



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

newsletter

Your voice in the local community

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

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

NOVEMBER 2022

It's been a busy year for IRARA. There have been a range of initiatives, making improvements to our neighbourhood – completing the lamp post renovation, road re-surfacing, installing new street trees - and we ran more events than ever. We can only report on some of these – past and planned – in this newsletter and we hope you can keep an eye on what is planned via the fb page and noticeboard.

In addition, if you want to join the Local Support Whatsapp group please let us know.

Roads resurfaced at last !!

What a relief it was for all residents, when in August our roads were fully resurfaced, after years of reporting them to the Council and perfecting our driving skills by swerving around the large number of ever growing pot holes! Many residents spent hours, if not days watching the old surface being ripped up, and being re-laid by huge pieces of machinery. The end result is smooth roads, which have been laid to a high standard, rather than patching which has been the case in the past. We would like to thank Essex Highways and the Councillors for prioritising our roads.



Before: The pothole and patchwork quilt effect, well known to most Colchester residents, but best seen in its full glory in Irvine Road. Cyclists beware!



After: The all new Irvine Road, a major step towards improving the visual environment.



Calling all gardeners!

We are thinking about trying to organise an open garden event next summer to raise money for a local charity, possibly St Helena's Hospice.

Gardeners will probably have been to one of these locally or in one of the nearby villages but if this is something new to you, it works by having several nearby houses willing to open their garden to the public on the same day. Maps are sold to show the locations of the gardens – this is how the money is raised. In addition there would be one or two locations willing to provide refreshments – this also raises funds.

Before we begin to look at organising this we will need to know that there are enough neighbours willing to open their gardens – a great incentive to get your garden looking good by a deadline! If we go ahead, we hope that the orchard and allotments will be open too.

If this is something you might be interested in, email info@irara.org.uk to let us know. You won't be committed, we just need to know if there is enough interest to pursue the idea.

Even better, if you have been involved in organising open gardens in another area please get in touch, we would be interested in hearing from you as we have a lot to learn!



Playground group

As we reported in the last newsletter, a group of residents are organising a new childrens' playground, to be installed on part of the Irvine Road Field. The group is currently in contact with several recommended playground equipment suppliers to look at what's possible on the site and plans to consult local residents and other stakeholders for ideas and feedback. Subject to that consultation and once the idea has been worked up and costed, the focus for 2023 will be on winning funding and working with others - including Colchester Borough Council - to progress the plans.

Good news for the Irvine Road Orchard?

This has been a year of new initiatives for the Irvine Road Community Orchard in addition to the very successful Open Day in May.

This year's events included the first Fruit Pressing Day, Fungi Foray and Tree Pruning Training Course. All were very well attended, with a lot of enthusiastic participants. We plan to run another Pruning course in January (email info@irara.org.uk if you are interested) and we may well repeat the other events.

The regular work parties (first Sunday of the month) have, meanwhile, ensured that the Orchard is in good shape as we enter the winter and thanks to Upson Mowers for lending us the chipper to compost the material we have generated.

The very big recent news is that our Councillors have committed to making a significant grant towards securing the 999 year lease of the Orchard. The total cost of that lease is £45k. We are awaiting confirmation of the amount which will trigger a major fundraising effort to secure the remainder. Watch the FB and noticeboard for updates. This is our chance to secure our original ambition - to safeguard the Orchard for the long-term.

The Christmas social returns

Having missed a few years due to Covid we are holding the IRARA Christmas social at the ArLight Bowls Club on Friday 2nd December. Come and see the new facilities and enjoy some good neighbourhood company in the run-up to Christmas. Doors open at 7.30.



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.

News in brief

We hope you like the new street trees that were planted in February 2022. Our local Councillors have supported our bid for more trees this coming winter.

Many thanks to Rob Mann and all the volunteers who helped make bird boxes (and an owl) box for installation in the Orchard

The IRARA AGM was held on 28th September and the minutes are available on the FB page

Last year's wreath making sessions proved very popular and will return on 26 November. All the materials and the tuition necessary are provided and you walk away with a beautiful wreath for your front door. Email info@irara.org.uk if you are interested.

In the coming year, we will be looking for new Trustees for the Community Orchard - let us know if you might be interested.

You can join IRARA 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:

- 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.

Dates for your diary

Nov/Dec	Litter pick
26 Nov	Wreath making workshop
2 Dec	Xmas social
29 Jan	Fruit tree pruning day
18 Mar	Quiz night
April	Litter pick
Mar	Spring clean
Spring	Open gardens (tbc)
Jul	Street sale
Sep	Fruit pressing day
Sep	AGM
Oct	Litter pick and weeds
December	Christmas drinks and social

www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation

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



Member of Federation
of Colchester Residents'
Associations

Irvine Road Area Residents' Association Membership application/renewal form 2022/23

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