

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk

January—February 2016



Happy new year!

COMING UP

West Oxford Academy

From Susan Hutchinson: West Oxford Academy will be back on Tuesday 26 January. Local residents have given many surprising, informative and entertaining talks, but I am always on the look out for more people who have a favourite topic they would like to share! So if you – or a friend or neighbour – would like to contribute please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

If you are curious about the Academy and want to find out more, or could help delivering flyers, do get in touch. Please contact me, Susan Hutchinson, either by email at westoxfordacademy@gmail.com or by phone on 792358.

St Frideswide's

A Lent series talks on Science and Faith to be held at 7.0-8.0pm on Wednesdays in Lent (17th, 24th Feb, 2nd, 9th, 16th March) with discussion and refreshments. The series will explore issues that include imagination, truth and biology with speakers who are working at the interface between scientific disciplines and faith. A full programme of speakers and titles will be available soon on our website.

Film and theatre

From James Fry: Here is this term's list of films: (log on to TermcardHillaryterm2016.JPG for details) many superb, to be shown in the Magdalen College Auditorium (the entrance is on Longwall). They charge a mere £3 per film or £10 for the term..

I still have a few tickets left for a performance of the highly regarded King Charles III at the Playhouse in the evening of Wednesday, 24th February. Please let me know if you would like one or more, as I may have to contact the Box Office for a top up. Log on to Detailsofeventsinearly2016.doc for further details.

ISLAND NEWS

Jude Carroll, OIRA Chair, reports on what the Residents' Association has been up to.

Every year, we summarise the year's activities at the AGM (heads up: it's on 20 April this year and more details in the next newsletter) but just so you know, here's an update of recent activities.

One on-going task is keeping a watching brief on local developments. For example, the proposed rebuild of the power station facing East Street will keep us busy for years and the same is likely for the proposal to create a flood diversion channel down the end of the Botley Road. In both cases, we have submitted statements to relevant people, summarising Islanders' concerns as best we can. Often, this is tricky because people hold a range of views so sometimes, we ask directly. That's why we canvassed Islanders about the proposal to backdate a change of use for the Hollybush before submitting a statement to planners. On that last issue, we expect another planning application in April - so we may have to canvas again.

Another committee focus have been improving local facilities – from checking grit bins are full to supporting the excellent revamp of the Island-wide email list. We are planning more in the coming year, perhaps planting more daffodils on the riverbank and perhaps contributing to oral history projects.

And, of course, there are the ever popular social events and neighbourhood get togethers to organise. If you haven't come to one yet, we hope to meet you at the next one – they are always advertised in the newsletter.

Christmas tea lights on the towpath

The rain held off, no one fell in or nicked the Christmas tree and we had enough mulled wine, sausages and spiced red cabbage to go round (despite not knowing how many people would turn up). Thanks in particular to Donata, Veronika and Maureen for helping to organize, cook and lend bits of equipment, and to those of you who bought cakes and mince pies. People said it was a great success and suggested that next year we do it again, and this time with carols.

Residents email list

From Bob Lawrence: The new OIRA email service went live on Wednesday 20th January. We now have over 90 subscribers signed up with only a handful still to accept the invitations that have gone out since late December. The biggest benefits of the new system include:- simpler system administration, which will mean a system much easier to pass on to a successor administrator; a web page that may be used to read/reply/post messages to the OIRA list, though this is only available for subscribers with a Gmail account; a comprehensive subscribers database; a proper archival system for all messages sent to the list. Once the list goes live the old system will be abandoned.

Update from Osney Lock Hydro

From Saskia Huggins: After the long dry summer, the hydro finally came into its own this autumn, generating up to 1000 kWh a day of electricity – equivalent to the average daily electricity usage of 100 homes.

Work has continued on site with the installation of a viewing window and the first section of balustrade. A team of local volunteers has also planted native hedging, donated by the Woodland Trust.

We are now making funding applications to raise the money needed to complete the hard landscaping, including the second section of balustrade, which will enable us to open up the site to the public during daylight hours.

In the meantime local residents are invited to join us for a guided tour – please contact us at info@osneylockhydro.org.uk to arrange a tour or with any questions you have about the hydro.

Osney Island Refugee Support Group

One of the most significant development in 2015 was the arrival of millions refugees in Europe, including the UK. Leaving aside politics, this was (and still is) a humanitarian crisis that demands urgent action. For this purpose, it was proposed to form a Osney Island Refugee Support Group with the aim of collecting clothing, food and other materials for refugees. Initial inquiries however showed that organising such direct help is difficult to accomplish and not particularly cost effective, though there are many ways one can help refugees indirectly, perhaps best by giving money to one of the large refugee charities, such as OXFAM or the RED CROSS. The largest Oxford based refugee charities are ASYLUM WELCOME and OXFORD CITY OF SANCTUARY. If anyone is interesting in following up the idea of setting up a local charity under the IORA umbrella, please do not hesitate to contact Georg Deutsch, 4 Bridge Street, tel. 728050 or jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk.

Allotment news

Seed potatoes have arrived in the shop. All pre-orders are ready to be collected and paid for. Prices vary according to variety. Loose potatoes (Charlotte, Maris Piper and Kestrel varieties) are for sale from £1.10 per kg.

We need more volunteers to help out in the allotment shop on occasional Sunday mornings. An excellent opportunity to get to know other allotmenteers, keep up with the news and support your allotment association. If you have any queries about what might be involved please call Sally on 721596 or Felicity on 251212.

The date for this year's AGM is Wednesday 6 April at WOCA. Times and paperwork will be sent out nearer the date.

LOCAL HISTORY

Growing up in Osney

Chapter 4 of an on-going contribution from John Gaisford.

The Thames was our own personal swimming pool and fishing spot. Most days in the summer months,

hordes of us gathered on the bank stretching from what we called the Red Bridge down to Osney Lock. Spectators on the bridge used to throw in money for us to dive and retrieve as we leaped into the river. Just try that today! The electricity station provided the warm water for our baths: we could actually swim under the outlets into the station - only to get told off. When there was a 'r' in the month it was a tin bath in front of the coal fire. We had our own diving board on the corner opposite The Waterman's pub (now The Punter). Scary moments involved me being pulled out of the Thames by Jackie Johns and in another incident, being rescued from the small weir just before Osney Bridge by Ken Rivers which saved me from going through the arches and down stream to North Street and beyond. Many a fine day was spent in and around Willow Walk too. It was the main through-route to the 'pool' at the end of North Hinksey Lane, Raleigh Park and Hen Wood.

IN FOCUS

Osney artists and makers: Bob Summers

As part of a new occasional series Beverley Lear (East Street) is finding out more about artists and makers living in the local area. We start with an interview with greenwood worker and basket maker Bob Summers (Bridge Street). If you would like to take part and tell OIRA about what you do please contact bev@learassociates.co.uk or elizabeth@newberyandengland.com

How long have you been making baskets Bob?

Well, I didn't actually start with baskets! About 20 years ago, I saw an advert for greenwood courses and I'd always fancied having a go at that. The first thing I made was a shaving horse, then I made a pole lathe and progressed onto making chairs. All that was before we moved to Bridge Street in 2006. I've always thought of basket making as being an allied craft, but in truth I hadn't really intended to take it up when I did – a few years ago Louise enrolled on a six week basket making course but quickly found it wasn't for her and so I took her place. Since then it's become quite an interest. I am a member of the Oxfordshire Basketmakers which is the largest group of its kind in the country. I've met lots of friends and learnt from some of the few remaining people making traditional styles of basket.

What do you make your baskets with?

Willow, the same as grows locally, however it needs to be carefully harvested and come from managed stock, so I buy my supplies from Somerset. I also do quite a lot of rush work. I started that as it is a traditional material used for seating the greenwood chairs and stools, but I also use it to make table mats and small containers.

Looking around at the various baskets hanging from the ceiling here in your house on Bridge Street, I'm amazed by all the different shapes and styles - do you have any favourites?

Well, most of them are Irish skibs which are rather like trays and were traditionally used to strain and serve

potatoes. But the Welsh Cynetell – a type of farm basket built on a round or oval frame and has a rounded bottom - is perhaps my favourite. It's simple in shape but there were only 2 people left who knew how to make them, so I'm proud to have learnt to make them and give some chance that the knowledge will be saved. You might also be interested in an ash splint basket that I made last year – it's a real 'cross-over' with the green woodworking as its literally made from a log. Again only a few people know how to make these and fortunately the Oxford Basketmakers were able to run a course to show people how.

It seems that each and every basket has the potential to tell a story! Where can people see your work?

I quite often exhibit and sell at various arts & craft exhibitions locally, but I'm not able to accept commissions at the present time as I'm busy learning how to do seat caning!

ST FRIDESWIDE'S CHURCH

For times of regular services and other information, please visit our websites at <http://osneybenefice.org.uk/StF> and <http://osneybenefice.org.uk/StM>

BITS AND BOBS

Accommodation wanted

Family of 4 looking for a house to rent in the Osney/West Oxford area. We're former Islanders and have lived in this area for 15 years.

We're looking for a long term let in an unfurnished house. We're non smokers, have no pets and need min 3 bedrooms. If you can help please contact us on 426169.

For sale

Small IKEA computer desk, birch effect and white, W 77cm D 50cm H 76cm, pull out shelf for keyboard/laptop storage. With matching filing cabinet W 36cm D 50cm H 70cm; two drawers, plus one for hanging files. Both good but not perfect condition. On castors so could wheel to their new home. Please take as a pair!

Small set of 10 drawers in grey metal W 28cm D 41 cm H 71 cm. Again, good but not perfect condition. No casters but not heavy especially if drawers are removed.

Please call Stephen or Fiona on 201334 if you would like to see/collect these. First come first served.

Classes: Interested in politics and economics?

If so, would you like to join a local discussion/study group based in West Oxford? Through discussion and study in a supportive environment, our aim is to equip ourselves to be able better to question mainstream economic ideas. So far, we have based our discussions around a text (eg. 'What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets' by Michael Sandel and '23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism' by Ha-Joon Chang). We try to relate our discussions to current political issues. For further information, please contact Linda (linda.arch@gmx.co.uk). If you want to discuss with an Island resident please contact Steve Lynam at 11 South Street or on 0201334.

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. Make sure you use the most up to date list!

New entry

Hansons Plumbing and Heating, 01865 244172. 'Came the same day I called and in less than half an hour fixed a leak that the previous plumber had said would require hours of work'.

Barry, an excellent and very nice hairdresser who comes to the house and is very reasonably priced 01865 400717 / 07860 895364.

Baby kit

Baby kit for hire 01235 28008 www.babycomes2.co.uk

Bicycles and accessories

Jon Wyver 07842901873; info@oxbicycles.co.uk www.oxbicycles.co.uk (will deliver and pick up in Oxford free of charge)

Building and roof repairs

Everest Roofing Ltd 01865 8816856 enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk

Chimney sweep

Martin Simmonds: 07762 816185 enquiry@ashlogs.com www.ashlogs.com (also supplies ash logs)
Dennis Northcott 01235 526617

Cleaners

C&S Cleaning Services 01865 872395

Computers

Bill Richardson 01865 376100 bill@macfaction.co.uk (apple macs)
Mac Simple 01865 580886/07974 321064 www.macsimple.co.uk; API Computing 07964 796007
Judy Dendy 07554 660468 www.computerdendy.co.uk (lessons and basic troubleshooting)

Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd 01865 742144

Electricians

RJB Electrical 01865 882723 /07711 934348; (rewires and new installations)
DEC Electricians 01865 725453
Jamie Cooke 07775 700300 JC.Electrical@hotmail.com
Baldwin Appliances 01865 377484 www.baldwinappliances.com

Exterior and interior decorators

Andrew Turner 07591 491 804 (repaints masonry, front door and windows)
Victor Szigeti: 07799 143205 (interior and exterior painting also skimmed plaster work)
Dave Buckle 01865 848630
Steve Brierty 01491 836762/0785 0357414
Rob Bennett 0790 5819310

Flooring and general carpentry

Amazon Flooring 07899 918015

Footcare in your home

Angie Ward 07796 881157 angiefootcare@gmail.com, (visits people in their home nail cutting, corns, verruca, fungal treatment, massage etc)

Gardening Services

Oxford Garden Solutions 01235 201823/0755 498 7911(tree surgery)

David Morris 01865 725875 (gardening maintenance and some diy).

Eric Bake 07591157 180 (garden maintenance, sheds, fencing etc)

A.P. Van Olsen Oxfordshire Gardens & Dry Stone Walls 01865 552036/07860 334871

www.oxfordshiregardens.co.uk

Jason info@oxfordgardenservices.co.uk (tree surgery)

General builders

Chris Willis 07974 155 638 (general building work/ carpentry e.g. (re)hanging doors, laying patios, decking, associated painting/decorating, kitchen/bathroom fitting

R.P. Lepper 01993 882522 /07801 364817 (building specialist, carpentry and joinery)

Mark Mavrommatis 07970 974792 (installs new windows, repairs old ones)

Brian French 07957 315303 (local general builder and plasterer takes on small jobs)

Green Builders and Installers

Next Generation Renewable Energy Ltd. 01993 810130 office@ngre.co.uk. ‘

JoJu Solar 0800 0542 977 www.jojusolar.co.uk

Energy My Way 0845 371 3181 www.energymyway.co.uk

Handymen

Jon Butt 07766 144116

Andrew Russell 01865 453497/07977 837675; (painting, decorating and garden maintenance)

Sid Siddle 01865 25179/ 07757 214 301 the.read.setter@gmail.com (shelves, carpentry)

Brian Hill 01295 670276/07742010892

Home hairdressers

Sally Horton 07815 445229

Nadine Wright 07824660184

Kitchen fitters

Benchmark kitchens 01865 372372

Jashim Hussain of Ultragranite, 01865 407555 www.ultragranite.co.uk,

Locksmith

Davies Hardened Security 01865 371816/07711 625092

Logs

Logsforall.co.uk (ideal for smaller woodburners/ fireplaces)

Oven Cleaning

Wayne mob: 0791 7785 906 (doesn't use chemicals)

Plumbing and tiling

Nick Barker mob: 07810 356710

Plumbing and heating

Ivan Kilbee 01235 847527 /07771 787585

APV Boiler Services 01865 377264

J. Smith 01993 778244/07790 961395

Removals

A G Jacob and Sons 07977 963929

House and Carriage 01608 811444/07769 585988

Sewing services

Ann Paver 01865 249129 (soft furnishing including drapes, curtains but not upholstery)

Maria Skoyles 01865 721460/0759 0264 246 (sewing, repairs and alterations)

Wellbeing

Elizabeth Elliott 07866 759669 (Thai massage, Chinese bodywork & acupuncture)

Window cleaning

Paul Smith 0797 9692 895

Wood burning stove fitters

Lee Hill 01865 787 940 (HETAS approved)

OIRA COMMITTEE

Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 jude@judecarroll.co.uk (Chair, gazebos, Welcome Pack); Georg Deutsch (Secretary) 4 Bridge St, tel: 728050 jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk; Maureen Egeneli 24 East St; Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South St tel: 247737 (notice board); Bob Lawrence 42 West St tel: 792358; Veronika Lucas veronikalukacs@yahoo.com tel: 07746 712609; Stephen Lynam (Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334 stephenrodgerlynam@gmail.com; Elizabeth Newbery (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360 elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; Gareth Strange 102 Bridge st 727680; Jula 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 22 February at 24 East St @ 8pm. Committee meetings are by invitation only. If you'd like to raise an issue please contact the Chair, Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 jude@judecarroll.co.uk. 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 1 March 2016. 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.

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

Tel. no.

Request