



# HRA NEWSLETTER

## Highfield Residents' Association

<https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com/> hractee@gmail.com

### Autumn 2022



### HRA Events by James Larminie

#### Street Party

What a glorious day was had on Sunday 5 June when we held our Royal Garden Party in All Saints Road, as our contribution to the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A wonderful number of people came along to the different events we held in All Saints Road over the course of the day.

We were royally entertained. The day featured everything from the ridiculous (racing corgis) to the sublime (a very well attended Choral Evensong in the church) and all the normal things in between – teas, coffee, live music and dancing, bring and share lunch, fancy dress pageant, games, more tea, more cake, more music, tug of war. Our own jubilee pudding competition was a highlight.



Other HRA events include two very successful Film Nights (*Belfast* and *The Duke*) and a poster display on *Energy and the Environment*, with discussion on energy-saving in the home.

#### Remembering The Queen

The HRA also responded to the call for community groups to participate in a national 'moment of reflection' on Sunday 18 September, following the death of the Queen ten days earlier. We organised a gathering at the West end of All Saints Church for a minute's silence at 8pm, when others all over the world were doing the same thing.



#### Date to note: -

#### HRA Street Carol Singing

*Saturday 17 December*

Do come and join Father Christmas and the rest of us in singing carols round the streets of Highfield.

6pm at the noticeboard in All Saints Road  
Refreshments afterwards.

## **HRA Community Space Project by Frank McKenna and Patrick Coulter**

Some years ago HRA negotiated a community grant with the contractor Vital Energi as some small compensation for the disruption caused in Highfield by the construction of the energy pipeline. We have been holding this Fund for some time with the aim of using it in a way that brings benefit across the whole community.

All Saints Road is at the centre of our community where we have our social gatherings and many people meet and socialise on their journeys through. We've taken advice from one of our residents Charlie Palmer who is an urban design specialist.

Charlie has produced a short report for HRA - [available on our website](#). He has thought carefully about how to approach enhancing this area and how to organise this. His suggestion is we should start with a series of small doable and sustainable projects which we can then further build on.

One suggestion is we start by providing more planters in this area to be managed by the HRA Garden Group. Later we could build some bird boxes at a weekend community workshop and install in the big tree. We also plan to hold a workshop later this year to discuss further ideas with residents.

We would now like to use some of this fund to create a community space on All Saints Road particularly around the big tree/substation/ Lime Road junction area. This is an opportunity for anyone in the community to join in improving this community space as part of improving our shared environment.

## **Alchemy on our doorstep by Mike Ratcliffe**

Across the Old Road is a large proportion of, according to various measures, the best medical research facility in the world. The University's masterplan for the Old Road

Campus has been slowly working its way through; the latest building, IMS-Tetsuya Nakamura, opened in the summer. The Corten cladding (rusted steel) is a departure from other finishes on the site.

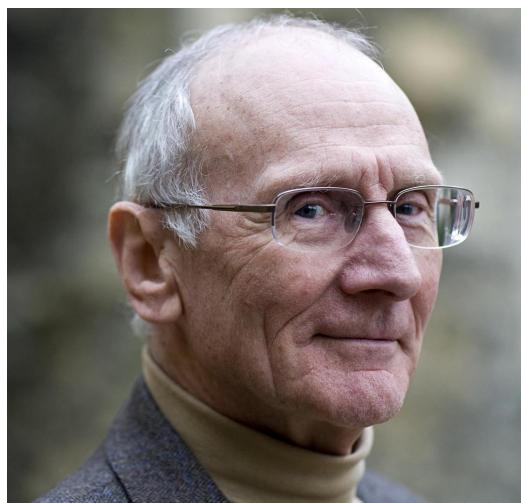
The next building is intended to be the Institute for Global Health, bringing together activity in population health and tropical medicine. There will be masters students, bringing the users of the building to 470.

There were extensive consultations before consideration by the planning authority which HRA were involved with - the building is close to Old Road and will generate more daily visits to the campus. The final plans incorporate changes, say to the windows facing the road, to reduce light pollution in winter evenings. An ongoing issue is the completion of a cycle route to the site, as the 'Access to Headington' changes are incomplete.

However, the last two years have reminded us of the importance of medical research. We are about to see the transmutation of an ugly car park into a world-class research facility to solve world health problems.



## **Interview with Professor John Carey by Diane Sider**



Professor John Carey, MA., DPhil., FBA., FRSL., is Alumnus and formerly Fellow and Tutor in English at St John's College, Oxford, and, since his retirement, Emeritus Merton Professor of English Literature. Professor Carey is the author of many books of criticism and was until recently chief book reviewer for the *Sunday Times*. He has twice chaired the Booker Prize committee, in 1982 and 2004, and chaired the judging panel for the first Man Booker International Prize in 2005. He has also appeared in radio and TV programmes including *Saturday Review* and *Newsnight Review*. Professor Carey has lived in Stapleton Road for 40 years with his wife Gill.

### **1. What are you reading at the moment?**

At the moment I am reading, for review in the *Sunday Times*, a fascinating new book by Ronald Blythe, author of *Akenfeld*, called *Next to Nature*.

### **2. Which books have influenced your thinking the most? Which books have moved you the most?**

The books that have influenced my thinking, and most moved me, are the plays of Shakespeare. At school I learned whole stretches of them by heart, and scarcely an hour goes by without remembering some phrase.

### **3. Which 21<sup>st</sup> century novels would you recommend to your neighbours?**

The 21st century novels I'd recommend are by Sally Rooney, Michael Frayn, Robert Harris, and Salman Rushdie.

### **4. Which books do you think everyone should read (and possibly re-read) before they die?**

The books I think everyone should read would include all of Jane Austen and Dickens, and in translation *War and Peace* and *The Brothers Karamzov*.

### **5. Some universities are dropping literature and other arts subjects from their options. Why is this a bad idea?**

Mankind and womankind have invented art and literature because they are needed. For universities not to realise this is perverse.

### **6. You are also a talented artist and printmaker. What does doing art give you compared to reading and/or writing literature?**

Art, like music, feeds a quite different part of my brain, unrelated to language. To feel this you do not need to be much good at it, as I am not. One advantage of belonging to a workshop, as I do (The Oxford Printmakers Co-Op in Tyndale Road), is that you realise how much better other people are than you.



Print of Canary Wharf by John Carey

<http://www.johncarey.org>

<https://oxfordprintmakers.co.uk/>

## **Incident Log by Hilary Rollin**

What is the Incident Log and why bother with it? One of the aims of HRA is to make Highfield as congenial a neighbourhood as we can. To this end we suggest that if members become aware of untoward events or situations in Highfield (e.g. break-ins, smashed wing mirrors, pavement cycling, late-night noise, potholes, drug-dealing) do please report it to the Incident Log, [HRActee@gmail.com](mailto:HRActee@gmail.com). It is helpful if you also state to whom you have already reported the matter, and the Police Reference Number for issues reported to the Police. If, from your reporting of incidents, we can see a pattern, we can follow this up with the relevant authority and get action.

## **Useful addresses (as of November 2022)**

### **Member of Parliament (*Lab*),**

**Anneliese Dodds MP**, Unit A, Bishops Mews, Transport Way, Oxford OX4 6H

T: 01865 595790 E: [annaliesedoddsoxeast@gmail.com](mailto:annaliesedoddsoxeast@gmail.com)

### **County Councillor: Headington & Quarry**

**Roz Smith (Lib Dem)**, 12 Weyland Road, Headington Quarry, Oxford OX3 8PD

T: 01865 750371 M: 07584 257156 E: [roz.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:roz.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### **County Councillor: Churchill & Lye Valley**

**Liz Brighouse, OBE (Lab)**, c/o County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

T: 01865 766995 M: 07710 451769 E: [liz.brighouse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:liz.brighouse@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### **City Councillors: Headington Ward**

**Chris Smowton (Lib Dem)**, Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BX

M: 07766 888883 E: [cllrsmowton@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsmowton@oxford.gov.uk)

**Mohammed Altaf-Khan (Lib Dem)**, 83 Hugh Allen Crescent, Oxford OX3 0HL

T: 01865 798777 M: 07931 345554 E: [cllrmaltaf-khan@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrmaltaf-khan@oxford.gov.uk)

### **City Councillors: Churchill Ward**

**Mark Lygo (Lab)**, 20 Valentia Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7PL

M: 07826 527047 E: [clrrmlygo@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:clrrmlygo@oxford.gov.uk)

**Susan Brown (Lab)**, 34 Canal Street, Oxford OX2 6BQ

M: 07775 792447 E: [clrsbrown@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:clrsbrown@oxford.gov.uk)

**Thames Valley Police:** <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk> For emergencies T: 999

### **Oxford Northeast Neighbourhood Police Team:**

Sgt David Vermeulen, PC Lauren Edkins, PC Jordan Welch

PCSO Ahmed Mohamed, PCSO David Atkinson T: 101

E: [ahmed.mohamed@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:ahmed.mohamed@thamesvalley.police.uk)

### **Oxford Brookes Head of Community Engagement & Social Responsibility:**

**Andrea Siret** T: 01865 647370 E: [community@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:community@brookes.ac.uk)

**Oxford City Council:** T: 01865 249811 <http://www.oxford.gov.uk>

### **Antisocial Behaviour Team:**

[http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decC/Anti\\_Social\\_Behaviour\\_and\\_CANAcT\\_occw.htm](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decC/Anti_Social_Behaviour_and_CANAcT_occw.htm)

**Community Response Team:** T: 01865 249811 E: [saferoxfoxford@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:saferoxfoxford@oxford.gov.uk)

**Streetscene:** T: 01865 247811 E: [streetscene@oxford.co.uk](mailto:streetscene@oxford.co.uk)

**Oxfordshire County Council:** T: 01865 792422 [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Free reporting service for lost, found and stolen pets in Oxford:** <http://www.oxford.animalfinders.co.uk>

**Headington:** <http://www.headington.org.uk>

**Highfield History section:** <http://www.headington.org.uk/history/streets/highfield/>

**Headington Action:** <https://headingtonaction.org/>

**Co-wheels Car Club:** <http://www.co-wheels.org.uk>

### **HRA Committee:**

Chair (rotating between committee members):

[hrachair@gmail.com](mailto:hrachair@gmail.com)

HRA Admin:

[hacttee@gmail.com](mailto:hacttee@gmail.com)

HRA Planning:

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HRA Webmaster:

[hra.website@gmail.com](mailto:hra.website@gmail.com)

HRA Website:

[www.highfieldresidents.weebly.com/](http://www.highfieldresidents.weebly.com/)

**HRA Covid-19 support**

[hra-covid19support@googlegroups.com](mailto:hra-covid19support@googlegroups.com)