

# The Sprout



Autumn

North Hinksey Lane!

postbox,

**The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 172 November 2022**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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# The Sprout

## Issue 172, November 2022

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#### From the Editor

Things have quietened down a bit in Botley since last month, but there's still lots going on. We don't know who is the guerrilla knitter who kitted out the North Hinksey Lane post box in autumn colours, but we thought it deserved a cover photo. Inside, more crafty opportunities in the new shopping centre, where they will be starting on the next section of mosaics this month. See page 9 for ways to take part. It's Remembrance Day on 13th November, with the customary NHPC Service in Botley Cemetery (p3), and on page 5 you can meet an ex-soldier who has been keeping an eye on things there. The Quality Control Commission has paid a follow-up visit to the local Medical Practice, and found it much improved (p25) – pity the same can't be said up on the playing fields! The parish council has put in a plea for people to stop vandalizing the picnic tables there – it costs good money to mend them, and it's OUR money that's being wasted (p32). That's next door to our aging pavilion, kept in good shape by the dedicated Pavilion Trust, but in dire need of replacement. A new pavilion is on the cards, and on page 21 you will find a careful evaluation of the planning application. At this time of high energy bills and worsening weather, it's a relief to find help at hand from Sustainable Botley (pp 17-19) and Citizens' Advice (p.29). And last but not least, we look back to more peaceful times on page 13, when horses could be seen crossing the A34.

Ag MacKeith



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## **Letters to the Editor**

My wife and I will be hosting a Ukrainian mother and her two sons from the end of October, and we are keen to help them make contact with other Ukrainians living in the Botley area.

I read Riki Therivel's article in the October issue of the *Sprout*, and wondered if Riki might be able to connect us with any Ukrainians living locally?

**Dr Martin Allaby**

*Riki's response: tell your guest to go along to the Church Hall (Ss Peter & Paul) on a Thursday afternoon between 3 and 5. It's the Botley Community Larder, and there is a special arrangement for Ukrainians, many of whose larder memberships are paid for by local philanthropists – and anyone can pick up free food from 4pm. After they pick up their supplies, many of the Ukrainians get together for a chat over coffee at the cafe tables in the hall. Your new guest is bound to find some friendly faces there.*

---

## **Remembrance Day 2022**

The annual Remembrance Service at the Commonwealth War Graves, North Hinksey Lane, will take place on Sunday 13th November from 10:45am to 11:45am. Gates will open at 10:30am.

The service will see participation by members of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces, the Commonwealth, and representatives from those other countries whose Service personnel are laid to rest within the Commonwealth War Graves section of the Cemetery. Involvement from the Parish includes Scouts, Guides and pupils from Matthew Arnold School alongside local voluntary and community organizations, dignitaries and religious leaders. Following the service, tea and cakes will be served by Botley Women's Institute in the WI Hall across the road. All members of the Parish are warmly invited to attend the Service and to participate in the Act of Remembrance commemorating those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

At 11am on Friday 11th November, a bugler will play the Last Post in the centre of Botley and a two-minutes' silence will be observed. This will take place in West Way shopping centre at the Library end.

**Ann Dykes**, Chair NHPC Remembrance Day Committee

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## Meet John Walker

If you have visited the Oxford (Botley) Cemetery, you will have noticed the part of the site with beautifully-maintained rows of matching memorials. These are the Commonwealth War Graves. During World War I, it was decided that dead soldiers should not be repatriated. This was in part because many of the dead could not be identified, but also to avoid class distinctions and maintain the feeling of 'brotherhood' between all ranks serving at the Front. This practice continued in World War II. Botley holds almost 70 war graves of other nationalities, plus British soldiers who were sent to Oxford hospitals and died there.

One of the reasons why the Commonwealth War Graves look so pristine is John Walker, the hero of this article. John has been coming to the cemetery every day for the last four years to make sure that the brochures and visitors' book in the Visitors' Round House are tidy; that the crosses in the graveyard stand proud; and that there is no litter.

John, along with a very dedicated ground staff from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, takes care of the graves out of respect for the people buried there.

John was born in 1940 into a military family. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather were infantrymen, and John was in a tank regiment, as was his son. During World War II, when John was a small child, he hardly saw his father, consciously 'meeting' him only on VE Day. With his mother and three sisters, John followed his father to Germany after the war, and he spent much of his childhood in Bielefeld and Hamelin, with a 9-month interlude in Austria. At age 11, like other



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military children, he went to a boarding school near Kiel, which gave him an excellent education. After living in several large houses in Germany, his family found it a shock to return to a transit camp of Nissan huts in Dorset. A forceful intervention by John's mother led to their being moved first to Abingdon, then to Pinnocks Way, and later, privately, to a house on the Eynsham Road.

John joined the Boys' Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps, at age 16. This gave him an education in gunnery, wireless, physical training and other skills needed to become a Senior Soldier. He joined the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in 1957 in Germany, and "the rest is history," says John. He is the local Chairman/Secretary of his former regiment, the Royal Dragoon Guards Association in Oxfordshire, and he helps out at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham, taking people on tours of the academy.

John is particularly proud of his role in the repatriation of 459 soldiers from Afghanistan to the UK. The dead soldiers were first repatriated to Lyneham and, after August 2011, to Brize Norton. From there, the coffins were driven to the John Radcliffe hospital. Along the route from Brize Norton to the hospital, hundreds of people would watch the

funeral cortege. John, military colleagues and many local people would parade at 'The Final Turn', where Headley Way turns into the John Radcliffe. They planted 459 daffodil bulbs at The Final Turn, and every year they still organise a small ceremony there. John is proud that it was he who named that area as The Final Turn

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In addition to taking care of the war graves and showing people around them, John helps to look after several veterans. He will be at our Remembrance Day ceremony on 13th November. We thank John for his service to the country and to our Commonwealth War Graves.

**Riki Therivel**



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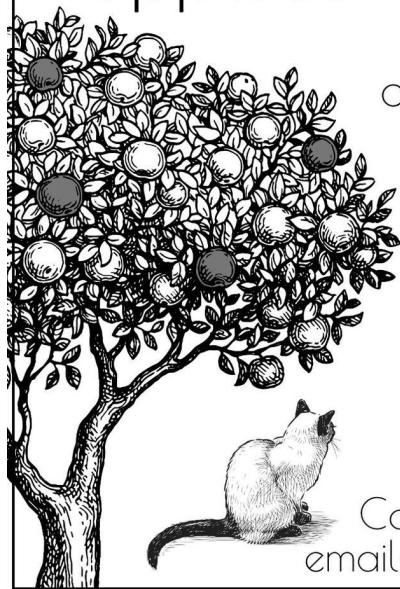
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## Get involved: creating mosaics for West Way Square

You might have read in previous *Sprouts* about the Public Art planned for the shopping centre. There are three elements to the artwork: standing stones, mural work and wall-mounted mosaics. You can learn more about the overall project on the Parish Council website at [northhinksey.pc.gov.uk/public-art-botleygap/](http://northhinksey.pc.gov.uk/public-art-botleygap/)

The artworks are being created in collaboration with local people across the community. For the mosaic element, artist Clare Goodall has designed three panels inspired by local nature, flora and fauna. Clare worked with Botley Primary School earlier in the year on ideas and for the design, she held mosaic making sessions at our Public Art Open Day in March and sessions with local participants to create the first panel in the summer. In September and October she worked with students at North Hinksey Primary School to create the second panel. Now she is looking for eight local people to help create the third and final panel.

Clare will hold mosaic workshops on the mornings of Saturday 5th, 19th and 26th November, 10am to 12pm in Seacourt Hall. She is looking for eight volunteers – adults and young people 12 years upwards – who can commit to all three dates. If you are interested, contact [goodall200@btinternet.com](mailto:goodall200@btinternet.com). The hall will be open to all on those dates too so you can call in to observe the work and find out more about the overall project.

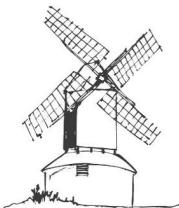


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We are also pleased that the standing stones to be carved by local sculptor Alex Wenham have been given planning permission, and Alex has selected stones from the quarry. Unfortunately Highways England did not grant permission for the mural element of the project, so there will be no artwork under the A34 flyover, and Nor, the mural artist, is now looking at alternative sites for the work.

The mosaic panels should all be finished by December and are likely to be the first part of the artwork to be installed. Look out for more news coming soon.

**Lorna Berrett, Laura Jones, David Kay**, North Hinksey Parish Council

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**Kennington  
Memory  
Club**

Living well with dementia

**Day Centre News**

Kennington Memory Club is a local charity which runs a day centre for people with dementia on Mondays and Thursdays at Kennington Methodist Church. Although the name might suggest it is only for people living in Kennington, that is far from the case, as it replaced a day centre in Abingdon, which closed down. Our members have come from Kennington, Cumnor, Botley, Abingdon, Radley, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay.

We are having a table at the Apple Cafe in St Swithun's Church Hall, Kennington, on Thursday 17th November. If you want to know more about the club, how to put someone's name down for a place, becoming a Memory Club Volunteer or a Friend of Kennington Memory Club, this is the place to come between 10am and 12.45pm. You'll also be able to get a drink there and the cafe serves delicious cakes. Take a look at our website for more information: [www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk)

**Isobel Birse**



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## Mind the Horses! A Sign of Lost Tranquillity

As you head north along the A34 towards the turn for Harcourt Hill and Westminster Way you can still see a warning sign about horses in the road. Forty years ago, you would have regularly seen riders from Pat Halliday's stables in North Hinksey Lane crossing the road during gaps in the traffic. Before the A34 was linked to the M40 in 1991, the road was indeed much less busy, but rising traffic levels had already led to the dualling of this part of the southern bypass in the 1970s.

The redundant sign is a reminder of the lost tranquillity of Botley and North Hinksey. That process began almost 100 years ago in October 1923 when Oxford City Council decided to prepare a regional town planning scheme which was to include an outer ring road. The City's scheme received ministerial approval in 1927, and Berkshire County Council (in charge of our patch until Local Government Reorganization in 1974, when it became part of Oxfordshire) swiftly decided to build its section of the bypass between Hinksey Hill foot and Botley. Probably in 1929, William Hedges, the farmer at College Farm in North Hinksey, came across Berkshire highway surveyors in the Fishes, and he wrote to the Brasenose College Bursar, warning him that the proposed road 'would cause a great deal of harm to your property.' Brasenose and other landowners nevertheless sold the land needed for the new road, which was built by Tarmac Ltd, of Wolverhampton and opened on 28 June 1932. A footpath beside the road replaced the old track between the Hinkseys. This 1933 photo of a





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family outing beside the new southern bypass comes courtesy of Oxon County Council's Oxfordshire History Centre.

The southern bypass was long derided as 'the road from nowhere to nowhere', but it did take traffic between the south coast and the A40 out of Oxford city centre. It also made it easier to build houses on the slopes above Botley and North Hinksey. The only protected land was Raleigh Park, gifted to Oxford City Council by Colonel Raymond ffennell of Wytham Park in 1926. A group of senior dons had formed the Oxford Trust during the Great War to purchase other land between North Hinksey Lane and Cumnor Hurst, intending to preserve the countryside described in Matthew Arnold's Scholar Gipsy poem. Burdened perhaps by outstanding mortgage debts, the remaining Trustees now sold off the portion near the bypass.

Building beside the bypass began immediately – the distinctive house Timbers is dated 1932 – and Stephen Howse, the farmer at Elms Farm in Botley, began to develop the Elms Rise estate above his farm in the late 1930s. Brasenose College also envisaged building houses alongside the bypass, but other colleges were quick to acquire land for playing fields, initially on a temporary basis. In 1936 the Brasenose Bursar complained that Abingdon Rural District Council had effectively stymied his plans by siting council houses at the south end of North Hinksey village.

House-building ceased during the Second World War, and tanks and other military vehicles were parked on the southern bypass in the lead up to D-Day in 1944. The development of Elms Rise and Harcourt Hill resumed in the 1950s, and the building of the western bypass in 1960–61 marked a further stage in the formation of today's A34. The Abingdon bypass (1973) and the Cumnor Hill bypass (1977) placed Botley and North Hinksey very much at the heart of the national road network before the completion of the M40. The government's active travel agenda may limit future traffic growth, but the A34 will have to get much quieter before the horse warning sign becomes relevant again.

**Malcolm Graham**

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## Sustainable Botley

Next month the *Sprout* will include a special guide to saving energy developed by Sustainable Botley with support from Vale District Council and North Hinksey Parish Council. **On Saturday 26th November Sustainable Botley will be running an Energy Advice Day at the Seacourt Hall (from 11am to 3pm) with an exhibition, short films and people to answer your questions.** They have recently been doing energy surveys of six typical Botley homes and will be sharing the ideas for action that come from these.

But don't wait! We can all start saving energy now through simple, low-cost measures. There are low-cost things everyone can do whether you own or rent your home.

- \* *Keep your heat!* Stop the leaks from door and windows – draught-proofing tape is easy to use. Radiator foil, window film, and thick curtains can all help stop your home leaking heat.
- \* *Turn it off!* Turn lights off when you leave the room; switch off appliances rather than leaving them on standby. Turn the heating off overnight and when you're away.
- \* *Use energy wisely:* set washing machines to 30C, run machines only when they are full, regularly defrost your freezer. Avoid using a heated dryer.
- \* *Save energy when you cook:* use lids on saucepans; use the microwave rather than the oven when you can; only boil the water you need.

**Chris Church**

## Botley Energy Advice Day

Sat. Nov. 26th Seacourt Hall

11am to 12.30pm; 1.30pm – 3pm

(morning and afternoon sessions)

- Report of energy surveys of six typical Botley homes
- Short films on saving energy in Oxfordshire homes
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*Organised by Sustainable Botley with support from Vale District Council and North Hinksey Parish Council.*

## Wasting Energy Costs Money

I offered to write a short piece for the *Sprout* as part of Sustainable Botley's work on domestic energy efficiency and conservation. The huge rises in energy costs are focussing all our minds as we approach winter. It hasn't quite worked out as I thought. I was going to produce a long table of the cost of running various appliances in the home, demonstrating how quarterly bills can be got down. For instance, not boiling a whole kettle of water to make one cup of tea. This is the sort of table I was thinking of (I've used 50p per unit, rather than the Government figure of 34p for ease of computation, and also because it may well be 50p by the end of the winter.):

<i>appliance</i>	<i>power</i>	<i>usage</i>	<i>quarterly consumption</i>	<i>1/4ly cost @50p /kWh</i>	<i>1/4ly saving</i>
Electric shower	9,000 watts	10 mins daily	137 kWh	£68	
		8 mins every other day	68 kWh	£27	£41
TV & media box on	12 watts	24 hrs a day	26 kWh	£13	
		turned off overnight 11pm to 11am	13kWh	£7	£6
Electric kettle	3,000 watts	2 mugs, 3x a day, from $\frac{1}{4}$ full kettle	41 kWh	£20	
		2 mugs, 3x a day, boiling right amount	20 kWh	£10	£10

But then I realised that this is mostly only relevant in warmer weather. In winter, if we heat water in a kettle unnecessarily the "wasted" heat warms the house — so it's not actually wasted, just very expensive! It doesn't necessarily provide the heat when and where we want it, and it may not be very noticeable, but that energy has to go somewhere. In summer, however, it *is* wasted.

Where heat energy is wasted in winter is where it is exported out of the house and heats the planet instead of the house. A Passivhaus, which is airtight and heavily insulated, doesn't really need a heating system.

The heat from human bodies, from cooking, baths/showers and appliances is enough to keep the place warm — but to keep the air fresh it does need a fancy ventilation system which transfers the heat from the stale extracted air to the fresh incoming cold air so it's not lost.

Where do we waste heat by exporting it out of the house? Warm water down the drains (from showers, baths and sinks) is one way. You can see from the table that maybe as much as £100 a quarter is heating the planet after keeping us warm in the shower and doing the dishes. Warm air is also sent out of the house from extractor fans and cooker hoods. (Some cooker hoods extract to the outside but 'recirculation' cooker hoods don't. They just filter the air above the cooker, keeping the warm — and probably still a bit smelly — air in the house).

But above all, heat is lost through windows and doors left open, trickle vents, leaks, draughts and poor insulation. It's the last bit that is the main focus for the home energy advisors that Sustainable Botley is recruiting and training up.

**Dick Wolff**

*[For a really comprehensive list of what it costs to run each appliance, go to 'How much electricity am I using?' on the Centre for Sustainable Energy website: <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice/advice-and-support/>]*

## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<b>P22/V2204/HH</b>	19 Arthray Rd. Single storey rear extension.	<b>14 September</b> TDD: 9 Nov
<b>P22/V2220/FUL</b>	Gateways, Harcourt Hill. Demolish existing house and build 2 detached dwellings.	<b>15 September</b> TDD: 10 Nov
<b>P22/V2310/T28</b>	Land Adjacent to Convenience Store, Laburnum Rd. Remove existing 12.5m monopole & install 20.0m monopole.	<b>27 September</b> <i>Target Decision Date:</i> 25 October
<b>P22/V2346/HH</b>	13 Montagu Rd. Hip-to-gable roof conversion and rear dormer extension and juliet balcony, roof lights in front roof elevation.	<b>30 September</b> TDD: 25 Nov
<b>P22/V2377/FUL</b>	Louie Memorial Pavilion, Arnolds Way. Demolish existing former scout hut and Louie Memorial Pavilion. Erect new single storey community and sports pavilion to replace existing with associated external works, car parking, access, landscaping, etc.	<b>3 October</b> TDD: 28 Nov

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## A New Louie Memorial Pavilion on Arnolds Way

While creating this month's *Sprout* spreadsheet of new planning applications for North Hinksey, I came across an application from North Hinksey Parish Council for the new Louie Memorial Pavilion on Arnolds Way. Intrigued, I have looked at the plans and supporting documentation – not exactly my usual preferred bedtime reading!

I'm aware that there's been some controversy over the Parish Council's plans to build a new pavilion but as I have no affiliation to the Parish Council or any group using the pavilion, I feel I can report from a completely neutral point of view.

The planning application was registered by the Vale of White Horse on 3 October as follows: '*Demolition of existing single-storey former scout hut and single-storey Louie Memorial Pavilion. Erection of new single storey community and sports pavilion to replace existing. Associated external works, car parking, access, landscaping and site works.*'

In response to feedback, the new application is smaller than the previously approved plans. The new pavilion will provide changing room spaces for the adjacent sports field as well as two halls, one small and the other large, a kitchen, toilets, and storage facilities. The changing rooms will still be Sports England standard but there will be less car parking than previously applied for, and the layout of the smaller hall has been adjusted. If you wish to check it out yourself, the planning number to put into the search box on the VOWH planning website is **P22/V2377/FUL**. Their target decision date is 28 November.

North Hinksey Parish Council arranged for an Ecological Report before the application was submitted. This was very detailed and the study included habitats, flora, and fauna surveys. It makes fascinating reading as Hutchcomb's Copse and Fen were subject to extensive surveys with experts investigating their hydrology and associated botanical and invertebrate interest.

The results of two public consultations and a community questionnaire can all be viewed alongside the planning application on the Vale's website. The views of a few people regarding the Scout Hut used by 4th Oxford Scouts have been previously documented and commented upon within *The Sprout* and elsewhere. This article is not intended to stir up activity such as last year's shocking Christmas card campaign!

This is how architects Jessop & Cook reported on the condition of both the former Scout Hut and the current Pavilion:

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*1.6a Former Scout Hut As shown below the former scout hut is in a very poor condition. The building is currently vacant, the ceiling is open to the elements in places and has been severely damaged. The electrics and other services do not appear in good condition and their [sic] is no adequate fire alarm system only a domestic scale alarm is visible. Several windows are rotten, broken or blocked up. An asbestos report... shows significant asbestos within the building including cement dust containing asbestos being present in the ceiling void (which is open to the building). This may be due to a previous asbestos roof being removed incorrectly and asbestos dust being transferred to the void. The building currently has a failing EPC rating, meaning it cannot be legally rented out.*

*1.6b Pavilion As shown below, the pavilion is not in as poor a condition as the scout hut, but it is still in need of redevelopment. It is tired and underused, does not feature any disabled access or any significant levels of insulation. It is expensive to heat, especially in the winter. The main community space is fairly small and can only host a small selection of uses. The changing rooms are under-used and tired.*

I have looked at the Design & Access Statement which accompanies this new Planning Application and can report that it proposes to support sustainable and climate-conscious building. For instance, triple-glazed windows, a south-facing canopy which will help reduce overheating, the main spaces are orientated to take best advantage of the light and heat from the south. Rainwater runoff will be considered, with special attention paid to the Hutchcomb Fenland area downhill. The new building will be highly insulated and will likely feature a MVHR (Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery) system. It will be wheelchair accessible. The western edge of the site will be a designated wild-life corridor. I could go on but, if interested, you can check this out for yourself, as it is all on the VOWH website.

Overall, after spending some time looking at much of the documentation (selflessly, so you don't have to!), it would seem to me that this proposal presents an exciting development for the local community.

Viv Smith

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## Care Quality Commission Comes Back

At the end of September the Care Quality Commission (CQC) visited the Botley and Kennington Medical Practice for a further inspection, following their visit in December 2021.

While the Patients' Participation Group can never advocate on behalf of individual patients, (who should go through the normal Practice complaints process), our Chairman and Vice Chairman were able to feed in information gathered from patients, in a face-to-face meeting with the inspectors.

The CQC asked the following questions:

1. How well does the Practice engage with the PPG?
2. Do you feel that the leadership team listens to the feedback and concerns from the PPG?
3. How well do you feel that the Practice understands and responds to the experience and concerns of patients?
4. Has the Practice acted on patient/PPG feedback in recent months?

Our PPG representatives were able to report on PPG numbers and that our bi-monthly meetings were attended by the Practice Manager. Our Chairman and Vice Chairman also meet with the Practice Manager once a month. These figures compare very favourably indeed with many other PPGs. The Practice, through the CQC inspection, expressed warm appreciation for the role of the PPG in providing volunteers to help with the vaccinations when they were held at the Kennington Health Centre and for providing lifts for those in need of such assistance. (Lifts for vaccination boosters can still be provided by emailing [botleyppg@gmail.com](mailto:botleyppg@gmail.com).)

The Practice website, <https://www.botleymedicalcentre.co.uk/>, had been much improved, we told them, with some input from the PPG. More staff had been allocated to the Reception and phones in the mornings so that waiting times for the phone to be answered had been reduced to fifteen minutes or less. The availability of the new Practice Manager to respond to concerns raised with him was much appreciated. In general, the PPG was able to note an overall improvement.

The report from the CQC is expected to become available around the end of October. This will be discussed at the next PPG meeting in November at Kennington Health Centre. New members are welcome to attend. To join please contact me at [csugden@ocrpl.org](mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org)

**Chris Sugden**, Secretary

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## All Go at Botley School

The highlight of the Autumn term so far was the special opening of our new Early Years gardens on 13th October, when the children from Nursery, Reception and Year One came together with their families and some special visitors to explore and play there. We had such a great afternoon and it was so lovely to be able to thank everyone in person for their generous donations. We ended the afternoon by cutting the ribbon and declaring the gardens officially OPEN.

The school is deeply grateful for the generous support we have received, not just from our Botley School families but from the wider community as well. None of this would have been possible without you, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Moving forward we will continue to add more features and equipment, and we are setting up a working party to paint fences, help with planting etc. If you would like to help, or have any useful contacts, please do get in touch.

We have organised some afternoon come-and-play sessions on 8th Nov and 6th Dec for prospective families. If you have children who could join our Nursery or Reception class, do come along and try out our new gardens for yourselves.

In addition to our exciting garden opening event, the children at Botley School celebrated this year's harvest festival at a ceremony packed with parents and other family members. We admired the bountiful apple harvest from our own school trees and cast our minds back to the Second World War when the trees were planted to help provide food for the war effort. This year we made apple chutney, apple crumbles and a variety of apple cakes. The crumbles and cakes were eaten up, but the chutney is hiding in a dark cupboard. We'll have a taste nearer to Christmas when the chutney has had a chance to mature!

**The Botley School Team**



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## **Under Pressure to use Energy Pre-Payment Meter? – Citizens Advice Can Help**

In the concluding months of 2022, Citizens Advice is expecting to see more cases of a disturbing trend: low-income families with energy supply debts being pressured, or even coerced, into using pre-payment meters for their gas and electricity. Energy supplied by pre-payment meters costs more than energy paid by direct debit or on-demand, and this comes at a time when drastically increased price tariffs this autumn will probably see most people's fuel bills double.

Energy suppliers are legally obliged to negotiate repayment plans with customers who are falling behind on their bills, but many suppliers are ignoring this requirement and proceeding with installing pre-payment meters – or, for customers with smart meters, remotely switching them to prepayment.

If you are one of the many people who are confronting this problem, or are generally floundering amidst your finances, worried about the future, or want to discuss your problems in confidence, get in touch with Citizens Advice on Adviceline 0808 278 7907. You can also telephone the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133 or the Citizens Advice Debt Helpline on 0800 240 4420. Our website has lots of helpful information: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Ideas for decorating Hallowe'en squashes instead of pumpkins (thanks, Riverford!)



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## 15th Oxford Scouts Summer Camp

As promised in October's *Sprout*, and with Summer now feeling a distant memory, we look back at Summer Camp for the XVth.

It's an early start for nine Scouts and four leaders. They're driving out into the Cotswold countryside, for a week on camp. This is green field camping, where you bring everything from tents to toilets, food to fuel for the fire and everything in between including the kitchen sink. Except it's a bowl – there's no running water here (or electricity as it happens). It really is just a field and woodland on a working farm, a traditional back-to-basics style of camping! Tents are pitched in strong winds, the worst of the weather for the week. Somehow, and luckily, we've managed to miss the heat waves and the storms!

Our week consists of activities that are at the core of Scouting Skills. One day sees the Scouts constructing a picnic bench from 8ft pioneering poles, for sitting round over the week. Knots and lashings are fundamental here. Later in the week this same structure becomes the perfect base for the up-and-over element of an assault course. And then it becomes a shelter for sleeping under the stars.

Alongside this, a treasure hunt was set out between two local villages, using orienteering skills and map work to successfully find the caches. There was signaling between fields either side of the valley, team work challenges with a Taskmaster theme, problem-solving activities to unlock various padlocks that secured a sweet treat, a visit to a Bird of Prey centre and a chance to help the farmer with jobs around the farm. And somehow in the middle of that we found time and were lucky enough to have a local firefighter come out for a show-and-tell of the important job they do!

Throughout the week everyone is taught and reminded how to safely use a bow saw and axe for cutting wood to size, types and methods of constructing fires, and how to light traditional WWII gas lamps for illuminating the field at night. There is rounders, campfires, cooking, smiles, laughter and games every night in the dark.



Soon we'll start planning for next year's camp, and a Cub one for the younger ages. Get in touch if you'd like to find out more.  
[xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk)

**Tom Freeman**

---

## Don't Wreck our Picnic Benches



Six picnic benches were purchased and installed in the Louie Memorial upper field by NHPC in June 2021. Since that time, they have been well used through two summer seasons of the Pavilion pop-up cafés and for the Jubilee event, as well as by many users of the Fields. However, during that time the Parish Council has had to retrieve, repair, and find new ways to secure the benches, which have been a constant target of vandalism.

These benches are there for use by the whole community, bought with taxpayers' money, and so it is frustrating that more of our community's money is having to be spent on addressing repeated vandalism.

To those who might be tempted to abuse the benches: stop, think again, and remember that these are facilities to be used by all to enhance the enjoyment of our local open space. Should you see anyone abusing these benches, please remind them that these are facilities for use by all and that any abuse removes this facility.

**Lorna Berrett**, on behalf of NHPC Recreation & Amenities Committee

## **Randoms**

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

Our November speaker, Sabita Banerji, will be telling us about "Sustainable Tea" on Tuesday 1st November, at 7:30 pm. Our skittles evening is on 11th November at 7pm., when we will "bring and share" refreshments. Our usual groups, walking, reading, gardening, craft and music are keeping busy. Do come and join us; visitors are most welcome.

### **Alison Jenner**

### **Thank you, Co-op**

A big 'thank you' to Botley Co-op for hosting the administration of this autumn's flu vaccinations. A very grateful customer commented that it was a really good and quick service. In the past she has had to travel to Oxford to receive her flu jab and she thought it was a big improvement to have a venue in West Way Square. It was particularly helpful to the elderly.

### **Never let it be said that Botley is a Cultural Desert**

There is a musical event coming up at the Tap Social Movement that is not to be missed! The Owl Light Trio have deep roots in traditional music, and share a passion for tunes from Ireland, the UK and Brittany. They draw upon these to create complex, compelling and heartfelt arrangements on concertina, violin and guitar. Brickwork Lizards are an eclectic 9-piece who've combined their love and knowledge of Arabic music with a passion for pre-war jazz and countless other styles. To quote BBC Radio Oxford, "*The band sound like nothing else around. They have the charm and style of the 30s and 40s with the haunting seductiveness of Middle Eastern music brought bang up to date. The result is a ridiculously seamless and impressive sound that must be heard.*" Wed 2 Nov, at the Tap Social Taproom, Botley. Doors open 7.30pm, music starts at 8pm. Tickets are £8 in advance ([WeGotTickets.com](http://WeGotTickets.com)), or £10 on the door

### **Christmas Holiday Fun at Hill End**

Self-led family forest days on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st December. Festive crafts with natural materials. Winter Trails to follow. Campfire and marshmallows.

<https://hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events/>

## **Ss Peter and Paul Church**

Messy Church on the theme of Light on Saturday 5th November at 4pm,  
A Service to Remember Those We Have Loved on Sunday 20th  
November: 5pm

## **Botley Library**

### **Cara Hunter: 2pm Saturday 26 November**

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## **Cumnor Choral Christmas Concert**

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## **U3A talks**

These take place on Monday afternoons at the Dean Court Community centre in Pinnocks Way. This month they are on 14th and 28th November. On 14th, Bernard Lockett will discuss the Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan, and on 28th Sarah Somerville will shed light on the history of Shaw House, an Elizabethan Manor House near Newbury.

## **Energy Day**

On 26th November in Seacourt Hall. Practical measures to cut fuel bills, and some guidance on retrofitting your house and reducing your impact on the planet.

## **Sustainable Botley**

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

<b>1st Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>
<b>2nd Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
<b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	<a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>
<b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b> Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
<b>BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign</b>	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website <a href="http://B4044path.org">B4044path.org</a>
<b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
<b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8–16	Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley Community Larder</b>	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email <a href="mailto:botleylarder@gmail.com">botleylarder@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group</b>	Second Tuesday in the Month, early evening. Contact <a href="mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org">csugden@ocrpl.org</a>
<b>Botley Library</b>	07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
<b>Botley Seniors Lunch Club</b>	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386
<b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>	Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>
<b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
<b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>	<a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone 01865 721026
<b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>	Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>	Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>
<b>Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>	Family club Email: <a href="mailto:Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org">Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org</a>
<b>West Oxford Singing Circle</b>	Weds 2–3pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or see <a href="http://www.emilyschoirs.co.uk">www.emilyschoirs.co.uk</a>
<b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>	Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>

<b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs</b>	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>	Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997
<b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
<b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>	Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>	Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
<b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>	<a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>
<b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>	Weds at LM pavilion, Daz: 07791 212866 or F'book
<b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259
<b>Oxford Harmony</b>	<i>Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall</i> Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>
<b>Oxford Otters</b>	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
<b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>	Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> .
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	<a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>Seacourt Hall Management Committee</b>	Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see <a href="https://www.seacourthall.org.uk">https://www.seacourthall.org.uk</a>
<b>Shotokan Karate Club</b>	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
<b>Stagecoach Botley</b>	Seacourt Hall, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> Oxf 590510 or 01235 390810
<b>Well-Being Walks, Botley</b>	2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Ashley 07717 714477
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Dave Ellerker 07931 603801 <a href="mailto:wobc.membership@gmail.com">wobc.membership@gmail.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>
<b>West Way Day Centre</b>	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Alison Jenner 07598 251161 <a href="mailto:alisonjenner@yahoo.com">alisonjenner@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Weight Watchers</b>	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>

<b>Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way</b>	Contact: Building Manager 07742 662668 <a href="mailto:botleybaptist@gmail.com">botleybaptist@gmail.com</a>
<b>The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise</b>	Contact: Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley</b>	Contact: 01865 242057 or <a href="mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com">osneybenefice@outlook.com</a> .
<b>Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane</b>	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
<b>Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way</b>	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email <a href="mailto:admin@seacourthall.org.uk">admin@seacourthall.org.uk</a>
<b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley</b>	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 <a href="mailto:louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com">louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com</a>
<b>Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village</b>	Contact:.. Mary Bagnall <a href="mailto:mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com">mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com</a> .

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

**St. Lawrence, Church of England**, North Hinksey Lane

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

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

Sundays	9.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesdays	10.30am	Holy Communion in Chapel of Holy Spirit
1st Saturday each month, 4–5.30pm	Messy Church for children and carers	
Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345	<a href="mailto:revclare@btinternet.com">revclare@btinternet.com</a>	

See table above for Church Hall enquiries.

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic**, Yarnells Hill

Saturday	6.30pm	Mass
Sunday	9.15am	Mass
Fr Daniel Lloyd	07584 323915	<a href="mailto:dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a> .

**Botley Baptist Church**, 1 Church Way

Sunday Service	11 am.
Wednesday Zoom Bible Study	7.30pm
Choir practice	Thursday 2pm
Diane Melchert	<b>07742 662668</b> <a href="http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org">www.botleybaptistchurch.org</a>

**Calvary Chapel**

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

Pastor Steve Vickery 01865 586332

[contact@ccox.church](mailto:contact@ccox.church) website: [www.ccodoxford.church](http://www.ccodoxford.church)

## **What's On**

### **November**

- Wed 2nd** 8pm, Tap Social Movement: Owl Light Trio and Brickwork Lizard Concert
- Thur 3rd** Seacourt Hall, Extraordinary Parish Council meeting to consider the plans for the new skatepark.
- Sat 5th** 10-12, Seacourt Hall, first Mosaic Workshop
- Tues 8th** Botley School, Come-and-play sessions for prospective pupils
- Fri 11th** 11am, West Way Shopping Centre, Bugler sounds the Last Post, followed by 2 minutes' silence
- Fri 11th** 7pm, W.I. Hall, N. Hinksey Lane, Skittles Evening
- Sun 13th** 10.45, Botley Cemetery, Service of Remembrance
- Mon 14th** 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Bernard Lockett, The Heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan
- Sat 19th** 10-12, Seacourt Hall, second Mosaic Workshop
- Sun 20th** 5pm, Ss Peter & Paul Church, a service of remembrance For Those We Have Loved
- Thur 24th** 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting
- Sat 26th** 11-12.30, 1.30-3, Seacourt Hall, Energy Advice Day
- Sat 26th** 10-12, Seacourt Hall, last Mosaic workshop
- Sat 26th** 2pm, Library, Cara Hunter talk about crime thrillers
- Mon 28th** 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Sarah Somerville on Shaw House

***Every Thursday, 3-5pm in Ss Peter & Paul Church Hall:  
Botley Community Larder***