



BAKERS MILL UPDATE: MARCH 2019

The news, the information and the facts about where you live from your Bakers Mill Community Association (BMCA). Email address: news@bakermill.co.uk

FACEBOOK

Bakers Mill now has a Facebook group where we can chat about the wildlife, offer items for sale, share pictures. Please join—it is for you. Just search for Bakers Mill Great Cornard or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/764583550411927/>

BAKERS MILL AGM

This is planned for Thursday 9th May at the Mill Tye Gallery. Please pencil the date in your diary and please do come and have your say. There is a lot of change happening on the Estate: the new path, the River Stour Trust rebuilding, Bakers Court and Meadow Court moving into new ownership, a change of committee members. So, now, more than ever, we need your help with the Community Association.

BAKERS COURT AND MEADOW COURT

We need volunteers. From April we won't have a permanent member on the committee to champion the rights of the residents of Meadow Court and the other blocks of flats being sold. Peter Philpott who has always done this admirably in the past is standing down from the committee. Without volunteers we may no longer be able to assist with the management of these blocks. We do have representatives for Bakers Court.

We can confirm that Barratts have now sold Bakers Court and that it has been purchased by a consortium of resident owners in Bakers Court who plan to continue employing HML to manage the maintenance of the property. We are told that it is planned that Meadow Court will be sold by Easter this year.

HELP WITH THE ACCOUNTS

Since the start of BMCA we have kept a close eye on the financial management of the Estate, ensuring that residents don't pay more than they should and that large cost items are budgeted for in advance. From April we won't have a permanent member of the committee to do this. Phil Orford who has been superb at tracking and monitoring the finances is standing down. Without a volunteer to keep an eye

on expenses we will have to pass all the financial management to HML.

HELP WITH THE GROUNDS

I am sure that one of the things that everyone loves about the Estate is the planting on the Estate, the trees by the river bank and the Mill Race. The main reason these are so lovely is that we provide a lot of input about what we want and how it is all planted and maintained. To keep the grounds like this we need volunteers. Phil Orford who has so lovingly kept an active eye on the grounds is standing down. So if you would like to help, please let us know.

BILLS

We believe that everyone has finally received a copy of their annual bill, and accounts – after much chasing by the Committee. If you haven't could you let us know. Despite our repeated requests, several items are listed under headings that we know some people will find confusing. All we can do is persist in our endeavours to get things listed more clearly next year.

THE PATH

I think everyone on the Estate must have enjoyed the benefits of the new path now—walking into town along the river is an absolute delight. Many of you are taking photos and putting them on the Bakers Mill Facebook site.

Unfortunately though there has been more litter, dog mess and such like on the Estate. Also visitors have fished in the Mill Pond and walked across grass borders. So we have put up signs at the entrances to the Estate so that visitors are aware that the grounds are maintained and paid for by the residents and explaining that fishing and boat launching are not permitted.

Several people have mentioned that they think dogs should be put on their leads before entering the Estate. At the moment various residents of the Estate enjoy walking their dogs across the grounds without putting them on leads. Also, we don't know if we have the legal right to ask visitors to put their dogs on leads. So we have no plans to do this at this time.

DRUGS

We are aware that some visitors to the estate are stopping behind the pumping station to take drugs. One of the committee members is regularly picking up discarded drug bags and such like here. In the past we have taken advice from the police and were advised that the more people who phone 101 and report what they

see, the more likely the police are to take action. So if you see any evidence of drug use on the Estate could you please phone 101. You can also phone Crime Stoppers which is completely anonymous but action may be less likely to be taken.

GARDEN UPDATE

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with the continual clearing of the Mill Race—it is really appreciated and makes a big difference to the enjoyment of the Mill Race and the look of the Estate.

You will have seen that we have been given planning permission to crown lift the trees near the river. We hope you agree the river path looks better as a result.

Some of you may have noticed that we have placed log piles on the Estate for wildlife. We are very bemused to report that someone is nicking these logs—one or two at a time.

Lastly a thank you to Craig (of CT East) for filling the grit bin at the entrance to the Estate—it was appreciated when it was icy.

PLEASE DON'T CHUCK OUT YOUR PLANTS

We would welcome all donations, plants and money, to restock the grounds after the dry Summer last year. Any shrubs and herbaceous perennials are welcome plus primroses, cowslips or oxslips for the riverbank. If you would like to donate money please contact treasurer@bakersmill.co.uk, or pop your donation in to 83 Dove House Meadow.

If you would like to donate purchased plants we would love, Choisya (Mexican Orange Blossom), Potentilla, Agapanthus, Convolvulus, Caryopteris, Shrub Salvias, Hardy fuschias. Plants (no unwanted, empty pots please!) can be left on the drive of No 83.

THE RIVER STOUR TRUST VISITOR CENTRE

The RST is anticipating that work will be begin on the Visitor Centre in May. Although they are eager to cause as little disruption to residents there will no doubt be some noise and construction traffic on the Estate as a result. We will keep you informed when we hear more.

SOCIAL NEWS

The recent quiz at the Stephenson Centre was a big success. There were almost 50 people and everyone had a great evening. There are more events planned, including:

River trip to the Henny Swan.

The River Stour Trust has agreed to run two boats, picking up from Cornard Lock for a trip along the river to the Henny Swan where you can have a lovely leisurely meal. The plan is to leave Cornard Lock at 11.00.

To book, or get more information contact John Bocking on 07880 724683.

FRIENDS OF BAKERS MILL

As always all donations to the Friends of Bakers Mill are greatly appreciated. The treasurer is sending everyone an invitation to make a donation for 2019. Thank you to everyone who contributed in 2018. We are planning to use some of this money to help fund some of the planting and upkeep of the estate.

MILL TYE GALLERY

The Mill Tye Gallery is running several courses this year. The first is:

‘Look and See’ Drawing and Painting

A six week introductory Art Course, Tuesdays 9:30 - 12:30, running from 19 March - 23 April 2019 £90 (six week course) Spaces are limited to ten people

This class is for you if you have always wanted to paint, think you can't draw or need a refresher. The only qualification is a willingness to try! Each weekly session will begin with drawing skills, using simple exercises to train your eye and connect your hand. This will be followed by coffee and a chat about the painting challenge for the day, exploring the work of various artists. We will then have about 2 hours of painting from photographs, still life or, if weather permits, outside.

Wendy J. Allen, MA is a local artist painting in acrylics, oils and pastels. Wendy is also a print-maker and book-artist. Her preferred style tends towards abstraction and she loves colour! She teaches regularly at Cottage Crafts co-operative and has exhibited in the UK and Europe.

We understand that there are more courses you can do if drawing and painting is not for you.

- **An Introduction to Letterpress Printing** (1 day) Sunday 7 April
- **An Introduction to Linocut Printing** (1 day), Sunday 14 April
- **Two Day Letterpress Printing** Wednesday 17 April - Thursday 18 April
- **Two Day Linocut Printing** Thursday 25 April - Friday 26 April
- **An Introduction to Linocut** (1 day) Sunday 16 June
- **An Introduction to Photography** (1 day) Sunday 2 June

Book these courses online at www.milltyegallery.co.uk/book-online