

# BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014



*Messing about on the 'canal' !*



*You can tell they are British Mute Swans as they know how to form an orderly queue!*



*So cute when they are this size!*

**PLEASE SEND  
ARTICLES,  
ADVERTISING,  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
ETC. FOR THE JUNE  
2014 NEWSLETTER  
to Fran, 78 Byewaters  
or email  
[fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com)**



Hi all,

When I finished the December newsletter my thoughts were – 'ages to go until the next edition'. Then suddenly all the Christmas and New Year festivities were over and then so was sodden January! February had arrived with a whoosh and I was once again putting together another edition, where did the time go. Crazy wet February followed by mad March hares, although the weather is definitely madder than any March hares you might encounter on the Moor. I know that the weather is something that crops up time and time again in my introduction but after watching the news and seeing the floods, huge waves and destruction it really is a subject on everyone's tongue. Let us hope that soon the weather calms down and improves, so

all those poor people affected by this force of nature can get their lives back to normal. It would be nice to have a dry summer to make up for all the rain we have been suffering. Surely no drought warnings and hose pipe bans this year!! Talking of summer, don't forget in July (date to be announced) will be our 7th Byewaters Picnic. A good time is always had by all, a day to remember with photos as a memento of the day on the September Newsletter cover.

**Fran - Editor**

\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\*

**Byewaters AGM Wednesday, 30th April 2014, 7.30pm at Harvey Road School, please join us, more information to follow.**

Your Newsletter has four extra pages of trades 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)

Thanks go to:- Mike Weintraub (Page layout), Les Koster (Cover photos), Byewaters Residents for their contributions, David Whittaker (web version) Image Link Ltd (Printing), Newsletter delivery helpers Beth, Mary & Teri and James Estate Agents (Sponsorship).



### CAROL SINGING FOR THE PEACE HOSPICE

Wednesday morning (11th December) and there was a thick mist over Byewaters. The canal looked eerie and so did the moor.

Planes were being grounded, was it going to rain, were we going to be able to go carolling that night! Thank goodness the rain held off, phew, even the mist cleared a bit and it did not feel as cold as last year. The St. Oswald's choir members were waiting by the

Evensyde and Byewaters sign, right on time. Byewaters folk gathered too and off we went singing for the Peace Hospice. The choir make us sound so good, they have such lovely voices. We knocked on as many doors as we could and thank you to everyone who donated. We all then went and had mulled wine and mince pies to finish off the evening and warm us up, thank you Mary. Morrisons unfortunately did not donate this year but we are hoping that they might be extra generous next year. The Croxley Green Business Park gave a donation as did U3A Rickmansworth branch and we carried on shaking our donation tins around Byewaters also at friends and family and the grand total for this our 6th year was £ 411.00. This now brings our donations over the last 6 years to £2,015.96, well done Byewaters, now start tuning up for later this year.

**Fran**

**P.S. Don't forget The Starlight Walk on Saturday, 21st June - raising money for the hospice each year.**



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

This year the Byewaters Estate Management Company Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 30th April. At the meeting we will provide reports on the management and finances of the estate over the past year. Members will have an opportunity to meet with each other and the directors. 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. Further details and the agenda will be sent to owners a few weeks before the meeting. The prolonged wet weather at the start of the year has softened many areas of grass and soil on the estate. Some of these have been churned up by cars and vans passing over them. As the weather dries out, please take the opportunity to even out these areas so that they look better when the sunshine returns to Byewaters.

If you have any questions or issues 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**

### GREETINGS FROM ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH

Byewaters residents may be surprised to learn that almost all of the Estate falls within the Parish of St. Oswald, Croxley Green. The church, situated in Malvern Way, began life as an offshoot of All Saints' Church in 1937. The building was originally used not only for services but for all kinds of community activities - we still have a shuttlecock in the rafters to prove it! We have since become a parish in our own right, with our own hall which is used for a pre-school, U3A, community orchestra and other meetings, as well as birthday parties and other social events. St. Oswald's has a strong musical tradition, with a robed choir singing traditional and modern and an eclectic instrumental group for family services. Musical members of St. Oswald's joined the Byewaters carol singers at Christmas. We support various charities working in UK and abroad and run groups for children and young people as well as discussion and social events for adults. Café O on Monday mornings serves (in my opinion) the best coffee and cake in Croxley. Our worship services are at 8am and 10am on Sundays, with occasional services in the evening. You



would be welcome to come and meet us. For more information please check our website [www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk](http://www.stoswaldschurch.org.uk) or telephone 01923 332244.

**Robert Riley-Braley, Vicar**

As our thoughts start to turn back to gardening here is some information you might find interesting as you start flexing your green fingers. A good wildlife garden is more than just a corner of a garden left to go wild. Whether you are creating a new wildlife garden, or have an established one, think of it as a nature reserve and you are the warden. Soil type, drainage and climatic conditions play a big part in what can grow in your garden. If you are creating a new garden, look at what grows locally in the wild and in other gardens for ideas. You cannot force plants to grow where they don't want to, so look to see what flourishes where in your garden. If you find something growing naturally and wish to keep it, leave it where it is. If any major pruning or removal is necessary, undertake it over several winters to give wildlife time to adjust.

**Key habitats:** Provide as many habitats as possible, but avoid cramming too much in and focus on what can be done well in the space you have. A lawn, trees and shrubs, flowers and water are key habitats. Look to create smaller microhabitats within these. Here are a few examples: Long grass provides habitat for egg laying and over wintering of caterpillars and leather jackets. Blackbirds and starlings search for leather jackets (crane fly grubs) in short grass. Different species of tree and shrub and flowering plants provide nectar and other food sources through the year. Rotational shrub cutting creates different structures and ages of growth, benefiting different wildlife at different times. A water feature with different depths is great for wildlife. Shallow areas are used by bathing and drinking birds, emerging dragonflies and somewhere for amphibians to lay eggs. Deeper areas help aquatic insects survive cold spells and are good places to watch newts swimming.

**Somewhere to breed and shelter:** Wildlife requires two fundamental things: somewhere safe to breed and shelter and somewhere to forage throughout the year. Grow climbers against walls to provide shelter and roosting and breeding sites for birds. A thick, well-developed, thorny shrub bed or

## Wildlife Friendly Gardens



hedge provides nest sites and shelter for wildlife. A bat box provides roosting sites for bats, a pile of leaves may be used by a hibernating hedgehog and a bird box provides somewhere for house sparrows to raise their broods. Leave tidying of borders and shrubs until late winter or early spring to provide shelter for insects through winter. Honesty and hedge garlic provides somewhere for orange tip butterflies to breed. Brimstone butterflies breed on buckthorn bushes. Short lengths of drinking straws, hollow canes or plant stems, tied in bundles are excellent nesting sites for beneficial lacewings and ladybirds. Dead wood is good for beetles and other specialist beneficial insects, fungi and mosses.

**Somewhere to forage and feed:** Creating a range of habitat niches provides different areas and opportunities for wildlife to feed at different times of the year. Early and late flowering plants provide nectar for insects at critical times - just after emergence or prior to hibernation. Tidy borders and cut shrubs in late winter and early spring to help retain seeds and fruit for birds and small mammals throughout winter. Ivy is a late source of autumn nectar for insects and late winter fruit for birds. Fruiting bushes are a good source of food for birds and mammals during the autumn and part of the winter. Annual plants that produce many seeds in late summer are a good source of seed for birds through autumn into winter. Many baby birds need insects – a good source of protein – if they are to grow strong and healthy and survive the winter. A variety of garden plants encourages these insects.

**Sustainable gardening:** Save rainwater for watering your garden and only top up your pond when necessary. Avoid using peat and use alternative forms of compost – peat extraction destroys vital wildlife habitats. When planting native plants, ensure they are of genuine native stock and not of continental origin. Also, ensure 'wild flowers' have been cultivated from legally collected seed and not dug-up from the wild.



Well here we are again with another New Year entering the football season. Where do I start?

We have a new manager, FA Cup wins and losses and a dismal few months losing the odd one or two games. Talking of losing games, the one of note is the one against Yeovil where we were thrashed by the Championship newbies 3–0. Losing wasn't the worst bit as it was my mum's team and all of a sudden she has got to know how to text! The Hornets were on a run of nine games without a win and we played Wednesday at home. What a surprise, we lost 1–0. Zola, unfortunately, had had enough and announced his departure soon after, to the disappointment of many. In came a new manager Giuseppe "Beppe" Sannino. A draw with the Tractor Boys at Ipswich and a 4–0 trouncing of the Lions from the New Den followed. Things were changing for the better. Even got a home draw with the high flyers QPR, but without an interview with 'Arry through the car window.

Then came the glamour of the greatest competition in the World, the FA Cup. Away to the Robins and Bristol City and

the continual UK rain not stopping the game this time. The 'Orns got a draw with a replay at home in which we beat the Robins 2–0 to get a next round tie against Manchester City..... again! Same time, same place etc. Up we went to City where Premiership teams were regularly beating teams 5, 6 even 7–0, Hey ho. Well what a game. At half time we were 2–0 up. Yes you read it right, 2–0 up! Yoouuu 'Ooorrns. Anyway we lost 4–2 but did not disgrace ourselves.

Moving quickly on we went up to Forest where Angella scored a cheeky little back heeled goal and gave us a 2–0 lead and the Golden Boys promptly lost 4–2 again. There seems to be a theme forming here. Brighton at home and at last we get a 2–0 win, climb a couple places up the table heading for the playoffs. A bit of faith, luck and crossing of fingers we can get there. Next it's back up to Leicester and again we go 2–0 up with Forestieri and Murray scoring and yes you've guessed it, we draw 2–2. There is definitely something a foot when Watford go 2 goals into a lead.

Looking forward, in a couple of games we have Yeovil at home and revenge. But just in case, does anyone know how to block texts?

**Ralph - Evensyde**

## RICKMANSWORTH ELECTRIC PICTURE HOUSE

The Town Hall Company obtained a license in 1906 for stage plays and a cinema license in 1911, and then it became the picture playhouse and began to show silent films. The picture house was built at the east end of the (105) High Street, the license here was not renewed and the company was wound up in 1929. A new purpose built Picture House opened in the town, only the lower part of the facade remains where the Hob Hairdressing salon is and offices have been built on the site of the auditorium. Then on the 29th January 1936 the Odeon came to town, 93-95 High Street. The first film was 'On Wings of Song' with Grace Moore? There was seating for 574 in the stalls and 346 seats in the raised stepped balcony section; it was art deco in design. There was also a parade of shops and flats on the corner of Church Street named Odeon Parade. The cinema was not a great success as it had to compete with the Watford



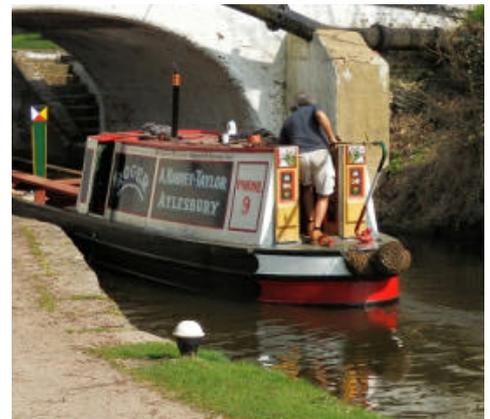
The Odeon, Rickmansworth

Odeon. Although Saturday morning cinema was much more successful with hundreds of local kids eager to get in and see films showing, Roy Rodgers, Gene Autry, Charlie Chaplain and many others. By then the cinema had gained the reputation of being a bit of a 'flea pit'. If it was your birthday your name was called out and all the kids sang 'Happy Birthday' to you, happy days! The cinema eventually closed on 5th January 1957 after showing Spencer Tracy in 'The Mountain'. It was purchased by the local council who eventually demolished it in 1965. Part of the site became a car park with offices named Union Carbide House. The original Odeon Parade of shops and flats still exist.



## The Rickmansworth Festival

The Rickmansworth Festival takes place on the third weekend of May every year and celebrates canals, the community and the environment. The 21st Festival, the highlight of the town's annual calendar and the finale of Rickmansworth Week, is being held on the 17th and 18th May 2014. The top attraction for many is the wonderful array of canal boats from across the country - a terrific spectacle, with at least 100 craft of many types and histories moored along the towpath up to four deep. There are also things to do, see and enjoy whatever your interests, and whatever your age. The Rickmansworth Festival started as a purely canal based event in 1993, as part of the British Waterways "Canals 200" celebration that year. At least 20,000 people now come each year. The Festival occupies part of the Aquadrome, the towpath between Stockers Lock and Batchworth, and the area round Batchworth Lock. You'll find a range of music and performing arts, displays and presentations, traders, boats and catering. More information can be found on the website <http://www.rwt.org.uk/festival/>



## Long Stay Canal Boats near Lock 79

As many of you may remember this has been a long standing problem over the years and seemed to be getting worse. Neighbours had complained, written to various councilors also British Waterways and more recently the Canals and River Trust. Unfortunately the number of long stay vessels was still increasing and they were staying longer and longer. When challenged their opinion seemed to be that they had the right to live along this stretch for as long as they liked! So decided before the spring and summer was upon us to contact our MP Mr. David Gauke. Summer would be when the numbers swell again, with noise and smoke coming through our open windows when the weather improves (it will, it really will!). I was very impressed - he immediately sent a letter to Three Rivers with a copy to me saying he would keep me informed. After a short while he received a letter from Three Rivers who had sprung into action and they have promised to keep a closer eye on the vessels moored here. Mr. Gauke sent me their reply with a covering note. I believe there is a ruling that allows a vessel to moor for 14 days and then they must not

return to that mooring for a year. There are some winter moorings along this stretch but they must be applied for and I have been told that only three vessels have these (as of 11th December 2013). Andrea Rose (511799), Blue Goose (512780) and Nostromo (52370) these are the only three boats that have paid and been given permission to stay. They would have been given a permit to stay for either one, three or five months, (I do not know which of these the three boats were given). They must use smokeless fuel and I suppose that applies to any of the boats mooring. They must dispose of their rubbish and sewage waste so that it does not become a nuisance or a risk to the health or safety of any person or animal. Again this applies to all boaters as the Canal and Waterways need protecting. There is a Boat Liaison Manager, South - Matthew Symonds who can be reached on 07825 227951, in case you want to report anything directly to him. Let us hope that this will help to improve matters this summer. It was nice to know that our local MP immediately got on the case to get our problem sorted out. Should we need his assistance another time, I will certainly not hesitate to contact him again.

Fran



## Neighbourhood Watch – The Top Five Tips for your Home

1. Make a habit of checking that ground floor windows and doors are closed and locked when you leave the house or go to bed. Upstairs windows should be locked when the house is unoccupied. PVCu doors must be locked by lifting the handle and using the key to ensure all the security features are in place.
2. Car and house keys should be kept out of sight in a safe place. Don't leave them on display on window sills, in porches, hallways or kitchens.
3. Secure your rear garden by shutting and locking any gates. Burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use.
4. Why not be a good neighbour – if they are out, help deter burglars and give their home the lived-in look by putting away their emptied rubbish bins. You can also help by keeping a look out for unusual callers in your neighbourhood, and call the police if you see anyone acting suspiciously. Keep a pen and some paper handy. The car number you jot down may be just what the police need to catch a burglar.
5. Why not sign up to Neighbourhood Watch? The image of curtain-twitching is gone and you can now join online. Visit [www.owl.co.uk](http://www.owl.co.uk), or call the police non-emergency number on **101**.

You can also contact Allan Waller PCSO Neighbourhood Watch Email: [alan.waller@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alan.waller@herts.pnn.police.uk)

### REMINDER – Don't be the cause of an accident – reduce your speed! (20mph or less)

Let us start the year off with a new resolution to reduce speeds around Byewaters to a 'snails pace'! Let us not step into the New Year with a bump! Most people's opinion is that speeds need to be reduced, especially with the amount of parked cars, as there are so many blind spots. Please do not park vehicles on the pavements restricting the pathway for pedestrians, some with buggies or even wheelchairs. Two wheels are acceptable but definitely not four. Vehicles can damage the pavements and cause trip hazards, and oil can cause slippages. **Byewaters roads should be taken slow, slow, slower, at snails pace!** Let us keep everyone safe, help prevent accidents and of course always think of others.



Still collecting email addresses, which are always very helpful when information needs to be sent out quickly to Byewaters residents or if there is anything that you wish to raise. You can contact me at [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com) By sending emails out to everyone on my list we have been able to locate two missing cats in the past.

### Trades List

Our trades list has grown and now spreads over four pages. Please take a look on the web at [www.byewatersnews.co.uk](http://www.byewatersnews.co.uk)

It was suggested that details of tradesmen that have been used by homeowners on Byewaters be listed. If you would like to submit the details of someone that you have used and would like to recommend, please send me their details. It may help others when trying to find the right tradesman.



Fran

### FOOD WASTE BAGS

As previously mentioned cornstarch bags are available for your brown food scraps caddie 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.



### 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. Be considerate to people who are blind or partially sighted as they 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

#### The Voice of Spring by Mary Howitt

I am coming, I am coming!  
Hark! the honey bee is humming;  
See, the lark is soaring high  
In the blue and sunny sky,  
And the gnats are on the wing  
Wheeling round in airy ring.  
Listen! New-born lambs are bleating,  
And the cawing rooks are meeting  
In the elms--a noisy crowd.  
All the birds are singing loud,  
And the first white butterfly  
In the sunshine dances by.  
Look around you, look around!  
Flowers in all the fields abound,  
Every running stream is bright,  
All the orchard trees are white,  
And each small and waving shoot  
Promises sweet autumn fruit.

### REMEMBER

#### Women's Law

My opinions may have changed BUT not the fact that I am right!

#### Play with Words

Why do people recite at a play and play at a recital?

If Father is 'Pop', how come Mother's not 'Mop'?

**and what did one ocean say to the other ocean?**

Nothing – they just waved.

**also –**

**Why do you have to be careful at sunrise and sunset?**

Because day breaks and night falls.

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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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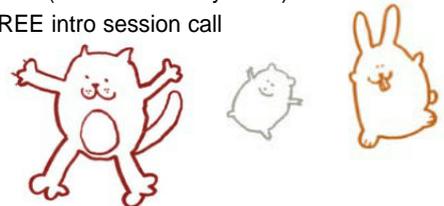
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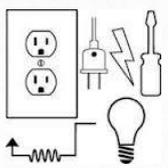


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