



Season's greetings from WADRA.

Before the pandemic we rarely met in winter as we scurried to our cars. The last two years have seen a burgeoning of people and puppies exploring our boundaries; whether walking in the hoofprints of the Greatest Knight on the road to Oxford, gazing at our mighty river or breathing in the delights of the AONB. The odd shy glance to a neighbour turned into a familiar wave. WADRA has been keen to capitalise on this spirit and to preserve, protect and enhance the neighbourhood.

The investment of over £50K in Mapledurham Pavilion is paying off. In challenging circumstances, when health requirements allow, we have run a community hub café on Thursday afternoons from the Pavilion A Halloween Costume Competition and Parade, as well as the Halloween Trail, and the imaginative entries to both gave a hint of things to come. We hope to attract everyone to the Café but especially the age groups who may have missed social contact recently. Visitors and volunteers are most welcome. A mini Christmas market was run on the 16th December showcasing some local vendors and artists. The summer will open up the opportunity for outdoor events - perhaps a summer fair and an official opening of the pavilion recognising the contribution that WADRA has made to its revival.

Our current top priority is to secure a deed of dedication for the remaining land in the Mapledurham Playing Fields Trust, which will protect the green spaces of Mapledurham Playing Fields from incremental development or exclusive use. We hope to ensure that no more of the Playing Fields is developed and remains available to all beneficiaries.

People living close to the school and the floodlight areas have borne the brunt of the building work and at last the school is taking steps to mitigate the impact of noise and lights. We continue to press for improvements and are optimistic that with action from the school, RBC and support from WADRA, we can make the living conditions of those who live closest to the school more pleasant.

We continue to work with Reading Festival to minimise the impact on residents while garnering quality discarded items for resale and donation to charities. A sale of camping gear will be held in in early 2022.

After local elections in May 2022, the WADRA area will be represented by three councillors as we become part of a larger ward. We will ensure that the elected Councillors are fully briefed on our concerns and aspirations. Your WADRA committee keeps a close eye upon planning applications and their likely impact.

Many have been touched by personal loss this year and the WADRA Committee is no exception. We saw the passing of Chairman, Robin Bentham and long-standing Committee member, Philip Darlow. A tribute to them can be found on our website www.WADRA.org.

We would also like to take the opportunity to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year. We hope to see you all at the Café or community events in 2022.

Best wishes,

Elisa, Martin, Hayley, Pam, Bob, Alistair, John and Sally

