

# Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

March 2008: Issue 26

*Welcome to the first OWRA newsletter of 2008. Please note the changes to the rubbish collection dates over the holiday period and some important dates for June. We hope you find the newsletter useful.*

## **Bank holiday rubbish changes**

We have revised rubbish collection days during Easter and the two May bank holidays. These are as follows:

Easter: Instead of a collection on Wednesday 26 March, it is on **Thursday 27 March**.

May 1: Instead of a collection on Wednesday 7 May, it is on **Thursday 8 May**.

May 2: Instead of a collection on Wednesday 28 May, it is on **Thursday 29 May**.

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

A small number of people seem to leave their bins out on the pavement after they are emptied, often for several days. Please remember that, not only is this unsightly, but that it also poses a problem for people with prams or for anyone in a wheelchair. Thanks for your co-operation.

Lastly on rubbish, please note that domestic rubbish is not to be placed in the public litter bin on Rutherway. Bags of household waste are all too often put in this bin, with the result that it quickly fills up and may overflow onto the pavement. The resulting litter blows up and down Rutherway.

## **“Street sports site” hopefully dead**

The OWRA Committee and many other residents have campaigned hard to prevent the idea of a hard-surfaced street sports site coming to the Spinney. While no report has yet been submitted to the North Area Committee, we are reasonably confident that

we have persuaded our two local Councillors that the Spinney is not the place for such a site. A group of residents met the Councillors on the Spinney and agreed that available developer monies could be used to enhance this area. What is needed is more tree-planting to better screen the railway, a gate onto Walton Well Road, two litter bins, two benches and a life-belt (in case of an accident in the ditch). We will keep local residents informed of any developments.

## **OWRA/ Management Company AGM Friday 13 June at 8pm. Notice to follow.**

## **OWRA summer party/BBQ**

This year's summer party and barbecue in Merrivale Square will be from 6pm on **Saturday 21 June**. After last year's torrential storm during the event, we hope that the 2008 BBQ will sizzle. Notices will be circulated nearer the time, including a call for volunteers to help in advance and on the day.

## **Flickering household lights**

One flickering lamp or other light might indicate a specific problem, but if many or all your lights flicker at the same time when you put a switch on, you may need to call out the electricity people. One resident did this to discover that the fault lay not in her house but 10 metres away in the street. It was a big job sorting this out.

## **New planting on Waterside**

Weather permitting, the next few weeks should see a considerable amount of new planting in the communal grounds on Waterside. Please ensure that children and dogs are kept away from these newly-planted areas in order to give them a fair chance of survival. To that end, don't hesitate to water any new plants that look as though they are struggling if we have a particularly dry spell over the next couple of months. Thanks.

## **Satellite dish restrictions**

The Management Company would like to remind residents that the restrictive covenants governing Waterside place limits on satellite dish usage. They may be located at the rear of properties but no more than 1.8 metres above ground level. A recent survey indicated that several houses had dishes well above this level; owners are being contacted to tell them to remove the offending dishes.

## **Aftermath of last July's floods**

The Management Company (MC) has just completed a comprehensive survey of house and flat ground floor levels in relation to last July's record floods. The MC will circulate each property with the results; this will hopefully be useful if your insurance company tries to raise your premium on the back of last year's floods.

As most blocks have different floor levels, we can summarise by stating that the lowest property is 1.23 metres, and the highest is 2.03 metres above the highest floods on record. In the Spinney bridge area, the highest level reached was only about one metre above the normal day-to-day flow so it would need more than twice last July's rain to flood the lowest house on Waterside. There is only an outside possibility of the canal flooding any properties in the area, based on river and canal water levels in relation to Waterside house levels. Were this to happen, much of Oxford would be under water!

## **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](http://www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk).

## **Resident and visitor parking places**

As reported last time, the Management Company is arranging for parking spaces on tarmac to be marked with the relevant house number or sign stating its use is only for the visitors of residents. Cluttons will shortly be contacting all houses affected to check that the number is correct, prior to the painting and new signage by the end of May. Painting will take place in Plater Drive and on

parking spaces in Merrivale Square (including the two areas adjacent to the canal).

## **Litter-pick result from 15 March**

A group of Watersiders took part in the OxClean City-wide litter picking over the weekend 14 to 16 March. Thanks to the 28 who helped remove 31 bags of rubbish from Waterside and the Spinney.

Many people were shocked at the volume of litter in and around the estate. So don't wait for the next official litter-picking party. If you see a piece of litter in the street or in a communal flower bed, please pick it up at the time and put it in the Rutherway bin or in your own domestic rubbish. Everyone on Waterside will be helped by your community-minded action. Thanks.

## **Reporting anti-social behaviour**

There have, sadly, been further bouts of anti-social behaviour on and around Waterside in the last two months. These include damage to trees and shrubs, the removal of a bench (found and restored), late-night motorcycling around the estate, a fire on the Spinney, joy-riding 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. If you see someone committing an actual crime, do call 999. 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). The phone number is 08458 505505.

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.

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

7 June: Swap Shop – details to be confirmed.

For information about the group, contact Saima Butt on 311511 or e-mail her at [ceggroup@hotmail.com](mailto:ceggroup@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)*

*Aprajita Verma, 19 Merrivale Sq (302922)*