

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

May 2019: Issue 68

Tuesday 28th May 8pm is our AGM at St Margaret's Institute in Polstead Road, **drinks and snacks from 7:45!** Overleaf is the Agenda, with a round up from your Committee about the past year's achievements and accounts. Please come, meet us and tell us your views, and why not get involved – nominations for new Committee members are still open.

Saturday 8th June Sports Day and BBQ. We can promise you a great day of fun sports for all the family and a very sociable evening in the square.

Ticket sellers will be round soon, so put some **CASH** by the door!!

All set for Waterside's Big Day Saturday 8th June

SPORTSDAY 3-5pm in and around Merrivale Square

Please note that Merrivale Square will be closed to traffic between 3 and 5pm for the games.

There will be people (including young children) running and cycling round the Square in this period so please alert any visitors to the situation. We will be as flexible as possible but safety is a prime concern. The sports and games are fun and not to be taken too seriously, so hopefully many people will join in; egg-and-spoon and sack races don't require a huge amount of training! We'll have lots of age specific races too.

Proposed timings:

Please arrive at the Square around 2:50 so we can plan accordingly for the races.

3-4 pm: Racing events, to include running, cycling, slow cycling and scooter races around the square.

4-5 pm: Sporting events, to include short races such as 3-legged, sack, egg & spoon, wellie and paper aeroplane throwing competitions.

No need to register in advance but if you fancy having a particular event included, or have equipment you are looking after for us, or are willing to lend/donate, please contact us at owra.owmc@gmail.com

An programme for the sport events will be on the Waterside Facebook page, and hopefully posted on lamp posts, the week before.

Remember to bring garden tables and chairs, to the Square for the afternoon/evening.

BBQ 5pm onwards in the Square

Adult tickets cost £6 in advance, £7.50 on the gate. Children under 15 years £4 in advance, £5 on the gate. Babies are free.....

For this you get main course, dessert and a drink!

The BBQ starts serving food at 5pm, continuing beyond 7pm until all food has been eaten.

The bar will be open from 4pm or thereabouts until it has all been drunk (bring your own glass?).

Expect a doorstep visit inviting you to buy tickets, or call at 10 Merrivale Square before the 4th June.

We need volunteers to help, so talk to the ticket seller or e-mail us at owra.owmc@gmail.com if you'd like to assist:

- Getting set up Fri/Sat
- Making chocolate brownies in advance
- Making salads Sat am
- Picking strawberries Sat am
- Bouncy castle/sports day supervision
- Taking/selling tickets on the gate
- Serving at the bar
- BBQ-ing hot food
- Serving cold food
- Clearing away afterwards and/or on Sunday morning

Be environmentally aware – why not bring your own cutlery, plates and glasses? We shall be using up our stocks of plastic this year, but hope to be all recyclable in 2010.

OWRA AGM Tuesday 28th May 8:00pm

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

AGM AGENDA 2019

8pm on Tuesday 28th May 2019
at St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM (attached)
4. Report of the Committee on it's actions in the past year (attached)
5. Chairman's Statement
6. Annual accounts (attached)
7. Agree a recommendation from the Committee "That the annual fee for OWRA should remain at £5 per household"
8. Election of the Committee
9. Issues raised from the floor
10. Close

Help with your garden?

If you cannot cope with keeping your garden under control, Nicholsons (who look after the common areas), given sufficient notice, can be paid to do work on your garden. Contact Jane Ball for a quote on Jane@nicholsonsgb.com.

Food waste bins

If you put food waste out in plastic bags the squirrels and foxes will eat it and make a mess. Please call Oxford Council for a new secure bin.

More graffiti prevention on Waterside

Following the successful planting of native trees along vulnerable fencing on Waterside, OWMC have now sponsored defensive planting along the canal wall behind Rutherway. You are invited to join a **work party on Friday 7th June** – Meeting on the towpath below Walton Well Bridge at 12. Let Laura.Summerbell@canalrivertrust.org.uk know you are coming so she can provide enough tools.

IF YOU CAN WATER THESE NEW PLANTS DURING THE SUMMER THEY HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF SURVIVING... GET THAT WATERING CAN OUT!

OWRA Income and Expenditure Statement 2018/2019

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership fees	375	Stationery	68.49
BBQ surplus	210	Charity donation to MLMC	456
		Domain name fees	23.98
		Hire of SMI	20.00
		BBQ, 2 x Gazebos, weights, water bottles and associated sundries	454.61
		Fairy lights	62.73
Total	585		1160.81

Balance Brought Forward 6/04/18	1970.10
Payments In (Subscriptions)	375
Payments In (Other)	210
Payments Out	1160.8
Sub Total	1394.30
Plus prepaid 18/19 Subs	210.00
Carried Forward Reconciled balance as at 01/04/19	1184.30
Total Subscriptions:	117

Jen Watkiss, OWRA Treasurer for 2018/2019

Having purchased significant new equipment for our 2018 BBQ, we are happy to loan it out to residents. If you are planning an event and would like to borrow any of our equipment (gazebo, BBQ, water bottles etc), please drop us a line on owra.owmc@gmail.com.

Report of the OWRA Committee

June 2018 - May 2019

Overall Strategy

Maintenance of the wonderful Waterside community spirit continues to be our aim, we try to continuously improve communications, and with our new website hope to welcome in a new era of transparency.

Your Committee:

After 4 years active contribution to the Committee Patrick Kershaw and John Krebs stood down midyear, they have both put a lot into Waterside and we continue to benefit from the changes they have made to how we work. The revised Committee, comprising Kay Gordon, Allison Hood, Sarah Munro and Helen Saunders-Gill, were augmented by new members Jen Watkiss as Treasurer and Sarah North, and met 4 times. Helen is now leaving the Committee after contributing greatly to the maintenance of standards in our grounds, through litterpicks and thoughtful advice. She continues to enhance Waterside with her lovely Balliol Court garden.

We would really like a new committee member from the Merton Court/Balliol Court/Crescent area to balance our representation, so please put your name forward via our email.

Waterside Events:

Some old favourites continue, but others have dwindled, we are always interested in new activities that we can support, so let us know.

The **Sports Day and BBQ 2018** was attended by well over 180 residents and friends and made £300 for our local charity My Life My Choice, which supports young people with learning difficulties to get their voice heard. Feeling flush with funds we invested in a splendid new BBQ which grilled the food instead of the helpers, we also made setting up easier with 2 pop-up gazebos that have had several outings in 2018/19. With the gift of another gazebo from the Hatch family we have reached peak storage in the shed.

The **International Picnic** hosted by Richard and Ying Groves in September was really appreciated by all attendees.

The **Hallowe'en Party** organised by Allison Hood was once again a real hit, with some seriously scary children and masses of incredible pumpkins illuminating Waterside.

Our March **litterpick**, which is part of the Oxclean initiative had modest results, due in the main to the year-round efforts of some residents.

Sadly once again the **Easter Egg Hunt** could not be run. Unless we have a volunteer to drive this it may fall by the wayside.

We should also thank **Penny & Sinclair** for their generous **Sponsorship** of the Bouncy Castle at the Sports Day.

Waterside Communications:

The closed **Oxford Waterside Facebook group** currently has 112 resident members and is highly recommended.

The website has had additional information added which shows which areas Nicholsons are responsible for. It is good to see that plans are underway to update the 20 year old planting by Berkeley Homes. We are slowly but surely adding local information and links, including the archive of Newsletters.

The tradesman listing still needs more input, but has made a good start.

Welcome packs continue to be revised and sent to new residents, but you need to advise us of changes so we can make sure they are made welcome in a timely manner.

Our **Email** list reaches over 120 households, and is also used by the Management Company to reach owners.

Noticeboards continue to support local organisations, managed by Sarah Munro and Sheila Forbes.

MINUTES of the OXFORD WATERSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Held at 8pm on Tuesday 26th June 2018 at St Margaret's Institute, Oxford
Chaired by Kay Gordon

1. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from John Krebs, Sarah Munro, Helen Saunders-Gill, Allison Hood.

3. Report of the Committee

The aims of the Association continue to be demonstrated by a wonderful community spirit. Over the past year we have seen the development of the Neighbourhood Watch, now driven by the closed Facebook group, the website has been relaunched with much improved access and content, the shed has unburdened several homes of equipment and materials, and our events continue to thrive.

4. Chairman's Statement

Many people contribute to making Waterside great, but special mention should go to a few: The year started with superhuman efforts by Jonathan Finnerty and Mike Ward erecting our shed. This had the knock-on effect of allowing Stuart Skyte and several others to empty out valuable space in their sheds. For the first time we know what kit we have. John Krebs has continued to enhance our fences with native hedging which has grown well. Helen Saunders-Gill has revised the site plans to show areas of responsibility for grounds. Allison Hood has set up and oversees the Neighbourhood Watch, which is functioning well.

The Hood family has also made a huge impact on the children's activities through Allison and David's energy and enthusiasm.

Sarah Munro has set up a completely new tradesmen listing, which we still need recommendations for.

Alex Cadoux-Hudson has created an excellent new website for us all to use.

A special presentation was made to Stuart Skyte, who is leaving Waterside for Waterways. In recognition of his dedication to the Waterside community and outstanding contribution to the development of a harmonious and inclusive culture, Oxford Waterside Residents' Association are pleased to confer on Stuart and Gillian Skyte lifetime membership of the association and free tickets to the Annual Waterside BBQ in perpetuity.

5. Annual Accounts

Patrick Kershaw reported a healthy bank balance and recent appetite to buy useful equipment such as gazebos and a new BBQ.

6. Annual Fee

It was agreed to leave the £5 annual fee unchanged.

7. Election of the Committee

The following members are continuing to stand: Kay Gordon, Patrick Kershaw, Helen Saunders-Gill, John Krebs, Allison Hood and Sarah Munro. Patrick Kershaw will stand down from the OWRA committee once a replacement treasurer has been found.

8. AOB

Juliette Ash raised the problem of antisocial behaviour associated with drugs and the need to understand how to deal with individuals in a positive way. She will follow up with Allison Hood to establish a way forward.

The controls over Facebook members were questioned. Only individuals known to be resident on Waterside are accepted as members, once they have left they are deleted. There is no way to police the background of members and anyone using recommendations eg. babysitting services, need to make their own checks.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm