

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk
November / December 2013

COMING UP

HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

WOCA Christmas Market

Don't forget the Christmas Market in the Community Centre on November 23/24 @ 11 – 6 pm. There will be lovely baskets, woodcuts and pots amongst other great things on sale and all made by local people. The café will be open all day too.

Children's Christmas Lantern Parade

We are very grateful to Ben and Claudia Thomas for organising the children's lantern parade. This is their last one so, if you have young children and are willing to organise it next year please contact elizabeth@newberyandengland.com

The traditional Osney Island Children's Lantern Parade and carol singing will take place on **Saturday 14 December**. Please join us to set off from outside The Punter at 5pm. Bring a tea light in a jam jar and dress warmly. Refreshments are offered en route! Everyone welcome. The carolers do not collect money and love to sing for both old friends and new arrivals. If you'd like us to sing outside your door please drop us a note at 50 West Street or call 07706 188263. Offer of nibbles and drinks are very welcome en route - please drop us a note if you can provide some!

Christmas at St Frideswide's

Organ Recital by Greg Wheele at St Frideswide's, Thursday 21 November @ 7:30pm. £5 on the door to include a glass of wine and nibbles

Tuesday 24 December (Christmas Eve) 3:30pm Crib Service @ St Frideswide's

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day) 10:30 Christmas Service at St Frideswide's

St Margaret's Binsey

A carol service will be held at St. Margaret's Church on Sunday, 22 December @ 3.30pm.

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day) 9:00 Christmas Service @ St Margaret's, Binsey.

ISLAND NEWS

The Democrats' Club

Unless you have been orbiting another planet recently you will have heard that a planning application has been



submitted to demolish the extension and to erect three houses in the Democrats' car park. This is potentially the largest development on the Island for some years (see Susannah's insert for further details).

Readers may be interested to know that according to a long time member, the club was formed when the Swan pub in Bridge Street closed and two of its clients felt it needed a new home. As they were well connected, both socially and politically, they arranged a venue, named it The Democrats' but gave it a constitution that made it clear that it was social club and that one of its goals was 'improving members' morals'.

A regular whimsical slot from Jane Buekett of South Street Bucket and sponge

I sometimes think I must be one of the last people in the country who still cleans her car with a bucket and sponge. It's part of my upbringing, a Sunday afternoon chore — and anyway I can't bear to spend time, money and petrol driving to the car wash. An unlooked-for benefit is that it seems to be the best way there is to catch up with those neighbours you don't see from one week to the next. In the 20 minutes it takes to sponge and leather, at least three people in my street who I haven't spoken to in months will come out of their houses and stop to chat.

And then there are the passers by, the ones I don't know. Car washing would not be complete without the inevitable, 'You can do mine when you've finished!' Some people are incredulous, some inconvenienced by my bucket blocking the path, some conversational.

But my favourites are the children.

'Mummy, what's that lady doing?'

'She's cleaning her car, isn't she.'

'Why don't we wash our car? Mummy, please can we wash our car?'

St Frideswide with Binsey

The Revd Clare Sykes is the Rector for the Anglican parish of St. Frideswide and St Margaret's Binsey. You can contact her on 242345 or revclare@btinternet.com.

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.

You can find the latest announcements of events and other information about both St. Frideswide's church and St. Margaret's church by visiting their websites.

Note that they have changed location:

www.stfrideswideschurch.org.uk/

www.binseystmargaret.org.uk/

BITS AND BOBS

Short term let wanted

We are a young married professional couple looking for a short term let from around November 25th until early-mid January 2014. Our house is currently undergoing renovations and we would love to stay on Osney Island or West Oxford if possible. Please contact Nadia at 07876226983 matthew.nadia@gmail.com.

House for rent

Our lovely, light and family friendly 4 bedroom house on Alexandra Road is available for rent for a period of 5 weeks from mid February 2014. Price for > total period £1550. Please contact gerton.lunter@gmail.com if you are interested.

Hand knitted hats and Christmas decorations

Karen Brooks has Christmas hats and decorations for sale hand-knitted by Colombian Orphans as part of her charity www.friendsofcolombianorphans.org. The hats are adult size - £15 each or two for £25 and the ornaments are £4 or 3 for £10. Please contact Karen@chillipots.co.uk 07810805406 if you'd like to buy one.



Parking

This is a request for people to make sure they park within the white lines especially on East, Bridge and West streets. Six inches either way makes a big difference to the spaces available.

WO Studio Pottery Appreciation Society

After a couple of false starts the WO Studio Pottery Appreciation Society is up and running. Our first trip was to Andrew, whose truly astonishing collection of thousands of fantastic pots and prints covers every surface of his house, not a stones throw from the Island. We are currently planning the next visit to be held in February. Please email elizabeth@newberyandengland.com if you are interested in joining us.

Island babes

From Samantha Leggett: We moved here on 14 October 2011 from Papua New Guinea when I was 7 months pregnant. Our first daughter Indira Serendipity was born at home on 29th December 2011 when we lived at 57 Bridge Street. Our second daughter Amalya Ivy was born at home at 58 Bridge Street on 11th August 2013. So Osney Island will always hold very special memories for us.

Yoga for adults and teens

A one hour rejuvenating and relaxing Hatha inspired yoga class. Learn techniques to help you unwind and de-stress. No experience necessary and mats provided

Date: Saturday 7th December

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Mary Town Room, West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road

Cost: £5 per person

All profits to go to the Alzheimer's Society – leading the fight against dementia

Wear loose comfortable clothing, and don't eat a large meal before you come

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); *County Council*, tel: 792422; *Susanna Pressel*, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: cllrspresel@oxford.gov.uk; *City Councillors: Colin Cook*, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: cllrcook@oxford.gov.uk and Susanna (as above); *Community Beat Officer PC Jan Warner*, tel: 101; 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, abandoned bikes, abandoned and unlicensed vehicles*, tel: 101.

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.

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 mainly plumbing but also building ('reliable, helpful and reasonable rates'); R.P. Lepper building specialist, carpentry and joinery tel: 01993 882522 mob: 07801 36 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 (electrics, plumbing, kitchens, bathrooms) tel: 01235 554655; J Smith tel: 01993 778244, mob: 07790 961395 ('reliable, competent and cheerful')

Tiling

Floors/Bathrooms/Kitchens: Nick Barker mob: 07810 356710. Excellent workmanship and extremely reliable, thoroughly recommended.

Kitchen fitters

Benchmark kitchens (helpful kitchen designers with good range of products) tel: 01865 372372; Jashim Hussain of Ultragranite, www.ultragranite.co.uk, tel: 01865 407555. ('I really cannot recommend the company highly enough. The price was very reasonable, the attention to detail exemplary and the fitters charming.')

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; www.tbarneselectrical.com tbarneselectrical@gmail.com ('very efficient, reliable and punctual').

Handyman

Jon Butt tel: 07766 144116 (lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford'); Oliver 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')

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, Steve mob: 07899 918015 ('highly recommended')

Upholstery and sewing services

Ann Paver tel: 249129 soft furnishing including drapes, curtains but not upholstery ('highly recommended'); Sewing, repairs and alterations: Maria Skoyles

tel. 01865 721460 mob: 0759 0264 246 ('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'); API Computing contact Andy mob: 07964 796007.

Oven Cleaning

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

Removals

Isis Van Man tel: 01865 422342 mob: 07828 185884 email: help@Isisvanman.com ('very helpful and friendly'); Removals (home/abroad) and storage House and Carriage tel: 01608 811444 mob: 07769 585988 (local, reliable, polite, careful, and stress-free, for a reasonable price!)

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-Mahogany, cheerful and comes to my home on a Tuesday') mob: 07824 660184.

Gardening Services

Oxford Garden Solutions tel: 01235 201823 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); Eric Bake mob: 07591 157 180 former head gardener at Shotover Estate does garden maintenance and carpentry e.g building and repairing sheds and greenhouses fencing etc (very reasonable rates)

Logs

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.

Bicycles

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

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').

Computer Tutor

Judy Dendy specialises in clear and simple help for people who hate computers and didn't grow up with them. Lessons and basic troubleshooting in language you can understand at your own pace. No question is too daft. 07554 660468 www.computerdendy.co.uk. Highly recommended – very friendly and helpful.

Contemporary Lifestyle Photography

Individuals or sibling groups- in the relaxed setting of your home. Also available for events and graduation. See benrobinsonphoto.com for more details, or call 07414 215915.

Conservatories

an excellent specialist service for conservatories - a full valet clean, just the roof panels, or they'll restore older, out of guarantee models. www.sunshine-conservatories.co.uk tel. 01844 213868.

Baby kit

Short or long rental (strongly recommended) www.babycomes2.co.uk tel:01235 280081

OIRA COMMITTEE

Karen Brooks 62 Bridge St; *Jude Carroll* 10 East St, tel: 793247 (gazebos); *Georg Deutsch* 4 Bridge St, 728050 email: jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk (Chair); *Suzanne Jeffrey* 13 South St tel: 247737 (notice board); *Bob Lawrence* 42 West St; *Susan Lloyd* 3 Doyley Rd; *Stephen Lynam* (Secretary and Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Elizabeth Newbery* (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360 email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; *Gareth Strange* 102 Bridge st 727680; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St tel: 245496 (directory); *Vicki Waters* 34 East St 07743 823779.

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Wednesday, 29th January, 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 February, last date for copy 16 January 2014. 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.

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

Tel. no.

Request