

Welcome

DRARA is an active residents association that works on a range of issues that we believe are significant for our neighbourhood. But we realize that our role may not always be clear to people who live here. We depend on the active participation of local residents so it is important that everyone in the DRARA area know what the association does and how they can become involved.

DRARA has four main areas of activity: Campaigning and supporting action on issues that impact on the lives of local people; monitoring and tracking the consultations and decisions made by the City and County councils; running social events; and providing information.

Our campaigning efforts over the past two years have been focussed on the traffic and parking problems that face our neighbourhood. The introduction of parking zone arrangements, overall seen as being very necessary, were due in no small part to the campaigning work of DRARA. We have also started work on the problem of speeding in our streets through the introduction of Community Speedwatch Scheme.

DRARA has supported the Bartlemas Action Group and The Friends of Warneford Meadow. We are also giving our backing to a local group that is developing support for people and families dealing with dementia. The open gardens day this year raised £1000 for the Guideposts Trust Music Therapy work with dementia sufferers.

You may have been aware that DRARA's energetic Environmental Action Group has introduced some very practical measures to protect and improve the local environment. The Group is responsible for the planters around the tree in the chicanes in Southfield, Divinity and Hill Top Roads, and it also produces regular Green Flashes - emails to DRARA subscribers on local environmental issues.

The universities have a major impact on our area because of the proximity of Brookes and the high number of students living here. We liaise closely with Oxford Brookes and have worked with them on the introduction of three student wardens for the DRARA area and the financing of two police community support officers. Since the introduction of these measures there has been a marked reduction in the level of disruption from anti-social behaviour.

We continually monitor planning applications and respond to them. (This edition carries a comprehensive summary of the planning applications that have an impact on this area). The DRARA area has a high number of Houses in Multi Occupation (HMOs) and in conjunction with other residents' associations, we have worked with the City Council on the introduction of the registration of HMOs.

DRARA has arranged the Open Gardens Day, the Meal in the Street and the Film in the Street and will continue to do so as long as there are local residents who are willing to take on the organisation these events. We feel that these events are central to the promotion of a local

neighbourhood identity. However, they do depend on people coming forward to work with committee members on their organisation.

This newsletter is one of the ways in which the association provides information. It is distributed free to every household in the area. You can also find out more about DRARA through our website which is regularly updated and gives information on all of the association's activities. You will find us on www.drara.org.uk

The association's AGM in October will be an opportunity for you to become involved in and support its work, as well as being an enjoyable social event. Please do come and meet the committee and your neighbours. Participation and involvement is the only way on which DRARA can continue to be active and successful.

Elizabeth Mills OBE

Features

Ageing in DRARA

We are becoming increasingly aware of the impact of ageing on our society and our own lives. We are all anticipating a longer life-span and those in work face the prospect of working for longer before retirement. Many will be caring for parents or concerned about their parents' care from some distance away. We are becoming increasingly aware of the impact of dementia at a personal and societal level. These pieces look at three aspects of ageing: a brief reflection on what it is like to age here, in Southfield Road, the work of a national charity that arranges and facilitates social contact for isolated older people, and a DRARA initiative to develop a dementia-friendly neighbourhood.

Getting old in Southfield Road.

Minerva Booth had a 100th birthday last year and we carried an article on the changes that she has seen over the 62 years she has lived in our neighbourhood. Here she reflects on ageing now and how it was when she moved to Southfield Road.

When we moved here with our four children, the youngest was only six months old; there were practically no children in the neighbourhood. I could leave the baby in the front and the older people would come and entertain her. There's not much difference in the support from neighbours. I would go in and see my elderly neighbours and support them, and my neighbours do that for me now. People are much more independent now and want to keep their independence – elderly people were much more likely to be bed-ridden in the past. I get three care visits a day; a half hour in the morning and again in the

evening, and 15 minutes at lunch time. I don't think older people are aware of these services. I have four children but none of them can get here easily. In the 1950s and 60s children tended to live closer.

The big difficulty now is transport and mobility. When I last went to the John Radcliffe I had to wait three hours after my appointment before I was brought home. Getting around is a problem. I used to go to a local day centre one day a week, but it had to stop after I was ill recently. I need to see a social worker before I go again. I am involved in one of the Contact the Elderly groups in Oxford.

Once a month, on a Sunday, we go to someone's house, have tea, meet our friends and chat. Everything is done very well. It's something to look forward to, and I think that for some people it may be the only time they get out. Some may

think it's charity but it's not. It's all voluntary and no money changes hands. I didn't stop work completely until I was 80. It was not until I was 95 that this restricted life came upon me. What kept me going was good luck and always walking – miles and miles.

Contact the Elderly

Contact the Elderly is a national charity that has a very straightforward purpose: one Sunday afternoon a month, throughout the UK, Contact the Elderly groups meet regularly for tea and companionship. It started in 1965 with one group in London and in 2012 was a winner in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award. Nick Welch met Maureen Hobbs, who organises one of the three Oxford groups with Sheila Glazebrook. Maureen organises the drivers and is a contact point for referrals while Sheila arranges the venues.

A Contact the Elderly group consists of: four or five volunteers with cars, 12 volunteer hosts with ground floor facilities and easy access, six to ten elderly members, and a group coordinator who is usually one of the drivers with time and willingness to organise outings and administer the group.

Drivers give one Sunday afternoon a month and they collect the same one or two members and take them to the host's home, spend a couple of hours having tea with the elderly members and then drive them home. The hosts invite a group to their home just one afternoon year. They provide a big tea pot and a downstairs toilet and a table for about eight people to sit round.

Nick Welch met with Maureen to talk about her experiences with Contact the Elderly.

I started as a driver in 1971 before taking on an organising role. I enjoy having contact with elderly people. It's awful to think that you need to have help to meet people. Going to a group can give someone a reason to bother about themselves, get their hair done, put on their Sunday best, and be part of a wider group, talking and listening. It doesn't involve that much, just one Sunday afternoon a month.

If you want to become involved, or know someone who is elderly would enjoy being involved in a group, contact Maureen on 01865 248105 or Sheila 01865 310488. Contact the Elderly can be reached on 0800 716 543 or email info@contact-the-elderly.org.uk. Their website is at www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk

Dementia-Friendly Neighbourhood Group

Dementia is a condition affecting an increasing number of adults, including some who have not yet reached retirement age. There are different causes of dementia, the best known being Alzheimer's disease, but it broadly

describes a range of symptoms including memory loss.

We are a group of residents trying to raise awareness of dementia and how it affects people in our area. We aim to share information, reduce social isolation and

offer support. We have also successfully raised £1000 for Guideposts Trust during the DRARA Open Gardens afternoon – thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed the gardens in such lovely weather.

If you or someone close to you are concerned that you may be affected by

memory problems, the first thing to do is to make an appointment to see your GP, as the earlier help is sought, the better. The memory clinic, where you may be referred for assessment, is conveniently close for our area at the Warneford Hospital.

Here are some useful contacts if you are starting to look for information:

Dementia Web Oxfordshire: <http://www.dementiaweboxfordshire.org.uk>

Oxfordshire Dementia Information Line: 0844 887 0005

Alzheimers UK: www.alzheimers.org.uk

Young Dementia UK: www.youngdementiauk.org Supporting people and their families affected by young onset dementia (under 65) to live well.

Oxfordshire County Council: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk – follow the links at the bottom of the page for Adult Social Care and/or Carers. Regardless of your income, the council has a duty to assess anyone who may be in need of support and this can be helpful.

Elizabeth Mills, DRARA's chairman, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate at the University of Brighton for her contributions to ageing research and the voluntary sector. Details of her work can be found at www.eminence-grise.co.uk

Planning

There have been a number of planning applications affecting the DRARA area since the last Newsletter. Tom Knollys summarises them here.

Planning in the DRARA area

A minor development but with significant visual impact has been the conversion of the ground floor of 251 Cowley Road from an estate agents to a radio station with a letting agents to the rear. Retrospective permission has been given to the new windows and the obtrusive external shutters on the side elevation facing Southfield Road, but there were a good number of objections from residents and DRARA highlighting the loss of the wall and hedge and the conversion of the side garden for parking, and though these were not part of the application, conditions were imposed both to prohibit parking on the new forecourt and to require a landscaping scheme to be implemented. DRARA will push for these conditions to be met properly.

A larger, current development proposal is for two new houses on the land to the side of 195 Divinity Road (opposite Hill Top Road). Permission already exists for one new house on the site; the new proposal includes the demolition of part of the existing house. DRARA is likely to express concerns about overdevelopment of the site and about the car parking arrangements, as well as seeking a condition that the new houses will not be granted permission for conversion to HMOs.

Bordering the DRARA area, the Mosque in Manzil Way has applied for a variation in the conditions of the original application which offers hope that the landscaping scheme might now be implemented, though contrary to the original conditions, the plans do not show any tree screen

along the boundary with Divinity Road gardens and DRARA will ask for some planting to be included.

Planning in East Oxford:

The new student accommodation on the Travis Perkins Site in Collins Street has been constructed very quickly. There is now an application for a smaller area of land to the front of the development which was allocated as an employment site. The applicants are claiming that there is not sufficient demand for office space and wish to create a further 59 student rooms. DRARA feels this would be an over-concentration of student accommodation for which there might not be demand (the local press has reported empty rooms in student accommodation blocks) and would probably do little to reduce the number of students in shared houses given the appeal of living close to the Brookes campus or city centre and has

suggest that if not for employment the site should be used for residential accommodation for full-time residents.

Licensing:

Brookes will submit an application in September for a licence for the John Henry Brookes Building at Gypsy Lane. The building is mostly intended for teaching and learning, but it will also house the Students' Union and catering facilities and the premises licence is to cover activities such as hosting films, music and drama events; Brookes also wants to licence the Students' Union bar space and the catering facilities for the supply of alcohol. The licence will cease at midnight, and there will be no nightclub facilities. The Private Shop at 54 Cowley Road has applied to renew its sex establishment licence, which is currently being considered by the council.

Briefing note on new Permitted Development Rights (PD)

New planning regulations came into effect on 30th June this year. They cover the building of extensions and permitted changes of use of offices, hotels and hostel and residential institutions for use as state-funded schools. Below is a summary of the changes that cover the development of extensions to private households. Contact Tom Knollys for more information – details on p8.

Householder rear extensions – single storey extensions of up to 6m/8m in length in case of attached or detached buildings and 4m in height. These PD rights do not apply in a conservation area. These are subject to a 42-day prior approval process which includes a 21-day consultation only of the adjoining neighbours and if no objection there is an automatic approval. If there is an objection, then officers need to assess the impact on the amenity of only the adjoining occupiers and if unacceptable the decision must reach the applicant within 42 days, otherwise it is a deemed approval. All such extensions must be completed by 30th May 2016.

In our Area

Lye Valley

The first meeting of the Friends of Lye Valley is on Wednesday 14 August at 7 for 7.30 at St Francis' Church Hall on Hollow Way. Judy Webb will be telling us about the rare plants and invertebrates there and how we can help care for them.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Legacy Fund for East Oxford

2012 was a significant year in the life of our nation with the national celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the tremendously successful hosting of the Olympic Games. This initiative aims to capture the spirit of these two major events through establishing a Diamond Jubilee Legacy Fund. This fund will begin life as a pilot with a focus on the communities of East Oxford but progress will be reviewed at the end of its first anniversary and if funds permit the target area of the fund will be expanded to include other communities. The ambition is to raise funds to invest in new and current community activities.

East Oxford is one of the most diverse and culturally rich areas of the county of Oxfordshire. Its shops, restaurants and bars attract a wide range of people of all backgrounds and ages; it is truly cosmopolitan. But behind the cheerful lights and buzz of life there are many challenges facing the area. There are many people who are living – or barely existing – on the fringe of society.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Legacy Fund for East Oxford is being set up to strengthen the local community through encouraging partnership, working across cultural and societal divides to improve the effectiveness of community groups, and enabling those who need support to achieve their full potential. This Fund will be administered through our partner Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF). The OCF was established in 1995 and has an experienced Grant Panel that will ensure a rigorous application process so that grants are given only to community projects and groups

that meet the criteria. Our ambition is to raise funds to invest in current and new community activities. Any group, with a constitution and a bank account, that is working in East Oxford will be eligible to apply for funds to support their activities. Applicants will need to show how they can make a difference and how users of their services will be enabled to achieve their full potential. They must demonstrate how they will work in partnership with other organisations. Working with OCF means that donors to the Fund can be confident that their funds will reach the people most in need with minimal administrative costs. The accounts of the Fund will be published on the OCF website along with reports of projects supported.

The Diamond Jubilee Legacy Fund for East Oxford is an initiative founded by Imam Monawar Hussain, Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. The initiative brought together 28 key community leaders on the 10th October 2012.

Donations should be sent online through Just Giving: HM Diamond Jubilee Legacy Fund for East Oxford www.justgiving.com/LegacyFundforEastOxford
Enquiries to Oxfordshire Community Foundation www.oxfordshire.org
3 Woodins Way, Oxford OX1 1HD
Email: jubilee@oxfordshire.org Telephone: 01865 798666

DRARA events

<p style="text-align: center;">Film in the Street Saturday 14 September 6.00 – 11.00 pm 6.00 Street closed for play 7.00 Music – The Horns of Plenty 7.30 The Lorax – Dr Seus animation 8.30 Duck Soup – the Marx Brothers</p>
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DRARA useful contacts

Brookes	
Brookes Community Liaison Team: Andrea Siret & Benedict van der Linde	community@brookes.ac.uk 01865 484428 or 484451
Brookes Student Community Wardens	studentcommunitywardens@brookes.ac.uk
Brookes website	http://www.brookes.ac.uk/about/community/good-neighbours/community-relations
Oxford University (note 1)	www.ox.ac.uk/colleges/
City Council (note 2)	
Community Response Team Officers Louis Arundell-Walker	larundell-walker@oxford.gov.uk 01865 335492 or 07795301235
Anton Hilton	ahilton@oxford.gov.uk 01865 335494 or 07881515471
Environmental anti social behaviour- litter, dog-fouling, fly-tipping, graffiti etc	enforcement@oxford.gov.uk
Other types of anti social behaviour	saferoxford@oxford.gov.uk
Waste and Recycling (notes 3 & 4)	01865 249811
Out of hours complaints	0845 303 9720
Planning	planning@oxford.gov.uk 01865 249811
Police (note 5)	
Non-emergency	101
Emergency	999
Thames Valley Police alerts	www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk
City Councillors, St. Clements	
Graham Jones	cllrgjones@oxford.gov.uk 07920 577097
Bev Clack	cllrbcclack@oxford.gov.uk 07197 839007
County Councillors, E. Oxford	
Sajjad Malik	sajjad.malik@oxfordshire.gov.uk 07787 874683
Larry Sanders	larry.sanders@oxfordshire.gov.uk 07900 644590
Parking- Controlled Parking Zone Parking shop in Speedwell Street Sinnat Court Southfield Road	0845 634 4466
Manager: Amanda Green	Amanda.green@a2dominion.co.uk 01865 202377
Schools	
Cheney	765726
St Mary & St John	01865 248865
East Oxford	01865 240219

Notes

1. If you have problems involving Oxford University students you need to find out their college and complain to the Dean of the college. Discipline is administered, usually quickly and effectively, by the colleges. For a list of colleges see address above.
2. Incidents can be reported through the City Council's Website: ; click "do it online"; click "report it." The website has full details of the activities of all the departments mentioned below.
www.oxford.gov.uk
3. This includes large items (fridge, bed)
4. Non-household waste is handled by the County Council at the Redbridge Waste Recycling Centre, off the Abingdon Road. www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste 08450 504550
5. If you would like to be alerted to crimes committed in your area you can sign up for Thames Valley Police alerts through the website above. The alerts are sent by email.

Overgrown hedges and other street problems

The website for reporting overgrown hedges (and all manner of other things) is <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>. It's very easy to use. It flags up what has been reported, so you can see if something's already logged.

DRARA AGM

The DRARA AGM is on Wednesday 16th October. Please put this date in your diary now. This will be a very important meeting: Elizabeth Mills is standing down as chairman, and we will need a new treasurer. There are vacancies on the committee. But there are many other ways in which you can become involved in the life of our neighbourhood, so do come, hear more about our work, meet people and be inspired.

DRARA Committee August 2013

DRARA Committee August 2013			
Elizabeth Mills	Chairman	drarachairman@googlemail.com	721482
Martin Stott	Secretary	martin.stott@talk21.com	724695
Mark Redhead	Treasurer	markallanredhead@hotmail.com	201601
Ivon Asquith	University Liaison	ivon.asquith@btinternet.com	249389
Trish Attwooll	Website	trishattwooll@gmail.com	242482
Sietske Boeles	Traffic	sietske.boeles@ntlworld.com	728153
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Tom Knollys	Planning	tomknollys@btinternet.com	433185
Deborah Tricker		deborahtricker@gmail.com	724068
Nick Welch	Newsletter	nickwelch@fsmail.net	725007

And finally.....

Congratulations to Alice Stott for being awarded the Harold Laski Scholarship for the top 'first' in Government in 2013 at the London School of Economics.