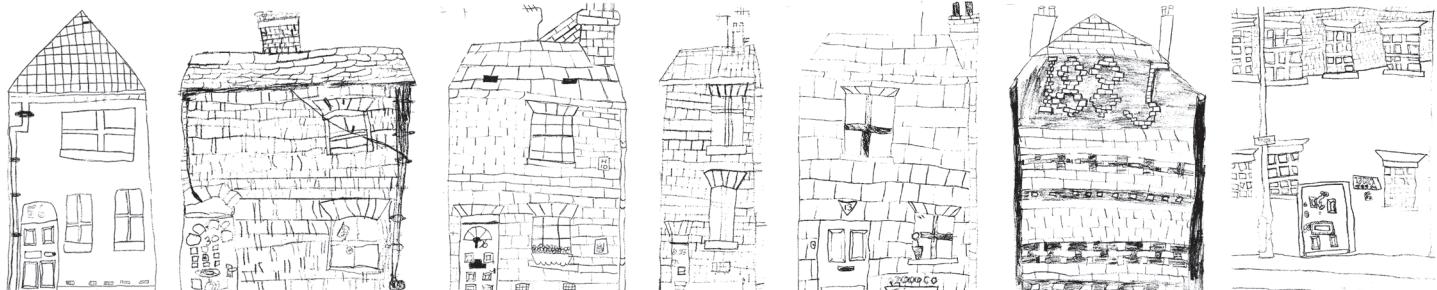


OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.org.uk

NEWSLETTER NOVEEBER / DECEMBER 2009



COMING UP

St Frideswide's coffee morning Saturday 21 November: 10am – 12 noon. Cakes, jams and fair trade produce will be on sale – ideal for stocking fillers!

Film club

Film buffs may like to know about the films shown in term time in the Magdalene College theatre (entrance by side door in Longwall St, cost £5.)

Sunday, 22 November 19:30 Cloverfield (Matt Reeves, 2008)

Monday, 23 November 19:30 Zelig (Woody Allen, 1983); 21:00 F For Fake (Orson Welles, 1973)

Sunday, 29 November 19:30 The Battle of Algiers (Gillo Pontecorvo, 1966)

Monday, 30 November 19:30 The Debt (Krzysztof Krauze, 1999); 21:25 Rosetta (Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne, 1999)



Osney Island children's lantern parade

For the last few years Annabel Dunstan has organised the lantern parade and seen it develop into one of the most popular and heart warming events on the Island. Her children are now beyond the lantern parade age and has handed over the reigns to Claudi Thomas. So a big thank you to Annabel and a big welcome to Claudi.

The traditional Osney Island Children's Lantern Parade and carol singing will take place on Saturday 12th

December. Meet outside the Waterman's Arms at 6 pm, bring a lantern and dress warmly. Refreshments en route! Everyone welcome. If you would like to provide treats, please drop a note into Claudi 50 West Street or call her on 204511. If you would particularly like the group to sing outside your door please let her know too.

Osney & West Oxford NCT Baby & Toddler Group

From Heidi: The Osney and West Oxford NCT Baby & Toddler Group are having a Christmas Party at West Oxford Community Centre on Wed 16th December from 3.30pm-5pm for babies and children under 3 years. Tickets are £3.50 per child which includes a party tea, seasonal activities and a visit from Father Christmas! Please bring a small gift for your child (value no more than £5), wrapped and labelled with your child's name. Tickets in advance can be bought from Heidi 244949.

Just to remind you that we organise informal coffee meets around the local area every week so if there are any new mums on the island who fancy joining the group give me a bell!

PEOPLE

A big fat award

Jude Carroll on East St was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in September with lots of lovely prize money to spend! This award is given out each year to 50 university teachers from hundreds nominated by their universities. Jude got it for her work on plagiarism over years and years and years. She got the award but Jude wishes to point out but any progress made took many people, loads of brains and lots of busy hands to address this big issue. She says the best bit (apart from the money) was seeing my youngest all togged up in black tie and chatting away with my Vice Chancellor over dinner like he is a regular feature at such swanky do's. The worst bit was when, at the rehearsal, some bloke in a red tailcoat said to 50 milling academics, get into alphabetical order. Total chaos and they all needed champagne after that.

Gwen Ilsley

From Julia Marsh: We were sad to hear of the death of Gwen Ilsley on 25th October. Gwen was a long term resident on Osney, having moved here at the age of three in 1917 into the house in West Street in which she died. Gwen will be greatly missed by her many friends and acquaintances around the Island. She was a staunch supporter of St. Frideswide's and many other local causes for whom she made her famous fruit cakes. Always cheery and not normally lost for words, we bid farewell to Gwen.

Eugene Deveraux

We are sad to report the death of Eugene Deveraux. Eugene held an allotment for many years who took pride in his magnificent crop of potatoes. He was a great source of allotment gossip. Until recently Eugene was to be seen everyday riding his bike on his way to visit his friend Jack Cherry, in South St .

Richard Thurston, Chair of OIRA

At our AGM in April 2010, Richard Thurston will step down as Chair and also from the OIRA Committee.

Richard writes: In 2002, Vicki and I moved from Windsor to Oxford. But as I was working in Swindon, it wasn't that easy to meet people and feel part of the community. I thought that by becoming involved in OIRA would be a good way to meet people and start to put down some roots. I also wanted to contribute in some small way to the city that I wanted to call home. So I joined the OIRA committee. Today, having been a member of the OIRA committee for five and a half years, and Chair for nearly four, I really feel that Oxford, and of course Osney, is my home. I know lots of wonderful Islanders, and I feel privileged to have worked with so many terrific people. Vicki and I certainly made the right choice moving here!

So, why I am I stepping down from April? Simply because I want to devote more time to Eve, my beautiful 18 month-old daughter, and to support my long-suffering wife (a big thank you to her for allowing me opportunity to devote the little spare time that I have to OIRA). Of course, I'm not stepping down until April 2010, so I'll still be around to hear what you think about the key issues of the day.

We are all very sorry you are stepping down Richard, but totally understand the commitments of work and family. You will be remembered for your great diligence and good humour, but particularly for all your work on flooding. A big thank you from us all.

News from St Frideswide's

Father Anthony Rustell was licensed by the Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard, as Priest-in-Charge of St Frideswide's with Binsey on 19 October. The service also included confirmations and a baptism. Fr Anthony has been Priest-in-Charge at SS Peter & Paul, Botley for a number of years and will continue in this role. The two parishes are likely to be formally joined next year.

If you have young children and are interested in a Sunday school or other church-based children's activities, please contact Fr Anthony on 01865 242345.

As a result of the new arrangements, there are some slight changes to service times, which are now as follows:

St Fridewide's, Botley Road: Sundays 10.15am: Parish mass (15 minutes earlier than previously). Tuesdays 7pm and Thursdays 12.30pm: Simple said Mass.

St Margaret's, Binsey: Second Sunday of each month, 9.00am: Mass. (Previously first Sunday of the Month.) Evensong at Binsey has now finished for the winter and will resume next spring.

Diary dates

Christmas services

Sunday 13 December: 3.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Binsey;

Sunday 20 December: 6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols at St Frideswide's. Traditional Christmas carols and Christmas readings, with junior choir. Wine & mince pies follow the service.

Thursday 24 December: 3.00pm Children's Crib Service at St Frideswide's. (We build the Christmas crib and tell the Christmas story.)

Thursday 24 December: 11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Frideswide's. (Traditional blessing of the crib, carols and Eucharist.)

Friday 25 December: 8.30am Eucharist at Binsey.

Friday 25 December: 10.15am Mass of Christmas Day at St Frideswide's. Celebrate Christmas day with favourite traditional carols. All are most welcome!

GREEN ISSUES

Composting

Need a composting bin? There are currently good offers on <http://www.owp.getcomposting.com/Shop/Composters.html>

Eggsectera

Eggs are offering a Ecover refill service for multi surface cleaner, non bio laundry liquid and washing-up liquid. This works out a lot cheaper – a saving of about 1/3rd. All you have to do is bring back your old bottles. If there is enough demand, Joe will also offer fabric conditioner.

WANTED

2 bedroom house or flat on the Island or very near to rent for 4 months from mid December. Unfurnished or partly furnished ideally. We have to move out of our house on South Street temporarily due to extensive building work. Please call Fiona and Stephen on 201334 if you can help.

Website manager

Is there anyone out there willing to update the Osney Island website every month? Please contact Elizabeth on 793360 or elizabeth@newberyandengland.com

CRIME

Cowboys caught

From Anna Truelove: Readers may recall my sorry tale of being doorstepped and conned at the end of 20008 by a

rogue firm offering building and gardening services. I paid a lot of cash – about £18,000. But the pitched roof they installed was found to be utterly unfit for purpose by a building control officer employed by Oxford City Council. So I had to have it removed and replaced, at considerable extra expense, by a competent roofing contractor endorsed by the City Council's Trading Standards team.

One of the people involved at the time was Martin Woodley (tel 01865 815331) whose special remit is doorstep crime. To my amazement, Martin called me recently to say that cowboy firm had recently been arrested in a joint operation between Thames Valley Police and Oxfordshire Trading Standards. I have been asked to provide a statement – and its just possible that I might recover a bit of money.

Anyone contemplating structural work on their house is recommended to ring Oxfordshire Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845 for a list of local approved contractors. But whatever you do, don't fall for sob stories.

Another rogue company

From PC Jan Robinson, one of Oxford's Crime Reduction Advisors: We have had several calls from concerned Oxfordshire residents who have had unsolicited phone calls from a company offering to fit an alarm systems. The sales person uses high pressure methods of sales and claims they are working with the Police and in the case of recent calls has mentioned both the local Crime Reduction Officer and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator by name in an effort to persuade the resident to consider their product. This company uses several different names and covers a wide area and is NOT working in conjunction with Thames Valley Police Crime Reduction Advisors. Any resident wishing to obtain genuine advice re security installations should contact their Crime Reduction Advisor or use the Oxfordshire County Council 'Buy with Confidence' tel: 0845 051 0845.

A bit of a moan

Just a little reminder to all those residents who keep bicycles outside their houses - please can you make sure that they try not to chain two or more together as it makes the already narrow pavements impassable resulting in people with prams and the elderly having to walk on the road? Thank you for your consideration!

THE DIRECTORY

The following list is compiled from Islanders' recommendations. No one pays for an entry and suppliers are removed if there are reports of unreasonable rates or service so always check the latest list. OIRA cannot be held responsible for any claims as a result of hiring anyone in the Directory. You are always advised to get two quotes.

New entry

Soft furnishing including curtains, drapes etc. but not upholstery or loose covers. Highly recommended. Ann Paver 249129.

TRIED AND TESTED

Garden design and maintenance

Olivia's Gardens tel: 07866 476044. 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; Chris Griffin of CE Electrical Services tel: 01865 842598 or mob: 0778 236 0979 ('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').

General building, plumbing and repair work.

Pete Coles, Tel: 01865 776519. (Reliable, helpful, work of good standard, and reasonable rates).

Electrician

Baldwin Domestic Appliances on 01865 377484 ('they can fix anything'); Lee Chapman a green electrician ('really fantastic') mob: 07825 133337; DEC electricians on 725453 ('very good')

Building and roof repairs

PJS Roofing Ltd ('member of the Confederation of Roofing Contractors and provides a reliable and professional service') tel: 01235 559803 mob: 07702 946255

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.); APV Boiler Services (Kidlington) Tel: 01865 377264 (friendly, efficient and clean workers).

Handyman

Jon Butt, mob: 07766 144116 ('a friend recommended him. He lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford') David Morris, tel: 725875 (reasonably priced; highly recommended)

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, mob: 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: 0785 0357414, tel: 01491 836762 ('strongly recommended'); Rob Bennett, mob: 0790 5819310 ('Highly recommended')

Flooring and general carpentry

Amazon Flooring, mob: 07899 918015 (highly recommended)

Sewing Services

Jan Donley, tel: 249625 upholstery (I've been please with everything she's done); Belinda Cockburn, tel: 250054 mending, making and alteration service ('her sewing is first class and she is so pleasant').

Damp

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

Apple Macs/Computers

Macfaction, bill@ macfaction.co.uk, tel: 01993 811197 ('knowledgeable and helpful'); API Computing Andy Izzard, tel: 01865 821536 mob: 07964 796007 E-mail: andy@apicomputing.co.uk, www.apicomputing.co.uk (very efficient, not too costly, and ultra reliable)

Oven Cleaning

Wayne, mob: 0791 7785 906 (doesn't use any chemicals)

Ironing services

Beautiful Creases (ironing service that collects and delivers) tel: 01993 708333.

Beauty

Julia Harris does manicures and pedicures in your home. Mob: 07843 477452, Email: jools010@googlemail.com (a very good service); Nadine Wright, hairdresser, (ex-Mahogany, will come to your home and is highly recommended) mob: 07824 660184; Professional massage. email: ferhat@kneadme.co.uk (Fehra will come to your house, his rates are very reasonable.)

Removals

Isis Van Man, tel: 01865 553347 email: help@Isisvanman.com (very helpful and friendly)

Cleaners

Adela 07751821113 (always on time and does a very nice job)

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); *County Council*, tel: 792422; *County Councillors*: *Sushila Devi Dhall*, tel: 553415; *Alan Armitage*, tel: 516115; *Susanna Pressel*, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: clrrspressel@oxford.gov.uk; *City Councillors*: *Colin Cook*, tel: 285770 (day) 721844 (evening)

email: clrrccook@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; *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.

OIRA COMMITTEE

Committee members

Bianca Elgar 15 East St tel: 202977; *Stephen Lynam* 11 South St (Secretary); *Fiona McFarlane* (Treasurer) 11 South St; *Elizabeth Newbery* (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360; *Richard Thurston* 38 West Street, tel: 723663 (Chair); *Kate Stewart* 18 East St tel: 241856; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St 245496 (Vice Chair); *Duncan Wagstaff* (web and noticeboard) 38 Bridge St; mob: 07812 125 650. The new email address for any OIRA committee member is askoira3@osneyisland.org.uk

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting will take place on **14 December at 15 East 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 late January 2010, last date for copy December 31. 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.

A note on the Internet

OIRA website: www.osneyisland.co.uk Contributors should be aware that the newsletter is automatically posted on the Internet just as it appears in print. Please bear in mind that OIRA can't accept any responsibility for the contents of external websites.

Gazebo hire

Sally Roberts, 1 Bridge St, tel: 721596

Notice board

Duncan Wagstaff, 38 Bridge St; mob: 07812 125 650.

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.