

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

March 2016: Issue 58

If you enjoy these Newsletters, the social events, or the information resources maintained by Oxford Waterside Residents Association please slip £5 into the Membership Subscription envelope to support us for another year.

Tenant or owner, you are ALL welcome to join in, you can also volunteer to help with our activities – just send us an email at owra.owmc@gmail.com.

Waterside Diary Dates

CHANGED DATE

The **Easter Egg Hunt** is on **EASTER FRIDAY 25th March**

Parents are invited to hide 10 eggs in Merrivale Square for each of their participating children by 9.30am (foil covered eggs, or mini eggs/stickers/sweets in a plastic kinder egg style plastic shell) so that there will be enough eggs for all children.

Feel free to bring potluck/brunch/cake goodies.

If you would like to participate, please email emmadadson77@gmail.com so we have a rough idea of numbers.



The **Oxford Canal Festival** will be at Aristotle Lane Recreation Ground on the afternoon of **Saturday 25th June**. This will be a free community event to revive a successful festival previously organised by British Waterways. There will be a selection of local food stalls, a music stage, many children's games, sports events, a dog show and a bar. Volunteers will be needed on the day, so please contact James Fry on cllrifry@oxford.gov.uk

The Residents' Association &

Management Company AGMs will be from 8pm on **Tuesday 28th June** in the St Margarets' Institute, Polstead Road. Look out for more OWRA information in our next newsletter, please contact us if you are interested in becoming more involved. OWMC comprises home owners (shareholders) elected at the AGM to uphold the covenants and look after the common areas of land owned by the company.

Forget about Ascot, Glyndebourne,

Wimbledon.....the social highlight of the year will

be the annual **OWRA BBQ** on **Saturday 2 July** in Merrivale Square. It might be a little premature to dig out your t-shirt and shorts, but it's not too soon to start thinking how you might wish to help on the day or even beforehand. At the very least, please put the date in your diary.

In the afternoon we shall be closing the Square to traffic for the **Merrivale Olympics**...many have already started fitness training for the slow cycling, wellie throwing and the egg and spoon races. Small groups of residents are organising both events and, if you'd like to join them, contact us on owra.owmc@gmail.com

TRAIN UPDATE

At the time of going to press, we are setting up a meeting with Network Rail to get some answers to questions about night freight train number projections and the timing of the expected changes...given that there have been significant delays in every aspect of the track developments. We will also seek to persuade Network Rail to agree to meet with Waterside residents to answer any questions and concerns. Meanwhile, work continues on the new path from Aristotle Lane up to what will become the new bridge, probably in early Autumn.

While most of the track changes are currently taking place further north, there is bound to be some overnight and weekend working when the work moves south. We have told Network Rail that, while we understand why this has to be done overnight, we do expect notice of such working.

We are directly and indirectly keeping in touch with our MP on the whole issue in case she needs to take up any points on our behalf with Network Rail and/or the Minister.

Grounds News

Residents will have noticed that the work on the Italian alder trees in front of the Villas on Rutherway has been completed. Three trees have been removed and replaced with flowering cherries (*Prunus* 'Sunset Boulevard') and the remaining trees have been pruned to reduce their crown height and spread. One of the alders outside Balliol Court has also been removed and replaced with a silver birch (*Betula utilis jacquemontii*). This work was carried out under a Tree Preservation Consent Order from the City Council.

At the Aristotle Lane entrance to Waterside, a mixed hedge of native trees and shrubs, designed to encourage insects and birds, has been planted along the fence that runs East-West. This is to discourage graffiti. When the works on the Aristotle Lane bridge are completed, a similar hedge will be planted along the North-South fence.

OWMC FAQs

Who should I contact if I need more bike parking?

The Managing Agent

When will the new bike racks in Balliol Court be put up?

Once the frost is past, as you cannot concrete at low temperatures.

What do I do if a bike is abandoned on the racks?

Contact the Managing Agent who will tag it and remove it after a decent interval.

When will the new 12hr visitor parking notices be put up?

New parking signs for short term 'visitor' parking on Waterside, clearly indicating a 12 hour limit, are currently being sourced and should be erected as soon as possible.

Your managing agent is Felicity Hill at Breckon & Breckon felicity@breckon.co.uk

Telephone 01865 727272

Waterside Website Update

We will shortly have a working copy of the new website and would welcome some tradespeople updates and feedback on the content before we launch it.

Contact us in the usual place.....

owra.owmc@gmail.com

New Resident?

Contact Kay for a Welcome Pack full of useful Waterside information

If you email us on owra.owmc@gmail.com we will add you to the mailing list for circulation of relevant useful information. People on the list get this Newsletter by email – get on it now!

Castle Mill Flats

On March 16 the University Estates Department held a public meeting to seek views on the mitigation measures that the University will implement to reduce the visual impact of the flats. There will be a formal consultation on the proposals later in the year, but this meeting allowed people to input ideas to the architects at an early stage. The meeting was attended by Local Councillors, the Save Port Meadow Campaign, the Oxford Preservation Trust, local residents from William Lucy Way and Walton Street, the Cripsey Meadow allotment association, the architect's team, and members of the University Estates Department.

Many of the comments made related to measures that could break up the outline of the flats and/or reduce their visual impact, such as cladding with more sympathetic materials (wood, stone or brick), tree planting, and living walls. The architect explained that there are constraints imposed by the ability of the structure to support living walls, and there may be constraints of space for tree planting. It was confirmed that the mitigation measures would be applied to all sides of the buildings and not just to façade facing Port Meadow. The suggestions made during the evening were recorded and will feed into the architect's proposals for public consultation.

The OWRA committee

New members always welcome!

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

Emma Dadson, 47 Plater Drive. 460136

John Krebs, 24 Balliol Court. 435255

Sarah Munro, 9 The Villas. 580650

Helen Saunders-Gill, 50 Balliol Court. 515547