

# Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

May 2018: Issue 65

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 8pm is our AGM at St Margaret's Institute, drinks and snacks from 7:45!** Overleaf is the Agenda, with a round up from your Committee about the past year's achievements and our accounts. Please come, meet us and tell us your views, and why not get involved – nominations for new Committee members are still open.

**Saturday 9th 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.

**22<sup>nd</sup> May is our Travel Book Club's inaugural meeting contact [sarahjmunro@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahjmunro@hotmail.com)**

## All set for Waterside's Big Day Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:owra.owmc@gmail.com)

An agenda for the sport events will be on the Waterside Facebook page the week before.

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

### **BBQ 5pm onwards**

**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 extra 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 5<sup>th</sup> June. We need volunteers to help, so talk to the ticket seller or e-mail us at [owra.owmc@gmail.com](mailto:owra.owmc@gmail.com) if you'd like to assist:

- Getting set up Fri/Sat
- Making chocolate brownies in advance
- Making salads 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

#### **Neighbourly Issues**

Bikes secured on metal railings – we have bike racks!

Garden rubbish thrown into Aristotle

Recreation Ground – they have seen you...

Next event 1<sup>st</sup> September International Lunch, plus watch out for news of a session with your local police.

## OWRA AGM Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 8:00pm

### Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

#### AGM AGENDA 2018

8pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
at St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2017 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

#### Rail Update

During the past year, OWRA has held meetings with Network Rail, Oxford City Council and Public Health England. The main focus of discussions has been on noise from idling trains, and measurement of current noise levels. At our request, Network Rail commissioned a noise study in Waterside, which showed that noise levels have not increased since the last measurements a few years ago. Network Rail inform us that:

After July, when the current work on the track and new signalling system should be completed, there should be no planned idling of freight trains in the Waterside area.

In the slightly longer term there will be fewer, but longer, freight trains.

The Environment Agency has asked them to remove trees along the trackside in order to enhance the flow of water in the drainage ditch by the track. OWRA contacted the Environment Agency and Oxford City Council and consequently there will be a meeting to discuss whether the ditch can be cleared without tree removal.

### OWRA Income and Expenditure Statement 2017/2018

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership fees	535	Stationery	105.78
BBQ surplus	300	The Gatehouse BBQ	300.00
M Doorley D of E	156	Domain name /hosting fees	72.17
Penny & Sinclair Hallowe'en sponsorship	75	Hire of SMI	20
		Laminator	64.99
		Sack Trolley	49.96
		Padlock/keys	30.00
		Sundries	23.00
Sub Total	1066		665.99
		<b>Accruals:</b>	
		Hallowe'en Expenses	75.00
		Charity donation TBA (re M Doorly)	156.00
Total	1066		896.99

<b>Balance Brought Forward 6/04/18</b>	<b>1570.09</b>
Payments In (Subscriptions)	450
Payments In (Other)	531
Payments Out	665.99
Sub Total	1885.10
Less Prepaid 17/18 Subs	125.00
Plus prepaid 18/19 Subs	210.00
<b>Carried Forward Reconciled balance as at 05/04/18</b>	<b>1970.10</b>
Total Subscriptions:	90

Patrick Kershaw,  
OWRA Treasurer for 2017/2018

# Report of the OWRA Committee

*June 2017 - May 2018*

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## 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.

## Highlights of the year for gardens:

Nicholsons are maintaining the gardens to a higher standard than the previous contractors, John Krebs is the contact for all Waterside residents. They have responded to requests for particular pieces of work, such as replacement of overgrown plants, and will continue to introduce improvements when time and resources allow. Some residents are not maintaining their own front gardens properly and an attempt to generate community action to deal with this in Balliol Court failed through lack of interest. It is now planned to invite Nicholson's to tender for tidying up these front gardens and to ask the tenants or owners to pay for the work. Volunteers have planted more hedging at the Aristotle Lane entrance to Waterside to discourage graffiti on the fences. The saplings are thriving.

## OWRA/OWMC Rail Group

The group has been very active and engaged with all parties to put forward our concerns. Regular updates have been provided via the Newsletter.

## Waterside Neighbourhood Watch

This newly created group has brought local focus on safety and security that has been particularly evident through our Facebook group. OWMC have also added practical measures such as locked gates to rear accesses.

In recent months, there has been a marked decline in burglaries on Waterside, our PCSO Claire Bonneville has noted the improvement, and put this down to a combination of awareness, vigilance, and offenders being moved out of the area.

We know not everyone is on the Waterside Facebook group, and so shall endeavour to reach out via email to those who prefer that medium. Please email Allison at [acorn21@gmail.com](mailto:acorn21@gmail.com) if this applies to you.

## Your Committee:

The Committee, comprising Kay Gordon, Allison Hood, Patrick Kershaw, John Krebs, Sarah Munro and Helen Saunders-Gill, met 3 times.

## Waterside Events:

Some old favourites continue, but others have dwindled.

The **Sports Day and BBQ 2017** was attended by 150 residents and friends and made £300 for our local homeless charity.

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.

No **Carol Singing** this year, but if anyone wants to lead us in song we will follow!

Our March **litterpick**, which is part of the Oxclean initiative had to be postponed due to several inches of snow on the ground, but went ahead a week later with a pleasingly poor haul, due in major part to the year-round efforts of some residents.

Sadly the **Easter Egg Hunt** could not be run, but on a wet and miserable weekend that was a blessing.

We attempted to get everyone gardening over Easter as well, but despite all our efforts not enough people came forward to join in.

Our latest venture is a **Travel Book Club**.

We should also thank **Penny & Sinclair** for their generous **Sponsorship** of the Bouncy Castle at the Sports Day and also our Hallowe'en treats.

## Waterside Communications:

The closed **Oxford Waterside Facebook group** currently has 101 resident members and is highly recommended.

Thanks to Alex Cadoux-Hudson's skills the **website** has been relaunched in a phone/tablet/computer friendly format with much new content and the ability to rapidly add/change what you see. The link to the newsletter has been electronically sent to everyone on our email list and also posted to our Facebook group, so most of you will have some idea of the new look and feel. We aim to put news and information links into the website to give a single source, and the all new tradespeople list will be a great resource for us all.

**Welcome packs** continue to be sent to new residents, but everything is now on the website, so will be revised in the coming year.

Our **Email** list reaches over 116 households, and is also used by the Management Company.

**Noticeboards** continue to support local organisations.

# MINUTES of the OXFORD WATERSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Held at 8pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at St Margaret's  
Institute, Oxford

Chaired by Kay Gordon

1. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.
2. **Report of the Committee** (attached to Newsletter No 62)
  - OWRA is celebrating its 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and remains a valuable community group
  - **Hedging:** Anti-graffiti hedging has been planted and there are plans to plant more
  - **Network Rail:** The Rail Group, whilst unsuccessful in the recent bid to insist on Network Rail mitigation measures, has enabled us to make our collective views well known to the authorities and demonstrated solidarity together with other residents associations in the area
3. **Further Matters**
  - **OWRA Facebook:** Everyone is encouraged to join the OWRA Facebook group even if only joining the closed group and not engaging in any other Facebook activity. This allows fast exchange of information amongst residents. This was especially helpful during the recent spate of antisocial activity in the area.
  - **OWRA Website:** The website upgrade, which had been delayed, is to be worked on shortly and there will soon be more news.
  - **Planning Matters:** If anyone would like to volunteer to help inform OWRA residents of upcoming planning applications in the area, this would be welcomed. The issue of HMOs (House of Multiple Occupation) and Covenants is dealt with by the Management Company.
  - **Neighbourhood Watch:** Allison Hood has volunteered to coordinate a Neighbourhood Watch group. Around 20 residents have already

joined. Those wishing to join should complete the form on the back of the recent Newsletter and return to Allison Hood at 16 Plater Drive

- **Equipment Shed:** OWRA is to install a shed where OWRA equipment (BBQ, litter-pickers, road-signs etc) can be stored in an undercover and secure place. The Management Company has made a space for the shed available behind a faux-garage-door near Merrivale Square.
4. **Annual Accounts (attached to Newsletter 62)**
    - OWRA Income & Expenditure balance stood at £1570.09 for the year 2016/17
    - We have not spent all income this year, however with a new shed installed it may be possible to invest in some more equipment.
  5. **Chairman's Statement**

Special thanks were given to:

John Krebs who has organised the planting of the anti-graffiti hedging work

Patrick Kershaw who managed the Summer BBQ last year

Emma Dadson who has organised the OWRA children's events and established OWRA Facebook site

The Chair thanked all members of the committee for their work. John Krebs thanked the Chair Kay Gordon on behalf of all, for her leadership of OWRA.

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 and Sarah Munro. Emma Dadson is standing down from the OWRA committee.

It was agreed that Allison Hood is to join the committee.

8. **AOB**

Recent crime activity in the area was discussed and whether it is advisable to install CCTV cameras. This is to be taken up with the Management Company.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm