Berners' legacy, and now our legacy - in good shape. The budget for ongoing regular necessary expenditure Regular necessary expenditure – in making sure that tower and woodland are as safe as they possibly can be, is approximately £15,000 per year. Without the support of all the unpaid volunteers, the costs would be much higher than this.

TOWER REFURBISHMENT (to commence in the Spring of 2024) : Through Andrew Townsend Architects, we have identified a number of issues that must now be addressed and where major refurbishment is required. To address these issues properly, the entire tower will need to be scaffolded - at a cost of approximately £60,000. The total cost of the refurbishment is budgeted at £250,000. Raising the necessary funds is the big challenge. Any/all help appreciated!

THE CHRISTMAS STAR: Now almost as iconic as the tower itself, the existing star (for we're very grateful to Peter White and his dedication and hard work over the past 23 years) is now no longer safe, and must be replaced. The intention is that by the beginning of December, a new star will be shining out over the Vale.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: In 2020, in his beautifully produced book "The Worlds of JRRT: The places that Inspired Middle Earth" Tolkien expert John Garth identified a number of direct links between JRRT and our tower/hill. Since then, a number of other interesting circumstantial links have also come to light. We'll now be looking to fully (but carefully!) exploit the opportunities that this presents us with. There are an estimated 50 million Tolkien fan(atic)s that will want to be all over this.

Sjoerd Vogt

Chair: Folly Tower and Hill.

Faringdon Community Bus (FCB) Report

For the last year FCB has been able to run a full service which has encouraged more people to use the bus. Passenger numbers are rising slowly with some new passengers, but they are taking very taking very few children to school. Average daily passenger count in 21/22 was 23.

Half day trips to Witney and Cirencester have proved popular but full day excursions on Saturdays have been less so.

They have seven volunteer drivers; ideally, they need eight, but recruitment of younger drivers has proved difficult.

They have not made any changes to the route but will adjust the timetable to include a visit to the new primary school with the hope that more children from the new estates on Coxwell Road will use the bus, so are seeking formal approval for this change to the timetable.

The bus has been running well and benefits from excellent service from NMV; thanks also to Chris Gurney for providing free parking at RAC

Last year showed a small increase in fares' receipts from £11,900 to £12,300. This, coupled with a reduction in admin costs, led to a modest increase in profit from £1,500 to £2,600 and a small increase in reserves to £137,000. At the moment, electrically powered buses are expensive, but it is hoped that the eventual replacement bus will be battery powered.

Mike Wise

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

FARINGDON QUAKER MEETING

Faringdon Quaker Meeting House in Lechlade Road, is tucked away at the edge of the town, where people tend not to notice it.

Although our meeting is quite small, we are pleased to report that our numbers are rising slowly. One advantage of being small is that people get to know each other, and we hope that no-one ever feels excluded.

Our meetings on Sunday mornings are quiet and peaceful, though only very rarely silent, and everyone is welcome. Being a Quaker is not just restricted to worship on Sundays. We have regular shared meals, study groups, and other activities.

As Quakers, we do not have a priest or pastor, but rely on our members to take on all the necessary jobs to run a meeting. We share worship, meetings, meals and activities with members of other Quaker meetings in the area.

There is a garden room, used mainly for refreshments, which we are currently trying to update to make it more user friendly.

We are members of Churches Together in Faringdon, and try to take a full part in its activities. We participate in Heritage Day when possible.

Our latest venture has been to start a Ukulele group for beginners, "Quakerleles", for anyone who wishes to learn to play, not just Quakers. It is now in full swing and will run for just a limited period.

You are very welcome to come and enjoy our peaceful garden - if the gate is open, someone is likely to be there, so please do come in.

Jenny Braithwaite,

Clerk to Faringdon Quaker Meeting

Westmill Solar

Last year one of the four transformers failed and needed replacement. As a result, total 2022 generation of 4,044 MWh was 17% lower than 2021's figure of 4,911 MWh. Without the transformer failure we would have been on track for a record year of generation of 5,431 MWh.

This year on the night of 1st/2nd March, the site was broken into and a substantial amount of the solar park's cabling stolen. As a result, the site was subsequently operating at around 50% capacity.

The directors currently estimate that the repairs will cost around £100,000 and income losses (which are dependent on the weather as well as the repair schedule) could amount to a further £100,000. Everything possible is being done to keep losses to a minimum although, as with last year's transformer issue, most of these losses should be covered by insurance.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting will take place on the Westmill site on Saturday 10th June 9:30 registration for a 10:30 start. Unfortunately, it has not proved possible to take part on line, but the meeting will be recorded for later dissemination.

Faringdon - Pays Mèlois (Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe) Twinning Committee

The first twinning visit to Faringdon for nearly three years took place over the weekend of 26-29 May 2022 and was attended by 20 visitors from the Pays Mèlois and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Königstein. The Friday trip was to Cirencester followed by lunch in Bibury and a guided tour of Chedworth Roman Villa. The Saturday event, following the morning Joint Committee Meeting in the Old Town Hall, was a shared lunch and garden party at 17 Coxwell Rd.

Over the Bank Holiday 26-29 August 2022, 22 people visited the Pays Mèlois. This included a visit to an historic cider/calvados farm, lunch in Vimoutiers, then a tour of the local National Stud for heavy horse (Haras du Pin). On Saturday there was a picnic and visit to the Basilica at Chapelle-Montligeon followed by a country walk then the traditional soiree in the village hall at St Aubin d'Appenai.

The Annual Winter Dinner in Sadlers on 20th January was attended by 40 people.

French Film nights were held in The Corn Exchange on 7th October and 17th February, the latter attracting 80 people. A quiz night was held in the Catholic Church Hall on 17th March.

On the Ascension Day weekend of 20th May 2023, we received a party of 26 visitors from France. The Friday visit was to Oxford (using the S6) followed by the official opening of the Clos Mèlois Boules Park. The Saturday night soirée in the Corn Exchange was attended by about 70 people with entertainment provided by Al Cane.

The Youth Exchanges, where parties of about 12, 12–16-year-olds from each country visit their opposite twin towns for a week of activities, will resume and take place between 16-23 July in Faringdon then 23-29 July in Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe.

The return visit to France will take place over the weekend of 25-28 August 2023 and will include a return visit to Leonardo da Vinci's chateau at Amboise where he spent his final days. As before, we will be taking a coach and new members are very welcome to join in; cost approximately £150 per person for the weekend.

Cllr. Mike Wise

FARINGDON ARTISTIC SKATING CLUB

Faringdon Artistic Skating Club has been training at the leisure centre since year 2001.

Over the years we have had 25 skaters who have represented Great Britain in International Competitions and Championships.

The lock down was a very difficult time for the club unable to train 4 days a week skaters began to find other activities outside they could do during lockdown. Getting back to Great Britain standard was very difficult.

The club has 20 children 13 who are now competing in competitions and championships. Skaters are training three days a week and will be competing in October.

The biggest problem we have is funding the hire of the hall is now at over £60 hour. Coaches don't get paid for coaching its something that should happen but the club would not be able to run without the commitment of Dee England and parents giving time up to help run the club admin.

With many families struggling with finances the club just charges enough to cover the hall hire. The club has many one parent families

The club sessions are Tuesday Wednesday and Saturday and is open to all ages. Including adults.

Thankyou

Faringdon Artistic skating club

Dee England

FTC groups report for Faringdon Writers 2022-23

Faringdon Writers is a not-for-profit community group that has been running since 2014 for the benefit of local writers, authors, poets, and those who would like to know how to write or just give it a go. Over the past 12 months, membership numbers have continued to grow indicating the group is fulfilling a need within the local community. The group produces an anthology of work each year and has just published 'Voices from Faringdon Vol.8' copies of which are available to buy from the Tourist Information Centre. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Faringdon Business Centre kindly sponsored by My PA Virtual Services.

In November of last year Faringdon Writers held its inaugural Independent Book Fair in The Corn Exchange. This was mainly to support and encourage local authors, poets, and writers to showcase their work, many of whom are unable to participate in the more prestigious literary events. It was also hoped that this would set the seed that Faringdon be considered a literary town. The book fair was very successful and saw a total of 17 authors take part. It is intended to repeat the event this coming November, and perhaps for this to become a regular highlight on the Faringdon Town calendar.

Val Hughes

For Faringdon Writers

Faringdon Town Council and for the purposes of the Faringdon Town Meeting.

The activities of the **Faringdon PAD (Public Access Defibrillator) Committee** has been maintained over the past twelve months and comprises of the following:

1. The committee currently comprises of 4 elected members from the Faringdon community, including myself, Malcolm Gee as the Chair of the committee. There are two newly appointed members from FTC acting as representatives in support of the committee and are currently elected town councillors. The committee welcomes the support of councillors David Norris and James Famakin in this role.
2. The primary activity of the committee has been concerned with the monitoring, support and maintenance of the PAD units that rest under the control of the committee. These comprise of the units placed at Southampton St Car Park, Faringdon Community College and Faringdon Fire Station. These units are registered as 'Rescue Ready' at the current time and where necessary for 2 of these a recent update of software and all replenishable items has taken place in recent months.
3. Our committee, would like to acknowledge the support of 1st Faringdon Scout Group and its Leaders, for the regular monitoring and maintenance of the PAD unit that is sited at Faringdon Fire Station and for the support of the managers and staff of the fire station for the provision of access to this unit as an when this is required. The support of Oxon FRS is crucial in our aims of maintaining this unit for the benefit of our local community and its residents.
4. It remains an objective of the committee to support the installation of a PAD unit, that was intended to be placed in a suitable location at the Faringdon Retail Park (adjacent to A420) and that it should be available to those accessing this as a substantial shopping area. Due to technical difficulties and the onset of the pandemic, there has been a delay in pursuing this further. However, it is the intention of the committee to re-open conversations with the Property development team who have responsibility for the management of the retail area. The committee will report back on progress on this matter in due course.
5. The committee currently holds a fund, largely made up of local grant funding and including that which has been made available from FTC. The sum at present available to the committee amounts to (approximately) £1100.00. and consists of a reserve sum of £1000.00. that is available for the support of the appropriate installation of a PAD unit at the Faringdon Retail area.
6. It is the intention of the committee to meet in person on Wednesday 14th June, for the first time since the onset of the pandemic and to meet to follow through an agenda, that includes the setting up of a meeting with local, district and county authorities, representatives and interested parties and in order to promote a discussion on the potential installation of further PAD units at all newly developed residential areas of Faringdon and to seek the support of the developers involved in this venture. Further feedback and progress will be announced on this in due course.
7. It will be the intention of the committee to set a date and to plan for an AGM, that should be arranged in the course of this year and for the purpose of elections to the committee and to allow for an open invitation to Faringdon Residents, interested parties and our stake-holders to determine the future plans and activities of the Faringdon PAD Committee.
8. Our committee remains committed to the support of other stake-holders around the town and the Faringdon district, who hold a responsibility for the PAD units under their control. These now amount to approximately 8 units (out of approximately 11 in total) and for which we have been able to liaise and provide technical and practical support where requested, towards the upkeep, retrieval and on occasions the maintenance of those units.

9. It is our committee's aim to seek further funding from grants or donations and in order to pursue our objectives, in support of the maintenance of those units for which we have a responsibility and we will seek the support of FTC and other local funding organisations to be able to achieve this in due course.
10. It is the intention of our committee to be able to attend local events and activities, where we have previously been successful in promoting the awareness of the use of defibrillators in our local community and to the benefit of our residents in helping to 'save lives', when there is the incident of 'Out of Hospital' cardiac arrest, that might have an impact on members of our community of Faringdon and the district.

On behalf of our committee, I would like to thank all of those as stake-holders and interested parties who have supported and maintained an interest in the work of our committee. We look forward to your on-going support towards our future work and endeavours, towards the good health of our residents and the community of Faringdon.

Report on Faringdon Day Centre

Faringdon Day Centre continues to provide a valuable service to the elderly members of our community. We currently have about 20 clients, most of whom attend both sessions every Monday and Thursday for socialising, activities and a freshly cooked lunch. Staff, volunteers and car drivers all work very hard to ensure that the Day Centre is welcoming and attractive to clients, and *The Advertiser* continues to provide valuable support by advertising us regularly. One point worth noting in particular is that about $\frac{2}{3}$ ^{rds} of our clients are diagnosed with early-stage dementia which means that socialising, singing and similar activities are very important. Families and carers also appreciate the regular opportunities for respite.

The Day Centre no longer receive any contractual support from OCC and so, in addition to client fees, we have to raise funds from fundraising activities and donations from charitable bodies and other sources. We had a visit from our MP, David Johnson, at the end of March who enjoyed meeting the clients, staff and volunteers.

If anybody wants to know more about the Day Centre or would like to visit the Centre during a meeting please contact me, Sue Thrower, on 01367 240 848 or smthrower@tiscali.co.uk.

31st May 2023