

The Sprout



The Seacourt Stream being aerated after a major sewage spill in 2016

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 151 October 2020

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From the Editor

What does the October *Sprout* have to offer? It was time, we felt, to review how things have changed since Lockdown. First, the schools – kids are back, how's it going so far (p5)? The Foodbank (p23) is almost back to normal, the Seacourt Hall is open again and looking for public-spirited citizens to join the management committee (p29), the shopping centre is almost back to where it was before the rebuilding started (p15) – perhaps now is a good time to rethink how it could be made to work! Our retail reporter has some good ideas. Oxford's art galleries are reopening – cautiously – (p21). Remembrance Sunday will be a little different this year – confined to 30 participants, and observed behind locked gates on 8th November (p13), but there will be a two-minute silence in the shopping centre at 11am on 11th November, as in other years. Looking back, there's a tribute to a local hero, the much loved Dr Blazewicz, who left the local practice in 2012, and our cover shows a picture of earlier problems with sewage in the Seacourt Stream that have come back to haunt Thames Water once again (see page 38). Lots going on then, and the *Sprout* is here to report it! Happy reading!

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

In response to the letter from Colin and Sally Hersom last month, re the length of time it is taking to get the Library open again, the Sprout has been sent this letter from the County Council's Library Service:

Oxfordshire County Council IT department are currently working closely with the Broadband suppliers and building landlord to arrange the installation of the cables which will connect the Library to the County Council network.

After many months of negotiation, we understand all that is outstanding is the cabling from the building's plant room into the library. As the cabling needs to go through areas of the building not leased by OCC (including the Parish Council office) a Wayleave between the providers and the landlord is required and needs to be approved.

All parties involved are aware that this work has taken considerably longer *[than it should?]* and are working hard to deliver the connection to allow the new Botley Library to be opened at the nearest opportunity so it can support the community. Once this last piece of work is completed the library is ready to reopen.

We do know staff are desperately keen to get back to their beautiful new library and can't wait to welcome customers back.

Simon Lay, Library Operations Manager (Branch Network)

~~~~~



***SAD NEWS!***

***There will be NO 2020 APPLE DAY.***

***It's been scuppered by the Covid-19 rules.***

***Maybe next year...***

## Back to School

*The Sprout wondered how everyone was finding being back at school under the new set-up, so we asked a few local parents, teachers and pupils. The first response is from a teacher at Botley Primary.*

### Botley School

It was a joy to see so many smiling faces coming back through the school doors at the beginning of September. The new headteacher, Mrs Jo Reid, was in post, the academic year had started and a new kind of normal was about to begin. When we closed for lockdown on March 20th as a result of Covid-19, not one of us was prepared for such a long period of absence and for so many new tasks to be thrust upon us! We missed so many of the lovely events we would have shared together – May Dancing, Sports Day, our infamous ‘Botley’s Got Talent’ competition, the Year 6 performance and the Leavers’ Assembly to name but a few ... but most of all we missed the children!

Getting ready for reopening was a challenge in itself – our main priority was the safety of the children, staff and community, as a result many an hour was spent trying to think of all the ways we could overcome the many barriers we could predict and those which arose as time went on.



With such a large school building we were confident there was sufficient space for us all within our class ‘bubbles’, but staffing all areas has been a challenge we have risen to. We have staggered break and lunch times, organised the use of equipment, recorded virtual assemblies and are preparing for our next bout of online learning provision should we need to lockdown again in a hurry. The picture shows a Year 2 class with desks in rows but still trying to look child-friendly!

All these practical things are do-able, and we continue to watch the

latest Government guidance like hawks, adjusting and reviewing our procedures on a daily basis. So far, the children have presented as resilient and robust – they have returned with the intention of getting on with the new ways and our start has been peaceful and purposeful. But what about what we can't see? We are fully expecting to be supporting our families throughout this time and in the future and will work around people as much as we can. Staff have come back with vigour – but distancing from colleagues whilst at work, not sharing problems or talking through daily situations will continue to add to an already stretched workforce who really just need to share a cup of tea or coffee and put the education system to rights as we normally do!

It is a privilege to work with the young people here at Botley School, to influence some of their experiences as they grow and progress on their academic journey and to instil in them a love of learning and a sense of adventure as we face new challenges both academic and personal. There is always a sense of calm around the school and our return to a Dickensian seating plan of sitting in rows facing the front has exacerbated the calm – however, we are here to make the best of the present and the future, as we have since school opened in 1938, and we will continue to ensure we promote our over-arching school values:– BE BRILLIANT, BE SAFE!

**Alex Neil**

## **North Hinksey School**

*This comes from a classroom assistant in the Reception class:*

Working as a Voluntary Helper in North Hinksey School for over seven years has given me a sense of joy and fulfilment. The ethos of the school is to care for one another and to flourish and achieve. It is said that you are never too old to learn. You can learn a lot from listening to children as you stop and talk to them in passing. They are sometimes wise beyond their years. As a Women's Institute member I have been able to pass on some of my skills to them. In the past we have enjoyed cooking together, making anything from Pasta Bake to Hard Tack biscuits that would have been eaten on board a ship long ago. We have cooked a variety of both savoury and sweet items such as Cheese Twists, Dragon biscuits (see picture), Flapjacks, and not forgetting the memorable tiny Quiches!!!!



The gardening sessions in the lunch hour have also proved to be great fun. We have grown so many things in the raised bed, and the garden outside Year 1 looks stunning (*with lettuces in photo*). We also attempted growing mushrooms. This was a great success. Soon the cooking and the gardening will begin again. The future for this at North Hinksey School looks positive and I look forward with great optimism.



### **Jenny Holloway**

*And finally, from the Sarfatti family, who have four children in two schools:*

This summer we had a long time to prepare for the first day at school. Six months to be exact. By the time school started we were so prepared that we naturally had to leave a few things behind.

Lia, now in Year 9, received a much needed extra day at home before school started. Home was so quiet that day that she had to liven it up with some background music. But before that, she actually left the house with Alma and her friends to provide some senior advice on their way up to school.

Alma started Year 7: new school, new teachers, new bag (a really pretty one). In the morning we found we didn't need to walk her up the hill as a group of excited girls were waiting outside our house to conquer the hill together. Coming back from her first day, she felt rather lucky to be with children she has known since they were six months old!

Ben and Emmie went back to Botley School and it took us all a few days to understand which side of the road to walk on, when to wear the masks and generally to get used to this surreal new world. Back they came from their first day, so happy to have met their friends and teachers and yet reporting that 'school is so different now, we miss our friends from the other classes who are not in our bubbles!'

A few days later, I started to appreciate the 'joy' of having children in



different schools. I came back from the Botley School drop-off, to learn from the girls that Ben had left with one of his trainers and one of Lia's. On my way back to school to swap the shoes, I had a call from Lia to say that Jasmine had followed her to school and she's concerned that the little kitten won't find the way back. The next call was from Alma who 'just wanted me to know' she had forgotten the shoes she needed for her art class. Driving up the hill at the last minute to give her the right shoes, I saw Lia arriving. She had dropped off the kitten at a friend's house up the hill – resourceful child of mine! The time was 9.16am when morning events came to an end, and I felt pretty happy – the kind of feeling you have when you've managed various dramatic events over a few sites. Maybe I should apply for a job at the fire station.



This article was supposed to reflect the children's experience of coming back to school, but somehow we got to the publisher's deadline realizing we had been talking a lot about it but we hadn't written anything yet. So this is the result of a joint family chat about the first days of school. 'Luckily' we are self isolating at the moment, waiting for Covid-19 test results, so once again we have some time to spend together and actually talk.

**Orit Sarfatti**

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LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P20/V1698/FUL	5 Toynbee Close. Extend existing bungalow to form one 2 bed unit & two 1 bed units.	10 August <i>TDD: 5 Oct</i>
<u>P20/V2050/HH</u>	25 Yarnells Hill. Erection of front porch.	13 August <i>TDD: 8 Oct</i>
P20/V2100/PDH	22 Sycamore Rd. Rear flat roof extension for family room & WC.	21 August <i>TDD: 2 Oct</i>
P20/V1495/HH	Holm Lodge Harcourt Hill. Install electric wooden gate at entrance to drive.	24 August <i>TDD: 19 Oct</i>
P20/V2149/LDP	3 St Pauls Crescent. Formation of habitable room in loft space.	7 September <i>TDD: 2 Nov</i>

Remembrance Day 2020

The annual Remembrance Service at the Commonwealth War Graves will unfortunately be a restricted event this year due to the rules around public gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The service will take place at the War Graves on Sunday 8th November but will be restricted to just 30 invited guests. The whole cemetery will be closed with gates locked between 10am and 12:30pm on the day. With such small numbers permitted, the focus is on inviting representatives of the fallen military and children from local schools, Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts.

We realise that, for the many hundreds of local people and visitors to this event each year, this will be disappointing news. We are determined to mark the event and to try to make it available in other ways. The service can be followed on Radio Cherwell as in previous years, and we plan to film and live stream the service online. You will find details on the parish council website (northhinksey-pc.gov.uk) from 1st November.

The 11th November this year falls on a Wednesday. As in past years, a two-minute silence will be observed and a bugler will play the Last Post in the centre of Botley. We are pleased that this year we can return to



the West Way shopping centre for this event. Social distancing will be observed, and if you are able to attend on the day, please follow the government guidelines.

Graham Fairclough, Chair of North Hinksey Parish Council's Remembrance Committee

Blue Sky Thinking on West Way Shopping

Since my article in July I have been out and about a bit more, but my initial reaction to a request from the Editor for an update was that if anything is actually happening our readers are likely to know before me! However West Way Square is taking shape and does actually look like the pictures, students have moved in (occupancy is around 50%) and the Premier Inn are finishing their fit out.

I have even ventured into the main car park: you have to admire the way that the design of the exit was given to a work-experience student!

If you recall, in June I received the following from Latham High (BDC's letting agent): 'We have had strong interest from both local and national retail and restaurant operators in the scheme and we are in detailed negotiation on a number of units.'

Since we have heard nothing about the outcomes from these 'detailed negotiations' I tried to obtain an update, but the helpful person at Latham High says: 'I can't seem to get hold of my boss to clarify.' So, zero out of 10 for communication from the organization that we are relying on for the future shape of our retail offer.

Of course, we know that these are very tough times for retailers of any sort. Many well known high street names will disappear (or have already) and the casual dining scene will never be the same again. Over 20,000 stores are expected to close in 2020 following 16,000 closures in 2019. These closures are mainly caused by high costs (rents, rates and labour), low profitability, and loss of sales to online. However, it is not all bad news. In an online poll on Botley Notice



Board Facebook page, the top votes for new retail are Café/Coffee Shop, Bakery, Chippy, Restaurant and Greengrocer, none of which are affected by online sales and all of which provide a vital local service. The issue of high costs is a reality that needs to be addressed but this is surely not beyond the expertise of BDC?

Maybe it is time for BDC to review their business model and decide what overall retail offer is going to make West Way Square actually work. Sitting around waiting for a national chain or an independent entrepreneur to pay 'normal' rent is unlikely to be the answer, at least not in the foreseeable future.

Now is the time for creative thinking. I suspect that local people would love an independent café, that sold bread and maybe had an evening offer (a bit like Café Aloha?). Why not advertise a turnover-based rent and let BDC make money when the tenant does? This might be the way BDC are thinking, but I haven't heard anything like this.

Essentially, Botley residents want exactly what they had before! There was nothing wrong with the previous retail offer, it was just situated in a dilapidated and unloved structure. Now that Lloyds and Chancellors have re-located, we have by and large, the core retail offering we had before, except for a hairdresser, a take-away and a café.

I understand that there has been some interest in a take-away in the old Post Office, so maybe that will lead to something for West Way Square?

There are plans for a Farmer's Market in the piazza and I am assured that this will happen once the outside building works are complete.

Shared space is an idea worth looking at. 'The Shop Witney' is a pop-up shop where up to 40 local artisans can display their offerings as a co-operative venture (a bit like an antiques arcade).

There has also been some work done nationally on Banking Hubs, where local banks and building societies share space. Botley would seem an ideal location for such an offer.

Shared space projects need sponsors. Could this be an opportunity for Mace to develop some new expertise? We can only hope!

Mike Cockman

P.S. Most units are still available to let. Thanks to Caroline Potter for this link to the developers' brochure with a map of all the units showing where the current ones are going: https://westwaysquare.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/west-waysquare_brochure.pdf

A Local Hero

Remember Dr Blazewicz? Selfless, empathetic, energetic, always ready to go the extra mile for his patients, he was something of a local legend in Botley. For decades he was the most popular practitioner at the Elms Road surgery, as it was known for many years, before it reinvented itself under the changes brought in by the Coalition Government. The restructure was too much for Dr B., who left the practice in 2012 saying, memorably, that he ‘was a doctor, not a businessman’.

What happened to him? He was of an age to retire – but *did* he? The Sprout has received an update from his sister Barbara, and we are glad to report that our loss is the county’s gain. Here is her breathless account of her brother’s life, post 65:

“His thirst for helping as many people as possible (medically and otherwise) has certainly not diminished as the years have gone by – if anything it has increased!! ... He continues diligently and energetically in all hours – going between Bicester – Banbury – Witney – Abingdon – St Barts (Oxford) – and Henley on Thames with locum work at Bury Knowle/Wood Farm and Bicester surgeries.

In his spare time he attends medical lectures enabling him to enhance his incredible knowledge even more!! In June 2013 he was delighted to become a PACES [Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills] Examiner (the first GP ever!!).

From March 2019, as an Alumnus of St John’s College, Oxford, he was able to pass on his experience as an Oxford Clinician with his famous bedside approach to teaching medical students (which he maintains by keeping active with his work in clinics and casualty) so enabling his own

frontiers of
knowledge to
continue to
grow.

If I had to
describe my
brother in one
word it would
be HERO – and
our world is so
much better for
having him in it.

He also finds



time for hobbies – motorbikes, cars and mathematics all play in important part in his life. (The photo, taken last year, shows him with his beloved Morgan.)

Over the years, he has acquired an amazing collection of patients and colleagues, and it's for you that I decided to write this article...

I am so glad that my brother continues to be a 'people's doctor'. In fact he is as busy as ever (the way he likes to be) and judging from the comments and feedback, he is recognized as 'one of a kind' – just as he has always been.

Being a doctor for Les is so much more than just being medically savvy. It's a way of life, and he wouldn't want it any other way."

His parents, who were both in the Polish army during the Second World War, survived the horrors of that period to find safety in England. His passion for medicine and mathematics have been passed on to his two daughters, one of whom is a GP and the other a Maths teacher.

Ag MacKeith (with thanks to Barbara Blazewicz)

Graham Blake

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A Little Art goes a Long Way!

Will we ever feel *normal* again? As I write, the new normal is threatening to revert to lockdown, with a significant rise in the number of Covid cases. One way of coping with our renewed state of unease is to take in some of the art exhibitions the Oxford area is blessed with.

After several months' closure, the **Ashmolean** reopened in August, with arrangements carefully designed to protect visitors and staff. At the moment, it is not possible just to wander in off the street as before. The total number of visitors at any given time is strictly controlled, so you have to book a free, timed ticket for general entry to the Museum overall ... and if you want to see one of their special exhibitions, such as the current *Young Rembrandt*, a separate booking is required (NB: *Young Rembrandt* has been extended to November 1st)

The ticket procedure was quick and efficient when I went there recently. Even from outside the building, your safety and comfort are assured: there are staff greeting you at the entrance, footprints and arrows on the floors throughout the building, and measures to help guide you through the myriad small galleries without feeling edgy about social distancing. So although at the moment you can't wander quite at will, arrangements allow you to see everything you might want at your own relaxed pace.

Hand sanitisers are strategically located. Numbers within the Shop and the Cafe also are controlled, for maximum comfort. In the Cafe, the number of tables has been reduced, and they are spread apart; each table is sanitised after every use.

So, I did feel it had been a good day out at the **Ashmolean**, much to be recommended.

But of course that's not the only local gallery; we are spoiled for choice in this area. **Modern Art Oxford** will be reopening on 2nd October after its lengthy Covid closure. And there are small private galleries, too, to visit for visual feasts. So many to choose from, but why not start with the **Carey Blyth** Gallery at 8 Woodstock Road, where local artists often are featured (jennyblythfineart.co.uk for details), or a few minutes further afield, the new **Zuleika** Gallery in Woodstock, next to the Museum (zuleikagallery.com). Your comfort and safety are guaranteed at these smaller venues, too: numbers are restricted; face masks essential; hand sanitisers in place.

All in all, a pleasant way to forget about the dreaded virus!


Ruth Cameron

Foodbank in Coronavirus Times

In March it became apparent that even with Marcelo's meticulous hygiene regime, we could not continue our usual crowded operation with a warehouse full of people and up to three volunteers to a van. Many volunteers had already come to the sensible decision to step down, so it was clear that we would need time to reboot.

First things first At the beginning of the lockdown when pubs, restaurants and professional kitchens were closing, we sent emails and received free help from a marketing company to publicise our request for food surplus. We then collected food offered by schools, colleges, restaurants, pubs and other businesses, including a vast 4–5 ton TKMaxx haul. Meanwhile we dealt with hundreds of emails and phone calls from prospective donors, would-be volunteers, current volunteers, hungry people, confused professionals and curious well-wishers.

We closed for three weeks from the end of March, to have a rest and work out how best to continue operating without risking everyone's health. During the closure period we cleaned everything, even things that probably hadn't seen soap and water in seven years. Emma continued to answer emails and phone calls throughout, redirecting people to the services that were still operating.



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April's changes We reopened in April for just three weekdays plus Sunday as we didn't feel we had enough business to go back to seven days a week. We have gone down to three basic shifts each day (from 6/7). As those days filled up and become incredibly busy (and exhausting) at the base, that turned out to be a very good decision! For five months we have run the entire operation with a 30-strong team of volunteers and staff. They have all been absolutely fantastic, doing the same shift week after week. We hardly needed the rota...

Busy, busy, busy About two-thirds of the groups we would normally supply remained closed throughout lockdown, but we resumed deliveries to 25 mainly residential charities (e.g. homeless, mental health). This period also saw many new community groups arise to fill the gaps in food provision, since with the continued need for social distancing all community meals remain closed. Groups are now providing take-away services, delivering food parcels or ready meals. Furloughed chefs offered their services and kitchens to cook gourmet meals. Existing groups adapted their operation to try to help more people in need (the network of fridges in the county – originally set up to reduce fairly modest amounts of food waste – expanded hugely in this period, some of them even delivering food parcels). Some charity staff are still making up food parcels or cooking meals for delivery to their clients whilst their premises remain closed.

Playing our part When we reopened we decided to support all of these initiatives as best as we could. For most it meant they would have to collect from us as they did not have permanent homes or transport. We created a schedule for all visitors to the base, giving each a dedicated time slot. This has worked really well. We now have about 30 groups visiting over three weekdays – in cars, vans, 20-ton trucks -- which has proved a very efficient way of moving stock on!

The volume of fresh stock we receive plummeted almost overnight once the country had gone into lockdown. From a daily average of 1.2 tons of 'surplus' (as weighed by our friends at Unipart) we are probably down to half a ton on each weekday we're open. And very little of that is fruit and veg. On the plus side we have saved countless pallets of kombucha and tortilla chips from going to waste.

In terms of fresh/chilled food we have retained all of our supermarkets, and two wholesalers (Savona and Chef Direct), as well as some smaller niche food producers, and have just resumed our once-a-week slot at Hello Fresh. We have as yet to re-establish contact with Fresh Direct or Roots, for years our main source of fresh produce.

DEFRA £16m Funding In May we were asked to be part of the government/Fareshare collaboration which would see tons of ambient stock delivered to key distributors like us. Given that we had so little fresh food it seemed a good way to continue supporting the community, and we quickly became a hub for almost every group in the county! Our landlord kindly lent us another empty unit on the estate. This week we took delivery of the final batch of 168 pallets (they arrive 26 at a time on an articulated lorry), upwards of 200 tons in total. Day to day, Marcelo manages this warehouse, while Matthew runs the old base.

A few weeks ago we restarted a collection and delivery shift on Tuesdays and Thursdays so we are currently operating six days a week. Two or three of our charities are reopening each week but they are offering a limited service to their clients or again, providing a food parcel service. But we have the structures in place now for a full return to our original operation should it be needed – or, more importantly, possible – in these coronavirus times.

Cathy Howard



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Seacourt Hall AGM, 10th November and Nominations for Public Representatives

Seacourt Hall is a registered charity managed by a committee of trustees (Seacourt Hall Management Committee), made up of representatives of the North Hinksey Parish Council (NHPC), hall users and public representatives.

Two members of the public will be elected as Charity Trustees (public representatives) by residents over 18, present at the AGM, which will take place on 10th November (7pm at Seacourt Hall or via Zoom, to be decided nearer the time). Any North Hinksey parish resident aged over 18 may put their own name forward to be a Charity Trustee and a seconder is not needed.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary before 5pm on the 27th October. This can be by post in the Seacourt Hall letterbox at the Library end of the building (opposite Tesco Express) or by email to treasurer@seacourthall.org.uk

If you would like more information in advance, including the responsibilities of being a trustee, please see the website at seacourthall.org.uk, call 07967 111014, or contact Lorna Berrett on lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com

Call for new members

The Botley/Kennington Patient Participation Group (PPG) is looking for new members. We are all patients of the Practice and we exist to develop a positive and constructive relationship between patients, the practice and the community it serves, ensuring the practice remains accountable and responsive to all its patients' needs.

We meet on Zoom for about an hour and a half on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 pm. We recognize this time is not good for some but it is set to ensure the doctors and practice manager can also join us.

If you would like to join all you need to do is email Chris Sugden, the Secretary, on csugden@ocrpl.org You will then be on the circulation list and will get the Zoom details for each meeting. You don't have to come to every meeting just come when you can. Look forward to seeing you soon. Thank you

Sylvia Buckingham, Chair PPG

West Way Square: nearly there

At the time of writing in mid-September, students have begun to move in to the West Way accommodation, the returning shops are either open or fitting out ready to move in, the Seacourt Hall is reopening, the landscaping is nearly complete, and only IT issues are holding back the reopening of the Library. So life is returning to the centre of Botley, albeit with vacant units and activity massively restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our new shopping and community centre is opening at perhaps the most uncertain time in all our memories. But while no opening ceremony or large gatherings can be held, this outdoor space is where we can see neighbours and friends and where we will welcome new residents and businesses to our community in the future. We can also support our local businesses and their staff who have been supporting us all throughout the past months.

With the completion of this phase of the development in sight, Mace and SDC held the final Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting of Phase 1 at the end of August (notes can be found on the North Hinksey Parish Council website www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk). Phase 2 will follow, but not until a revised planning application has been considered. It covers "Block A" on the corner of West Way and Westminster Way, where the former Grant Thornton and Elms Court buildings stand now. The revised planning application is to add a further storey with an additional 30 flats, making 150 flats and adding 1.5m in height, taking the approved 8-storey building up to 9 storeys. NHPC objected to the amended application due to its size, contradiction to current planning policy, and lack of additional parking for the extra flats. The application will be discussed by the Vale of White Horse District Council's Planning Committee on 21st October. Look out for news of their decision.

Meanwhile, many of us have questions about how the centre works: questions about parking, pedestrian areas, what shops and restaurants might be coming, a potential farmers' market, how to ask permission to hold an event, how to rent a shopping unit or a flat, and more. A website is coming we are told, but in the meantime you can email the Facilities Manager for the centre – Lisa Himpson of Savills – who is regularly on site and can be contacted at Lisa.Himpson@Savills.com.

Please be aware that Church Way is closed to vehicles from 10am to 4pm and vehicles entering this space will be captured by the automatic

number plate recognition system and may receive a fine in the post. The car parks are all free for 2 hours and there is no need to get a ticket from the machines unless you are staying longer. An application for free evening parking has been submitted to the Vale but no news on that yet. Following discussions at the CLG concerning security presence in the centre over-night it has been confirmed that there will be a mobile night security patrol as well as CCTV.

You can also continue to raise any questions with any Parish Councillor (contact details on the NHPC website), and we will do what we can to get answers on your behalf. Any updates we receive are posted on our website and Facebook pages, and major notifications go onto the noticeboards around the parish – including a new noticeboard recently installed on the grass area next to the community building. So look out in all those places for news about the centre, the planning application and the next phase.

Lorna Berrett, Chair of NHPC Communications Committee

~~~~~

## Poems for Breakfast

*My mother, who hates thunderstorms...*

*The apples on the trees are full of wasps...*

*Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you...*

Aren't these the most wonderful beginnings of sentences? Don't you want to know what happens? And if you read them out loud, slowly, don't they SOUND glorious? They are the first lines of three poems that I have received in the last fortnight from Poems for Breakfast: **[oxfordpoetrylibrary.wordpress.com/2020/03/20/poems-for-breakfast/](https://oxfordpoetrylibrary.wordpress.com/2020/03/20/poems-for-breakfast/)**.

It's a free service from the Oxford Poetry Library, where you get emailed a poem at about 7:45am every weekday. The poems are seasonal -- at the moment they are about the end of summer -- and from poets that I, at least, hadn't heard of before. I signed up in March. I haven't loved every poem that I've been sent, but every single one has transported me away from the bad news, and introspection and worry of the day. You too might want to receive them. If you do, just email them. **R.T.**

## Prescriptions and Local Chemists

*The Patients Participation Group (PPG) for Botley Medical Centre and its branch surgery, Kennington Health Centre have produced a summary of all the pharmacists in the catchment area along with their policies for prescriptions, including repeat prescriptions. We have separated out the ones relevant to the Sprout readership, but kept the map, as it's interesting to see how far the practice extends.*

A Multidisciplinary Team at the surgery deals with a medication request. This team includes doctors, pharmacists, physician associates and nurse prescribers who liaise together and have access to the patient's medical notes. The manner in which it is prescribed can vary depending upon the patient's problem, ranging from (a) face-to-face in the surgery (b) GP home visit (c) telephone consultation (d) video consultation or an online consultation. The medication needed may also have been started by Secondary Care at the Hospital or by a different clinic.

Once the medication request is processed or the Health Care Professional has made a diagnosis that will need medication, the prescription will be issued either via an electronic copy sent direct to the patient's choice of pharmacist, a paper copy given directly to the patient, or a paper copy collected by the pharmacist from the surgery.

The Patient can collect their medicines from any pharmacist. The GP will send the prescription to the Patient's pharmacy of choice. Any pharmacy can be chosen, including some outside the catchment area that are open late and on Sundays.

It would be nice though to collect medicines from a local pharmacy within the catchment area of the Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre and be seen to support essential local businesses.

Patients with long term problems who require repeat prescriptions have the following options for receiving medicines regularly:

- Attending GP surgery to deliver the white copy from the previous prescription, ticking the boxes of the medicines required
- Attending the pharmacy with the white copy of the previous prescription, boxes ticked.



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- Ordering a repeat prescription online, using the BMP protocol outlined below.
- Emailing a request to **occg.prescriptions.botleymedicalcentre@nhs.net**

## Botley's local pharmacists

### Woodland Pharmacy

82 Botley Road

Oxford

OX2 0UB

Tel: 01865 242649

Hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.30pm.

Saturday 9am--1pm. Closed on Sundays.

Delivery Service available – currently free

### Lloyds Chemist

Still in the portacabin to the left of Elms Parade, but hoping to move into the smart new unit in the Square by the time you read this.

Tel: 01865 247023

Hours: Mon-Fri 8.30am-1.00pm 2.00pm-6.30pm.

Sat 9.00am-5.30pm. Sun closed

Delivery Service available free/subscription (better check first)

*N.B. Allow 2 working days for your prescription to be ready*

## How to Order Your Repeat Prescription Online

The Practice recommends you to request your prescription online, as the safest and easiest way to make sure you have the right medicine. You will need to register for on line access to order repeat prescriptions, and this will also enable you to book appointments on line and to view a summary of your medical records. They will send the prescription to the chemist of your choice.

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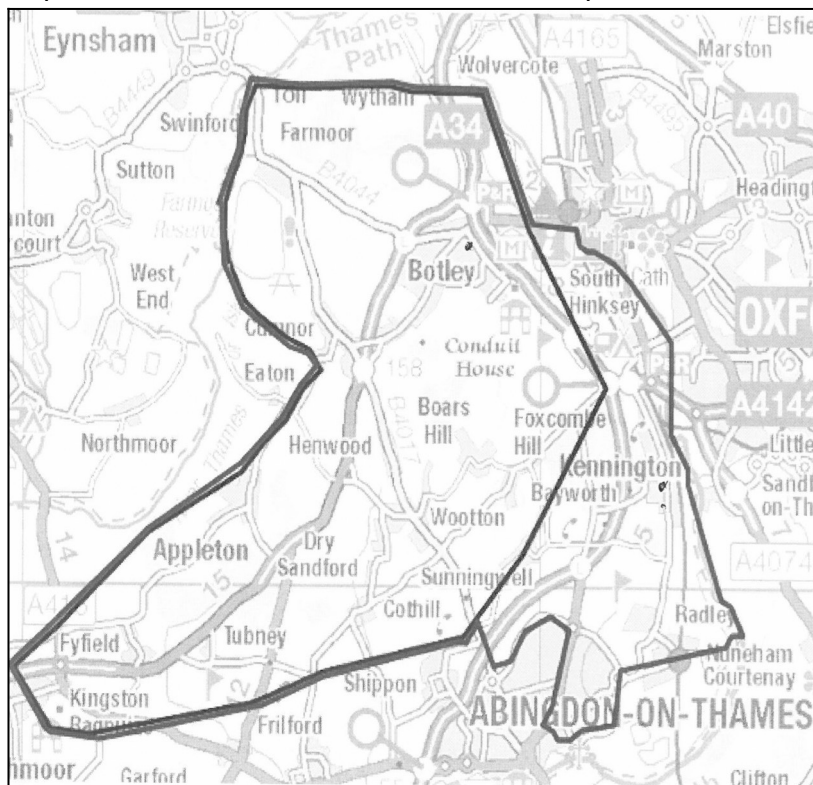


To register for the online service you complete the registration form via the link on [www.botleymedicalcentre.com](http://www.botleymedicalcentre.com) or pick up the form from Reception at the surgery. Print out the form, fill it in and hand it to Reception, who will generate a username and password for you and supply you with full instructions. Please bring some photo ID with the form so they can verify they are giving the log-in details to the correct person.

If your medication is due for review the process may take a little longer and you may need to see the doctor, pharmacist or nurse before your next prescription is issued. In common with most other practices, they no longer take repeat prescription requests over the telephone, to avoid the risk of mistakes.

**Sylvia Buckingham**

The map below shows the catchment area of the practice:



# Randoms

## Going to the Doctor in 2020

Botley Medical Centre reminds patients to let the practice know of any changes in your contact details as soon as possible, via email: [botleymedicalcentre@nhs.net](mailto:botleymedicalcentre@nhs.net) or phone (01865 248719 or 730911). Or you can update your own records at <https://www.botleymedicalcentre.co.uk/> on the "Online Services" page or "Further information: 7. Important Forms" Keep an eye on the practice website, to stay in touch with the latest developments.

When patients have hearing difficulties they may be assessed (by email, or via a carer or relative by phone) by a variety of professionals: the GP, nurse, physiotherapist, pharmacist, paramedic or physician's associate. After the assessment a face-to-face appointment will be offered if needed.

## Sewage Pollution in Seacourt Stream

At the Parish Council meeting on 10th September, it was agreed to send a strongly worded message to Thames Water. The motion, put forward by Cllr Bastin, seconded by Cllr Kay, went like this:

"This Parish Council notes, to its disgust, that Thames Water has discharged sewage overflow into the Seacourt Stream a total of 63 times in 2019, for a total of 156 hours [*reference supplied*]. This council further notes that Thames Water has been granted a 'temporary' permit to do so by the Environment Agency. This Parish Council finds the discharge of overflow sewage directly into the Seacourt Stream to be unacceptable. This Parish Council therefore resolves to ask its Clerk to contact Thames Water and the Environment Agency, asking the following questions:

- What is the drainage strategy for the area including North Hinksey Parish?
- What is the status of the two 'combined sewer overflows', Botley Road SP48066205 CSO and North Hinksey Lane SP4905551A CSO?"

The photo on the cover of this month's *Sprout* first appeared in 2016,

and shows Thames Water's efforts to undo the effects of earlier sewage spills. No doubt these have been happening more and more often, as they are generally the consequence of heavy rainfall overwhelming the sewers and flushing their contents into the river. **Endsewagepollution Thames** is a campaign to get the practice banned from the whole river.

**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.**

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson,<br><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<br><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             | Fridays, Cubs 6.30-8, Scouts 8-9.30, 1 Church Way, Botley<br>Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts)<br>07837 623768 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                                      | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>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>BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign</b>                       | Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6-8 weeks.<br>Contact via website <a href="http://B4044path.org">B4044path.org</a>                                                                           |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.                                        | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>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 Community Larder</b>                                       | Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at Seacourt Bridge Pub. Drop by, message via Facebook or email <a href="mailto:botleylarder@gmail.com">botleylarder@gmail.com</a>                                                    |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>                                           | Wednesday 9.30am. Contact Briony on Ox 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 Seniors Lunch Club</b>                                     | Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386                                                                                                                    |
| <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>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>                                                  |
| <b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>                                             | Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 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>                                         | <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone 01865 721026                                                                                                                |
| <b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>             | Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                                                |
| <b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>                                       | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>                    |
| <b>Let's Sing! – singing group</b>                                   | Weds 2pm, WOCC, 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>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs</b> | Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email <b>nhps.manager1@gmail.com</b>                                           |
| <b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>                         | Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997                                                                |
| <b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>                       | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451                                                                                       |
| <b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>           | Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <b><u>voirreyc@aol.com</u></b>                                    |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                       | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                    |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                    | Sharon Henley, <b>clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</b>                                                                   |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                        | Weds at LM pavilion, Daz on 07791 212866 or see F'book                                                               |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                       | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                              |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259                                                                     |
| <b>Oxford Harmony Men's Acapella singing group</b> | Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact <b>pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</b>                                    |
| <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, <b>kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</b><br>Seniors, training etc <b>jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</b> . |
| <b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>   | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658<br><b>melanie_riste@hotmail.com</b>                                                |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                    | <b>raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</b>                                                                                |
| <b>Saturdads at Botley Bridges</b>                 | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's<br>10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                          |
| <b>Seacourt Hall Management Committee</b>          | Michael Cockman 07766 317691<br><b>michael.cockman@gmail.com</b> .                                                   |
| <b>Shotokan Karate Club</b>                        | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                        |
| <b>Walking for Health</b>                          | 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.45 Botley Library.<br>Alan 07941 610913                                                        |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                      | Contact details on <b>www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</b>                                                              |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                 | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <b>www.wotkd.co.uk</b>                                  |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                             | (Uni of the 3rd Age) <b>http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</b>                                                             |
| <b>West Way Day Centre</b>                         | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971.<br><b>oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</b>                   |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                  | Liz Manson, 244175 or <b>liz.manson@virginmedia.com</b>                                                              |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                             | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banzo tel: 07779 253899 <b>bansob@aol.com</b>                           |





