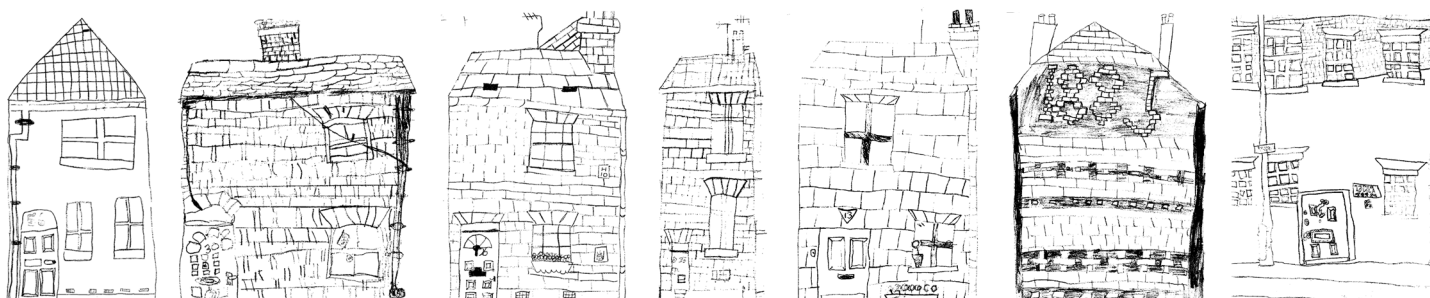


# OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.co.uk

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2010



Sorry about the late arrival of the first newsletter of the new decade. I've been in Melbourne since the beginning of January where one day everyone was kept indoors, not by snow, but by excessive heat – 46°. Anyway it's great to be back (though the rubbish on the streets looked awful) and a belated Happy New Year!

### COMING UP

#### **West Oxford Academy**

2 Feb: Talking therapies for severe mental illness/Jan Schupp

9 Feb: Refugees in Oxford in WWII/Irene Gill

16 Feb: The origin of the serif - an unwelcome answer to a 1000 year-old question/Tom Kemp

23 Feb: Tom Rolt and the Industrial Heritage/Matthew Searle

2 March: Chile - politics and literature/Flor Duran

9 March: Garden cities/Barbara Hammond

#### **Magdalene College Film Society**

The programme for the spring term is open to all. Admission is £5 on the door, entrance is the side door in Longhall St. <http://www.magdalenfilmsociety.com>

*Wednesday, 27 January*

19:30 The Silence (Ingmar Bergman, 1963)

21:10 The Great Silence (Sergio Corbucci, 1968)

*Sunday, 31 January*

19:30 Stalker (Andrei Tarkovsky, 1979)

*Monday, 1 February*

19:30 Pi (Darren Aronofsky, 1998)

21:00 The Hours (Stephen Daldry, 2002)

*Friday, 5 February*

19:30 Spellbound (Alfred Hitchcock, 1945)

21:25 Matchstick Men (Ridley Scott, 2003)

*Sunday, 7 February*

19:30 If... (Lindsay Anderson, 1968)

*Monday, 8 February*

19:30 Fast Times at Ridgemont High (Amy Heckerling, 1982)

21:10 Ghost World (Terry Zwigoff, 2001)

*Sunday, 14 February*

19:30 Some Like it Hot (Billy Wilder, 1959)

*Monday, 15 February*

19:30 Chungking Express (Wong Kar-Wai, 1994)

21:25 Tie me up! Tie me down! (Pedro Almodovar, 1990)

*Sunday, 21 February*

19:30 Pleasantville (Gary Ross, 1998)

*Monday, 22 February*

19:30 Wizard of Oz (Victor Fleming, 1939)

21:20 The Red Shoes (Powell & Pressburger, 1948)

*Tuesday, 23 February*

00:20 The Red Shoes (Powell & Pressburger, 1948)

*Sunday, 28 February*

19:30 La Haine (Kassovitz, 1995)

*Monday, 1 March*

19:00 The Ice Storm (Ang Lee, 1997)

21:00 Blue Velvet (David Lynch, 1986)

*Sunday, 7 March*

19:30 Yojimbo (Akira Kurosawa, 1961)

*Monday, 8 March*

19:00 I Vitelloni (Federico Fellini, 1953)

20:50 Apocalypse Now (Francis Ford Coppola, 1979)

*Tuesday, 9 March*

19:30 American Psycho (Mary Harron, 2000)

21:20 The Usual Suspects (Bryan Singer, 1995)

#### **Allotments AGM**

The allotments AGM will be held on 7 April @ 7.30 pm in the WOCC.

A reminder that the allotment shop is open to all Osney Island residents with discounted prices on items from garden tools to compost and seeds. The shop is open every Sunday from 10-12 and deliveries of heavy goods can be arranged.

#### **Tea on the Towpath**

The OIRA special event 2010 is Tea on the Towpath on 19 June. More details in the next newsletter.

## News from St Frideswide's

The restoration of our organ is nearing completion. We hope it will be ready in time for Easter.

### Regular service times:

St Fride-wide's, Botley Road:

Sundays 10.15am: Parish mass.

Tuesdays 7pm and Thursdays 12.30pm: Simple said mass.

## St Margaret's, Binsey

Second Sunday of each month, 9.00am: Mass.

### Lent and Holy Week services:

#### Wednesday 17 February

Ash Wednesday Service, 7.00pm, St Frideswide's. Traditional Eucharist and imposition of ashes.

#### Sunday 28 March

Palm Sunday procession and Eucharist, 10.15am, St Frideswide's. Traditional Palm Procession from Osney Island to the church.

#### Thursday 1 April

Maundy Thursday service, 7.00pm, St Frideswide's. Eucharist of the Last Supper with the traditional washing of feet and the stripping of the altars.

#### Friday 2 April (Good Friday)

Liturgy of the Passion, 12 noon, St Frideswide's. Traditional Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion. Includes the reading of the Passion, the creeping of the cross, prayers and communion.

#### Sunday 4 April (Easter Day)

Easter morning Eucharist, 10.15am, St Frideswide's. Sung Eucharist to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

## NEWS

### The Hollybush

Congratulations to Lee Chapman on taking over the running of the Hollybush. Why not drop in to support him and hear about his plans?

### Eggsecetera

Joe at Eggs has had good response to bulk purchases of Ecover laundry liquid, washing-up liquid, multi surface cleaner and now fabric conditioner too. Take along your empty bottles and refill for big discounts.

### Osney Island website

We are very pleased to announce that Alan Goodwin has kindly offered to manage the website. We are currently working on the completing the new site. If you would like to post anything on the website please contact alan@hilcot.demon.co.uk

## PEOPLE

### New babes on the block

Congratulations to Debbie Hall and Joe Andrews and baby Edith born on 18th December, a sister for Catherine; to Claire Maxwell and John Cox and baby Evan born in early December, a brother for Robyn and to Jo and Richard Dawtrey and baby Amelia born on 11th January, a sister for Isobel.

## Are you looking for a babysitter?

My name is Marco, I will be 16 in February and I live on Osney Island. I have experience and I love being with children. Please call me at 07506 107051 or drop by at 28 West Street if you are interested. References supplied if required.

## Rene Haffenden

We are sorry to learn that Edith Dorothy May, or Rene Haffenden as everyone knew her, passed away on January 21. David Brimson, her nephew, writes: 'born on the 2 November 1916 during World War 1, to Alf & Dorothy Slade, Rene was believed to be the oldest resident on Osney Island. She was born in 62 Bridge Street, the same house where she lived in all her life, the only exception being when she spent a year in a nursing home due to the flood damage in 2007. On leaving school Rene worked for Hunt & Broadhurst, the bookbinders on Botley Road. She married Reg Haffenden on the 9th November 1946 at St Michael's Church, on Cornmarket, her first husband Cyril Trafford having previously died in the war serving in the RAF. Rene was a generous and loving aunt and a friend to many on Osney Island. She often looked after her neighbour's children as they could climb over the low garden wall. She would always greet you with "Hello my duck". Farewell to Rene.

## FOR SALE AND FREEBIES

### Free

Prestige 3 litre pressure cooker as new. Great for saving energy! Call Eve Hoare on 421397. Oreck upright cordless electric broom, hardly used. £30 o.n.o.

### Lost and found

One small yale key found in West St. Please contact 725099.

## WANTED

### Accommodation wanted

We are seeking a short term let of a two/three bed house on Osney, ideally part furnished, for 10 weeks (mid-April - end June) while we have building work done on our West St house. Please contact Jon Cox ([jonathancox@yahoo.com](mailto:jonathancox@yahoo.com), 07779 154554) if you can help.

## A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

### Our man in West Street

*Every newsletter, local historian, Roy Hoare of West St, selects and writes about an item of local interest – this issue on chimney sweeps.*

Chimney sweeps planting sooty kisses on blushing brides was once considered good luck, but now it is a custom of the past, as both parties are rather rare. No longer are the few remaining sweeps the grimy individuals with cloth cap and overalls but clinically white-coated operatives who vacuum away every smut.

Before 1864, their predecessors, the Sweep Masters and their journeymen employed climbing boys to shin up flues and brush down the soot. These climbing boys

and some girls were taken into so-called apprenticeships upon payment of perhaps 5 guineas to the parents, whereupon the child would become the property of the Sweep Master. An item in Jackson's Oxford Journal of 16th Nov. 1764 shows that John Lay, apprentice to Richard Dormer, had absconded and a reward of half-a-crown (25p in today's money) was offered for his return. The article gave his full description and forbade anyone to harbour or entertain him.

The so-called apprenticeship consisted of a brief period of watching, then being thrust into the flue with an experienced boy behind; any reluctance on the part of the 'tyro' would prompt the slapping or pricking of his feet. The discomfort and horrific conditions they experienced resulted in scrapes, burns, sore eyes and constant chest infections. In their later years many suffered from cancers of the lips and scrotum, which was known as the sweeps cancer and rarely seen elsewhere.

Major accidents were commonplace. In March 1813 an eight-year-old boy named Pitt became firmly stuck in a chimney that had only recently been extinguished. After part of the chimney had been demolished, he was found to be dead and his elbows and knees had been burnt to the bone. These incidents were deemed to be accidental deaths. A law was passed in 1864 to end this horrendous practice but not without some opposition in Government. One noble enquired, 'How would I know that my chimneys were being swept properly?'

In the early 17th century Italians from Piedmont came to England to work as sweeps. Today, in the first week of September each year, hundreds of chimney sweeps meet at Santa Maria Maggiori in Piedmont. A brotherhood of sweeps meet to drink, and generally 'whoop it up'. A museum to their profession was opened there in 1975 and has become their Mecca. It also serves as a memorial to the many children who endured such suffering.

## 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

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: 07771 787585; ('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'); Ann Paver tel: 249129 soft furnishing including curtains, drapes etc. but not upholstery or loose covers ('highly recommended').



## 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; Susanna Pressel, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: cllrpressel@oxford.gov.uk; City Councillors: Colin Cook, tel: 285770 (day) 721844 (evening) email: cllrccook@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; 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

Next Committee meeting The OIRA committee's next meeting will take place on **24 February 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 March 2010, **last date for copy February 28**. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. Tel: 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com or use the tear-of strip below.

### A note on the Internet

OIRA website: [www.osneyisland.co.uk](http://www.osneyisland.co.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.

### Gazebo hire

Sally Roberts, 1 Bridge St, tel: 721596

### Notice board

Duncan Wagstaff, 38 Bridge St; mob: 07812 125 650.

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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.