

Fitzharry's Manor Estate Residents' Association

Annual Report - November 2020

Welcome

2020 has been a very different year for us all, so much so that I can hardly copy-and-paste much of this report from last year at all! COVID-19 has affected everything we've done, but it's been fantastic to see the way we have pulled together as a community to tackle the challenges and help each other. I'd especially like to welcome the new residents to the estate this year, and look forward to 2021.

Your committee

The committee met on five occasions in the last year, mostly outside on Nuneham Square! (5th Dec, 5th Mar, 9th Jun, 11th Aug, 17th Oct). We are:

Name	Role	
Nick Pumphrey	Chairman	
Nick Shephard	Secretary	
Paul Mason	Treasurer	
Mike Evans	Archivist	
Ken Hinkley-Smith	Member	
Andy Pearl	Member	
David Pope	Member	

Many thanks also goes to Marion Evans, who has attended a few meetings this year. We are desperately in need of new members, so if you think you might like to join us for any of the meetings next year, please let one of us know.

Communications

Whilst email remains the main form of communication for our Estate, other forms have grown this year. FMERA's Facebook group has grown from 59 to 79 members, with quite an active discussion forum. It's a private group, which can be found by searching for 'Fitzharry's Manor Estate', or following this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1994018137510006/>. A WhatsApp volunteer group was set up during the March Lockdown, with nearly 40 volunteers on the estate offering to help neighbours in self-isolation with things like groceries and prescriptions. The kindness and support shown during this difficult time was amazing. Subs collection is also a good time for us to check in as we go from door to door. Printed copies of our annual reports are also made available to those who'd like them.

AGM 2019

The 2019 AGM was on 15th October at St Nicolas' School's community room, and discussed a range of topics, accompanied by drinks and nibbles. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, the Chairman's Annual report and the Treasurer's report were presented. A list of possible new initiatives that FMERA might support or organise in the future provided the main focus of discussion.

Abbey Buildings Tour

In January, we arranged to hear a short talk about the past, present and future of the historic Abbey Buildings in the Unicorn theatre, followed by a guided tour of the Abbey Buildings themselves.

Good Neighbour Initiative

Voting on all the possible initiatives proposed at the AGM showed that finding new ways to help each other was our highest priority. With valuable input from Marion Evans we discussed many options, including the Abingdon Good Neighbour scheme, organising our own events and setting up our own support network. Whilst the COVID outbreak has meant many of the ideas have had to be put on hold, I'm really proud of how we tackled the difficulties we faced during lockdown and came together as a community to help each other.

Clifton Drive Cherry Tree

The residents of Clifton Drive clubbed together with the additional funds from the Residents' Association (£200 as agreed at the last AGM) to replace the cherry tree at the end of Clifton Drive after it was blown down in 2019. They chose a good-sized flowering cherry blossom tree - *Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii', which was planted in April.

Traders list

Thank you to all of you who have supplied suggestions for our Traders list. Our secretary Nick Shephard has made a number of updates to the list of traders that have carried out building work (and other services) on the estate. The list has proven useful to many, and the most up-to-date version will be distributed with this report.

Fixmystreet submissions

A number of submissions have been made to www.fixmystreet.com for the Council or other authorities to maintain the Estate. These have not always led to immediate corrective action, but have helped in several instances. Please help us by posting here when you notice an issue.

Late Summer Picnic

With the cancellation of both the Easter Egg Hunt and the normal Summer Party we thought it was important to organise some event this year. A lot of consideration went into how we could get together in a socially-distanced, COVID-safe way. With rules and guidance carefully studied and risk assessments done, we held a Late Summer Picnic on 5th September, with a quiz, sports activities and refreshments provided. Thankfully the weather was good and good fun was had by all.