

The Sprout



The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 182 November 2023

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Directors: Janet Bartlam, Judi Bolder, John Clements,
Michael Cockman, Louise Kunzemann, Ag MacKeith

Editor

Ag MacKeith

South View House, Old Botley, OX2 0JR Tel: 724452 Editor@TheSprout.org.uk

Advertising Manager

Michael Cockman

50, St Paul's Crescent OX2 9AG Tel: 07766 317691 Adverts@TheSprout.org.uk

Deliveries

Jan Shirley and Isabelle Hayes

9, Sweetmans Road OX2 9BA 07706 606719

Deliveries@TheSprout.org.uk

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Issue 182, November 2023

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From the Editor

Welcome to the November *Sprout*. The main news this month is from Elms Road Surgery (pp 3 and 23). The changeover is complete, though locums are still filling in for some doctors, and the PPG has reformed itself in response to the new status quo. Crofts Court tenants' co-operative is up and running (p21), and the Food Hub is celebrating 15 years of useful work (p5). We have an update on conditions on our patch from our indefatigable District Councillor, Debby Hallett (p7), and a challenge from Sustainable Botley to get your home ready for winter (p9). Another challenge (not to say bribe) is aimed at young people locally (p11). We really want to know what you think about your neighbourhood, so please give us the chance of contributing towards your Christmas expenses! Recent events have included a critical mass of children on bikes descending on the city, some of them from round here (p 27), and a flood in Old Botley (p13). Signs of the times, both of these! There have been changes to the Botley Flyer timetable (p27), now reduced, but hopefully more reliable. Finally, you must be wondering what those strange objects on the cover might be. They are local – you can see them any time you go past the Co-op – but very exotic! Turkish hazel nut cases!

Ag MacKeith

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First Report from Beaumont Elms Practice

After a very busy period of preparation, the team from 19 Beaumont Street were pleased to take over the provision of GP medical services at the former Botley Medical Centre, now known as Elms Road Practice, from 1st October. The 19 Beaumont Street team are providing services at both 19 Beaumont Street and Elms Road and the organisation is known as Beaumont Elms Practice.

The practice phone number is 01865 240501 and the website is **19beaumontstreet.com**. Patients requiring a face-to-face appointment can choose which of the sites they wish to be seen at. Mondays are always very busy, both on the telephone and in person, so we would ask that if you have a routine matter to discuss and you feel it can wait, please call later in the week.

In due course all patients will be allocated a 'Usual GP'. This will aid continuity of care, but patients are welcome to see whichever doctor they choose and there is no obligation to see only the 'usual GP'. However, due to the delay in our new permanent doctors starting, this allocation cannot take place until the second half of January. Until then care will be provided by our current staff, and long-term locums who are in post until the permanent doctors join us. Anyone developing a rapport with a specific doctor between now and January is welcome to ask to be assigned to that GP.

Dedicated covid and flu vaccine clinics are taking place. Invites are being sent in order of decreasing age by SMS and email. If you have neither mobile phone nor email, we will telephone your landline in due course, alternatively feel free to call us, or come in to reception to book.

We are grateful for your understanding as we get up and running, no doubt there will be some teething problems but we are confident that things will run smoothly and we are very much looking forward to establishing a high-quality patient-centred NHS primary care service at the Elms Road Practice.

Dr Jayne Haynes (GP) and Kate King (Practice Manager)

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WREN STERLING

Oxford Food Hub is 15!

The Oxford Food Hub, based in Curtis's Yard, is celebrating its fifteenth year serving the local community. Founders Robin Aiken and David Cairns started collecting surplus food from one supermarket in a car and taking it to five charities back in October 2008. Today, Oxford Food Hub has two warehouses, six vans and 90 volunteers who collect and deliver food to 200 charities and community groups across the county. In the last year alone, they have saved 497 tonnes of food from landfill. This is enough food to make more than a million meals.

The charity's mission is both to reduce food waste and the associated carbon emissions, but also to alleviate food poverty. The number of charities registering to receive free food has increased from 150 to 200 this year as the cost-of-living crisis has pushed more of us into food poverty.

An event for donors and supporters marking the 15-year anniversary of Oxford Food Hub was attended by the Deputy Lieutenant, Lady Baker, Layla Moran MP, and the Lord Mayor of Oxford. Speaking after the event, Chief Executive Officer, Emily Smith, thanked local people for giving money, surplus food, and volunteering their time to the Oxford Food Hub. "What we have achieved over the past 15 years is incredible. Hard work

by volunteers, supported by a small staff team and funding from generous donors has enabled us to support thousands of people experiencing food poverty across Oxfordshire.

"We have a challenging few years ahead. The cost-of-living crisis is hitting people from all walks of life and across the county, so demand for food support continues to rise. At the same time, there is less surplus food easily available to us. I would hope 15 years from now food poverty will no longer exist, but for the time being, the work Oxford Food Hub is doing to support the charities on the front line, providing

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food and other support across Oxfordshire, is crucial".

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District Councillor Report

Pedestrianisation of Church Way is probably the issue bringing the most queries from residents. The lack of signage about the pedestrianised zone, people driving through and parking in Church Way, driving on pavements, removing the barriers so they can drive through, and driver aggression towards pedestrians and employees of local businesses are some of the problems encountered. We are trying to find ways to keep this area safe for everyone.



Last year, we met Mace, Savills and council officers at the site to discuss pedestrianising this area 24/7 (with movable barriers for emergency services access) to help make this area feel open and friendly. The retailers were consulted and supportive. We were told quotes for barriers were being obtained. Then it all went quiet. Emily has been working with the Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council chair to try and get an update or a meeting about this with Mace for many months, without getting a response. It is incredibly frustrating. We have launched a petition to Mace/Botley Development Company and Savills to get these bollards in place ASAP in the hope that so many supporters will help put additional pressure on the site owners to act. See Emily's FB page for more info.

Network Rail Bridge Works: As you know, the Botley Road will not be opening until the bridge works are complete, expected sometime in 2024. This is clearly a blow for residents and businesses in our area. Emily attended a briefing that Network Rail held an hour ahead of this news being made public. Many questions were raised, but Emily made a point

of pushing for support for businesses outside the city – up until now the City



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Council has been involved in planning for communication and support for businesses, but not Vale's Businesses service. But they are now. She also raised the need for better communication with people in our ward and for drop-ins to take place in Botley and Cumnor about the changes. Additional bus services were requested as well. Our MP, Layla Moran, has demanded that Network Rail hold updates in Botley, where it's easier for local residents to attend than in West Oxford Community Centre.

An Air Pollution Website has been created by the County Council and local District Councils in partnership. It aims to integrate relevant air quality information from all district councils in Oxfordshire on one single platform. It includes the latest NO₂ data from the diffusion tubes in our area. See more at oxonair.uk

Rats: Following reports of rats under the A34 Bridge at West Way, Emily worked with Vale officers to clarify responsibility, which turns out to be the landowner, National Highways. Vale made them aware of the issues. National Highways have accepted responsibility and wrote to say: "Once we've found the nest or burrow [*not far to look, see photo!*], we will need to seek advice from our Environmental Team on how we can humanely remove the rats



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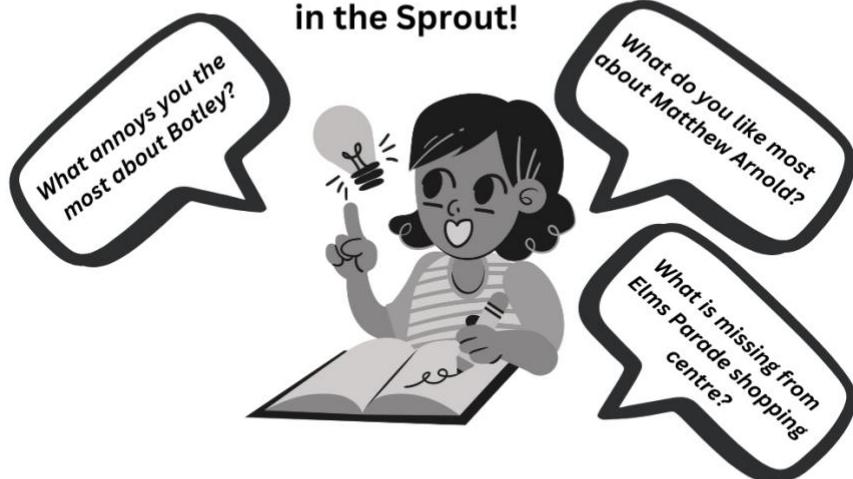
from the area. Please rest assured we are currently working on the rat infestation and will take appropriate action where necessary. I hope this information is helpful and thank you again for taking the time to contact us. If you require any further information, please contact us via Highways England Customer Contact Centre. They're available 24 hours a day by phone: 0300 123 5000 or by email info@highwaysengland.co.uk"

We are aware that people are still feeding the pigeons – and therefore the rats – in this area. Again, this is a National Highways matter but if you have any ideas about how to dissuade people from leaving food here, let us know.

Debby Hallett

What Do You Think?

Matthew Arnold students, take the chance to have your thoughts about ONE of these THREE subjects published in the Sprout!



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Responses by 10th November to editor@thesprout.org.uk

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High Tide in Old Botley

Leaving work at 5:20pm on Friday the 13th October, it felt exciting to walk out from the tranquil warm office into a gusty and rainy evening. A great antidote to a long day in front of the computer. I had been somewhat aware that rain had been falling steadily for a few hours but that did not prepare me for what I encountered as I walked the 500 meters home.

By the time I reached the A34 flyover underpass it had become apparent just how much water must have come down in the past few hours. The sewer inspection chamber at the intersection with Westminster and West Way was overwhelmed. The cover was pushed up, and bobbing on the streams of gushing water. The air was full of a ripe odour familiar to me from the last time I had to unblock a sink. This is the site of the overflow valve that allows sewage to be released into the Seacourt Stream.

A river accompanied me on the rest of my journey along West Way, all the way down to MacDonald's. I was pleased I had my umbrella with me, not to protect me from the rain, but rather to hold at 90 degrees, and shield me from the sheets of water that splashed up as the cars sped by on their way out of town.

When I reached the corner of West Way and North Hinksey Lane I could see where all that water was headed. In a downpour like this, the whole of Elms Rise must drain into Old Botley, a cluster of houses behind McDonalds that includes the one where we live. There is a natural dip here, which was, by the time I arrived, already a small lake as deep as my ankle boots. I had no choice but to wade through to get to the back gate. To use the front door would have meant wading even deeper. Thank goodness someone had had the good sense to move my car, which is normally parked in the middle of what was now a knee-deep lagoon.



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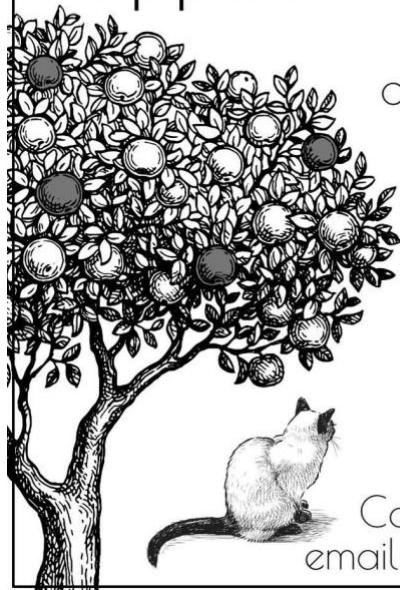
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Arriving home, I was greeted by wild eyed children, dripping and excited. My partner and two friends were all frantically installing floodgates and using towels and mops to absorb the seepage that was still trickling through the sides and under the step at the front door.

Thames Water had provided us with a number of floodgates when the house was flooded quite badly in 2007. In the five years that I have lived here we have had to use one or two in a sudden downpour, but to stem the tide this time all three had to be engaged before we felt we had the water under control. Thank goodness someone had been home, otherwise both the car and the ground floor of the house would have been in a much worse state.

Everyone round here has floodgates, and we mainly



managed to get them up in time to prevent the worst. But our neighbours on the corner had an extra challenge. Every car that went past, even those rare ones observing the 20mph speed limit, sent a fresh wave of water sluicing over the threshold into their kitchen. And the friendly helper wrestling the floodgate into position during the downpour was nearly run over, as well as drenched. It was, as our four-year old triumphantly declared, 'a REAL EMERGENCY!'

By seven the rain was easing but the water was still rising, now a third of the way up the floodgate. We wondered when it would stop. Out the back we checked the water table by lifting the lid to a brick chamber set in the lawn. The water table was still quite low, which was a relief, and proved to us that all this water was just run off. I also went to check the small stream just outside Wallbrook Court. It was raging and the culvert that runs underneath North Hinksey Lane was at capacity.

At 7:30pm the rain stopped. We'd taken the time to wash off the stinky water and all sat down to supper. By 8:30 the water was completely gone – all of it. All that was left was a thick dark brown muddy sludge.

Now that's what I call a flash flood!

Jemima Puddleduck

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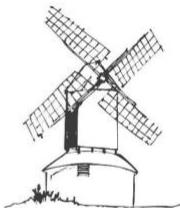


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Getting Ready for Winter

Botley Energy Challenge – Seacourt Hall Saturday 11th November

Energy prices remain high, and prospects are uncertain in the context of international conflict, a weak economy and high interest rates. All this adds to the urgency of cutting gas use, nationally and in our homes, which is a vital part of getting to net zero CO₂ emissions. The single most important technical change needed is the switch from gas boilers to heat pumps. At the same time, it is more important than ever to insulate our homes.

Sustainable Botley is holding a public event in Seacourt Hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday 11th November about actions you can take to save energy, and the financial and practical help available. There'll be one-to-one advice, short talks and hot drinks and cakes!

Avoid problems with damp in your home

Many people are coping with the price squeeze by keeping the central heating switched off until it's really cold, and just heating one room. You may be able to acclimatise to the cold, but in the long run damp and mould will build up, especially at cold spots in your home, including timber structures. I know this from experience, having had to get rid of mildewy furniture, books and clothes, and to replace a roof riddled with woodworm.

The best long-term solution is to insulate your home so it stays warm and dry throughout with less heating. Loft and cavity wall insulation usually pay for themselves in reduced fuel bills within a couple of years. Solid wall insulation is more expensive and complicated, but if you can do it, you'll see immediate benefits in improved comfort and prevention of moisture and mould.

Until recent changes to the government's net zero strategy, rented properties were expected to achieve an EPC "C" rating for new lets from 2025, provided the changes involved weren't too expensive. That would have meant that lofts and cavity walls should be insulated, but higher cost measures like solid wall insulation weren't required. If you're a good landlord you will want your tenants to live in a warm, healthy home, and it is in your own interest to insulate because you're less likely to have to pay out for problems caused by damp.

Heat pumps are now cost-competitive with boilers

The other big policy change that affects home energy was the increase in the "Boiler Upgrade Scheme" grant to £7,500 for installing an air source heat pump. This really does make a heat pump competitive with a boiler.

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It will probably have about the same running costs but will generate much lower CO₂ emissions and no local pollution.

Earlier this year Sustainable Botley published a report on the energy savings possible in typical Botley homes, based on surveys and detailed analysis of several local houses. It includes a myth-busting section on heat pumps. Do take a look at **sustainablebotley.uk**

If you'd like an energy survey of your home, or need a new Energy Performance Certificate to apply for a grant, please do get in touch with me at **laurie@livingwitness.org.uk**.

Open Doors/Energy Saving Homes

If you're wondering about making improvements to your home, it can be really helpful to see energy-saving measures in different kinds of houses and to ask homeowners and occupants about their experience of having the work done, and of living in their renovated home. Energy Saving Homes were part of the Oxford Open Doors event in September, but if you missed that opportunity to visit, some of the homes will be open again on the weekends of November 4th/5th and December 2nd/3rd. You can find opening days and times on **oxford.greenopenhomes.net**. Some householders ask you to book in advance.

Thermal Imaging

Infrared thermal imaging is a quick and easy way of seeing where energy is leaking from a building. It reveals gaps in loft and wall insulation, cold spots that might cause mould to form, and leaky spots where draughts are getting in around doors and windows. If you'd like a thermal imaging survey of your house this winter, please get in touch with me at **laurie@livingwitness.org.uk**.

Laurie Michaelis, Sustainable Botley

VISIT AN ENERGY SAVING HOME

- November 4th/5th and December 2nd/3rd.
- Visit homes with heat pumps, extra insulation and other energy saving measures
- Talk to householders about their experience
- Includes homes in Botley, Osney and around Oxford

*Check at oxford.greenopenhomes.net for opening days and times.
Some householders ask you to book in advance.*



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Crofts Court – Co-op up and running

Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT) has now completed their first development. It comprises eight one-and-two-bedroom apartments off the Eynsham Road near Pinnocks Way. They are genuinely affordable homes for local people.

Following careful selection, the tenants have now moved in, and the Tenant Co-op is slowly getting underway. All residents are members of the Co-op and have agreed who will take on the roles of Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Alice Hemming from Co-ops UK is providing support. The next meeting is scheduled for early October.

The support of local people (some of you reading this), has been critical to the success of OCLT. The share offer in November 2022 raised an impressive £583,000, which means that 25% of the Crofts Court apartments is directly financed by the community through the share offer. Another 25% is mortgage, and almost 50% comes from generous grants from Vale of White Horse District Council and Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

With the opening of Crofts Court, OCLT has taken a significant step towards creating affordable homes for local people. However, there is still a long way to go, and OCLT needs to secure more land and homes to build its portfolio of permanently affordable homes for Oxfordshire, in line with its vision to create clusters of community-owned permanently affordable homes in every village and neighbourhood across the county. These homes would be for local people in housing need. The success of Crofts Court and the share offer is all down to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, but it's only a start.

If you'd like to see more Crofts Courts, there are several things that you can do now:

- Anyone can join OCLT for £1 (go to <https://www.oclt.org.uk/support-us/>)
- If you are a local landowner or homeowner, you might be willing to donate or sell us your asset off-market to build more permanently affordable homes for the people of Oxfordshire. Get in touch with us at [http://info@oclt.org.uk](mailto:info@oclt.org.uk)
- Or if you would like to help us by donating a regular amount to help us do more of this work you can do it here: <https://app.donorfy.com/form/J7EEWBHW62/Q58RQ>.

Amy Walters

Why company directors should have both a salary and dividends

It can be tempting to pay yourself in dividends and forgo paying yourself a salary. After all, dividends are taxed at a lower rate than salaries. However, Ridgefield Consulting explains why it is more beneficial to pay yourself a salary and take dividends as well.

One of the main advantages of paying yourself a salary is that it ensures a steady stream of income and allows you to build your personal credit history. It will also aid you to prove to any lenders that you have a consistent salary, as dividends can fluctuate and are unpredictable. Salaries are corporation tax deductible as well which can cut the overall tax of the business, whereas dividends are not.

You can maximise your tax savings by taking a salary of £12,570 and extracting the remaining profits as dividends. This will keep you below your personal tax allowance and the Employee National Insurance Contributions threshold, allowing you to accrue a state pension allowance without paying income tax and Employee National Insurance Contributions. However, there will be Employers National Insurance Contributions.

For example, for profits of £50,000, if you were to pay yourself a salary of £12,570 you could extract dividends of £29,930, and you would pay total taxes and NIC of £10,030 instead of £17,622, saving yourself £7,592. Since the tax-free dividend allowance will be reduced to £500 from 6 April 2024 the saving will be reduced to £7,548. A saving, nevertheless.

In summary, taking advantage of both methods of paying yourself can result in substantial tax savings for both directors and the company. However, it is a legal requirement that there must be enough money in the business to issue dividends and they cannot be issued if the company is making a loss.



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PPG realigned for changed Medical Practices

The Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group (PPG) disbanded at the end of September 2023 following the takeover of the respective practices by 19 Beaumont Street and The Manor Group, Headington. The former PPG executive group (John Ashton – chairman, Jean Mulligan – vice-chairman, Cathy Eaton – treasurer, and Chris Sugden – secretary) have reformed as a Special Interest Group (SIG) at the request of the new practices. Also part of the new SIG are Kate King, the manager of 19 Beaumont Street and Emily Shipway, the manager of The Manor Group, plus Andrew Wigmore, PPG chairman at 19 Beaumont Street and Peter Coggins, chairman of The Manor Group PPG. The SIG will remain in being for at least the first few months to aid the transition. Members of the former PPG are invited to join the PPGs of their new practices.

The SIG is delighted to be able to report many positive comments relating to both Kennington Health Centre and the Beaumont Elms Practice, which have been received on the former PPG Facebook page. This will remain in being for the time the SIG exists. Here is a sample selection:

- *Have had reason to use them a lot this week. The Dr called unannounced with a result and chatted about multiple problems and made 2 referrals to other sections of the practice in less than 24 hrs I've had call backs this week. Working well, thank you all.*
- *I had to pop in today to sort out an issue with a missing hospital letter. I received excellent service and my problem was resolved. I'm still in shock that I saw an ACTUAL GP face to face. I've not seen one for years!*
- *We arrived at the clinic for an appointment with the doctor and – well – what a great day it was to be welcomed by all of the staff and asked if we would like to have our injection done!*
- *My mum has been trying for the last 5 weeks to get an appointment, went for her jab this morning, they phoned @3pm, appointment made for Mon, phew, brilliant well done!*



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Meanwhile, a small leaving party was held for Dr Ballastero, who has now left her former practice in Elms Road. It took place on 11th October by kind invitation of Joy and Robin Wilson at their home.

Chris Sugden, Secretary

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <u>P23/V2054/LDP</u> | 21 Poplar Rd. Loft conversion & demolish external shed. Replace external rear door. | 6 September <i>TDD: 1 Nov</i> |
| <u>P23/V2111/FUL</u> | 164 Westminster Way. Change of use from 3-bedroom house to 8-person HMO. | 22 Sept <i>TDD: 17 Nov</i> |
| <u>P23/V2268/FUL</u> | Chelsie House 104 West Way. Replace existing cabin with 3-bed bungalow. | 4 October <i>TDD: 29 Nov</i> |
| <u>P23/V2277/HH</u> | Southfield Harcourt Hill. Part 2-storey & part single storey rear extension. | 6 October <i>TDD: 1 Dec</i> |
| <u>P23/V2243/LDE</u> | Thatched House Stanton Rd. Certificate of lawfulness under Section 191 for established use of land as residential garden. | 11 October <i>Target Decision Date: 6 December</i> |

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Changes to Botley Road Flyer service

Take-up of the Flyer has been relatively sparse, and it has become so difficult to stick to the schedule given the ongoing work at the Botley Interchange that the service has been much reduced. From 23rd October, there will be just the one bus a day, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, leaving the West Oxford Community Centre at 10am, and leaving Summertown for the journey home at 1pm. The County Council, who fund this bus service, stress this is a trial arrangement only, so if you're not happy with it, let them know.

Timings will be as follows:

- **West Oxford Community Centre – 10am pick up**
- **Bus stop by Magenta self-storage – 10.05am pick up**
- **Bus stop next to Elms Parade shops – 10.10am pick up**

Please note the additional stop on Botley Road, and that the bus stop at Elms Parade shops is now the collection point in Botley.

The journey into the city centre via Woodstock Road will include stops at Summertown, Jericho, Beaumont Street and the Westgate Centre.

The return journey will start at 1pm from Summertown, with exact timing of each stop depending on the number of passengers waiting. The driver will make pick-up arrangements with individual passengers when dropping them off.

Please call **01865 768329** in advance to book wheelchair space.

Kidical Mass

On a sunny afternoon this autumn, over 60 of us children – with our adults too – met together in Broad Street in the city centre for the Kidical Mass Bike Ride party! We had cycled from all different parts of Oxford – Summertown, Headington, Florence Park, and West Oxford. Cycling in was great fun...

Then we started the Kidical Mass Parade. We all rang our bicycle bells as loudly as we could. It made a lot of noise! It was nice to cycle together in a big group with so many other children of all different ages, especially as some of us even had the same bikes! We also stopped quite often so that people could catch up and the grown-ups with the yellow jackets could let the car drivers know that we were there. It made us feel older as well to be cycling along proper roads in the city centre. Usually, it is not safe for us to ride there because we are too small to be seen by people driving, and we might get hit by a car.

As told to Liz Sawyer

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Randoms

Support Amnesty International's Write for Rights 2023 Campaign

Every year, Janet Budd and Jane Buswell run a *Write for Rights* campaign in December where they encourage us to write messages of support to people around the world who have suffered injustice, and show us how to support their campaigns for justice. They will have their campaign table up at following church services: 3rd December, 10.30am at St. Frideswide, Botley Road; 10th December, 9.30am at St. Peter and St. Paul, West Way; and 17th December after the 6.00pm carol service at St. Lawrence.

Cumnor Choral Society's December Concert

Cumnor Choral Society will present their Advent Concert in St. Peter & St. Paul Church at 7.30 on Saturday December 2nd. The programme will include choral songs for Advent in the first half, and Haydn's St. Nicholas Mass in the second.

Tickets (including programme and after concert buffet) cost £12 or £15 on the door, and are available in advance from me at 07961 900670 or cockman.caroline@gmail.com.

We welcome donations to help us continue. Please contact me if you would like to donate.

Caroline Cockman

A service to remember Those We Have Loved.

This memorial service to remember people we have loved is to be held on **3rd December at 5.00pm** at St Peter and St Paul Church. Whether your bereavement was recent or a long time ago, this short service will give you an opportunity to remember your loved one and light a candle for them. It has been arranged in association with Oliver & James (formerly SR Childs, Botley) Funeral Services

 **Remembrance events** 

Saturday 11th November
11am West Way Square

A bugler will play The Last Post and we will observe a 2 minute silence

Sunday 12th November
Service of Remembrance

Commonwealth War Graves
North Hinksey Lane
10:45 am to 11:45am
Gates open 10:30am All welcome

Coffee: now using beans from Jericho Coffee Traders
Wine & Beer: local beers & cider, wines by the bottle & glass

All Day Breakfast – Simple/Full English, Vegetarian, Vegan breakfast

Lunch - Panini, Baguette, Wraps, Salads, Soup & Jacket Potatoes

After School - Pasta bake, Mac & Cheese, Chilli & Jacket Potatoes

Ice Cream – Sundaes, **Knickerbocker Glory**, Waffles & Ice cream

Bakery – Pastries & Homemade Cakes, Brownies, Flapjacks & Muffins

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Botley Youth Club is Alive and Kicking!

Every Wednesday in term time Botley Youth Club offers a fun and safe space for children age 10–17 years. There is always fun and games, no matter the weather! We really need Volunteers to keep the Club running safely and to deliver activities that are fresh and engaging. Volunteers are offered DBS checks and will join a welcoming and supportive team. The team sets up from 6.30pm every Wednesday in term time at Louie Memorial Pavilion, the session runs 7pm–9pm. We would love you to come and join us! email botleyyouthclub@gmail.com.

Dean Court Community Centre Quiz Night

Join us at 7pm for 7.30 pm on Friday 17 November for our Quiz Night! Teams of up to 6, individuals welcome to join a team. £5 per person in advance, £6 on the door – you can buy tickets online via deancourtcc.org.uk, or call 01865 236160 and leave a number to call back. Free tea and coffee will be available in the break, but you are also welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks!

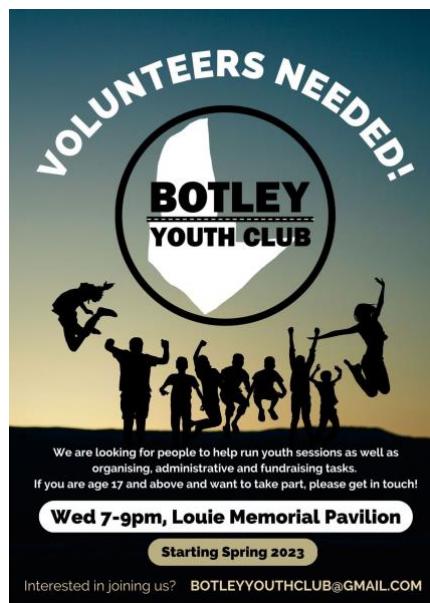
Fundraiser for HOEG

A large range of good quality second-hand clothes (children's, women's and men's) are available at bargain prices from Josie Webber (josieawebber@yahoo.com) in North Hinksey Village. They are being sold in aid of the legal costs which will be incurred at the Public Enquiry by those seeking to improve the Oxford Flood Scheme by advocating better alternatives to the channel.

Chris Sugden

WI Report

We have recently enjoyed a bingo evening with autumn puddings – scrumptious good fun. We had an interesting talk about keeping Alpacas and using their wool for felting, which we can try ourselves in a workshop in November. Our **craft store** will be outside the Seacourt Bridge pub on Saturday 11th November from 10am to 12.30pm. In November we welcome our speaker



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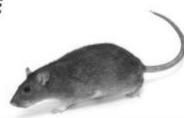


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talking about the Mitfords in Oxfordshire. We have been delighted to welcome several new members in our meetings and would be happy to welcome more. These are always held on the first Tuesday of the month. Watch out for our **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 25th November from 11–2.30pm, held in our own WI building on North Hinksey Lane. There will be homemade refreshments, which you can also buy to take home, plus many items of Christmas Presents. There are games and competitions for all the family with lovely prizes to win. If you would like a stall, please contact me on 01865 722998 very soon to secure a place. We hope to see lots of you there.

Bess Harris

Botley Library in November

Our regular events continue:

- Lego Club on Tuesdays at 15.30
- Adult Craft Club on Thursdays at 14.00
- Rhymetime for Under-Fives on Fridays at 10.00
- Scrabble on demand, Fridays at 4

County Councillor Judy Roberts will be holding her surgery on Saturday 4th November from 10 to 12pm. And on the same afternoon at 2pm, local author Simon Mason will be interviewed by Ruth Cameron, with an opportunity to buy signed copies of his books.



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

| | |
|--|---|
| 1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10 | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com |
| 2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10 | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com |
| 4th Oxford Scout Group Cubs Beavers, Scouts, Explorers | mail@thefourth.org.uk Meets every weekday evening. Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/ |
| 15th Oxford Scout Group 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 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk |
| Baby & Toddler Group | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall |
| BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign | Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org |
| Books on Wheels R.V.S. | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 810159 |
| Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8–16 | Terri Matthews: clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com |
| Botley Bridges (for under 5s) | Mondays, 9–11, Stay & Play Botley School, and Fridays 10–12, Baby Group at Seacourt Hall botleybridges.org |
| Botley Community Larder | Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com |
| Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group | Second Tuesday in the month, early evening. Contact csugden@ocrpl.org |
| Botley Health Walks | 2nd & 4th Sats 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, or Tues 11 am Library botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com |
| Botley Library | 07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays). |
| Botley Memory Lane Café | Thursdays 10–12 Seacourt Hall Lounge, Diccon James 07740 611971 |
| Botley Seniors Lunch Club | Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox. 721386 |
| Botley Youth Club | Weds 7pm–9pm in term time. Louie Memorial Pavilion. botleyyouthclub@gmail.com |
| Cumnor Choral Society | Thursdays, 19.30–21.30 St Andrew's Ch. Steve Morris, chair. www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com |
| Cumnor Chess Club | Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk |
| Cumnor & District Historical Society | Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808 |
| Cumnor Gardening Club | http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ tel 01865 721026 |
| Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group | Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk |

| | |
|---|---|
| Hill End Volunteer Team | Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk |
| Lawn Tennis Club | Family club Email: Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org 07824 881680 www.oxfordsportsltc.org |
| Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc | Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk |
| North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs | Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com |
| N Hinksey Art Group | Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997 |
| N Hinksey Bellringers | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451 |
| N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers | Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798 743121 voirreyc@aol.com |
| N Hinksey, Friends of | Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213. |
| N Hinksey Parish Council | clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk |
| Oxford Flower Arranging | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259 |
| Oxford Harmony | Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk |
| Oxford Otters | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420 |
| Oxford Rugby Club | Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk. |
| Raleigh Park, Friends of | Email: raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk |
| Seacourt Hall Management Committee | Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see https://www.seacourthall.org.uk |
| Shotokan Karate Club | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450 |
| Stagecoach Botley | Botley School, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds 01865 590510 or 01235 390810 |
| West Oxford Bowls Club | Dave Ellerker 07931 603801 wobc.membership@gmail.com |
| West Oxford Taekwon Do Club | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk |
| West Oxford U3A (Uni of the 3rd Age) | http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/ |
| Women's Institute (Botley) | Alison Jenner 07598 251161 alisonjenner@yahoo.com |
| Weight Watchers | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com |

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

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

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane
 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th 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 at Field House, West Way
 Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or 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.

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

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 website: www.ccodoxford.church

What's On

November

- Wed 1st** 11am, Dean Court Community Centre, during the community café, AgeUK short talk about benefits
- 4th/5th** Green Open Homes around Oxford
- Sat 11th** 11am, West Way Centre, moment of silence
- Sat 11th** 10–12.30pm, outside Seacourt Bridge, WI Craft Stall
- Sat 11th** 10.30–12.30 Seacourt Hall, Botley Energy Challenge
- Sat 11th** Hill End Camp, Remembrance Day tour of WWI Practice Trenches
- Wed 8th** from 10.30, DCCC, Community Coffee with AgeUk talk on benefits for the elderly at 11.
- Sun 12th** 10.45am, Botley War Graves, Remembrance Service
- Mon 13th** 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Robert Oram, Air Ambulance Service
- Thur 16th** 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting
- Fri 17th** 7pm for 7.30, Dean Court CC, Quiz night
- Sun 19th** 2.30–4.30, DCCC, Community Tea
- Sat 25th** 11–2.30pm, WI Hall, NHL, Christmas Fair
- Mon 27th** 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Mark Davies: 400 years of the Botanic Garden: notable keepers, visitors and events
- Sat 2nd December, 10–12, Botley Baptist Church, Christmas Fair**
- 2/3rd December, More Green Open Homes**