



Friends of Old Headington

Honorary Secretary: Stella Welford, 33 Old High Street, Headington, Oxford OX3 9HP
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SUMMER NEWSLETTER

May 2009

OPEN GARDENS

Sunday, 14th June from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.

The leaflet attached to this newsletter shows where the gardens are which will be open during the afternoon, and lists their owners. We are delighted that there is such a wide variety of gardens for you to visit, and we welcome some new ones in addition to those we have enjoyed in previous years.

The cost of admission payable at the first garden you visit will be £3 for those not holding a membership card for the Friends of Old Headington, and £1 for those who are members of the Friends and are able to show their membership cards. You will then be given a sticker which will admit you to all the gardens that are open. **Do please remember your card and bring it and the leaflet with you: if you have not got your card you will be charged £3.** Some spare copies of the leaflet will be available at each of the gardens. The gardens are all within easy walking distance of the Parish Hall in Dunstan Road where the usual excellent teas will be provided by Otmoor Women's Institute as on previous occasions.

We are delighted that Carol Brewer and Veronica Hurst have agreed to organise the plant stall, also at the Parish Hall, which in past years has always been a great success. They will welcome contributions for the stall to be delivered to the hall after 12 noon on the day, or to them at home; Carol's phone number is 741410 and Veronica's 750484. **The plants should be in suitable containers and clearly labelled, preferably with their English names: please check with them if you have any questions.**

A member of the committee will be at the Parish Hall during the afternoon so if you have not paid your subscription you can do so, and copies of the books *Within Living Memory*, *A Village within a City* and *Building in Old Headington* will be available for you to buy.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting took place on Friday, 1st May with 66 people present, and we were glad to welcome our City Councillors David Rundle and Ruth Wilkinson along with our County Councillor Altaf Khan. The retiring committee members, Hugh Ferris, Janet Giles and Peter Gray were re-elected for the statutory period of two years. John Rawson continues to be our architectural adviser and is a co-opted ex-officio member of the committee: Professor Audrey Mullender, Principal of Ruskin College, is also a co-opted member. The Treasurer presented the accounts and reported a balance in hand of £7,890, an increase over the previous year's total of £6,810.

The committee decided not to give the Enhancement Award as it felt that although good work had been completed in the conservation area during the past year none was sufficiently significant to warrant an award.



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During Any Other Business Councillor David Rundle spoke about questions raised by the Traffic Sub-committee and thanked them for raising the concerns about rat running and speeding through the village. The County had said there was a lack of funds for significant changes to be made and he said there are no easy solutions. He also said that the proposed developments at Barton West are in the very early stages but there is talk of a bridge, probably in the Marston area, across the A40.

Other questions from the floor concerned illegal parking, particularly on the grass verge outside the Parish Hall and Councillor Ruth Wilkinson said she is pursuing this matter with the Parish Hall committee and the City and County Councils, and at the moment discussions were ongoing. The damage to the grass triangle at the junction of The Croft with Old High Street was also mentioned and here again discussions are on going with the City Council City Works department about how to prevent damage, particularly by refuse lorries

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDS OF OLD HEADINGTON

Those of you who were at the AGM will know that next year the Friends will have been in existence for fifty years. It would be very helpful therefore if we could have your ideas as to how to we should celebrate this anniversary and to have offers of help in order to prepare for it. Do please get in touch with a member of the committee with your ideas and your offer of help.

WEBSITE FOR THE FRIENDS

Katie Rayner offered to create our website when we asked a year ago for a volunteer. We are delighted now that it is nearly ready to be launched and will contain details of the gardens to be open on Sunday, 14th June, along with our latest newsletter. The projected launch date is Monday, 8th June. There will be additions to the website as time goes by, and we would welcome contributions from members giving some historical information about their houses which is not available in *Within Living Memory* or *A Village within a City*, both of which were published by the Friends. The website address is: foh.org.uk

HEADINGTON QUARRY: Open Gardens Sunday, 7th June

To mark the 50th anniversary of The Friends of Headington Quarry they will be opening about eight gardens, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. which will coincide with the Flower Festival being held in Holy Trinity Church during the weekend of 6th/7th June. Details of all the gardens open, and refreshments, will be available at The Coach House, Quarry Road (opposite the end of Mark Road). We are all welcome to both the Flower Festival and to visit the hidden gardens of Quarry.

OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST

The Trust will welcome volunteers to act as stewards at properties which will be open during the Trust's Open Doors project during the Heritage Open Days weekend, 11/13th September. If you would like to help please get in touch with the Trust direct: phone 01865 242918 or email – info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk



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ILLEGAL CAR PARKING

The contract for monitoring car parking in Residents' Parking Zones has now been allocated to NCP (the contract is no longer with APCOA) and the number to call them on is 0845 337 1138 so please ring this number if you see cars parked illegally.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THEIR CONTACT NUMBERS

Hugh Ferris	742088	Audrey Mullender	517801
Janet Giles	741319	John Rawson	308040
Peter Gray	768080	David Rowe	762620
Veronica Hurst	750484	Zoe Traill	768697
Sarah King	763679	Stella Welford	764024

At the risk of boring you with another reminder, it is appropriate to mention again that if anyone has any concerns with problems in the area and needs to get in touch with the City Council officers or with our Councillors, would they please let the committee know so that we may help, if help is necessary, or, to avoid confusion in case we are already working on that particular problem.



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