

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk

May/June 2014

COMING UP

Jazz on the Towpath

This summer's event is Jazz on the Towpath on Saturday, June 21 @ 2- 6 pm running as a warm-up to WOBFest. Pete Marsh will be playing and there will be teas, an egg throwing contest, the slo-mo bike race, the inter street tug-o-war and plant stalls. BUT we need more music especially young people's bands. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to play? We also need offer of plants, cakes and people to man the tea and plant stalls. Please contact Joyce Chalmers on 240348 homeinoxford@virginmedia.com or Maureen Ergenelli on 244480 maukie24@me.com if you can help. If you would like to run your own stall (cost £5 per stall) please contact Joyce.

WOBFest

From David Jeffrey: On the evening of Saturday June 21 the Community Centre will play host to the annual West Oxford Beer Festival (or WOBFest, as we like to call it). Now in its fourth year, this mini-festival will feature a range of local ales, with other refreshments and entertainment. As we get closer to the date more details, including the full list of beers, will be posted on our website: www.wobfest.co.uk In previous years WOBFest has been a great success, bringing together local residents for an enjoyable evening, whilst raising money for local causes. Tickets for this year's WOBFest will go on sale from the first of April, priced five pounds each. Your ticket gains you entry to WOBFest, and the price includes a commemorative pint glass for you to keep. Entrance will be by ticket only. You will be able to purchase tickets from local outlets and from our volunteers (look out for our posters when they go up!) or by contacting us direct by emailing: david@wobfest.co.uk Alternatively you can send us a message via our Facebook page (just search for WOBFest). If you click on the "like" button you will get all our updates. Please also 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 WOBFest would not be possible. We look forward to seeing you and your friends for what promises to be another great evening.

Films at Magdalen College

The films are shown in the excellent Magdalen College Auditorium, which is reached via the entrance on Longwall. Entry still costs only £3, including double bills.



- 1st June @ 8.00 pm: Werckmeister Harmonies (2001)
- 2nd June @ 7.00 pm: Irréversible (2002) @ 9.00 pm: Taxi Driver (1976)
- 3rd June @ 7.00 pm: The First Grader (2010) @ 9.00 pm: Hannah Arendt (2012)
- 8th June @ 7.00 pm: Lilja 4-ever (2002) @ 8.55 pm: Burnt by the Sun (1994)
- 9th June @ 7.00 pm: Still Life (2006) @ 8.55 pm: The Ballad of Narayama (1983)
- 15th June @ 8.00 pm: Adventureland (2009)
- 16th June @ 7.45 pm: Le Rayon Vert (2009) @ 9.25 pm: Dazed and Confused (1993)

Organ recital

Thursday 19 June 2014, 7.30pm, at St Frideswide's church, Organ recital by Lia Verhoeff. £5 at the door includes a glass of wine and nibbles

ISLAND NEWS

On Monday 7 April Simon Collings and Richard Thurston from Osney Island attended a reception hosted by David Cameron at 10 Downing Street for volunteers who had been active during the recent flooding. The group from west Oxford, accompanied by Nicola Blackwood MP, included Nick Hills from Earl Street, Pupinder Singh Ghatora who runs the Botley Road pharmacy and Charlie Gee from Medley Manor Farm. Richard and Simon were invited because of the work Oxford Flood Alliance has done with the Environment Agency to improve flood defences and response in this area. Photos of the event are at: <http://tinyurl.com/pqnjket>

A regular whimsical slot from Jane Buekett of South St Sweet as summer

Every year as we pass the end-of-summer landmarks — the Last Night of the Proms, the schools going back, St Giles Fair — I dread the winter ahead of us. And then, when it comes — the short dark days, the threat of gales or snow or fog, the frost on the windscreen — I am just in it, and it is life.

And each year the spring hurtles by way too fast. The blossom comes and goes and I wish I could stop time at some perfect week in April or early May when the air smells new and everything is full of promise.

On almost the longest day last summer I sat in my kitchen late in the evening working on my laptop. My day

had been crammed with meetings, I had cycled frantically home from an event in east Oxford, and now, in the only quiet moment of the day, with the cool air drifting in the back door, I was catching up on work emails. When I glanced up from that mesmerising computer-screen glow, I saw that everything outside — the sky, the walls, the air — was suffused with pink. I stepped out of the back door into sweet stillness, and on my neighbour's chimney a blackbird sang and sang and sang.

Water willows and weeping

From Julia Hamer Hunt: The west side of Bridge Street extension is the lowest part of the island. It is the part of the island to flood first. Historically, this has always been the case. If in doubt refer to Malcolm Graham's *The Changing Faces of West Oxford* published in 1998. I knew Bridge Street extension houses were prone to flooding when I bought my property almost 14 years ago. I have no regrets. I enjoy a privileged and wonderful position in Oxford: ten minutes walk from the colleges and museums; and not ten steps from my canoe where once a hedgehog took refuge from rising waters. On occasion I sit in the kitchen and watch a heron standing motionless seeking a chubb for its supper. In winter the water is high. I sit watching ducks surfing the racing torrent. On other days too many Macdonald burger boxes, plastic Coke bottles and other man-made detritus drift past if I am not sufficiently swift to catch them in my fishing landing net.

What can I do? What can you do?

I am offering to help anyone on Osney Island who would like to enhance their garden to encourage wildlife of all sorts, shapes and sizes. My front garden is 10 ft x 4 ft; the back 16 ft x 16 ft together they host more than 100 species of plants — all chosen for their perfume, food value and/or cover for wildlife. There is room for more flora — and fauna. Minimum maintenance has been a key consideration. I am growing older, have several plates of armour in my body, and bones that are too porous for my liking. I have within the limitations of my ability and my pocket done everything I can to reduce the risk of flooding and provide a sanctuary for our hard-pressed neighbours: wing-ed, four-footed, two-footed, and finned. The alternative — a graveled or paved garden providing soakaway, but no sanctuary or sustenance to our friends and neighbours; walls and solid fences ensuring that they cannot escape or find sanctuary and the water cannot move and flow. Trapped within our self-imposed castles we forget at our peril that both the walls of Jericho and Berlin came crumbling down. We are creating an aesthetic wasteland that diminishes us all.

There is £200 available to purchase indigenous saplings, shrubs and plants. These I will purchase from nurseries to help anyone who wants to make Osney Island not just a community but also a habitat rich in fauna and flora.

If you are interested and would like a hand or to help please email Julia.HamerHunt@gmail.com; drop a note through the letterbox of 57 Bridge Street or telephone 01865 580330. I look forward to hearing from you.

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.

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.

Choir looking for new members

One of the joys of the Sunday services at St Frideswide's church is the music. We are very fortunate to have a talented choir that contributes so much. If you would like to join in, please contact Paul Spencer-Longhurst at spencerlonghurst@btinternet.com. A short practice takes place on a Sunday morning from 10.00-10.25 am.

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

BITS AND BOBS

Litter issues

From Louise Summers Yesterday in the high winds on Bridge Street lots of lids blew off bins full of materials for recycling. Plastic bottles, bags, papers, etc. etc. were flying all over the place. It happens on a lesser scale most recycling days, and however much some of us pick up, lots goes under the cars and stays there for ages, getting soggy in the gutter or drying out and blowing around another day. Could I suggest something? A half brick placed on top of the recycling box lid works wonders.

Congratulations

to Dominic and Nazeem on the birth of their daughter Valiye — a very welcome addition to North Street.

Newspaper deliveries

Would you like your newspapers delivered? Mr Patel of Court Candy Shop, 65 Woodstock Road is keen to deliver. Call him on 515506.

Nappies anyone?

Can anyone use some baby kit that our growing grandchildren have left well behind ... unopened pack of Pampers 5+, 13-27 kg junior plus nappies, plastic bath chair for newborns, a microwaveable sterilising kit? We'd love this stuff to do someone else a good turn now. Pauline & Noel Martin, 01865 250870

House wanted

Howard Robinson and Jocelyn Wogan-Browne at 16

South Street would like to buy a either a bigger house or a second small house so that they can remain on the Island when their retirement enforces bringing two working libraries there. Tel (from 22nd June) 01865 723 043: email: woganbrowne@fordham.edu

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); **County Council**, tel: 792422; **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: 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. Before recommending that someone is removed, sort the issue out between you and the supplier first – someone's livelihood is at stake. In this newsletter, we have removed someone who installed gas alliances incorrectly – potentially very dangerous. Make sure you use the most up to date list!

Newcomers often like to tell other about their services so we are starting a new spot 'Blow your own trumpet' where you can do just that. If your services is then independently recommended it will go in Tried and Tested.

New entries

C&S Cleaning Services tel 01865 872395 (very pleasant and hard working ladies)

TRIED AND TESTED

The list is only as good as the updates so please let me know if anyone has retired or dropped out for other reasons.

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'; 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; Jashim Hussain of Ultragranite, www.ultragranite.co.uk, tel: 01865 407555. ('I really cannot recommend the company highly enough.)

Electricians

RJB Electrical (rewires and new installations) tel: 01865 882723 mob: 07711 934348; 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, 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')

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'); Paul Selden is a house painter (good prices, punctual and unreservedly recommended.) Tel: 077 277 59996 Email: paulseldendecorating@gmail.com

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 few 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.

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.

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.

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 tel. 01844 213868.

Baby kit

Short or long rental (strongly recommended) 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

We are very sorry to lose Karen Brooks who masterminded the Osney Olympics and Vicky Waters who have both moved off the Island. However we welcome Maureen Egerenelli, a long term resident who at long last has been persuaded to join the Committee after years of successfully avoiding it.

Meanwhile, we would welcome more people on the committee – particularly young people. At the recent OIRA AGM there were several requests for events but no one was willing to help organise them. Not to put too fine a point on it, if we don't have more manpower events will cease.

Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 (gazebos); Georg Deutsch 4 Bridge St, 728050 email: jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk (Chair); Maureen Egerenelli 24 East St; Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South St tel: 247737 (notice board); Bob Lawrence 42 West St tel: 792358; 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; Julia Turner (Treasurer) 102 Bridge St tel: 07971 88125; Anna Truelove 83 Bridge St tel: 245496 (directory).

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Tuesday 8 July @ 8pm in The Hollybush. 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 30 June 2014. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. tel: 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com