

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk
May—June 2015

Close communities

From Eve Hoare: Amidst all the celebration and memories of VE day, there has been mention of the strong wartime community spirit and comments made such as: 'we helped one another', 'we never needed counsellors', 'we just got on with it'.

In fact, what they had was often a close network of support i.e. an extended family, a priest and general practitioners who lived locally. Nowadays families are often dispersed around the globe and internet chat channels have replaced the close communities of the past.

We on the Island are privileged to be part of a community which is alive in interaction with people of different ages, cultures, professions, jobs, interests, hosting outdoor events, offering help where needed, battling bureaucracy and flooding, all for the good of the neighbourhood. Newcomers and temporary residents can take advantage of a Welcome Pack, a real blessing in usefulness. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to the OIRA Committee and all those who are active in contributing to our community and a special THANK YOU to the newsletter team for providing the glue in the form of the bi-monthly newsletter.

Thank you Eve!

COMING UP

OWOBfest

From David Jeffrey Saturday June 13 in the Community Centre. This will be the fifth year for "WOBfest" and once again we will be featuring a range of local ales, with other refreshment and entertainment. In previous years WOBfest has been a great success, bringing together local residents for an enjoyable evening, whilst raising money for local causes.

Entrance is by ticket only, and the price has been held at five pounds. As well as entry to the beer festival, the price includes the now-iconic commemorative WOBfest pint glass for you to keep. Tickets will go on sale closer to the date through local outlets: keep checking our website (www.wobfest.co.uk) for more details of how to buy tickets, find our Facebook page by searching for "WOBfest, look out for our posters or contact me directly by emailing david@wobfest.co.uk.

Please also get in contact if you are interested in helping out - selling tickets, pouring pints, or by becoming a beer sponsor, either corporate or individual. Without our sponsors and volunteers WOBfest would not be



possible. We look forward to seeing you and your friends for what promises to be another great evening.

Rycotewood Furniture College Summer Show, 16-18 June

From Terry Davis: The annual Rycotewood Furniture College summer show will take place at City of Oxford College campus on Oxpens Rd 16th & 18th June: 4-8pm, 17th, 19th & 20th June: 11-3pm. The week-long exhibition will boast the efforts of the students' end of academic year projects who are studying the BA in Furniture Design and Make. Primarily wood-based creations, each piece is individually designed and crafted by the students and some of the finished articles will be available for sale at the show. For further information, please contact Terry on td2photo@yahoo.com

Organ recitals at St Frideswide's

Thursday 18 June 2015, 7.30pm, organ recital by Sarah Lister. £5 at the door includes a glass of wine and nibbles.

Thursday 30 July 2015, 7.30pm, organ recital by Tom West. £5 at the door includes a glass of wine and nibbles.

Open Gardens, Saturday September 12

Anna Truelove reports that she now has 13 gardens signed up – and maybe one or two more. There'll be teas, a plant stall, games of boules, a children's garden quiz and hopefully live music too. We haven't had an Open Gardens for a few years now and this one looks like it should be good. If you are new to the Island it's a great opportunity to see how people have planned small gardens (and houses) with great imagination. Put in in your diary now!

End of season allotment event

A 'bring n' share' and bbq event has provisionally been arranged for Sunday, September 27. We hope to have a seed swap, and a jams, jellies and pickles stall too. Watch this space for further updates. Island news and views

ISLAND NEWS

Table top on the towpath

Held in early May, this was considered to be a good social occasion with lovely teas and good music and even nice weather. It was the first event of this type we've held and the general consensus was great fun but not great for actually selling stuff. We put out signs and notices in Daily Information and the Oxford Mail but footfall was perhaps not big enough. We'll be having a discussion about events at the next OIRA meeting on Monday June 15 @ in the Punter at 8 pm. Do come if

you've got any suggestions encouraging greater turnouts for events.

Said Business School proposal for Old Power Station

From Anne James: I was invited to a meeting about this on 29th April 2015, at which the Business School's proposals were outlined prior to a public meeting held at the Business School on 13th May. Here is a summary of the meeting I attended to discuss the proposal.

The Business School's plan is to convert the power station into flexible teaching spaces and short term residential accommodation, for up to 160 of their students. Increasingly the school are providing short courses for middle and senior management executives and they need space in which to do this. The Dean referred to these as 'a special week', which gives an indication of the length of stay of each student group. He was also at pains to point out that these students would be mature people and not undergraduates.

The building belongs to the University. Post power station it became part of the Engineering School and was used for teaching and experimental work. Latterly it has not been used except by The Ruskin School of Art for exhibitions and degree shows. The older part of the building (that at the Botley Road end) is Grade II listed. It is likely that the newer part (at the Barrett St end) would be replaced with a purpose built wing. All refurbishment and any new build would 'preserve the industrial references and the nature of the building itself'.

Bob Price, Leader of the City Council, and Professor Roger Ainsworth representing The Oxford Preservation Trust, were both at the meeting of 29th April. Both endorsed the proposed redevelopment. Murray Hancock, from the City Planning Department welcomed the proposal to 'bring new life to the building' but also emphasised that any plans needed to reflect and preserve the character of the present building.

Questions were asked about the metal roof extension and the height of the skyline. These were not answered specifically, rather included in the explanation that this was very early-stage consultation. The Business School staff and the University's Estates Service staff explained that they were very keen to work with the community and potentially to include facilities of community benefit in the development. They would genuinely welcome hearing from us about what we would like to see. They also emphasised they took 'considerate construction' very seriously and would seek to minimize disruption during building work. The students who would be resident in the power station would not have cars, communal bicycles would be provided, students would walk to the main Said building and use public transport to go further afield.

The timescale seems to be: consultation followed by 6-10 months for work by architects and plans, with a view to submitting planning permission in the summer of 2016, followed by 18 months - 2 years of building and construction. I did point out that any development needed to take into account the timescale and nature of the proposed redevelopment of the train station and the impact of that on the local community.

Added by Jan-Georg Deutsch, post public meeting
The prospective students are middle management (middle aged) executives, drawn from private industry and public service. The site would be used primarily for their accommodation, but teaching would be also conducted on the site. Private parking would not be provided for the students. The various community groups would be given ample opportunity to comment on the re-design of power station, including the proposal to make it a sustainable building, possibly involving the construction of a micro-hydroelectricity plant.

ITEMS FROM ISLANDERS

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

<http://osneybenefice.org.uk/StF>

<http://osneybenefice.org.uk/StM>

Long term let required

Very friendly young professional family with nine month old son looking for long term let around end of June on Osney Island or nearby surrounding areas. Minimum of two bedrooms required. Please contact Ben on 07849-933405 or email beatzy@icloud.com

PALESTINE UNLOCKED - celebrating life and culture

From Tilly Forster Organisations and individuals from across Oxford will be hosting the city's first festival to celebrate Palestinian life and culture. The festival will run from Thursday 4th June to Sunday 21st June in a range of city venues from Pegasus Theatre in East Oxford to Barefoot Books in Summertown including the Phoenix cinema, Oxford churches and colleges, the Town Hall and Bonn Square.

Visit www.palestineunlocked.com for a full list of events and you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Newsletter deliverers wanted

We need a few more people to help deliver the newsletter. We divide the Island up into convenient chunks so it only takes about 20 minutes every two months – so not too onerous. Please contact Anna if you can help.

Old garden bench wanted

Wanted - old garden bench for an allotment. Contact Ally on 07968 691 870, Allysoilandsoul@gmail.com.

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); *County Council*, tel: 792422; *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: 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. Before recommending that someone is removed, sort the issue out between you and the supplier first – someone's livelihood is at stake. Make sure you use the most up to date list!

New category

Does anyone know of anyone who can fix simple problems with TV/DVD player/remote? Please email elizabeth@newberyandengland with suggestions.

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'). **Brian French**: local general builder and plasterer who will take on small jobs; mob: 07957 315303 ('came round the same day as contacted!')

Exterior and interior decorators

Andrew Turner of Oxford Exteriors mob: 07591 491 804 repaints masonry, front door and windows (excellent work, very good value and professional customer service); **Victor Szigeti**: interior and exterior painting specialising in skimmed plaster work; mob: 07799 143205 ('he made my bathroom ceiling look like new')

Building and roof repairs

Gosford Builders tel: 01865 373467 mob: 07855 373467 ('reasonable rates and business-like'); **Everest Roofing Ltd** tel: 01865 8816856 email: enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk ('dealt fast and efficiently with a minor matter which others couldn't be bothered with')

Plumbing and heating

Plumbing and heating: **Ivan Kilbee** tel: 01235 847527 mob: 07771 787585; ('punctual, efficient, reasonable rates and business-like'); **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'); **Jamie Cooke** Tel: 07775 700300 email: JC.Electrical@hotmail.com ('excellent service'); **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; **Sid Siddle**: skilled handyman; tel: 01865 251795 mob: 07757 214 301 Email: the.read.setter@gmail.com ('Sid made a really good job of numerous small jobs including carpentry'); **Brian Hill**: skilled handyman; tel: 01295 670276 mob: 0774 2010892 (very meticulous – he made a very good job of putting up shelves).

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

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'); **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); info@oxfordgardenservices.co.uk ('excellent tree surgery')

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

Wellbeing

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.');

Inner sense yoga tel 07773 277 650 ('I whole heartedly recommend Loueze')

Computer Tutor

Judy Dendy: Lessons and basic troubleshooting in language you can understand at your own pace. No question is too daft. tel: 07554 660468 www.computerdendy.co.uk. ('Highly recommended – very friendly and helpful.')

Baby kit

Short or long rental ('strongly recommended') 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')

Cleaners

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

OIRA COMMITTEE

Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 jude@judecarroll.co.uk (acting Chair, gazebos, Welcome Pack); **Georg Deutsch** 4 Bridge St, 728050 jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk; **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 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, Open Gardens).

Gazebos

If you would like to borrow the gazebos, bunting and tables please contact **Jude Carroll** 10 East St, tel: 793247.

Welcome Pack

Contact **Jude Carroll** 10 East St, tel: 793247 jude@judecarroll.co.uk

Webmaster

Tony Roberts is our webmaster. To add content to the Osney Island website please contact the Webmaster at <http://osneyisland.co.uk/contact7-1/webmaster/> entering the text in the 'Message' box. This will be submitted for approval to the committee and published subject to editing. To get in touch with any OIRA committee member use the 'Contact Us' feature on the website.

Osney Island email account

The new email account osneyislandresidents@gmail.com, makes message sharing amongst Island residents simpler and safer. Is it open so that people can sell things, ask for information, give away stuff or provide information.

Notice board

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

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is is Monday, June 15 @ 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 July**, last date for copy 30 June 2015.. If you would like to put an item in contact: **Elizabeth Newbery** 3 North St. tel: 793360, email: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com or use the tear-of strip below.

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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.