

# OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

[www.osneyisland.org.uk](http://www.osneyisland.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER JULY / AUGUST 2008



## COMING UP

### **Binsey Village Fete**

There will be a Binsey Village fete on **Sunday 20th July, 12 - 5pm**, with a procession leaving the village green at 3pm for St Margaret's, where there will be a blessing of the well and evensong at about 3.30pm. Many activities all afternoon for all the family including fairground rides and traditional stalls. All money raised will go toward the Binsey Repair Fund.

### **Foodie Saturday**

This year our big Island event 2008 is **Foodie Saturday, on September 20 from 2 - 5 pm** on the riverbank on East St. Like Open Gardens – with which this event with alternate if it is a success - the object is to raise funds for the newsletter.

There will be:

- locally produced fruit and vegetables
- homemade cakes and bread
- pickles, chutneys, jams and jellies
- homemade elderflower cordial
- flowers, bulbs and seeds
- old cookery books
- homemade sweets
- BBQed sweetcorn
- old kitchen bits and pieces
- toffee apples
- homemade pop corn
- eggs from Binsey
- Plus, there will be:
  - a demonstration or two
  - Bob Summers' rush work for sale
  - The low carbon food group stall (see below) who will be selling their specially commissioned calendar and jam teas and homemade cakes served around 3 pm
  - biscuit decorating and apple bobbing for children

If you would like to help either by serving on the stalls, helping to set-up and clear up, baking cakes and bread and other produce, or donating old cookery books and non electrical kitchen bits and pieces, please contact

Elizabeth on 01865 793360 or email [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com). Put the date in your diary now and watch this space for final update in the September newsletter.

### **The West Oxford Academy**

*From Sue Hutchinson:* The new West Oxford Academy starts in **October**. The idea came from a newspaper article by Hilary Gullan who had set up a university in her street in Richmond. The format was simple. Local residents would meet in her kitchen and give a brief talk on a topic that interested them; this would be followed by a discussion over a glass of wine. It would last no more than an hour.

West Oxford is full of interesting people and so I thought we should try something similar here. We meet in the Community Centre cafe on Tuesday evenings between 8pm and 9pm for two eight week terms starting in October and January. The talks - all by local residents - last up to 20 minutes and are followed by an informal discussion with a glass of wine.

I encourage people to sign up for all eight talks. The enjoyment comes from getting to know our neighbours and discovering why someone finds a topic fascinating. You never know – you may develop a previously unsuspected talent.

It is impossible to pick out a favourite talk from the past four terms; each time I have turned up slightly tired at the end of a long day only to be engaged, enlightened and entertained. Every speaker's enthusiasm for the their subject has been infectious. It is often the case that the less I know about a subject the more interesting I've found the talk and discussion. I go along thinking "How can that possibly be interesting?" only to find out that it is! One reason it was called an Academy was to encourage people to be actively involved - not just in listening to talks and in discussion but also by offering to give a talk too. It has been particularly gratifying when regular attendees have contributed.

But we need speakers if the Academy is to continue. If you're interested in attending, or you could offer to talk about a subject you love, then please get in touch. There will be a stall at the **West Oxford Fun Day on Saturday**

July 19 (1pm – 5pm) where we can answer questions. Or email [allat42@gmail.com](mailto:allat42@gmail.com) or put a note through my door (42 West Street).

Here's a list of the amazing range of topics we've covered so far to inspire you:

- The origin of academies in Ancient Greece
- Architecture and urban change in West Oxford
- Beowulf
- Sustainable energy
- The origin of gemstones
- Body Line: The Ashes series 1932-33
- A short history of the Internet
- How to have and execute good ideas
- Writing for children
- Citizen advocacy
- Looking at modern art
- The Czech air traffic control system
- The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri: a swift overview
- Icons
- In search of Camarón de la Isla: a talk about flamenco
- 9/11 & the war on terror: an alternative perspective
- The 40 % House: ideas for sustainable improvements to existing houses
- The Internet and culture: democratization or dumbing-down?
- The challenge of climate change and poverty
- Kieron Winn, poet: the nature and craft of poetry
- Herbs
- Piecing together family history
- The Thames in West Oxford: a literary tour
- Thoughts about museums
- Trading shares in public limited companies
- Nietzsche: how to philosophize with a hammer
- The current state of affairs and the evidence for and against vaccines
- The 1911 Festival of Britain at the Crystal Palace
- The birth of the blues

Look out for the new programme in the next newsletter.

### **Memories of St Frideswide**

We are holding an exhibition of memorabilia and memories of St Frideswide's in the church from **13-27 September**. If you have any memorabilia you would be willing to lend to the exhibition, or any memories you would be willing to share with us, please get in touch with Charlotte Robinson on 794288 or with Fr Russell on 242680

### **Regular services at St Frideswide**

10.30am Parish Mass at St Frideswide's, every Sunday. Godly Play Sunday School on 20th July. (We are also considering an occasional creche, with optional simple craft activities, for very young children, during the 10.30am Parish Mass – please let me know if you would be interested.) Please be in touch with Fr Russell on 242680 about weddings, baptisms (christenings), or any other matter.

### **The Low Carbon West Oxford Food Group**

The group has been set up as part of the wider Low Carbon West Oxford group with the aim of encouraging local and sustainable food. We want to help people choose food which adds as little as possible to global warming.

### **Local recipes wanted**

The Low Carbon West Oxford Food Group are collecting tried and tested recipes for seasonal local produce. If you have any recipes or would like to get involved in collating them do get in touch with Flora on [cielo26@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cielo26@yahoo.co.uk) or put recipes through the door at 6 Bridge Street.

## **A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY**

### **The Castle Mound**

After the Norman Conquest in 1066, William the Conqueror set about consolidating his victory and keeping the natives in order by building castles throughout England. Robert D'Oilly, one of William's trusted knights, built Oxford castle in the 1070s. School children learn that the native Anglo-Saxons was forced to help build castles by chucking spades of earth into a central mound like a giant sandcastle. But the recent excavations carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit show this is not quite true. According to their research, the mound was created first by piling up local soil and then gravel. This provided a key for the final layer of local Oxford clay which would have made a slippery surface –making it difficult for enemies to scale and attack the keep built on top. The grassy surface you see today is more than 900 years of wind-blown soil which last year's exceptional rainfall caused to part company with the original clay surface resulting in the landslide. Excavations have also revealed two sides of the 12<sup>th</sup> century stone shell keep that replaced the original timber keep.

## **BITS AND BOBS**

### **Socrates, the cat**

Socrates, a very friendly black cat with white face and four white socks, **has gone missing**. He has a black collar with a cat flap magnet and is a bit deaf. He was sighted up a tree in Bridge St but has disappeared again. If you see him, please contact Peter Newell, 23 West St on 721215/07786 333046.

### **Dylan, the cat**

Dylan, a very friendly young short haired ginger tom went missing from South St but happily has been found again. The owners would like to thank everyone who helped to look for him.

### **Window cleaning**

Paul Smith, our window cleaner, is having a tough time at home with his very sick parents. So he's a bit behind – but rest assured he will be coming to the windows near you soon.

### **Crime**

**Two cars were broken into** in Bridge St and the stereos stolen on the night of May 27.

A robbery took place on the corner of East and North Streets just before 7 o'clock on Tuesday 1 July. The two offenders are described as:

1 Male, white, 5'10", early twenties, blonde hair, glasses, wearing a pink chequered shirt and carrying a red rucksack

2 Male, black, wearing a black baseball cap and black jacket

If you witnessed this incident or saw anything at all suspicious around that time, please give the Neighbourhood Watch Office a call on Oxford 335133.

Two incidents of apparent **rogue trading** have arisen in Oxford during the last couple of days. Residents in Blenheim Drive, North Oxford and Bourne Close, Cutteslowe were asked for money for work on their homes that had not been commissioned. If you, or any of your neighbours, encounter this problem, please contact the Trading Standards Office immediately on 0845 051 0845.

#### **After school child care required**

Mondays and Thursdays 2.30 – 5.30pm from September, for two children 3 and 5 years on Osney Island. If you can help, call Samantha on 01865 451 260.

#### **Nanny available**

I am a 23 years old female looking for a full time nanny job in Oxford starting from September. I have a full driving licence and I am NVQ qualified with a full police check and first aid certificate. I have 6 years experience in a nursery and I year nannying looking after children from newborn to 12 years old. I would prefer sole charge and not term time only. If you can help, please call Lesley Parlett on 0771 7174 683. (If you would like to discuss suitability independently, please call Katja Simon on 241178).

#### **Births, marriages and deaths**

We are sorry to report that *Gladys Peppler of Swan Street* has died. She was in her mid-80s and died very suddenly and unexpectedly at the end of May. Sadly, *Olive Bramall of Mallison Court* also died a few weeks ago.

Kim Dickens delivers **fresh fish** ('miles nicer than anything you can buy in a supermarket') every Monday around 8.30 pm. If you would him to call at your door or order anything special, call 01472 581371 mob: 07806 602776.

#### **USEFUL NUMBERS**

*City Council*, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); *County Council*, tel: 792422; *County Councillors: Sushila Devi Dhall*, tel: 553415; *Alan Armitage*, tel: 516115; *City Councillors: Colin Cook*, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: [cllrcook@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcook@oxford.gov.uk); *Susanna Pressel*, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: [clrspressel@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:clrspressel@oxford.gov.uk); *Community Beat Officer PC Jan Warner*, tel: 08458 505505; refuse, recycling, free collections, bulky items, street cleaning, drains and flooding tel: 252900; *free advice on energy*, tel: 252197; *free advice on energy and home insulation*,

tel: 252197; *noise complaints*, daytime tel: 252553, out of hours tel: 742138; *Community Centre* tel: 245761; *on-street fines*, tel: 247090; *car park fines*, tel: 252489; *furniture recycling*, tel: 763698; *residents parking permits*, tel: 0845 634 4466; *bike theft and abandoned bikes*, tel: 0845 8505 505; *abandoned and unlicensed vehicles*, tel: 252900.

#### **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: Lee Chapman a green electrician ('he advised the pub on how to save energy and help the environment'). Mob: 07825 133337.

#### **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').

##### **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 882810 mob. 07802 399694 ('a great plumber!').

## OIRA COMMITTEE

### Committee members

*Bianca Elgar* 15 East St tel 202977; *Steven Lynam* 11 South St; *Fiona McFarlane* (Treasurer) 11 South St; *Elizabeth Newbery* (Newsletter) 3 North St 793360; *Kate Stewart* 18 East St tel 241856; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St 245496 (Vice Chair); *Duncan Wagstaff* (web and noticeboard) 38 Bridge St, tel: 07812 125 650. The new email address for any OIRA committee member is [askoira3@osneyisland.org.uk](mailto:askoira3@osneyisland.org.uk)

### Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting will take place on Monday July 21 at 3 North St @ 8pm 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 September 08, last date for copy August 31. If you would like to put an item in contact: *Elizabeth Newbery* 3 North St. 793360, email: [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com) or use the tear-off strip below.

### A note on the Internet

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

### Gazebo hire

*Tony Roberts*, 1 Bridge St, tel: 721596

### Notice board

*Duncan Wagstaff*, 38 Bridge St; tel: 07812 125 650

### 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

Wayne mob: 0791 7785 906 (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](mailto:jools010@googlemail.com) (a very good service)

### Removals

Isis Van Man 01865 553347 [help@Isisvanman.com](mailto:help@Isisvanman.com) (very helpful and friendly)

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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.