



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# newsletter

Your voice in the local community

APRIL 2024

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

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

It has been some time since our last newsletter but we've not been idle. There's been more going on than we can report in these two pages, so do look at the Facebook pages and noticeboard if you want to keep up to date. This issue focusses on the new "Street Meet" planned for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June that will replace the annual Street Sale, the Orchard Open Day on 28 April and a few highlights from the past year.

If you have any comments, suggestions or want to help please contact us on [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk) and if anyone wants to join the Local Support Whatsapp group please let us know.

## Street Meet, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2-4pm

This year we are planning to replace our annual street sale with a new event. We hope that there will be something for everyone, in particular for families and children that live in the IRARA area.

We are hoping to close a section of Irvine Road to allow for a safe space for the event. Some cars will need to be moved and we'd like to say thanks to all of those who have offered to do so.

There will be refreshments available, a space for tabletop sales of residents' crafts, plants and maybe a toy and book table if residents would like to move some precious things into new homes.

### Street entertainment

For the children we are thinking of face painting, a puppet show or magician. If you have any other ideas, they would be very welcome. This is for everyone – some street games, an ice cream van and just a general get-together with your friends and neighbours.

#### Give us your suggestions

We have started planning for this and have had some great suggestions for what we could include. We'd love to have more, so please get in touch with any ideas, offers of help or suggestions.

We do have some funds to pay for an entertainer if required. We hope you like the idea and please do get in touch to help make our first "Street Meet" a success – [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk)



### Would you like to join us in making the Irvine Road Area a better place to live and work?

The Residents' Association is looking for a few more people from the local Area to join its Committee. We are looking for people with enthusiasm to engage the community and help make the Irvine Road area a better place to live and work. Our FB page shows the range of initiatives that we already get involved with and we would welcome people who want to help with these and are keen to develop new events and projects. Volunteers from Capel or Audley Roads, or with social media skills, would be particularly welcome. The time commitment is not onerous - we hold informal monthly meetings but not everyone attends all of them and they often take less than an hour. If you would like to come along to one of our meetings before committing, you would

be more than welcome. Please contact [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk) if you would like more information and we're happy to speak to anyone who wants to have a chat about this.

#### New Playground

As you may recall the idea of a playground originated at a previous AGM and a group of IRARA residents developed the proposal and ran a consultation last summer which generated some strong views – both in favour and against, with a sizeable proportion of the opposition coming from outside the IRARA area. Given the feedback we agreed at the AGM that we could not simply press ahead and the IRARA Committee agreed to discuss the consultation with the respective Councillors which remains a work in progress. We want to thank the residents who got the proposal to this stage of development.

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](mailto: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



## Highlights from last year

I don't think there can be much doubt that the highlight of IRARA's year was the Street Party even if IRARA did not actually organise this extremely enjoyable and memorable event! I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone who attended in sending a vote of thanks to those who made it happen.

The AGM was held in Sept and the minutes are on the FB page. Our second fungi foray in November revealed a whole host of new species in the Orchard – pictures and details are also on the FB page. We ran two very well attended Winter events – our annual Xmas Social and our first Wassail in the Orchard. Let us hope the marvellous singing did ward off those evil spirits and we have a bountiful harvest in 2024.

And finally, thanks to Charlie and Claire for organising and running a lively Quiz Night a few weeks ago – we hope they'll run another for us next year,

## Orchard update and Open Day 28 April, 11am to 1pm

The big Orchard news of last year was the fact that we raised the £45k needed to secure a 999 year lease of the Orchard. This has been a fantastic achievement, and we would like to thank everyone who made this possible.

With most of the legal work now complete, we are hoping to sign the lease in the very near future. Hopefully the blossom will be on display for the Open Day on 28 April. You will also see the fruits of the monthly work parties with the hedge guards now removed (and heading for recycling), a few new trees planted and the composting that allows us to use all of the material generated on-site.

If you are interested in helping, please keep an eye on the Facebook page and noticeboard for details of work parties that are held on first Sunday of the month.



The street party last year was certainly a big hit with local residents. We Hope for a similar success with the Street Meet this year.



January's Winter Wassail in the orchard was a great success, hopefully to be repeated next year

### Future dates:

21 April	Litter pick, 10am	September (TBC)	IRARA AGM
28 April	Orchard Open Day, 11am -1pm	November (TBC)	Fungi Foray
30 June	Street Meet, 2pm - 4pm	6 December	Xmas Social
September (TBC)	Fruit pressing	5 January (2025)	Wassail

## Membership

The familiar membership form is included below. A number of residents have asked if they can pay electronically and it would be really helpful if as many people as possible did so.

If you would like to setup a standing order to the IRARA bank account for £3 per annum then please include your address as a reference and let us know you have paid by emailing [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk)

- Send your subscription electronically to:

**The Royal Bank of Scotland,  
Irvine Road Area Residents Association,  
Account no 10052878,  
Sort Code 16-16-31**

- 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.

[www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation)

email: [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk) | web: [www.irara.org.uk](http://www.irara.org.uk)



Member of Federation  
of Colchester Residents'  
Associations

## Irvine Road Area Residents' Association Membership application/renewal form 2024/25

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