

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

June 2015: Issue 55

Make sure you get your BBQ tickets early so we can cater for you all – last year 200 residents attended, stretching our resources to the limit on a wonderful evening. Overleaf is the Agenda for our AGM, news 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.

All set for Waterside's big day Saturday 13th June

With just a fortnight to go to our annual sports day and BBQ, this is a final reminder about the day and a further request for help with a range of activities.

The sports/games start at 3pm in Merrivale Square, while the BBQ starts (serving food) at 6pm. The bar will be open from 4pm or thereabouts. You should already have received a copy of the programme.

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! New this year are scooter races for young children and paper aeroplane launching (for children from 0 to 90).

Please note that the Square will be closed to traffic between 3 and 5pm for the games. There will be people running and cycling round the Square in this period so, if you are expecting visitors, please alert them to the situation. We will be as flexible as possible but safety is a prime concern.

If you have an easily transportable garden table and chairs, please bring them to the Square for the evening.

We're hoping to have some home-grown entertainment during the evening, so if you play a musical instrument or are prepared to sing to us all, don't feel inhibited or embarrassed. It should be fun.

We still require volunteers for the following, so please e-mail Stuart at stuartskyte@gmail.com if you'd like to help:

- Making chocolate brownies in advance
- Making salads in advance
- Taking/selling tickets on the gate
- BBQ-ing hot food
- Serving cold food
- Serving drinks

Any financial surplus from the BBQ will be donated to charity and, for the first time, those attending will be able to vote for one of three. The charity with the most votes will get the money. Voting will be at the entrance gate. The three charities are: Oxfordshire Advocacy, Helen & Douglas House children's hospice, and the Samaritans.

OWRA AGM Tuesday 23rd June 8:30, after OWMC AGM

Visitors or residents staying more than 12 hours in a resident's visitors space?

Email owra.owmc@gmail.com for a notice from OWMC to put on the windscreen, this will be on the website soon

AGM 2015

8pm on Tuesday 23rd June 2015
at St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road

AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2013 AGM (attached)
4. Report of the Committee on it's actions in the past year (attached)
5. Annual accounts (attached)
6. Chairman's Statement
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

Notes on financial statement:

¹ Donation to OWRA from M. Doorly – thank you

² Photocopying & paper (Newsletters, Membership Forms, AGM papers, BBQ Tickets, Notices etc.)

³ New picnic benches in Merrivale Square (incl VAT, delivery & assembly)

⁴ Honorarium for help with the new OWRA website

⁵ Charitable donation to Helen & Douglas House (BBQ surplus + M. Doorly's collection)

⁶ Gift for Stuart Skyte to thank him for his many years of service to OWRA, the association contribution was on behalf of those who were not able to contribute to Stuart's gift individually.

⁷ £250 donation for the noticeboard from Councillor James Fry received at the end of financial year 13/14 (as reported last year)

⁸ OWRA decided to invest in some larger ticket items this year to benefit the Waterside community as we had a healthy balance at the beginning of the year. We have also found alternative means to print material and therefore our printing costs have significantly reduced from previous years.

OWRA Income and Expenditure Statement 2014/2015

Income	£	Expenditure	£
81 membership	405.00	Administration ²	163.60
BBQ Surplus	250.52	Web hosting fee	67.85
M. Doorly's contribution ¹	48.00	Badger Benches ³	297.48
		Domain name rental	9.58
		William Dale ⁴	100.00
		Helen & Douglas House ⁵	300.00
		Banner	52.00
		OWRA Contribution to S. Skyte's Gift ⁶	65.35
		Noticeboard (board, accessories, mounting) ⁷	307.17
		St Margaret's Hall Rental for AGM	19.00
Total	703.52		1382.03

Balance for the year 2014-2015:

- £678.51⁸

Account Balance as of 30 April 2015:

£1341.73

*Aprajita Verma, OWRA Treasurer for
2014/15*

Report of the OWRA Committee

June 2014 - May 2015

Overall Strategy

This has been a year of increased communication, adding more events and activities to engage families, while continuing to develop and maintain the deep sense of community that characterises Waterside.

Waterside environment:

2 additional picnic benches have been provided in Merrivale Square to encourage use by families and friends, and have also made our own events much easier to stage

The lovely bench on Rutherway, has been dedicated to Stuart Skyte for his outstanding service to this community over the past 15 years, much enjoyed by young and old throughout the year.

The Garden Group planted snow drops and other spring bulbs last Autumn, which we hope gave you pleasure earlier this year. Alliums are still flowering in the tubs in the electricity substation square. They try to keep the communal areas weeded and put in the odd shrub or plant where needed and will be planting more spring bulbs this autumn.

Spring and Autumn litterpicks found slim pickings in all but the deepest foliage, which is a tribute to the enthusiastic efforts of residents who pick up rubbish on a daily basis - you know who you are – Thank You!

The May SwapShop in Merrivale Square continues to have dedicated followers who look forward to cleansing their cupboards all year.

A joint OWRA/OWMC Rail Group has been actively promoted our interests during the very significant rail developments, updating via the Newsletter.

Waterside Events:

Last Year's Sports Day and BBQ were excellently run by a loyal team of volunteers and on a beautiful day the Square was full of fun and frolics.

International Picnic, despite slightly dodgy weather the range of nationalities and gastronomic delicacies was wonderful and many new friendships created.

We had a great Hallowe'en party - kindly sponsored by Penny and Sinclair...with fabulous pumpkins and amazing costumes, prizes and pinatas. Over 60 people attended and we definitely hope to repeat the event again this year for spooky fun!

We held a lovely Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday with coffee kindly sponsored by Starbucks and delicious goodies to eat from Waterside residents. Thanks to Emma Dadson for organising such terrific childrens events during the year.

Christmas Carols; thanks to our resident Choirmaster David Crown we sang atmospheric carols in the Square before Christmas, a welcome return to our agenda.

Waterside Communications: A new noticeboard is up at the Northern entrance to Waterside, partly funded by the City Council. Thanks to Aprajita for getting this sourced and Mary Ann for fitting. Thanks to Stuart Skyte and Sarah Monro for updating them.

Four newsletters have been published and paper copies distributed to all households (also via email where available).

The email list for sending OWRA and OWMC information now covers 111 individuals. Send an email to [owra.owmc@gmail](mailto:owra.owmc@gmail.com) to be added.

The website has been in a state of transition, as following complete refreshment of the site by Will Dale a couple of years ago, we have no resident webmaster....but plans are in place to change that and get it once more up to date and accurate.

A closed Facebook group has been created, is working well and has 43 members to date (see address below). Thanks to Emma Dadson for overseeing this group.

Welcome packs have been updated and new residents (not all, only the ones we get told about!) briefed on how to make the most of Waterside.

Your Committee:

The Committee comprising Emma Dadson, Mary Ann Dale, Kay Gordon, Richard Groves, Helen Saunders Gill and Aprajita Verma, met 5 times. They elected Kay Gordon as the new Chairman in July and co-opted Patrick Kershaw as Treasurer in April 2015. Aprajita Verma has stood down as Treasurer after 7 years on the Committee and Mary Ann Dale is also leaving the Committee in June. New Committee members are always welcome, call Kay on 0118 420532 to discuss.

**MINUTES of the OXFORD
WATERSIDE RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

**The fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Oxford
Waterside Residents' Association, 8pm, Friday 20
June 2014, St Margaret's Institute, Oxford**

Present: Felicity Hill (Breckon & Breckon), Stuart Skyte (chairman), Gillian Skyte, Jonathan Finnerty, Hugh Sutherland, Kay Gordon, Mary Ann Dale, Gill & Michael Atkinson, Di Lynch, Caro Fickling, Pat Hafferty, Sheila Ottway, Gerard van Gelder, Pam Barnacal, Liz & Patrick Kershaw, Alastair Baxter, Aprajita Verma, Helen & Colin Saunders, David & Gwyneth Johnson, Jenny Griffiths, Mark Soames, Barbara Latham, Di Newell, Fay Owen, John Krebs, Emma Dadson, Bob Adams, Mike Ward, Andy Martin, Virginia & Alan Allport, David Scott, Chris Ballinger, Mr & Mrs Such, Sylvia Bronk, John & Tricia Patrick, Roger Trafford.

Welcome and apologies: Apologies were received from Elizabeth Woodward, Sarah Phibbs, Chris Kenyon, Deborah Gewirtz.

1 Minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved.

2 The report of the committee on its activities since June 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Key points highlighted by the chairman covered: The purchase of two large picnic tables for the Square with the surplus from last year's annual BBQ; the e-mail list managed by OWRA but for use by both the Residents' Association and Management Board for rapid/cost-effective information to residents; the success of the volunteer "garden potterers" in enhancing the work of the estate gardeners; the new bench on Rutherway which had been installed by the Management Board following a recommendation from OWRA; the continued good relationships and contact with our MP and City and County councillors; the redesigned and revamped OWRA website (thanks to William Dale); and the thermal imaging work undertaken in conjunction with the Canalside Environment Group.

3 The accounts for the year were approved. These showed income at £985, expenditure at £680 and a year-end balance of £1,768.

4 Outgoing chairman's statement. Stuart Skyte craved the indulgence of the meeting – his last as chairman and OWRA committee member – to express some views on Oxford Waterside. He said the Residents' Association had done a lot of good things in its first 15 years and had always sought to look after the best interests of Waterside and its residents. It had been a privilege serving as chairman for all this time.

5 The AGM agreed "that the annual fee for the Oxford Waterside Residents' Association should remain at £5 per household".

6 Election of the committee: The AGM approved the list of names of people who had self-nominated for the committee. These were: Emma Dadson, Mary Ann Dale, Kay Gordon, Richard Groves, Helen Saunders and Aprajita Verma.

7 Issues raised from the floor: These covered the importance of putting the AGM notice and papers on the OWRA website; the importance generally of putting OWRA and Management Board minutes on the website; and a question about the number of OWRA memberships.

8 Presentation to Stuart Skyte: Aprajita Verma thanked Stuart Skyte for all he had done as OWRA chairman and presented him with a brass plaque (which will be attached to the new bench on Rutherway).

The meeting closed at 8.25pm