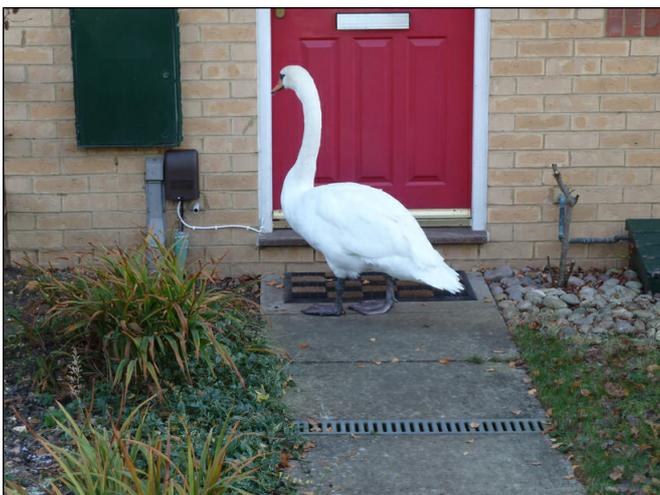


BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011



A busy day on the Grand Union Canal



Swans knocking on the door



The ducks on their canal boat

Please send articles, advertising, photographs etc. for the June 2011 Newsletter to Fran, 78 Byewaters or email fran.koster1@gmail.com



Hi,

Winter has been particularly harsh, although we have had severe weather, not thank goodness nearly as bad as others have suffered. Although our snow was thick others up north had thicker. The canal was frozen for weeks and the icy roads and streets were difficult to get around but not as bad as other regions. Through all of this Byewaters always had an interesting new sight to offer. The canal being completely frozen gave a daily display of ducks, gulls and swans skating. Then the snow fell heavily and settled on top of the ice and so the canal completely disappeared and the whole area was just white. The trees with the snow on them and then with the ice, there was a different scene every day, lots of photo opportunities. Swans going door to door looking for food with photographic evidence! Always something new to grab your attention. A tradesman had to visit us recently and when I opened the door to him, after introducing himself, his first words were 'can I buy your house, please'. The other day I was being picked up by a taxi driver and even though it was pouring with rain, he was transfixed by our canal with the barges, ducks, swans etc. He immediately started asking me if there were any properties for sale, he was going to go home and bring his wife here as he was sure this would be just the place for them to live. His comment was 'you would never know this was all here'. That's the great part of living here; I've said it before a hidden gem!

Have a great spring; I know you will on Byewaters. (Don't forget BEMC AGM 15th March, 7.30pm)

Fran - Editor

Extra page on www.byewatersnews.co.uk (and in full colour) or (air your views) on www.byewaters.blogspot.com or Byewaters original website on www.byewaters.co.uk or if you need to contact the directors email directors@byewaters.co.uk

Thanks go to:- Mike Weintraub (Page layout), Les Koster, (Cover photos), Byewaters Residents for their contributions, David Whittaker (web version) Imagehaus Ltd (Printing), and James Estate Agents (Sponsorship).



CAROL SINGING FOR THE PEACE HOSPICE AROUND BYEWATERS

There we were again, those mad Byewaters Carolers', it was -6 centigrade but it was dry and so off we went, knocking on doors and singing as loud as we could. We tried to get to as many houses as possible while our voices held out. We sang along the canal front by Basildon Flats at one point and houses on the other side of the canal applauded us. Unfortunately they could not row across and put money in our collection pot but it made us feel quite good about our rendition of 'The Holly & The Ivy'. Thank you to all those who donated, the hospice was delighted with the £340.00 we managed to collect, their thank you letter can be viewed on www.byewatersnews.co.uk Please try and join us next year, it is good fun and for a very good cause and we certainly could do with a lot more 'mad carolers' helping

us belt out those songs come December.

www.peacehospice.org.uk They now have a revamped Hospice Lottery, you can download a form online or telephone Terence Smith on 01923 330341 or email tsmith@peacehospice.org.uk This way you are donating money to a good cause, for maybe a little as a £1 a week but with the chance to win £10,000!

Fran

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



Our AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th March 2011. Please put this date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Full details of the

agenda will be sent out shortly.

Some owners have asked the directors to arrange for the new railings on the estate path near Blackmoor Lane to be removed. We have met with some of these residents and explained that this was required in order to progress the Roads Adoption process, therefore they must stay in position. We know that this decision has disappointed some, but we are sure that the completion of the roads adoption will provide a wider benefit to all owners. The Roads Adoption process continues to move slowly forward with the support of all parties involved. Some further remedial work to bring the sewers up to the required standard will take place in February 2011. I'm happy to say that our local TRDC and HCC councillors are regularly reviewing the situation and urging their officials to bring the process to a positive conclusion as soon as possible.

Our new gardening contractors are now visiting the estate regularly and we have received positive comments about their work. As spring approaches our gardeners will be pruning bushes and trees, no doubt we will all be



Byewaters Babe

Many congratulations to Suzanne & Ciro Ercole on the birth of their baby daughter. Florissa Grace arrived at 16.26 on 24th November 2010, weighing 8.3lbs. We all send our good wishes and no doubt we will be seeing proud Mum and Dad with Florissa on their walks around Byewaters.

in our own gardens doing this, making sure Byewaters looks good.

Some of the lighting and fences on the estate have been vandalised recently. In the last few months a total of ten lamps on the riverside path have been damaged. This causes inconvenience to those who use the paths and cost to all owners. The replacement of the lamps has cost BEMC more than £1000 and these reported crimes will have a detrimental effect on insurance premiums. We all need to discourage vandalism and other behaviour which compromises our safety and enjoyment of the estate. If you are able to help address any of these issues, or if you have other comments or questions you can email us at directors@byewaters.co.uk. Other information is available on the www.byewaters.co.uk website.

We hope to see you at the AGM

David Whittaker

Byewater Birds Part 4



Blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

Living next to a Site of Special Scientific Interest and sandwiched between the River Gade and the Grand Union Canal, local residents of Byewaters are fortunate in having some of the best bird watching opportunities in the area. Many of us have bird feeders that attract a range of interesting birds at this time of the year. Not only are we providing a good source of food during the winter months, but we are rewarded with some wonderful birds in our gardens. One of the first visitors to any bird feeder, the blue tit is an instantly recognisable bird. The vivid

blues and yellows brighten up a winter's day and they are one of the easiest birds to attract to a garden nest box. Usually a woodland bird, the blue tit has become one of the commonest birds to be seen around Byewaters.

Great tit (*Parus major*)

Another visitor to our bird tables is the Great tit. Very similar in appearance to the blue tit but with a distinctive black cap, the great tit is the largest of the tit family. It is far less common around Byewaters than its smaller cousin but can be seen in many of the trees bordering the estate.



Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

Another common bird that can be seen noisily flitting between trees around Byewaters is the Greenfinch. Occasionally seen on bird tables, the greenfinch has moved quite successfully from being a farmland bird to urban life. The green/yellow colouration and flash of yellow as it flies makes this an easy bird to identify



Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

One of Britain's commonest birds and probably one of the most colourful, Chaffinches can be seen all around Byewaters, but are most obvious in the winter months. The chaffinch tends to avoid bird tables and feeders but is often seen hopping around underneath, picking up any dropped seeds and nuts.



Why not keep a record of sightings of Byewaters birds and for more information about any of these birds then visit the RSPB site (www.rspb.org.uk) or if you would like to help maintain our local Nature Reserve then you can volunteer at <http://www.croxleycommonmoor.org.uk>

John Mynett – Byewaters

Daniel's first visit to the UK

At last the arrival day dawned and as you can imagine I had not slept for excitement. They were due to land at 1700 hrs at Heathrow, we left work early and joined the rest of the family at the airport, after negotiating our way round the Arrivals Hall, we managed to find a spot just where the doors opened. We sat and chatted for a while (well we were 2 hours early!), went shopping in M & S to buy the much missed items (chocolate éclairs, chicken & bacon sandwiches etc) and sat and waited patiently, well I say patiently I was like a jack-in-the-box, up and down, up and down. Eventually we saw the message we were waiting for - their plane had landed - hoorah! It must have been a good three quarters of an hour when at last I spotted my gorgeous girl and her family, wearily coming towards us, poor old Dan was weighed down with suitcases and bags, how I didn't jump over the barrier I will never know, but at last I got to give her a much waited for cuddle, I cried, Rebecca cried, Emma cried, the lady standing next to us cried, oh dear a proper puddle! And then all of a sudden little Daniel was hoisted out of his push chair and was immediately swooped on by all of his grandparents and aunty and uncle, he was passed to everyone for kisses and cuddles all of which he took in his stride, he really is the most gorgeous boy. We

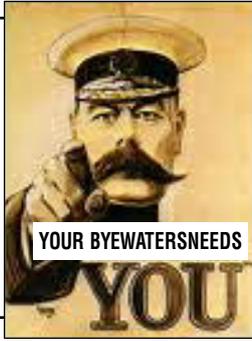
decided to sit and have a drink to let everyone get their breath back, once again Daniel was passed to everyone, you would never have thought that this little chap had just had the longest flight ever, he was happy and smiley and Rebecca told us how he had charmed the air stewardesses and everyone on their flight. So after what seemed an age, we arrived home, poor Rebecca & Dan could hardly keep their eyes open, but little Daniel was not sleepy and just wanted to explore. So much to my delight, Rebecca & Dan went up to bed and left little Daniel with his Nana & Grandad. It was quite funny really, he was upstairs having his pyjamas put on when Rebecca said "Mum, he is not tired or ready for bed but can you just give him his milk", so I took him in my arms and this little person just looked at me as if to say, "its ok I am with my Nana", we went downstairs, and he didn't make a move, he settled on my lap as if he belonged there, which of course he does. He started his bottle but within 5 minutes was fast asleep in my arms - that feeling is something I shall never ever forget, my grandson, asleep in my arms. Reluctantly I took him up to his cot and settled him down in the new blankets I had bought for him, looking at the three of them fast asleep; I couldn't help but wish they would stay forever, now there's another story...

Val - Gill Close



Stones Cherry Orchard – In Hertfordshire at Croxley Green, Stone's Community Orchard, named after Walter Stone, a former tenant farmer, is a 1.4-hectare remnant of an orchard once nearly four times as large owned by the District Council. It has tall cherry trees of Caroon cherries (or Kerroon) and Hertfordshire Black Cherries, and some apple trees including the Hertfordshire cooker Lane's Prince Albert plus Bramleys, King of the Pippins, Laxton's Superb and Worcester Pearmain. There are also pears, walnuts and Victoria and Kirkes Blue plums, once grown for Covent Garden market. It was well known within the village for its cherries, but apples, pears, plums and cobnuts were also grown. Such orchards formed an important element of the local economy a century ago. 'Cherry Sundays' were fairs held in July in many

orcharding villages in south-west Hertfordshire and combined picking, sales and picnicking in local orchards including Stone's. In the 1970s many of the orchards in the area were lost to housing but Stones was refused planning permission in 1983 and sold to the local authority for £1. It is now part of the village conservation area, managed by the Parish Council. Today, new saplings of the dark Carroon and Hertfordshire Black cherries, as well as local apple varieties and plums, stand among the still flowering ancient giants which Walter Stone may have planted. A survey in 1993/4 recorded sixteen grasses and 60 wildflower species including Black Medick, foxglove, ox-eye daisy, celandine and prickly sedge. There is full public access to the orchard, reached from the village green through a kissing gate. The fruit is available for local people to pick although much is left for wildlife. There are plans to reinstate Cherry Sunday on the green in time. Contact: Mr David Allison, Clerk to Croxley Green Parish Council, Council Offices, Community Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3SU, +44(0)1923 710250, croxleyipc@btconnect.com



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

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HTTP AND HTTPS?

Many people are unaware of ****The main difference between http:// and https:// It's all about keeping you secure**** HTTP stands for Hypertext Transport Protocol, which is just a fancy way of saying it's a protocol (a language, in a manner of speaking) for data to be passed back and forth between web servers and clients. The important thing is the letter 'S' which makes the difference between HTTP and HTTPS. The S (big surprise) stands for "Secure". If you visit a website or webpage, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: http://. This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular 'unsecure' language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website. If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site. This is why you never -ever- enter your credit card number in an http website! But if the web address begins with https://, that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on. If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with https://. If it doesn't, there's no way you're going to enter sensitive information like a credit card number. **PASS IT ON (You may save someone a lot of grief)**

The Rickmansworth Festival takes place on the third weekend of May, every year and celebrates canals, the community and the environment. Now going for over fifteen years, it is the highlight of the town's annual calendar and the finale of Rickmansworth week. The top attraction for many is the wonderful array of canal boats from across the country - a unique spectacle moored along the towpath up to four deep. The next Rickmansworth Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd May 2011. If you are interested in bringing a boat, trading, performing or just want to get involved as a volunteer helping to run the



event please contact the Festival Director, David Montague by email at: david.montague@btinternet.com Please come along and enjoy a great family day out.

Rickmansworth Waterways Trust Batchworth Lock Canal Centre 99 Church St. Rickmansworth Herts. WD3 1JD Telephone: 01923 778382 Office mobile: 07875 393703. email address: enquiries@rwt.org.uk

Get Fit Walking



A local walking group for the over 50s is looking for new members. The walks are organised by Norman Joyce and act as a good way to keep fit and make new friends, while exploring the countryside in Hertfordshire. There are eighteen walks each year and take place on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, assembling at 10 am for a 10.15 am start and finish by 12.30 pm at the latest. The circular walks are between 3¾ and 4 miles long and graded from one to four, depending on type of ground to be covered and are suited to people who want to keep fit and up to an age of 84. The start is often at a local country pub where the group usually will have lunch when the route is completed. Experienced walk leaders and first aiders are always present, health and safety is taken seriously but the fun part of walking is never forgotten. For more information email Norman Joyce at enjoy20@ntlworld.com

Riverside Lights Vandalism



Unfortunately I have to report that since late November 2010 there have been TEN Riverside lights vandalised. We repaired three lights and a few days later the new lights and more were 'kicked' and smashed, SEVEN in January 2011.

This is costing us ALL a lot of money. The Police are taking this matter very seriously. If anyone on Byewaters knows anything about this vandalism please let the directors know (directors@byewaters.co.uk). Our service charges will reflect the money that is spent on repairs etc. Even if people are renting, no doubt this increase would be passed on to them, maybe with a rent increase, so this affects us ALL!!

The Road To Rio Or Mill Lane?



Have you seen the great new path along side our lock (79), overnight that muddy strip with overgrown trees and shrubs has been opened up and turned in to a pleasurable walkway. This is part of the "Byewaters Mill Lane Improvements Works" by TRDC funded with Barratts/Marconi money from way back when Byewaters was being talked about and then developed. Another part of these works are the railings at the Blackmoor Lane end of the estate - which have produced a "Marmite" reaction - you either love them or hate them! Happily, the lockside path seems to be a great success and pleases nearly everyone, Go and have a look and enjoy our very own 'yellow brick road' - which isn't yellow and not made of brick - but you will know what I mean when you see it laid out before you.



Our intrepid reporter is away, so here goes – Saturday 12th Feb: Watford 1 – Burnley 3oops!!

After a promising start with a seven game winning run by Watford and a sniff of the play-offs,

Watford came into this game on the back of a four-game winless run!! Danny Graham did manage to get one goal for Watford and then it was downhill all the way! When the score was 1-1 Burnley was very lucky to still have 11 men on the pitch, as Danny Fox's challenge on Will Buckley should have seen him red carded. It was an outrageous, ferocious late challenge and he should have been given his marching orders. The game then might have turned to favour Watford and the final score could have been very different, with Burnley down to 10 men (we was robbed).

15th Feb. Watford 2 - Preston North End 2 ! Let us hope that 'The Golden Boys' future games improve and that our usual ace reporter hurries back, to give you the whole picture.

NEWS

It appears we may have very local idiots smashing our Riverside lights, if you see or hear anything please call the local Plod. The latest trick is also to lob hanging baskets over other peoples fences, are they the same idiots? Motorbikes would appear to be being stolen to order around the Croxley area. Over Christmas on our Estate one was stolen and they had a good go at another but failed twice!!! Apart from that all is quiet. If you need to go to Ricky Police Station and find it's not there anymore, it's moved into Three Rivers House in the Town Centre, the move is imminent. (Herts. Police on 0845 3300222) If anyone would like to receive 'OWL' updates, please contact me on nhw.byewaters@talktalk.net or our local PCSO on Gareth.Williams@Herts.pnn.police.uk and we can register you. It is kind of interesting and you won't get bombarded with updates. 'OWL' updates are e-mailed updates and alerts of any crimes/warnings relevant to us. Or if you don't have access to the Internet and would like to be kept up to date with messages and alerts through traditional means let me know and the kids can earn their pocket money pushing notes through your door.

Daniel Haynes - 62 Byewaters - nhw.byewaters@talktalk.net

Off topic news - I'm running the Brighton Marathon in April on behalf of the Stroke Association. It may sound odd but I didn't realise 26miles was quite so far! Any donations or sponsorship will be gratefully received. 'My Just Giving' site is <http://www.justgiving.com/Daniel-Haynes>

POETS CORNER

My Pony's Day by Ross Rose

My pony swishes his tail now,
 Even though he will give you a bow.
 I take my pony for a hack,
 But I gotta remember to put his tack back!
 Then he will get excited like that!
 He gets hungry and sees some hay he
 gets excited to give a little neigh!
 My pony sees a bunch of his friends go
 by and then he started bucking to say goodbye.
 My pony comes in from his field in the
 stable to eat his dinner on the table.

REMEMBER –

**When you want to shut down your computer,
 you have to hit "Start"!
 and
 Why is it that bakers bake but grocers don't groce?**

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

**Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by
 getting someone else to hold the vegetables
 while you chop!**

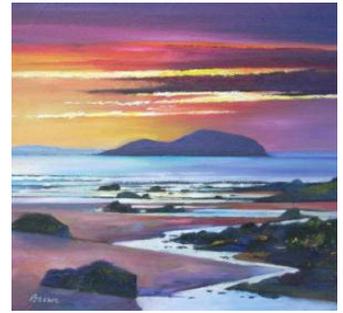
Our Excellent Printer is:- The Imagehaus Ltd.,
 1 The Boulevard, Blackmoor Lane WD18 8UW
 Tel: 01923 230035 - Alan www.imagehaus.co.uk

FEATURED LOCAL ART GALLERY – *The Linda Blackstone Gallery*

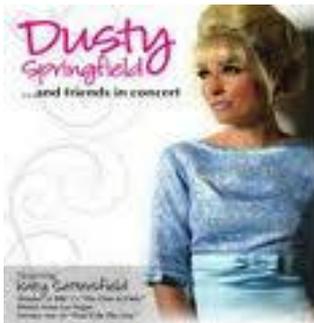
After over 22 years in the Old Slaughterhouse in Pinner, we relocated in January 2008 to our new studio just outside Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire - PO Box 671, Rickmansworth WD3 0EU. On 11th September 2010 the Gallery celebrated its 25th Anniversary. From this purpose built venue we welcome all those wishing to use our specialist framing and restoration service. Here you can view, BY APPOINTMENT, all our regular artists' work currently in the studio ready for the many Art Fairs we attend during the year. To purchase art work from our website or for more information please ring 07860 543535 or email us on blackstoneart@talk21.com



Artist – Sebastien Levigne



Artist – Davey Brown



Katy Setterfield as Dusty Springfield & Friends in Concert

Sunday 10th April, 7.30pm

Tickets: £17, £16 (conc.)

Radlett Centre - 01923 859291

Regulars to the theatre will remember Katy from her eight years touring with the ever-popular show 'That'll Be The Day'. Now, as the winner of BBC1's prime-time show 'The One And Only' with her award-winning portrayal of Dusty Springfield, and direct from 3 sell-out months in Las Vegas, Katy brings you her own incredible one-woman show. Packed with classic Dusty hits including You Don't Have To Say You Love Me, Son Of A Preacher Man, I Only Want To Be With You, this brand new production also features Katy's own unique voice alongside her equally brilliant impersonations of Cher, Tina Turner, Annie Lennox and much more, all performed completely live by Katy with her exceptional band and singers. So come and enjoy an outstanding night of music, non-stop fun and nostalgia with one of the UK's most popular and impressive singers.



THE JAZZ SINGER TOUR

Saturday 30th April, 7.30pm

Tickets: £17.50, £16.50 (conc.)

Radlett Centre
01923 859291

In 1980, Neil Diamond starred alongside Sir Laurence Olivier in the film *The Jazz Singer*. Neil wrote the musical score for the film and then released what became one of his most successful albums. In this show, John Hylton (Europe's foremost Neil Diamond tribute performer) together with his talented band celebrate the music of Neil Diamond's "The Jazz Singer", by performing all the songs from the album, as well as a selection of Neil's other well-known hits! The UK Neil Diamond Fan Club recently said of John Hylton: "Take my advice - you really have to see this man for yourself! John's voice is uncannily like Neil's, and he most certainly gives a flawless performance, leaving you wanting more."



Watford Surestart Children's Centres

A help for stressed Mums and great for children.
More information from www.hertschildrenscentres.org.uk/ also you can contact Delia at Morris Minor pre-school tel: 07770 397456

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Small family run company based in Croxley Green
Regular and reliable service - £1m public liability insurance
Conservatory roof cleaning service available -
Free no obligation quotations.
Please call **Steve - 07538 400 788**



Don't have time to keep your garden tidy OR need a cleaner OR a dog walker - give me a call. I live on Byewaters and charge very competitive rates for local residents.

Tracey - 07507 059065

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