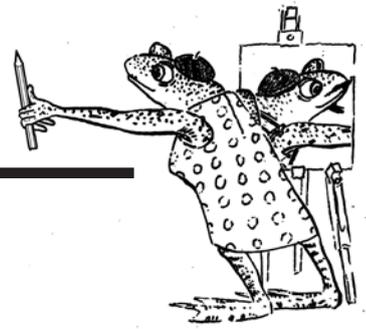


Osney Island Residents' Association Newsletter



osneyisland.wordpress.com
March/April 2018

As I put the newsletter together, Osney Island is covered in a blanket of snow. Many thanks to those of you who have swept paths and put sand down. Tony Evans, a gas engineer and plumber at 4 North Street says, 'Having been out to a customer in Botley tonight, I have seen how treacherous the roads are and engineers will struggle to get out over the weekend. If anyone on the Island has a broken boiler in the next few days I am happy to walk round and try to help'. Contact Tony Evans 07881 646656. Who says the spirit of neighbourliness is dead?

COMING UP

OIRA AGM,

The OIRA AGM will be held on Monday 23 April, 6.30 for 7 pm in the Mary Town Room at WOCA, WITH WINE, SOFT DRINKS AND NIBBLES! It's a chance to meet your neighbours, have a say in what you'd like the committee to do in the coming year and to volunteer for events. We promise to keep the business part VERY short followed by a talks by the police about the problems of drug dealing on the Island and Jo Emberson-Wines, Senior, Senior Manager for the EA's Osney Yard or Depot, about the work they do in the yard such as lock maintenance and dredging. She's also very good at dealing with complaints!

Osney Island Boat Club AGM

From Simon Stubbings: The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held in the Punter@ 8:00pm on Tuesday 17 April at 8:00pm. 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 and enjoy a drink. 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

A Summer of Art, Plants and Homemade Cakes

This year we are running Open Gardens and Teas on the Towpath to coincide with Osney studios open for Oxford Artweeks on Sunday May 13. (Note that the studios will also be open on other days – details nearer the time.)

Osney will be showcasing artists and craftspeople:

Elaine Kazimierzuk: Paintings 2/3 North Street

Bianca Elgar and David Blakemore: Paintings, prints and textiles 15 East Street

Antoinette Ibsen: Paintings; Louise Summers: Relief Prints

and Rag Rugs; Bob Summers: Basketry; Annie Wootton: Sculpture, Drawings 69 Bridge Street.

There will also be several West Oxford artists exhibiting at WOCC and at The King's Centre.

Open Gardens

Several Islanders will be opening their gardens from 2-4 pm with a children's trail and plants for sale.

Teas on the Towpath

There will be Teas on the Towpath from 3-5 pm and hopefully, live music too. This year we will be asking for donations at the gardens rather than selling tickets.

Help! Offers of cakes and plants would be greatly appreciated as would volunteers to help set up and clear up. Please contact any OIRA members if you can help.

Oxford Canal Festival

The Oxford Canal Festival will be back on Saturday, 8 September, with events taking place up and down the canal from Hythe Bridge Street to Wolvercote and centred on Aristotle Lane Recreation Ground. The festival will be held from midday with activities ranging from a dog show, special events for children, the Canal Olympics, musical performances, food stalls, as well as decorated canal boats and canal crafts at the moorings along the towpath. Entrance is free and, if you would be able to help on the day e.g. with children's events, setting up and dismantling of the equipment, or would like to enter your dog in the dog show, please contact James Fry at Jfry@Lmc.co.uk or at 7 Rawlinson Road, OX2 6UE or on 01865 554001.

Allotment News

We have recently run a pruning course and a potato day with both events well attended. Clearing abandoned plots continues and we are very grateful for those who have helped out. If you are tidying your plot for the new season, please take your own rubbish away. 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.

ISLAND NEWS AND VIEWS

Locks and Weirs

Last November, Osney lock keeper Mark Winks give a talk to the West Oxford Academy about weirs and managing the water levels in the Thames and local streams. For those who missed it here are some fascinating details.

'We believe people originally began manipulating the flow of the Thames around 1000 years ago – there is archeological evidence of weirs or controllable dams dating

back around 800 years. It's likely the primary purpose was for fishing, with wicker baskets called bucks used to trap eels and salmon. The weir next to the Trout in Wolvercote still has some ancient Iron hooks attached to it and are believed to be for this purpose. Later weirs were constructed to create the power for milling. (Osney Abbey's miller was the miller in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.).

Weirs caused obstructions to vessels who wished to pass through them and conflicts between navigators, millers and fisherman were common. In 1215, an entry in the Magna Carta reads 'no man or structure shall impede your right to navigate' and thus the right to navigate weirs was born. It continued to be tricky business however, until finally in the 1600s locks of the design we still use today were introduced, the sole purpose of which was a convenient method of getting around a weir. Although many weirs today are modern, they continue to be used to manage water flow for flood risk management, abstracting drinking water, recreational and commercial boating, hydro-electric schemes and local ecology.

The Democrats' Club

New Island residents will be aware of the Democrats club on the corner of North and East St but may not know anything about them. According to one long time member, the club was formed when the Swan pub in Bridge Street closed and two of its clients felt it needed a new home. As they were well connected, both socially and politically, they arranged a venue, named it The Democrats' but gave it a constitution that made it clear that it was a social rather than a political club. Now under new management, the Demos would like new members. Anyone can join: membership is only £12 a year (over 65) and £15 (under 65). Games such as darts, bar billiards and snooker, 'Aunt Sally' in the summer, quiz nights and bingo are on offer as well as very reasonably priced beer. Call in anytime from 7-11 pm for more information.

Babysitting

I'm looking to babysit on Osney Island. I am a responsible, caring, fun, creative, sporty 15-year old girl. I speak German and English. 07757640860 or email me alissasattentau@yahoo.co.uk

Simon Robinson

We are very sorry to hear that Simon, who lived on Bridge Street for 18 years, has died. He grew up in Buckinghamshire, moved around for his work as a patent attorney, but settled in Osney having found work in Long Hanborough. He was a member of OIRA for a time and was always committed to the Island community. After Charlotte joined him here and their son Joel was born, he supported all the family activities. However, Simon's lifelong struggles with mental illness could make being out and about very difficult. In later years, he could no longer do paid work, but enjoyed life in West Oxford as much as possible. Cycling and walking, especially by the river or in Wytham Woods, were reliable pleasures, and he and Charlotte were both enthusiastic users of the local libraries. Simon turned to creative work, first writing poetry and then making art, joining a local group to exhibit during Artweeks 2017. He became much more ill in late January this year, resulting in his shocking death at home. Joel and Charlotte are very grateful for all the support they

have received and continue to receive from friends and neighbours. You may wish to know that Simon's funeral is on Friday 9 March. The hearse will leave Bridge Street at 12.40pm to go to Botley Cemetery for the burial. There is a memorial gathering on the same day at 2.15pm at Wytham Village Hall with refreshments following afterwards. All are welcome at any part of this.

House Available in Bridge Street for Short Term Let

I will be away for three months and am looking to let out my house in Bridge Street, approximately mid April to early July 2018. There are two bedrooms, (one double, one single) large open plan living room and kitchen and west facing garden. For more information, please contact me directly jillroberts@onetel.com

St Frideswide's with Binsey

As we head towards Easter there is a lot on at St Frideswide's. We warmly welcome everyone in the community to our regular Sunday services at 10.30am, as well as any of the following special events.

Who is my neighbour?

A series of talks and reflections on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm from now until Easter. These are either in church or at someone's home - the venues are on our website - <http://osneybenefice.org.uk>

Exploring faith

We will run a group for those wanting to explore the Christian faith in a very relaxed setting, after Easter. Contact kate.seagrave@oxford.anglican.org for more information.

Children's services are on the last Sunday of every month. Our next service will be the family service on Palm Sunday at 10.30 am, and then back to 3-4pm on 29th April.

The services in Holy Week will be:

Palm Sunday Sunday 25th March at 10:30 am, Family Service

Holy Communion Daily from Monday 26th March to Thursday 29th March (Maundy Thursday) at 7pm

Good Friday Walk of Witness Friday 30th March at 1 pm. Please meet at St Frideswide's church. We will walk to St Margaret's with stops for prayer along the way.

Easter Sunday Sunday 1st April at 10:30 am, Easter Service.

Trees in St Frideswide's Churchyard

Thank you so much to all who have expressed concern for the trees. Come and discuss our plans for the churchyard at St Frideswide's Saturday 5th May, 10.30-12.30. We are working with the council, wildlife charities and the RHS to find a long term plan which can keep our part of Oxford looking beautiful. Over the coming weeks we hope to put their recommendations together for a plan for the future, and we look forward to being able to work with input from the whole community to protect what is a very precious place. If you have any questions about this before the May 5th meeting, please contact us.

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 or on the noticeboards outside the church. You can also connect with us on Facebook.

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: cllrspresel@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

Since the directory was updated in the last newsletter one resident has come forward to say that she would like to say re recommend some entries.

Mark Mavrommatis has worked for me for over six years and for many others in this neighbourhood. He has installed 10 windows and a door, painted to a high standard inside and outside, and restored some patches in 40-year-old William Morris wallpaper.

Maria Skoyles altered the sleeves of a coat and a jacket. She knows what she is doing.

New entries

Loose covers

Elizabeth Feast 01386 861010 'first rate'.

Oxford Refurbished Sash Windows refurbish the wooden frame and replace the sashes with double-glazed panels. The contact is John info@sashrefurbcompany.co.uk 'Not cheap but I'm really pleased with the result and would definitely recommend'.

Milton & Swan

Plumbing, Tiling, Bathrooms 07779 992115 www.miltonandswan.com 'We used this company for some tiling in our kitchen. They are female plumbers and tilers and were absolutely brilliant - efficient, very knowledgeable and their work was so professional'.

Mark Morris, 5 Sinmore Road, Botley 07970 342375 'an excellent electrician and plumber'

Newsagent delivering to Osney, Mr Patel, Court Candy Shop 01865 515506

Tried and tested

Baby kit

Baby kit for hire 01235 280081 www.babycomes2.co.uk

Bicycles and accessories

Jon Wyver 07842 901873 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 881685 enquiries@everestroofing.co.uk

Carpentry

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

Amazon Flooring: Steve on 07899 918015 (wood flooring and general carpentry)

Car repairs

Oxon Autos in Grove near Wantage 07899 762949, email oxon.autos@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 872395/07824 159855

Computers

Bill Richardson 01865 376100 bill@macfaction.co.uk (Apple Macs)

Mac Simple 01865 580886/07974 321064 www.macsimple.co.uk

Judy Dendy 07554 660468 www.computerdendy.co.uk (lessons and basic troubleshooting)

Bill Baxter, The Animated Laser Company 07774 412944 bill@animatedlaser.co.uk.

Damp

Damprot Renovations Ltd (in Beckley) 01865 742144

Electricians

RJB Electrical 01865 882723/07711 934348 (rewires and new installations)

DEC Electricians 01865 725453 mail@decoxford.co.uk www.dec-oxfordltd.co.uk

Jamie Cooke 07775 700300 jc.electrical@hotmail.com

Baldwin Appliances 01865 377484 www.baldwinappliances.com (repairs to white goods, new appliances)

Exterior and interior decorators

Andrew Turner 07591 491804 (repaints masonry, front doors and windows)

Dave Buckle 01865 848630/07831 712872

Steve Brierty 07850 357414

Rob Bennett 07905 819310

Sam Gordon (plasterer) 07976 516941

Footcare in your home

Angie Ward 07796 881157 angiefootcare@gmail.com (nail cutting, corns, verruca, fungal treatment, foot massage)

Gardening Services

David Morris 01865 725875

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 07554 987911 info@oxfordgardenservices.co.uk (gardening tree surgery)

Gas fitters

Byron of Sure Gas Boiler Repairs 07899 629629

General builders

Chris Willis 07974 155638 (general building work)

Mark Mavrommatis 07970 974792 (installs new windows, repairs old ones)

Brian French 07957 315303 (local general builder and plasterer, willing to take on small jobs)

Green builders and installers

Next Generation Renewable Energy Ltd. 01993 810130 office@ngre.co.uk (installation and maintenance of solar panels, heat pumps etc)

JoJu Solar 0800 0542 977 www.jojusolar.co.uk (solar panels, battery charging systems)

Energy My Way 0845 371 3181 (solar panels, heat pumps, underfloor heating)

Handymen

Jon Butt 07766 144116

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

Sid Siddle 01865 251795/ 07757 214 301 sid@oddsandsids.co.uk (shelves, carpentry)

Heating

Heatstore in Charlbury (for Defra approved multi-fuel burners) 01608 819088 www.heatstoreltd.co.uk

Remloc Plumbing and Heating Ltd 01235 536345/07709 961655 (large and small jobs)

Home hairdressers

Sally Horton 07815 445229

Nadine Wright 07824660184

Barry 07860 895364

Locksmith

Davies Hardened Security 01865 371816/07711 625092

Logs

Logsforall.co.uk (ideal for smaller wood burners/fireplaces)

Oven Cleaning

Wayne 07917 785906 (doesn't use chemicals)

Pests

Avenge 01865 246195/07879 405060 (from deer to bed bugs)

Plumbing and heating

Ivan Kilbee 07771 787585 ivankilbee@lineone.net

APV Boiler Services 01865 377264/07836 212502 apvboilerservice@btinternet.com

Jules Jones (formerly Smith) 01993 778244/07790 961395 reallygoodplumbing@outlook.com

Removals and storage

A G Jacob and Sons 01865 762524/07977 963929 www.agjacobandson.co.uk

House and Carriage 01608 811444/07769 585988 info@houseandcarriage.com

Sewing services

Maria Skoyles 01865 721460/07590 264246 (dressmaking, repairs and alterations, soft furnishing)

Stone work surfaces and tiles

Jashim Hussain of Ultragranite, 01865 407555 www.ultragranite.co.uk

Window cleaning

Mark Jennings 01865 848904/07773 159198

Wood burning stove fitters

Lee Hill 01865 787940/07732 864441 (HETAS approved)

Gazebos

If you would like to borrow the gazebos, bunting and tables please contact Jude Carroll 10 East St, 793247.

Welcome Pack

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

OIRA COMMITTEE

Joyce Chalmers 22 East St 07837 127883 (Chair); Maureen Ergeneli 24 East St 07816 580990; Suzanne Jeffrey 13 South 07769 654767 suzanne@dands.org.uk (Notice board); Robert Lawrence (Residents' email list) 42 West 428323; Veronika Lukacs (Secretary) veronikalukacs@yahoo.com 07746 712609; Stephen Lynam (Vice Chair) 11 South St 201334; stephenrodgerlynam@gmail.com; Elizabeth Newbery (Newsletter) 3 North St 793360 elizabeth@newberyandengland.com; Karen Schoenemann 07718 632742; Gareth Strange 102 Bridge St 727680; Julia Turner (Treasurer) 102 Bridge St 07971 881 258; Anna Truelove (Newsletter distribution) 83 Bridge St. 245496.

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

Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting is Monday 19 March @ 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 22 East St or Stephen Lynam (Vice Chair) 11 South St. 201334 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 May, last date for copy February 28. 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