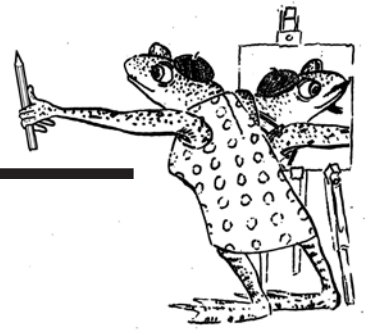


Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter



osneyisland.wordpress.com
November/December 2017

COMING UP

West Oxford Academy

The fab WOA is back with another quirky, learned and intriguing programme which starts on 24 October at 8.15pm in the Mary Town Room, West Oxford Community Centre and thereafter every Tuesday evening until December 12. Please note the slightly later time & slightly different location.

Handmade Christmas Market

25 Nov 11 am - 6pm; 26 Nov 11 am - 4pm @ WOCA. A wide variety of special Christmas gifts including pots, baskets, prints, Christmas cards and wrapping all handmade by local artists/makers.

Christmas Art Show

From Elaine Kazimierczuk: Back by popular demand! Following my summer show and recent exhibitions in Bristol and London, I'm doing a Christmas mini version at 2 North Street, with paintings of all sizes. You are welcome to join me for preview drinks and mince pies on Friday 24th November from 6 - 8pm. Then open 25-26 Nov 11am-6pm, 1 Dec 6-8pm and 2-3 Dec 11am-6pm. Look forward to seeing you.
www.elainekazimierczuk.com

Concerts at St Frideswide's Church

Concerts will be confirmed nearer the time. Please check our website for the latest information. Entry is £5 on the door, and includes a glass of wine and nibbles.
<http://osneybenefice.org.uk>

Christmas carol singing and children's lantern parade

The Osney Island Christmas carol singing and children's lantern parade will be on Saturday 2nd December. Meet at the Punter at 5pm, and bring a lantern (or a tea light in a jam jar). If you would like the carol singers to call at your house and sing, or if you would be willing to offer them refreshments, then please contact Debbie at 14 East Street (debbietheduck@hotmail.com). Everyone is welcome.

Tealights on the Towpath

Sunday December 10 @ 6 pm. Continuing the tradition of Christmas Tealights on the Towpath with a Christmas tree, mulled wine and mince pies. If you would like to join in please bring a tea light in a jam jar (to mark the edge of the bank), a mug for a hot drink. Meanwhile, we need offers to mull the wine (preferably from people on East St so no one has to carry hot wine sloshing about too far) - all ingredients

supplied. If you can help please contact me: elizabeth@newberyandengland.com 01865 793360. If the weather is foul, we will call it off so please keep an eye open for last minute notices.

West Oxford Allotments

The two allotments sites have had a good season, and the growing and harvesting continues in the mild autumn weather. Prospective gardeners should contact secretary@westoxfordallotments.org for plot availability and everyone should take a look at the re-configured website at www.westoxfordallotments.org.

Please note from the start of November shop hours will be 11-12 and that the toilet on the Twenty Pound Meadow site is closed from October to March when the water is switched off.

NEWS AND VIEWS

For those of you not signed up to the Osney Island email list, this is a report from Julian Le Vay of Cripsey Road Residents' Association on the discussion of revised SPD for Oxford Railway Station by the City Executive Council.

'Colin Cook is not on the Committee but at my request had got agreement to address it and did so very ably on all the points in the comments we had sent round. On access he said what he had told us, that if there is an entry on the west side, and there will be, people will drop off there and its best the design takes account of this rather than let cars just stack up in the road, but it should be done sensitively to the interests of residents. He said good quality trees should be kept but some might have to be replaced but replacement should be good 'specimen' trees not planners 'lego trees' as he put it. He was annoyed NR hadn't reduced the number of staff parking spaces and hoped the Council could push again on this.

In discussion, which was brief (but longer than on most items), it transpired that NR say the 54 parking spaces are dictated by their agreements with operators. It became clear that the Council are mightily fed up with NR. They believed they had worked very closely with the railway interests on the SPD only to have NR put in comments in August attacking the SPD for hamstringing commercial development (not our view!). The council find NR entirely dysfunctional, liable to say one thing on Monday and another on Tuesday, hopeless at keeping their word, and as we all know, disastrous at project management and contemptuous of everything and everyone who is non railway. The Council thinks

NR have got into bed with developer who are salivating at the money to be made and are encouraging NR to wring every pound out of despoiling our city.

That said, one thing that was very clear, and explicit, which we should understand: the City Council badly want this project which they believe central to the economic growth of the city and they fully accept the price is intense commercial development. The reality is that by comparison, our concerns about our lives and neighbourhood are more of a temporary obstacles to be 'handled'. Sorry to sound cynical but I think that is how it really is and many on the receiving end of other developments in the city would say the same, as I know. Colin is an honourable exception I should add.

The outcome was the SPD was approved but subject to directions to redrafted to take on board and incorporate the points made, including re-siting of the ops building, rethinking the RDW design, seeking fewer car parking spaces and so on. What is hard to predict is when (if!) anything will come to pass, harder because NR is such a mess, but given that NR are well short of funding at present and that detailed planning consent is needed, my guess is that the power drills won't be waking us at night for 2 or 3 years yet and possibly much longer. (You may have seen press reports that rail passenger volumes, having risen for many years, have suddenly plateaued and for GWR, fallen sharply...).

We need to keep on top of this, there is much work to be done now and we need to intervene in detail and effectively at planning stage. I, myself, will not be on Oxford from January. I hope someone will circulate the council minutes when available.

LOCAL HISTORY: UP THE PUB

From David Walker: 'Dads Army afloat' would be a more appropriate description of the Upper Thames Patrol, a section of which was based at Osney during WW2. Founded in August 1939 by the late Sir Ralph Glyn, for many years Abingdon's M.P., the unit was incorporated into the Local Defence Volunteers later becoming the Home Guard. Rather uncharitably referred to by the locals as 'Up the Pub', the object of the U.T.P. was to defend the upper reaches of the Thames from Teddington to Lechlade. A section based at Osney Lock was responsible for the stretch from Osney to King's Lock Godstow, a distance of about seven miles there and back.

The journey was made on the Sea Dawn a 20 ft cabin cruiser crewed by members of the Oxford Sea Cadet Corps (of which I was a member), and kept moored a few yards upstream from the lock and conveniently placed outside the 'Waterman's Arms' (now the Punter). Patrols would start at 7.30 p.m. when a small detachment of Home Guard and a Sea Cadet officer would make an exit from the pub to begin a leisurely cruise to Godstow. I hasten to add that the temptation to call at The Trout and The Perch was grudgingly resisted.

Returning to Osney some two hours later Sea Dawn rapidly decanted the senior members of the party to drink a quick pint or two before closing time at 10.00 p.m. The shift was then split into two with half remaining on board Sea Dawn and the remainder moving to a wooden hut placed on the Island side of the footpath leading to the Osney Mead Industrial Estate, which, at that time, was non-existent.

For the young cadets a night in the hut was quite an adventure listening to hair-raising tales of the sea related by the units paymaster Lt. A.R. Payne affectionately known as 'Wacker' while sipping mugs of hot Symington's Pea Soup. At intervals during the night a

Home Guard accompanied by a cadet would patrol the length of the towpath from the lock to Boney's Bridge and back again. The Home Guard carried a .303 Lee Enfield and the cadet a de-activated American Winchester Rifle - the last time it was fired in anger was probably at Custer's Last Stand - would provoke very little fear into any invading troops. Nights in the hut are but happy memories rekindled each time I make a cup of that well-known company's soup.

PLEAS AND APPEALS

Calling Cat Owners on Osney

From Anna Truelove I live at 83 Bridge Street and whenever I go into my back garden, a large cat, – dark tabby with white socks and a rather small head – appears bleating, seemingly asking for company and attention. I respond cautiously because my priority is my own tabby cat, Sam. If the bleater is kept outside most of the time, could his owners reconsider and admit him to their home as a full family member? A PetSafe cat flap reads the microchip in the pets' necks and keeps out undesirables...

Parking pleas

From Jon Chaplin: We live at 35 South St and the council put a drop curb so I can get my motorbike out of the garden and so my father-in-law can get a mobility scooter in and out. People keep parking across the gate and the other night Saturday I could not get my motorbike out for work so I lost a shift. The police suggest I put cones in the space which I have done. Please do not remove them.

Another plea..

Please could people move their cars regularly rather than parking for weeks on end in the same spot? This allows the gaps to be aligned and cars to be parked more efficiently.

St Frideswide with Binsey

We are very pleased to announce that the Revd Kate Seagrave has been appointed to serve as mission priest to set up and lead the Bishop of Oxford's new St Frideswide Mission Community which will operate across the City of Oxford. For more information, please visit our website at <https://osneybenefice.org.uk/content/st-frideswide-mission-projects>

Christmas at St Frideswide

Sunday 12th November, 10.30am Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 3rd December, 3.00pm Remembering those we have loved - a quiet service for the bereaved.

Sunday 10th December, 6.00pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 17th December, 3.30pm Carol Service – held at St Margaret's church, Binsey

Thursday 21st December, 7.30pm Carol Concert

Sunday 24th December, 4.30pm Crib Service (There will also be a normal 10.30 Eucharist that day)

Monday 25th December, 10:30 Christmas Day Eucharist.

If you would like to use St Frideswide's church to host an activity, please let us know by sending an email to osneybenefice@outlook.com At the east end of the church we have an area where ashes can be buried.

If you would like to find out more, please contact osneybenefice@outlook.com If you would like to join us, you can find the times of our regular services, information about our choir, and other information on our website at <http://osneybenefice.org.uk>.

Take pity on the postman!

From Anna Trulove: For many years I have been involved in delivering the cherished Newsletter to the Islanders, and like all deliverers I find it frustrating that many letter-boxes are Not Fit for Purpose and some are actively hostile! We can cope with variable locations on the door and vertical or horizontal orientation. The main blight is small openings. Many Osney letter-boxes are tiny (original door furniture preserved as a 'feature?') or A5 size, but a fair whack of post these days is A4. Other hindrances are stiff bristle draught-excluders which impede the passage of paper and internal metal flaps which act like rat-raps to remove skin from the knuckles of the unwary. Some horrid letter-boxes are fitted with both bristles and flaps. I may dread occasional deliveries, but postmen grapple with our obstructive letter-boxes on a daily basis and we should consider the problems they face. So, Dear Islanders, if you have a small letter-box I do beseech you to replace it soonest with an A4 size piece of ironmongery. Also, please ask yourselves, bristle and flap owners, how useful these things actually are and could you dispense with them? All deliverers will be grateful and all postmen will bless you!

Obituary

Harold Lewis 1921-2017 of Mallinson Court

From David Ellis: Harold was born on Osney Island in the unnumbered house next to 105 Bridge St and attended St Frideswide Church and Boys' School. He started work as an apprentice chef at New College. At the outbreak of the war in 1939, Harold joined the local Defence Volunteers (Home Guard) and served guarding Osney Power Station until joining the RAF. During the war, he was wounded and was very proud of the fact that in his nineties, he still had a piece of shrapnel in his skull. Service as a fireman on the railway followed until an accident meant he had to give up this arduous job. His last years, after having to give up a series of mobility scooters – the last of which was smart blue sports model – were spent housebound. He died in the JR aged 96.

Island email list

From Robert Lawrence: If you've not yet done so why not subscribe 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 by sending a join request to the list manager at osiramanager@gmail.com.

USEFUL NUMBERS

City Council tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); County Council tel: 792422; Councillor Susanna Pressel, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk; City Councilors: Colin Cook, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: cllrccook@oxford.gov.uk and Susanna (as above). For a crime in progress tel: 999; for all other police matters tel: 101. Highway enquiries, bus passes, parking permits, street lighting, travel advice tel: 0845 634 4466. West Oxford Community Centre tel: 245761. Furniture recycling (Emmaus) tel: 763698. The best way to report things to the two councils is via www.oxford.gov.uk and www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

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.

Tried and tested

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 (will deliver and pick up in Oxford free of charge)

Building and roof repairs

Everest Roofing Ltd 01865 8816856 enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk

Carpentry

Everett, Lockwood Carpentry: j.everett.lwc@gmail.com, tel. 07597 952381

'a white van is kitted out as a workshop and they do all the sawing and messy work inside the van.)

Car repairs

Oxon Auto's in Grove near Wantage 07899 762 949 oxon.auotos@live.co.uk

Chimney sweep

Martin Simmonds 07762 816185 enquiry@ashlogs.com www.ashlogs.com (also supplies ash logs).

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)

Bill Baxter, The Animated Laser Company. Tel/Text 07774 412944.

Noon to Midnight. Old Marston, OX3 0SX.

bill@animatedlaser.co.uk.

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)

Gas fitters

Byron of Sure Gas Boiler Repairs, tel 07899 629629

Gardening Services

David Morris 01865 725875 (gardening maintenance and some diy).

Eric Bake 07756 065045 (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);

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)

Heating

Heatstore in Charlbury (for Defra approved wood and coal burners) 01608 819088 www.heatstoreltd.co.uk

Remloc Plumbing and Heating Ltd, 5 Fulwell Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1JX; 01235 536345.

Home hairdressers

Sally Horton 07815 445229;

Nadine Wright 07824 660184;

Barry 01865 400717 / 07860 895364

Kitchen fitters

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)

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

Removals

A G Jacob and Sons 07977 963929;

House and Carriage 01608 811444 / 07769 585988

Sewing services

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 848904

Wood burning stove fitters

Lee Hill 01865 787 940 (HETAS approved)

OIRA COMMITTEE

Joyce Chalmers Chair; Maureen Ergeneli 24 East St tel: 244480/07816 580 990; Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South St tel: 247737 (notice board); Bob Lawrence (Residents' email list) 42 West St tel: 792358; Veronika Lukacs veronikalukacs@yahoo.com tel: 07746712609; Stephen Lynam (Vice Chair) 11 South St tel: 201334; stephenrodgerlynam@gmail.com; Elizabeth Newbery (Newsletter) 3 North St tel: 793360 elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; Karen Schoenenamm 07718 632742; 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

New to the Island? Contact Jude Carroll 10 East St, tel: 793247 for a free welcome pack with loads of useful local information.

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

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 Nov 13 @ 8pm at 24 East St. Committee meetings are by invitation only. If you'd like to raise an issue please contact the Chair, Joyce Chalmers 20 East St, email: homeinoxford@btinternet.com or Stephen Lynam (Vice Chair) 11 South St, tel: 201334, email: stephenrodgerlynam@gmail.com; You can find our agenda the minutes on the Bridge Street notice board and on the website. Next newsletter is due out mid January, last date for copy December 31. 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 over the page

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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