

# Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

[www.osneyisland.co.uk](http://www.osneyisland.co.uk)  
January/ February 2014

Many apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter.  
The next one will be out mid March.

## COMING UP

### Allotments AGM

The allotment AGM will be held on Wednesday, February 26 @ 7.30 in the Democrats. Please come and have your say.

### OIRA AGM

This will be held on Wednesday, April 23 @ 7.30 pm in the Community Centre.

### West Oxford Academy

Once again Sue Hutchinson has put together a great programme of West Oxford speakers ranging from 'Therapeutic reading in Medieval England' to 'How democratic is the US presidential election?' Talks are held every Tuesday from 8 -9pm tickets cost just £2 with a glass of wine. For a full list of talks: [westoxfordacademy@gmail.com](mailto:westoxfordacademy@gmail.com) The success of West Oxford Academy depends on your support so please come along.

### Magdalen College Film Society

The films are held in the Auditorium, by the Longwall entrance to the college. Entrance costs only £3, with free drinks often provided. A term card costs a mere £10.

Sunday, February 9 8:00 p.m. The Place Beyond The Pines

Monday, February 10 7:00 p.m. M - by Fritz Lang  
9:10 p.m. In Bruges

Wednesday, February 12 7:00 p.m. East Of Eden  
9:10 p.m. Three Monkeys

Sunday, February 16 7:30 p.m. Coffee And Cigarettes  
9:15 p.m. The Thin Blue Line

Monday, February 17 7:30 p.m. Hunger 9:15 p.m.  
Talk To Her

Sunday, February 23 7:30 p.m. The Devil and Daniel Johnston 9:30 p.m. Heima - by Sigur Rós

Monday, February 24 7:00 p.m. Dig! 9:00 p.m.  
O Brother, Where Art Thou?

Sunday, March 2 8:00 p.m. Le Jolie Mai

Monday, March 3 7:30 p.m. The Mirror 9:30 p.m. Iris  
Wednesday, March 5 7:45 p.m. Hiroshima Mon Amour  
9:20 p.m. Waltz With Bashir



Sunday, March 9 7:00 p.m. The Wrestler 9:00 p.m.  
Le Dernier Métro

Monday, March 10 7:00 p.m. Gold Diggers of 1933  
8:45 p.m. Some Like It Hot

### Nigel Kennedy

*From James Fry:* I have some £30 stalls tickets at the New Theatre for the Nigel Kennedy concert on Tuesday 3rd, June. If you would like some tickets email [jfry@lmc.co.uk](mailto:jfry@lmc.co.uk)

### Osney Island Summer Event

Sadly, for personal reasons the raft race has had to be postponed for another year. However, this year we will be launching a new event - Jazz on the Towpath Saturday June 7. It will be preceded by popular family events such as the slow bicycle race and the egg throwing championship. More details nearer the time.

### West Oxford Beer Festival

This year the West Oxford Beer Festival will be on the evening of Saturday 21 June at West Oxford Community Centre. Tickets will go on sale nearer the date.

## ISLAND NEWS

### ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: STOP THE FLOODS!

*From Richard Thurston:* Write to your MP today. Every letter matters. Don't leave it to someone else. Investment plans for major flood relief schemes to be funded over the next 6-10 years are due to be signed off at the beginning of March. Decisions that will affect Oxford for years to come will be made in the next 6-8 weeks. Ask your MP to make sure that there is adequate funding for an effective scheme to protect Oxford.

Oxford West & Abingdon constituency  
Ms Nicola Blackwood MP, House of Commons,  
Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA  
e: [nicola.blackwood.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:nicola.blackwood.mp@parliament.uk)

If possible send a copy to: Ian Hudspeth, Leader, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road Oxford, OX1 1ND  
e: [ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### Osney Lock Hydro

*From Saskya Huggins:* With the civil engineering now complete, the Osney Lock Hydro team are now working on getting the generator in and the power house built. We are also starting to develop plans for the open space. Our hope is for the hydro to become a platform from

which to tell the story of our river. It will be a place where local people can learn about our community's centuries old relationship with the Thames, and be inspired by the potential for a sustainable future.

As well as offering the chance to experience hydro power first hand, we are exploring ways to bring to life other water technologies such as explaining how the lock works, as well as local social and industrial history. We want to design and plant the island in a way that will enhance local biodiversity and enable people to view fish making use of the new fish pass. Finally, it will also be a chance to inspect historical items such as the 19th century winding mechanism taken from the recently refurbished weir.

There's more information about our initial thoughts on the Osney Lock Hydro website. If you'd like to get involved, with developing the project or fundraising we'd love to hear from you – simply email us at [info@osneylockhydro.org.uk](mailto:info@osneylockhydro.org.uk)

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

I can't stand the rain, against my window...

Our kitchen, like many in Osney, has a little extension with a glass roof. It's one of the things that we liked about the house when we bought it — we had visions of ourselves sitting at our kitchen table, much as one does in a continental café, enjoying a coffee and soaking up the sun.

These days the word 'soaking' has other associations. As a child I loved to hear heavy rain, watch it lash against the windows knowing I was safe inside, but in South Street 'safe inside' and 'rain' don't really belong in the same sentence. Not only does our glass roof leak, irreparably it seems, but all too often there is the threat of water coming up through the floorboards as well.

The sound of rain no longer makes me feel safe at all — it makes me think about moving the furniture upstairs. But in our house, with its glass kitchen roof and bedroom skylights, there are very few places where you can't hear the rain. The front room, small and north facing, was my least favourite room when we moved in. Now it can feel like a sanctuary.

### **Crime**

*From Sam Everson:* My car is one of the four to have been targeted on East St recently so I'd like to alert residents and ask them be extra vigilant at the moment. I understand houses are being targeted as well as cars. A neighbour has seen a couple shooting up in a car outside her house and a guy come into her NCT class at the Community Centre to steal handbags while the pregnant ladies were having a tea break!

## **BITS AND BOBS**

### **The VegVan**

Lovely fresh vegetables straight from local farmers are available from the VegVan outside the rail station on Fridays 3.30- 7 pm. Its part of a co-operative enterprise owned by the community: [www.cultivateoxford.org](http://www.cultivateoxford.org)

### **Children's Christmas Lantern Parade**

Ben and Claudie Thomas who organised the lantern parade for several years and are delighted that Debbie Hall has offered to take over it next Christmas.

### **St Frideswide with Binsey**

The Revd Clare Sykes is the Rector for the Anglican parish of St. Frideswide and St Margaret's Binsey. T. 242345 or E [reclare@btinternet.com](mailto:reclare@btinternet.com).

### **St Frideswide Renewal Programme**

Over the past ten years, the St Frideswide's church building has been improved by installing toilets, kitchen area, new flooring and renovating the organ. The church community now wants to begin a final phase of improvement to make the building accessible and comfortable for wider community use as well as Sunday worship. We need the help and support of the wider community in order to preserve this building for the benefit of current and future residents of this neighbourhood. Progress is being made with the heating. We have had an energy audit of the church, and are investigating the possibility of installing a biomass system.

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:

<http://www.stfrideswideschurch.org.uk/>  
<http://www.binseystmargaret.org.uk/>

### **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.

### **West Oxford Studio Pottery Appreciation Society (WOSPAS)**

WOSPAS' next trip is to the Crafts Study Centre in Farnham on Saturday, March 1 @ 11 am. Prof Simon Olding will talk about Alexis Rago whose exhibition 'Chaos Contained' work is currently on show there. Please email [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com) if you are interested in joining us.

### **Island babes**

Congratulations to Nadia and Matthew, on the birth of their son Evan on Thursday January 23rd.

### **For sale**

Dyson model. Vgc £50. T. 793360 email: [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com)

### **A freebie**

We have an upright piano at 57 West St which needs a new home. It plays well. We no longer have room for it and are very happy to give it free to anyone who can collect. Call Derek on 07771 707178.

## USEFUL NUMBERS

**City Council**, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); **County Council**, tel: 792422; **Susanna Pressel**, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: [cllrspresel@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrspresel@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; **bike 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, painting and decorating 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 [wwwoxbicycles.co.uk](http://wwwoxbicycles.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](http://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](http://benrobinsonphoto.com) for more details, or call 07414 215915.

## **Conservatories**

an excellent specialist service for conservatories - a full valet clean, just the roof panels, or they'll restore older, out of guarantee models. [www.sunshine-conservatories.co.uk](http://www.sunshine-conservatories.co.uk) tel. 01844 213868.

## **Baby kit**

Short or long rental (strongly recommended) [www.babycomes2.co.uk](http://www.babycomes2.co.uk) tel: 01235 280081

## **Wood burning stove fitters**

Lee Hill Fireplace Installer tel: 01865 787 940 - HETAS approved. ('Really helpful and knows his stuff')

## **OIRA COMMITTEE**

*Karen Brooks 62 Bridge St; 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; Stephen Lynam (Secretary and Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; Elizabeth Newbery (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360 email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; Gareth Strange 102 Bridge st 727680; Anna Truelove 83 Bridge St tel: 245496 (directory); Vicki Waters 34 East St 07743 823779.*

## **Next Committee meeting**

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Wednesday, 19th March, 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 March, last date for copy 1 March 2014. 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](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*