

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

February 2019: Issue 67

After nearly 4 years our committee is saying goodbye to Patrick Kershaw, our excellent Treasurer who has been steadily increasing our mounds of cash, and also John Krebs who has inspired us with his grasp of our big issues and created an excellent dialogue on the grounds that we hope will continue. So, a big "Hello" to Jen Watkiss who will look after our money (£5 per household due from April please), and Sarah Martin who is also looking to help us create as much fun as possible for all you lovely people!!

Waterside Diary Dates



Saturday 2nd March Litterpick

Meet at 10:00 in Merrivale Square to pick up your litterpickers and bags.

Saturday 30th March Resuscitation and AED Training – check the noticeboard!

Sunday 31st March

Bring and Buy Sale in

Merrivale Square from 2 til 4pm
Christine & Pascal are emptying their house before retiring to France. Take the opportunity to say goodbye and support bereaved children and young people in Oxfordshire

www.seesaw.org.uk



Easter Weekend Egg Hunt



This annual event will be happening, the details will be posted on Facebook and in all the usual places in good time.

Summer Sports and BBQ

Saturday 8th June

Save the day!

Sports 3-5pm followed by BBQ

Please be advised that the road around Merrivale Square will be closed to ALL TRAFFIC from 3 til 5pm.

If you have a problem with this please let us know (owra.owmc@gmail.com) by 1st April so we can make alternative arrangements for you.



OWRA & OWMC AGMs

Tuesday 28th May 8pm at St Margaret's Institute

The May Newsletter will have our OWRA agenda and annual review, if there are any burning issues you would like discussed drop us a line.

We will include a membership payment envelope with the May Newsletter.

Waterside Gardens

Nicholsons work over the last 2 years has been reviewed and it was agreed that the routine maintenance of the grounds is very good. Over the next few years a programme of improvements is planned, replacing shrubs that have become too old or unsuitable for their location. Consequently some garden areas will be left bare while old shrubs are removed and the ground prepared for replanting. We hope to clear the borders on the West side of Rutherway this spring, replanting in the autumn. Remedial work on the railings that face the Spinney, and possible repairs to the retaining wall on the ditch between the Spinney and Rutherway may delay replanting the border. Work on the East side of Merrivale Square will involve replacing the snowberry bushes with more interesting flowering and/or scented shrubs. In addition to these two projects, a further priority will be to improve the gardens in front of the Villas on Rutherway by replacing old shrubs and cutting back overgrown ground cover and shrubs.

If you would like to help with any of these events contact us on owra.owmc@gmail.com

Local Neighbourhood Resources

- Information on **Jericho** activities is on <https://www.jerichocentre.org.uk/>
The Jericho Boatyard redevelopment is getting back on track, check it out on <https://www.jerichowharf.com/>
- Redevelopment of the Wadham College building just across the canal (opposite the Hayfield Deli) next to Aristotle Lane has been postponed and the building is being used by **Makespace**
<http://makespaceoxford.org/>
Officially open as of the 16th February, they are creating a local "Library of Things". This resource allows you to borrow (for a nominal cost) a variety of things you may need, without having to buy or store them, from DIY and gardening equipment, to sports and camping gear, party supplies, kids equipment and toys, and more. Visit the website to create your account, browse the catalog, and reserve your chosen items online. www.shareoxford.org
- If you need a local room for parties, meetings or small classes **Waterways** have a meeting room available for hire; warm, carpeted, seats up to 30, with small kitchen, lift and disabled facilities.

<http://room51.thewaterways.co.uk/booking-form>

- **St. Margaret's Institute** in Polstead Road is our local community centre, completely self funded and initially purchased by local people and organisations including OWMC. Check out the busy list of activities on www.smi-oxford.org.uk
- Have you been to **Common Ground** on Little Clarendon Street? This cafe/shared workspace/social enterprise pop-up is a great place to get a coffee and some yummy vegan treats, have a chat, or get some work done. Their core purpose is to support student mental health and in addition to being a great cafe and meeting place, they also offer various classes and societies, host events (such as comedy and music), and welcome bicycles inside! Free WiFi, study area and shared workspace. Open to everyone. Check it out! www.commongroundstudy.space

Crime in North Oxford

Local police officers attended a meeting on Dec 3rd. We all need to take sensible precautions to keep our property safe and to report anything suspicious such as 'distraction' burglary by people who get into your house posing as gas meter readers etc (check by calling the company); vulnerable children are used by drug dealers, so a child talking to addicts should arouse your suspicions.

For anything urgent including suspicious activity actually in progress phone 999. For crimes already committed or for suspicious activity phone 101. There are often long delays on this number so it is usually better to use the form on the website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

We were assured that these reports are read every day. Photos can be very useful.

You can register your valuables with www.immobilise.com

To report discarded hypodermic needles phone the City Council on 249811 and they will dispose of them within 24 hours.

Graffiti is mapped to record where the various tags are painted to assist in the difficult task of catching the culprits. If you see a fresh tag, please report it. Our area is relatively crime-free at present.

Don't miss out on Parking Permits

In addition to your personal parking space and "Resident's Visitors" labelled spaces, all Watersiders can apply once a year to Oxford County Council for 25 x 24hr free "Visitors Parking Permits" for on-road parking in Rutherway and Merrivale Square. Another 25 can be purchased for £20 6 months later, they are only valid for 3 years so check your dates. (The rules have changed – money grabbing)

Our streets are regularly patrolled and fines issued!

Your OWRA committee

An all girl line up this year!

Kay Gordon (Chair), 10 Merrivale Sq. 420532

Allison Hood, 16 Plater Drive. 07469 259510

Sarah Martin, 49 Plater Drive. 07970 100286

Sarah Munro, 9 The Villas. 580650

Helen Saunders-Gill, 50 Balliol Court. 515547

Jen Watkiss (Treasurer), 28 Plater Drive. 514615