

WADRA Newsletter September 2025

WADRA AGM 2025 will be held at Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion on 8 October 2025. Doors open at 6:15pm for members and the meeting will commence at 6:30pm. Non-members are welcome to come at 8pm to listen to our guest speakers from the Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue. Eligible non-members are welcome to come to the entire meeting and join on the evening. Details of membership can be found on our website www.wadra.org.

2024-2025 News

Below please find a summary of some of the initiatives and activities that have kept the WADRA Committee and its supporters busy over the last 12 months. We will expand on this summary at the AGM, providing more details and planned actions.

Mapledurham Playing Fields Trust Activities

Over the past 12 months WADRA committee members have been working on a number of initiatives and issues concerning the enhancement, protection, and maintenance of the Trust. These include:

- Working towards a fit-for-purpose **Deed of Dedication**. This is the legal document promised by RBC (The Trustees of MPF) to protect the remaining land at MPF after land was leased to the EFSA. We are encouraged to report that Liz Terry, RBC Lead Councillor has been responsive on this issue and we are awaiting a version of the Deed that will truly protect the remaining green space from any further development.
- **Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee** is back up and running. We still see limited interaction with RBC, but some councillors and officers continue to work with the Committee for the benefit of the Trust and the Community.
- **MPF Trust Accounts** have not been submitted to the Charity Commission for over 580 days. This encompasses two years of accounts that have not been submitted and a third year close to its deadline. Through our persistence, RBC have attributed interest on the Trust's capital funds, however we will continue to push for full submission and transparency of the Trust Accounts.
- **Maintenance** on the Playing Fields and in the Pavilion is ongoing. The damaged tiles have been replaced and a row of shrubs planted at the back of the Pavilion to stop repeat damage. With the help of Trents FC and MLTC we are seeing an improvement in the maintenance of the football pitches and some landscaping. WADRA has continually monitored and reported issues to RBC. We continue to make RBC officers aware of maintenance issues both on the Playing Fields and the Pavilion. We do continue to see some litter and an increase in dog mess where there previously was very little.
- **Parking Issues at MPF** have escalated over the last 12 months. WADRA been working with the Head of the Heights School, Mrs. Harrison towards reducing the use of the MPF Users car park by school related cars. Although, Mrs Harrison has been very collaborative, we have been unable to change behaviour. In an attempt to increase sustainable travel WADRA, in collaboration with the Heights, sponsored prizes for their cycle to school week in April 2025.
- **Tree Planting**. WADRA is supporting The Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields in the planting of additional trees and shrubs on the verges surrounding the school and entrances to the playing fields to enhance the site and provide native trees for local fauna.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

WADRA has been working in collaboration with The Heights School, Jenny McGrother (councillor) and Sam Juthani (councillor) on improving the safety for both vehicles and pedestrians. Sam and Jenny have brought our suggestions for safety measures for the A4074 to the Council. Jenny is planning to be at the AGM to provide an update on our combined efforts.

Events, Initiatives, and Fundraising

WADRA gathered approximately a dozen salvagers this year to participate in reclaiming items via **Reading Festival Salvaging**. We were able to collect a considerable amount for a number of local charities as well as sell a number of items via a car boot sale to raise funds for WADRA. There was also a marked difference in the number of items left at the festival site as well as better organisation of the salvaging teams.

WADRA is planning on re-opening the **Community Café** at the Pavilion. We will communicate day and time in the near future.

Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields were able to source 30 native trees from the Woodland Trust for planting. The preparation of the ground for planting will take place over the next few weeks and the trees will arrive for planting in November. FoMPF are looking for donations for ground cover and bulbs. The dates for volunteers to help with preparing the ground and planting as well as a list of plants needed will be posted on the WADRA website.

Early in November, WADRA will be hosting a **Quiz Night** at the Pavilion. Full details to follow soon and on our website www.wadra.org.

WADRA What's App Group

WADRA last year proposed the creation of a **WhatsApp group for WADRA members** to facilitate better communication. In order to add a member to the group we must first have permission from you to do so. At the AGM you will be able to sign-up and provide permission to WADRA to join the group. Alternatively, you can email WADRA on info@wadra.org to provide permission along with your mobile phone number. This will enable WADRA to communicate shorter messages more easily.

What WADRA does for its members and the local community

The aim of WADRA shall be to preserve, protect and enhance the character of the area in which we have chosen to live and the surrounding district. The committee monitors and considers a variety of local issues, including, planning, traffic and pedestrian safety, the natural environment, Reading Festival, the River Thames and Mapledurham Playing Fields Trust and Pavilion (MPF). We consult with Reading Borough Councillors and officers, as well as other local community groups and are an experienced channel for residents' views. WADRA also perform fundraising for local projects working with local residents and businesses, clubs, charities and Reading Borough Council. This work secures funding to support local and charitable initiatives, for example providing the funds required for the structural renovation of the Pavilion at MPF and its kitchen, so that it is, once again, a valued and valuable local resource.