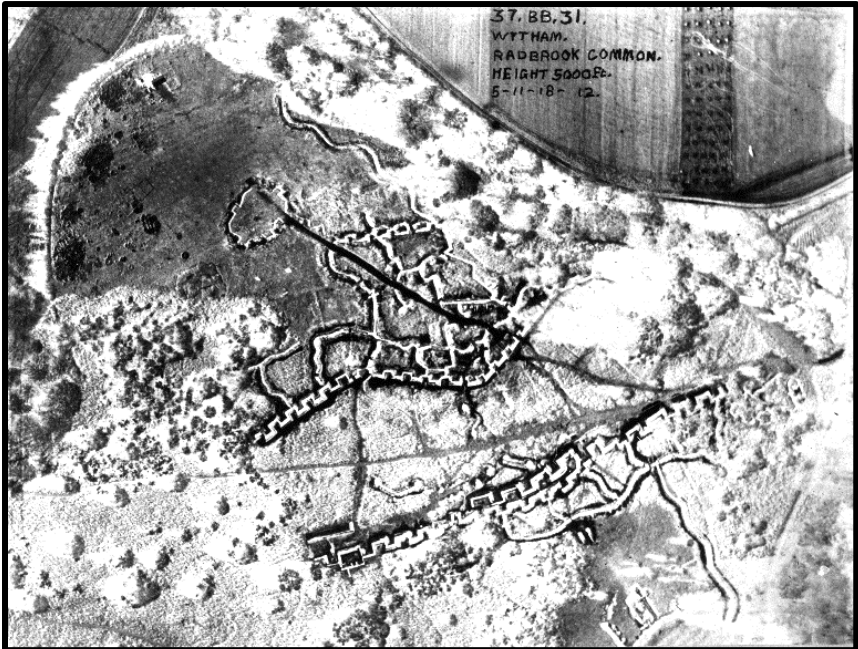


# The Sprout



WWI Practice Trenches in Wytham Woods

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 132 November 2018**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 132, November 2018**

### **Contents**

<b>3 WWCC update</b>	<b>23 Stephen Howse's Clock</b>
<b>7 Cumnor Choral</b>	<b>27 Really Affordable Homes</b>
<b>9 Leave no Trace</b>	<b>29 CAB on Hate Crime</b>
<b>13 Xpressway – Legal challenge</b>	<b>31 Brownies and Badges</b>
<b>15 Botley/Kennington PPG</b>	<b>35 Wytham Woods in WWI</b>
<b>17 Remembrance</b>	<b>37 Crumb of Comfort (3)</b>
<b>19 Parish Council's new website</b>	<b>39 Randoms and Photo comp</b>
<b>21 Don't burn Ernie!</b>	<b>43 Local Organizations</b>

### **From the Editor**

11th November is the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, and serendipitously this year it is also Remembrance Sunday. Our cover picture is an early aerial photo of the practice trenches in Wytham Woods, investigated by Mike Bartlam on page 35. On page 17 is a reminder of the Parish Council's Service of Remembrance in Botley Cemetery, with some extracts from the autograph book of a WWI nurse. This issue also includes a range of local initiatives you may want to know about – a legal challenge to the proposed Expressway (p.13), good news about a plan to build affordable homes in Dean Court (p.27), help for victims of hate crimes (p.29), and an invitation to join the patients' participation group for the local medical practice (p.15). The Parish Council has gone to some trouble to make its website more accessible (p.19). There's a history of the Elms Parade clock on page 23, and a thought-provoking review of the different rules for litter in wild and remote places (p.9). If you too have been recording the carnage as our former shopping centre bites the dust, you may be interested in the new *Sprout* competition on page 39. Finally, Bonfire Night is coming up, so please make sure your bonfire hasn't become a winter retreat for hedgehogs before you set fire to it (p.21). Lots going on then, and it's all here in your favourite local rag!

**Ag MacKeith**

# Update on the Shopping Centre from WWCC

## Key works taking place during October and early November include:

- Completing demolition – removing foundations/ crushing materials
- Completing 15 temporary car parking spaces opposite Elms Court
- Completing site hoarding and forming the long-term pedestrian path through the site
- Casting the concrete building frame and slabs for Block B
- Erecting tower cranes
- Further excavations and ground preparations;
- Piling works.

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th November at 7:30pm in the Church Hall of St Peter and Paul's Church, West Way. It would be helpful if you could let us know if you expect to attend, RSVP to [westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com).

## A look back over the past year

### *Changes at the shopping centre*

- The remaining traders left the centre
- A mystery graffiti artist used the boarded-up units to make some strong comments
- This was replaced by commissioned street art and artwork by the children of Botley School
- The site was finally sold to Botley Development Company (Mace) in January, for £12.4m, the Vale having reduced the price by £1.2m
- The former Grant Thornton building and Elms Court were re-fitted to provide accommodation for temporary replacements for Seacourt Hall, the Baptist Church, Co-op and Tesco. Portacabins for Chancellor's estate agents and Lloyd's pharmacy were provided.

## WWCC engagement with Vale planning department and Mace / SDC

Over the past year, WWCC have raised a number of issues about the centre, and the following problems were resolved:

- Lack of waste bins and then over-full bins in the centre
- The need for clearly marked pedestrian access routes
- Contractor vehicles parked in neighbouring streets
- Parking restrictions

- Lighting
- Problems of access for those of limited mobility (the Vale's Equality Officer was also involved in resolving this).
- Some of the concerns raised by WWCC during the planning consultation process were taken into consideration, namely:
  - Construction traffic routing via Westminster Way into the site
  - Adequate cycle parking stands to be provided for the retail units.
  - Delivery routes using Arthray Road, and unloading of vehicles in shared areas
  - Landscaping of the main street through the centre, which includes steps and ramps
  - Lack of secure cycle parking for the student accommodation.

### **WWCC's ongoing role**

*WWCC continues its two-fold role:*

- To provide a means of communication on the development and to raise issues of concern with Mace and their contractors
- To continue to monitor planning conditions until the work is finished.

### **From the WWCC newsletter**

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## Cumnor Choral Society 60 YEARS young!

In October 1958 very few people can have realized what was about to be created. Cumnor Choral Society started as a group of people, keen on music, who all enjoyed a good sing. Thanks to efficient management and enthusiastic members, it succeeded.

The age range at the first rehearsal was 9 to 87 years. Naturally, numbers fluctuated. Talented young conductors moved on to higher musical careers and young people in the choir moved on to further education, parenthood and other challenges. Other members joined and soon realized the delights of a weekly sing leading to a performance with a paying audience. Our next concert is Haydn's 'Creation' (see below).

Voice tests were never (and will never be) part of the Choral Society. All that is asked is enthusiasm for singing and a willingness to accept the challenge of music, which can be so rewarding. One of the rewards comes at every rehearsal, in the form of a cuppa and a biscuit and an opportunity to meet new friends and renew old friendships. Talking is as important as singing.

Sixty years! Who would have thought it would last so long? We must be doing something right. Over the years, most of the original members have moved up to join the heavenly choir, but many more have kept it going strong.

The Choral Society always welcomes new members. Every member brings something new to enrich and develop the Society, and takes from it something pleasant, personal and permanent.

Now sixty years old, Cumnor Choral Society has established itself as a Choral Society worth listening to and worth joining. It has no intentions of retiring – ever! *Here's to the next 60 years ... and beyond.*

**Rosie Smith** (Founder member)

Cumnor Choral Society  
performs

### Haydn The Creation

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018  
7.30pm  
St Peter & St Paul Church  
West Way, Botley.

Tickets: Adult £12, Concessions £8, Child £2.  
Available from Caroline Cockman  
Tel: 07961900670 or email  
cockman.caroline@gmail.com also  
Manna Café, Grant Thornton Building, Botley.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1165970

## Leave no Trace

When Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon, it became changed for ever. The image of his boot-print in moon dust became iconic. But, apart from the American flag, a lot of other debris was left there too. Everywhere we go we leave traces of ourselves. Some, like bacteria and footprints, are inevitable. But most of what we leave behind is down to human carelessness.

Every few weeks, the John Muir Trust sends volunteers to the summit of Ben Nevis to pick up the trash left behind by visitors. Of the 18 bin bags collected in 2011, ten were filled with banana skins. Over one thousand skins were recovered, along with orange peel and the remains of other



fruits and egg shells. Apparently visitors think this behaviour is acceptable because what they leave behind is “biodegradable”. This betrays a false concept of what the word biodegradable actually means. It does mean that, unlike plastic, it will eventually get broken down. But the key word here is *eventually*. There are many estimates of exactly how long it takes because it depends on environmental conditions such as rainfall and temperature. The organic waste does not just self-destruct like the secret instructions in *Mission Impossible*. It has to be broken down by insects, fungi and bacteria. Mountain tops are cold, inhospitable places with low biodiversity and consequent low breakdown rates. Estimates for exactly how long it takes range between two to ten years or more. But that does not include the annoying little country of origin labels stuck on the skin. That’s plastic. That does not biodegrade. (Look in any homemade compost and you will see the wretched things.)

When this detritus does finally get broken down, there is a further problem. It becomes fertiliser. Plants which live on mountain tops are adapted to surviving in thin, nutrient-poor soils. These tiny delicate plants

form a very fragile ecosystem. With additional fertiliser, other plants, springing from seeds blown in on the wind or brought in on walker's boots, are able to survive and thrive. These aggressive incomers out-compete the mountain plants for resources and destroy them.

Exactly the same phenomenon occurs when people climb to mountain summits to spread grandad's ashes. Now that 70% of people are cremated, people compete with each other to do something 'special'. Grandad cannot just be laid to rest in his favourite rose bed. His urn must be dragged up a mountain where he becomes unwelcome fertiliser. Those in charge of these delicate habitats are begging people to think twice about this. So many visitors are now bringing ash with them that it can be inches thick in some places. The plants are smothered. The ecosystem is dead. In other countries, the problem is just as bad. Everest is now so popular as a destination that tons of human excrement are left there every year. No-one is willing to bring it back down.

And then there are cigarette butts. I have never found a place, no matter how remote, that is not contaminated by dog-ends. The Ring of Brodgar, an ancient stone circle in Orkney that has been held sacred for thousands of years is thick with them. Would people stub out their cigarettes in the aisle of a church? Probably not. But then they think of 'outside' as a limitless space where everything quietly disappears and is not their problem. There is also, again, this bizarre belief that butts will biodegrade so it is O.K. (even though illegal) to drop them. Totally wrong. The filters in butts are made of plastic.

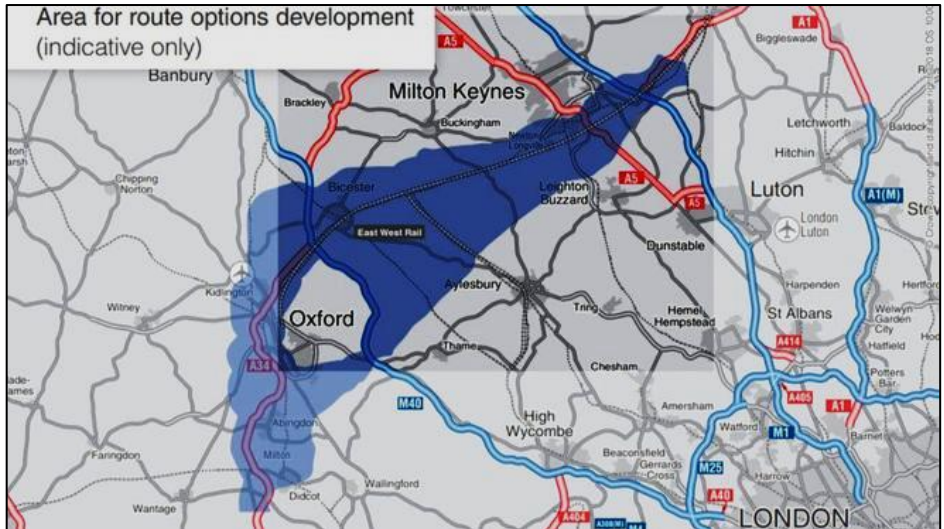
Unless removed, they sit in the soil for thousands of years, leaching their toxins into the ground with unknown consequences. Some birds are known to pick them up and use them as nest material. It may be that the nicotine acts as an insecticide and reduces the number of parasites feeding on the baby birds. Nobody is really sure. But this behaviour shows how easy it is for birds to find butts in natural habitats. Next time you are walking in Raleigh Park or Wytham Woods, look down at the path. I guarantee that cigarette-butts will be there somewhere.

People are encouraged to go walking and climbing to improve their mental and physical health. Standing ankle deep in piles of human remains, banana skins and dog-ends is unlikely to have a positive effect on either!

**Linda Losito**

## Oxford–Cambridge Expressway legal challenge

In September, the government announced that the preferred route for the Oxford-Cambridge expressway will be some combination of west and east routes around the city:



The expressway is expected to facilitate development in the corridor between Oxford and Cambridge, including the development of 100,000 more homes.

A western route would have a significant impact on Botley and North Hinksey. It could involve the junction closures, road widening, new signals, new/higher barriers, faster traffic, more traffic, as well as construction work to facilitate all of this. The A34 already splits our community, but an expressway would split it even more. It would also affect wildlife sites along the route, including Port Meadow. The route was chosen with no public consultation, and no formal environmental impact assessment process.

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust is legally challenging this decision. To find out more, including how to donate to the legal challenge, see <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/wildlife/nature-matters/oxford-cambridge-expressway>. BBOWT's address is The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road, Littlemore OX4 4XT.

**Riki Therivel**



## Patients to the fore in Botley and Kennington

From April 2016 it has been a contractual requirement for all English medical practices to form patient participation groups (PPG). Some PPGs meet regularly, while some form online groups.

PPGs operate according to local needs. They can play important roles including:

- Advising the practice on the patient perspective
- Organising health promotion events
- Communicating with the wider patient body
- Fund raising to improve the services provided by the practice

*Who is involved with the PPG?* Our PPG is a group of people who are either patients of the Practice or work in some capacity at the Health Centres. Patients may come along to meetings or join the committee. The group aims to consist of as diverse a range of people as possible.

*What are we currently doing?*

- A patient survey in conjunction with the practice to improve the patient experience.
- Putting on health promotion events and talks
- Networking with support groups

We have started to write an action plan detailing what we would like to see at the practice, including support for the doctors and staff who work there and information for patients.

*If you are a patient of the Botley and Kennington Practice then the PPG is your voice. Please get involved!* If you can, read our notice board when you are at the health centre; and of course, read our articles in the *Kennington Chronicle* and *The Sprout*. We are looking for members with a range of healthcare perspectives and needs who can make a positive contribution to the current group.

Please contact me (by phone on 07970 626443 or 01865 327739 or by email at [sybuck@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sybuck@hotmail.co.uk)) or any of the PPG group that you may know.

**Sylvia Buckingham**, Chairperson



## Excerpts from my Grandmother's Autograph Book

*Remembrance Sunday this year is on 11th November, which is also the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. There will be the usual Parish Council-run ecumenical service at the Commonwealth War Graves in Botley Cemetery, starting at 10.45.*

*The brief entries below are from the autograph book of Alice Wainwright, grandmother of a Botley resident, who lent it to soldiers she was nursing.*

*It's not clear whether it was the soldiers themselves who wrote the entries. The photo is of Holborn Military Hospital (which closed in 1919 and is now demolished) with a couple of nurses just visible through the gateway on the right.*



The mills of God grind slowly  
But they grind exceedingly small,  
So soft and slow the great wheels  
go they scarcely move at all;  
And the souls of men fall into them  
And are powdered into dust,  
And in the dust grows sweet white flowers – Love, Hope, Trust.  
*(E. Damiral, Holborn Military Hospital)*

Do little things as though they are great things  
And you will learn to do great things  
As though they were little things. *(A.M. Stace)*

### **Logic**

A young mother of eight  
Sat up very late  
Mending her husband's pyjamas,  
Why? –

*'A stitch in time saves nine.'* *( A.J. Cuff R.G.A 14.10.1918 )*

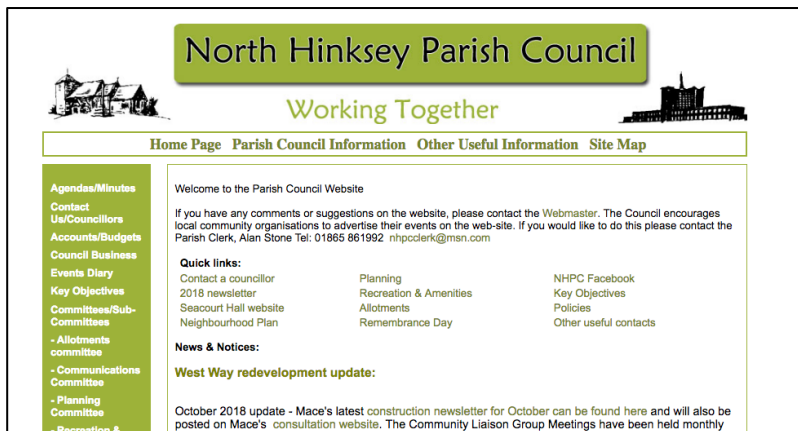
*(My grandmother was so shocked at the punch line that she tried to scrub it out in the book!)*

**Viv Smith**

# Your new Parish Council website

North Hinksey Parish Council has a new website launching at the beginning of November.

The home page will be changing from this:



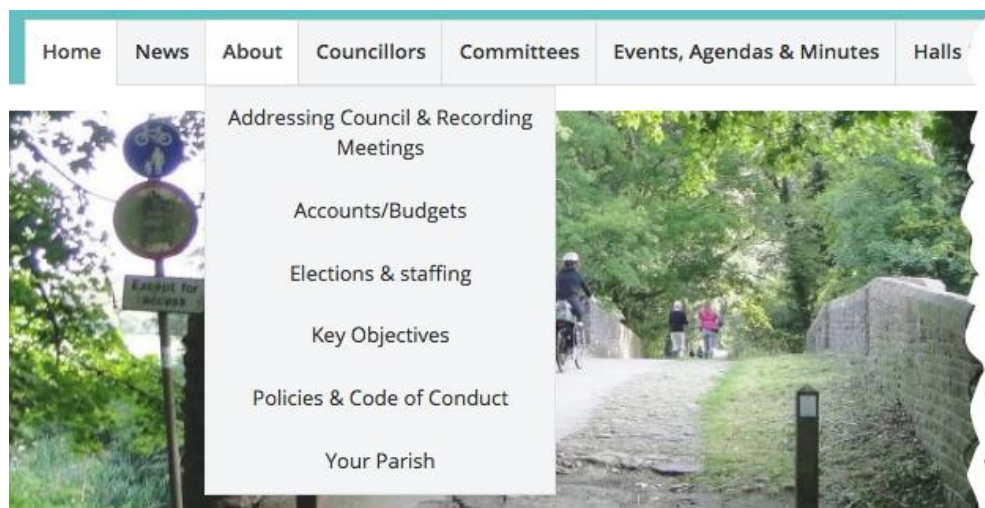
to this:



The website can be found at the same URL: <http://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk> and the change will happen around 1st November. We expect little – if any – unavailability of the website during the transition, but if you do experience any problems, try refreshing or come back a bit later.

The new website has been created by Oxford-based company Kitson Consulting. It is built in Wordpress, probably the most well-used website platform, meaning it will be easy to keep up to date. It is also mobile-optimized. Instead of seeing a smaller version of the site on your phone or tablet, the website pages will adjust to the screen size, with menus, images and text displayed in more useful ways. We have tidied up the pages to make the information more focused and hope it will provide easier access to the information you need.

Please take a look and let us know what you think. Also, as with all new



websites, there are likely to be bugs and mistakes so please let us know if you spot any. You can email me at [lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com](mailto:lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com).

We are also looking for more images of Botley and North Hinksey to use on the home page. That's where we need your help. We'd like to feature different images each season or even every month. Look out for details of a picture competition on the website and our Facebook page.

**Lorna Berrett**, NHPC Councillor and Webmaster

## Don't burn Ernie!

I love bonfires – I have deep and good memories of helping my father, feeding a fire in the garden as Autumn tumbled the leaves from the trees. I loved the smell, the crackling sound and the sight of tongues of flame reaching skyward.

Bonfires and hedgehogs are tragically related ... especially at this time of the year. If you want to build the perfect hedgehog 'hibernaculum' (the special nest they use for hibernation) I would suggest gathering a big pile of dry leaves, then surrounding these with a tent of twigs. Around this, build a structure of heavier and larger pieces of wood – until you have got an amazing ... bonfire.

PLEASE, *please* do one of three things.

1. Safest is to build your bonfire on the day you want to light it.
2. If that is impossible, then please do check – blunt end of a garden rake poked into the base, then lever it all up and rescue whoever might be living there.
3. Finally, for large events where this is impossible, consider surrounding the structure with hedgehog proof fencing. That might sound like a lot of work, but do you really want to risk an incinerated hedgehog on your conscience?

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**ken.smith92@yahoo.co.uk**

And please don't burn your leaves! Hedgehogs cannot survive hibernation without an insulating layer of leaves.

There are many more simple ideas to help hedgehogs at **Hedgehog Street** and the **British Hedgehog Preservation Society**. Drop by their websites and have a look. And if you want more ... I will shamelessly point you to *A Prickly Affair* and *Hedgehog*, the two (very different) books I have written about our favourite animal! I run courses too – Hedgehog Ecology and Management for Practitioners, aimed at land managers, local authorities, ecological consultants and developers ... drop me a line at **HedgeOx** if you would like me to run one for you. **Hugh Warwick**



## Stephen Howse's clock

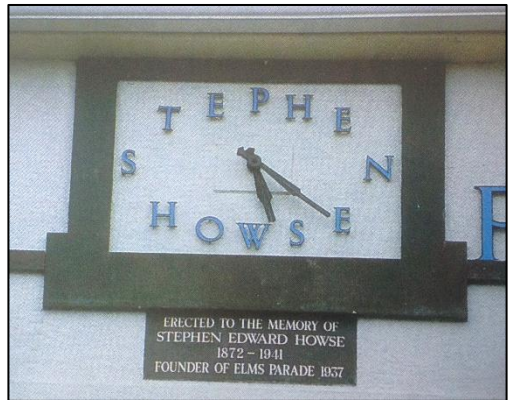
An 1876 map shows the land known as Elms Farm, Botley to be surrounded by fields and agricultural buildings. In 1916 Stephen Howse and his wife Kate moved with their six children from Yarnton, purchasing it with Hutchcomb Farm from Lord Abingdon and his creditors.

When the southern bypass (A34) was finished in 1935, Stephen Howse decided to apply for planning permission to build a parade of shops to serve the growing local community and his family. This being granted, Elms Parade was built in 1937. Many of the Howse family have at some point lived in the flats and in fact Shop Number 1 (now Spicers Opticians) was originally run by the family as a grocery and general store.

The building of Elms Parade was a brave decision considering the depression of the 1930s and the Second World War two years away. After Stephen's death in 1941 and Kate's in 1952, the family decided to erect a clock in their memory in the middle section of the projecting roof gable. The letters are enamelled bronze which was the same format as the original shop names – the last to survive was Gaisford Hairdressers, which lasted up to just a few years ago. The twelve letters of Stephen Howse's name replaced the numbers on the clock.

Originally the clock was from English Clock Systems of London which was a half-minute impulse clock with workings in the lounge of Flat 5. According to Arthur Howse, this could make quite a loud noise! It ran on nickel-iron batteries, with negative outer cases and positive centre poles, linked together to make 12 volts in 9 cases.

In 2003 a new movement and hands were installed, made by Smiths of Derby. The movement has an auto restart unit which controls the clock during power failures as well as providing automatic summer and winter time alterations. It was upgraded in 2010 to model SA15/18 which incorporates the memory battery.



There have been a number of problems over the years especially at winter and summertime change-overs! There have been at least three new motors and fuses in the past few years which suggests that the motors were faulty. Fingers crossed there should now be no further problems.

Elms Parade is still owned by the Howse family, some third and now fourth generations. The 1930s iconic terrace has been deemed a "heritage asset" and has remained despite being marked for demolition in the original proposed redevelopment, which luckily failed to materialise. The Howse family are extremely grateful to all those who helped preserve this building, which is very dear to them.

Hedges Butchers, formerly of the Covered Market in Oxford, now occupies Shop 3. It is open for business and well worth visiting and we hope it will be very successful. These are challenging times but, all being well, Elms Parade will thrive and prosper for many years to come.

**Caroline Kellner** nee Howse, Trustee of Elms Parade and granddaughter of Stephen and Kate Howse.

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## Really affordable homes, at a place near you!

Many of you will know that since 2012, Oxfordshire Community Land Trust has been doing everything in its power to create a few permanently affordable homes in the parish. We were very close to starting on site in 2015 when we hit a legal issue. The photo shows three CLT directors clearing the site when it was first acquired five years ago.



Three years on this has finally been resolved and we are back in business. In July we had an open meeting in Dean Court Community Centre at which TSH (local) architects showcased our revised plans for the site. We will soon be submitting a new planning application. We are still committed to

- i. building affordable homes
- ii. homes for people in housing need and
- iii. homes for people with a local connection.

Why is this important I hear you say? . It's so tiny, what difference can it make? Well, I agree it's not huge but, starting with this tiny site, OCLT's hope is that by demonstrating what is possible there could in time, be a small similar community-owned, community-led housing development in every neighbourhood or village. That *would* make a difference. 6–10 homes in every village and suburb in the county!

The benefits of our model need to be spelled out but in the absence of time and space only two will be listed here:

- *Permanent affordability*: unlike developer-led homes no one is in this for the money, and in particular there is no Right to Buy so the home doesn't go on the market and remains affordable to someone in need, in perpetuity.
- *Antidote to loneliness*: Homes are designed with local needs in mind and co-operation and neighbourliness are designed in through various mechanisms. We're not talking 'Grand Designs' here but perhaps 'Small Designs' where the attention to detail, so beloved of Kevin McCloud, is in local hands and the buildings are made with



future residents involved or if not involved, at least in mind. The intention is to design in whatever the opposite of loneliness is. Would developer-built homes be quite so small and poor quality if the directors were going to live in them themselves?

As the Dean Court Project slowly progresses we are thinking about the next steps to develop the sector. A huge plus was a recent government announcement of £163m until 2020 specifically for community-led homes. [www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-housing-fund](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-housing-fund). OCLT hopes to benefit from this. But you could too!

This article is a call to local people: this is the time for other groups to come forward. OCLT is working with Community First Oxfordshire to set up a local advisory hub to develop as many viable groups as possible.

Get in touch if you can help with any of the following:

- You know of some land that could be brought forward for community-led homes. In other parts of the country we hear of philanthropic land owners who are considering selling off-market or donating land to a land trust or similar local group where there is an asset lock. Adding No Right to Buy ensures the benefits remain with the local area in perpetuity.

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- You know of any individuals or groups who might want to try to either build or retrofit an existing home to provide permanently affordable homes (as has been done at the Kindlings Housing Co-op in Cowley. [www.kindlingcoop.org](http://www.kindlingcoop.org) )

- OCLT are at the early stages of developing a Community Share Offer to help fund the building of the Dean Court Project next year. It is hoped to do this with Ethex ([www.ethex.org.uk](http://www.ethex.org.uk)). Let us know if you'd be interested in being one of the investors.

If you can help with any of the above, or just want to find out more, you can email me on [fran.ryan@oclt.org.uk](mailto:fran.ryan@oclt.org.uk)

**Fran Ryan, OCLT**

## Citizens Advice offers haven for "hate crime" victims



Victims and witnesses of hate crime in south Oxfordshire who are unwilling to talk directly to the police now have a place to go to report incidents.





Since July 2018, Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale has become a "hate crime reporting centre", providing a safe environment where you can tell specially trained staff what happened to you. Citizens Advice staff and volunteers can then act on your behalf, contacting the police if you want this, and referring you to "Victims First", a service which will provide the support you need to recover from your experience.

Hate incidents or crimes are acts of violence or hostility directed at people because of their personal characteristics or because of what other people think those characteristics are. For example, you might be verbally abused in the street because you are disabled or gay, or because somebody thinks you are.

Hate incidents are commonly sparked off by people's prejudices over disability, race, religion or sexual orientation. These incidents take many forms, including threats and harassment, verbal abuse, intimidation, physical attacks, hate mail or online abuse, or damage to your home or car.

You can report a hate incident or hate crime even if it wasn't directed at you personally.

Contact Citizens Advice in person during opening hours or on the telephone (Adviceline 03 444 111444). Locations of offices and opening hours are at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)



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01865 204246. North Hinksey Lane, Botley, [www.oxfordccc.co.uk](http://www.oxfordccc.co.uk)

## Brownies and Badges

Less than a fortnight after our Brownie Holiday we welcomed Iris to our Pack at the start of the new term. Apart from the Leaders it has been all change with Girlguiding introducing a new programme. We volunteers are trying to understand what it all means as well as advising the Brownies not to delay doing those interest badges that they always meant to do but never got round to doing!

We have a year to get to grips with the new programme and then all the old badges will be gone, to be replaced by fewer badges. Girlguiding tells us that the new programme has six consistent themes that run all the way from Rainbows to Rangers.



In the meantime, it was time to number-crunch all the interest badges that had been earned at 2nd Botley Brownies and work out who had won our 21st Shield and, consequently, our Brownie of the Year. Attending every event that we offered over the last year would have achieved eight badges in the following order: Free Being Me, 28 Days Around the World, Brownie Skills, Out & About, Equaliteas, Trefoil Challenge, Robin Hood Challenge and either Brownie Holiday or Brownie Holiday Advanced. Not even all the Leaders managed



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to attend everything, so the chances were that the top girls would have had to do some interest badges on their own.

Some 153 badges were given out in the last year and it turned out that the top spot with nine badges was shared jointly by three girls. The whole point of our unit's 21st Shield is that it is something special which we started when our unit turned 21 in 1993 and is only given out to one girl (or, very occasionally, two) who has worked hard all year earning her own interest badges as well as those that we offer. Therefore, we had to distinguish between the top three girls as there was no way they could all be called our 'Brownie of the Year.' Analysing the actual badges they had earned, we decided to weight the badges according to whether or not they had done them on their own. This enabled us to find an eventual joint winner. The first place was shared between Connie and Wiktorja, with Leah earning second place (*see photo above*). Congratulations!

Owls Tawny and Snowy have just returned from an adventure weekend recce. Tawny managed to find us an adventure holiday firm approved by Girlguiding that offered free (yes really!) taster mini weekends. It was rather like a prospective university visit with all catering included, crossed with an

actual adventure weekend. As we never ask our Brownies to do anything we are not prepared to do ourselves we must say that we had a great time trying (sometimes more than once) some of the activities on offer.

We were extremely well looked after and after wonderful cheese and wine (not available to the girls) we won the quiz evening by teaming up with Warwickshire Brownie leaders to beat both the resident team and school teachers from Essex and Suffolk. After the enthusiastic response we received from our feedback to our unit about the weekend we are now looking into making a booking.

**Lucy Howes**

## YOGA FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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## Wytham Woods' Dark Secret

It is difficult to imagine, whilst strolling through this peaceful, ancient woodland (parts of which date back to the Ice Age), that a hundred years ago it served a sinister purpose. It was here that World War One training trenches were dug. They can still be seen winding almost a mile between the trees at the northern edge of the woods. They are now the most extensive trenches left in the south of England.



I was taken around them by Nigel Fisher, the Conservator of Wytham Woods. He rather modestly described his role, quoting an Oxford professor, as “the groundsman who creates the playing fields for researchers of Oxford to play in!”

At first all I could see was a long hollow snaking between the trees, possibly a supply line (see *photo*).

Moving further into the woods, the complex web of trenches became evident, heading off in various directions. The aerial photograph clearly (*on this month's Sprout cover*) shows the 'northern front' and the 'southern front' thus creating 'no man's land'. From the 'fronts' lead trenches for communications and supervision, supply lines, officers' shelters, latrines, passing places and shell trenches or 'slits' - the deepest trenches - replicating as closely as possible the real thing.

Training here would have been the Oxford University Officers Training Corps (OUOTC), one of the oldest units in the British Army, dating back to 1642, to which CS Lewis was attached as a cadet. Oxbridge Universities supplied many young officers and tragically the OUOTC lost some 2,000 during the conflict. The ffenell family generously donated the one-thousand-acre Wytham Woods estate to the University in 1943. Thus

this year marks both the centenary of the end of the Great War and the 75th anniversary of the University's taking custody of the estate and its trenches.

How appropriate that the woods that once provided a training ground for young soldiers should have become a training ground for young scientists.

**Mike Bartlam**

## Crumb of Comfort (3)

### *The Manna Café*

It was a hot day on 25 August, when I and my partner visited the Botley Baptist Church's café on the 1st floor of the Grant Thornton building, next to the Church's temporary home during the West Way centre redevelopment.

The Manna Café has a comfortable village-tea-room atmosphere, created by wicker furniture and surrounding wattle fencing which separates it from the Church proper. There's also a baby bouncer, a couple of shelves of books and a wall display of about a dozen clocks. Some of this has been donated by customers.

We got a cheerful welcome from Megan Antell, behind the serving hatch. She served us coffees and Jaffa-inspired sponge cake made by her mother, Anna Antell. Anna is a Baptist church luminary, semi-professional baker and caterer, and founder of the Manna Café, which is an independent business.

As you munch, it is possible to look out of a window to view Botley from a higher perspective, which gives a more spacious feeling than at street level. We were told that if you present a copy of *The Sprout* when you buy a slice of cake, your coffee (or tea) will be free.

The Manna is open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Saturday.

**Grant Nightingale**





## Randoms

### Photo Competition

*What did you think of the photo on last month's cover?*

*The Sprout is aware that John Gaisford, who took it, is just one of many of our readers who have been documenting the changing face of Botley as the shopping centre bites the dust. We'd love to know what other images people have come up with. So we're inviting you to send us your photos – with captions, if you like – and we'll publish the best ones. Here are a couple of crackers to get you started. Brian Russell Gray took them, as the Westway Tower came down.*



**First bite**



**Look out below!**

### WWCC AGM

West Way Community Concern Annual General meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th November at 7:30pm at the Church Hall of St Peter and St Paul's Church, West Way, Botley.

**Mary Gill**

## Farewell lovely tree

We weren't the only ones to mourn the passing of the Baptists' beech tree (*Crumbs of Comfort, last month*). Thank you, Uwe Ackerman who sent us this photo. That respectful bunch of tulips on the right says it all!



## Fundraising with fireworks at Botley School

The Bonfire Night jamboree is the Friends of Botley School's biggest fundraising event of the year, and the cash is sorely needed, given the state of some of the school buildings. This year it will be held on Friday 2nd November, and will include hot food, BBQ and refreshments. The gates open at 6pm, and the massive firework display will be at 7. Tickets are cheaper if bought in advance, and can be got from the school office or Botley Library.



**Laura Jones** (chair of FOBS)

## STEVE MONCUR

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## **Botley Bridges courses for families**

***First Aid Course and Family Links:*** Our First Aid Course for Parents and Carers is on Monday Nov 5th, 1–3pm OR Tuesday Nov 6th, 6.30 – 8.30pm at Botley Bridges, cost £20 per person, (non-mobile) babies accommodated. NO STAY AND PLAY SESSION ON MONDAY 5TH due to the First Aid course taking place.

***Family Links nurturing*** course starts on Wednesday Nov 7th, 7pm–9pm, cost is £40 per person (£20 for those on income related benefit). This covers the whole 10 weeks as well as the course handbook.

For a place on either course, please contact Hayley or Sue at Botley Bridges. See [www.botleybridges.org](http://www.botleybridges.org)

## **Macmillan Volunteers**

We know how hard it is to cope with the physical, practical and emotional effects of cancer. It can leave you feeling isolated and finding essential tasks hard to perform. Coping can be especially difficult if you don't have family or friends close by, or if you worry that you are always asking for support from the same people. But Macmillan's trained volunteers can give you a helping hand. They can help for up to 12 weeks with things like: • light gardening or housework • shopping • lifts to one-off appointments • preparing a light meal • having a chat and a cup of tea • going out for a coffee, visiting a garden centre or going for a walk • support over the phone. Call us on 01904 756402 if you'd like to know more.

## **Christmas is Coming @Branches Café!**

Branches Café is a social enterprise and our purpose is youth work. In our After School Youth Café sessions in the run-up to Christmas (Monday–Thursday, 3pm–5pm), young people can come into the Café, relax, have soup or a hot drink and make festive wreaths or Christmas decorations – contemporary, funky or traditional. From 1st Dec we would welcome pine cones that we can decorate or donations of random Christmas decorations that no longer suit your colour scheme so that we can create a spectacular Christmas tree. We are open to everyone for breakfast and lunch, 8am–3pm Monday–Thursday, 8am–5pm on Friday and 9am–12pm on Saturday. During the Youth Café sessions, take-away is available.

**Diane Long, Director, Branches Young People's Support Service**

**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> Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>
<b>2nd Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
<b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>
<b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b> Boys and girls welcome	Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
<b>Badminton Club</b>	Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>
<b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
<b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley Health Walks</b>	Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497
<b>Botley Library</b>	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
<b>Botley Singers</b>	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>
<b>Branches Café</b> , Elms Court, 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>

<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>Saturdays Botley Bridges</b>	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
<b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>	Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .
<b>Shotokan Karate club</b>	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
<b>Weight Watchers</b>	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>

