

# The Sprout

Cllrs



Potter and Berrett, chair and vice chair of NHPC

**The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 165 March 2022**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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# The Sprout

## Issue 165, March 2022

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### From the Editor

What's been happening this month? Well, there's plenty going on, as usual. There's a beady-eyed review of the Flood Alleviation Scheme (p7), coming up for consultation again soon, and two views of the fact-finding visit to Westmill Solar Farm (p22). The Patients Participation Group is studying the Quality Control Commission's long-awaited findings on the local medical practice (p13). On 19th March we can look forward to the chance to engage with the plans to beautify the A34 flyover, and the artist shares some thoughts on page 27. Botley in Bloom is back for 2022, sponsored by the *Sprout*, see page 5 for ideas. The Brownies are doing their thing with sock puppets (p 11), while other organizations are looking for governors (Botley School, p33) and scout leaders (Oxford XV, p31). If you are wondering about those happy faces on the cover, we thought we could give a nod to International Women's Day on 8th March with a picture of Caroline Potter and Lorna Berrett, the two good women who head up the parish council. It's the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th March, your chance to share ideas for how things could develop locally, but before then, on Saturday 12th, there is a session at the Seacourt Hall that will offer help on cutting energy bills – Stay Warm – Save Energy (p17). See you there!

Ag MacKeith

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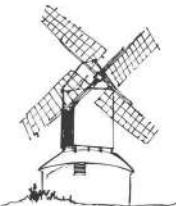
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## **Letters to the Editor**

### **Wrecking the Green**

Considerable damage has been done to the southern edge of the North Hinksey Village Green by people parking there, either from AirBnB's or the Fishes or the Rugby Club, etc. Sections of it are little more than mud with tyemarks. Logs have now been placed along its whole length at spaces shorter than a car's length to dissuade people from spoiling what should not only be an asset for people to play on but also a contributor to the visual attractiveness of the village. I hope we might be able to retain them in place. I note that a couple of earlier placements of logs were removed,

**Chris Sugden** (Canon Dr)

### **Missing Streams**

I understand that one of the streams diverted at the outbreak of War formerly flowed from the junction of Lime Rd and Yarnells Hill down to Raleigh Park. I was told this by an old-timer walking his dog, but unfortunately I haven't seen him or his dog (or wife) for several years.

**David Brown**

I was always told that there were several springs in the fields that are now the Tilbury Fields estate. They run into a stream that runs down the side of Tilbury Lane. There is another running along the south side of the Tilbury Allotments.

A friend whose parents lived in Seacourt Road said that the Tilbury Lane stream ran alongside Seacourt Road and came out into West Way near to the pub. When the area was developed and Seacourt Road and the bungalows were built up, the stream was culverted and put underground. It may now be one source of the stream that goes via North Hinksey Lane into the Seacourt Stream.

If you look at old maps e.g. the 1948 OS 1:25000 map <https://maps.nls.uk/view/196187625> you can see some of these old streams and springs. Maybe one for those with better access to these old maps to investigate.

**Dave Ralphs**

*[Thanks very much for these further contributions to the investigation.]*



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# Botley In Bloom

## Front Garden Competition 2022

The Botley in Bloom competition will be back this summer with your friendly neighbourhood judges hoping to enjoy the results of your efforts during **week beginning**

**Monday 13 June.** Plenty of time to start planning!

Please note that even if Covid restrictions are completely relaxed we will be judging front gardens only.



I thought it might be helpful to let potential competitors know now the criteria judges will be looking for, as well as the categories in which you can enter.

First, the categories. This year we will have two categories:

- Best Front Garden
- Best Cultivated-Wildlife Front Garden

In the past we have had a third category of Best Use of Vegetables, but we've decided to drop it this year. Obviously don't let this stop you integrating veggies into your front gardens as you wish, it just won't be a category on its own.

Secondly, the judging is done by marks on a score sheet and for guidance I itemise below the judging criteria:

In the Best Front Garden category there will points awarded for:

- Colour and planting
- Design sympathetic to the house and surroundings
- Environment & wildlife provision
- Creativity and invention
- Good overall design

In the other category, Best Cultivated-Wildlife Front Garden, the judges will be looking for:

- Planting to attract wildlife
- Wildlife corridors
- Bird/insect/hedgehog box(es)
- Native plants/hedges
- Good overall design

As we know, greening our gardens greatly benefits the environment but most of us, especially on Elms Rise Estate, also need to park our cars on our front driveways. Our judging has always taken this into

consideration when we are looking at the overall design and we welcome sympathetic planting alongside. I should re-iterate that impermeable surfaces creating water run-off are not the way forward, although gravel and types of paving where water can escape through the cracks usually works well.

I hope the above explanation of judging criteria is helpful. Look out for entry details to Botley in Bloom 2022 in future editions of *The Sprout* and posters around the Parish. There's a Facebook page too, which we'll get round to updating before long. In the meantime I hope you enjoy planning your summer front garden.

**Viv Smith**

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## **Botley Library**

Hello. My name is Elizabeth Ward and I am the Manager of Botley Library. Although I have been in this role for a couple of years, I have recently returned from a secondment, so I am using this opportunity to re-introduce myself and make people aware of some of the services that you can find in your local Library.



We have a beautiful, modern space where you can read, study, use our computers, borrow, print and photocopy. Applications for bus passes can be made with our staff (an appointment is necessary for this – please ring and book) and we hold Bookstart resources for under-twentos and toddlers (if these haven't been collected from your Health Visitor or pre-school). We are hoping to restart events like Rhymetime, Storytime, Author talks and Craft workshops very soon, and details of these will be advertised on the 'A' frame board that is outside the building and also on our new Facebook page which is coming shortly. Please look out for it and 'like' it when it goes live.

Here are our contact details and opening hours:  
**Elizabeth.ward@oxfordshire.gov.uk** **Botley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

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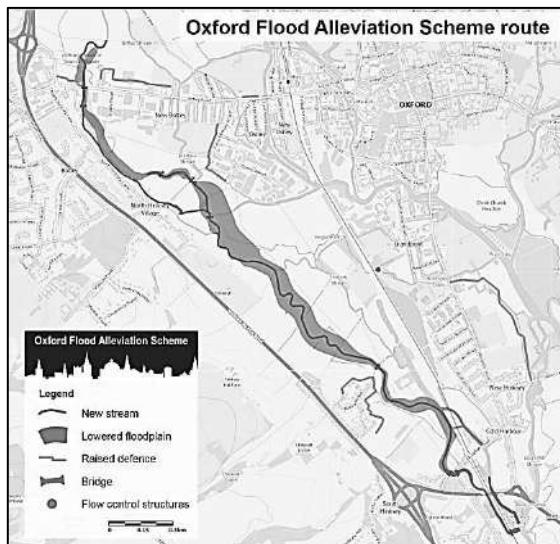
Best wishes and hope to see you soon!

**Liz and the Team** (Lyn, Monica, Kathryn, Jude, David and Thomas)

# Oxford Needs A Better Flood Scheme

The Environment Agency will soon be putting in a planning application for a £154 million Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (OFAS). This would involve digging a 5km 'sculpted channel' from north of Botley Road this side of the Park and Ride to north of Kennington, plus other measures such as bunds at South Hinksey. When the planning application is in, we will all have the opportunity to comment on it. We believe that Oxford badly needs flood protection, but the OFAS is an environmentally destructive, over-costly way of doing this. The Environment Agency has refused to consider cheaper and less harmful alternatives.

**Environmental harm:** The OFAS will lead to the destruction of thousands of mature trees, and two hectares of beautiful and rare MG4 meadow (Hinksey Meadow), as well as threatening the remaining meadow. Nobody has yet successfully transplanted MG4 meadow. Digging up 400,000 cubic metres of soil from Oxford's millennia-old floodplain and felling the trees will release huge quantities of carbon.



During the project's 3-4 year construction period, access to the site will be severely restricted. Removing the soil will mean tens of thousands of additional HGVs on the A34. The HGVs will accelerate slowly, further increasing congestion on the ring road. There will be disturbance and other impacts at South Hinksey from lorries going in and out.

**Lack of long-term management:** After construction, the presence of the channel plus new fencing will affect grazing and limit recreational use of the area. The OFAS plan includes only 10 years of maintenance (it is unclear what 'maintenance' would look like). There is no budget for maintenance after the first 10 years: land owners are expected to do this. Without maintenance, vegetation build-up could inhibit the flow of water, reducing flow capacity and limiting the scheme's ability to protect properties from flooding.

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**Too costly:** Digging the channel is the most costly part of the scheme, but the least effective. 85% of the OFAS benefits in terms of reducing flood damages would come from continuing existing flood alleviation, notably the conduits under Willow Walk. Most or all of the rest of the benefits come from bunds around South Hinksey, defences at Osney Island etc. – NOT from the destructive channel. The marginal benefit-cost ratio of the channel is at best 1.66:1. This does not include the costs of reduced recreation, tranquillity, biodiversity, carbon fixing and long-term maintenance, which further increase the scheme's costs.

**Reasonable alternatives not considered:** Legally the Environment Agency must consider 'reasonable alternatives', but it has not considered any alternative to this channel / floodplain lowering since 2009. Reasonable alternatives that could provide as much or more protection from flooding at lower financial, environmental and social costs include:

- Underground pipes broadly along the OFAS route, with pumps that switch in automatically before flood events become damaging;
- Putting in components of the OFAS (bridges at Willow Walk, bunds at South Hinksey, rail bridging at Old Abingdon Road etc.) but no channel to start with, monitoring effectiveness, and adding a channel or pipes if necessary.

We encourage people to ask about these points when the Environment Agency puts in a planning application for the OFAS – at which point we are invited to have our say. Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-floodscheme/oxford-flood-scheme>, [www.oxfordfloodandenvironmentgroup.com](http://www.oxfordfloodandenvironmentgroup.com) and [www.hinkseyandosney.org](http://www.hinkseyandosney.org)

Riki Therivel and Tim O'Hara

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## The Joys of Being a Brownie

Hello! We hope you like the sock puppets that were created at 2nd Botley Brownies early in 2022 as part of a badge. If you look carefully you can see that they are all made from recycled stuff found around the house plus a pair of new googly eyes. We think you will agree that all the girls have fabulous imaginations and did a great job of translating them into various creatures like cats and rabbits. We have been working on a lot of badges as a unit, although, unfortunately, some of the science experiments Girlguiding suggested were not as successful as the sock puppets – it just goes to show that not everything works perfectly first time.

We are very pleased to report that the recruitment of new girls to our unit of 2nd Botley is going very well and we will definitely be around to celebrate our unit's 50th birthday! The current girls are noticeably polite, cheerful and quick to catch on, which allows us to cover a lot of activities in the time allowed. When playing games – new or old – they are good sports too. We have been made aware of the benefits of returning to normal social activities as you can see from these comments from our parents: “She’s really enjoying Brownies.” – “Brownies has been such a good thing for her. Her mental health has really improved.” – “My daughter has such a good time each week with new friends.” – “Her confidence is growing.” – “She’s really keen each week.”

**Lucy Howes**





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# Care Quality Commission Report Published

In April 2021 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected the Botley Medical Centre (BMC) and placed it under special measures. In December the CQC inspected the BMC again. They noted improvements and have now taken the practice out of special measures.

Their report can be accessed [here https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-544081039/reports](https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-544081039/reports)

They found

- Significant improvement to monitoring patient safety, specifically the prescribing of high-risk medicines;
- Improved effectiveness of patient care and treatment, although the required standards had not yet been met in updating care plans for patients with mental health conditions and ensuring advanced clinical decisions are reviewed annually;
- Staff dealt with patients with kindness and respect, and involved them in decisions about their care;
- The practice adjusted how it delivered services to meet the needs of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Patient access to communication channels and care required improvement, and patients sometimes found barriers to accessing services when required;
- Improved monitoring processes for dealing with daily tasks such as patient correspondence, and adjustments to reduce backlogs when workflow increased had been made;
- There was limited independent quality improvement on the part of the practice. Leaders did not have effective audit and monitoring processes to ensure they identified areas for improvement;
- Significant improvement in culture reported by staff.

They found one breach of regulation. The provider **must**:

- Ensure adequate governance and monitoring processes are in operation to assess, monitor and improve the quality and safety of the services provided.

The CQC are asking the Practice to produce a report on the actions it will be taking in the light of the report.

As the report was published, the post of Practice Manager became vacant. The practice is in the process of shortlisting and plans to interview candidates for the post.

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The PPG discussed the report at its meeting on 8th February. Among issues and questions they raised were:

- Long-term follow up of those with ongoing medical conditions;
- The worry people experience about securing an appointment only 'on the day';
- Why routine appointments cannot be booked in advance;
- How the outreach to pharmacists and the new prescription clerk have assisted in securing prescriptions;
- What the BMC plans to do in the areas where improvement is needed.

The BMC has invited the members of the Patients Participation Group to meet Julie Dandridge the Head of Primary Care for the Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Aintzane Ballastero, Esti Ballastero and Eleanor Baylis (of PML, who are assisting the BMC) at Kennington Health Centre at 4pm on Thursday 3rd March, to discuss the report and set out ways to work together for the continued improvement of the Practice. If you wish to join the PPG please contact our secretary Chris Sugden on [csugden@ocrpl.org](mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org) or 07808 297043.

**Chris Sugden**

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## **Botley W.I. goes to Blenheim**

The ladies of Botley WI have been out and about again. On Tuesday 25th January we set out for Blenheim in a very cold wind. It was, to say the least, 'bracing!' The photo shows us cold, but 'braced'!

The lakes looked cold and uninviting so no one suggested a swim! The trees were bare, but there was life below them: everywhere we looked there were birds of all types foraging in the dead leaves. Our walk ended at the excellent restaurant. We sat and talked for a while and then we returned to Oxford on the bus, and went our separate ways.



**Jenny Holloway**



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# Stay Warm, Save Energy

Free event at Seacourt Hall, Botley,

Saturday 12 March, 2-5pm

From April this year, most households will be paying at least 54% more for their energy. For the average UK household, annual costs will jump from £1200 to nearly £2000. And a further hike is expected in October. Energy company E.ON was slated for sending customers warm socks but, seriously, many homes will be colder next winter. So what can we do about it?



All residents of Botley and surrounding areas are hugely welcome to our event, *Stay Warm, Save Energy* at Seacourt Hall on 12th March. This is an initiative of the new Sustainable Botley group, which now has a website: <https://sustainablebotley.uk/>. We're grateful to North Hinksey Parish Council for their support in paying for the venue hire.

We'll have a short panel session at 2.15 with a variety of speakers to set the scene and stimulate discussion, followed by workshops and stalls. There will be loads of opportunities to chat with energy and eco-renovation experts and to local people who have made home energy improvements.

We'll be talking especially about

- Staying warm and saving energy on a tight budget
- Bringing your house up to standard – and the grants and loans available
- Future-proofing your home, including eco-renovation
- Making connections in our local community so we can support each other and find ways of taking action together.

There will also be tea and cakes!

We're still identifying experience and expertise in the local community. It would be great to hear about anyone who has made home improvements to save energy or cut carbon; we'd also really like to hear from installers of insulation, heat pumps, double or triple glazing etc. who might be interested in having a table at the event.

You can just turn up on the day, but it would help us a lot if you could book online via <https://sustainablebotley.uk/> to give a sense of numbers. If you'd like to get in touch about the event, please contact me at [laurie@livingwitness.org.uk](mailto:laurie@livingwitness.org.uk).

Laurie Michaelis

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## **Dawn Rivers 1938 – 2022**

Sadly Mum died on 9th February, having had a stroke in December.

Dawn was born in Cowley and moved to Arthray Road in 1962 with her husband Michael. They bought a house opposite Dad's parents. Myself and my sisters Anita and Julie lived there and attended Botley School.

Mum helped organize the street party for the Silver Jubilee. She could often be seen pushing her bike up and down the road to go shopping, meet friends for a drink, or catching a bus in to Oxford.

The Rivers family have lived in Arthray Road for over 80 years.

### **Gary Rivers**

---



## **Kennington Memory Club**

At the time of writing this snowdrops and crocuses are flowering, daffodils are beginning to show yellow, birds are singing their hearts out and Spring has definitely sprung! This is always a season of new life and hope for most. Those who are living with dementia definitely enjoy these signs of Spring, but their expectations may be more limited than for most people. Quality of life is one of the most important aspects of their lives and this is where Kennington Memory Club steps in.

The day care sessions run by the Club provide company, different surroundings, activities, music, friendship and laughter, all much enjoyed by the members, and giving their carers much-needed respite from their duties. If you or someone you know would benefit from attending the Club and want to find out more please telephone 07852 883496 or email [info@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](mailto:info@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk).

If you would like to join our band of volunteers, essential for the smooth running of the sessions, please use the same contact details. Most volunteers help out for a half day about once a fortnight. Our website : [kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk)

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## Culture Corner

**Thanks For All The Fish** is an exhibition of photographs by Uwe Ackermann at St. Peter and St.Paul Church runs from **07 March–29 April**. It documents the conversion, over the years 2017 to 2019, of West Way precinct from a collection of independent shops into a monolithic shopping centre that has priced the small traders out of the area. Botley community united to resist the development and achieved concessions from the Council, including retaining historic Elms Parade. The images show different expressions of community resistance, solidarity and social engagement. <https://www.codeack.co.uk>

**About Uwe Ackermann:** Until my retirement in 2007, I spent my professional life as a physiologist at the Universities of Toronto and Oxford. In the early 1980s, during a visit to New Orleans, I was lured towards photography by the varied and inventive use of iron in that city. From that time onwards I have used the camera partly as a recording device and partly as a collector of source material for the possibilities offered by digital manipulation. My aims are always to tell a story and to elicit from the viewer a reaction, a smile of recognition, a desire to know what might lie outside the frame. <https://uwe-ackermann.crevado.com> and <https://instagram.com/uweack>

*It's International Poetry Day on 21 March, so we thought we'd celebrate with this poem by Leah Detheridge, a youthful poet from North Hinksey*

### Our Own Way

We are all unique,  
In our own way.  
Some people are chatty,  
While some have little to say.  
Some of us are tall,  
Some of us are squat  
Some of us don't like reading,  
But some of us like it a lot.  
Some of us are bold,  
While others are more shy,  
Some like to tell the truth,  
While others prefer to lie.

Some of us like Winter,  
While some like Autumn more,  
But some people like hot weather,  
And that's what Summer's for.  
Some of us like food sweet,  
While some of us like it hot,  
Some of us like sport,  
While others just do not.  
All of us are different,  
Though we may seem the same,  
We are all our own person,  
With our own brain.

And I guess what I've been trying to say,  
Is that we're all unique in our own way.

## Visit to Westmill Solar Farm – Two Views

### Sterile wildlife desert...

Following the proposal/suggestion for a Solar Farm on the field adjacent to the Beacon at the rear of Mathew Arnold School, North Hinksey Parish Council organised a visit to the community run Solar Farm (Westmill) at Watchfield on the border with Wiltshire.

With this in mind I joined the group.

Members of the Community Trust there made us very welcome, giving us a lot of information regarding their scheme (which is close to an older wind farm, also owned by the community). This was followed by a well received lunch, during which we were able to raise some questions with members of the Trust.

This installation is on what is known as a ‘Brownfield’ site, in that it used to be an airfield, and is set discreetly behind existing hedgerows. A two-metre-high steel fence bordered the solar farm, with CCTV cameras set along the perimeter. It was interesting to see the panels close up. They are approximately three metres in height, set on concrete pads. It was not a sunny day so one was not able to judge the reflection from the panels. The cables from the panels feed into machines (invertors at the end of each run of panels, resembling small shipping containers). These inverters convert the DC electricity to AC in order that it might be transferred to the grid. There were also similarly placed transformers to step up the electricity for travel down the cable, as well as some other containers or small buildings on the site, which carried out various functions.

What struck me more than anything else was that the whole site appeared totally devoid of wildlife kept out by the steel and badger proof fences, there was not even a skylark. The site seemed to be a sterile wildlife desert. It was also apparent that the equipment was noisy, producing a background hum which would upset the tranquil peace of anywhere not set on a site such as this, remote from public footpaths and bridleways and people’s homes.

We have to carefully consider that the search for renewable electricity sites should be chosen so as not to denigrate the natural world and recreational pleasures of the visual landscape that we are endeavouring to preserve.

David Wyatt



## **Still there and still singing**

I first visited Westmill Farm in 2018 to answer a question posed by a student. We had been discussing alternative energy and he said that wind turbines were noisy. So I felt obliged to go and listen for myself. I reported back that the sound of the traffic on the nearby road was so loud that I could not hear the turbines at all. But as I walked further on to the site, the dominant sound was one of skylarks. Lots and lots of skylarks, hanging in the sky singing their little hearts out.

Westmill Community Solar was installed beside the turbines in 2011 – the first community owned solar farm in the country. The fields here grow crops, but are managed to maximize wildlife. The absence of pesticides means that the insects the skylarks need are plentiful. The birds breed and nest quite happily, and are not bothered by the creaking of wind turbines or the proximity of solar panels. Modern farms no longer feature the pretty thatched cottages and flower filled meadows that we like to imagine. Intensive agricultural practices have hugely reduced birds and wild flowers. Skylark numbers have declined so dramatically in recent years, that it was a real delight to see them here. The wild flowers, free to spread themselves about, were attracting the butterflies, hoverflies and bees which have been pushed to the edge of extinction elsewhere. And then, bouncing about amongst the solar panels, I spotted a number of hares, unperturbed by the technology, happy to hang out and raise their babies in a spot where they are less visible to predatory birds hanging in the wind.

The January visit with the Parish Council was on a much colder, wilder day. Most people came by car and so missed the multiple skylarks that greeted visitors like me walking through the front gate. Still there and still singing. This time, there were no hares amongst the solar panels. They were probably hunkered down against the wind somewhere. But there were sheep: a small flock of rough coated ewes with pretty faces, kept, not for food, but to keep the grass down – woolly, low-tech lawn mowers. Their dung is not adulterated with chemicals I was told, so insects can use it. It improves the soil, and provides a source of food all at the same time.

So, when (if) we have our own solar farm in Botley, will it be as wild life friendly as the Westmill Farm? I hope so. It will certainly be helping, just a little bit, to stave off the wildlife extinction that Climate Chaos is definitely going to bring. *Don't burn gas. Raise hares instead.* There's a slogan for you!

**Linda Losito**

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## Christmas Hampers and Botley Bridges

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Christmas Hampers such a great success! This was a joint project, organised by Botley Bridges Family Support, Community Larder, Food for Charities, and lots of wonderful local volunteers. St Peter and St Paul's Church kindly lent the hall for two days for packing. Local people could register themselves for a hamper but we also took requests from social services and health visitors to make sure we reached the families most in need.



Many local folk gave up their time, donated goods, money and presents and gave some Christmas cheer to 123 families. We have had some lovely feedback about the difference it made to families and individuals.

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Most of the hampers went to local families but we also donated some to families living in very difficult circumstances, including recent arrivals from Afghanistan.

Botley Bridges is your local Family Support Charity. We run drop-in sessions for families including Stay & Play and Baby Groups as well as online sessions too.

We also run courses such as paediatric first aid, baby massage, speech and language and family nurturing. We are open to all, and our aim is to improve the lives of families and children by supporting parents with information about child development and children's physical and mental health.

Our sessions are open access, and we only ask for a small contribution. Our coordinator, Hayley Hayle, leads the majority of the sessions and we were delighted that she was recognised in the Queen's New Years Honours list and awarded a BEM for services to postnatal work in Oxfordshire.

We are in the process of planning an exciting new venture, which is to work in conjunction with a local care home to bring residents and young children with their parents together once a week.

As a charity we rely on grants and donations as well as parental contributions from the sessions, and are currently looking to raise £10,000 to cover our costs over the coming year. We are constantly looking for funding, so if you are interested in donating or have a link to an organisation which could support a local charity, please get in touch.

Our website is [www.botleybridges.org](http://www.botleybridges.org) and you can find information about the charity and previous year's annual reports [there](#). You can donate on the website or send cheques (made payable to 'Botley Bridges') to our registered address – Critchley's, Beaver House, 23-38 Hythe Bridge Street, OX12EP. I am the Chair of Trustees and you can contact them through me at [sue@botleybridges.org](mailto:sue@botleybridges.org) Thanks again for all your support.

Sue Dowe

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## **Public Art for Botley: murals, mosaics and more**

Fusion Arts is managing an exciting local public art initiative - the creation of bespoke artworks in and around the Botley West Way development. Artist Nor Greenhalgh, stone carver Alex Wenham and mosaic artist Clare Goodall will produce three separate yet interconnected pieces.

Public consultation has been taking part over the past six months and everyone can join the community consultation and activity day on **Saturday 19th March at Seacourt Hall 2pm to 5pm**. During this session you will be able to meet the artists, ask them questions and even try your hand at some mosaic art!

If you have any feedback about this project so far, please email [info@fusion-arts.org](mailto:info@fusion-arts.org) using the subject line "West Way art feedback".

*Subject to approval from National Highways, Nor Greenhalgh plans to brighten and characterise the pedestrian area beneath the A34 flyover with an exciting new mural. Here she outlines her artistic process so far:*

"The Botley flyover allows safe passage by foot under the ring road, maintaining an ancient walking route out of Botley. However, it's designed for the motorists-eye view rather than that of the people walking through, especially on the south side where it presents an uninviting concrete tunnel to people on foot.

However, it has great visual potential. The unusually shaped spaces draw the eye upwards and could be exploited for visual effect, providing an ideal canvas for visual motifs which draw walkers through the space. It could be a space to celebrate those travelling on foot as locals and pilgrims have done for centuries.

Bob Cowley & Linda Losito kindly introduced us to some of the valuable ecological habitats in the area - including the escarpment of the flyover itself. We spent an afternoon with the Botley Seniors lunch club to hear what the area around West Way means to people there, and their views and hopes for the new development. Local councillors gave their time to talk us through the history of Botley, and introduce us to volunteers at the local food bank. Caroline nee Howse introduced me to the history of Elms Farm Dairy, and showed me beautiful milk bottles with the dairy logos just unearthed from the mud here.

The Botley GAP action group gave their time to physically investigate the space with me - walking through the flyover after dark to assess how it could be improved. All described the flyover as a barrier cutting

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off Botley from nearby amenities, and expressed a desire to brighten the interior and make it feel more like a link between places than a gateway through them.

This initial process of listening and seeking to understand the site fed into initial inspirations for a public artwork. I was inspired by Botley as a place where people come to *make a home*; alongside the paradoxical role of the area as a busy transport interchange and place where people are often *passing through*. This tension is embodied in the flyover itself, which both protects and alienates pedestrians; which feels like a barrier and yet facilitates movement; which is simultaneously "unhomely" and yet provides a rich habitat for many species - not least roosting pigeons! The paradoxical feeling of the flyover can be summed up as a clash of scales, where little humans on foot are confronted with large-scale structures and signage, designed to be viewed from a distance and at speed. I have aimed to embrace its incongruent scale when drafting large-scale designs, which are still aimed squarely at the human looking up from their lowly position of the pavement, and highlighting how the human-scale body relates to this much larger structure.

I was also struck by old poems mentioning Botley's walking routes, such a contrast with Botley Road's modern reputation as a busy transport corridor! Lines such as Matthew Arnold's "over flooded fields foot travellers go" were romantically nostalgic even when written in Victorian times, but highlight the historical continuity of this route for people on foot.

Alongside mural designs, I have collaborated with mosaic artist Clare Goodall to produce relief ceramic tiles, to link her mosaic works with motifs in the mural. Further public engagement will generate more finished motifs by playing with scale, for example using very powerful botanical magnifying glasses to home in on detail, then enlarging this to the greatest size which it is possible to draw by hand – celebrating the 'clash of scales' already found in the flyover.

**Nor Greenhalgh**





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## Not Looking for Bear Grylls

The 15th Oxford is on the lookout for people to help support the group, in a wide variety of roles. If you're able to spare some time in any capacity and want to support a long running local community group, then please get in touch!

Each section is led by adult volunteers, who plan and manage all youth events in the group – from Friday evening meetings to camps, hikes and days out. Would you be able to arrange a day trip to see a new city, organise a short hike along the Ridgeway, or visit the group on a Friday evening to run an activity, or show off your hobbies or career to the Cubs/Scouts? Let us know!



You don't have to be Bear Grylls or constantly spending your time hiking and camping in order to help us out. All we ask is a bit of your free time! Previous Leaders at the 15th Oxford have come from a wide range of careers and backgrounds – Chefs, Ambulance Drivers, Registrars, Engineers, Administrators, Curators, Pyrotechnicians and more! The most important thing is that you enjoy your time with us, that you have the full support and encouragement from the team, and that you're willing to help us out.

If you're thinking of a more regular supporting role, then the Scout Association can provide full supporting training programmes from Occasional Helper to Section Leader. *Not sure you can commit to helping every week?* Maybe you could help recording badge work and progress awards! *Only able to help in your own time?* Maybe you could help manage the subscriptions! *Only able to help out on occasional weekends?* Help us to organise and run camps and nights away!

Every adult looking to be an appointed member of the group with a regular supporting role will require a safeguarding check, and training may be provided where necessary (all for free!). This can be arranged flexibly to suit your available free time and other commitments – it's there to support you, not to assess you!

Please do feel free to send us a message with any questions. Or if you'd like to have a chat, then please either send us an email at **XVOxfordScouts@yahoo.co.uk** or give the Group Scout Leader (Olly Faulkner) a call on 07736 054 013. We'd love to hear from you!

**Tom Freeman**

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## Could you be a Governor at Botley School?

At Botley we have been consulting on our Vision and Values, and we are looking forward to re-launching these in March. It was very clear from our consultation that everyone wanted to do all we could to work with, and be part of, our local community.

This is why the Governing Body are reaching out to the community – we want to create a Governing Body which more accurately reflects Botley's varied population. Botley is a very diverse school, by all measures, and we believe the Governing Body would benefit greatly from reflecting this. Therefore, we are especially inviting applications from members of our community who understand the diversity of ethnicity, religion, and languages that are found here.

What does being a governor at Botley School entail?

The Governing Body is made up of Staff, Parent and Community Governors. This last category is open to anyone who has the skills and passion to make a difference to the governance of our school. We currently have four Community Governors and five vacancies; we are inviting applications from across the community to fill these.

Governors are expected to attend around ten meetings a year, where members of the leadership team will present reports, data, and plans for

the future, for you to scrutinise. Your job will be to monitor the work already being done in school, and help with our strategic planning.

The other main responsibility is what we call 'Link' meetings. Here, each Governor takes on an area of special interest, and works with the staff member responsible to understand what is involved. This is a very rewarding part of the role. Governors forge close relationships with staff members and develop expertise in a particular field.

We would also like to broaden the skills and expertise of the Governing Body, and so we are inviting applications from people with experience in finance and accounting, or estates management



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this is not a requirement for the role, but it would be a welcome addition. Governors who join the Governing Body will be given training, and usually serve for an initial term of four years. Being part of Botley's Governing Body is a rewarding experience, both in terms of volunteering to give something back to our community, and in the skills we have developed in our professional lives as a result. There are opportunities to take on leadership positions with the Governing Board, or to make the most of being part of the team.

Overall, the role of Governors is to support the school's leadership team in delivering high quality education to our community. We work closely with the head teacher and the Acer Trust, to further improve education and wellbeing at Botley School.

Applicants will be interviewed as part of the process, but enquiries from anyone who thinks they might be eligible are welcome. If you or anyone you know wishes to hear more about how to apply, please do ask them to get in touch at the following email address: [office@botley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@botley.oxon.sch.uk)

**Ben Potter** (Chair of Governors)

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BOTLEY

&

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## **Randoms**

### **Time to get walking again!**

At this time of year we start to think about getting out into the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find the walks? Walking in Oxfordshire (<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire>) has hundreds of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles and more, and a note giving suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the website and get walking!

**John Harris**

### **Botley WI**

Our Annual Meeting is on Tuesday 1st March, when new officers will be elected. Our speakers, from Nordic Model Now!, will talk about the harms of prostitution. Visitors welcome. Our Faberdashery Sale on Saturday 26th March, 10-3pm, will have lots of items saved when Denman closed. For more information ring Alison on 07598 251161 or to book the hall call Val on 01865 245273.

**Alison Jenner**

### **New Church in Botley**

A new Church (Christ Church Botley, part of the Anglican Network in Europe) has begun to meet in the area. Services start at 10am on Sundays, but not always at the same venue, so please contact Reverend Ken Campbell for details, phone 07849 292489 and email: [revkenoxford@outlook.com](mailto:revkenoxford@outlook.com) See the website for more detailed information: [www.christchurchbotley.org](http://www.christchurchbotley.org)

### **Help with Scams**

Age UK Oxfordshire has launched a new scams prevention and support programme for older people, funded by Lloyds Bank. It offers group

talks to raise awareness, and face-to-face sessions for those who have been caught. Designed to help older people to recognize and deal with attempted scams, the programme will also provide support to fraud victims recovering after an incident. Being scammed can have an impact beyond losing money – it can erode confidence

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and damage quality of life. To find out more about Age UK Oxfordshire's Scams Prevention and Support Programme, phone them on 0345 450 1276. There is also detailed information online on the Age UK Website: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/scams-fraud/>

### **Tree planting on Sunday 6th March**

Oatlands Road Rec, 10am to 3pm, organized by Low Carbon West Oxford. They have 500 trees to plant. They will provide the kit, and hopefully hot drinks, but ask you to bring cake to share if you can. All welcome. Let Karen know you're coming on [events@lcwo.org.uk](mailto:events@lcwo.org.uk)

### **Cumnor Choral Concert**

Fauré's *Requiem* and Mendelssohn's *Hear My Prayer*, Conducted by Peter Foster. St P&P Church, Sat 26th March, 7.30pm. Tickets from Caroline Cockman ([carolinecockman@gmail.com](mailto:carolinecockman@gmail.com), tel 07961 900670).

### **Breast-feeding in Botley**

Bayley, in Pappo's new restaurant, has said that breast-feeding mothers can go there and feed their babies in the staff area. I found a young woman feeding her baby on a cold bench outside the Co-op in what is effectively a wind tunnel. She must have been so cold...

**Jenny Holloway**

## The Flower Shop



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**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 Jean Metson, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                                  |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>                                                             |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website:<br><a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                                                   |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, 1 Church Way, Botley Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                                      | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign</b>                       | Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website <a href="http://B4044path.org">B4044path.org</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 | Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                        |
| <b>Botley Community Larder</b>                                       | Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email <a href="mailto:botleylarder@gmail.com">botleylarder@gmail.com</a>                                                          |
| <b>Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group</b>            | Second Tuesday in the Month, early evening. Contact <a href="mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org">csugden@ocrpl.org</a>                                                                                           |
| <b>Botley Library</b>                                                | 07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).                                                                                                        |
| <b>Botley Seniors Lunch Club</b>                                     | Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>                                            |
| <b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>                                             | Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 <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>                                         | <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone 01865 721026                                                                                                          |
| <b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>             | Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                                          |
| <b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>                                       | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>              |
| <b>Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>                                   | Family club Email: <a href="mailto:Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org">Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org</a>                                                                                                          |
| <b>West Oxford Singing Circle</b>                                    | Weds 2–3pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or see <a href="http://www.emilyschoirs.co.uk">www.emilyschoirs.co.uk</a>                                                                                         |
| <b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>                                    | Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                   |

|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs</b> | Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 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 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 Parish Council</b>                    | <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>                                                                                                                        |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                        | Weds at LM pavilion, Daz: 07791 212866 or F'book                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                       | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Oxford Harmony</b>                              | Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>                                                                              |
| <b>Oxford Otters</b>                               | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                           | Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a><br>Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> . |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                    | <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Seacourt Hall Management Committee</b>          | Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see <a href="https://www.seacourthall.org.uk">https://www.seacourthall.org.uk</a>                                                                              |
| <b>Shotokan Karate Club</b>                        | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Stagecoach Botley</b>                           | Seacourt Hall, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> Oxf 590510 or 01235 390810                                                                                                |
| <b>Walking for Health</b>                          | 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Alan 07941 610913                                                                                                                |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                      | Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>                                                                                                   |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                 | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>                                                                                     |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                             | (Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>                                                                                                          |
| <b>West Way Day Centre</b>                         | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>                                             |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                  | Alison Jenner 07598 251161<br><a href="mailto:alisonjenner@yahoo.com">alisonjenner@yahoo.com</a>                                                                                                      |
| <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>Baptist Hall<br/>1 Church Way</b>                         | Contact: Diane Melchert 01865 243664<br><a href="mailto:botleybaptistchurch@gmail.com">botleybaptistchurch@gmail.com</a>    |
| <b>The Rosary Room<br/>Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise</b>          | Contact Maria Brown,<br>Tel: 01865 247986.                                                                                  |
| <b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church<br/>Hall, West Way, Botley</b> | Contact: 01865 242057 or<br><a href="mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com">osneybenefice@outlook.com</a> .                      |
| <b>Women's Institute Hall,<br/>North Hinksey Lane</b>        | Contact: Val Warner<br>Tel. 01865 245273                                                                                    |
| <b>Seacourt Hall,<br/>3 Church Way</b>                       | Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100,<br>or email <a href="mailto:admin@seacourthall.org.uk">admin@seacourthall.org.uk</a> |
| <b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way,<br/>Elms Rise, Botley</b>         | Contact: Darren Blase 241254<br><a href="mailto:louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com">louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com</a>        |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club,<br/>North Hinksey Village</b>          | Contact:.. Mary Bagnall<br><a href="mailto:mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com">mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com</a> .                 |

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

**St. Lawrence, Church of England**, North Hinksey Lane  
 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Sung Eucharist            11.30 a.m.  
 3rd Sunday, Matins                                  11.30 am

**St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England**, West Way  
 2nd Saturday each Month, 4–6pm Messy Church for children and their carers  
 1st Sunday of the Month, 9.30am All Age service of Holy Communion  
 All other Sundays, 9.30am Holy Communion with activities for children  
 Every Wednesday, 10.30am Holy Communion at Field House  
 Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or        [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com)

**Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Roman Catholic**, Yarnells Hill  
 Saturday                                                 6.30 pm. Mass  
 Sunday                                                     9.15 am Mass  
 Fr Daniel Lloyd. 07584 323915 [dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**Botley Baptist Church**, 1 Church Way  
 Sunday Service                                         11 am.  
 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study    7.30 p.m.  
 Choir practice      Thursday                        2p.m.  
 Diane Melchert, **07742 662668**. [www.botleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org)

**Calvary Chapel**  
 Sunday services held at Botley School 10.30–12 noon  
 Pastor Philip Vickery 01865 864498  
[calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk);  
[www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk](http://www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk)

## **What's On**

## March 2022

- Sun 6th 10am–3pm , Oatlands Road Rec. Tree planting, organized by WOCA. Kit provided. All welcome.
- Thur 10th 12 for 12.30, Seacourt Hall Botley Snrs Lunch Club
- Sat 12th 2–5pm, Seacourt Hall, STAY WARM – SAVE ENERGY
- Mon 14th 2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Jane Stubbs on “Corsets, Crinolines and Mangles”
- Thurs 17th 7.30, Seacourt Hall and Zoom, ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
- Sat 19th 2–5pm Seacourt Hall, Open Day, West Way Public Art
- Thur 24th 12 for 12.30, Seacourt Hall Botley Snrs Lunch Club
- Thur 24th 7.30, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council meeting
- Sat 26th 10–3pm, Botley W.I. Hall, Faberdashery Sale
- Sat 26th Ss P&P Church, 7.30, Cumnor Choral Spring Concert
- Mon 28th 2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Jane Humphreys on "History from underneath: women's and girls' experience in the era of industrialization"
- Sat 19th and Sat 25th, two weekends of litter picking with Oxclean
- March 7th to April 29th, *Thanks for All the Fish*, photographic exhibition at Ss Peter and Paul Church.
- 14<sup>th</sup> March to 16<sup>th</sup> April Local history exhibition at West Oxford Community Centre, featuring lots of old photographs of the parishes of St Thomas and St Ebbes