

🌿 Sports and Shows 🌿

The earliest record of a sports club at Finmere is Tingewick and Finmere Cricket Club; this was established on 20 August 1856. The Buckingham Advertiser described the closing game of the 1858 season.

The game was a remarkably good one, witnessed by a reasonable company. At the close of the game, the party adjourned to the Crown Inn [Tingewick], where a dinner of first rate quality was provided by the host. 25 September 1858.

In 1905, there was a rather different cricket match. On 17 August, Finmere Ladies Cricket team beat the Tingewick Ladies team.

Finmere Sports Club

The Symes-Thompsons of Finmere House actively promoted sports. In 1947, Mrs Caroline Ada Chute Symes-Thompson founded the Finmere Sports Club. George Barnes recorded the details in a letter to the Bicester Advertiser, on 25 April 1952.

Sir:- According to the programme on sale at the Bicester Sports Ground on Easter Monday, Bicester Town Football Club claim that they may be the only club to have a lady as Honorary Treasurer...

Finmere Sports Club have Mrs Symes-Thompson of Finmere House as Treasurer, she having held office since the formation of the club in 1947... Mrs Symes-Thompson was in fact the founder of the club, having formed a young boy's football team and provided them with their first ball. Finmere Sports Club includes both football and cricket, and have recently been presented with Finmere School as a club room.

Mrs Symes-Thompson has missed only four monthly committee meetings during the past five years and with her late husband, Dr Symes-Thompson, was in frequent attendance at all our games...

*George Barnes
Honorary Secretary
Finmere Sports Club*

That year, the Club showed its merits by winning the Buckingham Advertiser Cup. The Final was held at the Bourton Road Ground.



Finmere Cricket Team in 1905

This photograph appeared in the Buckingham Advertiser on 14 June 1952.

Back row (left to right)

Mr Cotterel (scorer) Miss E. Horwood Mrs Hitcock
Miss E. Lepper Miss Davis Mrs Horwood Mrs Hollyoak
Mr Parrott (umpire)

Front row (left to right)

Miss K. Lepper Mrs Percival (captain) Mrs Beckett
Two unidentified

Right side

Mrs Cotterel Mr A. Lepper

On Thursday evening, before a large and enthusiastic crowd, Finmere Sports Club won the Buckingham Advertiser Knock-Out Cricket Cup by defeating North Marston by 130 runs to 73. This is the first time that Finmere has won a cricket cup. Finmere's win came as something of a surprise, but they fully deserved their victory, the Marston side giving many runs away by their poor fielding and dropped catches proving very costly. (Buckingham Advertiser, 12 July 1952)



Winners of the Buckingham Advertiser Cup 1952

W. Barnes (Umpire), Mrs Symes-Thompson, D. Makin, L. Newby, J. Dickenson, H. Claridge, R. Wyatt, K. Uptone, G. Barnes (Secretary), Mrs Horwood (Scorer), T. Bartlett, J. Gough, D. Hancock (Captain), H. Hawes, A. Newby.

In the summer of 2000, the Finmere Sports Club was reformed with the aim of improving facilities in the village, including providing changing rooms, a hard surface training area and an all weather cricket strip. The first meeting, chaired by Charles Grimston, was held on 3 July in Dennis East's chicken shed.

The Finmere Show

The Finmere Show, now the Finmere and Bicester Show, was established as a benefit to Sally Haynes, injured in a riding accident. The first show was held in August 1959, while Sally was a patient at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

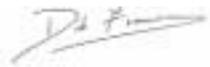
National Jockeys Rode in Finmere Donkey Derby. Large crowds rolled up at Finmere on Tuesday for the pony show and gymkhana for the Sally Haynes Benefit fund... The highlight of Tuesday's show was a Donkey Derby in which a dozen National Hunt jockeys took part. They included local jockey Derek Ancil, Fred Winter, Bryan Marshall, Mike Scudamore, Dick Francis and Johnny Bullock. Fred Winter won the Donkey Derby, with Bryan Marshall second and Dick Francis third. (Bicester Advertiser, 21 August 1959)

The show was initially held at Hill Leys and moved to Finmere airfield in 1976 and later to a field on the A4421 near Bicester. Former jockey Dick Francis described how the show began in the programme for 1989.

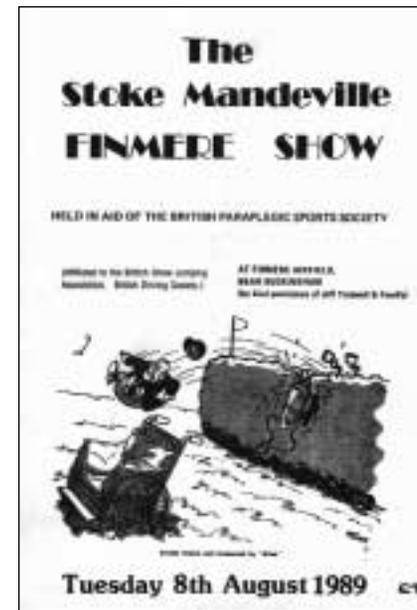
Thirty years ago, in 1959, when Sally Haynes broke her back in a point to point, it was decided to stage a Sally Haynes Horse Show to help raise funds for her and for Sports in general for the similarly injured. Lionel Vick was there, a jockey paralysed by a racing fall, and other national Hunt jockeys turned up in force to make fools of themselves on horses generously lent by the show-jumping fraternity. In addition, several patients from Stoke Mandeville Hospital gave an exhibition of table tennis, and everyone voted the day a Good Thing.

The following year, renamed The Stoke Mandeville Finmere Show, the event took wings and became an annual fixture; so very successfully that next year, 1990, we celebrate Thirty Years of watching many of the country's top horses and riders again taking part...

With very best wishes



Dick Francis was champion jockey. In 1957, he gave up professional riding and joined *The Sunday Express* as their racing correspondent. He is best known for his novels; he published his first thriller in 1962.



The cartoon was presented to the Show by Giles
Giles drew for the Daily Express from 1943 until his death in 1995.

The Horticultural Show

The Horticultural Show was originally staged in the old village hall, including a Christmas show on 30 November 1983. This show included competitive classes and local crafts, including spinning, weaving, corn dollies, brass rubbings and a display of old photographs. The competitive classes were well supported and Mr Lester Jarvis took three first prizes, heralding the local newspaper's headline of 'Man Made Best Christmas Pud.'

On 31 August 1985, the show was held in the new village hall for the first time and the next Christmas show was held there on 9 December 1989. In 1987, the show was expanded to include outdoor events, bike scrambling, wellington boot throwing and clock golf. The following year, Finmere's first dog show was added to the event. In 1990, the cubs joined the show and held a 'shoe shine' to raise funds for their pack. Each year, profits from the show have been donated to the Village Hall fund.

The show has not been held since 1998. Although the number of entries had not fallen, fewer families were taking part and little new interest and support was being shown.



Finmere Horticultural Show, 1985