

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk

JULY / SEPTEMBER 2012

THE OSNEY ISLAND OLYMPICS

WOW what a success! Over 200 people turned out to watch Lenny Lewis run down East St with the Osney Island Olympic torch followed by the arrival of the queen (dressed in the cast-offs of her forebear, Elizabeth I) by canoe paddled by a couple of servants. The Osney Mile (3 1/2 times round the Island) was the opening event and the winners of each category was as follows: 12yrs and under Patrick Lloyd, South St; 13-35yrs Barney Shekleton, West Oxford; 35-60 yrs Quentin Sattentau, West St; and bus pass category (60+) Bob aged 62yrs. The parade of pimped ducks made its way down East St past the doping station, the plant, bric a brac and toys, book stalls and the displays of paintings, drawings and photographs, to the footbridge from where the duck race was launched (and won by Libby Martin aged 2). Running races, three-legged, egg and spoon, hobby horse dressage, the slow bike race and synchronised walking followed hot on the heels of one another and rising to a crescendo of spectacular egg throwing. All this and terrific live music and delicious cream teas too. The day finally came to an end with the tug o' war won by Team West St. Only then did it rain.

Quote of the day came from a passing cyclist who entered the slow bike contest on the spur of the moment and won, and said 'I wish I lived here'.

Many, many thanks to all those of you who entered races, cheered, made cakes and to all the gallant volunteers who gave up their time to help out and helped to make the day so memorable. Special big cheers should go to Annabel Dunstan of East St, whose idea it was and to Karen Brooks of Bridge St who came up with the goods time and time again. We are delighted to report the event raised a magnificent sum of £400 from the sale of ducks, T-shirts and mugs for the West Oxford Playground Fund. Here's to the next event!

We are currently putting together a book of the event which will go on sale in early September together with the chance to order individual photographs, watch a film of the event and hear Noughts and Crosses - the sensational band of young people headed by Megan and Lenny Lewis of East St (pending their availability, of course). Watch this space. Meanwhile if you didn't get round to buying a T-shirt we have seven 3-4 year old, six 5-6 year old and two 7-8 year old T-shirts, all now at £5 and two XXL T-shirts at £10 (they make good nighties!). There are 26 mugs left all at £5 each (good Christmas presents).



The frog logo

You will notice that we are adopting the frog logo as our new masthead. It was specially designed for the Osney Island Olympics by Simon Pressey of West Street, whose day job is archaeological illustrator. The previous masthead of Island houses drawn by pupils of West Oxford School had been in place for at least ten years and in need of refreshing, so we've decided to adopt the frog. Newcomers might not know that Osney Island is known locally as Frog Island on account of the marsh on which our houses are built.

COMING UP

Organ recitals at St Frideswide

Thursday 26th July at 7.30pm at St Frideswide: organ concert by Gabriella & Martin Blanz. £5 including a glass of wine and nibbles; Thursday 27th September at 7.30pm: Organ concert by Dan Chambers £5 including a glass of wine and nibbles.

West Oxford Academy

West Oxford Academy will start again on Tuesday 9 October when Mary Russell will give a talk on Cycling in Syria. The Academy has been going for an amazing six years. Many Osney residents have contributed wonderful and inspiring talks and many more attend regularly. But I am sure there are still a few people left who could give a fascinating talk! So if you - or a friend or neighbour - would talk about a favourite topic please get in touch with me. Also, previous speakers are welcome to contribute new talks. My email address is allat42@gmail.com or phone me on 792358.

Opus Energy competition

To celebrate its 10th anniversary year, Opus Energy, the Oxford-based energy supplier, is launching a £10k video competition - Opus Energy Gift - to help power the projects of charities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations in Oxfordshire. Local not-for-profit community groups in Oxfordshire are invited to prepare and submit a short video identifying the aim and purpose of the group and what project they would use the Opus Energy Gift money for. Details of the video submission process are available at www.opusenergygift.com. The £10k Opus Energy Gift will be divided into 10 and distributed as follows:

- Four gifts of £300
- Three gifts of £600
- Two gifts of £2,000
- One gift of £3,000

Successful video submissions will be made available for public voting at www.opusenergygift.com and judged by a panel of Opus Energy executives and local representatives. In coming to a decision about which groups will receive one of the 10 gifts, the judges will consider the impact that each shortlisted project will have on Oxfordshire. Questions and requests for further information about Opus Energy or the Opus Energy Gift should be sent to gift@opusenergy.com or can be made by telephone on 0845 263 7214.

ISLAND NEWS

West Oxford Beer Festival

From David Jeffrey: On Saturday June 23 the Community Centre played host to the West Oxford Beer Festival (or WOBFest, for short). This is the second year we have run the event, and this year's WOBFest was an even bigger success than last year. We had eighteen local ales, sold 50% more tickets than last year, raised a healthy sum of money for the West Oxford School Playground Appeal, and most importantly, had a jolly good time. Highlights of this year's festival included some very tasty food courtesy of Ailsa in the WOCA Café, and a keenly fought competition as to which beer would be voted "Best in Fest", finally won by Doctor Hexter's Healer, from the West Berkshire Brewery.

Many thanks are due to all who helped make WOBFest possible, and to everybody who could attend. We are already starting to plan WOBFest 2013, so if you are interested in helping out, or would like to be on our mailing list for advance notice of next year's dates, please contact david@wobfest.co.uk

The Messiah

From Joyce Chalmers: A production of Handel's Messiah was held in the West Oxford Community Centre on Sunday the 1st of July – a rare treat for anyone lucky enough to be able to attend. Modestly priced, it was a non profit event put on for the sheer joy of bringing it to the community.

The production was put together by Fiona Hedges, a local resident, who comes from a very musical upbringing and who teaches cello, piano, double bass and harmony at two schools in Oxford. A chance encounter with a friend generated a conversation about such an event and ended up with 'Why not put on a Community production of the Messiah? So with the help of the West Oxford Community and donations of time, capital and gifts this production of The Messiah came into being.

Prior to the day, no rehearsals had taken place. The whole concert was rehearsed and given by West Oxford residents, experienced and not experienced alike, with help from Cumnor Choral Society singers, on the same day. This makes it very special – one day when the participants gave it their all and ended up in the evening with a great performance.

Fiona has stressed the importance of the community as a whole in making an event such as this happen. As well as whole families taking part in the chorus and in playing musical instruments, there was the inspirational input of the Director of Cumnor Choral Society, Peter Foster

who conducted, and four Oxford soloists with strong connections to West Oxford, Nicholas Clapton, Counter Tenor; Eleanor Calver, Soprano; Robin Whitehouse, Tenor; and Benjamin Thompson, Bass.

Fiona thanks everyone who took time out of their busy lives to make this happen and to those who gave material support. When asked if she would do it again, she said, she would be happy to and it would be at this time of year, just before families are off on summer holidays. Two ideas for a production are: Haydn's Creation or Vivaldi's Gloria. If anyone would like to make a suggestion about this production or a future production, please feel free to email Fiona at fiona.hedges@virgin.net

Allotment news

An extraordinary meeting of the New Botley and Twenty Pound Meadow Allotment Association was held on 5 July when a new Secretary, Treasurer and Committee were elected. A reminder that rents are due in September and that anyone on the Island can use the shop selling general garden supplies and open on Sundays from 10-12 pm.

REQUESTS, FREEBIES & ACCOMMODATION

Congratulations

to Sophie and Jamie of North St who got married on June 30, and to Sophie and Dominic of East St on the birth of their son Laurence, on May 21.

St Frideswide

The highlight this month is Rev Clare Sykes who will be licensed as our new Rector on Sunday, 22 July.

Regular services: 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 4.30pm.

<http://www.stfrideswideschurch.co.uk/>
<http://www.friendsofbinsey.com/>

West Oxford Farmers & Community Market

Held @ WOCA, first Friday of every month 1-5pm. 20+ local traders selling every thing from eggs to earrings, live music & local authors at most markets. Call 0779 581 7718 for details.

Bird boxes

From John Tatlow: I shall be fitting a sparrow terrace nest box under the eaves of my house. There may be other Osney residents keen to provide bird boxes so I have provided the RSPB web link address. They provide a selection of nesting boxes suitable for other birds too. <http://shopping.rspb.org.uk/rspb-sparrow-terrace-nestbox.html>

Gazebo hire

The gazebos are now temporarily at Jude's, 10 East St. There are five and all in tip top shape! They are in high demand so book early. We are still looking for a more permanent and accessible place for them. Any offers?

Lost property at the Olympics

Did anyone leave their red ripstop bag behind at the main organising table for the Olympics? It's too nice to lose. Jude has it at 10 East St. Did anyone leave a black cardigan on the back of a pushchair? Elizabeth has it at 3 North St.

Wanted: house on Island

House purchase required Osney Island. 2/3 bedrooms. No chain. Contact: Peter Johnston on 0751 5818526 or petertg1924@hotmail.com.

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: clrrspressel@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**, tel: 249811; **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.

New recommendations

Logsforall.co.uk - offer two sizes of seasoned, sustainably sourced, local, mess free logs, delivered free, the smaller size of log ideal for smaller woodburners/fireplaces. Not the cheapest but excellent burning and reliable delivery service, strongly recommended.

Jon Wyver: bicycles and accessories. He will deliver and pick up in Oxford free of charge. Efficient, friendly and reliable. Excellent prices. mob: 07842 901873 email: info@oxbicycles.co.uk wwwoxbicycles.co.uk

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 specialist in carpentry and joinery, NHBC registered est 1974: **R.P. Lepper** building specialist, carpentry and joinery tel: 01993 882522 mob: 07801 136 4817 ('excellent, experienced workmanship'); **Mark Mavrommatis** tel: 07970 974792 to install new

windows, repair old ones, paint. (He did an excellent job and at the moment is very reasonably priced because he is re-establishing himself in the Oxford area').

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 749999 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** (electricity, plumbing, kitchens, bathrooms) tel: 01235 554655; **J Smith** tel: 01993 778244, mob: 07790 961395 ('reliable, competent and cheerful'); **Jamie Cook boiler repairs** (electrical repairs only) mob: 07775 700330

Kitchen fitters

Benchmark kitchens (helpful kitchen designers with good range of products) tel: 01865 372372

Electricians

RJB Electrical (rewires and new installations) tel: 01865 882723 mob: 07711 934348; **J.L. Electrical** (rewires, fuse boards, sockets, lights) mob: 07825 133337; **DEC Electricians** tel: 725453 ('very good'); **Baldwin Appliances** all white goods tel: 01865 377484 www.baldwinappliances.com;

Handyman

Jon Butt tel: 07766 144116 (lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford); **Oli** tel: 0791 900 2222 Oxford-based. Reasonably priced and highly recommended; **Andrew Russell** ('highly recommended handyman, house and garden maintenance') tel: 01865 453497 mob: 07977 837675

Locksmith

Davies Hardened Security tel: 01865 371816 mob: 07711 625092 ('a rapid response within 24 hours')

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')

Upholstery

Jan Donley tel: 249625 upholstery (I've been pleased with everything she's done); **Ann Paver** tel: 249129 soft furnishing including drapes, curtains but not upholstery ('highly recommended')

Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd tel: 01865 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: 01865

376100 ('excellent and will come out if not too busy); **Mac Simple** is based in Osney Mead tel: 01865 580886 mob: 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; **Nadine Wright** ('ex-Mahogany, cheerful and comes to my home on a Tuesday') mob: 07824 660184.

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'); **David Morris** tel: 01865 725875 (gardening maintenance and some diy).

Thai massage, Chinese bodywork & acupuncture

Elizabeth Elliott mob: 07866 759669, offers treatment in her home on Osney. ('Highly recommended: one massage session with her is so relaxing, it's like a two-week holiday.')

Boilers

Jamie Cooke Tel: 07775 700300 email: JC.Electrical@hotmail.com ('excellent service')

Lighting

Oxford Lighting and Electrical Solutions Culham No1 Site, Station Rd, Abingdon OX14 3DA tel: 01865 408522 ('an immense range of light fittings and qualified electricians to install').

OIRA COMMITTEE

Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel : 793247 (gazebos); *Georg Deutsch* 4 Bridge St (Chair); *Suzanne Jeffrey* 13 South St tel: 247737 (noticeboard); *Bob Lawrence* 42 West St; *Susan Lloyd* Doyley Rd; *Stephen Lynam* (Secretary and Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Fiona McFarlane* (Treasurer) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Elizabeth Newbery* (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360; *Kate Stewart* 18 East St tel: 241856; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St tel: 245496 (directory).

The email address for any OIRA committee member is askoira@osneyisland.org.uk

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is 5 September @ 8pm at 15 East St. 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 last date for copy August 31. 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. 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

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.

Request