

# Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

October 2020: Issue 72

*We have lots of activities for our kids over the half term holiday, if you want to participate then read on, but if you want to be left alone then please put no Hallowe'en related decorations out front.*

*We hope to continue Covid friendly Waterside activities in 2021... send us your ideas!!!*

*Oxfordshire County Council decided not to proceed with the proposed bus gates as part of Emergency Active Travel Fund. That means they're off the agenda, certainly for now, although the Connecting Oxfordshire initiative with many many bus gates is still live. Waterside spoke at the meeting, outlining our concerns, and this can be read on <https://www.oxfordwaterside.co.uk/bus-gates-and-ltns> Walton Street Low Traffic Neighbourhood is still under discussion. Alternative plans are under development by groups representing "JerichoConnections", and "Jericho LTN". The budget potentially available stands at just £52,000 so ambitious changes are unlikely to go ahead, but hopefully the environment can be improved for all users. We shall keep you informed...*

## Waterside Diary Dates

See over the page for Hallowe'en activities notes.

### Hallowe'en Trail through Waterside

from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November

### Pumpkin Carving competition

Judging outside your house on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>

October at 18:30

### Waterside Trick or Treat

A day early on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October to avoid crowding. If you wish to be called on please advertise through a display in your windows or outside your house.

## RATS

Waterside is well named, we are surrounded by water; canal, drainage ditches, the River Thames. This is the home of numerous water creatures who will come onto our properties if there is available food:

- Bird feeders with dropped grains/fat on the ground underneath, or food on the ground.
- Food waste in insecure containers. The green council food waste bins should always be stored locked closed, well above ground.
- If you have not got a bin, or the rats have eaten their way in, they will deliver bins to your door if you contact Oxford City Council [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)
- The Oxford Waterside Management Company is currently considering a pest control contract to cover rat control over the whole estate, as it is best managed holistically.

[www.facebook.com/groups/OxfordWaterside](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OxfordWaterside)

## How Covid friendly is our neighbourhood?

After the recent heavy rain and wind, many of our front gardens have foliage intruding onto the footpath, limiting the essential passing space needed to feel safe. If your neighbour has not got the tools to cut back bushes and hedges, please lend a hand, we all benefit from being able to socially distance within Waterside.

*If you do not cut back overhanging foliage it may be cut and you would be billed for the cost.*

Nicholsons are responsible for our common areas but you must attend to your front garden (normally the area between your property and the footpath). Other items blocking footpaths are bins left out for several days. BRING BINS IN PROMPTLY and if your neighbours are away then please pull them back to create clear walkways.

## Where can I store my bins?

You should ideally store your bins and food caddies, out of sight, on your own property. They should not be left out on the pavement, which obstructs people with pushchairs, disabled people etc; or obstructing communal areas, such as the car parks. Food caddies with contents should be locked closed and placed on top of wheelie bins to deter vermin. Certain items will not be collected, please check the Oxford City Council website: [www.oxford.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/recycling)

Waterside properties are legally covenanted to be occupied by one single household only. OWMC are currently actively pursuing those who breach the covenants using a specialist lawyer.

[www.OxfordWaterside.co.uk](http://www.OxfordWaterside.co.uk)



Halloween is fast approaching and OWRA have been thinking outside the box this year of ways to allow our kids to experience some of the traditions of the night, but in a Covid safe way.

### Trick or treating

One of the great aspects of Halloween usually is the large numbers of Trick or Treaters our neighboured receives, both from within and beyond Waterside. This year however that creates a new challenge. We have decided, in order to keep the numbers far lower, to organise a **Waterside Halloween Trick or Treat event** a day early on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October** between 17.30-18.30, which will not be advertised outside of Waterside. If you wish to join in as a trick or treater please **keep your group to maximum 6 people (including adults)**, keep your distance and please help to ensure your trick or treaters keep to one treat per child, as houses who choose to take part will not be able to hand out individual packets to each child so easily this year.

If as a household you would like to take part, as per previous years, please advertise this in some way – pumpkin in the window for example. We hope to make sure that people who do not want to take part/do not feel safe to, are not disturbed. Also, please choose treats that are individually wrapped and consider how you might hand these out whilst maintaining social distance! You could hang treats outside, place in a bowl, use a grabber, candy slide, be creative!!

We sincerely hope that we can manage to successfully conduct this event, keeping it to the smaller numbers of children who live in Waterside, whilst ensuring that everyone involved feels safe.

### Pumpkin judging

As well as this we will be holding the annual Pumpkin carving competition, which will be on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October** – please display your pumpkins for the judging panel ready for an 18.30 walk past!

### Halloween trail

This year we have also decided to run a Halloween trail from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. Find the 10 spooky pictures hidden around Waterside, each picture has a letter, unscramble the letters, what is the mystery Halloween object? Post your answer and address (and how many children took part) through 39 Plater Drive and a sweet treat will be posted back!

[www.facebook.com/groups/OxfordWaterside](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OxfordWaterside)

## Parking

Check the expiry date on your OCC **on road** visitor parking permits... they only last a couple of years! New ones can be obtained free online from Oxfordshire County Council

Residents have the right to park a fully taxed and licensed motor car in the **off road** space allocated to them and have the right to use the marked visitors spaces for up to 12 hours in any 24 hour period.



## Christmas

Although we will not be able to gather as a usual for Christmas, we would love to bring some Christmas cheer to Waterside as a community. We would encourage as many people as possible to hang a Christmas decoration in Merrivale Square. This can be home made or not! If you would like to, write a message to bring a smile to other Watersiders.

The lights are on in Merrivale Square and we would like to light up all Waterside in what will be a more difficult Christmas for many. If you feel able to, please hang up some outside lights, decorate your windows and let's make Waterside sparkle!

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*If you would like to help with any of these events contact us on [owra.owmc@gmail.com](mailto:owra.owmc@gmail.com)*

*We are looking for new committee members to join us in bringing the community together.*

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## OWRA AGM

OWRA held a virtual AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Minutes can be found on our website.

## Your OWRA committee

Kay Gordon (Chair), 10 Merrivale Sq. 420532

Allison Hood, 16 Plater Drive. 07469 259510

Sarah Martin, 49 Plater Drive. 07970 100286

Sarah Munro, 9 The Villas. 580650

Sam Mahony, 39 Plater Drive. 07739 009640

Jen Watkiss (Treasurer), 28 Plater Drive. 514615

[www.OxfordWaterside.co.uk](http://www.OxfordWaterside.co.uk)