

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

March 2015: Issue 54

Many hands make light work....it is a pleasure to be involved with such an excellent bunch of people, but we need more help to create Waterside fun and games! Would you like to join in?

2015 Diary Dates



Saturday 7th March 10-12

Help Springclean Oxford Waterside and the Spinney. Collect implements and waste bags from Merrivale Square

Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday at 10am



The idea will be for parents to hide 10 eggs in Merrivale Square for each of their participating children by 9.30am (foil covered eggs, or mini eggs/stickers/sweets in a

plastic kinder egg style plastic shell) so that there will be enough eggs for all children.

We will try to organise other activities – watch out on Facebook/fliers. Parents would be welcome to bring potluck/brunch/cake goodies.

If you would like to participate, please email emmadadson77@gmail.com so we have a rough idea of numbers.

Waterside Sports Day and BBQ 13th June

This year's Waterside sports day and summer BBQ – our equivalent of Royal Ascot – will be on Saturday 13 June in the afternoon and evening. Please note the date. We're looking for one or two more people to help with the planning so, if that's you, please contact Stuart Skyte on 01865 559618. Much nearer the time, we'll be asking for volunteers to help on the day, participate in the sports events, etc. Watch this space.

OWRA & OWMB AGMs Tuesday 23rd June

Papers will be sent out in advance.

Waterside Garden Group

Meeting Mondays on a variable basis, dates will be posted on Facebook and emailed to interested people. Contact owragardens@hotmail.com

Opportunities to get involved:

Website Manager

We have a lovely website, full of useful stuff, but no one to keep it in order as Will Dale, who revamped the site, is no longer able to keep an eye on www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk and update where necessary. If you or a family member like playing with Dreamweaver contact Kay (kay@kaygordon.co.uk) for the techie stuff.

Committee members

Joining the Committee is an excellent way to meet your neighbours and get involved with the social activities. Both owners and tenants are very welcome. Aprajita and Mary Ann are standing down soon, after many years of excellent service. If you are interested in keeping Waterside spirits up talk to any committee member – contact details are overleaf.

Graffiti all around

Sadly, the writing is not on the wall for graffiti, which is proliferating in Oxford generally and in our area specifically. Getting it off a wooden fence is not difficult; removal from a brick wall is much harder bordering on the impossible without strong chemicals and high-pressure equipment. Police are actively prosecuting offenders and Oxford City Council website is the place find out about and send reports and pictures of graffiti https://ecitizen.oxford.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Report_Graffiti

Trees on Rutherway

Most of the alders along Rutherway (from the entrance up to The Crescent) will be replaced in the next year. This is because they are only half grown and are already causing trouble to the pavement, hindering growth and making the neighbouring houses very dark. The Gardening Group with Management Company support have sought expert advice on the removal of the trees, replanting and the types of trees for replacement. Residents have also been invited to be involved in choosing trees. The criteria for choosing which trees to plant include potential size, shape, allergy avoidance, seasonal interest and suitability for planting where cars are parked. The removal and planting will happen, after further consultation and notice to nearby residents, at the best time of year for the planting of optimum sizes trees. The planting plan will be posted on the noticeboard, website and will be included in a future newsletter.

Railway news update

We are negotiating with Network Rail about residents' concerns over the raised footpath up to the new Aristotle Lane rail bridge; most of the issues have been satisfactorily resolved. Notwithstanding some wild rumours and scare-stories, there is all-round confidence that our homes won't be affected by vibration damage, given the way they were built. Extra noise is another matter and we are exploring some mitigation options in case the noise from more frequent, faster and longer trains is overwhelming. New track due to be built between Aristotle Lane and the station should lead to quieter trains, which should help.

Aristotle Lane Bridge

Having been deferred at the most recent West Area Planning Meeting, the new bridge/footpath to Port Meadow at the Plater Drive end of Waterside will come back to the committee most likely on March 10. Waterside residents have so far successfully petitioned for the surface to be rough (so not skateboardable!) and for the proposed handrail to be only on one side (for security purposes). There is an ongoing discussion with Network Rail about the rise in height of the path and how impacts on Waterside residents will be mitigated.

OWMB survey of parking

You should all have received the summary results of the parking survey by now (if not please contact Felicity Hill at Breckon & Breckon, felicity.hill@breckon.co.uk). The management company is exploring achievable options with the County Council having consulted with the City Council who granted planning permission to the Waterside development with a limitation of one car per property. There will be further consultation on what is possible in the next month or two.

2015/16 OWRA membership subscriptions

Subscriptions to the Residents' Association are due in April, when we will send round a paper reminder. It remains unchanged at only £5 a year and we work hard on your behalf.

Membership fees can also be paid to OWRA by Online Transfer or Standing Orders at Acct No 00914974 Sort Code 30-94-04 for £5 annually in April. Reference your address (eg. 10 Merrivale) and email owra.owmc@gmail.com to let us know you have paid/set it up please!

Email list for Waterside information

If you email us on owra.owmc@gmail.com we will add you to the mailing list for circulation of relevant useful information and this newsletter.

Oxford City Council would like your

feedback on its plans to include various anti-social behaviours in a new City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order
<http://consultation.oxford.gov.uk/consult.ti/PSP/OCityCentre/consultationHome>

New Resident?

Contact Kay for a Welcome Pack full of useful Waterside information

The OWRA committee

Kay Gordon (Chair), 10 Merrivale Sq. 420532
Patrick Kershaw (Treasurer from April 2015), 11 Merrivale Sq. 531146
Aprajita Verma (Treasurer til end March), 19 Merrivale Sq. 07548650500
Richard Groves, 44 Merrivale Sq. 512375
Mary Ann Dale, 34 Plater Drive. 516771
Emma Dadson, 47 Plater Drive. 460136
Helen Saunders-Gill, 50 Balliol Court. 515547