



OUTER AVENUE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Summer 2023 Bulletin

TABLETOP SALE DODGES THE RAIN & RAISES FUNDS

We held our first post-Covid Tabletop Sale on Sunday 16 July – hastily moved from the Saturday due to a Yellow Weather Warning! There were plentiful plants and a good selection of saleable “stuff”, as well as a chance to be seen and meet residents. It was worth the effort as we raised nearly £200 for our funds, which we’ll plough back into OARA activities. Any leftover items were gratefully received by the local Macmillan Charity Shop. Thankyou to everyone who contributed items and/or their time to make it a success. Another one in the Autumn maybe?

PS We still have a good number of garden and house plants for sale. Contact Sue Swallow at seswallow@gmail.com to find out more.



OARA AND COUNCIL JOIN TOGETHER TO TALK RUBBISH

We had quite a gathering of residents eager to “Talk Rubbish” at our OGM on July 10. We were pleased to welcome Ian Collins, SCC Director for the Environment and Councillor Steve Leggett, then Cabinet Member whose responsibilities included Waste, as well as our own Bevois Councillors. The state of our streets and bins is an issue that affects us every day and one that is regularly raised despairingly by members. So, we decided to grasp the nettle and give it a good airing - with the opportunity to share in pictures and out loud what really bugs us, to listen to what measures the Council are taking to improve things, and to provide them with our own views and ideas. There was a constructive exchange. We were pleased to hear that there are plans for a more pro-active approach to dealing with contaminated recycling bins A new MURF - Multi Use Recycling Facility – shared with other local authorities is in the 2024/5 pipeline and will be able to recycle a wider range of materials, particularly plastics. There are also plans for a food waste collection. New government legislation will see the requirement for a welcome common approach to recycling across the country - although question marks remain about how this change will be funded.

We will be following up all the good ideas with Ian Collins after the holiday to make sure they don’t get lost- as well as taking up extra questions asked on the night. We’ll keep you posted. (Notes of the meeting with more details will be available on the website).

TEAMWORK RESULTS IN SUCCESSFUL END OF YEAR CLEAROUT.



As you know, each year we work closely with the University of Southampton and the Council to plan for the end-of-year student clear-out and mitigate its effects. We reckon this year has been the most successful to date with noticeably less issues and mess than in previous years (not perfect but a real improvement). This was the outcome of a number of strategies: information to students from the Uni and Students’ Union; information from us at OARA to our known student households, including reminding them to stagger their clear-out; a drop off point at October Books; an additional bin collection on Saturday 1 July funded by the University, and a heroic effort by the refuse team on that day to deal with side waste and contaminated bins. We are still lobbying for a visit from the street sweeping machines while the roads are emptier of student cars, and we have a “wash-up” meeting with all parties soon to review how it went and start planning for the new term! Thank you to everyone who helped show that joined-up thinking and working together really do pay off!

LONG-STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER STANDS DOWN

Phine Dahle, one of the longest-standing members of the OARA Committee, has decided to stand down. Phine has been a committee member longer than any of us can exactly remember. During that time, she has contributed so much to OARA and to our local community, including joining in with greening, party organising, taking a key role in the Patients' Participation Group at our local surgery, being a meeter and greeter at meetings, welcoming new residents and caring for existing ones, encouraging us to take time out to reflect and, above all, being a tireless champion for the environment. Phine feels it is time to devote more of her energies to her great passion of campaigning on climate change – a decision it's hard to argue with! We want to say a huge and heartfelt "Thank you, Phine" for all you have done and shared over the years. We shall miss you on the committee but are glad you will still be very much a local resident and OARA friend!

PORTSWOOD BROADWAY CONSULTATION PART 2

Phase two of the SCC consultation regarding the proposed developments in Portswood is due to take place in early Autumn. OARA has been invited to host one of the consultation meetings. This is likely to take place at Avenue St Andrews on Tuesday 19th September. Once we have firm details, we will pass these on, including how to access full information about the revised proposals.

CAN YOU HELP KEEP OARA TIDY?

Following the success of student clear-out this year, that depended on a great deal of coordination between OARA, The University, Students' Union and the Council's waste management department, we would like residents to think about making an extra effort to:

Keep OARA Tidy! Here's what you can do:

- Keep an eye on the area close to your home
- Keep it tidy. Monitor bins.
- Report any fly-tipping to us so that we can take action
- Contact Barbara: 07845 663468 for bibs and litter-pickers
- Or: info@outeravenueresidents.co.uk to make a report
- And join in with first Sunday of the month Street Clean (but not August!)
- If we all pitch in, we can make a difference!



COULD YOU BE A BIN BUDDY?

We have already started our Bin Buddy list for the new cohort of students moving into the area. This involves signing up households for a Tuesday night text reminding them to put out bins – and which bins to put out. We offer them a recycling bag as a moving in present too. It's a good way to make contact with new student neighbours and a useful way to remind students about what they can and can't recycle and to bring their bins in off the pavement too. We had some lovely feedback from last year's sign-ups including:

"Thank you - this has been super helpful this year."

"You have been an absolute lifesaver this year... Your updates have been so helpful in keeping our rubbish bins in order."

"Thank you so much for your help this year. 90% of the bins going out on time was because of your reminders."

We signed up 40 households last year and it made a difference. Could you be a bin buddy and help sign up new households near you so we can reach even more this year? It's easy to do. Just let me know if you might be able to help on arahjackson@outlook.com



26-28 AUGUST OPEN STUDIO ART EVENT - AVENUE ARTISTS

A diverse Art & Craft Exhibition inspired by a passion to thrive in and preserve our world. Sponsored by OARA, the local residents' association, and Avenue St.

Andrew's. Delicious cakes and coffee! Wheelchair accessible

Parking in nearby streets and Cemetery Road

Opening times: 26th - 28th August 1pm - 5pm

Address: Avenue St Andrew's URC Church, The Avenue, Southampton SO17 1XQ

E-Mail: office@asaurc.org.uk

OARA POLICE REPORT

We recently met with our Neighbourhood Police team: Inspector Tim Williams, Sgt Tom Stark and PCSO Georgi Berkov. The good news is that our patch is not viewed as a high-crime area, and the main message for residents is:

- If you see a crime being committed, phone 999
- If you have a concern, phone 101, but this can be frustrating as there's often a long wait.
- More effective, although a bit impersonal, is to go on the Hampshire Police website: www.hampshire.police.uk. At the top of the opening screen, on the left, is a 'Report' box. That's where you report concerns. These concerns are prioritised, and the more reports sent in about the same problem, from different sources, the higher the priority. Your report is important and is not ignored!

CONGRATULATIONS TO RACE FOR LIFERS

One of our longstanding OARA residents and members, Sarah Parsons, completed the recent 5k Race for Life on the Common. She did it in her wheelchair, with a smile and despite the rain! Sarah, who was one of a team from the Sembal House Day Centre has lived in the same house in the area all her life, since 1969. Congratulations to Sarah and her team for completing the course in style and raising hundreds of pounds for Cancer Research. If you would like to chip in and show your support, then there is still time to do so online at: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/sembal-pink-team> And well done to any of you who braved the elements for such a good cause.



BEVOIS PRIMARY SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR FOREST SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Could you go down to the woods today - or in September maybe? In April, our Councillor Jacqui Rayment, the first Lord Mayor of Southampton, opened the Forest School at our local Bevois Town Primary - an area of the grounds that has been reclaimed and turned into an exciting new outdoor adventure space.



The school is now looking for regular volunteers, on a Wednesday or Friday, to be extra eyes and hands when doing the riskier elements such as firelighting. Forest School activities can include bug hunting, shelter making, campfire cooking, use of bladed tools for woodworking, nature-based games, arts and crafts using natural materials, tree climbing and generally having fun outside, come rain or shine. Sessions will always be led by a qualified teacher and Forest School leader as well as supported by other school staff,

and there will be training on procedures and protocols so that volunteers feel well prepared. All volunteers are subject to thorough safeguarding checks to ensure children's safety. If there are any potential interested individuals out there, please contact hannah.boussot@bevoistown.co.uk for more information.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Have you paid your membership this year? We ask all members who can to make an annual contribution of £5.00 to provide funds for our various activities.

You can make a bank transfer or standing order using the following details:

Sort code: 20-79-25. Account Number: 53004597

If you're not sure if you've paid or not, and would like to, contact our treasurer at wendystokes183@hotmail.co

Please make sure you make it clear in the reference who is sending the payment so we know it's you.

HISTORY DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Bevois Mount History branch will be giving the September talk at Portswood Library on Wednesday 13th, at 7.30. The topic is Notable Residents of the Old Cemetery. I am told it promises to be educational and enthralling! So make a note in your diary.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR STREET PARTY

Saturday 14 October 1-4.

We will be holding our annual get together, in conjunction with the Students' Union, to introduce new student households to the community and just get to know your neighbours. Put another date in your diary!



GONE GREENING! COULD YOU COME NEXT TIME?



A stroll round Outer Avenue reveals lots of green corners and touches thanks to our Greening Group: cherry trees, barrels, planters, some better-tended landlord front gardens (in return for donations to our funds) and several guerilla-gardened beds and borders. Great for human wellbeing and the bees and wildlife love it too. Here's a glimpse of what's out now. We had quite a setback with such dry weather in June, but the recent rain has been very welcome - by the plants at least. We are looking for new, indeed really need, more volunteers to come and lend a hand - just the odd session here and there to keep things tidy and put in new plants to freshen things up when needed. You don't have to be an expert gardener or have green fingers - just like a bit of company and be willing to get stuck in. The more help we have, the more we can do. Drop Sue Swallow a line on seswallow@gmail.com to find out more and offer your help.

