

The Sprout



Brownies around the campfire in Bean Wood

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 130 September 2018

The Sprout

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From the Editor

Another packed issue this month – there was so much in the queue that we have had to postpone the AGM report. The playing fields project is moving ahead in stately fashion, doing its level best to consult us all, and doing nothing without the agreement of all the main stakeholders (report on p.13). This summer the shopping centre shrank to the buildings around the library: WWCC has updates (p.27) and a new *Sprout* series, ‘Crumbs of Comfort’ (p.29) finds some gleams of light among the gloom. The recent news that M&S no longer plan a mega food outlet behind the Botley Cathedral may be of comfort to the Co-op and Tesco. On the down side, we were sorry to hear Andy Brock, the Elms Parade butcher, has finally decided to shut up shop, and wish him well in what he does next. There is good news about the Eynsham Bike Path (p. 19), and Branches Café is now up and running and welcoming young people with a lively programme (p.35). The CAB has a word of warning (p.11) for those who like to do internet banking over a coffee: be wary of that ‘free wifi’ – it might be a trap! And Martin’s Harris’s series on Literary Botley (p.31) singles out Oxfordshire’s historian, Malcolm Graham, whose quest for local knowledge has produced another article on Botley transport: the railway that almost happened (p.23). A lucky escape for North Hinksey, which would have been swept off the path of progress! Apple Day’s on 8th October. See you in the Community Orchard!

Ag MacKeith

Halliday Lane

Regular readers of The Sprout and residents of North Hinksey Lane will be aware that an early casualty of the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme was Old Manor House Riding School, set up by Pat Halliday after the Second World War. This longstanding local business sadly ceased trading in September 2017. Unfortunately even the preliminary archaeological investigations planned for the Flood Relief Scheme were sufficiently invasive to invalidate the Riding School's public and employee liabilities insurance, making the business instantly unviable. At the time it stopped trading it was the second oldest riding school in the UK.

Old Manor House, where the school was based, has its roots in a 17th century freehold with ongoing tenancies following the dissolution of Abingdon Abbey in the reign of Henry VIII. However, by the early 20th century the main building was in poor repair, lived in by three families of agricultural labourers. Rescue came through the intervention of local character Sholto Douglas, who restored the house in a quasi-Tudor fashion in the early 1930s. Cecil Halliday subsequently purchased it in 1936. Originally from a West Country family with Norman antecedents, Cecil Halliday ran an antiques business on Oxford High Street from the early 1900s. Relocating his family home from Broad Street Oxford allowed Cecil to indulge the family's love of horses at their new home in North Hinksey Lane. His daughter Patricia (Pat) attended Headington School and served as a Land Girl during WWII. She was passionate about her horses as a schoolgirl and managed to find time around her Land Army duties to look after the family horses all through the War.

Following the unexpected death of her father in 1946 and needing to support her beloved horses, Pat started the Old Manor House Riding School. This proved a successful and highly popular venture, and she taught horse riding to multiple generations and to students from around the world. The photo shows Pat in her heyday (*right*) on Uncus with Rosalind Hayward on Mary in 1960s hunter trials

Upon Pat's death in July 2015, ownership of the Riding School passed to her final protégée, Mr Garry Donnelly. Pat had long foreseen that once horses were no longer sustainable on North Hinksey Lane, the land would be suitable for housing and Garry, seeing the writing on the wall, began to explore development options in conjunction with his neighbours Rosalind (nee Herbert of Seacourt Bridge Inn) and John Hayward, both long standing equestrian friends of Pat's. As a result, well-known local developers Lucy Developments Ltd were engaged to plan a residential

development that would be economic, but also respectful of the history and setting of Old Manor House, which now has Listed Building status.

The planning application was successful and work on five flats and five houses

is currently in progress. North Hinksey Parish Council was pleased to recommend the adoption of the name Halliday Lane for the private road replacing the Haywards' entrance at 18 North Hinksey Lane. Reporting on the naming of Halliday Lane on Garry's and my Facebook pages resulted in hundreds of responses worldwide.

And what about the horses? Garry was able to relocate to a lovely Scottish smallholding and 13 ex-riding school horses are now enjoying a blissful rural retirement. Rosalind and John Hayward continue Pat's competitive spirit, running a small but successful eventing yard in the Cotswolds. As for the house itself – well, I'm working on the plans for its renovation and having a lot of fun delving into its history. Expect to hear more from me on this fascinating subject in future editions of the *Sprout*.

Ellen Ryan



MISS ELEANOUR BOULTON (aka The Botley Bag Lady)

The funeral of the late Eleanour Boulton will take place at 2.30pm on Tuesday 4th September at the Church of St Mary, Church Street, Bloxham, Oxon OX15 4PY, with a small reception afterwards at Bloxham School.

Eleanour wanted to be remembered after her death and her family wish for people who knew and respected Eleanour to be there to remember her. All are welcome.

Rebuilding St Andrew's Church, Dean Court

You have probably driven along the A420 Swindon road many times, or along Eynsham Road towards Farmoor, but you may never have seen St Andrew's Church in Dean Court, even though it is only yards away from both roads, just before the A420 flyover. It is a wooden construction, built in the early 1960s to serve the new Dean Court Council estate.



Christian services had started in Dean Court a few years before, thanks to the initiative of the parish church in Cumnor. The first children's service in 1956, held in the old social club in Pinnocks Way, attracted over 70 children, and gradually a thriving Sunday school and regular services for adults were established, supported practically and financially by a number of local churches.

Eventually it was decided that the area needed a church building. A redundant post-war utility building arrived in pieces on a lorry in what is now Orchard Road, and many local people were involved in converting it for church use. John Farmer from Pinnocks Way was one of them. 'He got home from a hard day's work,' said his wife Barbara (who now lives in Buckingham), 'and went out again to build the church. It was exhausting but he enjoyed it.'

St Andrew's Church was dedicated by the Bishop of Reading (Dean Court was then in Berkshire) in December 1961 as part of Cumnor parish.

The building was going strong until a few years ago, when the roof beams at one end started to sag and split and had to be propped up until they could be repaired. Now the beams at the other end need attention. The window frames are rotting, and as they are part of the structure, repairing them is not an option. In the words of a report from a surveyor, it is 'past its use-by-date'. So the decision was taken to rebuild the church, after consultation with those who hire it, neighbours and church members. Planning permission was granted in January 2018.

What's the plan? The new church will be quite a bit larger than the present building, with a main hall seating about 100 people, five other rooms, and a fully equipped kitchen. This will give extra space not only for church events, but for local clubs, classes and private functions. Already the church building is well used. We have a main Sunday service, the monthly JOY Place service for adults with learning disabilities (the only one of its kind in Oxford), and a monthly service for a south Indian congregation. We have a playgroup, 'Little Fishes', and a twice-monthly Coffee Club for older people supported by Age Concern. There are also non-church events including choral singing, art and upholstery classes, table tennis, Pilates and Egyptian dancing. We look forward to being able to welcome more people and activities to the new facilities, complementing the work of the Dean Court Community Centre.

The church has a hard court at the back, which will stay as it is, but with a covered path next to it. The court is well used by the community, including Botley Boys' and Girls' Football clubs who have used it for their regular practice evenings. The floodlit court, once in a terrible state of disrepair, was renovated, thanks to grants from various organisations, as a multi-purpose games area for football and basketball.

The estimated cost for the new St Andrew's is £720,000 – a lot of money, but not a huge amount these days for a whole church. It will be energy-efficient and disabled-friendly. So far (thanks to individuals and charitable trusts) we have raised about £67,000. It is a good start, but there is a very long way to go! We hope to start building within three years, with all the needed finance raised.

We want to continue to be a truly neighbourhood church, catering for the practical as well as spiritual needs of our growing community. We are excited by the project and invite you to come and see the plans in the church when it is in use. You can also find them on our website at www.standrewsdeancourt.org.uk

From **Clare Wenham**

Fake Wi-Fi hot spots

Citizens Advice warns that connecting to free Wi-Fi in a café or other public space can be targeted by criminals, who have set up fake Wi-Fi hot spots to lure unsuspecting phone and computer users.

Typically, the fraudsters broadcast a Wi-Fi connection with a vague name like "free_wifi" or "coffee_shop_wifi". If you connect your phone to this, any data you are sending can be captured.

Even if you log into emails using an "app", without typing in the password, the phone will still send your password over the Wi-Fi and it could be intercepted. If you use automated passwords and do not enter your user name and password manually, these details can still be intercepted.

To avoid being becoming a victim of this scam, do one of the following:

- Make sure you are connecting to a trusted Wi-Fi hot spot, operated by the venue you are in – ask staff if you are in doubt;
- Do not use public Wi-Fi for online banking or anything else sensitive, but use your 3G, 4G or 5G connection instead (data sent over these connections is always encrypted);
- Use a VPN (virtual private network) when connecting to public Wi-Fi.

The updated *Little Book of Big Scams* at <https://www.met.police.uk/globalassets/downloads/fraud/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf> has more details about this and other prevalent frauds.

And if you suspect that you've been scammed, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or on the Internet at www.actionfraud.police.uk. Alternatively, get in touch with Citizens Advice on Adviceline 03444 111 444, or drop in to the Citizens Advice Bureau in St Aldates.

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Latest on Playing Fields project

Over the past year North Hinksey Parish Council has been in discussion with Vale of White Horse District Council, the 4th Oxford Scout Group and the Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees about major improvements to the facilities at the parish playing fields off Arnold's Way. This follows a decade of earlier initiatives to improve outdoor play facilities, especially for older children and teenagers, and to secure a replacement building for the outdated Pavilion. I outlined the recent history in the March *Sprout*, ahead of public consultation on the first phase of master planning for the Louie Memorial Playing Fields. Over 250 people took part in that consultation, which ran from 22nd March to 14th May. The results and consultation documents are posted on the 'Louie Memorial' page of the parish council website: **www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk**

Results of the consultation have been considered by the full Parish Council and by a community stakeholder group with representatives from NHPC, Scouts, Pavilion Trustees and North Hinksey Youth Club. As a result, plans for improving the Playing Fields facilities have been developed further. Current plans resulting from the consultation are:

- **Strong support for a new building to replace the Pavilion and adjacent Scout Hut:** A new multi-use building on a similar footprint to the two current buildings is being taken forward for detailed design work. The preferred design is an angled building with sports changing rooms on one side and community activity space on the other.
- **Strong support for new youth adventure and fitness equipment:** New equipment such as a zip wire, outdoor trampoline and swing to be provided in the Upper Field, behind the MUGA (games area). A design for a wheeled sports park to replace the old skate bowl to be developed.
- **Need to maintain open spaces for informal play, walking, and general relaxation:** New facilities in the Lower Field were considered in the consultation, but following public feedback these proposals will not be taken forward. No changes are proposed for the Lower Field. Open spaces in the Upper Field will be maintained, with new facilities located in or adjacent to current activity areas.
- **Strong concern about expanding car parking, and strong support for cycle parking:** Expansion of the Lower Field car park

- was considered, but in response to the consultation this will not be done. Up to 8 parking spaces including disabled to be provided by the new building in the Upper Field. New cycle parking to be provided.
- **Concern about environmental impact, e.g. adjacent copse and wildlife corridor:** No changes are proposed for the Lower Field. New building design repositioned so that the wildlife corridor is protected. New planting proposed for green areas.

In June the Parish Council confirmed its intent to complete the project for Rejuvenation of Louie Memorial Pavilion and Playing Fields, passing a motion to undertake these **next steps**:

1. Detailed design work involving community stakeholders towards a new multi-use Pavilion building
2. Professional assessment of potential environmental and other impacts of development
3. Selection and purchase by October 2018 of outdoor youth adventure / fitness equipment using available Section 106 funds
4. Preparation and submission by December 2018 of an outline planning application for a replacement Louie Memorial Pavilion and adjacent outdoor facilities in the Upper Louie Memorial Playing Field. Public consultation on this planning application will be undertaken by Vale of White Horse District Council.

In July the Parish Council received a petition with over 400 signatures calling for facilities 'at the centre of North Hinksey' and opposing 'costly development' at the Louie Memorial Fields. The petition raises issues of land ownership (the Parish Council cannot provide facilities on land it does not own), and the relative amount and source of funding for parish play facilities (£1m sought from the £12m that Vale District Council received from sale of the West Way Shopping Centre). The petition, as well as specific quotes for new outdoor youth facilities, will be considered at the next NHPC Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting on Thursday 13th September, 7pm at Seacourt Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Cllr Caroline Potter, chair of NHPC R&A Committee

Summer with the Brownies



2nd Botley Brownies had just two more clauses to do in order to complete our Trefoil Challenge badge before the end of term. We had heard from Snowy about the stone-painting pastime which encourages families to get out and about to find colourful “rocks” and then paint and share some of their own in their area or holiday destination. This, we decided, would do instead of Geocaching (as we don’t have access to a GPS receiver). Brown Owl dutifully went off to the builders’

merchants and bought some smooth pebbles for us to decorate which were washed and dried before we could set to work. As you can see the girls are clearly very artistic and did a great job incorporating the varied shapes of the pebbles. Little Owl then sealed every single rock and hid them sensibly around Botley ready for the Brownies to find. We walked a circuitous route to Louie Memorial Playing Field and found most of our rocks on the way, but we left a few around Botley for the rest of the Botley Rocks Facebook page to find and enjoy.



The last badge clause involved having a campfire and cooking on it. So for the last evening we went back to Beanwood, armed with chocolate digestives, marshmallows and our lovely extendable toasting forks and extra water (to thoroughly extinguish our campfire). Yes, you’ve guessed it – it was time for campfire songs and summores. As you can see from the photo on this month’s *Sprout* cover, we had a great time.

The next big Unit event is our “Robin Hood” themed Brownie Holiday, at a magical forest location in Gloucestershire. It will be at the end of August just before the schools go back BUT you will have to wait until the next edition to find out how it all went.

Lucy Howes

Eynsham Bike Path likely to go ahead

The proposals for the B4044 Botley to Eynsham path were on public display in Farmoor and Eynsham at the end of June and the beginning of July. Over 200 people attended and they filled in 44 very useful and often complimentary feedback sheets.

There was an important bonus which was quite remarkable: the political establishment turned out in force. Notably Suzanne Bartington, County Councillor and cycling champion, Robert Courts MP, Layla Moran's deputy (Layla Moran MP was most apologetic that she could not come), County Cllrs Ian Hudspeth and Charles Mathews, parish councillors from Cumnor, North Hinksey and Eynsham, plus Vale and WODC District, and some councillors from the City. The presence of so many politicians says that the B4044 path project now has political traction. *(Photo shows Courts and Hudspeth enjoying the moment.)*



Public support has been solid for a long time, evidenced by the fact that over the last six years BikeSafe has raised over £160,000 from the public and continues to receive money from the charity pots located in Tesco Botley and Eynsham, and in Decathlon.

Furthermore, and very importantly, the National Infrastructure Commission published a report "Running out of Road" with recommendations about riding bicycles in Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. It was written by Andrew Gilligan who was the champion behind London's cycle superhighways, some of which carry 10,000

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bicycles a day. The report said that the B4044 path should be built. BikeSafe has written to all the 44 people who provided feedback and thanked them. Here are a few points that may not have been obvious from the plans we presented.

Crossing the Toll Bridge will remain as it is now because there is no room for a segregated path.

Getting onto the Path and leaving it To access the Path travelling west towards Eynsham, the B4044 will be widened west of Noble's Lane. A 3-metre wide central refuge will allow safe crossing by bicycles, pedestrians and mobility scooters.. There will be a similar arrangement just before the Toll Bridge to allow access to a path on the south side of the road, which will continue to the West of the bridge.

Users of the B4044 path will have priority at house entrances just as road users do at present, similar to the arrangements along Oxford's Banbury and Woodstock Roads.

For the record, *the design* follows the principles set out in Sustrans and CyclingUK guidance and Oxfordshire County Council's Cycling design standards. However it should be noted that OCC, who control the contracts, will have the last say in what actually happens on the ground.

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And finally *the money*: how much is it going to cost and who will pay for it? Oxfordshire County Council has applied for £145 million from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (known as HIF2). Of that, we understand £10 million has been earmarked for the B4044 path. BikeSafe have received assurances (which need confirmation) that if the application is successful the B4044 path will be built, and if this money is not forthcoming, further Government funding would become available which we could apply for via OCC.

John Blackie, Trustee, BikeSafe campaign

The Botley railway that never was

Just imagine how convenient it would be if we could catch a train from West Way to London or to Witney and South Wales. It might have happened if the grandly named Oxford Witney Cheltenham and Gloucester Independent Railway, proposed in 1845, had been built.

The scheme originated during the 'Railway Mania' in the mid-1840s when optimistic investors poured money into a host of new railway companies, anticipating mouth-watering financial returns. The railway between Liverpool and Manchester, Britain's and the world's first inter-city railway, had opened in 1830, and the passenger and freight traffic attracted to the line made it a huge financial success. Other companies soon emerged, and a railway network began to evolve in the late 1830s. Commercial use of the canals and rivers quickly declined and turnpike roads lost much of their long-distance traffic. The tolls at the Plain raised £1,865 a year in 1837, but only fetched £855 in 1840.

The development of the railways was a messy, unregulated business, typified by the battle of the gauges between the Great Western (GWR) which preferred broad gauge tracks and other companies which favoured the standard gauge still used today. Oxford's first station, south-west of Folly Bridge, was the terminus of a GWR branch line from Didcot opened in 1844. At that time, Witney was still without a railway although the London and Birmingham Railway (L&BR) had proposed a branch from Tring through Witney to Cheltenham in 1836.

'Our' railway promoted in 1845 was independent of both the GWR and the L&BR, and was to be a mixed gauge line, catering for broad and standard gauge trains. At the Oxford end, it would curve away from the GWR station through North Hinksey where it threatened to demolish Manor Farm and many cottages – even St



Lawrence's Church was only just spared. *[The black line on the map above shows the route through N Hinksey, with dotted lines above and below indicating the area affected. The straight path in the top centre is the Monks Causeway behind the Fishes.]* North of the village, the line would have crossed fields now occupied by the A34 and the lower slopes of Elms Rise before crossing West Way at the bottom of Cumnor Hill *[The building in the map on the right is Elms Farm, on the site of what is now Elms Court.]* It would then have kept to the north side of Eynsham Road on the way to Eynsham.

Witney people now had a choice of three railway schemes, this independent one, a revived version of the 1836 L&BR proposal, or a branch line from Hanborough on the proposed Oxford Worcester and Wolverhampton railway. At a public meeting supporting the independent scheme at Witney



Town Hall in August 1845, William Clinch, from the local brewing family, argued that the line would bring cheaper coal and enable local firms to compete with northern manufacturers; it 'would be the means of rescuing the town from total destruction'.

In November 1845, 'our' railway submitted plans for an extension from Oxford to Slough where it would join the GWR main line. Parliament authorised the line, but, as happened in around a third of contemporary schemes, this one was never built. Money was now flowing out of railways and 'Railway Mania' soon came to an end. The independent scheme probably seemed less attractive once the GWR's line from Swindon to Gloucester opened in 1845. In Oxford, the GWR passenger station moved to the present site in 1852, and, when the railway finally reached Witney in 1861, it went via Yarnton not Botley.

Malcolm Graham

Illustrations courtesy of Oxfordshire History Centre, Oxfordshire County Council (PD/2/45)

Summer West Way update from WWCC

This summer has seen the demolition and relocation of facilities in the West Way centre start to move at a pace. Each day brings something new.

The Co-op, Seacourt Hall, Baptist Church and Manna Café, Chancellors, and Lloyd's Pharmacy are all open in their new locations, Tesco should have moved by the time you read this. Branches Cafe is now open, serving the whole community with dedicated time for young people in the afternoons and evenings. Iceland has closed along with Bet Fred, Iceland is planning to return when the new centre is finished. The old centre is now fully cordoned off for demolition.

Car parking, pedestrian and vehicle access, and safety arose as issues at the Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting in July. WWCC and others raised questions and the developers Mace and construction partners SDC have put in place some measures to address these. The new parking enforcement caused some surprise and concern. It was adjusted after feedback but we are still requesting longer parking times of 2 hours to allow visitors to take advantage of shopping, classes and cafes rather than 90 minutes which may not be enough time for some. There has been no change at the time of writing. Numbers of parking spaces are reducing further as work expands and we will continue to monitor and feedback any comments or suggestions you have.

As well as liaising with Mace and SDC, WWCC have been continuing to monitor the development from a planning perspective, in particular the discharge of the conditions placed upon the planning consent. Visit our website for an update on planning issues

Mace issue a monthly update to CLG members, local councillors and anyone who registers for their emails (contact dan@spbroadway.com to register for updates). We post these on our website and on Facebook. SDC began weekly updates at the end of July but they have not been regular. However they do post updates around the site. Keep an eye on our website (www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/westwayconcern) for information as we will issue Mace and SDC updates as soon as we receive them. You can contact SDC on 07920 847 256 in the event of any site-specific issues.

Mary Gill, Chair, West Way Community Concern



Crumbs of Comfort : the Co-op

When asked to write a piece finding 'Crumbs of Comfort' in the scenes of desolation at our local shopping centre [*a promising subject for a Sprout mini-series – all contributions welcome! Ed*], I must confess I struggled at first. For me, the main comfort to be had from the ongoing demolition and building work around the shopping centre is that, thanks to West Way Community Concern co-ordinating our squawks of protest, Elms Parade, the vicarage, and Field House will remain intact. At the time of writing the piling has yet to begin – at which point I will be most envious of you who live more than a jackdaw's wing away.

My Crumb of Comfort? Botley Co-op! What stars they are. The Over 60s Lunch Club opened its doors in the temporary Seacourt Hall on the day the Co-op began trading underneath the Grant Thornton building. We trundled downstairs to do the Lunch Club shopping at 9.15 am to be greeted by cheery Co-op staff who knew already where everything is kept. An impressively quick and efficient overnight move. Their new premises are clean and air-conditioned, while fewer tills mean that staff are freer to help customers in the (albeit narrow) aisles. Bijou but well-organized is my verdict.

Please let us know your Crumbs of Comfort. Surely those who are not fans of Brutalist architecture will be glad to see the back of some rather ugly and unloved buildings. Maybe someone would like to expand on how the community is being brought together? An opportunity for a rethink and a glorious future perhaps? I'm feeling cheerier already.

Viv Smith



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Literary Botley (part 2)

I have been very fortunate to have had picture books and booklets published about the local history of Botley, Cumnor and Eynsham. Some of these have been with local co-authors including **Monica White**, **Terry Peedell** and **Phœbe Pearce**. However, I really cannot say I am a professional historian. Thankfully, Botley has **Malcolm Graham**, the former Head of Oxfordshire Studies. I first came across one of his books that my gramp had bought in 1976, *Oxford Old and New*. I can also recommend *Henry Taunt of Oxford: A Victorian Photographer* (1973), *Images of Victorian Oxford* (1992), and not forgetting *The Changing Faces of West Oxford* (1998), *Oxfordshire At War* (1994), *Oxford In The Great War* (2014) and his co-authored books with Laurence Waters from Hurst Rise Road (admittedly on the Cumnor parish side).

In the last *Sprout*, I mentioned *The Story of North Hinksey* by **Diana Swayne** (see photo). By chance I managed to find this wonderful lady who, when I spoke to her a few months ago, was 102 years old. Although born in Guildford, she lived in our parish in the 60s and 70s. Her father was George Goodchild, a prolific author whose books included many crime detective novels featuring an Inspector McLean. Diana was very pleased to learn how popular her book has been.



Sir Winston Churchill's official biographer **Sir Martin Gilbert** (1936–2015) lived in the Map House in Vernon Avenue. I would love to have met him. His books are outstanding. I especially like his 1995 publication, *In Search of Churchill* in which he explains his work and the people he interviewed (for example former Prime Minister, Harold Wilson). I could write much more about this great man – as many could also say a lot about his subject Sir Winston Churchill.

Also in Vernon Avenue I must mention **Sir Muirhead Bone** (1876–1953), official war artist in both World Wars, knighted for his services to Art in 1937. His pictures have been collected in many books, two of which (*Old Spain* (1936) and *Came to Oxford* (1952)), were co-authored with his wife, the author **Gertrude Bone**.

Neil Clark, who lives in Cedar Road and went to Botley School, wrote the fascinating *Stranger Than Fiction: The Life of Edgar Wallace, the Man*

Who Created King Kong. In recent months on Vintage TV, there have been repeats of episodes of *The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre* partly based on his writings and originally made in the early to mid-1960s. Also *The Mind of JG Reeder*, a 1969 television series adapted from Wallace's work featured a gentleman called Willoughby Goddard who played Sir Jason Toovey. Willoughby was a relative of a certain Matthew Arnold, which reminds me ...

As well as saying Happy 60th Birthday to our local secondary school, if you'd like to find out about *Matthew Arnold: Oxford's "Dreaming Spires" Poet*, then I'll be presenting a talk about him for Cumnor & District History Society (£2 for visitors, £12 annual membership) on 24 September, 7.30pm at Cumnor Old School.

St Peter & St Paul's Church are also celebrating 60 years in October (more details in next month's *Sprout*). I'm planning to display copies of some wedding photos of Botley people especially those who married at the aforementioned church. Please get in touch with me or the Revd Clare Sykes if you can help. You can phone me outside working hours on Ox 725116, or email martin.harris321@gmail.com More on Literary Botley next month.

Martin Harris

Graham Blake

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Branches Café – here for everybody, to support young people

Who are we? Branches Café is a place to meet, drink, eat, and socialise for everyone living, working in or visiting the community of Botley. It is run by Branches Young People's Support Service which is a Social Enterprise, a business with a social purpose. This means that all profits made by the Branches Café go towards developing and resourcing the work Branches does with local young people. We hope that the Café will become a popular place with all sections of our community, a place to go to find out what's happening in our community, or to relax and take a break from the daily grind, with a freshly ground coffee!

Branches started in 2016 with the vision of providing a safe and nurturing place for Young People to socialise and learn new skills. After working hard to raise funds and secure premises we finally opened our/your Café this August.

Interview with Mark, the Café's Chef

Mark has worked in the Branches café for two months and he previously worked in Botley at 'Café Aloha'. What he enjoys about working here is that he has the opportunity to create his own menu and has independence in what he does. Mark likes the positive atmosphere that the young people bring to the café and he would like more young people to be made aware of it.

Zoe and Georgina



Do visit us for breakfast, morning refreshment or lunch and enjoy our bright space, our good fare, and meet our friendly team. Your custom will help us provide that safe and nurturing place in sessions for young people after school and in the evening. If you're curious about our work pop in for a takeaway between 3 and 5, and have a peek at what we have going on. If you're lucky you may be served by one of our Young Volunteers.

Where are we? 1st floor, Elms Court, Chapel Way, Botley, OX2 9LP, Enter from steps opposite the Co-op or use our accessible entrance next door to the library. At Branches we endeavour to use local suppliers and all our takeaway packaging is compostable or recyclable.

Opening/Closing Times

8:00am – 3:00pm (For ALL)

3:00pm – 5:00pm (Take-away for ALL, café just for young people)

7:00pm – 9:00pm (Young people exclusively)

Food on offer

Breakfast: a range of traditional and additional foods made on site

Lunch: Paninis and sandwiches made on site

Specials: Homemade soups, chef's homemade special

Snacks: Homemade cakes, Fairtrade teas and coffee

Dave Goodspeed

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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| P18/V1371/FUL                  | 20 Eynsham Rd. Demolish existing flats.<br>Construct 6 self contained apartments, parking bays, cycle bays, bin store, landscaping.                                                                       | <b>13 June</b><br><i>Target decision date: 8 Aug</i>                             |
| P18/V1495/HH                   | 17 Yarnells Hill. Rebuild single storey extension over existing footprint.                                                                                                                                | <b>14 June</b><br><i>TDD: 9 Aug</i>                                              |
| P18/V1520/HH                   | 32 North Hinksey Lane. Single storey side extension & conversion of integral garage.<br>Level access driveway ramp.                                                                                       | <b>25 June</b><br><i>TDD: 20 Aug</i>                                             |
| P18/V1577/FUL                  | Hanborough House N. Hinksey Lane.<br>External works: steel escape door, 2 x A.C condenser units + existing units, 2 300mm louvres for intake & extract. Illuminated fascia sign & 1 non-illuminated sign. | <b>5 July,</b><br><i>TDD: 30 Aug,</i><br><br><b>14 June</b><br><i>TDD: 9 Aug</i> |
| P18/V1497/A                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                  |
| P18/V1590/HH                   | 20 Poplar Road. Rear single storey extension.                                                                                                                                                             | <b>5 July</b> <i>TDD 30/7</i>                                                    |
| P18/V1850/PDH<br>P18/V1844/LDP | 30 Montagu Rd. Single storey rear extension.<br>Reconstruction of an existing outbuilding for kids art room.                                                                                              | <b>19, 20 July</b><br><i>TDD:30 Aug, 14 Sept</i>                                 |
| P18/V1749/HH                   | 5 Hutchcomb Rd. Wall insulation, triple glazing & MVHR. Pitched roof..                                                                                                                                    | <b>20 July</b><br><i>TDD: 14 Sept</i>                                            |
| P18/V1910/PDH                  | 36 Poplar Rd. Single storey rear extension.                                                                                                                                                               | <b>27 July</b> <i>TDD 7/9</i>                                                    |
| P18/V1886/FUL                  | 15 Cumnor Hill. Demolish house, erect 9 flats (7 x 2bed and 2 x 1Bed), car/cycle spaces.                                                                                                                  | <b>2 August</b><br><i>TDD: 27 Sept</i>                                           |
| P18/V1663/HH                   | 21 Montagu Rd. Retrospective application for existing garden room.                                                                                                                                        | <b>3 August</b><br><i>TDD: 28 Sept</i>                                           |

## Police Update

**Burglaries:** On 27th July between 1.30 and 2pm, a house was burgled on Eynsham Road, via an insecure rear door. Jewellery and cash were taken. On 5th August during the working day, there was an attempted burglary on Evelyn Close. Locks were broken but access was not gained. If you have any information on either of these please call 101.

**Suspicious vehicle** On July 14th, a suspicious vehicle was noticed on Lime Road, whose occupants appeared to be watching residents coming and going. The Police were called and the vehicle and its occupants found to be of police interest. Arrests were made. Please continue to be vigilant in keeping an eye on your neighbourhoods and call 101 if you have any concerns or observations that you feel are suspicious (call 999 if a crime is being committed).

**Crime prevention survey** On the 27th July I was invited to conduct a crime prevention survey at an address on Arthray Road. The resident was concerned about the security of their rear garden. I was able to provide advice on fencing, lighting and other related features, although the overall security of the property was very good. We call taking steps such as installing fences, lights and alarms "Target hardening". They make it harder to access a property and commit crime. This is a free-of-charge service provided by the neighbourhood team. If you would like to have one done, just call 101 and we will be happy to arrange an appointment.

**Contact us** For advice, or to contact the neighbourhood team, call us on the police non-emergency number 101 (in an emergency, dial 999). You can also email us on **AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**, but do not use this email address to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: **www.thamesvalley.police.uk**.

**PCSO Adi Wright**



## OAKWOOD



### Landscaping, Groundwork & Drainage

Patios, Fencing, Driveways, Block Paving  
Drainage, Sewage, Camera Surveys, Jetting

Local Personal Service 24/7 01865 865562 07702 012266

info@oakwooddrainage.co.uk

## **Randoms**

### **Seacourt Hall Management Committee seeks nominations**

Seacourt Hall is managed by a Committee of Trustees made up of representatives of the North Hinksey Parish Council, hall users and the general public. At the AGM on 26th September (7pm at Seacourt Hall) two members of the public will be elected by those eligible and present at the AGM. Nominations must reach the Secretary before 5pm on 12th September, by post in the letter-box at Seacourt Hall or by email to [michael.cockman@gmail.com](mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com). To find out about the responsibilities of being a trustee, call me on 07766 317691.

**Michael Cockman**, Secretary

### **Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre**

#### ***Telephoning the Surgery:***

We are changing the way you contact us from 1st September 2018. For appointments or to speak to a clinician please telephone **01865 730911**.

For administrative matters (e.g., chasing a referral, checking a result, etc.) please use **01865 248719**.

***Dr Chadwick's Retirement:*** Dr Chadwick would like to thank all those who came to his retirement tea, especially in such heat. He had a splendid time.

**Caroline Jones**, Practice Manager

### **Friends of Raleigh Park**

The Wild Oxford work groups have completely cleared the fen area around the pond, and signs of habitat regeneration are being carefully studied. Elsewhere in the Park, mowing and grazing have helped the populations of rare species such as Spiny Restharrow and Strawberry Clover to increase. A butterfly survey group has been at work over the summer. The Friends will hold their AGM on 17 September, at 7.30 in the Louie Memorial Pavilion, with Nick Bowles of Butterfly Conservation as our guest speaker. We look forward to welcoming new members and are eager to recruit additional members to the Committee to help organise events, work groups and wildlife surveys. You can find us at [www.raleighpark.org.uk](http://www.raleighpark.org.uk) **Stephen Parkinson**, Friends of Raleigh Park

## **Botley to Woodstock – community education**

I live in Dean Court and recently took over running Community Education for Marlborough School in Woodstock. When I applied for the job, I was completely unaware that this wide range of hobby and exercise classes has been going for over ten years. So maybe other Botley and Cumnor residents aren't aware of them either?

We offer daytime, evening and Saturday courses for adults during school term time, on a whole range of subjects including arts and crafts, exercise and wellbeing, languages, cookery or music. On Mondays for example, we have yoga, badminton, drawing, autumn foraging and therapeutic herbs, Spanish at beginner and intermediate levels, Italian reading skills, and a new evening archery class. A great start to the week and an antidote to any Monday morning blues! Woodstock is a 20-minute drive from Botley, so it can be quicker to get there for a class than get into Oxford centre.

You can find course details on [www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed](http://www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed). If you would like a printed brochure, you can pick one up from Botley Library porch.

**Celia Clark**, Coordinator

## **Botley Apple Day**

In the Community Orchard, North Hinksey Lane on 8th October, between 2.30 and 5pm. Bring your apples to share, to identify, and to press into juice. All welcome, with or without apples.

## **Whichcraft casts off**

We would like to thank all those of you who have supported Whichcraft over the years. The group has been a source of new friendships and an exchange of skills and crafty ideas. Sadly numbers have decreased to such a level over this past year that it has become unsustainable.

We had some money left in the kitty and have distributed some of the books and other bits and pieces in exchange for donations. We do still have some embroidery books and magazines on cardmaking and papercraft if anyone is interested. There is now a grand total of £60 left, which we have agreed to donate to Botley Bridges the local charity that has replaced the children's centre.

If you want to continue to go to a craft group there is still Court Crafting at Dean Court Community Centre (email at [courtcrafting@gmail.com](mailto:courtcrafting@gmail.com)).

Best wishes and happy crafting!

**Jan and Monica**

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

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>                                                      |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                   |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386                                                                                                 |
| <b>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><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or<br>Brendan Byrne 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</b> , Seacourt Hall, Open to All 8am-3pm,           | Youth Cafe @ Branches 7-9pm evenings tbc. 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>                                                                                                            |



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|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mum and Baby Yoga</b> for babies from 6 wks to crawling | 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:andykes@hotmail.com">andykes@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</b><br>Botley Bridges                         | 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>                                                                                                |

