

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

February 2017: Issue 64

Read this edition carefully... there is a lot going on!

Facebook Neighbourhood Watch has helped reduce crime on Waterside;

We are planning community action on gardens at Easter:

Consultation on electric charging points for Waterside;

Lots of dates for your diary

Waterside Diary Dates



Litterpick Saturday 3rd March

Meet at 10:30 in Merrivale Square to pick up your litterpickers and bags.

Easter Egg Hunt

This event will be held over the Easter Weekend, the details will be posted on Facebook shortly and in all the usual places in good time.



Summer Sports and BBQ Saturday 9th 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.

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

OWRA & OWMC AGMs

Tuesday 8pm 26th June 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.

Interested in reading Travel writing?

There is interest in forming a Waterside book club focussed on travel writing. If you enjoy reading travel-related books and would like to join, please email Sarah Munro at sarahjmunro@hotmail.com

OWRA WEBSITE

Yes, this was in the last Newsletter, but most of you ignored it.....

It has been a long time since our website was up to date. We have been working on a new structure that allows easier updating and are preparing to launch a new version that we hope will provide you, and potential residents, with a really useful information resource.

We need your help! to create a new

recommended **TRADESPEOPLE** listing.

Please email Sarah Munro

sarahjmunro@hotmail.com with details of any tradesperson you have been pleased with and would recommend to your Waterside neighbours (your name will not be shown on the final listing). Please email your suggestions in this format:

Name, What they did for you, Contact details. E.g.:

Drew Warren

Carpentry, Joinery, Painting & Decorating Loft conversions and extensions

Tel: 01865 300977

Mob: 07973 802315

Also, we have the opportunity to include some

photographs of the Waterside area. Please

send your pics to owra.owmc@gmail.com

Pictures should be high definition landscape format.

Neighbourhood Watch moves to Facebook

We've seen a drop in the number of opportunistic crimes within Waterside as of late, which is a very welcome change. The community on Facebook has helped enable this with neighbours being in close contact about any suspicious activity and sharing tips to curtail crime. A recent example was the activity seen within a drugs-related car parked on Plater Drive, which Watersiders were tracking in real time on the closed Waterside Facebook group. If it's happening in Waterside, we'll be talking about it on Facebook! Thank you to all who contribute important info and tips here.

Note that the name of the group on Facebook is called 'Oxford Waterside'. It is a closed group and thus anyone wishing to join must make a request. For anyone not on Facebook, please get in touch with Allison Hood.

Another security-related note is that the Management Company has installed lockable gates onto back alleys, thus deterring entry.

Electric vehicle charging points on Waterside

Because of the inevitable rise in the number of electric vehicles OWMC are interested in putting together a list of those interested in having access to electric car charging points. It may be worth approaching a company to work across the estate, funded by a group of individuals to reduce costs. Please contact Caro at carolyn@carofickling.co.uk stating if you have a parking space outside your property or if you have a space in a separated parking area. There are charging solutions for individual and shared usage.

Railways

Network Rail commissioned WS Atkins to monitor noise levels in December in Waterside, as well as on William Lucy Way and Roger Dudman Way. The report, which is available from John Krebs, shows that noise levels have not increased substantially since 2015.

Efforts are being made with Network Rail and the City Council to reduce the amount of idling by freight trains just to the North of Walton Well Road. Progress is slow, but we will continue to press on this matter.

Grounds

Nicholsons are just completing their first year maintaining common areas and have substantially improved the appearance of the gardens. In the months ahead, shrubs and other plants that are overgrown and/or have passed their best will be cut back or replaced.

Further hedging whips have also been planted at the Aristotle Lane entrance to counter graffiti.

Community action on gardens

YOU as residents are responsible for your own gardens, including the small pieces of ground in front of their houses. In some areas, these have become overgrown and untidy, often spreading out onto the public pavement, and some of the shrubs need replacing. As an experiment, we will be asking the residents in the Balliol Court area if they would be prepared to contribute to hiring a green skip at Easter, to enable them to clear out overgrown shrubs and weeds. In discussion with Nicholsons, we are proposing to offer ADVICE on when and how to cut back, reshape or replace the different types of shrub in Waterside, help with lending TOOLS, so you can tackle the job, and the means of disposing of the GREEN WASTE generated by this activity. To do this we need to know who would be interested in participating (lending tools as well as using them), and if you would be willing to donate £15 to get rid of the green waste, please mobilise your neighbours to join in!

Contact us on owra.owmc@gmail.com to express interest in our Easter action.

Chucking your garden refuse over the fence into the canal, drainage channel or Aristotle Lane recreation ground is not an option... If you need regular disposal of garden waste, paying an annual fee of £48 to the Oxford City Council for a brown bin is highly recommended.

Your OWRA committee

New members always welcome!

Kay Gordon (Chair), 10 Merrivale Sq. 420532
Patrick Kershaw (Treasurer), 11 Merrivale Sq. 311146

Allison Hood, 16 Plater Drive. 07469259510

John Krebs, 24 Balliol Court. 435255

Sarah Munro, 9 The Villas. 580650

Helen Saunders-Gill, 50 Balliol Court. 515547