

# Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

April 2007: Issue 23

*Welcome to the latest OWRA newsletter. There's more information about the relatively new recycling arrangements as several residents have said they find them baffling still.*

## Easter rubbish arrangements

The week after the Easter weekend sees a change to the wheelie-bin/pink sack and green box collection. **Instead of this being on Wednesday 11 April, it will be on Thursday 12 April.**

## Key diary dates

The OWRA and Waterside Management Company joint Annual General Meeting will be held on **Friday 29 June** at 8pm at St Margaret's Institute in Polstead Road. As usual, there will be a glass (or two) of wine afterwards.

This year's annual summer barbecue will be on the evening of **Saturday 30 June** in Merrivale Square. We will be circulating a form over the next month so that residents can volunteer for particular tasks on the day.

## Phone mast threat to Waterside

We have received details of a planning application for siting a mobile phone mast by Walton Well Road Bridge. Vodaphone want to built the mast on the land currently occupied by the builders and their portakabin. While the health risks associated with such masts are not proven, few people seem to want to take the risk just in case.

If you would like to object (or even support) this planning application, you have until 13 April to do so. The reference is 07/00602/T56. You should write to Michael Crofton-Briggs, Business Manager, Planning Services, Ramsay House, 10 St Ebbe's Street, Oxford, OX1 1PT.

## Merton Court gate now working

The latest repairs to the automatic mechanism that activates the gate from Merton Court onto the canal towpath have proved successful. Seasonal changes of temperature should no longer render the mechanism useless. The PIN-number to open the gate from the towpath side is 1374. When opening from Merton Court, push the gate slightly first.

## 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. This isn't surprising as we now have four separate boxes/bags to juggle. The following summarises what goes where:

### Green box

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

### Blue box or blue wheelie-bin

Plastic bottles (washed)  
Aluminium drinks cans (washed)  
Food tins (washed)  
Wrapping paper  
Envelopes (not jiffy bags)  
Card and cardboard  
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.**

### Green garden bag

Grass cuttings  
Prunings and thinnings from the garden  
Branches (no more than 3 inches/7.5cm in diameter)  
Leaves  
Small shrubs, plants and weeds  
Cut flowers

### Green wheelie-bin

Everything else (preferably wrapped/bagged)

**NB. Please double wrap all food items such as peelings and leftovers, preferably in newspaper, to avoid smells)**

## Reducing the amount of waste in your wheelie-bin

If you recycle all the items listed above, you may still have lots of bulky plastics clogging up your wheelie-bin. You can avoid this and massively reduce the amount in your wheelie-bin, by taking all the other plastics to a local recycling point. The two nearest are in Cardigan Street (just before the Co-op on Walton Street) and in the Ferry Centre car park in Summertown. These have large bins for other plastics such as:

Washing-up liquid bottles

Shampoo bottles and other bathroom plastics

Detergent bottles

Margarine tubs and lids (washed)

Ice cream and other confectionary tubs (washed)

Yoghurt pots (washed)

Meat and fish hard plastics (very well washed)

However, you may not take polystyrene, plastic bags, flexible wrappings and cling film, toys and ornaments, plant pots or tetrapak drink containers. If you wish to recycle plastic bags, you can take them to Somerfield in Summertown or Sainsbury in the Westgate Centre.

**If English is not your first language, you can get information from the City Council about recycling in any language, including Urdu, Chinese, Bengali, Punjabi and Hindi. Simply call 252900.**

## Tetrapak recycling success

Thanks to everyone who saved up their tetrapak containers (from fruit drinks and long-life milk) for the February collection. Over 500 were taken for recycling. The Canalside Environment Group is currently trying to sort out the next collection – the recycling company has changed hands – but don't know when this will be. We'll let you know.

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)). The web site has an up-to-date list of recommended tradespeople, such as electricians, painters and plumbers....cleaners, bike maintenance, etc.

## Train horn noise update

Thanks to everyone who completed the survey on train horn noise. This helpfully enabled us to gauge the scale of concern on Waterside about the increasingly loud horns used by some trains as they approach Waterside from the south.

If you want to sign an online petition about train horn noise, there is currently one on the 10 Downing Street web site. The address is <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/trainhorns/>.

## Slowing down should be speeded up

The Management Company and OWRA have been in discussion with various people and organisations about how we can put one or more 20mph signs on Rutherway. The former is currently waiting to hear from the County Council, which is responsible for all official road signs.

Meanwhile, please observe the 20mph speed limit throughout Waterside. The 20mph zone covers all the roads west of Woodstock Road, Jericho and Walton Manor. There are still too many dangerously fast drivers on our estate. **You are only saving seconds but you're endangering the lives of other residents.**

## Canalside Environment Group (CEG) diary dates

**Sunday 21 April:** The latest "on your bike" event to promote safe cycle use. This will be on the Aristotle Lane recreation ground.

**Friday 26 April:** The next CEG meeting (at 8pm at 16 Stone Meadow, Waterways).

**Sunday 17 June:** Wildlife day at St Margaret's Institute.

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