



# HRA NEWSLETTER

## Highfield Residents' Association

Spring 2014

### COMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Since our last newsletter (October) we've continued our programme of community events including a cabaret evening, Christmas carols and a pub quiz. Several members of the Committee are actively involved in other community initiatives this year so we've limited our programme a little. Nonetheless we've arranged an evening of American traditional music in the Butchers Arms in May. A great line up of first class local musicians will perform blues, country and bluegrass music and songs. There'll be supper and all proceeds will be donated to the Maggie's Centre. Come with friends and family for a grand night out in our friendly local pub. In June we hope to hold another Open Gardens day and later in the year another Street Party/Cinema. The events programme is key to our aims of strengthening our community in Highfield. If you'd like to help us plan and manage community events or have suggestions for future events do contact one of the Committee.

*Patrick and Frank* (for the Events Group)

#### COMING EVENTS IN HIGHFIELD - SPRING/SUMMER

April 15<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) **AGM** – All Saints' Church Hall (7.30pm) details below.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday) **American Traditional Music with Chris and the Band** in the Butchers Arms from 8pm. Buffet supper. Admission free with a collection for the Maggie's Centre.

June Weekend (date to be confirmed shortly) **Highfield Open Gardens** – more details shortly.

September – **Street Party and Cinema** on All Saints' Road – details later.

#### HRA AGM on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2014 (we are seeking new committee members)

Around 8.15 pm we hope to have a **speaker from the Maggie's Centre** to talk about the origins and development of this exciting new project in Headington. Then we'll have questions and discussion followed by refreshments at 9pm.

HRA WEBSITE – COMING SOON!

**We are developing a simple website which we hope to launch this summer.** Please contact me if you can offer any skills or expertise to help with this project.

*Susie Pye, HRActtee@gmail.com*

## AU REVOIR TO NUMBER 28

When we arrived in Latimer Road in February 1981 our Harriet was just three; Adam was still in his brown and white striped Babygro and Laurence was just a twinkle in the eye. £1 then is worth 31p now. Harriet's own first baby is now imminent. There were so few motor vehicles using the street that no-one bothered to count them. Nowadays the Council's radar box counts over 1700 per day on weekdays, rising by the year. Over one third of them exceed 20 mph. Our message to the County and the police authorities that this is unacceptable has not got through to them, in spite of endless time and voluminous correspondence. Residential streets ought to serve community as well as transport functions. I feel as deflated as a flat tyre about having got nowhere on this.



**Even our trees move, though so slowly you don't notice except over a time scale of decades.** The silver birch that in 1981 was growing halfway along our front fence reached terminal old age and had to be cut down, while the then tiny birch sapling on our boundary with

neighbours Hannah, Jake, Joseph and Elsa is now a graceful mature adult. So the tree looks as though it has walked ten metres to the South!

In our back garden we inherited from our predecessors, John and Tricia Tricker, an infant weeping willow *Salix babylonica* barely taller than Adam. Now it erupts skywards higher than the house, bearing its pristine fresh springtime leafbuds and catkins on its tearful, drooping, wind-waved branches - tears of joy and abandon, of course. Its bark contains salicylic acid, chemical precursor to aspirin. High up, a pair of magpies regularly nest there, squawking threats to the squirrels who approach too close.

My spirit prefers to resonate with the decades-long view of life.

*Simon Hunt*

## PERMANENT PLANTERS COMING TO THE LIME WALK 'CHICANE'

**Large, robust wooden planters are due to be installed on each side of the chicane soon after Easter, thanks to the support given by our local County Councillor for their funding via a Big Society Grant.**

**The planters are being built in Blackbird Leys by Pathway Workshop**, a registered charity for productive employment and training for disadvantaged adults between 16 and 80, with both physical disabilities and those with learning impairment. They do lots of lovely garden furniture too! Check out their website <http://www.pathway-workshop.co.uk>.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of shrubs, bulbs and other plants to go into the planters, that would be very welcome. Once the planters are delivered, we'll have a grand planting event: look out for the publicity notices - we hope to see you there.

*Phil Gauron (Traffic Group)*

## A WARMER HOUSE

**Some people might have noticed the scaffolding on a house in Bickerton Road. At long last this has gone.** Our house is now encased in Rockwool external wall insulation, coated with a very durable render called Ecorock.

This means that some of our north facing rooms, which were previously almost unusable in cold or damp weather, are now warm, comfortable and extremely habitable. And the whole of our house needs much less heating for us to keep warm enough. It is too early to know how our energy bills have been affected, especially as this winter was warmer than previous winters. Our energy bills were already relatively low.

We wanted to install external insulation to improve comfort and reduce condensation inside the house, though of course we want to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions too. And our house has got a much-needed facelift as well. Planning permission was not required for this work.

*Susie Pye*



### HRA LITTERPICK

**The sun shone in a clear blue sky for Oxclean 2014.** A group of residents, young and not so young, equipped with high visibility jackets, litterpicks and plastic sacks purged Highfield streets of litter, which the Council then collected. Our thanks are due to Gill who made the arrangements and ensured we were rewarded with refreshments. Although Oxclean is an annual event, feel free to carry out your own informal litterpick!

### WARNEFORD MEADOW

**Do you cherish the open space of Warneford Meadow?** Why not join the Friends of Warneford Meadow (FOWM) and keep up to date with news of the Meadow and its management? Its future is now looking increasingly secure; ownership is expected to pass to Oxford Health NHS Trust who have declared that they intend to maintain the site for the benefit of hospital patients and members of the neighbouring communities. As a member of FOWM with voting rights, you will be able to influence FOWM's policy in its work with the NHS Trust to secure the Meadow as a shared amenity. For more information, please contact [warnefordmeadow@gmail.com](mailto:warnefordmeadow@gmail.com)

### INCIDENT BOOK

**Our thanks to those who have reported incidents to us, and a word of encouragement to others to do so.** Have you noticed vandalized bus shelters, syringes in the gutter, fly-tipping, blocked drains in our streets, or had your parked car damaged by a passing vehicle? HRA logs any such information in an attempt to build up a picture of problems and anti-social behaviour in Highfield. What may appear to be once-off events may well be more widespread and we need your information in order to document developing trends, thereby putting us in a better position to seek

support from the relevant authority. Phone or email Hilary (761545; [HRActtee@gmail.com](mailto:HRActtee@gmail.com)).

### MARKETING CALLS

**Do you receive unsolicited marketing calls, such as calls re supposed accidents, pay-day loans, PPI, pension reviews, debt management?** If so, you may want to consider registering with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). This is a free service on which you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls on landlines or mobiles. Your request should take effect in approximately one month, but you need to re-register annually. Contact [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) or 0207 291 3320 or by writing to: Telephone Preference Service, DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS. If you still receive unsolicited live marketing calls, contact the TPS.

If you still receive unsolicited recorded messages, contact the Information Commissioner's Office: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) / 0303 123 1113 (local rate); 01625 545 745 (if you have free calls). If you still receive spam text messages, contact the ICO or forward the message to 7726 (the numbers on your mobile keypad that correspond to the letters SPAM).

*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. T:595790. E: andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

### County Councillor: Headington & Quarry

**Roz Smith (Lib Dem)**, 12 Weyland Road, Headington Quarry, Oxford OX3 8PD. T:750371. M:07584 257156. E: roz.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

### County Councillor: Churchill & Lye Valley

**Liz Brighouse, OBE (Lab)**, Willow Bank, Old Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 8TA. T/F:766995. M:07710 451769. E: liz.brighouse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

### City Councillors: Headington Ward

**David Rundle (Lib Dem)**, 39 Catherine St, Oxford OX4 3AH. M:07980 894147. E:david.rundle@oxfordlibdems.org.uk

**Ruth Wilkinson (Lib Dem)**, 21 Thames View Road, Oxford OX4 4TQ. M:07789 368300. E:cllrwilkinson@oxford.gov.uk

### City Councillors: Churchill Ward

**Mark Lygo (Lab)**, 20 Valentia Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7PL. M:07826 527047. E:cllrmygo@oxford.gov.uk

**Susan Brown (Lab)**, 34 Canal Street, Oxford OX2 6BQ. M:07775 792447. E:cllrsbrown@oxford.gov.uk

**Headington Neighbourhood Police Officer, PC Sandra Timms**. T:101: Headington@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

**Thames Valley Police**, website:www.thamesvalley.police.uk. For emergencies T:112 (or 999)

**Oxford Brookes Customer Relations Officer, Andrea Siret**. T:484451; E:community@brookes.ac.uk

**Dorset House Manager, Emily Wright**. T:0844 3715641. E:E.Wright@crm-limited.co.uk

**Oxford City Council** Website:www.oxford.gov.uk. T:249811

**Oxfordshire County Council** Website:www.oxfordshire.gov.uk. T:792422

**Headington** Website:www.headington.org.uk

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

**Co-wheels Car Club** Website: www.co-wheels.org.uk

**Parking enforcement:** 0845 3371138

## HRA Committee

|                                             |                   |           |                               |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Patrick Coulter (Events/Traffic)            | 20 Stapleton Road | T: 766341 | patco@supanet.com             |
| Gill Beeston (Treasurer)                    | 14 Stapleton Road |           | gillianbeeston@waitrose.com   |
| Frank McKenna (Traffic/Membership elect)    | 92 Lime Walk      | T: 769708 | frank.mckenna@btinternet.com  |
| Simon Hunt (retiring)                       | 28 Latimer Road   |           | svhoxford@gmail.com           |
| Susie Pye (Events/Books)                    | 18 Bickerton Road | T: 762261 | susiepye@phonecoop.coop       |
| Hilary Rollin (Environment)                 | 63 Old Road       | T: 761545 | hrollin@btinternet.com        |
| Mike Ratcliffe (Secretary)                  | 37 Bickerton Road | T: 763074 | mike1ratcliffe@gmail.com      |
| Philip Hunter                               | 9 Stapleton Road  |           | phil.nimrod@yahoo.co.uk       |
| Sarah Wordsworth                            | 68 Lime Walk      |           | sarah.wordsworth@dph.ox.ac.uk |
| Tony Joyce (Hon Member)                     | 68 Blenheim Drive | T: 556050 | tandk@appleinter.net          |
| Admin:                                      |                   |           | HRActtee@gmail.com            |
| Chair: (rotating between committee members) |                   |           | HRAchair@gmail.com            |

## HRA Street Representatives

|                   |                   |                     |           |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Barrington Close  | Margaret Belfrage | 11 Barrington Close |           |
| Bickerton Road    | Pat Whitehouse    | 8 Bickerton Road    | T: 761718 |
| Brookside         | Laura Ess         | 13 Brookside        | T: 762559 |
| Finch Close       | Harry Edwards     | 17 Finch Close      | T: 767936 |
| Highfield Avenue  | Monyca Douglas    | 34 Highfield Ave    | T: 761441 |
| Latimer Road      | Zohra Ashraf      | 55 Latimer Road     |           |
| Lime Walk (North) | Sarah Wordsworth  | 68 Lime Walk        |           |
| Lime Walk (South) | Julia Boone       | 89 Lime Walk        | T: 761982 |
| Old Road (part)   | Hilary Rollin     | 63 Old Road         | T: 761545 |
| Old Road (part)   | Auriol Hamer      | 67 Old Road         | T: 761092 |
| Stapleton Road    | Diana Chandler    | 46 Stapleton Rd     | T: 764809 |