

# Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk  
July/August 2014

## COMING UP

### 40 Nationalities, 40 Cuisines - a lottie party

on 20th July @ noon on £20 Meadow to celebrate the wealth of nations that make up the West Oxford allotments. Bring a salad to share and food to BBQ. Friends, neighbours and relations welcome! There will be boules, a scarecrow competition, displays of prize flowers and stalls selling seeds, tools, plants and spare produce. Needless to say we'd be really grateful for help with organising the party and games, judging competitions and running the stalls. If you can help please email Anne James riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk. See you there!

### Organ recitals

Thursday 31 July 2014, 7.30pm, at St Frideswide's church, organ recital by Sarah Lister. £5 at the door includes a glass of wine and nibbles

Thursday 25 September 2014, 7.30pm, at St Frideswide's church, organ recital by Dorien Schouten. £5 at the door includes a glass of wine and nibbles

## ISLAND NEWS

### Jazz on the towpath

*From Joyce Chalmers:* We knew it would be a great time when we woke up to stunning weather. It was a little odd, though, to start the day without murmured discussions - 'Will it rain?' 'Oh what if it does?' 'We must put up gazebos, just in case.' 'No, look, it is clearing - at least I think it is'.....

None of that this time: the sky was blue, the forecast was positive, and when Peter Marsh said 'I don't think the band needs a gazebo', we felt well on our way to a successful day. It was a low key affair this year and turned into a most pleasant and rather old fashioned way to spend a beautiful summer afternoon. And the prophesy was fulfilled - it ranked among the warmest and loveliest of Osney Island days. The 'Pete Marsh' band played on all afternoon, from 3:00 to 6:00, with Pete and his band members standing in the sun and gamely carrying on while people milled about, sat and listened, and ate cakes. The boats moored overnight added charm to the scene and the boaters mingled, laughed and seemed to enjoy the day as well. A couple of newcomers to Osney were heard expressing pleased surprise about the day. We will take that as confirmation that they are happy with their new neighbourhood. At one point, I tried to count the



number of people on the street but failed due to the shifting crowd. But I am going to guess, not far off of 100 people, made up of friends, neighbours, people who were on their way to the pub, boaters and so on.

Once again, tea was served in outside Maureen Ergeneli's house with cakes supplied by many busy Island bakers. There was a constant queue there and all cakes and goodies and plant stand sold out. Many thanks to Peter, (guitar), David Cook (sax), Chris Nichols (keys), John Barker (bass), Jan Buhagiar (sax), and Will Howell (drums), to all the bakes of delicious homemade cakes and to people who lent tables and chairs and crockery. £192 was raised towards the annual print cost of the newsletter.

Our annual events are entirely dependent on offers of help on the day. For the last ten years or so this role has fallen on the same shoulders - and we are a bit fed up that it's always down to us! We need new blood to inject enthusiasm. We are not asking for long term commitment - just ideas and some help on the day. Note to newcomers, young families, waifs and strays - it's a great way to make new friends.

### A salutary experience

*From Eve Hoare:* One of my pleasures, whilst walking around our island, is to admire the variety of planted window boxes. They bear witness to their owners' love of both plants and our Island. Some become neglected due to busy lives, but they all tell individual stories. Well my story is a downbeat rather than an upbeat one. For over 10 years I have enjoyed planting up our homemade base and plastic containers, which not only gave me pleasure but also passers-by, judging by their comments. This Spring, my spirits uplifted by the unexpectedly benign weather, I splashed out on an 'up-market' dark grey container which I thought complimented the purple and yellow violas. In the recent hot weather I neglected to water them often enough until their poor drooping heads sent me scurrying for the watering can. This morning as I left the house, I gave a quick check on the roses and ...No window-box, no violas!!! Some unhappy soul had obviously found them as desirable and lifted the lot! I wonder if that miscreant knows to water them or realises that they have done their best and are on the way out! Am I discouraged? No! But this time it will be back to the old homemade base (newly painted) and the old plastic trough. I have learnt a lesson.

*A regular whimsical slot from Jane Buekett of South St*

### **Snail mail?**

A birthday card posted first class in Bridge Street this summer took almost a week to reach my friend in Cambridge, arriving 4 days after his birthday. This may be the age of instant communication, but for the Royal Mail progress is in reverse. In the 1990s I received a letter posted at 9.30 on a Sunday evening in Newcastle-upon-Tyne that arrived in Oxford 10 hours later.

The Victorians created the postal system we are now destroying. Rowland Hill (commemorated by the flats on the former sorting-office site off Osney Lane) introduced the Penny Post in 1840 to replace a system that was 'mismanaged, wasteful, expensive and slow'. It offered a prepaid uniform charge for delivery anywhere in the country, and the first adhesive stamp, the Penny Black. Correspondence became copious. In the late nineteenth century there were several deliveries of mail a day, at least in urban areas.

Today you can read an email instantly, however inappropriate the circumstances: during a film at the cinema, over dinner with friends, by stopping dead on a crowded street. But 100 years ago you could have sat in your Osney parlour opening a much more exciting hand-addressed envelope, that took only a little longer to arrive.

### **Christine Prismall**

A long-standing resident of the Island passed away last month. Christine lived in number 7 East Street from 1988, when she retired from London, until late 2011 when she left to spend her last years in a nursing home. She lived a self-contained life but could be seen observing Island events with an amused detachment, to be discarded when her interests were aroused. For example, her enthusiasm for history and community goings-on drove her to join the group that produced the booklet *An Island in Oxford* to mark the millennium. She will be remembered by many as a good friend who took an interest in the local community, her neighbours and their families.

## **BITS AND BOBS**

### **Calling mothers with young children**

I moved to the Island recently and have an eight month old child. Are there any mothers with young children on the Island who would be interested in meeting up for a coffee morning? If so email justbea@hotmail.com t 07854 625905

### **Window boxes...**

Did you know that Emmaus who recycle household goods for charity, also make window boxes from recycled materials? [www.emmausoxford.org](http://www.emmausoxford.org) for details.

### **House to rent wanted**

Sinead and Jim @ 63 Bridge Street have to move out in August as their rental agreement has come to an end. They have lived on Osney Island for 2 years and really want to stay in the area. They are looking for 2/3 bed house to rent (long or short term) or buy. Contact Sinead on 07803 711280 or [sinead.moodie@gmail.com](mailto:sinead.moodie@gmail.com) if you know of anything

### **St Frideswide with Binsey**

#### **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: [cllrspresel@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrspresel@oxford.gov.uk); *City Councillors: Colin Cook*, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: [cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk](mailto: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. Before recommending that someone is removed, sort the issue out between you and the supplier first – someone's livelihood is at stake. In this newsletter, we have removed someone who installed gas alliances incorrectly – potentially very dangerous. Make sure you use the most up to date list!

Newcomers often like to tell other about their services so we are starting a new spot 'Blow your own trumpet' where you can do just that. If your services is then independently recommended it will go in Tried and Tested.

### **New entries**

C&S Cleaning Services tel 01865 872395 (very pleasant and hard working ladies)

## **TRIED AND TESTED**

The list is only as good as the updates so please let me know if anyone has retired or dropped out for other reasons.

### **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'); 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.’)

### **Electricians**

RJB Electrical (rewires and new installations) tel: 01865 882723 mob: 07711 934348; 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, painting and decorating 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’); Paul Selden is a house painter (good prices, punctual and unreservedly recommended.) Tel: 077 277 59996 Email: paulseldendecorating@gmail.com

### **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 few 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](http://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](http://benrobinsonphoto.com) for more details, or call 07414 215915.

### **Baby kit**

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

### **Wood burning stove fitters**

Lee Hill Fireplace Installer tel: 01865 787 940 - HETAS approved. ('Really helpful and knows his stuff')

## **OIRA COMMITTEE**

We are very sorry to lose Karen Brooks who masterminded the Osney Olympics and Vicky Waters who have both moved off the Island. However we welcome Maureen Ergenelli, a long term resident who at long last has been persuaded to join the Committee after years of successfully avoiding it.

Meanwhile, we would welcome more people on the committee – particularly young people. At the recent OIRA AGM there were several requests for events but no one was willing to help organise them. Not to put too fine a point on it, if we don't have more manpower events will cease.

*Jude Carroll* 10 East St, tel: 793247 (gazebos); *Georg Deutsch* 4 Bridge St, 728050 email: [jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk) (Chair); *Maureen Ergenelli* 24 East St; *Suzanne Jeffrey* 13 South St tel: 247737 (notice board); *Bob Lawrence* 42 West St tel: 792358; *Stephen Lynam* (Secretary and Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; *Elizabeth Newbery* (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360 email: [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com); *Gareth Strange* 102 Bridge st 727680; *Jula Turner (Treasurer)* 102 Bridge St tel: 07971 88125; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St tel: 245496 (directory).

### **Next Committee meeting**

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Wednesday September 17 @ 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 September, last date for copy 31 August 2014. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. tel: 793360, email: [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto:elizabeth@newberyandengland.com)

or use the tear-off 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. 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](mailto: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