

# Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

October 2019: Issue 69

*Another splendid BBQ in June and a very sociable International Lunch in September have rounded off a classic Waterside summer for us all. The BBQ raised £300 for this year's charity SeeSaw, who support bereaved children and young adults. We have a new committee member, Sam Mahony who is keen to engage with our children's activities, if you would like to get more involved with Waterside life then our committee is all about having more fun or see overleaf if you are or have been a keen gardener, or want your say on electric vehicle charging.*



## Waterside Diary Dates



Halloween falls in half term this year, and as many of us are away, there will not be the usual Halloween party,

BUT we are planning a Christmas party instead! Date not yet confirmed, but keep an eye on Facebook and the Noticeboards nearer the time; likely to include carols, mince pies, mulled wine, kids activities and a bad Christmas jumper competition! So start digging out those beauties to wear with pride! Remember when trick or treating, please only knock on doors with a pumpkin or Halloween decorations.

### **Have you noticed the food waste strewn about on a Friday morning?**

If you leave **food waste in a plastic bag or on the ground**, even in a green food waste bin, the foxes, squirrels and rats will have a feast, and they are messy eaters.

This is becoming a nuisance, please talk to your neighbours if they don't understand the problem.

New small and large green food bins are available from Oxford City Council **FREE**. Collect from St Aldate's customer service centre OX1 1DS; or Marsh Road Depot OX4 2HH.

## Oxfordshire County Council consultation on traffic reduction around Oxford

**The County Council are collecting responses until 20<sup>th</sup> October about proposed traffic restrictions (similar to the camera-enforced restrictions on the High Street) that will have a large impact on North Oxford.**

Living as close as we do to the city centre, we all have a vested interest in reducing traffic and air pollution, and many of us already travel whenever possible by foot/bicycle/bus. But these restrictions would force anyone in North Oxford who needs a vehicle (such as older, disabled, and other vulnerable members of our community) to drive all the way around the ring road to access the JR, or the shops on Botley Road, or the Westgate, or Cowley and Iffley. It's important to reduce traffic in Oxford, and important that we aren't penalising OX1 and OX2 residents who have both the most to gain and the most to lose! Please have your say by participating online - response quantity is important! <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/resident/s/roads-and-transport/connecting-oxfordshire/connecting-oxford>

*If you would like to help with any of our events contact us on [owra.owmc@gmail.com](mailto:owra.owmc@gmail.com)*

# Oxford Waterside Management

**Company** is a formal body registered with Companies House, owners have one share per property in the company. Directors (a voluntary position) are elected by the shareholders at the AGM. The directors meet about 5 times per year and take responsibility for managing the communal areas including carparks, paths, Merrivale Square and all other grounds. It agrees the annual service charges (which compare very favourably with other local estates) and appoints the managing agents who deal with all day-to-day matters including collection of the service charges (some owners have not yet paid for this year!). In addition, the Board upholds the covenants on Waterside property; taking legal advice on preventing multiple occupancy of houses; advising owners on appropriate changes to properties; surveying the condition of the infrastructure and taking action to carry out remedial work.

Over the past year the service charges have funded all routine maintenance of common areas, repainting of the black metal railings, extra gardening activity to start a rolling programme of improvement.

Waterside was first occupied 22 years ago, and the grounds are now showing signs of age. Over the next year you will notice significant activity to refresh the estate:

- Hedges are being trimmed back to ensure clear space for paths, bikes and cars.
- Railings on Rutherway retaining wall will be refixed with new footings.
- All paths will be surveyed to identify areas for repair.
- Extensive replanting of over-mature shrubs and dead trees.
- Refreshing the flowerbeds to bring in more summer colour.
- Investigation of potential approaches to improve some poor lawn areas
- Annual review of Nicholson's gardening contract in the New Year.
- Funding was given to plant native climbers by the canal at the back of Rutherway, preventing graffiti.

## Your OWRA committee

Kay Gordon (Chair), 10 Merrivale Sq. 420532

Allison Hood, 16 Plater Drive. 07469 259510

Sam Mahony, 39 Plater Drive. 07739 009640

Sarah Martin, 49 Plater Drive. 07970 100286

Sarah Munro, 9 The Villas. 580650

Jen Watkiss (Treasurer), 28 Plater Drive. 514615

## Would you like to be more involved in the development of our communal gardens?

A new garden group is being put together to advise and practically help with planting. There is a budget to carry out additional work so if you are interested in gardening or leading this group please Email John Krebs on [john.krebs@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.krebs@zoo.ox.ac.uk)

## What should Waterside do about electric vehicle charging?

OWMC has a new working group addressing this issue, led by Di Newell. Contact her to get involved and express your views on [dinewell.dn@gmail.com](mailto:dinewell.dn@gmail.com)

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*The number of abandoned bikes on our racks has reached critical mass, so **A BIKE CULL** will take place this Autumn. If you have a bike on one of the Waterside Racks a notice will be attached to it with instructions, to show ownership just remove the tag. Any remaining tagged (unclaimed) bikes will be removed and sent to charity after a decent interval. If you need more racks near your home please contact the Managing Agent [katie@breckon.co.uk](mailto:katie@breckon.co.uk)*

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**A note on parking permits:** On-road parking for visitors (not residents), marked restricted to 'Permit Holders Only' is available throughout Waterside. This is controlled by the Council and regularly patrolled by traffic wardens. Watersiders can apply once a year online to Oxford County Council for 25 x 24hr free "Visitors Parking Permits". Another 25 can be purchased for £20 6 months later, they are only valid for 3 years so check your dates. Evidence of residency is required: A current fully signed, termed tenancy agreement, council tax bill, bank or credit card statement or a utility bill issued within the last 3 months to your address.