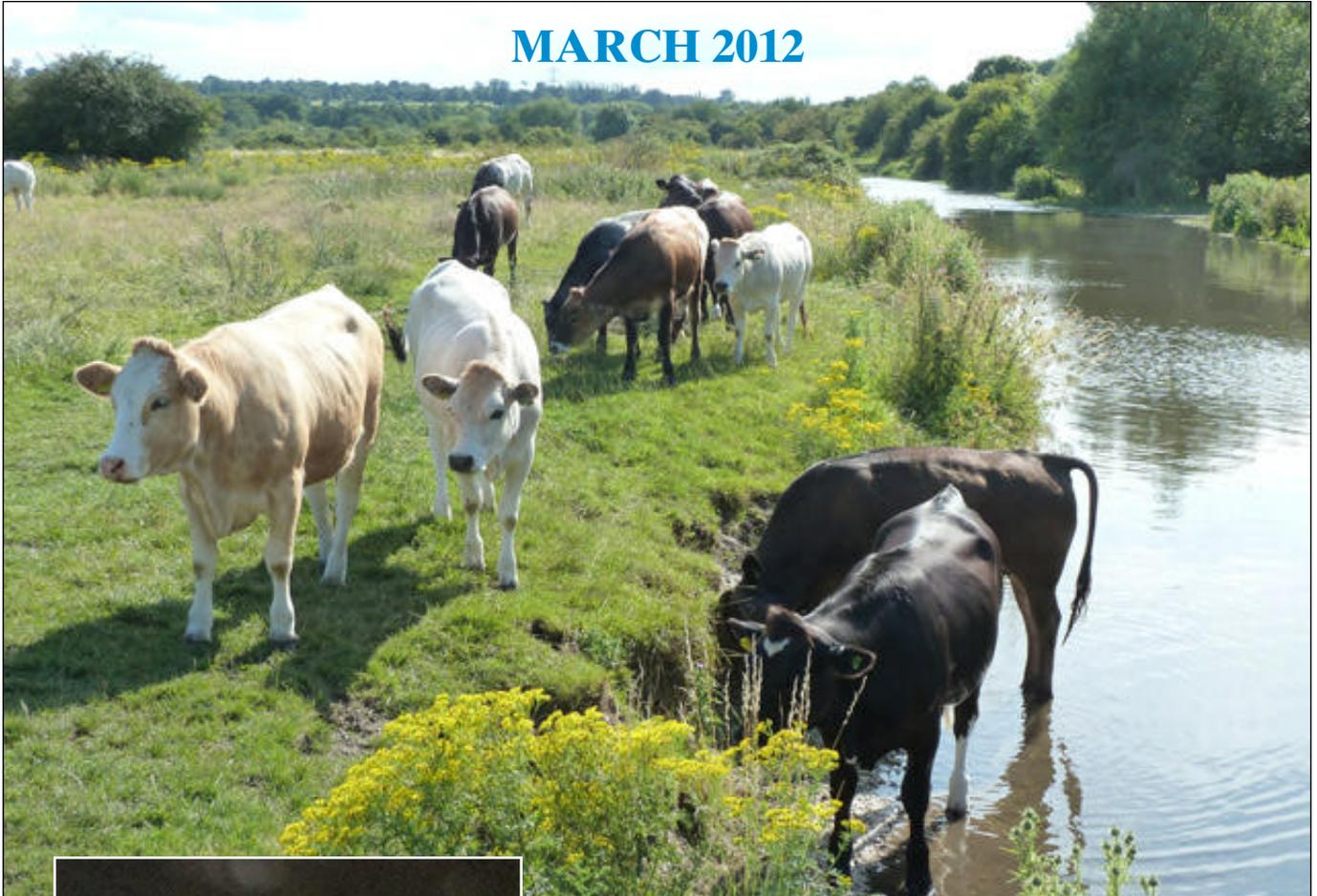


BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

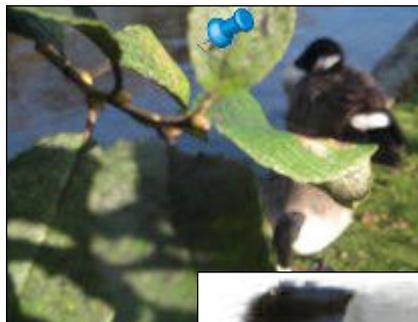
MARCH 2012



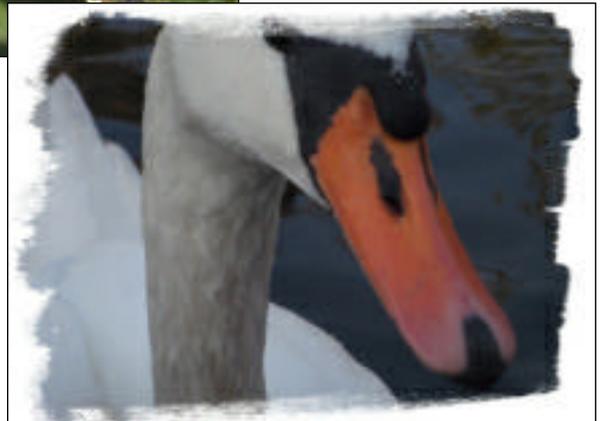
Wading in the Gade and grazing on the Moor



Kingfisher enjoying the railings!



*Pictures of
Byewaters by
Isabel (9 yrs. old)*



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



Hi,
I know it is rather belated but Happy New Year to everyone on Byewaters, let us hope that this year is going to be happy and healthy for all. We did our carol singing in December and raised more money again for a really good cause, see article for all the details. Now we are looking ahead to the AGM on 25th April. All the information will arrive through your door, please come and support your directors and have your say on matters that you might want to air. It is the one evening each year when you can meet all your directors. We then have 5th June the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Following the success of a few street parties that took place last year for the Royal Wedding, maybe a street party or parties would be a good idea. If you have any ideas and think this is something you might want to get involved in, please contact me and I can put you in touch with each other. Looking much

further on to July we have our annual Byewaters Picnic (date to follow) which is always a great success and so you can see that this year is already shaping up as an interesting one for Byewaters. None of this includes all the interesting things that go on each day on our doorsteps with the wildlife and boats to make Byewaters always a really great place to live.

Fran - Editor

Extra page of trades etc. 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, John Mynett, Isabel Botwright (Cover photos), Byewaters Residents for their contributions, David Whittaker (web version) Image Link Ltd (Printing), Newsletter delivery helpers Beth and Mary and James Estate Agents (Sponsorship).



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

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 25th April 2012 at Harvey Road School. Please put this date in your diary and look out for details of the agenda which will be sent out in early April. Each year the meeting provides an opportunity for property owners to receive reports and ask questions about

the operation and finances of BEMC - and also to meet the volunteer directors who manage the company on your behalf. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Several residents have asked BEMC about the ownership and maintenance of the car parking areas on the estate. In general each of these areas are made up of a number of interlocking and separately owned parking spaces which are subject to mutual obligations regarding shared access and maintenance. These should be detailed and identified in your property transfer documentation. A good number of properties have been bought and sold on the estate in recent months and we welcome new owners and residents. If you haven't yet spoken to one of the directors or received information about the role of BEMC, please do let us know. If you have any 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



Coal by Canal to Croxley Mill

During the 19th century, and continuing until 1938, the coal for Croxley Mill, and for other Dickinsons' mills, generally came from the Warwickshire coalfields by horse drawn wooden boats operated by small operators, the "Number One" boatmen.

Until the arrival of the diesel engine for these boats from the late 1920s, it would take 10 or 12 days to make the round trip - once motorised, this reduced to 5 or 6 days. The pair of boats (two horse boats or a motor and a butty) carried about 50 tons, and roughly speaking that was needed each day. Nash Mill, for example, smaller than Croxley, used over 1000 tons of coal a month. By 1904, the 100th anniversary of the company's founding, Croxley Mill made all the better kinds of paper, such as writing papers; map, lithographic, and plate papers; highly glazed papers for magazines and illustrated journals; and the best papers for printing Bibles and other "quality" books. In that year a description of the workings of the Mill was written, and is distilled below. The principal raw materials, all of which came in by boat or barge at this time, were rags, esparto grass, and wood-pulp. The actual buildings of the mill covered an area of about 24,000 square yards - nearly five acres. The power for driving the machinery was, by then, almost entirely derived from steam engines, although four American "Hercules" water turbines working under a head of 13 ft drove water-pumps, and in wet years they helped to drive the steam-powered beating-engines (which munched up the pulp) as well. So the

Mill needed a lot of coal, and to hold a stock of it. The coal shed was 200 ft. by 50 ft., and could hold 4,000 tons of coal, enough to withstand quite a long stoppage of supply. Even by 1900 the firing of the boilers was mechanized, and largely automatic. The coal was unloaded from the boats at the western end of the mill, towards the lock - the other end was for the raw materials and the loading of the product into the Paper Dasher boats heading for London's King's Cross. The boats were moored under a kind of dredging machine known to the boat people as the "jigger". For reasons that will become clear the jigger didn't like wet coal, so (almost uniquely) coal boats heading for Croxley were required to be clothed up. On arrival at the mill, the cloths and stands were removed, and the boat positioned. Under the jigger, an unloading crew shoveled the coal into the buckets, which took it (at about 20 tons per half-hour) up to the top of the shed above and delivered it to an endless chain-conveyor running in a trough along the top of the shed. There were gratings in the bottom of this trough through which the small coal dropped, the lumps too big for the mechanical stokers passing on to the other end of the shed. The chain came back down to ground level, returning along the shed in an underground tunnel with the coal for the boilers dropping onto it through openings in the floor, and so being carried along for delivery to a second chain, which conveyed it up and over the mill-tail to the boiler house. There it was lifted to a third chain, which passed along the top of the boiler-house, distributing the coal down chutes to feed the mechanical stokers on the boilers, which loaded it into the boilers to maintain the required temperature. You can see why the coal really had to be dry! Ashes and clinker were carried out of the boiler house by the returning chain.

Fabian - Byewater

London to Paris Charity Cycle Ride July 2012



Some of you may remember my writing in the newsletter about my cycling a 110 mile stage of the Tour de France in July 2010. Now I have committed myself to another adventure on 2 wheels. I am taking part in the London to Paris bike ride in July 2012 in aid of Action Medical Research. This charity raises funds for medical research into serious illnesses, etc. that affect babies and very young children. The ride is 300 miles over 4 days, starting at the O2 in London and finishing down the Champs Elysses the night before the Tour de France finishes in Paris. Some of you know that I do

a lot of cycling out into the Chilterns and Thames Valley and I have been training hard indoors over the winter to make me better prepared than in 2010. But I need your help as I need to raise at least £1,400 in sponsorship, of which the organisation costs of the trip are £687. That first £687 has already been covered, mostly by me, so any new donation is a pure contribution to the charity. So please would you be generous and help me raise more than the minimum target to help these children get essential medical help in the early vulnerable days of their lives. Here is the link to my sponsorship page for you to make a donation by card: <https://www.action.org.uk/sponsor/michaelgunn> Oh and any donation is eligible for relief from UK Income Tax under the Gift Aid scheme!

Mike - Longmans Close

Byewater Birds Part 8

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. Spring is the time when we see the local wildfowl reproducing and the canal seems to turn into a huge crèche for our ducks, geese and swans.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

The Moorhen is a common bird around the River Gade and the Grand Union Canal and is a resident of Byewaters - breeding successfully here most years. It is smaller than the Coot and has a distinctive red bill with a yellow tip. These noisy birds are often heard late into the night as they argue over the best nesting sites.



Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Perhaps the most distinguished resident Byewater bird, the mute swan is Britain's commonest swan and the world's heaviest flying bird (with a wingspan of up to 2.4m and a weight of 15Kg). The males are fiercely territorial and will hiss aggressively if they perceive a threat - these swans are virtually silent otherwise, hence their name. The Queen still has the right of ownership of any unmarked swans on open water - but rarely extends this right beyond the Thames.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

The mallard is probably Britain's best known duck and the ancestor of all domestic ducks. The male and female are very different from one another (the female being less colourful than the male) and they form close pairs during the mating season, after which the female is left alone protecting the nest. Recent nesting attempts around Byewaters have been affected by local cats eating the eggs before they can hatch.



Greylag goose (*Anser anser*)

A rare visitor to the Grand Union Canal, the Greylag goose can occasionally be seen mixing with Canada geese around the estate. It is a large stocky bird with a bright orange bill and is the ancestor of all domestic geese. Any greylag geese seen here will probably be passing migrants from Iceland, Scandinavia or Scotland. The greylag goose was the species chosen by Lorenz to show imprinting behaviour in animals.

For more information about any of these birds visit the RSPB site (www.rspb.org.uk) or to report any Byewater bird sightings then email 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 Mynett – Byewaters



Locked in paw-to-paw combat, nature lovers were treated to this sight of 'mad March hares' (*Lepus europaeus*) boxing. Traditionally a sign that spring is under way. These mad March hares have started their battle, the ferocious bouts are traditionally part of the brown hare's courtship ritual. The contests were long believed to be between two male hares fighting for dominance. But in fact the disputes are usually a reluctant female repelling the unwanted advances of an overexcited male. Conservationists are concerned that the sight of brown hares boxing could soon become a thing of the past. The species has suffered a 75 per cent decline over the past 50 years. We have plenty of rabbits on the moor and maybe one day hare's too.

MAD AS A MARCH HARE



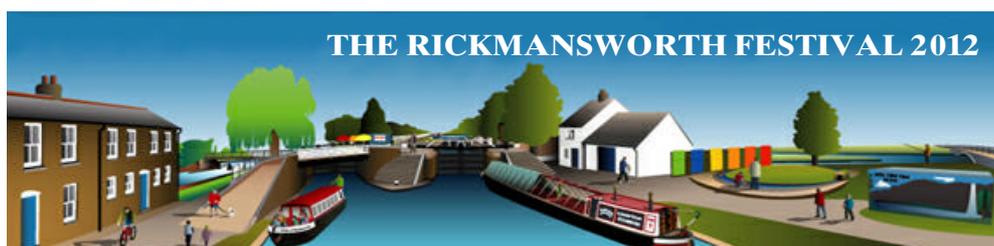
CAROL SINGING FOR THE PEACE HOSPICE

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who ventured out on that cold December night singing their little hearts out for this really worthy cause. Thank you also to everyone who donated again, it is much appreciated. We have had a thank you letter from the hospice for raising £450. We had a little help from Croxley Business Park and the local U3A group and of course friends and family. We received a second thank you via email from the principal fund raiser at the hospice who pointed out that over the last 4 years we have raised £1,150. Please give yourselves a 'pat on the back' for helping and donating again and let us hope we can keep this going and do it all again in December 2012.

***Don't forget** the 'Starlight Walk' which will take place on Saturday, 23rd June this year to raise money for the hospice if you are interested in knowing more please look on their website or call the fundraising team on 01923 330340 or email: charrison@peacehospice.org.uk for information.

Fran

The Rickmansworth Festival takes place on the third weekend of May every year and celebrates canals, the community and the environment (Saturday and Sunday 19th and 20th May 2012). Now going for over fifteen years, it is the highlight of the town's annual calendar and 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. If you are interested in getting



THE RICKMANSWORTH FESTIVAL 2012

involved as a volunteer helping at the event please contact the Festival Director, David Montague by email at: david.montague@btinternet.com

AN UPDATE ON AN AUTUMN MORNING

I just knew it would happen, there I was once again, sitting in my dressing room, I looked up and saw a little white patch on the left hand bank of the river that winds itself up past our house and off towards the Croxley Moor. I waited for the patch to move so that I could see what it was, I thought it might have been a little swan, when a shadow passed over the window down towards the river, as it got a bit further away I could see the distinctive shape of a heron - well I knew of course it was my heron, the one I told you about last year. He landed near the white patch on the river bank and within a few minutes another heron flew over the house and joined him. I carried on doing what I was doing (drying my hair etc) keeping one eye on the river bank and guess what? The two herons and the little white patch took off and flew in formation over the end of the river towards the big tall trees in the distance somewhere in Croxley, I was gob smacked! Two herons and their baby, how gorgeous, I was then totally stunned when all three turned right in the distance and flew back down the river and over the house it was as if they were bringing their baby to come and see me, I was really moved (I am such a soffee), but I will never forget the moment.

Val



We are again at the New Year point where teams of all leagues have a change in their performances and Watford is no exception. From mid - November 2011 to New Year we had not lost for eight games with wins against Portsmouth, Ipswich and Doncaster. There was even a warm welcome back to David James when The Robins drew 2-2 at The Vic. A visit to Portsmouth and a bit of sea air, which didn't do the Hornets any good as we lost 2-0 and Scott Loach was sent off very late in the game for handling the ball outside the area. Come on, be fair, the fans advice has always been don't stand on the line, go out to get the ball and when he does, look what happens! FA Cup 3rd round and the Bantams from Bradford came to visit. Watford surging ahead and eventually running out as 4 - 2 winners including a brace from Craig Forsyth. There was also a change in the side as Jonathan Bond was given his full debut due to Scott Loach serving his ban. A very good performance by Bond and no doubt we will see more of him in the future. Up to Birmingham next which is never an easy game, but is there one with Watford? Unfortunately for the 'orns, they were brought back down to earth by a 3-0 drumming. Reading came next but we lost out 2-1 without us scoring a goal. But no ghostly reason about that as Reading did the work for us! Then the big game - the FA Cup 4th round with Watford v Tottenham Hotspurs. With the live TV and the past FA Cup results going against us could there be an upset? Harry Redknapp took his usual place on the touchline after courting a lot of unwanted publicity during that week to urge on his Premiership team. At least the Hornets were treated with respect by Mr Redknapp as he fielded a strong Spurs side but Watford were unlucky not to win. Hitting the post, shots saved off the line and missing the goal did not help us and a missed timed dive by Loach from a shot by Van der Vaart settled the tie. But, the game lived up to the good old fashioned Vicarage Road cup ties of the past and was most certainly not taxing to watch. A visit to the Den and the roaring Lion and we beat them 2-0 thanks to Deeny and Garner. But, to balance things up, well done to Scott Loach for saving a penalty from our old "friend" Hendo. Mind you it was Scott's fault in the first place!

Ralph - Evensyde

CROXLEY RAIL LINK

Following the announcement on funding of the scheme, the application for the Transport and Works Act Order authorising the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed extension of the Metropolitan Line to Watford Junction has now been submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport. Representations and objections needed to be lodged with the



Secretary of State by 17th February 2012. The railway will commence north-east of the bridge carrying Winton Approach over the Metropolitan Line railway, passing on a new viaduct over Baldwins Lane, Rickmansworth Road, the Grand Union Canal, Beggars Bush Lane and the River Gade, then passing

over New Ascot Road and Ascot Road and along the course of the Croxley Green Branch Line railway, terminating north-east of the bridge carrying Wiggenhall Road over the railway by a connection with the Euston to Watford Junction Line railway. The works include new stations at Ascot Road and Watford Hospital, reinstatement of the junction of the Croxley Green Branch Line Railway with the Euston to Watford Junction Line railway, reconstruction of the bridge carrying the railway over new Ascot Road and Ascot Road, widening of the bridge carrying the railway over the former Cardiff Road, parapet strengthening works to bridges, the reconstruction and extension of the culvert between Beggars Bush Lane and New Ascot Road together with ancillary works to facilitate the construction of the railway. There are rumours that Morrisons will be building a store on the Ascot Road Sorting Office site and will share a car park with the new station??



Please Help Your Fellow Neighbours

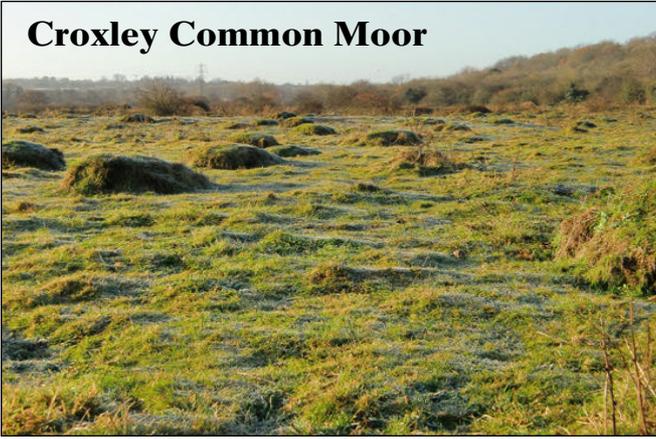
The amount of cars we have on Byewaters is a problem, how fast they travel around the estate and where to put them all! The two things are linked because there are so many cars parked around Byewaters it is sometimes difficult to see what is around the next bend, so driving slowly is a must!! Although not ideal, parking with two wheels on the pavement, is being accepted

in some areas, but parking completely on the pavement is not acceptable at any time. As you can see (living streets campaign poster) a car completely blocking the pavement is a problem for prams and buggies, wheelchairs and for people with impaired vision. Also cars can damage the pavements and with oil spills as well can cause major slip and trip hazards. Can we please consider others when parking and driving around Byewaters.

No obstructing the pavements for pedestrians and reduce speed when driving here. You never know what you might see around that corner! ÜÜÜ



Croxley Common Moor



The anthills help to make the moor such a special place (can be seen in colour on our web version - www.byewatersnews.co.uk) Our closeness to Croxley Common Moor is one of the biggest benefits of living on the Byewaters estate. Croxley Common Moor is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of its wide range of wild flowers, some quite rare. There are several reasons for this: Most of it has never been ploughed or fertilised (wild flowers thrive best in soil that is poor in nutrients). The anthills foster different plants. Variety within the site (drier at the Byewaters end than at the other end) assists plant diversity. Traditionally grazing by commoners' livestock prevented bushes and trees and coarser vegetation from taking over the moor. Without traditional grazing, the moor needs active management to preserve and enhance its wealth of wild flowers. That is why volunteers remove bushes during the autumn and winter, and cattle are brought in to graze there during the spring and summer. The cattle present no risk to people walking on the moor.

If cattle approach you, it's only because they are naturally curious animals. Of course it makes sense to keep any dogs under control when walking near the cattle. The Friends of Croxley Common Moor website (www.croxleycommonmoor.org.uk) lists all volunteer events and guided walks, as well as an interesting talk on wildlife crime on 12 March.

(I'd always thought they were mole hills! Thank you - editor)

Graham - Evensyde

The Joys of a Motorbike

The weather is improving and the various past times like the spring flowers start to come out again. Some start dusting off their beloved machines with a big beaming smile. It's time to get the bikes out. No. I'm not talking about pedal power, I'm talking horse power. The motorcycling weather is coming and what ever you ride from scooter to sports machine, you always enjoy taking it out for a ride. A few of us, on the Byewaters estate, ride all year round, mainly for commuting. When the weather changes, we appreciate it more, going out with a couple of other enthusiasts, with



different types of machines and experience, on a Sunday morning ride to places such as Finchingfield, Essex, or Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire. Have a mug of coffee and a bacon roll and gently ride home. It's a great way to discover more of the adjacent counties and Hertfordshire with their small villages, scenery and picturesque chocolate box houses. You start finding areas where they film programmes such as Midsummer Murders, Vicar of Dibley etc. You just park up and look around before continuing your journey. Back at home, bike in the drive and getting a clean. A number of people pass but usually stop and have a chat asking about the bike and reminiscing back to the time when they used to ride, before walking on. We are a friendly and respectable bunch. Not noisy, loud, vulgar, or axe throwing individuals, but respectable men and women who just enjoy the freedom of the open air and exploration of our local area. Now where's my ipod? Funky Moped or Leader of the Pack?

Ralph - Evensyde



(Herts. Police on 0845 3300222 or 101)
If anyone would like to receive 'OWL' updates, please contact your local PCSO Gareth.Williams@Herts.pnn.police.uk and he can register you. It is kind of 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.



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

Trades List

It has been suggested that details of tradesmen that have been used by homeowners on Byewaters be listed on our web pages 6 and 7.

(www.byewatersnews.co.uk)

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

Fran



FOOD WASTE BAGS



As mentioned in the last newsletter cornstarch bags are now available for your brown food scraps caddy and large brown bins, they are an 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 £2.50 for a roll of 52 bags. If you use one a week a roll of 52 bags should last you a year!

POETS CORNER

"The March wind roars
Like a lion in the sky,
And makes us shiver
As he passes by.
When winds are soft,
And the days are warm and clear,
Just like a gentle lamb,
Then spring is here."

Author Unknown

REMEMBER –

Q: What do you call
a row of rabbits
walking backwards?

A: A receding hare-line!!

AND

**A chicken
crossing the road is
poultry in motion!**

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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!



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Tracey - 07507 059065

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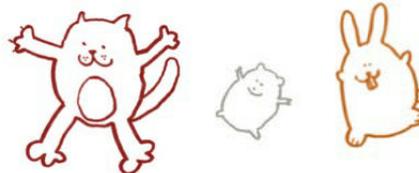
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- Feathered & fishy friends also welcome
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- To arrange a FREE intro session call Abby on **07834 602106**



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