

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

Boat in memory of Simon Stubbings

Simon Stubbings of East Street, founder and chair of the Osney Island Boat Club, died on 31 March aged 77. In memory of an islander who was much loved and will be greatly missed, OIRA has raised over £400 to buy a boat in his name for the Boat Club. Thank you to all the islanders who so generously donated. The funds will be used to buy a Riot Escape 9 lightweight kayak for children and small adults, complete with seat and paddle, which will be available for use by all members of the Boat Club of suitable ages and sizes.

Thank you for electing me

Councillor Lois Muddiman

Thank you for electing me as your councillor. It is a great privilege to represent the community I love. Since the election, I have attended numerous training sessions, been appointed onto two committees (Licensing and Standards) and put forward a motion on single-use plastics at my first full council meeting. I still have a huge amount to learn about how the council works and I'm adjusting other work commitments to deal with the workload.

The increased number of Green seats on the council means more influence on committees and new monthly meetings with the chief executive, leading to more opportunities to ensure climate change is at the heart of everything we do. This is essential, given the scale of change coming to our area alone: Osney Power Station, Gibbs Crescent, Osney Mead, Oxpens, Oxford Station, DFS/Carpetrite, the Flood Alleviation Scheme and the Connecting Oxford traffic measures.

I urge you to take an active interest in all these developments because they will impact our community for years to come. As my 4-year term begins, the record temperatures are a timely reminder that climate change is the greatest challenge we face, and I will do all that I can to address it.



▲ Lois (top right) at her first full council meeting

The future of Osney under threat

The City Council has put out a design framework for the various developments coming in this area (Osney Mead,

West End, railway station, Oxpens) which has profound implications for us as residents. If this goes ahead it will transform the river frontage from Osney Lock south, and along the Osney Stream, with loss of the existing vegetation and

urbanisation of the river edge. Future development could potentially increase flood risk for the island.

The plan proposes to greatly increase the number of people passing through Osney by building new bridges on both the east and west sides of the island and opening up several routes through the current EA yard.

You can have your say by responding to the questionnaire or writing to the planning department. The documents are here, deadline 17 August: tinyurl.com/3t3e5tn9

Oxford Flood Alliance's comments on the plans are here: tinyurl.com/3zw87bts



An unusual visitor

A resident who backs on to the Osney Stream spotted this koi carp paying a visit. We haven't had a flood big enough to wash it out of a garden pond for some years. Where did it come from?



Working life

Claire Dalton, Bridge Street

I moved to the lovely pink and blue house at the top end of Bridge Street in November last year. Not the easiest time of year to take on a serious renovation but I couldn't resist — it charmed me. And it had a room at the back that could be used for something interesting.

I currently work as a data analyst for the humanities (these words don't often go together) at the university, but this is relatively recent. I have had what is now called a portfolio career, which has included work as a speech and language therapist, a maker of quilts, modelling (not that kind), operating-theatre throughput, and rather randomly, designing and implementing a birth registration system in Tanzania. But my heart is now set on making things. I recently did a furniture-making course and this is where the room at the back comes in — it is becoming a small

workshop. One day I hope to combine all my interests into one.

I already love living here — coming over that bridge and shouting hello to Eddie (though he never even looks at me) gives me a real sense of coming home.



Andrew Boag, East Street

Andrew is a retired typographer and information designer. He grew up in York and studied typography at Reading University, where he then taught for a few years. This was followed by a brief spell in manufacturing at Monotype, the maker of typesetting systems and typefaces which is still the last word in type quality. Taking redundancy allowed him to go freelance and establish his own information design consultancy. His work and client list ranged from book designs for publishers like OUP, to utility bill designs for British Gas, to Lasting Power of Attorney forms for the Ministry of Justice. He co-published Monotype's company history a few years ago under his Vanbrugh Press imprint.

After 20 years Andrew sold his company (BoagMcCann) and now volunteers at Oxfam Superstore, Yellow Submarine, and as a driver. Before Osney his family house was in Woodstock. He has three offspring: one



with an MA in critical studies, one a professional golf-green keeper, and one a budding actress. His partner Angie works at Penny and Sinclair, and used to own Fisher's restaurant on St Clements (now called Cuttlefish). Life's tough for Andrew having to live with a trained chef.

▲ *Ice-cream figures large in Andrew's life*

Claire and Andrew are both new members of the OIRA committee.

Never too late to start yoga

Derek Elliott, West Street

I have just started teaching yoga at the new Vishuddha Yoga Centre on East Street and it's been a real pleasure.

As I live on West Street, its close enough for me to go and hone my own yoga practice with fellow teachers. We are a well-travelled bunch and among us there is a great deal of mature teaching experience, which should appeal to people of all ages and abilities. It's never too late to start!

The practice room, upstairs behind the copper façade, is a lovely space with a gorgeous mural by a local artist slowly unfolding on one wall. This studio is unique in my experience, as it is non-profit. The founders have a vision that includes it becoming a charity and it is important to them and to the teachers that this resource be a valuable part of our community. It is there for our health and wellbeing as well as a place of quiet solace. There is a standing invitation for islanders to visit and see for themselves. I hope to see some of my neighbours there.

Improving mobility and strength

Ghislaine in West Street, who has been taking classes at the yoga centre, would like to pass on details of a class that could be helpful to anyone who has mobility issues and wants to improve strength and balance (as long as they can get up the stairs of the studio).

This community class practises gentle/seated, slow-paced yoga. It is suitable for anyone wanting to improve movement, strength and flexibility and to challenge themselves in supported balancing poses.

Wednesday mornings, 11.30–12.30, at a reduced rate of £6. Vishuddha Yoga Centre, www.vishuddhayoga.org

Osney Supercharge update

Simon Collings, South Street

Good progress has been made in recent weeks with the Osney Supercharge project. Two 24 kWh batteries have been installed at Osney Lock Hydro, and The Punter and seven private households have had PV solar panels, and in some cases batteries, installed. A further eight households are scheduled for installations of PV and batteries, and another three will have PV only. Some households with smart meters, but no new generating kit, will also be sharing electricity-consumption figures with the project. The data from all these participants will let us work out how we might help meet future energy demand on the island through local generation. The switch of the Co-Wheels club car to an eV in the next few months also allows us to monitor how this additional load affects the local network.

Osney Island Boat Club

Fiona Ravenscroft, South Street

It is not too late to get out on the river this summer. The Osney Island Boat Club owns three kayaks and a Canadian canoe for use by members. They are kept on the island with easy access to the river. Yearly membership runs from April to April and costs £50 per year per household, plus a £30 joining fee. Membership is open to any person/household/family on the island. Please contact Fiona at osneyislandbc@gmail.com for further details and a look at the boats.

St Frideswide's Church

Rev. Rachel Cross

Our 'mission' is to be a safe and welcoming place of refuge for all. How does the church offer this? Not just as a spiritual refuge — an open and welcoming attitude to anyone and everyone who turns up at a Sunday service — but also by making the building available for midweek activities, musical concerts and one-off events.

'Refuge' can also take a more literal form. In the recent heat wave we offered the church building as a cool space for those in need. We are aware that not every need for immediate refuge in this community is as obvious or easily met. We can't do everything, but still we stand, 150 years and counting now, ready to do whatever we can for one another and for everyone around us, whatever the weather.

Services continue to follow our summer schedule. For details see the two Bridge Street noticeboards or the information available outside the church.

Alice talk at St Frideswide's

Paul Spencer-Longhurst, church warden

Following the success of the Lewis Carroll Society talks at the church on Alice's Day, resident local historian and Lewis Carroll expert, Mark Davies, will present a talk at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 20 October outlining some local associations with Alice in Wonderland. The focus will be the story of a carved free-standing door in the church, which shows St Frideswide in a boat on the Thames. It was made in the 1890s (not, as has long been assumed, by Alice Liddell herself, but by her two younger sisters) for an East London mission church sponsored by Christ Church. It somehow survived the Blitz, even though the mission church itself did not.

Come and hear the story of the Liddell Door, of Oxford's patron saint and her Treacle Well, and some previously unknown pertinent limericks by Lewis Carroll as part of St Frideswide's Church's 150th-anniversary celebrations.

Tea on the Towpath and Open Gardens

Susan Hutchinson, West Street

The weather was warm and sunny, the gardens were lovely, the cakes delicious and abundant, and the music joyous. As Maureen said 'Those cakes weren't any old cakes...They were OSNEY cakes. And they were brilliant.' It felt so good to be out and about, catching up with friends and neighbours, enjoying the sun and exploring gardens.

Some numbers: Eight gardens and Osney Hydro were open, all different and all full of character. One gardener kept a tally and counted 70 visitors. We raised £547.41 for OIRA.

Many people contributed to the event, but I'd like to say a special thank you to Maureen, Julia and Karen and everyone who helped with the teas, to Peter's ukulele band who played such happy music, to Jula who managed the cash, and especially to the gardeners who worked so hard on their gardens and then generously shared them.

I'm already looking forward to next year.

Seasonal recipe: apple tart

Masha Unkovskaya-Harley, Doyley Road

Ready-made puff pastry (block), 500 g
4 large apples (200 g each) or 6 smaller ones
Caster sugar
Icing sugar
Vanilla essence
Brandy
Butter
Lemon
Double cream, 300 ml

Grease a 25-cm flan dish, 4.5 cm deep. Preheat the oven to gas mark 6/200°C.

Roll out the pastry 4–5 mm thick (ready rolled is too thin) and line the dish. Leftover pastry can be frozen. Put your flan dish in the fridge.

Squeeze the lemon into a reasonably deep container.

Peel and slice the apples, drop them into the lemon juice and mix to keep from browning.

Take the flan dish from the fridge and arrange the apple segments around the dish standing up. Use up all the apples, filling any gaps. Sprinkle with caster sugar to taste. Add a little vanilla and a dash of brandy.

Dot the apples with butter to prevent burning. Bake for an hour.

Accompany with Chantilly cream: whip the double cream very stiff, add some vanilla essence, two tablespoons of icing sugar and whip again. Add a dollop of brandy and whip to mix.

Directory of local suppliers

This list is compiled from islanders' recommendations only. Suppliers are removed if there are reports of unreasonable rates or service. The list is online at: osneyisland.org.uk/directory-of-local-suppliers Local shops and services are listed at:

osneyisland.org.uk/local-shops-and-services

Please contact Jane Buekett to submit additions or changes.

Baby kit

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

Bicycles, repairs and accessories

Jon Wyver: 07842901873, info@oxbicycles.co.uk, www.facebook.com/oxbicycles (will deliver and pick up in Oxford free of charge).

Building and roof repairs

Julian Brand, JB Leadwork and Roofing: 07747 601444, jbleadwork@hotmail.com
Rob Cassettari, North Hinksey Builders: 01865 242312/07977 152884/07900 881511, robnhc@virginmedia.com
Everest Roofing Ltd: 01865 8816856, enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk
Brian French: 07957 315303 (local general builder and plasterer: takes on small jobs)
Paul Hackett, P & R Roofing Ltd (Horspath): 01865 875523, info@prroofingoxford.co.uk, www.prroofingoxford.co.uk
Mark Mavrommatis: 07970 974792 (installs new windows, repairs old ones)
Tim Mera, KM Builders Oxford: 01865 608 649, 07462 971475, k.mbuildingservices@yahoo.com, kmbuildersoxford.co.uk
Oxford Roofing and Maintenance: 01865 820323, 07468 429000, oxfordroofingandmaintenance.co.uk
Richard S. Pocock: 07766 026648 (general builder)

Mike Shephard, MJ Construction
(Abingdon): 07834 321274,
mjconstruction@hotmail.co.uk (larger jobs)

Carpenters and flooring

Steve, Amazon Flooring: 07899 918015
Jonathan Everett, Lockwood Carpentry:
07597 952381, j.everett.lwc@gmail.com
Bill Spires: 07786 672492 (carpenter willing to take on smaller fiddly jobs)

Car repairs and MOTs

Oxon Autos in Grove near Wantage
(will come to you): 07899 762 949,
oxon.autos@live.co.uk, oxonautos.co.uk

Cat sitting/feeding and dog walking

Shirley Gibson (also housework, shopping, companionship): 07510 991213 (Binsey)

Chimney sweep

Martin Simmonds: 07762 816185,
enquiry@ashlogs.com, www.ashlogs.com

Cleaners

C&S Cleaning Services: 01865 872395,
07824 159855

Computers

Bill Baxter, The Animated Laser Company:
07774 412944 (noon to midnight, Old Marston), bill@animatedlaser.co.uk
Bill Richardson: 01865 376100,
bill@macfaction.co.uk (Macs)
Mac Simple: 01865 580886/07974 321064, www.macsimple.co.uk

Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd: 01865 742144
Stonehouses:
stonehousewaterproofing.co.uk

Drains

Matthew Andrews, Drain Technology:
07557 272393, 01865 587086,
enquiries@draintechnology.co.uk,
www.draintechnology.co.uk (lives on the island)

Electricians

Baldwin Appliances: 01865 377484,
www.baldwinappliances.com
Jamie Cooke: 07775 700300,
JC.Electrical@hotmail.com
DEC Electricians: 01865 725453,
mail@decoxford.co.uk,
www.dec-oxfordltd.co.uk
RJB Electrical: 01865 882723/07711 934348 (rewires and new installations)
Mark Morris (Botley): 07970 342375 (also plumber)
Andy Webb (A W Electrical Services, Yarnton): 01865 377171, 07931 127982

Footcare in your home

Kate Reid: 07952 127534

Fresh fish

Jake Boggis: 07761 803185,
jakeboggis@hotmail.co.uk (Cleethorpes, delivers to the island about 6 p.m. Monday)

Garden compost and manure

George: 01793 575100/07831 437989,
info@muckandmulch.co.uk,
www.muckandmulch.co.uk

Gardening services

David Morris: 01865 725875 (gardening maintenance and some diy)
Jason: info@oxfordgardenservices.co.uk (tree surgery)
Rory Whelehan: 07341 849035,
rory@rorlyn.co.uk (gardener, lawn/hedge cutting, general tidying)
Clive: 07787 741968
Heather: 07522 856744 (one-off or regular jobs, heavy or light work including pruning)

Green builders and installers

Energy My Way: 0845 371 3181,
www.energymyway.co.uk
JoJu Solar: 0800 0542 977,
www.jojusolar.co.uk
Next Generation Renewable Energy Ltd:
01993 810130, office@ngre.co.uk

Gutter clearing

Ben's Gutters: 0800 9173157/07778 240161,
info@bensgutters.com,
www.bensgutters.com

Handymen

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

Home hairdressers

Sally Horton: 07815 445229
Nadine Wright: 07824660184

Locksmith

Davies Hardened Security: 01865 371816/07711 625092

Logs

Logs for All: 0845 269 0306,
www.logsforall.co.uk

Newsagent delivering to Osney

Mr Patel, Court Candy Shop, 65 Woodstock Rd, Oxford OX2 6HJ:
01865 515506/07917 990029,
court CANDYSHOP@GOOGLEMAIL.COM

Oven cleaning

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

Painters and decorators

Rob Bennett: 0790 5819310
Steve Brierty: 01491 836762/0785 0357414
Dave Buckle: 01865 848630
Paul Buckle: 07920 099196
John Chappell: 07985 490970
Dan Driscoll: 07934 718788,
danieldriscoll63@gmail.com (also home repairs)
Sam Gordon: 07976 516941 (plasterer)
Brendan McCarthy: 07982 614633
Andrew Turner: 07591 491804 (repaints masonry, front doors and windows)

Pests

Avenge: 02865 246195/07879 405060 (based in Binsey)

Plumbing and heating

APV Boiler Services: 01865 377264
Byron Morris, Avid Heating (boiler repairs etc.): 07899 629629, 01865 703303,
www.avidheating.co.uk
Jules Jones: 01993 778244/07790 961395,
reallygoodplumbing@outlook.com
Ivan Kilbee: 01235 847527 /07771 787585
Mark Morris, Botley: 07970 342375 (also electricians)
Remloc Plumbing and Heating: 01235 536345 (Abingdon)

Removals

A. G. Jacob and Sons: 07977 963929,
www.agjacobandson.co.uk
House and Carriage: 01608 811444/07769 585988

Sewing services

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

Window cleaning

Mark Jennings: 01865 848904/07773 159198

James Middlebrook, Transparent Window Cleaning: 07957 410771,
messageTWC@gmail.com
Torridon Slaney: 07746 356307

Windows

Oxford Refurbished Sash Windows, John: info@sashrefurbcompany.co.uk (refurbish the wooden frame and insert double-glazed panels)

Wood-burning stove fitters

Heatstore in Charlbury: 01608 819088,
www.heatstoreltd.co.uk (for Defra approved wood and coal burners)
Lee Hill: 01865 787 940 (HETAS approved)

OIRA info

Bridge Street noticeboard

To display something on the noticeboard (no larger than A5) contact Julia Marsh 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

OIRA committee

Andrew Boag andrew@boag.org.uk,
Alison Burdett alison.burdett@gmail.com (email list),
Alistair Butchers alistairbutchers@gmail.com,
Claire Dalton (secretary) claire.dalton@hotmail.co.uk,
Maureen Erganli 07816 580990,
Alan Goodwin (chair) 07765 034918 alan@alangoodwin.co.uk,
Eli Harriss gek2@yahoo.co.uk,
Karen Schoenemann 07718 632742,
Jula Turner (treasurer) 07971 881258.

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

OIRA newsletter supplement – August 2022

New footbridge over the Thames

The new footbridge is designed to link Osney Mead with the city centre, but it will also provide a much safer and more pleasant route for pedestrians and cyclists from West Oxford to the city centre, avoiding Botley Road. I have been passing on the concerns of some Osney Island residents about possible impacts on the environment. I have been assured that only a very small amount of woodland will need to be removed and the trees and undergrowth have to be replaced. They are still considering issues such as lighting and the width of the cycle path, in response to the public consultation, so please do comment: <https://tinyurl.com/2phtzsa9>

Tumbling Bay

The City Council is drawing up options for the dangerously cracked wall in one part of the basin. Please come to a meeting on Tuesday 9th August from 5.30 to 7pm at West Oxford Community Centre, where we will be able to comment on the options.

Meanwhile the Council has carried out its promise and removed some of the reeds which were clogging up the lower basin and spreading to the upper one.

They remain adamant that this can never again be an official bathing place, because that would need constant supervision, according to their insurance policy.

Railway station

Work on the new western entrance is ready to begin as soon as the government confirms the funding. Network Rail plans to complete the changes to Roger Dudman Way and to demolish the Youth Hostel this year and they have arranged a “blockade” (meaning that no trains will run) from 29th July to 6th August next year. It is hoped that this will coincide with a major part of Thames Water’s work to replace the water main under Osney Bridge *and* some of the highway work to improve Botley Road for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists, so that disruption is reduced. NR have promised that people will always be able to get into town on foot and by bike.

EV charging

There is information on EV chargers on both councils’ websites. The charger in West Street will soon be available for anyone to use and the car club car in East Street will soon be an EV. If there is any chance you might want to get an electric vehicle at some stage and to charge it from your home, please register here: gul-e.co.uk/

Meanwhile the City Council has just opened the largest charging hub in Europe at Redbridge park and ride.

You are welcome to contact me with any concerns, or you can come to my ward surgery on the third Saturday of each month from 11 to 12 noon at WOCC.

Best wishes

Susanna