

# Headington Action



## **Annual Report for 2007–2008**

This report will show that we have had another effective year. There has been the usual good range of interaction, fostering, we trust, broader understanding between organisations represented. We have also been engaged in a number of worthwhile projects, seeing a number of projects continue to flourish and some new initiatives commenced.

We wish to express our very special thanks to Mary Hope who has served this committee as vice-chair (previously the chair) and chaired the Headington Festival Sub-Committee so effectively for many years. She has now communicated her decision to step down from these roles, but we are delighted that she will continue to be involved as a committee member.

James Bloice Smith (Chair)

## **Topics Discussed at Headington Action**

Topics at the 2008 meetings were varied and included the Farmers' Market, the E-Forum, the OX3 Guide, Headington shops/cafés and flower baskets, the Festival and Christmas activities, the Bury Knowle Park Book Tree, transport/cycle paths/Streets for People and parking issues, community-led planning, Pick-Up Litter Day, fostering of Low Carbon Headington, NAGs (neighbourhood action groups), North-east neighbourhood action consultation, play areas, Headington car club and the Events Guide.

Speakers attending through the year were Vicky Harris from Low Carbon Wolvercote; Caroline Duffy, who gave a report on the Headington Festival; Ian Alexander from Churches Together in Headington; Gail Siddall from Oxford City Environmental Health Department on HMOs (houses in multiple occupation); and Iain Nicholson on the Headington Shopping Area Project.

On average nine people attended the monthly meetings (a range 7 to 14).

Marion Fiddes (Secretary)

## **Headington Farmers' Market**

Headington Farmers' Market began in September 2007, and has been held every month since then. It takes place on the fourth Friday, except in December when it is on the third. The number of stalls at the first market was just eight, but this has now risen to 13-14, which is about the largest number that can be accommodated in the limited area available. The market produces a worthwhile flow of revenue for Headington Action – the initial investment costs were recouped within about six months, and monthly takings from stall fees are currently in excess of £300, with minimal outgoings. The market has been warmly welcomed by Headington's shoppers, and the volume of trade has proved to be satisfactory to the stallholders, who currently consider Headington as one of the best small farmers' markets in Oxfordshire.

Charles Young (Treasurer)

## **Tree Sculpture in Bury Knowle Park**

The Storybook Tree project is nearing completion. A local resident responded to an appeal for donations and commissioned a bench in memory of a family member; this has now been installed. It was agreed by the committee to commission a further bench to complete the project; it is expected to be ready to be installed early in 2009. On completion a permanent plaque will be commissioned giving details of the whole project including the name of sculptor and all the sponsors.

The tree sculpture and benches have been well received, and the area continues to be a focal meeting point, in addition to being used as the story-telling area for which it was designed. In 2007 The Storybook Tree was given an environmental award by The Oxford Preservation Trust.

Mary Hope (Vice Chair)

## **Headington Festival 1 June 2008**

Headington Festival 2008 followed the now established pattern of a one-day event in Bury Knowle Park on the first Sunday in June. Funding was provided by Oxford City Council, the Dora Field Charitable Trust and the Community Foundation. The Oxford Playhouse, Creation Theatre Company and Rectory Farm generously donated the prizes.

Caroline Duffy was once again appointed as the Festival Coordinator to work for limited hours to make all the necessary arrangements with the active involvement of the Festival Committee, which comprised one member of the HCDA committee and two co-opted volunteers. Again we are indebted to Caroline for her commitment, skills and innovative ideas for the past three years.

The event was a great success with an estimated attendance of over 3,500 people. There was entertainment for all ages, including the Jubilee Brass Band, a fancy-dress parade, wellie-wanging and Orinoco Recycling competitions, a magic show, Science Oxford, puppet and dancing displays and storytelling. A tea tent was arranged by the Eatwell Café from Barton. In addition to craft stalls, over 35 charity stalls and displays were present raising funds and interest.

Feedback from members of the public was extremely positive. A questionnaire was sent to stall holders to establish how their funds had been enhanced by their attendance; most expressed an interest to attend subsequent events.

It is proposed that a Headington Festival in 2009 should be organised by a sub-group of HCDA comprising at least one HCDA member as well as persons co-opted to the group. It was agreed that the Headington Festival should continue in the future but only if a paid co-ordinator can be funded. It is agreed to seek further sponsorship from local companies together with funds from charitable bodies and the City Council.

Mary Hope

## **LOW CARBON HEADINGTON**

Low-Carbon Headington was launched on 23rd April 2008 with the purpose of discovering ideas about how to reduce Headington's carbon footprint. In that regard, over 100 suggestions were gathered. There was a follow-up meeting on 2nd June when those present broke into various groups based on the ideas received and held discussions lasting some 45 minutes—with a member from each group reporting back. Two of these groups, Transport and Carbon Reduction, have subsequently had their own meetings.

A coordinating committee including reps from functioning groups met on 21 July and decided to provide regular newsletters of group activities and notice of wider events, such as the LCH presence on Car Free Day, 20 September and the next general LCH meeting, now scheduled for 13th November. Topics at the upcoming meeting are to include:

- *Ruskin College's new low-carbon buildings;*
- *Report from the Low-Carbon Communities Conference in Llangollen, 4th October*
- *Reports from the Transport and Carbon Reduction groups;*
- *Possible wind turbine for Headington;*
- *Possibility of leafleting and having a stall at the Farmers' Market*
- *Report on ECHO, Oxford City Council's Energy Champions for Homes Training*
- *Lightfoot Household Energy Service.*

Jill Haas

## **Headington & Marston Neighbourhood Forum (HMNF)**

<http://forums.e-democracy.org/groups/oxford-hm>

In 2007 Oxford City Council approached eDemocracy, a charity in Minnesota, with a view to each of Oxford's six Area Committees having its own online forum, where residents, councillors, and local government officers could discuss local issues. The HMNF was launched in mid-December 2007 under the aegis of Headington Action, and most of its committee members agreed to form its management team, with Stephanie Jenkins as Manager.

The forum is now nine months old, and has about 150 members from Headington and Marston, including nine city, county, and parish councillors. In that time a total of 925 messages have been received, with an average of 30 members posting each month.

Stephanie Jenkins

## **Headington District Shopping Centre project**

HCDA is actively involved in a project funded through North-East Area Committee in June 2008, to focus on Headington District Shopping Centre and the issues around its vitality and sustainability. HCDA members have been part of the working group which has developed a questionnaire and delivered this to the shops and businesses in Headington Centre. It is hoped that the Headington Business Association will be revived and from the initial questionnaire, 50 businesses have responded positively to this and an initial meeting has been set up.

The group have also been instrumental in developing a three day Christmas experience event that focuses on Headington Centre and involving retailers. This has been received positively by local businesses.

Further work on this project will continue over the coming year.

Angela Cristofoli

## **Events Guide—"OX3 What's On"**

In May 2008 local resident Maria Mansfield contacted the HCDA regarding the creation of a local events information listing for the OX3 area. The HCDA committee were willing to offer support for this and felt the Guide would be a valuable addition to the *OX3 Guide*.

In July 2008 the first *What's On* listing was created and has received support from various local residents. The listing has a contact email address of [headingtonevents@googlemail.com](mailto:headingtonevents@googlemail.com)

The listing is produced for the beginning of each month, forwarded to an email database and posted to OX3 notice-boards, alongside being added to the website [www.headington.org.uk](http://www.headington.org.uk) which is run by Stephanie Jenkins.

The listing has been well received, with regular positive comments via email from schoolteachers, councillors and residents. The listing is also gaining momentum, with several events now being sent in for advertisement each month.

Maria Mansfield

## OX3 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

OX3 is the Local Directory & Guide for Headington & Marston Areas. Some two years after the first the second edition has emerged looking even better. A copy should now have been delivered to every door in the area, in addition to which they have been made available in shops and libraries, at Oxford Brookes University and in the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust. We still have supplies and these will be used to top up the ongoing outlets.

Once again the layout, photography and graphic design were the work of Martin Anderson Design & Photography. Stephanie Jenkins' Headington website provided excellent local information and Angela Cristofoli provided invaluable support from her office in checking data. Mary Hope generated most of the advertising income and has overseen the distribution. A large part of the distribution has been conducted by the Community Payback Scheme, operated by the Probation Service with appropriate clients—many thanks to them. The remainder has been distributed through local networks and willing individuals.

James Bloice Smith

## Membership matters

The year started with nineteen full members and one co-opted. Nine new organisations have affiliated or been invited to Headington Action during the year as associates, and could become full members during this coming year if they fulfil the necessary criteria:

Organisation	Representative	Membership status confirmed at meeting on .....
CYCLOX	Simon Hunt	November 2008
Headington Community Association	Tanya Field	Yet to start
Headington Singers	Will Clark	Yet to start
Headington Road Runners	Patrick Coulter	January 2009
Low Carbon Headington	Jill Haas	January 2009
Marston Residents Association	Roy Darke	Yet to start
Midcounties Co-operative Society	Olivia Gardner	Yet to start
Northway Community Centre	Graham Bellinger	Yet to start
Sandhills PTA	Mel Dodds	Yet to start

The following two members have been co-opted:

Maria Mansfield	Events Guide
David Blythman	Headington Business Association (embryonic)

Four organisations had vacant representation throughout the year. The new membership rules in the Constitution were implemented from January 2008 which means that these, and some other organisations where there has not been attendance for five or more meetings, will have associate (non-voting) status with effect from January 2009.

Marion Fiddes (Secretary)