

Basketball on the recreation ground



Are you keen to reduce your kids screen time and get them outside having fun and socialising face to face?

Help us to continue to improve the facilities at Meadow Lane so there's something for everyone! I am a parent in the Iffley Fields area, working with IFRA to raise money to erect a basketball hoop on the field on Meadow Lane. We would

like to continue to develop our local area for our community by supporting our young people to stay physically and mentally healthy through promoting opportunities to get active and connect socially. Never has there been a more important time than now, to ensure that our children and young people have local resources that are free and easily accessible to support their post pandemic recovery.

Catherine King

Please give what you can to support us.

<https://gofund.me/372cf9e1>

TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More

I have lived in East Oxford for nearly 60 years and in Argyle Street for 42 years. I have brought up my two children as a single and fulltime working parent. I could not give any time to my community then as life was so busy and full.

So now is my chance to give back. Also, I am joining a very talented committee with so many skills between them.

There are always going to be issues around **keeping our area as safe as possible and enhancing the attractiveness of our area** - I am proud to be part of the team who have planted more trees on Meadow Lane Field, added more bench seats, supported our wonderful Guerilla Gardener, partnered Friends of Aston Eyot and the Scouts to plant more bulbs.



We want to provide more things to do for all ages on Meadow Lane IFRA – we have achieved a table tennis table and now work is in progress to get items replaced/and/or mended in partnership we want to raise money for a basketball hoop. This is our most ambitious project yet.

I am very keen to provide more opportunities for local connections within our streets, roads and community – interest groups have now been running for nearly one year.

I am currently doing an audit of the different streets Please get in touch with me if being a Street/Road connector interests you. It is not hard work. We're looking for more people to help especially in Stratford Street, Fairacres Road, Eyot Place. Other streets have found it useful to have street connectors dotted in different places along the streets.

Do you have ideas, thoughts, some time, or money - however little, do contribute as **Together Everyone Achieves More TEAM**

Sue Hale Chair of IFRA

sue_hale@btinternet.com 07780697691, 38 Argyle Street

We have received most of the funding (£1500) we need from the Councillors' funds. We hope it can be placed on the wall outside the Chester Arms if we can get the landlords permission.

Longbridges

Work continues to improve Longbridges swimming area. Volunteer working parties are clearing the area and working with ODS to make it safer by replacing the concrete banks. Additional benches and a ladder have been promised by the Council. It is planned to apply for Bathing water status next year, though new guidelines require nearby toilets and parking. If Longbridges gets bathing status, like Wolvercote, there would be better monitoring of the water quality and strengthen demands for Improvement. The group aims to ensure that wildlife will not be unduly disturbed by this work. If you are interested in helping, text Tom is 07732 407491

Table tennis

The new table tennis table is a great success. You can buy table tennis balls from the Chester Arms for £1 and the money will go towards funding new bats and balls as needed.

Two more benches for the Recreation Ground

A bench will soon be installed in memory of Argyle Street resident Pam St Clair who died this year as well as one funded by former Cllr Dick Wolf. The inauguration of the two new benches has been delayed following a misunderstanding about the payment of £420 VAT to ODS. Thanks to you all who helped to raise this, the work will go ahead.

WANTED - Editor for the IFRA Newsletter

We are looking for a new Editor for the twice-yearly newsletter. If you can help or if you have news to include or any views you would like to air, contact Christine iffleyfields@gmail.com.

Ferry Path -overgrown and waste dumped!



Public access to the river is increasingly encroached upon. We were very pleased that ODS agreed in January to keep this path clear and enable people to access the river.

However, some unknown person blocked it with horticultural waste and now nettles abound so it has been unusable. The City Council is investigating who is responsible and it has now been cleared. However, new fencing put up by the Falcon has narrowed the old path. We hope the area between the

Carpark and the path will soon be opened up to the public again as was promised before the Falcon building work started.

Iffley Village Development

It now looks as though the plan is to build 32 wholly affordable "housing units" including maisonettes on this controversial site, 19 to be let at a social rent and 13 forming part of a shared ownership scheme. An electric charging point and car club is suggested, but there will be only 17 parking spaces. Over 80 secure bicycle spaces are planned, which indicates a fairly high occupation density. Although the revised plans may go further in producing the sort of housing needed, opposition to any development on that site remains.

School streets

Iffley Fields is to become part of the School Street scheme from October, This means that streets around the school will have a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to school traffic and through traffic. Oxford County Council will impose a traffic order and infringements will incur penalties. The result will be a safer, healthier and pleasant environment for everyone.

Pavements are for People: A Personal View – Jon Rees

When we moved to Iffley Fields in 2011 there were relatively few cars parked on Argyle Street pavements. There is no allowance for pavement parking in Iffley Fields except where there are markings. Over the last decade I have noticed that residents are bringing larger and larger vehicles to the area. For every large SUV we lose another half a car length in parking.

Not everyone has a car or wants a car: why should their pavement be occupied by cars? Pavements are for people, pushchairs and wheelchair users. Cars should park on the road and not the pavement. Why should pedestrians give up their pavement because car users choose to buy bigger vehicles? Car users need to ensure their vehicles fit inside the narrow Victorian roads. This will make it safer for everybody.

We also need to call on the Council for better parking enforcement, the new ticketless CPZ system seems to have made the parking attendants lose the will to live. If we eliminate the 10-15% of cars parked here that are not permitted, we may not need to park on the narrowest stretches. I have heard residents' excuses that they park on the pavement "to let the fire engine through". A few cars in the road won't stop the 280 brake horse power fire engine saving lives. Isn't the motivation for pavement parking really to try to reduce occasional scratches from passing vehicles, placing car pride above the

inevitable inconvenience to pedestrians? The way to avoid slowing the fire engine is to buy a car that *doesn't* block the fire engine when that car is parked solely on the roadway. As for the narrow end of Argyle Street, if it isn't possible to park on both sides safely without pavement parking, we should eliminate parking on one side, and put bollards up to prevent pavement parking.

Wouldn't it be a better 2024 if we all try harder to downgrade or downsize the vehicles, we replace our cars with, and consider the alternatives? My alternative is my 52-year-old Triumph Tenerife bicycle which gets me to where I need to be in Oxford faster than any car.

Financial report

Over the last few years IFRA's finances have grown in complexity and the effort required to keep things in order. We have been successful in obtaining a number of grants and received donations to support specific initiatives, which means we have all been able to enjoy an improved local environment with benches, sports facilities and attractive planting that would not otherwise be there. We are therefore delighted that local resident Sam Alston has kindly agreed to volunteer as IFRA Treasurer and bring his experience with non-profit book keeping to bear.

Within this newsletter you will find a labelled envelope encouraging you to set up a standing order to the IFRA bank account (Nat West account 24751634 sort code 54-21-23) or put cash in the envelope and deliver it to 53 Stratford. We are hugely grateful for any amount that you can give to help us cover our running costs (website, printing costs etc) and if there is any excess it will be allocated in a transparent way, with the IFRA meeting notes clearly articulating the different initiatives that we have running.

An early experiment with 'Go Cardless' has proved to be unsuccessful, which is why we are encouraging you to use the bank account directly.

Thanks again for all your support.

Social events and interest groups

Book Group- To join the Whats App Group, text Sue 07780 697691

Walking Group: to join the Whats App Groups text: Margie 07879 440937

History group: To join email: joanna.innes@history.ox.ac.uk

Gardening Group- To join email susanbedford7@btinternet.com

Bridge Group- Text Gill 07701086950

Suggestions for new interest groups, just text Sue 07780697691

IFRA

iffleyfields@gmail.com www.ifra.uk

If you have any issues you want to raise, contact any of the IFRA committee or your street connector. We meet the second Monday of every other month: Agenda and minutes are on www.ifra.uk. The meetings for this year are 12 September (Zoom) and 14 November (live (8pm)).

If you want to keep up to date with what is happening in Iffley Fields,

Sign up for email updates –Email us: iffleyfields@gmail.com

Join your street WhatsApp group, ask your street connector.

Join Facebook –On IFRA’s Facebook page, find out what is happening, get recommendations and offers. To join you need a Facebook account and search for IFRA. Administrators will accept anyone into the group if they look as if they are local.

Follow IFRA on LinkedIn –

The Committee

Sue Hale (Chair), Ben Pinches, Jon Rees (Vice Chairs), Sam Alston (Treasurer), Christine Hogg (Secretary), Thelma Martin (Planning), Barbara Ashcroft, Susan Bedford, Luke Bolton, Denise Cullington, Simon Fisher, Janet Hall, Samantha Robertson, Peter Sidgwick.

Street Connectors welcome newcomers and bring forward issues to IFRA.

Argyle Street- Simon Fisher- simonfishershose@gmail.com

Sue Hale, No 38, 07780 697691, sue_hale@btinternet.com

Bedford Street,: Janet Hall, No. 39, 07587590039, janetmwhall@gmail.com

Chester Street. Eyot Place/Meadow Lane –Luke Bolton, No. 42, 07961 351443, boltonluke@gmail.com

Samantha Roberston 07437 400 454, 9a Chester Street.sr244667@gmail.com

Fairacres Road – Barbara Ashcroft, barbaraashcroft@btinternet.com

Stratford Street - Ben Pinches, No. 53, ben@pinches.biz

Warwick and Parker Street - Darren Clahane 07445 887597, darren.clahane@gmail.com

Information about local services for newcomers can be found on www.ifra.uk and from your Street Connectors