

# Friends of Headington Hill Park.



## 2020 - 2021 YEAR END REPORT

Dear Friends and Supporters

At this time the Committee would normally invite you to an AGM but once again due to Covid we are issuing a year end Report with the view of having a real social AGM covering both years as soon as indoor gatherings are permitted.

In January, with great sadness we learnt of the unexpected death of our Membership Secretary, Sylvia Lymbery. Sylvia was a founder member of the Friends and devoted a lot of time and effort gathering members and litter picking. She will be best remembered for recording the flowers in the park and she will be greatly missed.

### COMMITTEE

The current Committee are :-

Ian Gourlay - Chair

Alison Bolton - Vice Chair

David Colbeck - Treasurer

Elizabeth Teague - Secretary

Heloise Greeff - Publicity

John Marjot - Posters and education.

Christine Colbeck - Events

All of the above have agreed to continue until we can have an AGM to elect / re-elect the Committee.

The role of Membership Secretary is regrettably now vacant and we are now seeking a volunteer to take on this important role. Please contact a member of the Committee if you would like to join the committee.

### EVENTS

Due to Covid during the last year we have been unable to have our usual events however we did have a workday last March during which the Friends cleared the basal growth from the avenue of Limes and other trees. The autumn workday was abandoned.

We had planned to have another formal tree planting during National Tree Week at the end of November but due to lockdown this was not possible, however the friends did fund the planting of a "Chinese Red barked Birch - (*Betula albosinensis*) and this was recorded on our Facebook page.

This is now showing its spring catkins.

Similarly the Spring 2021 workday has been abandoned, but we hope to be able to arrange an autumn workday.

Again a formal tree planting is planned for the morning of December 4th and our East Oxford MP Anneliese Dodds has provisionally agreed to undertake the formal planting, The tree species has yet to be decided and agreed with the City Council.



## **CYCLE LANE THROUGH HHP**

Following a meeting with Oxford Direct Services we posted the following on our Facebook Page

“Last year the Oxfordshire County Council commissioned a " Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan" for the County. This has been approved by the Committee and passed to Oxford Direct Services for implementation. All without local consultation.

The approved plan shows a "connecting route" along Cuckoo Lane from Pullens Lane down to the point where Cuckoo lane meets the junction where there is an entry into the Brookes student village, the allotments and HHPark. At this point it splits with one leg continuing down Cuckoo Lane to Join the Marston Road opposite the Islamic Centre with the second leg coming through HHPark along the western part of the tarmac path to join the main road at the car park entrance.

The Friends Committee have expressed concern that as the Park is principally a recreation space, widely used by dog walkers, families with small children, joggers and people who use the fitness trail.

The Committee consider the above leisure activities will be in conflict with a through cycle route which due to the gradient will probably be travelling at high speed. Although the detailed design has yet to be published there is clearly a safety issue to be considered.

When more detailed design proposals are available these will be copied to you.

If you have any comments on this proposal please email the Committee on " friends.fohhp@gmail.-com " and copy them to your local County Councillor.”

Except for the preliminary design for the pedestrian crossing into South. Park. To date we have not been advised of any of the design and safety proposals for the route through the park.

We will of course circulate the design proposals as soon as they are made available.

## **PROJECTS**

A second Tree Trail has been prepared and it is hoped to fix the new (blue) tree labels to the trees in the coming weeks so that this second tree trail can be added to the website.

It is also planned to show this on a second information board to be located at the top of the park close to the Cuckoo Lane entrance.

Various infrastructure projects funded from CIL funds via Headington Action are on hold pending the resulting design of the cycle lane project.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The accounts for the year 2020/21 are attached and have been audited.

The accounts show an income of £565.80 with £310 coming from membership subscriptions and the remainder from donations and some bank compensation,  
Expenditure was £522.11, The main expense being £233 for tree purchase and planting.  
(Note in the future we will be liable for VAT on ODS tree purchase and planting.)

A balance of £2,014.31 is carried forward to the current year.

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership subscriptions for the 2021/22 year are now due and the Committee have decided to continue the subscription at £5 per person.

We hope you will be able to continue your support and we look forward to receiving your payment, either by cheque or cash to the FoHHP Treasurer at 17 London Place, Oxford. OX4 1BD

Or make an online payment to account - **FRIENDS OF HEADINGTON HILL PAR**

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Sort code **60 70 03** - Account **50309544** - PLEASE add your name in the sender's box.

Any sum received greater than £5 per head will be treated as a donation

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to a Covid free future,

**Ian Gourlay - Chairman**

**David Colbeck - Treasurer**