

# BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013



*The same view as the December Newsletter but what a difference a couple of months make!!*



*Not enough of these ...*



*... and over crowded with these!*

Please send articles, advertising, photographs etc. for the June 2013 Newsletter to Fran, 78 Byewaters or email [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com)



Hi all,

Let us hope the winter is behind us now, with all the heavy snow and floods that have caused such havoc around the country well and truly gone, and that spring is well on the way. Of course spring means lots of new life on Byewaters with trees and shrubs bursting into blossom, all the birds starting to nest and on the water some ducklings and signets and of course more Canada geese! If only the swans were as successful on Byewaters in breeding that would definitely be something to see, lots and lots of swans and they are mute not like the Canada geese! As you can tell the geese are not my favourite but the other birds are very welcome. I suppose we should all be careful when it comes to our urban foxes as well, as they are not timid anymore and roam the estate without fear. It would be a good idea not to feed them as there have been

quite a few negative reports on them attacking children and adults. With all the wildlife we have we really could invite 'Spring Watch' to do their filming here and we could surely keep them busy for weeks. Enjoy the Spring and let's hope the Summer this year is going to be one to remember, for all the right reasons. Don't forget that in July we will hold our 6th Byewaters Picnic on the Green – date to be announced in the next newsletter. If you have an article bursting to get out send it to me and we can publish it in the next newsletter. \*\*\*\*\* AGM Wednesday 24th April 7.30 pm at Harvey Road School \*\*\*\*\*

Fran - Editor

Extra page of trades/services etc. on [www.byewatersnews.co.uk](http://www.byewatersnews.co.uk) (and in full colour) or (air your views) on [www.byewaters.blogspot.com](http://www.byewaters.blogspot.com) or Byewaters original website on [www.byewaters.co.uk](http://www.byewaters.co.uk) or if you need to contact the directors, email [directors@byewaters.co.uk](mailto:directors@byewaters.co.uk)

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## THANK YOU BYEWATERS & FRIENDS – CAROL SINGING FOR THE PEACE HOSPICE 2012



On Tuesday, 11th December we gathered in the bitter cold to sing for The Peace Hospice. There were 15 of us; it was the largest amount of 'carollers' we had achieved in our 5 years of carolling. Although it was absolutely freezing cold about -3 degrees, it was dry and we sang our little hearts out from 7.00pm until 8.30pm. Our numbers were boosted by members of the U3A and most of them sing in choirs, so we actually sounded pretty good. The Croxley Business Park also kindly donated towards our grand total. We raised £427.96 this year and our 5 year total now stands at £1,577.96. The hospice is always extremely grateful for our Christmas donation as they are funded mostly on donations and the work they do for the community is exceptional. If we can help them to keep on doing their excellent work it is worth battling with the cold for one night a year. Please join us next year you would be most welcome and it is for a very good cause. \*\*\* Don't forget the Starlight Walk 2013 \*\*\*

Fran

## A Note from the Directors BEMC (Byewaters Estate Management Company)



Each year we hold our Annual General Meeting to meet with the members of the company and provide reports on the management and finances of the estate over the past year. The meeting also votes to appoint or dismiss the volunteer directors who operate the company on behalf of those who own properties on the estate. This year the AGM will take place on Wednesday 24th April, 7.30pm at

Harvey Road School. Please put this date in your diaries - we hope to see you there. Further details and the agenda will be sent to owners a few weeks before the meeting.

If you have any questions or issue regarding estate matters please contact MCS customer services email [info@mcsproperty.com](mailto:info@mcsproperty.com), phone 01920 466500. You can also contact us directly at [directors@byewaters.co.uk](mailto:directors@byewaters.co.uk). Other information is available on the [www.byewaters.co.uk](http://www.byewaters.co.uk) website.

David Whittaker

## The Rickmansworth Festival – The Canal Festival of the Year

The Festival is now well established as a celebration of the waterways and the environment for twenty years. It's organised by the volunteers of Rickmansworth Waterways Trust, the Heritage Education charity, on the third weekend of May each year, on the last weekend of Rickmansworth Week, and is now the major event on the local calendar. The Festival is supported by Three Rivers District Council, the Canal and River Trust, Rickmansworth Chamber of Commerce and the Inland Waterways Association.

The original attraction for many are the boats – historic working boats to visit and watch, modern boats, steam boats...all sorts - over 100 boats will moor all along the towpath from Batchworth Lock to Stocker's Lock, presenting a real spectacle. There will also be a full programme of boat trips over the weekend, allowing visitors to take in the atmosphere of the Festival from the water. A main focus on and around the canal at Batchworth is the educational work of the Trust, with many activities for children and adults alike and the opportunity to navigate the locks of the Trust's unique working model canal system, "The Little Union Canal", as well as music and refreshments.

But the largest area of the Festival is in the Aquadrome. Here you'll find three music stages, the catering area, a hundred or so exhibitors and traders, the Three Rivers Environment Fair, the children's farm and the fairground. You'll find guided walks



around the Aquadrome area and fascinating and informative talks about the local flora and fauna.

The Rickmansworth Festival weekend is designed as a real community event for local families with something for everyone to enjoy. There's no charge for coming in - you'll be asked to make a donation, though, to sustain the Festival and support the Education work of the Trust,

and Byewaters residents will want to be generous!

See [www.rwt.org.uk/festival](http://www.rwt.org.uk/festival)

Fabian – Byewaters

## A New Byewater Babe Many Congratulations

Leonardo Kevin Hurley was born on 1st December, weighing in at a healthy 8lb 11oz. Proud parents Martin and Teresa are ensuring that Byewaters latest addition grows up appreciating our beautiful estate. He currently enjoys walking the dogs on the moors and feeding the ducks on the canal.



## Community Bus Service to Watford from Byewaters?



Croxley Green Parish Council runs a Community Bus into Watford Town Centre every Friday. **FREE for Senior Citizens.** It is a morning service with a 2 hour stay in Watford. I have made enquiries about the service being extended to Byewaters and they have asked for an idea of the number of persons who would be interested in using the bus. If you would want to use this service can you contact me as soon as possible. Telephone: 01923 234090 or email [ButlerJillM@aol.co.uk](mailto:ButlerJillM@aol.co.uk) Thank You - **Jill Butler**

me as soon as possible. Telephone: 01923 234090 or email [ButlerJillM@aol.co.uk](mailto:ButlerJillM@aol.co.uk) Thank You - **Jill Butler**



## FOOD WASTE BAGS

As mentioned in the last newsletter cornstarch bags are now available for your brown food scraps caddy and large brown bins. A great alternative to using old newspapers. They can be bought from Parish Council Offices and other places. The Hardware store at the beginning of Baldwins Lane (near the Harvester) is selling them at £2.50 for a roll of 52 bags which should last a year if you use one a week.



Still collecting email addresses, which are always very helpful when information needs to be sent out quickly to Byewaters residents. If there is anything that you wish to raise, please contact me at [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com)



A digital mock up of the new store

## Morrisons New Store – Planning Approved

Morrisons has unveiled images of what its new West Watford store could look like following planning permission being granted. The supermarket, which will be built on the site of the old Royal Mail depot in Ascot Road, will take a year to construct and will be completed by early 2014. Watford Borough Council's development control committee approved the plans for the store and its 400-space car park. The company says it will create jobs for 300 people and Morrisons promised to work with JobCentre Plus to ensure that half the jobs will go to the long-term unemployed. Morrisons, said: "We are delighted that the council's development control committee has approved our applications. The new store is our first in the area and represents an additional store within the M25. We look forward to bringing our famous fresh

food offer to Watford and to becoming an integral part of the town." Watford Borough Council development control committee also approved outline plans to a new primary school to be built on the site. A two-form of entry school is expected to be finished in time for the September 2015 intake, and provide places for 420 children, as well as a nursery for 60 under five-year-olds. A masterplan also showed how the site could also house new homes, office space, retail and a hotel, as part of a wider redevelopment before the new Croxley Rail Link station opens in 2016.



Well, what a turn up for the books eh? Away to Leeds and then whopping them 6-1! Even before they were down to nine men, Watford were still winning the game. Excellent result. Then we were back at the Vic and running and dancing with Wolves.

The game was mainly a midfield affair but when Wolves went down to nine men, a sending off where Watford are playing is not unusual except in this case it was rare that the opposition lost a player, that we came out on top with a two one win. As Christmas was coming, where else could be so fitting as to visit the Tangerines at Blackpool and we were peeling them apart. 2-0 up and then two late goals later we came away with a draw. Tuesdays game came next like Wednesday - Sheffield Wednesday and a terrific away win with a 4-1 score line. Barnsley next at home and another 4-1 win. I think you will find its Watford 14 Yorkshire 3! The first December game, and the Tigers came to The Vic. The Tigers matched Watford and ran out 2-1 winners with Deeny scoring the Hornets goal. Deeny heading towards Danny Grahams record of scoring in consecutive games? We'll have to see. Off up to Burnley where we settled for a draw but no goal for Deeny. Better than losing, so an improvement, and then off we go on a winning streak against Nottingham Forest and Brighton with Vydra and Deeny scoring. Getting up the table now. A visit form Charlton and that game was swinging one way then the other but unfortunately, after a good fought match, Charlton nicked 4-3. No worries, just another minor blip that life throws at every one. FA Cup next and what a tie. Hornet v the past Premiership Champions, Manchester City. Could we provide an upset and Zola get one over one of his past playing colleagues Mr Mancini? No way to say this easily but, nope. Oh well losing 3-0 isn't all that bad. Better than other premiership scores. Still, we watched the best and learnt from them as we went on another winning run. Middlesbrough, Huddersfield, Nottingham Forest again, oh yes, up the table we will go... Bristol City away next which had been postponed due to a flooded pitch. Wish it had been again as we lost 2-0. Another hiccup. Bolton next and we won 2-0 and really consolidated

## Neighbourhood Watch

Get Safe Online has produced a leaflet full of handy tips on how to stay safe online and avoid scams and phishing attacks. The leaflet also has lots of useful advice on internet security, password protection and how to avoid downloading viruses.

You can download this leaflet on:- [www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource\\_centre/document\\_library/get\\_safe\\_online\\_tips\\_leaflet](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/document_library/get_safe_online_tips_leaflet) For more information about the campaign, including lots of information and tips about internet safety, please visit the Get Safe Online website, [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org). To contact Community Messaging Hertfordshire Constabulary Neighbourhood Watch, email: [cmmail@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cmmail@herts.pnn.police.uk) Tel: 01707 354000 If anyone would like to receive 'OWL' updates, please contact your local PCSO [Gareth.Williams@Herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Gareth.Williams@Herts.pnn.police.uk) and he can register you. It is interesting and you won't get bombarded with updates. 'OWL' updates are e-mailed updates and are alerts of any crimes/warnings relevant to this area.

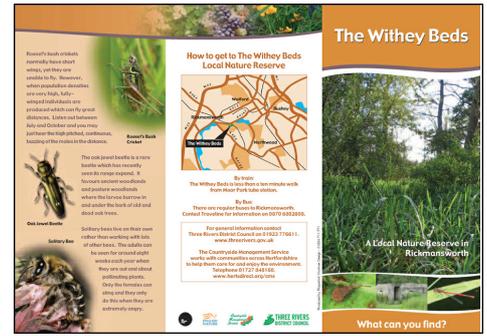
*\*\*\*Please take care during the dark winter nights and make sure you secure your home – there have been reports of strangers trying to enter back gates.\*\*\**



fourth position in the table. Top six all really tight and then the televised game against Crystal Palace. We could go up to second, automatic promotion position. The game started like a cup tie. Both sets of fans roaring their teams on. Watford go 2-0 up, we are cruising it. Come on you 'Orns, What a game. Half time and we are still two up. Second half starts. Palace start playing and with a bit of luck Watford will join in. I said with a bit of luck Watford will join in. What? On no, Palace pulls one back and then another - equalised! What's happening? Hang on Watford, keep in there. Ah, that's a bit of a blow, a 2-2 draw. Third in the table and probably only for a day. Never mind, fifteen games to go, we can still get a few wins under the belt and hope a few teams drop points... Premiership here we come... one can dream. **Ralph - Evensyde**

## The Withey Beds Local Nature Reserve – Rickmansworth

The Withey Beds is 7.7 hectares of one of a few remaining wetlands in Hertfordshire. Only the second site in the country to be purchased using a Compulsory Purchase Order based on its wildlife value alone. Important, it supports a diverse range of habitats including wet woodland, mature standard trees, swamp, marsh, drier grassland, standing and fallen dead wood and open ditches as well as the River Colne. Several projects have taken place since 2003 including converting an abandoned WWII pill box into a bat roost, making a living willow hide and installing a barn owl box. A spider, which has not been reported in Hertfordshire since 1880, has been recorded at The Withey Beds. TRDC has received two prestigious for the environmental work that has taken place at The Withey Beds. Throughout the 20th century wetlands have greatly declined. A drier county, changes in land use and urban development have contributed to this. The Withey Beds offers a variety of habitats and supports some fascinating plants and animals, particularly birds and insects which are characteristic of swamp and fen. It is a distinctive and valuable natural resource, with diversity which provides an ideal breeding ground for migratory birds and other species. 'Withey bed' is an old English term used to describe the growing of different species of willow for coppicing. They once formed an important part of the local village economy; supplying poles for basketwork, thatching, firewood and many other uses. Today, The Withey Beds is still managed using traditional techniques. The rotational coppicing of willow preserves the character of the site and



grazing with cattle, or cutting and removing the vegetation within the field, help halt encroaching scrub as well as preserve the character of this special site and allow wildlife to continue to flourish. Four invertebrates which are of a high national importance have all been found here. These are the oak jewel beetle, a soldier fly, a solitary bee and Roesel's bush cricket. Soldier flies are brightly coloured small flies, often associated with wetland habitat. The soldier fly found here is typical of marsh and pond edge habitats. Roesel's bush crickets normally have short wings, and they are unable to fly. However, when population densities are very high, fully winged individuals are produced which can fly great distances. Listen out between July and October and you may just hear the high pitched, continuous, buzzing of the males in the distance. The oak jewel beetle is a rare beetle which has recently seen its range expand. It favours ancient woodlands and pasture woodlands where the larvae burrow in and under the bark of old and dead oak trees. Solitary bees live on their own rather than working with lots of other bees. The adults can be seen for around eight weeks each year when they are out and about pollinating plants. Only the females can sting and they only do this when they are extremely angry.

## Byewater Birds Part 12

In this final instalment we look at the last few birds that form a list of nearly 50 different species - a testament to the rich and diverse habitat that we are lucky enough to be part of in Byewaters. Some birds have not yet been seen (the Nuthatch for example), but if you know of any that are not on the list, then get in contact at the address below.

### Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

The goldfinch is one of our most distinctive birds, with a bright orange/red head and yellow bar on its wing (the juveniles lack the red markings). Although present throughout the year, this bird is becoming an increasingly common winter sight in urban gardens and on bird tables. Often seen in small flocks, these brightly coloured birds have a musical 'canary-like' song.



### Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)



This (together with the firecrest) is Britain's smallest bird, and a difficult species to spot as it flits between stems of woody shrubs around Byewaters. The goldcrest has a wonderful black and golden orange crown on its head and pale green plumage. Aristotle described how the goldcrest was able to fly higher than an eagle by hiding in its plumage, gaining it the royal title of 'the king of the birds' - a name that has remained ever since.

### Ring-necked parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

Nobody is sure how this tropical bird became established in the UK - with stories that they escaped from Shepperton Studios during the filming of *The African Queen* in 1951 or were released by Jimi Hendrix when he bred them at his London flat in the 60's. Whatever the story, they are now a noisy and spectacular part of the British bird population, being spotted all over London and in all of the Home Counties. Their impact on native wildlife remains to be established.



### Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)



A relatively common bird in the British countryside and an occasional visitor to Byewaters, the jackdaw is a small relative of the crow and has a distinctive silver/grey head. It is a bird rich in myth and legend - the jackdaw in Aesop's fables embodies vanity by collecting colourful feathers, and Princess Arne was turned into a jackdaw by King Minos for craving his gold.

For more information about any of these birds visit the RSPB site ([www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)), or if you have any observations or questions regarding the birds of Byewaters, email [byewaterbirds@gmail.com](mailto:byewaterbirds@gmail.com). If you would like to help maintain our local Nature Reserve then you can volunteer at <http://www.croxleycommonmoor.org.uk>

**John – Byewaters**

## CHELSEA'S ADVENTURE

On the night of 11th December, a biting chill swirled around Byewaters, decorating it with a thin layer of ice. It was 22.15 as I opened our front door; our very curious house kitten decided she wanted to explore the outside world. Chelsea, our beloved new feline family addition, dashed passed me in all her ginger biscuit and clotted cream glory. The little fur ball made good her escape down the alley toward the left hand side of the house. I quickly followed into the bitter night prowling the streets, desperately searching for her before finally admitting defeat at 04.00, and freezing cold. The following morning there was hope, of me swinging the front door open to a mass of apologetic fluff, meowing for forgiveness. But my little fur ball was nowhere to be seen, despite my relentless squeaking of her favourite toy as I stood shivering outside. Downhearted, worrying, I made my usual journey to work, thoughts of Chelsea never far from my thoughts. I shifted my focus towards proactive steps to try and locate her. I printed posters to hang and distribute door to door. I contacted local vets to make them aware that Chelsea was missing and being a house cat was not micro-chipped. Wrapped in my own fluffy layers on a particularly cold winter's day I distributed leaflets, Beth at number seven kindly informed me she had sent out emails. At 8pm I called it a night, the cold had bitten its way through me, and absorbed all feeling from my fingers. Then a phone call from number nine, a sighting out the front, soon had me back out. Her favourite toy in my hand, as her name was carried on my vaporising breath. The morning of December 13th was ground hog day, images of her purring at the front door slammed around my aching head. Struggling through my day at work, returned home to a touching pile of letters and printed emails that had been posted through the door. It was overwhelming to think that Byewaters residents were concerned and helping me look for Chelsea. . I then spent



another two hours of frantic searching after calling it a night. A knock at my door from neighbours at number eight alerted me that she had been seen outside their house before she ran away again. This time I was determined to find her, and would not come back until she was safely in my arms. Chanting her name, I heard her little 'squeak' resonate from the bushes. Keeping still, I repeated her name until the welcoming sight of her head popped out of the bushes. Relief washed over me as I managed to get her to come towards me, until a supermarket delivery van trundled into the street and scared her away. This process was repeated three times, the

offender replaced each time by another van, a car and then finally a dog. Frustrated, I decided to get Chelsea's basket and blanket. The stubborn little thing refused to get in, resorting in me wrapping her up in the blanket. Fear overwhelmed her and she managed to wriggle out and escape again. I had a light bulb moment and grabbed her wet food; this attracted all the other cats in the street apart from Chelsea herself! They thought they were in for a real treat! Eureka, Chelsea loves nothing more than her treats! I quickly grabbed a bag of her treats, crept close enough to the little tinker, scattering a few down in front of her. A quizzical expression formed on her face. I decided to rattle the bag, dropping a few treats at a time as I walked in the direction of our house. Thankfully, she decided to follow the little treasure hunt I created towards our door. I dropped some inside the house and she instantly ran in! Relief swept over me as the two hours of coaxing her home had finally come to an end. I locked up, tipped wet food and treats in her dish, gave her a fresh bowl of water and made her bed all cosy. As she snuggled into me, the purrs escaping her lips were relentless, whisking her off into a peaceful, happy sleep, dreaming of her adventure.

Laura - Heckford Close

## Trades List

We now have details of tradesmen and services on our website that have been used by homeowners on Byewaters ([www.byewatersnews.co.uk](http://www.byewatersnews.co.uk)).

If you have used someone that you would like me to add to the website, please send me their details. It may help others when trying to find the right tradesman/service

Fran



## DOG FOULING CONTINUES

Unfortunately, some dog owners are still not picking up after their pet. Bio-degradable bags are FREE from the Parish Council Offices and the Library. The other day someone reminded me that people who are blind or partially sighted cannot see the fouling to avoid it. Please, please think of others and use the FREE bags and pick up after your dog.



## POETS CORNER

### Spring

"Today is the day when bold kites fly,  
When cumulus clouds roar across the sky.  
When robins return, when children cheer,  
When light rain beckons spring to appear.

Today is the day when daffodils bloom,  
Which children pick to fill the room,  
Today is the day when grasses green,  
When leaves burst forth for spring to be seen."

Robert McCracken

### REMEMBER –

The one who invented the door knocker got a  
'No-bell prize'

AND

I've been to the dentist several times,  
so I know the drill!

BUT

Two silk worms had a race.  
They ended up in a tie!

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The Peace Hospice now has a revamped Hospice Lottery, you can download a form online at [www.peacehospice.org.uk](http://www.peacehospice.org.uk) or telephone Terence Smith on 01923 330341 or email [tsmith@peacehospice.org.uk](mailto:tsmith@peacehospice.org.uk)

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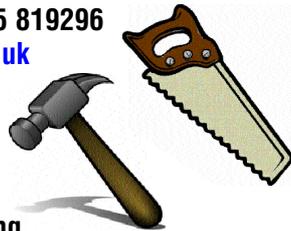
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- Strong internet presence
- Professional photography
- High quality property marketing

for advice you can trust, from an agent who really understands the business of sales, lettings, land & new homes....

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