

Welcome

This December edition is about the people; those who live or have lived here, and those whose work is about keeping the neighbourhood a good place to live. We feature someone who has lived here for 61 years, the work of the City Council and Brookes University in coping with the demands of multi-occupancy, the contribution that is made by one volunteer, and our local postman.

As part of this endeavour DRARA has commented on the various planning consultations that the City Council has held. In the last edition we reported on the consultation on the Council's planning policies that will shape planning for the next decade. A detailed submission has been prepared on behalf of DRARA by Richard English with support from Sietkse Boeles. This is on our website. It is comprehensive and thorough, and we are very grateful to Richard and Sietkse for their work. We will let you know the outcome of the consultations.

Elizabeth Mills, OBE

Obituary

Alan John Lacey 1931 2012

Alan was born in Whitley Bay, Northumberland on 1st February 1931. He went to primary school and grammar school there, and at the age of 18 moved on to Kings College Durham in Newcastle (then part of Durham University) to study Biology. He had a great interest in natural history. He went on to do a PhD on seaweed (halydris), and then registered for a teacher training course, which exempted him from National Service.

After he qualified he went to teach at Eckington Comprehensive School in Derbyshire. From there he successfully applied for a job at the Brunel Technical College and remained at what became the Brunel College of Advanced Technology and finally Brunel University until he retired as senior lecturer in 1997.

For four years he was the Warden of a Brunel hall of residence and during that time he met Rosalind at the St Columba's Church of Scotland in Pont Street, London and their first two daughters, Sarah and Joanna, were born. Charlotte was born after the college had moved to Uxbridge where they had bought a house near the campus.

In 1997 the decision was taken to move to Oxford. This was quite a gamble as Alan and Ros had virtually no contacts with people in the city. However in 1998 they moved to Hill Top Road and were welcomed by DRARA! This made for a very happy retirement and Alan was soon helping with the Millennium celebrations. He was already a volunteer at Kew Gardens but decided to add to this by becoming a warden for the RSPB on Otmoor and also a volunteer guide at the Pitt Rivers museum, taking school parties round the many fascinating displays.

Visits from the Italian grandchildren were excuses for trips to Dry Sandford Pit and at Hinksey Heights, cycle runs along the river, sailing boats on South Hinksey pond and flying kites in South Park.

His last years were difficult for such an active man as he struggled with the increasing problems caused by Parkinson's and finally dementia. He died in October 2012 but his memory lives on in those his life touched.

Features

Craig Freeman

Craig Freeman is someone who gets things done and he is aiming to get things done in the DRARA area. He is part of Oxford City Council's Environmental Services, which deals with all aspects of our City's environment – health, cleaning, noise, pollution and climate change. One look at the full-to-overflowing wheelie bins and the litter that are so often evident along our roads shows just how important is the work.

Craig's job title sounds rather formidable; he is an Environmental Enforcement Officer, responsible for dealing with what he calls environmental crime. This includes fly-tipping, waste transport, littering and abandoned vehicles, all of which, as the City Council's web site makes clear, can lower the quality of life for people living in the areas affected, and can lead to an increase in other types of crime.

Environmental crimes are tackled through the use of fixed penalty notices. Craig is a person with real powers – for example the fixed penalty notice for littering is £80, and he can issue these fines.

Craig is one of four Environmental Enforcement Officers who cover the entire city. His area includes Blackbird Leys, Greater Leys, Botley Road and East Oxford. Along with the Environmental Health team they are responsible for anything that can impact on the health of people in the city.

A significant number of the difficulties that he has to deal with concern houses in multi-occupation (HMOs), and this means working with students, the Universities, landlords and letting agencies. His approach is preventative and proactive. He stresses the importance of engagement, education and enforcement, and he wants to bring these to bear in the DRARA area.

This will involve him meeting with the tenants, which predominantly means students, in each HMO, explaining what the requirements are regarding waste, noise and other environmental issues, and making clear what the penalties are.

This work meets two of the City Council's strategic objectives. The main one is the aim for a 'Cleaner, Greener Oxford', but by encouraging community involvement, engaging strongly with communities, and implementing initiatives to improve the quality of life in the longer term, the objectives of the 'Strong, Active Communities' strategy are also met.

One of Craig's key words is realism and he recognises that students want decent accommodation and local people want decent neighbourhoods. The aim is to minimise nuisance and help all in the community to have realistic expectations. This means focusing on the HMOs which are the cause of most of the problems, working with the tenants and dealing with the landlords and lettings agencies.

The Oxford Brookes University Student Community Wardens will be working closely with Craig both by engaging with students in HMOs and by helping to promote the City Council's role in dealing with landlords and letting agencies when they fail to meet their responsibilities – and reminding them of the Council's enforcement powers. One of the approaches that Craig and Student Community Wardens will take is to identify 'house champions' in each student house who will be a point of contact for Craig and also the person who makes sure that the bins are put out – and taken in again, and that all other requirements are met. This approach has been found to be effective elsewhere.

Craig can be contacted on (01865) 252719

Student Community Wardens

As a result of the successful implementation of a pilot scheme of Student community Wardens (SCWs) in September 2011, Oxford Brookes University has now expanded the scheme. At the start of this academic year twelve Student Community Wardens were appointed. They are appointed to assist with:

- working with local agencies to building positive relationships within the local community encourage a more harmonious and pleasant environment for all. Their duties as Student Community Wardens include: visiting residents to introduce themselves and promote the scheme
- promoting volunteering and delivering information on behalf of third parties such as Age UK
- liaising with local residents and attending Resident Association and Neighbourhood Action Groups (where possible)
- joint patrolling with Thames Valley Police Community Support Officers and members of the council to establish a joined up approach
- giving advice to students on being good neighbours, including waste management
- assisting with campaigns, such as the joint Oxford Brookes, Oxford University and Oxford City Council's 'Student Moving Out Campaign' to encourage students to recycle and donate unwanted goods to charity and try to reduce the amounts of waste left behind at the end of their tenancy
- litter picking in their designated areas



There are three SCWs that have been appointed to cover the DRARA area, Felicity, Craig and Kat. All training has now been completed and the Student Community Wardens have been out and about completing their weekly priorities.

The DRARA team met with Ivon Asquith earlier this month and there are plans to run some pro-active projects in the area next semester. We are in the process of arranging an introductory meet and greet session, where residents will be invited to pop by and meet the Student Community Wardens, have a chat, find out more about their roles and put forward any ideas or suggestions for how the scheme could benefit your local area. Watch this space!

They will also be distributing their introductory cards soon with details on how to get in contact with them and you are more than welcome to introduce yourself to them if you see them out and about.

We hope to meet you soon and if you would like to find out more information about the scheme or keep in touch please:

visit: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/about/community/good-neighbours/community-relations>

or email: studentcommunitywardens@brookes.ac.uk

or follow us on twitter: [@BrookesCLO](https://twitter.com/BrookesCLO)

Postie

My name is Nigel I have been working for Royal Mail for 15 years. Before that I was with Milners Paints on Glanville Road, now called Brewers following a take-over. The Divinity Road round covers Divinity, Southfield, Minster, Warneford, Bartlemas and Hilltop Roads, and Sinnett Court, which amounts to a daily delivery of around 595 delivery points.

This is my permanent round which I have been on since May 2012. The last round I did was the

Glanville Road and Reliance Way area of East Oxford. I was on that round for about 10 years. I enjoy this round as it's a pleasant friendly area with not many flats – so no stairs to climb, just hills! On Monday and Tuesday I start work at 7 am and on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday I start at 6.30 am.

Over the last year Royal Mail has introduced new ways of working with all deliveries. Postmen (and women) now go out in vans with trolleys to use

while walking around, the idea being that the postman doesn't have to carry heavy mail bags. I don't use one though as the trolley runs down the hills! Another advantage of using vans is that big parcels are delivered by the local postman rather than another Royal Mail employee. So with vans now in use all over East Oxford you won't see postmen on bikes any more. Royal Mail is looking into the future with more and more people sending parcels. This is going to be a main source of revenue.

I picked this round as I don't have to van share

Minerva Booth

Minerva Booth celebrated her 100th birthday earlier this year. She was born and brought up in Leeds and trained as a teacher at Leeds University. She married in 1939 (she was worried that as a single woman teaching when the war broke out that she would be evacuated with her class) and moved to Oxford. She taught English at Cheney School for 18 years and then tutored in English for Headington Girls School. She moved to Southfield Road in 1951 with her husband and four children. Her house was built in 1906 and it has not changed that much since then. Nick Welch went to see her to hear about life in the neighbourhood 61 years ago.

We lived in Norham Gardens for 11 years and our four children were born there. We had a two-bedroomed flat which was self-contained. We were lucky because many places were not. When we moved to Southfield Road there were very few houses for sale and when we arrived with our four children the neighbours were a little apprehensive. It was an ageing population.

It was quite rural. There was a cornfield where Cheney now is and a farm and huge barn where the Bartlemas flats now are. There were very few cars and no traffic to speak of. When my son got a car, a Morris 8, he could lie under it to mend it in the street quite safely. If you parked opposite another car a policeman could come and ask you to move because you were double parked. My children also made trolleys and rode them down Southfield Road. In winter when it snowed we would sledge down – only Divinity Road was gritted. The road had gas lighting; it was very pleasant, quite dim.

There was a big bicycle culture. When the shift ended at the car factory you could not cross the Cowley Road. The factory workers would be cycling up three abreast in a solid mass.

with another postman; this walk has a van to itself as its gets a lot more parcels than many other rounds so I need all the room in the van.

What I like about my job is working outside and on my own, and working 5 weeks, 6 days a week, and then having every sixth week off. What I don't like is cold weather and dogs.

My interests are all sports, mainly cricket and football. I used to do a lot of running but have had a hip replacement operation which really stopped me from doing the latter, but I still play cricket.

We did not lock our front doors. The tradesmen would come and take their money from the hall. We had daily milk deliveries, bread three times a week from Gibbons and our laundry went to the laundry in Randolph Street.

There was a tendency for people to move here from other parts of Oxford. Many worked in the car factory, and because of their employees' discounts cars arrived in the neighbourhood quite early. A plumber lived up the road and if you needed to turn off the stop cock for your water mains you would go to his house and take the tool he always left out for people to use. There were a few students and some people let rooms. They had a curfew at 10 o'clock and they had to be reported to the college if they stayed out late.

Now it's a respectable area but it wasn't so much in 1951. I remember cycling around the neighbourhood before we bought the house and saying to my husband that it seemed alright, there were not too many television aerials. In those days TV was not quite respectable. I watched the Queen's coronation at a friend's house on Minster Road.

There used to be a village shop on the corner of Waneford Road and Divinity Road. It was a marvellous source of information and you could hear all the news about who was ill, who was doing what. It was a real hub. But people kept to themselves, strong fences make for good neighbours. I did help look after some of my neighbours and now my neighbours help look

after me. It's much more sociable now.

I like living on a hill and it was important to be able to walk into town. There are many more students and many more cars of course. But it is still remarkably quiet and I don't find the students intrusive. But I would like the houses where they live to have their gardens looked after.

Amanda Richens

On Thursday, November 29, Amanda Richens of Divinity Road, and her son Jack attended a reception at St. James' Palace to mark her Diamond Jubilee "Diamond Champion" award. Amanda has been looking after the skate park in Meadow Lane for nearly twelve years, opening it, closing it, and helping young people who want to use it. Thanks to her tireless efforts, the City Council agreed to the upgrading of the skate park, a process which is now taking place. She was nominated for the award by one of the BMX boys using the skate park, and all her fans are delighted that her commitment has been recognised in such a prestigious way. Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, who hosted the reception, are patrons of the "Diamond Champions" WRVS scheme, which sponsors awards for "older volunteers".

The Controlled Parking Zone

The Controlled Parking Zone has had a major impact on the area. George Wormald gives his personal reflections on the scheme, and a summary of the restrictions.

The areas were marked out in the height of summer and then last month it all went live, and you wonder where all the cars have gone, unless you go down Ridgefield Road. From a personal point of view it has transformed the DRARA area. Even the pavement parking has made walking more pleasurable, as generally cars are keeping within the lines, whereas before it was haphazard. As a cyclist, cars seem more likely to pull in as they have space to. So overall it appears a well thought out scheme, well implemented and provides residents with a more pleasant environment. However, the speed of some cars, vans and taxis is often dangerous and I hope that something will happen about this before there is an accident. The clear roads have become a license to put the foot down and blast up Divinity or Southfield Road. This is one area where the 20mph limit should be enforced.

restriction sign next to it, which may be sited on a post, wall or street light column, which details the zone, who can use it and the hours when restrictions apply. It is important to check this sign before leaving your vehicle. If the restriction plate accompanying the parking bay - or the zone entry sign - does not state a time limit or duration, eg 'Monday - Saturday', then the bay is enforceable seven days a week 24 hours per day. It is the responsibility of the driver to check when restrictions operate and park legally.

Residents, their visitors, and local businesses can park in designated bays when displaying a relevant [parking permit](#) for that zone. Some spaces are also available for short-term parkers, and [blue badge](#) holders can park without restriction, parking on single or double yellow lines. Car club users will still need to park in the car designated zone, except when loading and unloading. In the DV area there are the following types of zones:

Zones vary in their times of operation and restriction: each type of bay has its own

Type of parking space	When restrictions apply
Permit holder only spaces	At all times OR Every day 6.30pm to 8am
3 hour parking spaces	Every day 8am - 6.30pm (permit holders exempt)

	from time limit) OR Mon-Fri 8am - 6.30pm
2 hour parking spaces	Mon-Sat 7.30am-6.30pm OR Every day 8am-6.30pm (permit holders exempt from time limit)
1 hour parking spaces	Mon-Sat 7.30am-6:30pm

A map showing the location of these zones accurate as at November 2012 is available on the DRARA website <http://drara.org.uk/traffic/>

Make sure you and your visitors avoid a penalty charge notice (PCN) by displaying your permit or visitors permit and avoid unauthorised parking in disabled parking bays, timed bays and parking in permit/resident holder bays

The County Council website has full information on how to apply for permits and how to pay fines. <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/parking>

Christmas Services



Ss Mary & John Church

19th December 7.30 pm: Tuesday Christmas Concert by Divinity Singers & Community Choir

Christmas Eve 6.00pm: CHRISTMAS CRIB EUCHARIST

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm: "MIDNIGHT" MASS

Christmas Day 10.30 am CHRISTMAS MORNING EUCHARIST

1st January New Year's Day 12 noon: Eucharist



St Albans

Christmas Day 9.30 am: CHRISTMAS MORNING EUCHARIST



Bartlemas Chapel

20th December 8.00 pm: Carol Concert

Christmas Eve 9.00 pm: FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS



Greyfriars Church (Catholic)

Christmas Eve 11.00 pm: MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Day 9.00 am

11.00 am - with choir