

Letters to the Editor

Manna from Anna

May I please, through your columns, express my thanks to Anna of the Manna Café, Botley Baptist Church, for her generous hospitality extended to an eighteen-strong family party I recently took for lunch and a get together in her café. Five small children were kept totally amused with the wide range of toys and books available, our various delicious lunches were served with care and tastefulness, and the offer to us all to stay as long as we liked was much appreciated.

It was an excellent way for me to accommodate my American visitors, who were too numerous to fit in my flat.

Thank you, Anna, for a happy experience.

Elsie Hinkes

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### Prescriptions, Results, Technology

Please help us to help you. We are aware that issues with prescriptions are one of the common problems we are all facing. To that end, we would be grateful if you can choose a pharmacy to which we can send your prescriptions. This is where the technology comes in.

We can issue the prescription and send it electronically to the chemist of your choice. It usually takes a few minutes to show up on the system in the pharmacy, but this can take up to 30 minutes during busy times when there is increased traffic on the internet.

If you would like to try this, please contact the surgery so we can set the system up for you. This will also be environmentally friendly – less paper prescriptions, saving trees and the planet. It will reduce time as you will not need to collect the prescription from the surgery and then take it to the pharmacy (saves fuel as well).

Another way we are trying to use technology for mutual benefit is by sending text messages to your mobile phone. By doing this we will be able to give you results directly and send reminders about appointments for blood tests, BP check etc. It also goes without saying that this will make things quicker, save time, money and energy.

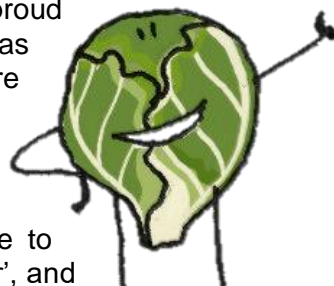
## Review of the Year

*[Editor's review of the year 2018-19, as shared at the Sprout AGM in July]*

"Looking back through last year's *Sprouts*, I was proud to see what a lively and informative magazine it has become, reflecting a quiet suburb that is more interesting than it might seem at first glance.

Here are a few of the highlights.

**Sustainability** has been a constant theme, starting with an article in March inviting people to switch energy providers to 'Planet friendly power', and expressing local hopes to be "the place where more people use green energy than anywhere else.' Over the year these escalated as awareness of the global predicament grew, until we were reporting the Parish Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, local input into School Strikes for the Climate and the Extinction Rebellion protests in London, and most recently the efforts of Waitrose in the Botley Road to do away with much of their plastic packaging, something which they pioneered here because of local interest.



April saw the start of a few lively **Letters pages**. This was the month when we printed the first letter welcoming the new development of the shopping centre and listing all the things that made Botley 'a joke' to the rest of Oxford. The directors had their doubts about the suitability of such criticism, and even more so the following month when we published a brutally frank endorsement. In the end, though, these letters provoked some vigorous rebuttals from people who love our home patch, and then the excitement of the letters page was over for a while!

Botley's story has always been about **transport**. It is the reason we are here and the cause of many of our problems. It is the cause, indeed, of the very existence of the Sprout, which tries to mitigate the disconnect caused by having major roads quarter our patch. We were thus very happy to publish Malcolm Graham's detective work on past attempts to make us a transport corridor – In May he told us about the proposed canal route of 1802, and in September it was the turn of the mid 19th Century railway which would have wiped out North Hinksey. The issue was taken up again in October when the possibility of the mighty Oxford–Cambridge Expressway was dropped on us, with daunting implications for the people

living along the Southern By Pass and Stanley Close, as well as for Wytham Woods and the War Graves in the cemetery. Resistance has been solid so far, with only the County Council supporting the project, while parishes along the proposed routes are united in opposition. We will continue to report on something likely to have a big effect on us all.

There were other **development issues** throughout the year. First, the redevelopment of the shopping centre finally got under way, and the Sprout gave constant updates from the community campaign that monitored and challenged the plans at every step, in an attempt to wrest them into a shape that felt it belonged to us. Another theme that picked up momentum as the year advanced was the Flood Alleviation Scheme. In July we described how the Oxford Preservation Trust came into the fray, holding a walk through their beautiful meadow behind the pylons beyond North Hinksey Lane to try and gauge what would be the effects. Thanks to them, all the trees sentenced to felling were marked and people started to realize the plans might have more negative consequences than had been advertised. Resistance grew, a local pressure group was formed to get the plans modified, the Environment Agency defended the project and the Sprout reported developments at every stage, leading up to the July Public Enquiry [*Now indefinitely postponed, see page XX.*].

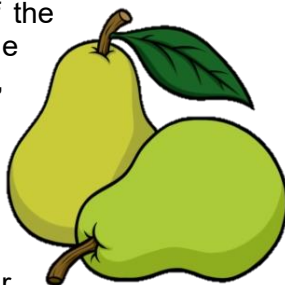
**People who had made a local impact** during the year were Dr Chadwick whose retirement was reported in May, and Philip Stephens, a community stalwart of many years' standing, who had passed away over the summer. October was the month when we reported on the life of Eleanor Bolton, the 'Botley Bag Lady' who had been found dead earlier in the year. Her funeral was a dignified occasion and the tribute from Mary Squires put many false rumours about her to rest. So many people asked to see the article that I was glad I had kept some copies back. Articles about young musicians and hat-makers showed that Botley was home to some exciting initiatives, and I was also proud to have published some thought-provoking articles: End of Life Care and the need to think creatively about death by Chris Sugden in May and Linda Losito's two articles about the natural world in June and November. The literary talent in our midst, which Martin Harris documented in his series 'Literary Botley' is alive and flourishing, and the Sprout is lucky to benefit from it.

A good year then, and the *Sprout* continues to thrive.

**Ag MacKeith**, Editor

## Pears

When we mention pears, you probably think of the ubiquitous *Conference* available in the supermarkets all year round. There are, though, many more varieties of pears if you look. Pears were developed mainly in Europe (particularly Belgium) and so are not as adapted to our climate as apples. This means that many of the varieties in the shops are imported. Conference pears are often grown in Holland and stored for many months before being brought to the supermarkets. This gives the impression that they are in season all year round and it is easy to miss the varieties that are only available for a short while. Look out for *Forelle* in spring and *Abbe Fetel* (or *Abate Fetel*, sometimes just *Abate*) in May, *Concorde* in autumn and *Doyenne de Comice* (usually *Comice*) in winter.



In order to prevent pears ripening too fast, they need to be kept cold – preferably at only a degree above freezing. They will continue to ripen in the fridge, but more evenly than at room temperature and you can bring them out for a day or two to get them to the perfect ripeness for eating.

If you grow your own pears, you can choose from a wide variety of trees, selected to ripen when you most want them – from early August for *Beth* to the New Year for *Josephine de Malines*. The trick with your own pears is knowing when to pick them. All pears need to be picked when they are too hard to eat – if you can pick and eat the pear straight away then you have left them too long and they will rot quickly. Some will be ready in a few days, others might take several months before they are even remotely edible, but they are usually worth the wait. The trick is to test the tree for readiness – gently lift a likely-looking pear and if it detaches

from the tree cleanly, then it is ready and time to pick the whole tree.

Next month we will explore some ideas to deal with the inevitable glut. If you grow your own pears, wish to, or are simply interested in pears, please come along to Botley's Apple Day and talk to us!

**Colin & Sally Hersom**

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## Camping with the Cubs

*This is an article written by the 4th Oxford Cubs after their week end camp in May. It's a collective effort, written in the Cubs' own words...*

- ❖ "We went to cub camp played games, prepared dinner and roasted marshmallows."
  - ❖ "We put up our tents; our tent had a rip in it and we had to move tents. We didn't get much sleep in the end - but more sleep than we expected!"
- 
- A photograph showing a group of children, likely the 4th Oxford Cubs, climbing a large, thick tree trunk. They are wearing blue and yellow jackets, and some are wearing hats. The children are positioned at different heights on the tree, with some standing on the ground and others higher up. The background is filled with green foliage, suggesting a forest or park setting.
- ❖ "We went on a nature hike and climbed trees – one of us almost fell out, but didn't. We found some resin, it was dried up, we think it had a bug in it. It might turn to precious amber in a couple of million years."
  - ❖ "We did archery, medieval jousting with tin can opponents and bamboo lances, and we made and decorated the shields. We also made model siege catapults with lolly sticks and rubber bands."
  - ❖ "We made ourselves dinner and cooked it on the fire. We made damper (basic bread wrapped around a stick cooked above the embers), and ate it, best bread ever. We drank hot chocolate."
  - ❖ "Some of our favourite things were the nature hike, telling stories around the campfire and playing *duck duck goose*. Some of us tried making tea with nettles which we liked doing, even though some cubs thought it didn't taste very nice! We also liked eating the food."
  - ❖ "Lots of us have been on camp before; we like going on camp because it is fun; and because we get a longer amount of time to do the usual cub stuff."

## Climate challenge – where to begin?

It's one thing to declare a Climate Emergency (as the Parish, the Vale, the City, and even the Government have done), but what can we physically do to avert reaching a point of no return in eleven years' time? Things have to change on two fronts: at home so that we are part of the solution, not part of the problem; and on a broader front, so that laws and systems supply an effective framework for action. It's easy to be overwhelmed by grief at the damage to our lovely planet, and a sense of futility in the face of such an enormous problem! But take heart, together we can make a difference. The question is, where to start?

Low Carbon West Oxford have set up the Act Now programme, which offers real help. It's based on their 'Five Things' campaign (six really, see below\*) about the main things we need to do. The programme is open to anyone in the area – and that includes Botley, details here: [www.lowcarbonwestoxford.org.uk/act-now/](http://www.lowcarbonwestoxford.org.uk/act-now/)

You don't have to be an activist to sign up, just wanting to do something effective and needing help to get started. Everyone is welcome at the Sunday morning workshops from 5th October. Each workshop will explore a different area of personal responsibility and potential action, and give clear information about how to reduce your carbon footprint.

The Oxford Together on Climate Change website was set up by eight local groups to support people across the county to act and to add their input to a growing list of what people have done already. This is the place to record your solar panels, or any other thing you've done to make your home more sustainable. ([www.change4climate.uk](http://www.change4climate.uk))

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**\*1. Diet** – reduce or eliminate meat and dairy in our diets. **2. Transport** – cycle, walk or use public transport wherever possible (or car share). **3. Money** – think if you really need it before you buy it. Fund community renewables with your pension or savings, not climate change. **4.** Make our homes as *energy-efficient* as possible and cut waste. Reduce and reuse before you recycle. **5.** Look after local *wildlife* and think how shopping choices impact on biodiversity and **6 Notice what you're feeling and talk about it.** Chances are other people are feeling the same, and together you can encourage each other to take action.

*What else can we do?*

Are you going on the international Climate Strike in Bonn Square on 20th September? (see [www.globalclimatestrike.net](http://www.globalclimatestrike.net)) *See you there!*

Local action works best when we work together. The Association for Botley Communities is having a meeting to plan what we can do here on Friday Sept 6th (7.30pm at the Seacourt Hall). It's a forum to discuss ways of bringing more people in to work on climate change, but also to talk about air pollution and supporting our green spaces and wildlife (and hedgehogs!). As for the Parish Council, they are digging in their heels over the sustainability elements in the Neighbourhood Plan; continuing to oppose the Oxbridge Expressway; and planning a Botley Climate Action Day in November which will give a platform for every local initiative to make itself known. Recent changes at Vale council have seen them get more active on environmental issues, including climate and air pollution. Your councillors need encouraging to develop a clear climate action plan, and to use the planning system to reduce emissions from new developments. We can start by asking our local councillors what they are doing to tackle these issues.

Then there is Trees for Climate, an Oxfordshire campaign supporting national calls to double tree cover. This will absorb sizeable amounts of carbon dioxide over the next twenty years and is another part of the wider campaign for a zero-carbon Britain. We need local action here – where could we plant more trees in Botley? (see [www.facebook.com/groups/oxfordshiretreesforclimate](https://www.facebook.com/groups/oxfordshiretreesforclimate) )

*Wherever you are, there are things you can do.*

Do you belong to the Home School Association – what's being done at school to run it sustainably? Are they reaching out to parents as well as children? Are you a member of a Book Group? How about encouraging each other by reading *Wilding* by Isabella Tree or *Climate Justice* by Mary Robinson. These are both books that describe heart-lifting examples of actions that will make a difference, and there are others. If you've read something that gives you hope, please tell the *Sprout* and we'll compile a reading list.





Is your life so busy that the balancing act between work and home is as much as you can manage without adding anything more to the mix? Perhaps work has volunteer days you could use?

The main thing is to get into a supportive group, talk to each other and get started. If direct action feels like the right thing for you, Extinction Rebellion is setting up a local group (see *Randoms*, pXX). If your kids want to inform themselves, the Oxford Natural History Museum is running a Saturday morning series for 15 to 19 year-olds from 14th September called 'Let's talk about Climate'. If you just want help to get started, 'Act Now' is for you.

### *Dates for your diary*

**6th September** – ABC meeting in the Seacourt Hall; **20th September**: National climate Strike; **27th September**: Arts and Science Extravaganza at the Natural History Museum, hosted by Oxford Extinction Rebellion and Conservation Optimism – expect films, talks, drama, dressing up – fun with a serious message! (see <https://www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk/event/heading-for-extinction>); **5th Oct**: Low Carbon's workshops start in WOCC; starting **October 7th**, Extinction Rebellion's autumn campaign of actions in London and other cities. Together we can make a difference.

### **Ag MacKeith**



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## Demolition photos

Now the shopping centre is rising around us, it has become less a place of memorable images. But look at the way things were a year ago!

First, Uwe Ackerman's terrific photo showing shopping-as-usual while the Seacourt Hall crumbles into dust (below). Brian Russell-Gray's striking image of the Beast getting its teeth into West Way House is opposite. David Kay's over the page. There will be more in coming weeks – the standard is very high, and it will be hard to find a winner. It's a pity that the Sprout's black-and-white format and small size can't really do justice to them, but we'll place them online in the Sprout Archive in **BotleyHinksey.org**, the community website, in due course.









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## Public Inquiry into Flood Scheme postponed

A Public Inquiry is needed into the proposed Oxford flood alleviation scheme because the scheme requires compulsory purchase of land. The inquiry should have been this summer. However Oxfordshire County Council have found that the Kennington railway bridge needs replacing. The culverts that would be part of the flood alleviation scheme can't be installed through the road embankment until the bridge has been replaced. As a result, the Public Inquiry has been postponed indefinitely – probably for at least a year – until a solution has been agreed.

As part of the compulsory purchase requirements, the Environment Agency must replace any publicly accessible land it takes with an equivalent amount of land in an equivalent location. The Environment Agency plans to take most of the Seacourt Nature Reserve – roughly the white rectangle in the top left area on the map – and replace that by making 'publicly accessible' the scrubland at the back of the Jewsons store – roughly the hatched area in the centre of the map. On the ground, 'Jewsons Field' is scrubland that is mostly fenced in, with access and a path between the north-east and north-west ends, and with a pylon on the south-west corner. People have been crossing through Jewson's Field for decades, rough sleepers have used it for years as a camping spot, and arguably that land is already 'publicly accessible'.



If you have any views about the flood alleviation scheme as a whole, and the 'Jewsons Field' exchange in particular, please send them to DEFRA Flood Risk Management, 3rd Floor, Seacole Block, 2 Marsham St, London SW1P 4DF

RT

## 100 years of Botley W.I.

Botley WI is celebrating its Centenary this year. The Committee have tried in vain to find out the exact date that Botley WI opened its doors for the first time but in the absence of this information we have organised exciting extra events throughout the year, including a celebratory dinner in August at Denman, and a Centenary festival in the W.I. hall in September.

The festival will bring together several community groups and will show what our members can make and do. Botley used to have Summer Festivals every year but the event died out many years ago, so it felt right to resurrect it for this special year. The festival is on the 14th September in the W.I. hall, 2pm–4.30pm. We would love people to come along and enjoy the afternoon with us. There will be entertainment from local groups, W.I. competitions to look at, games, and tea and cakes for sale.

The ladies of Botley W.I. have been busy for a long time; an archived note from 1924 says, 'The W.I. has held its regular weekly working parties at which much useful handwork has been done for the sale of work. Also, their monthly meetings for instruction and amusement have been well attended.' We are still being instructed and amused, and hope to continue to be so for the next 100 years.



**Botley WI members in mediaeval gear c1930, reflecting the banner. Could they have been celebrating the opening of the new W.I. Hall in 1932?**

## Life in the UK

After 31 years of living in the UK as a US citizen, I have recently taken the 'Life in the UK' test, in preparation for changing my nationality (don't ask why now). You can prepare for it by reading the official Home Office 'Life in the UK' book. Based on the contents of the book, the Home Office have come up with about 1000 multiple choice questions. You can take practice tests online, and everyone gets a random set of 24 questions from that. You need to get 75% to pass.

I found some of the practice questions manageable, like the capital of Wales, what date Christmas Eve falls on, who the Queen is married to, and whether I should approach the police if I was aware that a crime had been committed. Some I felt I should have known, like the meaning of Diwali and Eid Mubarak (and the fact that there are two Eids). But some were just brutal, and it made me wonder what 'Life in the UK' is all about. So, for your enjoyment, here are some of the trickier ones (answers at the bottom):

1. How many National Parks are there in the UK? A. 5, B. 8, C. 10, D. 15
2. How many times did Jackie Collins win the F1 championship? A. 2, B. 3, C. 5, D. 8
3. What country was Florence Nightingale born in? A. UK, B. Spain, C. Germany, D. Italy
4. Who invented insulin? A. John McLeod, B. Christopher Cockerell, C. James Goodfellow, D. Peter Mansfield
5. How many million years ago was the Giant's Causeway formed? A. 20, B. 30, C. 40, D. 50
6. Which king is associated with the Battle of the Boyne? A. James II, B. Charles II, C. Edward II, D. William II
7. Which of these musicians wrote The Planets? A. Henry Purcell, B. Gustav Holst, C. Edward Elgar, D. Ralph Vaughan Williams
8. How long is the Bayeux Tapestry? A. 12m, B. 25m, C. 40m, D. 70m

So... did you get at least 6 right? If not, should the Home Office A. take away your passport and put you on a raft in the English Channel, or B. make the test more properly reflective of actual life in the UK?

*[Answers: 1. C, 2. B, 3. D, 4. A, 5. D, 6. A, 7. B, 8. D]*

I have been thinking about the kinds of questions that, for me, better represent my last 31 years. So here goes:

1. Someone gets in front of you in the bus queue. Do you: A. Move back in front of them, B. Point out that you were there first, C. Explain to the bus driver that you were in the queue first and should get the other person's seat, D. Quietly store up your anger and write a seething post about it on Facebook.
2. Your car is falling apart and you don't want it any more. Do you: A. Leave it at the recycling centre, B. Sell it to a scrapyard, C. Prop it on bricks by the side of your house, D. Park it in a layby and set fire to it.
3. You are sitting in the quiet carriage of a train but want to make a phone call. Which TWO of these can you do: A. Make the phone call as normal but hunch over so that you can't see other people staring at you, B. Move into the vestibule area to make the call, C. Hold off making the call, D. Make the call in a normal tone of voice but cover your mouth so that it looks like you're speaking quietly.
4. Your neighbour is playing music really loudly at 11pm. Do you: A. Join the party, B. Knock on their door and ask them to turn it down, C. Move your bedding into your old car which is on bricks on the other side of the house where it's quieter, D. Quietly store up your anger and write a seething post about it on Facebook.

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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| P19/V1498/FUL                                            | 20 Eynsham Rd. Demolish existing house, replace with detached building of five flats, off-street parking, etc                                                  | <b>20 June</b><br><i>Target Decision Date: 15 August</i> |
| P19/V1512/FUL                                            | 5 Toynbee Close. Build two 2-bed flats at rear with access from Toynbee Close. Demolish existing house, replace with 2-storey building containing three flats. | <b>20 June</b><br><i>TDD: 15 August</i>                  |
| P19/V1651/LDP                                            | 34 Cedar Rd. Certificate of Lawful use for a single storey rear extension.                                                                                     | <b>8 July</b><br><i>TDD: 2 Sept</i>                      |
| P19/V1725/PDH                                            | 198 Westminster Way. Single storey rear extension to replace conservatory.                                                                                     | <b>17 July</b><br><i>TDD: 28 Aug</i>                     |
| P19/V1744/HH                                             | 6 Hurst Rise Rd. Replace garage & conservatory with a single storey rear and side extension.                                                                   | <b>19 July</b><br><i>TDD: 13 Sept</i>                    |
| P19/V1812/HH                                             | 20 Brogden Close. Rear single storey extension & new terrace deck.                                                                                             | <b>25 July</b><br><i>TDD: 19 Sept</i>                    |
| P19/V1788/FUL<br>(Replaces appl P19/V1403/HH).           | Gateways, Harcourt Hill. Demolish house & build larger dwelling in same location.                                                                              | <b>31 July</b><br><i>TDD: 25 Sept</i>                    |
| P19/V1934/FUL                                            | 13A Chestnut Rd. Loft conversion of 1st floor flat for 2nd bedroom & bathroom.                                                                                 | <b>7 August</b><br><i>TDD: 2 Oct</i>                     |
| P19/V1884/FUL                                            | 30 Lime Rd. Proposed dwelling on land adjacent to Nos. 28 & 30 Lime Road.                                                                                      | <b>8 August</b><br><i>TDD: 3 Oct</i>                     |
| P19/V1875/HH<br>Variation of Condition 2 of P19/V0682/HH | 87 Hurst Rise Rd. Basement construction. Front single, side & rear 2-storey extensions, reducing size of extension, windows & roof changes.                    | <b>12 August</b><br><i>TDD: 7 Oct</i>                    |
| P19/V1953/HH                                             | Tudor House, 21 Hurst Rise Rd. Demolish attached garage. Erect 2-storey side & rear extensions.                                                                | <b>12 August</b><br><i>TDD: 7 Oct</i>                    |



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## CAB – Here to Help

### TV licences for over-75s

The BBC is planning to start charging over-75s for their TV licences unless they receive Pension Credit, the benefit for people on low incomes who have reached the state retirement age.

Currently, everyone aged 75 or older gets a free TV licence, which covers them and anyone else they live with. However, as from June 2020, over-75s will be means tested for the free licence. It is thought that more than three million people will no longer be eligible to receive it. To keep your free licence, you must show are entitled to Pension Credit. Over a million people who qualify for Pension Credit aren't claiming it, the government says, so it's worth checking your eligibility.

How? By phoning the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 991 234 (Mon-Fri, 8am–6pm) and asking them. Or visit <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>. You'll need to quote your National Insurance number and be able to give details of your savings and pensions, as well as the account into which you want your Pension Credit paid.

If you live in a care home or sheltered housing you can get an Accommodation for Residential Care licence which costs £7.50. You only need this if you watch TV in your own separate accommodation. If you need help understanding this change, telephone Citizens Advice Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or come and see us in person at our office in St Aldates.



### Cancelled flights or lost luggage? Know your rights

Airports and air travel have always caused difficulties and stress, but in the present age – with tight security and overcrowded terminal buildings – travellers have to deal with situations more fraught than ever. To add to their problems flights are often delayed or cancelled, and suitcases vanish or turn up with items missing or damaged.

If you encounter any of these problems, you will be able to cope better if you are thoroughly familiar with your options before travelling.

If you're flying to or from an EU airport with an EU airline, under EU rules you might be entitled to compensation if you are delayed. You can check on the Civil Aviation Authority website [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk) which also provides information on other eventualities and on ATOL financial protection for package flight travellers. Depending on how long your flight is delayed and where you're flying to, the airline might have to provide you with food and drink, access to phone calls and emails, and accommodation if you're delayed overnight. Again, the CAA website provides relevant information. If your flight is cancelled you might have the legal right to have either a full refund or a replacement flight to get you to your destination (from another airline if necessary).

If your luggage is delayed, damaged or lost and the airline is at fault, you can claim compensation from the airline – perhaps within 7 days, so act fast!. But if you have insurance that covers luggage, an insurance claim might be a better option, depending on your excess.

The Citizens Advice website [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) will tell you everything you need to know. You can also phone Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506 or visit our office in St Aldates.

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£10.50 per hour for church members

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[osneybenefice@outlook.com](mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com) or 07946 463741

[www.osneybenefice.org.uk](http://www.osneybenefice.org.uk)



# Randoms

## Winning words

Congratulations to Frida Fallarino of Matthew Arnold for winning Best Chairperson when her team competed with teams from Icknield and Wood Green schools in the Acer Trust Youth Speaks competition in July. The junior school competition, hosted by Matthew Arnold for the first time, is for teams of three to present a topic of their choice to the audience, by speech alone unaided by digital devices. It was to all the teams' credit that they did not choose easy-wins, but serious topics like 'the Meaning of Life', 'Can Feminists enter Beauty Pageants', 'Vegetarianism', etc. With big subjects like these it is easy to lose your way, but the presentations were all well-structured and interesting. The standard was high and it was fascinating to see such talent emerging at such a young age. Was it fanciful to detect a Greta Thunberg effect – and not just in all those plaits!

### **Farmoor Village Hall Presents**

#### **Cowley At War**

**Wednesday 25th September**

An insightful talk on the Cowley car plant during WW2 – 'a unique illustrated history'

#### **Retro Computer Games**

**Saturday 28th September**



Join us for an evening of computer games, 10 classic consoles.

**Both events doors open at 7pm**

**Tickets £5 on the door**

**Licensed bar and snacks available**

### **Community acupuncture clinic in West Oxford**

A community acupuncture clinic has opened in Dean Court Community Centre. It keeps costs down to just £16.50 a session, by treating more than one person at a time. Patient information is collected prior to the session, which means less time is needed on the day for consultation and more people can be seen at each clinic session. The aim is to keep this valuable treatment affordable, making it accessible to all Oxfordshire residents. Sessions run on Mondays from 9.30am till 6pm. Go to **[www.holistic-health.org.uk](http://www.holistic-health.org.uk)** to find out more.

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

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>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><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                   |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Fridays, cubs 6.30-8, scouts 8-9.30, Botley Baptist Hall. Amy Cusden 07887 654386 <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>Badminton Club</b>                                                | Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.                                        | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>               |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>                                           | Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Botley Library</b>                                                | 01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).                                                                                                 |
| <b>Botley Singers</b>                                                | Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>                                                               |
| <b>Branches Café, Westway Place, Open to All 8am-3pm,</b>            | <b>Open for young people</b> 3-5 daily, Th. eves 7–9 Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook Branches Youth Cafe, Instagram @_branches_youth   |
| <b>Community Fridge</b>                                              | For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811                                                                                           |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <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 862788 <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>                                         | Details on website at <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone Chris Impey, 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:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@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 01865-863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Let's Sing! – singing group</b>                                   | Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email <a href="mailto:emformusic@outlook.com">emformusic@outlook.com</a>                                                                          |
| <b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>                                    | Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>                                                                                                            |

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|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mum and Baby Yoga</b> for babies from 6 wks to crawling | Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via <a href="https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk">https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk</a>                                                        |
| <b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs</b>         | Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 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 Tel: 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:voirrey@aol.com">voirrey@aol.com</a>                                                                                           |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                               | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                            | Colin Ryde, tel 861992, <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>                                                                                             |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                                | Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>                             | Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386                                                                                                          |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                               | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                        | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group</b>        | Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall 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>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>           | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                      |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                            | <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Saturdads</b><br>Botley Bridges                         | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's<br>10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                                                        |
| <b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>                  | Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .                                                                                   |
| <b>Shotokan Karate club</b>                                | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                                                      |
| <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>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                              | Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</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>West Way Day Centre</b>                                 | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>                                          |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                          | Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>                                                                                                |