

BYEWATERS RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2013



Byewaters 6th Annual Picnic with a surprise guest!



Please send articles, advertising, photos etc. for the December 2013 Newsletter to Fran, 78 Byewaters or email fran.koster1@gmail.com



Hi all,

Well I am going to talk about the weather - I don't care!! I was beginning to think the summer would never start and then whoosh there it was full blast! It meant that the picnic was sunshine all the way; in fact some people didn't come because it was too hot!! Hard to you believe it in this country that it would be too hot but those that came had a good time, see below and the front cover. Then when we had all moaned about how hot and humid it was, always adding 'we mustn't complain' it was gone and the rain, which our gardens did need, came with a vengeance bringing flash floods etc. luckily not on Byewaters. This country needs to be moved over a little bit as the weather streams just don't seem to suit us. We'll have to try and have a 'Push England' over towards France day, we can all sit and think 'move, move'- a bit like Uri Geller with the spoons and the clocks! Early on the morning of the picnic, I heard a strange noise outside, thinking it was one of the boaters I pulled back the curtains and was amazed to see a hot air balloon hovering over the canal. It was the burners that were making the noise; the basket was full of people enjoying the wonderful views, blue skies and calm weather. Lester quickly got his camera and managed to get a few shots before it disappeared over the houses towards the Moor. There is always something new to see on Byewaters unusual boats, lots of wildlife and now hot air balloons what next! Have a good autumn.

Fran - Editor

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

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

BYEWATERS 6th ANNUAL PICNIC

As you can see from the cover the weather was amazing and we all had a great time. Last year we were sitting with umbrellas up shielding us from the rain, this time we had to shield ourselves from the very unusual big yellow thing in the sky!! The kids played football and some had their faces painted by Sandy. The rest of us sat chatting and eating our picnics and just generally enjoying our surroundings on Byewaters. The good thing was none of us had to sit in a traffic jam in a hot car, we just walked a few steps and there we were. Please join us next year when we hope that yellow thing in the sky will shine down on us again for a very pleasant afternoon.

Fran



THE GROVE HOTEL

The hotel has a very interesting history, in the 1500s during the reign of Elizabeth I, the first substantial house was built on the site. In 1703 Sir William Buck of Hanby rebuilt the main Manor House and original West Wing. By 1753 The Honourable Thomas Villiers, Earl of Jersey and British Ambassador to France, acquired The Grove and became the 1st Earl of Clarendon. Then later in the 18th century The Grove was owned for generations by the illustrious Earls of Clarendon. It appears that Captain Cook presented one such Earl with a sapling of the just-discovered Black Walnut Tree. This magnificent tree still towers over the Terrace, beside the Lounges. During this time George Stubbs regularly visited the Stables and painted his famous horses. Many of his paintings refer to The Earl of Clarendon's horses, his Gamekeeper and The Grove. During the 1830s the railways were first built but the Earl refused to allow any trains on his Estate. Hence, the long and expensive

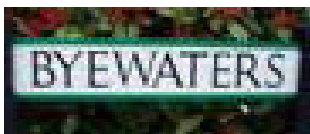
CAROL SINGING FOR THE PEACE HOSPICE

I know the summer is just finishing but this is just a little reminder about the Carol Singing in December for the Peace Hospice. As you all know they do wonderful work but as a charity they need help to keep going. Byewaters has been doing their little bit each year, we started in 2008 and last year raised over £400. Our total so far is £1577.96 please come along. Tuesday, 10th December is a possible date but the definite date will be announced in the next newsletter. If you are unable to come please let me have your donations but it would be great if you could come along as well. Last year we had a choir from the U3A join us and we hope they will be free again this year to help make the rest of us sound good again this year. All for a really good cause please make a note in your diary, (no pun intended).



Fran

Watford Tunnel was built - still in use today! In 1846 The 5th Earl of Clarendon became Queen Victoria's 'Aide de Camp' - her Secretary and Aide - and started the English tradition of lavish house parties for the Queen and her entourage. House guests included Edward VII, Horace Walpole and Lord Palmerston. It was a new phenomena which The Times named "Weekending". The Walled Garden was built in 1878, encompassing 32 acres. The Times published a letter mourning the passing of "One of the greatest political houses of the 19th century, as the aristocratic family left The Grove in 1920. In the 1920s and 30s The Grove was used as a Gardening School, Health Centre, Riding School and a Girl's Boarding School. Then in the 1940s during WW2 The Grove was the secret wartime HQ for the London, Midland & Scottish Railway. Of great strategic importance, it was called "Project X". Six air raid shelters can still be seen today beside our Football Pitch. They're now home to one of Europe's largest colonies of Pipistrelle bats. 1996 In a ruinous state, The Grove was rescued by Ralph Trustees Limited, who set about breathing a new vision into reality with the help of famous architects, interior designers, landscape gardeners and golfers. With permission from English Heritage a bold and sympathetic vision for The Grove emerged restoring the old and building the new. Eight years later saw the grand opening of the luxury country house estate hotel & spa... the start of a new era for The Grove.



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

When Byewaters was built many small trees and bushes were planted in both the common areas and private gardens to make the estate "green". 14 years later those trees and bushes have become very large and require some attention to ensure they do not spoil the look and views of the estate. Their roots can cause costly damage to paths, homes and underground services. In the past year our gardeners have reduced or removed some of these trees on the landscaped areas of the estate as they had become too large. Now is a good time for all home owners to have a look at their trees and bushes and reduce or remove those which are overgrown. Open up your gardens, let more light in by reducing your over grown trees, you won't regret it. Please can I also remind everyone living on Byewaters that fly tipping is an offence and carries a hefty fine. Another aspect of life on Byewaters which has grown is the number of large vehicles which are parking across footpaths and near to road junctions. Please consider the safety of your friends and neighbours when parking and moving around the estate. You can email us at directors@byewaters.co.uk. Other information is available on the www.byewaters.co.uk website.

David Whittaker

STARLIGHT WALK DELIVERS NIGHT OF FUN AND FUN-RAISING



Over 1,100 walkers enjoyed a spectacular girl's night out on Saturday 22nd June to raise essential funds for the Peace Hospice. The evening's entertainment dazzled, the marshals encouraged, the refreshments flowed and the miles sped by! Watford's Vibe FM hosted the entertainment at the Colosseum which kicked off with music from two local bands and a zumba warm up session. Hospice Patron, actor and musician Martin Kemp then thanked Walkers for their commitment to the Hospice. Starlight Walk mascot Stellar, who was named by Martin and his wife Shirlee, was also there to wave Walkers off. Noticeable this year was the higher proportion of under 18's taking part, the rules had been changed to allow 11 year olds to take part. Every year great commitment is shown by Walkers and volunteers which make the Starlight Walk such a success. Over £115,000 was pledged and more than 80 pence of every £1 goes directly on services for patients and their

families. If you want to support the Starlight Walk 2013 text SPON13(space)£5 (or £10) to 70070. Or you can start getting into training for next year! Also you can register for **PUSH IT FOR THE PEACE** the five mile obstacle course for all levels of fitness and support the Hospice's next flagship fundraising event, more on the website www.peacehospice.co.uk

ANOTHER BIN AND MORE RECYCLING

It appears our recycling collections will be changing. Three Rivers District Council are aiming to have a weekly collection of cans, plastics, cartons, glass, paper and cardboard in a new wheeley bin. At the same time introducing 'back door caddies' a 25 litre container for household food waste to be collected weekly. This means that the present brown bins will be collected fortnightly, along with our present general waste that we put in our green bins. I am sure a new large wheeley bin is going to delight everyone and a small 'back door caddie' will be great for all the wildlife, they will quickly find a way into a small caddie. So that means more wheeley bins on show for those houses all over Watford that do not have easy access around the back of their houses - very attractive! I think that I know what they do with the cardboard, paper and glass waste but what do they do with the rest of our waste. Can we be sure that they do actually recycle everything; some Councils have been caught and fined for not doing the right thing. Can we be sure that TRDC is actually recycling everything they are making us carefully sort through?



MORRISONS AND THE CROXLEY RAIL LINK



Morrisons have been recruiting this summer their aim is to open this winter and the Croxley Rail Link got its final go ahead (July 2013). Hertfordshire County Council and London Underground have been granted the legal powers needed to build, operate and maintain the Croxley Rail Link. Construction work on the scheme is due to begin in 2014. A works programme is currently being compiled and will be published once detailed engineering designs are completed. The target date for trains to start running on the new link is 2016.

Another reminder – Don't be the cause of an accident – reduce your speed to 20mph or less



At the AGM in April we discussed the problem we have with parked cars on Byewaters, also what speed should be promoted. It was most people's opinion that because of the amount of cars parked on bends that there were many blind spots. Pedestrians, cyclists and mums wheeling buggies are also being put at risk because of speeding especially when visibility is limited. Also a reminder that vehicles should not be parked fully on pavements, we are allowing two wheels but definitely not four. This can also cause many problems for pedestrians including damaging the pavement, trip hazards, and leaving oil behind for slippages. Byewaters roads should be taken slow, slow, slower! This will keep everyone safe and help prevent accidents, please think of others.



Well, here I am again and back by popular demand from the solitary reader to whom I offer thanks. With another exciting season already commenced, and hardly a loan in sight, the 'Orns look to be one of the Championship title contenders already. A bright start from the first game away to Troy Deeny's boyhood team Birmingham

City and a 1-0 win chalked up from an eleventh minute goal from Troy himself. Mid-week saw us progress in the Capital One Cup, which makes a change, by beating Bristol Rovers 3-1 with a brace from, one of our own, Sean Murray and Gabriele Angella opening his account with Watford FC. Then it was our opening home game at Vicarage Road against Bournemouth which drew a crowd of over 16,000, just like the old days, and the Hornets storming to a 6-1 win with Deeny scoring a hat trick. This was the first hat trick, I believe, that has been scored at home since March 1997 some sixteen years ago. Angella got two and Lewis McGugan opened his account for the Hornets so all in all, Watford scoring goals from all over the pitch. Could this be a start to the Vicarage Road fortress of old where teams feared to come? Time will tell. As of today, Watford FC sit high and proud on top of the league and long may that continue right to the end and hopefully promoted with a magnificent points cushion and a Lloyd Doyley hat trick logged as well! With thoughts like that, it might explain why I have one reader I suppose.

Ralph - Evensyde



FOOD WASTE BAGS

As previously mentioned cornstarch bags are available for your brown food scraps caddie and large brown bins. A great 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 at £2.50 for a roll of 52 bags which should last a year if you use one a week.



Still collecting email addresses, which are always very helpful when information needs to be sent out quickly to Byewaters residents or if there is anything that you wish to raise. You can contact me at fran.koster1@gmail.com By sending emails out to everyone on my list we have been able to locate two missing cats over the last few months.



Council Funds Local History Project

A project to document Croxley Green's varied past was given a boost after it was awarded a council grant. Croxley Green Residents' Association successfully applied to the parish council for £500 in order to get a web based history archive of the village off the ground. Using the extensive records and information of member Margaret Pomfret they intend to create a public website which charts the history of Croxley Green from the construction of Dickinson Mill to the present day. The archive would comprise of photos, film, oral and written statements with residents to be asked for their own material once the project is running. Currently members of the Residents' Association are working on the website and digitalising artefacts they currently hold. It has also been suggested that publications and heritage walks could be created from material collected by and from residents. In its application for funds the Residents' Association indicated that the project would be live before the end of the year. Funds received from the Parish Council are half of the project's budgeted expenditure of £1,000. £300 of which will go towards digital scanning equipment. A further £150 will be spent on a hard drive to back up the vast amount of data collected. Margaret Pomfret has collated a lot of the village's history, originally it was for a book but with a website there is a lot more scope and it has no fixed length.

“REVELS ON THE GREEN”

The summer showers didn't manage to dampen the mood at this year's Croxley Revels. Darth Vader, storm troopers and a princess all made an appearance at this year's fair on The Green. Organised by the Croxley Green Society, the annual village fair, held on the on the Saturday nearest to the summer solstice, kicked off with a procession, with a mixture of floats and walkers completing a circuit of the green. Even Darth Vader made an appearance at this year's event, (pictured) of course he was accompanied by two of his storm troopers this was a big hit with all the small kids and the big ones too! Local organisations, societies, clubs, schools from across Croxley Green and nearby towns set up stalls on the day. Visitors could roam around the fair's 100 stalls, the kids could go for face painting, bouncy castles or whatever interested them. A great time was had by all, we look forward to next year's event.



STOP PRESS Croxfest Festival on the Green 7th Serpenter

Croxley Green will be hosting its third Croxfest on Saturday, 7th September. More information on this popular event can be found on www.croxfest.co.uk or you can email croxfestcroxley@yahoo.co.uk

Vibe Radio 107.6 FM will broadcast from the festival on the day, there will also be some stalls selling a variety of goods.

Over eight acts have been confirmed... Chasing Grace, DeLorean, Honour Sunday, The odd Eccentric, Reptile House, Scandal, The Spitfires, Tuesday Club. I am sure that local music officienados will know all of them!

••••• Birds Fun Facts •••••

Emus can run at speeds up to 45 km/hr. Their nests can be up to 1.5 metres wide They run after rain clouds, hoping for water and can't walk backwards.

Albatross have a wing span of up to 14 feet and only need to land once every couple of years to breed. They can travel hundreds of thousands of miles on each flight. They can sleep while they fly and doze while cruising at 25 mph.

Ostriches eyes are larger than their brains. They are the biggest bird in the world and can grow up to nine feet tall.

Chickens can't swallow while they are upside down. The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds chickens with red earlobes will produce brown eggs, and a chicken with white earlobes will produce white eggs. It may take longer than two days for a chick to break out of its shell. The most yolks ever found in a single chicken's egg is nine.

Cockerels can't crow if they can't fully extend their necks

Hummingbirds are the smallest birds - so tiny that one of their enemies is an insect, the praying mantis. Its brain , 4.2 percent of its body weight, is proportionately the largest among birds. It eats about every ten minutes, slurping down twice their body weight in nectar every day. The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backwards. It can also hover and fly straight up, down, or backward. The hummingbird, the loon, the swift, the kingfisher, and the grebe are all birds that cannot walk. The egg of the hummingbird is the world's smallest bird's egg; the egg of the ostrich, the world's largest.

Flamingos are not naturally pink. They get their colour from their food -- tiny green algae that turn pink during digestion. A flamingo can eat only when its head is upside down

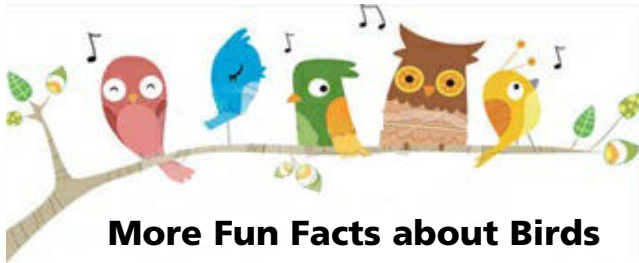
Owls have eyeballs that are tubular in shape, because of this, they cannot move their eyes. They can catch a mouse in utter darkness, guided only by tiny sounds made by its prey. Snowy owls can almost turn their head in a complete circle

Puffins fly underwater. They have teeth that point backwards inside their beak. Male and Female puffins rub their beaks together to show affection - this is called 'billing'. They can stand on their tip toes and can flap their wings 300 to 400 times a minute.

Penguins can jump as high as 6 feet in the air. They sleep floating on the ocean.

Emperor penguins are the largest penguin - they are 115cm tall. They breed in colonies scattered around the Antarctic continent. Colonies can have as many as 40 000 penguins. They huddle tightly together and share body warmth during the fierce winter storms. Male emperor penguins carry their egg on their feet and don't eat for 4 months while they look after the egg.

Arctic terns don't swim well even though their feet are webbed, because they have small feet so they swoop down, catch the fish, and keep flying to stay out of the water. On its journey from the Arctic to Antarctica and back, it covers a distance of 32 000 km, which makes it the farthest travelling migratory bird in the world. They hardly ever land. So they eat while flying most of the time. When terns eat insects they catch them "on the wing". Just before they begin their long journey, the entire colony of birds become silent - this is called a dread.



More Fun Facts about Birds

1. *Woodpeckers* can peck twenty times a second.
2. Some male songbirds sing more than 2000 times each day.
3. The bones of a *Pigeon* weigh less than its feathers.
4. The fastest bird is the *Spine-tailed Swift*, clocked at speeds of up to 220 miles per hour.
5. A *Seagull* can drink salt water because it has special glands that filter out the salt.
6. A *Duck's* quack doesn't echo anywhere, and no one knows why.
7. The now-extinct *Elephant Bird* of Madagascar laid an egg that weighed 12 kilograms.
8. Air sacs may make up 1/5 of the body volume of a bird.
9. Birds don't sweat.
10. A bird's heart beats 400 times per minute while resting and up to 1000 beats per minute while flying.
11. The only known poisonous bird in the world is the *Hooded Pitohui* of Papua, New Guinea. The poison is found in its skin and feathers.
12. The *Common Loon* can dive more than 76 metres below the water's surface.
13. A *Malleefowl* lays eggs in a nest full of rotting vegetation. The decay gives off heat to keep the eggs warm; the male bird checks the temperature often and adjusts the pile as necessary.
14. Male *Weaver* birds spend the majority of their lives building nests to impress females. However, if the female is not immediately impressed by his handiwork, the male takes offense and chases the potential mate off.
15. The stunning scarlet *Macaw* eats clay from riverside deposits, which may help it process toxic seeds it consumes.
16. A male *Sand Grouse* soaks himself in water, then flies back to the nest so his chicks can drink from his feathers.
17. *Mockingbirds* can imitate sounds of other birds.

Trades List

We now have details of tradesmen and services on our website that have been used by homeowners on Byewaters (www.byewatersnews.co.uk).

If you have used someone that you would like me to add to the website, please send me their details. It may help others when trying to find the right tradesman/service
Fran



POETS CORNER

“Summer’s Coming to an End”

Summer's coming to an end
September's waiting 'round the bend
Once warm weather turns to cool
Just in time for starting school
Putting on our longer sleeves
Jumping into piles of leaves
Colours turn from green to gold
As the new season unfolds

Jaynie Gerard

Community Questionnaire – The Results



It appears that protecting and maintaining open spaces and woodlands in Croxley Green is the most important priority along with the protection of village Green Belt land. Surprise, surprise a high percentage feel that the roads are not in a good condition and a large number of residents feel the speed limit should be 20mph near schools and in residential roads. Full results of the questionnaire can be found on www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk/cg/our_community/community_plan



Neighbourhood Watch

Police investigating a series of scam phone calls in the county are urging people not to give out their bank card details over the phone. In the past five months there have been increasing numbers of calls to police reporting a suspicious phone call, and in some cases resulting in thousands of pounds fraudulently taken from the victim's bank account. It is unlikely that you will ever get a call asking for your bank card details - always check something like this out thoroughly. Neighbourhood Watch are looking for new recruits if you are interested, would like to become a volunteer and want to know more about the role please email Andrew Scarth on andrew.scarth1@btinternet.com or Sue Thompson the district co-ordinator sue.j.thompson@btopenworld.com You can join the OWL Watch notifications, they are sent via email to inform you of incidents and useful information in your area. website: www.owl.co.uk

P.S. They did inform me of one incident which wasn't funny for the owner of the car, but the way it was worded amused me – The heading was 'Spare Tyre Stolen! There are many women (maybe men too) who would pay to have their 'spare tyre stolen'!!

DOG FOULING CONTINUES

Unfortunately, some dog owners are still not picking up after their pet. Bio-degradable bags are FREE from the Parish Council Offices and the Library. 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.



REMEMBER – TAKE NOTE!

In politics – if you want anything **said**, ask a man– if you want anything **done**, ask a woman. (*Margaret Thatcher*)

AND DID YOU HEAR ABOUT

The man who fell into an upholstery machine – he is now fully 'recovered'

AND SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

We could learn a lot from crayons: Some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colours... but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

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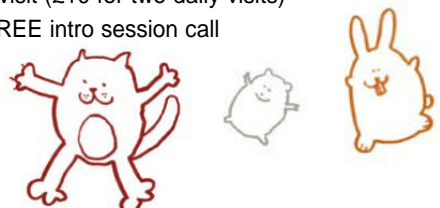
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