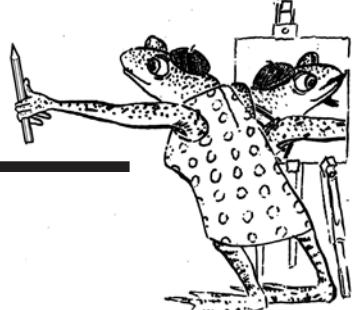


Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter



osneyisland.org.uk
Summer 2019

COMING UP

Allotments

A reminder that Rent Day is on the first three Sundays in September 10-12 at the shop.

The end of season event will take place at the end of October with a bonfire. Look on the allotment noticeboards for more details. The last coffee morning of this season is Sunday 1 Sept. Homemade cakes and good coffee from 10.30 onwards: £1 – a bargain. Everyone whether you've got an allotment or not is welcome.

The Holly Bush opens in October

From James White and the Charles Wells Brewery: The works have begun and the transformation to your new community pub is underway. The Holly Bush is due for launch in the early weeks of October. Ahead of the launch, we would like to invite you to a free tasting of nibbles and off menu tasters with an opportunity to meet the team including General Manager, Alev and our talented Head Chef, Davide. So, we hope you can join us on Tuesday 17th September from 6 – 8 pm at our sister site, The Oxford Blue on Marston Street, OX4 1JU. We would love to hear your thoughts on what you would like to see in your new local and how we can be involved in the local community. Please RSVP via email to James.White@wellsandco.com Nearer to opening night we will invite all Osney residents prior to opening to the public – watch this space! To keep up to date with how works are progressing you can follow us @hollybush.osney <https://www.facebook.com/hollybush.osney/>

Osney Chatty Wednesdays

From Eli Harriss: I've now hosted two Osney Chatty Wednesdays - every third Wednesday of the month, 7.30-10pm, currently meeting at the Punter - to encourage neighbours to come along and meet each other. I am pleased to report them a success! Five of us met in June, and there were 9 of us who met in July (or 11, if you included two who turned up by chance after the 10pm mark!). Bridge, West, and Swan Streets have been well represented so far. Topics of conversation have included local Island matters, national and international politics, online dating, old railway lines in Oxford, and the quality of Oxford pubs. I encourage you to come along and have a drink! I'll be at the table with the battered Panama and red hats, and possibly a non-Islander friend, from 7.30-10 on: 21st August; 18th September; 16th October; 20th November and 18th December. Eli.Harriss.gekh2@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas Tealights on the Towpath

Tealights will take place on December 15. Details of the children's lantern parade with carols will appear in the Autumn newsletter out in November.

Summer 2020

Heads up for next summer: we hope to have at least four venues open on the Island during

Oxford Artsweeks (16-26 May) with associated events. Open Gardens and Teas on the Towpath will take place on Sunday June 28 so that gardeners can open their gardens when roses are in full bloom.

In 2019, Teas and Open Gardens raised £407.87 which goes towards the cost of printing this newsletter. A plea for help – ok a threat: Maureen Ergeneli, who has run Teas and Tealights on the Island for many years from her kitchen on East St, has retired from the event. We desperately need someone to run with it (with support from other helpers of course). If no one comes forward this popular event will collapse! Contact Maureen on 07816 580990 maukie24@icloud.com if you can help.

ISLAND NEWS AND VIEWS

Silent skies

Mick Bayliss in East Street is our resident bird expert – he even helps David Attenborough out. Mick has kindly agreed to write a regular spot on birds for the newsletter. Here he describes the noticeable absence of swifts above Osney this year.

During the first four days of May there is a growing anticipation of the arrival of the very first swifts in the skies above Osney. In the main, this species is a truly urban bird seeking a hole or crevice to raise a brood in the Victorian buildings that surround us. Numbers build up rapidly as new migrants arrive from African wintering grounds until they collect and swarm around the rooftops with infectious screams of delight while offering great entertainment in their aerial agility. The banks and swerves by tight groups over canyons of brick streets can hardly go unnoticed or be overlooked. Such doyens of the air reflect their ability to remain airborne for most of their lives- even sleeping on the wing.

But this year, the skies were empty of swifts for most of May and it was not until May 12 that the first one was seen. Unseasonable severe weather over the Mediterranean in May (when Corsica had snow) may have held them up. Eventually, five birds were spotted on a warm summer evening on June 29. In over 50 years of living in the neighbourhood, I've not recorded such a paucity of sightings. Sadly, the UK population has fallen 45-50% over the past 20 years. The RSPB suggest that home improvements have led to a decrease in available nest sites. But there are specially designed nest boxes available which may redress the balance if used sufficiently. This year will probably not witness the scores of young birds joyously

crowding the skies in August. Will it be like this next year... silence again?

Next up kites over cuckoos?



Swifts

Homemade rhubarb cordial

The latest in our occasional recipe for allotment produce.

You will need:

2 kg rhubarb
2 large oranges or 3 lemons
8 whole star anise
600-1200g granulated sugar depending on taste
citric acid (available from Boswells)

- Put the rhubarb in a large pan and add approx. 1.5 litres of cold water (don't cover it completely because it will dilute the flavor too much) and approx. 4 or so strips of orange or lemon peel or both.
- Bring to the boil, turn down heat and simmer gently until the rhubarb is soft. Cool.
- Pour everything into a large jelly bag and allow to drip overnight.
- Pour the juice into a pan and add the sugar. Stir until the sugar has dissolved.
- Add two teaspoons of citric acid if you want to store it for a couple of months.
- Pour into sterilised bottles. Great diluted with Prosecco. Cheers!

St Frideswide's Church

During summer, we are keeping the church open as much as possible. Generally, the doors are open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, and for silent prayer on a Tuesday evening. We have started a service at 12.30pm on Wednesday lunchtimes. This is a short, said service of Holy Communion lasting about 30 mins with plenty of time after

for personal prayer. Saturday Stitch continues in the church, 10-12 (breaking on 17th and 24th August). Bring your own craft project. We will be starting to cross-stitch our new church kneelers in September, so do drop in to add a stitch or two to the project!

Our children's service starts again on Wednesday 11th September at 11am for songs, prayers, bible stories and crafts suitable for pre-schoolers and their carers. osneybenefice@outlook.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: 285770 (daytime) 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

Need a builder?

In response to a recent email quest for a builder, Veronica Strang suggests the following.

1 If you want a contractor for a large task:
Mike Shepheard; MJ Construction, Silverlea, Oxford Road, Frilford Heath, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 5NN Email: mjconstruction@hotmail.co.uk Tel 07834 321274.
He renovated numbers 5 and 6 East Street and, though he was rather slow to finish, they were pretty happy with him.

2 When I was looking for someone to do my place in East St, Pearce Alder recommended Rob Cassetari very highly. I have met him and his team and they came across very well.

Rob Cassetari NORTH HINKSEY BUILDERS
10, Yarnells Hill, North Hinksey, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 9EY Email: robnhc@virginmedia.com
Tel: 01865 242312 M 07977 152884 M 07900 881511.

3 If you just want a smaller building job done, I had a good experience recently with:
Sabri Canaku plastering, rendering, tiling, wooden floors, kitchen and bathroom fitting, fencing, patios, loft conversion. Email: SabriCanaku76@gmail.com
Tel: 07376 921483.

Anna Truelove mentioned another builder to me recently, who she says has always done good work for her:
Mike Surplice Witney Tel: 01993 883071 or 07966 074031.

THE DIRECTORY

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

Mike Surplice Witney 01993 883071 / 07966 074031.

Mike Shepheard; MJ Construction (large tasks), Silverlea, Oxford Road, Frilford Heath, Abingdon, Oxon OX13 5NN
mjconstruction@hotmail.co.uk 07834 321274.

Rob Cassettari NORTH HINKSEY BUILDERS
10 Yarnells Hill, North Hinksey, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 9EY robnhc@virginmedia.com 01865 242312 / 07977 152884 / 07900 881511.

Sabri Canaku (plastering, rendering, tiling, wooden floors, kitchen and bathroom fitting) fencing, patios, loft conversion. Sabricanaku76@gmail.com 07376 921483.

Carpentry

Lockwood Carpentry: j.everett.lwc@gmail.com, 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)

Ben Renals-Wells 07891 422574

Gas fitters

Byron of Sure Gas Boiler Repairs 07899 629629

General builders

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)

Oxford Refurbed Sash Windows: refurbish the wooden frame and replace the sashes with double-glazed panels
info@sashrefurbcompany.co.uk

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)

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)

Newsagent

Delivers to Osney, Mr Patel, Court Candy Shop 01865 515506.

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

Mark Morris, 5 Simmore Road, Botley 07970 342375

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

Loose covers: Elizabeth Feast 01386 861010.

Stone work surfaces and tiles

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

Window cleaning

Mark Jennings 01865 848904/07773 159198

Michel Temple 07983 767075 Michaeltemple1@outlook.com

Wood burning stove fitters

Lee Hill 01865 787940/07732 864441 (HETAS approved)

Osney Island email list

It's never too late to sign-up to the Island email service. Join up to read and share news and opinion, buy, swap and sell, learn about our social events, and much more! The OIRA (Osney Island Residents Association) email service is free, safe to use, carries no commercial advertising, is restricted to use by its residents only, will never divulge your personal details to a third party, and any message sent to the list is checked for propriety before distribution. So, if you haven't subscribed yet, why not do so now? Send subscription requests to the list manager at osiramanager@gmail.com

Bridge St Noticeboard

Julia Marsh @ 26 Bridge St 247001 is the person to contact to secure a display on the noticeboard beside the letterbox in Bridge St.

Gazebos

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

Welcome Pack

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

A note on the Internet

OIRA website: <https://osneyisland.org.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.

OIRA COMMITTEE

Alison Burdett. alison.burdett@gmail.com (Residents email list); Joyce Chalmers 07837 127883; Maureen Erceneli 07816 580990; Alan Goodwin (Chair) 07765 034918 alan@hilcot.demon.co.uk; Elie Harris gekh2@yahoo.co.uk; Paul Hunter (Planning) paul.hunter@gmail.com; Robert Lawrence 428323; Veronika Lukacs 07746 712609 veronikalukacs@yahoo.com; Jennifer/Nick Meakin (Secretary) jennifermeakin@gmail.com; Elizabeth Newbery (Newsletter) 793360 elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; Karen Schoenemann 07718 632742; Gareth Strange 727680; Julia Turner (Treasurer) 07971 881258; Anna Truelove (Newsletter distribution) 245496.

Next Committee meeting

The next OIRA Committee meeting is Monday 23 Sept @ 8pm at 24 East St. Committee meetings are by invitation only. If you'd like to raise an issue please contact anyone on the Committee. You can find our agenda and minutes on the Bridge Street notice board and on the website.

The Osney Island Newsletter

The newsletter is issued quarterly: February, May, August and November. If you would like to put an item in the November issue contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com or use the tear-off strip below. Photographs of Island events are especially welcome. Copy should be emailed on the last Friday in the preceding month. The last date for copy in the November newsletter is 31 October.

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