



# Friends of Quarry Newsletter May 2021

The restrictions of the past year have forced Friends of Quarry to cancel events we were planning to hold, and the constantly changing rules of association made it difficult for us to plan ahead. Nevertheless we managed to complete the installation of the Headington Quarry stone sign at the entrance to Quarry and it was inspiring to see the community spirit which emerged over the year. Our thanks go to all who helped to set up WhatsApp groups, help neighbours with shopping, hospital visits and general social contact throughout the year. Hopefully we can now look forward to a more relaxed and socially active summer.



Local residents have benefited from the relocation of Headington Market to Quarry Hollow Park and at Quarry Village Hall. It will remain here until social distancing regulations change when the Market will explore the possibility of moving back to central Headington. The Market organizers are grateful to those who live in Headington Quarry for continuing to support it. In particular they thank the Vicar of Holy Trinity for use of the Coach House car park, and the Village Hall committee for use of the hall. The organizers are also beginning to think about an 'Autumn Food Festival' on Saturday 18th September. Details are still to be decided but, if regulations permit, will include an expanded market in the park and additional stalls in the Village Hall.

The market operates every Saturday from 9am to 2pm.

## **Controlled Parking Zone**

The new controlled parking zone appears to be working well. If you have concerns about any abuse of the system you can tell the enforcement team at Caudent by phoning their control room on 0345 337 1138

## Community events

Friends of Quarry are organizing a litter pick across Quarry on Saturday 5th June at 2pm as part of Oxclean. The base is Quarry Hollow Park where you can get the litter pickers and bags for rubbish.

We are also planning a picnic in Quarry Hollow Park on Sunday July 11th. Weather and covid restrictions permitting please come along with a picnic and meet your neighbours.

In the autumn we hope to hold a Quiz Night in the Masons Arms function room, and towards the end of September carry on the bulb planting at the entrances to Quarry. Dates for these will be announced in the autumn Newsletter and our social media sites.

## Low Traffic Neighbourhood

The county council is planning to trial the introduction of low-traffic neighbourhood (LTN) schemes across Headington at the end of the summer, which will include the Quarry, Old Headington and New Headington. The trial is part of the county council's policy to support and facilitate the introduction of LTN as part of actions to improve active travel, improve air quality, improve health and reduce the impact of traffic on local communities. The creation of an LTN involves the placement of a series of filter points on existing roads to restrict the passage of motor

vehicles and permit the passage of anyone on foot, bike, scooter, or wheelchair. With regard to the Quarry, specific details of the scheme have yet to be published but it is likely that a filter point will be placed across the junction of Quarry Hollow, Quarry Road, Quarry High Street and Margaret Road, ie near Quarry Village Hall and the sports pavilion. This diagonal filter point (see black spot) will restrict motor traffic coming up Quarry Hollow from the ring road to making a right turn and those coming up Quarry High Street to a left turn. Motor vehicles coming up



Quarry Hollow towards the village hall will not be able to turn left into Quarry Road or continue on to Margaret Road. The filter will also mean that motor vehicles travelling up Quarry Road and Margaret Road towards the village hall will not be able to access the ring road; coming up Margaret Road (travelling east) towards the village hall motor vehicles will be only able to turn right onto Quarry Road; motor vehicles coming along Quarry Road towards the village will only be able to turn left into Margaret Road. Other possible filter points, Gladstone Road and Pitts Road, are being discussed with a view to minimizing traffic seeking to avoid the Green Road roundabout but these will not be confirmed until the full details of the trial scheme are published. Within an LTN all roads, properties and locations remain accessible to all motor traffic, although through-traffic will be restricted. The Quarry LTN is part of a Headington-wide scheme aiming to restrict rat-running traffic seeking to access Headington's many traffic hot spots, including the Old Road campus and the hospitals.

Further details on the background to low-traffic neighbourhoods and the proposals for Headington, the city and the county are available from Headington Liveable Streets: <https://oxlivsts.org.uk/headington/> and <https://headingtonliveablestreets.ghost.io/>

### **Appeal for information**

Stephanie Jenkins is compiling a list of houses and buildings with dates on them and has asked for our support in collecting those in Quarry. She would also like to know what the somewhat worn inscription on 34 Quarry High Street is. If you can help please email her at [stephanie.jenkins@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.jenkins@gmail.com)

### **Planning**



Friends of Quarry have engaged on several occasions with the city council since September 2019 about the discrepancy between what was proposed for 1 Quarry High Street and what has been built. Our professional survey showed that the building is about 1m higher than it should be and

almost 3m higher than the house. It also revealed that the house on the plans submitted for publication appears to be about 80cm taller than it should be. These results are similar to those of a separate survey carried out by the Oxford Civic Society. The Local Authority accepts that the building is somewhat taller than it should be but does not accept our results. They have asked for a retrospective planning to account for the increase in height but this has not been submitted and seems unlikely to be. We feel that the residents of Quarry and the Conservation Area have been let down by the Enforcement team. We held a meeting with the senior members of the council to discuss the handling of our concerns. Following this we are encouraged that they are taking these seriously and are investigating possible actions. A further meeting has been agreed to when they have come to a decision as to what can be done.

## **Communications**

We will continue to produce Newsletters periodically, but would like to be able to communicate with you more regularly than that. There are a number of ways that you can engage with us to get our news and other updates including:

- Our website ([www.friendsofquarry.org](http://www.friendsofquarry.org))
- Our Facebook page (The Friends of Quarry)
- NextDoor
- Subscribing to our email list

Our updates will continue to be available on the website and Facebook as well.

If you want to contact us or subscribe to the email list, the best way is to email [friendsofquarry@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofquarry@gmail.com) or send us a note via the 'Contact Us' page of our website or phone 01865 760026, or 01865 762418.