

# Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

September 2015: Issue 56

*Waterside has more than its fair share of selfless individuals who give up their time to support community issues. This edition carries their news about the perpetual push back against Network Rail, conquering our graffiti nightmares, and the continuing action to maintain and improve the landscaping of the estate. Thank you!*

## Autumn 2015 Diary Dates

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## Graffiti

### Waterside Garden Group

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2pm in Merrivale Square. Bulb planting and litterpicking, bring your bulb planting tools! For more information contact [owragardens@hotmail.com](mailto:owragardens@hotmail.com) All welcome.

### Hallowe'en Children's Party



Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October  
This Party was a huge success last year, and has repeat sponsorship from Penny & Sinclair, but needs extra helpers to set up and run every year. Please contact [owra.owmc@gmail.com](mailto:owra.owmc@gmail.com) NOW and it will happen!

### Waterside Carol Singing

21<sup>st</sup> December 4pm in Merrivale Square  
Bring a torch to read by.



## Early Planning for 2016

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The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday!

### Waterside Website

The website is looking very sad and out of date, but we are busy making a new version that will be easier to update and can rapidly reflect current news and information. We have a new volunteer website manager – Alex Cadoux-Hudson, and he is keen to get it back on track. If you have anything you would like to see in the new version let us know at [owra.owmc@gmail.com](mailto:owra.owmc@gmail.com)

Police are actively prosecuting and jailing offenders, but still the 'tags' appear around Waterside. There have been a number of meetings between OWMC, local City Councillors and Poly Smart, the City Council Graffiti Officer. OWMC now proposes to take matters into its own hands and tackle this scourge the minute it arrives. We will achieve this by reducing the potential for tagging and also reporting and cleaning up promptly.

OWMC is proposing:

- Assessment of graffiti 'Hotspots' to determine best treatment.
- Anti-graffiti finishes being applied to walls
- Planting by vulnerable fences (see Landscape News overleaf)
- Rapid reporting and removal
- OWMC funding for equipment and materials (and contractors if needed) to remove graffiti on OWMC property and residents' walls (with permission).

### To do this we need volunteers:

7 or more volunteer 'Graffiti Monitors' needed from across Waterside to monitor their local area. The task is to record (for potential prosecution) and report all graffiti to the City Council Streetscene Team, and where it is our responsibility (OWMC and residents' property) contact the contractor or tackle the problem themselves (with training).

Please email [jonathan.finnerty@virginmedia.com](mailto:jonathan.finnerty@virginmedia.com) if you are prepared to help with this modest task.

Also, could the person who kindly painted the rendered wall panels on Rutherway get in touch – we need to know what paint was used before applying a transparent anti-graffiti lacquer.

## Landscape News

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### Rutherway Trees

As many residents will be aware, the alder trees on Rutherway are too large and will continue to grow. The roots are raising the tarmac on the footpath and the trees are taking too much light from the Villas. After much discussion and consultation it has been decided to remove all the alders in front of the Villas and to replace them with smaller, more appropriate, street trees. Subject to receiving an acceptable quote from the contractors, it is planned to remove the alder trees during the autumn (probably in early November) and grind out the stumps to allow replanting. The earth will be left to settle before replanting with new trees early in the New Year, weather permitting. The removal of the alders will, of course, have a significant impact on the appearance of Rutherway, but once the new trees are established, they will provide a very attractive entrance to the estate, without the disadvantages of the alders.

In consultation with the residents, three kinds of tree have been chosen: two varieties of Prunus (flowering cherries) that will flower at different times early in the year, and Amelanchier grandiflora "Robin Hill" (the serviceberry tree). The two Prunus varieties will have pink flowers and the Amelanchier white flowers, followed by berries and coloured autumn leaves. The trees will be planted in blocks to create a "rhythm" along Rutherway. Two alder trees will also be removed from the entrance to Balliol Court and replaced with species of hawthorn with interesting flowers, berries and autumn colour.

### Hedging along the fences at the Aristotle Lane entrance to Waterside

The fences often attract graffiti, and it is proposed to plant a mixture of native thorn trees along the fences to prevent future graffiti attacks. Three species, hawthorn, blackthorn and buckthorn, will make a hedge that is very attractive for wildlife. It is hoped to carry out this planting during the coming winter, and volunteers will be sought to help. Further details will follow once the plans are clearer.

### Railing against Network Rail

While much of the recent rail development activity has focused on the tracks north of Waterside, we are very much involved with Network Rail's (NR) attempt to push through a planning application which would leave us without any prospect of mitigation measures or noise and vibration monitoring after the event. Several residents submitted objections to the NR application and our views are supported by local Councillors. We wait to see what happens at the planning meeting.

Meanwhile, we continue to try to get a meeting with NR to discuss this and the sort of mitigation measures we might want. Unlike points north, we probably aren't looking for two-metre high acoustic screens alongside Waterside; instead, your rail group supports substantial new tree planting to screen both noise and the visual effect of more trains. And we will certainly push for the sort of post hoc monitoring they will get further north.

Works on the Aristotle Lane rail bridge will start in January, rebuilding the adjoining long wall at the rear of Plater Drive properties, with the whole project likely to be completed in June with the installation of the bridge the final element. Prepare for disruption of access to Port Meadow via Aristotle Lane. It's third time lucky as far as the new Aristotle Lane rail bridge is concerned, as previous delays have held up the project

### New Resident?

Contact Kay for a Welcome Pack full of useful Waterside information

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

### The OWRA committee

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

Richard Groves, 44 Merrivale Sq. 512375  
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