

BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010



At last – some sunny days!



You look awfully familiar!



A new home on Byewaters

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



Hi,

Well I've gone and done it, become a Director for Byewaters (BEMC). I will continue to produce the newsletter for everyone on Byewaters, money permitting! Please contact me if you want to put anything in the newsletter, advertising on the web page, along with news and articles too. Since we moved here in 2005 steps have been made to improve communication; the newsletter is our main source of this throughout the year, but there are also all our websites. So please feel free to keep in touch with me and in turn I can relay this via the newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you all at the Picnic, have a great

summer. Past and current newsletter in full colour with an extra page on www.byewatersnews.co.uk or (air your views) on www.byewaters.blogspot.com or Byewaters original website on www.byewaters.co.uk or email directors@byewaters.co.uk if you need to contact the directors.

Fran - Editor

Thanks go to:- Mike Weintraub (Page layout), Imagehaus Ltd (Printing), Les Koster, (Cover photos), Byewaters Residents for their contributions, David Whittaker (web version) and James Estate Agents (Sponsorship).



Can you help!! We are looking for someone who could take the minutes at the next AGM, 15th March 2011. If you can or you know someone who might want to do this please contact me.

Do you have any Legal Expertise, you may be able to help us when we try to unravel our complicated covenants etc. and therefore ease sales

and permissions for property alterations on Byewaters. And if you would like to give your opinions on the review that is ongoing regarding the Canal Lights, again please contact me.

Still collecting email addresses which is always very helpful. If there is anything else that you wish to raise please contact me at fran.koster1@gmail.com or the directors on directors@byewaters.co.uk

Ross Rides Again



Ross aged nine of Byewaters is in the final of a regional horse riding competition in June. He has been riding since the age of two and will be riding his new horse Buzz. Ross recently received a rosette for a successful practice season at Penniwells and will now be looking to continue his good form at the Dartford event. The whole family are extremely proud of Ross' achievements and hope he continues to succeed but most importantly keeps on enjoying his horse riding. We too on Byewaters wish Ross lots of luck in this event and will be keeping an eye on him.



BYEWATERS ANNUAL PICNIC ON 'THE GREEN'

This will be our third annual picnic; we are keeping our fingers crossed that it will at least be dry on Sunday, 25th July. Aiming for 2.00 pm but it is a very casual occasion and people come and go throughout the afternoon. All you need is a blanket or chair and your picnic along with your friends, neighbours and family to make this another memorable day on Byewaters. If you have any ideas for the day and want to get involved, please contact me (fran.koster1@gmail.com) or just come along and enjoy yourselves. The location is the children's play area, near the bungalow flats. We will be taking photographs; these will appear on the cover of the September Newsletter. Be there or be square!!

A Note from the Directors (Byewaters Estate Management Company)

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 23rd March at Harvey Road School hall and the minutes of this meeting have been posted to all members. Thanks to all those who attended. The date for next year's meeting has been set for Tuesday 15th March 2011. At the AGM, the Directors expressed their intention to simplify the process of getting permission for property alterations and to reduce or eliminate the cost to members. A small group is being set up to review the current process and then recommend changes which will achieve this aim whilst still complying with the covenants in place for each property.

Update on the Roads Adoption : The remedial work by Barratts Southern Counties on the drains is due to go out for tender. Once this is completed to an agreeable standard it will be handed over to Thames water to manage with the pumping station. The Highway agency will move the process forward upon this step being achieved. The Highway agency and Barratts Southern Counties have rectified the pedestrian footpath which was damaged by the electricity utility subcontractors near the entrance of the estate.

The canal lights review is ongoing, hampered by the recent vandalism. We are close to making a decision on the gardening contract and this has been helped by advice from Pat, our knowledgeable resident gardener.

A reminder that the Byewaters website www.byewaters.co.uk is available with information about the estate and if you wish to contact the Directors then you can mail them via directors@byewaters.co.uk

Mary Kelly



Well, it's all over until August for Watford FC barring Elton John's only UK concert this year to raise cash for players at The Vic on May 29th.

That'll be the biggest, loudest and happiest crowd of the year! After 4140 minutes of rollercoaster league football (well, about 4300 including added time) the Goldenboys found out that there were eight teams in the Championship worse than they were as they finished 16th. Yet with two games to go as the Hornets looked as if they would prove right the pundits who predicted relegation at the season's dawn.

Watford lost to their rivals in "must win" games and all season gave hope to teams going through sticky patches like Barnsley, Derby and Crystal Palace. There was only one team they beat home and away – relegated Plymouth, and yet they the only side to lose all 6 points to Peterborough due to a howler by Loach, their England u21 keeper. To win the last two matches in fine footballing style, 3-0 and 4-0, as they did seemed so unlikely going into the final week. Yet this gives hope for the future for a team to be based upon young (cheap) talent developed from Watford's Harefield Academy graduates, who uniquely combine.

Watford were on the verge of the play offs at Xmas, yet rolled over completely at Chelsea in the FA Cup, and slid hopelessly inexorably down the table despite cruel luck and good play. Too often they played like young, raw

lightweight boxers; dazzling opponents at first but having landed no telling blows, repeatedly losing by walking into sucker punches. We hope they learn. Malky Mackay kept telling us they were learning but he attracted fans' criticism by failing to make subs or change the team. The most skilful player, on-loan-from-Man-Utd-England-u21 Tom Cleverley wrecked his own knee ligaments in a rash tackle with five games to go to make things seem bleak. We hope he is able to resume his career next season back in Manchester.

Many good players may not be back next season as their expensive post Premiership contracts have expired. As Watford's cash has run out these players have to take huge pay cuts to stay and are unlikely to do so. They include Jon Harley, player's player of the year John Eustace, "I'm marking Wayne Rooney at the World Cup for the USA" Jay Demerit, and Will "Hopeless" Hoskins. Henri Lansbury has gone back to Arsenal- he played 15 mins of their final game - and Heidar Helguson returns to QPR, even if they don't want him, Watford won't be able to pay him the money he's currently on.

Lord Ashcroft has his new Conservative MP for Watford but he still wants to sell the club eventually. So if you know any millionaires looking for a hobby, please phone 0844 856 1881. If your budget is more modest and you may look good in yellow, season tickets next year start at £50 for under 16s, £225 for senior citizens/students and £373 for adults. Dressing up as Batman, Robin or bananas as some who saw the 4-0 win at Coventry did, is optional.

Come on you 'orns!

Brian Meehan has been looking after our Neighbourhood Watch needs for many years but has now handed the reins over to Daniel Haynes who is our new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Byewaters. We thank Brian for all his hard work over the years and give a hearty welcome to Daniel. We need to keep this a Neighbourhood Watch area for all our sakes and it does help to keep our household insurance down too.



Daniel says: In April there was quite a storm of vandalism along the canal towpath, 6 lights and 4 fence panels destroyed by some little darlings. Eventually this is going to cost us all money through extra management charges so, if you hear or see anything please call **Herts Police on 0845 3300 222**. The local Police Team are aware of the vandals and mopeds racing up the towpath and are keen to catch them. They assure us that if they know they are about they WILL come down immediately to investigate. You can keep in touch with Byewaters Neighbourhood Watch, request up to date information and ask to be included on the email distribution list by emailing me on nhw.byewaters@talktalk.net. If you don't have access to the Internet and would like to be kept up to date with messages and alerts through traditional means let me know, just push a note through my door.

Daniel Haynes - 62 Byewaters

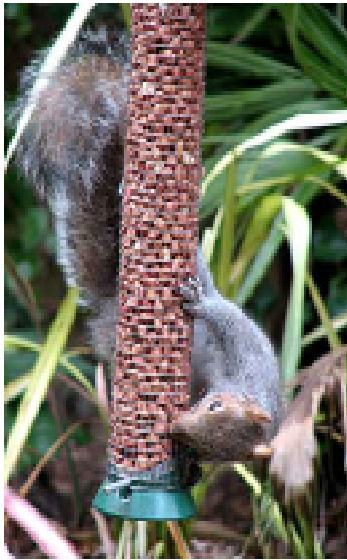
KILL YOUR SPEED ON BYEWATERS

At the AGM in March we discussed what speed should be promoted around Byewaters roads. It was most people's opinion that because of the amount of cars parked on bends that



there were many blind spots. Also with many pedestrians, cycles and mums wheeling buggies that the speed was at times far too fast, we have had pets injured. Although we have a 30 mile an hour speed limit, most at the meeting felt that reducing that to 15 miles an hour, was a start. It would be great to have people writing in to give their opinions on this matter. Also related issues such as, do we want yellow lines, when the roads are adopted? Should we have more road humps for reducing speed? What about making a one way system around Byewaters. We do not seem to have enough parking for our cars, do you have any suggestions on this too. Please send me your views and any ideas you may have but in the meantime try killing your speed for all our sakes!

Email ideas to the directors@byewaters.co.uk or fran.koster1@gmail.com



Dad came over at the weekend

My dad is 84 and no longer enjoys driving. So his visits to us from Kent have become few and far between. However he loves the river and the canal and came to see us last weekend, he had decided that it was about time we tidied up our garden. Dad had bought me a much admired bird feeder, with two hanging baskets and a water tray, also with a place to put some nice plants. Early on Saturday morning Neil and Dad were out in the garden (Neil doing the work and Dad supervising). The grass was cut and the garden generally tidied up. When I came down, there in pride of place was my lovely new bird feeder, complete with apples, peanuts and bird seed. It looks lovely and I am so happy with it. The only problem is that for the whole week I have not seen a bird. Is it me? Well now that's not completely true, we had a visit from a very large Starling, who was so busy eating worms that he completely missed the feeder! A couple of Magpie's sat on the fence and just looked, but no one else has been to visit. The funny thing is, every evening when we come home from work, the bird seed has been eaten, someone is obviously enjoying all the food but they must be visiting in secret. We will continue to keep the bird feeder topped up and will continue to look out for little visitors. Any suggestions on how we can encourage the smaller birds to visit our garden will be gratefully received.

Val - Gill Close

LOCAL LAD MAKES GOOD

William Penn was a Quaker with strong but passive convictions and lived for a time in Rickmansworth from around 1672. Probably in Basing House, now part of the Council Offices. He was expelled from Oxford University for his religious convictions and also spent time in Newgate prison for preaching Quakerism. He married Gulielma Springett in Chorleywood and they moved into Basing House. His father, Vice-Admiral Penn was well thought of by the King and because of this when his father died William Penn inherited a claim on the Government and in 1681 he was given the charter of a colony in North America. He published a pamphlet promoting this new colony: - 'Some account of the Province of Pennsylvania in America, lately granted under the Great Seal of England to William Penn, etc. Together with privileges and powers necessary to the well-governing thereof. Made publick for the information of such as are or may be disposed to transport themselves or servants into those parts'. He set sail on 1st September 1682 on the ship 'Welcome' and arrived in Pennsylvania in the October. Silva- meaning forest the translation would mostly likely be Penn's Woods or Pennsylvania. William Penn was owner and Governor of this new state with the power to make laws. He drafted the state's constitution; one of the laws was 'complete religious freedom to all men believing in one God'. Quakerism's Testimony of Equality is the belief that all people are created equal in the eyes of God. Therefore William Penn's beliefs helped him negotiate with the Lenni Lenape Indians and other nationalities who settled in Pennsylvania and establish a stable and peaceful colony. He even wrote a letter to the Indians before he arrived in the colony. Penn did not wish "to enjoy the great province his king had given him," especially "without the

Indians' consent." adding "but I am not such a man, as is well known in my own country, I have a great love and regard for you, and I desire to win and gain your love and friendship by a kind, just, and peaceable life, and the people I send are all of the same mind, and shall in all things behave themselves accordingly, and if in anything any shall offend you or your people, you shall have a full and speedy satisfaction for the same by an equal number of just men on both sides, that by no means you may have just occasion of being offended against them." The 'Frame of Government' was published for the Pennsylvanian Assembly on 5th May 1682. In Pennsylvania he had lands, a manor and mansion called Pennsbury. He returned to England helping to secure the release of many fellow Quakers from prison. William Penn died on 30th July 1718 age 74 and is buried at the Quaker (Society of Friends) Jordan's meeting house not far from Rickmansworth. One American writer has called Rickmansworth 'The cradle of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania'. There are many schools, leisure centres etc. named after William Penn both here and in America and in Pennsylvania there are commemorative statues galore. Rickmansworth and Pennsylvania should really be twinned as they are both intertwined because of the great William Penn, a man with strong religious convictions and a true sense of 'goodwill to all men'. A Rickmansworth man well worth remembering.



DOG FOULING AGAIN?!!

I have been getting reports of dog fouling again, please, please pick up!! In the Summer Byewaters is a great place to be walking both for the young and old but there is nothing worse than bringing home dog's mess with you!! There is also the risk of picking up Toxocara Canis or other diseases that dog's faeces can carry. This is especially a concern for young children who may not be aware of exactly what they are touching. We are getting very near to our roads being adopted by Three Rivers and what is written below appears on their website. We will be asking Three Rivers to help us when dog fouling occurs but we will also be asking for dog waste bins for dog owners. In the meantime 'pick it up and take it home with you - it's your dog - and therefore your responsibility!' Please think of others.

Information from the Three Rivers Website below:-

The Council has adopted legislation to control dog-fouling throughout the district. It is an offence to fail to immediately clear up any mess deposited from your dog anywhere in the district. If caught you can be prosecuted and the maximum penalty is £1,000. From April 2004 the Council has operated a fixed penalty ticket service where offenders will be given the opportunity to avoid court action by paying a £50 fixed penalty charge. To report an incident or make a complaint contact the Customer Services Centre on 01923 776611 or e-mail enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk

Byewater Birds 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. On a recent winters afternoon I managed to see a staggering 25 different species simply by looking out of my front room window! Some of these are seasonal and some just passing through, but many are common local birds that everyone can see or hear around us every day. In each newsletter we will be looking at a selection of birds to look out for.



Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)

This graceful bird can be seen from April until August hovering above the canal and the river and then diving in to catch fish. They are usually thought of as coastal birds where they breed on cliffs and shingle beaches.



Pied wagtail (Motacilla alba)

This unmistakable bird is a frequent visitor to the estate. Mainly eating insects, it can be seen hopping along the ground searching for food and wagging its tail furiously.

Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea)

Usually seen standing silently by the water's edge waiting to catch fish, this large bird is a common sight along the canal or flying over the houses of Byewaters. With a wing span of nearly 2 metres, it is one of Britain's largest birds.



Coot (Fulica atra)

Now breeding and nesting at various points along the canal, the coot is a distinctive sight around Byewaters. It is entirely black apart from a white bill and shield on its forehead (not to be confused with the slightly smaller moorhen). Its high pitched and harsh metallic call is unmistakable.



For more information about any of these birds then visit the RSPB site (www.rspb.org.uk) or contact me by email. **John Mynett** - Byewaters

STARLIGHT WALK



A record 2,000 women have taken part in the fourth Starlight Walk to raise money for The Peace Hospice.

The walk started at midnight and passed through Watford High Street, Bushey, Rickmansworth and Croxley Green before returning to the finish line in Watford. The Director of

Fundraising and Communications for the hospice has said "The income raised from this event alone has allowed us to provide a full period of care for more than 100 patients in our Inpatient Unit - that's an amazing achievement over half of our patients following a stay in our Inpatient Unit are able to return home after their treatment. This shows just how important this money is to us" In The Peace Hospice newsletter the headline reads 'Hospice Care increases as charitable income declines'. During these difficult times with recession hitting many families the hospice finished the last financial year with approximately a £400,000 shortfall in funds. The Peace Hospice does such important work, Byewaters has been supporting them each year with the Carol Singing event but they do need help all year round. If you can help please go to www.peacehospice.org.uk

They now have a revamped Hospice Lottery, you can download a form online 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!

POETS CORNER



Five busy honey bees were resting in the sun.
 The first one said, "Let us have some fun."
 The second one said, "Where shall it be?"
 The third one said, "In the honey tree."
 The fourth one said, "Let's make some honey sweet."
 The fifth one said, "With pollen on our feet."
 The five little busy bees sang their buzzing tune,
 As they worked in the beehive all that afternoon.
 Bzzzzzz! Bzzzzzz! Bzzzzzz! Bzzzzzz! Bzzzzzz!



Don't forget to encourage our honey bees with buddleia, lavender, fuchsias, rosemary, foxglove, sweet pea etc.

Or you could make a Bee Hotel. (shown left) Can be square.

1. A plank of untreated wood or ply at least 10cm wide
2. A plentiful supply of hollow stems such as reeds, bamboo canes or old flower stems (even Japanese knotweed stems!)
3. Wood saw, drill, screws and secateurs
4. A mirror fixing for hanging the hotel

See the gardeners world website www.gardenersworld.com

REMEMBER –

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the hell happened!

And if you think nobody cares whether you're alive or dead – try missing a couple of mortgage payments (Cora Harvey Armstrong)

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking tin, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead and there won't be any white mess on the outside of the cake. OR Tescos sell cakes. They even do decorated versions!

Our Excellent Printer is:- The Imagehaus Ltd.,
 1 The Boulevard, Blackmoor Lane WD18 8UW
 Tel: 01923 230035 - Alan www.imagehaus.co.uk



All-Electric Productions
THE FAB BEATLES
RUNNERS-UP IN THE BBC1's
BATTLE OF THE FANTASY BANDS

Praise has come from all quarters for this startlingly accurate representation of the Fab Four. This group evokes sharper memories than merely the unforgettable music. This live show features the fantastic hit songs everyone knows and loves.

'The Fab Beatles are truly fab and I know because I saw the other lot!' - Michael Parkinson

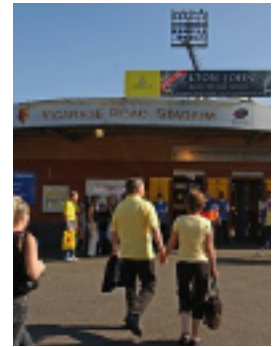
'I thought The Fab Beatles were excellent and definitely the best' - Jonathan Ross

'You guys are cool! I wish you all the best.'
 Dhani Harrison (George Harrison's son)

Saturday 26th June 7.30pm. Tickets: £16, £15 (conc.)
The Radlett Centre - 01923 859291

Elton John Concert
Vicarage Road

Sir Elton John's Concert at Vicarage Road is on 29th May 2010. Elton John and his band, along with other special guests, will be performing their only UK concert this year to help raise funds for strengthening the team. Elton John, a long-term supporter of the Hornets, has generously agreed to donate his fees from the concert to the Club. It will be the superstar's first concert at Vicarage Road since his successful performance in June 2005; previously he also appeared at the ground in 1974. Elton John is the Club's Honorary Life-President and was the Chairman of Vicarage Road when the Club climbed the leagues, reached the top-flight and FA Cup Final, under the stewardship of former England boss Graham Taylor.



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

Tracey - 07507 059065

JADE – hairdressing in your home
for your convenience



To book an appointment Telephone (mobile): 07826 855053
 or (home) 0208 428 7404 Blow-dry £14.00 Cut and blow-dry £25.00 - for a full price list please telephone Jade.

Bring Back The Butterflies



"Bring Back The Butterflies" is a campaign being run by some boroughs to encourage communities to get involved in wildlife conservation. This can be done by creating the habitats wherein nature can thrive; whether in private or public gardens, parks or indeed anywhere where there is space to grow wildlife friendly plants and

flowers. Butterflies are the most highly visible of all the myriad species of insects. These colourful, delicate creatures are a delight to see when in flight or feeding on nectar-rich flowers and plants. Children are especially fond of butterflies and it is through children that we hope to instill a love and respect of nature for future generations.

"We seem to have lost that ancient kinship with nature that not so long ago was instinctive to us".
 Anon

Due to the ever-increasing human population, wildlife all over the world is being marginalised. Even in our own country wildlife, both flora and fauna, is being pushed to the periphery of our civilised existence. Private gardens cover a greater acreage than all our nature reserves put together. The potential for wildlife conservation here is immense, but recent gardening practises, such as decking and patios to create fashionable outside rooms - smothering the soil with plastic membranes that are then covered with gravel - the introduction of exotic, low maintenance plants - create desert-like environments that are hostile to our native wildlife. The uses of pesticides have an even longer history of deterring wildlife from our gardens. Used in neat well-trimmed gardens, these lethal pesticides have proved to be counter-productive

as they kill beneficial insects as well as the pests. By going organic you will be letting nature take on the task of pest control - a chemical-free garden will attract wildlife. A garden sanitised by obnoxious chemicals will not. So, a green garden will be required to attract wildlife that will keep you fascinated by its sheer diversity - its eye-pleasing forms and subtle pastel hues, enchanting fragrances ... a hedonist paradise. Nectar producing plants and flowers need sunny sheltered places in which to thrive. So if your garden has such places, please grow as many of them as you can. But if you only have space for a few, even just one, you will be contributing to the project and thus helping insects, especially butterflies and bumble bees, to regenerate after three particularly bad summers that have decimated their numbers.

This is a list of Butterfly Conservation's top ten nectar plants:

1. Buddleia
2. Ice Plant
3. Lavender
4. Michaelmas Daisy (Aster)
5. Marjoram
6. Red Valerian
7. Aubretia
8. Field Scabious
9. Scabious
10. Bramble

Butterflies in flight mean that they are seeking a mate. That's why nectar plants such as the above are so important. They need to refuel as they search. Females will need plants on which to lay their eggs - caterpillar host plants. Stinging nettles are the all-round favourite. So if you can grow a patch of these in a sunny sheltered place in your garden, you will contribute to the conservation of these beautiful delicate creatures. For the more adventurous, a small wildflower meadow with a pond would be a great advantage as seven of the local species lay their eggs on wildflowers. We could also plant some of the above in our communal areas. These plants are pretty good for attracting bumble bees too, and they also need a helping hand. So please take part in the project by adopting as many of these suggestions as possible.

For honest, professional
advice on Sales, Lettings,
Land and New Homes...

james
estate agents

...talk to james

Croxley Green 01923 710500
www.jamesestateagents.com