

BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

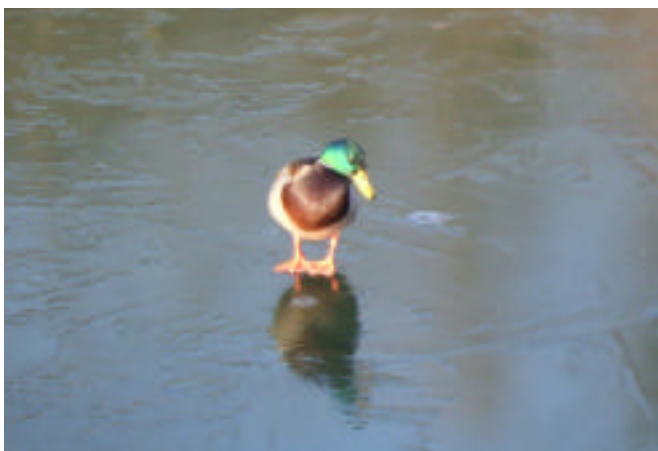


DECEMBER 2009

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



February 2009 on Byewaters – Brrrr!



There was water here last night !!



Shall we dance ?



Please send articles, advertising, photographs etc. for the March 2010
Newsletter to Fran, 78 Byewaters or email fran.koster1@gmail.com





Hi,


December, can't be! Where has this year gone as usual on Byewaters each season is picturesque with winter being just as interesting. With those mists over the canal and river, making everything seem so eerie. Bright crisp days with the canal freezing and the wild life slipping and sliding. Of course there is always the prospect of snow at Christmas which must be great to look out onto. Snow, Christmas morning, maybe this year! Do not forget our Carol Singing around Byewaters, see details below, all for a good cause and great fun for all the family. I hope you all enjoy your newsletter, let us hope we can continue to be sponsored in 2010, next issue will be in March. Wishing you all a great Christmas and New Year and as the comedian

Dave Allen would always say 'may your god go with you' at this happy family time.

Website www.byewatersnews.co.uk this site has all our newsletters on it and any new updates regarding Byewaters, in full colour and including an extra page. If you want to advertise on our web version, this may be possible, 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 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. (The web version of the newsletter is in full colour with extra pages - www.byewatersnews.co.uk)

Fran - Editor

Thanks go to:- Mike Weintraub (Page layout), Imagehaus Ltd (Printing), Les Koster, (Cover photos), David Whittaker (web version) Parkheath Estate Agents (Sponsorship).



Carol Singing For The Peace Hospice

Hard to believe but it is almost a year since a small group of Byewaters residents braved the elements and went carol singing around Byewaters. They managed to raise £135 for a very good cause and hope that this year they can achieve a similar amount. We are hoping for a larger group and then we can cover more houses this year. Maybe you heard us last year, we didn't sound too bad considering we had no rehearsals. Please come along, no training needed, join us for a fun evening, you could even hum along if you prefer. We will meet by the Evensyde and Byewaters signs, as you enter Byewaters, at 7.30 pm on the 8th December but if it is raining we will reschedule for the 9th or 10th if the rain persists, hopefully one of these nights will be dry. All for a good cause and great fun. If you require song sheets or any information, you can contact me on fran.koster1@gmail.com

MUGA - Multi Games Area

Peter Shilton opened the new five-a-side grassed football area on the Croxley Green Business Park in September. My undercover reporter has contacted the information centre at the Business Park and been told that this area will only be used for employees of companies on the Business Park and only at lunch times. It has been reported in My Croxley that Laurence Haines School will also use this area and form a five-a-side team. The school can use it for nature trips and other leisure visits? Croxley Green Business Park refer to this area as having been derelict! With a new space for wild flowers and possibly beehives, making the area more environmentally friendly!! The newly grassed area is available for local families and those working on the business park. The area can also be pre-booked for organised office events like rounders etc. What do you think?!



Locals – thumbs down to decision!

TESCO (Croxley)

Well, it seems Tesco has managed to win the day and the Independent Government Inspector has decided that even though local opinion was, that we did not need another Tesco (this new store, will make three fairly close together and four if you count Waterfields). It was turned down many times by Three Rivers District

Council because of the affect on local businesses and the traffic congestion it will cause. It now appears that 'Every Little Helps' -themselves when it comes to big business with big money!! Let us hope that the Co-Op in New Road which has had a connection with this area since the late 1800s (it was originally the Croxley Co-operative Society shop nearby) and other local businesses can survive.

BRAG (Byewaters Road Adoption Group)

Further delay. In July TRDC and HCC councillors were told that roads adoption would take place in September. In October BRAG wrote to councillors asking them to ask their officers why this had not happened. As a result TRDC wrote to BRAG on 29th October advising that Thames Water have not yet confirmed that the sewers on the estate are in an acceptable condition for adoption to proceed and that further "CCTV inspection of the gravity sewers is to take place in the next couple of weeks". "If Thames Water confirm in writing that the sewers were up to an acceptable standard for adoption and no more remedial work was required that would enable the agreement to be signed and the roads adopted, just leaving the pumping station." Separate, but possibly related, discussions are also taking place with Thames Water regarding the adoption of the pumping station on the estate. So far, Barratts have not completed their remedial work to repair the roads to bring them up to council approval standard. BRAG will continue to speak with those involved and push for them to make good on their commitments in order to reach a successful conclusion to the roads adoption process.

David Whittaker - Byewaters

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

I have been approached by a home owner who has complained that there are no areas for children to play football. They explained that the allocated area near the bungalow flats although a great space has draw backs for young David Beckhams, the bank is very steep and when the balls are kicked or roll over to that side they end up in the river. Does anyone have any ideas on how we can improve this area for football. As for actual swings etc. nearby there is the little park which can be reached via Beggars Bush Lane, which I am assured is very good, although I have not played there myself!!



An interesting website for neighbourhood watch information is HertsWatch 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.

Always looking out for our neighbours.

Brian - Heckford Close

History of (Near) Where You Live Moor Park or The Manor of the Moor

1456 Sir Ralph Butler, Lord Chamberlain to Henry VI lived at the Manor of the Moor.

1462 George Neville, Chancellor of England and Archbishop of York was living there.

1476 George Neville died and various tenancies were granted by Edward IV who also stayed & hunted at Moor Park.

1484 Richard III then took charge of the Manor.

1513 The Bishop of Durham was in residence and Henry VIII stayed as his guest.

1520 Cardinal Wolsey began residing at the Manor, he carried out considerable building works.

1529 Sir John Russell became caretaker of the house for Henry VIII.

1532 Thomas Cromwell reported that the gardens were showing signs of neglect.

1534 Princess Mary (later Queen Mary) stayed at the house.

1540 Henry VIII visited the house with Anne Boleyn and then with Catherine Howard on their wedding tour.

1556 It was noted that the house was very much destroyed!

1558 A report during Elizabeth I's reign showed structural problems but the Queen did not authorise any repairs.

1631 The Earl of Pembroke sold off the land in two parts, one part to the Duke of Monmouth (James) Charles II's illegitimate son. James commissioned the house that is on the site today. He demolished the original house that had been frequented by Henry VI, Edward IV, Richard III, Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII, Princess Mary, Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and possibly Elizabeth I.

1720 The house was bought by Benjamin Styles from the Duke of Monmouth's widow. Lord Anson later acquired the house and had Capability Brown landscape the gardens.



1795 Grand Union Canal Constructed in the Valley of the River Gade to transport raw materials and merchandise.

1800 In the mid 1800's the 1st Lord Ebury purchased the park and manor.

1830-2 John Dickinson expanded his empire by purchasing Croxley Mill. Lord Ebury living at the Manor of the Moor (Moor Park) had a view of Croxley Mill over (Croxley) Common Moor. The Mill had to be built to meet his objections and therefore was built with an Egyptian Front. It also had two massive columns and an entablature of painted stucco. Lord Ebury could then survey his views and in the distance it looked as though there was another grand mansion not Croxley Paper Mill!

1923 Lord Leverhulme purchased Moor Park from the then current Lord Ebury and commissioned Harry Colt to create the golf courses.

1939 During WWII the armed forces were based at Moor Park.

1994 The members purchased the estate. All the historic rooms have now been refurbished and the paintings restored.

There are guided tours of the Mansion House, information can be found on www.moorparkgc.co.uk

The tours are free and run from April to October.

WE'RE OFF DOWN UNDER



My youngest daughter Rebecca had experienced a year that you wouldn't wish on anyone. Bad car accident, lost her job, depression, you name it she got it! Then things started to brighten up, she met a new man (Dan) and before we knew where we were, they had decided that a new start was needed and they moved to Australia, Brisbane, Surfers Paradise to be precise. Leaving her at the airport was just indescribable,

whilst I wouldn't have asked them to stay, I thought my heart would break. However, with the arrival of Skype, we speak more now than we ever did, in fact not a day goes past without a telephone conversation with her. Anyway to cut a long story short, we had the wonderful news that Rebecca and Dan were engaged and were due to marry on 29th May, and then even more joyful news, they were expecting our first grandchild, a little boy and his name is going to be Danny. So we are packing, can't wait, off to Australia for three weeks to meet our wonderful new grandson, will tell you all about it when we get back.

Val - Gill Close

NIGELLA'S CHRISTMAS BONBONS RE-WORKED!!

Ingredients

125g dark chocolate (or milk choc if preferred) melted.
350g left over, or freshly cooked & cooled, Christmas pudding.
60 ml Sherry
1 tablespoon golden syrup (optional)

For Decoration

100g white choc, melted
6 red glacé cherries
6 green glacé cherries
or angelica

Method

1. Melt dark choc. **2.** Crumble Christmas pudding into a bowl, add the sherry and golden syrup (optional) and mix well. **3.** Pour in the melted dark choc and stir again. **4.** Take small lumps of mixture, and roll into small balls (size of a choc. truffle). Best to wear disposable gloves as a bit messy. Makes about 30. **5.** Put bonbons on baking parchment or foil and place in fridge to firm up. **6.** Decorate by drizzling melted white choc over bonbons. **7.** Cut tiny pieces of red glacé cherry and green glacé cherry/angelica to look like holly on top of bonbon (see picture).



Made them last Christmas, easy to make and very tasty

Christmas Songs and Their Secrets

The same songs are sung each Christmas but do we ever think about how they came about. Between 1649 -1660 Oliver Cromwell actually banned Christmas Carols, but Christmas would not be the same without songs. "The Christmas Song" was actually written in July 1944 during a heat wave in Los Angeles by Mel Torme and Bob Wells. They were trying to block out the heat by thinking of winter - "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping on your nose "etc.! "Let it Snow" lyrics by Sammy Cahn, music by Jules Styne 1945 again written during one of the hottest days on record in Hollywood, California. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" the original lyrics were rejected by Judy Garland who was due to sing the song in the 1944 film "Meet Me in St. Louis". Hugh Martin (music) and Ralph Blane (lyrics) changed the lyrics and a memorable hit was born. "Jingle Bells" penned by James Pierpont 1857 actually has four verses but the other verses were thought to be too racy. Some of the lyrics in the last verse were "Go for it while you're young" and "Take the girls tonight", far too saucy for the 1850's! "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" Johnny Marks



1949, was first written for a promotional item for Montgomery Ward Department Stores to accompany a story written by Robert L. May about an unloved caribou. The singer Gene Autry recorded the song and sold 2 million copies in the first year. Robert May's daughter, Marks' niece, came up with the name of Rudolph. How about "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" Haven Gillespie and J. Fred Coots, 1932, this song was turned down again and again. Eddie Cantor's wife persuaded him to record it, now everyone has recorded it even Bruce Springsteen. "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin 1942 really conjures up Christmas but Berlin was not sure about the song at all. Bing Crosby sang it first in the film "Holiday Inn" it was perfect for the gloomy months during WWII. Later it spawned a movie of its own,

1954's "White Christmas" with Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye. This song has hit the top 30 over 20 times and has sold more than 30 million copies, with more than 500 versions recorded in dozens of languages. Why don't you try writing a Christmas song, could be very lucrative and like all those above have us singing it year after year.

BEMC (Byewaters Estate Management Company) Roads Adoption

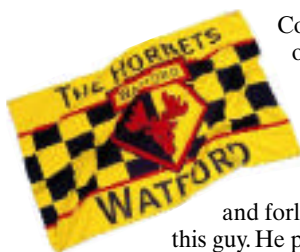
Roads Adoption This is progressing steadily. Barratt southern counties will tender out the remedial work on the roads imminently. Thames water will arrange for a camera inspection of the drains. Still some issues to be resolved regarding the pumping station. Joint inspection by the highway agency, Barratt SC and the police of the roads, due mid November. Highway agency is inspecting and repairing the road lights. Parking restrictions are not part of the agreement upon adoption. The members (residents) have to submit proposals to TDRC which then goes through the standard process including consultation. Some issues to be ironed out between BEMC & Highways (e.g. maintenance cycle/footpath near weir, currently under Barratt).

Section 106 funds (Marconi Bridge) (to improve lighting and safety to estate approaches and some within the estate.)

Barratt signed the deed of variation. Barratt SC condition will reclaim their 20% share but to use some on the estate. Barratt SC considering safety improvements to cycle/footpaths. Possible hand rails on the canal side, no plans seen as yet. BAE (now owns Marconi) also signed the deed. Extensive effort/persuasion and hard work by TRDC to secure this agreement. TRDC keen to improve the lighting and safety on certain foot/cycle pathways outside and within the estate. Mill Lane improvements; light, surface repairs is one priority (although this may be dealt with by a maintenance budget still under discussion). New lighting and upgrading to the moor lock approach (outside and within the estate) is another high priority, to be planned, and discussed with member - residents. TRDC is working with the Directors to see if there is anyway the upgrades of lighting on open space (moor lock end) can be continuously linked to the canal lights which have been giving considerable problems (see below). We are extremely grateful for the extra effort and commitment by Mr. Kerr to this project to ensure a satisfactory resolution for us.

Canal Lights GPF Lewis Ltd.(contractors with Peverel OM) recently inspected the lights and the engineer has carried out some work to restore the lighting but has recommended further remedial work to help prevent the ongoing problems. We are awaiting the cost estimate for this. We are also actively progressing getting an independent survey from a suitably qualified company so that we can confirm the status of the current installation and get independent advice on the best way forward for a permanent solution to the ongoing problems. We believe that this survey should be done and the recommendations reviewed before any more major work on the lighting is undertaken so we can progress to an effective long term solution.

Daryl Conn on behalf of the Directors BEMC



Comebacks often disappoint! Some memories are best left in the past! The sight and sound a few weeks ago of singing legend Andy Williams, croaking through Moon River on Strictly Come Dancing, was somewhat sad!

Chuck Berry performing a concert at Wembley, going off, mid-riff, so that his pianist could remind him what song he was playing, very sad! Well, ladies and gentlemen, the Heidar Helguson (HH) show is back at Vicarage Road! The home of the Hornets welcomed with baited breath the former owner of 38 Basildon Close, on temporary loan. Was this a good idea or another sad folly? You may remember readers how the last edition saw our man at QPR. In the reserves wilderness, out of favour, injury prone and perhaps frail

and forlorn, as Andy Williams! Or forgotten like Rick Astley!?! Yet grown men (& children) around Watford LOVE

this guy. He plays with heart, as you would wish to if only you had the chance and the skill. He is Watford! The little striker

who plays like Bruce Lee, crossed with Hong Kong Phooey, with his life depending on it. Could he do it again? Could he ever!

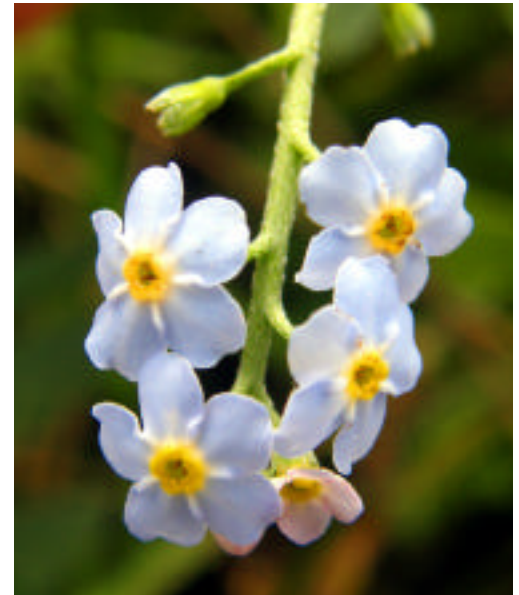
Coming on with the young Watford team 2-0 down at half time to Leicester. HH inspires his team into a Lazarus-like 3-2 lead, scoring not once but twice! Celebrating the first like an angry wasp caught in the goal net at the Rockery End. Disaster, he then tore a calf muscle and went off to let Leicester grab a 3-3 draw from his stunned team-mates. The football Watford's team of under 21 internationals serve up is a Wenger like passing game, and against more muscled teams means unpredictable results. Without Heidar they won at Middlesbrough, imploded 1-4 at home to Cardiff, yet dazzled live on scoring four amazing goals against Sheffield Wednesday. Then 9 minutes after his return from injury, Heidar headed Watford into a lead to set up an emphatic win at home to Preston. Nobody is sure how long this series will last but catch it while you can for this Icelandic star does not disappoint. Bravo to the children of Byewaters who wear the yellow Watford shirts. How much more rounded as human beings they'll be for not expecting the spoilt constant success of their Arsenal, Chelsea or Manchester United schoolmates! Who could afford a trip to see the foreign mercenaries of these teams, even if you could get the tickets? So, stroll down to The Vic you know it makes sense.

'Buzz'

A Jewel on our Doorstep

Croxley Common Moor was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1986 and a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 1997. SSSI's are the country's very best wildlife and geographical sites. They include some of the most spectacular and beautiful habitats and we are privileged to live so very close to this outstanding and beautiful resource. The Moor has an area of around 100 acres and lies in the flood plain of the River Gade. It consists of low lying acid grassland with wet marshland to the west. Plant life is abundant with over 130 species including harebell, selfheal and betony. Ant hills are dotted over the moor - a clear indication that it has never been ploughed or fertilised. Green woodpeckers eat the meadow ants, and many other birds can be seen across the moor - including kingfishers along the banks of the river and Red kite flying overhead. Croxley Moor is also an important habitat for an extensive range of insect species. This type of grass heath is rare in the UK and steps are taken to preserve this valuable habitat. These include regular scrub clearance during the winter months and cattle grazing in the summer. Without these conservation measures, the site would revert to common woodland and a host of plant and animal species would be lost. As Byewater residents, we are able to enjoy this wonderful jewel on our doorstep, but should also help in its protection and conservation.

Dr. John Mynett - Byewaters



Flowering Spurge (Euhorbia corollata)

*(Remember Scrub Bashing 10 am on the Moor – next date
13th December - Friends of Croxley Common Moor)*



TAKE CARE OF OUR SWANS

We need to take great care of our Swans, well all our wildlife really. I was horrified to read that in September youths stoned to death a swan at the Aquadrome. Let us all keep a look out as we do not want a repeat of this. Even though they could be imprisoned for six months and/or a hefty fine of £5000 it does not seem to deter some cruel, evil individuals.

Please be vigilant and let our swans glide elegantly along without fear, for us all to enjoy.

POETS CORNER

The best gift at Christmas is easy to see
Its not wrapped up in paper or under the tree
Co's the best gift at Christmas and all year through
Is having a child as special as you!

Anon

Christmas May Be Cancelled

The reindeer are on strike
Santa's stuck in Lapland
Forget your brand new bike

Christmas isn't cancelled
Royal Mail saves the day
Postmen playing Santa
Expect that bike mid-may!

by Patrick Winstanley

REMEMBER –

***How do you know Santa is a man?
No woman is going to wear the same
outfit year after year!***

So, why does rain drop, but snow fall

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Still collecting email addresses.
Please send to fran.koster1@gmail.com

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W P

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12th December 2009 - 3rd January 2010

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“spoil for choice”!!

It seems this year that both the Radlett Centre and the Watersmeet are both staging Snow White and the fourteen dwarfs?! I am sure both productions will be excellent and great entertainment for the children. To be different, Watford Palace have chosen Cinderella always a family favourite and starts the festive season off first, on 28th November, and so there is plenty of time to see all three, seven or fourteen!! Oh yes you can!! None of them will be Wishy Washy! Oops that's for another year.

A really wicked family pantomime

Allo Allo's **Kim Hartman**
Queen Helga

Emmerdale's **Richard Grieve**
Herman the Henchman

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Sunday 3 January 2010

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Julia

Laura

Rochelle

Jane

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Arianne

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Merry Christmas from All of the Lettings Team

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from the Sales Team !*



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