



Florence Park Newsletter

March to June 2022



Hello! This newsletter is made by neighbours for neighbours. **Get in touch** if you can help to put the newsletter together in future - florenceparknewsletter@gmail.com or 07980 588494.

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Missing! Our 16 Bus

(on behalf of the Bring Back our 16 Bus Campaign)

On the evening of 1 January the last number 16 bus trundled up the Abingdon Road, over Donnington Bridge, through Florence Park and on to the Cowley Centre and Littlemore on its way to journey's end at Minchery Farm. Outside the Jolly Post Boys, the last bus was greeted by a singing, cheering crowd wielding a large cardboard replica bus. We presented the driver with chocolates in thanks for the service that he and colleagues had given over the years. The driver told us how much they had appreciated the community on this much loved route. This was the moment that the campaign to save the bus became the campaign to bring it back.

But for now there is no bus running over Donnington Bridge linking communities with each other and with vital services and facilities. Our petition collected over 1,000 signatures online and many more on the bus. While some who signed cited the madness of cutting the only bus that ran through our new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, most spoke about their personal losses. Words most often heard were 'it's a lifeline', 'I'll be trapped in the house' and 'isolated'. Passengers, who included people with disabilities, heavy shopping and young children, told us that they would no longer be able to get to the more affordable Cowley Centre shops, Hinksey Pool or medical services without walking to a distant bus stop with a long journey on two buses, paying two fares.

The petition has been presented to the bus companies and County Council. City and county councillors along the route are actively supporting the campaign to bring back the bus. So is our MP Anneliese Dodds.

See overleaf for how you can help.



FloFest GloFest 2022

FloFest 2022 is on **18th June** 11 am - 4.30 pm with GloFest following from 6 – 11 pm

Would you like to join the FloFest team?

Do you have an interest in marketing?
Organising an event? Booking bands?
Volunteer coordinating or helping on the day? We have a number of positions we'd love for you to come and help with between now and June (and maybe beyond).

Get in touch with Abi, Alan, or Sara: flofestoxford@gmail.com

Also get in touch if you are a local artisan or trader who would like a stall (not food based please) at the event. Or if you are a local community group or organisation.

Help bring back the 16 bus

There is a chance that the County Council might win some of the limited government money on offer for bus services post-COVID. Supporting this effort to fund the return of the 16 is now our priority.

You can help by writing to our MP and local county councillor telling them about how the end of the 16 service has affected you personally.

If you miss the 16 bus write to:

Anneliese Dodds: anneliese.dodds.mp@parliament.uk

Charlie Hicks: charlie.hicks@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Elder Stubbs Recovery Group shop

Rymers Lane, OX4 3DY

Open 10 am – 2.30 pm, Monday – Friday.

Selling homemade jams and chutneys, honey, apple juice, bird and insect homes, recycled tools, planters, seasonal vegetable plants, and cut flowers.



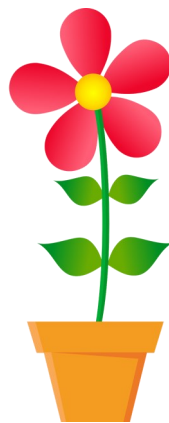
See Saw
Grief support for children and young people in Oxfordshire

Charity Skydive
Saturday 13th August 2022
Hinton Airfield, near Banbury
£395 minimum fundraising target

Take on the ultimate thrill-seeking challenge of jumping out of an airplane whilst raising money to help support children and young people when they have been bereaved or when someone close to them is terminally ill.

Scan the QR code, or contact fundraiser@seesaw.org.uk to find out more information.

SCAN ME



Volunteers at Cake Club NEEDED



Do you have a couple of hours to spare on a Wednesday 10 am – 12.30 pm?

Join our VOLUNTEER team for Cake Club - a popular group for non-mobile babies and their parents / carers. Help serve drinks and cakes, and socialise with the babies.

Get in touch with Sarah cakeclubfpc@gmail.com

Bridging Donnington Over 50s Group

The Bridging Donnington Over 50s Group started in 2010 as a small community group following requests from local older people in the area for a place to meet socially and enjoy refreshments and a chat. It was followed in 2012 /13 by City funding to provide community leisure activities, "Donnington In Bloom" in Townsend Square and Donnington Lodge.

The group is co-ordinated by Cecily Kirtland, who has lived in the local area for more than 50 years, and is supported by the Donnington Tenants & Residents Association which has received funding from Active Oxfordshire Charity and Oxford City .

Since July 2021 they have been meeting in the Donnington Community Centre every Tuesday morning. A fitness instructor offers an hour of seated or standing exercises with music for mixed abilities. Refreshments, an activity, IT support, and a community singing session complete the morning.

A Zoom session where members can chat and develop their IT knowledge and also talk about holiday experiences, share a quiz, chat with Age UK or Carers Oxfordshire, and extend our support network.

A network of members brings together ideas for other activities led by suggestions and the numbers who are interested. The group is looking for long term funding and local links to provide ongoing, much-needed support for our communities.

Cecily hopes to visit the Florence Park lunch club in the near future and meet with those involved.

Crossword answers

13 Florest	7 Sheila Tree
12 GloFest	6 Pilates
11 FP Social Club	5 Elms
four	4 Egret
10 Nineteen thirty	3 Sixty
9 Flos	2 Oxford City Farm
8 Jon Flint	1 Woofers

Notice of Florence Park Community Association AGM 28th March 2022 7 pm for 7.30 pm start. To be held at Florence Park Community Centre, Cornwallis Road, OX4 3NH & via ZOOM

Please arrive from 7 pm and present evidence of your membership.
(Name, postcode and ID will be sufficient if you do not have your
card.)

Agenda

Florence Park Social Club AGM to start at 7.30 pm. After Social Club
AGM finishes, there will be a welcome by the FPCA Chair.

Business:

- 1: Receive the Annual Chair's Report and Financial Report
- 2: Vote for two Associate members to vote on behalf of the
Associates
Vote for Honorary Officers (Secretary & Treasurer)
Vote for additional management committee members.
- 3: Any other business – due notice must be given (21 clear days)

Close FPCA AGM, new trustees sign the back of the minutes.



Have you discovered Junior Parkrun yet?

Hundreds of local children have hit the New
Year running at Florence Park Junior
Parkrun, racking up over 650 kilometres in
January alone. The event celebrated its
second birthday in December. In two years
over 2,500 children have crossed the finish
line.

The event is run by volunteers and the
Florence Park community have embraced
the opportunity to get outside and spend
time together whilst promoting the physical
and mental wellbeing of young people. The
team would like to thank all those who have
supported the event and encourage
individuals and families to come and
discover junior parkrun for themselves.

Every Sunday at 9 am for 4 – 14 year olds.
<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/florencepark-juniors/>

Short Story Competition

We love our
Florence Park
Community, it's so
full of creative
individuals.

We thought we'd
tap into that
creativity so we're
running a short
story competition.
Write a short story
or essay on the
subject of:

The Community
500 word limit.
Submissions
to [florenceparkcom
munitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com)

Make sure you put
'Short Story
Competition' in the
email header.
Deadline: 31st May
2022

Age groups: 0-12,
12-16, 16+
Winning entries in
each age group will
be published in the
next Newsletter.

Our Seat in the Park

Wrapped in our woollies and coffee in hand
We sit on our seat surveying the land.
Chatting with friends and folks passing by,
We get all the gossip and news of the day
and the world is put right as they go on their
way.

Babes in pushchairs with shy little smiles
Cheeky toddlers with twinkling eyes
The friendly dogs with Inquisitive noses
Followed by owners all keeping a check
On Teddy, and Lexi and Happy and Jack
There's Slainey from Ireland and Marianne
from Greece.

All hoping for treats as they come by our
seat.

The pleasure we get is hard to describe
as we sit on our seat in the Park side by side.

Sally and Sheila



Do you regularly walk your dog in Florence Park?

If so, why not consider joining Florence Park
Woofers on Facebook. We are a friendly,
sociable group of dog owners who like to
share information, ideas, and humour.

Do you need help with dog walking or just
someone to meet up with in the park for a
walk and chat? Try Woofers: there is a wide
age range of people with diverse interests,
so there may be someone to help.

We also organise charity events (when re-
strictions allow), and have so far raised
about £800 for good causes such as Macmil-
lan Cancer Support and Blue Cross.

So why not come and join us by searching
for *Florence Park Woofers* on Facebook.

Look!!



A competition!

Flo's the Place in the Park

Come along to our cafe, refill shop or to one of our regular classes/groups:

First Fridays at Flo's! Join us for the first Friday of the month from 4 – 7 pm for homemade pizza, churros, family activities, and market stalls. See website for details

Nature Crafts at the Nature Escape: Thursdays 1.30 pm (Free, 2 – 5 year olds) Donations welcome

Story Explorers with Fern the Fox: Thursdays 10.30 am (£5 per child, £2.50 siblings, 0 – 3 year olds)

Kindred Collective: Welcoming grandparents, foster carers, extended family members and all who have regular caring responsibility for a young child; come with or without your little one to meet neighbours in this relaxed setting. Fridays 10.30 am. Free – donations welcome.

Community Craft Evenings: Fortnightly at Flo's. Running on Thursdays from 7.15 – 9.15 pm.

Come along to our cafe and plastic free refill shop

Cafe: Monday: Friday 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

Refill Shop: Tuesday-Saturday 11 am – 5 pm

Florence Park Gardening Group

Meet others in your community and join us for a friendly and inclusive gardening group every Sunday afternoon. We will be gardening at different sites in and around Florence Park, including at Flo's, at the flower beds looked after by the Florence Park Community Association, and at the NatureEscape.

Meet every Sunday at 1 pm for a cup of tea and cake (discount in Flo's cafe!)

New: Meals on Mondays!

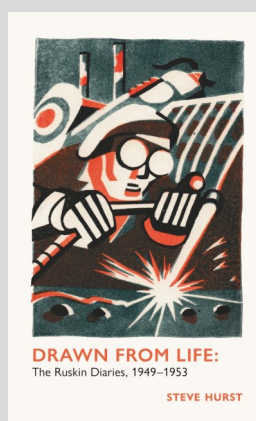
Join the OX4 Food Crew for a "Pay as you feel" lunch every Monday First Monday of the month: Waste2Taste cafe, Crowell Road, OX4 3LN

All other Mondays: Flo's Cafe

Pay what you can afford – no judgement. All money raised goes to the OX4 Food Crew to tackle food inequality

Florence Park and the old industrial East Oxford feature prominently in a new book detailing the early years of sculptor, Steve Hurst.

Drawn From Life: The Ruskin Diaries, 1949-53, is Hurst's account of life in Oxford immediately after the Second World War. The book is published by Florence Park based WarmPorch Publishing, and will be available in Blackwells and other local bookstores for £15. It can also be ordered directly from <https://warmporch.co.uk>



Parenting Practitioners
Oxfordshire



Top Tips for PARENTING!

A New, Light-hearted Short Course
- with Coffee and Cake

For Mums, Dads & Carers of Children Aged 3-10 Years

Dates: Tuesdays 10.15am-12.30pm on
15th, 22nd, 29th March & 5th April
Venue: The Pavilion at Flo's - The Place in the
Park, Rymers Lane, Florence Park OX4 3JZ
Cost: Pay what you can: £4/£10/£20/£40
per person, per full course
Contact: email janecgallagher@icloud.com
or tel: 07980 588494

Apparitions Anonymous: A ghost story

An original play by James Ferriman and T.L. Williams

Dark, sombre and eerie, from the creators of *Spectre Avenue*. Suggested audience age: 12+


Friday 20th May 7 pm + Q&A, and Saturday 21st May 2.30 pm and 7 pm at the Florence Park Community Centre

Tickets on sale soon! All profits will benefit Cruse Bereavement Support: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

The
Post Pandemic Performance Project
presents:

APPARITIONS Anonymous

AN ORIGINAL PLAY BY
JAMES FERRIMAN & T.L. WILLIAMS



ALL PROFIT TO BENEFIT CRUSE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

What's On

Florence Park Baby Coffee Group ("Cake Club")

Wednesdays: drop in 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

A friendly hang out cafe space for parents / carers and their new baby / babies This is a group for NON-mobile babies, it is free to access and free hot drink and cake.

Contact: cakeclubfpcc@gmail.com

Sport in Mind, Oxford - Yoga with Alison

Mondays: drop in 1.30 - 2.30 pm

The sessions are FREE and open to anyone over 17 experiencing mental health problems (from mild/moderate to SMI), for all abilities and drop-in sessions. Participants are welcome to bring along carers, family or friends. Link to our timetables on our website: <https://www.sportinmind.org/timetables>

T'ai Chi sessions

Thursdays 5.45 – 6.45 pm, 13th January - 7th April

Cost: £40 for the current series. Contact Anne for more information: email: taichi@annemack.org tel: 01865-714 849 website: <https://taichi-in-oxford.co.uk>

ZUMBA Gold. Low impact class

Thursdays 10.30 – 11.30 am ** NEW day & TIME

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ZumbaWithMazOxford/

Kids MARTIAL ARTS

Wednesday 6 – 7 pm

For 6yr+, (first lesson free) £3.50 per lesson. Contact Matt Hills for information or to sign up mob: 07790 180 137

Low Cost Acupuncture

Tuesdays 11 am – 2 pm, 4 – 7 pm; Thursdays 10.30 – 11.45 am, 4.30 – 6.45 pm

Curious about Acupuncture? Sessions cost £16.50. For more information and reviews contact Joe. Sessions last about 30 minutes and will be done in a group setting Contact email: joe@holistic-health.org.uk or website:

www.holistic-health.org.uk/booking

Also at the Florence Park Community Centre

French Cinema Evening

Last Tuesday of the month

29th March and 26th April

7 – 9 pm (Bar open at the start)

For more details:

<http://frenchfilmsoxford.eventbrite.com>

Pilates with Jane

Fridays 9.30 – 10.30 am

Contact Jane on janecallawaypilates@hotmail.co.uk to sign up (booking essential) website: <https://clevermovement.co.uk/>

Cowley Women's Chorus

Every 1st Saturday of the month 3 – 5 pm; 5th June outside in the garden; 3rd July onward, inside. A joyous monthly afternoon workshop with clear teaching by ear for all abilities. £7.00 email: emformusic@outlook.com or mob: 07969 522 368

Over 60's Lunch Club

Fridays 12 – 2 pm.

Please do get in touch to discuss coming along. Email: fpc-cover60@gmail.com or mob: 07864 028 591

Community Cafe

Every LAST Saturday of the month 12 – 3 pm

Come for brunch or lunch, drinks, and cake. Also a craft or activity to get involved with if you wish. This lovely cafe is a wonderful way to meet and get to know your neighbours in the community.

We also have a **paid position** available to run the Community Cafe . Approximately 5 hours per month, £10.31 per hour. Get in touch for details or see our website:

*If you would like to contact us about **Hiring** the Main Hall or the Lounge room then please contact us on florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com or 07864 028 591*

Competitive rates as low as £10 an hr / £7 an hr for local residents.

Face Book: 'like' us for regular updates: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCommunityCentre>

Website: <http://www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk/>

www.florenceparkcommunitycentre.org.uk/

Florence Park and Beyond Women's Networking Group

Next meeting Friday 25th March

Food from 7 pm, Speakers from 8 pm

Come and join us for an evening where we listen, learn, contribute, or just be. There is no agenda – just an ordinary bunch of women chatting about their extraordinary ordinary lives. It's all about making genuine connections in a safe and welcoming space.

Interview with... Hazel Dawe

Hazel Dawe moved to Oxford from Kent in September 2013. She says: "Florence Park is a marvellous community where people support each other. My favourite place is Oxford City Farm. When we first had access to the site it was covered in seven-foot-high brambles which had to be cleared. We have planted fruit trees and fruit bushes. We now grow vegetables and herbs both outside and in our two polytunnels. And, of course, our popular pumpkins - all of which are edible to avoid food waste.



Please do go on our web site Oxford city farm. Org. UK to find details of when you can visit. We also have our own bees and hens and are currently hosting borrowed heritage sheep. We welcome visitors. The community is amazing because of all the social events which are organised. In a relatively small community Florence Park manages to run both the wonderful community centre and the amazing Flos in the Park. I've been to Carol singing at the community centre and at meetings at Flos in the Park".

Hazel is very active in making the community a better place to live. She's involved in a lot of things to improve the local environment. "The campaign to have a low traffic neighbourhood started with an accident at the Rymers Lane / Cornwallis road crossroads. This left a cyclist with serious injuries which put her in hospital for several weeks and then kept her off work for many months. I am a Cyclox champion for Cowley, which includes Florence Park and was a part of this campaign. I now enjoy cycling safely through a peaceful, traffic calmed Rymers Lane."

To improve the community she said: "I am keen that we preserve our lovely local park for everyone to enjoy."

George Mold

I think we can all agree that the park is one of the main reasons we love living in this area - I walk there every day with my dogs. Autumn is my favourite season, and every year I admire the changing colours and how beautifully they are balanced and complement each other.



Over the years I have looked into who designed the park - most of us know that the estate was built by the Moss Brothers, naming the park after their sister Florence and gifting it to the city and the estate. But who designed it? Who put all that skill and for-thought in to

how these trees would look and be enjoyed in the years to come?

There is a plaque in the park, in the grass soon after the main entrance - George Mold! But I had never been able to find out any more than a name until last year when his daughter Caroline got in touch to tell me a little about her dad. She wrote that George Mold constructed the original Florence Park with a team of men back in 1934. She remembers her Dad telling her that he planted the trees himself around the park.

George was a farmer's boy from Middleton Cheney near Banbury where his family lived, but with his dad dying young George came to Oxford to find work.

He wanted to go to university, but as his older sister had gone the year before his parents said they were unable to put him through so soon after. So he found work in Oxford, and after retirement was still keeping an allotment into his 80s.

Caroline remembers: "Dad was a keen gardener all his life, we had a big garden which Dad enjoyed along with 3 allotment plots. He grew so many beautiful flowers and prize-winning vegetables he stopped entering (shows) to give others a chance at coming first. I remember him starting the shows at the Pressed Steel social club, and grand fete / show held each year. He had an amazing talent ... and such an understanding and knowledge of nature".

Caroline was married in Rose Hill church and recalls that when she entered on her wedding day she "was met with the heavenly scent of beautiful night-scented stocks in all the windows, he had grown them especially for my wedding, his special gift to me (which he had kept) secret".

He sadly died in 1993.

From me: I'd just like to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' to George for the beautiful gift he was instrumental in giving to us all - every day of the past 88 years.

Sara Reeve, care of Friends of Florence Park



Update on Jan's Avenue in Florence Park

On Friday 3rd December about 50 people gathered by the six newly-planted elm trees in Florence Park to formally open Jan's Avenue. It was a wonderful and touching topping out ceremony. Many tributes were made to our dear friend Jan Seed, then everyone put a little mulch around the base of the trees.

This was followed by a marvellous rendering of *We Shall Overcome*, and a silent meditation walk through the six trees. We have also raised money for a new park bench and commemorative plaque, and this has now been installed. In the spring we hope to plant bulbs around the trees.

Viv Peto, January 2022





Larkrise Primary School



Part of the RISE logo

Larkrise Nursery

Is part of a vibrant and caring school. We celebrate the diversity of our staff and children.

We can offer funded places to children in the term after their 3rd birthday.

If you are interested in finding out more information, please contact:
parents@larkriseprimary.org
www.larkriseprimary.org



Luna the white badger

A new film has been released by Friends of the Fields Iffley featuring Luna the white badger. Written and narrated by Peggy Seeger and directed by Nicolas Brown, the film shows the nocturnal life around a large, thriving badger community in the heart of Iffley village. Sadly, Luna's home and the other wildlife that flourishes here is at risk of destruction because the Horse Fields were allocated for development, before any survey of wildlife was carried out.

For the link to the film about Luna, and her family and to find out more about this rare variant found in East Oxford, please visit <https://iffleywoods.org/luna-the-white-badger/>

What you can do: You can help to save Luna and the rich variety of wildlife on these ancient meadows by contacting us at info@iffleywoods.org. We'll provide details of when and where to write to oppose the planning application (due in February / March 2022) to save Luna and her friends.



Mick Simmons

We are sorry to report that Mick passed away this January. Mick was the Chair of the Social Club at the Florence Park Community Centre for over 10 years, with his wife Sue until he stepped away in 2018.

Previously he had worked as a landlord of 2 or 3 pubs and brought this experience along to running the bar at the centre. He leaves behind wife Sue, children and grandchildren.

As one friend said " He was just Mick, you took him as you found him. He was a very big character"

Community Services

What do you think of your parks & green spaces in Oxford?

Have your say by completing our survey.
Either scan this QR code or visit
www.consultation.oxford.gov.uk/community-services/parks-survey



Any questions about this survey contact Caroline
cchanides@oxford.gov.uk



www.oxford.gov.uk



Afghan refugees – how to help locally

Asylum Welcome, the Oxford-based refugee charity, is supporting over 160 Afghan refugees who were evacuated from Kabul in the emergency airlift. The new arrivals – men, women and children – are being housed in hotels whilst awaiting longer-term housing.

The new arrivals have lived through unimaginable trauma. They need support to feel safe and settled, and look forward with hope to the future. This work includes providing activities and English language classes, and helping the children adapt to school.

The support from the local community has been astounding but there is still so much more to be done.

Asylum Welcome is incurring significant extra costs and requiring extra resources as it provides intensive support to the new arrivals.

Can you help?

- Donate to Asylum Welcome to support this work: www.asylum-welcome.org/donate
- Volunteer (we are particularly in need of speakers of Dari or Pashto): email volunteer@asylum-welcome.org
- Donate laptops or devices: email office@asylum-welcome.org
- For landlords with spare accommodation in Oxfordshire, contact refugeehousing@oxford.gov.uk



Children at the hotels enjoying the theatrical world of play and performance created by The Flying Seagull Project. Image credited to Asylum Welcome.



For more information about Asylum Welcome, please visit www.asylum-welcome.org

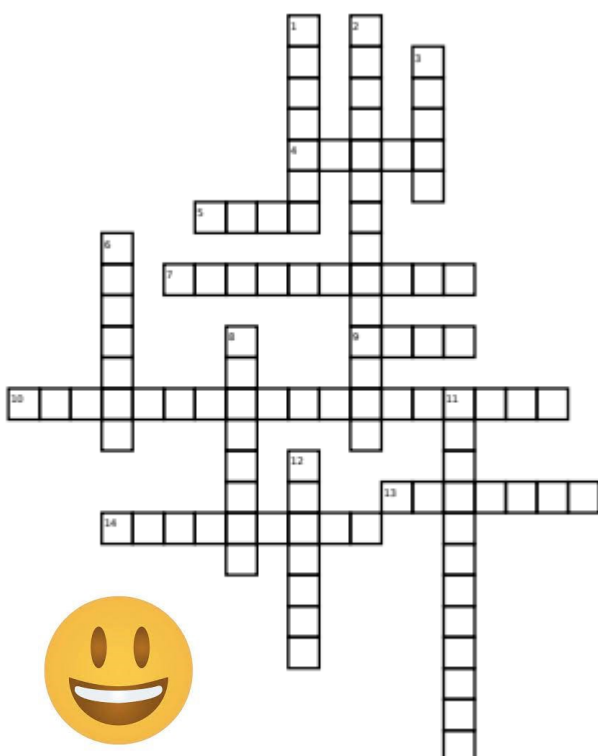
Thank you so much for all your support and solidarity. We wish you a safe, happy, and healthy 2022, from all of us at Asylum Welcome.

Florence Park Jubilee Street Party

Bank holiday Friday 3rd June at 1-4pm (it's a long weekend for the Queen's jubilee)



Come and celebrate the long weekend with your neighbours and have a big tea party together along Florence Park Rd. Please bring a dish of food to share, plates and cutlery (and a chair if you can!) Anyone able to play some music or run some children's activities please get in touch with florenceparkcommunitycentre@gmail.com or info@floxoxford.org.uk



Down:

- 1 The collective noun for local dog walkers
- 2 Where are the best vegetables grown?
- 3 Minimum age to join lunch club
- 6 Long running exercise class
- 8 Our very own 'Dame'
- 11 Where can you find the cheapest beer?
- 12 Evening version of another clue



Across:

- 4 White water bird which returns every year
- 5 New trees recently planted in the park
- 7 Honorary president of FPCC and mask maker supreme
- 9 Café in the park
- 10 What year did the park open?
- 13 Best festival in Oxford
- 14 What was the 2019 pantomime?

