

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk
September/October 2012

COMING UP

Launch of Osney Olympics book

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Osney Island Diamond Olympics booklet on **Sunday 30 September @ 6.30 pm in The Punter**. You'll be able to buy the book for the 'price of a pint' - £3.50 and order copies of photographs taken by Chris Elliot.

Allotment Autumn BBQ

Sunday, 30 September 1-5 pm by the shop on the Twenty Pound Meadow site. If its wet we'll decamp of WOCCA or the Church. Please BYOB and your own picnic food if you would like. The Association will provide: BBQs, cooks, baked potatoes, ratatouille, plates and cutlery. And BBQ food for cooking and sharing would be greatly appreciated. If you could bring a chair from your plot, that would help too.

West Oxford Academy

West Oxford Academy will start again on **Tuesday 9 October** when Mary Russell will give a talk on Cycling in Syria. The Academy has been going for an amazing six years. Many Osney residents have contributed wonderful and inspiring talks and many more attend regularly. But I am sure there are still a few people left who could give a fascinating talk! So if you - or a friend or neighbour - would talk about a favourite topic please get in touch with me. Also, previous speakers are welcome to contribute new talks. My email address is allat42@gmail.com or phone Sue Hutchinson on 792358.

Recitals at St Frideswide

Thursday 27th September at 7.30pm: at St Frideswide Organ concert by Dan Chambers £5 including a glass of wine and nibbles.

Thursday 25th October at 7:30pm: Organ concert by Paul Edwards £5 which includes a glass of wine and nibbles.

Thursday 29th November at 7:30pm the exuberant St James Singers will be giving an evening of music and readings with an Advent theme.

St Frideswide Craft Fair and Gift Day

Saturday 6th October 10.30am to 3pm: Craft Fair and Gift Day: a wide range of crafts for sale and demonstration by craftspeople, fun activities for children, tombola, jams and pickles for sale – plus chance to hear the magnificent Hunter organ. Morning coffee, afternoon tea, and light lunches will be available. St Frideswide Church and St Margaret Binsey are



both listed buildings which are important to local people. We hold a gift day each year to help with their running costs and maintenance. Gift Day envelopes are available from Anne James: phone 01895 725906, email riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk, and on the day. Low Carbon West Oxford is holding a **Bring and Take in the Community Centre** opposite on the same day.

Family Eco Event

Saturday 13th October 10.00am to 12.30pm: children and their families are invited to join naturalist Owain Hegarty in St Frideswide's grounds discovering its environmental inhabitants. You are invited to bring a picnic to have in the grounds after the workshop and then to visit St Margaret's Binsey to explore the wildlife, trees and flowers in the country churchyard there. This is a free event with a suggested donation of £2. Children must be accompanied by an adult. With thanks to our sponsors Oxford City Council.

Oxford Area Flood Partnership's OPEN FORUM

Tuesday 16th October from 7:00 ~ 8:30 pm in the Town Hall Oxford.

The meeting will open with a short presentation but the main part of the meeting will focus on residents' questions.

ISLAND NEWS

Oh deer!

In late August, Ray Riches, the lock keeper found an unexpected guest in Osney Lock - a deer. Fortunately the water was very high in the lock at the time and Ray was able to reach the deer and put a rope around its neck. The deer, apparently, became very calm and let Ray lead it up the steps of the lock, out onto the towpath and up onto the field of the nature reserve.

Meanwhile, Fiona who lives in South Street, saw a deer through the Environment Agency yard fence at the end of her garden. Half an hour later, her husband Steve saw a deer in the river valiantly swimming up stream. Was this the same deer at the one in the lock? Or is there a herd of secret swimmers?

If anyone has any other stories about wildlife – foxes, badgers, lions etc email elizabeth@newberyandengland.com for inclusion in the next newsletter.

A new webmaster

We are delighted to welcome Andy Millard of Bridge St as our new webmaster. He will encourage more interaction by setting up a social networking facility and keep the site up-to-date.

Greening the island

Following on from the 'greening' of Bridge St, and inspired by descriptions of hollyhocks in the streets of Amsterdam and roses in streets in Denmark, we are launching a campaign for more window boxes on the Island. What's more, we are offering £15 towards boxes and plants for the first 10 Islanders to sign up! Contact Jude Carroll, window box consultant, 10 East tel: 793247 for further details.

Crime: the milk thief strikes again

From South and West St: We, and the rest of West Street, appear to have been relieved of our milk in the early hours of this morning (September 6). I'll report this to the police, but I think we're taking the line that this is once too often and given Susanna's point about Dairy Crest refusing to consider a more appropriate delivery time we're voting with our feet - meaning we'll cancel our contract ...and walk to Eggs Etcetera instead. Sad because a delivery is such a convenient (and traditional and green) arrangement but I for one am not prepared to get up in the middle of the night to get the milk in!

...and bicycle thieves

Clearly September 6 was not a good night for crime, as we have someone's cut bike lock on the pavement outside our house in South St this morning as well.

St Frideswide with Binsey

From the Revd Clare Sykes: I am the new Rector of St. Frideswide. Along with my colleagues, the Revd Judith Brown and the Revd Martin Henig, I am here to be of service to the community of West Oxford and Binsey. I live in Botley, but you will see me around the parish with my two whippets or on my bike. Do stop me for a chat. I look forward to getting to know you all. On Friday 2nd November at 7.00pm we are holding a special service on All Souls Day for our community. Also, put in your diary our 3.00pm Crib Service on Christmas Eve and our service for Christmas Day at 10.30am. You can contact me on: 242345 or revclare@btinternet.com. www.stfrideswideschurch.org.uk www.binseystmargaret.org.uk

Regular Services

St Frideswide

Every Sunday 10.30am ~ 11.30am: Sung Eucharist. First Sunday of the month is a special children and families' service, with children's hymns

St Margaret's, Binsey

First Sunday of each month, 9.00am: Said Eucharist. Evensong every Sunday at 4.30pm.

REQUESTS, FREEBIES & ACCOMMODATION

Requests, Freebies, For Sale

Magazine or newspaper placement request

From Annabel Dunstan: Many Osney Islanders are

familiar with the East Street Echo, written, designed, printed, folded, stapled and delivered to households on East St, by Megan Lewis, aged 14. Megan has published 19 issues over two years and is now working on a new digital publication targeting teenagers.

As part of her year 10 studies she is required to find a work placement, 11th-15th March. With her passion for copy writing, editing and design she is really keen to secure a week's work experience with a national consumer magazine or a newspaper. It would be great experience for her to see a publication being put together professionally and would I am sure inspire her to pursue her dream of becoming a magazine editor. Can anyone help her find a placement? Megan would be happy to travel and stay with friends in London for the week and so location is not a problem. Please call Annabel Dunstan (her mum!) on 07790 216 441 if you have any suggestions.

Selling up?

Tom and Sara are very keen to find somewhere to live on Osney Island, ideally a 2-bed terrace. If anyone is thinking of selling up, we'd love to speak to you: tomw@foliosociety.com tel: 07765 423 636

For rent

A beautiful modern 2nd floor flat with 2 spacious double bedrooms for rent in Bridge St. It has a very large garden shared with just two other flats. It is unfurnished apart from a modern sofa with sofa bed. One of the bedrooms has a very large built in wardrobe. The flat is available from 21st September. Please contact Karen Brooks email:Karen@chillipots.co.uk or tel: 07810 805406.

Osney Olympic mugs and T-shirts

From Karen Brooks: I have just 11 mugs left and seven 3-4 year old, five 5-6 year old and one 7-8 year old t-shirts left. Email Karen@chillipots.co.uk or call 07810805406 if you would like one. T-shirts are £4 and mugs £5 – the perfect Christmas presents!

Tools for sale

Electric flymo garden vac (with harness) £25; retractable garden rake £3; garden fork £2; garden claw £2; five-tine Wolf cultivator £10; Wolf baulker £10; Danarm trimmer (with harness) £35; Scotts Easy Green spreader £7.50; Clarke Little Devil space heater £25. Contact Ron Steele 247961

Wanted: new Treasurer

From Fiona McFarlane: I will be stepping down as OIRA and OIRA Limited Treasurer after the next AGM (or earlier if anyone is ready to take over!) so we are looking for a replacement. You need to keep the books, collect the subs, prepare the accounts, look after the bank accounts, generally think about the money consequences of decisions and be an active member of the OIRA committees. It's a good way of getting involved in the life of the Island. I will do a proper handover to whoever it is and be around for any questions after that. Would anyone interested let me know (t 201334)? Very happy to talk about what's involved in a bit more detail before you put your hand up.

Note: as a special incentive the new treasurer will qualify for a FREE window box plus window box consultancy!

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

Eric Blake mob: 075911 57180 former head gardener at Shotover Estate does garden maintenance and carpentry eg building and repairing sheds and greenhouses fencing etc (very reasonable rates)

Logsforall.co.uk - offer two sizes of seasoned, sustainably sourced, local, mess free logs, delivered free, the smaller size of log ideal for smaller woodburners/fireplaces. Not the cheapest but excellent burning and reliable delivery service, strongly recommended.

Jon Wyver: bicycles and accessories. He will deliver and pick up in Oxford free of charge. Efficient, friendly and reliable Excellent prices. mob: 07842 901873 email: info@oxbicycles.co.uk www.oxbicycles.co.uk

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** building specialist, carpentry and joinery 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; **J Smith** tel: 01993 778244, mob: 07790 961395 ('reliable, competent and cheerful'); **Jamie Cook boiler repairs** (electrical repairs only) mob: 07775 700330

Kitchen fitters

Benchmark kitchens (helpful kitchen designers with good range of products) tel: 01865 372372

Electricians

RJB Electrical (rewires and new installations) tel: 01865 882723 mob: 07711 934348; **J.L. Electrical** (rewires, fuse boards, sockets, lights) mob: 07825 133337; **DEC Electricians** tel: 725453 ('very good'); **Baldwin Appliances** all white goods tel: 01865 377484 www.baldwinappliances.com;

Handyman

Jon Butt tel: 07766 144116 (lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford'); **Oli** tel: 0791 900 2222 Oxford-based. Reasonably priced and highly recommended; **Andrew Russell** ('highly recommended handyman, house and garden maintenance') tel: 01865 453497 mob: 07977 837675

Locksmith

Davies Hardened Security tel: 01865 371816 mob: 07711 625092 ('a rapid response within 24 hours')

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); **Ann Paver** tel: 249129 soft furnishing including drapes, curtains but not upholstery ('highly recommended')

Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd tel: 01865 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: 01865 376100 ('excellent and will come out if not too busy'); **Mac Simple** is based in Osney Mead tel: 01865 580886 mob: 07974 321064 www.macsimple.co.uk ('excellent and local').

OIRA COMMITTEE

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; Nadine Wright ('ex-Mahoganny, cheerful and comes to my home on a Tuesday') mob: 07824 660184.

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'); David Morris tel: 01865 725875 (gardening maintenance and some diy).

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').

Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel : 793247 (gazebos); Georg Deutsch 4 Bridge St (Chair); Bianca Elgar, 15 East St; Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South St tel: 247737 (noticeboard); Bob Lawrence 42 West St; Susan Lloyd Doyley Rd; 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; Anna Truelove 83 Bridge St tel: 245496 (directory).

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

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Wednesday, 7 November @ 8pm at 3 North St. 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, last date for copy October 31. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com or use the tear-of 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.

Notice board

Suzanne Jeffrey, 13 South Street tel: 247737 email: Suzanne@dands.org.uk

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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

Request

Tel. no.