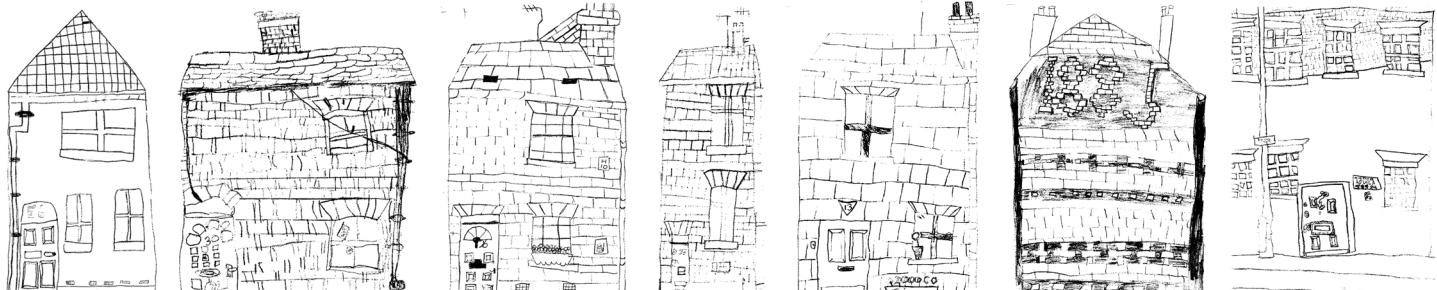


# OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER JULY / AUGUST 2011



## WHAT'S ON

### Flood protection for Osney Island

A public meeting 730pm: **Wed 20 July: West Oxford Democrats Club.** The Environment Agency's flood barriers for East Street and West Street will provide communal defences when floods threaten. In 2008, Oxford City Council considered similar defences through gardens in the south and west of Osney Island, but concluded these would need major changes to the individual character back garden and be far too costly. However, in 2009, the Government introduced grants over two years to develop of each property-level flood protection in UK. In 2011, the EA has provided further grants and Oxford City Council has been awarded £76,500 for Osney Island.

Proposals: most of Osney Island's houses are terraced, with walls already forming a line of defence. Property-level protection can close the few gaps that remain (between houses, their back doors, and airbricks that ventilate sub-floors). This scheme would defend 18 houses directly. With the EA demountable barriers on West Street and the higher ground at Swan Street it would form a continuous defence from Botley Road to the EA Depot gate. 27 more houses in South St and Bridge St extension would benefit, making 45 in all, in river floods up to "1 in 25 year" risk (like 2007). Groundwater flooding will still be a problem, but sump pumps in each of the 18 houses could have a useful combined effect, and temporary pumps would again be used in the street. Proposals are subject to confirmation by consultants who have yet to be appointed. To learn more and see flood defence products come to the public meeting on July 20.

### Organ recitals at St Frideswide

**Thursday July 28th @ 7.30** Sarah Lister will perform a concert of English music including Parry, Tallis and Purcell on the newly restored Hunter Organ at St Frideswide's. Wine and refreshments will be available. A £5 donation is payable at the door.

### West Oxford Academy

The West Oxford Academy will be back for a 10th term in October! But it will only happen if people volunteer

to give talks. So far we have had an amazing 70 talks from 65 speakers. Can we make it 100?

If you'd like to find out more or would consider giving a talk, or know someone who might email me (allat42@gmail.com), give me a ring on 792358 or drop a note through my door (42 West Street).

## OTHER NEWS

### Open Gardens

*From Anna Truelove:* some angel surely keeps an eye on Osney... despite lousy weather before and after, and threatening clouds in the morning, not a drop of rain fell on the Island throughout the day. The event was a brilliant success raising well over £500 for the newsletter and other Osney events – this is a record for the annual event congratulations and thanks to all the workers and visitors.

Thirteen gardens were open and as usual the variety was amazing. Tea on the towpath featured fab homemade cakes and teas, blues performed by Greg Mayston, a plant stall, and a bookstall. A big thank you to all who donated cakes, helped on the stalls and of course those who opened their gardens. A special thank you goes to Robert Moy who donated two trays of star-dusted plants which he had left over from a project on Andrew Lloyd Webber's garden, and to Rebecca and Heather Marsh who made the posters.

### Cowboys Caught

*From Anna Truelove:* Readers may recall my tale of being door stopped by All Seasons offering a wide range of building services and landscape gardening. Like an idiot I commissioned a revamp of my garden and then was talked into a number of house improvements. The result was a re-slating of my pitched roof that was so defective that, advised by a senior building officer of the City Council, it had to be removed and replaced by a recommended competent builder.

Well, the County Council trading Standards and the Thames Valley Police have now caught up with All Seasons and the firm is due to go on trial. I may be called as a witness but apparently there have been so many complaints I'll probably be superfluous.

## Gazebos

The gazebos are now at The Punter. If you'd like to borrow them, nip in there or phone to arrange pick-up during opening hour ie 12pm till 11pm. The process is: 1. Book with Pauline (t 250870 e osneyislanderp@aol.com) pay her and get a receipt. 2. Arrange collection and return (during pub opening hours) with Tom or Punter staff direct. Pauline is to be informed if there are any problems—wear and tear, etc.

Charges: £5 for 48 hours to islanders and £8 to off-islanders

## Bicycle thieves

*From Bernice McDonnell:* I just want to issue a warning that there are bike thieves on the prowl on the Island. My bike was stolen from outside my house on South Street on 6th June. I've lived on the island for almost a year now and never locked my bike (naively assuming it was perfectly safe), so maybe my misfortune will serve as a warning to other Islanders not to be as blindly trusting in the good nature of others as I have!

## Planning issues

Two households have recently had planning applications turned down for replacing windows with UPVC. If you are planning changes to your house, a quick look at the Article 4 Conservation Area planning guide on the website will remind you what's allowed and what's not.

## Subs and emails

*From Fiona McFarlane:* many thanks to all those who have returned their subs for this year (and to those who have kindly given a bit extra). There are probably still a few brown envelopes lurking behind the clock on the mantelpiece waiting for people to get round to it, so don't be embarrassed about filling them now and popping them back through a committee members' door! Many people have also as requested provided an email address for emergency messages, we shall be getting on with compiling a database for this purpose.

And as for the financial side of Open Gardens - thanks to the reasonably kind weather, perhaps the number of gardens open this time, and all the labours of those with the cakes, books and CDs and plants to sell - not to mention the kind donation of plants from Robert Moy of Tuscan Pots on the Botley Road - the event made a net profit of over £500 this year.

## A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

### Does Hollywood beckon?

Who knows who reads the newsletter? Roy Hoare was recently contacted by a TV producer working with Sarah Beeney on a programme about the restoration of her manor house. The producer had read Roy's piece on chimney sweeps and wanted to track down one of his quotes. Despite a ridiculously tight deadline, Roy managed to supply it. Could his piece on prostitution – or possibly Oxford Marmalade - provide the stimulus for a blockbuster? Remember, Scorsese, you read it here first.

### Sex (and other local trades)

From Roy Hoare: St Frideswide's Square in the parish of St Thomas' was a thriving centre of trade and industry

in the 18th and 19th centuries – including prostitution. Many of the houses in the alleys between Hollybush Row and Paradise Street were brothels. It was said that the area housed 'the scum of the earth' and after several priests had refused the living of St. Thomas, the Reverend Thomas Chamberlain took over the parish in 1851. He was energetic, single minded and robust in his pastoral duties and straight away set out to clean up his patch. It is alleged that he would visit the area dressed in his vestments hoping to deter the punters. Early in his tenure, with the support of the police, he succeeded in closing the brothels, the ladies migrating to other parts of the city, causing great consternation and anger.

Over the next fifty years, the Rev. Chamberlain, a follower of the Oxford Movement, was instrumental in planning St Frideswide's Church and a school on Osney Island. He died in 1892 and is commemorated with a magnificent tomb in St. Thomas' churchyard on which is inscribed 'He shall see His face with joy.'

The parish also housed three breweries, the Lion, the Eagle and the Swan, scenting the air with roasting hops. (The Lion was owned by the prosperous James Morrell, builder of Headington Hall, which became the home of Robert Maxwell in the 1970s.) There was a horse hospital with a veterinary surgeon and a blacksmith farrier supporting the carriage and cart trade, Beesley's osier works off Hythe Bridge Street, which manufactured baskets and wicker furniture and Underhills the hide and skin market, located behind the Castle.

In 1907, Cooper's Oxford Marmalade, originally made and sold from No.82 High Street (now the Angel Hotel) was relocated to Hollybush Row, where they produced world-renowned marmalade and horseradish sauces. (Horseradish was supplied by allotment holders on Twenty Pound Meadow, where it still grows profusely.) The Royal Family give Coopers the royal seal of approval and Scott even took tins of Oxford marmalade on his expedition to the Antarctic. The marmalade is now produced in Lincolnshire.

## REQUESTS, RENTALS, FREEBIES

### Calling older residents...

Does anyone have any really old photographs of 2, 3 and 4 North Street? If you can help, please get in contact with Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St 01865 793360.

### Anyone for bridge?

We are interested in playing bridge and wonder if anyone else is. Please contact Joyce or Brian Chalmers on 240348.

### House for rent

*From Jude Carroll:* My two bedroom house on East Street is available for six months, fully furnished, from 1 September 2011 to 1 March 2012. It's listed through Pearce Alder but if you know anyone looking for a riverside home, do let them know about this chance to be an Islander for a while.

### **Bike for sale**

Women's bicycle Specialized brand, hybrid, black and in very good condition £95. Contact Erica on 0777614 1480.

### **Freebie**

Pegrails x 2 still in packaging: L.100cm, 7 pegs, oak finish. Ideal for kitchen, hall, shed. Free - contact Verity mob: 07795.443675.

### **Claim your plates**

Maureen Ergenelli has two plates awaiting collection from Teas on the Towpath. Please call at 24 East St to collect.

### **St Frideswide Service times**

Every Sunday 10.30am ~ 11.30am: Sung Eucharist.

First Sunday of the month is a special children and families' service, with children's hymns, and hot chocolate with marshmallows after the service.

Tuesday evenings at 7p.m: simple said Eucharist

Thursday lunchtimes at 12.30pm: simple said Eucharist.

### **St Margaret's, Binsey**

Second and fourth Sundays of each month, 9.00am: Said Eucharist.

Evensong every Sunday at 3.30pm during British Summer Time

## **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](mailto:clrrspresel@oxford.gov.uk); **City Councillors: Colin Cook**, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: [cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrccook@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.

## **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.

## **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'); **ACH Plasterers** [info@ACHplastering.co.uk](mailto:info@ACHplastering.co.uk) tel: 01865 300 300 ('Did a great job and friendly, efficient too!); too!); Building specialist in carpentry and joinery, NHBC registered est 1974: **R.P. Lepper** tel: 01993 882522 mob: 07801 136 4817 ('excellent, experienced workmanship')

### **Building and roof repairs**

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

### **Plumbing and heating**

Plumbing and heating: **Aquatic** tel: 01865 74999 mob: 07050 011884 (highly recommended); **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](http://www.baldwinappliances.com); Washing machine repairs. Contact: Chris at **Oxford Domestic**. Appointments can be booked online at [oxforddomestic.com](http://oxforddomestic.com) or tel: 01865 407494. ('skilled, timely, user friendly with very reasonable fixed prices and no call out fee').

### **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**

**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](mailto: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'); Mac Simple is based in Osney Mead tel 07974 321064 [www.macsimple.co.uk](http://www.macsimple.co.uk) ('excellent and local').

### **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](mailto:help@Isisvanman.com) ('very helpful and friendly')

### **Hairdressers**

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

### **Gardening Services**

Marion White, lady gardener tel: 01865 770515. (Good hourly rate, great work and winner of the Oxford in Bloom (small garden category); **Oxford Garden Services** mob: 0755 498 7911 ('excellent tree surgery at fair rates - and they cleared up well afterwards')

## **OIRA COMMITTEE**

*Stephen Lynam* 11 South St (*Secretary and Vice Chair*) tel: 201334; *Suzanne Jeffrey* 13 South St 247737; *Fiona McFarlane* (*Treasurer*) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Elizabeth Newbery* (*Newsletter*) 3 North St tel: 793360; *Kate Stewart* 18 East St tel: 241856 (*Chair*); *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St tel: 245496.

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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.

The new email address for any OIRA committee member is [askoira@osneyisland.org.uk](mailto:askoira@osneyisland.org.uk)

### **Next Committee meeting**

The OIRA committee's next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 3 August at 18 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 July , last date for copy June 30. 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**

OIRA website: [www.osneyisland.co.uk](http://www.osneyisland.co.uk) Contributors should be aware that the newsletter is automatically posted on the Internet just as it appears in print.

### **Notice board**

*Suzanne Jeffrey*, 13 South Street tel: 247737 email: [Suzanne@dands.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne@dands.org.uk)