

The Sprout



Like father, like son! Oxford Beard Festival at the Tap

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 122 November 2017

The Sprout

Issue 122, November 2017

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From the Editor

Lots going on in Botley, at the moment. Neighbourhood Plan advancing slowly but surely towards the referendum that will precede its adoption. Latest consultation was on 15th October, comments must all be in to the Library or the Seacourt Hall – or online – by November 30th (p5). Botley Arts have put on a new exhibition in SS Peter and Paul Church, this time work by students at Matthew Arnold school (p29), a chance for those of us who don't have a child there to get a brief insight into what goes on. October saw a number of lively events, notably at the Tap Social (p9), up at Brookes (p38), and in the Community Orchard (p31). The Brownies continue to tease out the social issues that affect us all (p25), and a new group has formed to address the air pollution from our busy roads, which hangs heavy over the two primary schools at the bottom of the hill (p 19). Linda Losito throws a spotlight on another aspect of pollution that we should be wary of (p21), and the PPG explains how to get urgent care from your doctor (p15). Coming up in November: lots of firework displays around the 5th – look out for your pets! – and the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th. On Armistice Day, Saturday 11th, there will be a 2-minute silence in the precinct at 11am.

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

The new Big Issue seller at the Coop is Lionel. He has been there a few weeks and is building up his clientele. I have been buying from him for a few weeks now. On Monday 25th there was a mass of litter around that area and he was worried that people would think it was because of him. It was a mixture of fast food rubbish, till roll stuff from the Coop and the cash machine, and sweet wrappers. Later that morning I saw him picking some of it up himself and putting it in the bin. He shouldn't have to pick up other people's litter while he is selling on that patch. When you see him you will notice he is a very tall, elderly, person and bending down is not easy for him. Thanks to Lionel for trying to sort out the mess, but whose responsibility is it to keep that area tidy? Surely not Lionel's!

Anne Watson

***[Follow up.** The Sprout has also had a letter from a West Oxford resident who noted Graham Wells's letter about overhanging hedges in the Summer Sprout, and has kindly sent us a leaflet to pass on to him. It is the County Council's guide to rules and ownership of hedges and trees, which clearly puts the onus on the landowner to cut them back when they*

overhang the pavement. Not in the Spring, though, when birds may be nesting. The hedge along North Hinksey lane has been causing problems for too long. Hopefully the parish council will have a more effective management programme in place by the time you read this.

Following the letter about the savage cat at the top of Elms Rise, another Sprout reader had the same experience, and sent a sympathetic message. However there was also an email from someone who was pleased that the worm had turned, and applauded the cat for taking the initiative instead waiting to see if the dog was going to chase it. Ed]

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Planning, planning everywhere!

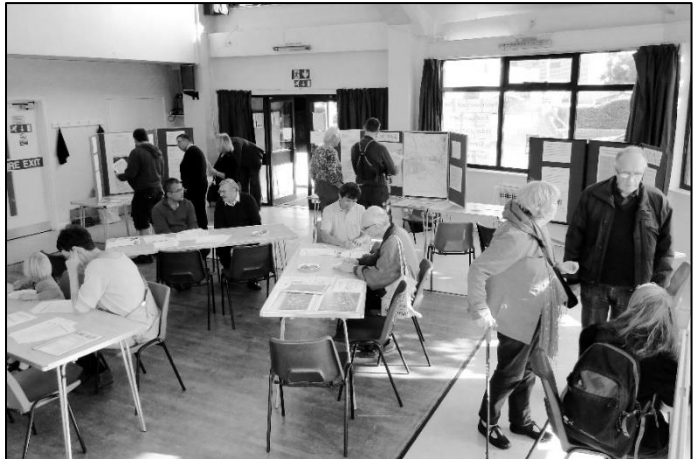
After a slow summer with little apparent action, everything suddenly seems to be happening at once on the planning front.

Firstly the Vale are running a consultation on their Local Plan 2031 Part 2 up to 22nd November. This is your last chance to comment before this plan is submitted. Details are on the Vale's website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Following in the Local Plan's footsteps is our very own Neighbourhood Plan, which just covers North Hinksey Parish. A public feedback event on October 15th (see photo) attracted over 60 attendees, many of whom took the opportunity to comment on the policies and community actions in the draft Plan. We hope to get this plan adopted next year, after which these policies will become planning legislation with equal weight to policies in the Local Plan.

To extend the opportunity to comment you can now pick up feedback forms from Botley Library or download them from the Neighbourhood Plan website at www.nhinkseynp.org.uk. You can also download the full draft plan from the website or see a printed copy in the Library.

Completed forms need to be returned to the Library or posted through the Seacourt Hall letterbox by 30th November, or e-mailed to



cllrddavidkay@hotmail.com The Neighbourhood Plan includes important policies to protect green spaces and leisure facilities, and to provide detailed guidelines on what constitutes appropriate development in our area, so don't miss this opportunity to have your say.

Things are finally progressing on the redevelopment of Botley Centre too! Mace made adjustments to their planning application covering the

temporary location around Elms Court and the Grant Thornton Building and managed to overcome the County Council's concerns and gain approval from the Vale in early October. Once the sale of various parcels of land has been completed work will begin on the ground. This should occur before year end, with the temporary site being ready for occupation around the start of February.

At that point Seacourt Hall, Botley Baptist Church, the Co-op, Tesco and Lloyds Chemists will all transfer from their current sites into the temporary homes, where they will remain for around eighteen months until the new community building and retail units are ready to house them. All of these organisations will continue to operate throughout the whole of the redevelopment works, so do please continue to support them and keep Botley Centre alive (*more from WWCC on page 35*).

Although the shops will be smaller units in their temporary location, Seacourt Hall will enjoy the luxury of the spacious second floor of the Grant Thornton Building. Not only will the hall itself be considerably larger than the current one, but other facilities will be larger too. The exact transfer date will be highlighted on the Seacourt Hall website at **www.seacourthall.org.uk** as soon as it is known. Plans are also afoot to organise an open day once the move has taken place to give everybody a chance to look around.

Throughout the redevelopment of the whole site the Parish Council will do its best to keep you informed on progress, so keep an eye on the NHPC noticeboards, and website at **www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk**

Planning may not seem an exciting topic to most people, but it does impact hugely on everybody's life in the long term, particularly when major projects like those described in this article are in progress. Thank

you for reading this far, and I hope you will remain interested and involved in the future, and help the community to develop plans that will make Botley a better place to live and work in for all of us.

David Kay, Chairman North Hinksey Parish Council, and Secretary of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

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Tap Social Movement – *the gift that keeps on giving*

Plenty going on at the Tap Social Movement over the past few weeks.



Their association with the Foodbank opposite, down there in Curtis's Yard, is proving highly fruitful. On 1st October, in partnership with the Foodbank and Low Carbon West Oxford they hosted an event to *Beet the Waste*. This involved all kinds of creative challenges to use up food that would otherwise have gone to waste. There was a timed competition to see what meals

could be created in an hour from Foodbank supplies. Three teams – or was it four? – came up with a surprising range of dishes, all looking and tasting delicious. You'd have been proud to have served any of them to friends of an evening, and the winner was a succulent curry which featured strips of banana skin!

Then there was the competition for a cake made from vegetables. Entries included one made with green peas and citron (with the balls on top in the photo), and several from carrots, beetroots and courgettes. The whole standard was very high, as we were all able to confirm as we eagerly ate everything on offer. The beer was as good as ever, and the icing on the cake, so to speak, was the Knights of Mentis, one of Oxford's favourite local bands who played a stonking set, despite occasional electric shocks from the sound system. It was much appreciated, not just by the



adults, but by the row of little children lined up along the front. In fact it was a really family-friendly afternoon which everyone enjoyed, drawing attention to the efforts of Low Carbon West Oxford which is ten years old this year, and to the Foodbank, which goes from strength to strength.

Then the following week it was the turn of Oxford's Fourth Beard Festival to be hosted by the Tap Social. Several famous names were present, flaunting their facial fungus: such as the World Champion Mutton Chop wearer, Mick Wallage (see photo). He had been in Austin, Texas for the championships the week before. Very serious, he said, not a bit of a laugh like today. The man who came second was so disappointed he cried.



This was another family friendly occasion. The photo on the cover shows the British Beard and Moustache Champion, Lee Andrews, with his son Aidan Rogers, who has clearly started young! And what is it that makes beards and tattoos bedfellows? This is where the ladies gave the gents a



run for their money. They also got a chance in the Best Made Beard competition. Two outstanding offerings were the crocheted Sea Creatures beard, encrusted with starfish, whelks and crabs, and set off by a baggy octopus hat, and the fabulous bouquet

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confection of autumn flowers stretching from chin to waist of one of the Foodbank volunteers. There was a raffle, and the Foodbank was open all afternoon, so it got a lot of useful publicity, as well as raising over £1000. The photo shows Marie entering into the spirit of the afternoon as she serves the Foodbank curry.

So all credit to the Tap Social Movement, which doesn't just brew interesting beer and give hope to ex-offenders, but through whose agency living in Botley has recently become a whole lot more fun!

Ag MacKeith

Pop In to the Pop-Up Cafe

The pop-up cafe at the Botley Baptist church was set up to meet a need in the community. With the decline in services and amenities in the Botley area, a friendly place for people to socialise, drink tea and coffee, eat home-made cakes and have a chat was needed. Kalyan Das, the minister, approached me and asked me to set up a café that might address the needs of the community.

We offer good food, drink and company. Mondays and Fridays are “knit and natter” days. Free fruit for under 5s, plus toys and books. Very child- and family-friendly.

We are putting on floral workshops, craft events, a Christmas Craft Fair on 25th November and community meals in the new year.

Please pop in and say hello, and if you bring your copy of the *Sprout* with this article in it with you, you will get a free cup of tea or coffee when you buy a drink and a cake.

I know the fact it is in a church has put some people off, but this is not about religion, no one is going to preach at you. This place is for people to meet and eat, drink and socialise. I have already heard it described as ‘a little gem’. We look forward to seeing you.

Anna Antell



PPG News – Getting urgent care

For most urgent or semi-urgent care required during normal working hours, patients of Botley Medical Centre, including Kennington patients, should call the Medical Centre – 01865 248719. During the working day there is always a doctor on duty. The Medical Centre can offer same-day appointments, with a doctor or with a practice nurse, or the patient can book a phone call with the duty doctor.

Out of working hours, there are now two new routes to obtaining care:

1. More out of hours GP appointments

Local GPs, working together in federations, including the OxFed federation of Oxford practices which includes Botley Medical Centre, have planned to eventually provide over 5,000 more appointments a month to patients across Oxfordshire to improve access to healthcare. These include consultations with GPs, nurses, and other practice staff.

In Oxford, the additional appointments are provided at St Bartholomew's Medical Centre. Over half of the appointments are provided at times when practices are usually closed, including during weekday evenings (6.30pm – 8pm), or on Saturdays and Sundays. This gives patients greater choice about when and where they can access GP services.

All GPs and other clinicians working at St Bartholomew's are able to access patient notes with the consent of the patient.

Patients can book routine appointments in advance, as well as same-day urgent appointments, by phoning their own practice receptionist, who will advise them of available slots and make a booking on their behalf. The times and locations of hub services will be available on practice websites so that patients can choose an appropriate time to request an appointment.

If people are unable to book a GP appointment under the scheme and need to see a doctor urgently out of hours they should contact NHS 111. In due course it will be helpful to know how many patients make use of this new service, and the practice will have access to this information.

2. Improved access to urgent care via a 111 call

The 111 service allows patients to access urgent, as opposed to emergency, care, with a phone call. This service is especially useful when an appointment with a GP cannot be booked through a patient's local practice. In an emergency, however, patients should call 999. According to the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the 111

service now offers people across the Thames Valley (Bucks, Oxon and Berks) access to a wide range of care services through a single call.

A patient calling the 111 number will speak to a trained call handler who will assess the person's needs. They will be able to arrange for the patient to see or speak to a healthcare professional, including GPs where clinically appropriate. The 111 service offers access to:

- GP clinical leadership and triage within the service
- dental nurse assessment
- community psychiatric nursing and improved access to mental health crisis teams across the week
- paediatric specialists
- prescribing pharmacists
- tailored support to care and nursing homes
- early intervention for under-fives, over 85s and end of life patients
- direct booking of out-of-hours appointments across Thames Valley
- enhanced assessment of cases recommended to attend Emergency Departments or receive a Green ambulance (60 minute) response by a clinician
- improved support for self-care where clinically appropriate
- Improved transfer of patient information and access to care records.

It is claimed that, with one call to 111, patients will be directed to care which will meet their physical, mental and social care needs in a timely and clinically safe manner.

The PPG will be pleased to receive feedback from patients of Botley surgery as to how well these arrangements work out in practice – botleyppg@gmail.com

Grant Nightingale, for Botley Medical Centre's Patient Participation Group.

This article is written on behalf of Botley PPG. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Medical Practice.

Self-Care Week

Don't forget that **13th to 19th November is Self-Care Week**. The PPG places great emphasis on all of us taking as much responsibility for our own health as we can. There will be special displays and information about self-care at the surgery that week. More information about this initiative can be found at - <http://www.selfcareforum.org/events/self-care-week/>

Action on Air Pollution

A group has formed to do something about the poisonous exhaust fumes that hang over our neighbourhood. Over 20 people attended a meeting on Friday 22 September at the Botley WI Hall to discuss the problem of air pollution in our area, especially as it affects our children. Local MP Layla Moran was there, as were local councillors Emily Smith (Vale of White Horse) and Judy Roberts (Oxfordshire County). Parents from Botley and North Hinksey Schools presented the evidence they are collecting of high levels of air pollution near the schools and described the health risks associated with NO₂ and particulates.



We would like the Vale of White Horse to commit to monitoring the situation at both schools, and we would like Oxfordshire County Council to take steps to actually address the issue. Traffic along the A34, the A420 and Botley Road is (as we all know!) a huge problem, and we discussed some partial solutions – such as better public transport and cycle routes, and enforcing the 50 mph speed limit along the A34 near Botley. We also considered things individuals with cars could do to reduce air pollution, like avoiding idling and short car journeys.

As a result of this discussion, we have formed the Botley Air Action Group, to advocate for cleaner air in Botley! You can find us on Facebook, or contact us at botleyairactiongroup@gmail.com!

Sarah Cohen

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## It's that time of year...

... When we have to choose between celebrating Hallowe'en or Guy Fawkes night. The Friends of Botley School have made it easy to do both this year by inviting smaller children to bring their torches and families for a spooky hour exploring the nursery garden by night, on 3rd November between 5 and 6pm. The proper fireworks display will follow at 7pm, (gates open at 6pm). Tickets from the school and the library.

## The Sky's the Limit

Over the last year, there has been a lot of media coverage of the problems caused by plastic pollution in the sea. People are now more aware of it and the dangers it causes to wildlife. Marine creatures ingest plastic bags on the surface, probably mistaking them for jellyfish. When the stomach contents of dead sea-birds are examined, they are often completely full of odd bits of plastic from disposable cigarette lighters, toothbrushes, pen tops and a wide range of other bits of discarded rubbish. The birds have often starved to death, unable to take in real food.



There is some argument about exactly where all of this garbage comes from, and how much is deliberately dumped, but year on year it gets worse. Cleaning up a beach can only ever be a temporary measure. And it is not just the sea. Plastic is tossed everywhere by those who just don't care. The hedgerows are full of plastic bottles. I recently saw a cow trying to swallow one. If it had succeeded, no doubt it would have died; no wonder that farmers find it hard to make a decent living. Hedgehogs get trapped in the rings of plastic which hold together 4-packs of lager. Plastic bags of dog poo festoon the branches like weird Christmas decorations. This we know.

But there is another problem which is not being addressed: *balloons*.

Thousands and thousands of balloons, released by good people in the name of charity. No-one seems to be asking the question as to where they end up. They are released and magically disappear up into the sky. Except that they don't. What goes up must come down.

As a walker of the tracks and pathways which still criss-cross the countryside, I regularly come across the remains of charity balloons, still

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with their logos intact. Do animals eat them? Of course they do. Last month I dissected the pellet of a Little Owl from the green and glorious countryside of Gloucestershire. It was part of a student's project looking into what these birds eat. Pellets contain the regurgitated remains of the bird's last meal. There, among the bits of mouse bone and the wing cases of beetles, were the shrivelled remains of a yellow balloon. At that point I admit to feeling rage.

It does not stop there. On returning home from holiday in one of the hottest driest periods this year, I found, lying close to my back door, a burnt out paper lantern. I have seen news footage of people releasing these insidious things into the sky to help 'smooth the path of their loved one's soul into heaven'. Unfortunately it also smooths the farmer's path into bankruptcy when his carefully stacked hay bursts into flames. And I am sure that whichever God/gods/angels are involved, they are perfectly capable of providing assistance to the newly dead on their own. Inflammable material is not required.

We need a little 'blue sky thinking' here. Releasing garbage into the sky is no different from tossing it over a hedge. It is just that one carries a fine while the other, unfortunately, does not. Yet.

**Linda Losito**

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## Not all Singing and Campfires

The new term saw us welcome Christina, Eleanor, Wiktorja, Sophia, Julia, Stella and Rosa to 2nd Botley Brownies. With the programme all sorted the badge that we have decided upon for this term is called “Free Being Me”. It just so happens that our meetings now follow on from Karate lessons run by Sensei Charlie from Team Black Belt whose strapline is “Inspiring Confidence” so after a chat we got Charlie in to run some sessions for us tailored to the badge which is all about empowering girls through improving body confidence and self-esteem. (See, Girlguiding is not all about singing and campfires – although we do enjoy that too).

What a fabulous time we had – Charlie had the girls in the “palm of his hand” right from the start. He certainly inspired confidence with all our girls including the newbies and ones that are sometimes a little shy at first. From the off he had them totally focussed using their brains and their limbs. We learnt some basic Karate and self-defence whilst playing energetic games that required co-ordination, balance and quick reactions. Each time they had to concentrate during the instructions and then after a quick re-cap they were off doing the fun activities (and their faces were beaming). They interacted with him 100% and he got swift responses from them all. He also expanded the learning with some anti-bullying strategies too. The girls must have slept well after those two Brownie meetings as each time he had them on the go for a solid but energetic hour. Thank you Charlie.



In following meetings we have been learning that it's what's inside us that matters most and everyone is good at something. For example, we played a game called “Pot of Gold” where everyone had to take a piece of yellow paper (to represent gold coins) and write their name on one side of the paper, and on the other side they wrote something they think is special about themselves. The “coins” were collected in a pot, shaken and then each participant picked out a coin, read out both sides of the coin, and gave it back to its writer sharing a hug or high five.



Another week we tackled perceptions of beauty. After the stereo-typical “princess” drawings were produced we learnt that there’s not just one way to look beautiful and those are totally unrealistic anyway. We learnt that there is a huge diversity of beauty ideals around the world and some of those seemed incredible to the girls when we played a true or false game about them. We even discussed the most implausible and these are some of the most unbelievable according to our girls:

“Somewhere in the world...

... very high hairlines and big foreheads were thought very attractive – and people would pluck their hairline to make it higher.” (Answer: Think Queen Elizabeth 1).

“...people with tanned skin are considered more beautiful, so women and men will sit under big lamps, spray paint their bodies or rub lotion into their skin to tan it.”

Followed by:

“...people feel it’s more beautiful to have a lighter skin tone, and women and men will rub lotion into their skin to whiten it and avoid going in the sun.”

*It makes you think, doesn’t it?*

**Lucy Howes**

## OXFORD CRAFT CLUB



Taster craft workshop with a Christmas theme, try your hand at pyrography, leather work, paper craft and more. All abilities welcome, just bring enthusiasm!

**Date: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Time: 10:00-12:00**

**Venue: Oxford RFC, North Hinksey**

**Price: £25pp**

Booking required for all workshops, places are limited.

Please contact Julie Kelly

Julie.kelly14@btinternet.com

0770 485 7055



## OXFORD CRAFT CLUB



Create a beautiful, unique Christmas wreath with a glass of mulled wine and mince pie. All abilities welcome, just bring enthusiasm!

**Date: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Time: 19:30-21:30**

**Venue: Oxford RFC, North Hinksey**

**Price: £20pp**

Booking required for all workshops, places are limited.

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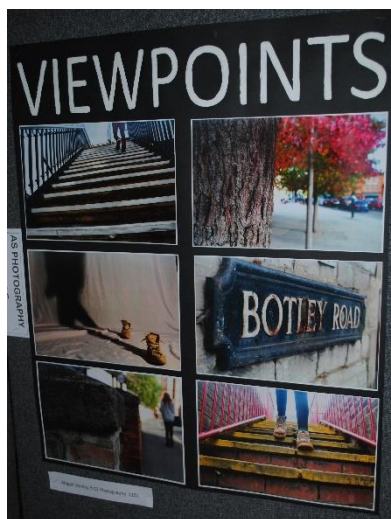


## Botley Arts Exhibitions – St Peter & St Paul's Church, West Way, Botley, Oxford

Jenny Greer's stunning watercolours can still be seen at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Botley until the first weekend in November. Here's what she said: "I have always enjoyed painting and drawing and became serious when I completed 'A' level Art. Looking back I should have gone to Art College where I would have taken up Fabric Design. Instead, I trained as an Infant Teacher. I took up Art again when I retired, and particularly enjoy painting plant and still life in watercolour."

Do go and lift your spirits with a visit to these beautiful and delicate paintings – entry is free. We hope you will write a comment in our Artist's book, – it is always so encouraging for the artists to receive feedback.

From 4th November to 9th December an exhibition will feature a selection of GCSE and A Level Art & Design work on a variety of themes, produced by students of Matthew Arnold School. Observational drawing forms the starting point and basis for the students' visual enquires. Their experimental work uses a wide range of media and methods, such as 3D modelling or sculpture, painting, printmaking, flat colour and pattern design, photography and, of course, plenty of drawing. Students will also



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research relevant artists and photographers and make connections with their own work and ideas.

Expect a stimulating range of styles and execution, and see if you can spot the references to the works of artists and photographers who have inspired them. If you'd like to see more, take a look at the Matthew Arnold School website [www.maschool.org.uk](http://www.maschool.org.uk)

There will be a private view from 3.30 to 5pm at the Church on Tuesday 7th November. Refreshments will be served and all art lovers of all ages are welcome.

For further information on Botley Arts, or how to exhibit with us please contact: Jennie Hopkins: [jennie@talk 21.com](mailto:jennie@talk21.com) or 07891 905165



## Apple Day 2017

The sixth annual Botley Apple Day took place last month on 8th October. This year it was held in the community orchard, with the Hersoms' Apple and Pear identification table in the W.I. Hall, along with lots of delicious cakes and recipes. There isn't enough fruit to pick yet on the orchard's young trees, but they are coming along, and this seems like the perfect location for future Apple Days. Many thanks to all those who made this year's a success, particularly Jed who brought and wielded the apple press, and Colin and Sally for all the baking and the apple identification.

**AgM**



## Change and Progress

I've been pondering recently about how television-watching technology seems to keep changing, and at a much quicker pace than, say, microwave ovens! No longer can you record the BBC on VCR and your DVD player is sometimes separate from your HDD recording, if that makes any sense to you. What with the internet and multiple channels at least, if you wait long enough, an episode of *Lewis*, *Endeavour* or *Midsomer Murders* that you missed on ITV (channel 3) will be repeated on ITV3 (channel 10) although if, according to recent suggestions, only electric cars are allowed in Oxford then, during filming, Endeavour Morse will have to replace his 60s petrol car with perhaps a 60s milk float. Then there is the divide between those who have satellite and cable and those that can manage with Freeview. For example, I haven't a clue what *Game of Thrones* is about – although actually that sounds like a title for a new Radio show, especially if the word “sorry” was added somewhere.

Even in this parish, things change – for better or for worse. I couldn't imagine the West Way/Westminster Way junction now without traffic lights, although at rush hour or during the weekend, a green light doesn't always mean you can go. Undoubtedly our local teachers have continued to improve our children's education, although we still end up with nurse shortages in our hospitals. We all hope that when West Way Shopping Centre is developed that it will be a change for the better – will it still be called West Way?

Are gardens in the parish as smart as they used to be? Undoubtedly this is made more difficult by weeds like mare's tail which seems to like areas where there are plenty of natural springs. There are also plenty of stinging nettles on public areas near pavements. Sadly I don't think BBC's *Gardener's World* is going to spend an hour just talking about weeds.

Perhaps Botley Library has got the technology balance right. Whilst they've got computers, they've still got some amazing books. Apart from wear and tear, a book will still be readable 50 years from now.

Trends and fashions change, family structures can change, but people are still people and, unlike mobile phones, can provide warmth, opinion, support, advice and help make the world a less lonely place.

**Martin Harris**

## West Way update

On 4th October the VOWHDC Planning Committee approved Mace's change-of-use application for the Grant Thornton and Elms Court buildings, and the access and traffic work required for temporary facilities work to begin. The planning approval for the change of use covers just the conversion of Elms Court and Grant Thornton's, plus the demolition of Seacourt Hall and the back part of Grant Thornton building including the toilets. This work is needed to relocate the Co-op, Tesco and Lloyds chemist, the Baptist Church, and the Seacourt Hall into temporary facilities before demolition and Phase 1 of the redevelopment can begin.

Mace hadn't given a starting date for the work at the time of writing, as there are a number of conditions that have to be met before work can start. We understand that they will be distributing a newsletter to residents so we hope that by the time you read this article they will have provided us with a clearer idea of actual timelines.

There were some concerns raised on the change-of-use application around the proposed construction and delivery routes and the danger to the public. Mace have admitted that their proposal for construction vehicles coming via West Way and turning left into Church Way was not the safest route; they are re-thinking this as required by the conditions that the Vale have imposed. These cover safety, construction traffic and times of day for the work, reducing noise impact on close neighbours and more. The full decision notice with conditions can be found on our website. Meanwhile WWCC continues its two-fold role:

- To provide a means of communication on the development and to raise issues of concern with Mace;
- To monitor the planning conditions until the development is built.

Please check our website and social media for more details on the changes, or sign up for our email updates to get the latest information.

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[facebook.com/westwayconcern](https://facebook.com/westwayconcern) [westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com)

**Lorna Berrett**, co-chair, WWCC

## Crispy leaves and conker cases

Ever run out of ideas for how to keep your small child occupied without resorting to more plastic toys or the TV? How about providing a shallow tray filled with horse chestnut leaves, spiky conker cases plus of course shiny conkers. Great for scrunching, feeling, admiring and imagining. Add in the centre from paper towels (for rolling conkers down) and an empty egg box (for sorting and organising) and you have one absorbed two year old. In the summer I used these same shallow trays (meant for seed planting) for water play. Use an array of empty containers or lids for pouring. Add a squirt of bubble mixture or drops of food colouring for variety. Other good ideas have included junk modelling, threading pasta onto string and making – and eating – pizza.



The source of all these and other free/low cost play ideas is Botley Bridges. I've been a regular attender on Friday mornings since Botley Bridges opened last year, taking over from the children's centre. Sue, Hayley and volunteer Carolyn do a great job of providing different stimulating activities each week for under fives and their carers. Give it a try! Fridays 9–11.30 am all year except bank hols. See the website for more details : <http://www.botleybridges.org>

**Maria Leedham**



Rafal's mobile: 07737167791  
Email: [oxbuild@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxbuild@yahoo.co.uk)  
Web: [www.oxbuild.co.uk](http://www.oxbuild.co.uk)

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## Pop-up Performances at Harcourt Hill campus

Year 1 architectural students staged a Pop-up Performance on October 17th when they invited members of the local community, students and staff to show off their

hidden talents as part of an "Open Mic" event at Harcourt Hill campus.

Learning from the success of Brookes' policy of opening up



their Sports Facilities to the local community, students explored the possibility of opening up the campus to host performance events to nurture local talent and attract performances to the West of Oxford.

To test this out, they designed and built small Pop-up Performance Pieces that added up to create an outdoor theatre and invited performances to take place on site as part of a public participation event. The event brought colour, sound and magic to the area. Students were in charge of promoting the event and finding performers to test the Pop-ups. Acts included drama, singing, magic, classical and contemporary music, improvisation, circus and dance.

Feedback gathered at the event will be used in the design of their next project which will be ideas for a new foyer for the existing theatre on campus. It is hoped that the event will help to inform Brookes' programme of investment across the University to provide "high quality, sustainable campuses" and learn from the success of the inclusion of the local community in the sports centre.

We are still gathering comments and feedback from local people. If you would like to get in touch to comment or find out more, please email: [rcuenca@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:rcuenca@brookes.ac.uk)

**Ruth Cuenca**

## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|               |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                           |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| P17/V2546/LDE | Field End Harcourt Hill. Land adjacent to Pool House for use as garden land.                                                                                                 | <b>13 Sept</b><br><i>TDD: 8 Nov</i>                       |
| P17/V2570/HH  | 56 Westminster Way. Single-storey side extension.                                                                                                                            | <b>15 Sept</b><br><i>TDD: 10 Nov</i>                      |
| P17/V2586/LDP | 42 Cedar Road. new ground floor & first floor layouts, constructing a rear single-storey extension & loft conversion.                                                        | <b>19 Sept</b><br><i>Target Decision date:<br/>14 Nov</i> |
| P17/V2600/HH  | 10 Finmore Road. Single storey rear extension. Insert roof dormer & roof lights to rear elevation. Hip to gable.                                                             | <b>20 Sept</b><br><i>TDD: 15 Nov</i>                      |
| P17/V2719/HH  | 51 Yarnells Hill. Rear single & two storey works to give open plan dining room & kitchen, & additional bedrooms. Convert garage into study & games room. Extend front porch. | <b>6 Oct</b><br><i>TDD: 1 Dec</i>                         |
| P17/V2734/FUL | 49 Hutchcomb Road. Demolish existing detached bungalow & replace with 2 semi-detached chalet bungalows.                                                                      | <b>6 Oct</b><br><i>TDD: 1 Dec</i>                         |



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## **Randoms**

### **New Day for Which Craft**

Which Craft has moved its regular slot at the Pavilion in Arnold's Way from 3rd to 4th Monday in the month, 7.30 – 9.30 pm. For a mere £3, which includes room hire and refreshments, you can bring your own craft project to work on, share your skills and benefit from others' expertise. More on their website [whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Hilltop Shop, Elms Rise**

Ellie offers a warm welcome to customers at the Hilltop Shop, Elms Rise (corner of Laburnum Rd/Crabtree Road). Please note new Winter opening hours. Sunday – Thursday 09.00-noon (closed over lunchtime) and then 14.00 – 20.00. Friday and Saturday day-time hours are the same but the shop is open until 21.00. Please support this local shop.

### **Nearly-new Sale**

Saturday Nov 11th 2:30 – 4:30, at SS Peter and Paul's church hall. North Hinksey Pre-school Nearly New Sale: Children's toys, Clothes, and Baby equipment for sale (ages 0–11 years) . £1 entry. Contact [northhinkseynearlynewsale@gmail.com](mailto:northhinkseynearlynewsale@gmail.com) for a seller's pack

### **Walking for Health Botley**

These Saturday morning walks will be held twice a month, on the second and fourth Saturdays, starting at 9.45am from the W.I. Hall in North Hinksey Lane. Dates for November are 11th and 25th.

### **Botley W.I.**

Our next meeting will be on 7th November, when Cyril Mannion will talk about being a 'Captain at Work.' The Walking group will meet at WI Hall on 9th November to go by car to Blenheim for a walk there. On Remembrance Sunday, 12 November, we shall be at the WI Hall to provide refreshments for those attending the service at the Commonwealth War Graves in Botley Cemetery. The Craft group will meet on 21st November to make crackers. The WI Skittles Evening will take place on 24 November at 7:30 pm. The Book group will meet on 27th November. A Scarf workshop is planned for 24 February 2018 – please sign up now.

**Alison Jenner**

## **Christmas Bazaar for Vale House**

Saturday 25th November, 10am to 12noon, in SS Peter & Paul Church, Westway. Tombola, Plants and Flowers, Cakes and Produce, Gifts, Books, Raffle, Tea and Coffee. Entry 50p, children free. Run by Vale House League of Friends

## **SS Peter and Paul**

Continuing its mission to bring the community together at a time of local upheaval, the Church will be holding a quiet service for the bereaved, where you can light a candle and pray for those you have loved who have now died on Sunday 5th November, 6.00pm. The Friends of St Lawrence Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 18th November, 10am – 2pm at SS Peter and Paul, and there will be community singing and a cuppa at 2pm on Friday, 1st December, also at the church.

## **New GP**

There is a new GP partner at the Botley /Kennington Medical Practice: Dr Maddy Podichetty has joined the clinical team, and can be seen at either surgery. She has lived and worked in Oxford for the past 25 years, and has experience as a psychiatrist as well as a GP, as well as having worked in all the local hospitals, so she is well-versed in local issues.



## **New Yoga Class in North Hinksey village**

Regular Monday Vinyasa Yoga for all levels in the Manor Farm, North Hinksey Village on Mondays 6.30 - 7.30pm. Mats provided. Costs £12 per session or £50 for 5 paid in a block.

## **Serena Momberg**

## **Police Update**

Glad to report, not much happening locally, though the Police are carrying out swab tests in local pubs to check for cannabis and cocaine use. They are also monitoring speed levels, and would welcome chapter and verse on 101, their non-urgent phone number, if you see people speeding in the locality.

**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.**

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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>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 Ox.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>Chair-based Exercise Class</b>                                    | Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Seacourt Hall Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601                                                                                                             |
| <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>                                         | 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 Chris 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: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>                                                                                                            |
| <b>Mum and Baby Yoga for babies from 6 wks to crawling</b>           | 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:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>                                                                                         |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                         | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey Horticultural Soc</b>                   | Contact: Ann Dykes Ox 251821 <a href="mailto:andykes@hotmail.com">andykes@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>                       | Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Marina Bennett 01865 242312                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                         | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging 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, <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>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>                       | Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <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>Saturdads Botley Bridges</b>                      | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 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: 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) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>                                                                                                       |
| <b>Which Craft?</b>                                  | Pavilion, Arnold's way, fourth Monday, contact <a href="mailto:whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk">whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</a>                                                                    |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                    | Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>                                                                                                |



