

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

osneyisland.org.uk

Winter 2019

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



COMING UP

Christmas carols and children's lantern parade

The annual Osney Island Christmas carol singing and children's lantern parade will be on Sunday 8th December. Meet at 5pm outside the Punter, and bring a lantern if possible. We go around the island singing to anyone who would like a visit - if you would like us to sing outside your house, or if you would like to offer refreshments to the carol singers, then please contact Debbie Hall (debbietheduck@hotmail.com, 07779 295080). Everyone is welcome.

Tealights on the Towpath

This year our lovely Island Christmas event 'Tealights on the Towpath' will take place on the river bank on Sunday 15 December @ 7pm approximately outside no 18 East St. For newcomers, this is an Island get together with mulled wine and warm apple juice for children. Everyone brings a tealight in a jam jar and places it on the bank to mark the edge. Parents with young children should be aware that there will be a couple of open fire pits. If we need to cancel because of bad weather we will notify everyone via the Island email list, otherwise assume it will go ahead as it did last year after it had conveniently finished snowing. Please bring mugs for the mulled wine and apple juice, free courtesy of the Osney Island Residents Association. We'd be really grateful for offers to help with setting up and clearing up after the event, in which case please contact Maureen Ergeneli 07816 580990 or Elizabeth Newbery 077816 268145. If no offers are forthcoming we will CANCEL!

Christmas at St Frideswide

Sunday 8th December 3pm, A short reflective service to remember those we will miss this Christmas

Sunday 22nd December 6pm, Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve 4.30pm, Crib service -Tell the Christmas story with the whole family

Christmas Day 10.30am, Christmas Holy Communion

St Margaret's, Binsey,

Sunday 15th December 3.30pm

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December 9am, Holy Communion (1662)

Christmas Day 9am, Holy Communion (1662)

A reverse Advent Calendar

From Jennifer Meakin: Make someone's Christmas brighter this year. Every day you open your Advent Calendar and enjoy a chocolate think about what might make someone else's Christmas nicer. Grab a box and fill it with Christmassy items such as Christmas pudding, nuts, chocolates, crackers, snacks for children, mince pies etc. Drop it off at the Oxford foodbank at Botley: Unit 12 Curtis Industrial Estate, Oxford OX2 0LX 01865 2364.

ISLAND NEWS AND VIEWS

Osney Chatty Wednesdays

From Elie Harriss: Osney has now seen five Chatty Wednesdays take place at the Punter so chat, and get to know each other. We've met from 7.30-10 on the third Wednesday of the month, and the positive feedback has encouraged me to carry on into 2020. We've talked about Brexit, homelessness, local politics, the roadworks (yes, serious stuff), as well as (literally) fluffier topics, including our cats, past and present!

The next Osney Chatty Wednesday will be hosted by Susan Hutchinson (standing in for Eli) on Wednesday 20th November. I'll resume my duty (sitting at the table with the red hat on it) for the subsequent dates: Wednesday 18th December; 15th January; 19th February. Look out for the emails on the Island mailing list to find out which of the two pubs we'll be meeting at.

The Holly Bush

From James White: The launch of the Holly Bush was a success in our books. Nick and the team would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to everyone for their overwhelming support and positive feedback over the previous 3 – 4 weeks. We would like to be involved in the community as much as possible so please don't hesitate to contact us on 01865 664488 or email info@hollybushoxford.co.uk if you have any ideas or looking for support. Thank you again from the team at the HB.

The Flying Scotsman

From Richard Thurston: Flying Scotsman, the first steam locomotive recorded to have run at 100 mph, visited Oxford in August. Built in 1923 to haul express trains along the East Coast mainline from London Kings Cross, she was retired from regular service in 1963 after travelling just over two million miles. During her service career, a visit to Oxford would have certainly been unusual, but after being preserved, Flying Scotsman travelled much further, heading to the USA and even Australia. The name 'Flying Scotsman' was originally the unofficial name for the train services between London and Edinburgh which departed simultaneously, leaving at 10 o'clock. In 1924, the operator of the railway line, the London and North Eastern Railway Company, named the locomotive after the train service. Ten years later, Flying Scotsman achieved 100mph, the first steam locomotive to do so. During her 1989 Australia tour, she set another record: the longest non-stop run ever by a steam locomotive - travelling 442 miles during a run from Melbourne to Alice Springs. Now restored by the National Railway Museum at a cost of £4.2 million you can find out where she's travelling next by checking here: www.flyingscotsman.org.uk/events/scotsman-on-the-tracks/ Of course, Flying Scotsman doesn't often travel through

Oxford, but from time to time other steam trains do - you can find out when by visiting this website: www.uksteam.info/tours/trs19.htm

Ganesh Chaturthi

This autumn, those of us living in North St/top end of East St were treated to the spectacular festival of Ganesh Chaturthi which honours the birth of the Hindu elephant-headed god, Lord Ganesha. This god is worshipped for his ability to remove obstacles and bring good fortune. The festival with boisterous devotees and lots of loud drumming ended up by the river at the North St /East St junction. Traditionally, local communities compete with each other to put up the most impressive Ganesha statue and display.



Allotment news

From Jude Carroll: This month (November 2019), most allotment concerns and activities are focussed on water. Anyone who visited Twenty Pound Meadow on 11 November would have found plot holders putting plots to 'bed' for the winter. Some might have been reflecting back on the last growing season or, in some cases, planting garlic and broad beans for 2020. I was turning over beds and marvelling at the earthworms. Then the water came in. Within hours, for the first time in more than five years, plots were under water, as was most of the West Oxford land north of the Botley Road. In Twenty Pound Meadow, we were surrounded - the river roared through Tumbling Bay, water seeped up from the ground in the plots along the river and it kept coming from the sky. By the end of the week newcomers had seen their hard work reduced to flotsam and 'old hands' were reassuring them that recovery is possible, depending on how long things stay under water. Ironically, the day the water came in was also the day we collected six donated water storage units from the Botanical Gardens. These six can serve as decanting vessels for moving collected water into two huge barrels, designed to store rainwater and eventually, to collect river water and feed it into watering troughs. The plan is to replace mains water with something more sustainable and we are now ready to move collecting barrels to high platforms and plumb them into the current system. It's hard to remember that dry times will come - though we know they will. Whatever happens, we are grateful for all the care and attention from the many people - including Mark, our Osney lock keeper - who are trying to keep the water moving through.

Osney hydro – and a plea for broken china

From Barbara Hammond: We are now well into our 5th year of operation and after a very frustrating start - 6 months of drought from May 2015! - we have established a good pattern of operation around our average of 188,000 units of electricity generated each year. This is enough to power the annual usage of around 57 typical Osney homes.

With all the wet weather since September, we have had a great start to the winter generating season. But now we are into a period of too much water and you will see that the hydro is going very slowly at the moment. This is because the drop over the weir has pretty much disappeared and so there is very little gravity to turn the screw.

As well as the generation of zero carbon electricity, we are also seeing the growing importance of the educational side of the project. So far in 2019 we have had over 800 visitors to the site including the Lord Mayor of Oxford, the Shadow Energy Minister and the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee.

Next summer, we hope to complete the landscaping of the site, so that we can open it to the public during the day and people can really start to use it as a garden for Osney. As part of this, we are developing a human sundial project and have a local artist making mosaics of local flora and fauna for it. So, we are on the hunt for fragments of china that have turned up in local gardens and allotments to incorporate into the artwork. If you've dug up a fragment of an old plate digging up your spuds, or found a chip of patterned pottery weeding the dahlias we'd love them for our project. Ideally fragments should be flat and relatively thin - patterned items particularly welcome. All fragments hugely appreciated, although apologies in advance if your donation doesn't make it into the finished mosaic, as the pieces used this will be determined by the colour scheme of the final design.

Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project is part of a year long celebration of our community's centuries old relationship with the river. If you have a fragment to donate to the project, please contact Josie at josiewebber8@icloud.com

Dylan Bowen's Christmas sale of pots

Dylan Bowen makes fab ceramics in a lovely old smithy in Tackley. Each year he has a Christmas sale of new pots and seconds with wonderful bargains to be had. This year it's on 6, 7 & 8 Dec 9 -5 pm. www.dylanbowen.co.uk. The Old Smithy, 12 The Green Tackley OX5 3AF 01869 331278.

FixMyStreet

From Alan Goodwin: FixMyStreet is a map-based website and app that makes it really easy and quick to tell their Council (Oxford or Oxfordshire in our case) about problems needing their attention, such as potholes, broken streetlamps, etc. If it isn't actually a Council problem, they can refer it to the relevant utility company or whatever. I used it for the first time recently to report a broken streetlight and a smashed electricity cable cover in North Street. Both had been problems for a while and nothing seemed to be happening, but both were fixed almost immediately once I reported them on FixMyStreet, and I got email updates (optional) during the whole process. An added benefit is that using FixMyStreet saves our hard-

working councillors from unnecessary tasks so they can focus on key issues. You can access the service at: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>.

Swift boxes

From Jocelyn Wogan-Browne: I am grateful to Islander Fiona Ravenscroft who suggested I put up a swift box up while I had scaffolding for the house and grateful to the builders who cheerfully added it into their tasks. We have destroyed 50% of swifts' habitats according to the Royal Bird Society, so we humans owe them some emergency housing. Now we're just waiting for the birds to come, so if anyone knows any swifts looking for a nest, direct them to East St!

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council 249811 (now 24 hours); County Council 792422: Councillor Susanna Pressel, 554001 email: cllrspresel@oxford.gov.uk; City Councilors: Colin Cook 285770 (daytime) 721844 (evening) email: cllrcook@oxford.gov.uk and Susanna (as above). For a crime in progress 999; for all other police matters 101. Highway enquiries, bus passes, parking permits, travel advice 0845 634 4466; street lighting 0800 317802 West Oxford Community Centre 245761. Furniture recycling (Emmaus) 763698. The best way to report things to the two councils is via www.oxford.gov.uk and www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Illegal parking

This is a perennial problem on the Island. If you want to summon the traffic wardens to come and ticket an illegally parked car, please phone 0845 337 1138. They will come at once, if they can.

The best way to report things to the two councils is via www.oxford.gov.uk and www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

THE DIRECTORY

New recommendations

Byron Morris, a Heating Engineer. He is punctual, efficient and clean-up afterwards: Avid Heating, tel 01865 703 303 and email: info@avidheating.co.uk

Cat sitter and feeder

Shirley Gibson, Binsey tel. no. 07510991213 £5 a visit. Very loving and reliable. Has five cats of her own. Works for Shelby and Carole Tucker 723061 and Christ Church.

Babysitter

16 year old girl living on Osney Island who is available for evening babysitting with plenty of experience looking after children. Contact Clementine 07305524076.

Fresh fish

From Robert Lawrence: Kim drives down every Monday from Cleethorpes and delivers to the Island around 6pm. I've always found his stuff excellent and am very happy to recommend him. If you want him to deliver to your door just text him on 07806 602776.

Wanted:

native French speaker

Enthusiastic 14-year-old boy, who very much enjoys learning French, is keen to find native French speaker for extra language and grammar tuition. If you can help please contact Sam Fry on 0777 178 8023.

Tried and tested

Baby kit

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

Bicycles and accessories

Jon Wyer 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 Casettari 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

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

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

APV Boiler Services 01865 377264/07836 212502

apvboilerservice@btinternet.com

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

Mark Morris, 5 Sinmore 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 Skoyles 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 Alan Goodwin on 07765 034918 alan@hilcot.demon.co.uk

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 Egeneli 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; 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 25 Nov @ 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 January /February 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 next newsletter is 31 January.

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