



OUTER AVENUE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION BULLETIN April - Spring 2025

SIGNS OF SPRING

As you can see from our current notice board at the Alma Road planters, there's a lot been going on and also coming up on the OARA patch. We're pleased to bring you a roundup of recent events, news, activities and campaigns.



Early Spring sees the OARA cherry trees at their blooming best. With over 50 trees around the patch, the spring blossom makes a real difference and helps lift the spirits. The tree

planting started a number of years ago - organised by OARA's Greening Group and paid for through fundraising, landlord sponsorship and by residents who make space for a tree in their own front gardens. Some are already splendidly tall specimens

and others, like this one, are just finding their feet.



Dates for your diary: next OARA Street Party -Saturday 31 May, 1 to 4

We'll be joining up with SUSU for another community get together. We're always on the lookout for a variety of entertainment so if you can make music, belong to a band, choir, dance or other entertainment group or have children's games to offer or plants to contribute to the plant stall, then please do get in touch with chief party organiser (and OARA Chair), John Hayward, on oarajohn@outlook.com. And before the party there will be

Bunting Making!

A group is getting together for a bit of chat and crafting at a bunting workshop, on Tuesday 29 April between 7-9pm at Heather's house. Heather has space for 8 participants at her big table and there will be 3 sewing machines in situ, but hand sewing is also of the essence. Maggie is providing beautiful, recycled sari material, but please bring your own colourful cloth if you have some. The bunting will adorn future OARA street parties and art events.

Contact Barbro on barbrooara@gmail.com for more information if you are interested.



REWILDING COMES TO WAITROSE

This year we've joined forces with the Students' Union and embarked on a trial new venture - sowing wildflower seeds in the empty beds at Waitrose, with their permission of course!

We were sad when the previous bushes were removed because of the amount of litter deposited in them, so welcomed this opportunity to return some environmentally-kind greenery to a local bare patch. Watch this space!



STILL STRIVING FOR CLEAN STREETS



We've been doing our bit (or more than our bit!) to try and keep our streets clean. The first-Sunday-of-the-month litter picking has resumed to good effect and with some new recruits. The March event was followed by soup and socialising - with thanks due to Barbro and Simon for their hospitality. We plan to repeat this from time to time.

In April, we also signed up for the national Great British Spring Clean - which coincided with our own April Street Clean. Here's the link. If you like what we do, you can nominate OARA to recognise the efforts of all our helpers.

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

We've also reported numerous incidents of flytipping and houses with shocking bin mess, including various HMOs along Lodge Road. We are grateful for the prompt responses we have received from Jayne Goddard's Open Spaces Team and our HMO Warden, Julia Lovett.

COME & JOIN US FOR THE NEXT STREET CLEAN - 11.00 SUNDAY 4th MAY

AGM - Annual General Meeting report

Thank you to all of you who came along to our Annual General Meeting on Monday 31 March at Avenue St Andrew's. There was a good turn out with 35 attendees. John Hayward, Chair, reported on the Association's activities over the past year, as set out in the pre-circulated Annual Report, and the Treasurer presented the accounts for approval. Minutes will go on the website in due course.

The following were nominated and accepted as officers and committee members for the coming year:

Chair- John Hayward; Vice Chair-Sharon Burgess; Secretary - Hilary Jackson; Treasurer - Wendy Stokes; Membership Secretary - Barbara Matcham; Minutes Secretary - Ann Woolnough; Committee Members: Barbro Fitzjohn, Liz Harris, Chris Jackson, Sue Swallow. In particular, John thanked Sue Swallow who had decided to stand down after a long and committed stint as Vice -Chair.

We were pleased to welcome Councillor Laura Fielker, the Leader of Southampton City Council, as our guest speaker. She reported on the latest initiatives and priorities in the city and took a range of questions, including on street cleaning, Portswood Broadway and the Bus Gate, protecting local businesses, student accommodation, HMOs and improved recycling facilities. She complimented OARA on the work that we do.



PLANS IN HAND FOR YEAR END CLEAROUT

Plans are also in hand for the end-of-year clearout, in liaison with the University and SCC Waste and Cleansing Teams. We are also working to involve landlords in this. The university will be funding an extra general waste bin round as well as alerting students about how and where to recycle items no longer needed rather than chuck them in the bin. We have also negotiated robustly to ensure that OARA roads with high student density continue to get appropriate priority.

And here is our latest creative attempt to demystify what to put in which bins - we'll be giving out posters to student and other struggling households, urging them to Put a Grin on Your Bin, as well as lobbying for landlords to stick them up prominently in their properties.

SHOP LOCAL - USE IT OR LOSE IT

You will undoubtedly be aware that a number of useful local shops have closed over the past year or so, including Iceland, Superdrug and the greengrocers, with the iconic Portswood Hardware also scheduled to close. Loss of regular footfall can have a knock-on effect to remaining businesses too. This, together with changing demographics, online shopping, rising rents, loss of parking spaces and changed traffic systems really threatens the future viability of precious local traders. We are currently blessed with characterful independents such as October Books, Kate's Café and K's Market and we need to make sure we use them - or we will lose them! So please think local when you are shopping and support our local shops.



PORTSWOOD BUS GATE: HAVE YOUR SAY

The trial introduction of the Portswood Bus Gate began in January and is due to run for six-months. You will certainly be aware that this has generated a lot of strong feeling - on either side - and had an impact on traffic flow and habits. You can find all the latest information at [Portswood Project - Connecting Southampton](https://www.portswoodproject.co.uk/).

You can send your feedback and comments as part of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) consultation by completing the form at transport.southampton.gov.uk/tro.

REPORTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We have recently become concerned about an increase in street drinking and anti-social behaviour in Portswood High Street. The worry is that these drinkers could be an attraction for others and the problem could turn into a growing one.

We have contacted the local Portswood police team, and they are well aware of the situation. Some action is being taken, including contact with the local homelessness team. If you have been affected by this issue, the advice from the Police is:

"In terms of reporting anti-social behaviour, the best avenues are either via the Hampshire Constabulary website or by calling 101. This ensures your reports are officially logged and actioned appropriately.' So, if you have any specific incidents to report, follow the recommended procedure above, or get in touch with us at: info@outeravenueresidents.co.uk

ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Find out more about sea level rise and its local impact.

HMO LICENSING CONSULTATION

In February, OARA sent in a comprehensive response to the Council's consultation on HMO Licensing. Thank you to all of you who also sent in your comments. We await the outcome of the consultation.

More Lobbying on Licensing

In recent months we have learned that Residents' Associations are not routinely advised of Licensing Applications for retail premises, including applications related to the sale of alcohol. We are taking this up with the Council and lobbying for RAs to be automatically informed.

PARKING MATTERS

The Council are also likely to be consulting in the coming months about the possible introduction of a Parking Zone Scheme in Bevois North. We will keep you informed and encourage you to engage with this process to help shape and contribute to future plans.



THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

The Rising Tide

Sea level rise and its impact on our coast



The streets of Old Portsmouth flooding during the storms of 14-18 December 1989
(© Portsmouth City Council / East Solent Coastal Partnership)

Tuesday 10th June 7.30-9pm
Avenue St Andrew's URC
The Avenue, Southampton SO17 1XQ

Speaker: Prof Ivan Haigh
Professor in the School of Ocean and Earth Science, University of Southampton, based in the National Oceanography Centre

Buses 1, 2 and U1A stop outside the church, which is wheelchair-accessible.
There is also parking across the Avenue in the Cemetery Road carpark.



And last but not least - a very personal appeal to support children's charities at our local hospitals

The appeal below comes from the family of one of our committee members, Ally. Arlo, the little boy who has received such wonderful care, is her grandson. We asked their permission to include it in our mailing to you.

At just 5 weeks old, Arlo was taken to A&E with laboured breathing due to a chest infection, or so we thought. Within 48 hours, our world was turned upside down. We were told he had a serious heart condition and would need multiple surgeries. Nothing could have prepared us for that moment. We were quickly admitted to E1 Ocean Ward at Southampton General Hospital, where we've been surrounded by some of the most skilled and compassionate teams imaginable. But Arlo's journey hasn't been straightforward. Just a few days into his stay, his condition worsened, and he was moved to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), where he received 1:1 critical care and underwent surgery. Throughout everything, we've been struck not only by the incredible medical care but also by the emotional and practical support we've received as parents. The truth is—it takes an extraordinary network to care for a seriously ill child, and we want to give something back to the charities that make this possible. We're fundraising for three incredible charities that have helped us, and countless other families: • Friends of Ocean Ward – Supporting children with heart conditions and their families on Ocean Ward at Southampton General Hospital. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/arlo-ocean-ward-sgh...> • Friends of PICU – Helping the NHS deliver the highest standard of intensive care to critically ill children from across the South of England and Channel Islands. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/arlo-picu-sgh...> • Sophie's Legacy – Providing vital practical support to parents in hospital, including meals, vouchers, fuel money and more, so they can focus on their child. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/arlo-sophies-legacy...> If you're able to donate, however big or small, your support will make a meaningful difference to families like ours. Links are either in my bio (Insta) or above (Facebook). Thank you for being part of Arlo's journey—and for helping us say thank you to the people and charities who carried us through. [Friends of PICU Sophie's Legacy](#)