

Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk
May—June 2016



COMING UP

Birthday BBQ for the Queen (and Republicans)

OIRA are organising a brunch BBQ to celebrate the Queen's 90th on Sunday June 12 @ 11 am onwards in Swan St. – Republicans are very welcome. The street will be closed off, we'll have tables down the centre bedecked with flowers and we'll hopefully have music too. There will be a magician and special 'make a crown' activities for children who will be invited to come dressed as queens, princesses, kings, princes or presidents - and there'll be prizes all round. Tickets cost £5 per adult, (children free) to include sausages (veggie options will be available), buns, ketchup, fruit juice and buck's fizz. Tickets will be available from May 20 onwards from Maureen 24 East St, Donate 20 East St and Veronika 6 St East. **Spoiler alert – without volunteers this event won't be possible!** If you can help, please contact Elizabeth 3 North St. 793360, elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; Maureen Ergeneli 24 East St tel: 244480 maukie24@icloud.com; Veronika Lukacs 6 East veronikalukacs@yahoo.com t: 07746712609; or Donate Lotz 20 East St donate.lotz@gmail.com; or use the tear-of strip below. **Special appeal:** are there any young musicians out there who would be willing to play or sing for a bit, and a photographer who could record the event?

A spring clean for elephants!

From Sophie Scott: We are holding a sale and event for all, including tea and family activities, on **Friday 27th May at WOCA 4-7 pm**. If you have any high-end items you were going to give to charity, it would be great if you would donate them to our fund-raising event in aid of Mareja, our community conservation project and anti elephant poaching work in northern Mozambique. For further details ring Sophie 07778 981001 or email sofascott@hotmail.com

Hugo Powell: Shapes and Meanings

North Wall Gallery 27th April - 21st May 2016;
Monday-Friday 10am-4pm Saturday 12-4pm

Hugo Powell, was a sculptor who lived and worked in Osney for over 40 years. He died in 2014, aged 94. His old studio on East Street and his house in Bridge Street are currently being sold. This exhibition in North Wall Gallery, Summertown is a retrospective which includes material from the 1930s to his death. Powell's sculpture explores themes of spirituality, symbolism, nature and

form, working in stone, clay, wood, bronze, and using found objects. This retrospective brings together work from his whole career for the first time, from early abstractions in wood, through to the magnificent bronze Dancing Phoenix completed two weeks before his death. Exhibited alongside the sculpture are sketches from his time as a field nurse and conscientious objector in the Second World War, maquettes and papers demonstrating his rigorous working practices, and documentary footage of his studio. This exhibition showcases the career of a dedicated and passionate sculptor. Visit www.hugopowell.co.uk for more information.

Film club

The Magdalen College Film Society is open to all. Entrance (off Longwall) is still only £3/screening or £10/term). Log on to trinity16termcard for the programme.

NEWS AND VIEWS

AGM

The OIRA AGM held in April was one of the liveliest ever. Peter Thompson gave an especially interesting overview on plans for redevelopments in West Oxford over the next ten years. For those of you who couldn't make the meeting, he has kindly summarised his talk:

'Earlier this year the Oxford Futures Group of the Oxford Civic Society realised that there was convergence of development intentions for several areas to the west side of the city centre: Westgate Shopping Centre is due to open in 18 months' time, Oxpens is moving forward, the station will be reconstructed to a confirmed Network Rail timetable, Nuffield College has acquired the 'Island' site (between Park End and Hythe Bridge Streets, from the Royal Oxford Hotel to the Worcester Street Car Park), and the University was starting to think about development of its sites at Osney Mead. We subsequently learned that Nuffield College had also acquired the buildings on the south side of Frideswide Square, following the transformation of the square (notwithstanding some controversy over cycling provisions), as well as nearly half of the Oxpens site, which has unlocked the development opportunity there. Botley Road Bridge will be rebuilt with the station, and Botley Road itself will undergo County Council improvements. Hence there is the prospect of development on a massive scale in this area.

OCS had previously ci the separate, and uncoordinated preparation of plans for some of these sites, and we

strongly believed that better outcomes would result if all the parties involved cooperated in establishing a vision and a strategy for the combined areas, which amount to around 83 hectares (205 Acres).

We approached the City Council, Nuffield College, Said Business School, Oxford University, Network Rail, Land Securities and others and received a sympathetic response to the idea of an initial meeting, or workshop, to explore the possibilities, and the event duly took place on 16th March. Hand-in-hand with organising this event, we established a consultation website at: <https://oxfordcentralwest.commonplace.is> and we are strenuously encouraging anyone and everyone to visit the site and leave as many comments as possible. The workshop was very well-regarded by all the participants; a report has been prepared and is due for publication this month (April 2016) and will be accessible on the OCS website. The report records a series of suggested steps to take matters forward, and, in the immediate future, OCS Oxford Futures Group members will be speaking individually with key parties, to explore possibilities such as a forum, or other mechanism for communicating objectives and coordinating ideas, so that a collective vision for the redevelopment of this important area of the city may be established. It is recognised that there are strategic issues, such as transport, which must be resolved, mechanisms for delivery of the vision must be created, including establishing funding and mitigating risks, and it is felt that we should be celebrating the opportunities available.

In response to the brief set by Jude Carroll, I suggested that Osney Island residents could judge for themselves what the impacts of all this development might have, situated as they are at the centre of everything! There will be protracted planning issues, extending from the immediate future, probably for anything up to 50 years. Perhaps the biggest immediate threat is traffic generation, but the Oxford Transport Strategy of the County Council (part of the current Local Transport Plan) is beginning to be implemented, and is focused on promoting efficient and attractive public transport systems and cycling facilities, and discouraging car use. We consider that the best way to influence everything that is happening is to become engaged, stay in touch, look at websites, support Councilors, and contribute to the debate. In this way we can be informed about objectives, can better contribute to the vision, can understand the constraints, and be part of the solutions. We feel that this is a better, constructive approach to getting the Oxford we want.'

Congratulations all round

At the Town Hall on 9 May, the Lord Mayor and the Lord Lieutenant awarded a very unusual certificate of honour. The citation said it was honouring "the community of West Oxford as a whole for its efforts and achievements in reducing the community's carbon emissions to combat climate change over the last 8 years". This project has been led by three different groups of volunteers, working closely together: Osney Lock Hydro, which runs the community-owned scheme at Osney Lock; West Oxford Community Renewables, which has put solar panels on roofs in such places as

the council houses in South Street; and Low Carbon West Oxford, which has worked with hundreds of local residents to raise awareness and to provide information and support to help us reduce our carbon footprint. The three groups were all mentioned, but they said they couldn't have done it without all of us, so the award went to everyone in West Oxford. Well done, everyone!

At the same ceremony, two Islanders were awarded individual Certificates of Honour. Pam Scopes was awarded for volunteering for 23 years as a reader at West Oxford Community Primary School, and Maureen Ergeneli was awarded for her generosity in proving a sense of well being to the community through opening her home and dispensing tea and cakes during events.

Possibly upstaging Maureen is her grand-daughter, 7-year-old Ela Ergeneli who has just won Young Embroiderer of the Year set by the South East West region of the Embroiderers Guild. She was presented with a trophy and a beautiful sewing box full of goodies to delight any stitcher. Well done, Ela!

And finally...

Congratulations to Nadia and Evan of West St on the safe arrival of Scarlett Rosolen Ferraro born on Sunday April 24th.

BITS AND BOBS

Osney Island Boat Club

From Simon Stubbings: The recent sunny weather makes the prospect of paddling on the river more enticing and provides life on Osney with an extra dimension. As those who came to our AGM last month will have gathered, the Club now has four boats available to members; in addition to those that existing members may be prepared to lend out. Membership is restricted to those living on the Island.

Club fees are as follows:

One-off Joining Fee: £30 (which would not be refundable on leaving)

Annual Membership Fee: £25 (per household)

If you would like to join, please contact one of the officers: Markus Haacker (6 East Street); Patrick Mulcare (29 East Street); Quentin Sattentau (55 West Street) and Simon Stubbings (31 East Street).

Local poet

Kieron Winn, who lives in Bridge St, has had some great reviews of his poetry collection, *The Mortal Man*, from among others, the TLS, Agenda, Clive James and Melvyn Bragg.

Copies bought directly from him are at a discounted rate of £10 www.kieronwinn.com

Accommodation

Short let: lovely, sunny, family friendly, 4 bed-house for rent from the 28 July till the 2nd of Sept 2016 on Alexandra Road. £1250/month or £400 per week. Please contact Nienke nienkeverkuy1@yahoo.com if interested.

Bingo!

Fancy a game of bingo? Come along to the Democrats' Club every Tuesday, 8 pm start. After two visits you become a member of the club - and qualify for the jackpot. Membership cost £10.22 per year. Ask at the bar for details.

For Sale

Flymo Glider 330 lawnmower. Perfect condition. £40 (£87.50 new) Contact Ron Steele 01865 247961.

Child's Playhouse, £10. Please contact Erica Martin on 07776 141480 ericalouisemartin@gmail.com

Litter pickers of Osney

From Anna Truelove: Oxclean is a great City Council initiative but a periodic purge cannot solve the litter problem. Litter is a daily blight – and we can do something about it. The Council has lent us litter pickers on long term loan and OIRA has bought two more. I will do my best to keep Bridge St tidy, Maureen Ergeneli will deal with East and North St, Bob & Louise Summers will do South. Richard Thurston will do West St. but needs a partner to help. Would anyone be willing to share this task? Any volunteers please ring Anna on 245496.

March 2016 traffic survey

Following frequent complaints about speeding on the Island especially in Bridge St, two fixed cameras were placed outside 78 Bridge Street, one for traffic going south (onto the Island) and one for traffic going north (off the Island). They counted in hourly 'slots' x 24 hours recording the number of vehicles and the number going at a range of speeds. Speed was measured in 13 'bins'. Bin 5 measuring 21-26 mph and Bin 6 26-31 mph.

Number of vehicles / 24 hours:

- Going north (off the Island) during the week: 130-150 (average 136)
- Going north (off the Island) on weekends: 99 on Saturday; 81 on Sunday
- Going south (onto the Island) during the week: 116 – 146 (average 136)
- Going south (onto the Island) on weekend: Saturday 132; Sunday 83
- Going north: The time of morning peak traffic varied a lot, day to day. The PM peak traffic was usually 2-4 pm for all 7 days.
- Going south: The time of morning peak traffic during the week was usually 7:00 am. Afternoon peak time varied a lot but was commonly between 2 and 4 pm but was very late on Thursday!
- Bridge Street was busier for vehicles coming onto the Island. They came earlier and faster, but rarely over 26 mph. The busiest times are 10-12 and 2-4 pm.

Northbound

Over 21 under 26 in 24 hrs	Over 26 under 31/24 hrs
Monday 13	1
Tuesday 9	0
Wednesday 8	1
Thursday 8	0
Friday 10	0
Saturday 11	0
Sunday 9	0

Southbound

Over 21 under 26 in 24 hrs	Over 26 under 31 / 24 hrs
Monday 8	1
Tuesday 11	0

Wednesday	10	3
Thursday	8	1
Friday	8	0
Saturday	8	3
Sunday	7	0

Lessons learned about speeding?

About 10% per day of vehicles exceed the 20 mph speed limit. Most are in the 21-26 'bin'.

Very few exceed 26 mph: 2 a week going north (off the Island) and 8 a week coming south onto the Island. On many days, no one does. Cars are more likely to exceed 26 mph when coming onto the Island (southbound) than when leaving (northbound) but the numbers are small, so the difference may not be significant. Saturday southbound (onto the Island) has 3 excess speeders – so it is not necessarily off-Islanders who speed the most. There is no evidence to support those who claim high-speed drivers in Bridge Street are common. There is a case for a sign at the 'top' of Bridge Street for oncoming drivers reminding them this is a 20 mph zone.

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!

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

Car repairs

Oxon Auto's in Grove near Wantage (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

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

Sam Gordon (plasterer) 07976 516941.

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

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 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

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Wednesday 15 June 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 July, last date for copy 30 June 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.

.....
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