

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk
March—April 2016



COMING UP

Heads up for the OIRA annual general meeting with refreshments on April 20 @ 7.30 pm WOCA to discuss your ideas for OIRA 2016 e.g. a street party bringing together royalists and republicans a call for more people to standard for the committee and the elections of officers.

Osney Island Boat Club AGM

From Simon Stubbings: The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held in the Punter@ 8:00pm on Tuesday 19 April. The formal purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, approve accounts, and fix club subscriptions for the coming year. The meeting is in addition an opportunity for members and prospective members of the Club to get together, enjoy a drink and savour the prospect of a scintillating summer on the river. Unfortunately, our boat shed can only accommodate a limited number of craft. However, four of these belong to the Club and are available for use by members, so non-boat owners are catered for as well. All are welcome.

Allotments AGM

The AGM of the Osney, St Thomas & New Botley Allotment Association will be held on 4 April at WOCA. We'll start at 7 pm with refreshments and move on to business at 7.30pm. Look forward to seeing you there.

Concerts at St Frideswide's church

Thursday March 31st, 7.30pm, Peter Collins Memorial Recital Local organists perform music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Parry, Buxtehude, and Wagner in memory of the late organ builder Peter Collins, who restored the St Frideswide organ.

Thursday, April 28th, 7pm, Community Choir Spectacular Performances by local choirs Wox Vox, EOCC Children's Choir, Blackbird Leys Community Choir, and Oxford Analytical, joined by the Hinksey Hill Farm Quartet. Music will include a massed choir performance of Handel's Zadok the Priest.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Art on Osney: in conversation with Maureen Ergeneli

From Bev Lear: The first thing to say is that my subject for this newsletter's arts interview is a most reluctant and modest participant. Many islanders will know Maureen Ergeneli (East Street) as one of the ladies who serves tea and delicious cakes at Osney events,

but whilst she really rather wishes I wasn't saying as much - behind that smile lurks some prodigious talent. Maureen is a member of the Embroiders' Guild and a well-regarded textile artist.

Coming originally from South Africa, she moved to Oxford 35 years ago, yet something of that hotter climate permeates her work which is usually intensely colourful and wild in its combination of patterns and textures. Much of the work is abstract rather than figurative and at first it is the wealth of colours and stitches that entraps one - only slowly do the scraps of braid, buttons and found objects slowly reveal themselves, they are so carefully integrated into the overall composition. Don't be surprised to find scraps of painting or batik worked in too - she's always experimenting.

Although Maureen's work is rarely more than 15 inches square, her resourceful way of working creates a fascinating sense of memory and personal resonance. None more so than her Traveller's Companion, a fantastic memento piece created by Maureen during a round-the-world trip taken shortly after she retired. Taking with her small squares of fabric (later all stitched together into one hanging), she gathered bits and bobs wherever she went and worked them wherever she was - stranded in airports, on buses or wherever. As it turned out, not only was this an excellent way of capturing memories and occupying time, but a way to create conversations and meet people. That open spirit is typical of Maureen.

An active member of various groups, Maureen regularly exhibits locally. She currently has work in the Embroiders' Guild exhibition at Blenheim Palace (until 2nd May) which celebrates the 300th anniversary of the famous landscape gardener, Capability Brown. But as ever it's not her own work that Maureen wants to talk about but that of her granddaughter Ela who at only 7 years old is the youngest exhibitor in the show - and how very proud Maureen is of her!

Bee Friendly at St Frideswide's

From Anne James: Some of you may well have joined our Bee Friendly celebration last September. We are planning another such day later this year, full details will be available shortly. And we hope that you will be able to join us for that. In the meantime we are embarking on a Bee (even more) Friendly planting campaign. Our aim is to provide as wide a variety of nectar rich plants as possible over the longest possible growing season, in

order to meet the needs of the wide range of bees and other pollinators. If you would like to help with planting or maintaining the roses, cordon apples and other pollinator friendly plants, please do get in touch.

Why does Bee(ing) Friendly matter? It matters because the wild flower meadows where bees gathered much of their nectar and pollen are disappearing at a frightening rate: we have lost 97% of them in the past 60 years. And 20 bee species in Britain have already become extinct and a quarter of the remaining bee species are on the red list of threatened species. Bees and other pollinators are vital to wildlife, plants and crops. And we know that without bees the entire food chain is under threat: 75% of our main food crops are pollinated by bees. Bee Friendly urban green spaces, including churchyards, are now recognised as important in the fight to protect our bees. Churchyards contain habitats that are a mix of the manicured and the wild, thus providing suitable accommodation for the different bee species. They also contain plants and trees that provide sources of food.

Bees fall into three groupings: honey bees, bumblebees and solitaires.

There is only one species of honey bee: and they only live where people place them all are bred varieties of one kind of bee. There are twenty kinds of bumblebees: some live in mammal holes and will enlarge them using their jaws to dig them out. Many will live in compost heaps or decomposing woodland material. By contrast there are two hundred and fifty kinds of solitary bee: 75% of which are mining bees, some living in very short grass and bare soil, others in different habitats. Do take a look at hollow stems, a quarter of British bees nest in these. Very small bees will use dock, others nettles or hogweed, and brambles make a superb habitat providing as they do provide both bed and board (the former being the hollow stems and the latter the nectar and pollen from the flowers).

BITS AND BOBS

Osney Island email service

From Robert Lawrence: It's never too late to sign-up to the Island email service. Join up to read and share news and opinion, buy, swap and sell, learn about our social events, and much more! The OIRA (Osney Island Residents Association) email service is free, safe to use, carries no commercial advertising, is restricted to use by its residents only, will never divulge your personal details to a third party, and any message sent to the list is checked for propriety before distribution. So if you haven't subscribed yet, why not do so now?

Send subscription requests to the list manager at osiramanager@gmail.com

Osney Lock Hydro

From Saskya Hiuggins: The amount of electricity we generate is affected by both the flow of the river, as well as the height of the drop. As local residents will have noticed, February's heavy rains resulted in a fast flowing river, so we had high flow. This was occasionally tempered by a reduction in the head height of the drop,

due to the increased height of the weir pool at the base of the hydro. In total, more than 16,000 kWh was generated in February, bringing total generation to 73,805kWh by the end of the month. If you would like to learn more about the project, or to join us for a guided tour, please contact us via the website www.osneylockhydro.org.uk. We are an entirely volunteer run organisation so would also be delighted to hear from people who would like to get actively involved in the project.

St Frideswide with Binsey

Easter Services at St Frideswide's church

Palm Sunday, 20 March 2016, 10.30am Sung Eucharist

Good Friday, 25 March 2016, 1.00pm Walk of witness starts at St Frideswide's church

Easter Day, 27 March 2016, 10.30am Sung Eucharist

Easter Services at Binsey

Easter Sunday, 27 March 2016, 7.00am Easter Vigil and Eucharist

Easter Sunday, 27 March 2016, 4.30pm Evensong (BCP)

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

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

Obituary

From Carol Tucker: Osney Island has lost one of its oldest residents, Olive Cornell, who was my neighbour at 8 West Street for over twenty-five years. She was 92 and only in a nursing home for about two months. She was born in Lincolnshire, and was so premature that she stayed in the hospital for a year and the doctor named her Olive. She told me that she never really bonded with her mother, but liked her father who was in charge of the horses for some Lincolnshire aristocrat on a large estate, where she acquired her love of animals.

In many ways Olive would have been a biographer's dream. She looked after John Mortimer's baby by Penelope. Told me that they were always out of money and would borrow from her. Later she was the caretaker for Lady Dorothy Hodgkins and was standing at the door with her when she was presented with the Nobel Prize. This was her first job in Oxford, and she didn't need any further stimulation, because "the world came to their house." She then went on to be the housekeeper for the Warden of Keble College, and would practiced her meals on her only son before serving them. As a young girl in Grantham she remembered Margret Thatcher catching the same bus every day. Hair was worn in high pompadours and when the wind blew Margret's hair the other girls made fun of her. Even then she was far above the crowd and made an effort to pay no attention to them. Olive worked in a munitions factory in Brighton during the war and in 1948 was briefly married to a man who soon went to the States and became quite prosperous. He seemed to have provided for her later in life when she bought a house. Before she had any money she managed to send her son to a fee paying school in

Oxford and he later went on to the University here and became a solicitor. If she was a loner with people, she was a gatherer of animals, usually housed three strays at a time. I gave her her last dog, the only one not rescued. She was not a frequent church goer, but said, 'I think we give them a little bit of our heaven.'

Wanted to buy

Are you thinking about selling your 2 bed house on Osney? If so please let me know! I have a 3/4 bed house with period features in Grandpont for sale (next to Hinksey Park and backing onto Deans Ham Meadow)

Holiday accommodation wanted

My friends June and Amanda are looking for a house/flat rental for their grandson/nephew who is coming to visit with their 3 young children. They think a house or flat would be so much easier than staying in a hotel. Would anyone be interested in renting their house or flat to then for around 2 weeks towards the end of July (they can be flexible on the date)?

If yes please email Amanda to the address above or call her at the Rainbow and Spoon dress shop – 01865 723492 or 07770 433258.

Wanted website designer

Our popular Osney website has been up for at least ten years so most of the information is now out of date. Tony Roberts, our website manager who does a splendid job managing it, nevertheless doesn't find adding or changing entries straightforward. Is there a web designer out there who could help us to refresh it and make it easier to make changes? Please contact Elizabeth eizabeth@newberyandengland.com or Julia julaturner@hotmail.com if you can help.

For sale

St Frideswide Church wants to sell a small Bentley upright piano. vgc £450. Please contact osneybenefice@outlook.com or ring 07817473976.

Burglaries

There has been a spate of burglaries on and near the Island recently. Advice from the police is to:

- Lock all doors and windows.
- Move bins and any items used to climb walls/fences away from fence areas.
- Lock jewellery & high value items away or put them in safe place, hidden from view.

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 entries

Hey! a reliable garage

For the last four years or so, my car has been looked after by Adam Woodley at Oxon Auto's in Grove near Wantage. He can deal with just about everything

with a home visit but can take the car away for larger projects. He's sensibly priced and I've always been very satisfied with his service. He's on 07899 762 949, email oxon.auotos@live.co.uk

A good plasterer

Sam Gordon is an ace plasterer who made a great job of a bedroom wall which was on the point of collapse. He can be contacted on 07976 516941.

Baby kit

Baby kit for hire 01235 28008 www.babycomes2.co.uk

Bicycles and accessories

Jon Wyver 07842901873; info@oxbicycles.co.uk www.oxbicycles.co.uk 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

Chimney sweep

Martin Simmonds: 07762 816185 enquiry@ashlogs.com 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 (apple macs)
Mac Simple 01865 580886/07974 321064 www.macsimple.co.uk; API Computing 07964 796007
Judy Dendy 07554 660468 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
Baldwin Appliances 01865 377484 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

Flooring and general carpentry

Amazon Flooring 07899 918015

Footcare in your home

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

Gardening Services

Oxford Garden Solutions 01235 201823/0755 498 7911(tree surgery)

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

Jason info@oxfordgardenservices.co.uk (tree surgery)

General builders

Chris Willis 07974 155 638 (general building work/ carpentry e.g. (re)hanging doors, laying patios, decking, associated painting/decorating, kitchen/bathroom fitting

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 mob: 0791 7785 906 (doesn't use chemicals)

Plumbing and tiling

Nick Barker mob: 07810 356710

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)

Window cleaning

Paul Smith 0797 9692 895

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

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 11 April at 10 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 May, last date for copy 30 April 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-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

Tel. no.

Request