

Friends of Iffley Village

Chair: Michael Starks
Newsletter Editor: David Wiles

Winter Newsletter, January 2020

The Friends of Iffley Village was set up not just to conserve the essential character of the village and its conservation area but also to foster community spirit. Inside this Newsletter we list a range of the events going on in Iffley this winter. We organise our own social event too. So do come.

FRIENDS OF IFFLEY VILLAGE WINTER SUPPER

Saturday 29th February 2020 (Leap Day), 7.00 pm, Iffley Church Hall

Join us for supper cooked by Max Cooper of SneakySupperClub

and music  by Kate Wilkinson

All Welcome

Tickets on sale in Village Shop from Monday February 3rd

Adults (wine included) £16; Children £12

Planning: The two areas to watch for in the coming months are Iffley Mead and Court Place Gardens.

Iffley Mead was once the playing field for St Augustine's ecumenical school (a bold experiment from which the Catholic Diocese withdrew). The fine blackberry bushes have gone and, although we would love it to remain an amenity, building seems almost inevitable, with up to 84 new houses. The most contentious matter is access via Augustine Way. The Council will ask developers to tender, and then the 'fun' will begin. FOIV will at that point lobby for the interests of the village, but there is nothing to be done for now.

Court Place is a manor house dating back to 1580, adjacent to the churchyard. It belongs to the University, who rather hastily erected postgraduate housing in the gardens in the early '70's. The University wants to pull these down and redevelop the site with double the housing. Again, we await developments. This may be less controversial since vehicle access remains via Rose Hill. The University has erected a very aggressive looking fence to face the Rivermead Nature Park, so we will be vigilant.

Should Iffley have any further parking restrictions?

Parking in the village is an intractable problem, and no solution is going to make everyone happy. Following the arrival of 'yellow lines' at Iffley Turn and Meadow Lane, FOIV tasked two groups of committee members to investigate whether further restrictions are desirable. Here is their verdict.

Church Way bend near Prince of Wales: Congestion is at its worst on warm weekends and around large events. Parked vehicles sometimes prevent drivers from opposite directions passing one another, creating head-to-head jams, tricky reversals and occasional damage to parked cars. The task force reviewed suggestions ranging from a ban on coaches and heavy vehicles to a mirror set up on the blind bend. It concluded that the disadvantages of change would outweigh any gains and advised against overreaction. The most promising suggestion is to create a 'passing place' near the bend, which could be reinforced with signage.

Mill Lane and emergency access: Our task force agreed that the priority must be emergency access. Narrow yellow lines are recommended for the stretch of Mill Lane between the Thatched Cottage and the access lane to the lock, with gaps where space allows, supported by signage. Beyond this, restrictions along Mill Lane should apply only where the width of the road (including any pavement) is less than 5 metres and a parked vehicle could obstruct an emergency vehicle.

Next steps? The FOIV Committee has sent its recommendations to Councillor Ed Turner, stressing the need for any further parking restrictions to be minimal, proportionate and focussed on specific problems -- and to use *narrow* yellow lines to minimise visual intrusion. As a next step we have requested an on-site expert visit and suggested that the Council undertake an informal consultation with residents.



The new blight resistant chestnut, safely parked on the verge

And have you spotted? The new bike racks outside the Church and at the top of Mill Lane? And the repairs to the steps at the head of Mill Lane, which had become dangerous? FOIV lobbied hard for these.

Isis Farmhouse: Following a review by the licensing authority, the Isis Farmhouse now has a new set of conditions attached to its licence. Iffley residents hope this will deal with the causes of the complaints which led to the review. The Farmhouse is obliged to advertise a contact telephone number and ensure that it is answered when licensable activities take place. So, if there is any need to complain, residents should ring (01865) 243854 or, if it is a police matter, 101. We suggest they also inform chair@iffley-village.co.uk for information, so that we can monitor any pattern or trend to complaints and raise any recurring problem with the licensee. If, as is to be hoped, there are no recurring complaints, we shall express our appreciation to the Farmhouse.

SOME IFFLEY EVENTS

February 2nd	Music Society	Concert and Winter Party 4 pm, Church Hall
February 16th	Living Stones	Exhibition and Celebration 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, Church Hall
February 18th	History Society	Lecture, 7:30 pm, Church Hall
February 25th	Film Night	'Woman at War' 7 for 7:30 pm, Church Hall
February 29th	Friends of Iffley Village	WINTER SUPPER 7 pm, Church Hall
March 3rd	Friends of St Mary's	Poetry and Puddings 7:30 pm, Church Hall
March 10th	Friends of St Mary's	Iffley Authors, 7:30 pm Church Hall
March 14th	Family Film Show	'Little Shop of Horrors' 2:30 for 3 pm, Church Hall
March 15th	Living Stones	Lecture, Iffley and the Reformation 2:30 pm, Church Hall
March 17th	History Society	Lecture, 7:30 pm Church Hall
March 20 th -22nd	Music Society	Spring Festival Concert 7:30 pm, Church Hall

The Prince of Wales

In the last issue of this newsletter, the editor visited The Tree - in pursuit of the village's social life that exists beyond the ever busy Church Hall. For this issue the editor visited The Prince of Wales. The Prince in question must have been the future Edward VII, famous as a bon viveur. If any reader of this newsletter can shed further light on the history of this late C19th pub, please let us know. The pub has been run for the last six years by Sue Bant (in the kitchen) and Steve Bant (at the bar) who previously ran their own pub in Worcester. The Prince of Wales is owned by Wadsworth, who refurbished and extended the building five years ago. In this 'village within the city' the clientele is a mix of local people and visitors who commonly arrive on foot, by bike or by water, and Sue specially values the way local people make visitors so welcome.

The pub isn't geared towards entertainments. However, an annual highlight is St George's Day, when members of the Iffley Car Club arrive in their vintage cars. New Year's Eve was celebrated with a Casino Royale party, and visitors arrived in James Bond outfits. Sue and Steve are on the left in this photo, along with a couple celebrating their engagement. This pub is the place to go if you want to party on Jan 31st.



Peggy Seeger concert



Folk singer Peggy Seeger is one of Iffley's most celebrated residents. On Nov.1 she gave a benefit concert in the Church Hall to a rapt audience, her 'last ever' solo concert, she insisted. She offered us songs she had learned as a child, often ones she had never sung in public before – accompanying herself on the guitar, banjo and English concertina. A political exile from the USA, she described Iffley as “the best community I've ever had”. One of her most poignant lyrics ran *How do I know my youth is spent? My get-up-and-go is got up and went*. Peggy's get -up-and-go is far from went at 84, and she has a punishing schedule lined up for 2020, playing in partnership with her son Calum MacColl

Peggy's concert raised £400 for the Village shop, and £1000 for the Rose Hill Junior Youth club. A crucial role of the youth club is to give children a healthy square meal in an area on Iffley's doorstep characterized by a high level of poverty. Peggy's money took 30 children to see *Beauty and the Beast* at the Playhouse, and 50 to go trampolining in Bicester, and also supported a family Xmas disco at the Community Centre. Support from neighbouring Iffley will be increasingly important when funding runs out next year.

Parrots: Some green ring-necked Indian parakeets have been sighted in Mill Lane gardens. Are they now permanent (handsome but potentially noisy and greedy) residents in these parts? If you have seen any, please log your sightings on greenspaces@iffley-village.co.uk.

The shop: If you wanted to buy some of Iffley's famous apple juice, you are almost certainly too late and must wait for next autumn. The good news is that it is now marmalade season. Buy soon while stocks last. And milk is still only 50p per pint.

Membership subscriptions: The renewal date for annual FOIV membership subscriptions is January so, if no one has yet come, expect a knock on the door from your local collector. The subscription is still £3.00 (£2.50 concessions).

Committee contacts

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