

# Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

August 2007: Issue 24

*Welcome to the latest OWRA newsletter. It's timed to enable you to take it on your summer holiday and read it thoroughly as you sit on the beach, stroll along a footpath, ride a camel, etc.*

## August bank holiday rubbish changes

The week after the late August bank holiday weekend sees a change to the wheelie-bin/pink sack and green box collection. **Instead of this being on Wednesday 29 August, it will be on Thursday 30 August. It's back to normal after that.**

## Recycling reminders

While the new recycling arrangements seem to be working well on Waterside – as far as people putting the right things out on the right day is concerned – OWRA is aware that some residents are still uncertain about aspects of recycling, particularly the difference between the green and blue boxes. The following summarises what goes in which of these boxes:

### Green box

Rinsed glass bottles (any colour)  
Rinsed glass jars (without their lids)  
(...but no broken glass, please!)  
Newspapers and magazines  
Office paper

### Blue box or blue wheelie-bin

Plastic bottles – milk, water, shampoo, etc (washed)  
Aluminium drinks cans (washed)  
Food tins (washed)  
Wrapping paper  
Envelopes (not jiffy bags)  
Card and cardboard – including kitchen/toilet rolls  
Telephone and other directories

If you place any other items in either of these boxes, they will not be collected. **Please don't put anything in plastic bags in the boxes.**

For the list of Waterside recycling "champions", see the December newsletter which is on the Waterside web site ([www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk](http://www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk)). They have volunteered to provide help and advice for anyone struggling with the recycling arrangements.

## Floods and Waterside

We made it...we weren't flooded, in spite of the warnings from the Environment Agency (EA). But there may be lessons for us:

- Are we ready for the next occasion? Our preparedness for what the elements might throw at us was discussed at the AGM in June. The Management Company will discuss this in October; should we try to construct our own flood defences for Waterside?
- How many of us store valuable papers, etc on the ground floor? Is this wise?
- On the other hand...although on the edge of the flood plain as shown on the EA map, we weren't flooded; the water would probably have had to rise another metre for that to happen. So if your insurance company tries to hike your premium because of the floods, there are no good grounds for paying more.

## OWRA web site

The web site has an up-to-date list of recommended tradespeople, such as electricians, painters and plumbers....cleaners, bike maintenance, etc. Please let us know if you use a good person or company for anything. We can add them to the list. Equally, if you use someone on the list and they are terrible, do let us know; we can remove them from the list.

## Streets for people day

The City Council has designated Saturday 22 September as "Streets for people" day. The idea is that individual communities can take over their street(s) for a day, using a wide range of strategies to make streets safer and friendlier. These might include traffic calming, new parking layouts, a street party, street entertainments, etc. It sounds rather anarchic, but is designed to show people what residential roads can be like when not car-centred. If you have any ideas for Waterside, why not talk

them over with your neighbours and then contact the Residents' Association – contact details below.

## **Parking on Waterside**

The Management Company's proposals for the first phase of a parking strategy for Waterside were widely supported at the AGM. Nobody opposed the idea of better signage throughout the estate to ensure that residents and visitors understand where they may (and may not) park. Implementation will be discussed at its October meeting.

## **Not another skate park, surely.....**

The July meeting of the North Area Committee of the City Council threw out a proposal from Council officers for a "street sports site" on Aristotle Lane recreation ground. This would have been a tarmac surface on which the officers accepted that people could skateboard all day. After much lobbying, we ensured a good result for the community, but it just shows we have to be vigilant. Thanks are due to our local Councillors, all of whom opposed the idea, which would have cost £47,000 – almost as much as had been wasted on the skate park that had to be removed as this was a statutory noise nuisance.

## **Reporting anti-social behaviour**

Hopefully you'll never need to use the service but the City Council has set up a special hot-line for reporting anti-social behaviour in Oxford. Calls can be made in confidence to 0845 605222. The sort of activity that might be reported could include acts of vandalism, damage to property, and graffiti-ing. (NB. the Council knows about the latest batch of graffiti on Waterside and has agreed to remove it.)

To contact our local beat officer about any policing matter other than reporting an actual crime, e-mail [karl.ralph@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:karl.ralph@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

## **Aircraft noise**

There seem to be more aircraft flying over Waterside these days. If the noise bothers you, you can call one of three numbers:

- Oxford Airport – 01865 844200
- RAF Brize Norton – 01993 897779 or 01993 896342
- Chiltern Air Support Unit – 01235 516870

## **Burglaries on Waterside**

Without wishing to alarm residents, we are not immune from burglaries. In fact, there were four in

one night early in the summer. Here are some tips to help prevent burglaries:

- Always lock your doors and windows when you go out and at night.
- Always use your burglar alarm when you go out – even if it's for two minutes.
- Use your burglar alarm at night (on the downstairs only setting) when you are in bed.
- Tell a trusted neighbour when you are going away; they can ensure no post is left sticking out of the letter box or parcels left on your step.

If anyone is interested in being a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for their street, contact Stuart Skyte.

## **BBQ success in spite of the weather**

It poured with rain throughout this summer's Waterside BBQ, but this didn't dampen people's spirits. The 120 present enjoyed themselves, the excellent food and the children's fancy dress. Thanks to all those who helped. The £305 surplus was sent to the Oxford homeless charity, Oxpate. See the OWRA web site for photos of the day.

## **OWRA membership embarrassment**

Somewhat embarrassingly, the name that was drawn in the OWRA membership champagne draw this year was....Stuart and Gillian Skyte. Membership is at a record level.

## **Canalside Environment Group (CEG) diary dates**

3 September: Meeting at 1 Lark Hill

6 October: The ever-popular "swap-shop" (venue to be confirmed).

(For information about the group, contact Susie Small (chair) on 316883 or e-mail her at [cegroup@hotmail.com](mailto:cegroup@hotmail.com).)

## **OWRA Committee members**

*Stuart Skyte, 30 Plater Dr (559618) - chair*

*Alison Wood, 26 Plater Drive (516722)*

*Bernard Jones, 51 The Crescent (316948) - treasurer*

*Richard Groves, 44 Merrivale Sq (512375) - trades-people*

*Chris Leamy, 32 Balliol Ct (552261) - special projects*

*Michael Atkinson, 67 Merton Court (516077) - planning*

*issues and special projects*

*Bob Adams, 63 Merton Court (556227)*