

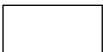
The Sprout



Frost, by Jenny Holloway

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 114 February 2017



The Sprout

Issue 114, February 2017

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From the Editor

Welcome to our first *Sprout* of 2017. The initial phase of the new shopping centre will flatten the community hall, the library and the Baptist Church. We have the latest on where they will go (pp 7 and 33) although it's already looking as though those early dates are a bit optimistic. The new Association for Botley Communities is launching on 24th Feb, to help smooth the transition (p 21). It will be the first official organization to cross parish boundaries and cover all Botley. There are changes afoot at the top of the hill, where Brookes has major plans (p19) and at the bottom of the hill, where the OFAS scheme will have consequences in North Hinksey (p11). Elms Rd Children's Centre will close at the end of the month (p3), when Botley Bridges hopes to take over. They are recruiting for a co-ordinator (p41) – could this be you? North Hinksey Parish Council are looking for ideas for teenage facilities (p13) – if you are between 10 and 18, make sure you let them know! And more good news: having lost four of our five local pubs, we seem to have acquired a cool community space – with beer – almost without noticing it. Welcome to Botley, Tap Social Movement (p29). And welcome Veg Van, too, to be stationed outside SsP&P Church on a regular basis (p37). March 3–5 is the date for the annual Spring Clean, so now is the time to get organized (p41). Lots happening, then, and it's all here in the *Sprout*.
Ag MacKeith



Letters to the Editor

Sprout grant to Medical Centre

I understand that Caroline Jones, practice manager, has already written to you to thank you and the management committee of *The Sprout* for the very generous grant of £400 that you made towards the purchase of a portable 24-hour ECG machine for the practice. I have now been asked by the Patient Participation Group to write to you formally to add our thanks to Caroline's, and this task I undertake with great pleasure.

We are extremely grateful to you for your support of the practice in this way. The new machine will much increase the flexibility of the practice in undertaking 24-hour monitoring. As you may have heard, the awarding of the grant has prompted the partners to make the remaining cost of the machine available to enable the purchase of the machine to go ahead.

Many thanks again from the PPG.

Harry Dickinson, Chair, Botley PPG.

Not 'business as usual' at Elms Road

I write to address factual errors in the latest North Hinksey Conservatives 'InTouch' Newsletter. In an article reviewing the status of Elms Road Children's Centre, county council candidate Dina Black is quoted as saying, "Elms Road children's centre will continue as one of the council's outreach centres." This is utterly untrue, as is the article's implication that it will be business as usual at the Children's Centre. The Children's Centre operates from a school-owned site, and will cease operating from that site once County funding comes to an end, after the 28th February. This is now a certainty as the High Court appeal to overturn this decision has been dismissed [1].

Last year, in response to widespread outrage at the closure of children's centres countywide, the council set aside one million pounds in a 'transition fund' to enable community groups to offer similar services. This is a small fraction of the 9.12 million pounds gross expenditure budgeted for children's centres in 2016 [2], and less than £170,000 of it has been allocated to date: six groups across the county will each receive a



maximum of £30,000, provided they commit to deliver services over three years.

To put this into context, £30,000 does not even meet the contributions that Elms Road Children's Centre would make to the school's running costs for use of the space over a three year period. It is clear that this transition fund is only meant to cover set-up, rather than ongoing costs. The County Council will not be running any services at the former Children's Centre site directly, so the claim that the site will continue to act as an outreach centre for the council is false.

The closure of the Children's Centre means that the school will lose a considerable contribution to its running costs, which it must seek to fill from other sources. As far as I am aware, the situation is as follows.

- The school will use the space formerly used by the Children's Centre to provide day care for two-year olds. This will be funded under central government's 2-year-old Early Education scheme. When not in use for school purposes, the site may be leased to other organisations.
- A new community organisation called Botley Bridges will operate some open-access stay and play sessions at the site, having come to an agreement with the school regarding use of the space for the next 12 months. Part of the cost will be met by the County Council's transition fund, with additional funding from Cumnor Parish Council, North Hinksey Parish Council, and other sources.
- It is not certain whether or not health visitor and midwife services will continue to operate from the site. If they do, it will almost certainly involve a cost to the relevant primary care trusts.

Mick Phillips

1:http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/14955303.UPDATE_Children_s_centre_ruling_will_leave_families_out_in_the_cold/

2: Oxfordshire County Council, Service and Resource Planning: Financial Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18 and Service Analysis 2015/16



New Year update on West Way redevelopment

2017 will be a year of change for the West Way Shopping Centre with demolition and building work expected to start in late March or April. Here is our update:

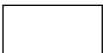
Community Liaison Group meeting: On 30th November Mace held the first Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting since their planning application was approved last June. Members of West Way Community Concern's committee attended and notes are on our website along with the official minutes. Other attendees included members of residents' associations, local churches, Parish, District and County Councilors, and the Howse family. Mace introduced SDC www.sdc.co.uk who have been contracted to carry out the construction. They confirmed that it will be a "Considerate Constructors" scheme. They will appoint a 'liaison manager' to lead communications with the community and plan monthly newsletters on progress and what's next. As well as more CLG meetings there may also be public meetings.

Timescale: Mace / SDC will not be fully on site for demolition before the end of March. The demolition of the buildings on the corner – Elms Court, the Grant Thornton building, Seacourt Hall, the Library and the Baptist Church – is expected to last 3 to 4 months. Phase 1 of the development will take two years. Phase 2 will take 18 months, with some overlap.

Temporary relocations: The Library, Seacourt Hall and the Baptist Church will eventually move into the new community building but in the interim they will be relocated into vacant shop units. The plans are to move Seacourt Hall into the former Brasserie B space, the Library into the two units next door on Chapel Way, and the Baptist Church into the former Chinese restaurant and Lloyds bank. Mace have now submitted change of use plans for these units and you can link to the details from our website. The relocation is expected to be in March or April.

"Stopping up" order: You may have seen a "stopping up" order submitted by the developers and posted locally related to Chapel Way and Church Way. At the CLG meeting we were told that this means stopping highway rights, not necessarily literally closing the roads. A full explanation from Mace is posted on the WWCC website and Mace's consultation site westwayconsultation.co.uk.

Construction traffic and parking: At the meeting concerns were raised that residential roads could be impacted by contractors parking. SDC and



Mace said they are making plans for contractors to use Seacourt Park and Ride and be transported from there. They will not be allowed to park in residential roads. WWCC is checking these arrangements with the City Council to confirm there will be adequate spaces.

Related applications: Premier Inns have lodged a request to allow sale of alcohol for extended hours and exhibition of films in the new hotel that will be built in Phase 1. Representations can be made to the Licensing Authority (Vale of White Horse District Council) until 3rd February.

The developers of Seacourt Retail Park have submitted an application to combine units to accommodate Marks & Spencer's Food. Comments can be submitted until 2nd February. Details and links for these applications can be found on our website.

As mentioned in December, WWCC is now committed to 2 purposes: community engagement and monitoring that planning conditions are observed in the construction. You can keep up to date via: our website www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com our Facebook page: (www.facebook.com/westwayconcern) or sign up for our e-newsletter by emailing westwayconcern@gmail.com Then there's Twitter with more updates (www.twitter.com/westwayconcern)







Lorna Berrett, co-chair

More on Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

There have been some new developments since the report on the scheme in the September issue of the Sprout.

During January, the owners of land along the proposed “Flood Alleviation Channel” between Botley and South Hinksey were consulted by the Environment Agency about the impact of the planned channel. It will make a big difference to the fields between Willow Walk and the Rugby Club on the Oxford side of the road, which are currently grazed by horses from Manor Stables in North Hinksey Lane. The proposal is to enable flood waters to move more quickly through the area by lowering by one metre a swathe of land about 20 metres wide either side of the main Seacourt Stream. Two new bridges are proposed, one to replace the culverts under Willow Walk, and the other under the Monks Causeway. The concern is that once land that has been compacted for years has been removed, and new topsoil laid and reseeded, these fields will no longer support the weight of large animals. What’s more, there is no plan to replace many of the fences which protect the fields and the livestock



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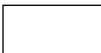


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as they would trap debris coming down with the floodwaters. This has obvious consequences for grazing animals. Thus the Manor Stables and the owners of the land on which their horses graze are uncertain about the impact on this important North Hinksey business.

Among the landowners are the Oxford Preservation Trust and the North Hinksey Fields Trust which I chair. This latter trust was established by Stella Aldwinkle, a great friend of the late Pat Halliday. Rent from the field is divided among five charities Oxfam, the University Church, the Oxford Evangelical Pastorate, Lee Abbey and a joint Protestant/Catholic school in Belfast.

Public meetings are scheduled to take place in May when the draft designs will have been submitted. Securing the land for the project is to start in October 2017. Actual construction is scheduled to start in early 2019 and take up to three years to complete. During that period no livestock can be grazed on any of the fields.

All parties agree that the impact of flood waters on residential streets has been increased by the arrival of the megastores on the flood plain that borders the Botley Road. It is the responsibility of the City Council, the Environment Agency and Thames Water to regulate building in the flood plain. It does look as though they all stood by and allowed it to happen.

Are there grounds for compensation for those whose lands, homes and livelihoods have been seriously affected by the flooding which has necessitated this drastic alleviation plan and all its implications? And will the expense involved in digging the proposed channel and disrupting so much along its current route actually solve the problem? Could it not be solved by a few strategically placed pumps – as have been very well used to sort out flooding near Macdonald's?

Chris Sugden



Botley Boys & Girls Football club

A Word from the Chairman

We are midway through the season now and the club is looking healthier than ever. I am not sure if we have ever had so many teams before, which is great but does give the Fixtures secretary some additional work juggling and sorting all the weekend fixtures – well done Brendan!

We have teams in all age groups from under 7s through to under 16s with the exception of an under 15s. Most teams are on the lookout for new

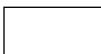
Young People of Botley WE NEED YOU!

Over the past year North Hinksey Parish Council has been looking at local leisure facilities for older children and teenagers. We are thinking of putting in new facilities at the Louie Memorial Fields, next to Matthew Arnold School. But we need to know if you would use them. We are asking young people between 10 and 18 years old, who live or go to school in the Botley area, to take a short survey. Your answers will help us to decide if we should provide some new facilities, and if so what they should be.

If you go to Botley School, North Hinksey School, or Matthew Arnold School and have filled in the paper version of this survey there in January, please do NOT take it again. Thank you to everyone who has already taken part!

But if you missed taking it at school, or if you go to school outside of Botley, then please take the survey online - it should only take about 10 mins. You can find it on <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NHPCyouth2017>.

You have until the end of February to tell us what you would like. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Remember, nothing will happen without YOU!



squad members, so if you are interested please contact me, and I will do my best to put you in touch with the correct coach. The Autumn taster sessions for 5-year-olds were a success and attracted a record 14 to their first session back in September. These sessions are still being run on a weekly basis on Monday evenings 6–7pm on Brookes' astro pitch, so if you are interested please do get in touch (at jbarley1@sky.com). They are free of charge and you will be most welcome.

Jason Barley, Chairman

Under 7s

Our U7's team has now become two teams having taken the opportunity to enter a second team at the Autumn/Spring split in the league. Squad numbers were high and it was the logical way forward. We are looking for a couple of players to join. We are boy heavy and would especially welcome some girls. We play league games on Saturday mornings and train on Wednesdays (5:30–6:30 at Saint Andrews Church, Orchard Road), if interested please contact me via Jason. **Ian Potter**, U7s coach

Under 11s

The U11s are a new team, risen from the ashes of the U10s team that sadly folded in 2015. The first half of the season was very challenging – we only won one game, in part because a number of the players had never played football in a team before, and being new took time to discover their best positions and to learn to play with each other as a team. But the second half of the season is looking very promising. We are into the next round of the knock-out cup and are currently (touch wood) unbeaten in the league on a run of four straight wins.

Having gone from no players to a full squad of 18 players is a remarkable turnaround and it is very rewarding to see the players enjoying themselves and playing with a smile on their faces even in some of the worst weather conditions. It has taken a lot of effort from the parents but also the players to get us where we are today and all deserve the credit and a thank you from the club.

Brendan Byrne, U11s coach

Under 12s



The autumn league was a tough one, but the team dug deep and we did enough to remain in Group C. Spring league started earlier than was expected, on 27 Nov! This early start rather caught us out. We only had eight players available for the first spring game and we lost against Summertown Supergiants who had just dropped down from Group B, Summertown should be commended for their sporting approach to this



game as they insisted on matching our squad number (not every team would do this). We started strongly going 2 goals up in the first 20 minutes and still they didn't bring on their extra player. However, they used their substitutes wisely and to their advantage, eventually beating us 9–2.

Next season we move from 9v9 to 11v11, so have subsequently been on a recruitment drive and we welcome three new members to the squad, Luca joined us from Crowmarsh just before Christmas, an experienced league player and is a welcome and calming boost to our defence, Albert looks full of potential having recently played in his first league game, a tough and physical game against Barton which we won 4-2, Devon has only just signed up and is yet to play her first league game for us, but, from what we have seen at training we all believe she will be a force to be reckoned with. *Onwards and upwards.*

Jason Barley, chief bottle washer, ball collector and general dogsbody



Big Changes afoot at Brookes

Following the decision to sell their Wheatley site and a downward trend in the number of students on the Harcourt Hill Campus over the last few years, Oxford Brookes have decided to upgrade the smaller site to equal status with their Headington campus over the next five years. The new configuration will see the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, including the departments of English and Modern Languages; Social Sciences; the School of Law; and some further History courses, joining the School of Education and Institute of Public Care and part of the Department of Sport and Health Sciences already based at Harcourt Hill. Headington Campus will house the remaining faculties and departments, including those currently based at Wheatley. The move is intended to enable the most closely aligned departments to be in the same place, reducing travel between campuses, and encouraging greater collaboration for the faculty's academic and research staff.

Brookes have noticed local resistance to Elms Rise being taken over by students in flats, as can be seen from these early thoughts on Harcourt Hill: 'Early opportunities include: the creation of a welcoming arrival point; exploring greater use of the chapel; the refurbishment and extension of the Sport Centre; and the potential to develop a new building. We will also undertake further work on identifying areas for refurbishment or demolition and *consider building additional student accommodation on campus, in line with community feedback citing a preference for a more self-contained campus.*'

This has big implications for Botley, so we can take what comfort we can from the following: 'Staff and students will be consulted on their requirements of our new spaces and services as well as on the look and feel of the campus environment. Local stakeholders will be consulted early on in developing new build plans (and a campus development plan for Harcourt Hill), in order to enable us to understand key considerations for the local community and areas they wish to be explored. We will also gather feedback from the local community on planning proposals as these are developed' over the coming months.

It is clearly important that we stay in touch with the plans as they are formulated, and do everything we can to make sure the consultations are meaningful. The *Sprout* will do our best to keep our readers informed.



See www.brookes.ac.uk/space-to-think/estate-investment-plan/ for more detail and a set of frequently asked questions. **Ag MacKeith**

Our community association is taking off!

The Association for Botley Communities (ABC) has been active since the autumn and is now ready to invite one and all to our public launch meeting on Friday Feb. 24th at 7pm at Ss Peter & St Paul Church Hall on West Way.

The meeting will include a short introduction explaining who we are and what we hope to do, followed by some informal discussion over refreshments around possible plans for action this year.

We've already agreed a few things, as we've set out in previous Sprout articles. We want to work together to improve and maintain the social, environmental, and economic wellbeing of Botley by:

- acting as a residents' association;
- working to build a stronger and more sustainable community; and
- supporting local economic development.

We also recognise that 'Botley' covers a wide area, and we'd welcome involvement from people in Botley and North Hinksey parish, and also people living in the Dean Court / Fogwell area as well as people on Cumnor Hill.

So what could we and should we do to deliver on our aims? So far there are plans for:

- Projects to 'green up' Botley with more planting and better green spaces;
- Making sure that the shopping centre stays well-used during the redevelopment – what could happen in those empty shops?
- Supporting work for young people, whether that's the revamped Children's Centre, the new youth café, or better play facilities.

Other ideas are very welcome – we are just getting started. We have some resources and many thanks to the Sprout for their help in getting set up. We are also taking our place in the Oxfordshire network of Community Action Groups (CAGs), joining up with the existing Dean Court CAG. We have a brand new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/associationforbotleycommunities/> so please do follow us and feed in your thoughts.



We hope to see you on the 24th – if you have any queries or ideas in the meantime please email me on **chrischurch@cooptel.net**

Chris Church

2nd Botley Brownies

Towards the end of last term we decided to have a go at some Christmas crafts. The handmade cards were our first venture to see how patient and careful the girls were with sticking small pictures onto a card in a creative fashion and whether they could follow instructions. They passed this with flying colours so Brown Owl was able to invest some funds in another craft – some colourful Decopatch papers and some papier-mâché blanks. Very similar to decoupage, this involved glue, small torn pieces of wafer-thin paper, small paint brushes and a brown papier-mâché blank. They did such a good job that we did the more difficult shape of a stocking the following week. We decorated two extra ones to include in the Christmas card the girls had designed to send to Ted (our adopted veteran).

Snowy again did kits so the girls could answer yes to the question you will have all heard over Christmas television, “Do you wanna build a snowman?” Of course they did! So that particular week every girl was able to build a marshmallow snowman and take a kit home to do it again there. I even got to take one home this time (it was the demonstration

model made by Snowy) and it was yummy – I was particularly looking forward to demolishing his Rolo and large chocolate button hat, but his Tic Tac nose, marshmallow body and jelly



snake scarf were also a surprisingly tasty combination.

We also held a District Christmas disco before term broke up. There were some gorgeous dresses which made the girls look so glamorous and grown up that the leaders felt quite underdressed. When there was a lull we quickly gathered as many as we could for a picture (*see photo*). Those of our unit not in it were probably either in the craft or film area as there



seemed to be something for all. During the disco there was a snack break followed by party games and they much enjoyed the parachute. **Lucy Howes**



News from Botley Medical Centre

The Patient' Participation Group (PPG) has continued to meet on a monthly basis since its AGM in September. One of the dilemmas it faces is how best to represent to the practice the views of the patients as a whole. Currently it can only express the views of the members of the PPG, a self-selected group several of whom are retired. The PPG has no obvious means of making direct contact with other patients of the practice. Patient confidentiality constraints mean that we cannot have access to personal information, so we are working with Caroline Jones, the Practice Manager, to make the practice website more user-friendly for the increasing number of patients who use it for ordering repeat prescriptions, booking appointments, accessing their medical records and so forth. There may be scope for opening a discussion forum on the website. Meanwhile the most effective way of publicising the PPG's presence and activity seems to be by means of regular letters and articles in all the local parish newsletters.

DYING AT HOME – end of life care: I am writing this in the immediate aftermath of the Christmas and New Year holiday, which was accompanied by the annual exchange of Christmas cards, the way we keep in touch with longstanding friends and former colleagues. The enclosed messages often focus on serious health issues, and thus it was again this year: a much-loved nurse colleague is now struggling with bowel cancer, an old university friend suffered two admissions during the year to intensive care with septicaemia following prostate biopsy, a former colleague suffering from early onset dementia is now badly deteriorated and requiring nursing home care.

These messages reminded me of a Radio 4 *Inside Health*

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programme, presented by Mark Porter, which I heard on 19th October: (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07z45x4>). The programme looked at pioneering work done at the King Street and University Medical Practice in Lancaster, which tries to identify people in their last year of life and which then puts them on a Supportive Care Register. The question of end-of-life care is difficult to raise with patients, but finding out what people want, and trying to respect their wishes, can be both rewarding and empowering.

Botley Medical Centre is actively involved in promoting end-of-life care. Surveys suggest that approximately two-thirds of people prefer the thought of dying at home, and would avoid going into hospital or a hospice if humanly possible. Individual care plans (as developed in the Supportive Care Register) include details of what to prioritise, which family members or friends to call in an emergency, whether the patient wants resuscitation – “a thorny issue” – and whether there are any particular treatments that the patient does or does not want. Evidence suggests that most patients welcome these discussions. Families tend to find such conversations more problematic than do their aging relatives.

The Botley doctors are more than willing to assist with these conversations and this care planning, a development that I personally welcome very strongly.

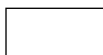
Harry Dickinson, Chair, Botley PPG

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## **Singing is uplifting, life affirming & fun**

Learn how to sing songs from here there and everywhere in harmony. The pleasure and power of group singing benefits mood & physical health. Everyone can do it, whatever you think of your voice. Come along on Wednesdays from 2–3pm and try it out. Mary Towns Room, West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road. Just £4.00, drop-in. More information from me at [emformusic@outlook.com](mailto:emformusic@outlook.com) or call 07969 522368.

**Emily Marshall**





## New beer in new casks

Tap Social Movement, a social enterprise brewery, taproom and community space, has recently opened its doors at No 27 Curtis Industrial Estate, at the top of North Hinksey Lane. During the week, the craft brewery provides training courses for people serving prison sentences, offering courses in brewing and business start-up, and providing one-on-one support in securing permanent employment to assist in effective rehabilitation. At weekends and in the evenings, the taproom is open to the public and available for event hire. The bottle shop is open during the day and in the evenings.



Tap Social was founded in 2016, in response to the lack of support and assistance available for people who have come into contact with the law and are struggling to turn their lives around. Having worked in a range of positions across the criminal justice system, its founders have witnessed too many people, especially those who have spent time in prison, struggling to access education, training and employment, hindering their rehabilitation, and drawing them back into a life of crime. The craft brewing industry is booming and involves a range of transferrable skills, making it a great way of getting people engaged and interested in work. The Tap Social programmes, launching in early 2017, gives people serving prison sentences an opportunity to work closely with the team to



develop new skills, learn about setting up and running a small business and to get real work experience in an engaging and fast-growing industry.

Tap Social beers are made by head brewer Jason Bolger from a handful of natural ingredients and are vegan-friendly. The core range includes well known styles such as pale ale and stout, as well as sour ales which are refreshingly tart, innovative and exciting. Beers are served from Key Kegs (which keep the beers fresh without adding further carbonation) and in bottles. Brewing courses are available for individuals and groups of any size to spend a day learning how to brew, sample some beers in the taproom and take home their own beer when it's ready. Tap Social is also working with local businesses and organisations to create one-off collaboration brews for special events or celebrations. For more information, get in touch on **info@tapsocialmovement.com** .

The taproom is open every Friday in February from 4pm until late. The bottle shop is open weekdays 10am until 5pm. Extended opening hours are posted on the website **www.tapsocialmovement.com**. Please check back regularly, and come and be part of Botley's latest social scene.

**Amy Taylor**



## Seacourt Hall is going places!

With the redevelopment of the West Way shopping centre due to get underway in the next few months, Seacourt Hall is going to be moving. The redevelopment will provide a brand new Community Centre where the new Seacourt Hall will be located providing larger, more modern and flexible facilities. That is scheduled to be completed in 2 years' time. In the meantime North Hinksey Parish Council (NHPC) and Seacourt Hall Management Committee (SHMC) are committed to ensuring continued availability of nondenominational meeting and party facilities and the developers have committed to provide us with alternative premises. Seacourt Hall will be moving in two phases outlined below.

### Phase 1: Seacourt Hall temporary location:

The plan is for the Hall to move across the road into the premises most recently occupied by Brasserie B. These units are undergoing a comprehensive refurbishment. The downstairs will be made into one level of around 90sqm, only marginally smaller than the current main hall of Seacourt Hall. Upstairs there will be a committee room of 35m<sup>2</sup>, about the same size as the larger of our current upstairs rooms. The toilets and kitchen will also be refurbished.

A plan of the new layout can be found on the NHPC website and large-scale plans are on display in Seacourt Hall. SHMC also plan to hold an open event once refurbishments are completed so you can see the layout. Look out for a notice about it in the next couple of months.

### Phase 2: Seacourt Hall in the new Community Centre

Thanks to negotiations with the developers, the new hall will be much larger than our present hall and we believe will work better for our users. The current hall is aging and in a poor state and is increasingly costly to maintain. The trustees of the charity (SHMC) are confident that when the

#### COME AND SING HARMONY

Do you love to sing, but are not actively involved in music making at the moment?

Do you sing already, but would like to try something new in 2017?

Harmony InSpires, an all-female a Cappella chorus based in Appleton, invites women of all ages to join a **FREE** evening course in a Cappella harmony singing on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Find out more at: [www.harmonyinspires.org](http://www.harmonyinspires.org) or email [sing@harmonyinspires.org](mailto:sing@harmonyinspires.org)



new hall is built we will be in a much better position than we are now. The layout will be added to our page on the NHPC website when available.

### **When is the temporary move taking place?**

There is still a lot of work to be done, both physical and legal, before we can move. At this stage we have no firm dates but our best estimates are that we could be vacating Seacourt Hall in March or April. We will provide 30 days' notice of the moving date. Look out too for the open event when you can take a look at the temporary facilities.

### **Can I book the Hall for an event after March?**

Yes, everything will be working as normal and, in any event, we will give you 30 days' notice before we move. To book please contact Hall Manager and Booking Clerk: Eric Batts on 01865 821565.

### **If I have a regular booking will there be disruption during the move?**

We anticipate only very minimal disruption during the move as the temporary facility will be fitted out before the current hall is vacated. We will plan for the move of tables, chairs, kitchen equipment etc. to be at a time when the hall is not in use.

### **I've not used Seacourt Hall before but I'm interested in booking, where do I find out more?**

Details of the rooms and rates are available on the Seacourt Hall page of the NHPC website, or you can contact Eric Batts on the number above, or you can email us at [seacourt.hall@googlemail.com](mailto:seacourt.hall@googlemail.com)

We hope that you will continue to use Seacourt Hall and will find the temporary premises satisfactory. We will be contacting regular users to discuss your requirements but in the meantime please contact Eric Batts or me if you have any questions.

**L A Blizzard**, Chairman SHMC

**S.D. Gas Services & Plumbing**



**Stuart Dunham**  
**3 Simpsons Way, Kennington**  
**sdunham80@gmail.com**  
**07823 882152**



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## Can you help with Botley's community fridge?

A community fridge is a fridge into which anyone can put food, and from which anyone can take food. It is a way of reducing food waste and providing food to people who need it. St. Peter & Paul church is considering accommodating a community fridge; funding is in the



pipeline; and we are in discussions with the environmental health officer about what can go into it. We hope to have it up and running very soon. It would be one of the first community fridges in the UK: others are being considered for other parts of Oxford, but the only ones that are up and running so far are in Frome and South Derbyshire.

**Would you like to get involved?** Before the fridge gets going, we need volunteers to talk to local cafes and restaurants, and put up posters. Afterwards, we need a daily rota of volunteers to clean the fridge and keep the food in date. Please email me on [riki@phonecoop.coop](mailto:riki@phonecoop.coop) or phone 07759 135811 if you can help.

**Would you use food from the fridge?** Some people think that a community fridge would not be used in Botley, and we are trying to see whether this is the case. It would be very helpful if you could email or text Riki as above, just saying 'yes' if you would be interested in taking food. You do not have to *need* the food in order to take it! For more information about community fridges please see [www.foodforcharities.org.uk](http://www.foodforcharities.org.uk). The picture shows the one in Frome.

**Riki Therivel**

## Cultivate Veg Van – Catch it in Botley

Cultivate would like to thank all who paid us a visit at our first VegVan stop outside Ss Peter and Paul in January. The welcome we received was extremely warm. For those who have not managed to catch us yet we'll be regularly stopping outside Ss Peter and Paul every 1st and 3rd Saturday 10am–2pm in our mobile shop, the VegVan, selling all kinds of organic and local produce. . If you have any questions, contact Katie-Louise Herring on 07716 511669 or see [www.cultivateoxford.org](http://www.cultivateoxford.org)







## Botley Over 60s Lunch Club

Diners at the Botley Over-60s Lunch Club celebrated Christmas with a festive meal 10 days before the big day itself. The Seacourt Hall looked very jolly with two Christmas trees, garlands around the room, and the tables laid up with red covers, red napkins, pretty table decorations, and crackers.

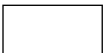
Roast beef, roast potatoes, Brussel sprouts, carrots, and Yorkshire pudding were on the menu, followed by Xmas Pudding and mince pies, all washed down with a glass of wine or fruit juice. We always pride ourselves on cooking our food freshly on the premises but I had to do an emergency run home with one huge piece of beef as we couldn't get it all in the (double) ovens at the hall! Thankfully hubby whisked it back in time for it to be carved for lunch at 12.30. All the beef was delicious, so many thanks to Andy Brock on Elms Parade from whom we buy all our meat.



We had some extra visitors as well. Eric Batts, who is the Seacourt Hall manager as well as a member of the Vale of White Horse District Council cabinet, brought along the Chairman of the Council, Mike Badcock. They helped serve some of the meals and poured glasses of wine. The most prestigious visitor, of course, was Father Christmas who oversaw the raffle and handed out the prizes. Anyone who didn't win a raffle prize was invited to take home one of the lovely table decorations which were homemade with fresh flowers by a couple of the volunteers.

Two volunteers retired from our team that day and the Christmas meal marked their last lunch with us. They are too modest to be named and reluctantly came out of the kitchen to be presented with flowers as thanks for more than 30-years' worth of service between them. That's an awful lot of potato preparation, pudding making and washing-up! There's more to it than that, of course, and the volunteers gratefully sat down to a Christmas lunch after completing most of the clearing up. That was nearly 60 Christmas lunches done and dusted for another year. Phew!

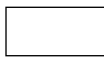
**Viv Smith**



## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>P16/V2867/HH</b>                                             | 85 Arthray Rd. 1-storey rear extension.                                                                                                                                                                         | 14 November                             |
| <b>P16/V2880/PDH</b>                                            | 112 North Hinksey Lane. Flat roofed single storey rear extension.                                                                                                                                               | 14 November                             |
| <b>P16/V2810/PDH</b>                                            | 21 Cedar Road. New conservatory                                                                                                                                                                                 | 16 November                             |
| <b>P16/V2907/HH</b>                                             | 15 Arthray Road. Demolish existing garage and erect 2-storey side extension.                                                                                                                                    | 16 November                             |
| <b>P16/V3039/FUL</b>                                            | 5 Toynbee Close. Alter existing house and build new one behind it.<br><b>Target Decision Date: 30 Jan</b>                                                                                                       | 5 December                              |
| <b>P16/V3069/HH</b>                                             | 11 Finmore Road. Replace existing rear extension, with new single storey one. Loft conversion and new front porch.                                                                                              | 6 December<br><b>TDD: 31 Jan</b>        |
| <b>P16/V3032/HH</b>                                             | 27 North Hinksey Lane. Replace rear timber lean-to with new single-storey extension. Build new garden building.                                                                                                 | 8 December<br><b>TDD: 2 Feb</b>         |
| <b>P16/V3080/LDP</b>                                            | 45 Yarnells Hill. Proposed stationing of mobile home.                                                                                                                                                           | 12 December<br><b>TDD: 6 Feb</b>        |
| <b>P16/V3097/FUL</b>                                            | 54 Hurst Rise Road. Demolish existing house and outbuildings and provide four family houses, two detached and two forming a semi-detached unit.                                                                 | 12 December<br><b>TDD: 6 Feb</b>        |
| <b>P16/V3150/FUL</b>                                            | Old Manor Stables 20A North Hinksey Lane. Convert and alter riding school storage barn to form a dwelling.                                                                                                      | 20 December<br><b>TDD: 13 Feb</b>       |
| <b>P16/V3202/FUL</b>                                            | 25 Hawthorn Close. Subdivide plot, keeping 3-bed semi, but replacing garage and side extension, with detached 2-storey building of two 2-bed flats                                                              | 20 December<br><b>TDD: 14 Feb</b>       |
| <b>P16/V3204/HH</b>                                             | 3 The Garth. Single storey rear extension.                                                                                                                                                                      | 20 December<br><b>TDD: 14Feb</b>        |
| <b>P16/V3227/FUL</b><br><br><b>Comments by 2 Feb</b>            | Seacourt Tower Retail Park Further changes in access, car parking and landscaping to existing retail park,. Remove filling station add new retail units, cafe/restaurant units.                                 | 22 December<br><br><b>TDD: 23 March</b> |
| <b>P16/V3234/FUL</b><br><b>5 January</b><br><b>TTD: 2 March</b> | Various retail units Botley Local Centre The Square and Chapel Way. Temporary Change of Use to provide Place of Worship, Community Hall with Ancillary Offices and Library for a maximum period of three years. |                                         |





## Randoms

### **WANTED: co-ordinator for Botley Bridges**

'Botley Bridges' is looking for an enthusiastic and flexible co-ordinator for this local community project. The aim of the project is to support families with children up to the age of 11 by providing information and activities which help all children to be healthy, active and fulfil their potential. The co-ordinator will be responsible for planning and leading the programme of events, contributing to the fundraising activities of the project and supporting other paid staff or volunteers. Botley Bridges is a social enterprise company, which is currently seeking charitable status. The post is initially for 1 year and 16 hours a week (over 3 days) with the aim that ongoing funding will be secured and the project will continue in the future. Salary £20,000 pro rata (equates to £10 an hour) and 25 days holiday pro rata. Applicants need to have experience of family support and working with young children. Contact Sue Dowe on 07769 275084 for more information about the post, and see **botleybridges@gmail.com** for job description and application form. Closing date is 14th February and interviews will be on 25th February.

### **Time to spruce up your neighbourhood!**

It's that time of year again – the time when public spirited people take to the streets and public spaces to clean up the litter. The Annual Spring Clean will take place over the weekend of **March 3rd to 5th**. So many people out litter picking makes a real impact – not just on the look of the place, but on our awareness of the need to keep our patch clean. This year the Vale are in support, and are offering the loan of equipment. It is likely to run out, so If you need litter pickers, sacks, gloves and hi-viz jackets email **eleanor.bunn@southandvale.gov.uk** asap, or call 01235 422146.

### **Churches and pubs**

One of West Oxford U3A's interest groups is 'Churches and Pubs'. We meet on the first Friday of the month at 11.30am at a church to look round and to hear fascinating facts. Come and try one outing for free and if you like it join the U3A for a very modest fee – future outings will be covered by the membership fee (and U3A has no age limits). For more information about February's outing telephone Betty Mitchell on 01865 773620. For the March outing contact Rex and Jean Tester at **jaandrt@gmail.com** or telephone 01865 863767.



## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer Service is taking place on Friday 3rd March in Botley Baptist Church at 10.30am. The service has been composed by the women of the Philippines. All are welcome to attend, not just women!

**Monica White** (Secretary of the Botley & Cumnor Branch of WWD of P)

## **Earlier start for Sunday service**

After consultation with parishioners, who were substantially in favour of an earlier start time, the main Sunday service at St Peter & Paul Church, West Way, has been brought forward from 10 am to 9.30.am, starting on 29 January.

## **Family history**

Have you an interest in your family history but don't know how to start researching? Or perhaps you have started but hit a brick wall? Then visit Botley Library on Thursday mornings where an adviser from Oxfordshire Family History Society will be able to give you some assistance. The adviser will be at the library between 10am to 12 noon. To book a 30 minute session visit the library or call 01865248142.

## **Calling Botley Women!**

The next meeting of Botley WI is on 7th February, when Mike Payne will talk about 'The Story of a Stained Glass Window.' The walking group will take a Winter's walk on February 14th, to Wytham Woods or round Farmoor, depending on the weather. We will meet for our regular Craft evening on 21st, at the WI Hall; and Book group will meet on 22nd February. Do come along and join in!

**Alison Jenner**

## **Botley Food Co-op**

It's for people who want to buy organic food more cheaply, avoid unnecessary packaging, are looking for an ethical, sustainable food supply and want to be part of a community group that organises wholesale delivery of more than 5000 products. The co-op has now had a couple of deliveries, and includes about 15 households. If you'd like to know more, go to [www.facebook.com/WestOxfordFoodCoop/](https://www.facebook.com/WestOxfordFoodCoop/) or [www.streetlife.com/page/west-oxford-organic-buyers-group-food-coop](http://www.streetlife.com/page/west-oxford-organic-buyers-group-food-coop) where you will find phone numbers and links.



*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 in future issues.*  
*telephone 724452 for inclusion in future issues.*

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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 -7.30 : Alison Griffin 01865 379247                                                                                                                              |
| <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             | Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386                                                                                                     |
| <b>Badminton Club</b>                                                | Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Gary 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 248142                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Botley Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                               | Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.15–11am, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                       |
| <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<br>Brendan Byrne Ox.792531 <a href="mailto:bb@bridewellconsulting.com">bb@bridewellconsulting.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, Botley Baptist Church. Angela Astley-Penny 242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>                                                                               |
| <b>Chair-based Exercise Class</b>                                    | Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Seacourt Hall<br>Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601                                                                                                              |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoral.co.uk">www.cumnorchoral.co.uk</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 Chirs Impey, 01865 721026                                                                    |
| <b>Fit Steps – exercise based on dance</b>                           | Friday 6–7pm, Seacourt Hall. Email Rosalie on <a href="mailto:rosalie.crane@btinternet.com">rosalie.crane@btinternet.com</a>                                                                        |
| <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:hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk">hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk</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>                                                                                                                |



|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>N Hinksey after school club</b>                   | Mon–Thurs 3–6pm Contact: Oxford 794287                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <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:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                         | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey Horticultural Society</b>               | Contact: Ann Dykes 01865 251821 <a href="mailto:anndykes@hotmail.com">anndykes@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                      | Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</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>                       | Fortnightly on Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Marina Bennett 01865 242312                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Oxford Archers</b>                                | Archery from beginner to World Champion <a href="mailto:treasurer@oxford-archers.org">treasurer@oxford-archers.org</a>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                         | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arrangement Club</b>                | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dymna Walker : 01865 865259                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <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 5–19 years. Contact Kevin Honner 438655, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> For Seniors, training and Touch Rugby <a href="mailto:jamesy1976@hotmail.co.uk">jamesy1976@hotmail.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club</b>                | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>                       | Contacts: Julie and John Tailor 01865 763394.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                      | David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Royal Voluntary Service (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>Satdads Elms Rd Children's Centre</b>             | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>St Andrew's playgroup</b>                         | Friday mornings during term time at St Andrew's Church, Orchard Rd <a href="mailto:standrewsplaytime@gmail.com">standrewsplaytime@gmail.com</a> .                                                                                                  |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                               | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Bansomel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                        | Contact: Marion Bostock 436277                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                   | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                               | (Uni of the 3rd Age) Elizabeth Stevens, 739252                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Which Craft?</b>                                  | Pavilion, Arnold's way, third Monday, contact <a href="mailto:whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk">whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                     |



**Women's Institute (Botley)**

Monthly, 1st Tuesday: Liz Manson, tel. 244175 or  
email [liz.manson@virginmedia.com](mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com)

