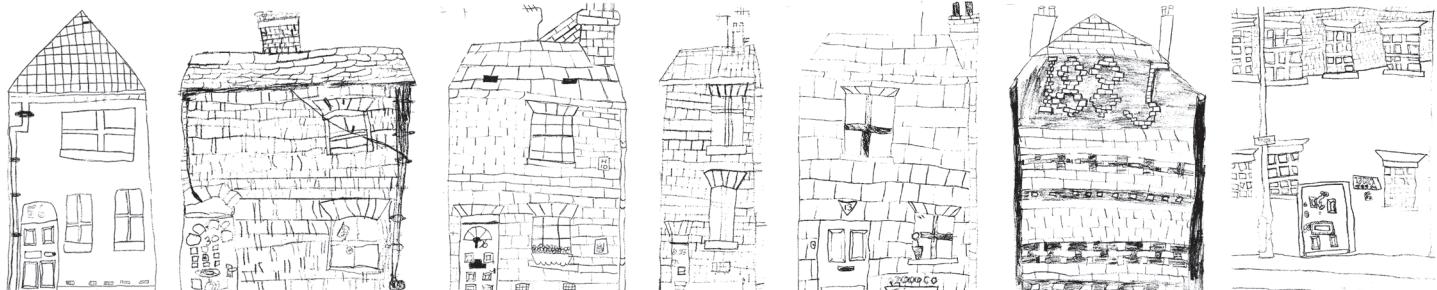


OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.org.uk

NEWSLETTER JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008



From Richard Thurston: Ahoy there! As we go to press, Osney is faced with a period of uncertainty following the recent prolonged period of rainfall. So far we have been impressed with the response of all of the authorities: the top of West Street is protected by the County Council's first ever deployment of their new 'WIPP system' (that's Water Inflated Property Protection); the City Council have moved swiftly to protect properties along Botley Road at Bulstake Close and our very good neighbours in the Environment Agency are working hard to keep us informed as well as preparing to deploy pumps should they be needed. Let's hope that Osney and West Oxford stay dry and that we can all look forward to continuing to enjoy this wonderful part of Oxford. Best wishes to everyone.

COMING UP

Ox Clean

Oxford Civic Society are co-ordinating a spring clean on **March 14, 15 or 16**. If you would like to take part in spring clean of West Oxford please contact Paulene Martin 112 Bridge St tel 250870. All materials and equipment will be provided and all the collected rubbish will be taken away.

The West Oxford Academy

... is already underway. Please join us – everyone is very welcome. Each session consists of a 15 – 20 minute talk by a local resident, followed by questions and informal discussion over a glass of wine. The whole thing will only last an hour. This is a wonderful chance to find out about a wide range of topics and meet new people. We meet on Tuesdays in the Community Centre Cafe at 8pm. Tickets £1 or all eight talks £5.

22 Jan Thoughts about museums Martin Henig

29 Jan Trading shares in public limited companies Ian Burton

5 Feb Nietzsche: how to philosophize with a hammer Hadrian Wise

12 Feb Vaccines: the current state of affairs and the evidence for and against Quentin Sattentau

19 Feb A history of social housing Alison Matthias

26 Feb The 1911 Festival of Britain at the Crystal Palace Ben Reiss

4 Mar The birth of the blues Bob Summers

Osney Island Food fair

As we announced last summer, open gardens and a food fair will alternate. 2008 is the year of **Foodie Saturday** and will take place on **September 20** on East Street. It will be a feast of home-produced bread, samosas, cakes, fruit and veg from the lottie, a cheese stall, pickles, jams and chutneys – plus teas of course. Put it in your diary now.

Floodgates

In the last newsletter we advised that a manufacturer of flood barriers had agreed to offer a discount to Osney Islanders. Thank you to those who registered interest and we hope to be in contact with you very shortly to confirm prices and availability. If any other Islanders are keen to find out – without obligation of course, please email the askoira email address or phone Richard on 07973 292 035.

School project

From Emma Tarry I am an A level student living in Botley but studying at Cheney School, Headington and researching flooding on Osney Island. I was wondering if your readers might be able to assist me in providing information on any schemes (past, present or future) dealing with flood control with particular emphasis on advantages/disadvantages, local opinion, feasibility and costing.

To assist my project, I will be delivering a questionnaire for residents to fill in as they see fit. I would be very grateful for any help that you are able to give me. (*The questionnaire is enclosed and Emma will be collecting it on Saturday Jan 26 Ed*)

Conservation area appraisal

On Osney everyone has an opinion about the rules relating to the planning and conservation regulations. Indeed, our City Council is presently consulting about the conservation area – their website contains details. We're really keen to hear what you think: OIRA will shortly be asking you for your views to enable us to

submit a considered response to the consultation. Please take some time to complete the short questionnaire that will be dropping through your letter box very soon.

Environmental improvements

After the City Council felled our willow trees, we were able to secure some funding for environmental improvements and asked you what you'd like to see. Ideas that we will take forward include planting flowers on East St (we're working with West Oxford School to get the school children involved), a new bench outside the Waterman's and limited resurfacing of the towpath.

St Frideswide's

The main Sunday service at St Frideswide's is at 10.30am every Sunday:

Parish Mass with traditional hymns, a thought-provoking sermon, and Holy Communion. All welcome. There will be a Godly Play Sunday School during the service on 27th January, 10th and 24th February, and 9th March.

Fr Russell Dewhurst is very happy discuss baptism (christenings), banns, weddings, or any other matter: phone 01865 242680 or email rdewhurst@mac.com

Special event:

3rd February: 10.30am: All-age service for the feast of Candlemas.

6th February: Ash Wednesday. 7.30pm: Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes.

Every Wednesday from 13th Feb to 12th March inclusive: 7pm Lent

A different speaker will lead an hour's discussion over coffee each week in the WOCA cafe: subjects to include world poverty, inter-faith matters, politics, criminal justice, and more. For more details watch the noticeboards and <http://www.frideswide.org.uk>

Bits and bobs

The newly formed **Osney Island Gardening Club** meets once a month from February through to October with a break in August for a organic mix of practical activities and visits to gardens/places of interest. The calendar of events for 2008 includes seed and plants swaps and visits to Ryton organic gardens, Bourdon House and the RHS Malvern Show. If you would like to join us please contact Elizabeth Newbery tel 793360 or email elizabeth@newberyandengland.com.

Low Carbon West Oxford Food Group

From Sarah Dyer: I never have enough jam jars when jam season comes around and end up having to buy them! I would like to set up a 'jam jar bank' so that rather than recycling our jam jars we can re-use them. If everyone in the community is encouraged to save their jam jars (I am happy to store them in my garden shed), when someone needs them they can collect some from the 'bank'. I have set up an email address jamjars.LCWO@googlemail.com so people can get in touch with me to deliver/collect jars. For those without internet access contact Susanna Pressel on 554001.

A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

The Carfax Conduit

From Roy Hoare: In the early 1600s Oxford's only sources of drinking water were unpurified river water and cess –polluted well and surface water. In 1616, Otho Nicholson, a philanthropic don of Christ Church College, instigated and funded a scheme costing £2,500 for piping spring water down from Hinksey Heights to Carfax in the City Centre. Several springs were diverted into a brick culvert directing water into a 20,000 gallon cistern. Over it was built a large stone well house. You can still see the building: follow the brown English Heritage signs from North Hinksey Lane.

The water was conveyed in 4 1/2" diameter lead pipes, reinforced by hollowed out elm logs where it crossed streams and roads. En route it passed close to Osney Meadow and Osney Hill (opposite the Waterman's). The pipeline terminated at Carfax (on a plot of ground on the site of the Old Bull Ring), into two large cisterns, one for the University and another for the city.

Over it was erected a magnificent edifice 48ft. high by 13ft.6" square. It was built and embellished with royal symbols by John Clark, a Yorkshire stonemason. On each of the four sides were representations of the four Cardinal virtues, the symbolic arms of the City (Henry VIII, Elizabeth I) and statues of King David, Alexander the Great and many more. Four spouts at the base supplied water to the populace and spurs were taken out to supply the colleges.

When Nicholson died in 1622 he bequeathed £100 for the maintenance of the conduit which was to be supplemented by contributions from the colleges – often not honoured.

Over the years the Conduit Committee found it increasingly difficult to keep pace with the upkeep. In October 1786 the City Commissioners decided that the conduit was a hazard to the increasing traffic using the High Street and that it should be 'Removed to a worthy place of exile'. Lord Harcourt, whose grounds at Nuneham Courtney had recently been landscaped by 'Capability' Brown, was offered the structure to enhance his vista. He accepted and it stands there still. After the removal of the monument, this source of water continued to be used until 1868.

PEOPLE

Isobel, Giles, and their children Antonia and Ralph of East St will be moving to Leicestershire on Jan 3. They particularly wished to say that they have loved living on the Island for the last 4 years and will always have very fond memories. *Good luck from us all on the Island and should you be back in Oxford you'd be very welcome in a number of houses for a cup of tea!*

In a brilliant bit of timing **Michael and Clare Leake – Jones** managed to move house and have a baby at the same time! Welcome into the world to Floyd Leake-Jones who weighed in at a hefty 9 lbs.

And a big welcome to **Dr Alessandra Geremia** of North St.

WANTED/FOR SALE

If anyone has a **double buggy** they would like to sell please call Henrietta Woolf on 240373.

Freebie

Free – a good quality fax machine with copying and speed dial facilities. Tel: 793360 or call in to 3 North St.

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811; **County Council**, tel: 792422; **County Councillor Sushila Devi Dhall**, tel: 5534150; **Alan Armitage**, tel: 516115; City Councillors: **Colin Cook**, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening); **Susanna Pressel**, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE tel: 554001 email: clrspressel@oxford.gov.uk; **Community Beat Officer WPC Jan Warner**, tel: 08458 505505; refuse, recycling, street cleaning and flooding tel: 252900; **information on drain clearance**, tel: 252907; **energy advice**, tel: 252197; **free advice on home insulation**, tel: 0800 3166011 (there are discounts for some people); **noise complaints** daytime 252553, out of hours tel: 742138; **Community Centre**, tel: 245761; **on-street fines**, tel: 247090; **car park fines**, tel: 794307; **car removals**, tel: 846000; **furniture recycling**, tel: 763698, **phone payments of all fines**, tel: 252609; **residents parking permits**, tel: 0845 634 4466; **bike theft and abandoned bikes**, tel: 0845 8505 505 **abandoned and unlicensed vehicles**, tel: 252944; **recycling**, tel: 0800 783 1957. New number: City Council out-of-hours number (e.g. for flooding or other emergencies in the night) is 249811. The new number for parking permits (now County Council) is 08456 344466.

THE DIRECTORY

The following list is compiled from Islanders recommendations only. No one pays for an entry and suppliers are removed if there are reports of unreasonable rates or service.

New entry

For removals, Richard Lewis of East St recommends Graham 01865 553347 Isis Van Man email: help@isisvanman.com (very helpful and friendly)

TRIED AND TESTED

Hairdresser

Nadine Wright, hairdresser, (ex-Mahogany, will come to your home and is highly recommended) Mob: 07824 660184.

Garden design and maintenance

Olivia's Gardens tel: 07866 476044. Olivia Stewart, a fully qualified horticulturalist, runs a complete service from design to maintenance ('first class').

Washing machine repairs

RG Domestic tel: 01865 718299 mob: 0771 113 2961. Repairs all makes and has timed appointments including after 6pm– a godsend for those who are out all day. Chris Griffin of CE Electrical Services tel: 01865 842598 or mob: 0778 23 60 979 ('I can thoroughly recommend him')

General builder

Chris Willis, mob: 07974 155 638 does general building work/carpentry, for example (re)hanging doors, laying patios, decking, associated painting/decorating, as well as kitchen/bathroom fitting. ('the work was carried out efficiently and to a very high standard').

Pete Coles, plumber, general building work and decorating. Tel: 07789 164027 ('very reliable and helpful')

Building and roof repairs

Keith Webster, tel: 01865 374585 ('strongly recommended')

Carpenters

Rycote Carpentry tel: Daniel 07980301579 or Robin 07947573371. ('They live on the Island and I was really impressed with their work, fast, efficient and competitive pricing').

Plumbing and heating

Ivan Kilbee, tel: 01235 847527 mob 07050 133783; ('I have used Ivan for several years for servicing my boiler and general plumbing work. I'd give him a beta plus. His work is good and he comes on time, but he's not always easy to reach even on his cellphone.')

Peter Deadman, tel: 724384 ('very good and should be kept in the directory').

John Abbey, plumbing, heating and gas services tel 01865 761881 mob 07802 399694 ('a great plumber!').

Handyman

Jon Butt, tel: 07766 144116 ('a friend recommended him. He lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford')

Chimney sweep

Dennis Northcott, tel: 01235 526617 (does a good job)

Window cleaning

Paul Smith, mob: 07979 692895 ('like many others I use Paul's window cleaning service. He is amiable and reliable.') I Elmsdown Cottages, Wilcote Riding, Finstock, Oxon OX7 3BZ m.0797 9692895.

Interior and exterior decoration

Paul Simmons, tel: 01993 852317 mob 07803 603504 (good clean work and costs are reasonable)

Dave Buckle, tel: 848630 evenings ('friendly, efficient and good value')

Steve Brierty, mob: 07850 357414 / 01491 836762 ('strongly recommended')

Sewing Services

Jan Donley, tel: 249625 upholstery (I've been please with everything she's done)

Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd, tel: 742144 ('have done some replastering for us on a couple of occasions and are good').

Apple Macs

Bill Richards @ Macfactor, tel: 01993 811197 ('excellent and will come out if not too busy')

Oven Cleaning

Chris, tel: Freephone 0800 458 0484 (doesn't use any chemicals)

Ironing services

Creases, tel: 01869 347414 ('they collect and deliver – I've used them for years')

Coal deliveries, firelighters and kindling

Turners of Sunningwell, tel: 01865 730087 (very reliable)

Beauty

Julia Harris does manicures and pedicures in your home. Her contact details are Harris 07843 477452 Email: jools010@googlemail.com (a very good service)

OIRA COMMITTEE

We've had a rush of new volunteers for the committee and will publish their details in the next newsletter.

Committee members

Jude Carroll, 10 East Street, tel: 793 247 (*Secretary*); *Bianca Elgar* 15 East St tel 202977; *Elizabeth Newbery* (*Newsletter*) 3 North St 793360; *Kate Stewart* 18 East St tel 241856; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St 245496 (*Vice Chair*); *Richard Thurston* 38 West Street, tel: 723663 (*Chair*); *Zoe Teale* 29 East St 247897. The email address for any OIRA committee member is askoira2@osneyisland.org.uk

Next meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting will take place on Monday 25th Feb at 8pm in the Democrats' Club on North / East Streets. If you'd like to raise an issue drop in or let someone on the committee know. You can find our agenda the minutes on the Bridge Street notice board and on the website. Next newsletter is due out mid March 08. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com or use the tear-off strip below.

Please use this tear-off strip to write down any requests for inclusion in the newsletter or concerns that you may wish Committee Members to raise at OIRA meetings. Post it through the door of any of the members listed above.

Name

Address

Tel. no.

Committee meeting 2008

AGM – Wednesday 23rd April 8pm
location to be agreed

Committee meeting – Monday 28th April
location to be agreed

Committee meeting – Monday 23rd June
location to be agreed

Committee meeting – Monday 1st September 1
ocation to be agreed

Committee meeting – Monday 27th October
location to be agreed

Committee meeting – Monday 1st December
location to be agreed

A note on the Internet

Contributors should be aware that the newsletter is automatically posted on the Internet just as it appears in print.

Web master and gazebo hire

Tony Roberts, 1 Bridge St, tel: 721596

Notice board

Richard Thurston, 38 West St, tel: 723663