

OXFORD WATERSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No.83 February 2024

DOGS POOPING IN THE SQUARE – our gardeners, who are busy replanting the square, report negligent owners have allowed fouling of the flowerbeds. You know who you are, please respect the rules and keep this a pleasant area.

We are pleased to welcome Sheila Forbes onto our committee, but we need even more help to ensure Waterside activities continue.

Dates for your diary 2024

Waterside drop-in sessions

To ensure that you all get the opportunity to meet your neighbours and discuss your Waterside ideas and issues, we are resuming regular drop-in sessions on the 1st of each month where RA and Management Board members will attend when available:

Friday 1st March 10:30 – 12:00 @ 34 Plater Drive, hosted by Mary Ann.

Bank Holiday Monday 1st April 10:30 – 12:00 hopefully in Merrivale Square

Low Carbon Waterside a call to action!

There is a very important meeting on **Tuesday March 19th at 7pm** at the **Makespace Building** on the corner of **Aristotle Bridge** and **Hayfield Road**. See overleaf for details and booking

Waterside Litterpicking 4th May 2024 we can also lend litterpickers anytime.

Farewell Picnic Lunch Saturday 8th June 2024

I have always enjoyed our annual get-togethers in the Square and hope you will keep this date free to join me in celebrating my 10 years as Chair of your Residents Association, as I stand down to move on to other fun things.

Kay

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- We had a great turnout for our Carol singing in the square and our thanks to David and Jo Crown for taking the initiative and organising us.
 - Sadly our much enjoyed SwipSwap Shop will not reopen this Spring, the young proprietors must prioritise their studies – we shall miss their tireless attention.
 - The parking bay at the emergency exit to Aristotle Lane has been removed to ensure there is always enough room for emergency vehicles to pass.
 - The Waterside website has contact details for our managing agent Breckon & Breckon
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The Committee urgently need your help, volunteer NOW or lose OWRA!
Contact us in person or on owra.owmc@gmail.com

OXFORD WATERSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Kay Gordon (Chair) 10 Merrivale Square 07813 316473

Sarah Martin 49 Plater Drive 07970 100286

Jen Watkiss (Treasurer) 28 Plater Drive 514 615

Mary Ann Dale (Gardens) 34 Plater Drive 07786 245551

Sheila Forbes 30 Plater Drive

Oxford Waterside Management Company

Low Carbon Waterside – a Call to Action! 19th March 2024

Come and hear how we can work together to become a low carbon community on Waterside.

We all know how vital action on the climate emergency is to our future. Oxford Waterside Management Company (OWMC) Directors have developed an exciting low carbon vision for Waterside and they are keen to share it with residents and discuss how to take it forward: "To be a beacon of hope and progress that gives us cleaner air to fill our lungs, renewable energy to power our homes, and nature to thrive alongside us. Through collective action Oxford Waterside can be a greener, healthier low carbon community"

Collectively, we can forge ahead with installing renewables to generate solar power, decarbonise our cars, and heat our homes. A fifth of all carbon emissions come from buildings: with enhanced levels of insulation, solar power and heat pumps we can reduce our Co2 emissions and save money. There are real advantages in starting on this journey together now, including economies of scale and ensuring we develop a coherent estate aesthetic.

This meeting will focus on these energy issues. There will be input from Jonathan Finnerty, Low Carbon Lead for OWMC, and speakers from the City Council's environmental sustainability team and an expert in smart local energy systems. Questions will follow, then drinks and discussion with fellow residents.

Everyone is welcome. Tickets available here on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-vision-for-a-low-carbon-waterside-community-tickets-834720069197?aff=oddtcreator>

Waterside Gardens

There are several projects underway or completed. At the north end of the Estate, we have planted a mixed native hedge on the left as you go into Aristotle Lane. We are replacing the shrubs at the west end of Merrivale Square to provide more flowering shrubs and underplanting with colourful herbaceous perennials. We are also looking into options for levelling and improving the grass. As residents will be aware, box hedging throughout the estate is suffering from box caterpillar infestation. As a trial we are replacing the box hedging in front of the Crescent west side with Euonymus green spire, which is resistant to disease and insect attack and very attractive. More generally, we are aiming to develop a nature friendly approach to the Estate, including plants that encourage bees and other insects, composting our green waste instead of paying Nicholsons to take it away, and providing nest boxes for house martins.

Fees Thank you everyone for paying your fees but please note a charge will be levied if you have to be chased more than once to cover the admin costs, which entails work over and above our contract with Breckon & Beckon as mandated in the covenants.

Merrivale Square car park wall is collapsing so needs replacing which will include setting a good foundation. A brick wall is very expensive so the MC are looking at strong alternatives with good foundations. Users of the car park are being consulted while the MC is planning to get best value for money without increasing the fees.