



HRA NEWSLETTER

Highfield Residents' Association

<http://highfieldresidents.weebly.com>

hracttee@gmail.com

Spring 2019

HRA Community Events *Frank McKenna and Patrick Coulter write:*

Since our autumn newsletter we've held several very successful cinema evenings and we hope that cinema will be a feature of our autumn and winter programmes in the future. Our annual Street Carol Singing in December had a record number of singers and our Spring Litterpick made a grand job of clearing up our local streets and paths. Thanks to everyone who helped produce these events and who came along to support on the day. Our next event is a music evening in April in aid of Asylum Welcome, then our annual street celebration for the Great Get-Together in June. In September we'll hold our twelfth annual Street Cinema evening. So lots to look forward to. If you have suggestions for events or would like to join our events group and help plan and produce our programme we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Spring/Summer Programme

5th April (Friday) From 7.30pm **How it Feels to be Free** – an evening of music and readings in aid of the charity Asylum Welcome in All Saints' Church Hall.

23rd June (Sunday) **The Great Get-Together** - a day of celebration including a picnic lunch (on the street), street party games, open gardens, afternoon teas, music and an evening social in the Butchers Arms. All Saints' Road will be closed for the day. Further details shortly. [*The Great Get-Together is a national event sponsored by the Jo Cox Foundation aiming to get communities to come together to celebrate connections and commonality*].

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

24th April (Wednesday) **Annual General Meeting**
7.30pm, All Saints' Church Hall, New High Street.

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 2019 (we are seeking new committee members)

Followed at around 8.15 pm:

Looking After our Rights of Way. A presentation by Keith Frayn (Oxford Ramblers Association Path Wardens' Coordinator) on our local footpaths and how we can manage and protect them for the future.

Then we'll have questions and discussion followed by refreshments at 9pm.

Looking after our rights of way *Our guest speaker at the AGM, Keith Frayn, writes:*

We may think of footpaths as rural routes, but even in an urban area like Headington there are many footpaths. There are around 50 individual paths in the wider Headington area, 29 in the Headington area as defined in the Neighbourhood Plan – this is very rich, compared with 4 in the Parish of Risinghurst and Sandhills or 18 in the Parish of Old Marston.

Footpaths and bridleways, just like carriageways, are the responsibility of the local highways authority, in our case the County Council. Some footpaths are maintained by the City Council under an agreement with the County, but neither body has sufficient resources to keep all paths in good condition. For this reason, local volunteers help out, working with the statutory authorities. If anyone would like to help out with some cutting back of brambles and nettles, especially during the summer, do get in touch: or alert me to any problems you see on our footpaths (keithfrayn@gmail.com)

A Community Council for Headington?

Patrick Coulter writes:

This is an important moment for Headington. In April/May the City Council will carry out a consultation exercise to see whether we will have our own Community Council. This would be identical to a Parish Council with elected members and statutory authority. Details will be set out in a pamphlet which will be delivered to all households by the City Council in April.

The provision of a Community Council is a key policy of the Headington Neighbourhood Plan. The benefits of a Community Council include a statutory right to be consulted on planning applications with greater influence on the future development of Headington. It would protect and implement the Neighbourhood Plan and strengthen the identity of Headington. It would raise money for local projects through a small additional charge on the annual Council tax and it would provide a voice for Headington and encourage local people to participate in decisions about our future. Oxford already has four Parish Councils which are well supported by their local communities. If the outcome of the consultation is favourable elections would be held in May 2020. This is an important decision for Headington's future. For more information see the Neighbourhood Forum's website at <http://headingtonplan.org.uk/>

Institute of Developmental and Regenerative Medicine - Old Road University Campus

Tony Joyce writes:

A number of our members attended the consultations on 8th/9th February. For those who did not, but would like to see details, the full presentation is available at <http://ox.ac.uk/about/building-our-future/news/2019-02-08-public-consultation-proposed-development-old-road-campus>. A comment form is available there also. The building follows very much the original Outline Planning Permission (available on the city's planning website ref 12/02072/OUT). When complete, the number of parking spaces allocated to the building in the Master Plan will be released from the available parking already on site. We understand the University is hoping to be more effective in requiring car traffic to and from its area to abide by the restrictions which require access via Roosevelt Drive, to reduce the problems associated with traffic on Churchill Drive.

Headington Hill Park

Friends of Headington Hill Park urge you to visit possibly the most beautiful park in Oxford

The park was created by James Morrell Jnr. as the landscaped garden and arboretum to Headington Hill Hall, built 1858. In 1953 the grounds were sold to Oxford City Council when it became this public park.

You will discover the wonderful collection of trees and flowers, including one of the "Monumental Trees of England", a very rare Butternut. You can also find the rare Japanese Bitter Orange which is the only citrus tree tolerant to the British climate. It has gorgeous white scented flowers in the spring and small, bitter oranges in the autumn. You can come and spot the seven different species of Oak trees in the park or the rich autumn chocolate, caramel scent of the Katsuras.



The Friends of Headington Hill Park have created a tree trail of the 50 most interesting and rare trees which are shown on their information board next to the car park and can be downloaded from their website: <http://friendsofheadingtonhillpark.org.uk>. They undertake work days to improve the park and have various projects to increase the public enjoyment of the park.

If you wish to join, support the park and participate in events please send an email to: friends.fohhp@gmail.com

HRA Incident Book:

Please remember the HRA Incident Book (hracttee@gmail.com). Even if you have already contacted the relevant authority about an issue that affects the comfort, safety or appearance of Highfield, please also log it with HRA. This will enable us to gain an overall picture and add weight to your report. Particular problems on which we currently need your input are graffiti and dog fouling. HR

Environmental Matters:

Hilary Rollin writes on recycling food waste in our area:

Let's consider food waste, and its impact on the environment. Of course, it is preferable to avoid the over-catering that generates waste, and to compost raw vegetable waste. Ground-up egg shells can be scattered around plants as slug deterrent, but for some foods the food waste bin is the only option. **NB Food waste can now be wrapped in clear plastic bags (e.g. bread wrappers), newspaper, or green bio-bags.**

What happens to the contents of our food waste bins? Oxfordshire County Council was among the first local authorities to put food waste to good use; it has a 15-yr contract with the Cassington Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant to treat 20,000 tonnes of food waste per annum; its additional capacity treats food waste from other local authorities and commercial waste providers. The facility, staffed by one manager and two operators, was commissioned in 2010, and diverts solid food waste away from landfill. Processing this waste generates enough renewable electricity to power 4,200 homes, and enough nutrient-rich liquid

fertiliser for 2,500 acres of farmland, replacing fossil-fuel-derived fertiliser.

How is this done? A weighbridge weighs vehicles before and after unloading the food waste into a bunker in the Reception Centre; the bunker's walking floor shuffles the food waste, and an Archimedes Screw pushes it along. Any wrappings are shredded by a de-packaging machine; the waste is pulverised into sludge and pasteurised to eradicate e-coli and salmonella. In the course of 90 days, the sludge proceeds through five digester tanks, which are fed every 4 hours with 4-5% of new material. The food waste breaks down to produce biogas and a liquid fertiliser. Biogas is converted into electricity and fed into the National Grid. Two thirds of the site's income comes from what it generates, and one third from the gate fee. **The net environmental benefit equates to taking 71,000 cars off the road.**

Free tours of the Cassington Food Waste plant are scheduled for: 23 July 2019, 19 September 2019, 18 March 2020, and for the Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley (green bin waste): 10 April 2019, 30 October 2019, 16 January 2020. For information and to book on a tour (including transport by minibus), contact 01865 252997 or recyclingleague@oxford.gov.uk

Hedgehog survey: we need your help

Olivia Goodrich writes:

Now that Spring is underway, hedgehogs will be coming out of hibernation in your garden, that is, if there are any left in Highfield. As we all know, there has been a steep decline generally in numbers in the UK but work is afoot to reverse this. HRA is supporting the tireless work of Oxford ecologist and author, Hugh Warwick and HedgeOX (<http://hedgeox.org>), by conducting a local hedgehog survey and offering top tips to encourage hedgehogs back into Highfield. We hope to find out about:

- Sightings of hedgehogs in Highfield in previous years
- more recent hedgehog sightings in 2018/2019

- recent sightings of badgers
- if you have made a hedgehog hole in your garden boundary

Please report Highfield hedgehog sightings by email to: olivia.goodrich@yahoo.co.uk. You can also plot this information on a national Big Hedgehog Map (<http://bighedgehogmap.org>).

To make Highfield hedgehog friendly, overcoming fragmentation of the green spaces in our neighbourhood is key as hedgehogs need to roam up to a mile a night. So make sure there are holes 13cm in diameter (size of a CD case) in your garden fences, any bigger will encourage local badgers, the chief predator of hedgehogs and competitor for food. Further tips can be found on: <http://britishhedgehogs.org.uk/hedgehog-close-film>.

HRA Litterpick, March 2019:

Volunteers, equipped with pickers, gloves, high-vis vests and bags setting off on the recent annual Spring Clean of our Highfield area, the twelfth time HRA has participated in this highly successful city-wide Oxclean initiative.

