

OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.co.uk

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2011



WHAT'S ON

Oxford Open Doors at St Frideswide's

This is arranged by The Oxford Preservation Trust and allows people access to places and things of interest that are not always open. St Frideswide will be open for people to:

- See the church itself
- See the 'Alice' door
- Hear the newly restored Hunter organ played.

Local historian Julian Munby will be offering guided tours and answering questions about the church, its history and its association with the Alice stories. St Margaret's Binsey will also be open. Morning coffee and cake will be served 10 ~ 11.30 am and Afternoon tea 3 ~ 4.30pm. There will be jams, jellies, pickles and lavender bags on sale.

Organ recitals

Thursday September 29th. Our series of organ recitals on our newly restored Hunter Organ continues at St Frideswide's. They start at 7:30, and wine and refreshments will be available. A £5 donation is payable at the door.

Family Yoga

Saturday 5th November @11am, East Street's Annabel Dunstan will be holding a one off 'family yoga' session suitable for children, parents and grandparents aged 3-103 year olds. All profits raised will go to the Alzheimer's Society to support their vital work 'leading the fight against dementia'. This is a cause close to Annabel's heart as both her parents are living with dementia.

ISLAND NEWS

From Boni Azeb: JBA Consulting was appointed to carry out the property level flood protection survey on 17 properties on Osney Island. The appointment was completed on the 23/08/2011 and a meeting was held with the consultant's representative at the Osney depot on the 25/08/2011, after which we had a tour of the project area. On the 26/08/2011, a letter introducing the consultant, and a questionnaire were emailed to the

owners of the 17 properties who gave email addresses as a preferred method of contact and posted to those without email addresses. The consultant will start his site visits on the 13/09/2011.

Allotments

Allotment holders are reminded that yearly rents are payable on the first three Sundays in September. Anyone failing to do so risks a fine or worse, losing their plot!

St Frideswide's

Every Sunday 10.30am ~ 11.30am: Sung Eucharist. First Sunday of the month is a special children and families' service, with children's hymns

St Margaret's, Binsey

First Sunday of each month, 9.00am: Said Eucharist. Evensong every Sunday at 3.30pm during British Summer Time.

For children and families

Come and Make for Harvest at St Frideswide for children under 8 and their families on Saturday 24th September 10.30 am ~ noon. Free with a suggested donation of £2. Family Eco-event Saturday 8th October 10.30 am ~ 12.30pm. Naturalist Owain Hegarty will lead a workshop in which we will probably explore the world of bats and plant a wild flower meadow. Free with a suggested donation of £2. Bring a picnic to enjoy in the church grounds.

A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

Lord Nuffield: engineer and philanthropist

From Roy Hoare: In the 1940s, as a young airman surviving on the princely wage of 28 shillings a week, I was grateful for the generosity of Lord Nuffield which made it possible for servicemen and women to rest and enjoy a good meal at low cost at the Nuffield Centre in London. There was dancing and live entertainment - I saw Arthur Askey on one of my visits. Free tickets to West End theatre were usually available and made possible my first experience of live theatre seeing Flora Robson starring in Black Chiffon. Lord Nuffield's Trust also enabled members of H.M. forces to take part in adventure sports: I led survival and trekking trips to the Highlands of Scotland at his expense!

In the late 1940s, Lord Nuffield funded The Nuffield Post Graduate College in Castle Street. His aim was to enhance the scientific and engineering departments of the University. However, the University Chancellors persuaded him that a social sciences faculty 'would be more suitable to the University's needs'.

A massive epidemic of polio in Australia in 1937 resulted in an acute shortage of 'iron lungs', the artificial respirators for those unable to breathe unaided. Lord Nuffield, in collaboration with Dr. Edward Both, an Australian, devised a lighter mobile version of the lung. 1,800 were manufactured at the Cowley works in Oxford and distributed 'gratis' throughout the Empire. They were both lauded in Australia for their contribution to medicine and the relief of suffering.

After a lifetime of partaking in physical activities, my left hip began to show signs of wear. I was fortunate to be admitted to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital, where I received a replacement hip, outstanding treatment and care and a new mobility. Many hundreds of thousands of ordinary people have been recipients of his legacy: William Morris, a modest man in many ways, whose name is now part of the fabric of Oxford City.

A BIT OF NATURAL HISTORY

From Mike Bayliss of East St, our renowned bird expert (who often helps David Attenborough out).



A swift departure

Now that summer has passed and the great exodus of avian summer visitors is well underway, I could not but notice the absence in the skies over Osney of the anticipated crowd of swifts gathering overhead for their departure south. These gatherings are a time for the young birds to exercise their fledgling wings and feed up for the long journey ahead – but this year no sign of them!

Their noisy squadrons are particularly apparent in late July/early August as groups of birds soar and dive between buildings and over rooftops on wings resembling black boomerangs. Their kamikaze-like displays as they race towards the face of houses only to bank away a split second before impact is quite amazing to watch. These aerial manoeuvres accompanied by an almost incessant medley of shrill screams makes for a pleasant distraction on a warm summers' evening while sitting with a large glass of wine to hand.

It's a curious fact, and one that never ceases to amaze me, that apart from the necessities of breeding, these delightful birds live their entire lives in flight, feeding on airborne insects and sleeping on the wing.

The reduced number of swifts (a subjective opinion) this year in West Oxford may be down to fewer nest sites available as more and more older properties are upgraded or 'improved'. Or it may be merely a cyclic downturn with numbers increasing again a few years later. I recorded the first birds over Osney on May 3rd involving just three individuals. At no time during the following weeks did I see more than 8-10 together at any given time.

Whatever the reason for the apparent decrease (and it may be very local) there is no doubt that their superb aerial capabilities, so evident when they first arrive and are fully engaged in nuptial showing off, followed six weeks or so later when their numbers are swollen by hordes of youngsters swarming like bees, defy being ignored. For me, their arrival in spring in very early May up until their late summer gatherings epitomise the very essence of summer. But this year was disappointing as they uncharacteristically slipped quietly away almost unnoticed. Now it will be another nine months before they grace our skies again.

REQUESTS, RENTALS, FREEBIES

Wanted USB Midi Keyboard ...

I don't need the latest equipment, hence this request to someone who maybe looking to replace/throw out an 'old,' yet fully working item with a USB Midi connection. This device will allow me to compose works directly onto my PC. If you can help, please contact John on 721223.

House and cat sitters

From Sophie Morris: I have spoken to a couple of people who said they would be interested in someone staying at their house when on holiday. We always have someone in. I work with a lot of cat lovers who still live at home/shared houses and who would love to move in while someone is away and stroke the cat. Please get in touch with me at 90 Bridge St m 07989 346777 if you'd like a cat/house sitter.

Jam jar bank

We used to have a jam jar bank but as far as I'm aware it is no more. Would anyone be willing to restart one? If you can help, please contact me on 793360 elizabeth@newberyandengland.com

Stolen goods

Bernice McDonnell of South St reports that she has had more stuff stolen, this time another bike (locked), a plant pot (with its plant) and a brand new wicker bike basket (firmly fixed to the bike – it must have been cut off).

An Island in Oxford

A few copies of the Millennium booklet *An Island in Oxford* (58 pages, with illustrations!) have emerged. If anyone would like to buy one (£3), please call Fiona or Stephen on 201334 (11 South Street) with name and phone number. There is usually high demand when these emerge from cupboards and attics so we will take names and draw a lottery if necessary a couple of weeks after the issue of this Newsletter to give everyone a fairer chance. The money goes to the Osney Society and these funds could go towards the cost of an updated booklet. If anyone is interested in running a project to write a new booklet, please also say. Finally, if there are any more spare or unwanted copies of the booklet out there, it would be good to recycle those too so let us have them!

Congratluations ...

To Richard and Vicki Thurston on the birth of Grace Poppy, a sister for Eve.

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: clrspressel@oxford.gov.uk; **City Councillors: Colin Cook**, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: clrcook@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 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; Washing machine repairs. Contact: Chris at **Oxford Domestic**. Appointments can be booked online at 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: 0797 9692 895 (‘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 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 (‘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 (‘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 245071. (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 (Secretary and Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Suzanne Jeffrey* 13 South St tel: 247737; *Fiona McFarlane* (Treasurer) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Elizabeth Newberry* (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360; *Kate Stewart* (Chair) 18 East St tel: 241856; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St tel: 245496.

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

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee’s next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 28 September 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 July , last date for copy June 30. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newberry 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.

Notice board

Suzanne Jeffrey, 13 South Street tel: 247737

email: Suzanne@dands.org.uk