

# Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

[www.osneyisland.co.uk](http://www.osneyisland.co.uk)  
July—August 2016



## COMING UP

### Osney Mead consultation

In response to the recent Osney Mead public consultation, it is the intention of OIRA to open an early direct dialogue with the University, specifically as an open meeting with residents.

At this stage the aim is not to comment on specifics of the public consultation, but to gather feedback from residents and distill it into a short list of key broad themes/concerns that we'd like to highlight to the University early in the process. The concerns may include, but are not limited to, issues such as:

- maintaining the character of the Island
- the impact to the environment and surrounding backwaters
- access and flow of pedestrians and traffic in and around the Island.

We are going to have greater impact if it is clear that these are shared views. Your feedback on this 'early-stage thinking' needs to be in by Friday 22 July. For more information go to [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/aboutus/news/eventsawards/heading\\_235566\\_en.html](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/aboutus/news/eventsawards/heading_235566_en.html) which also has a link to the on line questions for your comments. However, if you miss this deadline Carolyn Puddicombe, Director of Asset & Space Management at the University, has kindly agreed to extend the deadline to Friday, 29 July 2016 – BUT you will need to return the questionnaires in paper form marked for her attention at The Malthouse, Tidmarsh Lane, Oxford, OX1 1NQ.

### Pop up café on the towpath

**Sat. 30th & Sun. 31st July, 2-5pm**

*From Nick Barwick:* In July next year, a group of 23 Explorer Scouts (age 14-18) from Oxfordshire is travelling to Kenya, volunteering for the Nasio Trust ([www.thenasiotrust.org](http://www.thenasiotrust.org)) staffing their day centres in support of orphaned pre-school children and working with the local community.

*From the Nasio website:* 'The Nasio Model: We believe that children are better supported growing up in a family than in an institution isolated from their community. We find guardians for our orphans so they have a parent-figure and extended network in the community. Our Early Childhood Development Centres support the guardians by providing a daily meal, pre-primary education and medical care to almost 400 children. The

intake at both centres increases by 40 children a year and some of the early intake are now in higher education or work. Without the support of the Nasio Trust, the reality for these children would either be death, or incredibly uncertain and unstable futures with little prospect of an education or employment. The Nasio model is scalable so when a community can stand on its own and we have funds, we can move on to another deprived area.' As part of the fundraising effort, a 'pop-up' cafe will be on the towpath in East Street, serving cream teas/ tea/ coffee & cookies. Come along to support this really worthy cause.

### Street party revived

As you know, the street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th was a complete washout. Lots of people made cakes and salads, OIRA donated funds and the City Council gave us a grant to no avail. So, on Sunday 18 September we are going to try again. We will hold a tea party on East Street from 3 pm – 5 pm (the great advantage of East St is that we can put up gazebos and take shelter if - or more likely when - it rains). It will be on a 'bring and share' basis so bring out those cakes and scones you made last time and stuck in the freezer. We will provide free tea, coffee and soft drinks. Put the date in your diary and watch this space.

### Allotment end of season beanfeast

The allotment end of season event will take place on Sunday August 28 from 1pm onwards. Inspired by the Botley Meadow bbq, this year there is a change of plan. The event will take place next to the river in an orchard kindly loaned to us by Derek for the occasion, and it will be on a bring and share basis. Please look out for details on the noticeboards nearer the time.

### Concerts at St Frideswide's church

Entry £5 on the door, to include a glass of wine and nibbles.

Thursday July 28th, 7.30pm, Love in Fortune's Hand, Songs and Duets from the Renaissance. Helen Atkinson, Soprano; Anne Cope, alto and recorders.

Thursday, August 25th, 7.30pm, Songs from Gilbert and Sullivan.

If you would like to use St Frideswide's church to host an activity, you can let us know by sending an email to [osneybenefice@outlook.com](mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com)

For times of regular services and other information, please visit our websites at <http://osneybenefice.org.uk/StF> and <http://osneybenefice.org.uk/StM>

## Art on Osney

Osney Island has a thriving art scene with painters, photographers, printers, potters, rag rug makers and embroiderers. As part of Arts Weeks 2017, we plan to open several venues on the Island but we have to register our interest this autumn. So, if you are interested in exhibiting or offering your house as a venue please email Bob Summers [louiseandbob@gmail.com](mailto:louiseandbob@gmail.com).

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### What should OIRA be doing?

At the AGM held in April, those who attended were invited to post up what OIRA should continue to do, what it could do and what it should stop. Here are the results as recorded:

#### Continue

Litter picking 4  
Newsletter 9  
Email list 5  
Planning applications 3  
Open gardens 5  
Tea on the towpath 2  
Social events 5  
Fun on the towpath 1  
Summer event 1  
Website 2  
Window boxes/planters 2  
Snappy AGM 1  
Pursue Hollybush as a community asset 1

#### Start

Introductions at AGM 1  
Expand this exercise 1  
Restart community/neighbour scheme 1  
Something to find out more about who lives on the Island 1  
More content on the website 1  
Guerilla gardening 1  
Acknowledge lock-keepers contribution 1  
Community sports 1  
Mother of baby group 1  
Move bike parking 1  
Move planting 1  
Vegetable swap 1

#### Stop

Less cars 1  
  
Some new suggestions are now underway such as babysitting groups (see below), a new website and a replanned summer event. However, we are desperate for more help with events. If you can offer some help – even if its only for one event, we would be really grateful – please contact anyone on the committee.

### The Hollybush

In the likelihood that changes to the Hollybush will happen at (though no plans have been resubmitted as yet), we asked Liz Woolley, a local historian specialising in industrial history, to investigate the history of the pub. Enclosed with this newsletter is a short version of her article- the full version that can be found on the website.

## Osney Lock hydro

*From Saskia Huggins:* It has been an excellent few months for generation at Osney Lock Hydro, with 82,549 kWh electricity generated over the first three months of our financial year, equating to 46% of our annual mid-range target. So, the rain may have made for a dismal start to the summer, but has enabled us to generate far longer into summer season than last year's dry conditions. Generation is likely to slow down as river flows drop, however with current river conditions we still anticipate generation to continue for some time. Because of variability in river flows year on year, our estimated annual output is modelled using several years of flow data. In any one year, generation can be expected to fall within a range between 50% and 150% of the mid-range target figure of 179,000 kWh. During our first year of operation we had drier than average conditions, which was reflected in our annual generation output of 143,365 kWh. [www.osneylockhydro.org.uk](http://www.osneylockhydro.org.uk)

### Litter picking

*From Anna Truelove:* 'Litter picking is addictive!' – that was Richard Thurston's verdict after his first foray down West Street – and other volunteers have come forward to share his fun. Richard can now call on Jill Moss and Ali Stott for help in keeping West St tidy; Julia Hamilton has kindly offered to be responsible for one side of Bridge Street while I take care of the other, and Peter Newell and Archie Hendry are on standby to fill the gaps in the rota. At present, volunteers have the use of four long handled litter-pickers. In June, Simon Stubbings and other members of the Boat Club set out to clear the rubbish from the streams and banks around our Island – we owe them all a big vote of thanks.

## BITS AND BOBS

### Babysitting

*From Veronika Lucas:* There is a very informal and friendly mums and babies/tots group on the Island that meets on an ad-hoc basis whenever someone thinks of a reason to catch up! We'd be happy to welcome new mums and their little ones so, if anyone is interested please email me at this address [veronikalukacs@yahoo.com](mailto:veronikalukacs@yahoo.com)

### Garage to let

Garage in South Street available to rent at £100 pcm. Contact Anna Truelove on 245496.

### Subscriptions

Thank you to all those who have already sent in their subscriptions. Next year we are contemplating a rise (the first since the beginning of time).

### New low cost health treatments

Lizzie Austin RSHom, MAR is setting up reflexology and homeopathy sessions at the Community Health Hub in The West Oxford Community Centre on Wednesday afternoons from July onwards. Contact Lizzie Austin on 07780542068.

## CRIME

### Nottingham Knockers

*From Thames Valley Police:* At this time of year we start to see arise in doorstep callers sometimes called the

'Nottingham Knockers' – doorstep callers who target areas offering small household products for sale. The sellers may say that they are on a "rehabilitation course" arranged by probation services or other organisations trying to find people work. Probation services do not run such schemes and often sellers are known criminals. They may show a card which claims to be a "Pedlars Licence" or work permit. They may also hand over a card saying they are deaf or dumb. Usually they are deposited in an area from a transit van and given a list of streets to work. An hour or so later they are picked up and dropped off in another location. They often work from 9am to 9pm. They will knock on a door, offering cleaning items which they know are cheap and of very poor quality. Many people will purchase items and pay them something, just to get rid of them. There have been cases of elderly residents handing over large sums as these lads can be very persistent and confrontational. **TURN THEM AWAY - REMEMBER** if cold callers don't get any sales in your area, they are less likely to return. If you do get any doorstep callers please report immediately to the Police on the Non Emergency number 101.

## 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: 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. But before taking this step try to sort the issue out between you and the supplier first – someone's livelihood is at stake.

### New entries

If you have a moth problem (or any other pest) help is at hand. Avenge, based in Binsey offers special capsules which claim to break the moth life cycle and get rid of the blighters within three months. Call 02865 246195/07879 40 50 60.

### Window cleaner

Mark Jennings tel 848904

### Baby kit

Baby kit for hire 01235 28008 [www.babycomes2.co.uk](http://www.babycomes2.co.uk)

### Bicycles and accessories

Jon Wyver 07842901873;  
[info@oxbicycles.co.uk](mailto:info@oxbicycles.co.uk) [www.oxbicycles.co.uk](http://www.oxbicycles.co.uk)  
(will deliver and pick up in Oxford free of charge)

### Building and roof repairs

Everest Roofing Ltd 01865 8816856  
[enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk)

### Car repairs

Oxon Auto's in Grove near Wantage 07899 762 949  
[oxon.auotos@live.co.uk](mailto:oxon.auotos@live.co.uk)

### Chimney sweep

Martin Simmonds 07762 816185 [enquiry@ashlogs.com](mailto:enquiry@ashlogs.com)  
[www.ashlogs.com](http://www.ashlogs.com) (also supplies ash logs);  
Dennis Northcott 01235 526617

### Cleaners

C&S Cleaning Services 01865 872395

### Computers

Bill Richardson 01865 376100 [bill@macfaction.co.uk](mailto:bill@macfaction.co.uk)  
(apple macs  
Mac Simple 01865 580886/07974 321064  
[www.macsimple.co.uk](http://www.macsimple.co.uk); API Computing 07964 796007  
Judy Dendy 07554 660468 [www.computerdendy.co.uk](http://www.computerdendy.co.uk)  
(lessons and basic troubleshooting)

### Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd 01865 742144

### Electricians

RJB Electrical 01865 882723 /07711 934348; (rewires and new installations)  
DEC Electricians 01865 725453  
Jamie Cooke 07775 700300 [JC.Electrical@hotmail.com](mailto:JC.Electrical@hotmail.com)  
Baldwin Appliances 01865 377484 [www.baldwinappliances.com](http://www.baldwinappliances.com)

### Exterior and interior decorators

Andrew Turner 07591 491 804 (repaints masonry, front door and windows);  
Victor Szigeti 07799 143205 (interior and exterior painting also skimmed plaster work);  
Dave Buckle 01865 848630;  
Steve Brierty 01491 836762/0785 0357414;  
Rob Bennett 0790 5819310;  
Sam Gordon (plasterer) 07976 516941

### Flooring and general carpentry

Amazon Flooring 07899 918015

### Footcare in your home

Angie Ward 07796 881157 [angiefootcare@gmail.com](mailto:angiefootcare@gmail.com),  
(visits people in their home nail cutting, corns, verruca, fungal treatment, massage etc)

### Gardening Services

David Morris 01865 725875 (gardening maintenance and some diy).  
Eric Bake 07874 860291 (garden maintenance, sheds, fencing etc)  
A.P. Van Olsen Oxfordshire Gardens & Dry Stone Walls 01865 552036/07860 334871  
[www.oxfordshiregardens.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshiregardens.co.uk)  
Jason [info@oxfordgardenservices.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordgardenservices.co.uk) (tree surgery)

### General builders

Chris Willis 07974 155 638 (general building work);  
R.P. Lepper 01993 882522 /07801 364817 (building specialist, carpentry and joinery);  
Mark Mavrommatis 07970 974792 (installs new windows, repairs old ones);

Brian French 07957 315303 (local general builder and plasterer takes on small jobs).

### **Green Builders and Installers**

Next Generation Renewable Energy Ltd. 01993 810130 office@ngre.co.uk;

JoJu Solar 0800 0542 977 www.jojusolar.co.uk;

Energy My Way 0845 3713181 www.energymyway.co.uk

### **Handymen**

Jon Butt 07766 144116;

Andrew Russell 01865 453497/07977 837675 (painting, decorating and garden maintenance);

Sid Siddle 01865 251795/ 07757 214301

the.read.setter@gmail.com (shelves, carpentry);

Brian Hill 01295 670276/07742010892

### **Home hairdressers**

Sally Horton 07815 445229;

Nadine Wright 07824 660184;

Barry 01865 400717 / 07860 895364.

### **Kitchen fitters**

Benchmark kitchens 01865 372372;

Jashim Hussain of Ultragranite, 01865 407555

www.ultragranite.co.uk,

### **Locksmith**

Davies Hardened Security 01865 371816/07711 625092

### **Logs**

Logsforall.co.uk (ideal for smaller woodburners/ fireplaces)

### **Oven Cleaning**

Wayne 0791 7785 906 (doesn't use chemicals)

### **Plumbing and heating**

Ivan Kilbee 01235 847527 /07771 787585;

APV Boiler Services 01865 377264;

J. Smith 01993 778244/07790 961395;

Hansons Plumbing and Heating, 01865 244172.

### **Removals**

A G Jacob and Sons 07977 963929;

House and Carriage 01608 811444/07769 585988

### **Sewing services**

Ann Paver 01865 249129 (soft furnishing including drapes, curtains but not upholstery);

Maria Skoyles 01865 721460/0759 0264 246 (sewing, repairs and alterations)

### **Wellbeing**

Elizabeth Elliott 07866 759669 (Thai massage, Chinese bodywork & acupuncture)

### **Wood burning stove fitters**

Lee Hill 01865 787 940 (HETAS approved)

## **OIRA COMMITTEE**

Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 jude@judecarroll.co.uk (Chair, gazebos, Welcome Pack); Georg Deutsch

(Secretary) 4 Bridge St tel: 728050 jan-georg.deutsch@stx.ox.ac.uk; Maureen Ergeneli 24 East St tel: 244480; Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South St tel: 247737 (notice board); Bob Lawrence (Residents' email list) 42 West St tel: 792358; Veronika Lukacs veronikalukacs@yahoo.com t: 07746712609; 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; Julia Turner (Treasurer) 102 Bridge St tel: 07971 881 258; Anna Truelove 83 Bridge St. tel: 245496.

### **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](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

### **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.

### **Next Committee meeting**

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Wednesday 20 September at 24 East St @ 8pm. Committee meetings are by invitation only. 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 September, last date for copy 30 August 2016. 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.

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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