

Friends of Iffley Village

website: www.friendsofiffley.org



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

Chair: Martin Reed
Newsletter Editor: Juliette Gammon

Summer Newsletter 2026

Chair's report

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter with news about Events, Highways, Planning and Nature Update. Our Events and Community Spirit subgroup writes on p4 about a village party on Sunday 20 September, free to members (open to all at £5), which will be supported by the legacy that we recently received. We also advertise (on p4) a group tour of the glorious Rousham Gardens on 8 July being organised by Iffley resident Robert Walker; please contact him direct if you'd like to go.

Our Highways subgroup (see pps 2/3) organised the public meeting that many of you attended on 12 March with County representatives about the Iffley Turn/Henley Avenue junction. They also include advice on how to report the illegal e-bikes and scooters that are currently cutting through footpaths at terrifying speeds. Addressing the similar issue of pedestrian safety on the towpath is also long overdue but authorities are yet to act. Please lobby anneliese.dodds.mp@parliament.uk and County Councillor brad.baines@oxfordshire.gov.uk. The new Donnington Cycle track is discussed on p3 and we are engaging with the Council about apparent excess felling of mature trees.

I trust that you are finding our new-look website (friendsofiffley.org) informative and easy to use. We are grateful to Paul Castell for this excellent make-over (beyond his call of duty!). The recently constituted subgroups each have a page and they have been posting news updates which can be readily accessed from the home page.

As regards Planning, statements can be read on our website providing election candidates' stances on saving the Horse Fields in the Conservation Area. The opposition parties wrote in support of conserving green spaces and with a new balance in the City Council we anticipate that they will work together to remove this site from the draft new Local Plan. In response to the request in our last newsletter, we had some very helpful suggestions about how the meadows can provide outdoor education whilst conserving biodiversity. The neighbouring Memorial Field could provide wider community access, with the opportunity of replanting of the orchard at the lower end of the field.

We will continue to print newsletters three times a year, and I know that people particularly appreciate having a print calendar of village events. Newsletter editor Juliette Gammon consolidates the calendar as far as possible from the various societies but do let us know if we are missing anything.

I hope that you value the range of village issues that are being addressed by your committee and request you to renew your membership for 2026 if you have not already done so (see p4).

Martin Reed chair@friendsofiffley.org (Chair and Planning lead)

FOR YOUR 2026 DIARY

Sun 7 June	3pm	Hawkwell House	**FOIV	<i>Writers in Whites</i> with author Ollie Randall. Cricket's influence on England's literary world. (See p4).
Tues 9 June	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Sunset Boulevard</i>
Wed 8 July	10.30am	Trip		Rousham House & Gardens tour organised by Robert Walker with **FOIV (see p4).
Tues 14 July	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Four Mothers</i>
Sat 18 July	6pm	Vicarage/ Church Hall	*FOSM	Summer Party
Tues 8 Sept	7.30pm	Church Hall	Film	<i>Far From Heaven</i>
Sun 13 Sept	2-5pm	Church & Court PI Gdns	Living Stones	The Historic Environment with Oxford Open Doors – talks, trails, guides, redeveloped graduate housing
Sat 19 Sept	3pm	Church Hall	*FOSM	AGM, Annual Lecture with Susan Walker and tea
Sat 20 Sept	3-6pm	Hawkwell House	**FOIV	End of Summer Party

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

Highways

Iffley Turn: Following the successful meeting on 12 March, the engineers have adjusted the side road entry treatment by flattening the ramps, modifying the walkway, changing the lane markings, and adding yellow lines to prevent parking where the now removed Orcas (cycle safety humps) used to be. The bottom of cars should no longer hit the road surface. The positioning of cars entering Iffley Turn from the south has not improved significantly and no adjustments have been made to improve cyclist safety. We await the Council's response to the solutions recommended in our report of the meeting. The Council has not shared the result of a commissioned audit of the side road entry treatment.

CPZ: The Council has not yet provided the promised review. Many observations have been reported. Fewer vehicles are parked in Iffley, but traffic may have speeded up as a result. Parking enforcement officers visit less frequently than suggested. The number to call for suspected illegal parking is 0345 3371138. Unfortunately permits are not displayed in cars due to new confidentiality rules which makes it difficult to know whether the vehicle is parked illegally. Specific danger points include the entrance to the Mercure Hotel, the blind bend on Church Way outside Lucas and Remy, and its adjacent permitted parking slots. Some members suggested more yellow lines and suspension of parking bays outside Lucas and Remy on Church Way.

Highways Sub-Group

Speeding and Security: Every silver lining has a cloud... the recent resurfacing of Meadow Lane has been much appreciated by walkers, families and cyclists. However, it has generated an unexpected hazard: fast moving (often illegal) e-bikes speeding dangerously along the smooth surface, doing 'wheelies' and acting in a manner that endangers those around them, especially the small and the vulnerable. This applies also to illegal vehicles using Tree Lane and East Church. Legislation exists and residents have reported these incidents to the police who are confiscating illegal e-bikes and e-scooters both via 101 and the online system: <https://tinyurl.com/x5efc5ca>

Hundreds of illegal e-bikes and e-scooters have been seized by Thames Valley Police in recent years. You should report any further sightings directly (it's better coming from the person who saw them) via either of the methods above and quote the Incident Reference Number: 43260211299. If every sighting is reported we are more likely to get some action! Photos would be particularly useful.

Fly-Tipping: There have been a few 'fly tipping' issues reported in Iffley over the last months. This is

a very difficult area for the police unless there are witnesses. However, you can, and please do, report fly-tipping to the Council. They are obliged to follow it up when on public land such as highways and council managed spaces. Photos are helpful. They are not responsible for clearing waste from private land which, sadly, remains the landowners' duty. The Environment Agency handles larger or hazardous incidents. Some issues like highway matters are managed by the County and others like rubbish collection, by the City. So, it's often easier to report both fly-tipping and potholes to **fixmystreet.com** where you can also get progress reports.

Cecilia McCabe

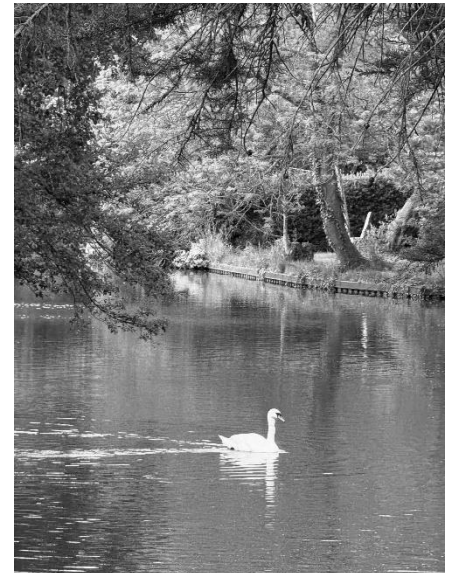
Donnington Cycle Track

Construction of the Donnington Cycle Track has now started and may even be complete by the time you read this. The premise of a formalised cycle track to relieve erosion on the Donnington playing fields has never been controversial. It is the sense and wisdom of felling a significant number of mature trees and cutting a large chunk out of the willow walk along Meadow Lane to create an illogical route for it that has always been the point of contention. Passersby will observe how over-large the gap is for the cycleway that passes through it. Any that care to count the stumps will also note that the Council's contractors cut many more than were ever admitted to in the planning debates, and more than are allowed for by the planning permission. We expect the Council to increase its compensation effort to account for this excess destruction. 'What compensation effort?' some might ask. Well, we've yet to see any. We will continue to watch and inquire so that this exemplar of poor planning is not made even worse by more broken promises.

Nature update

April and May are arguably the finest times of year for the village wildlife. The dawn chorus reaches a crescendo, and from mid-April the resident thrushes, tits and finches, and the hardier overwintering warblers are joined by summer migrants from Africa. The first swallows are a herald for many, but no more so than the first cuckoos and whitethroats. In May, the approach of high summer is carried on the wings of the swifts - last to arrive and first to go, they grace us for a mere 3-4 months. Following the same upward curve of presence, noise and activity is our insect and plant life, as the cold silence of winter is replaced by the warm thrum of buzzing and a kaleidoscope of native and non-native blooms.

Dominic Woodfield



The People's Emergency Briefing

Recently, members of FOIV and FOFI (Friends of the Fields) attended a local screening of the documentary *The People's Emergency Briefing*. The film features leading scientists, experts and community voices speaking about the growing climate and nature crisis and the challenges this presents for society.

The documentary is based on a major National Emergency Briefing held in Westminster last November, where more than 1,000 invited representatives from politics, business, culture, faith, media and civil society heard evidence from leading UK experts about the implications of climate and nature breakdown for food systems, health, infrastructure, national security and the economy. The film was created to help bring these conversations into local communities across the UK.

The briefing explored both the scale of the challenges facing society and the importance of informed, compassionate and community-led responses. It also highlighted the opportunities for communities to come together, share ideas and support positive local action. Inspired by the screening, members of FOIV and FOFI are now planning a meeting with other local community groups and networks to explore screening the documentary locally, followed by an open discussion. We hope to create a welcoming and inclusive space for reflection, conversation and the sharing of ideas about what we can do together as a community.

Further details will follow in due course. If you or a local group are interested in being involved, please contact friendsofthefieldsiffley@gmail.com Eike Brazier

Save the date for these upcoming events

Writers in Whites

How a group of literary cricketers changed English culture

Friends of Iffley Village present:
a talk by local author Ollie Randall

Sunday, 7th June
The Mercure Hotel, 3pm
Free entry



Discover the untold story of cricket's influential role in England's literary world – from the cricket-based networking of Arthur Conan Doyle and PG Wodehouse, to the cricketers' vicious culture wars with the interwar modernists.



Dr Ollie Randall will be talking about his upcoming book, *Writers in Whites*, published 18th May 2026.

"You need to read Ollie Randall's superb history of the rise and fall of cricket as the embodiment of Englishness"
Ferdinand Mount, *London Review of Books*.

FOIV

Rousham House, Wednesday, 8 July at 10:30am

Access to gardens afterwards (bring a picnic and hope for sunshine!). Iffley resident Robert Walker is organising a group tour of the splendid Jacobean property at Rousham House, north of Kidlington. The house is still owned by the Cottrell-Dormers, the family who had it built in 1635. It is only open to groups by prior booking. The minimum cost for the tour is £200.00 which allows for 10 people at £20.00 each.

"Rousham House gardens were designed by William Kent (1685-1748), the originator of the natural style known as English Landscape Gardening. They are the only gardens of this date to escape alteration, have been described by Monty Don as Kent's masterpiece, and are thought to be one of Britain's greatest gardens. <https://rousam.org/>

Please can interested parties email Robert at socialorchards@outlook.com or via 07515 259869 in the afternoons/evenings (WhatsApp is

best). We'll look to organise lift-share where possible.

[If any 'Iffley' people find the 10.30 time on 8 July too early for convenience, Littlemore History Society have a tour on Tuesday 7 July at 2pm and should be able to accommodate a few extra people]

FOIV End of Summer Party

Sunday, 20 September 3-6pm

Friends of Iffley Village invites Iffley and adjacent local residents to an end of summer party at the Hawkwell House Hotel. Complimentary tea/coffee and scones/cake, live music, and activities for kids.

Free for FOIV members and £5 for non-members (includes a free membership for the rest of 2026!). Look out for flyers on the local bulletins and at the shop soon (and a special e-news edition to members) with ways to RSVP.



MENOPAUSE cafe

Saturday 27th June '26
2:00 pm - 3:30pm
Next session:
Tuesday 4th August at 5:15pm - 6:45pm
Saturday 19th Sept at 2pm - 3:30pm
Cowley Library,
112 Temple Road,
Oxford, OX4 2EZ

Book on Eventbrite
or email cowley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk
or call at 01865 815137

DRINK EAT DISCUSS MENOPAUSE
www.menopausecafe.net

FOIV membership

We are committed to the village and its ethos.

Thank you to everyone who has subscribed for 2026.

Good news: it is still not too late to join for this year (£5 per person).

Scan this QR code to pay with your card, or visit our website www.friendsofiffley.org

Any questions please email membership@friendsofiffley.org



Scan to pay