

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

December 2006: Issue 22

Welcome to the latest OWRA newsletter. Not surprisingly, there's a lot about the new recycling arrangements in this newsletter. The OWRA committee wishes all residents a Happy Christmas and a neighbourly new year.

Christmas rubbish arrangements

The weeks after the Christmas and New Year breaks will see no changes to our normal rubbish collection cycle. So the collections will be on Wednesdays 27 December and 3 January.

Less rubbish and more recycling

Hopefully everyone has by now grasped the fortnightly cycle of collections: one week sees the green wheelie bins (or alternative pink sack) together with the green box, while the next week sees the blue box and green sack.

If your early experience shows you may have ordered (or been delivered) the wrong size wheelie bin, you should contact the Council to arrange for a different size for your household. Call 252900 or e-mail recycling@oxford.gov.uk.

And if you have a party or a massive chuck-out and are overflowing with bottles, newspapers or cans, just take them to the recycling point in Cardigan Street (off Walton Street) before the Co-op.

Where should I stick my wheelie bin?

Many residents have managed to put their wheelie bins in unobtrusive places. Some, however, seem to be leaving them on their front path or in their front garden for all the world to see. Please try to locate your bin, at the very least, behind a shrub. Why not make a special area screened by trellis and planting? This may be the excuse you've needed to sort out the front garden! The bottom line is that nobody wants to see loads of wheelie bins – or other boxes – on Waterside, so please find ways of hiding them away discreetly.

Some things can't be recycled...yet

There are still some plastics, polystyrene and cardboard that can't yet be recycled. In fact, the only plastics that can be are plastic bottles. However, you can take all the other plastics, such as

yogurt pots and packaging, to the recycling point at Summertown – in the Ferry Centre car park.

Equally, the cartons which contain fruit juice – known as tetra-paks – are not currently being recycled by the Council. However, we have a cunning plan. In association with the Canalside Environment Group, we will have, initially, a one-off collection on Waterside on Saturday 3 February. There will be two collection points on Waterside – location and time to be confirmed. If this is a success, we will aim to do this on the first Saturday of each month.

Waterside recycling "champions"

Finally, a number of Watersiders have kindly volunteered to act as recycling "champions", providing advice and information for their neighbours. Do contact the following if you have a question or concern about any aspect of recycling:

For **Plater Drive**, either Jo Coleman on 315118 or e-mail her at joannelcoleman@msn.com, or call Tim Keyworth on 510806 or e-mail him at tim.keyworth@rpieurope.org.

For **Balliol Court**, call Vera Sittner on 557132 or e-mail her at vera-schubert@web.de.

For **Merrivale Square**, you have three choices:

Paul Chapman, paulchapmannhs@yahoo.co.uk; Liz Rosney on 311146 or at e.rosney@fsmail.net; or Sam Partington on 554311 or at sam@samsolutions.co.uk.

For **Rutherway**, call Caroline Anderson on 516655 or e-mail her at arley@abinitio.com.

For anywhere else, contact Stuart Skyte on 559618 or at skyte@ukgateway.net.

One way at last in the Square

Just in case you hadn't noticed, the one-way system around Merrivale Square is now in place. The signs are up. Road safety on Waterside has now been enhanced, but this depends on drivers sticking to the 20mph speed limit throughout the area.

Local school catchment areas have changed

The catchment areas for the two local primary schools – St Barnabas and Phil & Jim – have changed and will apply from September 2007. The changes arise from the advent of the Waterways development to the north, which is almost finished. This has involved an influx of population to the north of Waterside and, with no primary school between here and Wolvercote, there are currently real pressures on Phil & Jim. On completion, it is believed that Waterfront will place similar pressures on St Barnabas.

While all of Waterside is closer to Phil & Jim than to St Barnabas, the revised catchment area means that only those children living in Plater Drive are in the catchment area for Phil & Jim. Those in Merrivale Square and to the south are in the catchment area for St Barnabas. Both schools are attended by Waterside children at present and both are considered to be good schools.

Some Waterside parents have expressed concern about the change, particularly from the aspect of a safe route to school and the split on Waterside. As the catchment areas are under constant review, if you are interested in making representation to Phil & Jim to request the inclusion of the whole of Waterside in its catchment area, please contact Sue Thomas in Merton Court on 557246 or at sueandadrian@btinternet.com. Any representations made will be independent of OWRA.

Don't forget the OWRA web site

While there is a regular turn-round of information on the noticeboard, only the OWRA website has comprehensive information for local residents. This includes the growing list of recommended tradespeople, such as electricians, plumbers and decorators. The domain name is:

www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk

Train horn noise hope, but....

New technology being tested in January may be the beginning of the end for the very loud noise currently being made by train horns on the approach to Waterside. This is a national problem and a national solution is possible. But even if the broadband-based technology works, it may be some

time before this is translated into quieter trains. Please, therefore, take a second to complete Jonathan Finnerty's questionnaire. This evidence will help us develop a shorter-term local solution.

New to Waterside

If you have recently arrived on Waterside - whether as a tenant or owner - you are most welcome. OWRA has a newcomer information leaflet, which provides all sorts of useful information. Just call Stuart Skyte.

Management Company news:

No change to management fee for third year running

The good news is that the Management Company's budget for 2007 means another year with no fee increase. It's been three years now at £300 per household. This reflects effective financial control, sensible spending and better value for money.

Canalside Environment Group diary dates

6 January: Christmas tree shredding. Drop your real tree on the stony area in front of Phil & Jim school. They will be shredded for use by allotment holders nearby.

10 March: County swap shop at St Margaret's Institute. Time to be confirmed. There will also be a litter-pick on this day and, possibly, an open-house solar energy event.

April (date not yet set): An "on your bike" event to promote safe cycle use. This will be on the Aristotle Lane recreation ground.

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

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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

Rosemary Bate, 41 The Villas (513386)

Some 2,000 batteries have so far been collected in the six months since the recycling box was in operation at Phil & Jim school.

