

# Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

[www.osneyisland.co.uk](http://www.osneyisland.co.uk)  
July / August 2013

## COMING UP

### Looking out for others

*From Georg Deutsch, Chair:* Most people in Oxford will have heard about the Cowley case: over a number of years a group of adolescent girls were subjected to terrible abuse, including rape and torture. Social services and the police apparently knew about it for years, but did not act upon the information they had. However, there was a third group which is said to have known what went on, but kept their eyes shut. This was the public or more specifically, the 'local community'.

This brings me to the purpose of my contribution. I believe it is the moral duty of a 'local community' to protect its most vulnerable members, such as children, adolescent boys and girls, and the elderly. This should not be confused with snooping on one's neighbour or with busy bodies telling other people how to conduct their personal affairs. It is – to use a rather old fashioned term – about compassion, perhaps only to keep one's eyes wide open. What happened in Cowley could have happened anywhere in this city. We, as residents in this place, have to make sure that it does not happen on the island.

### All the fun of the Fair

*From Karen Brooks:* Many islanders enjoyed not only the weather but our Osney Island Fair on Saturday 6th July which had something for everyone. Games for the kids, massage for stressed parents, sponge throwing for the overheated and refreshing teas at No 10. Thank you to everyone who helped organised the event and the donations of plants, cakes and tombola prizes. Over £380 was raised to help fund our newsletter and to support next year's Raft Race. Anyone interested in helping organise it please contact [Karen@chillipots.co.uk](mailto:Karen@chillipots.co.uk) – planning meetings start in September.

### OxGrow

OxGrow, based at Hogacre Common is Oxford's edible community garden - open to everyone for kids and adults of all ages to learn to grow food together. It's an exciting, creative edible laboratory where we're experimenting with organic, climate-friendly growing techniques, and harnessing local knowledge to dabble with produce you'll never find in the shops. Drop in any Sunday Between 1pm and 4pm, or Wednesday from 6pm till dusk. No gardening experience required!

Find out more on our website [oxgrow.org](http://oxgrow.org), or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/OxGrow/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OxGrow/)



## A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

For the past few years Roy Hoare has regularly contributed his very popular local history column. However, Roy feels it's time to hand the baton over to someone else so this is his last piece.

### The Covered Market

*From Roy Hoare:* The market is an oasis of interest away from the bustle of pedestrians and convoys of buses on the High. Visitors to Oxford who have found their way into the old place - the entrances are not too obvious - will hold it in their memory as one of the highlights of their visit to our city.

The Covered Market was built in 1772 and designed by John Gwynn, who was also the architect of Magdalen Bridge. The purpose was to centralize the sprawl of market traders from along the roads leading from Carfax, where they caused congestion and pollution, especially the butchers and fishmongers. A committee of twelve was formed to manage it, six from the city and six from the university. William Tubb was the first Beadle, receiving 10s. a week for 'wage and administration'.

Extensions were built in 1808 and the roof was added in 1874. Initially there were 40 butchers, followed by stalls for fishmongers, greengrocers and mercers. The Alden family was among the first group of butchers. Originally from America, they came to live in Chipping Norton in the mid18th century trading in cattle and butchery. They continued to trade in the market until the 21st century when they moved to Osney Mead where they still run a fine butchery. As time progressed the number of stall holders increased and by 1892 there were over 100.

In its early days, the arena was used for other events. On the 17th July 1783, two men were tried for some minor local mischief and ordered to stand in the pillory for two hours and fined £10. In July 1785, a man was publicly whipped for stealing a shirt. Perhaps one of the most bizarre incidents, as recorded in Jackson's Oxford Journal in 1879, was "About noon on Wednesday last, a vulgar mode of divorce lately adopted, was put into practice in our new market place, before a multitude of witnesses, Richard Hawkins, a canal navigator-man, made public sale of his wife to William Gibbs, a mason employed at works of the Castle. The price was 5s. Whereupon the wife walked off quite eagerly with her new partner." In September 1980 rings and watches were stolen from Gowrings the jewelers. The thieves smashed three holes in the roof and used a hook to fish out the loot.

Over the years there has been considerable friction regarding Council rent rises. In 2008, so excessive increases threatened to send many traders out of business. A petition organised by the Conservative Party caused the City Council to re-consider its rental policy. The current controversy relates to Sunday opening over which the Council have levied a blanket 10% rise in rentals whether or not the trader will open.

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

### **What's that smell of burning?**

When I first moved to Oxfordshire I lodged with a family in Wheatley. In the summer months my landlord cooked on a barbecue every night. He lit the charcoal around 4 or 5 and by early evening it had turned to glowing embers. On these he grilled meat or fish, boiled pans of vegetables, baked sweetcorn or potatoes. No smoke, no flames, no firelighters, no fuss.

I often think of those quiet suppers as evening descends on Osney. Each year we long for some ideal of summer — the sunlit days and balmy nights we anticipated all winter. We picture ourselves in the garden with a cool glass of wine, eating al fresco as the light fades. But on any evening that starts to hint at warmth, a pall of barbecue smoke envelops the island. I have come to dread the stench of paraffin and burnt flesh, the British habit of blitzing sausages on flaming charcoal. It is a far cry from the appetising scent of gently grilled meat that I remember.

How odd it is that in this 'smokeless zone' our most beautiful evenings are polluted by the fallout from burning burgers. Why do the British love a barbecue? And why do we do it so badly?

## **BITS AND BOBS**

### **Telephonic Scams**

*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).

Tips for dealing with questionable cold callers:

Say at the outset, 'I am TPS-registered' (if you are). A bona fide caller should then apologise and ring off. If the caller persists, beware.

Ask for their telephone number; ring off it's not forthcoming.

And mistrust anybody who asks for payment in untraceable UKash vouchers!

### **URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!**

OIRA is seeking a new web master. This is not an onerous task, but needs some knowledge of how to handle a web page. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact either Elizabeth Newbery [[elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com)] or Jan-Georg Deutsch [[jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk)] for further information.

### **House on Osney wanted**

My young family and I are looking to move to Osney in the not-too-distant future and I was wondering if anyone might be thinking about selling their property? We are looking for either a three or four bedroom house and are not scared of a project! If you might be thinking of selling please give me a call on 07889 881984. Many thanks, Louisa.

### **Bedsit wanted in West Oxford**

If you can help, please contact Eric Bake m 07591157 180. Good references supplied.

### **Yoga on your doorstep**

Anybody feeling a little creaky boned, need re energising or generally out of shape may be interested to know that a solution is right on your doorstep!

Loueze Miller, a Vinyasa Flow yoga teacher and specialist in Yoga Therapy, runs daily classes and private sessions at: The Workshop (behind The Punter) 7 South Street.

All levels are welcome. Drop in to pick up a timetable or call Loueze on 0777327650.

### **Garage for rent**

Large garage to share. £100 per month. Contact Jill Moss 242051.

### **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).

### **Regular Services**

#### *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.  
Every Sunday 4:30pm: Evensong

### **Events**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 7:30pm, Organ Recital at St Frideswide's Church. Recital is by David Phillips. £5 on the door to include a glass of wine and nibbles.

You can find the latest announcements of events and other information about both St. Frideswide's church and St. Margaret's church by visiting their websites. Note that they have changed location:

## USEFUL NUMBERS

**City Council**, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); **County Council**, tel: 792422; **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: [cllrcook@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcook@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; **bbike theft, abandoned bikes, abandoned and unlicensed vehicles**, tel: 101.

## 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.

## 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 mainly plumbing but also building (‘reliable, helpful and reasonable rates’); R.P. Lepper building specialist, carpentry and joinery tel: 01993 882522 mob: 07801 36 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 (electrics, plumbing, kitchens, bathrooms) tel: 01235 554655; J Smith tel: 01993 778244, mob: 07790 961395 (‘reliable, competent and cheerful’)

### Tiling

Floors/Bathrooms/Kitchens: Nick Barker mob: 07810 356710. Excellent workmanship and extremely reliable, thoroughly recommended.

### Kitchen fitters

Benchmark kitchens (helpful kitchen designers with good range of products) tel: 01865 372372; Jashim Hussain of Ultragranite, [www.ultragranite.co.uk](http://www.ultragranite.co.uk),

tel: 01865 407555. (‘I really cannot recommend the company highly enough. The price was very reasonable, the attention to detail exemplary and the fitters charming.’)

### 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); [www.tbarneselectrical.com](http://www.tbarneselectrical.com) [tbarneselectrical@gmail.com](mailto:tbarneselectrical@gmail.com) (‘very efficient, reliable and punctual’).

### 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’)

### 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, Steve mob: 07899 918015 (‘highly recommended’)

### Upholstery and sewing services

Ann Paver tel: 249129 soft furnishing including drapes, curtains but not upholstery (‘highly recommended’); Sewing, repairs and alterations: Maria Skyles tel. 01865 721460 mob: 0759 0264 246 (‘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)

### Removals

Isis Van Man tel: 01865 422342 mob: 07828 185884 email: [help@Isisvanman.com](mailto:help@Isisvanman.com) (‘very helpful and friendly’); Removals (home/abroad) and storage House and Carriage tel: 01608 811444 mob: 07769 585988 (local, reliable, polite, careful, and stress-free, for a reasonable price!)

## **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 Solutions tel: 01235 201823 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 Bake mob: 07591 157 180 former head gardener at Shotover Estate does garden maintenance and carpentry e.g 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 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 ('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').

## **Computer Tutor**

Judy Dendy specialises in clear and simple help for people who hate computers and didn't grow up with them. Lessons and basic troubleshooting in language you can understand at your own pace. No question is too daft. 07554 660468 www.computerdendy.co.uk. Highly recommended – very friendly and helpful.

---

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

## **Contemporary Lifestyle Photography**

Individuals or sibling groups- in the relaxed setting of your home. Also available for events and graduation. See benrobinsonphoto.com for more details, or call 07414 215915.

## **OIRA COMMITTEE**

*Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 (gazebos); Georg Deutsch 4 Bridge St, 728050 email: jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk (Chair); Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South St tel: 247737 (notice board); Bob Lawrence 42 West St; Susan Lloyd 3 Doyley Rd; Stephen Lynam (Secretary and Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; Elizabeth Newbery (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360 email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; Anna Truelove 83 Bridge St tel: 245496 (directory).*

We have three good new members of the Committee – but have so far failed to take their contact details even though they all attended the last Committee meeting!! This will be addressed in the next issue. Ed.

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

## **Next Committee meeting**

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Tuesday, 3rd September, 8pm in 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 September, last date for copy August 30. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 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*