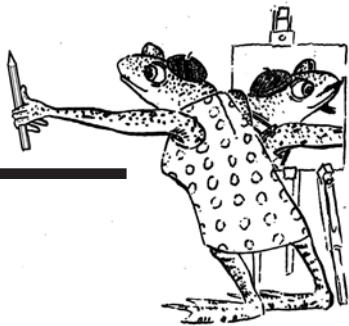


Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

osneyisland.wordpress.com
January/February 2018



Happy New Year Everybody! And a special welcome to newcomers to the Island.

COMING UP

West Oxford Academy

From Susan Hutchinson: Back on Tuesday 23 January for another term of quirky, learned and surprising talks. The academy has been going for more than 10 years now, with Osney Islanders contributing many wonderful talks. Every speaker's enthusiasm for their subject has been infectious. It is often the case that the less I know about a subject, the more interesting I've found the talk and discussion. I go along thinking, 'how can that possibly be interesting?' only to find out that it is! I still need a couple more talks to complete this term's programme so if you, a friend, or neighbour, could contribute please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

If you are curious about the Academy and would like to find out more please contact me, Susan Hutchinson, on allat42@gmail.com or phone 428323.

Island Events 2018

At the time of going to press the Committee has not yet met to discuss events for 2018 but at least three houses will be open in during Oxford Artweeks in May showcasing the talents and skills of Osney Island artists and crafts people.

Got a good idea for a local event? Contact a committee member – details at the end of the newsletter.

ISLAND NEWS AND VIEWS

Christmas 2017

Island get togethers at Christmas continue to grow from strength to strength. I remember when I first came to the Island about 20 years ago, Joyce Chalmers and I tried to organise carol singing. It was cold and wet and no one turned up so Joyce and I went to the pub instead.

The annual children's lantern parade attracted lots of families who toured the Island singing carols. It was a lovely start to the Christmas season. Special thanks go to Debbie for organizing it and to those of you who offered the children refreshments on the way round.

Despite snow and ice the annual Tealights on the Towpath 2017 went ahead. About 80 people including around 20 children braved the cold and enjoyed sausages, red cabbage and mulled wine while exchanging greeting and gossip. Many, many thanks to Veronika,

Karen, Donata, Joyce and Maureen for serving, and to Brian for organizing the tree.

On Sunday lunchtime before Christmas, St Frideswide choir – several of whom are Islanders – sung carols at Waitrose raising money for various charities and lifting the spirits of all who heard them.

'Cycling up a mountain'

Intrepid cyclist Robert Lawrence describes his astonishing ride to Mount Ventoux in Provence.

'An early morning flight to Nice, the bike reassembled at the airport, left onto the Promenade des Anglais and my tour was underway. Once clear of the seaboard, Provence runs out of flat roads and the scenery rolls spectacularly. I was on my way north-west to the town of Sault at the foot of Mont Ventoux, the 'Géant de Provence'. It was the week of the 50th anniversary of the death of Tom Simpson, the British cyclist who died on the mountain in the 1967 Tour de France. I've been fascinated by Simpson and Ventoux ever since I went there in 1988 to ride a randonnée in his memory. From Nice, overnight stops in Grasse, Aiguines and Manosque. Between Grasse and Aiguines is the Gorge du Verdon, a river canyon, 25 kilometres long and up to 700 metres deep, with stunning views from two roads rising to over 1000 metres and running either side of the Verdon river. Not to be missed! One hundred and sixty miles from Nice and I'd reached my base at Sault. From here the summit of Ventoux appears a distant moonscape of limestone rock, a 26 kilometre climb away from its eastern flank to an altitude of 1911 metres. This is the 'easy' way up. There are two other ascents. The hardest, a 21 kilometre climb from the village of Bédoin from the south, and a climb of similar length from Malaucène to the north-west. The climb from Bédoin is unrelenting, an average of 9% gradient, and generally seriously hot in the summer months. And if it isn't hot it's windy – hence the mountain's name. Here, one kilometre from the summit, sick with a stomach ailment, suffering from dehydration and heat exhaustion, undone by amphetamines, Simpson collapsed and died by the road side, his team aides and the Tour doctor unable to save him. Along with friends from West Oxford, we rode all three climbs over a four day period. Unforgivingly hard, unforgettably exhilarating as the summit is reached, the views breathtaking. And on the descent, respects paid at the Simpson memorial at the spot where he fell, the granite stone, etched with Simpson's profile, decorated with bidons, tyres, spent inner tubes, and caps in tribute. Time to turn for home. From Sault a return to Nice via

the hamlet of Reillanne, the right bank of Verdon, shade temperatures of almost 40°C, and the lovely town of Castellane. At Nice I caught the night train to Paris, a throwback to a lost age of rail adventure, the service basic but astonishingly cheap - 60€ for me, my bike, and a bunk! - hopelessly uneconomic to run, and sadly destined for closure from December.'

In 2015 I gave a talk entitled 'Tom Simpson and Mont Ventoux: Man, Mountain, and Myth' at the West Oxford Academy. Copies of an essay I wrote in preparation available on request by email to robert.lawrence@uclmail.net



Robert at the summit of Mount Ventoux

A fruitful partnership

Those of you have allotments will know of the sterling work members of the Allotment Committee do at both the Twenty Pound Meadow and Botley Meadow sites (over the road and further down the Botley Road respectively for newcomers to the Island) organizing trips to the dump, work parties and monitoring the plots. Others may not know about of the partnerships between the allotments and the Oxford Probation Service. Here, Jude Carroll describes the win-win situation.

'Keeping the allotments opposite Osney Island in some kind of order is a challenge but thankfully, for more than a year, we have had help. Every week, the Probation Service sends a group who have been allocated community service hours because of convictions. They clear and dig over unrented plots, paint things, mow the grass, strim weeds and generally live up to a 'community service' – a contribution to us all and to the allotments in particular. Benefits go in both directions. Many just tick off the hours but a few learn new skills and several take on their own plots. One or two discover a passion for mowing or strimming. Some are amazed to discover that allotments even exist or to see vegetables actually growing in the ground. And some are just surprised

by everything. I once picked two apples, bit into mine and offered the other to the young man who was working alongside me. He refused it with a shudder. Eat something straight off a tree? Yuk! Our thanks go to the many who have worked for us and to the Probation Service for organising and supervising the teams. We hope for many more years of fruitful cooperation.'

Want an allotment? Contact secretary@westoxfordallotments.org.

Red Kites over Osney

From Anna Truelove: Before my mother died in 2010 she spent three years in residential care in Henley and I drove over frequently to take her out, adding interest to the journeys by counting the number of red kites – the record was 20, including a group of 5 circling over a house in the town. Red Kites have been re-introduced into the Chilterns 2007 and 2010 and it was apparent that they were spreading out towards Oxford. I spotted them over Nuneham Courteney, then over Sainsbury's at Heyford Hill, then over the Health Centre in Cowley and the Co-op in Botley, and then a solitary bird over Bridge Street.

Red kites re-established themselves so successfully that there was talk of culling them in a reversal of policy. After Mum's death I failed to see any red kites over Oxford and began to wonder if a cull had indeed taken place. But just the other day a red kite was flying over Bridge Street.

Fancy a pint?

From Robert Lawrence: Why not try Tap Social? This is a friendly West Oxford craft brewery and retail outlet, selling draft and bottled beer in a community space that looks uncannily like a warehouse on a Trading Estate. Tap Social is different. It was founded in 2016 and is a social enterprise. Its key motivation - aside from brewing excellent and very distinctive beer - is to provide 'training courses for people serving prison sentences' and supporting them towards the goal of permanent employment. Presumably that's why it brews and serves 'criminally good beer'. Which means you can drink to help fund a laudable enterprise and feel good about it. Tap Social is currently open on Fridays and Saturdays, between 4pm and 11pm, and features live music, events, and food. A recent successful crowdfunding initiative promises a refurbishment of the premises and extended opening times. But back to the beer ... these include curiously named pale ales and dark ales but my favourites are the sour beers - the model is the Belgian 'Gueuze' lambic beers - though asking for a pint of Big Boy Pants or Bleeding Heart Numbskulls does feel a little outrageous. Tap Social is at 27 Curtis Industrial Estate, North Hinksey Lane (www.tapsocialmovement.com).

St Frideswide's with Binsey

We are very pleased to announce that the Revd Kate Seagrave has been appointed to serve as mission priest to set up and lead the Bishop of Oxford's new St Frideswide Mission Community which will operate across the City of Oxford. For more information, please visit our website at <https://osneybenefice.org.uk/content/st-frideswide-mission-projects>

St Frideswide's Church

We have lots planned for the year ahead, so please do

watch this space, connect with us on Facebook and check out the noticeboards outside the church. Over the next few weeks we have:

Exploring faith An opportunity to explore faith from the Christian perspective in a very relaxed setting. Every Tuesday in January 8-9pm at WOCC. (Apart from the 16th, when we'll be in the Punter!)

Children's service We are excited to be launching a service especially for children and their families on Sunday 28th Jan, 3pm. If you liked the Crib service, you'll love this!

Concerts Continuing from the wonderful programme last year, there will be a number of concerts being held in the church in 2018. Keep an eye on the noticeboard/ Facebook/ our website for details as they are announced nearer the time.

Trees in St Frideswide's Churchyard We have had a dangerous ash tree removed from the corner of our churchyard close to the bridge and the pavement. This is because of a deep split in the trunk, and was done on the advice of the City Tree Officer. We are now considering what to do about the horse chestnut trees alongside the bus stop and the pavement: some of the branches have become dangerous. We will gather suggestions, and then consult widely before getting the final work done. We are currently talking with the RHS to get technical advice on replanting. Donations to help cover the cost of managing the trees would be welcome. A fundraising site is being constructed and, once complete, details of how to reach it will be announced.

If you would like to use St Frideswide's Church to host an activity, please let us know by sending an email to osneybenefice@outlook.com

At the east end of the church we have an area where ashes can be buried. If you would like to find out more, please contact osneybenefice@outlook.com

If you would like to join us, you can find the times of our regular services, information about our choir, and other information on our website at <http://osneybenefice.org.uk> All are warmly welcome to our weekly 10.30am service.

New kids on the block

Congratulations to Rachel and Tom from Bridge Street on the birth of Henry Hallett on 31st October.

Arthur Orion Williams (68 Bridge St) born on 20th September at the JR.

Island email list- a success story

From Robert Lawrence: Just a few words and a reminder about one aspect of our mail service. At the close of the year we have 186 residents subscribed to the list, which I hope continues to provide a convenient way to communicate with your fellow subscribers. We've had exchanges on a wide variety of topics in 2017 - 8 West Street, horse chestnut trees, Seacourt Park and Ride, air pollution, various items to buy/sell, stuff from our friends across the Botley Road in ACRA, and even a delightful dialogue about the names of our neighbourhood cats. Long may this continue. Also a special thank you to Susanna for keeping us apprised

of council business and for responding so quickly to the many questions we've asked of her.

Finally, one more thing about moderation. Since the list was originally opened for business on 20/01/2016, 1000 messages have been sent and moderated. I think that's one more indication of the list's utility. So, thank you, once again, to everyone who has posted.

If you haven't subscribed yet, why not do so now by sending a join request to the list manager at osiramanager@gmail.com.

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); County Council tel: 792422; Councillor Susanna Pressel, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: clrrspressel@oxford.gov.uk; City Councilors: Colin Cook, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: clrrccook@oxford.gov.uk and Susanna (as above). For a crime in progress tel: 999; for all other police matters tel: 101. Highway enquiries, bus passes, parking permits, street lighting, travel advice tel: 0845 634 4466. West Oxford Community Centre tel: 245761. Furniture recycling (Emmaus) tel: 763698. The best way to report things to the two councils is via www.oxford.gov.uk and www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

THE DIRECTORY UPDATED 2018

Anna Truelove has nobly undertaken to check all the existing contacts on the Directory – so this now bang up-to-date. A reminder for those new to the Island that it 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.

New entry

Mark Morris, 5 Simmore Road, Botley 07970 342375 'an excellent electrician and plumber'

Newsagent delivering to Osney, Mr Patel, Court Candy Shop 01865 515506

Tried and tested

Baby kit

Baby kit for hire 01235 280081 www.babycomes2.co.uk

Bicycles and accessories

Jon Wyver 07842 901873 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 881685 enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk

Carpentry

Lockwood Carpentry: j.everett.lwc@gmail.com, tel. 07597 952381

Amazon Flooring: Steve on 07899 918015 (wood flooring and general carpentry)

Car repairs

Oxon Autos in Grove near Wantage 07899 762949, email oxon.autos@live.co.uk

Chimney sweep

Martin Simmonds: 07762 816185 enquiry@ashlogs.com; www.ashlogs.com (also supplies ash logs)

Cleaners

C&S Cleaning Services 01865 872395/07824 159855

Computers

Bill Richardson 01865 376100 bill@macfaction.co.uk (Apple Macs)

Mac Simple 01865 580886/07974 321064 www.macsimple.co.uk

Judy Dendy 07554 660468 www.computerdendy.co.uk (lessons and basic troubleshooting)

Bill Baxter, The Animated Laser Company 07774 412944
bill@animatedlaser.co.uk.

Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd (in Beckley) 01865 742144

Electricians

RJB Electrical 01865 882723/07711 934348 (rewires and new installations)

DEC Electricians 01865 725453 mail@decoxford.co.uk www.dec-oxfordltd.co.uk

Jamie Cooke 07775 700300 jc.electrical@hotmail.com

Baldwin Appliances 01865 377484 www.baldwinappliances.com (repairs to white goods, new appliances)

Exterior and interior decorators

Andrew Turner 07591 491804 (repaints masonry, front doors and windows)

Dave Buckle 01865 848630/07831 712872

Steve Brierty 07850 357414

Rob Bennett 07905 819310

Sam Gordon (plasterer) 07976 516941

Footcare in your home

Angie Ward 07796 881157 angiefootcare@gmail.com (nail cutting, corns, verruca, fungal treatment, foot massage)

Gardening Services

David Morris 01865 725875

Eric Bake 07756 065045 (garden maintenance, sheds, fencing etc)

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

Jason 07554 987911 info@oxfordgardenservices.co.uk (gardening tree surgery)

Gas fitters

Byron of Sure Gas Boiler Repairs 07899 629629

General builders

Chris Willis 07974 155638 (general building work)

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

Brian French 07957 315303 (local general builder and plasterer, willing to take on small jobs)

Green builders and installers

Next Generation Renewable Energy Ltd. 01993 810130 office@ngre.co.uk (installation and maintenance of solar panels, heat pumps etc)

JoJu Solar 0800 0542 977 www.jojusolar.co.uk (solar panels, battery charging systems)

Energy My Way 0845 371 3181 (solar panels, heat pumps, underfloor heating)

Handymen

Jon Butt 07766 144116

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

Sid Siddle 01865 251795/ 07757 214 301 sid@oddsandsids.co.uk (shelves, carpentry)

Heating

Heatstore in Charlbury (for Defra approved multi-fuel burners) 01608 819088 www.heatstoreltd.co.uk

Remloc Plumbing and Heating Ltd 01235 536345/07709 961655 (large and small jobs)

Home hairdressers

Sally Horton 07815 445229

Nadine Wright 07824660184

Barry 07860 895364

Locksmith

Davies Hardened Security 01865 371816/07711 625092

Logs

Logsforall.co.uk (ideal for smaller wood burners/fireplaces)

Oven Cleaning

Wayne 07917 785906 (doesn't use chemicals)

Pests

Avenge 01865 246195/07879 405060 (from deer to bed bugs)

Plumbing and heating

Ivan Kilbee 07771 787585 ivankilbee@lineone.net

APV Boiler Services 01865 377264/07836 212502 apvboilerservice@btinternet.com

Jules Jones (formerly Smith) 01993 778244/07790 961395 reallygoodplumbing@outlook.com

Removals and storage

A G Jacob and Sons 01865 762524/07977 963929 www.agjacobandson.co.uk

House and Carriage 01608 811444/07769 585988 info@houseandcarriage.com

Sewing services

Maria Skoyles 01865 721460/07590 264246 (dressmaking, repairs and alterations, soft furnishing)

Stone work surfaces and tiles

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

Window cleaning

Mark Jennings 01865 848904/07773 159198

Wood burning stove fitters

Lee Hill 01865 787940/07732 864441 (HETAS approved)

OIRA COMMITTEE

Joyce Chalmers Chair; Maureen Egeneli 24 East St tel: 244480/07816 580 990; Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South St tel: 247737 (Notice board); Robert Lawrence (Residents' email list) 42 West St tel: 792358; Veronika Lukacs veronikalukacs@yahoo.com t: 07746712609; Stephen Lynam (Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; stephenrodgerlynam@gmail.com; Elizabeth Newbery (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360 elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; Karen Schoenenamm 07718 632742; Gareth Strange 102 Bridge St 727680; Julia Turner (Treasurer) 102 Bridge St tel: 07971 881 258; Anna Truelove 83 Bridge St. tel: 245496.

Gazebos

If you would like to borrow the gazebos, bunting and tables please contact Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247.

Welcome Pack

New to the Island? Contact Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 for a free welcome pack with loads of useful local information.

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

Notice board

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

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Monday Jan 15 @ 8pm at 24 East St. Committee meetings are by invitation only. If you'd like to raise an issue please contact the Chair, Joyce Chalmers 22 East St or Stephen Lynam (Vice Chair) 11 South St tel 201334 stephenrodgerlynam@gmail.com; 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 February 28. 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.