



# *The Fields*



The newsletter of Iffley Fields Residents Association  
March 2020

## **IFRA**

**Iffley Fields Residents Association**

### **Annual General Meeting**

8 pm Thursday 12 March 2020  
Greyfriars Church Hall, Jackdaw Lane

### **The Ecological Crisis**

#### **What can we do locally?**

Local campaigners and activists will give their views on what action might be taken by the community



## **The environment & wildlife**

IFRA holds a fund of £700 which is earmarked for promoting action on wildlife conservation

Tell us how we might use this!

So far suggestions include supporting Astons Eyot and encouraging bird life.

Come to the AGM and let us know what you think.

### **Open Gardens**

This was a great success thanks to the gardeners and the organisers. £300 from the proceeds were given to IFRA. After a consultation on Facebook, we decided to use the money to improve the youth football pitch in Meadow Lane Recreation Ground. Other suggestions, such as a rubbish bin by the entrance to the Kidneys and a bench in the playground, are being followed up with the Council.

We are looking for volunteers to help organise the next Open Gardens, if you may be able help please contact:  
[iffleyfields@gmail.com](mailto:iffleyfields@gmail.com)

### **Meadow Lane Recreation Ground**

IFRA committee member Jon Rees, working with Donnington and Hinksey Clubs, has submitted a proposal to the Council for chalking up the football pitch. We hope this can be a part of a general strategy for regenerating the area, including possibly an outdoor gym and a fenced off dog-free area for younger children to run around.

## **Drug dealing**

Residents who observe drug dealing in Meadow Lane residents can report activity on 101. There was a decrease in activity following police presence in the summer. Some drug dealing has been noted during January, and police contact has resulted in an area search for dealers.

## **Whole-house Airbnb**

IFRA has been worried about the impact of whole-house Airbnb on the area, in particular taking houses from permanent residents and this has been raised with local city councillors. While there are few legal precedents to take action, many cities are facing worse problems - so it is 'watch this space'.

## **Parking and CPZ**

The Controlled Parking Zone was introduced in October 2018. After initial improvements, parking has become difficult again. Volunteers carried out surveys on two evenings which showed around 20% of the cars parked on the evening did not have valid permits. The council were sent the findings and now there is more enforcement. We will keep doing random surveys and putting pressure on the County Council to improve enforcement.

## **Argyll & Chester Street Party**

Argyle and Chester Streets were closed for the day in September 2019, with a barbecue, residents bringing and sharing food, children's games, live music by local acts, and a film.

Around 200 people attended. £250 was donated to Quest for Learning, a charity that works across the county helping primary pupils who struggle with maths, reading, and writing.



## **Iffley Pickers**

The Iffley Pickers was set up last August to pick up litter around the Iffley Fields area. The group was supported by OxClean by providing litter pickers and high vis jackets. Since then the group has collected approx 20 bags of rubbish with just a few volunteers. It takes around two hours with three people to pick up all the litter in Iffley Fields. If you are interested in taking part or 'becoming a street champion', please contact [iffleypick@gmail.com](mailto:iffleypick@gmail.com). Let's make our area the cleanest in Oxford.

## **Facebook**

IFRA has a Facebook page, only open to people living here, where you can find out what is happening in our streets, get recommendations and offers as well as news about IFRA. To join you need a FaceBook account and go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/144543185561949/>

Notification will be sent to the administrators who will then accept anyone into the group if they look as if they are local.

We are looking for a volunteer to help run the page or assist us in setting up a website. Let us know if you can help.

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## **IFRA**

If you have any issues you want to raise contact any of the IFRA management committee. We meet every two months and our three councillors normally attend. Issues we have followed up include: dockless bikes, subsidence by the Fairacres bus stop, graffiti and pavement parking by the shops, raves in Astons Eyot and planning applications.

Thelma Martin (Chair), Ben Pinches (Treasurer), Christine Hogg (Secretary), Barbara Ashcroft, Luke Bolton, Simon Fisher, Mari Girling, Janet Hall, Samantha Robertson, Chris Terry, Sarah Wild.

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*Cover illustrations: Sue Coles*