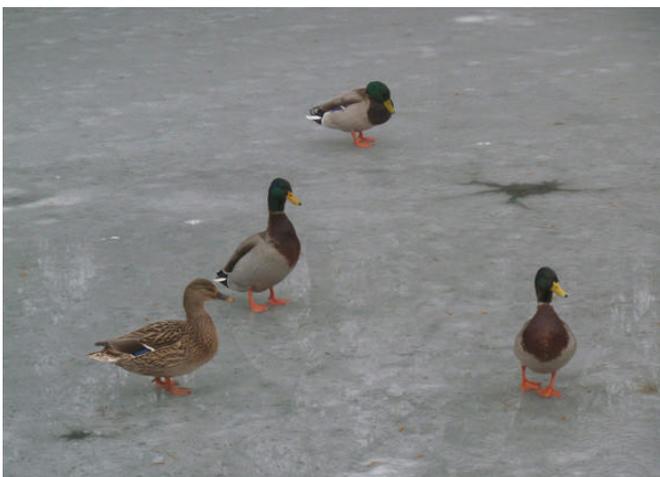


# BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012



*Winter 2011 – Byewaters*



*Line Dancing !*



*A new production of Swan Lake!*



Please send articles, advertising, photographs etc. for the March 2013 Newsletter to Fran, 78 Byewaters or email [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com)





Hi all,

Winter seems to be well and truly here, not much of a summer weather-wise and possibly a severe winter ahead brr! But the thing that always cheers me up for the winter is Christmas. Even if you are not religious the whole magic of Christmas especially for the children just seems to give you a lift ready for the hard winter months of January and February. I know it can be an expensive time but actually we always found that if a present came in a large box it was actually the box the little ones ended up having loads of fun with, it was like giving two presents in one package. We also made decorations together to put on the Christmas tree which was always a talking point when visitors came, 'I made that', the children were very proud of their achievements. Families coming together over the holidays is always such a great thing too. All celebrations are about bringing people and families together and that is what the holiday season can do really well. Don't forget our Byewaters Carol Singing on the 11th December, details below, for a very good cause, please join us and help start the Christmas spirit on Byewaters early in December. Have a very Merry Christmas, Hanukah etc. and a very Happy Healthy New Year.

Fran - Editor

Extra page of trades etc. on [www.byewatersnews.co.uk](http://www.byewatersnews.co.uk) (and in full colour) or (air your views) on [www.byewaters.blogspot.com](http://www.byewaters.blogspot.com) or Byewaters original website on [www.byewaters.co.uk](http://www.byewaters.co.uk) or if you need to contact the directors email [directors@byewaters.co.uk](mailto:directors@byewaters.co.uk)

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

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



The transfer of managing agent responsibilities from O.M. Property Management (a.k.a. Peverel) to our new managing agent MCS (Management Company Services) took place at the beginning of September. One of their first roles was to send out the service charge estimates and payment demands to all owners. The directors strive to keep service charge costs under control and so we were pleased to have been able to set the service charge estimate for the year commencing 1st October 2012 at the same level as the previous year. By now you should have received and paid the first half year service charge. If you have any questions about this please contact MCS customer services email [info@mcsproperty.com](mailto:info@mcsproperty.com), or phone 01920 466500.

During the last year we have focused on ensuring that the overall environment of the estate is safe and tidy for the

benefit and value of all home owners and residents. Recent work has included the removal of some trees which had become overgrown or were damaging footpaths and the replacement of some footpath lighting. Our gardeners continue to keep the grounds in good condition and have been reducing the height of some foliage to improve sight lines at the junctions of paths and roads. Please consider the state of your own gardens and trees and ensure that they have not become overgrown for their location.

**Roads and parking.** We should all consider the safety of others when driving around the estate – especially in bad weather or when the sun is low on the horizon. Drive slowly and park considerately. And please remember that the visitor parking spaces are for visitors – not residents.

We wish you a good Christmas and a safe New Year. As always, you can contact us directly by email at [directors@byewaters.co.uk](mailto:directors@byewaters.co.uk). Other information is available on the [www.byewaters.co.uk](http://www.byewaters.co.uk) website.

David Whittaker

## CAROL SINGING FOR THE PEACE HOSPICE – 11th DECEMBER AT 7.00PM



"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"

On Tuesday, 11th December at 7 pm we will gather for our singing trip around Byewaters. If it is raining on Tuesday, 11th we will have to try for a drier night on Wednesday, 12th (7 pm) and if Wednesday is no better a last try on Thursday, 13th (7pm). We will meet by the Byewaters and Evensyde signs as you enter the estate (T-Junction). Please, please join us and try and raise money for a really good cause. Last year we raised £450. Since we started 5 years ago we have raised a total of £1,150.00. The hospice is funded mostly on donations and the work they do for the community is exceptional. If we can help them to keep on doing their excellent work it is worth battling with the cold for one night a year. Byewaters has a chance to do its bit for the good of the community. If you require a song sheet email me on [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com) all voices welcome, sopranos, baritones, humming, whistling make it a family affair and bring the children. We look forward to you joining us for a very good cause.

Fran

## The History of the Christmas Tree

Long before there was a Christmas, Egyptians brought green palm branches into their homes on the shortest day of the year in December as a symbol of life's triumph over death. Romans adorned their homes with evergreens during Saturnalia, a winter festival in honour of Saturnus, their god of agriculture. Druid priests decorated oak trees with golden apples for their winter solstice festivities. In the middle ages, the Paradise tree, an evergreen hung with red apples, was the symbol of the feast of Adam and Eve held on December 24th. The idea of a Christmas tree indoors appears to have begun in medieval Germany and may be a relic of an earlier Celtic ceremony. German Christians would bring trees into their homes and decorate them with fruit and dried flowers. In some areas evergreen trees were so scarce that families would build a Christmas pyramid, a simple wooden structure which they decorated with branches and candles. The tradition of the Christmas tree eventually spread throughout Europe. The English Royal Family introduced the idea of a Christmas tree to England when Queen Charlotte (wife of George III) had the first tree in 1800. Queen Charlotte's biographer, John Watkins, wrote: "In the middle of the room stood an immense tub with a yew tree placed in it, from the branches of which hung

bunches of sweet-meats, almonds and raisins in papers, fruit and toys, most tastefully arranged, and the whole illuminated by small wax candles". German merchants in Manchester apparently had decorated Christmas trees in the 1830s but Prince Albert and Queen Victoria were responsible for popularising the Christmas tree when they posed with their children for a Christmas press photograph in 1848. The image was first published in the Illustrated News. The Royal family was pictured by an elegant Christmas tree decorated with candles, sweets, fruits, and gingerbread. The photograph was subsequently published in newspapers all over the UK and caused a huge amount of public interest. The following year, leading society hostesses vied with each other to produce the most lavishly decorated tree and, in due course, the rest of the country followed suit. Early Christmas trees were usually decorated with apples, nuts, gingerbread, ribbons and candles. The invention of electricity in the early 20th century and widespread use of electrical Christmas lights made the Christmas tree even more popular. The first mass produced electric Christmas tree lights appeared in 1890.





## AT CHRISTMAS, A STORY OF 'GOOD WILL'

Did you know Leica cameras helped people during World War II? It seems that Ernst Leitz II (1871 - 1956) the manufacturer of the famous Leica 35mm camera was a very religious man who believed strongly in helping others. In 1938 when things in Germany started to become very grim, he devised a plan. This plan was to help his fellow workers and colleagues to get to safety. Leitz quietly established what has become known among historians as "the Leica Freedom Train," a covert means of getting workers out of Germany many in the guise of Leitz employees being assigned overseas. Employees, retailers, family members, even friends of family members were "assigned" to Leitz sales offices in France, Britain, Hong Kong and the United States. Before long, German "employees" were disembarking from the ocean liner

Bremen at a New York pier and making their way to the Manhattan office of Leitz Inc., where executives quickly found them jobs in the photographic industry. Each new arrival had around his or her neck the symbol of freedom - a new Leica camera. The refugees were paid a stipend (salary) until they could find work. Out of this migration came designers, repair technicians, salespeople, marketers and writers for the photographic press. After the war, Ernst Leitz was honoured, posthumously and Dr. Elsie Kuhn-Leitz (1903 - 1985) (Ernst Leitz's daughter) received numerous honours for her humanitarian efforts. Among the honours Officier d'honneur des Palms Academic from France in 1965 and the Aristide Briand Medal from the European Academy in the 1970s. Why has no one told their story until now? According to some sources the Leitz family wanted no publicity for its heroic efforts. Only after Ernst Leitz II had died did the "Leica Freedom Train" finally come to light. It is now the subject of a book, "The Greatest Invention of the Leitz Family: The Leica Freedom Train," by Frank Dabba Smith.

## Community Bus Service to Watford from Byewaters?



Croxley Green Parish Council runs a Community Bus into Watford Town Centre every Friday. FREE for Senior Citizens. It is a morning service with a 2 hour stay in Watford. I have made enquiries about the service being extended to Byewaters and they have asked for an idea of the number of persons who would be interested in using the bus. If you would want to use this service can you contact me as soon as possible. Telephone: 01923 234090 or email [ButlerJillM@aol.co.uk](mailto:ButlerJillM@aol.co.uk)

Thank You - Jill Butler



The season proper has started and what an opening game to the new season. Away to Palace and it looked like our usual seasons start by being 2-1 down and a minute of normal time to go. A minute later, we were 2-2 with the added time to go and then we scored again to win 3-2! On to our first home game and the Tractor

Boys. Normally a good record for us, sorry, Watford FC, can't sound to be biased, as Ipswich had not beaten them at the Vic for ages. Still, they ploughed on, we got stuck in a rut and lost 1-0. Birmingham at home next and we got back our winning ways with a 2-0 win at the Vic. A trip to Derby then woke us up, ok, getting back to being biased but can't help it, and we had five goals rammed past us against our only one. There followed losses against Bolton and Brighton. Three games lost in a row. With the influx of new players and the different type of playing pace in England as opposed to abroad, it was taking a bit of time for the team as a whole to settle down. Well, that's my unbiased opinion anyway. On to the next game at home against Bristol City, Troy Deeny returns after an enforced break. This turned out to be a draw so perhaps things were turning for us. Up to Huddersfield, we were back to our winning ways and won 3-2 with the winning goal from Deeny. Then into the next phase of the games, it was a case more of can the 'Orns keep eleven players on the pitch for 90 minutes? Well, the answer was no. We beat Charlton away 2-1 with ten men and then lost at home, 2-1 with ten men after the referee sent a Hornet off probably because we were going to beat them! Whoops, getting a bit biased again. Bottom of the league Peterborough came to visit but we were beaten at home again 2-1. I remember when it was a fortress at Vicarage Road and teams did not like coming here - bring back those days! Next over the bridge to Wales and Cardiff. Watford took an early lead only to lose again 2-1 in the last few minutes. Home to Blackburn next and again, losing 1-0 in the added time after 90 minutes! Getting in to a habit now. Leicester at home and at last we chalk up another win 2-1. Hopefully we can carry the momentum in to the next game (Tuesday) with Millwall. The return of "Hendo" and Shittu was welcomed by the Hornet fans, the game concentrated mainly in the midfield with few chances at either end. End result was 0-0 and the 'Orns kept eleven players on the pitch and did not concede a goal. Oh well, managed to get through this quarters composition without mentioning the poor and inconsistent refereeing over the last couple of months, certainly not mentioning the conspiracy theory against Watford. But then I wouldn't would I as it would be seen to be biased and we can't have that can we?

Ralph - Evensyde



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Based on the original story by JM Barrie by arrangement with Great Ormond Street Children's Charity and Samuel French Ltd.

Peter John Dame Able Mabel



### The Story of Christmas Spiders

Along time ago in Germany, a mother was busily cleaning her house for Christmas. She was sad as there was little she could give her children as the family were so poor. She had found a fir tree in the forest to help brighten their gloomy Christmas. While she was busy cleaning the house all the spiders had fled upstairs to the attic, to escape her broom. She then spent a long time decorating the tree with things she had in the house, ribbons, fruit and pine cones from the forest. Later that night when everyone was asleep and the house

became quiet the spiders decided to slowly creep downstairs again as they were so nosy and wanted a peek at the now very clean

room. That was when they noticed the fir tree standing in the corner of the room.

Oh what a beautiful tree, they thought! In their excitement they all scurried up the trunk and out along each branch. They were filled with happiness as they climbed amongst the trees beautiful branches and spent the whole night clambering about; they were very busy and so happy. But alas! By the time they were through climbing, the tree was completely shrouded in their dusty grey spider webs. When Santa Claus came down the chimney with gifts for the children, he noticed that the tree was covered with spider webs. He smiled as he saw how happy the spiders were. Santa knew how heartbroken the mother would be if she saw the tree covered with the dusty grey webs. So he turned the webs to silver and gold. The tree sparkled and shimmered and was even more beautiful than before! That's why we have tinsel on our trees. Every tree should have a Christmas Spider in its branches, to remind us of their beautiful webs and how Santa turned them into sparkly tinsel. Have you ever noticed a spider's web when it has rain drops hanging from it; it is so pretty and really does sparkle. Clever old Santa.

### Please Help Your Fellow Neighbours

I have been running an article regarding cars on Byewaters, problems with parking and speeding. There are still some residents parking completely on the pavement, this is not acceptable. Besides causing problems for all pedestrians there is the damage to the pavement from the vehicle. The damage then can cause trip hazards and so can oil spillage. When the council handover takes place the responsibility for the roads and pavements will be theirs, and penalties will be down to them. Please can we sort this problem out before penalties start being handed out to residents.

The other problem is speed, again common sense should prevail; it is recommended that 20mph or less is adopted on Byewaters.

Some vehicles travelling around Byewaters seem to like flying over the speed humps (what damage are they doing to their cars?). More importantly danger to pedestrians and other vehicles should be paramount in our minds. Please, please slow down and be courteous to fellow drivers and always have pedestrians foremost in your minds when driving around Byewaters. Then we can all have a Merry Christmas with no unwanted accidents.



### DOG FOULING

Did you know that bio-degradable dog waste bags are FREE from the Parish Council Offices and can also be picked up from the Library. A free Christmas present for you and your pet. This is a plus, plus offer as it helps to keep the streets free of fouling, which can be dangerous. The other day someone reminded me that people who are blind or partially sighted cannot see the fouling to avoid it. Please, please think of others and use the FREE bags and pick up after your dog.



### 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 which should last a year if you use one a week.

• • • • • **HELP!** • • • • •

### How you could help Croxley Common Moor without leaving your sofa

The Friends of Croxley Common Moor need a new home for storing their tools, if their vital conservation work on the Moor is to continue. A garage on the nearby Byewaters estate would be ideal. The tools are all neatly stacked, largely in bags, on a trolley measuring rather less than 2 x 1 metres. The Friends would need access to this trolley only once a month from September to March each year (on the second Sunday of each month). To discuss this further, please contact Graham Everett on 01923 251157 or Fabian Hiscock on 01923 245407. If you can help in this way, the Friends would be very grateful!



### Pinecone Christmas Tree

- Pinecone\*
- Empty spool of thread
- Glitter glue
- Little pom-poms

\*If gathering pinecones from outside, place on a baking sheet and place in oven at 200-250° Fahrenheit for about 30 minutes to dry any excess moisture. Remove pinecones from oven and let cool for 30 minutes

#### Directions

- 1) Glue spool to bottom of pinecone.
- 2) Glue glitter to pinecone tips. Let dry.

3) Glue little pom-poms to some of the tips

Now you have a miniature Christmas tree! You can put it on a table or desk, if you like!



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](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com)



### Trades List

We now have details listed on our web page ([www.byewatersnews.co.uk](http://www.byewatersnews.co.uk)) of some tradesmen that have been used by homeowners on Byewaters.

If you would like to submit information about someone that you have used please send me their details. It may help others when trying to find the right tradesman.

Fran



## Neighbourhood Watch Keep Your Mobile Phone Safe



Police are launching a new service to help recover stolen 'smart' phones that have tracking applications installed, which makes it possible to locate a phone using its GPS signal. New technology now enables police to track phones on behalf of victims of phone theft, where possible, they will recover the phone and deal with any suspects. The tracking applications or 'apps' are available for iPhones, BlackBerrys and other smart phones and are easy to download and usually free. The 'apps' can be activated remotely via a dedicated website, which can then be used to track the location of the phone. If a phone with an 'app' installed has been lost - the owner can simply log on to the application's website, activate the application and locate the handset. However, if a phone is stolen, the owner should make contact with the police as soon as possible, if this is immediately after the incident this should be via the 999 emergency number. If you are not able to report the theft immediately you should call the non-emergency 101 number. In both instances you will need to give call takers your logging in details. It is strongly recommended that owners rely on the police rather than try to recover stolen phones themselves, as

this could place them in difficult or even dangerous situations. Lost phones that you can trace back to somewhere you have been recently will be safe to collect yourself, but if it is subsequently stolen, or you remotely locate it to a place you have never been, please exercise caution and call the police for advice. There are a number of suitable applications available, such as Find My iPhone for iPhone, Blackberry Protect for Blackberry and there are a number of applications available for other smart phones which can be downloaded from phone application stores. Please note, however, that if you leave your phone unlocked a thief can deactivate the tracking app.

For more advice on protecting your mobile/smart phone, visit: [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk) or Email: [cmmail@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cmmail@herts.pnn.police.uk)  
**Community Messaging, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch** Tel: 01707 354000.

If anyone would like to receive 'OWL' updates, please contact your local PCSO [Gareth.Williams@Herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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.

\*\*\*Please take care during the dark winter nights and make sure you secure your home – there have been reports of strangers trying to enter back gates.\*\*\*



## Byewater Birds Part 11

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 will be looking at some of the rarer visitors to Byewaters with just one or two sightings over the past five years.

### Tawny owl (*Strix aluco*)

The tawny owl must be one of Britain's best known birds - simply because of its distinctive "twit - twoo" or more accurately, "ke-wick, hoo-hoo-oooo". The call is actually being made by two birds responding to each other. Our tawny owl, also traditionally known as the wood owl, is a resident of Long Valley Woods just north of the canal, but has occasionally been seen flying silently over the canal at Byewaters. The small size (about as large as a wood pigeon) and short wings makes this bird an ideal woodland hunter.



### Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Another inhabitant of Long Valley Wood that occasionally finds its way onto the estate is the pheasant. This large, colourful and noisy bird is quite a sight when disturbed early in the morning around the lock gates. Some 38 million pheasants are released each year during the hunting season - no surprise then that some find their way to Byewaters!

### Water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

The water rail is a very occasional visitor to the river Gade at Croxley Moor and has been seen straying onto the Byewaters estate. About the size of a small moorhen, the water rail feeds on small fish and insects in shallow water. This secretive bird is difficult to spot - hiding from view in vegetation at the water's edge and blending in with almost perfect camouflage.



### Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

This magnificent bird can usually be found on the fishing lakes beside the Grand Union Canal on the way to Rickmansworth, but is very occasionally a visitor to the canal at Byewaters. These ornate birds have a distinctive head plume and can be seen diving for small fish - surfacing many metres from where they disappeared beneath the water. The courtship dance of these birds is stunning and one of the most spectacular displays by any British wildlife.

For more information about any of these birds visit the RSPB site ([www.rspb.org.uk](http://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 – Byewaters**

## POETS CORNER

### Christmas Is Forever

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away  
Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others is good you do yourself



### REMEMBER –

**Q.** What do elves learn at school?

**A.** The Elf-abet!

**Q.** Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

**A.** So he can ho-ho-ho!

### AND

**Q.** If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?

**A.** Missiletoe!

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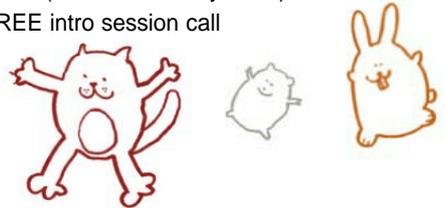
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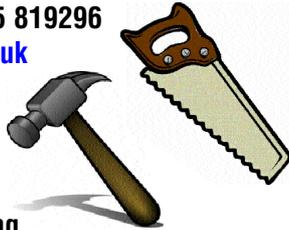
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### Boys & Girls Nursery Croxley Green

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