

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 117, May 2017**

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### **From the Editor**

What's happening in Botley this month? County Council elections on 4th May, and we will be very sorry to lose Cllr Godden, who after 34 years has decided it's time to hang up her hat (p7). Thanks for all the time and care you've spent on our patch, Janet. Around the same time, we hope, Mace will have a public event to show us their revised timetable for redeveloping the shopping centre. WWCC have given a full account (p3) but we need to see the plans. West Oxford Artweeks will be from 20th to 29th May, and there's plenty to see locally (map on p23).

Botley Bridges has now opened its doors to the under-fives in the place of our children's centre (p 25). They are still looking for an administrator, so if this could be you, do get in touch. If you'd like to get back to work but need a bit of encouragement, the WEA are running a local course during school hours (p41). Some of you will have recognized the signboard of the Fair Rosamund, Elms Rise's former pub, on the front cover. It heralds an article on Inn Signs inspired by the U3A talk in March. Current talks are listed in the Diary section. No plans as yet for a Botley Fete this year, although rumours abound, but there will be a Family Fun Day and 10K Fun Run up on the Louie Memorial Field on 20th May, raising money for the Adventure Scouts, which looks set to be an enjoyable day out. Lots going on then, and it's all here in the *Sprout*!

**Ag MacKeith**

## **West Way redevelopment re-phased**

On Monday 10th April, Mace held a Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting in St. Peter & St. Paul Church with about 30 representatives from local community groups. As well as WWCC committee members there were representatives from North Hinksey Parish Council, the District and County Council, the Association of Botley Communities, local businesses, Churches, the Neighbourhood Plan, Elms Parade, and other residents who had requested to attend. This was not a full public meeting – it was meant to reach representatives of groups who could pass on information to the wider community – but a public meeting on the changes to phasing was mentioned by Mace so look out for a date.

You may have read in the local press that Mace are proposing a reversal of the phasing for the redevelopment of West Way shopping centre. This was confirmed at the meeting with some more details and diagrams. The proposed new phasing would see the central shopping area demolished in July with temporary accommodation for 12 months for Co-op, Tesco, Lloyds Pharmacy, Seacourt Hall, Baptist Church and up to four other facilities. The temporary units would be in the Elms Court and Grant Thornton buildings on the North East corner and four remaining shops opposite the Library, which stays in place.

### **Timeline**

The rough timeline would be:

- End April: change of use application for temporary space submitted and six weeks consultation – this is when a public meeting will be held.
- Up to June: Changes to highways to add a left turn in and out of the Oxford end of Elms Parade to allow for traffic to temporary shops.
- End June 2017: central shopping area closes, Co-op, Tesco, Lloyds open in temporary facilities.
- July 2017: demolition starts
- c. Summer 2018: new Co-op and Tesco open
- c. Oct 2018: community building opens
- end 2018: central shops and some academic flats completed
- end 2019: hotel, academic and some other residential flats completed
- Q1 2020: final completion with all residential units in place.

The reasons given for the change were: car parking, logistics and utilities – the practicalities of keeping parking spaces available during works,

building from the inside to the outside of the site, and the location of the electricity supply. Mace and their building contractors said that the original plan of knocking down the corner first and keeping shops open would take 5.5 years rather than 3.5 years. This was presented as saving a year but in fact the whole scheme will still take 3.5 years as originally outlined in the application approved in June 2016.

### **What does this mean for us?**

Some local businesses including Café Aloha and Hair Therapy have confirmed they will not be moving to temporary units and will close before the end of June. Others are still in discussions. WWCC feel that a café is an important part of continued services, not only to feed residents and construction workers but also as a social meeting place. If no commercial café takes a temporary space we have raised the idea of a community café partnering with a social enterprise and possibly Branches Youth Café.

### **What about local jobs?**

A representative of Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) spoke at the CLG about the community employment plan that is a planning condition and focuses on apprenticeships, work experience, and getting people back into work. When asked what help can be provided to those currently employed in the centre who may be facing redundancy there was mention of a “pipeline” to the new Westgate development and highlighting the need at the Job Centre. We are trying to get more details so please contact us on **[westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com)** for more information.

### **What about parking?**

There will be 43 parking spaces around the temporary supermarkets and a warden will patrol to prevent long stays. Construction workers will use the Park & Ride and be transported to the site, they will not be permitted to park on residential streets.

There were a lot of questions on the details of the temporary move so the public exhibition is really needed. Mace have a phasing update leaflet on their website at **[www.westwayconsultation.co.uk/consultation](http://www.westwayconsultation.co.uk/consultation)** Look out for an announcement about their public meeting/exhibition. Please also keep an eye on our website **[www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com](http://www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com)**, and social media for updates: **[www.facebook.com/westwayconcern](https://www.facebook.com/westwayconcern)**.

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

## Councillor Godden bows out

*Breaking up is hard to do ... for me anyway. But I've been the county councillor for North Hinksey for 24 years, and it's time to stop – good heavens that's almost a quarter of a century!* People tell me that I've served my turn, I've hoed my row, but that isn't how I look at it at all. It's been a great honour to represent Botley on Oxfordshire County Council, and to work with North Hinksey Parish Council and my colleagues on the Vale District Council. These few lines are just to say thank you to the many Botley residents who have supported me over this time.



The work has been always interesting, often rewarding, as often challenging because of the constant reductions in local government funding, but always at its centre such a warm community, full of enterprise.

Difficult times still lie ahead. Led by West Way Community Concern we fought tooth and nail, but were unable to prevent the imposition of commercial development in West Way far in excess of what was wanted or needed. Now we're faced with a good three years of serious disruption. Part of me feels a bit mean to stand down when so much is uncertain, but I have great confidence in all the initiatives that have been launched in the past few years. First we had the successful, much loved and fearless *Sprout*, then came the well-designed and informative Community Website, and now the ambitious Neighbourhood Plan, building on the more modest Parish Plan of a few years ago, and most recently the new Association for Botley Communities, melding us together in trying times. I shall be watching from the back row, and I wish all our community organisations well in the months and years to come. Only the best for Botley. How lucky we are to live here.

Thank you once more for your support.

**Janet Godden**

*[The picture shows Janet in February 2011 campaigning to Save Botley Library, one of the many, many campaigns around local services she's supported during her time in office. Thank you, Janet, you'll be missed! Ed]*

## Max von Seibold – an Oxford Photographer

The latest local photographic exhibition is an intriguing mix of the English countryside, portraits and cats. Pop in to St Peter and St Paul's Church in Botley to admire and enjoy this eclectic compilation, opening on Monday 8 May 2017 This is how the subject describes himself:

"I am a photographer from Oxford who started out as an amateur, progressed to taking photos professionally in London for an international branding agency and then returned blissfully back to being an amateur again. Having put my toe in the water of taking photos for a living, I now love being able to take images of whatever I like.

"I enjoy photography as a pastime, because it allows me to explore aspects of life and reality which intrigue me: namely the seasons, the essence and ambiance of space, and places which make life feel strange and different. Interspersed with these somewhat pretentious ambitions are numerous photographs of cats, the sky, and often my long suffering colleagues, who tolerate me at best.



"I have a professional background in architectural photography; occasionally I am even allowed to do the odd wedding and I also like taking photographs from my drone (yes I have a licence – and insurance – which needs renewing quite soon).

"Typically I am to be found roaming fields in the English countryside, tracking down old stone circles, abandoned nuclear bunkers or derelict buildings and peering at them earnestly before sloping off to a nearby pub to review what I have shot. Sometimes even poetry occurs.

"I shoot digital, but adore my Nikon FM-2 film camera. I love cats and science fiction. You can reach me on **Maxvonseibold@gmail.com**"

**Jennie Hopkins**

## The Magic of Pub Signs

The *Sprout* has been promoting U3A's Monday afternoon talks for so long, I thought it was time to sample one. I've long been interested in pub signs, so Angela Panrucker's talk on 13th March was my choice. It was worth it just to learn of the existence of the Inn Sign Society (website: <http://www.innsignsociety.com>) of which Angela is an enthusiastic member. So far she has taken 8,000 photos of pub signs, and she showed us 150 of them, vividly illustrating a talk which covered the origins, history, provenance and regulatory laws of this lively remnant of English folk art.

The earliest locals were alehouses, where the householder (or more often his wife) brewed the beer and sold it in their front room. The Black Horse in Botley (between the George (now Richer Sounds) and the Carpenter's Arms (now McDonalds)) seems to have been a late example of this, though Fanny Hancox, the landlady, didn't brew the beer herself as far as we know. It had the one room at the front, with games to play that were ostentatiously removed at the end of Saturday evening (they would be out of play on Sundays), and a doormat that was wedged up against the invitingly open door at closing time. It was very much the landlady's own domain.



**Black Horse, Old Botley (closed in 1968)**

The next locals were the Inns, part of the charity of the great religious houses. These were expected to provide travellers with food and bed, and those on pilgrim routes made a business of it, providing hostels for pilgrims – the origin of the jocular 'hostelry' still in use as a word for a pub. Top of the tree was the 'tavern' which only sold wine, though not exactly as we know it, with names like 'sack' and 'malmsy'. Our modern pubs are an amalgam of all three.

Pub signs started as a bush or a bunch of grapes put up over the door. Then in 1393 Richard II passed a law requiring all pubs to show a sign, so that the official regulators could test the ales, and the result was a flurry of White Harts – the royal badge. In fact, the signs of our oldest pubs tended to fall into three categories: heraldic, religious and monarchic. Of heraldic signs the Red Lion (John of Gaunt) and the Blue Boar (Richard III) are early examples. The Bear and Ragged Staff was the emblem of the Earl of Warwick, and it was also used to tell people that there would be bear-baiting there. (The Chequer Board or Chequers told you to expect gambling. The Bird in Hand, although its origin is in falconry, had become shorthand for 'don't expect credit here' by the 19th Century.)



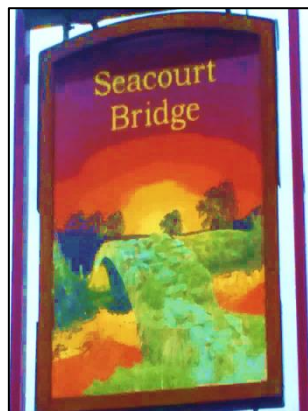
The second theme was religious, reflecting the concerns of those early Inns. So we find the Seven Stars (stars round the Virgin Mary's halo), the Bull (papal 'bull' or proclamation) and the Catherine Wheel (St Catherine and the wheel she was martyred on). With the suppression of the monasteries under Henry VIII, the signs were reimagined without their religious meaning, so now we have the Seven Stars as the Plough, the Bull as a beast, and the Catherine Wheel modified to the Cat and Wheel.

Thirdly there were royal signs, of which the most popular king is still Henry VIII and queen is Elizabeth I. After Victoria a law was passed forbidding the representation of living monarchs on pub signs. It's not hard to guess what might have prompted this! It is still extant, and continues to be flouted, as anyone will know who has walked down Little Clarendon Street and looked up at the Duke (not long ago the Duke of Cambridge, and still showing the present incumbent). Angela flashed up a modern example of a Rose and Crown sign showing Kate Middleton as the Rose and Prince William wearing the crown at their wedding, and she showed several examples of signs mocking Prince Charles in a friendly way.

More recent signs show a rich and wide variety of subjects, from famous people to transport, to historic events, to sporting achievements, to the natural world. We still love puns (the Flower Pot refers to the flowing ale – think of the Flowing Well at Sunningwell), and she showed us a

charming sign from the Amble Inn, illustrated by Henry VIII making eyes at this second wife. Come to think of it, even modern names like the Slug and Lettuce are a kind of jokey reference to obscure traditional names like the Pig and Whistle.

Botley's earliest local pub – long gone – seems to have been the Crown alehouse at No 4 North Hinksey Lane, Old Botley, still lived in but currently under threat of demolition. It was on record in the 1660s as the home of Thomas Wright, and was used by Oxford students of the day, as, being in Berks, it was outside the jurisdiction of the University. The George and the Carpenter's Arms reflected the making of the Botley Causeway in the middle of the 18th Century, and Old Botley's local sawmill, which survived until some ten years ago. Up on Elms Rise was the Fair Rosamund, built as a focus for the estate in the 60s, but demolished to make way for more houses at the turn of the 21st Century, in the teeth of local protest. Now our only surviving pub is the very popular Seacourt Bridge – a strange name when you think about it, which may refer to the stream which flowed along the front of Elms Parade.



Pub signs are still being painted, usually funded by the breweries, some of which maintain a team of artists. Angela didn't show examples of the pitiful modern fashion for understatement – some kind of computer-generated hint at the name, a cog, for example, to suggest a Catherine Wheel – discreetly painted in pale green on cream. But she did feel that they ought to be recorded as part of our cultural heritage. The pendulum can't swing back to something more colourful fast enough for me!

Neither did she mention that pubs are still disappearing at the rate of 20 a week, for all kinds of reasons to do with the way we live now. Meeting places where social interaction is lubricated by booze will always have a place, though, and here in Botley it's interesting to watch the growing popularity of the Social Tap, the new micro-brewery in Curtis's Yard, a shadowy warehouse space that is now simply buzzing on a Friday night.

## **Ag MacKeith**

*U3A talks are always advertised in the Diary on the back cover and are open to all for a small sum. Members go free.*



## Patient Participation Group news

Following the article published in the April edition, Caroline Jones, Practice Manager at Botley Medical Centre, reports that the merger of the Botley and Kennington practices is going to plan.

An important development has been the appointment of a physio-therapist who started working in the practice on 3rd April. At this stage he is working part-time, though there may be scope for him to build up his hours. He will be working at both ends of the practice, i.e. in both Botley and Kennington. This appointment brings the practice up to full staffing.

**Harry Dickinson**, Chairman

*The Department of Health has put round the word that “the moment for self-care has arrived”. Botley PPG is looking specifically at this issue, and its implications for the practice and for our community. The article below, by one of our members, is our third on this subject (the views it represents are those of the PPG, and not necessarily of the practice).*

### **SELF-CARE: a much debated issue**

Self-care means taking some responsibility for our own health. It used to be part and parcel of our behaviour but we have become more and more reliant on medical care. It starts with making decisions about our lifestyle, choosing to eat healthily and to exercise, and extends to using home remedies or over-the-counter medicines when we have common ailments such as sore throat, coughs and back pain. It also means seeking professional medical help when needed.

#### **Benefits:**

There are two main reasons why self-care is not only necessary but beneficial:

- First, good self-care practices can help the NHS do a better job despite increasing demands and limited resources;
- secondly, good self-care can empower people to become better masters of their own health with long term personal benefits.

#### **Notes from the Self-Care Forum:**

*“We need a whole-system approach to delivering care, and for this to be successful there must be an inclusion of opportunities for self-care.”*

*“If people are empowered with the confidence and information to look after themselves when they can, and visit their GP when they need to, they have greater control of their own health and are encouraged to adopt healthy behaviours that help prevent ill health in the long term.”*

*“There are still 57 million GP consultations a year for minor ailments at a total cost to the NHS of £2 billion, which take up on average an hour a day for every GP.”*

### **Changing behaviour**

As well as articles related to self-care in our local magazines, e.g. “Coping with colds and flu this winter” and “Call on the chemist”, we are also encouraging Botley Health Walks (see *note below*). A lot more can be done. May I suggest you look at the following websites for useful information on self-care for many minor ailments and much more worth reading, which you can share with your GP: **[www.selfcareforum.org](http://www.selfcareforum.org)** and **[www.nhs.uk/livewell/Pages/Livewellhub.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/Pages/Livewellhub.aspx)**

### **What next?**

Please ask your Patient Participation Group for more information and offer suggestions to help us establish good self-care practices, in co-operation with Botley medical staff. Your input at this crucial stage can make a difference and we thank you in advance for your valued participation. You can contact us by writing to the surgery (addressed to “The PPG”) or email us at **[botleyppg@gmail.com](mailto:botleyppg@gmail.com)**.

**Lyliane Doumèche**

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### **Note on Botley Health Walks**

*We need a pool of trained walk leaders. An informal and straightforward training course has been organised on **Sunday 28th May, 10am to 3pm at Dean Court Community Centre (Register before 15th May)**. Please join us. You can contact Lyliane for more information at **[doumechhall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:doumechhall@hotmail.co.uk)***



## Parish Council update on MACE and more ...

Parish Council representatives are continuing to negotiate with MACE on two fronts. We are aiming to ensure that disruption to the local community is minimised in line with one of our key objectives, and we are finalising details of the new community building, and our temporary location for Seacourt Hall, which for a year from mid-2017 will be an impressively roomy range of facilities on the 2nd floor of the Grant Thornton building.

MACE's recently revised plans now include a temporary section of the site in the north-east corner where Co-op, Tesco, Lloyds Chemist and the community facilities will be located until they are moved to brand new homes in late 2018. By the end of 2018 the new car parks will also be in operation. All works should be completed by the end of 2020. Details of the new phasing can be found online at <http://westwayconsultation.co.uk/>

Other recent Parish Council activities include:

- Installing a new bus shelter in Lime Road.
- Installing our first public defibrillator at the Louie Memorial Pavilion.
- Continuing to support the newly established Botley Bridges charity providing family support services (see page 25).

For further details on all these see <http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk>

**David Kay, chairman**, North Hinksey Parish Council

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## Artweeks in Botley and West Oxford

Now in its 35th year, the annual Oxfordshire festival of the visual arts is taking place in May. The dates for your attention locally are from 20th to 29th. The main Artweeks catalogue (available from the Library) contains the opening days and times of each venue.

There are two exhibition venues on the Elms Rise estate, both first time participants, along with several venues on and around Botley Road. Look out for the West Oxford Map supplement which details venue locations and artists, and provides handy 'at a glance' information. (Or use this **Sprout** edition!)

Emmett Casley (Venue 361) takes buildings and trees for example, and through observation, study, and execution in pencil drawing and lino-cut printing, explores and develops his personal relationship with nature, architecture and history. His linocut is of a house in Cornwall.



If you've enjoyed the festival in the past then take a look at some new work, meet some new artists and see Artweeks in a new light. If you'd like to visit an exhibition for the first time ... do it ... it's free, and who knows what you might find!! You'll be helping to support Botley's cultural profile as we face some challenging changes ahead. **AH**

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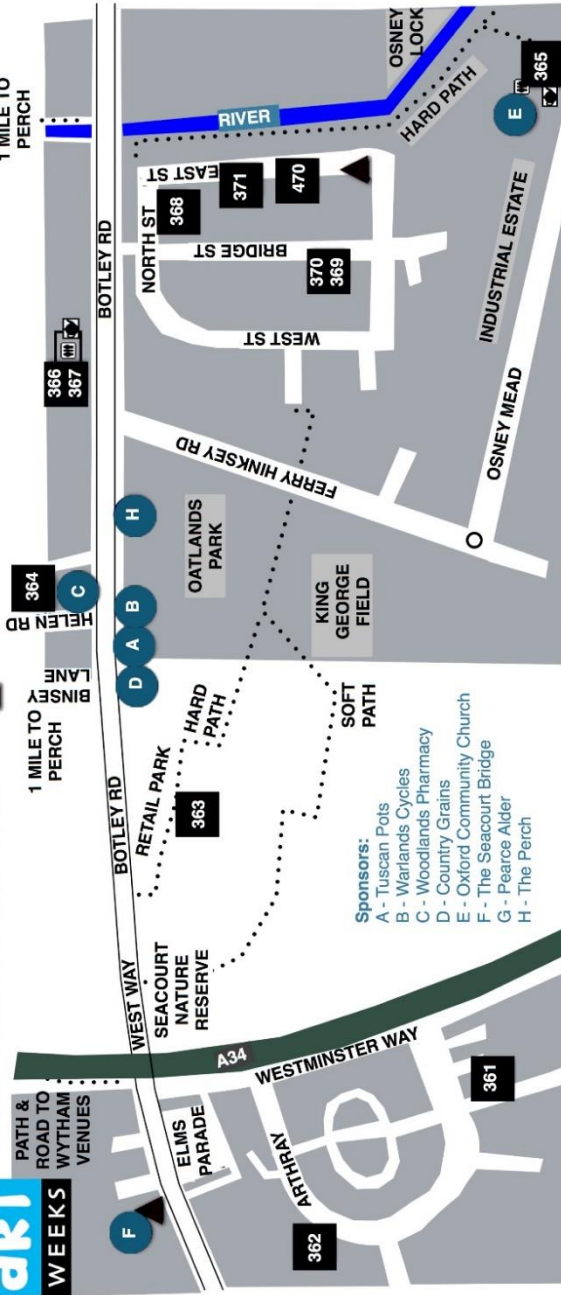
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# West Oxford Arts Trail



## KEY:

- 361** - Emmett Casley - Printmaking (5 Crabtree Rd OX2 9DU)
- 362** - Ali Hogg - Various (42 Arthray Rd OX2 9AB)
- 363** - Jane Hogg - Various (42 Arthray Rd OX2 9AB)
- 364** - Leila Anderson - Mixed Media (HobbyCraft OX2 0HF)
- 365** - Wendy Skinner Smith - Painting (48 Helen Rd OX2 0DE)
- 366** - Light & Life at The Kings Centre (OX2 0ES)
- 367** - wocART at West Ox Community Centre (OX2 0BT)
- 368** - Elaine Kazimierzczuk - Painting (2 North Street OX2 0AY)
- 369** - Antoinette Isben - Painting (69 Bridge Street OX2 0BD)
- 370** - Louise Summers - Basketry (69 Bridge Street OX2 0BD)
- 371** - Maureen Egenelli - Embroidery (24 East St OX2 0AU)
- 372** - Cynthia Harper - Calligraphy/Rag Rugs (24 East St OX2 0AU)
- 373** - Bianca Elgar Ltd - Textiles (15 East St OX2 0AU)

- 367** - wocART at West Ox Community Centre (OX2 0BT) :  
Andrew Walker - Sculpture  
Deborah Williams - Painting  
Miranda Miller - Collage  
Helen White - Photography
- 368** - Elaine Kazimierzczuk - Painting (2 North Street OX2 0AY)
- 369** - Antoinette Isben - Painting (69 Bridge Street OX2 0BD)
- 370** - Louise Summers - Basketry (69 Bridge Street OX2 0BD)
- 371** - Maureen Egenelli - Embroidery (24 East St OX2 0AU)
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- 373** - Bianca Elgar Ltd - Textiles (15 East St OX2 0AU)

## **Botley Bridges is up and running**

Botley Bridges Family Support Service – a charitable company – is now up and running. Charity status was awarded in March and sessions and services have now started. The trustees and the steering group have worked really hard to get to this point – a lot of forms have been filled in! Both North Hinksey Parish Council and Cumnor Parish Council have supported the venture with financial support and advice and the trustees are extremely grateful for this help. The County Council has provided a start-up grant. Sessions are mainly being held in Botley School in what was the Children's Centre room. Please note there is no parking on the school site.

### **Coming up**

10-week Family Links Parenting Course starts Monday 8th May, 7–9pm at Dean Court Community Centre, Pinnocks Way. This course is for everyone and helps parents to create a calm family life and positive emotional relationships with their children. Cost is £60 to include the handbook, or £20 if on benefits. Payment can be made in instalments. Contact details below.

### **Regular activities**

- Monday 1.15–3.15 Movers and Shakers – aimed at children under 4 with activities to support children's development, both physical and language. The session ends with music and parachute games. Donation £2 to include snack (50p if on benefits)
- Friday 9–11.30 Play and Learn – a group for children 0–4 and their families, encouraging learning through play with lots of opportunities for creative and language development. The session ends with music and parachute games. Cost £2 to include snack (50p if on benefits)
- Friday 1.00–3.00 Bump to Baby group – a group which supports parents and carers in the first year. Weekly topics and singing and a chance to meet other local families and support each other. Cost £2 (50p if on benefits)
- Saturday 10–12pm Play and Learn Sessions for dads and male carers on the first Saturday of every month
- The health visitor also has a weekly clinic on a Wednesday from 1.00–2.30 and Botley Bridges staff are there to support

### **In the future**

Paediatric First Aid Course – contact Sue Dowe for more information of dates for this 2-hour course that covers basic first aid for children.

Summer holiday activities will be arranged in local parks and outside spaces to support families with primary aged children. Keep an eye on the website for more information.

We are hoping to put on some conversation classes for families who do not have English as their first language to help them settle into the local community.

More information on our website **[www.botleybridges.org](http://www.botleybridges.org)** or contact the coordinator **[coordinator@botleybridges.org](mailto:coordinator@botleybridges.org)** , phone 07498 563636

**Sue Dowe**, interim co-ordinator

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### LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P17/V0631/HH	Priorton Vernon Avenue. Re-modelling of front facade, internal reconfiguration, partial 2.5 storey extension to rear. New hard landscaping to rear.	<b>15 March</b> Target decision date: 10 May
P17/V0733/PDH	38 Lime Road. Single storey rear extension and loft conversion Depth: 3.5m Height: 4m Height to eaves: 2.9m.	<b>17 March</b> TDD: 28 April
P17/V0735/FUL	85 Hurst Rise Road. Demolition of existing bungalow. Erection of a new house.	<b>21 March</b> TDD: 16 May
P17/V0741/HH	The Thatched House Stanton Road. Demolish existing garage/sheds, rear extension and porch. Add new rear extension, new basement, new porch & first floor extension over existing flat-roof; new garage. New timber cladding; replace existing windows.	<b>21 March</b> TDD: 16 May
P17/V0796/FUL	23 Hutchcomb Road. 2 Storey pitched roof side extension to form study and store/ workshop.	<b>27 March</b> TDD: 22 May
P17/V0876/HH	8 Crabtree Road. Loft conversion and rear extension.	<b>31 March</b> TDD: 26 May
P17/V0821/HH	33 Raleigh Park Road. Single storey extension to front and rear aspect, with two storey extension to side.	<b>5 April</b> TDD: 31 May

## Police Update

**Anti-social behaviour (ASB):** There were numerous reports made to us about two scrambler bikes being driven across the fields behind Kimmeridge Housing Estate at the top of the Cumnor Hill and across South Hinksey Golf Course without the land-owner's permission. Consequently one of the bikes was seized and we have had no further reports since. We hope it stays this way.

**Offenders brought to justice:** A 38-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection with a sexual assault in West Way Shopping Centre. He is due to appear in Court.

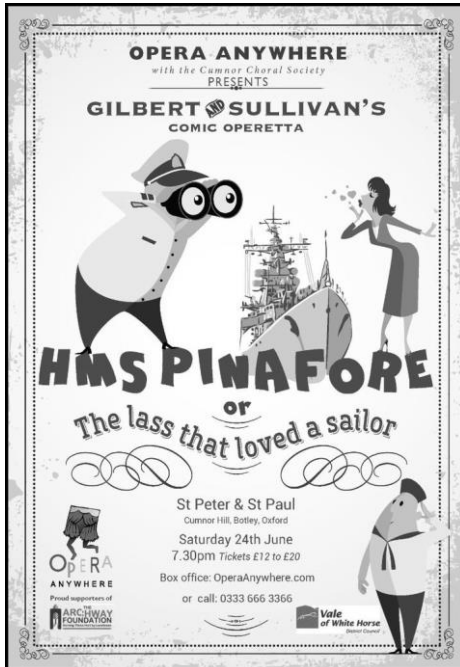
**Liaison with young people:** PCSO Jamie Moya-Flood and PC Keith Morton arranged for the Botley Brownies to come and visit Abingdon Police Station. They were shown around the station which included the CCTV room, control room and demonstration of some of the police equipment (e.g. enforcer).

**Future events:** We have started holding monthly "Have Your Say" meetings at a new location. This is Cumnor Hill House Care Home on Breeches End, Cumnor Hill. Both residents and the public are welcome

to attend their Thursday coffee mornings where visitors can find out more about the facility and discuss any local concerns with us. Neighbourhood Team representatives will attend between 10am and noon (resources permitting) on 4th May, 1st June and 29th June.

**'Spring' into action and secure your home:** Now the fine weather is here it's time to think about the security of your home. Help us keep crime down and make life harder for criminals by following our crime reduction advice:

- Secure access to the back garden. Are your gates and fences maintained?





- Consider a time switch for your radio and lights.
- Service your burglar alarm.
- Keep gardening tools locked away.
- Ensure sheds and garages are fully secured.

**Contact us** If you want to contact the neighbourhood team on these or any other issues, you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101. If it is an emergency, dial 999. You can also email us on **AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**. (But don't use this email address to report crimes or for any urgent matters.) To find out more about your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: **www.thamesvalley.police.uk**. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at **www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk** today. Once you have signed up, you can choose which updates to receive and how to receive them.

### Your local CPSO team

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## Cumnor Clinic



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Reception is open Mon to Sat 9-12

Tel: 01865 863646 Website: [www.cumnorclinic.com](http://www.cumnorclinic.com)



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

## Brownies Tackle Crime (again)

The day finally dawned when we had our scheduled visit to Abingdon Police Station as part of our Crime Prevention badge. ID passes duly sorted for the leadership team, and 2nd Botley Brownie unit was in behind closed doors. Firstly, we settled ourselves on some comfy sofas and then Jamie and Keith (Carl couldn't make it) started off with a game of Spot The Difference. Could we spot the differences in uniform between a PSCO and a PC? Yes, we did a pretty good job and Keith then patiently explained what each particular difference meant. (We even went as far as noticing that Jamie (the PCSO) wasn't wearing a watch whereas Keith was – quick as a flash Keith made us laugh by saying that was because Jamie couldn't tell the time anyway!).

Eventually, out came the handcuffs but our Brownies are nothing if not prepared and our newly-enrolled Brownie Tessa produced her own set. Keith was then able to demonstrate the differences between her set (which was the traditional image of two loops connected by a short chain) and the Police one (which had no chain but was solid) by slapping them on Jamie. Keith showed us two ways of putting these on depending on whether the person is willing or not. Jamie was not willing so he had his hands handcuffed behind his back – TV detective style which the girls loved. When Keith unlocked each cuff we could all see the red marks left behind – Jamie also said they were uncomfortable. Yes, of course Brown Owl wanted a go (the girls cheered) so Keith was nice to her and cuffed her with her hands in front of her; but she also said it was an uncomfortable experience and was left with red marks on her wrists.



Next our unit was then split into two groups and the first group went off to see the room full of cameras in various Oxfordshire towns. We each got to have a go controlling the cameras – panning and zooming in and out – some of those pavement patterns must be pretty interesting judging by all the zooming in the girls did. However, the lady who showed us around even managed to get one Wantage camera to look at another Wantage

camera so that we could see the camera moving about its pole when we properly panned around the town square.

This group then swapped with the first group to learn about to open doors with the “big red key”. Confusingly, not only was it not a key but it was actually red and yellow. Keith asked us if we had seen any TV programmes where there are lots of Police – this clearly got lost in translation as one girl replied, “Do you mean murder-mystery-Agatha-Christie-style?” Smiling, he managed to nod and say, “Yes, something like that”, when all along he had clearly been meaning the fly-on-the-wall Police documentaries and not Miss Marple with her knitting in one hand and a very heavy big red key breaking down village front doors! The girls got to see how heavy the key was and Keith explained when and how it would be used (*see photo*).



Next came the riot helmet followed by the electric riot shield against dogs. The shield had the girls shouting, “Turn it off” as it was rather un-nerving with its sparks criss-crossing the shield like a mis-firing gas cooker.

Lastly, we had to be completely silent in the call-handling room where calls from 999 and 101 were actually being dealt with before our very eyes. However, for the girls the TV showing rolling news, computer screens, operators wearing headsets typing away, digital maps and giant motorway layout posters were almost (but not quite) as engaging as the large and beautifully iced chocolate Easter egg sitting enticingly on the breakout area’s table!



**Lucy Howes**

## Randoms

**Cultivate Oxford** are looking for someone to join their team as a Saturday Grocer at their new stop in Botley and help them grow our community here. The role would involve working between their base in Little Wittenham and the trading stop in Botley outside St Peter and St Paul church. £80 per shift. Full, clean driver's license required. Full information on their Facebook page called **cultivate oxford**.

### Fun for kids

A new theatre school for kids aged 5+ has started up in West Oxford Community Centre on Sundays between 1-4.15pm. If you think this would be a fun way to equip your child with confidence, get in touch with Anneke Hackmann on 07775 910087 or email her at [director@streetstage.co.uk](mailto:director@streetstage.co.uk)

### Thank you so much – you know who you are!

Would it be possible to print a small thankyou in the next *Sprout*? One afternoon in late March, we took the dogs and our little trailer to collect some logs from Raleigh Park. One of our dogs ran away, and we searched and searched for him without success. A lady who lived in Raleigh Park Road very kindly took her own dog home then came back to help us. We eventually found him just before dark in the middle of an enormous bramble patch. We had to cut him free. We would like to say a very big thank you to that kind lady and also to Marcia Marriot – we are very grateful to you both for your help. What would we have done without you!

**Alison Hall**

#### 10k Run and Family Funday

**20th May 2017, 11am-4pm**

Louie Memorial Upper Playing Field, Arnold's Way

**10k race** (run, jog or walk - we don't mind!)

Starts at 11am (age 16+) Entries in advance at:

<https://www.entrycentral.com/Oxford-Greenbelt-runs>

**Kids' 1k fun-run** (African/ safari-themed fancy dress optional!) Starts at 12.30pm (15 & under)

**Funday 11am-4pm** including:

Africa-themed bake off (£1 per entry) Local shows

Bar and Café BBQ Food stalls

Games and Competitions

Commercial stalls

More info at <https://runandfunday.com/>

Car parking at Matthew Arnold School



All proceeds to Oxfordshire Scouting

## **New Vets at Hinksey Heights**

Hilltop Veterinary Centre are very excited to announce that they have opened a new purpose-built veterinary centre next to Hinksey Heights Golf Club. The centre is owned

by a veterinary surgeon and a veterinary nurse who have a passion for clinical excellence while delivering compassion and care. Pets will find home-from-home features like a television in the dog ward and a special cat house in the waiting room where cants can feel safe and secure. There will be a free Veterinary Consultation for the first 100 registrations and an ongoing discount scheme called PAW Plan to help spread the cost of routine pet care. On Saturday 6th May from 11am until 3pm they are holding a family fun day, profits will go to local animal charities. More information on their website. Google 'Hilltop Veterinary Centre Ltd'

## **Let's hear it again from the Youth club**

Yes ... we're at it again – More thank yous. This time our sincere gratitude goes out to a local sports retailer who has donated an outdoor table tennis table to the club. Many thanks to Mike, the store manager, for this generosity. We look forward to making good use of it in the forthcoming Summer session. We are also counting the sleeps until we can use our new Tuck Shop Trolley The plastic drawers on the bottom unit came from a local DIY store donation.



Thanks Gaynor!

**Ali Hogg**, for the North Hinksey Youth Club team (who are victims of our own success and need more volunteers urgently!)

## **HMS Pinafore**

**Cumnor Choral Society invites you to come and sing** the choruses of Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore! There will be four weekly rehearsals starting on Friday 2nd June, before the performance with Opera

Anywhere on 24th June in SS Peter and Paul, Botley. No acting or voice tests will be required, just enthusiastic singing! We will rehearse on Friday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Dean Court, Botley. This special event only costs singers £10, and this includes score hire. For more information please contact Chairman Marion Owen on 01235 533726 or by email [marion.owen@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:marion.owen@mypostoffice.co.uk) or Secretary Rosie Smith on 01865 862139 or by email at [rosie@krs13plus.com](mailto:rosie@krs13plus.com)

## Tennis treats

Would you like to play tennis this summer? Get fit, have fun and make new friends? Oxford Sports Tennis Club in North Hinksey have lots of fun opportunities for children and adults to play. To learn more, please email: [tennis@oxfordsportsltc.org](mailto:tennis@oxfordsportsltc.org) or go to our website [www.oxfordsportsltc.org](http://www.oxfordsportsltc.org) All ages and abilities welcome. There's a FREE 6-week tennis coaching course again this year. Available for new players aged 5-8 years old. Places are limited so book now at: [www.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids](http://www.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids) Then there's the Great British Tennis Weekend, also FREE. An open event for the whole family on Sunday 14th May, with free play and coaching sessions for children and adults. To sign up go to [www.lta.org.uk/GBTW](http://www.lta.org.uk/GBTW) and enter the club post code OX2 0NA.



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## 'Olivia' at North Hinksey School

On the 6th April Years 3 and 4 did an amazing production of 'Olivia'! Did you know, it's the girl version of Oliver Twist? Most of the parents came at 6pm. Olivia (the main part) was played wonderfully by Ava and Pippa. The directors were Mrs Colucci and Miss Horsfall along with the great help of Mrs Clare and Vita's mum.

Everyone loved the most exciting effects! Rowan and Harry did the awesome music and lights. 99% of people were amazed that we could turn into Victorians (it was set between 1837 and 1901). Also, the costumes were too brilliant for words!

There was the biggest crowd any one had ever seen in North Hinksey.

Many children loved performing the enjoyable musical. The best bits were the funny parts, Dicken (the orphanage's helper) was very funny.

**Isabella, Year 4**

## **Botley W.I.**

Our next meeting will be on 2 May 2017, when Julia Mile will speak about "Ragbags and Cocktails." Then on 9th May, the walking group will visit the Bluebell wood, Appleton – meet at Botley WI hall. The crafts group will learn how to make a "twiddle muff" (good for helping people with dementia) on 16th May. We will be taking a coach to visit Exbury Gardens on 23rd May. New members always welcome.

**Alison Jenner**

## **Milestones in North Hinksey Village**

Congratulations to Betty Lawes on reaching her centenary, for which she received a card from the Queen. A card was also sent from the Royal Household to Derek and Gloria Walker on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding, but sadly Mr Walker died in Spain, aged 86, over the Easter weekend. His funeral will be held at the Crematorium on 5th May.

**Chris Sugden**

## **Thinking of going back to work?**

There's a free WEA course for those wanting to return to work or change career, starting on Tuesday 16th May for 4 weeks. It runs from 12.15 to 2.45 at Dean Court Community Centre. Book directly with the WEA but there is also information about it on the Botley Bridges website



## **Oxfordshire County Council elections on Thursday 4th May**

*(a timely reminder from the county council)*

Oxfordshire County Council provides many of the important services in your community, such as Fire and Rescue, looking after vulnerable children and adults, libraries, roads, waste disposal, school nurses and tackling rogue traders, to name just a few.

The county council elections on Thursday 4 May are your opportunity to directly influence how these services are run in your area.

The councillor elected in your area will be representing you and your community, taking important decisions that affect where you live. They will also be the person you get in touch with if you want to improve services over the next few years.

You can find the full list of candidates standing in your area and your nearest polling station at **[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/elections](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/elections)**

The elections take place on Thursday 4 May from 7.00am to 10 pm at the Seacourt Hall. . The election count takes place on Friday, May 5 in Abingdon. Don't forget to vote, and remind your family to do the same.

## **Allotments available**

North Hinksey Parish Council has allotments of varying sizes available now, not quite too late for a full summer of productive horticulture. Sizes range from 3 poles (pretty small) to 10 poles (full size). Always wanted somewhere to spend a peaceful hour between work and home? Always wanted to grow your own vegetables? Always wanted a shed to hide in, safe from

the demands of the internet? This could be your moment. Get in touch with the Parish Clerk via the NHPC website to find out what might be possible. Unconfident but willing gardeners who don't want to start on a whole plot can be paired up with existing tenants who would like to share.





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

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                             |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6 -7.30 : Alison Griffin 01865 379247                                                                                                                              |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                       |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386                                                                                                     |
| <b>Badminton Club</b>                                                | Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>                                                             |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.                                        | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Botley Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                               | Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.15–11am, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or<br>Brendan Byrne Ox.792531 <a href="mailto:bb@bridewellconsulting.com">bb@bridewellconsulting.com</a>             |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>                                           | Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Botley Library</b>                                                | 01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).                                                                                                     |
| <b>Botley Singers</b>                                                | Thur 7.30, Botley Baptist Church. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>                                                                            |
| <b>Chair-based Exercise Class</b>                                    | Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Seacourt Hall<br>Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601                                                                                                              |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoral.co.uk">www.cumnorchoral.co.uk</a>                                                                  |
| <b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>                                             | Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>                                                                       |
| <b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>                      | Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>                                         | Details on website at <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone Chirs Impey, 01865 721026                                                                    |
| <b>Fit Steps – exercise based on dance</b>                           | Friday 6–7pm, Seacourt Hall. Email Rosalie on <a href="mailto:rosalie.crane@btinternet.com">rosalie.crane@btinternet.com</a>                                                                        |
| <b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>             | Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                                       |
| <b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>                                       | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk">hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> , call 01865-863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Let's Sing! – singing group</b>                                   | Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email <a href="mailto:emformusic@outlook.com">emformusic@outlook.com</a>                                                                              |
| <b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>                                    | Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                |
| <b>Mum and Baby Yoga for babies from 6 wks to crawling</b>           | Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via <a href="https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk">https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk</a>                                                         |

|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>N Hinksey after school club</b>                   | Mon–Thurs 3–6pm Contact: Oxford 794287                                                                                                                       |
| <b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>                           | Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997                                                                                                        |
| <b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>                         | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451                                                                                                                               |
| <b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>             | Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <b>voirreyc@aol.com</b>                                                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                         | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                            |
| <b>N Hinksey Horticultural Society</b>               | Contact: Ann Dykes 01865 251821 <b>anndykes@hotmail.com</b>                                                                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                      | Alan Stone 01865 861992 <b>nhpcclerk@msn.com</b>                                                                                                             |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                          | Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook                                                                                |
| <b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>                       | Fortnightly on Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Marina Bennett 01865 242312                                                                                         |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                         | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arrangement Club</b>                | 4th Thursday Cumnor.<br>Dympna Walker : 01865 865259                                                                                                         |
| <b>Oxford Otters</b>                                 | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                             | Boys and girls from 5–19 years. Contact Kevin Honner 438655, <b>kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</b> For Seniors, training and Touch Rugby jamesy1976@hotmail.co.uk |
| <b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>     | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <b>melanie_riste@hotmail.com</b>                                                                                        |
| <b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>                       | Contacts: Julie and John Tailor 01865 763394.                                                                                                                |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                      | David Brown <b>raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</b>                                                                                                            |
| <b>Royal Voluntary Service (West Way Day Centre)</b> | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <b>oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</b>                                                              |
| <b>Saturdads</b><br>Elms Rd Children's Centre        | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                     |
| <b>Shotokan Karate club</b>                          | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                               | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Bansob tel: 07779 253899 <b>bansob@aol.com</b>                                                                  |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                        | Contact: Marion Bostock 436277                                                                                                                               |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                   | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <b>www.wotkd.co.uk</b>                                                                          |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                               | (Uni of the 3rd Age) Elizabeth Stevens, 739252                                                                                                               |
| <b>Which Craft?</b>                                  | Pavilion, Arnold's way, third Monday, contact <b>whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</b>                                                                           |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                    | Monthly, 1st Tuesday: Liz Manson, tel. 244175 or email <b>liz.manson@virginmedia.com</b>                                                                     |

