

# OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.co.uk

## NEWSLETTER MAY / JUNE 2010



### COMING UP

#### **Hanging Hooke**

Islanders Marion Brown and Katja Simon, both scientific researchers, have collaborated to celebrate 350 years of the Royal Society. They are promoting *Hanging Hooke*, a play about the 17th century scientist, Robert Hooke, which returns to Oxford on **25 and 26 May @ 7.30 pm in the O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College, Blackhall Road**. Produced by Take the Space ([www.takethespace.co.uk](http://www.takethespace.co.uk)) tickets cost £10 either online [www.oxfordplayhouse.com](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com) or 305305.

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

Tea on the Towpath, **Saturday 19 June from 2.30 pm – 5 pm** is the main OIRA event for 2010, We'll have the gazebos, bunting, tables and chairs along the towpath with teas, coffee and organic juice for children, delicious homemade cakes and biscuits and locally produced fruit, cut flowers, vegetables, plants and preserves for sale. Bob Summers will be demonstrating how to make baskets and his lovely baskets will be on sale too. There will be a stall selling books and old gardening tools and children are welcome to sell their old toys. Pasting tables are available for hire @ £10 to sell homemade crafts etc (but no new or old clothes please).

Any offers of help to bake cakes, donate preserves and spare fruit, herbs and vegetables from the lottie, run a stall or help set up and take down would be very gratefully received. If you can help, please contact Bianca Elgar on 202977 or Elizabeth Newbery 793360.

Let's hope the weather is good but we'll carry if its drizzles and postpone if it pours. Log on to the website [www.osneyisland.co.uk](http://www.osneyisland.co.uk) if in doubt. See you there!

#### **Film at Magdalen**

Entrance to the auditorium is the side door on Longwall St. Cost £5 on the door.

*Sunday, 30 May 19:30* In the Realm of the Senses (Nagisa Oshima, 1976);

*Monday, 31 May 19:00* La Grande Bouffe (Marco Ferreri, 1973) 21:30 The Cook, the Thief, his Wife and her Lover (Peter Greenaway, 1989);

*Wednesday, 2 June 19:00* Dazed and Confused (Richard Linklater, 1993) 21:00 Requiem for a Dream (Darren Aronofsky, 2000);

*Sunday, 6 June 19:30* Good Will Hunting (Gus van Sant, 1997);

*Monday, 7 June 19:30* Cleo de 5 a 7 (Agnes Varda, 1962) 21:20 Three Colours: Blue (Krzysztof Kieslowski, 1993);

*Sunday, 13 June 19:30* 12 Angry Men (Sidney Lumet, 1957);

*Monday, 14 June 19:30* Rope (Alfred Hitchcock, 1948) 21:10 Lifeboat (Alfred Hitchcock, 1948).

#### **News from St Frideswide's**

The Hunter pipe organ, originally built in the 1870s, has now been fully restored. We are very grateful to all West Oxford residents who contributed to the organ appeal fund, and hope that these events give as many as possible the chance to enjoy the result of the restoration.

#### **Thursday 27 May**

Organ recital, 7.30pm, St Frideswide's. Organist Greg Wheele of Arundel Cathedral will play organ music from Germany and France, including pieces by Pachelbel, Bach, Brahms, Clerambault, Widor, Guilmant, Franck and Dubois. Suggested £5 donation to include refreshments.

#### **Thursday 10 June**

Organ recital, 7.30pm, St Frideswide's. Organist: Dorothea Harris. Suggested £5 donation to include refreshments.

#### **Thursday 1 July**

Organ recital, 7.30pm, St Frideswide's. Organist: Anthony Burns-Cox. Suggested £5 donation to include refreshments.

#### **Regular service times**

**St Frideswide's, Botley Road:**

Sundays 10.30am: Parish Eucharist.

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

## St Margaret's, Binsey

Second and fourth Sundays of each month, 9.00am:

Eucharist.

Sundays 3.30pm: Evensong.

## THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

### Kingfishers

*From Ben Thomas:* For about a week at the start of March, Osney's kingfishers made birdwatchers out of several previously uninterested islanders (including me), as they flitted along the bank in the grounds of St Frideswides. Regulars on West Street are used to the occasional flash of bright blue along the channel, but for these few days the birds were more outgoing, perhaps as they were looking for a suitable place for their eggs. Some very impressive looking cameras also appeared over the week; I managed to catch a few pictures on a small compact camera (more at [osney.wordpress.com](http://osney.wordpress.com)). Hopefully the kingfishers will be putting in appearances throughout the summer. The RSPB website ([rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)) has a recording of their song, which is useful if you're trying to pinpoint them.



## A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

For the past few years Roy Hoare has regularly contributed his very popular local history column. However, Roy feels it's time to hand the baton over to someone else so this is his last piece. Is there someone to contribute a new column, perhaps on natural history relevant to the Island?

### The Covered Market

*From Roy Hoare:* The market is an oasis of interest away from the bustle of pedestrians and convoys of buses on the High. Visitors to Oxford who have found their way into the old place - the entrances are not too obvious - will hold it in their memory as one of the highlights of their visit to our city.

The Covered Market was built in 1772 and designed by John Gwynn, who was also the architect of Magdalen Bridge. The purpose was to centralize the sprawl of market traders from along the roads leading from Carfax, where they caused congestion and pollution, especially the butchers and fishmongers. A committee

of twelve was formed to manage it, six from the city and six from the university. William Tubb was the first Beadle, receiving 10s. a week for 'wage and administration'.

Extensions were built in 1808 and the roof was added in 1874. Initially there were 40 butchers, followed by stalls for fishmongers, greengrocers and mercers. The Alden family was among the first group of butchers. Originally from America, they came to live in Chipping Norton in the mid 18th century trading in cattle and butchery. They continued to trade in the market until the 21st century when they moved to Osney Mead where they still run a fine butchery. As time progressed the number of stall holders increased and by 1892 there were over 100.

In its early days, the arena was used for other events. On the 17th July 1783, two men were tried for some minor local mischief and ordered to stand in the pillory for two hours and fined £10. In July 1785, a man was publicly whipped for stealing a shirt. Perhaps one of the most bizarre incidents, as recorded in Jackson's Oxford Journal in 1879, was "About noon on Wednesday last, a vulgar mode of divorce lately adopted, was put into practice in our new market place, before a multitude of witnesses, Richard Hawkins, a canal navigator-man, made public sale of his wife to William Gibbs, a mason employed at works of the Castle. The price was 5s. Whereupon the wife walked off quite eagerly with her new partner." In September 1980 rings and watches were stolen from Gowrings the jewelers. The thieves smashed three holes in the roof and used a hook to fish out the loot.

Over the years there has been considerable friction regarding Council rent rises. In 2008, excessive increases threatened to send many traders out of business. A petition organised by the Conservative Party caused the City Council to re-consider its rental policy. The current controversy relates to Sunday opening over which the Council have levied a blanket 10% rise in rentals whether or not the trader will open.

## BITS AND BOBS

### Committee changes

At the OIRA AGM held in April, we bid a fond farewell to our outgoing chair Richard Thurston (see last newsletter) and welcomed in our new chair Kate Stewart, to be nobly assisted by two vice-chairs, Stephen Lynam and Anna Truelove. We also bid farewell to Duncan Wagstaff who is moving to London.

Welcome back to **Brian and Joyce Chalmers** who lived in various houses on the island and then moved back to their native Canada for family reasons, never forgot the island. They are happily living here again for half the year.

**Anya** has helped me clean our house for a number of years, she is fantastic and very reliable. She still has some time on Saturdays to babysit, cook, iron (she can take away the ironing and deliver during the week too) and clean. £10 an hour. Tel: 075449 95988 or phone me, Bianca Elgar, tel: 202977

### **Music on Osney**

John Tatlow is looking for musicians, composers and singers keen to play, practice, sing on Tuesday evenings from 8 pm @ 15 South St. He is particularly keen to 'jam' by the river on summer nights. If you'd like to join him call 0796 368 6035/721223 or on facebook: John Tatlow.

### **Crime: stolen milk**

Residents who have milk delivered are outraged at the audacious thief/thieves who persist in stealing their milk. John Tatlow feels that milk delivery is part of the British way of life but, such is his rage, threatens to buy milk at the Co-op instead if the thefts continue. He asks: What can be done to stop this petty theft that causes such great inconvenience at the breakfast table? Such is the seriousness of the problem that it was actually bought up at the AGM by PC Jan Warner. All sorts of inventive suggestions were put forth, none of them strictly legal. Richard Thurston, outgoing chair, not quite capturing the mood of the moment, suggested that if stolen milk was the biggest threat to Islanders' security they hadn't got much of a problem.

### **Accommodation wanted**

We are looking for a short term let of a /three bed house on Osney, ideally part or unfurnished, for 5-6 months weeks starting possibly mid June while we have a lot of building work done on our West St house. Please contact Susan Hutchinson on 01865 792358 or email allat42@gmail.com.

### **A rival newsletter?**

Residents on East Street have been receiving a newsletter written, designed, produced, published and delivered by 13-year-old Megan Lewis of East Street. By all accounts it is miles better than this one and has really interesting stuff in it like HOROSCOPES!

### **Gazebo hire**

Now that summer's here don't forget that any resident on the island can hire gazebos for £5 each. Contact *Sally Roberts* 1 Bridge St tel 721596.

### **For sale**

Heavy duty blender £15, desk fan £15. Tel: 793360.

## **THE DIRECTORY**

Note that one of two number had got muddled recently, but thanks to kenneyed readers they have now hoefully been corrected.

The following list is compiled from Islanders recommendations only. No one pays for an entry and suppliers are removed if there are reports of unreasonable rates or service. The list is only as good as the updates so please let me know if anyone has retire or dropped out for other reasons.

## **TRIED AND TESTED**

**New entry: Cleaners Rui Nunez** mob: 07907 817241 ('excellent cleaners and very reliable').

### **General builder**

**Chris Willis** mob: 07974 155 638 does general building work/carpentry eg (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'); **Pete Coles** tel: 01865 776319 mob: 07760 327 057 also does plumbing ('reliable, helpful and reasonable rates')

### **Building and roof repairs**

**Gosford Builders** tel: 01865 373467 mob: 07855 373467 ('good work and very fair rates')

### **Plumbing and heating**

**Ivan Kilbee** tel: 01235 847527 mob: 07771 787585; ('good work and comes on time'); **APV Boiler Services** tel: 01865 377264 ('friendly, efficient and clean workers'); **Colin Pizzie** (electrics, plumbing, kitchens, bathrooms) tel: 01235 554655

### **Electricians**

**RJB Electrical** (rewires and new installations) tel: 01865 882723 mob: 07711 934348; **J.L. Electrical** (rewires, fuse boards, sockets, lights) mob: 07825 133337; **CE Electrical Services** tel: 01865 842598 or mob: 0778 2360 979 ('thoroughly recommended'); **DEC Electricians** tel: 725453 ('very good')

### **Domestic appliances**

**Baldwin Appliances** tel: 01865 377484 [www.baldwinappliances.com](http://www.baldwinappliances.com); **RG Domestic** tel: 01865 718299 mob: 0771 113 2961 ('Repairs all makes and has timed appointments including after 6pm')

### **Handyman**

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

### **Chimney sweep**

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

### **Window cleaning**

**Paul Smith** mob: 07979 692895 ('amiable and reliable.')

### **Interior and exterior decoration**

**Paul Simmons** tel: 01993 852317 mob: 07803 603504 ('good clean work and reasonable costs') **Dave Buckle** tel: 848630 evenings ('friendly, efficient and good value'); **Steve Brierty** 01491 836762 mob: 0785 0357414 ('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 pleased with everything she's done); **Belinda Cockburn** mending, making and alterations tel: 01856 250054 ('her swewing is first class'); **Ann Paver** tel: 249129 soft furnishing including drapes, curtains but not upholstery ('highly recommended')

### **Damp**

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

## Apple macs

Bill Richards @ Macfactor tel: 01993 811197 ('excellent and will come out if not too busy'); APi Computing tel: 01865 821536 mob: 07964 796007 ('efficient, not too costly')

## Oven Cleaning

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

## Ironing services

Creases tel: 01869 347414 ('they collect and deliver - I've used them for years')

## Removals

Isis Van Man tel: 01865 422342 mob: 07828 185884 email: help@Isisvanman.com ('very helpful and friendly')

## 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: cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk; *City Councillors: Colin Cook*, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk and Susanna (as above); *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; *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 **on 15 June at 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 July, **last date for copy June 30**. 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.

### Gazebo hire

*Sally Roberts*, 1 Bridge St, tel: 721596

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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.