

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk
September—October 2015



COMING UP

Be friendly to Bees

Please join us at St Frideswide on Saturday 26th September 1- 5pm to Bee Friendly! In partnership with WOCA, the Allotments and our schools, St Frideswide Church is planning to increase its capacity as a host space for bees and other pollinators. This is as part of the Friends of the Earth inspired and funded campaign *Create a Buzz*.

On 26th September, we are holding a launch party, in the church grounds, to which everyone is invited. Professor Simon Hiscock, the new Director of the Oxford Botanic Gardens will talk about urban bees and what they need at 1.30 pm. There will be tea and cakes, quizzes and trails, opportunities to build a bee hotel and make beeswax candles, a Bring and Take Bee Friendly plant and seed stall and more! There will also be lots of information about bees and pollinators.

We are holding a Bee Friendly Raffle, with fabulous prizes, the first prize being an annual pass for two to the Oxford Botanic Gardens and our children's art competition will be judged on the day. The first prize is a Hobbycraft voucher for £15 and the runners up will get £10 each. For more details please visit our website www.osneybenefice.org

End of season allotment event

A reminder that we shall be celebrating the end of the season on the Twenty Pound Meadow allotments on Sunday, September 27 from 2 pm onwards – friends and family are welcome. We will provide sausages and rolls, a hot curry and some drink. There will be a raffle, activities for children and a produce stall. Please bring eating utensils, a plate and a mug for your family and any spare produce, seeds, flowers or preserves for the stall – all profits will go towards the shop.

West Oxford Academy

West Oxford Academy is back! Our new term will start on Tuesday 20 October at 8pm in the Community Centre Café.

Local residents have given many surprising, informative and entertaining talks, and I am sure there are still people who have a favourite topic they would like to share! So if you – or a friend or neighbour – would like to contribute please get in touch with me as soon as possible. If you are curious about the Academy and want to find out more, or could help delivering

flyers, please do get in touch. Please contact me, Susan Hutchinson, either by email at westoxfordacademy@gmail.com or by phone on 792358.

ISLAND NEWS

Open Gardens

Open Gardens organized by Anna Truelove was a great success and raised around £200. The last such event was about five years ago (I think) so there were plenty of new gardens to see and fresh developments in old favourites. As usual, Maureen ably assisted by Zoe, Sally and Julia, dispensed tea, coffee and cakes lovingly made by Muriel, Ron, Emma, Georg, Joanna, Sally, Julia, Heather, Jennifer and Julia. Many thanks to Brian, Jon and Sid for help with tables and gazebos, to Pauline and Joyce for selling tickets and of course to The Peter Marsh Band for great music. Does anyone have any photos of the gardens that we can post on the website?

Children's prizes for the trail weren't in quite the right place at the right time so if any child didn't get their prize please call round to Maureen's at 24 East St anytime after school.

PS Will the owner of a little Emma Bridgewater plate with red hearts please collect it from Maureen's 24 East St.

Island poet

Island resident Kieron Winn has published *The Mortal Man*, a collection of his poems. They have appeared in magazines such as *The Spectator*, *New Statesman* and *The Times Literary Supplement*, in various anthologies, and on BBC TV and radio. All details are on his website www.kieronwinn.com. This clothbound book retails at £11.50, but can be bought for only £10 in person from 32 Bridge Street.

North Street upgrade

Islanders may have noticed the splendid new walls in North Street. Several people have commented that they would like to know how we went about it so here is a blow by blow account.

The front walls of Nos 2, 3 and 4 were in a pretty poor state largely because they were built of the wrong type of brick in the 1950s/60s. I knew the situation was pretty desperate when someone decided to hurl a loose brick taken from my wall (No 3) through the windscreen of my car parked opposite.

My neighbours and I decided that we'd like to build new walls and restore the railings which were taken

down during WW11. It's rare that neighbours are able to collaborate with the real chance of enhancing a sizeable chunk of a whole street, so this idea was met with enthusiasm by Oxford Preservation Trust. But first, the Planning Department wanted proof there had been railings on the Island. This, despite the stumps of the original gate posts and railings still visible at No 2.

After an appeal in the Oxford Times, the family of Mr Lowe who used to live at No 4, produced a wonderful series of photos taken just after the houses were built at the turn of the 20th century and showing the railings and walls in great detail. (You can see these on the Osney Island website). Using these as evidence, we got the go-ahead provided we built to the same height, used hand-made Mickelmersh bricks that matched the colour of the houses, lime mortar and topped the walls with railings which matched the pattern of originals as closely as possible. The wall and the railings had to be inspected before being completed.



Oxfordshire Gardens and Dry Stone Walls (listed in the Directory) built the walls. Ironcrafts of Stroud (shortly to be listed in the Directory) are manufacturing the railings to be installed, at the time of going to press, in a few days time. This will entail drilling down through the bricks – so here's hoping everything goes well. It's taken over three years to get to this point but judging from the comments of passersby, everyone thinks it's a great improvement.

PS We do have about 300 bricks left over plus some of the coping bricks. If it is of interest please get in touch with Alan Goodwin <alan@hilcot.demon.co.uk>

WOSPAS

West Oxford Studio Pottery Appreciation Society was set up in 2014 by a group of about a dozen collectors, potters and people who just like pots. We aim to make a couple of big trips and a couple of one day trips a year. This year we visited private collectors in Bristol and London to see stunning collections of major pieces of ceramic art; Aylesbury and Swindon museums to handle pots not normally on display; the studios of potters Roland Whimster, Jutka Palmer, Dylan Bowen, Micki Schloessing and Geoffrey Swindell, the old working

pottery at Ewenny, South Wales, and a major ceramics show in Cardiff. Our next trip is to East Sussex to see Alan Caiger-Smith pots at Great Dixter and then on to the studio of Sarah Walton. Next year we hope to go to Devon and York. If you'd like to join us please get in touch with Elizabeth Newbery: Elizabeth@newberyandengland.com

Osney Art Trail

Estate agents are very fond of describing Osney Island as the bohemian quarter of Oxford – and they may well be right. Several artists/craftpeople including potters, painters, printers, embroiderers and basket makers live here and we are in the process of setting up Osney Art Trail (OAT). The idea is to show art work and craft pieces in various houses on Osney. The likely timing for this event is early July 2016. If you would like more information about OAT please contact Bev Lear <bev@learassociates.co.uk>

LOCAL HISTORY

Growing up in Osney

Chapter 2 of an on-going contribution from John Gaisford

Being in the middle of Bridge Street we were never flooded in the main house but we were hit by the low lying beer cellar. However, it provided the younger members of the family with an opportunity to use the tin bath we used for our occasional bath to sail round the cellar. Of course, there were few bathrooms on the Island then and the outside toilet was not a cosy visit in the winter months!

During the war sweets were rationed, but we never seemed to go short. We were allowed two ounces a week and had to queue up outside Annie Walker's shop opposite No 26. At this time, we were not allowed to anywhere without a gas mask. Mickey Mouse respirators were issued to keep the young ones happy. The school playing fields in Ferry Hinksey Road housed the air raid shelter. It was a desperate damp place that stank of cement, but came in handy during air raid siren time.

Every worn out saucepan or anything made of aluminium was snapped up along with iron railings to make munitions for the war effort. It was also the time of evacuees, and anyone who had a spare bedroom was allocated a child to look after. I recall only one evacuee in Bridge Street, his name was James and he became a good pal.

BITS AND BOBS

St Frideswide

On Sunday 27th September we will round off our Bee themed weekend with the 10.30 am service at St Frideswide on Celebrating God in Creation.

Sunday 4th October – Bring your animals to church for our Animal Blessing Service at St. Frideswide at 3.00pm. Find out about the work of the charity Pets as Therapy.

Monday 19th October Celebrating St. Frideswide.

Join us for a Parish Pilgrimage to the Cathedral on St Frideswide's Day, Monday October 19th 2015. Meet at 10.00am at the church, or 12.00 at the Cathedral. We plan a gentle walk to the Cathedral via the river path, a service of Holy Communion, a tour of the Cathedral focusing particularly on St Frideswide and a picnic lunch in a room at Christ Church. We hope to be joined by some parishioners from St Frideswide's Church, Frilsham. Cathedral tour concludes at 3.00pm. Contact jo.moffett-levy@virginmedia.com for more information.

For sale: a piano

Kemble upright 6 octave piano. Bought in the early 1980s. Height 98cm. It has a few marks and scratches but is in good working condition. It is an ideal piano for a learner and good for a small house as it is shorter than a regular piano (114cm wide). £400. Please ring Louise on 251795 if you would like to come and look at it.

B&B required at Christmas

From Jenny Harvey: My elderly parents need somewhere to stay over the Christmas period, arriving Christmas Eve and leaving on 27th. Does anyone on the island offer bed and breakfast please? Or does anyone need a house sitter/have a house that will be vacant and which they could use? Please contact Jenny on jharvey@darbys.co.uk

OIRA Subscriptions

If you haven't already posted yours through the door or any committee member, please do so as soon as you can. We depend on subscriptions for the production of this newsletter.

For opera lovers

James Fry has some excellent Stalls tickets available for three WNO operas coming to the New Theatre from 3rd to 7th November. These are Bellini's *I Puritani*; Handel's *Orlando*; and, for something a little different, Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. If you would like tickets please contact James 7, Rawlinson Road, Oxford, OX2 6UE Tel: 554001 or 791737 Email: Jfry@Lmc.co.uk

THE DIRECTORY

The Directory is now a separate item updated and posted up on the website along with the most recent newsletter. New entries are posted in the newsletter and then transferred to the regular list in the following month.

New entry

Beckett Plumbing & Heating, tel: 01865 375393 mob: 07712 110129 ('I just had a new bathtub installed in my bathroom. I was very happy with the workmanship and the price)

Urgent Request: does anyone know of anyone who can fix simple problems with TV/DVD player/remote? Please email elizabeth@newberyandengland.com with suggestions.

Hair dresser: 'I want to recommend for inclusion in the newsletter listings, my excellent and very nice hairdresser, Barry who comes to the house and is very reasonably priced.' T. 01865 400717 / 07860 895364.

FROM CLLR SUSANNA PRESSEL

Susanna's insert will now be incorporated into the newsletter. East Street

East Street

A lot of annoyance was caused by the man who seemed to think he could live in a tent at the top of East Street. He resisted many attempts by Council homelessness officers to get him to move away and he refused a bed in a hostel. The police were finally prevailed upon to intervene, on the grounds of various types of anti-social behaviour.

Old Power Station

There has been little progress with Said Business School's plans for the old Osney Power Station across the river. They are currently working through the architectural competition, but have not selected yet.

The Hollybush

The Hollybush still seems to have no plans to reopen as a pub. They do not have permission for change of use, so they seem to be breaking the rules again. Planning enforcement officers are aware.

EA Alternative Access

There has also been little progress in organising access to the Environment Agency yard through Osney Mead Industrial Estate, apparently because of continuing legal issues with land owners. Poor Bridge Street car owners will still have to move their cars whenever a large load needs access, but let's hope this will not be often.

OIRA COMMITTEE

Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 jude@judecarroll.co.uk (Chair), gazebos, Welcome Pack); *Georg Deutsch* (Secretary) 4 Bridge St, 728050 jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk; *Maureen Ergeneli* 24 East St; *Suzanne Jeffrey* 13 South St tel: 247737 (notice board); *Bob Lawrence* 42 West St tel: 792358; *Veronika Lucas* veronikalukacs@yahoo.com tel: 07746 712609; *Stephen Lynam* (Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334 stephenrodgerlynam@gmail.com; *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.

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.

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 Monday, 21 September 3 North St @ 8pm. If you'd like to raise an issue please contact the Chair, Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 jude@judecarroll.co.uk. 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 30 October 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.