



HRA NEWSLETTER

Highfield Residents' Association

Spring 2012

HRA SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS

Once again we've planned a programme of events which we hope you'll enjoy. I'd like to highlight two new events from the programme below. As part of the Jubilee celebrations HRA are producing a performance of *Lark Rise to Candleford* by the Black Fox Band and Players supported by children from Windmill School. The Band's performance of *Lark Rise* was one of the highlights of last year's Cropredy Festival Fringe. We have a smashing venue in our local parish church – thanks to the Vicar for making the church available. *Lark Rise* is on Saturday 26th May and is suitable for all ages so put it in your diary now. All proceeds to charity – our last charity event (American Café evening) raised almost £300 for the Maggie's Centre.

We've moved our annual street party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on Sunday 3rd June. There'll be an all-day café, bring-and-share lunch, live music, pageants and games on a historical theme (Tudor tug of war?) and an evening social. We're hoping to join up with our neighbours in New Headington to celebrate. If you have suggestions for events or would like to help us plan and organise we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Patrick Coulter

SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMME

March 26th (Monday) **Renewable Energy Information Evening** – All Saints' Church Hall (8.00 pm) see p3

April 19th (Thursday) **AGM** – All Saints' Church Hall (7.30pm) details below

May 12th (Saturday) **Swap 'n Coffee** on All Saints' Road (10-12noon) – details shortly

May 26th (Saturday) **Lark Rise to Candleford** – All Saints' Church (7pm) – tickets and details shortly

June 3rd (Sunday) **Jubilee Summer Street Party** on All Saints' Road (closed to traffic) from 11am – details shortly

Late September - **Street Meze and Cinema** on All Saints' Road – details later

HRA AGM on Thursday 19th April (7.30pm) in All Saints' Church Hall (New High St)

HRA belongs to you so come along to the AGM and:

- hear what we've done in the past year
- discuss plans for the coming year
- raise local issues
- hear how we've spent your subscriptions
- elect officers and committee for 2012 (we are seeking new committee members)

At around 8.15 we hope to have a speaker from Cheney School Governors to talk about the School's future plans. Then we'll have questions and discussion followed by refreshments at 9pm.

It's the little things that count

Because of tree trunks and roots the footpath at the top of Latimer Road has been difficult to use, particularly if you're pushing a buggy or using a wheel chair. During the planning discussions HRA asked the Dorset House developers

to yield a small strip of land to widen the path. They readily agreed and the footpath has now been widened and landscaped and is much more pleasant to use. You will see from Harry's article (page 2) that HRA works continually with planners and developers to protect and enhance our local environment, often to little avail! So it's good to report even a modest success - one small step for Man -----.

Patrick Coulter

Planning Matters

Oxford University, Old Road Campus – Phase 2 development options

Following months of lorry-loads of spoil leaving Headington the two new University buildings (Phase 1) are rising fast out of massive deep sand-pits – worth a peer through the portholes in the site fencing to follow progress. The contractor, Mace, is liaising with residents over noise, traffic and parking – night-working has been an issue recently. The 2nd issue of a construction ‘bulletin’ was circulated by e-mail at the beginning of March and we are pressing for another meeting with residents to discuss any concerns. We hope Mace can fit this into the agenda of a meeting with planning consultants preparing further development options for the ORC and Park Hospital site – the latter now bought by the University of Oxford. **The provisional date is Monday 19 March (evening), at an ORC venue** – details to be confirmed. There are

prospects for community facilities and input to the planning so please, come along and share your concerns, ideas, or get an insight to what the University has in mind!



Foundation pit for new Kennedy Institute

Return to sender...

The post-box in All Saints Road was sealed up and returned to the PO when the Old Dairy was demolished. At the planning stage Ruth Wilkinson and I flagged up the need to retain this box but the message didn't get through. However, I'm pleased to report from Ruth that a new pillar box is to be installed – probably on the corner of Barrington Close, near the BT 'phone booth, once approvals etc are worked out. Fingers crossed the Post Office will deliver! The old box is in a PO depot – we can have it back if we nominate a suitable display/museum location – ideas welcome.



Our wall post box has gone.



The replacement might be this....



but hopefully not this!



Ah... much more subtle.

In brief:

- Recent feedback from the Environment Agency is that ethylene glycol (used as anti-freeze) was the likely cause of the July 11 contamination of the Churchill pond and Boundary Brook, but the earlier source was not traceable. The Hospital Trust has not commented.
- Remember - the Council does not send out notice of planning applications any more, but you can register for e-mail updates at <http://planning01.oxford.gov.uk/page/home> However, if you plan to extend/alter your home please let your neighbours know and try to resolve any issues before submitting an application.
- From Feb all dwellings let to 3 or more unrelated sharers are defined as an HMO and must now be licensed by City Council who will regulate standards of accommodation and monitor behaviour. There is a section on HMO licensing on the City Council website or call them on Oxford 249811
- Dorset House has opened show-rooms to prospective student residents – in anticipation of occupation September 2012. This follows the make-over of the footpath in Latimer Road and the erection of new advertising hoardings.

Harry Edwards

Traffic matters: "...watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors."
Proverbs 8: 34

After all the waiting comes the watching – to see if the County Council's road engineering will reduce traffic speeds and volumes through Highfield. The works began in November with the installation of a raised table with an inventive chicane at the All Saints'/Lime Walk intersection. They continued in the New Year with entry treatments at all the junctions at the north and south ends of our streets. One inescapable conclusion is that when there's a strategically-placed concrete mixer and digger or two, with plentiful barriers and signage, all the through traffic DOES cease for a few pleasant days! The new measures have made it much safer for pedestrians to cross Lime Walk and are a good first step. However, the dearth of any measures to calm traffic along the straight stretches between the new works means that vehicles still speed, as they always have. Nearly 200 vehicles exceeded 30 mph during a typical 24-hour weekday period in Lime Walk North. Over 60% broke the 20 mph legal limit. **The Traffic Group is continuing to press for ways to encourage responsible and slower driving, like trees in planters, parking segregators/build-outs that intermittently narrow the carriageway, or visual psychological features that break up long sight-lines along straight streets.** We're very keen to listen to other good ideas. We'd like to follow the lead of Beechcroft Road in a "DIY Streets" approach to calming, in collaboration with the Council authorities and with their blessing. If you'd like to help or have comments, please contact Simon svhoxford@gmail.com or Frank frank.mckenna@btinternet.com.

Simon Hunt and Frank McKenna

Calling all gardeners or would-be gardeners:

Judging by the popularity of our open gardens event a couple of years ago, we know that there are plenty of people in Highfield who are interested in gardens, whether you are enthusiasts, or simply want to share ideas about what to do with your gardens, and swap plants and tips. If you are interested in meeting up with other gardeners, for example in a gardening club which gets together once in a while (in your gardens of course) or perhaps another summer garden event, please e-mail Susie susiepye@phonecoop.coop with your views.

Highfield Book Group:

The book group continues to meet every other month in our own homes. We choose from a list of "short" and "long" books – both classic and modern. Over the past year, books we have read include *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, *Daniel Deronda* by George Eliot, the *Trumpet Major* by Thomas Hardy, *Labyrinth* by Kate Mosse, and *Love and Summer* by William Trevor. We are currently reading *The Secret Agent*, by Joseph Conrad, and a *Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf. We meet at 8.00pm on the third Wednesday of alternate months. At the moment we have space for some new members, so if you would like to join, or find out more, please contact Susie susiepye@phonecoop.coop

Susie Pye

Incident Book: Many thanks to those who sent in information for the Incident Book. By logging incidents in Highfield we can build an overall picture of problems in the area. Please phone or email Hilary (761545; hrollin@btinternet.com) with details of any incidents, however minor and, if relevant, a photo so we can document anything from broken wing mirrors, potholes, blocked drain covers and gutters in our streets, to break-ins and damage to property, late-night noise, speeding and traffic accidents, pollution of Boundary Brook, sightings of rats, etc

Environmental Matters:

As usual, HRA members young and less young have played a part in the annual Oxclean (thanks, Gill) and also undertaken frequent unofficial litterpicks and clearance of drain covers in our streets.

A number of residents have introduced measures in their homes to use environmentally-friendly technologies, and on Monday March 26th at 8.00 pm. in All Saints' Church Hall we have a 'Renewable Energy Information Evening'. Robert Worthy of Solafair will speak about different ways of making our homes more environmentally-friendly. After his presentation he will take questions from the audience and respond to individual queries over tea/ coffee and biscuits. His presentation to Low Carbon West Oxford was well received, and whether you know nothing and are just curious, or have some knowledge and experience and want to know more, this is an event likely to prove informative. More information from Hilary hrollin@btinternet.com/ 761545

Hilary Rollin

Useful addresses:

Member of Parliament (Lab) Rt Hon Andrew Smith MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or Unit A, Bishops Mews, Transport Way, Oxford OX4 6HD Tel:595790. E-mail: andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

County Councillors - Headington & Marston

Roy Darke (Lab), The Oak Barn, 80 Edgeway Road, Oxford OX3 0HG. Tel: 790670. Mobile 07753 483368.

E-mail: roy.darke@oxfordshire.gov.uk

M. Altaf-Khan (Lib Dem), 83 Hugh Allen Crescent, Marston, Oxford, OX3 0HL. Tel: 798777. Mobile: 07931 345554.

E-mail: altaf.khan@oxfordshire.gov.uk

County Councillors - Barton and Churchill

Liz Brighouse, OBE (Lab), Willow Bank, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 8TA. Tel/Fax: 766995. Mobile: 07710 451769.

E-mail: liz.brighouse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Roz Smith (Lib Dem), 12 Weyland Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 8PD. Tel: 741872. Mobile: 07584257156.

E-mail: roz.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

City Councillors - Headington Ward

David Rundle (Lib Dem) 39 Catherine Street, Oxford OX4 3AH. Tel: 07980 894147.

E-mail: david.rundle@oxfordlibdems.org.uk

Ruth Wilkinson (Lib Dem) 21 Thames View Road, Oxford OX4 4TQ. Tel: 07789 368300.

E-mail: cllrwillkinson@oxford.gov.uk

City Councillors - Churchill Ward

Joe McManners (Lab), 1 Woodbine Cottage, Headington Hill, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BT. Tel: 07979 638670.

E-mail: cllrjcmcmanners@oxford.gov.uk

Mark Lygo (Lab), 20 Valentia Road, Headington OX3 7PL. Tel: 07918 635395. E-mail: cllrmlygo@oxford.gov.uk

Headington Neighbourhood Police Officer, PC Kelly Love, Tel: 101.

E-mail: Headington@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police, Website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Oxford Brookes Customer Relations Officer, Andrea Siret, Tel: 484451; E-mail: community@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford City Council Website: www.oxford.gov.uk. Tel: 249811

Oxfordshire County Council Website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk; Tel: 792422

Headington Website www.headington.org.uk

Headington Forum Website <http://forums.e-democracy.org/groups/oxford-hm>

HRA Committee

Patrick Coulter (Events/Traffic)	20 Stapleton Road	Tel: 766341	patco@supanet.com
Gill Beeston (Treasurer)	14 Stapleton Road		gillianbeeston@waitrose.com
Harry Edwards (Planning)	17 Finch Close	Tel: 767936	harry.edwards@solar-link.co.uk
Frank McKenna (Traffic)	92 Lime Walk	Tel: 769708	frank.mckenna@btinternet.com
Simon Hunt (M'rship/Traffic)	28 Latimer Road	Tel: 435877	svhoxford@gmail.com
Claire Garton (Young Families)	68 Stapleton Road		clairegarton@yahoo.co.uk
Susie Pye (Events/Books)	18 Bickerton Road	Tel: 762261	susiepye@phonecoop.coop
Hilary Rollin (Environment)	63 Old Road	Tel: 761545	hrollin@btinternet.com
Mike Ratcliffe (Secretary)	37 Bickerton Road	Tel: 763074	mrattcliffe@brookes.ac.uk
Tony Joyce (Hon Member)	68 Blenheim Drive	Tel: 556050	tandk@appleinter.net

HRA Street Representatives

Barrington Close	Margaret Belfrage	11 Barrington Close	
Bickerton Road	Pat Whitehouse	8 Bickerton Road	Tel: 761718
Brookside	Laura Ess	13 Brookside	Tel: 762559
Finch Close	Harry Edwards	17 Finch Close	Tel: 767936
Highfield Avenue	Monyca Douglas	34 Highfield Avenue	Tel: 761441
Latimer Road	Zohra Ashraf	55 Latimer Road	
Lime Walk (North)	to be filled		
Lime Walk (South)	Julia Boone	89 Lime Walk	Tel: 761982
Old Road (part)	Hilary Rollin	63 Old Road	Tel: 761545
Old Road (part)	Auriol Hamer	67 Old Road	Tel: 761092
Stapleton Road	Diana Chandler	46 Stapleton Road	Tel: 764809