

# The Sprout



**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 134 February 2019**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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# The Sprout

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### From the Editor

Moving into 2019, Botley is still a building site, and likely to get worse: the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme (p29), the appalling Oxford-Cambridge Expressway – unwanted, unneeded and attracting widespread opposition (p3), and the on-going Shopping Centre redevelopment (p35). Local shops are in need of our support – the Botley Barber just phoned to say he's offering 20% discount on children's hair cuts for the month of February, in the hope of bringing custom back to Elms Parade. Mace have put round a plan showing the layout of the new central square. You have to wonder what led them to call it 'Westway Place' – not just because the road's name is West Way, but because of the potential for confusion with the Westgate Centre and Westminster Way. Why not give it a name that puts an end to the Botley/North Hinksey muddle once and for all, and tells the world this is Botley? Botley Place, perhaps, or Botley Square. Are you reviewing your New Year's resolutions? The account (p25) of an unusual Christmas Day gives food for thought. Did you resolve to live a healthier life? Make a start by going to Dr MacEwan's healthy life talk on 6th February (p23). And then why not sign up for the Big Spring Clean on the first weekend in March (p41) or join the Oxford Conservation volunteers who have done such a great job of clearing the community orchard (p9). Or make 2019 the year you finally took on that Allotment (p41). *So much to do, so little time!*

P.S. If you're wondering about the cover photo, it comes from the Fire Service warning about chimney fires on p39.

Ag MacKeith



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## **Expressway, No Way! Keep up the pressure!**

The Oxford-Cambridge Expressway continues to threaten Botley with its unwanted presence. While the possible routes are not due to be announced until the autumn, it is pretty clear that there will be broadly two choices for where the new road goes near Oxford: one would be south of the city (possibly cutting across from the M40 to the A34 in the Garsington area); the other would go north and then west of the city, close to the A34.

This western route has dire implications for Botley, Wytham and South Hinksey. The arguments against it have been made repeatedly and include loss of housing, damage to the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery, noise, air pollution and more. It's hard to believe it is still on the table and, what is more, some villages south of the city are actively promoting the A34 as the route! A second western possibility, coming down the A34 to the Botley roundabout, up the A420 towards Wootton, and then cutting down to join the A34 also has many drawbacks.

The leader of the County Council continues to promote the Expressway as a way to 'sort out the A34'. The idea that to 'sort out' ten miles of rush hour congestion around our city we need to develop a road from Oxford to Cambridge would be laughable were it not coming from a politician with some significant influence on our future. For over 30 years, empirical studies and official reports have agreed on the 'rather inconvenient truth' that new roads create more traffic. A better solution would be to use new forms of traffic management such as the variable speed limits used on the M25 which help keep traffic moving.

Extra traffic will certainly be generated from new car-based housing developments, and all of this will add to traffic and congestion on local roads. The Expressway is all about opening up more land for housing. The Government's target is for 1 million new homes along the route – that's equivalent to two cities the size of Liverpool. It's hard to see how that will 'sort out' congestion. Car-dependent settlements along this route will do nothing to meet the need for genuinely low-cost housing in employment centres such as Oxford.

These inflated housing figures are being challenged, as is the need for the Expressway. Some limited road improvements may be called for, especially around Milton Keynes. And there are alternatives. The Oxford–Cambridge rail link is moving ahead far too slowly – is the roads lobby scared that much-improved public transport on this route will



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destroy their case for a ‘motorway-in-all-but-name’? Any rational transport planner would begin by building the rail link, assessing its impact and only then consider whether to invest £4bn or more in new roads. Improved rail links and increased capacity between Oxford and Didcot could also offer ‘metro-rail’ possibilities, linking employment centres from Milton Park and Didcot with Kidlington and Bicester.

We still have some months to make a strong case against this ridiculous proposal. Our MP, Layla Moran, is raising concerns in Parliament, and increasing numbers of county councillors of all political hues are getting worried. We need to make this issue completely toxic to all our politicians and this means lobbying them in no uncertain terms.

This development is being proposed just as governments across the world start to acknowledge the need for urgent action on climate change. Central to that will be a shift to low- or zero-carbon transport systems over the next decade. We need new and innovative responses to these challenges, not a solution that harks back to the 1970s.

The No Expressway Alliance is linking more and more groups and communities across the county in saying NO to the very idea. Your support would be very welcome as well – sign up at [www.noexpresswayalliance.org](http://www.noexpresswayalliance.org)

**Chris Church**

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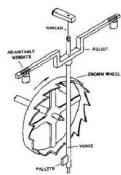
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## Botley Arts: Emmett Casley

There's a new show coming up at Ss Peter and Paul's church. The artist is Emmett Casley, ([emmettcasley@gmail.com](mailto:emmettcasley@gmail.com)) of 5 Crabtree Road. Here's what he has to say about his work:

"I'm a linocut printmaker, working in Oxford. Initially trained in three-dimensional design, I have worked within graphic & software design/illustration, then moved into exterior & landscape design over the last decade. My more recent outdoor work utilised architectural steel forms and structures, and is influenced by modern architecture and large-scale minimalist sculpture.

In my printmaking, I try to explore architecture within our everyday environment. I'm inspired by bold architectural forms and detail, finding these not only in larger more obvious structures, but also in the details within the mundane, everyday. Many buildings and places are more obviously designed to capture our attention, but there are details on some buildings and structures that otherwise blend into the background. Our daily backdrops have bold forms, details that someone, sometime, slaved over, that become interesting to me when isolated. I'm attracted to strong geometry, large manmade forms, the interaction between these structures and their environment, the way larger civil engineering works sit within our landscape and merge into it.

... Or it's just some linocuts that feature a lot of buildings. I don't like writing these things. Come and have a look though!"

This powerful exhibition will be on show from February 11th to April 26th at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Botley. The exhibition is free, and is available for viewing during church opening hours.

**Jennie Hopkins**, Chair Botley Arts



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## Job well done!

January 7th was a good day for the Community Orchard and the Nature Reserve. It was pretty grey and drab, weather-wise, but that didn't put off the 20 or so Oxford Conservation Volunteers. From 10am they were there, sawing, hacking, raking and burning in a full frontal mission to return the neglected areas to a better state.

North Hinksey Parish Council has the responsibility of keeping the ditch along the bottom clear, so that it doesn't make things worse when there are floods, but our contractor hadn't been able to get near it because it was so overgrown with rank brambles, nettles and coarse growth. Once OCV had cleared the banks, however, we were able to get a good look at it and see just what was involved.

The ditch doesn't seem to be a stream – all the water in it seems to come from a fat overflow pipe near the end of the bridge leading from Minns Estate car park. It's hard to know what the overflow is draining – it seems unlikely to be the A34, since the cemetery is in the way. If anyone has information on this, I'd be glad to have it. The part to the left of the bridge as you go in is just a silty backwater, hemmed in by a wall of sandbags. As the ditch passes the back of the pond, it seems to acquire a hint of a current, though it's hard to see why. At the far end it continues behind

Tudor House and presumably makes its way into the river. This bottom corner is the point where Kevin Minns proposes to install a footbridge and to improve the path running along the fence at the southern edge of the nature reserve. The Parish Council has welcomed his proposal since it brings a treble benefit – it makes a simple and accessible escape route in time of flood for the flats he proposes to build behind his offices; it will open up the back end of the nature reserve a bit, which was becoming impenetrable as the undergrowth filled out underneath our planting; and he has offered



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a sum to help us get the Memorial Garden into better shape than it is now – which can only be good! It's not going to be anything more than a footpath, so won't look very different from the way it does now, just a bit tidier. The photo shows the result of their efforts at the ditch – it's not looking very inspiring yet, but in future we will cut back the banks more often, so that the delicate plants get a chance to flourish instead of being crowded out by the bullies.

The main part of the work was to reduce the willows shading the pond. These were duly pollarded, and the stands of tall hazel and alder that had taken root nearby were thinned and the brash burnt on site. A few locals came and helped things along (*mental note: put this on the PC website next time, so that more people know about it*) but most of the work was done by the sturdy team of volunteers.

I came back with cake and more thanks later on, and was reassured that this was their favourite way of spending a winter Sunday. You could see why – I wish I'd taken a photo before they started, but you just have to believe that the orderly scene they left behind them at 4pm as darkness fell, was in real contrast to what they'd found. Not only was the pond tidied and readied for the Spring, but there is a huge pile of ash to be taken away by anyone who can use it in their garden or allotment plot. There is also a pile of long logs – mainly hazel – to be taken away and used for fires or building projects, while the team were able to create stakes and binding whips to use on their next hedge-laying project. What's more, it turns out that they really love to scythe. This is the ideal way to cut back the wildflower meadow, and we have been trying to find someone to take it on for a long time. OCV will gladly come back and do it at the end of July – good news all round! So I'll end this account with three hearty cheers for the Oxford Community Volunteers!



**Ag MacKeith**, chair, NHPC Allotments Committee



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## Brownies Get Around

After our trip to the panto (see photo) where the classic story of Dick Whittington was turned on its head, the consensus of opinion was that the stripey Cat that Jack met in London stole the show with his sinuous moves. We finished off our Christmas preparations by each making lanterns and two different decorations: using ice lolly sticks and tiny pom-poms to make miniature hanging trees plus monkey nut shells (after we'd opened and eaten the peanuts) to make reindeer labels. Then for Christmas each Brownie received a shiny new Brownie badge book so that we are all on board for the new programme.



Our new year's resolution was to finish off a badge which we had started before we participated in Parliament Week. This was part of the UK Parliament's Vote 100 programme, which celebrated 100 years since the first women got the vote. There was much to learn, from how to cast a vote (see photo), to how MPs are elected, to how to control the House of Commons ("Order! Order!") The woven badge was pretty extraordinary too. Therefore, our first week back in 2019 saw us polishing shoes and finally being awarded the earlier-started Brownie Skills badge.



We have lots of plans for the coming year, for example, going to the cinema to see "Mary Poppins Returns" – despite being founded in 1972 we believe that this will be a first for our unit. Unusually for us, we do have some spaces for new girls so if you have enjoyed reading about us and would like your daughter/grand-daughter/niece to join an active Brownie Unit here on Elms Rise (none of the Botley Road evening rush-hour traffic for us!) you can find us at [2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com](mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

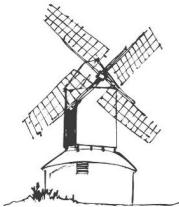
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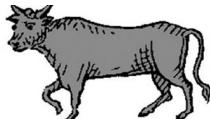
## In loving memory of Janet Anne Wright

"Jan" was a long- time resident of Botley, living the majority of her life in Seacourt Road, mostly in the family home bought by her parents Margery and "Manny" Pancott in 1935. When she was a young child the family moved to Rosyth in Scotland as her father, an able seaman with the Royal Navy who had been injured whilst on active duty in the war, was offered a gardener's job at the Admiral's house. Her mother became the house keeper. Jan started her primary education in Scotland but on returning to Botley attended the local school. When she was eleven she passed the 11+ exam and gained a place at The Elms Grammar School for Girls in Faringdon. At the age of 12 she tragically lost her beloved Mum and took over the running of the home and supported her heartbroken Dad while she carried on with her schoolwork. It was a very difficult time for them both, but they were helped immensely by their close friends and neighbours in Botley. On leaving grammar school she was offered a hairdressing apprenticeship at "Strange's" in Market Street in Oxford.

She was married at 21, moved to Farmoor and three years later welcomed her only daughter Nina. Sadly, the marriage didn't last, and Jan and Nina moved back to the family home in Seacourt Road to live with Manny. At that time she bought the hairdressing business on West Way "Jayson's" which she ran for over 30 years.

Hairdressing was her passion, she loved the connection with her clients, not just by making them look "glamorous" but also by listening to their personal stories, sharing their troubles and offering words of comfort and support. This special quality is something she shared throughout her life





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with everyone whose lives she touched, and she was a great friend and confidante to so many.

After losing her Dad, she went on to marry Terry, her soulmate, with whom she shared nearly 30 happy years until his passing in 2015. During this time, she also welcomed her 2 grandchildren Sam and Ellie, whom she adored, and the whole family shared many special times together, including annual holidays in Cornwall.

Jan was continuously striving to expand her knowledge and understanding of many things: she was an active member of the congregation at St Peter and St Paul's church, a student of philosophy in Oxford and the centre of her family's life.

She was a loving, caring, supportive Mum, Granny and friend, with an amazing sense of humour and love of life. She will be sadly missed by Nina, Alan, Sam and Ellie but leaves behind a special legacy that they will carry within them forever.

### Nina Baker

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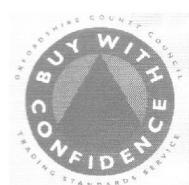
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P18/V2743/HH	30 Poplar Rd. Single storey side/rear extension.	<b>13 November</b>
P18/V2765/HH	30 Montagu Rd. Single storey ground floor extension.	<b>16 November</b>
P18/V2893/LDP	28 Laburnam Rd. Room in roof-space with rear dormer and gable build up.	<b>26 November</b>
P18/V2968/FUL	Field End Harcourt Hill. Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of 2 dwellings and external works.	<b>3 Dec</b> <i>Target Decision Date: 28 Jan</i>
P18/V2772/PDH	24 Stanley Close. Single storey rear extension. Depth 6m Height 2.85m.	<b>4 Dec</b> <i>TDD: 15 Jan</i>
P18/V2930/HH	29 Montagu Rd. Demolish conservatory & garage, add additional 2nd storey to side, add rear single storey extension.	<b>7 Dec</b> <i>TDD: 1 Feb</i>
P18/V2700/FUL	22 Eynsham Rd. Amended plans. Replace rear extension with 3 x 2 bed houses. Convert original building to 2 x 2 bed flats. All with gardens & parking.	<b>13 Dec</b> <i>TDD: 7 Feb</i>
P18/V3079/HH	8 Hazel Rd. Single storey rear extension & conservatory.	<b>14 Dec</b> <i>TDD: 8 Feb</i>
P18/V3072/HH	27 Cedar Rd. Single storey rear extension.	<b>17 Dec</b> <i>TDD: 11 Feb</i>
P18/V3102/CM	North of A420 Botley Road to south of A423 ring road. Flood alleviation scheme to reduce flood risk in Oxford. (Further Environmental Information and Amendments to Planning Application P18/V1179/CM).	<b>18 Dec</b>
P19/V0032/HH	47 Crabtree Rd. Erection of factory manufactured, detached, single storey, timber frame, garden annexe.	<b>2 January</b> <i>TDD: 27 Feb</i>

### Strange times we live in

I wanted to make an adjustment to my doorstep milk delivery, which comes from Milk & More at Towles Mill, just by Redbridge recycling place. So I rang them up. Imagine my surprise to find myself talking to someone in the Philippines!! I've gone back to writing the milkman a note and leaving it out with the bottles. It feels safer, somehow

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# **From the Patients Participation Group**

## **Your Community Needs You**

### **– and so does your local surgery**

Given the size of the problem of loneliness, you may not be surprised to hear that the government launched a ‘LONELINESS STRATEGY’ in October last year. Loneliness is linked to many damaging health impacts, like heart disease, stroke and depression – to name just a few. One of the strategies being used is ‘social prescribing’. The idea is to enable health care professionals to direct patients towards support that will improve their wellbeing. We at Botley and Kennington would like to be involved in this.

First of all, we would like to thank all those volunteers who are already engaging with the community and helping those in need. For others who may not yet be involved, we would like to invite you to join us!

#### *How can you help?*

1. With visiting and supporting people who may be housebound or lonely.
2. With transporting patients to the surgery (this has become more important now because of the 2 locations of the GP surgeries) or to the hospital.
3. With facilitating coffee gatherings
4. With using your gardening skills to tend the surgery surroundings, or even provide flowers from your gardens to brighten up the surgery.

#### *How can this be facilitated?*

OXFED, Oxford Federation of General Practice and Primary Care, a not-for-profit health organisation providing NHS services for the residents of Oxford City, have organised training for people who would like to be a volunteer.

This training is needed because of the intricacy of healthcare, especially regarding confidentiality as well as safety-netting for both the volunteers and the person being seen.

If you would like to be involved please contact the PPG secretary Canon Dr Chris Sugden on [csugden@ocrpl.org](mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org) or 07808 297043 or leave a message for Dr Akinola at the surgery. Alternatively, you may like to contact OXFED directly via their website <https://www.oxfed.uk/contact-us> Or you can telephone them on (01865) 223900.

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The good news is that it is not only the person that is helped who gets the benefit, the volunteers also benefit from the effects of helping others.

### **Chris Sugden**

*And on a separate matter:*

### **Health Talk: Cancer – Reduce your risk**

Most of us will know someone with cancer – hardly surprising as cancer is very common. Almost 1000 people a day were diagnosed with cancer in 2015, and this number is predicted to increase significantly over the next few years. One in two people born after 1960 in the UK will be diagnosed with some sort of cancer during their life.

There are many different types of cancer, with breast, prostate and lung cancer accounting for over half of the UK's new cancer cases every year. It is a myth that cancer is solely down to bad luck, genes or fate. There are things that you can do right now to reduce your risk of developing it.

- Vaccinations can prevent infections which are known to increase the cancer risk, such as Human papilloma virus, which is responsible for genital warts, which can cause cervical cancer.
- Screening programmes can detect cancer at an early stage, and some can prevent cancer from developing in the first instance.
- A key message for cancer prevention is to adopt a healthy lifestyle: healthy weight and diet, sufficient physical activity, not smoking, sun protection and breastfeeding.

But what does a 'healthy lifestyle' actually entail? If you would like to find out more, please join me at Kennington Village Hall on 6th February at 7.30, for the first of a series of health talks arranged by Botley and Kennington Medical Centre and the Patient Participation Group.

### **Dr Diana McEwan**

### **Towards a Healthy Lifestyle?**

Get the children /grandchildren out for a day in the fresh air over half term. On 21st Feb BBOWT are running a Winter Bird Event at Raleigh Park, 10am to 2pm (FREE). Bird activity trail and nature-themed games. More info from Andy at [andygunn@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:andygunn@bbowt.org.uk) or phone 01865 775476

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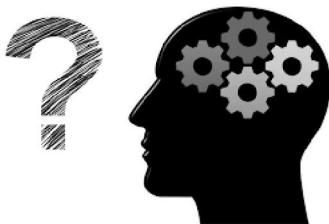
## A different take on the Time of Giving

In November of last year, I attended a memorial service for Eleanor Bolton, known by many as "The Botley Bag Lady". She was loved and respected by many, but misunderstood and disparaged by others.

Her way of life, choosing to wear rags and living off scraps in cold, damp fields, was guided by her belief, in her own words, that "I should not want to be taking what I see as more than my share. I think there has to be a balance between what you are taking and what you are doing." In a mediaeval world she would have been recognized as an anchorite, rejecting the physical world because of her faith. In the modern world she was seen as just a tramp.



Christmas has been sold to us as "a time of giving", but it is mostly about getting. Getting more presents. Getting expensive presents. Getting into debt. Getting a massive hang-over. Followed by guilt and a list of New Year resolutions never to do it again. Until next year.



### Farmoor Village Hall Quiz Supper

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**Tickets with food must be ordered by 13 February**

There is an alternative. My daughter's partner, a professional chef, gave up his day to help cook Christmas lunch for the homeless at the King's Centre in Botley. 650 people went away happy and well fed. This pattern was repeated in soup kitchens and community centres all across Britain. Others gave their time to visit old people trapped and socially isolated in their own homes. It does not

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matter how it was expressed, as long as it was giving, rather than getting.

Bob and I ate our traditional Christmas lunch of beans on toast (out of solidarity with those who cannot afford anything else), and then donned warm clothing and hi-viz jackets. While most of the neighbourhood were at home tucking into their turkey, we took advantage of the empty roads to clear the accumulated litter from the wooded embankment that separates the A34 from Westminster Way. In a couple of hours, we removed 16 kg of rubbish. More than half of it was easily recyclable bottles and cans. This was not rubbish which had blown there in the wind. but stuff which had been deliberately tossed up onto the slope by individuals determined to make other people's lives more ugly.

Eleanor would have recognized our time spent as worthwhile. She was never seen without her many carrier bags in which she collected other people's rubbish. Only in that sense a taker rather a giver.

### Linda Losito

---

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## Flood Scheme – the EA tells us how and why

*The Sprout has been reporting on the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme for as long as there has been something to report, aiming to give a voice to all concerned. Below is the latest from the Environment Agency, seeking to reassure us that the huge disruption will be worth the pain. There is now organized resistance from 'Hinksey & Osney Environment Group campaigning to modify the OAS'. Their latest, strongly worded, press release urges the agencies involved to postpone any action till they have dredged the streams and rivers and given floodwater a chance show whether it can be accommodated by existing channels.*

*But the project seems to be going ahead regardless. An eye-watering extra £30,000,000 has been found, and a start has been made on 'extinguishing' sections of footpath in S Hinksey (alternative paths are provided). Willow Walk and the ancient Monk's Causeway will be much affected – gaining bridges and losing a lot of trees.*

"As many residents will know, the Environment Agency are working on a proposed new flood scheme for Oxford. We have carefully modelled and designed a scheme that will reduce flood risk in Oxford for the next 100 years, taking climate change projections into account. The scheme will reduce flood risk to all properties in Oxford currently at risk of flooding from the River Thames. It will also reduce flood risk to the railway and roads, benefiting everyone who lives, works in or visits the city. Our planning application is now before Oxfordshire County Council and we are hoping for a final planning decision later this Spring.

The scheme will run from just north of the Botley Road, down to south of the A423 near Kennington. We have taken a great deal of care in ensuring the design for the scheme is as natural as possible and will fit with the existing landscape. We will dig out material to create a natural looking stream which will always carry water, and a wider shallower area to the side of this, which will be planted with vegetation and only carry water in times of higher flows. This 'two-stage channel' will create more space for water away from built-up areas, reducing flood risk in the city whilst fitting with the existing landscape.

In addition to reducing flood risk, our aim is for the scheme to deliver a long term green legacy, which includes creating new habitat, increasing

biodiversity, and improving the experience of recreation in the area for generations to come. If the scheme is approved we believe it will help to

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safeguard the Green Belt in this area, as it will remain as a functioning flood alleviation scheme for at least the next 100 years. This will help to maintain and preserve the openness of this part of the Green Belt. We are working on a long term maintenance plan for the next 100 years, which will ensure the scheme not only remains as a functioning flood scheme but continues to see environmental benefits well into the future.

## Willow Walk

As part of the scheme, we will be building new bridges where they are



**Artist's impression of Willow Walk bridge, 15 years after construction** needed to keep access across the new two-stage channel. These will include a footbridge at North Hinksey and two larger bridges that can carry occasional maintenance vehicles at Willow Walk and the Devil's Backbone. The new bridge at Willow Walk will replace the existing culverts and their metal railings. It will continue from the existing track, just raised slightly higher.

We listened to concerns from the community about what the Willow Walk bridge will look like and how it will be used. We have produced some artist impressions of the bridge and can reassure people that it will be suitable for horses and conforms to British Horse Society standards. We've also confirmed that the bridge will not be turned into a road, although it will be used for occasional maintenance access. During normal conditions the



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existing Seacourt stream will be the first stage channel in the Hinksey Meadow area and the wider second stage channel will be vegetation. Only during times of higher flows will water enter the second stage.

### **Tree planting proposals**

2000 trees will need to be felled during construction. To mitigate this, we will be planting 4,325 trees. Approximately 15,000 smaller tree species, such as hawthorn, hazel and elder, will also be planted, along with many more native shrubs such as dogwood, goat willow, dog rose and wild privet. The tree-planting proposals will result in more woodland within the scheme area after completion than there is at present. These woodland areas will be managed for wildlife and will include glades sown with wildflowers to encourage butterflies and other insects, as well as birds and foraging bats.

The replacement woodland trees will be saplings and it will be many years before they have the same ecological value as those being felled, so throughout the design process, our contractors, engineers and ecologists have worked together to minimise tree loss wherever possible. Once a contractor has been appointed we will work with them to further minimise losses of mature trees wherever possible.

We continue to listen to and talk with all interested residents and groups about the scheme, and are passionate that the scheme we've designed is the best option to protect Oxford from the devastation floods will cause in the long term.

### **Flood Risk**

In times of dry weather it may be easy to forget that Oxford floods. However, for those who experienced the floods of 2003, 2007 or 2013/2014, the disruption and devastation will be memorable. Flooding is more likely during winter and we encourage people to find out if they could be affected by searching here: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk> This site also offers advice, or you can call the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506."

### **Find out more**

To get regular newsletter updates about the scheme please sign up by emailing [oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk) You can also follow us on Facebook @OxfordScheme and Twitter @OxfordFAS

## **Environment Agency, leading on Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme CAB Sales helpline**

Did you go to the January sales? It's that time when, to the tired shopper, it seems as if the whole country is mobilised in some civil emergency, pouring along the pavements, off buses and into the shops in search of reduced goods. And inevitably everyone else is in competition with you as you swing your loaded shopping bags through the driving snow, pushing the melting slush with your boots, weariedly schlepping from one shop to another, trying to beat closing time, longing for cappuccino...does it sound familiar?



But although the seasonal ordeal might be draining all your energy and enthusiasm, you can still shop with confidence, knowing that the Citizens Advice helpline is there to help you if you have a consumer problem – if you need to return faulty goods, if you've bought something fake or counterfeit, or if something you've ordered hasn't arrived.

The Citizens Advice consumer helpline (03454 040506) is open Monday to Friday 9–5 (closed bank holidays). Advisers will answer your call, explaining how you can pursue your claim. They cannot make a complaint or take legal action on your behalf but they can give you practical and impartial advice, explain the law which applies to your situation, and also pass complaints to Trading Standards for you.

Before you call the helpline, prepare by jotting down the factual details of your problem, such as when you paid for the item or service; how much you paid; how you paid; the seller's name and address; and what you have done so far to resolve the issue.

Citizens Advice can also be contacted in person during opening hours or on Adviceline (03 444 111444). Our local office is in St Aldates (see [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale) for opening hours)



# **West Way Community Concern update**

Our best wishes for 2019 from all the members of the WWCC committee.

## **Construction site update**

The construction site was closed over the Christmas and New Year holiday, but work started up again on 7th January.

The straight-through pedestrian walkway from Arthray Road was open from 21st December, although we must use the previous walkway around the site perimeter during construction hours until the underground services below the straight-through route are completed. After that the new walkway, with wired-in lighting, should be in place for the rest of the construction period.

We have asked the developer what they can do about the way lighting on the site is affecting houses on Arthray Road, and they have agreed to see if they can reduce the problem.

The disabled toilet by the Chancellors Cabin is locked when the shops are closed. The developer has agreed to look into the use of a RADAR key, which would enable 24/7 access.

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*There has been positive feedback from residents about SDC and their swift response to problems. Don't forget that for any urgent questions you can contact SDC's Liaison Officer Peter Sandercock on 01234 264 332*

## **WWCC AGM**

We thank all of you who attended our AGM in November. Stephen Parkinson was re-appointed as Secretary. Mary Gill continues as Chair and John Clements as Treasurer. Lorna Berrett, Caroline Potter and Grant Nightingale are also members of the committee.

As well as the formal business of the



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AGM, we had a general discussion on the development and on wider issues affecting our community. It was noted that construction workers were, in general, using the Park and Ride, but that on-street parking by workers and commuters continues to be a problem. The temporary pedestrian route to Arthray Road was causing safety concerns at the time but this is now resolved. Lighting and noise from generators is a nuisance to residents of Arthray Road. We questioned why the development was called 'Westway Place', while the road is named 'West Way', and have raised this with Mace, who own the site.

### **Planning application**

In December 2017, Mace submitted an application P17/V3298/FUL to make changes to the plans which were approved in 2016. Following a couple of rounds of public consultation last spring, it was approved by the Vale's Planning Committee in May 2018. The formal approval notice for the application has now been issued. Most of the approvals of the conditions from the earlier planning consent which have been discharged will apply to these new plans. Other conditions still need formal approval; notably the landscaping, cycle parking and the external lighting (i.e. in the car-park).

We will continue to monitor the conditions as they are discharged, and bring any concerns to the attention of the planning officers and our local councillors. To keep in touch with developments as they arise, go to [westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com); [www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com](http://www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com); [www.facebook/westwayconcern](http://www.facebook/westwayconcern)

**Mary Gill, Chair**

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## Randoms

### Preventing chimney fires this winter

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service attends about 40 chimney fires every winter. It's important to get chimneys swept regularly by a qualified sweep, and other measures to reduce the risk are:

- Check unused upper floor fireplaces and flues, where debris and dust can accumulate and which may ignite
- Don't stack logs next to the fireplace, store them outside. Wood burners or wood fires should never be left unattended when lit
- Always protect an open fire with a guard. Make sure embers are properly put out before you go out or go to bed
- Prevent a birds' nest from blocking your chimney with a protective guard on the chimney pot
- Use smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to warn of trouble.

And don't keep this advice to yourself – pass it on. Does anyone you know need your help in organising a sweep or testing their alarms?

For further information on home fire and wood burner safety, visit <http://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/safe-and-warm>

### Botley Women's Institute

The speaker at our meeting on 5th February will be Muriel Pilkington, on "The Burford Mutiny." We also have a number of groups which you can join: Walking group (7th February); Craft group (19 February); Music group (20 February); Book group (27 February). *Do come and join us.*

**Alison Jenner**

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# **SALES & LETTINGS**

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**Carter Jonas**

## Join the Big Spring Clean

Joining together in **Spring Clean 2019 (1st, 2nd, 3rd March)** increases the impact we can have on our fellow citizens and the local authority. It shows we are committed to a cleaner Botley. In 2018 just two parts of Botley got a Spring Clean. 2nd Botley Brownies did Arnold's Way and a second group of public-spirited people did Elms Rise, Westminster Way and the shops.

But what about the A34 flyover and the bank next to it? What about the bike path up to the A420 roundabout? What about the area all around McDonalds? What about North Hinksey Lane? If we wait for someone else to pick up the rubbish it will never happen. But if we get together and show the world that we take pride in our neighbourhood, people will see it is clean and will be less likely to drop litter. Why not get together with your neighbours and do your own street? Don't forget to tell *The Sprout* what you did. We'd love to publish photos of all your efforts. You can register at <https://www.oxclean.org.uk/spring-clean>

## Calling hopeful gardeners

There are now several allotments free along North Hinksey Lane, ranging from perfect plots beautifully kept, to exciting wildernesses full of surprises like nameless apple trees, fruit bushes in the undergrowth,

plenty of wildlife and a river running along the bottom – and all surprisingly cheap. Make this the year you started to grow your own vegetables. Contact N. Hinksey Parish Council for further info: <https://northhinksey pc.gov.uk/>

## Graham Blake

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## Janet Godden

We said a sorrowful goodbye to Janet Godden when she stepped down as our County Councillor, but now that she's moved away from Botley, we are missing her again as a long-serving (and hospitable) Sprout Director. Thank you, Janet, for those years of input. Without you it would have been a different story.

## **Not quite right!**

We apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced by the publication of the wrong service time for Christmas Day at St. Lawrence's church in the December Sprout.

**Clare Sykes**, Rector

## **New Year's resolutions – make yours for the planet!**

It has never been clearer – we must act urgently to tackle climate change. Start your 2019 by making a commitment to a safe future. Climate change needs action by governments, by businesses, by councils and **by all of us**. Oxford Together on Climate Change invites you to play your part.



**Oxford Together**  
on climate change

Sign up to take action via our website <https://change4climate.uk/> **We invite everyone in Oxfordshire to get together and make an impact. We're aiming for 10,000 actions – what will yours be? Read more in the Oxford Mail here:** New Year's resolutions: Environmental groups encourage green mindset More info with updates are on our facebook page [www.facebook.com/pg/OxfordTogetheronClimateChange](http://www.facebook.com/pg/OxfordTogetheronClimateChange)

## **Winter weather – gritting**

Given the uncertainty of British weather, it is worth identifying the nearest salt/grit bin to your house so that you can be prepared should prolonged freezing conditions set in. The grit is for use on public roads and pavements, not private areas such as driveways, but please consider any elderly or infirm neighbours who might need help to ensure safe access to and from their house during wintry conditions.

There is more information on [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk), the County Council website. A map of locations in North Hinksey Parish can also be found on the Contacts page of the Parish Council website [www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk). The first top-up can be requested from the County Council, after that request further supplies from the Parish Council, who hold a store.

**David Kay**

**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 Fiona Wheeler, <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	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <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	Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
<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 Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8–16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.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, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>
<b>Branches Café, Westway Place, Open to All 8am–3pm,</b>	<b>Open for young people</b> 3–5 daily, Th. eves 7–9 Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook Branches Youth Cafe, Instagram @_branches_youth_
<b>Community Fridge</b>	For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811
<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 Chris Impey, 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 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>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs</b>	Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 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 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 <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 Horticultural Soc</b>	Contact: Ann Dykes Ox 251821 <a href="mailto:anndykes@hotmail.com">anndykes@hotmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>	Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</a>
<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>	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386
<b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. 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, <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>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>	Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.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>Saturdads Botley Bridges</b>	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
<b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>	Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .
<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 Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <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>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>

## Halls for Hire

<b>Botley Baptist Hall Westminster Way</b>	Contact: Rev Kalyan Das Tel. 07841 867967
<b>The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, OXFORD</b>	Contact Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley</b>	Contact: Mr M Shearan Tel: 862748
<b>Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane</b>	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 245273
<b>Seacourt Hall, West Way Place, Botley</b>	Contact: Eric Batts 07452 960100 or <a href="mailto:seacourt.hall@gmail.com">seacourt.hall@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley</b>	Contact: Emmett Casley 427519 <a href="mailto:emmett@kerensagardens.co.uk">emmett@kerensagardens.co.uk</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 and Contacts

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

1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Sung Eucharist 11.30 a.m.

3rd Sunday, Matins 11.30 am

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

2nd Saturday each Month, 4–6pm Messy Church for children and their carers

1st Sunday of the Month, 9.30am All Age service of Holy Communion

All other Sundays, 9.30am Holy Communion with activities for children

Every Wednesday, 10.30am Holy Communion at Field House

Rev Clare Sykes, Rector Tel: 242345 or [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com)

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

Saturday 6.30 pm. Mass

Sunday 9.15 am Mass

Fr Daniel Lloyd. 07584 323915 [dilloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dilloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**Botley Baptist Church**, West Way Place

Sunday Service 10.30 am.

Mid Week House Group 8.00 p.m.

Family Worship Service 5-6pm on Saturday

Rev Kalyan Das 07841 867 967 [www.botleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org)

**Calvary Chapel**

Sunday services held at Botley School 10.30–12 noon

Pastor Philip Vickery 01865 864498

[calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk);

[www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk](http://www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk)

# **Sprout – What's On**

## **February**

- Wed 6th** 7.30, Kennington Village Hall, health talk by Dr MacEwan:  
‘Cancer, reduce the risk’
- Sat 9th** 4–6pm, Ss Peter and Paul Church, Messy church (theme  
‘messy friends’)
- Mon 11th** Ss Peter and Paul church, linocuts by Emmett Casley,  
continues till 11th April
- Fri 15th** 10–12pm, White Hart, Wytham, district councillor surgery for  
N Hinksey, Wytham, S Hinksey and Sunningwell
- Thurs 21st** 10am–2pm Winter Bird Event for children aged 4–11, bird  
activity trail, nature themed activities
- Thurs 21st** 8pm, Seacourt Hall, North Hinksey Parish Council meeting

## **March**

- 1st to 3rd** Big Clean Up, all around Botley
- Sat 16th** 10-12pm, Branches Café (above Library), District Councillors  
Surgery
- Thurs 21st** 7pm, Seacourt Hall, NHPC Annual Parish Meeting

*More local events and information on [www.botleyhinksey.org.uk](http://www.botleyhinksey.org.uk)*