

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk

May / June 2013

COMING UP

Postponement of the Osney Communities' Raft Race

Since the organising committee settled upon a July date for this event, we have been made aware that this summer the Environment Agency are planning to replace a weir near part of the course, and that consequently building works forming part of the Osney Micro-Hydro scheme have been scheduled to start in advance of this. In order for this event to go ahead in a safe and responsible manner the organising committee has to work closely with all parties, and in particular the Osney Micro-Hydro Scheme and the Environment Agency. Over the past few weeks we had numerous discussions regarding the impact of the planned works on the raft race, and have carefully considered the issue. Regretfully, we have concluded that it would be unwise to hold our event whilst these building works are taking place, and so have decided to postpone the event to the summer of 2014 – probably early June.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise to all the disappointed would-be competitors who have already started making plans, designing craft and assembling materials. Having already invested time and effort into laying the foundations for what we believe will be a great community event, we remain fully committed to making the Osney Communities' Raft Race a success, and look forward to many of you entering a team next year.

Osney Island Fair 6th July.

We will be holding an Osney Island Fair on 6th July with traditional fair games, duck race, duck pimping competition and of course, tea on the towpath. We will apply to close East St from 12pm – 6pm on the day. Any concerns regarding this please contact Karen Brooks, 62 Bridge St Karen@chillipots.co.uk 0781 080 5406.

A plea for help - we are in need of: cake makers, people to run games, people to do teas, face painters, tables, tombola prizes, people to play music on the day and general help. If you can help with any of these please let Karen Brooks, 62 Bridge St Karen@chillipots.co.uk 07810805406 know. If you would like a duck to pimp or race, please contact Nicky Manson 74 Bridge St nickym63@gmail.com 07815 012 306 or Nadia Bonin 82 Bridge Street nboin@yahoo.ca 07876226983 after 5.30pm.

West Oxford Beer Festival Saturday 22nd June, 7-11pm in the West Oxford Community Centre.



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. Entrance is by ticket only priced £5 that gains you entry to WOBFest and includes a commemorative pint glass keepsake.

Tickets are on sale now, and are going quickly! You can get them from Eggs Eggsetera, Pearce Alder, from me at 13 South Street (email 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. We have started updating our website: www.wobfest.co.uk, including the first few beers we have provisionally scheduled.

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.

The Magdalen College Film Society

The films are screened in the Magdalen College Auditorium, reached via the Longwall entrance, and cost only £3 (often with drinks included).

Sunday, 26 May 19:30 Man on Wire (2008); 21:15 Reservoir Dogs (1992)

Monday, 27 May 19:00 The General (1926); 20:55 Rififi (1955)

Sunday, 2 June 19:00 Orphée (1950); 20:45 Holy Motors (2012)

Monday, 3 June 19:00 Nosferatu (1979); 21:00 Howl's Moving Castle (2004)

Sunday, 9 June 19:00 Summer with Monika (1953); 20:45 Claire's Knee (1970)

Monday, 10 June 19:30 Sex, Lies and Videotape (1989); 21:20 Y Tu Mama Tambien (2001)

Oxford in Bloom launches for 2013

Oxford in Bloom is going for gold this year as it launches its 2013 competition and helps in the city's regional Britain in Bloom entry. Gardener's young and old; businesses, schools and community groups are invited to enter. Categories include best kept gardens, beautiful containers, balconies or commercial and community displays as well as junior Oxford in bloom and gardening for the disabled. A new category for Barton in Bloom launches this year in partnership with the local residents and city council. Whether you share a garden, work with a community group, work for a local business or have a

hanging basket or trough there is something for everyone. Prizes are awarded to the top three in each category, and range from £25 to £100 and include a certificate and trophy to the winner. Each category and entrant will be judged on colour, impact, tidiness and quality, choice and arrangement of planting.

Entries will be accepted from groups, businesses and residents within the City boundary. You can enter online at www.oxford.gov.uk/oxfordinbloom, or application forms are available from council offices, Templars Square shopping centre, customer services outlets. Businesses and community groups can benefit from a council contractor to supply hanging baskets, planters and window boxes. Prices start from £80. Closing date for entries is Monday 1st July for schools and nurseries and Monday 15th July for all other categories. If you would like to find out more please contact Oxford City Council's Parks Service on 01865 252240, email parks@oxford.gov.uk or visit www.oxford.gov.uk.

ISLAND NEWS

West Way: COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS – KEEP BOTLEY LOCAL!

This is the overall message from the West Way Community Concern survey, the results of which were announced at our public meeting on 22nd May.

727 of you completed our survey, covering an area from Appleton to Osney Island and every age group. Thank you. And also to our community newsletters who spread the word and helped us so much. The message you have given us seems clear:

Redevelop West Way in a sensitive manner to maintain it as the heart of the community with:

- easy access for all means of transport, including pedestrian
- a comprehensive range of independent shops, restaurants and cafes
- at least one supermarket similar in size to the Co-op
- a good-sized library and public open space
- sheltered housing retained.
- This should not include:
- a massive supermarket aimed at a much wider market
- a cinema or
- student accommodation

Please go to our website or drop us an email if you want to find out what is planned to happen next. We will do our best to keep everyone informed in these pages as things develop. westwayconcern@gmail.com
Web: www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com

Pests

From an anonymous resident: Last year, the Oxford Mail reported that our City was among the top 10 worst for rats. That, along with the fact that Osney Island is surrounded by water, makes our Island a haven for the pesky creatures. Certainly, one or two have been spotted in Osney gardens. As well as carrying horrible diseases, rats can gnaw through tough objects (even soft metals and breeze blocks), and, of course, they multiply quickly too. Therefore, it is important we all do our bit to control

the population. The whole grain bait is most effective at poisoning them (available from hardware stores), but make sure you put one, or even more, sachets in a tray, as putting down only a little means the rats only nibble a little – then it doesn't kill them, but rather helps them to build a resistance. Also, you should avoid leaving food out for birds unfortunately), or any other food or water sources in your garden. If you hear scratching in your house, you may have rats or mice in the cavity walls or perhaps in the void below your floor or above your ceiling. A good pest management company, one recommended by a local resident is Integral on 01869 278543.

A happy ending

A regular whimsical slot from Jane Buekett of South Street: During the coldest Easter for years, our neighbours' cat Lucy managed to get stuck on the roof. She climbed out of a skylight, mountaineered her way across several rooftops and couldn't find her way back.

No-one could reach her, nothing could tempt her to retrace her steps. She spent a night up there, miaowing pitifully, then another. Finally, on Easter Monday, the fire brigade enacted a rescue and a very hungry Lucy came home.

It was an entertaining spectacle – Lucy's little pointy-eared face peering over the gutter, four firemen struggling with an enormous ladder. It was an immense relief – a happy ending to what could have been a much sadder South Street story. And it said something about us as people. 'What an extraordinary species we are,' my neighbour said as we watched two firemen up a ladder trying to coax a small cat into reach.

It made my weekend. And not just mine. I put a little photo story of the rescue on Picasa to amuse my neighbours. When I sent it to some friends they were delighted with it. More and more people looked at it. All of them loved it. This very British tale, with its resonance of children's stories, seemed to give out the message that something must be right with the world. The photos are here: www.tinyurl.com/bvz3t8j

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.

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

Regular Services: St Margaret's, Binsey

First Sunday of each month, 9.00am: Said Eucharist.

Every Sunday 4:30pm: Evensong

Events

Thursday 30th May, 7:30pm, Organ Music during the Church's Year at St Frideswide's Church. Recital is by David Eldridge, St Frideswide's organist and Director of Music. £5 on the door to include a glass of wine and nibbles.

Thursday 27th June, 7:30pm, A Celebration of German Organ Music at St Frideswide's Church. Recital is by

Nicholas Firestone. £5 on the door to include a glass of wine and nibbles.

BITS AND BOBS

Towpath table-top sale

There will be a table top sale outside 10 East St on Saturday, 25 May from 10am -12. Free coffee plus all sorts of things you never knew you wanted.

Garage for rent

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

An apology

In the article on flooding in the last issue the name of the Environment Agency was incorrectly given as the Environmental Agency. Apologies to the author. Ed.

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: clrrcooke@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

Kitchen fitters

Jashim Hussain of Ultragranite, 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.')

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.

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.

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 (electronics, 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

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; www.tbarneselectrical.com 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')

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, 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 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'); 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 ('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.

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

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').

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

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is June 12 @ 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 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 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