

AMRA

Abingdon Marina Residents' Association NEWSLETTER : SPRING 2008



All residents living in the close vicinity of Abingdon Marina, both home-owners and tenants, are warmly invited to become members of the Residents' Association. It exists in order to enhance and improve the lives of those in our community. Membership is still only £10 per person per year and has many advantages, not least being the opportunity to meet and get to know your neighbours at our social events and other activities. Many other benefits of membership are outlined below. This year's subscriptions are due in early May and this newsletter will shortly be followed by a membership form for you to complete if you would like to join us. Currently we have almost 100 members but would love to have more. It really is worth it. If you need more reasons to join, read overleaf about our *Summer Soirée* and the *History of Abingdon* talk.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators do a marvellous job of looking after our community and helping to keep it a safe place to live. If you see any disturbing incidents, vandalism, noisy bikes or inappropriate behaviour taking place, ring 0845 8505505 as soon as possible to report it and get a 'URN' number, which allows you to refer back to that call in future. This information should then be passed on to your Neighbourhood Watch Rep. The police are looking for a 'pattern' and every incident reported adds up to make a bigger picture. In this way we can all help each other.

Area reps are:

South Quay:	Judi Champ, 1 South Quay. Email: jac7uk@aol.com Daphne Peile, 11 South Quay. Email: d.peile@tiscali.co.uk
Fisherman's Wharf:	Viv Boorman. Tel: 554751 Clare Bass. Tel: 553758
North Quay: (No's 1 - 17) (No's 18 up)	Paul Meek. Tel: 539043 Nancy McLellan. Tel: 553752
Marina Way:	Volunteer required
West Quay:	Volunteer required
Lambrick Way:	Volunteer required

If you are able to volunteer your services, please contact the Neighbourhood Watch Office on the above number.

Public Fence along North Quay

This has now been down some long time and Marina residents eagerly await its replacement. Vehicles have already been seen using the gap as an opportunity to shortcut between North Quay and Wilsham Road, clearly not a safe or satisfactory situation. We are expecting a replacement to be made by the council in the new financial year, either in the form of a new fence or as a metal railing which can then be hedged up to with some attractive shrubs.

Swan Lifeline and Swan Upping

From time to time a swan gets into difficulty and can benefit from human intervention. *Swan Lifeline* is a local charity which is pleased to help or advise in these cases. If you see a swan in any sort of difficulty or distress, please contact

Diana Davies Tel: 07770 435625 or **Wendy Hermon** Tel: 01753 859397

Swan Upping, the annual ceremony to count and ring the year's new cygnets and check on the health of the swan population, takes place on Friday 25th July. The procession is planned to pass through Culham Lock at 4pm and Abingdon Bridge at 5.15pm. Why not have a picnic by the river and look out for this special ceremonial procession which dates back to the twelfth century? For other times and dates for the week of swan upping, go to www.thamesweb.co.uk/windsor/windsor1999/upping.html

For Book Lovers

A coffee morning and 'Book Swap' is taking place from 10.30 to 12.30pm on Tuesday 22nd April at the Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club. Cost: just £2 for tea or coffee and a biscuit.

There will also be a cake stall and a 'Rusty Rackets' session with a club coach on hand for a bit of extra encouragement. Please bring along your books to swap and some tasty food or a cake to sell on the cake stall. All proceeds from this event will be shared between Abingdon Health Walks and the Clubhouse extension fund. For further details, please contact Viv Boorman on 554751 or Linda Boston on 535193.

Jubilee Junction on the Wilts and Berks Canal: Update

The towpath has had to be closed for the time being to meet health and safety requirements while the site is undergoing some construction work. The Environment Agency requires that the river banks be reduced by half along half their length to allow floodwater to flow directly alongside the river. Please respect the current 'Warning' and 'Keep out' notices around the site until such a time as this work on the towpath is completed. In any case, there is no public right of way as the land is privately owned and walking along the riverside is courtesy of the farmer. There have also been some instances of vandalism to gates and fences in the area - please be vigilant in helping to prevent such occurrences as the replacement costs of these mean that the whole project will then take that much longer to raise money for.

Finally, there is the possibility of an illustrated talk by Martin Buckland, Director and Trustee of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust. Please let us know if you would be interested in attending. No date yet fixed.

Christmas goodwill

Ray Charlton, Captain of the Abingdon Salvation Army, has expressed his thanks to residents, many of them AMRA members, for the donation of £260.34 given by the Fisherman's Wharf carol singers on Christmas Eve. Thanks to everyone who was there for their generosity and hearty vocals.

AMRA website - almost complete

How fantastic is this? Thanks to the skills of Colin Hogben, we now have our very own AMRA website, set to go live in the very near future! If you have any photos or interesting snippets of Marina life you'd like to see up there, please send to amra@colinhogben.com

And now for the MAIN EVENT! Our Summer Soirée

Mark this date in your diaries as 'not to be missed' - **Sunday 13th July** at the **Abingdon School Boathouse, 5pm - 9pm**. Last years event was a truly special evening, with excellent food, marvellous music and a happy band of Marina dwellers just enjoying each other's company and a glass or two of wine. And you don't need to drive home! This year promises to be even better, so be sure to record the date and book early. Tickets are just £10 per person, but **free of charge** for AMRA members. Non-members are also very welcome. Don't be the one to miss out! So book your tickets when you send in your membership subscription, **or** through Daphne Hill. Email: diz.hill@tiscali.co.uk

Abingdon Talk

Last but not least, there is a talk by Nigel Hammond at the Rugby Club on *The History of Abingdon* on Thursday 29th May at 7.30pm. AMRA members free, non-members £5. Nibbles provided, plus pay as you go bar. Nigel is an entertaining speaker and the evening comes highly recommended!

AMRA Committee Members - please contact us and tell us your views

Chair: Neil Boston, 12 North Quay, 535193

Secretary: Chris Allen, 6 Fisherman's Walk, 553890

Soc Sec: Daphne Hill, 5 North Quay, diz.hill@tiscali.co.uk

M'Ship Daphne Peile, 11 South Quay, d.peile@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter: Sandie Burnett, 2 West Quay, 535600

Member: Gerry Bailey, 15 Fisherman's Wharf, 554751

Member: Linda Boston, 12 North Quay, 535193

Member: Gail Viney, 21 North Quay, 554523

Member: Peter Clarke, 26 North Quay, 200353

Member: Judy Champ, 1 South Quay, jac7uk@aol.com