

The Sprout



Frosted holly

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 133 December 2018

The Sprout

Issue 133, December 2018

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From the Editor

Christmas is rushing towards us via all available media, encouraging us to welcome this opportunity to renew family connections, overeat, and watch festive films on TV. To get yourselves in the mood, you could try browsing this month's *Sprout*, starting with Riki Therivel's evocative cover picture. *Letters* (p.3) includes a plea for a leisure centre in Botley, and another heartfelt tribute to Eleanor, the 'Botley bag lady.' An affecting item on Remembrance Sunday 2018 (p.9) marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. On page 15, the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire presents a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the heroes of Oxford Food Bank, who have now launched the massive Christmas Dinner gala and are looking for helpers (p.41). Then there are profiles of the Gaisford brothers who cut hair on Elms Parade in earlier years (p.19), and Nat Merry, the head coach for the Oxford Archers (p.25). Usefully, Citizens Advice flags up the Warm Homes Discount, a single payment to help with electricity bills for low-income people (p.23) and there's also a substantial update from the Practice Manager of the Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre, dealing with some vexatious problems to do with staff-patient communications and with repeat prescriptions (p.23). Christmas Church Services are listed on page 41. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

Vale Spending on Leisure

Most editions of *The Sprout* include something about the Louie Memorial Fields and I am at a loss to know why so much attention is paid to this project, as, in fact, there are those in Botley who don't even know where it is.

Why should anyone want to spend £1.2 million on an outdoor area when a desperately needed Leisure Centre with gymnasiums, exercise rooms, swimming pool, boxing ring and community café has not been considered. When the public were originally asked for their input into the development of the area I put this at the top of my wish list, as Botley is very much the poor relation when it comes to providing things for the whole spectrum of ages. This could save so many youngsters from getting into trouble, it would give them a sense of self worth and achievement, and the pool and café would be for everyone.

Now that Botley seems to be a Mecca for tearing down family homes and building blocks of flats in their place, plus Tilbury Lane estate and the new Elms Rise Estate, obviously more families are moving in. There is nothing here but the Fogwell playing area, no good when wet. The Louie Memorial Fields are also no good when weather is bad.

Everyone needs a focussed centre. Abingdon has the wonderful Tilbury Leisure Centre. Why has it not been considered here? Can someone please tell me ?

Gill Belcher

The Sprout asked some of the people involved to explain the thinking behind the Louie Memorial project, and this came back from Emmett Casley, Chair of the Louie Memorial Pavilion Trust and Caroline Potter, Chair of NHPC Recreation and Amenities Committee:

“The redevelopment plans for Louie Memorial Playing Fields have a long history including some false starts. The increased coverage in the *Sprout* reflects the growing momentum and excitement that many in the community feel at finally seeing something happening.

Both Vale District Council and North Hinksey Parish Council have done extensive reviews of leisure facilities in the area. The parish already has a gym, exercise rooms and a swimming pool available to the public at

Brookes Sport Botley (Harcourt Hill campus); a new leisure centre that directly competes with these would struggle to get planning permission. A gym and multiplex cinema were part of Doric's original proposal for the West Way Shopping Centre redevelopment, but they were dropped in favour of more shops and accommodation. The new Community Hub being built in the West Way development will be a focus for indoor sports and leisure activities in that part of the parish, with community cafés Manna and Branches Youth Café already operating at the shops.

The Louie Memorial Playing Fields and Pavilion are the only parish-owned leisure facilities. They provide a focus for outdoor community activities including children's play, recreational walking, football clubs, Scouts groups, North Hinksey Youth Club, and the popular summertime pop-up cafés. No plans as yet for a boxing ring (though we remain open to all suggestions!), but a new building alongside the MUGA and other play/exercise equipment will increase its presence as one of the main community centres in the area. If you don't know where it is, head to the top of Elms Rise estate and look next door to Matthew Arnold School – no doubt you'll see plenty of walkers, young people and families enjoying the fresh air and the view! Fogwell Road play area is in Cumnor parish, as are the Dean Court playground and the Multi Use Games Area behind St Andrews Church, also along the Eynsham road.

Meeting Eleanor

I would like to say a heartfelt Thank you to Mary Squires for her [article in the October *Sprout*] on Eleanor Bolton (the bag lady).

As a resident in Botley for the past 15 years, I had on several occasions seen Eleanor walking along the Botley Road – laden with plastic bags, her head low. If I was fortunate enough to gain eye to eye contact I would smile and say “Hi” – she would return a smile, love her! I did wonder what her story was. My son said she was rich and had a home.

What a pleasure to read Eleanor's [own] account [in Mary Squires's article]: “My mind wanders. I don't stay on the right wavelength well. I think the best teachers and communicators are those who connect well with their pupils or hearers.”

I was particularly drawn to these words. My mind wandered too, especially at school when my teachers would talk, talk, talk. I'd want to be immersed in nature, feeling the breeze on my face, smelling the

beautiful flowers and the rain on hot dry concrete. It would be my mind and spirit that would want to wander.

As a trained Early Years professional I have been so blessed to work with so many children and their families. Thankfully the Early Years curriculum is laid back and children are able to have freedom to explore and go inside and outside when they choose. We have time to listen intently to their stories and questions. If only education could be like this until age 7 – or 17! Thankfully I am not a teacher, having worked briefly in school reception classes it breaks my heart that at age 4 children don't have the time to talk. The teachers talk, talk, talk and so much listening is expected from these youngsters.

Well, I have come to an end of working in Nurseries and schools after 22 years and I am taking the wise advice from my sister in Christ, Eleanor. I will accept my situation and 'Trust in God,' to whom thanks be for Eleanor Bolton and Mary Squires.

[signed] **Ms C D Marsh**

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## **Botley's beautiful trees**

The *Sprout* is making a record of local trees that have been the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.

Here's a beech tree at the top of Montagu road near the subway. It's in a Westminster Way garden, and it is currently threatened by development proposals.

Send us your photos, tree-lovers!



## Remembrance Sunday 11th November 2018

Many years ago, as a very young President of Botley Women's Institute (WI), I was approached by Mr Norman Mansfield, the then Chairman of North Hinksey Parish Council to ask if it would be possible for Botley WI to provide refreshments for the community and visiting dignitaries after the Remembrance Sunday service in Botley Cemetery. Following consultation with the committee, this yearly ritual came into being.



Sunday 11th November 2018 was no exception. It was an auspicious day when, as a community, we came together to celebrate 100 years since the armistice was signed. A War to end all Wars, they said at the time. Prayers were said, poems written by the soldiers of the First World War were read, and hymns were sung.

For me the most memorable part of the service was when a very smart young man stepped up to the microphone to read a poem. It later transpired he was the Head Boy of my old school (Matthew Arnold). He was very tall and I would hazard a guess that he was seventeen or eighteen years old. I looked at him and then I glanced at the surrounding gravestones of boys who would have been his age when they left their homes to fight for their country. It was something like two worlds colliding. The past coming up to meet the future. The sky was a perfect blue, I looked up and watched the birch trees blowing in the wind and the sun was shining.

The photograph shows a poppy wreath made by the ladies of Botley WI at their craft evening.

**Jenny Holloway**, Secretary, Botley WI

## Branches Café Winter Warmer

Branches Café is a social enterprise, serving the community with young people at its heart. We had fun in November with a Hallowe'en party and the young people made ghoulish treats including peppermint eyeballs!

Members of the social enterprise met on 27 November to hear about the successes and challenges ahead and to give their views about what they want from Branches in 2019.

We launched our new Branches menu, offering Burritos to all and shaking it up a bit for young people by introducing milkshakes, new smoothie flavours & pancakes. Pop in and try our new breakfast and lunch menus, check out our Facebook page @Branchescafe for any specials.

Branches extends a warm welcome to all this Festive season. Come in for some Christmas Cheer and make sure to book your table by calling 01865 251115 for a Christmas menu with a Twist, festive cakes and hot chocolates with sparkly marshmallows from the 1st December. Keep an eye on our social media for our detailed Christmas menu and daily specials. Open Saturdays 9–3pm on 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd December.

For those with a creative streak, we will have opportunities to create a



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unique Christmas tree, design cards, and make Christmas decorations and wreaths, after school every day 3.30pm–5pm.

Branches will be closed to give our volunteers a well-deserved break from 24 Dec–1st Jan 2019 and we reopen on 2nd Jan. Branches wishes you and yours many good things ahead in 2019.

## **Services for families and young people come at a cost. Can you help by making a donation?**

Over the past year Botley Bridges and Branches Café have been supporting children, young people and families in the local area. Could you help them with a donation?

Give to Botley Bridges by visiting <https://www.botleybridges.org/donate/> or drop a donation in to Branches Café, entrance opposite the Co-Op.

Highlights at Botley Bridges include

- Three weekly drop in sessions for parents and carers that create a strong, supportive community and enable parents to develop their children's physical and emotional wellbeing.
- Summer in the Park play sessions
- Courses for parents, to support positive parenting and healthy children
- Classes for parents with English as a second language and
- Paediatric first aid courses

Since April 2018, 247 families have accessed services. Costs are kept as low as possible. Some courses are free to families, especially those on low incomes. To provide this local service the Trustees employ a Coordinator and there are also rental costs.

Highlights at Branches Café include

- Drop in sessions for young people aged 12+ after school, with support on hand to meet their needs
- 12 volunteers gained Food Safety qualifications
- 10 Young Leaders gaining skills and work experience

All income generated in Branches Café and through fundraising supports youth work. Branches is a not-for-profit organisation. To see how Branches is serving the community, visit [www.branchesyouth.uk](http://www.branchesyouth.uk). They have our young people at heart.

**Sue Dowe and Diane Long**



## **‘MBE’ for Food Bank**

The Oxford Food Bank had a very special visitor to its base in Botley on Friday 9th November. The Lord Lieutenant, Tim Stevenson, arrived in full dress uniform to present this well-known charity with the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Services, an award which he described as ‘the MBE for volunteers’.

The Lord Lieutenant was greeted by the manager, Cathy Howard, who introduced him to the volunteers present, after which the chair of the trustees, Paul Medley, welcomed him.

The Lord Lieutenant said he was ‘particularly delighted to be here today to present this award to the Oxford



Food Bank. In my opinion you should have been honoured in this way some years ago, in recognition of the work you have been doing. The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Services is specifically for charities that are volunteer-led. The Oxford Food Bank, with over 100 volunteers to collect and deliver quantities of food daily, fits perfectly.’ Receiving the award on behalf of all the volunteers, Malcolm Hope, an active volunteer for many years, said: ‘I have never received an award before. I’d always harboured the dream of being presented with the FA cup, but this is so much better as it represents everything the Oxford Food Bank has worked for since it began in 2009. I’m proud to be part of such a great team; The Oxford Food Bank is such a joyful enterprise and brings huge benefits to the community.’

To mark the occasion the Lord Lieutenant was joined by two of his deputy Lieutenants, Poul Christensen and Sir Charles Ponsonby, and the High Sheriff, Richard Venables.



Everyone then enjoyed an afternoon tea of sandwiches and cake, prepared and served by volunteers and, typically for The Oxford Food Bank, using ingredients that would otherwise have gone to waste. The Oxford Food Bank collects fresh, unsold food from supermarkets and wholesalers, then delivers it to charities which cook meals for the community. This stops about 450 tonnes of fruit, vegetables, dairy and bakery from going to waste each year, and supports upwards of 100 charities and community groups. Find out more on The Oxford Food Bank's Facebook page.

**Cathy Howard**



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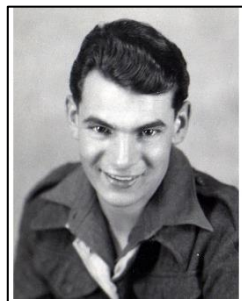
Reception is open Tues to Sat 9.30 -12

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## Gaisford Connection

The article about the Howse clock mentioned the original names over the shops on Elms Parade. Gaisford was the barbers, and it set me thinking just how many males in Botley have had their hair cut by one of the Gaisford family over the years.

My eldest brother Maurice (Moss) who took over the shop in the early fifties, sadly died at the early age of 59 and was succeeded by his son, my nephew Ian, who likewise passed away from a heart attack while out exercising on his bike (on doctor's orders!) That's Moss on the right. My three other brothers, Mutch (okay), Dennis and Keith all helped out, especially on the busy weekends. Sadly all have passed away now.



**Dennis, Mutch and Keith**

I also added my two penn'orth, sweeping up the hair to get a free hair cut! Keith worked in Summertown, but eventually left Oxford to open a shop in Babbacombe in Devon.

**John Gaisford**

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## **Nest Boxes in Raleigh Park 2018**

Breeding birds have had another successful year in Raleigh Park. I put up 16 nest boxes which were monitored this year, 12 of which were occupied and 4 remained unused. We know that 47 blue tits and 20 great tits fledged. This report does not cover birds nesting in surrounding trees and bushes.

Four boxes that were used had clutches of chicks which died before fledging. We know there are sparrow hawks in the area and suspect that parent birds may have been predated.

We suspended an owl nesting box in one of the poplar trees but it was too late to attract owls this year. There was also a wagtail box added but, although we know it has been used, access was too difficult to provide results and it has been re-sited. One or two other nest boxes will be moved to more suitable positions and hopefully not so many will be damaged by squirrels. I fitted protective plates to several boxes and replaced some fronts after squirrel damage before the 2018 season started.

I am very grateful to Milan Fencing for donating offcuts of timber which were used to make the nest boxes.

Once again thanks go to Stephen Miller who has monitored the boxes throughout the nesting season and is willing to do the same in 2019.

All the Raleigh Park boxes have now been cleaned and prepared for the next season and we hope for another successful year.

I also have nest boxes on Oxford Preservation Trust sites at Wolvercote Lakes and the Elizabeth Daryush Memorial Garden at Boars Hill (where there is also a bird feeding station) making over 50 in total. There is scope to provide lots more nest boxes on local sites such as Chilswell Valley, but help would be needed to monitor them, so any volunteers would be welcome. My contact number is Oxford 241539.

**Clive Smith**

## The Warm Homes Discount

People who have difficulty paying their energy bills might be able to take advantage of the Warm Home Discount, a new kind of grant offered by the government and energy suppliers.

A blue speech bubble containing the text "citizens advice" in white lowercase letters.

The Warm Home Discount is a scheme that provides people on low incomes with a single discount of £140 on their winter electricity bill. (You might be able to get the discount applied to your gas bill instead - contact your supplier to find out.) The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment.

Not all energy suppliers are part of the scheme. You can contact your supplier to see if they offer the discount. (If the supplier doesn't, you might want to switch to a supplier that does.)


Most people who are eligible will receive the discount automatically, without having to apply. This will be the case if, on 8 July 2018:

- They were with an energy supplier that is part of the scheme; and
- They were receiving the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit; and
- Their name (or their partner's name) was on the bill.

If you don't receive the discount automatically, you might be eligible if you have a low income and receive certain means-tested benefits. Bear in mind that energy suppliers could have different eligibility rules.

Applications for the discount open at different times for each supplier and people who are not auto-enrolled need to apply as soon as possible to improve their chances. Further details are available from <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>.

Citizens Advice can help. Contact us in person during opening hours at our offices in St Aldates, or on the telephone (Adviceline 03 444 111444).

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  The logo features the words "SALES" and "LETTINGS" in large, bold, white capital letters, separated by a stylized ampersand "&" in a script font. | <p><b>Oxford</b><br/>01865 511444<br/>oxford@<br/>carterjonas.co.uk</p> <p><b>Carter Jonas</b></p> |
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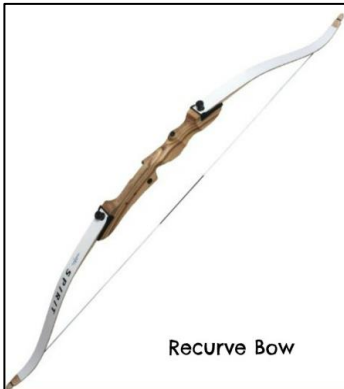


## Meet Nat Merry

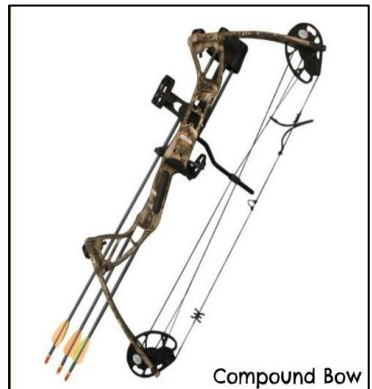
Nat Merry is head coach for the Oxford Archers, the 'Manchester United of the archery world', based at the rugby club at the end of North Hinksey village. When she started, the club president was Nichola Simpson, who competed internationally for over 20 years. Nat joined the club after university, and has been there ever since.



There are two main types of archery bow: compound and recurve. Recurve are the traditional-looking bows used in the Olympics. They shoot 70 metres onto a target where the gold is the size of a dinner plate. Compound bows, instead, have cams at the top and bottom, which makes them faster and more accurate: they are used for hunting and in the Commonwealth Games. They shoot 50 metres but the gold is the size of a tennis ball. So recurve is more a physical challenge, and compound is more of a psychological challenge because of the accuracy needed. Nichola was one of the pioneers of compound bow archery in the UK, and that is what Nat shoots, as you can see in the photo above.



There are also other kinds of bows, including long bows, bare bows that don't have any sights, and Mongolian bows. Nat runs courses



to make primitive bows like those used in the Viking era. They involve cutting a young sapling of 2-3 inch diameter in half length-wise, and then using an axe to cut away the curved half bit by bit until the wood starts to bend and

feel like a spring in the hand. The top and bottom need to bend evenly, else more wood gets shaved from the end that isn't bending.

Archery is a very unbalanced sport, with one arm always pulling and the other always pushing. Which arm pulls depends not on strength, but on the dominant eye - the one that you use in a camera viewfinder. "You can't train the eye as easily as you can train the arm muscles," says Nat.

Nat mostly teaches at the serious competitive level, from county level up to the GB squad. The Oxford Archers have about 110 members, half women and half men which is fairly unusual in the sport and is another of Nichola's legacies. Nat also coaches Oxford University, London University and Nottingham University, plus other clubs and individuals. She is away 1-2 nights per week, sleeping in her cosy van.

Nat was selected for England last year, and competed in the Home Nations tournaments. But she needs to balance her own shooting with the performance of her archers: if she spent too much time on perfecting her own shooting, she wouldn't have enough time to coach. Happily, archery is a sport of experience, so people just keep getting better at it,; at reading weather conditions, at knowing themselves, and coping with the competitive environment. "Once you master the basics," says Nat, "the sport is about 90 percent mental. It's all about persistence."

By training, Nat is a historic buildings consultant. She writes reports about the phasing of historic buildings: when various parts of the buildings were constructed, how important each part is, and whether the parts can be changed or not. She worked for the Diocese of Oxford (whose offices were in North Hinksey) until three years ago, when she left to concentrate on archery coaching full-time.

Nat and partner Kat own a wonderful two-year-old Norwegian Buhund, Finn, who was second-best puppy in his class in Crufts and travels to tournaments with them. Nat and Kat moved from Botley, where they had lived for seven years, to Clanfield in 2014, where they have a mini-smallholding. They grow vegetables in their garden and allotment, raise chickens for eggs and meat, and manage a wood allotment. Nat has just bought a forge so that she can make her own tools.

So when you next drive or cycle along the A34 and see the archery targets set up at the rugby club, think of Nat, Kat, Finn, and how lucky we are to have the Manchester United of the archery world in our parish.

**Riki Therivel**

## Friends of Raleigh Park

The highlight of the last month was the Autumn Adventure Day organised by BBOWT's Ceri Cadwallader.

Fortunately we caught the last warm day in October. Some 30 children (with accompanying parents and grand parents) spent an



hour or more going around the Park following a trail of activities which included a swallow migration game, leaf creatures, nature reserve design, tree identification and pond dipping. The enormous value of the newly opened-up Park as a leisure resource for families was clear to all. Further Activity Days are being planned for 2019.



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The Oxford Preservation Trust has awarded a Letter of Commendation to Wild Oxford at Raleigh Park in the 2018 OPT Awards, recognising the opening-up of the Park and its enhancement of one of the classic views over Oxford. The Commendation read: *The awards panel were delighted that this partnership between BBOWT, Friends of Raleigh Park and Oxford City Council had come together to improve the enjoyment of this important public green and open space. Much loved by many, they can now experience more of this important dreaming spires view which has been opened up.* The Friends' AGM was held on 17 September, and heard reports on



our expanding Wild Oxford activities. Our newly formed Butterfly Survey Group conducted eight walks over a five-month period, and recorded over 400 sightings from 18 species. The Friends voted to join the newly formed No Expressway Alliance, to support the efforts of BBOWT to avert the ecological disaster of the planned route.

The last work party of the year will take place on December 1st, with brash clearing and a bonfire. The now traditional Boxing Day Walk will take place between 2.30 and 3.30 pm on 26 December, with mulled wine and walks around the ever-changing open spaces of the Park. Following our successful Butterfly Survey, there will be a Brown Hairstreak Butterfly Egg Hunt on Saturday 19 January 2019 10:30am.

Information on all our activities will be found on the Friends of Raleigh Park website [www.raleighpark.org.uk](http://www.raleighpark.org.uk). Wild Oxford news is on BBOWT's website <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/wildlife/living-landscapes/wild-oxford>.

**Stephen Parkinson and David Brown**

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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| P18/V2355/HH<br><i>Target Decision Date (TDD) 12/11</i>  | Pool House Field End Harcourt Hill. Alterations to ground & 1st floor layout, erect balcony.                                                         | <b>17 September</b>                                 |
| P18/V2486/HH<br>P18/V2522/DIS<br><i>TDD: 27/11,16/11</i> | 47 Raleigh Park Rd. New entrance lobby to front and annex. Plus summer house to the rear. Tree Protection.                                           | <b>2 October &amp; 5 October</b>                    |
| P18/V2578/HH<br><i>TDD: 7 Dec</i>                        | 40 Hutchcomb Rd. Extension for bedroom with en suite.                                                                                                | <b>12 October</b>                                   |
| P18/V2510/FUL<br><i>TDD 14 Dec</i>                       | 20 Eynsham Rd. Replace existing flats with 6 apartments in: 3 x 2 bed, 3 x 1 bed. Car and bike park                                                  | <b>19 October</b>                                   |
| P18/V2602/HH<br><i>TDD: 14 Dec</i>                       | 16 Stanley Close. Replace existing rear extension with new single-storey.                                                                            | <b>19 October</b>                                   |
| P18/V2700/FUL<br><i>TDD: 31 Dec</i>                      | 22 Eynsham Rd. Demolish rear extension & convert original building 2 flats. Replace rear extension with 3 x 2 bed houses all with gardens & parking. | <b>5 November</b><br><i>Comments by 29 November</i> |
| P18/V2293/FUL<br><i>TDD: 1 Jan</i>                       | 82 Westminster Way. Demolish fire damaged 3 bed house. Erect 6 flats, 4 x 2 bed & 2 x 1 bed.                                                         | <b>6 November</b><br><i>Comments by 30 November</i> |
| P18/V2772/PDH<br><i>TDD: 20 Dec</i>                      | 24 Stanley Close. Single storey rear extension.                                                                                                      | <b>8 November</b>                                   |

### CHRISTMAS LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

|                                                       |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>                | <b>9.30 – 1pm</b> |
| <b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>               | <b>CLOSED</b>     |
| <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b>             | <b>CLOSED</b>     |
| <b>Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday – as normal</b> |                   |
| <b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>                | <b>9.30 – 5pm</b> |
| <b>Tuesday 1st January</b>                            | <b>CLOSED</b>     |
| <b>Wednesday 2nd January</b>                          | <b>CLOSED</b>     |
| <b>Thursday 3rd January</b>                           | <b>9.30 – 5pm</b> |

## Brownies Remember

As Remembrance Day 2018 was such a special date being 100 years since the end of WWI and falling on the actual Armistice Day, we had already made sure that we had presented the Brownie of The Year award to our joint winners, as it



is the winner of that competition who gets to be our unit's flag bearer. As you know, this year it was a tie and so after a little practice the joint winners decided which one was going to carry out which part of the shared honour this year. Wiktorina chose to be the unit flag bearer for the parade element, carefully negotiating low tree branches and Connie would be the one to lower the flag for the two minute silence. The Bugler was spot-on this year and Connie knew exactly what to do with the flag and when, and made us proud. A few meetings beforehand, we had spent an evening making intricate paper mosaic plaques for the display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock.

On Remembrance Day itself we were very pleased to again meet Ted, our adopted veteran, and his family and this year after the service when the crowds had thinned out we were able for the first time to lay crosses on his behalf for his crew. Finding and reading the names and ages on the headstones made the girls understand that Ted and his friends were all young men in their early teens and twenties and not old men when their plane crashed after dropping off liberated prisoners of war. They had indeed not grown old as Ted had, but we will remember them.

As the Christmas build-up begins, by the time you read this we will have already taken some very excited Brownies on the bus into Oxford to see the panto "Dick Whittington and His Cat" at the Playhouse. This is starting to become a seasonal habit and one which was greatly enjoyed last year. "Oh no it wasn't!" *"Oh yes it was!"*

**Lucy Howes**

## Medical Practice Update

I would like to follow up the recent article submitted by Mrs Buckingham, the chair of the Patient Group, as I felt my responses to her were somewhat brief. I do apologise to the Patient Participation Group and to our patients for the lack of information provided to you.

I have been informed that some patients are concerned that they do not know who their own GP is, or what they look like. In response to this being raised previously by patients at Kennington Health Centre we supplied the PPG with photographs of the doctors and I believe a display was made for Kennington Fresher's Week. We have now produced a picture frame with photos of all the doctors for each site and we are just waiting for them to be put on the walls. There are also photographs on the website. Of course if patients are unsure who their GP is, they can always contact the surgery on 01865 248914 and ask.

The reception area at both sites was quite cramped and made it difficult for patients to stand back from the desk and not overhear conversations that were taking place. We wanted to address this at both sites by refurbishing the entrance. We did this quickly at Botley as the partners own the building and there were no constraints on us undertaking the work. We put forward a proposal to do some work to improve the entrance area in Kennington, to NHS Properties, who own the Kennington site. The response we had from them was that as there was an issue with disabled access at Kennington it was their responsibility to undertake the improvements and that they would do this at the same time. Unfortunately we are still waiting for progress on restructuring the entrance by NHS Properties. We paid for the changes to the counter area as this was not a structural change and we were able to do it without consent. We have moved the repeat prescription request box further away from reception so that patients do not need to stand at the counter to complete their forms.

When we took over Kennington Health Centre we were unaware of the issues with patients in the waiting room being able to hear what is said in the consulting rooms around the waiting area. Clearly this is not something that has happened in the last twelve months and we regret we were not made aware of the problem when we took over the site. Shortly after we took over we were told there were confidentiality issues with the two rooms at the far end of the waiting room, and we have now had this area soundproofed. Had we known about the phlebotomist's room we

would have done that work at the same time. We have put this refurbishment into the Practice Development Plan and will get the work done as soon as funds become available.

I am sorry that some patients feel that some of our staff do not show kindness and compassion when dealing with them. We have regular staff training on how to deal with conflict and managing difficult situations. We are well aware that patients are not necessarily at their best when they come to the doctors and perhaps are a bit more aggressive than they would normally be. However, I have been on the receiving end of some of the abuse that is directed at reception staff, as I sometimes help out with cover and I do not find it acceptable that anyone should be sworn and shouted at. It seems to me that there is a need for mutual respect, and I have asked the Patient Group to help us improve the way we treat each other.

If you are having problems with the repeat prescription service, please let me know. We have a system in place that should enable patients to receive their prescriptions within two working days of the request being received at the practice. If this doesn't happen I need to look into each

case to see why we have failed and what processes need to be put in place to prevent it happening again.

Please note that if you are interested in being involved with what is going on at the Practice, but do not have time to attend the PPG meetings, there is a Virtual Patient Group which communicates by email. If you would like to be part of this group, email me at **carolinejones3@nhs.net**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns. We are always trying to improve the service we provide and are happy to receive constructive feedback.

**Caroline Jones**, Practice Manager,  
Botley Medical Centre and Branch  
Surgery Kennington Health Centre

A poster for the Oxford Harmonic Choir's Christmas Oratorio. The top left features the choir's logo. The title 'Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio' is prominently displayed, followed by 'Vivaldi Gloria in D' and 'Praetorius Puer natus in Bethlehem'. The date and time 'Saturday 1 December 2018, 7.30 pm' and the venue 'Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford' are listed. The conductor 'Robert Secret' is mentioned at the bottom. The background image shows a row of lit candles in a dark setting. Ticket information is provided at the bottom left, and a small vertical credit '©2018 Oxford Harmonic Choir' is on the right.

**OXFORD HARMONIC CHOIR**

**Saint-Saëns**  
**Christmas Oratorio**

Vivaldi Gloria in D  
Praetorius Puer natus in Bethlehem

Saturday 1 December 2018, 7.30 pm  
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Conductor  
Robert Secret

Tickets £5 to £18 on the door or from  
Oxford Playhouse: 01865 305305, [www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com)  
[www.oxfordharmonicchoir.org](http://www.oxfordharmonicchoir.org)

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## Randoms

### WWCC Update

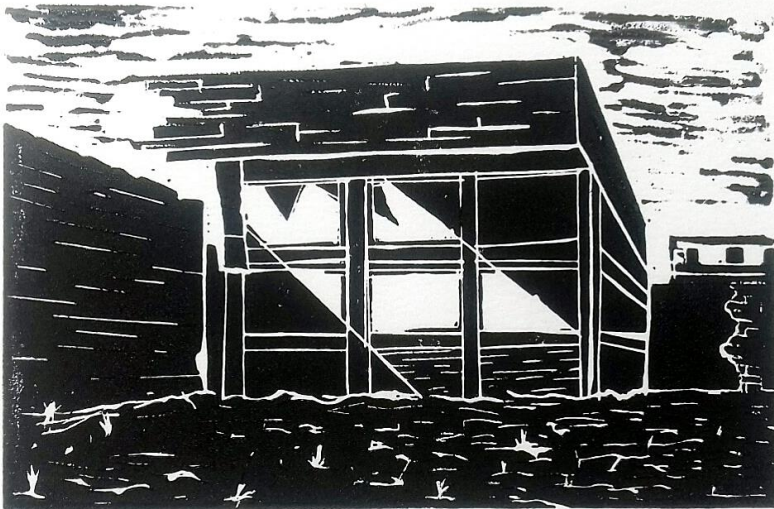
There is nothing significant to report on the West Way Shopping Centre (aka Westway Place). Mace/SDC provide a monthly construction update. WWCC and others are involved in dealing with issues as they arise. Thanks for providing us with space in recent years. We'll put in a report as soon as anything happens which we need to bring to public attention.  
**Mary Gill**, On behalf of West Way Community Concern

### Oxford Christmas Lunch

If you would like to help out on the day, or have items to donate, please contact the organisers via [sara@oxfordchristmaslunch.org](mailto:sara@oxfordchristmaslunch.org). They particularly need minibus drivers, entertainers and sweets/treats/mince pies! The Oxford Food Bank will be supporting this great day by providing barrowloads of surplus food. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/.../17230549.volunteers-needed-.../>

### Demolition Pics

Thank you, Mark Clay of Arthray Road, for sending this handsome linocut of the demolition of Botley Baptist Church





## **Christmas Church Services**

### **Anglican Parish of North Hinksey**

#### **St Lawrence Church, North Hinksey Lane**

|                    |          |                                   |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday 16 December | 3.30 pm  | Traditional Carols by Candlelight |
| Christmas Eve      | 11.30 pm | Midnight Mass                     |
| Christmas Day      | 11.30 am | Holy Communion                    |

### **SS Peter Paul Church, West Way, Botley**

|               |         |                                   |
|---------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Christmas Eve | 4.30 pm | Christingle Service               |
| Christmas Day | 9.30 am | Holy Communion for all the family |

### **North Hinksey Catholic Parish, Oxford**

#### **Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Yarnell's Hill**

|                             |         |                                                     |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 23 December          | 9.15 am | Mass                                                |
| Christmas Eve               | 5.30 pm | Children's Nativity Play<br>Vigil Mass of Christmas |
| Christmas Day               | 9.15 am | Sung Mass                                           |
| St Stephen's Day/Boxing Day | 10.00am | Sung Mass                                           |

**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 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                                                                                 |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                                      | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Badminton Club</b>                                                | Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.                                        | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or<br>Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>                                                                          |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>                                           | Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Botley Library</b>                                                | 01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Botley Singers</b>                                                | Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Branches Café, Westway Place, Open to All 8am-3pm,</b>            | <b>Open for young people</b> 3-5 daily, Th. eves 7–9<br>Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook<br>Branches Youth Cafe, Instagram <a href="https://www.instagram.com/_branches_youth_">@_branches_youth_</a> |
| <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<br>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:anndykes@hotmail.com">anndykes@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                                        |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                            | Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</a>                                                                                                                   |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                                | Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>                             | Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386                                                                                                          |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                               | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                        | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford Otters</b>                                       | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420                                                                                                         |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                                   | Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> . |
| <b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>           | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                      |
| <b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>                             | Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                            | David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                     |
| <b>West Way Day Centre</b>                                 | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>                                          |
| <b>Saturdads</b><br>Botley Bridges                         | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                                                           |
| <b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>                  | Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .                                                                                   |
| <b>Shotokan Karate club</b>                                | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                                     | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>                                                                            |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                              | Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>                                                                                                |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                         | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>                                                                                  |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                                     | (Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>                                                                                                       |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                          | Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>                                                                                                |

