

# Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk  
September / October 2013



## COMING UP

### Raft Race Summer 2014

We came so close this year to reviving what was a much loved event in the local calendar in the past and the response we had for entries was very positive. To pull this off though we need a good team of people. If you would like to be involved contact Karen, 62 Bridge St 07810 805406 karen@chillipots.co.uk for details of the next meeting.

### West Oxford Academy

*From Susan Hutchinson:* The next West Oxford Academy term will start again in October. The academy has been going for an incredible seven years and we celebrated our hundredth talk at the end of last term. Many Osney Island residents have contributed wonderful and inspiring talks and many more attend regularly. But I am sure there still people left who could give a fascinating talk! So if you - or a friend or neighbour - would like to talk about a favourite topic please get in touch with me as soon as possible. We need more speakers if the Academy is to continue but previous speakers are very welcome to contribute new talks. There is a full list of all 100 talks here: <http://westoxfordacademy.blogspot.co.uk/> If you want to find out more, or would like to help delivering flyers, please do get in touch. My email address is allat42@gmail.com or phone me on 792358.

### Opera and ballet

James Fry organises group bookings for the opera and ballet at the New Theatre. If you would like tickets please contact him direct at [JFry@lmc.co.uk](mailto:JFry@lmc.co.uk). The cost includes a drink at his office opposite the theatre and profits earned from group bookings of tickets to go to either Amnesty International or the Labour Party (you choose which you prefer).

Anne Boleyn on Wednesday, 16th October tickets @ £54  
Mary Stuart on Thursday, 17th October tickets @ £54  
Robert Devereux on Friday, 18th October tickets @ £54  
Tosca on Saturday, 19th October tickets @ £54  
Le Corsaire on Friday, 1st November tickets @ £35

### St Frideswide's Events

Saturday 14 September 2013, 10:00–12:00, Oxford Open Doors St Frideswide Church is open. Reopens at 3pm with Alice in Wonderland Afternoon teas, 3.00–4.30pm

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 7:30pm, Organ Recital at St

Frideswide's Church. Recital is by Sarah Lister. £5 on the door to include a glass of wine and nibbles.

Saturday 5 October 2013. 10.30am–3pm St Frideswide Craft Fair and Gift Day We do hope that local crafts people will want to take part in the fair. If you would like to do so please email (contact@stfrideswideschurch.org.uk). The arrangements are that we will provide six-foot trestle tables at no charge, but we do ask for 20% of anything you take on the day. And we will provide publicity for the event. Teas and coffees will be served throughout the day and ploughman's lunches at lunchtime.

## ISLAND NEWS

A regular whimsical slot from Jane Buekett of South St.

### A secret kindness

A recent newspaper article suggested that we believe as a society we are becoming less respectful to others, but our own experience, in our own lives, is more positive. The journalist proposed two reasons for this. First, nostalgia — we believe that 50 years ago people were more neighbourly. Second, privacy — 'there is just as much kindness, but we see it less.'

I grew up in a large village where everybody knew each other. I could do nothing without my mother finding out about it from some well-meaning friend. One of the joys for me of living in a city is the comparative anonymity, not having to care about 'what people will think'. But in Osney we do also have a strong sense of community. Most people have much busier, more stressful lives than they did 50 years ago. When they get home they want to close the door on the world. But acts of neighbourly kindness go on all the time. We feed each other's cats, rescue each other's bins from the gutter, share allotment produce, take back the wallet dropped in the street. Much of this is anonymous — I have no idea who eats the surplus courgettes left outside my house and I like the idea of them ending up on an unknown plate. And at times of crisis — which on Frog Island usually means flooding — the community comes into its own. We come out of our houses, help each other, carry sandbags for elderly neighbours, make tea for the firemen.

### Update on work at Osney Lock

Construction on the civil engineering base for the Osney Lock Hydro has been taking place throughout the summer. Two cofferdams were put in place, the water drained from the site and the site excavated to prepare

for construction. After installing piles to support the structure the concrete base for the hydro scheme has been poured in place. A unique collaborative agreement between Osney Lock Hydro and the Environment Agency is enabling planned work for the hydro scheme and replacement of the main weir to be carried out together, by the same contractor, helping minimise disruption. The Environment Agency is due to undertake work separately adjacent to the lock that will replace the footbridge on the Thames Path and allow some repair work to the side weir. This work is due to be completed between October and December. There will then be a pause over the Christmas period while plans for Phase 2 of the hydro scheme are finalised. We then plan to start work in February to install the turbine, generator building and landscaping. Thank you once again to local residents for their patience and forbearance during this period. Further information about the hydro scheme is available via the website [www.osneylockhydro.org.uk](http://www.osneylockhydro.org.uk), where you can see photographs of the work so far and also sign up for regular email updates.

### **St Frideswide Renewal Programme**

Over the past ten years, the St Frideswide's church building has been improved by installing toilets, kitchen area, new flooring and renovating the organ. The church community now wants to begin a final phase of improvement to make the building accessible and comfortable for wider community use as well as Sunday worship. Suggested list of improvements to the fabric of the church:

- New heating system
- Repair of the guttering
- New front entrance
- Repairs to the war memorial
- Sound system for the hearing impaired

We need the help and support of the wider community in order to preserve this building for the benefit of current and future residents of this neighbourhood. As a first step, we want to know from local people and groups:

Would you be willing to support such a project?

Would you want to use the church building for your event, local group, social gathering?

If you have ideas for activities that could be hosted at St Frideswide's and that you, or someone you know, would like to lead, we would like to hear from you. To contribute your thoughts about how you would like the building and grounds of St Frideswide's to be used please contact the Reverend Clare Sykes, 81 West Way, Botley Oxford OX2 9JY tel. 242345 or [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com).

### **Keeping in touch**

During this digital age more and more people like to be kept informed by email rather than through paper and it allows information to be shared very quickly. Being an OIRA committee member, I have started to collect Islanders' email addresses to keep people in touch with island happenings such as events, road closures, environmental and council work and requests for

information. This has already proved invaluable such as sharing the latest information on piling work and during flood treat times. One couple who had bought a house on the island were having difficulties finding an insurer. Within an hour of asking our email community, they had around eight insurance companies and details which could only come from personal experiences.

Would you like to be kept in touch with what is going on? Either fill out the details or email me Karen@chillipots.co.uk. If you can include where you live and your names this would be helpful. Emails are always sent as bcc's to avoid people getting spam and people can be request to be removed at any time.

Email Address:

Name:

Address:

Please return the form to one of the OIRA committee members' houses:

4 Bridge St, 62 Bridge St, 83 Bridge St, 102 Bridge St, 3 Doyle Road, 10 East St, 34 East St, 42 West St, 3 North St, 11 South St, or 13 South St.

## **BITS AND BOBS**

### **Perilous pavements**

I've been tapping my way around the island on crutches and then on sticks for a bit, and oh! - what an eye opener. Our pavements are fraught with hazards that I never appreciated before for anyone not nimble enough to avoid overhanging shrubbery, abandoned waste bins, bikes against walls taking up half the path width. I have a whole new sympathy for anyone using a walking aid on Osney, not to mention meandering toddlers, prams, pushchairs and their carers. Please, keep your street frontage clear of obstacles? It's only fair.

### **Osney Baby Sitting Circle - join now!**

The idea is to form a group with other parents to provide babysitting. Tokens are used as currency which are exchanged for babysitting duties giving us a cash free system. If you would like to find out more info please contact Tilly at [forstertilly@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:forstertilly@yahoo.co.uk) or tel: 241846.

### **Flat for rent**

2 bed 2nd floor flat for rent on the Island from October £1190 pcm. Bedrooms are large and the flat has a beautiful big garden shared with just two other flats. Please contact Karen if you want to know more – 07810 805406 [karen@chillipots.co.uk](mailto:karen@chillipots.co.uk)

### **Apples**

This year is a good one for most fruit. Hogacre are borrowing an apple press for their festival in early October and you can take your apples along and convert them into juice. Find out more on [oxgrow.org](http://oxgrow.org), or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/OxGrow/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OxGrow/)

### **Studio Pottery**

Several Islands are interested in forming a studio pottery group. After a couple of false starts we will have our first meeting in The Punter on Friday Sept 27 @ 8pm to discuss how we want to group to develop.

## Bulbs

The Lottie shop is now stocking top quality tulip bulbs in lovely Venetian colours and scented narcissi. 10 bulbs for £1.90 – about half what you'd pay in shops. The shop is open to anyone on the Island and thereabouts on Sundays 10-12. And, if you would like an allotment, now is a good time to put your name down. Contact The Secretary Sid Siddle on 251795.

## A local treasure

The Island has long had a need for a good handyman. And now we've got one! Eric Bake can do most things especially anything to do with gardens, sheds, allotments, general repair work and painting and decorating. He answers his phone, turns up when he says he will, works like a Trojan and his prices are very fair. What's not to like? Contact him on m 07591157 180.

## Subs

So far we've had a very good outcome with £320.91 being raised. It's the best since the great flood year 2007. However, if you haven't got round to it yet, it's not too late to drop in your subs to many of the committee members. All the subs go towards the printing of this newsletter.

## 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.

*Autumn Study Course* 'The Way of Faith' This begins on Monday 16 September 2013. There will be a Monday evening and Friday afternoon session each week for six weeks. The course is for anyone wanting to brush up on the basics of the faith or examine them for the first time.

## 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. Every Sunday 4:30pm: Evensong

## USEFUL NUMBERS

*City Council*, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); *County Council*, tel: 792422; *Susanna Pressel*, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: cllrpressel@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: 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.

## **OIRA COMMITTEE**

*Karen Brooks* 62 Bridge St; *Jude Carroll* 10 East St, tel: 793247 (gazebo); *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.

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

### **Next Committee meeting**

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Wednesday, 6th November, 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 November, last date for copy October 30. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com