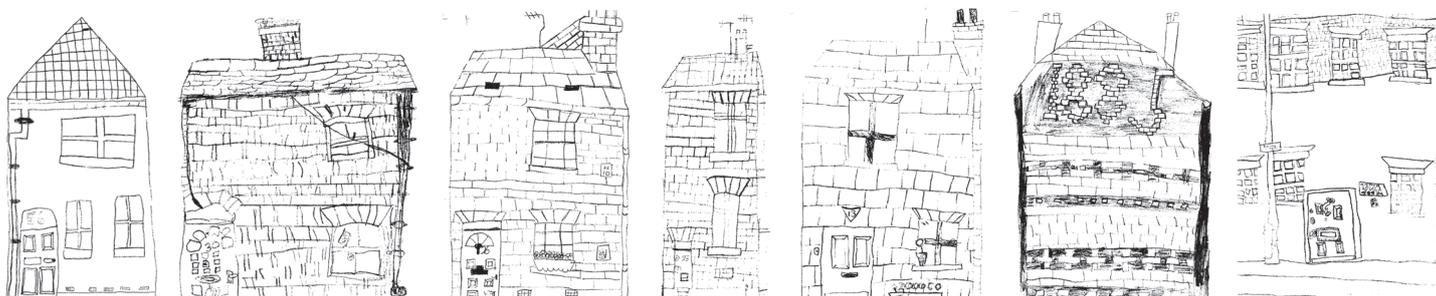


OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.co.uk

NEWSLETTER MARCH / APRIL 2012



COMING UP

The Osney Island Diamond Olympics, Saturday June 30

Disappointed not to have got tickets for the Olympics? Gutted never to have won a medal of any sort? Fed up when others snigger at your synchronised moves in the local pool? Feel left out that you've never been busted for drugs? ALL THAT IS ABOUT TO CHANGE! OSNEY ISLAND IS HOSTING OUR OWN OLYMPICS GAMES AND WILL NOT DISAPPOINT.

On **Saturday June 20**, starting at 12 noon, we plan an opening event with an Osney Island Olympic torch; zumba, belly and morris dancing; live music, street art and international street food. This (we hope) will be followed by games and races that the official Olympics can only dream of. Ideas include a round the Island relay race, triathlon, roller skating or scooter races, a treasure hunt, hobby horse show jumping and dressage, a table tennis tournament, pole vaulting demos, synchronised swimming, kayaking/canoe, a raft race, rubber duck race, egg and spoon and three-legged races, a dog show, Aunt Sally and petanque, a fancy dress parade with an Olympic theme and the grand finale - AN INTER-STREET TUG O' WAR. All this and tea and cakes too! BUT we need an army of volunteers to make this a success. If you can help with anything from judging races to baking cakes, join us in The Punter on Friday March 16 @ 8.30pm or contact Elizabeth on 793360 or email elizabeth@newberyandengland.com.

The Messiah in a day

West Oxford very own Messiah in a day on Sunday July 1 at the Community Centre. No auditions, instruments and conductor supplied; open to all West Oxonians. If you are interested call at Warlands bike shop for a form or email fiona.hedges@virgin.net

OIRA AGM

The one and only OIRA AGM will be held on **Sunday April 22 @ 7.30pm**. The agenda will include the usual business including approval of reports but also the election of officers (a new chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary) as well as committee members. Each officer is elected for a term of one year and each committee

member is elected for a term of three years. If you'd like to stand as a committee member or officer, please make sure that you submit your name to the secretary, Steve Lynam (see below) no later than 14 days prior to the AGM. Please give your contact details and the position for which you'd like to stand, together with a proposer and a seconder, both of whom must live on Osney Island. OIRA is your association, so please come along and help to shape the future direction of your community association and join in the debate. And remember to come along and vote!

The Boat Club AGM

From Simon Stubbings: The OIBC exists to provide boating facilities for residents of the Island. Unfortunately the boat shed on the towpath can only accommodate a limited number of craft. However, one of these belongs to the Club and it is available for use by members. In addition other members are often prepared to lend their boats out. The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Punter on Thursday 12 April at 8:00pm. Whilst it must be conceded that the meeting itself cannot be said to be a highlight of Osney's social calendar, dealing as it does with the routine matters of election of officers, approval of accounts, and fixing of subscriptions for the coming year, it nevertheless provides an opportunity for members and prospective members of the Club to get together, enjoy a drink and find out more about how the Club operates. All are welcome to attend.

Allotments AGM

The AGM is **Thursday 19 April** at WOCC at 7.30pm. This will be an important AGM as several members in senior positions are standing down. If you can't be there please send your apologies. Volunteers for the committee would be gratefully received. If you would like an allotment this is the place and time to be.

Allotment holders may be interested in this link: Cultivateoxford.org. They got a lot of publicity from the Radio 4 Food Programme & the Oxford Times a few weeks ago.

West Oxford Matters Meeting 22/2/12

WOM communicates residents' response on planning matters to the City and County Council and Councillors, the police and other relevant authorities. On 22 February, residents met to raise issues of local concern and to talk about the proposed changes to Frideswide Square. Here's a very brief summary of what was discussed.

Help wanted!

The City and County Councils have encouraged WOM to apply for an active communities grant to establish a network of community guardians across west Oxford to act as a link between residents and local government, listening to local people and their concerns and sharing information with them on any impending planning applications, with the aim of putting local people at the heart of shaping our community and endeavouring to develop west Oxford solutions to local need. The guardians would receive support and mentoring and would each have a small budget to spend in their area. If you are interested in becoming a community guardian, please contact Stanley Skogluns at skogluns@hotmail.co.uk or on Oxford 246001

Graffiti busters are needed to help remove graffiti on the towpath adjacent to Abbey Road. Please contact PC Jan Warner at Jan.Warner@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk if you're willing to help.

Refuse Bin for Boaters?

From David Frudd: The Environment Agency have contacted our Councillor, Susanna Pressel representing the Landowner, Oxford City Council, seeking permission to chain a refuse store to the railings at Bridge Buck Weir adjacent to the footbridge at the junction of East Street and North Street, between April and October. This follows the withdrawal of a facility by The Punter and to address a rubbish disposal problem caused by what the EA refers to as inconsiderate boaters. The EA say that a facility on their land at the lock is not suitable owing to the 'compact nature of the site' and the distance from the road.

A number of East Street residents have been canvassed recently for their views; ours cover objections on grounds of planning (Article 4), environmental (vermin, seagulls), legal (should EA obliged to provide this?), and aesthetic (existing grassy area looks much nicer). At present, refuse is disposed at the lock cottage and offices without too much trouble, and there are additional facilities at Abingdon, Eynsham and Hythe Bridge Street. Note that although residents face penalties for leaving household refuse out for collection every fortnight, this proposed facility would be available to boaters 24 hours a day. Please send your views to SPressel@oxford.gov.uk

Frideswide Square

Both options under consideration involve gyratory systems, one with a central roundabout the length of the square, the other with two small roundabouts linked by roadway going east/west. The proposal is to do away

with traffic lights and marked crossing points, though these may be an option to be introduced later.

It is envisaged that traffic will self-regulate at 10-15mph. The aim is that drivers should feel that they are intruding on pedestrian space and moderate their speed accordingly. There will be no separation of buses from general traffic. It is anticipated that the gyratory system will be inherently more efficient than a signalised junction.

Cyclox is not happy with either scheme from a cyclist's perspective, feeling that neither is not sufficiently refined to go to decision. OCCl says that once it has approval to proceed with detailed design, resolving the question of cycle provision will be one of its main priorities." Cyclox understands that the council is quite happy to talk further about getting the proposals right. To read more about Cyclox's objections, go to www.cyclox.org/what-we-say/cyclox-response-to-frideswide-square-consultation/

Residents present at the WOM meeting discussed the positives and negatives of the respective schemes, and possible additions to them. To view an account of the discussion, produced by West Oxford Matters, go to <http://osneyisland.co.uk/> The proposals go to cabinet on 13 March.

BT fibre cabinet update

From Jon Cox: An update to my note in the last newsletter about the BT fibre cabinet for Osney: Inevitably the timetable I outlined in my previous note, which suggested a completion date before Christmas, has slipped. However – as you may have noticed – the cabinet installation work started in the last week of February by the allotments bus stop. The cabinet will now apparently be 'ready for service' and complete by the end of March, for the end of the financial year.

Otters on Osney

From John Cox: I had a magical and entirely unexpected experience on a frosty Monday evening in mid-January when I spent 20 minutes watching a group of four otters on Osney. The group I saw was seemingly a family: two larger 'adults' and two smaller 'children', the latter with less pronounced white colouration to their chests. Initially, I saw a pair (the 'adults') very briefly in the sluice channel under the yew tree in St Frideswide's churchyard, at the top of West St. Twenty minutes later I was able to watch all four at length in and around the pool underneath the North Street footbridge, by the Osney Bridge sluice gate. Despite a careful look every time I have subsequently been out in the evenings, I have not seen them again. Has anyone else?

REQUESTS, FREEBIES & ACCOMMODATION**Short let wanted**

I am a medical anthropologist from Germany (research associate at ISCA, Oxford University, 45), and my husband is a writer from Boston (53). We are looking for a suitable flat in Osney or in the centre of Oxford for 2-3 months from June onward (flexible dates), to use the libraries in Oxford. We are non-smoking and quiet and would like a short term let arrangement, but

would also enjoy a house-sit, taking care of pets and plants while you are on a holiday. For more details and local references, please contact us. Barbara Gerke and Thomas K. Shor: barbara.gerke@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Short let or house-sit wanted

Mature American couple looking for accommodation from 1st – 29th June 2012. Will happily pet or house sit or rent. They have experience of animals. Please email Osney resident Karen@chillipots.co.uk or call 07810805406.

Para's pepper

From Anne James: Para's pepper has arrived - £5 for 200gms (8oz). If you would like some contact me on 725906 or email riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk

Child care available

From Belinda Cockburn: I have excellent references and am available part time to look after your little one when you decide to return to work. I am of grandmother age, and have patience and love to give to your child. If I can help, please ring 01865 250054.

St Frideswide with Binsey

We are delighted to announce that the search for a new priest-in-charge has been completed successfully. The Reverend Clare Sykes has been appointed to be the new Rector of the Osney Benefice, and will start in the summer. Clare will be bringing with her twenty years of parish ministerial experience, as well as plenty of life experience.

Easter services

Maundy Thursday, April 5th, 7 pm at St Frideswide
Good Friday, April 6th, 7pm at St Frideswide
Easter Sunday, April 8th, 10:30am at St Frideswide

A plea to folks with wooden floors

An Osney resident who suffers from neighbours clomping about on wooden floors wishes to voice an appeal. Please if your floors and stairs are uncarpeted, do spare a thought for the folks next door and either don soft soles or patter about in socks or barefoot.

Dial 101 for police (non emergency)

Until recently, to make non urgent contact with Thames Valley Police, the usual process was to ring their HQ in Kidlington on an 0845 number. From March 2012 the number to ring is 101 and charged at 15p regardless of duration.

Snow shovels and gazebos

Please note that the gazebos and snow shovels are now kept at The Punter.

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); *County Council*, tel: 792422; *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*, tel: 249811; *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.

THE DIRECTORY

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 retired or dropped out for other reasons.

New recommendations

Hairdressers: 'I am very happy with Nadine Wright who is ex-Mahogany, cheerful and comes to my home on a Tuesday (07824660184).'

Plumber: The Really Good Plumbing Company (aka Jonathan Smith) tel: 01993 778244, mob: 07790 961395 (reliable, competent and cheerful).

Locksmith: Davies Hardened Security tel: 01865 mob: 07711 625092 ('a rapid response within 24 hours')

TRIED AND TESTED

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 specialist in carpentry and joinery, NHBC registered est 1974: **R.P. Lepper** tel: 01993 882522 mob: 07801 136 4817 ('excellent, experienced workmanship'); **Mark Mavrommatis** tel: 07970 974792 to install new windows, repair old ones, paint. He did an excellent job and at the moment is very reasonably priced because he is re-establishing himself in the Oxford area'.

Building and roof repairs

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

Plumbing and heating

Plumbing and heating: **Aquatic** tel: 01865 749999 mob: 07050 011884 (highly recommended); **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** (electricians, 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; Washing machine repairs. Contact: Chris at **Oxford Domestic**. Appointments can be booked online at oxforddomestic.com or tel: 01865 407494. ('skilled, timely, user friendly with very reasonable fixed prices and no call out fee').

Handyman

Jon Butt tel: 07766 144116 (lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford); **David Morris** tel: 725875 (reasonably priced); **Oli** tel: 0791 900 2222 Oxford-based and former resident of Bridge Street. Reasonably priced and highly recommended ('good eye for detail for period properties') tel: 01865-236747 (very professional, prompt, organised, does a great job).

Chimney sweep

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

Window cleaning

Paul Smith mob: 0797 9692 895 ('amiable and reliable.')

Interior and exterior decoration

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')

Upholstery

Jan Donley tel: 249625 upholstery (I've been pleased with everything she's done);

Sewing Services

Belinda Cockburn mending, making and alterations tel: 01865 250054 ('her sewing 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 Richardson email: bill@macfaction.co.uk tel: 01993 811197 ('excellent and will come out if not too busy'); **Mac Simple** is based in Osney Mead tel 07974 321064 www.macsimple.co.uk ('excellent and local').

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')

Hairdressers

Highly recommended hair stylist who does your hair in the comfort of your own home! (former Art Director

Mahogany and Toni & Guy) **Sally Horton** mob: 07815 445229.

Gardening Services

Marion White, lady gardener tel: 01865 245071. (Good hourly rate, great work and winner of the Oxford in Bloom (small garden category); **Oxford Garden Services** mob: 0755 498 7911('excellent tree surgery at fair rates - and they cleared up well afterwards')

Cleaners

Husband and wife team **Rui and Marcia** come highly recommended by several Islanders. Email: rnunes00@hotmail.com or text to mob: 0742 907 8580.

Thai massage, Chinese bodywork & acupuncture

Elizabeth Elliott mob: 07866 759669, offers treatment in her home on Osney. ('Highly recommended: one massage session with her is so relaxing, it's like a two-week holiday.')

Boilers

Jamie Cooke Tel: 07775 700300 email: JC.Electrical@hotmail.com ('excellent service')

Lighting

Oxford Lighting and Electrical Solutions Culham No1 Site, Station Rd, Abingdon OX14 3DA tel: 01865 408522 ('an immense range of light fittings and qualified electricians to install').

OIRA COMMITTEE

Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South St tel: 247737; *Stephen Lynam* (Secretary and Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Fiona McFarlane* (Treasurer) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Elizabeth Newbery* (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360; *Kate Stewart* (Chair) 18 East St tel: 241856; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St tel: 245496.

The email address for any OIRA committee member is askoira@osneyisland.org.uk

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is March 21 @ 8pm in the Punter. 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 May, last date for copy April 30. If you would like to put an item in contact: **Elizabeth Newbery** 3 North St. 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com or use the tear-off strip below.

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. Please bear in mind that OIRA can't accept any responsibility for the contents of external websites.

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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.