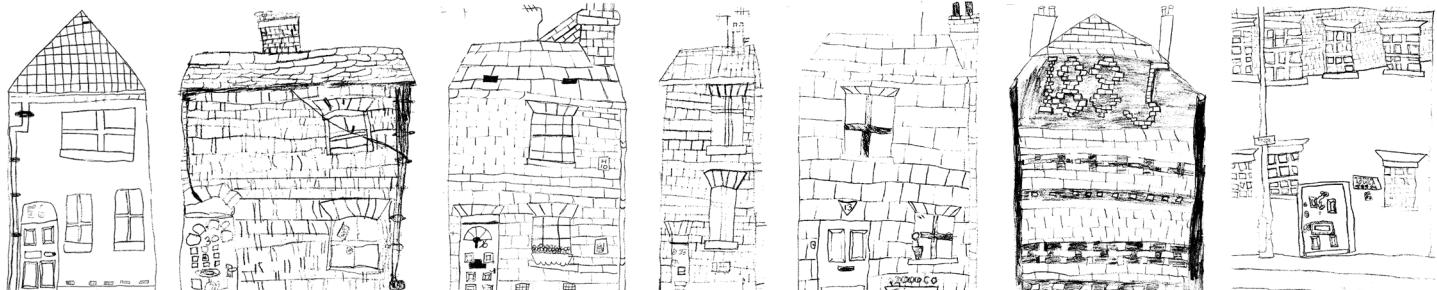


OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.co.uk

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2010



West Oxford Academy

Welcome to the next West Oxford Academy term which will start on Tuesday 12 October at 8pm in the Community Centre Cafe and will run for eight weeks. Some of this term's highlights include talks on "Pots for the people - looking at English slipware", "Is the future nuclear?", "The Greatest History Lesson Ever", "Recovering the Proceeds of Crime: Freezing and Seizing the Assets of Criminals" and "Air Traffic Control". A flyer will be delivered with the full programme soon or check the West Oxford Community Centre website on www.woca.org.uk. If you would like to find out more or would be willing to give a talk please contact Susan Hutchinson on allat42@gmail.com or phone 792358.

Vertigo

Oxfordshire Theatre Company's production of *Vertigo* by Jonathan Holloway is coming to West Oxford Community Centre on Saturday 2nd October. Performance @ 8pm; tickets: adult £8 concession £6; Box Office: 01865 245761. Note some adult content – not suitable for under 14 years.

Organ recitals at St Frideswide

The Hunter pipe organ, originally built in the 1870s, has now been fully restored. We are very grateful to all West Oxford residents who contributed to the organ appeal fund, and hope that these events give as many as possible the chance to enjoy the result of the restoration. The recitals will continue on the following Thursdays at 7:30pm: September 23rd, October 28th and November 25th. Suggested £5 donation to include refreshments.

West Oxford, from Saxons to Superstores

A day school on West Oxford is to be held February 5 2011 at Rewley House. It will cover Saxon and medieval West Oxford, Binsey, trade and industry in St Thomas, the coming of the railways and West Oxford since 1850. A bargain at £52.50 with a baguette lunch thrown in. <http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P127HCJ>

The Waterman's Arms

A warm welcome to the new owners of The Waterman's and several people have reported favourably on the

new stylish interior. Several more, however, have been dismayed at the change of a historic name to 'The Punter'. Nobody punts in this part of the river and 'punter' is synonymous with 'mugs' (not the china kind). And, where has the little half circle railing gone from outside the front door? Along with door knockers and footscrapers it is a distinctive piece of Osney Island street furniture and protected under Article 4. We want it back!

With these matters in mind, here is an extract about the Waterman's from Roy Hoare's article about Island pubs published in newsletter May 2004:

The Waterman first opened in 1871. When it came under new management in 1880, the arms were added. Its sign was that of the Thames Waterman - crossed oars on an open boat with sea creatures either side with a motto above, 'At the Command of our Superiors'. It was built as a ferrymen and bargees' pub with stables behind for the overnight stabling of their horses. It featured as the Bargemen's pub in the trilogy by the Oxford writer John Wain.

Trees

From Stephen Lynam: A meeting was held in the Hollybush on the evening of Thursday 1 September to discuss the questions which had been included in the OIRA circular delivered to all houses on the Island over the weekend of 28 & 29 August. Discussion had also been held with the residents of the social housing on South Street to ascertain their views as to what should happen next. Although the Council has not promised to act on the representations from residents, they have promised to take them into account.

The questions were:

1. Do you want one, two or three trees to replace the two which were felled?
2. Would you prefer that the replacement trees are the same sort as were there before?*
3. Or would you prefer to play safe and have a different type of small tree which would be more resistant to disease but still be attractive to birds? We will have available at the meeting pictures of one or two possible alternative type of tree which could be planted.

4. Would you be in favour of also introducing a shrubby layer both to provide food for birds and to reduce the risk of damaging the new trees by strimming and mowing the grass?

The responses we received (both written and verbal) did not deliver a clear consensus, and we have had the difficult task of interpreting the responses so as to ensure that they reflected broadly the wishes of those residents who did respond. Some of the residents of the Council properties were concerned about the loss of light if the trees were replaced and not all wanted the trees replacing at all but overall the OIRA response to the Council will be that :

- i) There should be a replacement of the trees;
- ii) Any replacement should be sensitive to the wishes of the Council tenants and be carefully positioned to minimise any loss of light;
- (iii) At least one tree should be positioned close to the corner with Bridge Street;
- (iv) The replacements should consist of at least two trees and possibly three if the wishes of the Council tenants in respect of light can be accommodated;
- (v) If the trees are to be of the same type as before, the Council needs to provide assurances that the appropriate treatment be made to the soil to prevent any recurrence of disease
- (vi) There was preference for the trees to be of a different type, with a preference for *Acer campestre* 'Louisa Red Shine' and a birch and possibly more than one type to be planted.
- (vi) We will not support the introduction of a shrubby layer;
- (vi) We will however ask the Council if they can improve the hedge by planting up the gaps in it.

Beekeeping update

From Low Carbon West Oxford: Thank you to those who have expressed interest in possible bee-keeping projects. We are hoping to establish a 'bee hive allotment' in Spring 2011 on the former Corpus Christi College Sports Ground located on the west side of the railway line, near the South Oxfordshire Adventure Playground and just 15 minutes walk from Osney Lock. One possibility is to rent beehives to individuals who would first attend a training course and become a member of the National Bee-keeping Association. Qualified beekeepers would buy and maintain their own bees. On the same site we also hope to develop projects to support wildlife and biodiversity, and produce food and other materials that can be used locally. Other ideas include using the area for education projects with local schools and other groups, and West Oxford Community Renewables (WOCR) may develop community-owned renewable energy projects. If you are interested in being kept up to date on these developments or in getting involved in any of these possible projects on the site, please contact LCWO at lowcarbon@hotmail.com, or phone 721791.

Living on Osney Island

This is the first in an occasional series on local residents

by Joyce Chalmers. This issue long term residents, Shelby and Carol Tucker.

After reading law at Corpus Christi, Oxford, Shelby practiced law in New York and Louisiana, while Carole is enrolled as a solicitor in England and also practiced in Louisiana, where they met. He proposed two days after meeting her and thirteen years later they married at the Bishop Steere cathedral in Zanzibar in the centenary of its construction to commemorate the end of the slave trade, its altar standing over the whipping post, as related in Shelby's most recently published book, *The Last Banana: Dancing with the Watu*. The priest, whose father was with Stanley when he found Livingstone at Ujiji, attested the marriage with his thumbprint.

They have lived on the Island since 1974, and their house is filled with eclectic furniture and books dating from before the American Civil War, a four-poster bed, wicker chairs, a silk and velvet Edwardian quilt stitched in gold made by Carole's great-grandmother, wall hangings from Peru and India, beautiful pictures, including water colours painted by Shelby's mother, fascinating black and white photographs of Carole's forebears, and portraits and photographs of the family Jack Russells -Fergus, Snowdy, Rowdy and Nipper. It has that unpretentious charm found in houses abounding in reminders of the people, animals, places and moments their owners have loved.

At the age of 53-54, Shelby walked from China to India through the Kachin hills of northern Burma. This led to the publication of *Among Insurgents: Walking Through Burma*, which was the leading adventure travel book in 2000, selected by Colin Thubron, Sara Wheeler and others in Best Books of the Year features of six national newspapers. He followed this with *Burma: The Curse of Independence*, a plain person's guide to Burma's perennial strife. *The Last Banana* is drawn from sixteen trips spanning 43 years in Africa. Two novels are now under offer, *Client Service*, derived from working as a 'financial counsellor' for Bernie Cornfeld's notorious Investors Overseas Services in Europe, the Middle East and India in the 1960s, and *Young Americans*, drawn from Shelby's youth in America and his travels in India. 'Travel is in my genes,' says Shelby. 'The Spanish have an expression for monomania: Cada loco tiene su tema—every lunatic has his theme. Mine, for most of my life, has been the open road, wherever it leads. Everyone told me during my school and university years what I needed. Sleeping out, bathing in streams, wood fires for warmth—all this fine hobo stuff taught me what I did not need.' Since retiring from legal practice, Carole has written a memoir of Shelby, Mississippi, where she spent her childhood, titled *A Street in a Town Remembered*.

Meg's Mag

Megan Lewis aged 12 of East St continues to produce the East Street Echo with contents of which this newsletter can only dream - horoscopes, film reviews, fun facts, Doctor Dick's medical tips, fashion advice, an agony aunt, recipes, origami street comparisons and a survey of East St televisions. Genius! Issue No 4 is out now and costs £1. If you would like a copy or to

contribute to Meg's mag contact her on eaststreeecho@googlemail.com

St Frideswide

Regular service times: St Fridewide, Botley Road: Sundays 10.30am: Parish Eucharist. Tuesdays 7pm and Thursdays 12.30pm: Simple said Eucharist.

St Margaret's, Binsey: Second and fourth Sundays of each month, 9.00am:

Eucharist; Sundays 3.30pm: Evensong.

Births deaths marriages

Congratulations to Ayles and John of East St on the birth of baby Lily, a sister for Ela.

Bogus calls

Several residents have complained of being plagued by firms offering insulation. Susanna has checked with John Green, Domestic Energy Advisor and from discussions in the past with Trading Standards all of the companies that they have investigated have been genuine companies generally using Fuel utilities funding but have not been part of any agreed larger package nor have they contacted the department to tell them they are operating in the area. The companies are acting within the general rules so Trading Standards are unable to take any action unless fraud can be proved. The advice to residents is to check with Trading Standards if there are any concerns about legality etc. Check with Cocoon to see if they are part of the £99 scheme.

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. The list is only as good as the updates so please let me know if anyone has retire or dropped out for other reasons.

New recommendations

Highly recommended hair stylist who does your hair in the comfort of your own home! (former Art Director Mahogany and Toni & Guy) Sally Horton 07815 445229.

Plumber/heating engineer Richard Bailey 01865-236747 (very professional, prompt, organised, does a great job).

Handyman - small painting and decorating projects. Oli tel: 0791 900 2222 Oxford-based and former resident of Bridge Street. Reasonably priced and highly recommended ('honest and efficient with a good eye for detail for period properties').

Highly recommended consultant specialising in Macs. Mac Simple is based in Osney Mead tel 07974 321064 www.macsimple.co.uk ('excellent and local').

Note window cleaner Paul Smith's new mobile no is 0785 463 1963.

TRIED AND TESTED

General builder

Chris Willis mob: 07974 155 638 does general building work/carpentry eg (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 tel: 01865 776319 mob: 07760 327 057 also does plumbing ('reliable, helpful and reasonable rates')

Building and roof repairs

Gosford Builders tel: 01865 373467 mob: 07855 373467 ('good work and very fair rates')

Plumbing and heating

Ivan Kilbee tel: 01235 847527 mob: 07771 787585; ('good work and comes on time'); APV Boiler Services tel: 01865 377264 ('friendly, efficient and clean workers'); Colin Pizzie (electrics, plumbing, kitchens, bathrooms) tel: 01235 554655

Electricians

RJB Electrical (rewires and new installations) tel: 01865 882723 mob: 07711 934348; J.L. Electrical (rewires, fuse boards, sockets, lights) mob: 07825 133337; CE Electrical Services tel: 01865 842598 or mob: 0778 2360 979 ('thoroughly recommended'); DEC Electricians tel: 725453 ('very good')

Domestic appliances

Baldwin Appliances tel: 01865 377484 www.baldwinappliances.com; RG Domestic tel: 01865 718299 mob: 0771 113 2961 ('Repairs all makes and has timed appointments including after 6pm')

Handyman

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

Chimney sweep

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

Window cleaning

Paul Smith mob: 0785 463 1963 ('amiable and reliable.')

Interior and exterior decoration

Paul Simmons tel: 01993 852317 mob: 07803 603504 ('good clean work and reasonable costs') Dave Buckle tel: 848630 evenings ('friendly, efficient and good value'); Steve Brierty 01491 836762 mob: 0785 0357414 ('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 pleased with everything she's done); Belinda Cockburn mending, making and alterations tel: 01865 250054 ('her sewing is first class'); Ann Paver tel: 249129 soft furnishing including drapes, curtains but not upholstery ('highly recommended')

Damp

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

Apple macs

Bill Richardson email: bill@macfaction.co.uk tel: 01993 811197 ('excellent and will come out if not too busy'); APi Computing tel: 01865 821536 mob: 07964 796007 ('efficient, not too costly')

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')

Removals

Isis Van Man tel: 01865 422342 mob: 07828 185884 email: help@Isisvanman.com ('very helpful and friendly')

Cleaners

Rui Nunez mob: 07907 817241 ('excellent cleaners and very reliable').

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); **County Council**, tel: 792422; **Alan Armitage**, tel: 516115; **Susanna Pressel**, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: clrrspresel@oxford.gov.uk; **City Councillors: Colin Cook**, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: clrrccook@oxford.gov.uk and Susanna (as above); **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; **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.

OIRA COMMITTEE

Committee members

Bianca Elgar 15 East St tel: 202977; **Stephen Lynam** 11 South St (Secretary and Vice Chair); **Suzanne Jeffrey** 13 South St 247737; **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; **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 Wednesday 22 September 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 mid November, last date for copy October 30. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. Tel: 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.

Gazebo hire

Sally Roberts, 1 Bridge St, tel: 721596

Notice board

Suzanne Jeffrey, 13 South Street tel: 247737 email: Suzanne@dands.org.uk

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.