



# HRA NEWSLETTER

## Highfield Residents' Association

Autumn 2016

### SUMMER STREET PARTIES

Since the last newsletter, we've held two very successful street events. In June we joined with New Headington RA and All Saints' Church for a day of fun to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The sun shone just as we started lunch, the Lord Mayor and his family came, we ate scones, drank tea and enjoyed the Oxford Fiddle Group, the kids roamed the traffic-free street and, after a special church service, we enjoyed supper in the Butchers Arms. Just about perfect!

In September, we held our annual cinema evening led off by a lively performance of jazz, soul and Balkan music from community street band Horns of Plenty. This set the scene for a very sociable street meze followed by the excitement of watching the events group trying to sort the technology. The film was fun too.

Great turnout for both events, thank you all for your support.



### FOR THE AUTUMN

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November we present **Never Such Innocence Again – a chronicle of the Great War** in All Saints' Church (7.30pm). On the centenary of the Battle of the Somme a programme of music, readings and songs will be performed by the acclaimed local band Black Fox. Admission will be free with a retiring collection, all profits to Cruse Bereavement Care. The performance is suitable for all ages and lasts about 90 minutes including an interval for refreshments.

Many of you will remember our previous productions with Black Fox, and we're delighted to welcome the band back for what will be an incredible evening of music, poetry and reflection. We would like to thank the Vicar for making the church available. We hope you can join us and bring family and friends.

Our annual **Street Carol Singing** will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December (6pm). Hopefully Santa will leave the reindeer feeding at Shotover and join us to sing around our streets for an hour followed by refreshments (indoors!).

We're also planning events for the Spring, details nearer the time.

Our aim is to bring our community together by organising events where we can socialise and get to know each other so we hope you can join us. If you have any suggestions for future events, do get in touch.

*Frank McKenna and Patrick Coulter*

#### AUTUMN EVENTS:

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov: **Never Such Innocence Again** All Saints' Church, Lime Walk 7.30pm

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec: **Street Carol Singing** 6pm meet at the Community Notice Board, All Saints' Road

**TRAFFIC:** *Mike Ratcliffe writes:*

**As we head into Autumn, we need to be prepared for a long season of traffic disruptions. Two separate initiatives are going to bring a long haul of different roadworks in and around our area. First, the County Council is starting *Access to Headington* – a series of 'improvements' which will run over 18 months. Into their schedule will be fitted the *EnergyLink* pipeline – the OUH scheme to connect the JR to the Churchill. Although they are coordinating their work – we are assured that if one is digging up Old Road, the other cannot be simultaneously digging up London Road (and vice versa) – this is likely to mean continual disruption.**

### Access to Headington

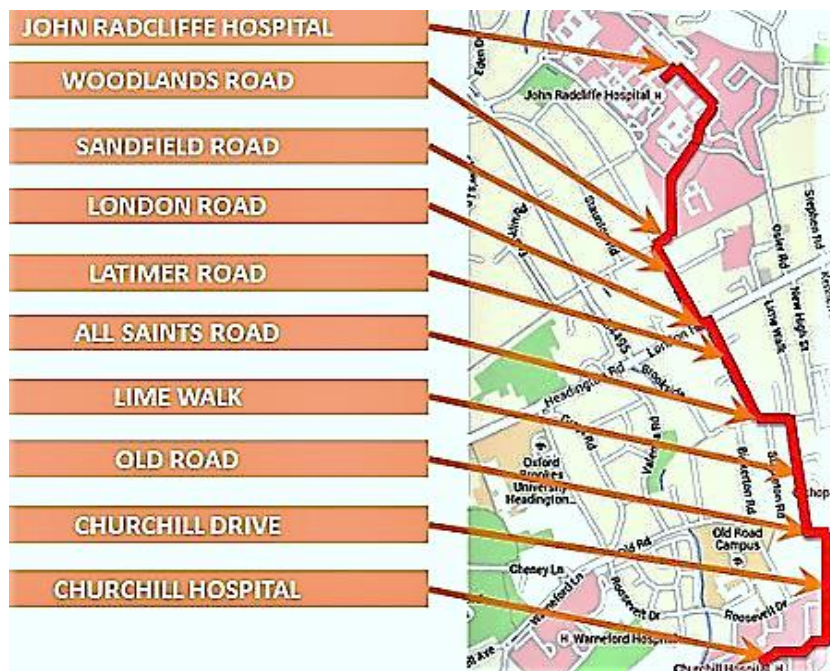
**There are full details of the £12.5 million scheme on the County's website, but at the heart of the programme is an attempt to make it easier for employees to get to the major employment sites.** Buses and bikes feature in the programme, but also attempts to get cars flowing more easily. The biggest jobs in the scheme are on Headley Way and Cherwell Drive while the junctions there are redesigned to cope with traffic from the JR.

The first stage of the scheme is the junction outside Cheney School. The exit from Roosevelt Drive will be widened and the junction changed to allow more cars out of the hospitals and university site in peak hours. Old Road will be widened slightly, and different cycle routes added (a shared path with pedestrians on the south side and an on-road lane on the north). The works here will last three months, with manually controlled traffic lights. When working on Old Road, in the later phases one lane of Old Road will be closed all the way up to Valentia Road. The signs they've put up suggest planning another route...

We don't have any sense of when the later stages will happen – there's more work to do in Old Road, Windmill Road, London Road etc.

### Energy Link

**Permissions have now been granted, although conditions not necessarily signed off, on the pipeline.** The Trust cannot quite yet confirm their planned schedule, but it will involve closing whole segments of Latimer Road and All Saints' and one lane of Lime Walk (South), together with periods of one lane of both London and Old Roads. After the mess of the trench they dug for three days in January we now have much better information about their scheme and the remedy for loss of parking and access during the works. Provisionally the work in Latimer & All Saints' is supposed to start in the week commencing 28 November. At time of writing we are still waiting for the exact details; for example, we hope that the works in All Saints' Road won't close the ends of Bickerton, Latimer and Stapleton Roads at the same time. They have committed that both there will be no work and no trenches will be open over the Christmas & New Year period.



### Information & Further Work

**Both projects are committed to providing information through email or on their websites.** The nature of roadworks is such that they tend not to give much notice, however. The HRA committee will continue to press for as much detail as early as possible, and that wherever possible leaflets are delivered. Where we do get notice, we hope to check the traffic management schemes. As traffic gets re-routed, we are hopeful that mitigation measures can be implemented.

Access to Headington: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/access-headington>

Energy Link: <http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/about/developments/energy/headington.aspx>

## HELPING MAKE HIGHFIELD A SAFER AND PLEASANTER PLACE

**A recent request from the Police Community Support Officers: 'Please help us do our job, by letting us know of any crime, petty crime or anti-social behaviour'.** To contact them phone 101, and be sure to send us the information for inclusion in the Incident Book, giving date, time, place, nature of the incident, and if applicable, the Crime Reference Number. Here's an explanation of the WHAT, WHEN, WHY, WHERE and HOW of the HRA INCIDENT BOOK.

**WHAT?** The Incident Book is a record of reports to us by residents of crime, untoward incidents or situations which have a negative impact on our community. See below for a list of some of the issues recently logged in the HRA Incident Book.

**WHEN?** Report an incident to us as soon as a problem becomes apparent, preferably immediately after contacting the relevant body yourself (e.g. Police, Thames Water, Ward Councillors, City Council or County Council). This can put us in a better position to help resolve the matter and depending on the case, to alert other residents. Please also encourage other residents to report issues to us.

**WHY?** What may seem like a once-off petty offence or problem, and something that you dealt with and moved on, might be part of a bigger and more widespread issue, or might be more worrying to another person. Gaining an overview of the frequency and extent of problems may enable us to follow up your approach to the relevant authority. Demonstrating to Police, Councillors, Council etc that a pattern is emerging, enables us to be more pressing in requesting action to remedy the situation.

**WHERE and HOW?** Contact [hracttee@gmail.com](mailto:hracttee@gmail.com). If it seemed necessary to alert other residents to an issue that you reported, your identity would not be revealed.

**Examples of recent issues logged in the Incident Book, which have been followed up and some of which have been satisfactorily resolved:**

- Pedestrian seriously injured in accident on Old Rd
- Cyclist knocked off bike by 4A bus

- Rat problem
- Blocked drains in street gutters
- Intruder in garden/ house
- Street light not working
- Leaking water main, freezing over in cold weather
- Bicycles stolen from garage/ shed/ garden
- Theft of tools from shed
- Drug-dealing
- Late-night noise
- Scams
- Persistent dog fouling of our pavements
- Sewage spillage
- Fierce dogs left to roam
- Litter and fly-tipping
- Speeding
- Smashed wing mirrors
- Windscreen/ window damage to parked cars
- Stolen front and rear number plates
- Overhanging vegetation
- Suspicious activity
- Flooding at road junction

Seasonal reminders:

**Take no chances:** With the darkening evenings, remember to set time switches for lights and maybe a radio to come on in your absence.

**Snow clearance:** far from the widely held view that clearing the snow from the pavement outside your house leaves you liable to prosecution if someone has an accident, doing so makes the pavement safer for you and others. We are informed that you will not risk prosecution.

*Hilary Rollin*

### DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?

All our activities are advertised on our Community Noticeboard in All Saints' Road. We also circulate members by email and the majority of our members are now contacted in this way. If you would like to be included, or you have changed your address, please let me know on [hracttee@gmail.com](mailto:hracttee@gmail.com).

*Gill Beeston*

## HIGHFIELD HAS A GARDENING GROUP!

**No expertise required, just an interest in gardens.** Over the summer we took it in turn to host the group for an hour on a Thursday evening. At times we had to dodge the showers but it was a great opportunity to share our horticultural successes and failures, and to enjoy the amazing variety in each others' gardens. Finding a day and time to suit everyone has been a challenge so we will keep trying! Drop me a line via [hracttee@gmail.com](mailto:hracttee@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the email list.

*Angie McKenna*