

BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012



Busy days on the canal



Lots of coming, going and manoeuvring



A well-dressed lookout these days is a must!

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



*Hi,
We will be holding our 5th Byewaters Picnic on the green 8th July 2.00 pm, more information below, let us hope that the weather is kind to us. We had a wonderful couple of weeks in March and then straight back into winter with snow and floods in some places. The weather in this country never stops amazing us and now we have a drought with a hose pipe ban! If you read the article below about the Sun Clock Tower you will note that this was also a problem at times for the printing works in this area when there was a low rainfall. So we have been down this road many times before and managed. You could always try the canal for the odd bucket of water for your plants but mind you don't fall in. The Queen will be celebrating her Diamond Jubilee on 5th June and I am sure there will be lots of impromptu celebrating on Byewaters and again let us*

hope that the good old British weather is kind to us on that weekend. If you do celebrate around Byewaters please send me your photos for publishing in the next newsletter.

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 (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)

On 25th April we held our AGM to review the operation and finances of BEMC and to respond to other issues raised by the members who attended the event. Among the issues raised was road safety on the estate - particularly the speed at which people drive and also inconsiderate parking which obstructs junctions and pavements. The estate roads have several sharp corners where visibility is limited and this is further compromised when vehicles are parked close to these corners and junctions. We also have many children and other pedestrians using the pavements at all times of the day. At the last AGM it was suggested that we should all limit our speed to 20 mph or less on the estate and encourage other drivers to moderate their speed too. At this AGM we heard that the councils hope to complete roads adoption late this year. Once this has taken place the opportunity for formal imposition of speed limits and parking restrictions will become available. Please let us know if you would like to see mandatory speed limits and yellow lines appearing on the estate. We would prefer to encourage all residents to drive and park considerately now so that these measures will be unnecessary.

The meeting also approved the accounts for 2011, received an update on footpath lighting, re-elected two directors (Martin Hurley and Stewart Rose) and thanked past directors for their voluntary time and effort. At the AGM a suggestion was made that residents might like to join a working party for an occasional 'Spruce up Byewaters', maybe clearing litter, moss etc. If you are interested please send your email address /telephone number. Minutes were taken and will be distributed to all owners shortly.

If you would like to contribute to the operation 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



STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS

BYEWATERS 5th ANNUAL PICNIC – 2pm Sunday 8th July 2012

I believe a 5th anniversary is 'Wood' and so quite appropriate as we will be sitting amongst the trees and wonderful natural surroundings for our 5th Byewaters Picnic on the green - the Children's Play Area near the lock. A good time is always had by all and the photographs of the event will appear on the front cover of the September newsletter. Please come and join your neighbours, bring whatever you want chairs, rugs, sandwiches etc. or just come along and have a chat, everyone is welcome the more the merrier. Looking forward to seeing you there - 2.00 pm Sunday 8th July a date for your diary.

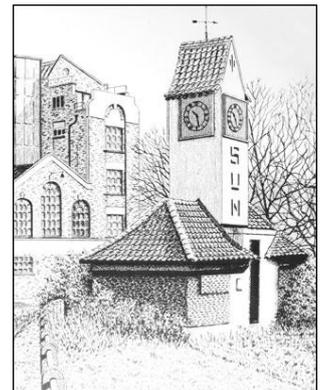


The Sun's clock tower in its hay- day

This little building, a water-pumping station, was erected on Ascot Road in 1934 over an artesian well, and designed to provide a consistent flow of water to the printing works. Enabling Sun Engraving to overcome problems of the fluctuating water supply, especially serious after lengthy periods of low rainfall. A license was granted for the firm to extract up to 16,000 gallons per hour. The water was pumped to the boiler house and then to the rotary gravure presses to steam-dry the ink. Some renovation work was carried out in 2008 and the building has recently been boxed in and hidden from view.

Left: Renovations carried out in 2008

Right: Pen and ink illustration by John Kirkham.



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

Is this where the new station is going to be and are they going to save and incorporate the Sun clock tower or is it going to disappear? What has happened to the well and all that water, which was especially useful in periods of low rainfall??

Byewater Birds Part 9

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. In this issue we look at some of our most frequent visitors and resident birds - but also some of our most interesting.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

These medium sized birds have a very dark plumage that has a beautiful purple and green iridescent sheen when caught in the right light. Small numbers of starlings are a common sight around Byewaters, but to see the huge aerobic flocks known as murmurations, you need to travel the short distance to Springwell Reedbeds (adjacent to Stockers Lake nature reserve).

The RSPB recently highlighted an 80% decline in starling numbers around the UK.



Magpie (*Pica pica*)

Like the starling, when caught in the right light the magpie has a wonderful colouration; a purple-blue and green iridescence. Although not a popular bird, the magpie is a highly intelligent scavenger and opportunist that has been incorrectly linked to the decline of other bird species. Much folklore is associated with this bird and seeing a lone magpie is thought to be a foreboding of bad luck and misfortune. Seeing two is associated with good luck - One for sadness, two for joy.....

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

This common bird is a familiar sight around Byewaters with its distinctive orange yellow beak and black plumage as well as its musical song (as in Sing a Song of Sixpence). The females are a dark brown and you may see some with black beaks (juveniles) or white feathers (semi-albino). Like the magpie, the blackbird is also the subject of much ancient but often contradictory folklore. To dream of a blackbird is a portent of bad things to come, but to dream of a flying blackbird is a sign of prosperity.



Carrion crow (*Corvus corone*)



These large all-black birds are another common sight to Byewaters - perched on roof tops or fighting with gulls for scraps along the canal. They are resourceful scavengers and one of our most intelligent birds. Crows in Israel have been found fishing by using bread as bait and North American crows have been seen manufacturing and using simple tools for feeding. Recently crows have started using traffic lights to position nuts in the road which cars then crush open. The crows then feed when the lights turn red again! The oldest known crow was nearly 30 years old.

For more information about any of these birds visit the RSPB site (www.rspb.org.uk). To report any bird sightings or leave comments 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



STARLIGHT WALK – BE PART OF SOMETHING MAGICAL!

We're celebrating Olympic year with a brand new look for our Starlight Walk which all kicks off at the Colosseum in Watford at 10pm (new walking start time) on **Saturday 23rd June**. **Pre-walk entertainment**. Soak up the atmosphere at the big 'Team Starlight' warm-up session with entertainment hosted by Heart 96.6FM - from 9pm at the newly refurbished Colosseum. There'll be plenty of refreshments (given out by our friendly fire-fighters and marshals) en route to keep you going. So come on girls, get your friends together, join Team Starlight and let's all help the Peace Hospice to raise as much money as possible! Sign up now and we'll send you our 'new look' T-shirts and we'll look forward to handing out your well deserved medal at the finish line! Please call our fundraising team on 01923 330340 or email us. **Why the Peace Hospice needs your support?** At the end of last year, we were forced to temporarily close two beds in our Inpatient Unit due to a shortfall in funding. We

hope, that with your help, we can help raise the £3.5 million needed each year to keep the Hospice running. The Peace Hospice cares for over 1,000 people with a life limiting or terminal illness from across South West Hertfordshire every year; all the care we provide is free of charge. The Starlight Walk has raised nearly £1 million since it first started 6 years ago and that money plays a vital part in helping the Peace Hospice keep on running. So we're hoping you'll keep on walking to raise over £150,000 on the 2012 Starlight Walk. Let us help the Peace Hospice to continue helping people.

Solar Panels - Make pay while the sun shines

Two years ago, to help combat climate change, the Government introduced payments to encourage renewable electricity generation. This applies to all types of renewable generation, but in practice solar has proved the most popular. (This is different from solar hot water, which is only economic for large households using lots of hot water.) Though these payments fell from April 2012, they are still a big help towards installation costs. These payments may change again from 1 July, so don't delay if you're interested. (This article only covers installations in homes from April 2012.) What are the payments? As the electricity generated cannot be stored, any surplus is "exported" to the national grid. For the first 25 years you receive 3.2 pence per kilowatt hour (kWh) exported plus, more significantly, a Feed In Tariff of 21 pence per kWh generated. To qualify for these index linked payments, your home needs to meet at least Energy Performance Certificate D, and the installer must be registered with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. Also of course you are avoiding the cost of buying the amount of electricity which you both generate and use at home. Is my home suitable? That depends mainly on the area of roof space suitable for putting solar panels on. Because light is needed to generate electricity, the closer the roof is to south-facing the better. A roof overshadowed by trees or buildings will be less useful. Contractor quotations will predict the amount generated and resulting income over the next 25 years, and how long it will take to break even. What does installation involve?



Installers will need scaffolding to work on the roof, and will need to install an "inverter" in the loft. A cable will run from the inverter to the generation meter. Is permission needed? Planning permission is not needed if the panels do not project above the ridge, nor more than 200mm from the roof. Consent may be needed under our Byewaters covenants, so I cleared my installation with the Byewaters Estate Management Company directors.

Graham Everett

Croxley Green Revels

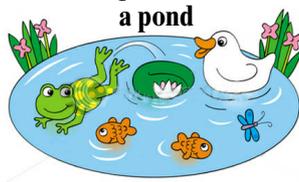
Revels on the Green Saturday 23rd June 2012 @ 1.30pm. The Revels on The Green, the village's annual celebration of mid-summer. Our day is shared by local voluntary organisations, clubs and charities, as well as local junior schools who have a much loved pushball competition at the end of the day. There is always lots going on with a carnival procession, stalls, side shows and a whole host of entertainment in the arena area. Anyone and everyone can be a part of Revels on the Green. Come along and join in the fun! Our other event - the second 'Croxfest' Saturday 8th September 2012 - 12.00 to 8.00 pm on the Green.



Chloe Princes of the Revels with her attendants (2011)

It's been a while but after a lot of negotiation and promises I finally have the pond I have always wanted, it might be a bit on the small side and not quite the shape I had envisaged but never the less a pond it is. For as long as I can remember, Dad has always had a pond in his garden and the grandchildren enjoyed very much being allowed to sprinkle fish food under his strict guidance of course. Most years the pond was stocked with goldfish which varied in size and colour, but occasionally Dad would decide he had enough of fish and would empty the pond, cover it over and would set about decorating the top much to my mum's amazement! One year he was in an oriental mood and covered the top of the pond with a concrete Geisha Girl (painted bright green) and a Pagoda oh and a Buddha (I am not sure if

At long last we have a pond



they are all Japanese but they looked ok together). Another year he had a penchant for Dahlias so we were all treated to a wonderful bright display (full of earwigs of course). Dad hasn't been so well this year, he has stopped driving at last, but his poorly legs keep him inside these days especially when the weather is not too good. Unfortunately his interest in his pond has disappeared too, so to see if we could cheer him up, Neil built a tiny pond in our garden, its not the biggest or the prettiest we have seen but it's ours, we have some lovely reeds and plenty of plants and best of all we have two lovely little goldfish. I am hoping that sometime soon Dad will be well enough for us to go and get him so he can see our new additions.

Val



Well time flies and since the last personal view expressed we have won 8, drawn 7 and lost 3 which on the face of it does not seem bad for us, and its not, but if only We finished 11th and 11 points from the lowest position in the playoffs which is far better than a lot of the football critics suggested at the start of the season as we were prime candidates for going down. They had the wrong team and mixing us up with the very small M1 team whose name we shouldn't mention! We weathered the storms when Watford lost Adrian "Mapps" Mariappa and Martin "Tiny" Taylor through injury as the re-worked back four all pulled together. Sean "he's one of own" Murray continued and maintained his hard worked performances and scored a few times and won the Watford FC Young Player of the Season and it was well deserved. Troy Deeney got the Goal of the Season for his superbly chipped goal at home against Ipswich whilst Adrian Mariappa won Watford FC's Player of the season for the second year running and added the Players Player 2012 award to his collection. Lloyd Doyley has his Testimonial and has been rewarded with a game against Tottenham Hotspurs in August and no doubt there will be a good crowd there to support his loyalty to the club and fingers crossed he may, yes may, score his second goal! So in to the closed season we go with all the rumours flying around, as with any other club, who stays, who goes and who comes in, will there be a takeover, will the Yellow and Red Lion open permanently - Yes all the big questions raised here and as for the answers?.....I haven't a clue! Before I sign off, congratulations to a past manager, Ray Lewington for being brought in to the England fold and also thank you to Sean Dyche and his team, as without his hard work, determination and persistence I wouldn't have any thing to write about. But then again, some people may think that's a good thing.....

Ralph - Evensyde

CROXLEY RAIL LINK

Statement of Case
Thursday, May 3rd, 2012

On 15 March 2012 the Secretary for State for Transport announced her decision to hold an inquiry into the TWA application for the Order.

Arrangements are currently being made for the holding of the inquiry and once an Inspector has been appointed further details will be given. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and London Underground Limited (LUL) have now submitted their Statement of Case for the Order. It contains particulars of the case which HCC and LUL propose to put forward at the public, local inquiry into the TWAO application. A copy of every document, or the relevant part of the document, which the applicants intend to refer to or put in evidence at the forthcoming inquiry on this Order (as listed in Appendix 2 to the applicants' Statement of Case) together with any statement or document served on the applicants may be inspected free of charge until the date of commencement of the inquiry.



THE RICKMANSWORTH FESTIVAL 2012



The Festival was held, as usual, on the third weekend of May - 19 and 20th. Each year it gets larger, more varied and this year "exceeded our expectations" once again. The weeks beforehand saw worrying amounts of rain, which followed the arid months before - not that we

were in danger of flooding, but deep mud under foot is a real problem. We were glad to have a reasonably dry week for the run-in. We've done pretty well with air displays for some time, the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight gracing the Festival most years. This year, the Lancaster, Hurricane and Spitfires had been saluting the Queen at Windsor Castle, and flew past for us during the opening ceremony - unexpectedly followed by the Red Arrows. What a start! And so, after the opening by the Chairman and Leader of Three Rivers DC and by David Gauke MP, it continued: cool and dry on Saturday. Cooler and cloudier (but not showery) later on Sunday. But it didn't spoil the show: 100 boats, nearly 100 exhibitors and traders, the fairground - and the music, again in 4 locations - all



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! (first printed March 2012)



provided for a really fine crowd which again approached 30,000 over the weekend. For the first time, we were full - no space left at all for exhibitors! It's great to see the TRDC Councillors, and to have the support of them and their staff. They are literally essential to the Festival, which is a vital fundraiser for Rickmansworth Waterways Trust as well as a fine community event. We thank them for their help in making it happen. We were delighted to be visited also by Trustees & Executives of the Canal & River Trust, about to form out of British Waterways. The relationship between us in RWT and BW has been crucial over the years, and we look forward to that continuing with C&RT. It was good to see them there: they will have formed a pretty strong impression! And next year's Festival will be on the third weekend of May - 18 and 19 May, 2013.

Fabian, Byewater



Campaign for 20mph in parts of Watford – backed by politicians

A campaign to drop speed limits in parts of Watford to 20mph has found unanimous backing among the borough's politicians. At a meeting of the full council on Wednesday, 21st March councillors gave their full support to the '20's Plenty' campaign and voted to take up the case with county highways bosses. The Liberal Democrats and Green Party councillors jointly sponsored a motion saying the council will now push for the speed limit to be cut to 20mph in all "non-major" residential roads in the town. The motion argued the move would bring a host of benefits to the town such as reducing accidents, encouraging walking and reducing emissions. It also said that reducing the average speed from 30mph to 20mph would only increase a 15-minute journey through affected roads by one minute. Liberal Democrat councillor Iain Sharpe put the motion to the council at the meeting. One of the barriers to creating smaller 20mph zones was the current requirement for expensive traffic calming measures like speed humps to make them self-enforcing. Councillor Sharpe argued a blanket zone for residential roads would simply require the changing of signs. Following the cross-party backing for the 20mph zone, Watford's elected mayor, Dorothy Thornhill, said the council had to show resolve in pushing for the policy. The motion was passed with an overwhelming vote of support meaning Mayor Thornhill will ask Hertfordshire County Council, which oversees highways policy, to undertake a feasibility study for the project. Seems like a good idea, what do you think?

Neighbourhood Watch Security Advice

With the lighter evenings and Summer approaching people become a bit more laid back in terms of security of their property. Sheds not locked, windows left open and garden equipment not locked and secured. Be more vigilant as you may have more door to door sales people at this time of year (be mindful to keep an eye on elderly residents). Try and ensure that you check they are from a reputable company if you have any doubts or suspicions just ring 101 as we always have patrols in the area to stop and speak to anyone you think is suspicious. James Stopford *Police Community Support Officer Neighbourhood Watch* or email: james.stopford@herts.pnn.police.uk (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 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.

London to Paris Cycling Update



Only 2 months to go and somehow I have squeezed in at least 2 long training rides a week between the deluges of rain we have endured since the hosepipe ban was introduced. I tested myself by riding the Peterborough 100 (kms) event around Rutland in mid April and was pleased to complete it well within my target time and still feeling fit. I was very lucky to stay dry, as the following week a professional race in the area had very few finishers in monsoon conditions. Hopefully, summer will come soon as the cold and rain is sorely testing my willpower to keep training! You can still sponsor me to raise funds for medical research into illnesses and the development of new medical procedures to benefit babies and very young children by going to my sponsorship web page at <https://www.action.org.uk/sponsor/michaelgunn>

SAVE OUR BEES



Don't forget the bees this summer! Remember that bees play a very important part in our gardens they collect nectar and transfer pollen from flower to flower. They pollinate garden plants and wildflowers as well as crops including fruit and vegetables. Without them

being 'bizzy buzzers' we would not have many of the foods we eat or beautiful flowers to enjoy.

BUT in our gardens we can help and plant bee-friendly plants bluebells, foxgloves, lavender, buddleia, sedums, hellebores, alliums, dahlias etc.etc. More information can be found on the Bumblebee Conservation Trust UK website - www.bumblebeeconservation.org.uk Bee-good and remember our very good friends - the Bees!

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!

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



POETS CORNER

The Month of June

"It is the month of June,
The month of leaves and roses,
When pleasant sights salute the eyes
And pleasant scents the noses."

Nathaniel Parker Willis

REMEMBER –

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour

AND

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

Did you know?

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden' and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language. Many years later the Gentlemen thought better of it and now Ladies are not forbidden!

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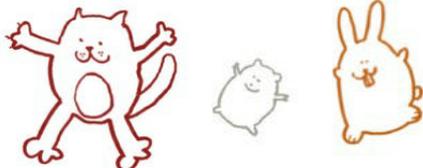


Don't have time to keep your garden tidy OR need a cleaner OR a dog walker - give me a call. I live on Byewaters and charge very competitive rates for local residents.

Tracey - 07507 059065

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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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The Peace Hospice now has a revamped Hospice Lottery , you can download a form online at www.peacehospice.org.uk 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 as little as a £1 a week but with the chance to win £10,000!



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GYM NOW OPEN

to the Residents of the Byewater Estate

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