

BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011



Winter 2010 – Byewaters



Mum, don't just sit there - teach me how to skate! I'll find it in a minute!



Please send articles, advertising, photographs etc. for the March 2012 Newsletter to Fran, 78 Byewaters or email fran.koster1@gmail.com





Hi,

I always seem to be talking about the weather and here we go again! What a strange summer we had, great spring, then later not many barbecue opportunities, as promised, but with autumn came great weather! We headed off to Bournemouth during the second week of October, not having holidayed in England for years. We ended up sunbathing for the majority of our stay! We had a large balcony overlooking the sea and kept saying that the English coast is so great when the sun shines. It was just like being abroad, without the language problems, delays at airports plus a lovely sandy beach to stroll along. On the last day we went to

Portsmouth before coming home. The restaurant area overlooking the harbour and marina, sitting in the sun, was really fascinating. Could have sat there for hours watching the toing and froing of the different types of vessels. There was of course the added bonus of an outlet shopping centre! Lester watching the boats and me shopping, perfect happy couple combination! A reminder, we need you all to join us for the Annual Byewaters Carol Singing for The Peace Hospice, 6th December, full details below. Have a fantastic Christmas, Hanukah, New Year and enjoy the whole festive season, wishing you all a happy, healthy 2012. I am sure the next few months will fly by – have a good Winter.

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 Weintroub (Page layout), Les Koster, (Cover photos), Byewaters Residents for their contributions, David Whittaker (web version) Imagehaus Ltd (Printing), Newsletter delivery helpers Beth & Mary and James Estate Agents (Sponsorship).



CAROL SINGING FOR THE PEACE HOSPICE

It is that time of the year again, when you have to practice your la-la-la's and your do-re-mi's and help us raise money for a really good cause. Or you can just come along to make up the numbers; all are welcome, the more the merrier. The Peace Hospice cares for people living with a life limiting or terminal illness and also supports their families.

It provides inpatient care, day care, an outpatient service, a hospice at home service as well as bereavement support. The Hospice needs to raise £3 million of charitable income this year in order to run and develop its services. All the care that the Hospice provides to its patients and their families is free. Please support us, last year we raised over £300 and only managed to get to half of Byewaters. It is good fun and we will be singing, if it is dry on **Tuesday, 6th December** and our meeting point is by the Evensyde and Byewaters sign as you enter Byewaters. If it is raining that night we will try again on Wednesday, 7th

December, if that night is also wet we will go for one last try on Thursday, 8th December. If it is cold and dry, just dress up warm and join us on **Tuesday, 6th December** to help the hospice reach its target for the year. If you need a song sheet please let me know at fran.koster1@gmail.com looking forward to singing with you all.

Fran

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



As the year draws to an end and the hours of daylight are reduced, we are keen to ensure that we can all move about the estate in safety. Recent work by residents and our gardening contractors to clear footpaths of

overgrown shrubs and bushes have made them easier to use - especially for those with prams or buggies. We now need to ensure that these are kept clear and, in particular, ensure that they are not obstructed by inconsiderately parked cars.

Street lighting on estate roads has been re-lamped and re-painted in preparation for roads adoption, and electrical work has been completed to improve the reliability of the canal-side footpath lighting. Various fences have also been repaired to further contribute to providing a secure and tidy environment on the estate.

The volunteer directors of BEMC strive to minimise the costs of providing estate gardening, grounds maintenance, footpath lighting, shared access to the estate over Blackmoor Lane and other services to residents. You may have recently received notice of the estimate of charges for the next year and we were please be able to keep these at the same level as last year despite increased costs from some of our suppliers.

There has also been some further progress on roads adoption and TRDC / HCC have now been advised that once Thames Water confirm that the repaired sewers are

acceptable, the roads adoption agreements can then be completed.

Please remember that if you have comments or questions you can email us at directors@byewaters.co.uk. Other information is available on the www.byewaters.co.uk website.



David Whittaker

More News on the New Rail Link

The team behind the Croxley Rail Link project has submitted its bid to the Department for Transport. It is the proposed extension of the Met. Line from Croxley to Watford Junction via Watford



High Street. In a survey carried out 611 out of 750 thought the idea would provide improvements to travel connections within Watford. It is thought it would take approx. two years to become operational from the start of construction. An announcement on whether the bid to fund the project has been accepted will be made in December 2011.

Probably a good thing for Byewaters house prices etc.?

Byewater Birds Part 7

Living next to a Site of Special Scientific Interest and sandwiched between the River Gade and the Grand Union Canal provides local residents of Byewaters with some of the best bird watching opportunities in the area. Winter is back with us and there is no better time to wrap up warm and get out with a pair of binoculars and see some of our wonderful wild birds. And if you're not feeling up to facing the cold and wind we are lucky enough to be able to stay in and wait for some of the birds to visit our gardens during the winter months.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

The 'common' House Sparrow has seen a severe decline in numbers over the last decade or so with a drop of up to 70% in some areas. Byewaters still hosts a transient population of these birds however, with quite large numbers flitting from tree to tree as they noisily scavenge for food.



Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

The Redwing is a migrant to the UK and is usually only seen during the coldest winter months. A member of the Thrush family, large numbers of these distinctive birds can be seen flocking in fields, and more recently, in gardens and public spaces. The numbers seen around Byewaters varies considerably from year to year.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

Another member of the Thrush family, but considerably larger than the redwing, the Fieldfare occurs in large flocks that can be seen flying around the trees of Byewaters. They are not a common sight however and only the severest of winters will bring these birds from the nearby moorland and arable farmland.



Mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

The song of the Mistle thrush is unmistakable as the birds sits high in the branches of nearby trees or gives a rattling call as it flies through undergrowth. Not strictly a Byewaters bird (unless you know different!) as the closest nesting pair is on Beggars Bush Lane, but worth listening out for on a cold winter's morning and in decline nationally.

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

John Mynett – Byewaters

Christmas Cards

The custom of sending Christmas cards started in England in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. He was a civil servant who was very interested in the new 'Public Post Office'. Sir Henry had the idea of Christmas Cards and with his friend John C. Horsley, who was an artist, they designed the first card. 1,000 were printed and most of them were sold for 6d. each (old money), this price made them a luxury item. An advert for the first Christmas card appeared in the



Athenaeum paper 1843: "Just published. A Christmas Congratulation Card: or picture emblematical of Old English Festivity to Perpetuate kind recollections between Dear Friends." Printed lithographically and then hand-coloured. The card had three panels. The outer two showed people caring for the poor and the centre panel was a family having a large Christmas dinner! Some people didn't like the card because it showed a child being given a glass of wine!

Sir Henry Cole also worked with Rowland Hill between 1837 - 1840. They worked to introduce the universal Penny Postage and the first postage stamp, the Penny Black. In 1840 the first 'Penny Post' public postal deliveries began. As printing methods improved, Christmas cards became much more popular and were produced in large numbers from about 1860. In 1870 the cost of sending a post card, and also Christmas cards, dropped to half a penny. This meant even more people were able to send cards. An engraved card by the artist William Egley, who illustrated some of Charles Dickens's books, is on display in the British Museum. By the early 1900s, the custom had spread over Europe and had become especially popular in Germany. The first cards usually had pictures of the Nativity scene on them. In late Victorian times, robins and snow-scenes became popular because the postmen at that time were nicknamed 'Robin Postmen' because of the red uniforms they wore. Snow-scenes were popular because they reminded people of the very bad winter of 1836. Christmas Cards appeared in the USA in the late 1840s, but were very expensive and most people couldn't afford them.

In 1875, Louis Prang, a printer who was originally from Germany but who had also worked on early cards in the England, started mass producing cards so more people could afford to buy them. Prang's first cards featured flowers, plants, and children. In 1915, John C.

Hall and two of his brothers created Hallmark Cards, who are still one of the biggest card makers today! In the 1910s and 1920s, homemade cards became popular. They were often unusual shapes and had things such as foil and ribbon on them. These were usually too delicate to send through the post and were given by hand. Nowadays, cards have all sorts of pictures on them: jokes, winter pictures, Father Christmas, or romantic scenes of life in past times. Some charities also make money from seals or stickers used to seal the card envelopes. This custom started in Denmark in the early 1900s by a postal worker who thought it would be a good way for charities to raise money, as well as making the cards more decorative. It was a great success: over four million were sold in the first year! Soon Sweden and Norway adopted the custom and then it spread all over Europe and to America.

What to do with all those Christmas Cards when the festivities are over? Take note one of the first Christmas Cards, there are very few known to remain in existence, although one was sold in December 2005 for £8,500!



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to the Residents of the Byewater Estate

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WATFORD FC

Well, 1st October and we are away to The Saints and Watford playing in front of the biggest crowd so far, and after another dodgy penalty decision given against Watford, they go on to lose 4 - 0. Still, not to worry, 15th is a home game next against Palace. However, a good strike by the Eagles Zaha which was appreciated by a few Watford fans, the Hornets went on to lose 2 - 0. The only other highlight of the game was Watford's Eustace giving the referee a cuddle and getting away with it! From Eagles to Foxes, the Hornets went up to Leicester for the 19th of the month. Loach appeared to have one of his better games and managed to keep the score down low. Nugent and Beckford being the only two being able to get past him. Watford had made a few changes to the line up but again this was to no avail, losing again 2 - 0. This month is like going to the zoo, after Eagles and Foxes off we go to the Tigers at Hull. Bit of luck we can score a goal. Yes, the Hornets go one up! We scored....er no, it was an own goal, but each one counts. The Tigers get one back but Watford's Iwelumo scores - a real goal scored by Watford! Short lived as the Tigers level the score again and in to injury time we go, can we hold on for a draw? No, four minutes in to injury time and Hull take the 3 points. Oh well, never mind, luckily being a supporter for 37 years means I'm used to the trials and tribulations of our local home team. Back to The Vic and playing a bit of a Posh team next, Peterborough, with four games without a win, the Hornets get a well deserved win with a goal by Yeates and a Sordell brace. Note to self, must check the rule book again, but two opposition pulling back either side, on a forwards arms is a foul against the forward? Answers on a postcard..... Done animals and its birds next as the Seagulls fly in to the Hornets nest only to leave empty beaked as Troy Deeny scores the only goal after being on the pitch for only a few minutes. We are on a run now and off to Boro' where the Hornets were beaten by a poor sighted assistant referee. Must check rule book again, can score goal when ball passed with forward yards behind last defender with only keeper to beat.....

Ralph - Evensyde

This is the story of a little fir tree who dreamt of growing up so that he could go and be a Christmas tree amongst the Humans. The other, older trees, knew more about life, and they told him that being a tree with the Humans wasn't as good as all that. But the little fir tree didn't want to believe the older trees - and he didn't have long to wait. He was so pleased when one day some children came with their parents to choose a fir tree to decorate their living room. The children adored him at first sight. So he was dug up, and then



brought into the living room, where he was hung with decorations. After they had finished decorating him, the little fir tree shone with a thousand lights.

Christmas was getting closer and everyone admired the little Christmas tree. The young fir tree thought: "All the bigger fir trees were wrong" and he lifted his branches even higher so people could admire him better. Up till January, he was the prince of the living room; but then he started to lose his needles. Now nobody looked at him, touched him, or

even bothered to gather up the tiny needles that fell. Then, the whole family decided to put him down into the cellar. The fir tree started to feel very sad that he had even been chosen by the family. After several days' wait - it seemed never-ending to him - the little fir tree was replanted. He was so happy to be back in this good old earth that he'd missed so much during those endless days when he was shut up in the cellar!! Suddenly he understood that the family had left him in the cold of the cellar to keep him healthy. Each year, the family dug him up again to put him back into the living room. He was very happy with his new family.

And yes, in the end the bigger trees were wrong about something - some humans are good after all...

Cinderella
Watersmeet,
Rickmansworth
7th - 31st Dec
Tel: 01923 711063

Jonathan Ansell, from the multi-million record selling group G4, will be joining forces with a very creative cast to deliver the classic fairy tale pantomime Cinderella, in the role of Prince Charming.

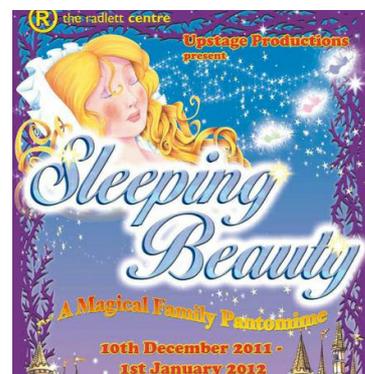
A production of Cinderella is never complete without the Ugly Sisters and Lav and Lou are certain to raise more than an eyebrow with their outrageous, colourful costumes. Not forgetting Cinderella's best buddy Buttons.



Sleeping Beauty

The Radlett Centre
Tel: 01923 859291
10th Dec - 1st January

An extremely popular traditional pantomime, including all your favourite comic characters such as Nanny Annie and Lester the Jester! Follow the adventures of a brave prince as he travels to rescue his beautiful princess from a wicked spell. Cheer the Good Fairy who cares for our heroine and boo the Evil Fairy who vows revenge. Fabulous live music, lots of laughs, stunning costumes, dazzling scenery and loads of audience participation this is good traditional fun for all the family!

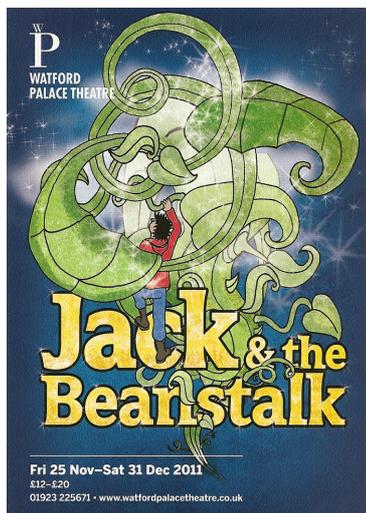


Jack And The Beanstalk

by Andrew Pollard

25th Nov - 31 Dec 2011
Watford Palace Theatre -
Box Office 01923 225671

If you're looking for a hilarious family show in a traditional setting, full of all the fun ingredients that the best pantos have, and packed to the brim with audience participation, head to the Palace. The ultimate Christmas treat - there's nothing better to put you in an exuberant festive spirit!



Here is a new idea for an edible Christmas Tree 2011



Ingredients - Marshmallows
Cooking time - None
Decoration - Marshmallows & marshmallow Star
Method - Good Luck
Happy Christmas!





(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.

Daniel - Byewaters nhw.byewaters@talktalk.net



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



It seems that food waste bags are going to be allowed! Other areas have had them for sometime and are an alternative to wrapping scraps up in newspaper. The biodegradable cornstarch bags can be placed in your brown bin caddy and then when full are sealed and placed in your large brown bins. The liners will soon be available from the parish council offices for £2.50 (a roll of 52 bags) they may also be sold elsewhere. Look out for further news on this in local newspapers etc.

Well now I belong to a Choir!

I have always enjoyed a good sing song, the last time being at school many, many years ago or when in church on the odd occasion for a wedding or a funeral. I had been reading odd snippets about Rock Choir in the paper and was delighted when an article appeared in a Sunday supplement talking about the Rock Choir founder and how Rock Choir was created etc. This article excited me and before you could sing 'do, ray, me' I'd found the website and had enlisted for a taster session with the local Watford Rock Choir. Arriving at the taster session one wet and windy Tuesday evening extremely nervous and had no idea what to expect. Quickly signing in and choosing to sit in the Alto section (where I still sit) I was pleased to see that there were other newcomers. Several

ladies came and welcomed me and the hall quickly filled, I sat next to another 'tastee', her name was Claire. At eight o'clock on the dot, a blonde vision appeared at the front of the class, her name was Abbie, and she is our leader, classically trained with a beautiful voice. There were no auditions and no one had to sing on their own, Abbie quickly got us underway warming up our voices singing little ditties such as 'many men, many men, many men men men' and 'swing low, sweet chariot', well, within 10 minutes I was hooked. The whole evening was spent learning line by line, 'aint no mountain' the motown favourite and by the end of the evening I could sing the whole song through (with everyone else of course). I went home singing my head off in the car and immediately signed up for the next term. I am now in my second year with the Watford Rock Choir, in May of this year the whole of the UK Rock Choirs (some 10,000) voices all met and sang at Wembley Arena. Well my socks were well and truly blown off! The sheer volume of so many singers was really overwhelming but so enjoyable. We also sang at the Rickmansworth Festival in May where we opened the second day. Our Summer show was at the St Albans Arena, which was my first proper stage show - what an experience! We now have a repertoire of almost 20 songs and will learn another 4 this year. Can't wait for the new term to begin to get us ready for our Christmas Show. Claire who I met on the first night is now a good friend, we still sit together to sing every week. Look out for our Christmas Show at the Rickmansworth Starlight event (used to be the Victorian evening) and other events in the coming year and if you feel inspired enough to join us, have a look at the website: www.rockchoir.co.uk you really won't regret it.

Val - Gill Close

POETS CORNER

Beauty Tips

poem by Audrey Hepburn

For attractive lips,
speak words of kindness.
For lovely eyes,
seek out the good in people.
For a slim figure,
share your food with the hungry.
For beautiful hair, let a child run
his/her fingers through it once a day.
For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.
People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed,
revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.
Remember, if you ever need a helping hand,
you will find one at the end of each of your arms.
As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands;
one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.



REMEMBER –

**What do you get if you cross Father Christmas
with a duck?
A Christmas Quacker!!**

AND

**Santa Claus has the right idea
Visit people once a year! (Victor Borge)**



Trades List

It has been suggested that details of tradesmen that have been used by homeowners on Byewaters be listed on our web page. We already have a few, 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



Our Excellent Printer is:- The Imagehaus Ltd., Unit 4, Waterside Business Park, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1PE
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This way you are donating money to a good cause, for maybe as little as a £1 a week but with the chance to win £10,000!



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

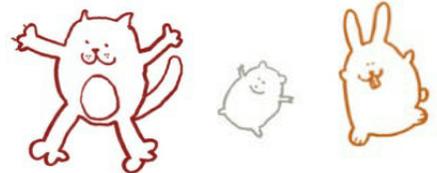
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- We will feed & care for you pets (including watering plants, taking in post etc) in the comfort of their own home when you are away or home late
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- To arrange a FREE intro session call Abby on **07834 602106**



Watford Surestart Children's Centres

A help for stressed Mums and great for children.
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also you can contact Delia at Morris Minor pre-school tel: 07770 397456

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Nuffield Health

GYM NOW OPEN

*to the Residents of the
Byewater Estate*

For more information call 01923 232 016
or email croxleygreen.gym@nuffieldhealth.com
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