

The Sprout



Christmas hampers



The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 193 Winter 2024

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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Issue 193, Winter 2024.



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From the Editor

With Christmas so close, there are lots of things coming up in this month's *Sprout*. Botley Bridges Family Support and local food charities are getting together to fill hampers as a Christmas treat for families on low incomes. See page 5 for ways you can help. Botley Bikers, too, are looking for contributions (p9). Advent windows will be lit up through the month and there's a list of Christmas services (p11). The Toilet Talk at St Lawrence's Church (p19) was in aid of the Spend a Penny campaign to provide an indoor loo there. Elsewhere, there's an account of the Service of Remembrance on page 3, more info about Botley Health Walks following last month's article (p23), a timely warning about a footpath we don't want to lose (p13) and some advice about reporting potholes (p27). Finally, a chance to meet an unsung local hero – Viv Smith (p29). But perhaps she will be 'sung' at the Best of Botley awards for volunteers at the Seacourt Hall on 15th December. Will you be there? If you are, you'll find out, if not, you'll have to wait for the report in February, our next issue after the Christmas break. *Happy Christmas to all our readers!*

Ag MacKeith

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Remembrance Day Service 2024

Sunday 10th November saw the annual Service of Remembrance at the Commonwealth War Graves in Botley Cemetery. There was a light mizzle in the air, but it didn't dampen the



hearts of the representatives of countries who have servicemen and women buried in the cemetery, or of the many people who came from nearby. The ecumenical religious service was led by local representatives of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths, all playing an equal part.

This year wreaths were laid on behalf of Germany, Australia, Poland, Canada, the Czechoslovakian Forces, the RAF and the British Army and veterans, as well as by a deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, the local councils and various uniformed and community groups. Our photo shows German Army Attaché Lt-Col Nadir Attar, and local veteran John Walker, formerly of the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, and a volunteer custodian of our War Graves.



Dick Richards, this year's speaker, regularly conducts tours of Botley Cemetery. He spoke about the egalitarian ethos of the

War Cemeteries, where headstones are all the same, whatever the soldier's rank, and told the stories of some of the people buried there.

The service is organised by Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council and well-supported by the clergy, Oxford City Council, the Women's Institute and the Oxfordshire Youth Brass Ensemble. The choir was organized by Angela Astley-Penney and it was broadcast live by Radio Cherwell. Our thanks go out to all these people and groups for their support each year.

Adam Rankin

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Christmas Hampers for Local Families on Low Income

With the continuing pressure on family incomes and rising prices many families find Christmas a difficult time. Botley Bridges Family Support and local food charities are again working together to spread some Christmas cheer to local families in Cumnor, Botley and West Oxford. Last year we distributed over 100 hampers, brimming with a variety of food and gifts, all donated, packed and delivered by local volunteers.



If you would like to make a financial contribution to the hampers, please email treasurer@botleybridges.org for details of how to do this, or donate on the website www.botleybridges.org. If you donate via the website, please email the treasurer with the amount so we can make sure funds are ring-fenced for the hampers.

If you would like to volunteer to take in donations, pack hampers or deliver please contact Sue Dowe – sue@botleybridges.org – 07769 275084 *Can you donate? Thank You if you can.*

Drop-off Donations can be dropped off at St Peter and St Paul's Church Hall, Botley on Wednesday 18th Dec 8am–7pm. We have also agreed for collection points at Cumnor School, Botley School, West Oxford School or any Botley Bridges session during the week of 9–13th December. If you cannot drop off at these times, please email sue@botleybridges.org to arrange an alternative venue and time.



What we would like

- Tea/Coffee/Hot Chocolate/Squash/Soft Drinks (no alcohol please)
- Christmas treats (Mince Pies, Biscuits, Selection packs)
- Jam/Marmalade/Honey/Syrups
- Tins or Jars - Fruit/Tuna/Baked Beans/Pasta Sauces/Soup
- Crackers Biscuits/Rice/Pasta

We are also hoping to include some small (stocking filler) gift in the hampers. Can you donate? (please leave these unwrapped so we can best match them to the recipients)

For Adults

- Toiletries (for men and women)

For Children

- Bubbles/activity books/small craft sets/small construction sets
- Books (for a variety of ages)
- Cards/ Games



If you would like a household hamper, you can request one from <https://botley-hampers.web.app> (adults only) or

- By downloading a form from the Botley Bridges website and e-mailing it to **sue@botleybridges.org**
- By completing a form and handing in to your school or preschool – **schools will have hard copies available.**

~~~~~

## **Kennington Memory Club**

Happy Christmas and New Year, everyone. December is that month when we see the days get ever shorter, the excitement of the Christmas season mounts and we have the chance to catch up with family and friends. The lights and decorations can be enjoyed by all, even if those with dementia may not be able to remember what month it is and why everywhere looks more festive. The members who attend Kennington Memory Club will be getting into the Christmas spirit, enjoying a Christmas lunch and carol singing, in addition to all the usual fun and games, quizzes and activities.

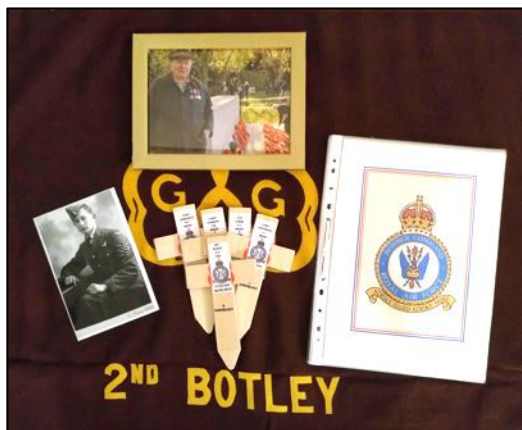
If you know someone with dementia who would appreciate time at our Day Support Centre, or if their carers might appreciate the respite that attendance would afford, please do contact the Club Organiser by ringing 07852 883496 or emailing [\*\*organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk\*\*](mailto:organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk) to find out more details.

**Isobel Birse**, Chairman, Kennington Memory Club



## November with the Brownies

On Remembrance Sunday, 10th November, our Unit, along with other Units from West Oxford District, gathered as usual at the Commonwealth War Graves at Botley Cemetery. For us at 2nd Botley this is poignant as after the service we lay wooden crosses at the graves of the Air Crew of our adopted veteran, Ted. Although Ted died five years ago at the age of 93 his daughter and son-in-law (Sue & Martin) still attend to honour his commitment. As you can see in the photo of the group Sue is on hand to advise on each of the airmen, and to answer any questions. The girls and the parents always comment on the young age of the men named on the graves. The second photo shows a picture of Ted as a young man in his RAF uniform, and then in his latter years as our veteran. His aircrew never had the privilege of growing old. The crosses bear the names of his crew: R F Carrodus, C J Evans, I J Loveridge and T R Thwaite and the crest is that of RAF Bomber Command. They were in 50 Squadron.



Later in November we worked on the UK Parliament Badge over two meetings. We completed a puzzle made up of small pieces of card showing facts and figures of the Palace of Westminster, both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Each of us then completed a "dot-to-dot" of a scroll and wrote a new law we would like to see passed. We also went on a trip

to the pantomime "Sleeping Beauty", but too late in the month to write about it here. If you'd like to know more about us, we can be contacted at [secondbotleybrownies@outlook.com](mailto:secondbotleybrownies@outlook.com)

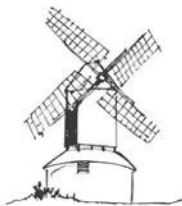
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## Botley Bikers at Christmas

The Botley Bikers are a group of volunteer cyclists who go out every Thursday and Sunday afternoons, delivering food, toiletries, clothing and (hopefully) good spirits to the homeless and vulnerably housed in Oxford city centre.

At Christmas we like to give our recipients a bit of festive cheer and this year we're handing out "twixmas" tote bags of goodies on 29th December. And we're asking the good readers of the Sprout if they can help.

We've already got Body Shop toiletries, socks, scarves and chocolate oranges and now we're looking for gloves!

If you're in a position to donate a pair of thick men's gloves we'd be extremely grateful. You can drop them in the donation box at the Coop in Botley, or email [botleybikers@gmail.com](mailto:botleybikers@gmail.com). Or contact Rachael on 07951 858162.

Alternatively, if you'd rather donate the £3 to buy pair of gloves (as some people have asked!) then our bank details are:

Food For Charities, Sort code 30 91 92, A/c no 64415660

As always, please only do what you can afford. We appreciate it's an expensive time of year for everyone.

Also, if you're interested in volunteering with us, please do get in touch. We're a friendly group, definitely not elite cyclists and it's a very pleasant way of spending a couple of hours!

**Rachel Monks**



~~~~~  
P. Deadman, R.I.P.

My skill at Radio 2's 'Popmaster' quiz is down to sitting in the back of your beige Sierra!

HZM
~~~~~



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## More Christmassy Things

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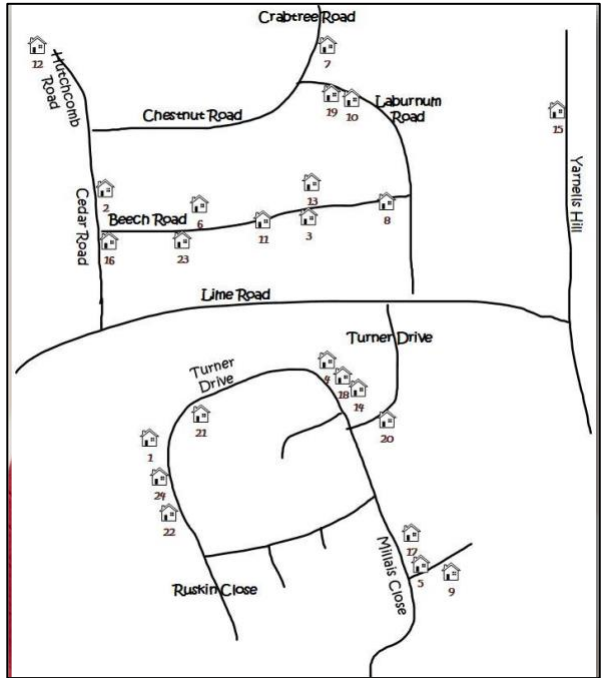
from 5pm for every day from December 1st to Christmas Day. They are so organized they've even got a map



And a QR code:



They are doing something similar along North Hinksey Lane, although at the time of writing, there were still a couple of dates unfilled.



Elsewhere, there are **Christmas Services** at **St Lawrence**

- (Carols by Candlelight, 3pm on Sunday 22nd;
- Midnight Communion at 11.30 on Christmas Eve and
- Holy Communion at 11.30am on Christmas Day

and at **St Peter and Paul**

- Christingle Service at 4.30 on Christmas Eve,
- Holy Communion at 9.30 on Christmas Day

**Contact details for other denominations on the inside back cover.**

**N.B.** On Sunday 19th January (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) there will be no services at either of the above churches, instead an ecumenical service for that week will be held at 10.30am at St Andrews, Dean Court.



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## S.O.S. Footpath Alert!!

Have you ever used the footpath shown in the map – the one that starts just beyond the Fishes and ends at Electric Avenue?



Corpus Christi College has applied to Oxfordshire County Council to formalise all of the footpaths on its land, and that footpath is not on its list. If it isn't on the list, the college may shut it and/or the flood alleviation scheme would not have to keep it open.

If a footpath has been used consistently for 20 or more years with no attempt by the owner to stop that use, then Oxfordshire County Council can be asked to put it on its definitive map of public rights of way, which would protect it as a Public Right of Way. A request to the council needs to be accompanied by statements and proof of use during that time.

If you have used that footpath, please could you send me your name, email and a bit of information on how you have used it (and whether you have any photos of you using it) to [riki@phonecoop.coop](mailto:riki@phonecoop.coop)? I need that in order to get an application form from the council. I'd then send you a form to fill in in more detail. Thank you.

**Riki Therivel**

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## Autumn action at Botley School

All manner of things have been happening at Botley School this autumn. After a month of running every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, a group of children from Years 3 to 6 took part in the Oxford Schools' Challenge on Sunday 13th October, starting on Broad Street. The weather was glorious, creating perfect running conditions. We are proud of all the children who did such a good job at running the mile, and delighted that one of our Botley pupils took the crown and came first in the event this year!

We celebrated Poetry Week in the middle of October. Our pupils learnt to recite and write poetry in many different styles, including nonsense poems, haikus, nursery rhymes, kennings, list poems and Q&A poems. At the end of the week parents joined us for a special assembly and enjoyed the dramatic way Year 5 analysed 'The Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll and the Year 1 Makaton signing for Incy Wincy Spider'.

Our annual fireworks show on 8 November was a wonderful community event, attended by nearly 1000 people. Storm Fireworks did an amazing display and our parent and staff volunteers worked hard preparing food and drinks, selling merchandise and keeping everyone safe. We are grateful to Alistair Redhouse Estate Agents for generously sponsoring the event.

Earlier that day we were delighted to host Layla Moran MP, who came to visit our Enhanced Pathway. This is one of the ways we provide for pupils with Special Educational Needs. We are proud of this excellent work but have been very concerned about the limited funding from OCC. Layla was impressed with our Pathway, calling it the 'gold standard' of inclusive school provision. She has since written to the Local Authority to request further funding to ensure our Pathway is sustainable for the future. We are very thankful both



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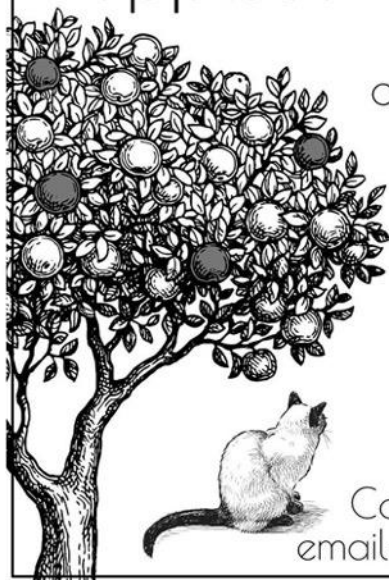
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that she took the time to come and visit us in person, and for her continued support.

By the time this Sprout lands, our Year 6 children will be back from their residential at PGL Activity Centre near Swindon. Excitement is mounting at the time of writing, as they look forward to all manner of activities like archery, climbing, obstacle courses, zipwires, raft building and abseiling.

Other excitements to come include Bikeability Training for Year 5, our Nativity play, Christmas Jumper Day, pantomime performance, Christmas lunch and collapsing in a heap at 1:31pm on 20 December as term ends!

**Jenny Ayres**, School Operations Manager

~~~~~

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<u>P24/V2254/LDP</u>	90 Arthray Rd. Construction of garden building.	31 October <i>Target Decision Date: 26 December</i>
<u>P24/V2285/HH</u>	The Beeches, Vernon Ave. Erect single storey rear extension.	31 October <i>TDD: 26 December</i>
<u>P24/V2354/LDE</u>	The Thatched House Stanton Rd. Cert of Lawfulness, Sect 191, for established use as residential garden.	1 November <i>TDD: 27 December</i>
<u>P24/V2224/HH</u>	30 Wytham View. Single storey rear extension.	12 November <i>TDD: 7 January</i>

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Talking About Toilets

You may not have been aware of this, but 19th November was UN World Toilet Day. It exists to remind us how very closely hygienic disposal of human waste is linked to health – in fact, to survival. It can't have been chance that scheduled Christina Hardymen's talk about toilets (wittily titled 'Lifting the Lid') on that auspicious day, though the focus was more on the history than on the health implications. The scarved and booted crowd that turned out in the snow to a warm welcome in St Lawrence's Church learned that toilets have been around for some 5,000 years. In the past, when buildings were most often made of stone, the remains are clear to see. Among the oldest are in Skara Brae in the Shetlands. There seems to have been a privy attached to every house in the village. Others in the ancient world were large, airy public buildings. On the whole, toilets were built where lots of people were living together, and they were always placed near streams, so the waste could be washed through a gully into the water and carried away to the sea.


By the Middle Ages, other arrangements existed. It must have taken courage to expose your bottom to the updraft from the vertical channel of those deep stone boxes, clinging to the sides of castles, with only a wooden seat with a hole in it between you and the moat far below – but perhaps you got used to it. Monasteries and colleges, like castles, were places where people lived together in large numbers, so they too had their arrangements, sometimes called a 'longhouse', sometimes a 'rere-dorter', and similar in style to the stone benches of two thousand years earlier. Occasionally other ways were found of dealing with the waste: for instance, it might be dropped into a deep pit, then removed by 'gong farmers' – the mediaeval equivalent of later 'night soil men' – who dug out this valuable fertilizer, and used it on the crops.

Bringing the focus to our own country, the first flushing toilet was invented by an Elizabethan, Sir John Harrington, who came up with an ingenious arrangement of pipes and cisterns. Sadly, it took seven and half gallons of water to flush it, so it didn't take on. There were a couple of 18th Century designs at the start of that great age of innovation and exploration that we call the Industrial Revolution, but the personal, private flushing loo really took off in the 19th Century. In London, particularly, thousands of households had their own flushing toilets by mid-century, but the means of disposal hadn't altered over the centuries. The waste was still conducted to the nearest water channel, and from there into the Thames.

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This led to an event in 1858, known to history as The Great Stink. The Thames had become so polluted, the stench was unbearable. The grand new Houses of Parliament had to shut down, voices were raised, cartoons in Punch vividly depicted the implications for health and happiness, and something had to be done. The answer was provided by Joseph Bazalgette, hero of the age. He designed the Thames Embankment, as a wide, tree-lined promenade along the bank of the Thames, concealing a mighty sewer, which took all London's waste to two elegantly designed pumping stations a long way to the east, where it was purified (I hope) and discharged towards the sea. The Embankment is still there, and the memorial plaque with his portrait on it in bronze is still there too, close to Embankment underground station.

This is only a quick trot through a talk that could have gone on for much longer. There's no shortage of interesting toilet examples among the ancient buildings of Oxford, and even some of the more recent ones have



something to offer. Remember the handsome underground toilets in the middle of St Giles, reputed to have been bought for conversion to offices? And how about this fabulous example of a Victorian Puritas Washdown Closet, photographed by Malcolm Graham at a Doctors' Surgery at 27 Beaumont Street. If you know of any others, photos gladly accepted!

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Botley Community Health Walks

Was your interest roused by last month's account of the Botley Community Walks? Here is some more information. On Tuesday mornings we walk to a local green space for an hour or so at a gentle pace to suit our walkers. You may discover walks that you never knew existed, even if you have lived in the area for some time.

When and where to meet?

Saturdays – the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 10am, in the Louie Memorial Field free car park, Arnolds Way.

Tuesdays – weekly at 11am. Meet outside Botley Library.

Are the walks free?

Yes, the walks are always free. The Tuesday walks always finish with a coffee and a chat in a local coffee shop or pub, and may start or end with a short bus journey so please bring your bus pass if you have one, and your coffee money.

Do the walks carry on all year?

Yes, the walks continue all year, not just term times. We walk in rain, but if it is tipping down, we may cut the walk short. We want to keep our walkers safe so may cancel if pavements are icy and slippery, or if it is exceptionally hot.

Can I bring my dog?

Well-behaved dogs are welcomed, but please keep them on a lead where appropriate and be careful that your dog does not trip up other walkers.

Can I bring my child in a buggy?

We welcome accompanied children, but you have another option: Botley Bridges run baby buggy walks on a Wednesday, also leaving from the library at 11am. They are organized via WhatsApp, and you can get the phone number from Hayley at coordinator@botleybridges.org

How can I find out more?

activecommunities@southandvale.gov.uk has details of other community walks around Oxfordshire. For our Tuesday walks, email botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com to get the route in advance.

How can I become a volunteer walk leader?

You would be most welcome, please come along to a walk and talk to us. The Tuesday walks are looking for new volunteer walk leaders. The training is not arduous, and the Vale of White Horse District Council will arrange a DBS check and first aid training.

Janet Hemingway

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West Way Community Concern

Extraordinary general meeting

West Way Community Concern will be holding an extraordinary general meeting on Monday 2nd December in the Lounge of Seacourt Hall, Church Way, Botley, at 6:30pm. The agenda will cover WWCC activities since last meeting, finances and the future of WWCC, followed by questions and discussion. Please let us know at **westwayconcern@gmail.com** if you are able to attend. Any items which you wish to raise may also be emailed to us before the meeting.

It was always intended that WWCC would disband as soon as construction is complete and any issues surrounding planning conditions are resolved. This is likely to be in the next year or so. At that time, our constitution says that any funds remaining in our account would be given to local charities. The Committee proposes Botley Bridges (serving children in and around Botley) and the Botley Community Fridge in the Church of St Peter and St Paul (food for people in need).

We would seek agreement from our members as to who would receive the funds when we disband. Comments on this proposal by email in advance of the meeting will be welcomed.

Construction

The construction of the large block on the corner of West Way and Westminster Way is nearly complete. The current forecast handover date for the block is early December. The external landscaping works will be progressing up until this time.

Church Way parking

A condition of the planning consent was that Church Way (the through route between West Way and Arthray Road) would be semi-pedestrianised, with traffic only allowed between the hours of 4pm to 10am. There would be no parking on Church Way, other than deliveries.

Driving through the site, and parking at will on both sides of Church Way is now the norm at all times of day and evening. Poor barriers and signage, unclear and unenforced rules, dangerous driving and parking makes the route unsafe for shoppers and visitors of all ages. This creates issues particularly when a delivery vehicle arrives and simply has nowhere to park without blocking the through route. In addition, heavy vehicles parking on the pavements have caused damage and lifting of the paving stones, damage to trees and signs, and created trip hazards that are now commonly cordoned off awaiting repair.

The Vale of White Horse District Council and Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council have requested that Church Way become pedestrianised at all times, with only deliveries and emergency vehicles being able to use the route. Both councils endeavoured to chase Mace, Botley Development Company and Savills (the managers of the centre) to achieve the required outcome. Finally, WWCC wrote to the Vale District Council planning enforcement officer, providing photographic evidence collected over the months by residents. We considered that, in allowing this situation to continue, the owners and operators of the site are failing to protect the safety of the public, and to comply with the conditions of the planning consent for the development, and asked Planning Enforcement take up the issue. Planning Enforcement have opened a case file to investigate these issues further.

Contact

WWCC's role is to provide a means of communication on the development and raise issues of concern with Mace and their contractors, and to monitor the planning conditions until the development is built. We will then expect to disband. We can be contacted on westwayconcern@gmail.com.

Mary Gill

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Potholes sorted!

Recently I had a chance to go round the parish with a Highways Engagement Officer from Oxford County Council. Her department are mostly concerned about surface condition. Namely potholes.

Highways operate an inspection schedule, and different roads are inspected more or less often depending on their size and traffic flow. Some smaller, more obscure, ones like the lane behind McDonalds, are never checked at all. As a road deteriorates, it will be earmarked for targeted repairs. If the general surface is very bad, it will be earmarked for a complete resurface. And so a repair schedule is built up – the deeper the pothole, the faster the response.

While this system is fairly reliable, sometimes it just isn't enough. The back-up is "**Fix my Street**" where we can submit an issue ourselves (<https://www.fixmystreet.com>) There is a map to help you locate the issue, upload a photo and explain the problem. The system prioritises entries with photos, so make sure you include one. The same handy website can be used for any street issue (fallen trees, broken signs, overgrown hedges, etc). They will forward your query to the appropriate department. If the issue is dangerous, the response will be within 48 hours – others might never get to the top of the pile.

For potholes in particular, they have also trained up a few residents in our area to be "Street Super-users." These residents are pinged with their local Fix my Street pothole issue and can directly authorise the repair teams to attend, which speeds up response times.

While we were on our tour, I identified two rather large potholes outside Matthew Arnold School. These were "Category 4", apparently, as they were deeper than 4cm. (Yes, we measured them with our handy adjustable set square!). A Cat 4 pothole gets dealt with in 48 hours. And I can confirm that this did happen – two days later, they had been fixed!

I'd also received a bunch of complaints from residents about parking and line marking when I put out the survey before the visit.

It turns out Highways are not the department for this. Individuals cannot request a traffic alteration. However, the Parish Council can ask for: a speed limit change of above 20mph, traffic calming measures, new signs, parking restrictions, driveway protection and HGV restrictions. But this has to be agreed at a Full Council meeting first. So, if you do have a traffic issue that you want addressed, please do get in touch and I can add it to the agenda of the next Full Council meeting.

Emma Gordon, Parish Clerk



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Meet Viv Smith

Many of the Sprout's readers will already know Viv Smith because she is involved in so many things in Botley. Viv ran the Botley Seniors Lunch Club before Covid, and still helps to cook every fortnight. She is on the Botley Arts Committee, which organises art exhibits at St. Peter and St. Paul Church. She organises the sporadic Botley in Bloom competition; is on the Sprout editorial board, puts together the list of planning applications, and writes the occasional article; is a member of the Tai Chi and North Hinksey Art groups; helped to put together the mosaics at West Way; and participates in the St. Paul's Crescent book club. Phew!



Viv was born in Gillingham, Kent. Her parents moved to Southmoor near Kingson Bagpuize when her father took a job working at Harwell, mostly for the Medical Research Council, and Viv joined them as soon as she

finished school at 18. Southmoor was on the bus route to Oxford, and Viv promptly took a job in Oxford as a secretary. She met Clive in Oxford, they married when she was 21 (congratulations to both on 53 years of marriage!), and they moved to Botley. They have lived here ever since.

Viv worked at OUP on and off, for 40 years. OUP did not have a policy on maternity leave at the time, so Viv and three friends set up a secretarial agency which allowed them to work while raising their small children. Elms Secretarial Services, named after Elms Rise in Botley, was ahead of its time: "We shared the work, and sometimes one of us would look after the kids while the other ones



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worked, and then we'd switch roles. We took it in turns to do the accounts. It was fantastic for us because it kept our foot in the door and forced us to update our skills."

Viv returned to OUP in the 1980s, first as a secretary, then as an editor, working on Art History and commissioned books, and finally in the overarching "academic publishing" department where she led a small team. "OUP was such a lot of fun, full of eccentric individuals who would go out for long boozy lunches. *That* doesn't happen any more," says Viv.

When Viv retired, she was worried that she would be bored, but she loves it. She has a big beautiful garden. She visits her children and grandchildren. She specialises in watercolour painting, and has sold quite a few of her paintings, including three at the last exhibition. And she takes part in all the activities from the first paragraph. "I love Botley," she says. "I'm sorry about what happened at West Way: it is too big and too anodyne. And I hate not being able to get into Oxford easily because of the works at the train station. But the community in Botley is still strong, and I love living here." Botley is lucky to have Viv!

Riki Therivel

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Skatepark news

The Doris Field Trust, administered from Morgan Paul in the Seacourt Tower, have just let us know that they have decided to award us £1000 towards our project. Thank you very much, Doris Field! Work is now well underway, and the skatepark is taking shape. Here's a photo of the works towards the end of November. A permeable membrane is being laid, ready for the depth of stone chippings that will form the massive soakaway under the concrete.



N Hinksey Lane Nature Reserve

A lunchtime hour of brisk outdoor exercise for twelve of Laura's colleagues from Dehns (IP Law firm of Minns' Business Park) radically cleared the rest of the memorial garden, planted bulbs along the path and suppressed the weeds with a thick layer of cardboard. All that's needed now, in the short term, is for the load of wood chippings to reach us, so we can weigh down the cardboard and keep the brambles and bindweed where we want them. Fantastic to have such sturdy volunteer help, and what's more, they're willing to come back if we need them! Thank you, thank you!

Christmas with Botley Bridges



Join us for one of our two Christmas Forest School Sessions on Saturday 14 December where you will meet a very special visitor. There is the choice of two sessions, either 1.30–2.30pm or 3–4pm. The cost is £5 per child to include a present and pre-booking and payment are essential. You can either email sue@botleybridges.org or you can book with Hayley at one of the regular Botley Bridges sessions. Places are limited so be quick! This session is suitable for children aged 2–8 years. There will be a Monday Christmas Stay & Play session/party on Monday 16th December within our session at Botley School, open to all age groups.

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

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com
4th Oxford Scout Group Cubs Beavers, Scouts, Explorers	mail@thefourth.org.uk Meets every weekday evening. Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6-8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 810159
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8-16	Terri Matthews: clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com
Botley Bridges (for under 5s)	Mondays, 9-11, Stay & Play Botley School, and Fridays 10-12, Baby Group at Seacourt Hall botleybridges.org
Botley Community Larder	Thursdays, 3.00 to 4.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com
Botley Health Walks	2nd & 4th Sats 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, or Tues 11 am Library botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com
Botley Library	07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Memory Lane Café	Thursdays 10-12 Seacourt Hall Lounge, Diccon James 07740 611971
Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council	clerk@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386
Botley Youth Club	Weds 7pm-9pm in term time. Louie Memorial Pavilion. botleyyouthclub@gmail.com
Cumnor Choral Society	Thursdays, 19.30-21.30 St Andrew's Church OX2 9BH www.cumnorchoralsociety.co.uk
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808

Cumnor Gardening Club	http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ tel 01865 721026
Hill End Volunteer Team	Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk
Kumon Maths and English	After school classes, Seacourt Hall, Tues & Sat. 07377 430063 www.kumon.co.uk/oxford-botley/
Lawn Tennis Club	Family club Email: Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org 07824 881680 www.oxfordsportsltc.org
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North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com
N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997
N Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798 743121 voirreyc@aol.com
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
Oxford Flower Arranging	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259
<i>Oxford Harmony</i>	<i>Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall</i> Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk
Oxford Rugby Club	Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk .
Raleigh Park, Friends of	Email: raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Seacourt Hall Management Committee	Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see https://www.seacourthall.org.uk
Shotokan Karate Club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Stagecoach Botley	Botley School, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> 01865 590510 or 01235 390810
West Oxford Bowls Club	D Ellerker 07931 603801 wobc.membership@gmail.com
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30–8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk
West Oxford U3A	http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/
Women's Institute (Botley)	Alison Jenner 07598 251161 alisonjenner@yahoo.com

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

North Hinksey & Botley Churches Times of Services and Contacts

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane

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

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

Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion
Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or **revclare@btinternet.com**
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Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill

Saturday 6.30pm Mass
Sunday 9.15am Mass
Fr Daniel Lloyd 07584 323915 **dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.**

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way

Sunday Service 11 am
Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7.30pm
Choir practice Thursday 2pm
Diane Melchert **07742 662668** **www.botleybaptistchurch.org**

Calvary Chapel

Sunday services on 1st Floor, 1 Church Way at 9.30am *with crèche, children's Sunday school and youth group*
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What's On

December

- Tues 3rd** 3.30pm, Botley Library, Lego Club for all ages (and on 10th, 17th)
- Thur 5th** 2pm, Botley Library, Adult Craft Club (and on 12th, 19th – sessions restart on 9th January)
- Fri 6th** 10am, Botley Library, Rhymetime for 0–5s (& 13th, 20th)
- Sat 7th** 10am, Botley Library, Cllr Judy Roberts' surgery
- Sat 7th** 10–12pm, Botley Library, Digital helper (and on 21st)
- Sat 14th** 2pm and 3.30pm, Botley School, Botley Bridges Forest School sessions for 2–8yrs olds, with a (seasonal) mystery guest
- Sat 14th** 10–12pm, Botley Library, Digital Helper
- Mon 16th** Botley School, B/Bridges Stay & Play session/ Xmas party, all ages.
- Wed 18th** 8am–7pm, SS Peter and Paul church hall, drop off contributions to Christmas hampers
- Thur 19th** 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting
- Sun 22nd** 3pm, St Lawrence's Church, Carols by Candlelight

January

- Mon 13th** 2.15pm, Dean Court Community centre, U3A talk: Melanie King, 'Whatever did the Romans Do for Us, the introduction of bathing'
- Sat 18th** 11 to 12.30pm, The Fishes, District Councillor surgery (Emily Smith and Debby Hallett)
- Mon 27th** 2.15 Dean Court Community centre, U3A talk: Richard Sills, 'Russia: Aggressor or Victim? A Thousand Years of Invasions and Expansion'