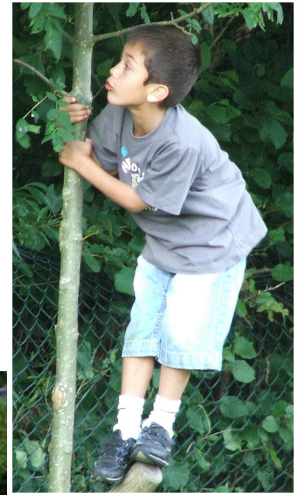


# BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION COMPILED AND EDITED BY A BYEWATERS HOME OWNER FOR ALL RESIDENTS

## SEPTEMBER 2009



Please send articles, advertising, photographs etc. for the December 09 Newsletter to Fran, 78 Byewaters or email [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com)



Hi,

Can you believe it, the summer is more or less over. What summer you might cry! Unfortunately, even though we had been promised a 'scorcher', it never really got off the ground until now! Although, the weather was kind to us again this year, at the Byewaters picnic. This was our second picnic and our numbers were down a little on last year, which was rather disappointing. The sun shone, and everyone who came enjoyed themselves. Let us hope next year more folk from Byewaters will attend, it could not be easier, you don't have far to go, no traffic jams. Just bring yourselves and a picnic, if you wish, and meet your neighbours. We have had the offer of donated trophies, and so we could have competitions for the children next year. Let me know if you are interested in helping organise children's activities for the 2010 picnic. The directors

of the BEMC have decided not to continue manning their website. Therefore, we have a new website [www.byewatersnews.co.uk](http://www.byewatersnews.co.uk) this site has all our newsletters on it and any new updates regarding Byewaters. As it is new it will evolve over time, but the idea is to keep us all in the loop. Please visit it every so often for your updates, of course the blog site is still there for you all and makes interesting reading [www.byewaters.blogspot.com](http://www.byewaters.blogspot.com) If there are any local forthcoming events, we may be able to promote them on the new website, always worth sending an email to [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com) Also a reminder, I am still collecting email addresses, very useful when information regarding Byewaters needs to reach you all quickly. See you in December, brrrr!

**Fran - Editor**

Thanks go to:- Mike Weintroub (Page layout), Imagehaus Ltd (Printing), Les Koster, (Cover photos), Parkheath Estate Agents (Sponsorship).



### STARLIGHT WALK

Over 1,500 ladies all dressed in bright yellow, took to the streets of Watford, making this Starlight Walk the highest attended yet. The walkers were started at midnight on 13th June by Martin Kemp of Spandau Ballet (also formerly of Eastenders). The final walkers arrived back just before 5.00 am, with the fastest time being set at 2 1/2 hours. This event is expected to raise around £200,000. The Starlight Walk 2010 will take place on Saturday, 12th June if you would like to learn more please go to [www.starlightwalk.org.uk](http://www.starlightwalk.org.uk)

### Carol Singing For The Peace Hospice

Last year Gill Crowson the Community Fundraising Manager wrote thanking the residents of Byewaters "for so generously thinking of us and raising £135 by carol singing around Byewaters." Please let me know if you want to join us in December, singing and raising money as we go. Tuesday, 8th December (if it rains then we will try again on the 9th then 10th and hope that one of these three nights are rain free). Just for one night - no rehearsal necessary - contact me [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com)



Lions Badge



The Lions  
in South  
Africa –  
June 2009

The Real McCoy! (photographed while on the tour)

The trip of a lifetime they called it - 18 days following the British & Irish Lions rugby tour of South Africa - and they were absolutely right. From the moment we stepped off the plane into a sunny Cape Town morning we felt a genuine friendly welcome. Table Mountain was spectacular that day - lucky as it was covered in cloud most days. A monsoon came down as we walked to Newlands to see the Lions just beat Western Province. But we didn't mind as it was fun being there and food and drink was so cheap. Then we went to Robben Island to see Mandela's prison. Next were the Penguins at Boulders Beach - walk out of the guest house and there they are! On to Cape Point where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet and where we were closer to Rio than London but sadly no whales to see. And so to a real test of stamina - 3 days of visiting wineries and sampling some of the most amazing wines - they were so enthusiastic and pleased to explain how they were made and why they tasted so - none of your stuffy French vineyards' attitude. And they have great restaurants too! Then on to Durban for the 1st Test, where the Lions were stuffed for the first 20 mins and then played brilliant rugby too late to avoid defeat. But the atmosphere was amazing and the Boks fans could not get

over the sea of over 20,000 red Lions shirts blocking their access to the car parks for their pre-match braais (BBQs). To get over this we spent the next 4 days at a game park beside Kruger National where we went on 2 safari drives a day and were within touching distance of lions and leopards and saw herds of destructive elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffes and so many more. And they wouldn't stop giving us food and drink at the lodge! And finally to Johannesburg in time for the 2nd Test in Pretoria, which many of us think is one of the greatest games ever. The Lions came out firing and stunned the partisan Afrikaaner crowd into silence with a good half time lead. The massive Lions support sang Bread of Heaven and Swing Low. But the Boks rallied amidst a period of ferocious tackling that made the pitch look like a scene from MASH. Slowly the tide turned and that sickening last second when the Boks kicked a penalty to win 28-25. Devastating! But we came home with memories of great camaraderie amongst the Lions fans and the amazing friendliness and hospitality of the South Africans. Go and try it - you won't be disappointed!

**Mike - Longmans Close**

## BRAG (Byewaters Road Adoption Group)

BRAG attended the Three Rivers/Hertfordshire county council joint highways meeting on 6th July to hear a verbal report on the progress of roads adoption. We also spoke to Councillor Steve Drury who confirmed that all parties remain committed to adoption which is still expected to take place in September 2009. So we are in hope that this will happen soon, but we will continue to monitor the situation.

David Whittaker



## EVERYTHING IS COMING UP ROSES FOR ROSS

Ross Rose of Byewaters, who is 9 years old, has been winning trophies galore. Ross who suffers with autism, won the Dressage Regional Final in Dartford run by the RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association). Then on the 12th July went to the National Competition in Hartpury, Gloucestershire where he came first in the dressage and second in a combined group. As well as coming fourth in team events, representing Greater London, beating off other teams from all over the United Kingdom. For his first place in the dressage he was awarded a trophy and rosettes for four other categories. Ross is now looking for sponsorship to help fund his riding lessons. He is hoping to progress even further, improving enough to compete for Great Britain in the London Olympics in 2012. Well done and good luck to Ross, If you can help please contact [c14ers@hotmail.com](mailto:c14ers@hotmail.com)

## SOLAR POWERED CAT'S EYES SHINE

Can Byewaters be a front runner? Have just been reading over the weekend about solar-powered cat's eyes that need only two hours of sun to give them enough energy to run for ten nights. Even in places like Scandinavia with just a few hours of daylight there would be enough power to light them through the winter. Clearview's solar lite road stud or their solar powered architectural stud which have a solar energy cell could be the way forward for Byewaters. The road studs can be seen from 1km away and the architectural studs can be used for pathways, driveways etc.

Maybe we can have them along the canal side they would not be of interest to vandals, there would only be the installation and ground work (but no wiring). No electricity bills and very little maintenance (their batteries last for 8 to 10 years) they must be very sturdy to withstand cars running over them. The company concerned is called Clearview Traffic and Sir John Madejski is the main backer of the company.

Buckinghamshire county council has saved 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the past 12 months by switching off street lights and fitting Clearview studs. This company is winning support in Westminster and maybe Byewaters!! View their [website www.clearviewtraffic.co.uk](http://www.clearviewtraffic.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY GROUPS TO BENEFIT FROM GRANTS

Friends of Croxley Common Moor where awarded £500 from a Grant benefiting community groups in our area. Graham Everett (pictured left) who lives on Byewaters along with his fellow 'Friends' help keep the moor in tip top condition. They meet at 10 am on the second Sunday, each month, except August, and work extremely hard clearing the site. The money will buy a picnic bench.

They are always looking for more volunteers and if you would like more information contact Kay Fitzgerald on 01923 776611 or at [kay.fitzgerald@threerivers.gov.uk](mailto:kay.fitzgerald@threerivers.gov.uk)



An interesting website for neighbourhood watch information is [HertsWatch www.hertswatch.com](http://www.hertswatch.com) also with useful links.

If you would like to join the Neighbourhood Watch please call Brian 07951 037130 or email

[brian.meehan@hertswill.co.uk](mailto:brian.meehan@hertswill.co.uk). Always looking out for our neighbours.

Brian - Heckford Close

## GRAND TOUR OF BYEWATERS

Did you miss it?! On Wednesday, 15th July a Grand Tour of Byewaters took place, organised by Stewart Rose.

Collette Keane, Property Manager, Peverel accompanied residents around Byewaters. During the tour many concerns were raised and Collette has promised to try and speed up the process for repairs etc.,. Please send any grievances you may have to Peverel OM and let us all work together to keep Byewaters special. Email: [customerservices@peverelom.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@peverelom.co.uk)

## Where You Live – A Little Bit More Of Local History



*Ascot Road & Sun Clock Tower*



*Ascot Cottages where Thomas Farrell & family lived*

Did you know that the caretaker of the Menpes Printing & Engraving Co. site, Thomas Farrell, named the dirt track by his cottage, Ascot Road, he even hand made the first road sign. He chose the name because of the Charabancs passing through on their way to Ascot Races. Sun Engraving acquired Menpes and expanded the factory. This then became the Sun Engraving Co. Ltd. and opened August 1919 employing over 300. There were directors, David & Cyril Greenhill - hence Greenhill Crescent (any link to Greenhills Estates that owns Croxley Business Park?). In 1932, Sun Engraving acquired Rembrandt Indigo and they became Rembrandt Photogravure Ltd., then in 1934 they moved to Watford, Whippendell Road. These companies were probably buying their paper from our Croxley Mill, now Byewaters. They were latterly printing The Times Weekly Overseas Edition, Vogue, Picture Post, Woman's Own, Country Life, Titbits, Vanity Fair, Sunday Times Colour Section and inserts and covers for the Radio Times and more. In 2002 at a community planning meeting, Watford residents were told that the Sun Clock Tower building on Ascot Road would be retained and refurbished with the redevelopment of the area - we are still waiting! It would be sad to loose this little bit of local history.



### **GUESS WHAT, I FELL OFF MY BIKE**



We are dieting again! And much to my husband's surprise I woke up last Sunday morning full of energy and suggested that we go for a bike ride. Now, the farthest I have been on my lovely green bike is twice round the estate, along the river in front of our house, across the road at the end and back down the canal. Always trying very hard to avoid the Canada Geese and not fall in! When I suggested that we ride to Cassio Park, the look on his face was priceless (and full of disbelief) So off we went, managed to get to the main road with not too many problems, a bit hot and sweaty (but that's normal), we got off our bikes and walked across the road and found our way to the start of the nature trail in the park and that's where all my problems started. It would have been alright if there had been no one else around, but because it was such a gorgeous day everyone and his wife were out for a walk. Being a nervous bike rider, I had to stop every time I passed anyone, so as you can imagine it took us ages to get to the main part of Cassio Park. Then we stopped to get our breath back and have a drink, I then decided that I had enough and we started to make our way back slowly. It seemed a good idea to go across the little bridge because I thought it would be a short cut home, how wrong could I be? We got across the bridge and found ourselves in a lot more bushes, trees, brambles and undergrowth, not good for the novice bike rider. We turned round and hubby rode off happily, I in the meantime misjudged the bridge and managed to collide with it quite spectacularly, bike one way and me the other! Hubby didn't even notice! When he did, he came running, picked me and the bike up and checked us both over for damage, the only thing that was hurt apart from a tiny bruise was my pride! And oh boy was I in a bad mood! Stomping home, dragging my bike with me, vowing never to ride again. But watch this space, we are going out this weekend, to look at bike racks for the car. We are going to take our bikes somewhere nice and flat (Neil's suggestion that we ride round and round a car park did not go down very well!). I am going to try again, I am determined to get better at this bike riding lark, I'll let you know how I get on.

**Val - Gill Close**

## WATFORD FC and BYEWATERS

Ten years ago Watford FC were beginning their first Barclays Premier League season, with Graham Taylor as manager, having beaten Bolton in the Play Off Final at Wembley. Yes, Watford had been in top flight football before but it wasn't the moneyed, Sky TV controlled, Premier League then. Back then the BEMC (Byewaters Estate Management Company) had yet to be formed as the "anti-Barratts", as in 1999 half of this estate was still yet to be built. However WFC, or Graham Taylor, then had a policy that players had to live locally.

So, this being the newest, swankiest estate (well in Croxley, at least), we residents found some Premier League footballers as neighbours. Icelandic striker Heidar Helguson had a house which he extended in Basildon Close. Northern Ireland full back Peter Kennedy had a semi in Evensyde and midfielder Clint Easton lived in Byewaters. Other players regularly visited too. The Saracens of that era like Pienaar lived it up in Hampstead, so our boys were bathed in real life. Since 1999, cash strapped Watford have squandered two Premiership windfalls, first under the Viali regime (who sold Easton to Norwich and Kennedy to Wigan) and again with Simpson/Boothroyd (who flogged Helguson to Fulham - but he's now at QPR). Back in the Championship and donning the mantle of plucky underdogs again, Taylor is back, but as

an advisory director. The players can live where they like now though and are unlikely to return.

A shame 'cos their sporty cars will now cope with our lowered speed bumps. As for former Chairman Simpson, he unwisely chose to buy his Barratt penthouse off



Whippendell Road, not on Byewaters! New for this season in our three sided ground is a new manager in Scot defender Malky Mackay (lives in Berko). New luxury pies and catering, new strip, new unknown sponsor (Evolution HDTV - who?). New hope and the bulldog spirit as we welcome the likes of Newcastle and Middlesborough in our fun fight for survival.

As the transfer window is open until August 31st, the team that battles on towards Xmas will certainly be different to the one that only claimed a point from the first two matches. The star players being sold to avoid debt and disaster! It's only a healthy walk up the road should you wonder what the bright yellow polyestered people find so interesting. Glory hunters they ain't.

Pete - Evensyde

### BEMC UPDATE

#### Estimate for Next Year's Service Charge

We have received the estimate for next year's services charges and have identified a number of issues for clarification:

a) General repair costs. This uses last year's cost as a base. We have asked to see last year's invoices to check if past expenditure contains any anomalies that need not be reflected in future costs..

b) Landscaping costs. We are looking at alternative providers to provide this service. We are in discussion with a provider currently servicing Three Rivers and Watford Council..

c) Access Road Toll cost. We are investigating projected access fees and how they reflect use of previous access fee payments..

d) Reserve Fund. We are looking to reduce this to a minimum as we currently have £20,000 in reserve.

#### DEFAULTERS

Regretfully we have had to take legal action against four members to regain arrears of several hundreds of pounds. A Watford court appearance has been set for September to reclaim outstanding amounts from one defaulting member.

#### COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

A number of members have raised their concerns over the the parking of commercial vehicles within Byewaters. We are working with Peverel to resolve this issue..

#### DEED OF VARIATION

We are consulting with Peverel on the fees they are charging for approval of extensions and alterations as stipulated in Byewaters' covenant..

#### DIRECTORSHIP

Any resident of Byewaters may apply to become a Director of the Byewaters Management Company. If you are interested in a Director's role or wish to offer your support in other ways please contact Peverel OM.

**Daryl Conn** on behalf of the Directors  
(Byewaters Estate Management Company).

### POETS CORNER – Autumn Fires

In the other gardens  
And all up the vale,  
From the autumn bonfires  
See the smoke trail!

Sing a song of seasons!  
Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the summer,  
Fires in the fall!

Pleasant summer over  
And all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes,  
The grey smoke towers.

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

### REMEMBER –

***Behind every successful man is a surprised woman (Maryon Pearson)***

***Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and laxative on the same night!!***

***Why is there no egg in egg plant, no ham in hamburger or either apple or pine in a pineapple?***

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

Still collecting email addresses.  
Please send to [fran.koster1@gmail.com](mailto:fran.koster1@gmail.com)

*Our Excellent Printer is:-* The Imagehaus Ltd.,  
1 The Boulevard, Blackmoor Lane WD18 8UW  
Tel: 01923 230035 - Alan [www.imagehaus.co.uk](http://www.imagehaus.co.uk)

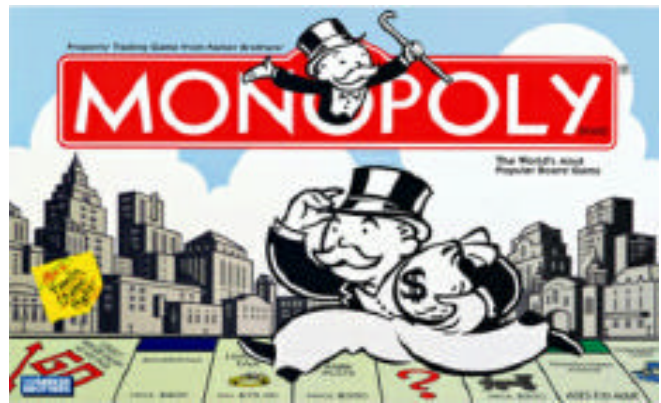
It is now 70 years since war was declared Sunday, 3rd September 1939. I was sent this story and thought it might be of interest, is it true??

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the authorities were looking for ways and means to facilitate their escape. Obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where-stuff-was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses', where a POW on-the-loose could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks: They make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear-out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Some boffin in MI-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise what-so-ever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort. By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located (Red Cross packages were delivered to prisoners in accordance with that same regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

The clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:



1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass,
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together.
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air-crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set - by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square! Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war. The story wasn't de-classified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony. Anyway, it's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card.



## WATFORD PALACE THEATRE

I noticed in the latest booklet from the theatre for Autumn 2009 besides the productions (information on their website [www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk)). They have a free Open Day on Saturday, 12th September from 11 am - 4 pm, when you can find out more about your local theatre, take part in workshops, get hands on with technical equipment. This will be available on their website from 10th August. There is also a Palace Youth Theatre with places being offered. Adult writing workshops for budding play writes. If you enjoy singing, a community choir is being formed. They will be meeting each Wednesday night and no audition is required!!

**Three Rivers Museum** for local history - always a good place to start if you want to know the low down on where you live. Located in Rickmansworth - Basing House, High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1HP Telephone - 01923 772325 website - [www.trmt.org.uk](http://www.trmt.org.uk)





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