



HRA NEWSLETTER

Highfield Residents' Association

Spring 2015

HRA COMMUNITY EVENTS

In the past six months we've held three very successful events – a sponsored performance of *All Quiet on the Western Front* in November which raised £293 for charity, *Street Carols* in December and our annual *Spring Litterpick*. Thanks to everyone who helped organise these events and who came along to support on the day. We're planning a celebration of Summer in Headington in June and a Street Cinema evening in September – details below. If you have suggestions for events we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Frank McKenna and Patrick Coulter (for Events Group)

SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMME

29th April (Wednesday) **AGM** 7.30pm All Saints' Church House followed by:

Don't Throw your Future Away – a presentation on recycling in Oxford/Headington.

June 14th (Sunday) ***Summer in Headington*** – lots of gardens will be open to visit, All Saints' Road will be closed for the afternoon for a street café and informal games, and in the evening we shall have a barbeque in the Butchers Arms followed by a session of American country music with the Ozarks. Further details shortly.

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

'CHARACTER ASSESSMENT'

As part of the consultation on the **Neighbourhood Plan**, its **Character and Identity working group** has currently been **masterminding character assessments of Headington**. After consultation, the final version will be published. Gill and Hilary volunteered to be assessors and were allocated Highfield.

We had fun discovering aspects of our area past and present. Did you know that High Field was one of the four great fields of Headington? That much of Highfield was previously orchards? Or that from 1890-1947 on the north-west corner of Lime Walk and All Saints' Rd there was a post office that was the hub of the community? We are immensely indebted to Stephanie Jenkins for the huge amount of research she has done on the history of Headington, and her extensive website was the source of most of our information. Anyone not already familiar with it has a treat in store. <http://www.headington.org.uk/history/>

Hilary Rollin and Gill Beeston

HRA AGM on Wednesday 29th April (7.30pm) in All Saints' Church House (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 2015 (we are seeking new committee members)

Around 8.15 pm: ***Don't Throw your Future Away***

Rebecca Lake, Recycling Officer, Oxford City Council will talk about recycling in Oxford and Headington and how we can reduce the amount of waste we produce. Then we'll have questions and discussion followed by refreshments at 9pm.

PLANNING MATTERS

Headington can no more escape the pressures for increased housing than any other part of the city, and in Highfield we have seen examples of many of the ways in which the smaller sites are being developed to increase density.

In the south end of **Lime Walk** alone **no 129**, originally a single large bungalow, has been adapted and extended to become two 3-bed and one 2-bed chalet bungalows. Opposite at **no 134**, permission has been granted to build a 5-bed house in the back garden, which can be accessed from the street. Also permitted on the corner of Nursery Close, is the demolition of **no 109** (already divided into two flats) and its dilapidated outbuildings, to be replaced by a pair of semi-detached 3-bed houses. An example of the change of use of a site is at **no 73**, opposite All Saints' Church, where a poorly used commercial plot has had a sequence of plans for redevelopment approved. At present, two 3/4 bed semi-detached houses have been constructed on the Lime Walk frontage, one converted into an HMO. The use of part of the site still remains to be decided.

In all such changes, apart from the basic considerations of overlooking, neighbourliness and the satisfactory provision of cycle and bin storage, there are concerns about traffic generation and parking pressures, and the capacity of the over-worked drainage and sewerage systems to cope. It is important too that the design and choice of materials helps to maintain the character of the street. Sadly, intensification often means increasing the built footprint at the expense of garden, when combined garden areas are such a significant green and eco-friendly environment.

Our major institutions - Brookes, the hospitals and the old university's Old Road Campus – provide the other major pressures.

Brookes' forthcoming closure of their Wheatley Campus will involve more intensive use of their new and refurbished Gipsy Lane buildings, and their student accommodation needs are already foreshadowed in the proposals from Frontier Estates to construct a large student residence block at the London Road end of Latimer Road – involving the loss of four good family houses. At the time of writing, the details of this have not been

published, but consultations produced many objections to their early plans.

On the **Old Road Campus**, the university continues to construct the massive buildings for which it has permission. One small consolation for residents is that the outline permission for the **Park Hospital development phase** has included some height restrictions to the buildings proposed there.

Another application, still to be determined, is for the **development of the Triangle building into a day nursery** for which there is a long waiting list for children of university staff. Here access and the traffic conditions on Old Road are the main problem, since the logical access to the building via Churchill/Roosevelt Drive is difficult whilst major construction is taking place close by. The suggested parking and turning arrangements out of Old Road can only add to the huge traffic problems there, particularly at peak hours.

Tony Joyce

HRA INCIDENT BOOK: What is it for?

HRA Committee feels that keeping a record of 'incidents' helps us trace a pattern that can strengthen our case when the time comes to needing to report problems. What sort of 'incidents'? Answer: anything from dog poo littering, to speeding, damage to vehicles or walls and fences, break-ins, light pollution, pollution of Boundary Brook, noise issues.... anything that verges on the antisocial or that can be remedied by contacting the relevant authority. Recent examples include pavements which were reported as in need of sweeping, and gutters and drains which needed clearing. Both were attended to amazingly promptly. A big thank you to the Council and to residents who reported these issues.

Please report incidents to: HRActtee@gmail.com

Hilary Rollin

HAVE YOUR SAY: an opportunity to meet your neighbourhood policing team, second Monday of every month, 3.30-4.30, at Caffè Nero, London Road.

THAMES VALLEY ALERT: see also www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk for policing information on local crime, etc.

ENVIRONMENT

What a joy to see Highfield so litter-free! On a bright and sunny morning in March, HRA organised its annual litterpick, as part of the city-wide OxClean initiative. We were delighted at the large number of children amongst our helpers, including Joseph Rea, pictured below, who wrote this poem about the event when he was aged 9:

Litter-A-C

Saturday was the local litter pick. We gathered like a squadron of planes ready to attack, equipped with bin liner parachutes, gloves, reflective vests and remote rubber jaws. Our mission: to eliminate rubbish from bush, road and pavement.



Our swelling bag told stories of bad manners and disregard,
But also of mislaid possessions: an identity card,
(Who *is* Jill Dunn and what *has* she done?)
A baby's dummy,
("Where has little Jimmy's dummy gone?")
Tin cans,
Plastic bags,
Cigarette butts,
Broken pens,
Elastic bands,
Cable tidies,
Bagged-up dog mess and
Lolly sticks.

When our bags were extra-full,
Our road super-smart and our stomachs horribly hollow,
We warmed ourselves at Gillian's -
Drinks, chocolate, chatter,
And swapped stories of our litter campaign.

On a more sombre note, the **balancing pond near the Cancer Hospital** has again been polluted after a leak from their ground source heat pump system.



The photo shows some of the four aerators in operation to prevent the oxygen levels in the pond dropping. Water was also pumped out to the foul water sewer to be taken for treatment at the sewage works.

Another sad story: the Thames Water **surface water drain that carries water to the Lye Brook** is once again polluted. The white-grey coating consists of slimy mats of decomposing bacteria which feed on raw sewage. As on previous occasions, this is due to a misconnection, a toilet outflow pipe from a new development being connected, not to the sewer, but to a surface rainwater drain. The Environment Agency has been contacted and will endeavour to resolve the problem, though this may take a while. ***In the meantime the brook is contaminated and a hazard; children should not play there, and if anyone gets water from the brook on their hands they are advised to use hand disinfectant.***

Rat warning: rats are a recurring problem in our streets and gardens. Alive or dead, they should be reported to the Council, who will remove dead ones and for £29 will make three visits to a property, install 'boxes', lay down poison and give advice. (Pest Control 01865 252341).
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:01865 750371. M:07584 257156.
E: roz.smith@oxfordshire.gov.

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

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

Mohamed Altaf-Kahn (Lib Dem), 83 Hugh Allen Crescent, Oxford OX3 0HL. T:01865 798777. M:07931 345554.
E:cllraltaf-kahn@oxford.gov.uk.

City Councillors: Churchill Ward

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

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

Headington Neighbourhood Police Officers, PC Neil Bouse and PCSO Victor Phillips. T:101.
E:Headington@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police website:www.thamesvalley.police.uk. For emergencies T: 999

Thames Valley Alert website: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

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

Dorset House Accommodation Manager, Laura Rowhan. T:0844 3715641; E:LRowhan@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

Headington Neighbourhood Plan website: headingtonplan.org.uk/

Co-Wheels Car Club website: www.co-wheels.org.uk

HRA Committee

Chair: (rotating between committee members)

Sarah Wordsworth (Secretary)

68 Lime Walk

HRAchair@gmail.com

Gillian Beeston (Treasurer)

14 Stapleton Road

sarah.wordsworth@dph.ox.ac.uk

Patrick Coulter (Events/Traffic)

20 Stapleton Road

gillianbeeston@waitrose.com

Frank McKenna (Traffic)

92 Lime Walk

T: 766341

patco@supanet.com

Susie Pye (Events/Books)

18 Bickerton Road

T: 760708

frank.mckenna@btinternet.com

Hilary Rollin (Environment)

63 Old Road

T: 762261

susiepye@phonecoop.coop

Mike Ratcliffe (Events)

37 Bickerton Road

T: 761545

hrollin@btinternet.com

Philip Hunter (Events)

9 Stapleton Road

T: 763074

mike1ratcliffe@gmail.com

Tony Joyce (Hon Member)

68 Blenheim Drive

T: 556050

phil.nimrod@yahoo.co.uk

Admin: HRActtee@gmail.com

tandk@appleinter.net

Website: http://highfieldresidents.weebly.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)

to be filled

Lime Walk (South)

to be filled

Old Road (West)

Hilary Rollin

63 Old Road

T: 761545

Old Road (East)

Hilary Rollin

63 Old Road

T: 761545

Stapleton Road

Diana Chandler

46 Stapleton Rd

T: 764809