

# The Sprout



**The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**  
**Issue 175 March 2023**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this newsletter, mistakes may happen. The Editor and Team apologize unreservedly for any errors that may occur and will do their best to correct them. This publication is not a vehicle of the parish council, and parish councillors working with the Sprout do so in a personal capacity. Opinions expressed are the opinions of the individual contributors.

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# The Sprout

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### From the Editor

Welcome to the second *Sprout* of 2023. Things are starting to get busy. The Patients' Group is holding its AGM (p27), affordable housing is coming closer at Crofts' Court (p3), the public art commissioned to beautify the new shopping centre will be on display on 18th March (p5), and you are invited to take an early look at your front gardens and see what you could come up with for Botley in Bloom (p17). On 16th March it will be the Annual Parish Meeting in Seacourt Hall, where you can have your say on all kinds of exciting projects – the Coronation festivities in early May, the new Skatepark, the new Pavilion, and any other subject you would like to air (p25). This year there will be parish council elections on 4th May – a chance to endorse or replace your councillors, based on how you think they have performed over the last four years. Debby Hallett spells out how to set up Voter ID if you don't have a passport or driving licence (p15). Without it, you can't vote. The annual litter pick (aka Oxclean) is scheduled for March and April (seen Randoms, p31). If you are wondering about the front cover, see page 34.

*Happy Reading!*

Ag MacKeith



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## Shout Out for Crofts Court

Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT) continues to raise funds and prepare for completion of the eight, new affordable one- and two-bedroom homes for rent at Crofts Court between Eynsham Road and Pinnocks Way. The scheme is making great progress on site, and is due to be finished by June 2023. At the time of going to press, the community share offer has already raised 75% of the £500k target. This is a reminder to everyone who wants to help to invest from £250 if they can afford to, and if not to join us for £1. Help us get to the goal by Feb 28th!

On Feb 15th some 80 people packed into the Garden Room at Trinity College to hear about OCLT's work and in particular the Crofts Court project and associated Share Offer. OCLT shared the platform with Aspire who do so much inspirational work to combat homelessness. The West Oxford community had several representatives present some of whom you may recognise in the picture below.



Deborah Glass Woodin explained that OCLT had launched the community share offer to reduce the cost of finance and grow our membership base, and also to help us deliver our next site. Our photo shows her making an impassioned **CALL TO ACTION** for the audience to

invest, ask their friends to invest, and if that was not possible to join us for £1 and spread our messages on social media. Readers of the *Sprout* are invited to do the same.

**In other OCLT news**, directors Alison Mathias and Maureen Elliott were delighted to meet with Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran at Cumnor Village Hall on Friday 3rd February. Layla expressed her strong support for the Crofts Court project and OCLT's mission to provide more, permanently affordable homes for local people.

*Don't delay, invest or join today!*



We're now within touching distance of our goal, but still need more investors – especially local people and businesses who want to take a stake in the future of their community.



To invest with Ethex, scan the QR code above or go to <https://www.ethex.org.uk/invest/oclt>.

And don't forget that members are every bit as important as investors. You can join OCLT for just £1 via this QR code or at <https://www.oclt.org.uk/support-us/>.



### **Want to live at Crofts Court?**

If you're already on Vale of White Horse Council housing register and are interested in living at Crofts Court, please keep an eye out on the Homechoice website. We expect the flats to be advertised before the end of March. Preference will be given to those on the list with a local connection who are also ready, willing and able to join the tenant management cooperative, which will help to manage the apartments. We're advertising early so that prospective tenants can receive training about what's involved in being part of a tenant co-op.

### **Find out more**

For the latest news about OCLT and its work, see <https://www.oclt.org.uk> or contact us on [info@oclt.org.uk](mailto:info@oclt.org.uk).

**Fran Ryan**

# Public Artworks on Show

## Saturday 18th March, West Way Square

Everyone is invited to a public unveiling of new artworks in West Way Square from 11am on Saturday 18th March. There will also be an art workshop for young people in the Seacourt Hall. The creation of these artworks has been a truly collaborative process with residents of all ages across Botley taking part.

They comprise three elements:

- Three mosaic panels by Clare Goodall ([cgmosaics.co.uk](http://cgmosaics.co.uk)) to be mounted on the wall of the community building
- Two large carved standing stones by Alex Wenham ([www.alexwenham.co.uk](http://www.alexwenham.co.uk)) in the centre of the shopping area
- Two murals by Nor Greenhalgh ([eleanorg.org](http://eleanorg.org)) on walls next to Loomsbury and between The Missing Bean and Tesco – to be painted later in the Spring.

The artists have immersed themselves in our local history, culture, natural environment and community for inspiration. They visited local schools and groups including the Pop-Up Café, Senior Citizens Lunch Club and



the Community Fridge, had a guided nature walk, and took part in

public events last March and September. Clare Goodall's mosaic panels were created with input from local primary school children and members of the community in a number of hands-on workshops last year. The resulting artworks are designed to connect to the people, history and environment of

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Botley and to brighten our community centre for many years to come. The unveiling on Saturday 18th March is the first of two events planned this year. This first one will feature the mosaic panels, which were completed at the end of last year. We also hope to be able to



unveil the standing stones at the same time as they are currently taking shape in Alex's Cumnor workshop with the hare carving emerging from the rock as *The Sprout* goes to press! Photos show the stages as it progresses from blocks to finished stone, with the template for the hare on the right.

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The second event will be in the summer and feature Nor's wall murals. She is continuing to engage with local young people to create these over the coming months. There will be a workshop for young people in Seacourt Hall alongside the unveiling event. Drop in any time between 10am and 12pm to take part in the design of upcoming murals, with Nor. We'll be experimenting with ancient and modern ways of measuring out space using unusual objects. If you like you can bring along an object that has local or personal significance for you! We hope to see you there!

**Lorna Berrett, Laura Jones, David Kay** on behalf of NHPC

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## Botley W.I. Takes the Air

It was a beautiful sunny day when Botley W.I. Walking Group set out to catch the bus to walk in Blenheim Park. The sun was warm, the snowdrops were out, the daffodils were just showing their leaves above the ground and the birds were singing. We talked as we walked, enjoying the fresh air and relishing what life has to offer. Before we left Blenheim for our return journey to Oxford we stopped for a drink in the Café. On arriving back in Oxford we parted company, refreshed by our enjoyable outing and looking forward to our next meeting on the following Tuesday.

Jenny Holloway



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## Botley Barber gets a Facelift

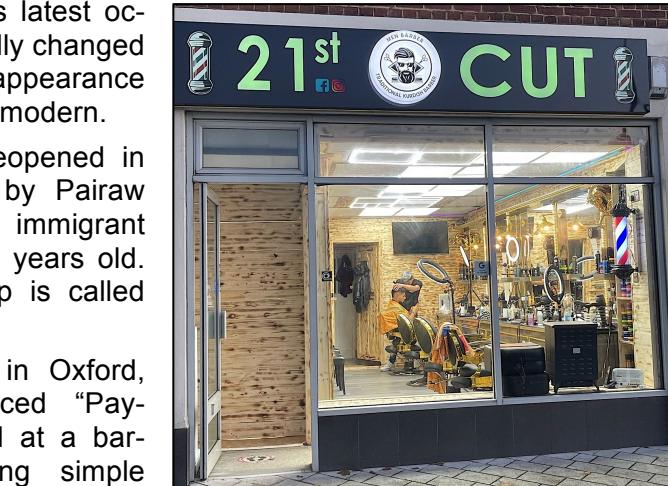
The barber's shop on Elms Parade has seen three occupants in the last few years. Its latest occupant has radically changed its services and appearance from traditional to modern.

The shop was reopened in December 2021 by Pairaw Karimi, a Kurdish immigrant who was then 21 years old. Fittingly, the shop is called **21st Cut**.

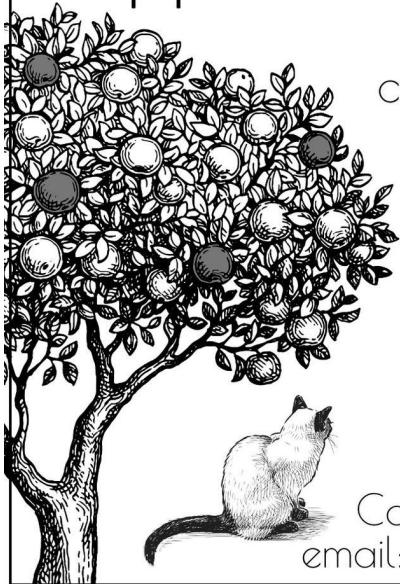
While at school in Oxford, Pairaw (pronounced “Pay-roh”), volunteered at a barber's shop, doing simple tasks such as sweeping up fallen hair. His dream of opening his own hairdressing salon was born at this time. He said “I saw that the barber's job is to make people look good and feel good, and I knew then that was for me!”

After finishing school in 2019, Pairaw learned his craft in a barber's shop in Littlemore. Then, with a loan from his family, he took over the Elms Parade shop.

Pairaw's team (*in picture: L to R: Mard, Mo, Pairaw and Jhon (sic.)*) –who supported England in the FIFA World Cup 2022 – covered the walls with timber cladding which they distressed with a hand-held blow torch. They also fitted the attention-grabbing **21st Cut** sign, which gently cycles through several colour changes. In addition, the furnishing, fittings and barber's chairs have been highlit with a golden sheen which sparkles under the shop's bright lights.



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Pairaw says that many of the Turkish barbers' shops in UK towns and cities are run by Kurds. They describe their services as Turkish to take advantage of the better-known Turkish brand. But in fact, he says, nowadays most barbers of whatever ethnicity offer essentially the same types of services, including regular hair and beard trim, hot towel shave, face mask (to rejuvenate the skin), skin fade (close trim of the sides of the head) and ear and nose wax (to remove troublesome hairs).

21st Cut offers a modern service in an attractive setting and has been rewarded with plenty of customers. If you Google "21st Cut", Pairaw's shop gets five stars.

### **Grant Nightingale**

---

## **Sylvia Staniford**

Our beloved mother Sylvia Staniford passed away peacefully in her sleep on 27th January.

She was the mother of seven children, grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of 19 more. Although she lost her own mother when she was only six, somehow she learned to become the best mum her children could have wished for. She was kind, thoughtful and very strong. She always coped with everything with dignity. Everyone that met her remembers her with a smile on her face. She was a true lady who always made time for everyone.



Sylvia moved to Botley in 1954, raised her family and worked in Martins and McColls newsagents until she retired. She loved shopping and having coffees with family and friends in Botley.

While her family and friends grieve her loss, they are choosing to remember her in ways that honour her spirit, always smiling and giving out Kit Kats to everyone she met. She rejoins her heavenly family. RIP Sylvia. We will always love you.

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## Voter ID and the May 2023 elections

On Thursday 4 May 2023, everyone aged 18 or over who is eligible will have the chance to vote in the Vale of White Horse District Council election. And not just the District Council – the Parish Council as well!

More info will be coming from the council and from Government, but I wanted to be sure to give residents a heads up about the changes! For more info on everything to do with voting, see the Vale website about Voting: <http://bit.ly/3QLoaNL>

**New for 2023:** to vote at a polling station you must bring an approved photo-bearing **Voter ID!** Passports, driving licenses, disabled blue badges are some of the approved Voter IDs.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can **APPLY NOW** for a **free** voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate. The online page with more info and an application form is here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate is **5pm on Tuesday 25 April**.

Or, if you prefer, you can register for a **Postal Vote**, where you don't need any of these forms of Voter ID. To do that, go to the Vale website for Voting by Post: <http://bit.ly/3QMqnZg>

Contact me if you have any questions or need help: [Deb-by.Hallett@Whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Deb-by.Hallett@Whitehorsedc.gov.uk)



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# **Botley In Bloom – Front Garden Competition 2023**

Like you, I'm looking forward to Spring and

some warmer weather. High time, then,

to kick off this year's Botley in Bloom competition!

When we're talking about the garden it's never too

soon to start planning! Here are some relevant details:

The closing date for entries is **Monday 5 June** with

the judges coming round to see the results of your hard work

during the week beginning **Monday 12 June**. As usual we will be

judging front gardens only. (Tempting though it is to be nosy and see

your lovely back gardens too, we will desist.) Results will be an-

nounced on Monday 19 June.

There will be three categories this year, namely:

- **Best Overall Front Garden**
- **Best Cultivated-Wildlife Front Garden**
- **Best use of Vegetables in a Front Garden**

These are the categories that we've found garner the most entries. The judging is done with a score sheet so you may like to know what we're looking for. Here are the judging criteria:

**Best Front Garden:** points will be awarded for

- Colour and planting
- Design sympathetic to the house and surroundings
- Environment & wildlife provision
- Creativity and invention
- Good overall design

**Best Cultivated-Wildlife Front Garden**, the judges will look for:

- Planting to attract wildlife
- Wildlife corridors
- Bird/insect/hedgehog box(es)
- Native plants/hedges
- Good overall design

**Best Use of Vegetables in a Front Garden**, we'll be judging:

- Colour and planting
- Integration of vegetables with other plants



- Environment & wildlife provision
- Creativity and invention
- Good overall design

There continues to be an emphasis on the environment and the greening of our spaces. Green gardens trump hard surfaces – we can all choose hedges over fences, grow climbers up walls and plant trees. It is good to see so many local front gardens doing just that and we hope that many of you will enter your gardens into the competition.

Entry details to **Botley in Bloom Front Garden Competition 2023** will be in future editions of *The Sprout* and on posters around the Parish. There's a Facebook page as well which we'll get around to updating before long. There will be First and Second prizes for each category as usual too.

Please don't feel you need to hold back if you've entered the competition before, it is always a pleasure to see your lovely front gardens.

**Viv Smith**

---

## Get going again!

Troubled with constipation? Here's a fibre-filled recipe to help get you going again.

For 4 portions of a very **Quick Pea Soup**:

Into 1.2 litres (2 pints) of boiling vegetable or chicken stock, add one finely chopped small onion, one peeled and crushed garlic clove, 275 grammes (10 ounces) of frozen peas and two tablespoons of chopped mint (or one tablespoon of dried mint). Bring back to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and blitz until smooth with a stick blender or in a food processor.

To make a thicker version (much recommended), double the amount of onion, frozen peas, garlic, and mint.

Serve with a dollop of yogurt, fromage frais, or quark per bowl.

*You'll almost certainly notice the difference the next day!*  
**G.N.**





# Kennington Memory Club

Day Centre News

Living well with dementia

At Kennington Memory Club we had to suspend our fund-raising activities during Covid, but normal service is being resumed in 2023. On Saturday March 11th we are holding a super Spring Sale in St Nicolas Church, Abingdon, from 10 am until 12 noon. This is the church which faces onto the Town Square, next to the archway through to Abbey Close. Books, crafts, toys, produce and nearly-new clothes will be on sale, and there will be Tombola. Entrance is free and teas and coffees will be served in the church.

Maybe you can't make it to the sale, but you still have the interests of Kennington Memory Club at heart? Perhaps dementia has touched your life in some way or another? You can still help the Club by becoming a Friend of Kennington Memory Club. For more details of this scheme, please contact our treasurer, Hugh, by calling 01865 434390 or by emailing [treasurer@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk).

Another fund-raiser, Ladderthon 2023, is also coming up this Spring, though not till May. Full details nearer the time. Or is fund-raising your thing? If you would like to get involved Chris, our fund-raising supremo, would love to hear from you on 01865 300345.

Kennington Memory Club helps those with a diagnosis of dementia by providing company, activities, games and sing-songs at our day centre.

All this plus a delicious hot lunch are on offer for the members, giving their carers valuable respite.

Contact Helen, our Organiser, on 07852 883496, if you would like to register a person with dementia for the Club. The availability of places varies from month to month, so it's always worth getting



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# New Year's Resolution?

*Here are 15 reasons to volunteer with the 15th Oxford Scout Group:*

1. We believe in teaching young people life skills, bringing communities together to contribute to society. Above all we aim to build better futures.
2. This is something we've been doing for over 100 years as a Group. We are currently based at Fogwell Road Pavilion.
3. There are roles to suit everyone: leadership, support, committee.
4. You don't have to be Bear Grylls, living a life of hiking and camping, to help us out. All we ask is a bit of your free time!
5. We work closely with kids doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award, as we're perfectly placed to help with the community and expedition parts.
6. When we camp, we do it in style – green field style. This means we set up everything, from cooking to toilets to activities, and leave nothing behind but happy memories.
7. And we've had members attend international camps and jamborees across Europe.
8. All this is delivered through work on over 250 badges.
9. Scouts are physically active, value the outdoors, are not afraid to try new things and gain skills to succeed regardless of academic ability. As a result, the children are happier, more resilient and more confident. Scouts make strong friendships and respect differences in people. They learn to be responsible leaders and team players, and in time become good citizens.
10. Maybe that's why we have Scout Ambassadors like Bear Grylls and Kate Middleton, to name but two.
11. Oh, and Tim Peake. In fact, two thirds of the people who have been into space have been associated with Scouts. That includes 10 of the 12 men to walk on the moon.





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12. But maybe I've gone a bit far from Botley. Here at the 15th the current leadership team have over 70 years' Scouting experience between them. In fact, there have been just nine Scout Leaders in our 108 year history!
13. Ultimately, we aim to deliver fun and games, learning and social interaction in the context of outdoor experiences and teaching a wide range of skills.
14. Every adult looking to be an appointed member of the group with a regular supporting role will receive a safeguarding check, and any training they need (all for free!). This can be arranged flexibly to suit your available free time and other commitments – it's there to support you and not to assess you!
15. We meet on Fridays: both Cubs and Scouts. Contact details can be found at the back of *The Sprout*.

## **Tom Freeman**

---

### **LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

<b>P23/V0089/HH</b>	54 Westminster Way. 2-storey side extension + external changes.	<b>17 January</b> TDD: 14 Mar
<b>P23/V0133/HH</b>	71 Arthray Rd. Construct front porch, hip to gable conversion & rear extension.	<b>18 January</b> TDD: 15 Mar
<b>P23/V0169/FUL</b>	41 Yarnells Hill. Single storey detached dwelling + parking & access.	<b>23 January</b> TDD: 20 Mar
<b>P23/V0177/S73</b> Badger sett variation on app P21/V2746/HH	The Forresters, 54 Hurst Rise Rd. Extensions & alterations to existing dwelling & new garage annexe building.	<b>23 January</b> <i>Target Decision Date:</i> 20 March
<b>P23/V0208/HH</b>	25 Elms Rd. Remove conservatory, porch & garage. New single storey rear extension.	<b>24 January</b> TDD: 21 Mar
<b>P23/V0204/HH</b>	4 Chelsie House, 104 West Way. Demolish existing conservatory, & construction of single storey rear extension.	<b>25 January</b> TDD: 22 Mar
<b>P23/V0264/LDP</b>	44 Arthray Rd. Construct garden building to provide home gym & home office/hobby room.	<b>1 February</b> TDD: 29 Mar



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## **Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 16th March, 7:30pm**

This year's Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Thursday 16th March from 7:30pm at Seacourt Hall and you can also attend online via Zoom. The Zoom link will be published in the Agenda by end of the day on Monday 13th March.

Annual Parish Meetings are a chance for parishioners to discuss matters of local importance. Although arranged and chaired by the Parish Council, it is not a Parish Council meeting and any parishioner can propose a topic for the agenda. A number of initiatives have begun or moved forward following an Annual Parish Meeting including the current Skatepark plans and the push for 20 mph limit.

Topics suggested so far include updates on projects including the Pavilion, Skatepark and Public Art, an update on West Way Phase 2, and parish celebrations for the Coronation. These are just suggestions and may not all be included, depending on what else is submitted.

If you would like to raise a topic, request an update or suggest a speaker, please send your requests by Monday 13th March to the Council Chair: [caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

We hope to see you there!

**Councillors of North Hinksey Parish Council**



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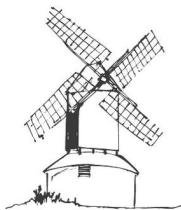
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## **Message from the PPG Chairman**

The Partners (doctors) attended the PPG meeting on January 17th to explain how they propose to operate as a practice following Doctor Akinola's retirement on 31 January 2023 (see page 29).

Whilst Kennington Surgery and Botley Surgery will remain open five days each week, staffed by various clinicians, there will only be one doctor in attendance at Kennington on the following days:

Tuesday 8.30am–4.0pm,

Wednesday 8.30am–1.00pm,

Friday 8.30am–4.0pm.

The locum doctor (Doctor Martinez), along with Medloop and Livi Doctors are still available to patients.

The Partners are advertising for new doctors. We know from other sources that there are currently 27 vacancies for doctors at other practices around Oxfordshire. It is difficult to attract doctors to Oxfordshire and surrounding counties due to the high cost of living and house prices. It is difficult to say how long the reduced doctor hours will remain in place. It will depend on how long it takes to appoint new doctors.

It is important to appreciate that the situation at the practice is not unique to Botley and Kennington. The number of qualified GPs working for the NHS fell in January for the tenth month in a row. Staff shortages are chronic.

There are other alternatives to your GP. The practice has other specialist clinicians to whom patients can speak instead of a GP, which would allow GPs to concentrate upon emergency cases. Patients can choose to speak to a specialist clinician instead of to a doctor. The roles of these specialists are posted on the practice website.

(<https://www.botleymedicalcentre.co.uk/team-1>) and are on each of the screens in both surgeries.

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It is important that we help the practice, where we can, to make what we have work. The practice have a very good team of specialist clinicians; please do ask for them *first* if you think it appropriate, and encourage family and friends to do the same. Please feel free to feed back to Chris Sugden ([csugden@ocrpl.org](mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org)), myself, or directly to the practice to tell us about your experience.

**John Ashton** PPG Chairman

## Farewell to a much loved GP

Over 50 people gathered at the Kennington Health Centre on Friday February 3rd for an afternoon tea party to say thank you and farewell to Dr Mary Akinola on her retirement from the GP Practice.

Dr Mary had joined the Kennington Health Centre on March 4 2002. John Ashton, the chairman of the Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group recalled that Dr Mary had attended the earliest meetings of the PPG from 2013 and was a regular attender. When the Botley Health Centre took on the Kennington Surgery in 2017 Dr Mary remained.

John Ashton thanked Dr Mary for everything she had done and wished her a pleasant and happy retirement.

Dr Mary was presented with two gift vouchers, one for a department store and one for a bookshop. Numerous cards and other gifts were brought to the tea party for her.

In response Dr Mary said she was overwhelmed. She felt she was not just a GP to those present but also a friend and that traffic was two-way. She thanked those present for sticking with the practice and said that she prayed for something better to come. It had been a privilege to be part of their lives, from great grandmothers to little children, and both were present at the occasion. She said it had been a joy to share their lives and thanked them for putting up with her for 21 years.

A further presentation was made to Sylvia Buckingham, a former chair of the PPG from 2016, who was stepping down from her membership of the group.

**Chris Sugden**





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## Randoms

### **Haydn's Creation**

Cumnor Choral Society will be performing Haydn's Creation on **Saturday 25th March** at 7.30 in St Peter & St Paul's Church. They will be joined by choirs from Great Milton & Wheatley, so this will indeed be a glorious creation! Tickets cost £12 and £10 for concessions (buffet afterwards included) from [cockman.caroline@gmail.com](mailto:cockman.caroline@gmail.com) or 07961 900670.

### **Passion play**

7:30pm, **Sunday 26th March**, St Michael's Church, Cumnor. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in this moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter story by LAMPS Collective. Told from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, this powerful contemporary drama leads us up to and through the events of Holy Week, to the cross and beyond. Buy tickets online at <https://cumnor.org/the-passion/>, in person from Cumnor Post Office, or ring the Vicarage on 01865 863702. Tickets cost just £10 and the performance lasts 75 minutes followed by light refreshments.

*"The story of The Passion as I'd never seen it before. Impacting and memorable"*

### **PPG's AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group will be held **on Tuesday 21 March** at 6.30 at Kennington Health Centre, in person and online. Any patient wishing to an item to be considered at the meeting is asked to notify the secretary, Chris Sugden on [csugden@ocrpl.org](mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org) by March 7th

### **Earthquake Fundraiser**

A trio of bands are putting on a fundraiser for Oxfam's Turkey and Syria earthquake appeal. Brickwork Lizards, Owl Light Trio and Larkspur will perform their unique takes on folk music and sounds from all over the world. Three amazing acts for £10 (advance on [We got ticks](#)-[ets](#)) or £14 on the door. Every penny goes to Oxfam's work with local organisations supporting communities to recover from the devastation in Turkey and Syria. **Wed 8 March at Tap Social, Botley**. Doors open 7.30, music starts 8pm.



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Application deadline is **30 March 2023** in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Director, Helen Marshall.

E: [director@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:director@cpreoxon.org.uk) T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information: [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

## **Parish Council E-newsletter**

The 2023 Parish Council newsletter should be posted through your doors by now or will be with you within a week. You can also now get an email f the newsletter. You can sign up for this year's newsletter and future news updates by either scanning the QR code here or go to [northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/newsletters](http://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/newsletters).



## **March '23 in Botley Library**

The Library's a welcoming space this March.

There are a couple of special events: **World Book Day** on Thursday 2nd, and a **Children's Author Event** with Jackie Holderness, 11-12pm on Saturday 4th.

A rectangular advertisement for SJC Plumbing & Heating. It features a stylized water drop icon above the letters 'SJC'. To the right is a logo for 'DAS SAFE REGISTER'. Below the 'SJC' logo, the text reads 'Plumbing & Heating' and 'Simon Crowther'. An email address 'Sjcplumbheat@gmail.com' is listed, followed by the phone number '07709102328'. A graphic of a water tap is positioned at the bottom right.

Also on Saturday 4th, **Judy Roberts**, our County Councillor, is holding a surgery from 10-12pm.

There's also something for everyone throughout the week:

**Mondays**, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th, 11-12am: Pop in for a cuppa.

**Thursdays**, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

and 30th, 2pm: Craft Club.

**Fridays**, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 23rd, 30th, 10 am: Rhymetime for under 5s.

**And also on Fridays**, 4-6pm: Games evening for all comers, board games provided.

## Cleaning up Botley

Many thanks to Bob Cowley, for a bit of hands-on research. He has kindly sent us this: "Just got round to following up your info about the Oxford Spring Clean-up in the January Sprout.

"As we in Botley are not in Oxford City, OxClean does not apply to us. Instead, we have to operate through the Vale's equivalent scheme, 17 March–2 April." The correct webpage for anybody here in the Vale who wishes to participate is: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/neighbour-hood-services/littering-fly-tipping-and-dumping-waste/community-litter-picking-how-we-can-help/>

Meanwhile, and possibly without reference to the above website, an informal clearance will be carried out in Seacourt Nature Reserve between 2 and 4pm on 11th March.

## Favourite Gadget: The Egg Topper

The stainless steel egg topper scores the shell round the end of a boiled egg so that it can be neatly removed (see picture). Place the domed end of the device on top of the egg, pull up the ball, which is sprung-loaded, and let it spring back. The shock makes a projecting lip on the inside of the leading edge of the dome cut through the eggshell.  
G.N.



*(Indispensable, Grant! And here's another gadget, just found in the back of the kitchen drawer. What can it be for? Ideas and suggestions welcome. Ed)*



## Beautiful Bike

That handsome motor bike on the front cover is a 20-year old Indian, a classic if ever there was one. It was spotted on a Friday evening outside Tesco's, all gleaming chrome and shining metalwork. A clear sign of Spring on the way, burnished and ready for adventure as the warmer weather beckons. And a lot more exciting than the primroses I had lined up for the cover! (Ed)

**Organizations: If your organization is not listed here, please send details to editor@thesprout.org.uk or telephone 724452 for inclusion.**

<b>1st Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>
<b>2nd Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
<b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	<a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>
<b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b> Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
<b>BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign</b>	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website <a href="http://B4044path.org">B4044path.org</a>
<b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
<b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8–16	Terri Matthews: <a href="mailto:clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com">clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley Community Larder</b>	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email <a href="mailto:botleylarder@gmail.com">botleylarder@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group</b>	Second Tuesday in the Month, early evening. Contact <a href="mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org">csugden@ocrpl.org</a>
<b>Botley Health Walks</b>	2nd & 4th Sats 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, and Tues 11 am Library <a href="mailto:botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com">botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley Library</b>	07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
<b>Botley Memory Lane Café</b>	Thursdays 10–12 Seacourt Hall Lounge, Diccon James 07740 611971
<b>Botley Seniors Lunch Club</b>	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386
<b>Botley Youth Club</b>	<a href="mailto:botleyyouthclub@gmail.com">botleyyouthclub@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>	Thursdays, 19.30–21.30 St Andrew's Ch. Steve Morris, chair. <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>
<b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
<b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>	<a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> tel 01865 721026
<b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>	Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonynspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonynspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>	Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>

<b>Lawn Tennis Club</b>	Family club Email: <a href="mailto:Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org">Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org</a> 07824 881680 <a href="http://www.oxfordsportsltc.org">www.oxfordsportsltc.org</a>
<b>West Oxford Singing Circle</b>	Weds 2-3pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or see <a href="http://www.emilyschoirs.co.uk">www.emilyschoirs.co.uk</a>
<b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>	Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>
<b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs</b>	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>	Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997
<b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
<b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>	Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>	Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
<b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>	<a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259
<b>Oxford Harmony</b>	<i>Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall</i> Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>
<b>Oxford Otters</b>	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
<b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>	Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> .
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>Seacourt Hall Management Committee</b>	Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see <a href="https://www.seacourthall.org.uk">https://www.seacourthall.org.uk</a>
<b>Shotokan Karate Club</b>	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
<b>Stagecoach Botley</b>	Botley School, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> 01865 590510 or 01235 390810
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Dave Ellerker 07931 603801 <a href="mailto:wobc.membership@gmail.com">wobc.membership@gmail.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Alison Jenner 07598 251161 <a href="mailto:alisonjenner@yahoo.com">alisonjenner@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Weight Watchers</b>	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>

<b>Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way</b>	Contact: Building Manager 07742 662668 <a href="mailto:botleybaptist@gmail.com">botleybaptist@gmail.com</a>
<b>The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise</b>	Contact: Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley</b>	Contact: 01865 242057 or <a href="mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com">osneybenefice@outlook.com</a> .
<b>Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane</b>	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
<b>Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way</b>	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email <a href="mailto:admin@seacourthall.org.uk">admin@seacourthall.org.uk</a>
<b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley</b>	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 <a href="mailto:louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com">louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com</a>
<b>Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village</b>	Contact:.. Mary Bagnall <a href="mailto:mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com">mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com</a> .

## **North Hinksey & Botley Churches Times of Services (once resumed) and Contacts**

### **St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane**

1st, 2nd, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday      11.30am      Holy Communion  
 3rd Sunday      11.30am      Matins

### **St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England, West Way**

Sundays      9.30am      Holy Communion  
 Wednesdays      10.30am      Holy Communion in Chapel of Holy Spirit  
 1st Saturday each month, 4–5.30pm      Messy Church for children and carers  
 Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com)  
*See table above for Church Hall enquiries.*

### **Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill**

Saturday      6.30pm      Mass  
 Sunday      9.15am      Mass  
 Fr Daniel Lloyd 07584 323915 [dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

### **Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way**

Sunday Service      11 am  
 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study      7.30pm  
 Choir practice      Thursday      2pm  
 Diane Melchert **07742 662668** [www.botleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org)

### **Calvary Chapel**

Sunday services on 1st Floor, 1 Church Way at 9.30am with  
*crèche, children's Sunday school and youth group*  
 Pastor Steve Vickery 01865 586332  
[contact@ccox.church](mailto:contact@ccox.church)      website: [www.ccodoxford.church](http://www.ccodoxford.church)

## **What's On**

### **March**

- Sat 4th** 10-12pm, Botley Library, Judy Roberts' County Councillor Surgery
- Sat 4th** 11-12pm, Library, Children's Author Jackie Holderness
- Wed 8th** 7.30pm, Tap Social, Earthquake Fundraiser with Brickwork Lizards, Owl Light Trio and Larkspur
- Sat 11th** 10-12pm, St Nicholas Church, Abingdon, KMC Super Spring Sale
- Mon 13th** 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Bill Hamilton, journalist, 'Man on the Spot'
- Thur 16th** 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Annual Parish Meeting
- Sat 18th** 10am to 12pm: Public Art event – unveiling outside Library at 11am, young people's drop-in workshop in Seacourt Hall between 10 and 12.
- Tues 21st** 6.30pm at Kennington Health Centre and online, AGM of the Botley and Kennington Patients Group
- Thur 23rd** 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting
- Sat 25th** 7.30pm, St Peter and Paul Church, performance of Haydn's *Creation* by Cumnor Choral
- Sun 26th** 7.30pm, St Michael's Church, Cumnor, Passion Play by LAMPS Collective
- Mon 27th** 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Martin Buckland, 'The Invisible Brick'
- Weekends 3-5 and 7-10, Big Spring Clean ([oxclean.org.uk](http://oxclean.org.uk)) or 17th March to 2nd April, if you go with the Vale.**

**Every Tuesday, 1pm-2.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Age UK Warm Space for everyone, especially older adults, with free tea and coffee.**