

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter



▲ That car

Osney river clean up

Kieran Lobley, West Street

On Saturday 22 June, we organised an Osney Island river clean-up. We had three groups. The one which featured me (Kieran, aged 9), Griff and Hannah went along the main bit of the river at East Street. We found nothing there so we headed up a bit to the Botley Bridge and found three glass bottles and a plastic cup. Back in West Street we discovered that the other groups had found a bike, an electrical box, three traffic cones, a shopping trolley, jackets, jumpers, etc.

Me and my two friends, Griff and Arkady, then went on the paddle board down one of the back streams. We honestly found 70-plus things, such as: a camping stove, seven jackets, another traffic cone, a foam football, sweet wrappers, tin cans, etc. We put all the rubbish by the railings on West Street. The next day somebody had thrown the traffic cone back in the river, so me, my dad and my friend went out in the canoe to get it and its still in our back garden.



Nomi (Kieran's mum) adds a big thank you to everyone who participated: Hannah and Griff; Richard, his daughter Grace, and her friend, Ella Raven; Noel, Kieran and Arkady. And thank you to Susanna for arranging for the rubbish collection.

Working down under

Jennifer Marsh, Bridge Street

I've recently returned to Osney after living abroad for over 5 years. I moved to Melbourne, Australia, in April 2019 to work on large-scale rail projects across Victoria in my role as a track engineer with Arup. I'm proud to have contributed significantly to these projects, alleviating congestion and improving travel for public-transport users, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Seeing our hard work come to life and positively impacting local communities was incredibly rewarding.

I'm privileged to have been able to call Melbourne my home for so many years, and I was fortunate enough to travel extensively around Australia during my time there, exploring its diverse landscapes and vibrant cities. I took the long route home, spending a 2-month sabbatical campervanning around New Zealand and visiting the South Pacific islands before returning to Oxford. I'm excited to begin a new chapter back home in the UK, based in Oxford but working for the Arup Birmingham office.



New OIRA committee members

Maria and Philippa joined the committee at the Annual Meeting in April.

Maria Holt, West Street

It is a pleasure and an honour to have been elected on to the OIRA committee. I am a newcomer to the island, having arrived here at the end of February, but am already loving the tranquil and friendly environment, very different from my previous life in London.

I am an academic, researcher and activist, specialising in Middle East politics with a particular focus on gender, war and violence. I've travelled extensively in the region, especially in Lebanon, where I conducted

several ethnographic projects with Palestinian refugee communities.

A particular interest has been to encourage a deeper knowledge and understanding in the UK about the countries and peoples of the Arab world. To that end, I have organised various events, including parliamentary delegations to Arab states and talks to school and college students. For many years, I taught in a university. Now that I have more time and space, I have already started to develop new projects. I very much look forward to getting to know the wonderful island community.

Philippa Lanchbery, Mallinson Court

I've lived at Mallinson Court for 15 years and joined the OIRA committee at the AGM. The island is a wonderful place to live and I hope to make a contribution towards this community.

My interests are modern languages, music and reading. I also do qigong and am a member of a walking group, and of Botley WI.

I am retired after working in the Bodleian for 38 years and at Christ Church College for 5 years before that. At the Bodleian I worked in the Cataloguing Room and took the Celtic language material under my wing as I've been learning Welsh on and off for years. I was also at RSL (Radcliffe Science Library), and then my job was moved to Osney Mead.

Estuary hopes, upstream dreams

Marion Hanbury Brown, Bridge St

Earlier this year I was returning, suitably clad, from a wet but enjoyable popup cycle ride with the local women's cycling group, Isis. I passed a somewhat dawdling cyclist in Bridge Street who surprised me by asking if he could take my photo as a representative 'type' on the island.



▲ How appropriate – Andy handed me the May newsletter during the photo shoot.

The photographer, Jonathan Goldberg, is working on a project called 'Estuary hopes, upstream dreams: a journey along the River Thames islands'. You can see more of the images on his website, which explains: 'My project explores the islands in the River Thames of which there are about 180' (www.jonathangoldberg.co.uk, under Projects). He will let me know when it is finished.

The bells of Osney

Mark van Oss, East Street

Great Tom 'the loudest bell in Oxford' is still sounded 101 times every night at 9 p.m. Oxford time (9.05 p.m.) from Christ Church College. This 'ding' is rung using a

computerised mechanism that does not swing the bell. When it is rung manually it creates a different heavier 'dong', now heard only on very special occasions for fear of a crack like that in Big Ben, which has led to a distinct sound but distorted from what was intended. The most recent 'dong' of 6-ton Tom was for Charles III's coronation.

But did you know that Tom originally came from Osney? It was not the only bell removed to Christ Church from Osney Abbey following Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. Cardinal Wolsey took six other bells that had been cast in the grounds of our abbey. Osney's bells regularly peal from Christ Church tower in sequences, not tunes, of up to 5,000 'dings' and 'dongs' that can be heard across several counties.

OFAS planning approval

Simon Collings, South Street

The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (OFAS) took a big step towards becoming reality when Oxfordshire County Council Planning Committee approved the planning application on 15 July. The committee voted eight in favour with one abstention.

The next step is to refer the scheme to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. She has the option of calling in the application as it is on green belt land. This is a normal part of the planning process for schemes of this size and complexity.

We also await approval of the compulsory purchase order, following the public inquiry last year. A decision is expected on this over the summer.

This is good news for Osney residents. Once approval is finalised and construction begins, reduction of flooding is expected within the first year. The whole scheme is expected to take 5 years to build.

Climate minister visits the island

On 18 July Osney hosted a visit of the new Minister for Climate, Kerry McCarthy. The minister was visiting Low Carbon Hub and Osney Lock Hydro to see the way our community has been involved in local energy projects such as the hydro and Osney Supercharge. She also had a tour of the island, meeting residents who are active in these projects and dropping in at the Vishuddha Yoga Centre to see a purpose-built building that has energy efficiency at its heart.



Visit an energy-saving home

Suzanne Jeffrey, South Street

This September you can visit an energy-saving home as part of Oxford Open Doors (14–15 September). Find out how to make your home warmer in winter, cooler in summer, a healthier place to live and hopefully cheaper to run.

Our house on South Street will be one of those opening. We'll share our experience of retro fitting an Osney house with an air source heat pump, internal insulation, solar panels, double-glazed sash windows and using reclaimed materials.

We don't yet have the opening times but will publish these on the website later in August, and I will share via the email list.

Oxford Open Doors is organised by Oxford Preservation Trust. Last year 125 venues in the city were open to visitors: oxfordpreservation.org.uk/oxford-open-doors

Osney Island Boat Club

Fiona Ravenscroft, South Street

There's still time to join the boat club and enjoy the river this summer. We have a canoe and four kayaks available on the island for members to take out at any time. Membership is per household and is £50 per year (from 1 April) plus a joining fee of £30. Membership provides access to five boats, paddles, buoyancy aids and river licences. If you are interested please contact me: osneyislandbc@gmail.com.

Chatty Wednesdays this autumn

Eli Harriss, Bridge Street

Osney Chatty Wednesdays has been going for 5 years now. It's a chance for Osney neighbours to meet each other once a month over a drink and have a friendly chat. It's a simple idea that everyone likes, and you are all welcome. I'll be at The Holly Bush in the garden or inside the pub (it all depends on weather and noise levels) wearing a high-vis cycling jacket.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month: 7–9 p.m. on 18 September, then 6–8 p.m. for the rest of the year: 16 October, 20 November, 18 December.

Open Gardens and Tea on the Towpath

We were very lucky with the weather. The rain stopped and the sun came out just in time for a hugely enjoyable event. There was a happy mix of new gardens, old favourites and recent additions. And – as usual – Osney bakers excelled.

Many people contributed so much to the event, but I'd like to say a special thank you to Jude, Julia and Karen for calmly managing the huge numbers of people coming for tea and cake, Michael for getting the tea urn to work, David and Gregor for wrangling the bunting and David (again) for taking many excellent photos (see the OIRA website). Also all those helping to set up the gazebos, serve up the teas, wash up and tidy up afterwards, Peter and the ukulele band who played and sang for our enjoyment, Julia who managed the cash and especially the gardeners who worked so hard on their gardens and

then generously shared them.

Some numbers: eight gardens and Osney Lock Hydro were open, all different and full of character. We raised nearly £800 for OIRA for production of the newsletter and other island amenities.



St Frideswide's Church

Rev. Rachel Cross

Summer is often associated with a break from normal day-to-day work. A break, a sabbath even? Having a sabbath is one of the ten commandments in the Christian Bible. These commandments were given to people escaping slavery so the idea of a day without work must have been revolutionary. Ancient wisdom: a day off to recover and rest from the week's work, a time to connect with people for whom everyday life doesn't allow time. An intentional time in the week to press pause.

Whatever your summer looks like, may there be times to rest and regroup.

In that spirit, Children's Church continues on the first and third Sundays of the month during our 10.30 a.m. service but over the summer our mid-week children's work at St Frideswide's also takes a break.

Directory of local suppliers

This list is compiled from islanders' recommendations only. 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 280081, www.babycomes2.co.uk

Bicycles, repairs and accessories

Jon Wyver: 07842 901873, info@oxbicycles.co.uk, www.facebook.com/oxbicycles (will deliver and pick up in Oxford free of charge).

Building and roof repairs

Rob Cassettari, North Hinksey Builders: 01865 242312/07977 152884/07900 881511, robnhc@virginmedia.com
Everest Roofing Ltd: 01865 881685, 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 608649, 07462 971475, kmbuildingservices@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
Leo Eastley: 07496 701244,
leoeastley@gmail.com (cabinet maker/
carpenter, lives on Osney)
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 762949,
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
Edna: 07548 384737

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

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

Garden compost and manure

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

Gardening services

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: 08453 713181,
www.energymyway.co.uk
JoJu Solar: 01865 403336,
www.jojusolar.co.uk
Next Generation Renewable Energy Ltd:
01993 810130, office@ngre.co.uk

Gutter clearing

Ben's Gutters: 0800 917 3157/07778
240161, info@bensgutters.com,
www.bensgutters.com
Greg Zasuwa:
clearviewforyou@gmail.com (also window
cleaning)

Handymen

Jeremias Döbeli: doebeli@me.com
(carpenter by training, lives on Osney)
Andrew Russell: 01865 453497/07977
837675 (painting, decorating and garden
maintenance)
Colin Stanley, The Small Odd Jobs
Company: 07804 908545

Home hairdressers

Sally Horton: 07815 445229
Nadine Wright: 07824 660184

Newsagent delivering to Osney

Mr Patel, Court Candy Shop, 65
Woodstock Rd, Oxford OX2 6HJ:
01865 515506/07917 990029,
court candyshop@googlemail.com

Painters and decorators

Rob Bennett: 07905 819310
Steve Brierty: 01491 836762/07850
357414
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

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
electrics)

Oxtech Facilities: 07868 190748, www.oxtechfacilities.com

Remloc Plumbing and Heating: 01235
536345 (Abingdon)

Simon Crowther Plumbing and Heating:
07709 102328, sjcplumbheat@gmail.com

Removals

A. G. Jacob and Sons: 07977 963929,
www.agjacobandson.co.uk
House and Carriage: 01608 811444/07769
585988
Martini Moves: 07495 908330/07887
631348, www.martinimoves.com,
martinimovesremovals@gmail.com

TV aerials, wi-fi and satellite dishes

Oxford Aerials: 01865 400141, <https://oxfordaerials.co.uk/> (installers and
repairers)

Upholsterer

Adriano Ribeiro: 07771 560658 (Cowley,
will collect small items)

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)

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), Maureen Ergeneli 07816
580990, Alan Goodwin (chair) 07765
034918 alan@alangoodwin.co.uk, Eli
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OIRA newsletter supplement – August 2024

Traffic filters

The County Council was planning to install six traffic filters across the city, in order to reduce congestion. This has been postponed indefinitely, until we know when Network Rail is going to reopen the railway bridge to traffic.

Tumbling Bay bathing place

We will have to wait until next summer for this much-loved local attraction to reopen. The high volumes of water this year have badly eroded the bank behind the concrete wall that is falling away. As a result, the City Council has decided to go for sheet metal piling, instead of the gabion baskets that they had hoped to install. Fortunately, sheet metal piling is the favoured option of the Tumbling Bay Preservation Society and a tried and tested option. The metal will be concealed by planting at the edge of the bank. We have asked for an extra ladder as well.

Botley Park tennis courts

There is a session of free group coaching every Saturday at 10am for children and adults, which looks fun. At other times it costs £4 an hour if at least one player is under 16 or over 65, and otherwise £7 an hour. Book online at “tennis oxford”.

Home-charging for electric vehicles

At last, we have a date when the City Council and County Council hope to start installing EV chargers for properties with no off-street parking. They plan to go out to tender in September and could start work in December. To find out more and register an interest search online for “Electric vehicles Oxfordshire County Council”.

Ward surgeries

I still hold a surgery on the first and third Saturday of each month from 11 am to 12 noon. On the first Saturday it's at Jericho Community Centre and on the third at West Oxford Community Centre. However, you are welcome to email me or phone me at any time if you notice problems with such things as streetlights, refuse collections, fly-tipping and potholes – or you can report them online at “FixMyStreet Oxfordshire”. Also I can often help with questions about schools, social services, traffic or libraries.

Susanna