

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

December 2007: Issue 25

Welcome to the last OWRA newsletter of 2007. Please note the changes to the rubbish collection dates over the holiday period. There is good and bad news contained in the newsletter; either way, we hope you find it useful. Seasonal greetings from the OWRA Committee.

Christmas holiday rubbish changes

We have revised rubbish collection days during the two weeks over the Christmas and New Year holidays. **In the week beginning 24 December, only our blue boxes (not the green sacks) will be collected on Saturday 29th. In the week beginning 31st, our green wheelie bins/pink sacks and green boxes will be collected on Thursday 3rd January.**

Please note that you don't have to have rubbish piling up at home over the holiday period. You can take newspapers and magazines, glass, tins and plastics to the Summertown car park recycling point behind the Ferry Centre. And, apart from plastics, you can take these to the nearer recycling point in Cardigan Street (off Walton Street).

And don't forget you can recycle all wrapping paper in your blue box.

For the list of our recycling "champions", see the December 2006 newsletter which is on the Waterside web site (www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk). They have kindly volunteered to provide help and advice for anyone struggling with the recycling arrangements.

"Street sports site" not yet dead

Having persuaded the Council's North Area Committee that building a "street sports site" on the Aristotle Lane recreation ground would mean the return of a noisy skateboard park next to Waterside, our two local Councillors are pushing for such a site to be built on the Spinney! The site proposed by Cllrs Armitage and Brundin is on the raised land adjacent to Walton Well Road. This would mean unscreened noise for much of the year some 20 to 30 metres from people's homes. And it's very likely such a site would attract all sorts of youths from Oxford and beyond, with the resulting problems that the skateboard park generated.

The OWRA Committee will be campaigning hard to prevent this idea going much further – it's not supported by Council officers as far as we know – and to ensure that any attempt to institute a bogus consultation receives widespread publicity. (There is a long history of such consultations.) Please let a Committee member know if you hear anything about this issue.

OWRA web site

Don't forget we have an up-to-date list of recommended tradespeople, such as electricians, painters, plumbers, cleaners, bike maintenance, etc on our web site. 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, we can remove them from the list. The address: www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk.

Car and bike theft on Waterside

A resident had her car broken into during a November night; the thief stole a CD player and searched the car, almost certainly looking for a satellite navigation system (sat-nav). The police offer three pieces of advice:

- Always remove your "sat-nav" system from the car.
- Don't leave any valuables visible in your car.....
- But equally, leave your glove compartment open to show you have nothing valuable hidden there.

There have also been some bike thefts on Waterside in recent weeks, so do ensure you use strong locks and secure your bicycle to a fixed object.

Visitor parking on the road

Your visitors shouldn't be parking in someone else's personal parking space. Apart from off-road

visitor parking (see next item), it is easy to get visitor parking permits from the Council for parking in the road bays. Print off the application form from www.oxfordparkingshop.co.uk, and post it with proof of residency, such as a recent utility bill. The Council will send you six months of parking permits free, together with your returned documentary proof.

Visitor parking off road

Following the discussion at the Management Company AGM, plans are in hand to paint house numbers and parking signs on the tarmac-ed parking bays in Plater Drive. Generic signs will also be put up in key locations on Waterside, pointing out to non-residents who are not visiting someone here that they may only park in the on-road bays marked with a **P**. Information will be sent to all residents at the time, reminding them and their visitors where they may and may not park. The situation will be reviewed after six months to see if further action is required.

Reporting anti-social behaviour

There have been further bouts of anti-social behaviour on and around Waterside in the last two months. These include damage to trees, the destruction of a bench and yet more graffiti. The local police are keen that all such activity should be reported so that it can be nipped in the bud. To contact our local beat officer about any policing matter other than reporting an actual crime, e-mail karl.ralph@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. The phone number is 08458 505505.

Also, a reminder that 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.

County Council helpline

Not to be outdone, the County Council has a useful helpline which you can call to report potholes in the road, unlit street lamps, dangerous pavements, etc. You can also report fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles and other nuisances. The number is 0845 310111.

Front door colours

The Management Company has agreed to add black to the palette of colours which residents may paint their front doors. The others are the existing

Waterside shades of red, green, blue and white. You may repaint your front door the same colour as before or any of the above colours.

St Margaret's Institute appeal

The OWRA Committee has agreed to continue supporting the Institute's appeal for the next four years. This will help ensure sufficient funds for on-going maintenance and improvement over the period.

Early notice of litter-pick

The Civic Society is organising a mass litter-pick around the City on 14 to 16 March 2008. OWRA was the first group to support the "OxClean" initiative. We will be letting you know how you can help on our selected day - Saturday 15 March - when we will be cleaning up around Waterside.

Management fee - no increase

The Management Company has agreed that the annual fee payable for the maintenance of the Waterside estate will be unchanged in 2008. The fee will be £300 for the fourth year running, thanks to good financial management. In spite of the fee standstill, the amount spent on gardening will be increased significantly to allow more hours in the contract during the summer and, therefore, even better garden maintenance.

Canalside Environment Group (CEG) diary dates

5 January: Xmas tree shredding from 10 to 11.30 and 11.30 to 12.30 at.....

10 January: Meeting at 8pm at 41 Frenchay Road

2 February: Tetrapak collection at 14 Merrivale Square

There will also be some "swap shops" in January and March - information to follow

The CEG has some hemp bags; a donation of £5 to the group will get you one.

For information about the group, contact Saima Butt on 311511 or e-mail her at cegroup@hotmail.com.

OWRA Committee members

Stuart Skyte, 30 Plater Dr (559618) - chair

Alison Wood, 26 Plater Drive (516722) - treasurer

Richard Groves, 44 Merrivale Sq (512375) - tradespeople

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)