



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

newsletter

Your voice in the local community

FEBRUARY 2022

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

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

This has been another difficult year for many and the IRARA Committee wanted to thank all of you who have helped out, providing support to our neighbours during another testing year. Despite the pandemic, we have managed to make significant progress with a number of initiatives as reported in this newsletter so thank you to all of you who have contributed.

We hope you all have a great, and less uncertain, 2022 and we can continue to make our Area an even better place to work and live. As ever, if you want to get involved please do drop us a line at info@irara.org.uk

Mission accomplished

Without doubt the biggest achievement of the year has been the restoration of our historic lamp posts. Inspired by the work done by those who live on Castle and Roman Roads, and supported by the Civic Society, we invited residents to volunteer to help with this project and we had a fantastic response.

Able co-ordinated by Helen Skipp, many residents have helped strip years of paint back to the basic metal, and then re-painted with undercoat and then black gloss. Seventeen lamp posts were refurbished and we thank everyone who lent a hand – this has been a massive community effort.

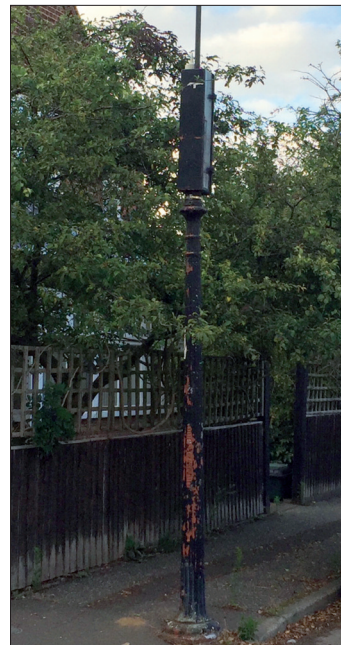
These lamp columns are part of Colchester's industrial heritage, designed upwards of 100-years-ago when they were lit by gas and all made in the town by firms which no longer exist. We hope you agree that they look much better and we can be confident they will last longer. Big thanks also to the resident who sourced the tower scaffold without which we would not have been able to complete the project.

We are aware that there is a wider initiative to ensure that lamp posts like these are preserved and protected for the future so we look forward to seeing the work continue in other areas of Colchester. Our next task is to see if we can ensure the characteristic soft yellow glow is retained as the switch is made to LED-type lights. Please monitor the Facebook page for developments. We also ask you to use string rather than tape if you do need to attach notices (eg about lost pets!) to the lamp posts .

The Irvine Road Community Orchard

We finally took on the lease for the Irvine Road Community Orchard in May 2021 and we were able to celebrate this major milestone at the Open Day on 27th June. We saw over 120 people explore the ancient Orchard and we raised over £600 from donations on the day and in the days afterwards via the Localgiving page. It's a great start towards our target of raising £45k to secure the Orchard for 999 years and shortly afterwards the Colchester Gazette included a great piece about our ambitions. You can still see some of the summer wildlife footage (badgers, deer, fox) on the Facebook page.

Later in the year we were able to get on top of the management with orchard friends and neighbours joining our monthly working parties (first Sunday of the month). On February 26th we will be running a training course on how to prune the fruit trees, so email info@irara.org.uk if you are interested. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. We will also celebrate the spring blossom with an open day on 30th April which is International Orchard Day.



The traditional lamp posts before and after renovation. A big thank you to all the volunteers who pitched in to restore them.



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



Road re-surfacing

As many of you will have seen, some preparatory tree-cutting work has been done in advance of the re-surfacing of the Area's roads later this year. The Council's communications over these recent works were far from perfect and we will be asking for clearer information as we approach the main works. Do keep an eye on the Facebook page for updates.



Resurfacing is due soon. Check the Facebook page for more information.

Book the date - Sunday 5th June for the Street party

At the last AGM there was strong interest in the area having a street party on Sunday 5th June to coincide with the Queen's Jubilee and the other street parties that are being planned for that day. A group of volunteers have come forward to organise the event and will be in touch as plans develop. If you want to help out or have ideas for the day, please do get in touch.

Possible children's playground?

There have been discussions over recent years about creating a new playground on the Irvine Road Field and, having canvassed households, a number of residents have volunteered to pursue this idea. We think we will be able to attract funding for the playground but there is a lot to do – this is a new venture for us.

If you are keen to help then please email info@irara.org.uk

Coming soon – new street trees

As you may be aware, we have been looking to replace some of the street trees which have been lost over recent years. A couple of residents undertook a survey of the existing trees and the gaps, and having contacted the relevant officers, we were delighted to hear that the Council would be planting up to 10 new street trees, hopefully early in 2022.

Thank you to those householders who have responded so positively to the reinstatement of trees outside their houses. We will continue to liaise with the Council with a view to securing more trees for planting next winter.

News in brief

Thanks to all of our Councillors who continue to provide helpful advice and support, not least with the renovated street signs, the street trees and the roads re-surfacing.

We hope all of you who joined in with the Street Sale on June 27th had a good and profitable time. With the Street Party planned for June 5th, we will run the Sale on 3rd July this year.

Membership

Annual Membership of the Irvine Road Area Residents' Association (IRARA) is just £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. You can join by:

- sending your subscription 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 by emailing info@irara.org.uk or:

- Fill in the form below and put it (*or a handwritten note*) with the money through the door of 30 Irvine Road c/o IRARA Treasurer.

Events planned for the rest of 2022

26 Feb	Fruit tree pruning course
March	Spring Clean
April	Litter pick
30 April	Orchard Open Day
5 June	Street Party
3 July	Street Sale
Sept	AGM on the Field
Sept	Orchard fruit picking
October	Litter pick
October	Orchard fungi foray
December	Christmas drinks and social.

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

www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation



Member of Federation
of Colchester Residents'
Associations

Irvine Road Area Residents' Association Membership application/renewal form 2021/22

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 post it with your subscription through the door at: 30 Irvine Road c/o IRARA Treasurer