

Friends of Iffley Village

website: www.friendsofiffley.org



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

Chair: Troth Wells

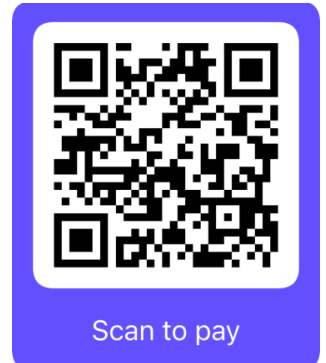
Newsletter Editor: Juliette Gammon

March Newsletter 2024

Friends of Iffley Village – a voice for the village

PLEASE join Friends of Iffley Village if you are not already a member. Membership of FOIV enables our organisation to continue to produce the printed and e-mail newsletters, organise fun events and devote resources to representing the village's interests on important local matters. These include traffic/car parking, inappropriate development, crime and anti-social behaviour, protecting the Conservation Area and assets such as the Prince of Wales pub and maintenance of the second village defibrillator.

To JOIN or RENEW for 2024 (£5 per person) simply scan this QR code. You can also visit FOIV website friendsofiffley.org/about-foiv/join-us/ to download a paper membership form. We'd like to thank everyone who has already paid their 2024 subscription. **Troth Wells, Chair**



Friends of Iffley Village - technical support

We are looking for someone with relevant technical skills to help our voluntary organisation. Friends of Iffley Village was set up to protect and enhance the Iffley Conservation Area. It represents the area to the authorities on planning and issues such as traffic, flooding, security and protection of green spaces. We send out e-newsletters using Mailchimp. The website friendsofiffley.org has local news and is used for selling event tickets, for donations and for membership joining/renewals, using Stripe. We would like to streamline the website. Key skills required are Technical knowledge: Wordpress, Google Drive and issues around hosting a website and email addresses. No need for any html, css or deeper web technical understanding. If you can help, or know someone who could, please contact chair@friendsofiffley.org

Defibrillator

The one maintained by FOIV, at the Prince of Wales pub, has been repaired; its heated enclosure box required attention and it has now received a new battery.



Fran Deacon

All who knew her will be deeply saddened by the unexpected death of Fran Deacon. She was so energetic, creative, wise, with infectious enthusiasm and a wicked sense of humour. Although very ill the last few years with pulmonary fibrosis she had continued to devise the Friends of St Mary's fiendish annual quiz (including last January's) and to write her comic poetry which will be remembered at this year's Poetry and Puddings on Tuesday, 5 March. We send heartfelt condolences to her husband Cliff and all at Remy and Lucas House.

Peggy Seeger wrote: "Fran: your cheerful outlook and your daring sense of humour will be sorely missed".

FOR YOUR 2024 DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Society	Event
Sat, 2 March	3-4.30pm	Church Hall	Living Stones	Tea-party for Living Stones volunteers, past, present and future. Come and join the team!
Tues, 5 March	7.30pm	Church Hall	FOSM	Poetry and Puddings
Tues, 12 March	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Rye Lane</i>
Tues, 19 March	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Ciaran Walsh The Otmoor Riots of 1830 in a wider context
Sun, 24 March	3pm	Church Hall	Music	'Songs and Caprices:400 years of the violin' Peter Sheppard Skaerved, violin with David Matthews, composer
Tues, 9 April	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Truman</i>
Tues 16 April	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Vivien Greene Memorial Lecture. Marie-Louise Kerr: "Oxford Penicillin, a forgotten World War II story"
Sat, 27 April	Tba	Iffley Turn pick-up	FOSM	Geoffrey Tyack & Tim Tatton-Brown: visit to east Berkshire churches & Reading Abbey
Sun, 28 April	3pm	Church Hall	Music	Susanna MacRae soprano, Claire Habbershaw, piano. Brahms, Vaughn Williams, Schumann et al
Sat, 18 May	2-4.45pm	Church Hall	Living Stones	Andrew Dunning/Anne Bailey:12thC Oxford & St Frideswide; Priory, Pilgrims & People
Tues, 14 May	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	TBA
Tues, 21 May	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Caroline Pond: Iffley residents celebrated with Oxfordshire Blue Plaques
Tues, 11 June	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	TBA
Sunday, 2 June	2-6pm	Various		Open Gardens, see opposite
Sat, 15 June	7.30pm	Church Hall	FOSM	Summer party for members and guests
Sat, 29 June	1.30-4.30pm	Iffley Church & Hall	Living Stones	Day-school in Drawing with Sally Levell & Phil Whiting.

Security

Three break-ins or attempted break-ins involving cars and property in the village were brought to FOIV's attention. We contacted the Thames Valley PCSOs who quickly offered to hold a community pop up event outside the village shop in late January, handing out Faraday pouches to protect electronic keys, and security advice. They asked us all to remain vigilant, not to keep anything in cars and report any incidents via the formal routes to the police.

Highways/Parking

Some pavements are difficult to navigate with overhanging vegetation forcing people into the road so please trim those plants. Several people have raised the issue of vehicles parking on the pavements, making it hard for pedestrians to pass, especially those with disabilities, or with buggies and children. Please ensure any visitors are aware of this and park considerately.

Iffley Mead and Donnington Recreation Ground Cycle Path

Bluestone Planning (the agent for the County Council on Iffley Mead) reported that they had submitted further details to the City Council in a second round of pre-application advice. This included the matters raised by the public consultation event, the concerns about an alternative emergency access raised by residents of Augustine Way, and all the consultant reports received to date. Bluestone Planning expected to have a meeting toward the end of January with the City Planners.

At this time, the decision notice on the Cycle Path has still to be posted. The reason for the delay is not known – could we hope that it is due to the advice of Councillor Hollingsworth and others being heeded, and a more sensitive design being pursued that doesn't involve the felling of a large number of trees in the Meadow Lane copse.

Horse Fields

OxPlace finally mowed the Memorial Field in November, but could not access the Horse Fields because of their fence on Church Way. They planned to submit their 'Revised Plans' before Christmas but, to date, only a revised Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and revised Traffic and Highways statement have appeared on the planning portal. The revised FRA essentially restates and defends their first statement, ignoring serious flaws, miscalculations and omissions pointed out by the Environment Agency (EA) – which objected to the first application – and by our independent hydrologist's report and numerous public bodies. The independent hydrologist has provided a second assessment, again pointing out the serious flaws in the applicant's FRA. This, together with our planning consultant's cover statement can be found on the planning portal (ref. 22/03078/FUL). We note that the County Council (One Voice, on the planning portal) maintains its objection, based on increased flood risk.

The revised Traffic and Highways statement also mainly restates their earlier position, and ignores the flaws highlighted by the independent experts commissioned by the FOIV committee last year. One change is that the proposed road in the development be unadopted (private). Our experts, Velocity, are preparing a second report, emphasising to OxPlace the traffic jams, the serious safety issues, and the loss of a much used Quiet Route, which the proposed development would cause. PLEASE write in again - quoting Ref 22/03078/FUL and send to: planning@oxford.gov.uk

Court Place

The project is in its final phase, with occupation in September. At our prompting Feltham's supply chain donated to the Rose Hill Christmas food support initiative, and will support the March litter pick. Oxford University Development's (OUD) Charity quiz night was a huge success raising £15,936 for the Oxford Food Hub. Delivery and parking issues continue and we are pressing to get footpath damage repaired. Our focus is now on maximizing the opportunity to enhance the views from the Church's West door into Court Place Gardens (CPG). This requires close coordination between all stakeholders. Negotiations are ongoing with OUD about a gateway in the new fence line and the landscaping in CPG to enhance the views from the churchyard.

Church Way/Meadow Lane

The likely increase in traffic following Court Place's completion will mostly be cyclists but also delivery bikes which will impact on roads in the village. Church Way will be busier and Meadow Lane QR18 even more important in the future as a safe route for cyclists linking peripheral parts of Oxford with the City Centre and a key part of the City-wide connective transport network shown in the Online Cycle Map at www.cyclox.org/index.php/2023/05/28/oxford-online-cycle-map/

That leak! Finally, finally the leak on Church Way has been fixed. It took some coordinating between the Highways Authority, Thames Water and the Mercure Hawkwell House to remedy this. We are grateful to our County Councillor, Brad Baines, for his help on this and to concerned local residents.

Iffley Open Gardens, Sunday, 2 June

Book your tickets in advance or on the day. Refreshments: home-made teas in Church Hall and 25 Abberbury Road.

Adult: £6 / Child under 16: free. Open: 14:00 - 18:00.

For group openings such as those below you pay one admission price and get entry to all the gardens in the group:

6 Fitzherbert Close; 17 & 25 Abberbury Road; 4A Tree Lane; 50 Church Way; The Priory. findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/17811/iffley-gardens



The new look Hawkwell House



Anuj Sagar

When the Accor Hotel Group advertised for a new manager at Hawkwell House, on Church Way, Anuj Sagar came to take a look. He'd been with Accor for 14 years and currently managed their Novotel in Milton Keynes where he lives with his wife and 7 year old son. Anuj immediately fell for the hotel, its idiosyncrasies and individuality and took over on 9 January. "It has its own charm," he explains on a tour of its two 19th century manor houses and carriage house, "It's different from most hotels – very quirky - with its history, nooks and crannies where guests can relax, and the Oxford themes." The latter are much in evidence.

Two years ago, as part of a £3.5 million top-to-toe refurb, Hawkwell embraced all things Oxford: particularly its shirts and shoes. Not only are they on sale but on display. There are circular mirrors framed in

wooden shoe lasts and, in the restaurant, brogue-patterned wooden panels, wire sculptures of Oxford clothing and even a chandelier made from shoe horns. Yet, all these features manage to avoid quaintness and instead are subtle, witty, elegant and somehow classic.



Shirt cuff lampshade



Shoehorn chandelier

"I believe many people in Iffley aren't aware of the hotel refit, or its interesting history", says Anuj pointing to a photograph in the bar of Francis (Frank) Howard Bickerton) Antarctic explorer, treasure hunter and entrepreneur who was born here in 1889. The 15-bedroom Elm House sits on a slope behind the main building and was the home of Major George W. G. Allen who pioneered aerial photography for archaeological research. We tour luxurious bedrooms attractively furnished in navy and white with shoe lasts for hooks and shirt cuffs for lampshades. "It's a beautiful

place to relax away from the bustle and noise of the city centre."

The new look hotel regularly boasts 100% occupancy but Anuj's mission is to attract more local people to sample its new bar and restaurant menu. "Our food is more sophisticated than normal hotel food and we will continue improving it when we've hired a new chef. I have introduced Afternoon Tea and plan to offer seasonal menus and a Sunday Roast in the restaurant from 10 March – Mother's Day."

Moreover, he intends to offer Friends of local societies a discount on meals, both in the bar, and Franks restaurant.

Watch out for the leaflet!

FOIV would like to thank Anuj and the hotel for hosting its meetings.



Shoe last pegs

Juliette Gammon, Editor