

Oxhey Village Environment Group

(Oxhey Village Residents Group)

Affiliated to The Hertfordshire Conservation Society



www.oveg.org

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July 2008

Chairman's letter

Looking back, and looking forward

It's hard to believe that the summer is here, not only because of the constant rain, but also it's July and where has the year gone already?

The good news is, as I write, it's only 154 shopping days until Christmas!

The first half of the year has been challenging.

We've had "some" success with the commuter survey follow up, having an excellent meeting with Transport for London regarding the condition of the station and we've managed to make contact with London Midland with the aim of improving the serv-

ice., though I'm not sure what this may bring.

The Summer Fayre was yet another great success, I'm not sure how Alan does it each year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan and his sub-committee for all their hard work and months of preparation to make this a landmark event in the OVEG calendar.

This was followed by another lovely community event, the annual Open Gardens and while this is not strictly an OVEG event, it reflects the wonderful community spirit we have in Oxhey.

I personally found it a relaxing, reflective time, a chance to meet friends and neighbours without the rush of day to day life getting in the way.

An excellent event, and Jane Hopkins and Julie Bowtell should be congratulated.

Our biggest challenge, and one I feel is the most serious threat to Oxhey Village and all we stand for, is the proposed development at the Tagger site.

This is totally out of keeping with the area and the behaviour of the developer shows nothing but contempt for residents.

I would like to thank members and residents for their support on this, it's really important we are united and make a stand for what

we believe is right.

If you have access to the wonderful world of the internet, I would encourage you to have a look at the website, Gavin has done a sterling job and we welcome comments.

An important note as we move towards the second half of the year – the OVEG constitution states that committee members have to stand down after five years. This is to ensure fresh ideas are brought into the group.

Therefore at the next AGM, a number of the existing committee will be standing down (Chairman, Events Co-ordinator, Fayre Co-ordinator, Village Liaison Officer) and I would ask members to consider stepping forward and being on the committee.

The committee and I are working on succession plans and if you would like more information on each of these roles, please contact one of the committee.

I hope you enjoy this copy of the Newsletter, I'm sure you will agree Hywel is doing an excellent job, adding his professional touch has made all the difference.

Lastly, let me wish you and your families a lovely summer and pray we all are blessed with some much needed sunshine.

**Regards
Andrew**

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OVEG Free Directory

Thank you for your on-going support.
Please help us by telling your friends and neighbours about OVEG.
Together we are strong. It's your voice, have your say, join us today.

Annual subscription due (tick)
If this box is ticked, please send your
subscription to the membership secretary

Become a Friend of Oxhey Park

Friends of Oxhey Park came into existence at the end of 2003 with the help of Watford Borough Council.

We are a small group of volunteers who meet in the park, usually on Saturday mornings, to clean up litter along the river bank and elsewhere and to help with projects such as clearing the invasive Himalayan balsam and planting bulbs and hedging.

We also have activities such as escorted walks around the park to listen to the dawn chorus, learn about bats, and identify trees.

There is a nominal subscription of £2 a household but anyone is

welcome to join in our activities.

There are two events remaining this year.

On Saturday, September 20, there will be a clean up and bulb planting and on Saturday December 6, there will be a clean up and tree planting.

Clean up sessions begin at the Wiggshall entrance at 10.30am, details of the other activities will be publicised on posters in the park and elsewhere. Strong shoes and gloves are recommended for clean ups, other equipment will be provided.

Enquiries to Jean Alexander (Secretary) on 01923 227365.



Contact us

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chair@oveg.org

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01923 212063
secretary@oveg.org

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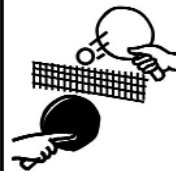
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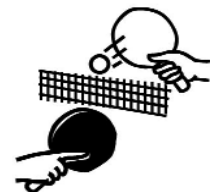
O.T.T. (Oxhey Table Tennis)

Oxhey Table Tennis has been running for over a year and meets every Thursday evening between 8 and 9pm at Bushey and Oxhey Methodist Church, King Edward Road, Oxhey

Cost £1 per evening.

If you would like to play table tennis in a friendly non-competitive environment, please come along and join us in a game.

Rob Hopkins
Tel: 01923 241002



Oxhey Matters

Bushey Arches

OVEG has been monitoring the work being carried out around Bushey Arches over the last few months, raising concerns with the council about the impact the work is having in relation to rat running and total grid-lock in our small streets.

Hopefully, when the next phase starts, lessons will have been learnt to prevent a re-occurrence.

Unfortunately, the latest news on when the work will be completed is not as expected.

We were advised that the work would be complete by early summer, but have now been advised it will be by the end of December 2008.

Let's hope the excuse of Christmas shopping does not take this into 2009.

Bushey Station

OVEG and Ward Councillors met with representatives from Transport For London (TFL/ London Overground) to discuss the general condition of the station, platforms and highlight the concerns raised by commuters during the survey.

I'm pleased to say this was an excellent meeting.

London Overground have taken all the points raised plus additional ones into consideration and have a plan of the work along with approved budget.

The work will take place between May this year and Oct 2009.

A summary is shown below:

Initial work

- Add drainage to all platforms

- Improve stairs, remove/replace damaged tiles.
- Remove old unused metal-work, posts, signs etc.
- Re-locate benches from platform 5 to platform 6.
- Repair fences, paint metal-work.
- General tidy up and removal of overgrown shrubs, weeds etc.

Longer term

- A lining will be added to the tunnel, allowing the seeping water to drain away.
- Install at least 2 shelters on platform 6 (More if we help with funds)
- Ticket office area will be updated to allow for disabled access and non-slip tiles
- Outside – the station will be tidied up, signage improved, cycle shelters added at both entrances.

We've asked for a full schedule of work so we can advise residents and commuters, so hope we have more information in the future.

Fast trains

OVEG had a brief meeting with the senior management team of London Midland during one of their "Meet the manager" sessions at Euston.

There have been made fully aware of the serious overcrowding and have agreed to meet with OVEG and Ward Councillors to discuss our concerns and consider options. This meeting is planned to take place by the end of July.

They acknowledge the trains are overcrowded, and they are already working on options to help alleviate this.

One option already being



considered is trains for Bushey and Harrow will only start from Watford Junction rather than through trains from Northampton, Tring etc. this should offer more room.

We will provide updates as this progresses.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

We reported there had been a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour over the past few months and sadly this trend has continued.

OVEG is working with the police and other professional bodies to gain a better understanding of the issues, when and where they are taking place.

A meeting is being held on July 16 to review police and Council reports across Oxhey to identify "Hot Spots" and put together an action plan to address them. Some of the issues we've seen in recent months are:

- Trees – 4 trees on Oxhey Green have been snapped off. Cost approximately £1,000
- Kissing gate - (Lower end of Green) smashed to bits, allowing horses to escape onto

the Green.

Thankfully no one was hurt and Ian MacKay used his horse whispering skills to control the horses. Cost approximately £1,500.

■ Graffiti – writing and obscene graphics have been drawn on benches, service cabinets, dog bins, walls. Bright Blue and Pink markers have been used. Cost approximately £2,000.

■ Damage to cars – Car door mirrors have been smashed.

■ Youths on Green – Anti-social behaviour making lots of noise late at night, riding cycles in and on the play area.

OVEG will be raising awareness that anti-social behaviour in Oxhey will not be tolerated.

This will be supported by a poster campaign to asking residents to report any incident, no matter how small, to the police. Without your help this will not work, so please help.

Please keep the number by your telephone and remember, it's your community – have your say, report it today.

**Anti social behaviour
WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**SEE IT – REPORT IT
0845 3300222**



OXHEY VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

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Welcome to OVEG.ORG

OVEG is a non political, residents group, run by volunteers, offering:

- * Newsletters – members receive 6 per year
- * History sheets, Oxhey in Pictures Book
- * Membership benefits
- * Events & Talks Evening
- * Supports / represents the community
- * Events – Summer Fayre, Picnic, etc
- * Village Liaison with Watford Council

* Urgent Update - Taggers Site Development Information!!!

» [Read more](#)

Don't forget to check www.oveg.org

OVEG's new website is now online, and the site has been revamped to be more user friendly and aesthetically pleasing to surfers.

Surfers can now view

OVEG's current committee, electronic contacts details, our updated constitution, objectives for the forthcoming year, details on membership, past newsletters for download,

forthcoming events, information on past events, and information on local planning, merchandise, community grants and much more.

Our aim is to be accessible to all generations who have an interest in matters that concern the community.

Having a presence online will make information about the local community, more accessible to the local community, with shorter time scales for circulation.

We anticipate there will be several improvements to the site towards the end of 2008.

Watch this space for new announcements regarding features on the website. Our site can be found at www.oveg.org

Your opinion counts, so if you feel something is missing or can be improved, please email your suggestions to WEB-Suggestions@oveg.org

Gavin Ellis
Website Co-ordinator

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More hands make lighter work

The membership database has now been audited and updated, so hopefully all details are now correct.

Please could we ask members to provide any changes to their details so the information OVEG hold is maintained.

We are exploring ideas of issuing a membership card to members as this will help improve administration.

I would like to thank all of our distributors for their ongoing support and patience.

If you would like help distribute Newsletters for your street, please let me know. you know what they say, "More hands make lighter work"

Lastly, we will be including email addresses to the membership form in the future.

This will be used to provide updates on events and other significant issues as they arise.

We have investigated issues around security to ensure your data will be protected and not made available to any 3rd parties. More details to follow.

Karen Filer
Membership Secretary

'One of the most significant threats our village has seen'

For those of you who read the Watford Observer you will have seen the outcome of the public consultation over the site of the former JR Tagger dealership. .

Unfortunately this was not the outcome OVEG were wishing for.

OVEG invited the developer to the fayre so they could consult with residents, however they declined the invitation.

It was felt that OVEG had a duty to inform residents of the new proposed development so posters were displayed in a number of prominent sites around the Village and petition made available.

The result of this was over



400 signatures in little over a week and significant strength of feeling by the majority of residents.

This proposed development is, in our opinion, one of the most significant threats Oxhey has ever seen.

The proposed development is six storeys high, so dwarfing all of the existing buildings.

The design is not in keeping with the area and local architecture and while some improvements have been made in terms of parking, there would still be approximately another 40 cars that would end up on our already overcrowded streets.

Provisional dates have been set for when this will go in front of the Council Planning

Committee, this is either August 6, or September 4.

OVEG will continue to keep residents informed on this development, so please watch for updates on the notice boards and shop windows.

If you wish to find out more on this, please see visit our website at www.oveg.org or contact one of the committee emmbers.

How we help the local community

Successful Grant Recipients

Two local community groups have been the recipients of OVEG community grants.

Bushey & Oxhey Methodist Church have been given £500 towards enhancing the meeting facilities at the church.

The grant will be funding a new powered drop down projector screen, and a new fridge/freezer. Many local groups use these facilities and OVEG are delighted to help with these improvements that will benefit the whole village.

The Bushey and Oxhey Scout Group are making extensive, much needed, renovations to the scout hut on Chalk Hill.

The work includes a complete plumbing and wiring overhaul, a refitted kitchen, and upgrading the entrance to enable disabled access.

A very busy local builder and other volunteers are giving time and materials to help with the work.

OVEG is very pleased to contribute £500 towards a project that will benefit local youngsters in particular.

Another Great Day At The Fayre

Oxhey village was very lucky with the weather again on the day of the fayre.

A very high attendance meant that we were able to cover our costs and make a small profit of £435.

Load of Hay

207 Pinner Road, Watford Heath, WD19 4ET
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Sunday 12-10.30PM (Sunday Lunches served 12-5PM)
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Another year, another successful summer fayre





Special thanks to Michelle and Ian for providing electricity on the day; John Morton, Ian Sedge, Richard Charnock and Ben Atkins for setting up and to ATT Plant Power for supplying an erecting the tower.

**Get important announcements about your village sent to your inbox
Send an email to webmaster@oveg.org to sign up**

Meet the Friends of Attenborough's Fields

The Friends of Attenborough's Fields were inaugurated in December 1994 as a direct result of the successful campaign by the local community groups and individuals to persuade the owners that the Fields were too important to allow them to become an extension of the Bushey Golf Course.

Attenborough's Fields are owned by Hertfordshire County Council and were leased for many years as grazing land to Merry Hill Farm and suffered from gradual neglect. However in March 1994 the Fields were declared part of the Watling Chase Community Forest and fell under the Stewardship Scheme administered by the County Council and are now designated a County Wildlife site.

The Fields continue to be grazed by horses and to improve management iron estate fencing has been erected to match the existing at selected boundaries, gaps in boundary hedges are being filled. Ex-

isting hedges layed or coppiced, trees planted individually on old field boundaries and as groups next to allotments and other boundaries. Kissing gates have been built by volunteers where dedicated footpaths enter the Fields.

Hertfordshire County Council reformed the old Swallow Hole in March 1995 and Three Valleys enclosed it with traditional iron estate fencing. Ponds in Home Field and Rush Mead were cleared and deepened and others formed.

We have been granted a licence to manage Haydon Hill Pond and work is carried out by members and volunteers every first Sunday in the month. The restoration of the weir removed in 1952 returning water to near the original level was completed in March 1997.

The Fields lie on an interesting geological area where the stratified London Clay and Woolwich and Reading Beds running beneath London outcrop, with Stan-

more gravels overlying them at the top of the Fields and at the Haydon Road end the chalk is not far from the surface. Springs are therefore a feature and the varying types of soil provide a variety of wild plants and grasses.

Our aim is the protection of this narrow strip of Green Belt between Bushey and Oxhey. We want to improve habitat for wildlife, grazing for animals, record flora and fauna, trace the history of the fields and involve the surrounding community in achieving these aims.

Every first Sunday in the month our volunteers work on maintaining and improving the fields.

So. If you enjoy the countryside on your doorstep and don't want to see it lost, have some spare time or would like to find time to get involved or perhaps simply need some exercise and fresh air contact Ian Mackay on 01923 234828 or Rob Hopkins on 01923 241002.



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**107 Villiers Road, Oxhey Village
Tel: 01923 223949**

OXHEY VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT GROUP (OVEG) APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING

Please complete all sections of the form, writing clearly or type. An electronic version can be obtained from www.oveg.org

Name of Organisation/Group _____

Contact Name _____

Tel No _____ Mobile _____

Address: _____

Email Address _____

Is this a joint application? If so, what is the name of the organisation / group you are applying with?

Amount of grant funding requested? _____

For what reason are you applying for grant funding? How will the money be used?

Which of the following criteria will your project / activity support?

Please tick

- Help to preserve the character of Oxhey
- Help to improve the environment in Oxhey
- Help to foster the community spirit of Oxhey
- Help to improve services to Oxhey
- Help to improve the safety of Oxhey
- Help to record and/or tell the history of Oxhey

OVEG Free Directory

A

Acupuncture

- Alan Imberg M.B.Ac.C.
Kingsfield Centre for
Physiotherapy, Chalk Hill,
Oxhey
01923 220546
- Mary Hurley M.B.Ac.C.
30 Cedar Rd, Oxhey,
Watford.
01923 240793

Artists

- Kelly Mills
www.freewebs.com/kellymills
07932 642676
kelly.mills@yahoo.co.uk

B

Bakers

- Lovedays
25 Villiers Road, Oxhey
01923 224748

Bouncy Castles, Party Products, Air Raising Fun

- 19 Cross Road, Bushey
01923 210362

Bank

- HSBC 85 Chalk Hill,
Oxhey
0845 740 4404

Building

- Ian Mackay Associates
Structural, Building & Design
Consultants, 83 Upper
Paddock Rd, Oxhey, 01923
234828
- Counter & King—
Architects
48 Capel Road 01923
819222
- R P Marsh
Carpenter, Joiner & General
Bldr
47 Lower Paddock Rd,
Oxhey
Mobile: 07932 037 050
- Waterford Developments
30 Villiers Road 01923
244466

C

Cars

- Bodicraft Supplies
1 Chalk Hill 01923 444676/7
- Bushey Auto Parts
3 Chalk Hill 01923 235100
- Kendal Cars
Chalk Hill 01923 238058
- T S Motors
Chalk Hill 01923 229228
- Graham's Bodysop
Chalk Hill 01923 817707

Chemists

- Abell Chemist
4 Haydon Rd, Oxhey
01923 235253
- B J Bond
32 Villiers Rd, Oxhey
01923 223468

Child Minder

- Julia Ghai
Registered Child Minder
88 Oxhey Avenue, Oxhey
01923 212063

Churches

- Bushey Baptist Church
48 Chalk Hill, Oxhey
01923 441330
- Bushey & Oxhey
Methodist Church
King Edward Road, Oxhey
01923 223906
- St Matthews C of E
The Parish Church of Oxhey,
Eastbury Rd
01923 241420

Cleaners

- CJ's Cleaners
110 Villiers Rd, Oxhey
01923 233087

Clubs

- Oxhey Conservative &
Unionist Club, Lower
Paddock Road, Oxhey
01923 224596
- Oxhey Bowling Club
Contact Les O'Neill
0208 386 3893

Cycling

- 13's Cycle Depot
73 Chalk Hill 01923 234221

Couriers

- Bushey Despatch
35b Chalk Hill 01923 255922

D

Design

- Initial Monogram Co. Ltd
Tee Shirts etc.
18 Capel Rd, Oxhey
01923 255540

Decorating

- Acornley Decorating
Matt Acornley 07956
150093
- Tile Depot
26 Aldenham Road, Oxhey
01923 637977
- Bushey Blinds and Awnings
23 Aldenham Road, Oxhey
01923 801300

E

Estate Agents

- Friends
99 Villiers Rd, Oxhey
01923 242255
- John Whiteman
37 Pinner Rd
01923 247742
- Rose & Co
6 Ye Corner, Oxhey
01923 446100

Electrical

- DB Electrical & Air
Cond'ng
41 Upper Paddock Rd,
Oxhey
01923 236740

F

Fashion

- Hel's Kitchen
44 Aldenham Road, Oxhey
01923 213999

Furniture

- Upholstery by Design

- Unit 5,
57 Bushey Grove Rd, Bushey
01923 819977

Fireplaces

- Grate Ideas
125 Pinner Rd, Oxhey
01923 253510

Fishing

- Oxhey Angling Centre
28 Pinner Rd, Oxhey
01923 441110

G

Gardening services

- Elizabeth's Garden Design
01923 819194
- The Village Gardeners
01923 251206

H

Hire Equipment

- ATT
8 Ye Corner, Chalk Hill,
Oxhey
01923 244500

Hairdressers

- Danato Gents Hair Stylist
36 Aldenham Rd 01923
247877
- Angels - Hair & Nails
27 Villiers Rd 01923 242503
- Stella's
17 Capel Rd 01923 228795
- Hair-Tech
1b Oxhey Avenue 01923
249070

Health

- Bushey Health Centre
London Rd
- Manor View Practice
01923 247446
- Attenborough Practice
01923 231633
- Bushey Osteopathic Clinic
19 Finch Lane, Bushey
020 8950 8886
- Bowtech at Body Balance
Villiers House, 110 Villiers Rd
Oxhey Village 01923
227340
- Aloe Vera health,
nutritional & skin care
products
20 King Edward Road, Oxhey
01923 249785
- Holistic Heaven
45 Capel Road 01923
334735
- 07778 624414

J

Jewellery

- Saffron Alice
50b Capel Rd, Oxhey
01923 448445

L

Local Groups

- Allotment Society
Contact Mary Reid 01923
238728
- Friends of Attenborough
Fields
Contact Ian Mackay
01923 234828
- Oxhey Village Environment
Group Contact Andrew
Filer

- 01923 213616

M

Milk (Dairy)

- Braziers Dairies
Oxhey Lane, Carpenders
Park
020 8428 4474

Musical Instruments

- Thwaites
33 Chalk Hill 01923 232412

N

Newsagents

- Nil's Newsagent & Post
Office
75 Aldenham Road, Bushey
01923 221599
- News Bit
107 Villiers Road, Oxhey
01923 223949
- Rose Grocers Ltd
83 Chalk Hill, Oxhey
01923 225495

O

Off-Licence

- Rich Wines
1 Pinner Road 01923 229562

P

Photographers

- 46 Cross Rd, Bushey
01923 333373

Plumber

- Astral Solutions

Plumbing and Solar heating

- 19 Cross Road
01923 497865

Printers

- Bluelobster
9a Pinner Rd
01923 228503

Public Houses

- The Victoria
Chalk Hill, Oxhey
- The Railway Arms
Aldenham Rd, Oxhey
- The Villiers Arms
Villiers Rd, Oxhey
- The Rifle Volunteer
Villiers Rd, Oxhey
- The Load of Hay
Watford Heath, Oxhey
- The Royal Oak
Watford Heath, Oxhey

Publishers

- Exley Publications Ltd
16 Chalk Hill, Oxhey
01923 25050

R

Railway

- Bushey Station, Pinner

Road,

Riding

- Bucks Meadow Riding
School
37 Bucks Ave. 01923
212670

S

Schools

- Bushey & Oxhey Infants
Aldenham Rd, Oxhey
01923 229731
- Bushey Manor JM School
Grange Rd, Bushey
01923 226362
- Bromet JMI School
Oxhey Rd, Oxhey
01923 227133

T

Take-Aways

- Lal Bagh (Indian)
7 Chalk Hill, Oxhey
01923 224405
- Chutneys (Indian)
9 Chalk Hill, Oxhey
01923 254900
- Junction
5 Chalk Hill, Oxhey
01923 441616/228040
- Plaiçe 4 Taste
(Fish'n'Chips)
81 Chalk Hill, Oxhey
- Happy Choice (Chinese)
46 Aldenham Rd, Oxhey
01923 221953
- Surma (Indian)
14 Aldenham Rd, Oxhey
01923 249944
- Mezza & Pizza
Villiers Road, Oxhey
- Ronnie's Café
Station Approach, Oxhey
01923 818077

Tattoo

- Little Dave's Tattoo Studio
1 Ye Corner, Aldenham Road
01923 248090

Taxi

- Newline Taxis
Station Approach, Oxhey
01923 222121

Theatre School

- Class Act Theatre School
Krystal Parsons
01923 246931

W

Watches & Clocks

- Watch Box
Chalk Hill, Oxhey
01923 461354 / 220784

Windows

- Harp Windows Ltd
30 Aldenham Rd
01923 231111

OVEG recognises the importance of local groups, shops and businesses in our community. This directory is provided "free" to help support them. If you would like to advertise in this directory please send your details to Andrew Filer, 11 Wilcot Avenue, Oxhey. Email chair@oveg.org.

OVEG reserves all editorial rights and may exclude details due to space or other reasons. OVEG does not endorse or vouch for the groups, shops and businesses included in this directory. OVEG cannot give advice or enter into correspondence about any of these groups, shops or businesses.

Forthcoming events...

The Picnic on the Green

Sunday, July 20

2.30pm to 5pm. Come and enjoy your picnic with the Jolly Jazzers Band. Free event.

Contact Jane Hopkins on 01923 241002. Email: events@oveg.org

Barn Dance

Saturday, October 25

7pm for 7.30pm start at St Matthews Church Hall, Eastbury Road. Featuring music on the evening from The Coproliters – an excellent band who have played at similar Oveg events in the past. They have a “caller” who will get everyone up and dancing, so no previous experience needed. Come and join in. Booking essential. Tickets @ £6, which includes quality ploughmans supper. There will be a bar selling drinks so please do not bring your own.

Contact Jane Hopkins on 01923 241002. Email: events@oveg.org

OVEG plans numerous events throughout the year. As well as advertising in the newsletter and on our website, we publicise these events around the village and in local media. In the near future we will be holding a quiz and at the beginning of next year we intend to hold another “Big Breakfast” which has proved to be a success in the past.

OVEG produces four newsletters per year. Look out for your next newsletter in Autumn 2008

DB Electrical & Air Conditioning

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Aluminium Foil & Drinks Cans

Thank you for all your donations during the past year. Unfortunately we have lost our contact who collected and donated a percentage of the revenue to the Watford Hospice.

However, we have found a non-profit making organisation who can make use of the cans and foil collected and donations will be sent to a charity offering work experience to adults with learning disabilities.

So keep those cans and foil coming. Don't forget that only DRINKS cans can be accepted.

Please deliver clean items to
87 Lower Paddock Road.

We look forward to your continued support.

Please do not bring food cans unless they specifically say