



## Dear owner or resident of a home at Parkland Place or Wren Way

Welcome to issue 9 of the BPVRA newsletter. In this issue we'll tell you more about how the association is working to save you money and how we're working to ensure that high standards of maintenance are achieved.

We also thought it may be a good idea if we told you a bit about the people who make up your committee. We've started with the Chairman, Vice-chairman and Secretary.

We'll also be letting you know how you can more easily keep up to date with what is happening and all the good work the association is doing for you.

On the 2nd August the association will be holding an open evening where you are invited to come along and get to know us better. More details are provided below.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and we always welcome your feedback on any aspect of life on the development.

Kind regards

**Geoff Farmer**

Chairman (BPVRA)  
[chairman@bpvra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bpvra.org.uk)

## Come and meet the association

So that owners and residents can get to know the association better we will be holding an open evening on Tuesday, 2nd August. This will be at 7:00 PM in the garden. The format of the evening will be as follows:

7:00 PM – Meet the BPVRA committee: Ask questions, raise issues and join us if you are not yet a member.

7:30 PM - Police Community Support Officer Chris Kidd will be with us to talk about neighbourhood watch and Ringmaster. He will also be available to discuss any other policing matters.

8:00 PM – Our regular Management Committee meeting. You are welcome to attend and observe what we do on your behalf.

All times are approximate. We hope to see you there. In the event of unsuitable weather this open evening will take place at No. 12 Parkland Place.

## A recap of the association's achievements

Since the association was formed owners and residents will have no doubt noticed the many improvements that have been realised as a result of the representations the BPVRA have made on your behalf to OM Property Management, the local council as well as work the association has carried out itself; including:

- Attaining formal recognition from OM Property Management as acting on behalf of residents of Parkland Place and Wren Way;
- Ensuring a productive relationship with, and securing accountability from, OM Property Management; with insistence on multiple quotations and transparent expenditure;
- Cleaning of unsightly wall staining on the main building;
- Overdue redecoration of communal areas including painting of all balcony rails and garage doors;
- Lights installed in the waste Bin and Bike store;
- Security Lights fitted at Communal Main doors;
- Car spaces clearly marked;

- External Redecoration, including garden seats, bollards and walkway fence;
- Additional blue recycling bins and bottle bank bins;
- Painting of the gas meter boxes;
- Creating our own dedicated Website available for help;
- Arranged working parties to clear reeds from the ponds;
- Arranged for Persimmon Homes to repaint the footbridge and walkway fence;
- Maintaining the communal stairwell walls between full redecoration schedules;
- Provision of salt bin and snow shovels for the winter;
- Clearing moss growth on car park walkway as well as repairing tripping hazards.

## Who's who on the committee

*Chairman - Geoff Farmer*

Geoff is 39 years old and has lived at Parkland Place since January 2008. He co-owns his property with his brother Simon. Born in Bletchley near Milton Keynes, Geoff grew up and was educated in Kidlington. Geoff works for an Oxford Accountancy practice where he manages their IT systems. Geoff has a First Class degree in IT and Computing and is currently studying Mathematics and Statistics. Geoff became association Chairman in April 2011 and is passionate about promoting the interests of owners and residents. He also maintains our website and co-produces these newsletters with his brother Simon.



*Vice-Chairman & Treasurer – David Maunder*

David is 69 and is retired. During his working life he has been a cartographer and has been part of the ground staff for Iberia Airlines. David has lived at Parkland Place since 2001 when the development was completed. David's interests include DIY (he has undertaken a number of jobs for the association) and bookkeeping (Good news for us as Treasurer!). David also follows Formula 1 and is a Portsmouth Football Club supporter. David became Vice-Chairman & Treasurer in April 2011.



*Secretary – Simon Farmer*

Simon is 42 years old and has lived at Parkland Place since January 2008. He co-owns his property with his brother Geoff. Also born in Bletchley and spending most of his life in Kidlington he moved to Bicester in 1994 when he bought his first home. Education-wise, Simon has been to the school of life. Simon currently works for a number of agencies and enjoys the variety that this brings. Simon's interests include exercise; following Oxford Utd, Fulham FC and MK Dons; travel; good food; and the internet. Simon became Secretary in April 2011 after a very productive period as Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman.



## Your association needs you!

The association has recently attained a record level of membership. We are proud to say that we are now supported by 85% of all property owners and we have a total membership of 43 individuals.

We would like to thank all our members for their support.



We don't like to rest on our laurels, however, and we are always looking for new people to join us especially those with an interest in getting involved with the committee. If you feel you have the time, inclination, skills or knowledge that may benefit us all then please contact one of our committee members via the website.

**What's been happening...**

**Follow us on twitter**

Staying up to date with news from the association is now even easier. By following us on twitter (by searching for BPVRA) you can be safe in the knowledge that you will always be informed about what we are up to on your behalf. If you haven't got a twitter account then signing up is easy; just visit twitter.com.

If you know of anyone the BPVRA should be following then let us know by emailing webmaster@bpvra.org.uk.

**Association saves us more money**

Yet more owners' money has been saved through the efforts of the association. The surround to the door entry system for properties 10 to 17 recently disappeared and the hook, which holds the bin store door open, broke. These items have been repaired thanks to efforts by the association.

Association Chairman, Geoff Farmer, fitted a new surround to the door entry system saving us more than £50 in labour costs. Also, association Secretary, Simon Farmer, fitted a new hook for the bin store door resulting in a similar saving.

Although these jobs may seem minor, over time each of these small DIY tasks contributes to a significant total saving in the development's total annual expenditure; thereby saving everyone who pays the service charge some money.

**Money saved on internal redecoration**

Even though it has been nearly three years since the communal areas were redecorated, the paintwork in the hallways is still in very good condition. This is largely due to the efforts of the association's Secretary, Simon Farmer, who paints over marks and scratches on a regular basis.

Without regular attention the constant comings and goings of residents soon leads to scuffs and rub marks building up. This makes the communal areas look shabby. Full redecoration is a major expense and the period of time between visits by decorators could well be extended by such efforts.



Simon saving us all money by keeping the internal paintwork in good condition

The association thanks Simon for his continued efforts. If any residents feel that they can contribute to any maintenance tasks then please contact the association committee.

**Environment improved as Wren Way pond work begins**

On Thursday, 14th April E & N Pond Services, working on behalf of Bicester Town Council, began a three-year programme of maintenance on the Wren Way pond. The association has been maintaining the shallower ponds that we have, however, the Council kindly agreed to maintain the Wren Way pond after the association raised health and safety concerns relating to maintaining it ourselves.



Caption

The objective of the three-year plan is primarily to reduce excessive reed growth – thereby increasing the area of open water. The contractor intends to re-visit later this year to evaluate the success of the work done. They will also remove more reeds from areas currently occupied by nesting moor hens when they have moved on.

**London Road speed limit reduced**

The speed limit on the London Road has been reduced from 40 to 30 mph all the way from the level crossing to the roundabout at the end of Mallards way. Hopefully this will reduce road noise for those living along side



Speed reduction should reduce noise and improve safety.

**Yellow lines repainted at minimal cost**

The yellow lines that were put down around a year ago have faded badly. The association committee agreed that the yellow lines may be partly responsible for the improvement we have seen, in owners and residents parking responsibly, during the last months.

It was suggested by the committee that a much more heavy duty paint should be used as the spray paint used before has not lasted well.



Simon saving us all money again by repainting the yellow lines

Association Secretary, Simon Farmer, volunteered to carry out the repaint. This has saved owners considerable expense – perhaps as much as £500. The association would like to thank Simon for his efforts.

**What would you like to see in the newsletter?**

We would like to think that we're doing a good job with the newsletter but we welcome your ideas for future issues. If you have any thoughts and suggestions (or criticisms) then please let us know.

**Information**

The BPVRA Newsletter is produced every three months. If you would like more details about the association please visit [www.bpvra.org.uk](http://www.bpvra.org.uk).