

# Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

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

January / February 2013

## COMING UP

### Saturday, 29 June 2013

Planning has started for the next Osney Island summer event – a duck race, teas on the towpath and quite likely including a community Round the Island Raft Race. If you would like to be involved please email Karen Brooks [Karen@chillipots.co.uk](mailto:Karen@chillipots.co.uk).

### West Oxford Beer Festival

*From David Jeffry:* This mini-festival features a range of local ales, all brewed within 30 miles of Oxford, and is always a sell-out success. The next WOBFest is on Saturday 22nd June, 7-11pm in the West Oxford Community Centre. Entrance is by ticket only priced £5 which gain you entry to WOBFest and includes a commemorative pint glass keepsake. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact me by email: [david@wobfest.co.uk](mailto:david@wobfest.co.uk). or via our Facebook page (just search for "WOBFest"). If you click on the "like" button you will get all our updates. As we get closer to the date we will also be updating our website, [www.wobfest.co.uk](http://www.wobfest.co.uk), including the all-important beer list. Please get in contact if you are interested in helping out - selling tickets, pouring pints, or by becoming a beer sponsor, either corporate or individual. Without our sponsors and volunteers the festival would not be possible. We look forward to seeing you and your friends.

### OIRA AGM

This will take place April 24 – further details will be available in the March newsletter.

### Film nights at Magdalen College

The films, shown in Magdalen College Auditorium, reached via Longwall, are excellent value - £3 each evening, with free drinks offered on most nights. Here is the list for the term.

Sunday, 27 January 19:30 Woman of the Dunes (1964)  
Monday, 28 January 19:30 Rabbit-Proof Fence (2006)  
21:15 American History X (1998)  
Thursday, 31 January 19:30 The Wickerman (1973)  
21:10 Il Conformista (1970)

Sunday, 3 February 20:00 Cinema Paradiso (1988)  
Monday, 4 February 19:00 Peeping Tom (1960)  
20:50 Rear Window (1954)  
Thursday, 7 February 19:30 Ring (1998)  
21:10 Videodrome (1983)  
Sunday, 10 February 19:30 Bonnie and Clyde (1967)  
Monday, 11 February 19:30 The Kid (1921)



20:50 Moonrise Kingdom (2012)

Thursday, 14 February 19:30 Badlands (1973)

21:15 Lift to the Scaffold (1958)

Sunday, 17 February 19:30 Tomboy (2011)

21:05 Masculin Féminin (1966)

Monday, 18 February 19:30 Volver (2006)

Sunday, 24 February 19:30 True Grit (2010)

Monday, 25 February 19:00 Matilda (1996)

20:45 Caché (2005)

Sunday, 3 March 20:00 Eyes Wide Shut (1999)

Monday, 4 March 19:00 The Cat Returns (2002)

20:30 Wings of Desire (1987)

Thursday, 7 March 19:00 The Phantom Carriage (1921)

20:55 Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives (2010)

## ISLAND NEWS

### Floods, snow and ice – Flood worries

This email was sent in when floods threatened in December: 'I have just come back from my 5.30 a.m. walk round Osney Island. I can't sleep when it gets near possible flooding so it seems the obvious thing to do!! There are at least 3 blocked road drains that are in areas prone to flooding first. One is outside 32 West Street (David Walker), one just south of the junction of South Street and lower Bridge Street (towards Hatty's house) and at the top of West Street by Don's house (first drain on left going south down West Street). I am quite hopeful that this will be over fairly quickly but I remember the drain problems from 2007.'

But the resident email author need not have worried. Ray the lock keeper and his team did a magnificent job keeping us all dry and safe. A big thank you, Ray, from all of us on the Island.

Jan-Georg Deutsch, the Chair of OIRA sent this letter to the Environment Agency:

'I am writing on behalf of the Osney Island Residents' Association to express our sincere thanks for all the excellent work that the Environmental Agency did here in Osney Island over the Christmas period. We had a meeting recently of our Association and all present were particularly impressed by the efficiency of the measure undertaken to protect the island from recent threat of flooding and also by the friendliness of the officers involved in doing so.'

Finally, grateful thanks are also due to the volunteers who have spread the grit on our streets to make getting about in the recent snow.

## **Getting away**

*A regular whimsical slot from Jane Buekett of South Street.*

Before the end of December the holiday brochures start to drop through the letterbox. On days of wall-to-wall meetings, while scraping ice off the car and racing round Sainsbury's, I dream of lovely calming places far from Osney. What I forget is that for a worrier like me, going on holiday is horribly stressful.

There is the panic-stricken last day at work — trying to finish all the tasks on my list, doing an emergency stop halfway home when I remember the week-old orange in my desk drawer. Then there is the packing, which I approach as a process of elimination — which things I can bear to leave at home.

On the day of departure leaving the house feels impossible. I go back several times to check that the fridge door is properly closed, the gas rings turned off, the back door locked. Halfway up Bridge Street I have to come back to check the bedroom skylight is fastened. I feel physically sick, as if I am being torn away against my will, convinced we will come back to find the place burnt down, flooded, burgled.

My neighbour told me about a family whose home was destroyed by an aircraft crashing into it while they were on holiday. 'Of course it would have been much worse if they had been in the house,' she said. But neither of us were entirely convinced of this.

## **In praise of the WOCA cafe**

*From Joyce Chalmers:* We are very lucky to have this little gem of a café right across from Osney Island in the West Oxford Community Centre.

The proprietor, Ailsa Youngson, was already working in catering when she saw an advert for someone to start up and manage a community café. Ailsa's passion is providing tasty, healthy food and she jumped at the chance to make something of the opportunity. And she has.

Ailsa does all the baking and menu planning. The menu is kept simple with the day's fare listed on a blackboard. The prices are moderate and the food is wholesome with a nice range of vegetarian meals and an extensive range of delicious cakes etc. Examples might be: Italian vegetable soup with cremolata and sourdough bread - £3.00; vegetarian burger with feta cheese and a salad - £5.00; kids' option: hummus and toasted pita with carrot sticks, £2.00; the coffee options cappuccinos, latte's, Americanos, etc. - all for under £2.00.

Open 10 -5 Tuesday to Friday and Saturday 10- 2. On Saturday there is a special brunch menu.

WOCA is a great community place. The West Oxford Academy meets there in term time on a Tuesday evening. A knitting group meets there on Saturday mornings and there is a large bulletin board, loaded with local events and information. You can find more information on the website [www.woco-cafe.org.uk](http://www.woco-cafe.org.uk) and click on the icon for the café. Or go to Ailsa's Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/WOCACafe](http://www.facebook.com/WOCACafe).

## **A telephone scam**

*From Anna Truelove:* Years ago I signed up to the Telephonic Preference Service, which does its best to block unwanted cold marketing calls – but it can't stop all of them. I understand that, for instance, computer-generated calls slip through.

Recently, I was contacted by a guy purporting to represent the Telephone Preference Service. Foreign-sounding Jesse asked for details of my credit card – in particular the long number on the front so that it could be 'encrypted'. I would then be given a password to protect me from further cold callers...??? I resisted blandishments from Jesse and his supervisor and when I asked for their telephone number to ring them back they hung up. The Telephone Preference Service (0845 0700 707) confirmed that this is a scam and one they can't deal with.

I subsequently rang Thames Valley Police on 101 to report this approach and the helpful respondent advised also contacting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) – an effective Government –sponsored website. As an e-averse person, I rang ActionFraud (0300 123 2040) and spoke to a charming guy. He welcomed my information and also confirmed the nature of another current scam.

## **Osney Olympic souvenir booklet**

The Osney Island Olympics souvenir booklets are still available – price just £3.50. Contact Elizabeth on 793360 if you would like one.

## **An Island in Oxford**

Two more copies of the millennium booklet 'An Island Osney' have surfaced. These are always popular as there is much that is still relevant. As there are only two this time, they are available on a first come/first served basis (£3 each). Please call Fiona or Stephen on 201334 if you want one. And if you have any spare copies of the originals lurking on the bookshelves or in the attic, let us know.

## **Low Carbon**

Low Carbon West Oxford is seeking a finance volunteer to help continue supporting the residents of West Oxford to live more sustainably, cut their carbon emissions and save money.

## **St Frideswide with Binsey**

The Revd Clare Sykes is the Rector for the Anglican parish of St. Frideswide and St Margaret's Binsey. You can contact her on 242345 or [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com).

## **Service times**

### *St Frideswide*

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.

## **Events**

Wednesday 13th February, 7:00pm, Ash Wednesday service at St Frideswide's Church  
Thursday 28th March, 7:00pm, Maundy Thursday

service at St Frideswide's Church  
Friday 29th March, 2:00pm, Good Friday service at St Frideswide's Church  
[www.stfrideswideschurch.org.uk](http://www.stfrideswideschurch.org.uk)  
[www.binseystmargaret.org.uk](http://www.binseystmargaret.org.uk)

### **Crime**

In early December a bike was stolen from 4 Bridge Street in the early evening. The thieves cut the wall mounted anchor to which the bicycle was attached rather than the bicycle lock itself. Just before Christmas a wheelbarrow was nicked from 3 North St, no doubt used to take revelers home. The lesson from these incidents is that if you love your bike (and wheelbarrow) make sure that they are attached to something sturdy and unbreakable ?? uncuttable?? !

## **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](mailto:clrspressel@oxford.gov.uk); **City Councillors: Colin Cook**, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: [clrrcook@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:clrrcook@oxford.gov.uk) and Susanna (as above); **Community Beat Officer PC Jan Warner**, tel: 101; 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 retired or dropped out for other reasons.

### **New recommendations**

Sewing, repairs and alterations: Maria Skoyles tel. 01865 721460 mob: 0759 0264 246

## **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'); Colin Pizzie (electrics, 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](http://www.baldwinappliances.com);

### **Handyman**

Jon Butt tel: 07766 144116 (lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford); Oliver 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**

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](mailto: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](http://www.macsimple.co.uk) ('excellent and local'); API Computing contact Andy mob: 07964 796007.

### **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; Nadine Wright ('ex-Mahogany, cheerful and comes to my home on a Tuesday') mob: 07824 660184.

## **Gardening Services**

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); Eric Blake mob: 075911 57180 former head gardener at Shotover Estate does garden maintenance and carpentry eg building and repairing sheds and greenhouses fencing etc (very reasonable rates)

## **Logs**

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.

## **Bicycles**

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](mailto:info@oxbicycles.co.uk) [www.oxbicycles.co.uk](http://www.oxbicycles.co.uk)

## **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](mailto: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 3 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; Anna Truelove 83 Bridge St tel: 245496 (directory).*

The 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 is Wednesday, 6 March @ 8pm at the Punter. 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 March, last date for copy Feb 28. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. tel: 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. 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](mailto:Suzanne@dands.org.uk)*

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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

Request

Tel. no.