



Friends of Quarry Newsletter

October 2026

Celebrating 65 years 1959-2024



In May this year, Friends of Quarry organized a Spring Family social at the Masons Arms on May the 10th. This was well attended in good weather with guests enjoying folk music from the Oxford Fiddle Group, lovely Indian food



provided by Deep's Dehli and children's activities. Quarry Morris performed in the function room followed by audience participation with children and adults learning the first steps of Morris dancing. Our Autumn Family Social on September 13th at the Six Bells was somewhat dampened by the first rain for some time.

Despite this, the event was well attended and, whilst some of the events were driven inside, the belly dancers showed fortitude and braved the rain to entertain us all. Folk music was provided by the Oxford Fiddle Group performing inside the pub where the Quarry Morris also gave a display of dancing. In the courtyard of the pub, a covered pavilion provided a space and materials for children to enjoy being creative.

Friends of Quarry are deeply grateful for all those who perform at these events, all has been done on a voluntary basis for the good of the community, and

collections were made for the Sue Ryder foundation. It is hoped that a winter social will be arranged for the last weekend in January. Information will be provided nearer the time.

AGM

The annual general meeting of the Friends of Quarry will be held on Thursday 19th November 2026 in the Village Hall at 8pm. After the usual administrative business of the chairman's and treasurer's report, the election of new committee officers and members, there will be an opportunity to raise your concerns about the area. Following this, we will be showing "Into The Woods: The Slade Camp Story" a film by Thom Airs about the Slade Camp at the foot of Shotover. It will be presented by Maurice East. With the potential for many personal reminiscences this will be of great local interest.

Planning

We understand that the deadline for carrying out the demolition enforcement order at the Beechers development occurs in October. While there does not appear any evidence that this is about to happen, we also understand that it is up to Oxford City Council to take further action. Many local residents will affectionately recall the large garden that formed much of Willow Corner. This was razed to the ground by the present developer in January 2025 just before submitting a planning application for the far end of the garden. To date, there have been three poorly detailed applications for the site, none of which include plans for the original house. Willow Corner was a significant green space. We have been pressing the Council to include significant 'green' enhancements to make up for the damage caused by the initial site clearance.

News

A Post Office has opened on Windmill road at the site of Leopard Press. It also has a cafe.

Traffic

In our item on the traffic density in Quarry in the April newsletter we reported that the congestion charge did not appear to have increased this, but suggested that a longer survey might be more accurate. The survey has therefore been continued including cameras monitoring Quarry Hollow and Quarry High Street.

Data have been collected from January to July this year and show that there has been no change in the traffic flow through Quarry, with a peak of 954 cars passing through between 7 -10 am and a weekly average of 19,267 cars. Both of these results are consistent with historical data from the County Council and Friends of Quarry's own censuses. However, one consistent finding was that the number of heavy goods vehicles, white vans and lorries etc., per day using Quarry High Street averaged three to four times the number using Quarry Hollow. This difference is of some concern, especially as the pavements in Quarry High Street are narrow for long stretches and often blocked by parked cars. We will continue to monitor the traffic to see if the introduction of the bus gates changes the current traffic flow.

Walls Repairs

The stone walls and alleyways of Quarry are the most visible evidence of former quarrying activity, but they require maintenance over time. To support local residents to gain skills in repairing their own walls, we organised a training course over the week-end of 13th-14th June. This included some discussion of different



mortars and their preparation. The wall chosen for repair was that running along the boundary of Church Walk. Ten course members spent an afternoon removing loose mortar and re-pointing the wall with lime mortar. The picture above shows the repaired wall with the repairs clearly visible. The results of the training on the course can also be seen on the wall on Beaumont Road



where it bends to descend into Quarry Hollow. Here one couple have been repairing it with their newly acquired skills, as shown in the photograph alongside. The course was a great success and we intend to run it again next



year.

Membership

Friends of Quarry acts to preserve and enhance the character of Quarry as well as promoting a sense of community by organizing social events over the year. We rely on member subscriptions to fund our activities, so if you have enjoyed meeting your neighbours at one of our events please join us. If you are not a member and wish to support us, see our website for details on **<https://friendsofquarry.org/join-us/>** or phone **01865 762418/ 07783 540 156**. If you would like to be more involved then consider joining the committee. It is not onerous and is a good way to learn more about the fascinating history of Quarry.

Communications

There are a number of ways that you can engage with us to get our news and other updates including:

- Our website (www.friendsofquarry.org)
- Our Facebook page (The Friends of Quarry)
- Joining Friends of Quarry and subscribing to our email list

If you want to contact us or subscribe to the email list, the best way is to email **friendsofquarry@gmail.com** or send us a note via the 'Contact Us' page of our website or phone **07783 540 156 or 01865 762418**.