

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

October 2018: Issue 66

A big welcome to all the new residents who have joined us this Summer. We love to share useful knowledge, so look on the Website and our closed Facebook group to discover more about living here. The International Lunch hosted by Richard and Ying in early September was a lovely opportunity to meet the neighbours, and the amazing turnout for our June BBQ in June raised £300, which was donated to the My Life My Choice charity that supports young people with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire.

Sadly Patrick, our excellent Treasurer, is standing down due to pressure of real work, it is not an onerous job (basic spreadsheet), so please volunteer now!

Waterside Diary Dates

Hallowe'en 2018

Hallowe'en falls on a school day again this year, but we'd still hope to do something fun to mark the occasion in Waterside. Watch out for an update on our Facebook page as to the final plan.



Waterside Travel Book Club

This evening group meets approx. every 2-3 months to discuss our travel reading and plans and to share recommendations. If you enjoy travel and travel writing and would like to know more or to join, please let Sarah know sarahjmunro@hotmail.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! If new neighbours have arrived in the past few months let us know, so we can help get them get engaged with the Waterside life.

Pop – Up Vehicle Chargers

Oxford City Council has a £474,000 grant to trial pop-up electric vehicle chargers in an Oxford street. Following our spreading the message about this poorly advertised initiative, there were 4 nominations for Rutherford Way, and 4 for Plater Drive (that has underground utilities that would make installation difficult and no on-road Council monitored parking anyway). Watersiders comprised over half those requesting on-street chargers. This is not surprising, as you are an eco-friendly community and at least 70 homes cannot readily provide power to their parking space.



We shall know if we have been successful in getting this opportunity this month, you can register for updates and find more information on

<https://consultation.oxford.gov.uk/consult.ti/OxPops1/consultationHome>

The city council said the 7kW chargers could charge an average electric vehicle with a 100-mile range in about four hours. Other electric cars could take six hours.

Railways

As promised by Network Rail, as a result of the new signalling system, freight trains are no longer idling just to the North of Walton Well Road bridge.

Network Rail have updated us on the current and future works on the track near Waterside, as follows: "There are some final works in the up carriage sidings, plus some minor snagging works to Castle Mill Stream. All this complete by Christmas or early January. We then have the shutters building and provision of the enhanced power supplies, dates not yet confirmed: this work will be done to the driver building next to the station."

In addition to this work, Network Rail is returning the ditch by the Trap Grounds to its original route, so that it will drain into the ditch behind Plater Drive West and Balliol Court, and thence via the ditch on Rutherway into Castle Mill Stream.

The service road that lies between the rail track and Waterside is continuing to be used because there is storage depot by the Aristotle Lane bridge.

Grounds

Oxford City Council, which is the riparian owner of the Spinney side of the ditch on Rutherway, has agreed, in due course, some clearance work to allow water to flow freely into Castle Mill Stream.

Nicholsons have removed some dead trees and branches from the grounds behind Aristotle Court and by the Aristotle Court car park, as well as pruning the hornbeams in front of the East side of the Crescent. Shrubs and trees on Waterside suffered from water stress during the long hot summer, and some may look as though they have died. However, with luck they will recover next spring and will not be removed unless Nicholsons are sure they are dead.

Fairy Lights

Will be coming to Merrivale Square again over the dark Winter nights



Graffiti continues to be a problem, and OWMC have agreed a budget for use of Council services to remove them from Waterside property as soon as possible. If you see new graffiti please take a picture and post onto <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> This also works for pot holes and street lighting.

Other OWMC news

New Board members Anna Steven and Dianne Newall volunteered to join the Board after the June AGM. Mary Ann Dale has stood down. Homeowners will be reminded of their responsibility to let Waterside houses only to single households.

Waterside website

Check out the Waterside website for more history and garden maps showing where Nicholsons should be working.

Tradespeople List: We've had lots of great contributions to our shared list of good local tradespeople - have a look at <https://www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk/> under the "Useful" tab. If you know someone good please recommend them to your neighbours! To add a new tradesperson to the list, either complete the online form or drop an email to Sarah sarahjmunro@hotmail.com with the details.

Your OWRA committee

New members always welcome!
Kay Gordon (Chair), 10 Merrivale Sq. 420532
Patrick Kershaw (Treasurer), 11 Merrivale Sq. 311146
Allison Hood, 16 Plater Drive. 07469259510
John Krebs, 24 Balliol Court. 435255
Sarah Munro, 9 The Villas. 580650
Helen Saunders-Gill, 50 Balliol Court. 515547