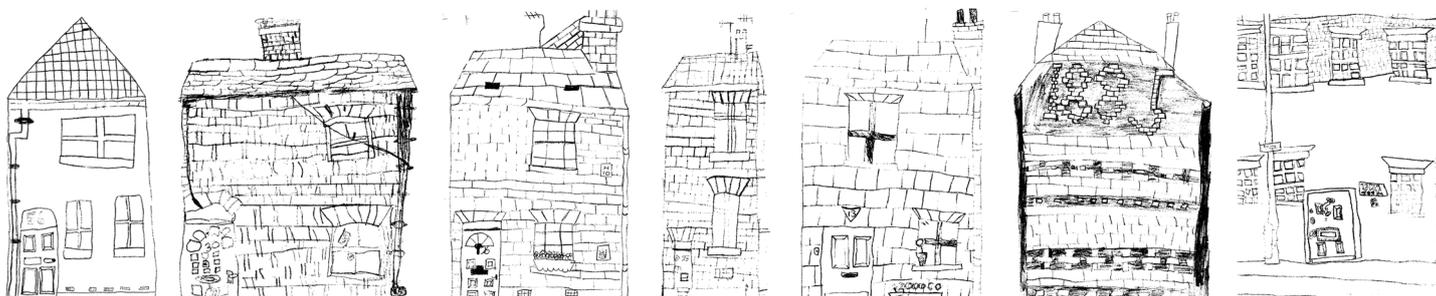


# OSNEY ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.osneyisland.org.uk

NEWSLETTER JULY / AUGUST 2009



## COMING UP

### Binsey Fete

Please note the Binsey fete is 12-5pm in Binsey on \*SUNDAY\* 19th July, not Saturday as advertised elsewhere. Traditional fete activities. Everyone welcome.

### The West Oxford Academy

*From Susan Hutchinson:* The West Oxford Academy will soon be entering its fourth year. But it will only happen if people volunteer to give talks. If you have a subject you'd like to share with a friendly audience then please contact me.

Last year Island residents have given fascinating talks on a wide range of subjects including the archaeology of Sark, the life of a freelance photographer, the molecular language of the immune system, the history and politics of Zanzibar, using the immune system to fight tumours and finally a very entertaining talk on why we should remove arcane pronunciation and grammar from the English language.

We meet at the community centre cafe on Tuesday evenings between 8pm and 9pm for two eight week terms starting in October and January. The talks – all by local residents – last up to 20 minutes and are followed by a discussion and wine.

If you want to know more or would like to give a talk please contact me by email ([allat42@gmail.com](mailto:allat42@gmail.com)) or give me a ring on 792358. Susan Hutchinson

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### WOCAMP: The Probation Centre in Mill Street

*From Richard Thurston:* As residents know, the committee decided to ballot residents on their attitude to the WOCAMP campaign as we did not believe it right for OIRA to take a position on this without doing so. Anecdotally, we were aware of strong feelings on the subject with a lot of support but also some negative feelings. The ballot bore this out. Some 29% of households voted and 93.75% of those supported WOCAMP's campaign, but there were also some strong feelings against the campaign. We have tried to respect the balance of views (disinterested, strongly for and

strongly against) by making a small donation of £75, a small proportion of our reserves.

## A BIT OF FISHY HISTORY

The new fishing season is upon us so I'm repeating this article which appeared in the newsletter some time ago.

*From Dave Horner:* The most common fish we see around the Island are **chub**. These are the ones that can be seen in shoals from West Street (near the Hollybush). They can grow up to 10lbs in weight, although the biggest ones you see from West Street are no more than 2lbs. Mrs Beeton, the Victorian cookery writer wrote: *'It is a river-fish, and resembles the carp, but is somewhat longer. Its flesh is not in much esteem, being coarse, and, when out of season, full of small hairy bones. The head and throat are the best parts. The roe is also good'*. This description did not deter some Eastern European anglers I spotted, taking a chub from the West Street stretch, and obviously destined for their supper.

If you are planning to fish for your supper I suggest **signal crayfish** introduced into England and Wales in the late 1970s and early 1980s for farming purposes but which subsequently escaped into the wild. They are caught very easily. Tie a piece of fatty meat to a line of cotton, drop it into the river, and when you feel a tug slowly retrieve the line. You should have a juicy crayfish attached, which can then be prised off and put in a bucket of fresh water. Once you have your bucketful you will need to change the water several times, before cooking them as you would cook lobster or mussels.

Other fish, which you might spot, are:

**Pike:** lead solitary lives, hiding patiently and well-camouflaged in snags, weed or reeds waiting for their prey. They have tremendous surges of speed, with the dorsal and anal fins set well back near the tail, enabling the fish to propel itself from its ambush site with frightening speed. There are several documented cases of pike choking to death after attempting to eat another pike of almost the same size as themselves, the bigger pike (all females) are well known to turn to scavenging. They will take dead, dying, or diseased fish and so fulfil a vital role in maintaining a healthy fishery. Stories

abound of pike that devour dogs, ducks and swans, and while there is little truth in these, pike do on occasion take ducklings, rats, and voles. It should be stressed however, that these make up less than 1% of their total food intake.

**Perch:** They are the ones with a spiky dorsal fin and are striped (yellow and black). They can migrate vast distances, and their fertilised eggs are often carried, by birds, to other rivers and lakes, where they become the first fish to colonise a new water. They are voracious feeders and are often caught by mistake by fly fisherman.

## PEOPLE

### **Wanted! Oxfordshire mothers c. 1970-1990**

I am researching women's experiences of motherhood from c. 1970-90, in Oxfordshire. I am looking to speak with women (in person or by phone) who were living in or around Berkshire and Oxfordshire when their children were young from the late 1960s to the early 1990s, so that I can find out first-hand what it was like to be a mother at this time. I would be extremely grateful to hear from anyone who would like to talk to me. If you would be interested in helping, please contact me as below.

**Angela Davis, Department of History University of Warwick, Coventry Tel. 07751925945 [angela.davis@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:angela.davis@warwick.ac.uk)**

**Simon and Herietta Woolf** and their daughters Chiara and Sofia of South St are moving towards Banbury at the end of July. We would like to thank fellow Islanders for helping to make out four years we have lived here such happy ones.

*... And we are sorry to lose you! Good luck from us all. Ed.*

As you may already know **Fr. Russell** is leaving us for a new Parish in Ewell, Surrey. I'm sure you will all want to wish him the best of luck. Fr. Russell has, in his tenure, instigated a complete renovation of the church organ and the much needed provision of a toilet. These are no minor matters and we are very grateful for his effort. If you would like to say farewell to Russell, the Church is organising a leaving lunch for him. For further details contact Anne James: [riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:riverbank26@tiscali.co.uk) or tel. 725906.

*From Fr. Russell:* I am going to be moving to a new parish in the autumn: the Bishop of Guildford has asked me to be Vicar of Ewell. It will be a real wrench to leave Osney and I would like to thank all who have made me so welcome here over the past four years. My last service at St Frideswide's will be at 10.30am on 13th September.

## MONEY MATTERS

### **Open Gardens**

*From Fiona McFarlane* The weather tried to beat Open Gardens but didn't quite manage it and the event made a profit of £320. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success... and if anyone is short of two tupperware type containers used for collecting cash,

then please reclaim from me at 11 South Street!

### **Subscriptions**

By this time of year most of the subscriptions are in. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the total of £280 so far, including those who generously volunteered extra. This is our most reliable source of funds for the Newsletter and website (not being contingent on the weather!). If you haven't got round to it yet, and can't find the envelope, please feel free to pop £2 or 50p concessions, per household, in any envelope marked with your address through the door at 11 South Street.

### **St Frideswide's**

*From Fr. Russell* Many thanks to those who contributed to our Christian Aid coffee morning, which raised over £200 for Christian Aid's development work, and to those who contributed to our church appeal on Gift Day for which we raised over £1500. We expect the organ restoration to be complete in August and the new loo extension is expected to be completed soon. Watch this space for a series of recitals.

Services at St Frideswide's continue as usual over the summer: 10.30am parish mass every Sunday, and a simple said mass at 7pm on Tuesdays and 12.30pm on Thursdays. Do please get in touch with any queries. Fr Russell - [rdewhurst@mac.com](mailto:rdewhurst@mac.com) tel 01865 242680.

## BITS AND BOBS

### **The Hollybush**

*From Ricky and Kate of the Hollybush:* The Holly Bush has a NEW Spring Menu together with a NEW Chef! We are Back to opening at mid day every day throughout the summer!

### **An Island in Oxford**

The Osney Society produced a 60 page illustrated booklet about the Island for the Millennium - history, housing, people on the Island and lots more. We thought this was sold out, but 5 copies have surfaced and it is still a very good read. Available for £3 each from Fiona McFarlane - call 201334 to arrange purchase while stocks last!

### **OIRA website**

The new website is live! The address is [www.osneyisland.co.uk](http://www.osneyisland.co.uk)

### **Freebie**

Free: a tumble drier, Bosch, several years old but works well. Tel. 01865 721695.

## ACCOMMODATION

### **Wanted**

My husband and I are seeking to buy a 3 bedroom property on Osney Island. If you can help please contact me on [thorntonjo@googlemail.com](mailto:thorntonjo@googlemail.com) or m. 07830296123.

### **House/flat wanted**

We are looking for a 2 bed property to rent from around August for approximately 6 months while we do up a property. Please contact Karl or Felicity on 727924 or email: [karl@wallendszus.co.uk](mailto:karl@wallendszus.co.uk)

### For rent

Studio basement flat ST MARGARET'S ROAD, partly furnished. Large, sunny, south facing living/bedroom. Well equipped kitchen/dining, shower room and hall. £560 per month (inc utilities) Phone 01865 556942 or email: rachel.hamdi@gmail.com

### Osney house wanted

We are currently renting on Osney Island and are looking at buying a two/three bedroom house on the Island or nearby. We would prefer to buy via a private sale.

Family looking for 3-bedroom house in Osney area to rent from 1 September. Reference available from current Bridge Street landlord. Please contact Peter or Linda on 723238.

## THE DIRECTORY

The following list is compiled from Islanders' recommendations. No one pays for an entry and suppliers are removed if there are reports of unreasonable rates or service so always check the latest list.

**OIRA cannot be held responsible for any claims as a result of hiring anyone in the Directory. You are always advised to get two quotes.**

### New entries

**General building, plumbing and repair work.** Pete Coles 01865 776519.

(Reliable, helpful, work of good standard, and reasonable rates).

Adela, a cleaner is a young polish woman, she is always on time, does a very nice job and speaks good English. Adela 0775 1821113

**Professional massage.** Fehra comes from Turkey, has 10 years of experience. He will come to your house with his table. His rates are very reasonable. Check his website at [www.knead.me.co.uk](http://www.knead.me.co.uk) or email him at [ferhat@kneadme.co.uk](mailto:ferhat@kneadme.co.uk)

**APV Boiler Services** (Kidlington) have installed a new boiler and changed radiators. At all times they have been friendly, efficient and clean workers. When I had a problem they were on my doorstep within the hour. Phone: 01865 377264.

We have found a 'wonderful man' who fixes computers! He deals with hardware, software, viruses, reprogramming, installing programs and much more. He is very efficient and not too costly, however ultra reliable! Also, he strips, cleans, reprogrammes and DONATES old computers to local schools rather than dispose of them. Details are: API Computing Andy Izzard 01865 821536 m: 07964 796007 E-mail: [andy@apicomputing.co.uk](mailto:andy@apicomputing.co.uk) web: [www.apicomputing.co.uk](http://www.apicomputing.co.uk)

## TRIED AND TESTED

### Garden design and maintenance

Olivia's Gardens tel: 07866 476044. A fully qualified horticulturalist, runs a complete service from design to maintenance ('first class').

### Washing machine repairs

**RG Domestic** tel: 01865 718299 mob: 0771 113 2961. Repairs all makes and has timed appointments including after 6pm; **Chris Griffin** of CE Electrical Services tel: 01865 842598 or mob: 0778 236 0979 ('I can thoroughly recommend him')

### General builder

**Chris Willis**, mob: 07974 155 638 does general building work/carpentry, for example (re)hanging doors, laying patios, decking, associated painting/decorating, as well as kitchen/bathroom fitting. ('the work was carried out efficiently and to a very high standard'.)

### Electrician

**Baldwin Domestic Appliances** on 01865 377484 ('they can fix anything'); **Lee Chapman** a green electrician ('really fantastic') mob: 07825 133337; **DEC electricians** on 725453 ('very good')

### Building and roof repairs

**Keith Webster**, tel: 01865 374585 ('strongly recommended'); **PJS Roofing Ltd** ('member of the Confederation of Roofing Contractors and provides a reliable and professional service') tel: 01235 559803 mob: 07702 946255

### Plumbing and heating

**Ivan Kilbee**, tel: 01235 847527, mob: 07050 133783; ('I have used Ivan for several years for servicing my boiler and general plumbing work. I'd give him a beta plus. His work is good and he comes on time, but he's not always easy to reach even on his cellphone.')

### Handyman

**Jon Butt**, mob: 07766 144116 ('a friend recommended him. He lives in Witney but very willing to travel to Oxford') **David Morris**, tel: 725875 (reasonably priced; highly recommended)

### Chimney sweep

**Dennis Northcott**, tel: 01235 526617 (does a good job)

### Window cleaning

**Paul Smith**, mob: 07979 692895 ('like many others I use Paul's window cleaning service. He is amiable and reliable.') I Elmsdown Cottages, Wilcote Riding, Finstock, Oxon OX7 3BZ, mob: 0797 9692895.

### Interior and exterior decoration

**Paul Simmons**, tel: 01993 852317 mob 07803 603504 (good clean work and costs are reasonable); **Dave Buckle**, tel: 848630 evenings ('friendly, efficient and good value'); **Steve Brierty**, mob: 0785 0357414, tel: 01491 836762 ('strongly recommended'); **Rob Bennett**, mob: 0790 5819310 ('Highly recommended')

### Flooring and general carpentry

**Amazon Flooring** on 07899 918015 (highly recommended)

### Sewing Services

**Jan Donley**, tel: 249625 upholstery (I've been please with everything she's done)

### Damp

**Damprot Renovations Ltd**, tel: 742144 ('have done some replastering for us on a couple of occasions and are good').

### Apple Macs

Macfaction: bill@macfaction.co.uk, tel: 01993 811197 ('knowledgeable and helpful)

### Oven Cleaning

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

### Ironing services

Beautiful Creases (ironing service that collects and delivers) tel: 01993 708333.

### Beauty

Julia Harris does manicures and pedicures in your home. Her contact details are Harris, mob: 07843 477452 Email: jools010@googlemail.com (a very good service); Nadine Wright, hairdresser, (ex-Mahogany, will come to your home and is highly recommended) mob: 07824 660184.

### Removals

Isis Van Man, tel: 01865 553347 help@Isisvanman.com\_ (very helpful and friendly)

## USEFUL NUMBERS

*City Council*, tel: 249811 (now 24 hours); *County Council*, tel: 792422; *County Councillors: Sushila Devi Dhall*, tel: 553415; *Alan Armitage*, tel: 516115; *City Councillors: Colin Cook*, tel: 272548 (day) 721844 (evening) email: [cllrcook@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcook@oxford.gov.uk); *Susanna Pressel*, 7 Rawlinson Rd Oxford OX2 6UE, tel: 554001 email: [cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrspressel@oxford.gov.uk); *Community Beat Officer PC Jan Warner*, tel: 08458 505505; refuse, recycling, free collections, bulky items, street cleaning, drains and flooding tel: 252900; *free advice on energy*, tel: 252197; *free advice on energy and home insulation*, tel: 252197; *noise complaints*, daytime tel: 252553, out of hours tel: 742138; *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 and abandoned bikes*, tel: 0845 8505 505; *abandoned and unlicensed vehicles*, tel: 252900.

## OIRA COMMITTEE

### Committee members

*Bianca Elgar* 15 East St tel 202977; *Stephen Lynam* 11 South St (Secretary); *Fiona McFarlane* (Treasurer) 11 South St; *Elizabeth Newbery* (Newsletter) 3 North St 793360; *Richard Thurston* 38 West Street, tel: 723663 (Chair); *Kate Stewart* 18 East St tel 241856; *Anna Truelove* 83 Bridge St 245496 (Vice Chair); *Duncan Wagstaff* (web and noticeboard) 38 Bridge St; tel: 07812 125 650. The new email address for any OIRA committee member is [askoira3@osneyisland.org.uk](mailto:askoira3@osneyisland.org.uk)

### Next Committee meeting

The OIRA committee's next meeting will take place on **August 24 at 3 North St @ 8pm** If you'd like to raise an issue drop in or let someone on the committee know. You can find our agenda the minutes on the Bridge Street notice board and on the website. **Next newsletter is due out mid September 09, last date for copy August 31.** 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-off strip below.

### A note on the Internet

Contributors should be aware that the newsletter is automatically posted on the Internet just as it appears in print.

### Gazebo hire

*Sally Roberts*, 1 Bridge St, tel: 721596

### Notice board

*Duncan Wagstaff*, 38 Bridge St; tel: 07812 125 650 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.

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Name  
Address  
Tel. no.