

# Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter

www.osneyisland.co.uk  
September/October 2016



## COMING UP

### The Queen's 90th birthday washout

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 chucked in the freezer. We will provide free tea and coffee and soft drinks for children.

### Art on Osney

Osney Island has a thriving art scene with painters, photographers, basket makers, printers, potters, rag rug makers and embroiderers. In the past, West Oxford artists have exhibited at WOCC during Artsweeks but the Island itself hasn't had much of a presence. We are having a meeting to try and rectify this so if you are interested in exhibiting or offering your house as a venue in 2017, please come to a meeting on Wednesday, October 5 @ 8 pm @ Bob and Louise Summers, 69 Bridge St [louiseandbob@gmail.com](mailto:louiseandbob@gmail.com).

See also Elaine Kazimierczuk's show at the Jam factory (see below).

### St Frideswide with Binsey Concerts at St Frideswide's church

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

Thursday September 29th, 7.30pm, David Mears (clarinet)

Thursday, October 27th, 7.30pm, Syrinx Wind Quintet

Friday, November 25th, 7.30pm, Tango Evening

### Farmer's Market

A farmer's market will soon be arriving one Saturday a month, 10:00-13:00, at St Frideswide's church. The first two markets will be 8 October and 5 November.

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 new website at <http://osneybenefice.org.uk>

### The Island at Christmas

We will be repeating last year very successful Christmas

on the Towpath, and this year with carols too. There will also be the annual children's lantern parade. Watch out for details in the next newsletter.

## ISLAND NEWS

### Allotments

A reminder that rents are due Sunday 11th and Sunday 18th September – during the allotment shop opening hours which are 10am to 12pm. Rents for 2016-17 are £25 for a full plot (10 poles) and £12.50 for a half plot. There are no discounts for seniors, students or any other groups. If you could like an allotment call in the shop to see which plots are available. Tulip, narcissi and iris bulbs for autumn planting are now for sale in the shop.

## A BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

*David Walker writes about the former taxi business at West Court.*

Until 1974, on the site of West Court, West Street, stood a detached four bedroomed house and two large garages. The house was surrounded by substantial gardens with fruit trees, vegetables and flowers. It is not possible to date the property accurately, but a large scale Ordnance Map of 1876 indicated a collection of buildings on the site including a boat house and an ice house. There were, at this time, one or two small market gardens on Osney Island so it is quite possible one of these was at this particular location. In 1881, the census for that year showed that living at 'Hill View' 40a West Street was John Buckingham aged 38, a GWR railway porter and his wife, Fanny. John Buckingham died in 1909 and his widow continued to live there until c.1921 when the property was sold to Mr W.T. (Bill) Mansell, a taxi proprietor from St Clements who carried on his business until he sold it for £1,250 to Mr R.B.(Baron) Money in November 1937. Baron Money was my stepfather who married my divorced mother Eva in December 1938.

Until 1937 Baron ran his business of taxi, hire car and funeral hearses from lock-up premises in Norham Mews which has since been demolished to make way for Lady Margaret Hall's new residential blocks. Moving to Osney the business became known as the Osney Service Garage and besides conducting the car hire and funeral business, the garage also sold petrol from a manually operated pump and garaged one or two of the very few cars that were owned by Osney residents at the time.

The house was one of the largest on Osney Island, but surprisingly enough very short of modern amenities. No services to the house except main drainage were installed. Baron immediately laid on electricity to the house and two garages, and water which was used for cooking and washing came via a hand operated pump from a well, and a large tank in the roof of the house was fitted with an electric float switch providing a supply to the two toilet cisterns. The taxis, hire cars and hearses were always immaculately turned out and the water for hand washing these vehicles came from two water butts which collected rainwater from the large expanse of garage roof. In the event of a drought, a hose pipe used to be connected to the pump in the kitchen to top up the butts. Sometime during the time the garage was running, Baron rented the building, now converted into living accommodation and known as 'Willow Barn' and used it for storage purposes. Beside the three licensed taxi drivers a full time staff of four – including myself – were employed and at busy times local part time drivers would be brought in. Mrs Doris Richardson who lived at number 5 Swan Street helped in the house for the whole of the time the family was there. In 1959 Baron decided to go into semi retirement and purchased the grocery and confectionery shop at 121 Botley Road, now the launderette. The shop was run by my mother and Baron returned to driving a taxi at Oxford Station. He sold the garage and house to G.R.Cooper who owned the well known Oxford ironmongery business which stood on the corner of Castle Street and St Ebbes. The garage premises were used for the general storage of heavy items and the house was let to the McIver family before being sold to the Alden Press. A planning application for the demolition of the house and garages was granted on 18th June 1971 after which, the present day West Court apartments were built and occupied in 1974. I was recently told by one of the original occupants a one bedroom flat cost £7,50 then. No 41 West Street, the home of the Inness family for many years, was demolished to make room for the driveway to and from the flats.

## BITS AND BOBS

### **Osney Island resident exhibits at Jam Factory**

Artist Elaine Kazimierczuk has recently moved to North Street and has an exhibition at the Jam Factory in Hollybush Row from October 6th to 13th November. Elaine works in oils and focuses mainly on abstract landscapes, including local scenes such as Wytham Woods, though she also takes commissions for portraits. You can see examples of her work at [www.elainekazimierczuk.com](http://www.elainekazimierczuk.com).

### **Morning meditation on West Street**

Each Wednesday morning at 7.15 we offer a space to come together and sit in silent meditation for half an hour. Sitting in this way with an attitude of kindness and openness towards ourselves can reconnect us to the great wellspring that we already are. As we begin to taste this wellspring our experience shows us that the world is not the divided place that our thoughts appear to shape it into. Making space in our busy lives to pause, and open to what is actually happening within and around us can bring insights to help navigate

our way in these times of great change, challenge and opportunity.

All are welcome; no experience of meditation is necessary.

For further information please contact Ally,  
[Allysoilandsoul@gmail.com](mailto:Allysoilandsoul@gmail.com) or  
Derek, [Derek@outofthewood.co.uk](mailto:Derek@outofthewood.co.uk)

### **Farewell to Tilly, Richard and Isabelle Martin (formerly of 39 West St)**

As we move to North Hinksey we will miss all our Osney Island friends and neighbours after several happy years here. Thank you for making the island a special place to live.

### **Pop-up cafe**

From Nick Barwell: Many thanks to all who supported the pop-up cafe in East Street at the end of July. We were really pleased with the turnout of local people and the weather was kind, which resulted in quite a lot of passing trade too. Over £300 was raised in support of the Explorer Scouts' volunteer work in Kenya next year. Thanks again to all islanders who helped out, including Jude for the gazebos and Margaret Barwick for allowing us to overrun her house for two days.

### **Osney Island email account**

There was an error in the last Island Newsletter concerning the email service. To post to the residents mailing list, email your messages to [osira@googlegroups.com](mailto:osira@googlegroups.com).

To post to the list manager, email your messages to [osiramanager@gmail.com](mailto:osiramanager@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](mailto:cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk); City Councillors: Colin Cook, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: [cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk](mailto: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**

Heatstore in Charlbury (for Defra approved wood and coal burners) Highly recommended. 01608 819088 [www.heatstoreltd.co.uk](http://www.heatstoreltd.co.uk)

## **Tried and tested**

### **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.autos@live.co.uk](mailto:oxon.autos@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](mailto:office@ngre.co.uk);

JoJu Solar 0800 0542 977 [www.jojusolar.co.uk](http://www.jojusolar.co.uk);

Energy My Way 0845 3713181 [www.energymyway.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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)

### **Pests**

Avenge (based in Binsey). 02865 246195 /

078 794050 60.

### **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 cleaner**

Mark Jennings tel 848904

**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](mailto:Suzanne@dands.org.uk)

**Osney Island email account**

The new email account [osneyislandresidents@gmail.com](mailto: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 November, last date for copy 30 October 2016. If you would like to put an item in contact: Elizabeth Newbery 3 North St. 793360, email: [elizabeth@newberyandengland.com](mailto: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		