

The Sprout



Brownies in their Easter Bonnets

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 137 May 2019

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Issue 137, May 2019

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From the Editor

This is the month when things could change in our locality, as a new 14-strong Parish Council will be elected on 2nd May. There is a list of candidates, starting on page 6, to give you an idea of who you can vote for. We'll be voting for our two District Councillors at the same time. The Vale has more power than the parish, but we only have two councillors, so although their input is critical, it isn't quite so close to home. The Chair of the Pavilion Trustees has written a reply (p.6) to the Scouts' case, aired last month, and the Chair of the Patients Participation Group of the local medical practice have sent an account of their recent AGM (p.23). On a lighter note, there are reviews of two very different musical evenings (pp27 and 35), and a reminder about Botley's contribution towards the County's Artweeks celebration of the Visual Arts (p41). There's also notice of a competition for local amateur photographers (p37), and an invitation to mark Hedgehog Awareness Week by making life easier for our prickly friends (p29). Then there's an account of the varied help available to parents of children under five at Botley Bridges, still there for us, despite the loss of local authority funding. They are looking for volunteers, and if you can help, please do come forward – input at this early stage in our children's lives is priceless. Finally, the Brownies have been a bit crowded out this month, so we are happy to show a seasonal photo of them in their Easter bonnets on our cover. Happy reading!

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

Abandoned bicycles in Elms Rise estate

I wonder what the solution might be to the increasing practice around Elms Rise estate of chaining and locking apparently redundant and broken bicycles to some of the street furniture. For many months now one has been locked to the Arthray Road sign on the corner of Arthray Road and Westminster Way. Another is chained to a light post (I think) by the bus stop in the middle of St Paul's Crescent. A third one was, for quite some time, chained to the sign opposite the post box in St Paul's Crescent. And a fourth was also there for a little while.

These bikes cannot be moved without a considerable amount of effort and appropriate tools, as they have been locked either with D-locks or heavy duty chains. How can they be disposed of, and how can we best encourage our community to dispose of unwanted bikes in a better way?

Alison Le Cornu

Botley School's 80th Birthday

Did you know that this academic year, 2018 to 2019, is the year we celebrate Botley School's 80th birthday? The school has seen many changes over the years, survived a world war and has been relentlessly helping children on their learning journey at the heart of this community! We would love to mark this occasion with a special event, so on July 18th, Botley School will be celebrating with a birthday garden tea party and live entertainment!!! We are keen to get in contact with previous students who have been at the school and ask you to share your memories with us (pictures, uniforms, anecdotes, etc.) Please get in touch via our email **fobs1930@gmail.com** or phone 07758 253063.

If you can help in any way with our fundraising or sponsorship we'd love to hear from you, too! We are hoping many old students will join us, so let's make this an event to remember, and keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

Alex Neil (Acting Head) and **Laura Jones** (FOBS Chair)

The Scouts and the Pavilion

Following presentations from the Parish Council and the Scouts, with regard to the proposed new Louie Memorial Pavilion plans, (as well as a number of factually incorrect anonymous leaflets that are in circulation), I thought it necessary to put forward my point of view, having been Chairman of the Pavilion Trustees for some time.

We need a new building in the upper field. Both the existing Pavilion building and the Scout Hut are in need of replacement. It is misleading to suggest the Scout Hut is a perfectly viable building as it is, without substantial investment. It is merely in a better structural state than the Pavilion. Following assessment by the Consultant, refurbishment of either building was not considered a good value option for the community.

The plan to replace both buildings has been in mind for several years. This was known to be the plan of the Parish Council, and was something the Pavilion Trust and the Scouts were fully aware of. This is why successive applications over the last five years or so to extend the Scouts lease were turned down. The Trustees have simply asked that the new building be a replacement for the existing two buildings. The user rooms are not increased in total area compared to those in the existing buildings. Any increase in size is merely to reflect current requirements for things like changing rooms, toilets and accessibility. It would be illogical to reduce the size of the user rooms to allow for these vital changes. It would not be in the interests of the community using the building.

Other than asking for the new building to offer two rooms of comparative size to the user rooms in the existing buildings, the Pavilion Trust has made no other stipulations, aside from improved storage and changing rooms that meet modern requirements/Sport England recommendations. The Scouts have made a number of comments, which the plans have been revised to accommodate. These comments have highlighted problems, but never suggested solutions or come from an approach of compromise, as far as I am aware. This will be a building for all to use – the Scouts and the existing Pavilion Trust will have to adopt a new, more open-minded approach to find a way forward. In these funding-starved times, it would be irresponsible for the Parish Council to spend public money on a building where areas were restricted to solely serve one fixed group.

The existing Pavilion Trust is very keen to work with the Scouts in a new facility, to the benefit of all users and the community. When the new building is complete, the Scouts (should they wish to take this opportunity

to use a building that they have neither, to my knowledge, been asked to fund nor offered to source funding towards), they would not be external users - they could be an active part of the Trust itself. This would mean they could work with other Trustees to use rents (of football pitch and the facility to other external users) to cover the running costs. Thus, the cost to them would be reduced. The Trust does not operate to generate profit, merely to cover costs and provide a facility for all community use, as per the original bequest.

The new building will mean change and, with multiple groups involved, this rarely means a perfect solution that totally satisfies everyone. We must all be ready to adapt and compromise. We have had too many years of inactivity on this front. Leaving everything as it stands is not a solution, it would be a huge disservice to our community, our future and our children. Our facilities have been neglected and gone without improvement for far too long, whilst the demands put upon them increase, year on year. We must improve our facilities. I hope that recent negative non constructive comments and anonymous, incorrect leaflets do not scupper this opportunity.

Emmett Casley

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## **NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS STATEMENTS FROM CANDIDATES**

*A total of 22 candidates have offered themselves for election to the 14 places on the Parish Council on 2nd May 2019, all but 5 of them have sent statements, listed below. The District Council elections for two District Councillors take place at the same time, but these are party political. You can vote for Emily Smith and Debby Hallett for the Lib Dems, for Erica Davis and Maurice O'Donoghue for Labour, for James Moreton Wakely and Michael Murray for the Conservatives, or for Katherine Phillips for the Green Party. Editor*

### **Pauline Allen**

I have lived with my family in the parish for 41 years. I am not a member of any political party or group. I care very much about Local Priorities and Local Issues. If elected, I will campaign against Uncontrolled Parking. I am very much against unnecessary development which



is gradually destroying our green open spaces and wildlife. I will also fight to get developers to complete Unfinished Roads and Works on local estates. I will support the Scouts with the Renewal of their Lease. I believe in preserving the Quality of Life in this area for all age groups. I want to see Improved Communication and Consultation. I will do my best to speak up for the concerns of local residents and represent their views.

## **Alistair Bastin**

I'd like to help Botley and North Hinksey become a better place for all of us to live, work and raise families. I've lived in Oxford for decades, and moved to Botley a few years ago. I first met the Parish Council while working on a planning issue, and after the *Sprout's* request for new Councillors I thought I'd throw my hat into the ring. I'm interested in helping the Parish achieve its goals, so I'm offering my skills in communication, analysis and campaigning to contribute to all of this. I ask for your support.

You can read more at [www.communitycouncillors.uk](http://www.communitycouncillors.uk)



## **Lorna Berrett**

In four years as a Parish Councillor I've learned a lot and seen what can be achieved. I've helped to improve communications with the new NHPC website and Facebook page. As chair of the Seacourt Hall Management Committee I've built good relationships with Mace and SDC, negotiating to ensure we have the best hall facilities for the community. I walk past the growing hub building daily and I'm excited about the potential of the new Hall. Together with the proposals for the Pavilion we have opportunities

to create an even better Botley for our growing community. Read more at [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)





## Darren Blase

I have attended Parish Council meetings as a parishioner for as long as I have managed the North Hinksey Youth Club, that is over 7 years. The time is right to stand and help secure the future for our young people. I support the need for a new sports/community building to replace the current, rather old and run-down buildings; hopefully the new Pavilion will give local groups a suitable and sustainable building for the next 50 years. To further support the needs of the community, let's take this opportunity to ask again, is there still strong support for a multi-use wheeled facility to replace the Botley Skate Bowl? Read more at [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)



## Judi Bolder

I have lived in North Hinksey most of my life and have been a parish councillor for the past four years, working towards improving facilities for our young people. Botley was highlighted in a Vale of White Horse report 2009 as having inadequate facilities for teenagers, and I feel we are now making headway with the installation of the new play equipment on the Louie Memorial fields and the plans for the redevelopment of the Pavilion – hopefully to include a skatepark. I would like to have the opportunity to see this project through to completion. I believe that Councillors For Our Community can achieve this and so much more. You can read all about us at [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)



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## **Chris Church**

I've lived and run a business here in Botley since 2012. I formerly worked in London, though I was born in Oxford. I have been on the Parish Council for five years. I founded the 'Best of Botley' awards in 2016 to celebrate local community life – I'd like to see that become an annual event. Botley faces many pressures – new development, traffic, air pollution, and the Expressway. The parish council has only limited powers, so we need to use those powers as effectively as possible. We need a council that works as hard as it can to help create an even better Botley. You can read more at [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)



## **Erica Davis**

Running for Parish Council Election because I am committed in community involvement and engagement. Believe in keeping North Hinksey green and in community sustainability. With two teenage children I am keen to ensure that young people are actively involved in the local issues which affect them. Community Safety is a top priority as is fighting austerity. I love North Hinksey and as a long standing resident want to improve the lives of those who live and work in the parish.



**Martin Dowie** *No information received*



## **Ann Dykes**

I have served on the Parish Council for over 20 years, working on the Planning, Allotments and Remembrance Committees and also representing the Parish Council on the Seacourt Hall Management Committee (which is a charity body set up to run the Seacourt Community Hall for the benefit of all the Parish). If elected again I will endeavour to continue to serve the community in a fair and honest way. I find it a very rewarding job and a privilege to serve the community. You can read more about me at [www.Community.Councillors.uk](http://www.Community.Councillors.uk)



## **Steve Elliott**

Having lived in Botley for 34 years and brought up my family here I feel that Botley is a great place to live. The Parish Council has a great opportunity to work with the developers of West Way Place to build a new hall for the community and also with the District Council to get a new Pavilion built on the upper Louie Memorial playing field. Having been a parish councillor some years ago when that Council was able to attract significant external funding, I know with your vote, we can help to do this again. Read more about Councillors for Our Community on [www.Community.Councillors.uk](http://www.Community.Councillors.uk)



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## **Graham Fairclough**

While new to standing as a Parish Councillor I am not new to Botley having grown up on Elms Rise and attended Botley Primary and Matthew Arnold Schools. Since returning to the area I have been busy establishing the Tilbury Fields Residents Association, where I am now the Chair. Having worked for the Residents to ensure that the estate is completed to the levels expected, now is the time to channel my energy and efforts into supporting the wider Botley community, bringing new enthusiasm to ensure that residents of all ages, experience the opportunities that our great parish has to offer. Read more here [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)



**Esmail Gholami Babaahmadi** *no information received*

**Nima Gholami Babaahmadi** *no information received*

**Chris Hall** – *no information received*

## **(Maria) Laura Jones**

I work organising logistics and budgets. I like finding solutions to problems that arise, and I believe in a community that works together and listens to each other. We moved to Botley in 2012 and were taken by the sense of community. When my kids started school I started campaigning against air pollution with other parents, as Botley and North Hinksey Schools are affected by the A34. I chair FOBS (Friends of Botley School), we organise parents to apply for grants and run fundraising events. I love Botley and want a beautiful and safe neighbourhood for the whole community. Read more at [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)



## David Kay

As a Parish Councillor since 2012, and Chairman for the past four years, I have been involved in all of the Council's major activities from planning to communications to leisure facilities. These include significant involvement in the Botley Centre redevelopment, both as lead NHPC representative and a member of the Seacourt Hall Management Committee, guiding the Neighbourhood Plan Team in the production of a hugely beneficial Plan to help protect what we cherish locally, and leading Council's efforts opposing the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, which could potentially be massively damaging to our community. Read more at [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)



## Ag MacKeith

I've lived in Botley for ages, and if I'm elected this will be my fifth term on the Parish Council. While my children were growing up I joined local campaigns, and together we saved the nursery school (1980), built Botley Skatebowl (1990), and held tight to our library (1998 and 2010). As the editor of the *Sprout*, I help to keep the parish in touch. I'm glad to have had a hand in the sustainable building part of the Neighbourhood Plan, and I think it's time we revisited the arguments for and against a skate park, so the parish can move on from the stalemate that followed the huge 2012 petition. There's more about Councillors for our Community on this website [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk).



## **John Marriott**

I stand for election to represent everyone in all areas of this Parish by respecting a broad range of opinion, listening to local people on local issues and prioritising residents' views. I am in favour of improved communications and transparency from the Parish Council, leisure facilities and a new Pavilion that work for the whole community. I regularly help with the local conservation group the North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers, am an active supporter of our green spaces and have major concerns over local transport issues for commuters and cyclists. I have helped with the Remembrance Day arrangements in the past and have supported local residents on planning matters.



## **Maurice O'Donoghue**

This is the first time I've been a candidate for the Parish Council, though I've been involved in community activities for years. I've lived in Botley for 18 years with my wife, a qualified childminder, and our young son, who attends Bartholomew School. I recently qualified as a rugby coach, to help my son's rugby development, I'd like to give a fresh input on leisure and youth activities in the area, as a parent and a coach. I'm also interested in contributing on local environmental matters, including several large projects which threaten the Green Belt and the character of the area, such as the Flood Alleviation Scheme, the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and the proposed new pavilion on the Louie Memorial Fields.



## **Caroline Potter**

My family and I have called Botley home for over 10 years. I got involved locally as a co-chair of West Way Community Concern in 2013, and I've been working to support and improve our valued community resources ever since. As a current Parish Councillor I've focused my efforts on securing high quality facilities for all ages through the West Way redevelopment and at the Louie Memorial Playing Fields. There is still lots of work to do – planning approvals, detailed designs, fundraising, etc. If re-elected I will give my full commitment to getting these projects done. Read more at [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)



**Andrew Pritchard** *no information received*

## **Adam Rankin**

I am currently serving as a Parish Councillor and wish to continue in the work that is bringing an even better Botley. Improved leisure facilities are key; the new equipment for older children already installed on the LM Field is popular. A new pavilion will promote the fields as the recreational heart of the Parish. As Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, I believe it is important that we have our say on local housing and on the way infrastructure develops. Liaison with SDC over West Way Place & our new Community Hub are also vital. Please read more at [www.CommunityCouncillors.uk](http://www.CommunityCouncillors.uk)



## **Botley and Kennington PPG AGM on 19th March**

A minute's silence was held before the meeting for a PPG member from Kennington: Gerry Bowen Thomas, who sadly passed away earlier in the month. He was a well-respected member of the group who always offered words of advice or a different perspective on an issue. He died just before the Six Nations final but as a Welshman and rugby supporter he would have been very proud.

The PPG meetings have run bimonthly, alternating between Botley and Kennington. Meetings are held in the reception areas and are open to all patients who want to attend. The PPG committee, Practice Manager and at least one GP usually attend the meeting and are extremely informative. Historically, timing has been an issue: meetings commence at 6pm, which has made it difficult for some people to attend. So we would be keen to know what might better suit; Kennington meets on Mondays, Botley on Wednesdays.

Health talks have been well attended. A talk in February by Dr McKewen on reducing the risks of cancer was appreciated by twenty Kennington and Botley residents. We note that it is difficult to get people to come across from Botley and vice versa.

It has been quite a frustrating year in terms of getting the Action Plan off the ground, although one of the items on the plan – the information screen for Kennington – was purchased by the practice, although this has not been universally welcomed, as some dislike having their names displayed on the screen in the waiting room.

We want to do more with the reception area in Kennington. It is hoped that it will eventually be enlarged to enable greater confidentiality for patients. We plan to extend it out into the covered area and make it more aesthetically pleasing and easier to use for wheelchair users and carers with buggies etc. But as the practice does not own the building, we have to wait for NHS Properties to undertake the development.

In the summer of 2018, we posed various questions to the Practice Manager and the Q&As were published in the *Chronicle* and *Sprout* in December. The majority of the questions related to Kennington but there has been positive feedback, and so we plan to have a future session. If you have a question come along to a meeting or email me ([sybuck@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sybuck@hotmail.co.uk)) and I'll ask it on your behalf.

We also hope to have a talk in the Autumn by Age Concern in relation to easing winter pressures on acute services (date to be confirmed).



As Chair I have attended meetings for all the PPG Chairs of Oxford City. This Forum is supported by Healthwatch, which keeps us up to date with developments. The NHS is under great pressure and these meetings are very useful in helping us understand and disseminate information to other patients. Plans are afoot to make further changes in the structure of PPGs which we are assured will have no negative impact on patients' experience. We await clarification from the Clinical Commissioning Group.

There has been a move by the NHS to look at recruiting volunteers to help support Practices. This has been championed by Dr Akinola and the PPG secretary Canon Dr Chris Sugden. It is still in its early stages, but over the next year we should see some developments. We don't want to offend Kennington Good Neighbours, so we invited Margaret Biggs to come and tell us how they worked, and Chris Sugden explained the difference that it is hoped volunteers may make in the future.

I am delighted to report that we recruited four new PPG members at the AGM, who have each agreed to undertake an area of responsibility. The future of our PPG looks very positive. I can also report that I was re elected as Chair and Chris Sugden as Secretary. John Ashton will take on Deputy Chair. All existing members have roles within the group and will continue with this in the coming year. Many thanks to everyone who attended and for becoming part of the PPG. The future holds more changes, and I feel with the group we can move forward positively.

**Sylvia Buckingham**

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LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P19/V0654/DIS	Botley Centre West Way. Discharge of condition 13.	14 March
P19/V0696/FUL	Louie Memorial Pavilion, Arnolds Way. Demolish existing buildings and erect replacement Pavilion with car park.	25 March <i>Target Decision Date 20 May</i>
P19/V0667/FUL	9 Eynsham Road. Demolish existing dwelling and replace with six purpose built two-bed flats.	27 March <i>TDD: 22 May</i>
P19/V0763/HH	56 North Hinksey Lane. Single storey rear extension.	27 March <i>TDD: 22 May</i>
P19/V0682/HH	87 Hurst Rise Road. Front single, and side and rear two storey extensions.	29 March <i>TDD: 24 May</i>
P19/V0856/PDH	39 Beech Road. Single storey rear kitchen/dining extension.	5 April 7 May

Fabulous 42nd Street!

The Oxfordshire Youth Musical Theatre (OYMT) is for 14–19-year-olds who love to sing, dance and act. OYMT have put on some incredible performances such as 'Wicked' and 'Les Misérables', building a reputation for extremely high-quality shows. I joined OYMT in September and started work on '42nd Street', our April 2019 production, performed before packed houses at Radley College.

All us newcomers were welcomed into the close-knit group by some of the loveliest people I've met. It was such a nice atmosphere going into every rehearsal, where we learned our dance numbers, new songs and made sure we were familiar with the storyline. I came back home from every rehearsal buzzing with excitement that only grew as we drew closer to the show. Balancing homework with theatre was tricky, but doable.

Show week was one of the best times of my life. Everyone was so eager to get on that stage and make each performance count. Not one of the cast could say that they didn't enjoy every minute of it! During the five performances we all bonded so fast, you could really tell that OYMT is a true family. From our dressing rooms we would cheer when the leads finished a tap dance or sang a solo.

One of the backstage crew sent this Facebook message. *Fabulous show last night! Great to emerge from backstage to see the real thing. So professional, energetic, colourful and glamorous. The singing, dancing and acting was exceptional. I much preferred it to the West End version! Huge congratulations to all involved, a brilliant team effort. Can't wait to see it again later.*

Another great bonus of working alongside such friendly people is how



much it helps with confidence. As the show went on I saw people really coming out of their shells. Not just in being able to perform in front of a big audience, but in finding they were able to make such close friends really quickly and talk to any the cast members.

I have felt so grateful to everyone in OYMT and all the directors and choreographers and backstage crew for helping to put together a show that we can all be proud of. I would encourage anyone who likes to sing and act to sign up because it is an incredible experience that I wouldn't miss for the world.

Sally Grainger (*standing seventh from right in the photo*)

Hedgehogs Need our Help

As a member of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, I have been very encouraged to read about *Sprout* readers' recent sightings of hedgehogs in our area. As you may be aware, the long-term survival prospects of hedgehog populations rests on their ability to move freely between our gardens so that they can forage for food and find mates. Just one new fence going up in our area can block vital access to wildlife corridors and put the future of local hedgehogs in doubt.

This **Hedgehog Awareness Week** (5th–11th May) I'd like to encourage *Sprout* readers to link their gardens and create a hedgehog-sized hole (the size of a CD) in their garden fences. As in previous years, I have five 'Hedgehog Highway' signs (pictured) to give away to the first five readers who get in touch



(roger.dalrymple@spc.oxon.org). You can read more about how to help hedgehogs at www.hedgehogstreet.org

Roger Dalrymple, British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Brownies Get Crafty

Continuing our New Brownie Programme, we had Sarah, a Brownie mum come to our Brownie meeting to discuss her job. Again, we started with the game “Twenty Questions” to guess what she did for a living, but it did not take long as we had quite forgotten to disguise the cover of the sewing machine and every girl knew at once what was underneath it! Therefore, we were straight into Sarah kindly showing us the amazing variety of items she has produced on a sewing machine just for herself and family (obviously the tailoring and alterations for clients stayed at work).

The “ooh”s and “aah”s clearly showed how much the girls and leaders liked the fact that the items were unique – indeed we could see the reversible skirt would be a revolution in the holiday packing scenario. There were also cute sunhats, Christmas stockings, tops and dresses all in fabulous fabrics. Then Sarah showed us what could be done by recycling old garments – like denim jeans – into a selection of toys and garments such as the work apron she was wearing. These were all much admired too. Of course by now, the girls were itching to have a go and stitch something. Sarah had brought a selection of “starter”

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sewing kits for each girl and once they had sorted themselves into groups doing more-or-less the same kit they were away.

The following week was another craft week where we handmade Mothering Sunday cards. Snowy painted one hand of each girl (in cold blue paint which tickled!) which they then "hand printed" onto individual cards as the flower stalks and then added an assortment of coloured stickers as the petals. The hardest part was completing the sentence on the plant pot, "I love you because..." Some girls tackled this by producing bullet-pointed lists including, "you make my packed lunch so I don't have to have school dinners every day" and "I have my own bedroom". However, some just went for the simpler sentiments "you give great hugs" and "you love me" and left it at that. Lastly, to finish our unusual month-long craft-fest we made two types of Easter bonnets. This was quite a feat as we had combined it with "Bring a Friend" night but the bonnets had to be made before we broke up for Easter rather than after, so we had to press on!

Lucy Howes

Christian Aid Week 12-18 May 2019

**Will you help pregnant mothers like Tenneh
give birth safely in Sierra Leone?**

The red Christian Aid envelope will come through your door.
Please return it with your donation to
Botley Post Office or Warlands Cycle Shop on Botley Road.

Alternatively you can give at www.christianaid.org.uk

Christian Aid has more than 70 years' experience of working in partnership to support communities to thrive. They tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks. And if disasters happen, they get people the help they want straight away.

Last year the campaign raised £8m to fight poverty. Thank you.



Cumnor Choral Society concert

On Saturday 23rd March in St Peter and St Paul's Church, Botley, a very appreciative audience heard a concert of 18th Century works by Handel and J S Bach and 21st Century pieces by Leslie Perrem and Penny Squire.

The Hurst Sinfonia, directed by Peter Foster, in chamber mode with flute, violins, viola, cello, clarinet, harp and harpsichord continuo (by Foster), performed Bach's Orchestral Suite No 2. They also provided two other well-received instrumental works as well as accompanying the Cumnor Choral Society in two works by Handel. The first was "The Ways of Zion do Mourn" and later in the programme the Chandos anthem no 9 "O Praise the Lord with One Consent". These two works, far less well-known than many of Handel's pieces, proved a rewarding challenge for the choir and they sang well.

The Perrem piece "The Isle is Full of Noises" had its world premiere performance at this concert, and was introduced by the composer. Set to flute, played by Elizabeth Hobbs, with violins, viola, cello, clarinet and harp it fitted the programme admirably and captivated the audience with hints of birdsong, wind and waves, with distant bells. A quartet then delighted with 'Small precious dots in the darkness of space', the new composition by Penny Squire. The choir also hosted the traditional buffet in the Church Hall.

The next concert will be Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" on 30th November, with rehearsals starting on 13th September. New singers are very welcome – there is no audition. Contact Chairman John May 07795 054142 for information or visit

cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com

Mike Cockman

Posh Coffee Morning Farmoor Village Hall



Saturday 18th May 10.30-12.30

Join us for coffee, tea and cake and enjoy the various stalls:

Delicious homemade cakes,

Locally grown plants,

Books

Bric a Brac

Raffle

Entrance is free although donations to the village hall funds are welcome

Picturing Botley and North Hinksey

North Hinksey Parish Council

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Do you have recent photographs of our parish that might work well as a header for the Parish Council website? We are running a competition to feature different header images on our website: www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk The new website launched in November with a photo of cyclists entering Willow Walk. While this is a lovely picture, it would be great to reflect more views of Botley and North

Hinksey. Ideally we will have a number of winning images that we can rotate to give a fuller picture of our parish. All photos need to work in a “letterbox” style format, like the one above – they can be larger and cropped to shape if necessary. Please send your photos to me

clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk

We will post them on our Facebook page in June so that you can vote for your favourites. Winners will be notified and their names and winning photographs will be announced on the website, Facebook and in a future edition of *The Sprout*.

Colin Ryde, Clerk NHPC

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www.garden-rescue.org

Help with your Under-fives

Botley Bridges is a community charity based at Botley School in Elms Road. We aim to replace some of the universal services that were lost when local Children's Centres closed in 2017, and serve families from Botley and surrounding areas. We hold two Stay-and-play weekly sessions, Monday afternoon 1–3pm and Friday morning 9–11.30am. These sessions are ideal for children under 5 and their parents/carers to learn together through play. We have a fabulous outdoor space including a huge sandpit. We hold a Saturdays session on the first Saturday of the month, from 10–12noon. This is for dads and other male carers to spend quality time with their children. We serve a healthy snack during all of these sessions.



During school holidays, we also open up our Stay-and-play sessions to older children too. In the summer we run weekly Fun-in-the-park sessions. We try to use all the local parks. 2019 will be the third year that we have provided these popular and well attended sessions. Look out for our summer programme, coming very soon.

Are you a new parent? Well Baby Clinics run at Botley Bridges every Wednesday afternoon, from 1–2.30pm. Baby can be weighed and you can speak to an experienced Community Staff Nurse or Health Visitor. We hold a supportive weekly Baby Group on Friday afternoons, 1.15–3pm, based on the PEEP programme which is particularly suitable for first-time parents; this is a great chance to meet other local parents and make new friends. We often have various professionals coming in to talk to us. Volunteers for Baby Group and all of our Stay-and-play sessions are needed so if you have some spare time, or have a skill you would like to share, we would love to hear from you. We also run various parenting courses, first aid sessions and classes such as English as an additional language, and helping your child at school throughout the year.

Botley Bridges currently has a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer but would welcome more non-post-holding Trustees. The workload is minimal with approximately 8 meetings a year. Somebody from the local community would be ideal. If you would like more information about what is involved, contact Sue Dowe (Chair of trustees) 07769275084 or chairman@botleybridges.org. There is more about us on our website www.botleybridges.org, find us on Facebook, email us at coordinator@botleybridges.org or call 07498563636

Randoms

Art Weeks in Botley

Following the success of last year's inaugural community exhibition, the Louie Memorial Pavilion Open Art Exhibition returns for Art Weeks on 4-5th May, 11-4pm each day. Please contact @Catherine Casley or via FB page for submitting your last minute entries! All media, all ages, first timers to experienced artists, are welcome! Open to anyone in Botley. Cake sale and refreshments will be available.

Emmett Casley

Mid Eastern Vegan, 1st June

There's a pop-up vegan, mid-eastern event at the Botley Baptist Church's Manna Café on the first floor of the Seacourt Hall, West Way Place at 7 pm on 1 June 2019. The event is one of a series created by Witney-based The Yafo Kitchen. The price is £30 per head for adults. Call Shai on 07710148111 for enquiries and to book. He will negotiate on price for young children.

Grant Nightingale

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

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com
4th Oxford Scout Group Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; mail@thefourth.org.uk Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
Badminton Club	Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 garryclark13@gmail.com
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 jbarley1@sky.com or Brendan Byrne 792531 brendan.byrne999@gmail.com
Botley Health Walks	Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497
Botley Library	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Singers	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 angastpen@aol.com
Branches Café, Westway Place, Open to All 8am-3pm,	Open for young people 3-5 daily, Th. eves 7–9 Tel:01865 251115 www.branchesyouth.uk Facebook Branches Youth Cafe, Instagram @_branches_youth_
Community Fridge	For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811
Cumnor Choral Society	Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
Cumnor Gardening Club	Details on website at http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ or phone Chris Impey, 01865 721026
Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group	Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk
Hill End Volunteer Team	Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 01865-863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk
Let's Sing! – singing group	Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email emformusic@outlook.com
Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc	Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk

Mum and Baby Yoga for babies from 6 wks to crawling	Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk
North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com
N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997
N Hinksey Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
N Hinksey Horticultural Soc	Contact: Ann Dykes Ox 251821 andykes@hotmail.com
N Hinksey Parish Council	Colin Ryde, tel 861992, clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
N Hinksey Youth Club	Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook
Over Sixties Lunch Club	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
Oxford Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dymrna Walker: 01865 865259
Oxford Otters	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
Oxford Rugby Club	Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk .
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or melanie_riste@hotmail.com
Parkinson's Disease Soc	Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.
Raleigh Park, Friends of	David Brown raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Saturdads Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
Seacourt Hall management committee	Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 michael.cockman@gmail.com .
Shotokan Karate club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Weight Watchers	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com
West Oxford Bowls Club	Contact details on www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 www.wotkd.co.uk
West Oxford U3A	(Uni of the 3rd Age) http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/
West Way Day Centre	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
Women's Institute (Botley)	Liz Manson, 244175 email liz.manson@virginmedia.com

