

THE ROSE HILL ART PROJECT

Interview with Rose Hill resident & Artist Merlin Porter

What was the inspiration behind starting this project and who features in it?

Back in 2018, Aimee (editor) and I were looking to do a Rose Hill Community Art project.

That year, I also had my first daughter, Seren, so the project got put on the back burner.

During lockdown, I started to do live online paintings with people commenting with ideas on Facebook. I realised I could do community style art either online or one person at a time even with the lockdown restrictions.

I started to think that I could maybe do one-on-one socially distanced portraits. I could make a big painting, putting all of them together to celebrate the residents and those who work in Rose Hill.

I went to the Community Centre capturing the staff and those helping out during lockdown. Another day, I went to the shops next to Oval, just capturing locals and shop staff, plus I gathered a few photos from those who couldn't make it and also some old local legends who had passed away.

And finally, I spent a bit of time at the allotments capturing some of the people down there, including the Nepalese Community, who are very dedicated with their food growing.

What has the public response to the art been like so far?

People have been really enthusiastic to be on the painting in general and found it really interesting as an idea and exciting for Rose Hill. They have said they enjoyed watching me create the portraits and the whole piece too.

I have had great fun chatting to locals, meeting new people and realising how many stories there are on ones doorstep if you take the time to chat to someone you might not normally say hello to.

I hope the project inspires more creativity in Rose Hill and something to celebrate as a marker for getting through this tough time of lock-down. Large postcards of the mural will be available from the Community Centre and shops at The Oval by mid-August. Thanks to everyone for taking part!

See the finished product soon and more of my art at
[@MerlinPorterArts](#) on social media.

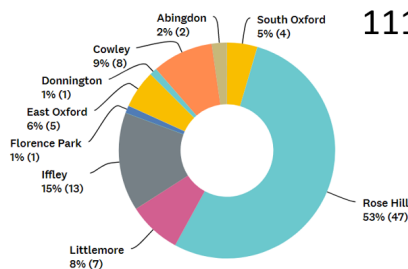
RIVERMEAD NATURE PARK SURVEY RESULTS

Rivermead Nature Park is a beautiful and valued local wild space in Rose Hill.

In summer 2019, Oxford University installed a fence on its property boundary, cutting off a large patch of the woods next to the Park after decades of public access.

Friends of Rivermead Nature Park and the local community have been engaged with the University since then to find a way to restore access.

Last month, we conducted a survey to raise awareness of the park and the fence. See the key findings in the graphic below.



111 responses to our survey

77% of visitors said the fence affected their enjoyment of Rivermead Nature Park.

100% support restoring access to the woods.

95% support for a footpath connecting the Park to Iffley lock

Where are visitors to Rivermead Nature Park coming from?

One person wrote in the survey:

"Rivermead is a gem and has been a ray of light in our lives in this time. Thank you for having it open and cared for, it is wonderful. We are introducing our 2 year old daughter to nature and wildlife through our trips to Rivermead."

Another resident from Rose Hill wrote:

"The fence being erected was a real shame. Meant my young children and I no longer had a local wildlife haven to watch birds and other wildlife that prefer the forest. We also saw a trapped fox in the fence last year and had to help it free."

More than 70% also said in the survey that they would like to help look after the Nature Park! If you want to get involved, please contact the Friends of Rivermead Nature Park group:

jason@friendsofrivermead.org

POEM

Rivermead Refuge by Richard Pantlin

Cars, river, bridge, huge
Modest martins feed their young
Rivermead Refuge

ROSE HILL COMMUNITY NETWORK ONLINE START-UP MEETING

Tuesday 28th July 2020 7:30pm, Zoom

The past few months of the Covid-19 emergency has seen the people of Rose Hill come together to help each other and support community groups and actions.

This meeting hosted on the Zoom app, is to celebrate all of our efforts, each other, and to discuss the creation of a Community Network group.

To hear about what the community has done over the last few months, how you can get involved in community projects and plans for the future, join us on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 867 3039 1805

us02web.zoom.us/j/86730391805
Phone in: +44 203 901 7895

ROSE HILL YOUTH FC

Interview with RHYFC Chair Kevin Jiggins

What is the club's focus & ethos?

The main focus of this project is to provide a safe haven for all children, who just want to play football, make friends and enjoy the beautiful game.

We are the club that will never turn down a child based on ability.

We also put an onus on bringing the local community together with social events that can help breakdown barriers between our diverse community.

What have been the highlights so far?

The answer is all the fun and smiles we create on a weekly basis, this is extremely rewarding. The children are just brilliant!

How do you and your family find time to run the club?

Well I have the best wife in the world. So she would say!! In fact, Lauren is just as involved as me.

We have a real good group of people in our football family and it is more like socialising with friends than work.

Were you able to do anything during the lockdown?

We have recently returned to socially distant training which is going great.

While in lock-down we tried to set tasks for the children, to keep them involved with the club. We produced a fab new mascot 'Rio', fun social videos, toilet roll kick up challenge etc.



RIO the new mascot designed by an u7's player

Do you have opportunities for new players? If so, how can they get in touch?

We're looking for a few more players to join our U11's (Blue) & U13's team.

We also encourage volunteers and coaches to join our football family, contact us for more information!

Follow our Facebook page & website:
[@rosehillyouthfc](https://www.facebook.com/rosehillyouthfc)
www.rosehillyouthfc.com

NEW ROSE HILL JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB ALLOTMENT



RHJYC have acquired an allotment plot on the Thompson Terrace grounds.

The charity hopes to raise money to buy all the materials for the plot.

It will be a place where children, young people and families will eventually be able to come and relax or work on the plot, growing all kinds of flowers, fruits and veg.

Interview with Rose Hill resident and Author: Richard O. Smith

In what ways has the lockdown affected your daily life?

Like many others there's been a detrimental effect on my positivity. But with all negative feelings, it's important to realise these feelings are temporary and not allow them to calcify into permanence.

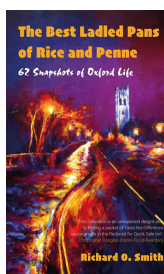
Why did you choose to include Rose Hill in parts of your latest book: *The Best Ladled Pans of Rice and Penne: Snapshots of Oxford Life*?

I'm writing with unflinching honesty about my life as a professional comedy writer, and Rose Hill is where I live. It's where real life happens, hence it features prominently in the book.

As a stand-up comedian – in print and prose, as well as on stage – it's my job to observe and finessing the humour out of everyday recognisable situations. Plus I believe a good writer has a contract with the reader to tell the truth.

Do you have any words of encouragement to give to people looking to pursue writing in any form?

Write because you enjoy writing. Don't write if your motivation is obtaining success, money and status – they're extremely unlikely to happen...



The Best Ladled Pans of Rice and Penne features 62 short stories about Oxford life.

More info:
<https://www.hurstpublishers.com/book/the-best-ladled-pans-of-rice-and-penne/>

ROSE HILL & IFFLEY LOW CARBON GROUP

PROJECT LEO

RHLC are really excited to be working with the Low Carbon Hub, which put 109 solar panels on Rose Hill School in August 2016.

As Rose Hill has a huge number of solar panels (on the Community Centre, School and many local houses), it's been chosen for a Project LEO trial.

This has funding to try out how people and businesses in Oxfordshire can benefit from the energy systems of the future.

Project LEO will use Rose Hill's solar panels in a micro-grid, so some of the electricity can be shared locally.

When the sun isn't shining, the electricity made by the panels can be stored in a large battery in Rose Hill School. There may also be opportunities for householders to get involved if they want to – we'll know more later in the year.

It's a trial project, so we don't yet know if it will be successful. It will help us learn how changes in our energy system could help communities like ours...

Plus, it could help us in our aim to make Rose Hill the first zero-carbon estate in the country!

COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

We are working on opening Rose Hill Community Centre from 6th July to allow access to *Tenant organisations*.

Due to restrictive guidance from central government we will not be taking bookings for our spaces or allowing access to the general public at this point in time.

We will be reviewing this on a regular basis. Please check our Facebook Page and website for updates.

Facebook: @Rosehillcc

OXFORD DIRECT SERVICES

The way ODS will be helping tenants going forward is through grouping work that needs doing. We will aim to fix all outstanding works as quickly as possible.

It is vital that tenants respond promptly to letters/calls and requests for safety tests and checks. Please contact us!