

# Friends of Iffley Village

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



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**Chair: Troth Wells**  
**Newsletter Editor: Juliette Gammon**

## September Newsletter 2024

Suddenly it seems to be autumn!

**Parking and traffic** - FOIV organised a very well attended Public Meeting on the County Council's Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) consultation proposals, held at Mercure Hawkwell House on 22 August (thanks to HHH for hosting this). Councillors Baines, Henwood and Elphinstone were present to hear wide-ranging views; people were also encouraged to write in individually to express these. FOIV's response, incorporating views expressed, can be seen on the FOIV website (see above).



**Community Shop – Launch meeting Monday, 23 September\* 6.30-8.30pm**

Our wonderful shop has transformed into a Community Benefit Society, which will put it on a secure footing for the future – with the support of people in the area.

Please come to the meeting in the Church Hall and find out more. Refreshments.

*\*If you receive this newsletter after the meeting but would like to help please email [iffleyvcshop@gmail.com](mailto:iffleyvcshop@gmail.com)*

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**AGM for FOIV members\*** only will be held on Wednesday, 6 November in the Church Hall, 7-8pm, followed by a presentation and talk about the new status of the village shop and how we can help. Look forward to seeing you there. \*Please check your membership is up to date for 2024. You can join/renew on the FOIV website, see above OR email [membership@friendsofiffley.org](mailto:membership@friendsofiffley.org) to check.

**Troth Wells, Chair**

## FOR YOUR 2024 DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Society	Event
Sun, 29 Sept	3pm	Church Hall	Music	Andreas Moutsioulis guitar – Turina, Tarrega, Albeniz, Sor, Bach, Assad, Piazzolla, Dyens
Tues, 08 Oct	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>La Strada</i>
Tues, 15 Oct	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Dr Stephen Wass: 'Digging up Stowe' – archaeo-logical investigations into a fine landscape garden
Sun, 27 Oct	3pm	Church Hall	Music	Elmore Quartet - Beethoven: op 59(2), Debussy: op10, Firsova: op 40(4)
Tues, 05 Nov	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Being There</i>
Wed, 06 Nov	7-8pm	Church Hall	FOIV**	Members' AGM. Followed by talk on village shop
Tues, 19 Nov	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Frank Collingwood: 'The Life and Times of William Morris, later Lord Nuffield'
Tues, 03 Dec	7.30pm	Church Hall	FOSM*	Friends' Forum: 'The Process of Writing' - Diane Setterfield and Julie Summers in conversation
10 Dec	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Wonka</i>
Tues, 17 Dec	7.30pm	Church Hall	History	Tim Healey: 'A Victorian Christmas'
Sun, 12 Jan	3pm	Church Hall	Music	Oxford Waits Twelfth Night Concert
Tues, 14 Jan	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Duck Soup</i>
Tues, 21 Jan	7.30pm	Church Hall	FOSM*	Annual Quiz with Stilly

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

### Donnington Recreation Ground Cycle Path - Ref 22/02446/CT3

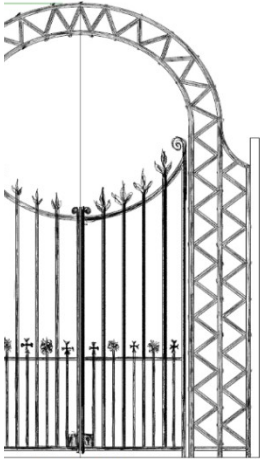
The application for an amended scheme with drastically reduced biodiversity mitigation was reported by officers as due to go to committee in August. This didn't happen. It was suspected that it had become bogged down in legal negotiations surrounding the intended use of County land at Greyfriars School for compensatory landscaping, and indeed it would appear that the County had a change of heart about tying up land into a landscaping scheme there and asked the applicant to rethink, or to compensate them.

In early September, a further revision to the application has appeared (deadline for comments 25 September\* – email: [planning@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@oxford.gov.uk) citing reference 22/02446/CT3). This strips out most of the residual compensatory planting and landscaping and is brazenly presented as sufficient even though it is no more than the absolute minimum the applicant thinks it can get away with to balance the loss of mature trees at Meadow Lane. The applicant complains about budget squeeze but it (and perhaps more so its consultants) has been happy to spend thousands and months fighting a morally and factually bankrupt case and coming to the realisation that it cannot rely on the County's generosity at Greyfriars School to get it out of a hole. *\*If you receive this newsletter after the deadline, it may still be worth you responding.*

The long delay and significant public expense this has entailed wouldn't have been necessary, and could still be curtailed, if the applicant Oxford Direct Services (ODS) just adopted the more sensible and less environmentally harmful alternative route long advocated by FOIV and others. From refusing to acknowledge the existence of this alternative, we've moved to a poor case being presented as to why they continue to dismiss it out of hand. For the sake of sensible land-use and planning decisions, we will continue to push for common sense to prevail here for the benefit of all concerned.

## Court Place Gardens

OUR are in discussion with Felthams to agree the handover date / sequence and graduate tenant move-in arrangements (which have been delayed). This will include establishing a date when public access to the gardens will be available. Update information will be communicated.



In the meantime plans, by St Mary's Church in collaboration with Living Stones, are well advanced to

put on a 'welcome' event for those moving into Court Place which will include a tea in the Hall, activities for children and tours of the church.

Thanks to OUR's generosity in funding it we now have a new door in the wall from the churchyard to Mansion House.

Master blacksmith Michael Jacques's striking design for the gate in the new church fence bordering Court Place Gardens has been

commissioned and fabrication will commence once Diocesan approval has been given.

## Horse Fields

There is no further news from OxPlace about their application to develop 32 houses on the Horse Fields. The application submitted last year was not taken forward by the Planning Department on numerous grounds of insufficiency. A newer version was sent to the Environment Agency, which once again recommended rejection (see Oxford City Council Planning Applications, Ref 03078/FUL, Comments: 5 June 2024).

OxPlace, which is owned by Oxford City Council, is being granted an indefinite period of time to revise their application.



We have requested an annual hay cut for the Horse Fields but there has been no answer from OxPlace.

Meanwhile Luna and fellow badger residents are raising a mini-Luna on the Horse Fields. Across the UK and Europe, white badgers are extremely rare. They may be albino (pink eyes and nose), leucistic (brown eyes and nose) or erythristic (red-tinged white fur). Luna and mini-Luna are probably leucistic. Across East Oxford, other residents have seen white badgers as well, which suggests they are a unique

feature of our local wildlife. As far as we have been able to learn, a concentration of white badgers is unlikely to be found anywhere else in the country or across continental Europe. **Rachel Falconer**

## Oxford Local Plan 2040 Examination

There's been little further action since the examining inspectors issued their action points arising from the first phase of hearings earlier this year. The inspectors are seeking more information and justifications from the Council on matters such as the calculation of housing need and the duty to cooperate. There has also been a significant intervention from the Environment Agency (EA) - you may have seen Cllr Susan Brown's comment (Oxford Mail & Times) that building thousands of houses could be delayed because of Thames Water's lack of investment in sewage treatment



capacity/infrastructure, resulting river pollution and the EA's objection to the Local Plan 2040 on those grounds.

It is likely that the inspectors will need to be satisfied on the duty to cooperate point, at least, before committing to a second phase of examination hearings at which matters of detail - such as the Horse Fields' allocation - will be examined. **Dominic Woodfield**

### **Iffley Mead**

Some issues about this site (such as access for emergency vehicles) are still under discussion. Because the plan is for the site to be a car-free development, the consultation about the proposed CPZ for Iffley and environs has to be settled first, so that displacement parking for the 90+ dwellings can be prevented by the non-issuance of parking permits for the CPZ. Acting on behalf of the County Council, Bluestone reports that they hope to finalise the application to the City planners 'within a month or two'. **Ian Maclean**

### **Highways**

Two traffic initiatives are due for completion this month, both offering information about route use and safety for new and existing Iffley residents.

*Court Place Gardens (CPG) Graduate Accommodation/managing the traffic impacts of local development:* as part of FOIV's continued community engagement with CPG a 'welcome/orientation' map of Iffley's varied routes and travel detail package will be made available to the Oxford University Development lead for CPG, and Homes for Students. Phil Hart, with Bill Beaver, will co-ordinate a meeting date.

*Oxford Pedestrians' Association Audit of Iffley:* this detailed survey of routes through the village, again with the focus on safety, is in hand. Completion and release are planned for the end of September. **Katrina Gaye Robinson**

### **Thames Water Tunnel Works**

Early in September Thames Water's contractor Barhale completed their preparation work to allow safe access to the tunnel and allow commencement of the cleaning operation. Survey work has been done in the tunnel at its start in Christchurch meadow. It is still hoped that all the cleaning can take place from the Littlemore end, with Oriel Field just serving as an emergency rescue facility. Now the tunnel can be accessed, Barhale will be able to establish the likely duration of the works.

**Mercure Hawkwell House Hotel – generous offer for FOIV members and other local society\* members** - 15% discount on any food and drink until the end of the year! Anuj Sagar, manager, says: *"There's a great new menu and the £3.5 million refurb two years ago makes it an excellent place to visit."* Please quote 'Iffley15' when you book or order.\* Applies to MEMBERS of Friends of Iffley Village/Friends of St Mary's/Iffley History Society/Iffley Music Society.

### **FOIV at the Prince of Wales**

FOIV'S Summer Event at the Prince of Wales was enjoyed by many, basking in warm sunshine and listening to music while eating delicious food from the barbeque. Mat and Sage hosted the event magnificently, and lots of passers-by dropped in as well. Thank you to all concerned.

