

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

November 2014: Issue 53

A bumper pre-Christmas Newsletter includes a special report from the very active Railways Group, parking information and updates from your Committee

Our hopes for New Year are that we can continue to expand the range of activities, maintaining the old favourites and introducing some more child centred events, let us know your ideas!

Christmas Tree Shredding & Community Carol Singing

Look out for notices in December.

OW Parking Survey

You will have received through your letterbox or by email an invitation to participate in a survey of car parking on Waterside in support of the Oxford Waterside Management Company.

You have until 30th November to go to <https://surveymonkey.com/s/SNMV3J9> and register your views. Non-car owners should participate, just leave no answer to 'number of cars'

International Picnic

This got off to a wet start, but as the weather improved it became a success with about 20 families attending and families from at least 12 Countries including Australia, New Zealand, Hungary, Venezuela, Russia, China, Malaysia, France, Britain, Germany, India and Canada. A great big thank you to all who provided such an interesting mix of delicacies and beverages.

Babysitting

Can you provide names & numbers of babysitters for the families on Waterside. If you have a babysitter who would like to be on our Facebook page (a closed group) then please let Emma know! Currently we have two young adults on the list who come highly recommended! Go to our Facebook group (address below).

Hallowe'en Party

It was lovely to see so many families at our inaugural Waterside Hallowe'en Party! Some wonderful costumes, amazing pumpkins and splendid chocolate frog detectives! Thank you so much to Penny and Sinclair for providing sponsorship so we could decorate Merrivale Square for the evening and provide some drinks and prizes for children, and to Emma for single-handedly organising it.

We'd love to do it again next year, earlier so it's not quite so dark, and better, maybe with some food (hot dogs / toffee apples), but we'd need some volunteers to help organise so let Emma know if you would like to help!

It was disappointing that after our delightful event in the Square the Waterside area was mobbed by crowds of older revellers and a bike and scooter were stolen, although Waterside seems relatively crime-free you should always lock bikes/doors etc.

Waterside Garden Group

Any residents who have an interest in how Waterside gardens look and progress are invited to meet together, discuss, plan and do some practical work or litterpicking on the last Monday of each month at 2pm in Merrivale Square. Recently we have planted bulbs around the bench in Rutherway and in the wooden tubs. Work is currently being done to assess the future of the Alder trees along Rutherway. They are not yet full height and are blocking light from the houses behind, and there is root damage to the pavements.

Advice is being sought on thinning the tree canopy or removal and replacement with more suitable sized trees.

Send comments or suggestions regarding Waterside grounds to owragardens@hotmail.com

Thermal Imaging

Following your enthusiastic interest in how Waterside houses lose heat, the CEG have booked the camera for the last 2 weeks in January. In addition to the guidelines already on our website, Mike Atkinson has produced a fact sheet on special problems with houses like his, where the top floor windows interrupt the gutter line, this will be on the website soon.

If you would like to be audited in January contact Kay NOW for more information.

Railway news update

There is currently a lot of activity along the railway lines, more is planned and the end result will be more, possibly faster trains, with the likelihood of additional noise and vibration. The good news is that a small group of Waterside residents has been engaged for more than a year in gauging the impact of all this on our community; communicating with other residents' associations, local councillors and our MP; and exploring the best ways of mitigating increased noise and vibration. This is a joint OWRA/Management Company group.

We've tried on several occasions to get Network Rail to understand that, if they're going to work through the night and/or at weekends, they should let local people know in advance. They have once or twice but they're not great at what is basic PR and politeness. We'll keep on at them.

A fuller report from the group is attached.

The group will continue to keep residents up to date with any developments.

OWRA membership & email list

If you have enjoyed any of our publications & events, please join the Residents Association. It's only £5 a year and we work hard on your behalf. If you email Aprajita on owra.owmc@gmail.com she will add you to the mailing list for circulation of useful information and this newsletter, and help you dig some small change out of your pocket.

Summary of Waterside parking rules

Almost all properties have only one allocated parking space, which may be an off-road space or a garage. Planning permission for the development was granted on this basis, to restrict car ownership and traffic. If you are a tenant, your landlord or letting agent should have made it clear which space is yours. Please park with consideration for your neighbours by only occupying your own space. You may not park in someone else's space.

Visitor Spaces

Please make sure your visitors park in an appropriate space. There are three types of potential parking spots:

1. A few off-road parking spaces marked 'Residents Visitors', these must be used for no more than 12 hours, and are not intended for residents cars (particularly second cars!) as this would seriously inconvenience your neighbours. These off-road spaces are under the control of the Management Company and subject to restrictive covenants forming part of the house purchase contract.
2. On-road parking, restricted to 'Permit Holders Only'. This is controlled by Oxford City Council and regularly patrolled by traffic wardens. There are no resident permits for these bays, but you can freely obtain up to 50 24hour permits each year by applying to the Oxford Parking Shop, Speedwell Street OX1 1NE, with evidence of residency (see website for details)
3. Some inset bays in Plater Drive are unrestricted (marked with a faded blue P).

New Resident?

Contact Kay for a Welcome Pack full of useful Waterside information

The OWRA committee

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