

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk

November/December 2014

It's a bit premature because the newsletter is early for once – but HAPPY CHRISTMAS everyone!

COMING UP

Christmas market

Part of Oxfordshire Art Weeks: Hand Made Christmas Market West Oxford Community Centre, Saturday 22nd November 11-6 and Sunday 23rd November 11-4 More than 20 local artists selling work including painting, photography, jewellery, ceramics, cards, basketry, calendars and lots more.

Children's Christmas lantern parade

This year's traditional Osney Island Christmas carol singing and children's lantern parade will be on Saturday 6th December. Meet at 5pm outside the Punter and bring a lantern/tea light in a jam jar. If you would like us to call by your house and sing then please contact Debbie Hall (07779 295080; debbietheduck@hotmail.com) or let us know at 23 Bridge Street. If you would like to offer refreshments to the singers en route then please let Debbie know as well. Everyone is welcome.

Magdalen College films

As always, the selection is eclectic, with many superb double bills, as well as three single films). It still costs only £3 per film; £10 per term; or £20 for a year, with free wine or soft drinks. The venue is the Magdalen College Auditorium, reached by the Longwall entrance.

- Thursday, November 13 7:30pm City Lights (1931) and 9:15pm Heathers (1988)
- Sunday, November 16 7:00pm Taste Of Cherry (1997) and 8:45pm Sideways (2004)
- Monday, November 17 7:30pm Lemon Tree (2008) and 9:30pm The Color Of Pomegranates (1968)
- Sunday, November 23 8:00pm 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)
- Monday, November 24 7:00pm Alphaville (1984) and 8:50pm Her (2013)
- Tuesday, November 25 8:00pm Metropolis (1927)
- Sunday, November 30 7:30pm Tokyo Godfathers (2003) and 9:15pm The Proposition (2005)
- Monday, December 1 8:00pm Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010) and 9:40pm The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)



- Sunday, January 25, 2015 12:00pm Special Screening: Shoah (1985; Free Entry)

Event dates for 2015

Raft Race - last call: Karen Brooks, who was the organising force behind the Raft Race, has moved away. If you would like a Raft Race, someone must come forward by the next meeting (12 January 2015) and be prepared to take charge of it. If no one does, I'm afraid we shall have to consider it closed.

May 16 Table top on the towpath: have you got stuff that you want to get rid of but it's too good to dump? Bring your own table, set out your stall and sell, sell, sell! There will be tea, coffee and cakes and maybe some music. The fee of £5 per table will go towards OIRA funds (see below).

September 12 Autumn Open Gardens: get planning and planting now for our open garden event. All offers of gardens to Anna Truelove tel: 245496.

ISLAND NEWS AND VIEWS

Ideas for Osney Island

Our treasurer reports that our finances are in good shape so we are looking for ideas to fund improving the Island. So far suggestions include:

- A window box competition
- Greening more of Bridge St and other parts of the Island
- Removing rubbish from the Osney Stream
- Buying an industrial strength shredder for Island use to help prevent personal details going into the recycling bin.

If you have a good idea please contact any member of the Committee.

Low carbon

From Saski and the Low Carbon Hub Team: We've been thrilled by the response to the share offer to date, but still have a long way to go. We are keen to get as many local people as possible investing, because it's important to us that people have a stake in their local renewable energy generation.

Could you help us promote the offer? If you could spare even a few minutes to help it would make a huge difference. Could you let your contacts know about the share offer? We can supply draft text for an email or newsletter article. We'd also love it if you can get the word out amongst your own contacts via Facebook,

Linked-in or Twitter. Does your local community, school or work have a regular newsletter? If you happen to know the editor, fantastic, but just letting up know the name of the organisation that publishes we can follow up and offer an article or news item. Is there an event, noticeboard, counter-top or railings where you could put some materials? A member of the Hub team would be delighted to come and speak at a local event. Could your group's web master pop a promotional button for the offer on your website? It can also go at the bottom of emails. Anything you can do to help would be brilliant. If you need materials, newsletter copy, examples for facebook or tweets –or anything else please let Hannah or Georgina know by emailing info@lowcarbonhub.org or phoning us on 01865 246099. Thank you so much for your help.

PS did you know you can see the latest investment total on the Low Carbon Hub website? Join us in obsessively checking the total each day at www.lowcarbonhub.org/invest

Harvest Supper

From Joyce Chalmers: There are so many times, when Osney Island people have cause to consider ourselves so very fortunate to live here. We help each other out, we are aware of others' circumstances and offer security and sense of well being in that way.

My husband and I have lived here for many years off and on but for some reason have not gone to WOCCA the Harvest Supper until this year. We didn't know what we were missing! It is truly an old fashioned way of bringing people together and enjoying the abundance of local crops of vegetables from the allotments. It works like this: A group of trustees organise and execute the supper with additional help from everyone who is willing to pitch in later and help clear up. Delicious vegetarian food is provided, usually cooked by the café proprietor, or sometimes others. The result is a wonderful display of foraged autumnal decorations and delicious things to eat. It is a chance to see people you might know but don't see often, and to meet new people, have a laugh and go home feeling good with a full tummy. Thanks to all the good people who helped out.

Joyce Chalmers who lives for part of the year on Osney but as everyone knows, would really like to live here all the time, has contributed this poem.

Remembering Oxford

In Oxford, the river.
it winds through Osney
a bucolic highway for punters and boats.
a flock of scary swans
take position
minding their young in
slimy weeds
arrogant and dangerous.
and at the Head of the River
thirsty students crowd the bar.
life changes with time
but not today and not here.

Hugo Powell

We are very sad to report the death of Hugo Powell aged 92. Hugo had lived on the Island since 1969.

Louise Summers writes: On leaving art school at the end of the 1930s, Hugo Powell carried out commissioned sculptures from church figures to fireplaces in different media. He also designed the font for the plaques in Wembley that commemorate the 1948 Olympic Games. During this time he developed a breadth of skills and knowledge of materials that became evident when, as an artist, he seriously began making what he wanted to make. He produced an astonishing body of work, some of which can be seen at www.hugopowell.co.uk. An exhibition of his work was held at Christchurch in 1994. The art critic Bevis Hillier wrote that, in his profile relief self-portrait Hugo 'looked like a Roman Emperor on a coin'. In that respect it was certainly life-like as there was something very grand about Hugo and very delightful too. He will be much missed.

St Frideswide with Binsey

Christmas Events

- Thursday 18th December 6.00 pm, at St Frideswide, School Carol Concert
- Saturday 29th November Craft Fair at St Frideswide.
- Sunday 21st December 3.00 pm Carols at St Margaret's, Binsey
- Wednesday 24th December 4.30 pm Crib Service at St Frideswide
- Thursday 25th December 9:00 Christmas Service at St Margaret's, Binsey
- Thursday 25th December 9:00 Christmas Service at St Frideswide.

BITS AND BOBS

Babysitting & tutoring

From Phoebe Macdonald: Are you in need of a babysitter or Science/Maths Tutor? I am a very reliable and responsible person and have babysat for multiple families in the past, with children aged 1-13 years. I have successfully tutored a number of children in preparation for Common Entrance, GCSE and A Level exams. I am available most evenings and weekends.

I charge:

£6/hour for evening/night-time babysitting

£8/hour for day-time babysitting

£15/hour (Up to GCSE) £20/hour (A Level) for tutoring

If I can help please contact me on: 07745 249655 email: phoebe.macdonald@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

Osney Island Welcome Pack

OIRA will shortly produce a Welcome Pack with lots of local information especially for new Osney Island residents. If you know of anyone moving on to the Island please contact Jude Carroll on 793247.

Stray gazebo

A gazebo that landed on my garden during the windy days towards the end of October. It is made of dark green plastic (ish) material and measures roughly about 2.5x2.5mt. Its very similar to the one advertised by Argos

www.argos.co.uk/static/Product/partNumber/6502210.htm?CMPID=GS001&_ja=cgid:18091942405|tsid:59156|cid:189934285|lid:96719279005|nw:g|crid:58091642845|rnd:3028647312012568080|dvc:c|adp:107#pdpFullProductInformation
Please contact Ghislaine Wolfart g.wolfart@gmail.com if you can help.

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); **County Council**, tel: 792422; **Susanna Pressel**, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk; **City Councillors: Colin Cook**, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: cllrcCook@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

Inner sense yoga tel 07773 277 650 Loueze's studio is next to the Punter – what could be more convenient! ('I whole heartedly recommend Loueze')

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'). **Brian French**: local general builder and

plasterer who will take on small jobs; mob: 07957 315303 ('came round the same day as contacted!')

Exterior and interior decorators

Andrew Turner of Oxford Exteriors mob: 07591 491 804 repaints masonry, front door and windows (excellent work, very good value and professional customer service); **Victor Szigeti**: interior and exterior painting specialising in skinned plaster work; mob: 07799 143205 ('he made my bathroom ceiling look like new')

Building and roof repairs

Gosford Builders tel: 01865 373467 mob: 07855 373467 ('good work and very fair rates'); **Everest Roofing Ltd** tel: 01865 8816856 email: enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk ('dealt fast and efficiently with a minor matter which others couldn't be bothered with')

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; **Sid Siddle**: skilled handyman; tel: 01865 251795 mob: 07757 214 301 Email: the.read.setter@gmail.com ('Sid made a really good job of numerous small jobs including carpentry'); **Brian Hill**: skilled handyman; tel: 01295 670276 mob: 0774 2010892 (very meticulous – he made a very good job of putting up shelves).

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

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'); 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')

Computer Tutor

Judy Dendy: Lessons and basic troubleshooting in language you can understand at your own pace. No question is too daft. tel: 07554 660468 - www.computerdendy.co.uk. Highly recommended – very friendly and helpful.

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')

Cleaners

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

OIRA COMMITTEE

Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 jude@judecarroll.co.uk (gazebos, Welcome Pack); Georg Deutsch 4 Bridge St, 728050 jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk (Chair); Maureen Egenelli 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 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, Open Gardens).

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Monday January 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 January, last date for copy 31 December 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 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.

Osney Island email account

The new email account osneyislandresidents@gmail.com, makes message sharing amongst Island residents simpler and safer. Is it open so that people can sell things, ask for information, give away stuff or provide information.

Notice board

Suzanne Jeffrey, 13 South Street tel: 247737 email: Suzanne@dands.org.uk