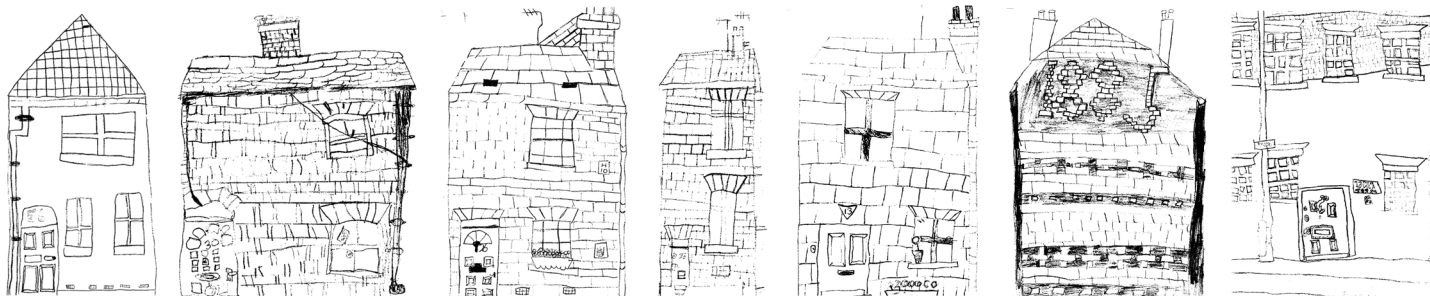


OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.org.uk

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2009



COMING UP

Bring & Take Sept 26 1-5 pm @ West Oxford CC. Find out about Low Carbon West Oxford, teas, local fruit and vegetables for sale and competitions. To find out more log on to www.lowcarbonwestoxford.org.uk

Tulips, narcissi and hyacinths

From Sally Roberts & Elizabeth Newbery: The tulips and other bulbs we sold at the Food Day, September 2007 were much admired. We are planning to bulk buy several types of spring flowering tulips plus highly scented 'paperwhite' narcissi and hyacinths for Christmas forcing. If you would like some come along to 3 North St on Sunday Sept 27 @ 11am to place your order. Its strictly cash in advance (typical cost 12 tulip bulbs £1.80).

NEWS AND VIEWS

The probation centre

From Felicity Wenden: Campaigning and fundraising have continued through the summer and recent news is most encouraging. Many of you may have seen or heard news items on BBC local services last week in response to a press release from Kemp and Kemp, agents for WE Black and Ardent, the owners and developers of Trajan House, at the far end of Mill Street. This announced their withdrawal of Trajan House from consideration by Thames Valley Probation Service as the site for their proposed new headquarters and consolidated service for Oxfordshire.

At the most recent WOCAMP general meeting held on Saturday 5th September, Dr Evan Harris MP welcomed this news and congratulated the campaign on its efforts, as a result of which TVPS had announced in June that it would freeze negotiations for Trajan House and undertake a further search for an appropriate property in consultation with the Home Office. This search would include both those sites on their original short list and several new locations in the city centre suggested by the campaign. While the withdrawal of the Trajan House is good news, until an alternative site in a city centre location, and not in a largely residential neighbourhood is identified, WOCAMP

will remain cautious. WOCAMP feel that responses from the National Audit Office to WOCAMP's request that they review the process undertaken by TVPS in consolidating their services and from senior legal advice in relation to the status of the planning consent needed by the Probation service have put them in a very strong position should they need to resort to legal action.

The meeting also heard that the fundraising effort has now produced more than £22,000. Some of this has already been used on campaigning and legal fees. If court action is not needed, donations to the campaign will be returned either in full or pro rata. More than £1600 was added to the total at the weekend, from the Raffle, (residents of Osney Island amongst the winners), the street sale and the Curry Night. The more that can be raised in this way, the greater the proportion it may be possible to return if the campaign does not have to take legal action.

During the meeting, several speakers again emphasised that the campaign supports and is appreciative of the valuable work of the Probation Service. The campaign is aimed at the proposal to locate the very large consolidated Oxfordshire service at the end of a narrow street with restricted vehicle access in a residential area. It is not anti the Thames Valley Probation Service, its staff or its clients. WOCAMP's next general meeting is planned for Saturday 3rd October at 4.30 pm in the Railway Club, Mill Street. All are welcome. For further information, please go to www.wocamp.co.uk

The West Oxford Academy

From Susan Hutchinson: The Academy will be taking a term's sabbatical due to pressure of other work, but will be back in January 2010. If you are able to give a talk in January or February or know someone else who could then please don't hesitate to contact me. If you want to know more or would like to give a talk please contact me by email (allat42@gmail.com) or give me a ring on 792358.

Oxfordshire mothers c. 1970-1990

From Angela Davis: Many thanks to all the women who replied to request for help in the last edition of the newsletter and talked to me about their experiences of

motherhood. I have now completed the interviewing for my project and have begun to write up what I have found. The material will form part of a book on motherhood in England c. 1945-1990. I look forward to updating people with further news of the book in the future. angela.davis@warwick.ac.uk

PEOPLE

St Frideswide's

Father Russell Dewhurst is leaving Oxford in September to become vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Ewell, Surrey. His four years as Priest-in-Charge of St Frideswide's with Binsey have seen a growth in the church, as well as the instigation of two major projects: the restoration of the pipe organ and the building of a toilet extension, both of which are due to be completed soon. Over 50 people attended a farewell lunch for Fr Russell on 5 September to express their gratitude and best wishes to him and Elaine for their future. He will be greatly missed by everybody in St Frideswide's as well as many in the wider West Oxford community.

On 19 October, Fr Anthony Rustell, currently Priest at Botley, will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St Frideswide's with Binsey as well. The two parishes are likely to be formally joined next year. Meanwhile, regular services will continue as normal: 10.30am parish mass every Sunday and a simple said mass at 7pm on Tuesdays and 12.30pm on Thursdays. Enquiries can be directed to the churchwardens: Karl Wallendszus (karl@wallendszus.co.uk or 07908 315374) or Anne James (725906).

Diary date: Monday 19 October, 7.30pm: Patronal Festival with confirmations and licensing of Fr Anthony Rustell as Priest-in-Charge by the Bishop of Oxford.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 4 October, 10.30am: Harvest festival; Starting on Sunday 25 October, Parish Mass will start 15 minutes earlier at 10.15am; Monday 2 November, 7.30pm: All Saint's Day mass with choir; Sunday 8 November, 10.15am: Remembrance Sunday service with 2 minutes silence; Saturday 21 November, 10am-12 noon: St Frideswide's coffee morning. Cakes, jam and fair trade produce will be on sale.

Children's illustrator

Local resident and children's illustrator Terry Milne, has just had her latest picture book *Louis' Dream Plane* published by Frances Lincoln. If you would like a signed copy email Terry at: devilliers.milne@ntlworld.com. Signed limited edition prints of her illustrations are on sale at Inspires Art Gallery, Little Clarendon St.

A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

From Roy Hoare: The Reverend Thomas Chamberlain. The Rev. Thomas Chamberlain, vicar of St. Thomas the Martyr's Church on Becket Street for 50 years from 1842, was a remarkable man. He was energetic and robust in his pastoral activities and single-minded, dogged and ruthless in achieving any plan that he initiated. He was universally known as an autocratic man who could inspire loyalty but never affection. Bishop Wilberforce of Oxford wrote of him, 'Not an easy man to deal with. I could not persuade him to do anything

which I could not by authority order him to do.'

When Chamberlain took over the living in 1842, which had been refused by several others, the parish was occupied by the 'scum of the earth'. Many of the houses around Hollybush Row and the alleys thereabouts were in the business of prostitution and other nefarious activities. It is alleged that he would visit these sites in full vestments in order to deter the punters. Early in his tenure, with the support of the police, he closed the brothels. The ladies moved out, migrating to other parishes, causing consternation and anger.

Prior to his appointment to St. Thomas', Chamberlain had attracted the attention of the Bishop who made him Secretary to the Diocesan Board of Education, a role he filled to good effect. In 1862, he founded St. Edward's School, originally located in New Inn Hall Street which, ten years later, moved to its present location on the Banbury Road.

In 1854, as Osney Island expanded with a young population, he initiated the building of a combined school and chapel on South Street, allegedly to thwart the progress of the Baptists in the parish. These buildings were, it seems, rather poorly built and by the end of the century began to disintegrate. This led to the building of the West Oxford Primary School, opened in 1913. Chamberlain also had a hand in the creation of St. Frideswide's dedicated in 1872. His career received a severe buffeting over his following of the Oxford Movement and their move towards Anglo-Catholicism. He started to wear ornate vestments and moved the focus of his services from the pulpit to the altar. Parishioners interpreted this as popery and they became very aggressive towards him hurling missiles at him as he walked through the parish. On one occasion he had to take refuge in Christ Church; the porter narrowly closing the gates on the pursuing mob. Many of the influential members of his flock deserted including the Morrells, the brewing family who lived in the parish. When their daughter was born, she was taken to St. Giles to be baptised. Thomas Chamberlain died in 1892. The inscription on his magnificent tomb reads:
He shall see His face with joy.

BITS AND BOBS

Conservation leaflet

In 2005, Osney Island produced a simple guide to the dos and don'ts of Article 4, the special conservation measures that affect all houses on the Island. We are enclosing another copy for new residents and those of you who have misplaced theirs.

Allotments

A reminder that all rents are due this month, payable on the first three Sundays in the month. If you want an allotment, now is a good time to see if there are any available. Phone John Power on 247153.

An Island in Oxford

In the last newsletter we advertised six copies of *Island in Oxford* published in 2000. It went in seconds and there seems to be a strong demand for another such book. Are there any budding local historians out there willing to take it on? Please contact a committee member (see below) if you're interested.

Osney island kiddies' kit

We are setting up a scheme for loans of baby equipment for the use of visiting children to the Island. Items such as high chairs, stair gates, a baby bath and some toys would be available on a short-term loan. If you can help please email elizabeth@newberyandengland.com with a list of items you are prepared to loan.

Help needed

John Tatlow of 15 South tel 721223 wants to know if anyone knows of a theatre/film producer or director who may consider reading his script on Picasso.

Scores on the Doors – Waterman's Arms

Under the 'Score on the Doors' initiative, Oxford City Council's Environmental Health officers now give a star rating following their inspections of each of the 1,600 food premises in the City. Congratulations to Henry and his team at the Waterman's who achieved a three star rating – which equates to 'good' on the five point scale. Details about 'Scores on the Doors' can be found on Oxford City Council's website <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/environment/scores-on-the-doors.cfmnational>.

Osney Island Boat club

The OSBC had their annual adventure canoeing up the Thames at a terrific rate battling pirates, wild animals, whirlpools and bemused natives. Special thanks to Bianca who provided emergency rations for us all. Our Commodore was sadly missed, rumoured to be in Paris - a rather wimpy excuse we felt. A quick reminder that although there are no spaces available in the boat house, there is canoe available for any Osney resident to use.

FOR SALE

Wireless Broadband Modem Router

Netgear 834G ADSL2 modem router – connect your computers wirelessly to your broadband connection, £35. Call 793360.

Digital Camera

Good quality 4MP Canon digital camera with zoom lens and rotating screen, £15. Call 793360.

Printer/copier/scanner

HP All-in-One printer/copier/scanner with two new, unused spare cartridges, £15. Call 793360.

Fax machine

Brother fax machine and fax paper, £10. Call 793360.

CRIME

Unwelcome guests

Your newsletter editor has been burgled. Again. As I drew up outside my house in North St, two men suddenly burst through the front door and legged it up North St and over the footbridge towards town. After the first split second of non comprehension, when everything appears in slow motion, I set after them in hot pursuit shouting 'Stop thief!' as I'd seen them do on the telly. (This, I learnt from the police is completely ineffective – the only thing that works is shouting Fire!. I'll try that next time). However, one nice chap stopped and said he would have chased after them but he was on his way to collect his young daughter from school. He later provided a really good witness statement so

the police have a good chance of getting the scumbags. Luckily, I arrived home before they had the chance to take much. However, they had gained entry by kicking down my front door in broad daylight in the middle of the afternoon which gives some measure of their resolve/desperation – and provided a really good footprint. I have to say the police were fantastic. They were here in seconds and I got to ride in a police car (with tinted glass) searching the area for the culprits.



Gunning for scum: Newsletter Editor in anti-thief training with M16 assault rifle

Osney Island is an area of low crime and it's easy to become complacent. Make sure you lock your doors securely, keep an eye open for strangers who appear to be casing the Island etc, (my burglars were not young kids, they were probably in their 30s) and let's all keep an eye out for each other.

And what's more ...

Some miscreant stole John Tatlow's milk from 15 South St. It occurs regularly. Are other Islanders who get their milk delivered having similar thefts? Contact John on tel 721223 if you can help.

THE DIRECTORY

The following list is compiled from Islanders' recommendations. No one pays for an entry and suppliers are removed if there are reports of unreasonable rates or service so always check the latest list. OIRA cannot be held responsible for any claims as a result of hiring anyone in the Directory. You are always advised to get two quotes.

TRIED AND TESTED

Garden design and maintenance

Olivia's Gardens tel: 07866 476044. A fully qualified horticulturalist, runs a complete service from design to maintenance ('first class').

Washing machine repairs

RG Domestic tel: 01865 718299 mob: 0771 113 2961. Repairs all makes and has timed appointments including after 6pm; Chris Griffin of CE Electrical Services tel: 01865 842598 or mob: 0778 236 0979 ('I can thoroughly recommend him')

General builder

Chris Willis, mob: 07974 155 638 does general building work/carpentry, for example (re)hanging doors, laying patios, decking, associated painting/decorating, as well as kitchen/bathroom fitting. ('the work was carried out efficiently and to a very high standard'.)

General building, plumbing and repair work.

Pete Coles, Tel: 01865 776519. (Reliable, helpful, work of good standard, and reasonable rates).

Electrician

Baldwin Domestic Appliances on 01865 377484 ('they can fix anything'); Lee Chapman a green electrician ('really fantastic') mob: 07825 133337; DEC electricians on 725453 ('very good')

Building and roof repairs

Keith Webster, tel: 01865 374585 ('strongly recommended'); PJS Roofing Ltd ('member of the Confederation of Roofing Contractors and provides a reliable and professional service') tel: 01235 559803 mob: 07702 946255

Plumbing and heating

Ivan Kilbee, tel: 01235 847527, mob: 07050 133783; ('I have used Ivan for several years for servicing my boiler and general plumbing work. I'd give him a beta plus. His work is good and he comes on time, but he's not always easy to reach even on his cellphone.');

APV Boiler Services (Kidlington) Tel: 01865 377264 (friendly, efficient and clean workers).

Handyman

Jon Butt, mob: 07766 144116 ('a friend recommended him. He lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford') David Morris, tel: 725875 (reasonably priced; highly recommended)

Chimney sweep

Dennis Northcott, tel: 01235 526617 (does a good job)

Window cleaning

Paul Smith, mob: 07979 692895 ('like many others I use Paul's window cleaning service. He is amiable and reliable.')

I Elmsdown Cottages, Wilcote Riding, Finstock, Oxon OX7 3BZ, mob: 0797 9692895.

Interior and exterior decoration

Paul Simmons, tel: 01993 852317 mob 07803 603504 (good clean work and costs are reasonable); Dave Buckle, tel: 848630 evenings ('friendly, efficient and good value'); Steve Brierty, mob: 0785 0357414, tel: 01491 836762 ('strongly recommended'); Rob Bennett, mob: 0790 5819310 ('Highly recommended')

Flooring and general carpentry

Amazon Flooring, mob: 07899 918015 (highly recommended)

Sewing Services

Jan Donley, tel: 249625 upholstery (I've been please with everything she's done); Belinda Cockburn, tel: 250054 mending, making and alteration service ('her sewing is first class and she is so pleasant').

Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd, tel: 742144 ('have done some replastering for us on a couple of occasions and are good').

Apple Macs/Computers

Macfaction, bill@macfaction.co.uk, tel: 01993 811197 ('knowledgeable and helpful'); API Computing Andy Izzard, tel: 01865 821536 mob: 07964 796007 E-mail: andy@apicomputing.co.uk, www.apicomputing.co.uk (very efficient, not too costly, and ultra reliable)

Oven Cleaning

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

Ironing services

Beautiful Creases (ironing service that collects and delivers) tel: 01993 708333.

Beauty

Julia Harris does manicures and pedicures in your home. Mob: 07843 477452, Email: jools010@googlemail.com (a very good service); Nadine Wright, hairdresser, (ex-Mahogany, will come to your home and is highly recommended) mob: 07824 660184; Professional massage. email: ferhat@kneadme.co.uk (Fehra will come to your house, his rates are very reasonable.)

Removals

Isis Van Man, tel: 01865 553347 email: help@Isisvanman.com (very helpful and friendly)

Cleaners

Adela 07751821113 (always on time and does a very nice job)

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); County Council, tel: 792422; County Councillors: Sushila Devi Dhall, tel: 553415; Alan Armitage, tel: 516115; City Councillors: Colin Cook, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: cllrcook@oxford.gov.uk; Susanna Pressel, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk; Community Beat Officer PC Jan Warner, tel: 08458 505505; refuse, recycling, free collections, bulky items, street cleaning, drains and flooding tel: 252900; free advice on energy, tel: 252197; free advice on energy and home insulation, tel: 252197; noise complaints, daytime tel: 252553, out of hours tel: 742138; Community Centre tel: 245761; on-street fines, tel: 247090; car park fines, tel: 252489; furniture recycling, tel: 763698; residents parking permits, tel: 0845 634 4466; bike theft and abandoned bikes, tel: 0845 8505 505; abandoned and unlicensed vehicles, tel: 252900.

OIRA COMMITTEE

Committee members

Bianca Elgar 15 East St tel: 202977; Stephen Lynam 11 South St (Secretary); Fiona McFarlane (Treasurer) 11 South St; Elizabeth Newbery (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360; Richard Thurston 38 West Street, tel: 723663 (Chair); Kate Stewart 18 East St tel: 241856; Anna Truelove 83 Bridge St 245496 (Vice Chair); Duncan Wagstaff (web and noticeboard) 38 Bridge St; mob: 07812 125 650. The new email address for any OIRA committee member is askoira3@osneyisland.org.uk

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting will take place on **October 19 at 15 East St @ 8pm** If you'd like to raise an issue drop in or let someone on the committee know. You can find our agenda the minutes on the Bridge Street notice board and on the website. **Next newsletter is due out mid November 09, last date for copy October 30.** If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com. Further committee meetings will be held on 14th December.

A note on the Internet

OIRA website: www.osneyisland.co.uk Contributors should be aware that the newsletter is automatically posted on the Internet just as it appears in print.