

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

August 2014: Issue 52

A big welcome from your committee, with new Chairman Kay Gordon, and new members Emma Dadson and Helen Saunders-Gill.

This summer has been enhanced by fine weather and lots of people using the picnic benches in Merrivale Square and our new Rutherway seat.

We are very sorry to lose Stuart Skyte as our Chairman: he and Gillian deserve a break after 15 years of dedication and hard work building the community spirit and engagement that makes Waterside such a special place!

A date for your diary: International Picnic from 12:30 on Saturday 4th October 2014

This very successful annual lunch is an opportunity for new residents to meet their neighbours. Everyone brings food from their native land and the Brits bring the drinks.

In previous years we have tasted dishes from Russia, Japan, China, India, Spain, Italy, Germany, Sri Lanka, Holland, Israel, France, Pakistan, America, Malaysia...and English sausages.

Just bring enough food/drink, your own plate, cutlery and glass, so that we can all share in the good life and enjoy each other's company, whatever the weather.

All ages are very welcome. Please help by bringing chairs, tables, picnic rugs and anything else to increase comfort and fun.

We need someone to freshen up this Newsletter

If you are interested in helping create and improve this newsletter 3-4 times annually, please let us know.

Temporary Editor Kay will stick with the format used since 2000, but new ideas are needed.

We have a Facebook Group for Oxford Waterside residents!

You can join by going to www.facebook.com/groups/OxfordWaterside and clicking 'request to join', or ask an existing member.

The Group is 'closed', so only Oxford Waterside residents can join and see the content. Anything inappropriate will be taken down by the administrators.

We're hoping that this will be a great way of helping each other out – perhaps renewing the babysitting circle of old, borrowing things from each other, passing on recommendations for contractors (which we will also add to the website). We can also send out reminders for events like the International Picnic or put the word out for any impromptu events like Easter egg hunts and picnics in the square!

If you've any questions, please email emmadadson77@gmail.com.

Railway News

The new bridge over the railway at Aristotle Lane is still under planning discussion, so don't expect anything concrete (!) before March 2015.

There will be a meeting with our MP in the near future.

www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk

BBQ and Sportsday

Stuart Skyte presided over the sports in the afternoon, with a splendid megaphone and many enthusiastic families. Over 200 people attended the BBQ, at the end of a perfect Summer Day. The real ale and champagne flowed and the food sizzled.

The £250 surplus from the event, plus £48 from Robert Doorley's sponsored Duke of Edinburgh Award, has been donated to Helen and Douglas House. If you'd like to join the team organising next year's event, contact Stuart on 559618 or at skytes@tiscali.co.uk.

Management Board

The Noticeboard now carries a summary of board meetings.

At the AGM it was agreed that a note from the Management Board clarifying the terms of parking in residents visitor parking spaces would be made available (hopefully on the website soon), and that a survey of car/bike ownership would be carried out to help understand the pressure points. The more people that participate, the better the picture for the Board and the easier any difficult decisions.

Traffic

The speed limit is 20mph in Waterside, and they are now prosecuting if you exceed 24mph. Also watch out for cars (not just bikes...) going the wrong way round Merrivale Square!

Membership of OWRA

Any resident or owner can become a member of OWRA; your £5 annual membership pays for the newsletters, website and associated costs. Contact Aprajita for a form.

Waterside Gardening Group

These residents meet monthly on the last Monday of the month at 2pm in Merrivale Square, for a couple of hours. We tackle communal areas that need extra attention, plant bulbs in the Autumn, and discuss and plan new planting ideas. We also would like to add litter picking to the Garden Group Monday. We have litter picking sticks, so if you would like to join us, but not for gardening then please do. New members are welcome, just come along.

The tree chosen at the AGM to replace the Holm Oak that died in Merrivale Square will be a Cornus (DogWood) It has both Spring and Autumn Colour and will be planted this Autumn.

Questions, suggestions, complaints, ideas to Mary Ann Dale or owragardens@hotmail.com

Website update

The website has been updated and enhanced over the past year by Will Dale. Updates to the Tradesmen section, omissions and improvements are always sought.

A section on maintenance and refurbishment has been suggested, as our houses reach the 15 year mark and are starting to need more tlc. Suggestions to Kay please.

New Resident?

Contact Kay for a Welcome Pack full of useful Waterside information

The OWRA committee

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