

# Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

## Swift summer

The imminent return of the swifts to Osney has inspired one North Street resident to turn to verse. Here are the opening lines:

Pinpoint acute to naked eye  
 In blue infinity eve May  
 Lightning flicker wing flash across sky  
 Heralds short summer stay.

You can find the full poem on the wildlife page of the website: [osneyisland.org.uk/wildlife-on-osney/](http://osneyisland.org.uk/wildlife-on-osney/)

## Wonderful island life

Tobias Sturmer and Paula Haddock, East Street  
 Something that kept us sane during lockdown was making music videos for friends' birthdays. We came across a version of the song 'It's a wonderful life' and we felt this was a good theme for coming out of lockdown — to appreciate what we have here on the island. We managed to convince 20 islanders to take part in the video on a sunny Sunday which was a real laugh. Little did we know we had such talent on our island! We loved making this with you. We have added a link to raise money for homeless charities who have been working flat out to support those without homes.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=smTJ64F1Rsg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smTJ64F1Rsg)



## Working life

*Two islanders give some insight into their working life.*  
**Andrew Boag, East Street, volunteer at Oxfam Superstore**

The Oxfam Superstore, out near the ring road at Cowley, has to be seen to be believed. It occupies the vast space of a unit on an industrial estate, selling everything from furniture and clothes through to the Oxfam fair-trade range. Sofas, records, pianos, fridges, antiques, you name it, are all beautifully displayed.



I volunteer as a book sorter. I pull out the good-quality volumes we can sell, and the collectables that are passed on to the dedicated Oxfam bookshops or sold online. Anything we can't sell goes for pulping and recycling. I look after books on art, sport, transport and religion. It's satisfying finding valuable items among the donations, and creating inviting book displays.

I also help out at Crisis Skylight, based at the Old Fire Station, which supports homeless people in the city.

*The Oxfam Superstore opened in 2019 and is the only one in the country, based on an idea from Scandinavia. It is hugely successful. Shop donations are currently by appointment. Check the website or Facebook page.*

**Marion Hanbury Brown, Bridge Street, molecular immunologist**

I trained as a biochemist at the University of Sydney, and first visited the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology in Oxford in 1976. It was here that Howard Florey, an Australian, ran the team which developed penicillin. I was overawed by Oxford and did not accept a DPhil position. Fourteen years later, via Southampton, Sydney and London, I returned to Oxford and have been at the Dunn School ever since. I am retiring later this year.

The research of the Medical Research Council Cellular Immunology Unit (MRC CIU) which I joined in 1990 was directed toward identifying and understanding how molecules on the surface of immune cells regulate immune responses. At that time the focus was identification of the genes which encode these molecules. Molecular characterisation of receptors and their binding partners on other cells and inside cells then followed, together with studying their functional effects.

This basic research science has translated into medical advances, particularly the use of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies to treat a variety of conditions, and more recently new approaches to immunotherapy, exploiting the body's own immune system to fight cancer.

## A reminder for European nationals

Jenny Harvey, South Street

Wearing my immigration lawyer's hat I wanted to remind islanders of an important deadline for some EU, EEA and Swiss nationals living in the UK.

Having left the EU at the end of 2020, we are in a 'grace period' until the end of June 2021.

EU nationals who have not applied for status under the EU Settlement Scheme could be in the UK illegally if they don't apply before the end of June. It is worth spreading the word about this. The deadline applies to children as well as adults and to those who have acquired 'permanent residence' but not 'settled status'. Those who are already British nationals, or have been granted indefinite leave to remain on the basis of marriage and so on, are of course entitled to live here.

Another important point is that dependent parents of EU nationals who want to join their children in the UK do not currently need to prove dependency on their children to come and live here. After the end of June they will need to prove dependency which will make it much more difficult.

I am not seeking work, as I am swamped, but I am happy to point islanders in the direction of the correct guidance and application forms. Please do email me: [info@jennyharveyimmigration.co.uk](mailto:info@jennyharveyimmigration.co.uk)

## Why is it called Doyley Road?

Gus Fagan, Bridge Street

When William, Duke of Normandy, arrived in England with his army in 1066, he brought with him some thousands of Norman nobles. One of these was Robert d'Oilly, after whom Doyley Road is named.

One of William's first actions was to replace the entire Anglo-Saxon aristocracy with his loyal Norman followers. At the time of the Domesday book, just 20 years later, only 5% of English land was still in the hands of the old Anglo-Saxon aristocracy.

In what is now Oxford city, Robert d'Oilly was given a relatively small holding — 30 acres and a mill, with a value according to Domesday Book of 10 shillings, providing an annual income of £3. But he wasn't so badly off. He had over 50 other holdings (and the rent from them) in Wantage, Bampton, Wootton, Goring, Kirtlington and Bloxham and even more in other southern counties. Like other newly arrived Norman lords, he almost immediately began building himself a castle.

Robert married Ealdgyth, daughter of Wigod, the Anglo-Saxon lord in Wallingford. When Wigod died,

d'Oilly took over Wallingford as well. He and Ealdgyth were buried in the abbey in Abingdon.

## The story of my almond tree

Anne Andrews, Bridge Street

My mother-in-law Mary Andrews had a lifelong friend, Miss Trout, who was a mathematics lecturer at the University of Southampton, and a formidable gardener. Many years ago Miss Trout gave Mary a dwarf almond cutting which she cherished. At some point Mary gave a pup from this tree to her sister-in-law Olwen.

When Mary moved to North Yorkshire Olwen gave her an offshoot from the Southampton almond for her new garden. Mary later gave me a pup from her Yorkshire tree. In my Buckingham garden it behaved like a border plant: it was about the size of a dahlia. I brought a pup of that plant to Osney when we moved here in 2015. It loves Osney and is now over a metre tall. It blossoms profusely in spring and even produces a few small, inedible almonds.

## Watering the allotments

Jude Carroll, field secretary, Twenty Pound Meadow Following the example of the Botley Meadow site, we have taken a step closer to using only rain- and river-water for irrigation. It has been a challenge: months mapping current pipes and troughs, then building two platforms and mounting 5,000-litre barrels on them, then reinstalling them after a storm. It took several changes of volunteers before we could tackle the electrics for pumps and batteries, mount solar panels, and gain safe access to the river. We've now 'gone live' and so far, it works — or to be fair, one barrel and one test trough is full. More to follow.

All thanks to the vision of those who started the project, grants from Thames Water and local councillors and in particular to the handful of plot-holders whose efforts mean we can worry less about water use and reallocate funds saved on water bills to new projects. That's a big boost at the start of the 2021 growing season.

The Allotment Association AGM is at 7.30 p.m., 13 May, by Zoom.

## Growing to love our allotments

Sophie Morris and Jane Whitaker, Bridge Street

We have had our allotments for around 2 years now. It is such a satisfying experience being able to eat what you have grown. The kids have loved being able to help, and see the process from planting to eating.

The allotment has become a big part of our lives. It has been a lifeline, especially in this last year. It was our go-to sanctuary when we couldn't go anywhere else. Such a peaceful place to hang out.

It has definitely contributed to all of our wellbeing. From the digging to the planting, the river swimming, the chats, the advice when you haven't a clue what you are doing, knowing the kids have a safe place to explore and get dirty in the mud, has been an incredible experience.

We can't imagine not having the allotments in our lives now.



## Open Gardens 2021

Susan Hutchinson, West Street

I very much hope Open Gardens will happen this year on Saturday 26 June. (Or Sunday 27 if the weather is bad on the Saturday.)

Gardens will be open 2.30–4.30 p.m.

I am delighted that we have seven or eight offers of gardens so far but more offers would be most welcome (contact details below). Provisional offers are not binding, and gardens don't have to be manicured: the overall aim is variety. I would like to make it clear which gardens can be accessed without going through houses, so let me know if this applies to yours.

We don't yet have a plan for tea on the towpath, but if anyone is willing to organise this, or other entertainment, on the day I am certain it would be much appreciated. The gardens taking part will be publicised nearer the time via posters, email and the website.

Separately, window boxes are a great way to have a mini Open Garden that lasts for most of the year. If you would like to borrow window-box containers or have spare, please contact me.

[osney.open.gardens@gmail.com](mailto:osney.open.gardens@gmail.com), 01865 428323

## Oxford Artweeks on North Street

Elaine Kazimierczuk and Elizabeth Newbery at 2 and 3 North Street are taking part in Oxford Artweeks, 8–16 May 2021. All current Covid restrictions will be followed.

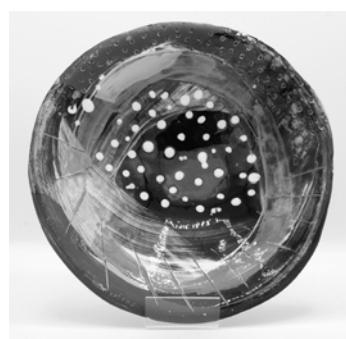
Elaine at 2 North St is showing her riotous landscapes inspired by a life-long love of the natural world. 1–6 p.m. daily by appointment via: [artsvp.co/elainekazimierczuk](https://artsvp.co/elainekazimierczuk)

Elaine's show *re-Fresh* is at The North Wall Gallery, 17–25 May: [www.thenorthwall.com](http://www.thenorthwall.com)

Elizabeth at 3 North St is showing contemporary slipware ceramics reflecting life in Oxford and her travels in Australia. 2–6 p.m. daily by appointment via: <https://artsvp.co/081a70>



▲ Queensdown Warren, Kent



▲ Oxford series

## Art on Osney

The Art on Osney group is organising an independent show on the island, probably in October. It will feature paintings, ceramics, prints, textiles and works on paper. If you would like to join the group please contact [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com), 07816 268145.

## Anna Truelove profile

When Anna Truelove bought her Bridge Street house in 1973 it still had gas lighting and a copper for heating



water. The house cost her £2,500, and of course required a great deal of modernisation.

Anna was returning to Oxford, where she had grown up and studied, after time away working in London and Liverpool. Her Oxford degree was French and Russian and she has worked as a translator for Shell, in the Russian area of the Ministry of Defence, as secretary to an architect and for many years in NHS admin.

When she retired from the OIRA committee last year, Anna ended a 27-year stint in which she had been vice-chair, secretary, and Open Gardens organiser. The idea of Open Gardens on Osney was originally suggested by the 'Duchess', Mrs Moss. For more on the history of Osney see the website.

## Alistair Butchers profile

Alistair has joined the OIRA committee, replacing Piper, who moved off the island.

My family and I moved to Bridge Street from London around 18 months ago. We have enjoyed the community here so much that I wanted to join the committee to do my bit.

I work in the travel industry in product management, which has made for an interesting time recently, given that almost all tourism has ground to a halt in the last year. I'm dad to two boys, and have a healthy appreciation



for music, walking and cycling.

Sacha, myself and the boys enjoy being here on the island, and we have really valued the sense of community and togetherness over the course of the last year. Hopefully it'll be possible to meet some of you in person soon enough.

## St Frideswide's church

Services at St Frideswide's are continuing at 8.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Sunday. There is no need to book, but please arrive promptly to avoid disappointment. If you would like extra social distancing space, we recommend the 8.30 a.m. or (especially) the 5 p.m.

We are now able to start taking weddings and baptisms again. If you would like one of the clergy from the parish to hold a funeral then let the funeral director know or get in touch with the Osney Benefice office.

Over the coming months we are hoping to restart our children's services and other activities, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page or the posters outside the church.

If you would like to join our daily prayer WhatsApp group or would appreciate a pastoral conversation or personal prayer at any time (whether over the phone or socially distanced outdoors) please do drop us a line using the contact details below.

Mission priest:

[kate.seagrave@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:kate.seagrave@oxford.anglican.org), 07905 342802.

Benefice Office: [osneybenefice@outlook.com](mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com)

## Antoinette Ibsen obituary

Sadly, Antoinette Ibsen, who lived in Bridge Street, died on 24 February. Antoinette had lived on Osney since 1970 and was 80 years old. She was an artist for most of her life and exhibited in recent Artweeks shows with Louise Summers.

Louise writes: 'To me and Bob (and our cat Honey) Antoinette was the perfect next-door neighbour. Her quiet resilience and cheeriness in the face of the extra challenges thrown at us during 2020 and early 2021 were an inspiration. During this time her paintings stayed as full of warmth and colour as ever, seeming to celebrate the close at hand and domestic: bright plates, food, cats and garden flowers.'

We miss Antoinette a lot, but are so glad to have known her, a neighbour who became a dear friend.'

Antoinette's family is planning a memorial event at her house over the summer.

## Recipe: Pyrizhky

Masha Unkovskaya-Harley, Doyley Road

Ukrainian/Russian mushroom pasties. This makes around 40 pies. I freeze those I don't need before baking, and use as needed.

Ready made puff pastry  
(block rather than ready rolled)

500 g mushrooms

Large onion

Dill

Egg

Oil

Chop the onion as finely as possible (do not grate), and the mushrooms quite small. Fry them in separate frying pans, adding salt and pepper. When both are

almost cooked mix the two together, switch off the heat and add the finely chopped dill. Allow to cool.

Roll the pastry about 3 mm thick and cut out circles (I use a shallow champagne glass, diameter 10 cm). If using ready rolled pastry roll it a little thinner than it comes. Beat the egg in a cup or mug. Brush egg on the inner edges of the pastry discs, put some mushroom mix in the middle and crimp the edges of the pastry together to form an oval pasty. Use plenty of flour and egg to ensure a good seal. Brush with egg and bake on trays towards the top of the oven, gas mark 7 or 220°C for about 15 minutes.

## Flooding info on the website

Following the floods in December and February we have updated the flooding information on the website: [osneyisland.org.uk/flooding/](http://osneyisland.org.uk/flooding/) We've also added a page of FAQs, based on the questions that residents asked during this winter's flooding: [osneyisland.org.uk/flooding/faqs/](http://osneyisland.org.uk/flooding/faqs/)

When we are in a flood situation the lock keeper, Mark Winks, will normally be in his office at the lock between 9 and 9.30 a.m. and is happy to answer questions from residents at that time.

## Directory of local suppliers

The directory will appear in the next newsletter and is available on the website: [osneyisland.org.uk/directory-of-local-suppliers/](http://osneyisland.org.uk/directory-of-local-suppliers/) There have been a few additions since the last newsletter. Please note that Barry the hairdresser has sadly died and gardener Ben Renals-Wells has moved away.

There is also a separate list of local shops and services: [osneyisland.org.uk/local-shops-and-services/](http://osneyisland.org.uk/local-shops-and-services/)

Please contact Jane Buekett to submit additions or changes.

## OIRA info

### Bridge Street noticeboard

To display something on the noticeboard (no larger than A5) contact Julia Marsh [julia.marsh@btconnect.com](mailto:julia.marsh@btconnect.com) or put it through her door at 26 Bridge Street.

### Osney email list

To join the residents' email list, moderated by Alison Burdett, contact: [osiramanager@gmail.com](mailto:osiramanager@gmail.com)

### OIRA committee

Alison Burdett [alison.burdett@gmail.com](mailto:alison.burdett@gmail.com) (email list), Alistair Butchers [alistairbutchers@gmail.com](mailto:alistairbutchers@gmail.com), Joyce Chalmers 07837 127883, Maureen Egeneli 07816 580990, Alan Goodwin (chair) 07765 034918 [alan@alangoodwin.co.uk](mailto:alan@alangoodwin.co.uk), Elie Harris [gekh2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gekh2@yahoo.co.uk), Robert Lawrence 01865 428323, Jennifer/Nick Meakin (secretary) [jennifermeakin@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermeakin@gmail.com), Elizabeth Newbery 01865 793360 [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com), Karen Schoenemann 07718 632742, Gareth Strange 01865 727680, Jula Turner (treasurer) 07971 881258.

Newsletter and website editor: Jane Buekett ([janebuekett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janebuekett@yahoo.co.uk), 01865 251454). Newsletter distribution: Anna Truelove (01865 245496).



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## **Osney Island Newsletter Supplement – May 2021**

### **Botley Road**

News of road works in Botley Road always makes our hearts sink, and we had delays in April caused by SSE emergency work at the junction with Mill Street. The scheduled improvement works at the other end of Botley Road are proceeding according to plan, apart from some slippage because of the need to observe Covid safety measures. This is the current timetable:

1. Seacourt park and ride junction (completed March 2021)
2. Westminster Way junction (March 2021 to August 2021)
3. A34/A420 Slip Road junction (August 2021 to December 2021)
4. Lamarsh Road to Prestwich Place (January 2022 to July 2022)
5. Prestwich Place to Binsey Lane (January 2022 to July 2022)
6. Eynsham Road junction to Poplar Road (January 2022 to May 2022)

The aim is to improve the road for pedestrians, cyclists and buses.

### **Cleaning up our rivers**

Many of us are appalled at the way Thames Water has been exploiting legislative loopholes in order to pump sewage into our rivers. The Environment Agency is supposed to monitor this and enforce the rules, but their budget has been drastically cut since 2010. At the urgent request of the City Council, TW has launched an alert system to let people know when the river in Oxford may be harmful due to sewage releases. It's on Twitter [@oxfordthamessewage](https://twitter.com/oxfordthamessewage). An email service is to follow. TW plans a £26m investment into the local works to improve capacity.

### **Abandoned bikes**

Please be warned that this summer the City Council will be tagging and then removing any bikes in the bike racks or in public places that look abandoned.

### **EV Chargers**

There is a new joint project to install 100 chargers for homes across the County with no off-street parking. The councils can also give advice on self-funded installation. Please check [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk) or contact me for more information.

### **Police reminder**

Please remember to report all incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour, even minor ones. The more we report, the more attention we will get from our excellent neighbourhood police.