

# Friends of Iffley Village

website: [www.friendsofiffley.org](http://www.friendsofiffley.org)



Use this QR (quick response) code to access the website if you have internet connection

Chair: Troth Wells  
Newsletter Editor: Juliette Gammon

## December Newsletter 2023

**AGM** - We had a fruitful meeting noting FOIV's work over the year including the Coronation and other events such as 'Why We Sing' with Julia Hollander and Peggy Seeger; improved electronic communications; moves towards online membership/renewal, plus event ticketing; defibrillator training (with FoSM); reinstallation of the defib at the Prince of Wales; registering the PoW as a community asset; updates on planning; water leaks and works; reporting on security issues including burglaries; holding a public meeting on a possible Controlled Parking Zone (NB no actual application for a CPZ has yet manifested). The AGM was followed by an interesting talk on **Neighbourhood Policing** from our local PCSOs Thomas Taylor and Johnny Little, including points about setting up a 'Speedwatch' group in Iffley to try and deter speeding vehicles. See FOIV website for more info. All AGM 2023 docs are [HERE](#).

The FOIV membership fee for 2024-5 is £5, due in January. NOTE YOU CAN NOW JOIN/RENEW ONLINE on this website OR scan the QR code on the membership form inside the print newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at FOIV's Winter Event where we are delighted to welcome the renowned poet JACKIE KAY. See below

Troth Wells, Chair



### FOIV Winter Event

Saturday, 16 December 4-6pm

Church Hall, Iffley OX4 4EJ

*Twin Travellers in Poetry and Song*

**Jackie Kay** MBE, CBE, FRSE, FRSL / **Peggy Seeger**

**Jackie Kay**, Scottish poet, playwright, novelist and former Makar (Scots Poet Laureate) will discuss her life & work with renowned musician, singer and composer,

**Peggy Seeger**



Tickets £20 (includes a drink and refreshments) from Iffley Community Shop. OR you can reserve tickets for collection and pay at the door (cash only please) by emailing [katrinagaye@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katrinagaye@yahoo.co.uk). Further drinks available for donation. Cash only please. See back page for more about Jackie and online booking.



Scan to pay

## FOR YOUR 2023 DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Society	Event
Tuesday, 5 Dec	7.30pm	Church Hall	*FOSM	Friends' Forum
Tuesday, 12 Dec	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>The Duke</i>
Saturday, 16 Dec	4-6pm	Church Hall	**FOIV	Jackie Kay and Peggy Seeger
Tuesday, 9 Jan	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>The Whale</i>
Tuesday, 16 Jan	7.30pm	Church Hall	*FOSM	Quiz Night
Sunday, 21 Jan	3pm	Church Hall	Music	Kurtag Trio, violin, viola, cello: music by Kurtag, Beethoven, Purcell, Enescu
Tuesday, 13 Feb	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Truman</i>
Tuesday, 20 Feb	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Liz Woolley on <i>Felicia Skene – Oxford prison reformer and friend of the poor</i>
Sunday, 25 Feb	3pm	Church Hall	Music	Lise Vandersmissen, harp: music inc Liszt, Haydn, Manuel de Falla, et al.
Tuesday, 5 March	7.30pm	Church Hall	*FOSM	Poetry and Puddings: Poetry readings/puddings/wine
Tuesday, 12 March	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Rye Lane</i>
Tuesday, 19 March	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Ciaron Walsh on <i>The Otmoor Riots of 1830 in a wider context</i>
Sunday, 24 March	3pm	Church Hall	Music	Salome Quartet: music by Matthews, Britten, Haydn, Hildegard Von Bingen
Tuesday, 9 April	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Local Hero</i>
Tuesday 16 April	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Marie-Louise Kerr (Curator Without Museum): <i>Oxford Penicillin , a forgotten World War II story"</i>
Saturday 27 April	tba	Iffley Turn for coach	*FOSM	Annual Excursion: East Berkshire churches

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

### Oxford Local Plan 2040 (LP2040) Consultation

Oxford City Council (OCC)'s draft Local Plan 2040 (LP2040), is now out for consultation; closing date: 5 January 2024. Plans to build on the Horse Fields (HF) remain unchanged, despite the huge number of objections to OxPlace's application last year.

PLEASE respond as this is a chance to get the HF **removed** from allocation in the LP2040. You can respond [here](#).

For relevant documents visit:

[www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning\\_policy/1460/oxford\\_local\\_plan\\_2040](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_policy/1460/oxford_local_plan_2040)

Click on 'Downloads' at foot of page, to see

**SPS13 Site Assessment 389 Land at Meadow Lane 130923** PDF, 258.16 KB (now **SP13** changed from 'SP42' in the earlier Local Plan 2036).

**The Horse Fields SP13 'Land at Meadow Lane' should be removed from the allocation in LP2040 because:**

**1. Conservation Area status:** Any development of Land at Meadow Lane fails to conserve and protect the 'strong rural characteristics' identified as a key feature in the Iffley Conservation Area Appraisal (2009) and will deliver very substantial harm to these assets.

**2. County Council Principal Quiet Route and Traffic:** Church Way and Meadow Lane are part of the designated Principal Quiet Route OXR 18, heavily used for leisure and active travel by cyclists, joggers, walkers, families with prams, mobility scooters, and horse-riders. This fact seems to have been missing from the allocation as presented to the Inspector for LP2036. Any development of 'Land at Meadow Lane' fails to take into account the substantial harm increased vehicular traffic will have on the Quiet Route at a time when OCC policy is to increase active travel and reduce congestion, air pollution and carbon emissions. Increased traffic around the village is a major concern.

**3. Ecology:** The HF 'easily meet the criteria to be classified as an Oxford City Wildlife Site' (Bioscan). The fields were allocated in LP2036 on the basis of a cursory look over the gate with no proper ecological survey. The site includes a large, active badger sett and the fields are foraging grounds. This is a protected species and should have been mentioned in any ecological assessment prior to allocation. We are very concerned that OCC allows such inadequate assessment to form the basis of decision-making with an irreversible impact on our environment.

**4. Flood Risk and Drainage:** In the light of climate change, OCC should not allow any development within Flood Zones 3a or 3b, except in wholly exceptional circumstances.

FOIV remains deeply concerned about proposals to build 30+ houses on the last remaining acres in the Iffley Conservation Area. It is felt that there was insufficient consultation about the original allocation plans, and that many local people including those on Meadow Lane had no idea what was being proposed. The HF application raised over 1,000 formal responses on the City's Planning portal – a huge number – with some 98% of those objecting to it, including statutory consultees such as the Environment Agency; plus BBOWT; Buglife; Windrush Against Sewage Pollution; Cotswolds Rivers Trust; CPRE Oxfordshire; CycloX; Oxford Badger Group; Iffley Fields Residents' Association; Oxford Rivers Improvement Campaign; Oxford Civic Society; Oxford Pedestrians Association; Oxford Urban Wildlife Group; plus a Holding Objection from Thames Valley Police. We fundamentally oppose the principle of building on this site since it does not comply either with SP42 [now SP13] or the Council's development plans as a whole. This site is not suitable for development. The draft LP 2040 is simply repeating the same policy, based on the same erroneous assessment.

We expect OCC to take notice of the **huge** opposition to the HF proposal, and an alternative vision - such as a nature school - to be acted upon. Since OCC owns this site, there is no excuse for not applying the core principles in LP2040 of addressing the climate emergency, promoting green transport/cycling infrastructure. The need for affordable, social rent housing can be met on nearby Iffley Mead, another publicly owned site, which is also allocated for development (SP14 in LP2040).

In response to OxPlace's December 2022 application, FOIV engaged experts in five key areas: Heritage/Conservation (Orion Heritage); Landscape/Environment (Alison Farmer Associates); Ecology/Biodiversity (Bioscan Ltd); Transport/Traffic (Velocity); Drainage/Flooding (Water Resource Associates); plus Mark Wood Associates, by crowdfunding, on Planning. The experts concluded that the application should be rejected, and the Planning office sent it back to OxPlace for thorough revisions. We await a revised application and have retained the experts to review the re-submitted documents. An independent Crowd Funder will be set up to invite donations to pay the experts.

**Can you help?** As winter approaches, the cost of living squeezes harder and food poverty is rising. Food banks are struggling to keep up with demand, needing food, drivers, volunteers and donations. Contact [oxfordfoodhub.org](https://www.oxfordfoodhub.org), <https://www.ox4foodcrew.co.uk> (there are others too) and the Council lists larders, drop-in centres and other organisations at [www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20007/communities/1198/free\\_and\\_low\\_cost\\_food\\_in\\_oxford](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20007/communities/1198/free_and_low_cost_food_in_oxford) There is also a Food support and services map at <http://www.gfo.org.uk/food-support/community-food-services-map/>

## Jackie Kay, Scotland's Makar

FOIV is delighted to welcome Jackie Kay, Scottish poet, novelist and playwright, to Iffley Church Hall on 16 December where she and Peggy Seeger will present themselves as *Twin Travellers in Poetry and Song*. They met in 2016 when Jackie was Chancellor at Salford University and have been solid friends ever since.

Jackie's plays, poems and novels have won multiple awards, among which are the 1994 Somerset Maugham Award and the 1998 Guardian Fiction Prize. She is, however, best known as a poet and held the title of the Makar (the poet laureate of Scotland) from 2016 to 2021.

She published her first poetry book *The Adoption Papers* in 1991. It received the Saltire Society Scottish First Book Award and a Scottish Arts Council Book Award in 1992. The themes of identity, race,



nationality, gender and sexuality are told by three women: an adopted biracial child, her adoptive mother, and her biological mother.

The collection draws on her experience as the child of a Scottish mother and Nigerian father who, with her brother Maxwell, was adopted as a baby by John and Helen Kay. John worked for the Communist Party and Helen was Scottish secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Jackie remembers growing up in a highly political household: "I had strong ideas about apartheid and poverty, I used to go on a lot of marches and I wrote a lot of political poetry when I was younger". The Kays also admired the music of Peggy and her

husband, Ewan MacColl. Peggy describes an extended afternoon tea with Jackie and her parents as something "never to forget. I felt like a member of the family".

Jackie returned to the adoption theme in 2010 when she published *Red Dust Road* about searching for her biological parents, who had met when her father was a student at Aberdeen University and her mother was a nurse. The book was adapted as a play and in 2018 a production by the National Theatre of Scotland premiered at the Edinburgh Festival and then toured the UK. Her drama *The Lamplighter*, an exploration of the Atlantic slave trade, was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in March 2007 during a season marking the bicentenary of the Slave Trade Act, and was published as a poem in 2008. More recently, she read from her biography of blues singer Bessie Smith on *Book of the Week*.

She has an MBE and a CBE for services to literature and was one of the BBC's 100 Women in November 2020. She tours incessantly, lecturing, presenting, giving readings, taking part in conferences – doing what an iconic literary figure does. She is currently Professor of Creative Writing at Salford University. *May Day*, her latest collection of poetry will be published next year.

Jackie is one of the early, official supporters of Friends of the Fields Iffley and is coming to us pro bono – as one does. The Poet and the Singer will be talking about their trajectories, about poetry and song as complementary forms and will be taking questions.

*Bring cash and book early. Jackie's books will be on sale.*

## Juliette Gammon, Editor

Buy your tickets for the Jackie Kay event [HERE](#) by scanning the QR code with your phone. With iPhone, simply point camera at the code and it will take you to the ticket-purchasing site. With Android phones, you need to first download a QR Reader app.

