



OCTOBER 2014

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!

THE FIGHT TO SAVE OUR GREEN SPACES GOES ON AS THE IRVINE ROAD ORCHARD FALLS INTO THE HANDS OF PROPERTY SPECULATORS

# Irvine Road orchard sold to developers

The ancient orchard at the back of Irvine Road has finally been sold, to a property developer, following an unsuccessful attempt by local residents to buy the property for use by the community, in particular the children of Hamilton School who currently have no access to green space.

The new owners (who have gone to great lengths to remain anonymous) obviously intend to build on the land, despite it being designated as a Local Nature Reserve in the Local Development Plan, despite the fact that it enjoys a Tree Preservation Order over the entire area, and despite the fact that it has lain undisturbed for over 100 years and is one of only seven such orchards left in Essex.

The developer has already begun the process of attrition by clearing the vegetation at the side of the chase "for access" to carry out a second wildlife survey. The previous survey, commissioned by the executors prior to the sale, came out in favour of preserving the orchard, so a firm of 'property consultants' (Pomery Planning Consultants of Butt Road, Colchester) has been called in to begin the process of devaluing the area by continual interference until a subsequent survey presumably finds nothing worth preserving!

We anticipate a planning application at some point in the near future (which will obviously be vigorously contested) but in the meantime all local residents need to be extra vigilant to ensure that no illegal damage is done to the trees and vegetation in the orchard prior to any such application, as once done it can't be undone.

## We need your help and support:

- To help ensure that the developers do not break the law by clearing the orchard. They are allowed to clear a path for access, but no more.
- To sign up to IRARA if you haven't already done so. When it comes to fighting a planning application such as this which does nothing for the local community, we need to show that we represent the majority of people in this area.
- To continue our efforts to turn the Irvine Road Orchard into a community orchard and green space for local schoolchildren.

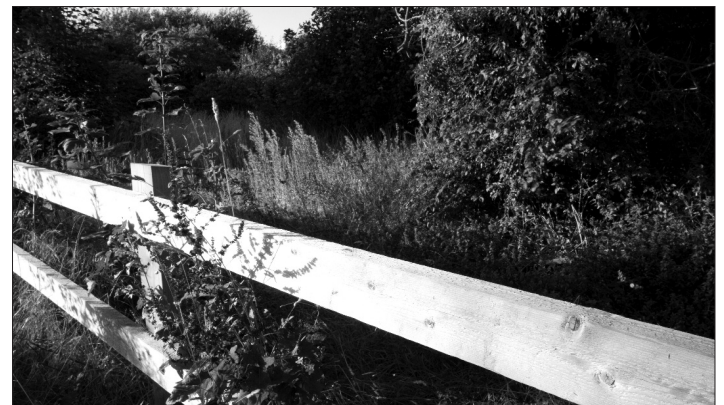
The current membership form is on the reverse of this newsletter.

## Not dead yet

This issue is far from over, and there is a long way to go before anyone gets permission to build on the site, so there is still a lot to fight for.

The main thing is to try and prevent the intentional degradation of the area in advance of any planning applications.

We will keep you in touch.



The area adjoining The Chase has been cleared 'for access' as it is not covered by the Area Tree Preservation Order.

## Join the IRARA litterpick

We will be doing another litterpick in the area of Shady Lane and the Irvine Road Field on **Sunday 26th October** (the weekend before half-term) as the rubbish has begun to build up again, and everyone is very welcome to help out.

It may seem a bit banal to be going around collecting rubbish on a Sunday morning, but it's a very worthwhile activity, and it does make quite a difference to the appearance of our local environment, so please do turn out if you can at about 10.30 and join the fun (?)

It's also a great way to meet some of your neighbours if you have recently moved into the area.

Gloves and bags will be provided and with a bit of luck things will be reasonably tidy for at least a week. We are always surprised at just how much rubbish there is to collect, so every little helps.

**Remember: Sunday 26th October 10.00am – 12.00midday**

# Join the Digital Age

IRARA is a local Residents' Association with very limited resources, and one of the main challenges we face is how to keep residents up to date with what's happening in the area, without putting too much strain on members' spare time or the IRARA piggy bank.

The obvious answer is email, and we are trying another push to collect members' email addresses and create an IRARA membership database with this in mind. It goes without saying that your email address will not be passed onto any third parties, sold to Google or any double glazing or internet pharmacies, but we will be sending out the occasional newsletter or invitation to a get together (we're trying to organise one this autumn at a local venue) via the mailing list.

We don't envisage an end to printed newsletters just yet, but there is no denying that when speed and convenience are important, email is unbeatable.

So, if you are interested in being kept up to date via email, please get in touch. All you need to do is send an email to:

davidagkennedy@uwclub.net

or:

info@irara.org.uk



## Visit our Facebook page

IRARA has a Facebook page, the address is:

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

We will be making more use of the page to upload images, ideas and news, as well as asking for suggestions from members about how we can improve the association and better protect our neighbourhood and enhance it.

Please feel free to post on the page and get your neighbours and friends to join in to keep us all informed.

# Indoor Venue

Speaking of suggestions from residents, the IRARA search for an indoor venue for meetings and get togethers to replace St Mary's has so far proven fruitless. There is a chronic shortage of any kind of affordable meeting space in the area, particularly since the Drury Arms has now become a mini Sainsburys.

If anyone out there has any suggestions for a hall, meeting room or other facility, preferably within walking distance of the Irvine Road, Capel Road, Athelstan Road area, we would be very interested to hear them. Holding AGMs on the Irvine Road Field is still a very good way of demonstrating the Field's importance to this community, but it is obviously limited to those times of year when the weather is reasonably reliable.

Send us an email, or post your suggestions on the Facebook page!



Member of Federation of Colchester Residents' Associations

Member of Open Spaces Society

## Irvine Road Area Residents' Association

### Membership application/renewal form 2014/15

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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive newsletters via: email  hard copy

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to apply for membership

I/We wish to renew our membership

Do you think the association should continue to fight for the preservation of our public open space for the benefit of local children? Yes  No

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 hand it to your representative or send it to: Daniel Fox, IRARA Treasurer, 33 Irvine Road, Colchester CO3 3TR.