



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

newsletter

Your voice in the local community

OCTOBER 2020

<http://www.irara.org.uk>

IF YOU ARE NOT
ALREADY A MEMBER,
JOIN IRARA NOW!

Protect our heritage lamp posts

Colchester has a dwindling number of unique cast iron lamp posts that need to be preserved and protected. We are lucky enough to have several in our roads and we want to follow the example of Roman Road and Castle Road (RRCR) to organise a project for local residents to get involved with restoring and painting them. This will not only protect them for future years but will also improve the look of our streets. Colchester Civic Society has more information on the history of these lamp posts and a detailed list of the ones in our streets on their website.

The RRCR Residents Association obtained permission to restore their lamp posts and have been supplied with the correct paint to carry out this work which they are able to supply us and have offered to show us what is required. A big thanks to those who have already come forward but we are still looking for volunteers with the enthusiasm and skills to carry out this work; perhaps you would like to adopt the lamp post

near your house to restore and paint. When we have the go-ahead from Council we will make contact with the volunteers and start work on a couple of lamp posts to see how it goes. With the weather in mind, we will look to begin work in the Spring. Thanks to Councillor Nick Cope, whose donation will help fund this work.

If you would like to get involved or just find out more about this project, please get in touch using our Facebook page, our website www.irara.org.uk or by email to info@irara.org.uk



A refurbished lamp post in Roman Road similar to those in our neighbourhood.

Virtual AGM (e-AGM), Wed 21st October, 7.30 pm

Given the continued restrictions due to Covid-19, we ask you to join IRARA's Annual General Meeting over Zoom. All local residents are welcome. Contact us via the facebook page or email info@irara.org.uk so that we can send you the login details. We hope you can make it. Lots to report.

Litter Pick, 10 am, 18th October

We have organised a socially distanced litter pick for Sunday October 18th. Bags and litter pick up sticks are being provided by our Zone warden, Justin. We'll meet by the notice board at 10 am. Come along and help improve our environment.

Weeding for IRARA!

At the last IRARA meeting, we discussed the weeds, which have been popping up in our gutters and pavements all year. Some residents have been clearing them, but periodically the council sprays them. Essex County Council has said that during 2018/19 its highways contractor used more than 5,000 litres of Roundup. Roundup is a highly toxic glyphosate weed killer, which we certainly don't want outside our houses, and we are sure no residents would either!

To eradicate the need for toxic weed killers we are suggesting that everyone take charge of the patch in front their own homes and weed it by hand. If we all spent 15 minutes, 4-5 times a year the streets would look so much better. If you want to do your neighbours' patch (if they are unable to) we are sure everyone will appreciate it.



This newsletter is delivered to all residents within the Irvine Road Area. If you do not wish to receive it, please contact IRARA at info@irara.org.uk.

Irvine Road Area Residents' Association is a non-political organisation. It acts independently of any political party and is not affiliated to any other body which has as its objectives the advancement of any political interest

Irvine Road Community Allotment

Local resident Rob Mann has set up a Community Allotment at the Irvine Road Allotment site. Although this is not being run by IRARA we would like to encourage any such community endeavours. Rob writes:

Do you like the idea of growing your own vegetables, flowers but cannot commit the time to tend a plot by yourself? Do you just want to meet up and have a chat over a cuppa, learn new skills and give something back to the community. "All in the Making" has rented two half plots on the Irvine Road Allotment Site for the benefit of the community. We are looking for volunteers to:

- help maintain the plot, donations of tools, plant and seeds
- Learn how to help the local wildlife in your own backyard.
- Enjoy the pleasure of being outdoors and work at your own pace with others.
- Improve the environment around the area

Interested? Then please contact Rob at rob@allinthemaking.org



The new neighbourhood notice board by the allotments.

Political support

Many readers will have noticed that local Councillors are often willing to support the Residents' Association's work and we have welcomed their help on things like the footpath, noticeboard, and protecting the Orchard. We will continue to enlist the help of our councillors when they are willing and able to help us, but we are, and must be seen to be, independent of any political grouping. We are here to support and work on behalf of **all** residents.

News in brief

Orchard update: building work should finally be complete by Christmas which will trigger the transfer of the lease and the launch of the Irvine Road Community Orchard. Our work will then begin in earnest. Watch this space. See the fb page for pictures of the visiting deer and badgers.

Great to see the footpath between the ends of Norman Way finally approved and, somewhat miraculously, the speed with which it has been resurfaced. Many thanks to the campaigners over many years who made this happen

Big thanks to Lorcan Whitehead for the funding and Helen Skipp for organising the new noticeboard on the path leading to the allotments. Do keep an eye out for latest news.

The Local Support whatsapp group continues to keep residents in touch and providing support to one another. Email info@irara.org.uk if you would like to join.

We have two other projects bubbling away – returning more trees to our streets and the possibility of a playground or, at least, a seating area on the Irvine Road field. Let us know if you are interested in helping out.

All seems to have gone quiet regarding the proposed Sports Hall on the Grammar School Fields but we have not yet received confirmation from the School so will be chasing this up.

Membership

We are waiving the £3 membership fee for 2020 as we haven't been able to do our door to door collection but please do feel free to send electronically to The Royal Bank of Scotland, Irvine Road Area Residents Association, Account no 10052878, Sort Code 16-16-31 and let us know you have paid on info@irara.org.uk.

Committee Membership

We are looking for new committee members. It is not an arduous task and involves coming to meetings once a month and getting involved with local projects. If you are interested let one of us know or email on info@irara.org.uk.

For further information about IRARA, its aims and social activities, visit the website or the Facebook page.

email: info@irara.org.uk | website: www.irara.org.uk

www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation



Member of Federation
of Colchester Residents'
Associations

Irvine Road Area Residents' Association Membership application/renewal form 2020/21

Annual membership of IRARA is £3.00 per household and is open to anyone living in Athelstan Road, Audley Road, Capel Road, Irvine Road and adjacent parts of Maldon Road and Shrub End Road. Associate membership is available to individuals resident outside the area who wish to join us.

Name: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ I wish to receive newsletters via: email hard copy

I/We wish to apply for membership I/We wish to renew our membership

Would you be interested in helping with some of the association's activities (for example, leaflet drops, litter clearing etc.) Yes No

Please fill in this form and hand it to your representative or send it to: Simon Grinham, IRARA Membership Secretary, The Old Sweet Shop, Athelstan Road, Colchester CO3 3TR.