

Friends of Iffley Village

website: www.friendsofiffley.org



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Chair: Troth Wells

Newsletter Editor: Juliette Gammon

Summer Newsletter 2023

Kate Griffin

We were deeply saddened to learn of Kate's death in June. Some attended her funeral in Hampshire, which was a very moving and warm occasion with fond memories of Kate from her family. The burial took place in woodland which seems a perfect resting place. Kate contributed so much to Iffley, in all kinds of ways. She gave me kindness and support when I became Chair. Please see p 4 for some memories.

Open Gardens

Another wonderful sunny day, perfect for wandering around and enjoying the delights of Iffley gardens. Many thanks to all concerned – raising over £2,500 for the National Garden Scheme.

E-newsletters

We send out e-newsletters on an ad hoc basis as required to supplement the paper newsletters. If you are not receiving these, please email membership@friendsofiffley.org so that we can add you to the circulation list.

Peggy Seeger and Julia Hollander. We look forward to welcoming you to this event on 9 September, exploring the way singing and music affect us all. See notice below.

FOIV AGM: Wednesday, 1 November, 7.30-9pm in the Church Hall.

Troth Wells, Chair



WHY WE SING

Julia Hollander & Peggy Seeger

Saturday 9 September

4-6pm in the Church Hall, Iffley



Babies, toddlers, schoolchildren - most of us once sang, beat a drum or squawked on a recorder, yet lost touch with it later... The healing power of music is well known especially when you make it yourself. Singing resonates in every part of the body.

As professional singers from very different roots and platforms, Peggy and Julia come together to talk about singing as both an art and a therapy.

Join us for a session of live music making and creative thinking.

Tickets: £15 (includes drink/snack) will be on sale from the shop. Further drinks available for donations.

FOR YOUR 2023 DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Society	Event
Saturday, 9 Sept	4-6pm	Church Hall	**FOIV	<i>Why we sing</i> - Julia Hollander and Peggy Seeger
Sunday, 10 Sept	2.30 -5pm	Church Hall	Living Stones	<i>People who left their mark on Iffley Church (2)</i> ; Talk and Family History session with Elizabeth Wells
Tuesday, 12 Sept	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Empire of Light</i>
Saturday, 16 Sep	3pm	Church Hall	*FOSM	AGM & Annual Lecture Professor William Whyte: <i>Iffley, Oxford and the world: how the Victorians changed the Church</i>
Saturday, 30 Sept	2-4pm	Church Hall	Living Stones	<i>People who left their mark on Iffley Church (3)</i> with Hilary Pearson, Susan Walker & Penny Tyack
Tuesday, 10 Oct	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Lunana: a Yak in the Classroom</i>
Tues, 17 Oct	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	AGM followed by Simon Wenham: <i>Living the lexicon</i> - James Murray and the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary
Sunday, 22 Oct	3pm	Church Hall	Music	Dominic Piers Smith, piano solo: Rachmaninov, Liszt, Bach, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky
Tuesday, 7 Nov	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Cabaret</i>
Wednesday, 1 November	7.30-9pm	Church Hall	**FOIV	AGM
Tues 21 Nov	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	William Beinart: <i>The future of statues of famous people</i>

*Friends of St Mary's **Friends of Iffley Village

Highways

The remedial work on Church Way scheduled by Thames Water from 12-14 July, which would have involved restricted vehicular access, appears not to have taken place. It is currently unknown if, and when, this will proceed and if contingency arrangements, such as the opening Eastchurch, will be needed.

Oxfordshire County Council is monitoring the 'melting' turning circle in front of the church and will apply a sand blanket as necessary.

Prince of Wales



The new tenants Mathew and Sage have re-opened the kitchen and the pub will be refurbished later in the year.

Defibrillator: the device is now reinstalled and operational outside the pub.

Bar open: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 3-11pm; Saturday 12-11pm; Sunday noon-9pm.

Food served: Monday, Thursday & Friday 5-9pm; Saturday 12-2.30 & 5.30-9pm; Sunday 12-4pm.

Note: Pub closed Tuesday and no food served on Wednesday.

If you'd like to join FOIV, please contact the membership secretary by email membership@friendsofiffley.org or visit the website friendsofiffley.org to download a form.

Planning Matters

Donnington Recreation Ground Cycle Track 22/02446/CT3:

Oxford City Council's proposal (via its subsidiary Oxford Direct Services) to construct a cycle track across Donnington Recreation Ground, from Cavell Road to Meadow Lane, is not opposed by FOIV in principle. At issue is the proposed route, its unnecessary/avoidable impact on mature trees along Meadow Lane, and that it won't solve the damage problem to the football pitches by bikes/walkers. The applicant is to address concerns from residents and consultees about standards and transparency in its submission. Arboriculture and biodiversity calculations are shown to be inadequate. OCC is now awaiting the applicant's further submissions before deciding when to take the application to Committee. The applicant was criticised for a bunker mentality and wasting public money on repeat submissions despite an obvious solution: extend the cycle path 70m on the western edge of the playing field to join Meadow Lane at the existing entrance/exit. **Dominic Woodfield**

Iffley Mead

Our County Councillor Brad Baines and Lucian Dunlop of ODS met with residents from Augustine Way at their request to discuss access for emergency vehicles through their estate; this included suggestions for an emergency access route via Cavell Road. He assured FOIV that access via Meadow Lane was not discussed and is completely out of scope. It is recognised that access will be problematic, but so far the issue has not been referred to planning officers. The outline planning application is due this Autumn. If granted, Oxfordshire CC will seek a developer to bring forward reserved planning applications. Work is likely to start in 2025, with the site potentially completed by 2027. Times and dates have been identified for the pre-application public consultation. An event will be held on Friday, 11 August from 2pm-8pm at the Church Hall. **Ian Maclean**

Court Place

The courtyard's final form (best viewed from Rivermead Road) can now be seen, with the roof works well under way. Contracts Manager Mark Pettengell has joined Feltham's team and takes a more collaborative approach to community engagement, resulting in us getting the pavement resurfaced and the site entrance widened. This should reduce the potential danger of large lorries getting onto site, something we have pressed for from day one. This success was achieved by Oxford University Development (OUD) part-funding the work despite it being Feltham's responsibility. Thanks to FOIV's intervention delivery times during school holidays will only be extended by two hours in the afternoon. The design for the information panels for the hoarding, which had input from FOIV, is with the planners for approval. Following our request as an interim measure the hoarding has been painted which enhances its appearance.

Box blight has affected the large old hedge in the churchyard so we are facilitating discussions between the church, their architect and OUD to maximise the opportunity to create a new vista from the West door into Court Place Gardens. **Phil Hart for Rose Hill and Iffley Communities**

Horse Fields

Application update: Upon enquiry, Kenny Phillips of OX Place has confirmed that although it is really hard to say how long the discussions with the Local Planning Authority will go on, he doesn't expect them to be completed before early August. The next public consultation may be in September.

Feet First Community Event on Meadow Lane: More than 100 people chalked their feet along Meadow Lane as part of the Iffley Feet First community event on Sunday, 25 June, organised by visiting Australian artist Heather Matthew. Walkers, cyclists and joggers stopped to draw outlines of their feet along Meadow Lane. Residents from all over the city, as well as the UK and international visitors from as far afield as Lebanon and Australia, wrote on paper bunting about their enjoyment of the peaceful, rural character of Meadow Lane and being close to nature as well as what would be lost if the Local Planning Authority were to approve housing development on the Horse Fields. Heather's footage from the Iffley Feet First was displayed at the OVADA Gallery as part of the Visual Art and Place Masters students' responses to the City on Thursday, 29 June. **Rachel Falconer**

Memories of Kate Griffin, 12 August 1943 – 21 June 2023

The cancer Kate developed some 20 years ago returned a few months back, soon after she moved to live with her son and his family in northeast Hampshire. She leaves two sons and six grandchildren and was buried in Heatherley Wood on 5 July.

Caroline Pond: “Kate was the ideal public servant, hard-working, knowledgeable, scrupulous, practical, realistic and above all fair, a voice of honesty and compassion. She knew Iffley as a child because her uncle lived for many years at 11 Iffley Turn. She moved to 27 Tree Lane in 1996 and soon participated fully in local community work, in Blackbird Leys, Donnington and Rose Hill as well as in Iffley itself. She served as FOIV Treasurer until recently and those involved with the Friends during the 2010s remember her quiet competence and willingness to help with Winter Suppers and other major events.”

Kathryn Wilkinson: “My lovely neighbour Kate lived next door to my husband David and I for 20 years. We shared responsibilities for the humdrum: dustbins, gravel replacement, repairs to gates and borders; and, we became close friends, looking out for each other on dark nights and during absences.

“We were aware of Kate’s many interests and charitable activities. We’d hear the gate swing, and off she’d go. She was a Nordic walker, a bold driver, thinking nothing of driving to the family cottage in Pembrokeshire, and an intrepid traveller visiting far flung friends, family and supporting the education charity A2E in Kenya. We became aware of her deep loyalty and love for long established friends and family, particularly her grandchildren. Kate was tough, resourceful and compassionate and always prepared to do her bit.”

Judith English: “Kate and I had the rare pleasure of making a new close friendship in our 70s. We could share private pleasures or concerns and know that they would remain confidential. I discovered that she had faced loss and serious illness over the years and developed a quiet competence in many areas – for example, last year Kate made selling her house seem effortless! We both read a lot and she rapidly became a valued member of my book club. I shall always be thankful that she moved to live with her family before the onset of her final illness.”

Juliette Gammon: “I met Kate in the Church Hall kitchen when we helped with the joint FOIV/FOSM lunch for the Queen’s Golden Jubilee. Afterwards we walked home up Tree Lane where she invited me in for drink. That was the start of a wonderful and rewarding friendship. Apart from frequent suppers sipping her favourite French rosé, we often went to the Playhouse (where she volunteered), to Newbury’s Watermill (with a pre-show supper), and days out to the Thame Show, craft fairs, gardens and houses. Kate was so vital, enthusiastic, brimming with ideas and empathy. She was a joyous character, loving colour whether in dress or decoration.

Kate spent her 70th birthday in style with a party on a Salter’s Steamer. She would have been 80 this August and we should all raise a glass then to a very special person.”



Save the date: A celebration of Kate’s life will take place in Iffley on the afternoon of Friday, 1 September. If Kate’s friends would like to join the family, please contact leo.griffin@gmail.com so they can estimate numbers. Details to follow in a FOIV e-newsletter.