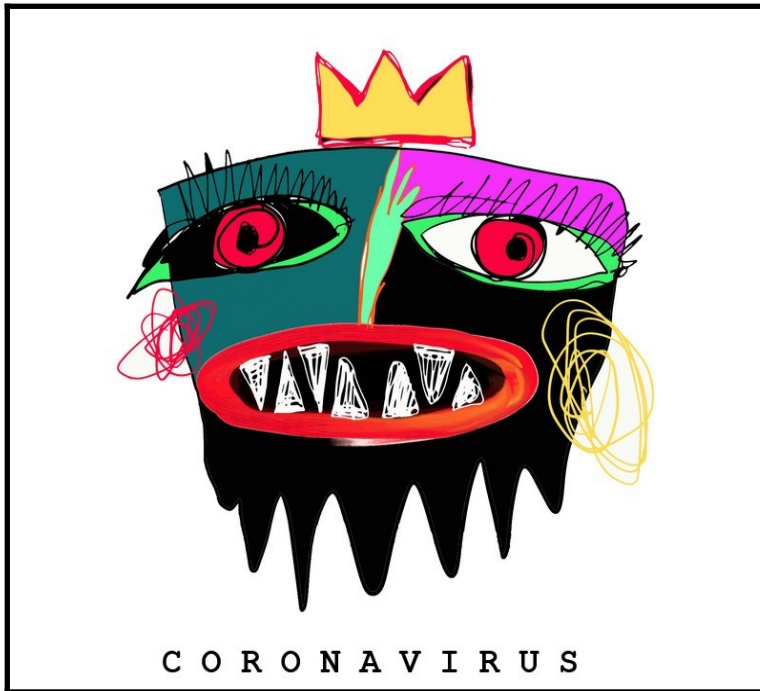


The Sprout



The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 146 April 2020

The Sprout

Issue 146, April 2020

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From the Editor

It was hard to get this month's special edition together. We wanted to provide a useful response to the Coronavirus Crisis, but things were moving so fast it was like wrestling an octopus! However, the best summary we can manage of help available locally is on page 5, and on page 21 there's a long list of suggestions for surviving quarantine and staying in touch. Page 35 has some ideas for excursions by car, and the Botley in Bloom front garden competition has been revived to give us another reason to get outside and stay healthy (p27) without socializing. There will be cash prizes!! The parish council has rallied round and is co-ordinating an ever-expanding list of local support groups – details on the back cover, where a list of useful addresses replaces all those cancelled meetings and talks. The Community Fridge is currently operating outside for a couple of hours every afternoon – an inspired initiative (p11), and on page 19 we have a topical cartoon with an enigmatic ending by a six-year-old. Feel free to send in your own creative efforts, we will welcome everything that comes and publish all we can! We had delivery problems since many of our cohort are over 70, and I was amazed and delighted by the response when I asked for help on the Botley Notice Board. Thank you so much, everyone who offered! Together we can get through this!

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

A big 'thank you'

I'd like you to print a warm thank you to all the local shops who have been keeping Botley residents so well supplied and serviced over the last uncertain weeks, helping to keep Botley a great place to live.

Louise Kuntzemann

Botley Bridges

I am happy to be able to reassure *Sprout* readers that Botley Bridges are not losing the use of the old Children's Centre space which we rent from Botley School, as suggested in your March issue. There was some discussion last Summer about whether Botley School would need the space but after a slight change of timetabling the needs of both Botley School and Botley Bridges were met.

Botley School has always been very supportive of Botley Bridges Family Support work and has actively helped us in promoting sessions/ enabling us to run courses, etc. We have always been very grateful to the school for their support. The School is now an Academy under the Acer Trust and the Trust have also been very accommodating and just renewed our rental agreement for the next three years.

Nursery provision at Botley School has never been under threat. In 2011 the independent nursery school (Elms Road Nursery School) was closed and nursery provision for 3- and 4-year-olds came under the management of Botley School but still using the old nursery space. There has been no change in this provision or the space they use.

Sue Dowe (Chair of Trustees)

Greening Botley

Please can you pass this message on to Sally Prime who wrote about Project Solar in the last *Sprout*. As a direct result of her article we contacted Project Solar and are having a battery installed to go with our existing panels. We note in their brochure that people can claim a cash reward if new custom comes to them via an existing client—although it might only be relevant if we bought new panels too.

Anne Watson

Looking after each other

Now that older and vulnerable people are required to self-isolate over the next few weeks, we need to do all we can to support them and help others who may experience difficulties at this time. Luckily in Oxford, there is a bustling hive of volunteers amassing to meet the challenge. See the list below:

The Botley Notice Board (OXON) This Facebook page is the most local online support base, dedicated to the Botley and North Hinksey parish. As well as food delivery services, the page also advertises teaching, general advice, and deliveries by local companies. Supporting these local businesses is crucial at these critical times, and this is where those at home can really help out.

Oxford Covid-19 mutual aid group Founded just two weeks ago, this Facebook group of 2,000+ members is already committed to delivering food, medication, general supplies and emotional support to over 40 people in need (so far) around Oxfordshire. The group are calling on all

available low-risk residents to help out, ideally by setting up their own mutual aid groups, for which it provides advice.

The admin team is looking in particular for those with 'medical, organising, communications, legal, or data entry expertise.' As well as a link for volunteers to sign up, the page provides a space where favours can be requested and responded to, making it another good port of call for the internet savvy.



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The Oxford Hub Similarly to the Oxford Covid-19 Mutual Aid group, the Oxford Hub is another Facebook page offering services – supplies, dog walking, childcare –

to the housebound and overburdened. In particular, the group are looking for 'Street Champions,' those willing to set up WhatsApp groups to co-ordinate support for their local roads.

Email: hello@oxfordtogether.org

Phone: 07957 105129 (9-5pm Mon-Fri)

Botley Baptist Church As well as offering pastoral support by phone from Rev Kalyan Das, the church also has its own platoon of volunteers offering supplies to those in need.

Pastoral support: 07841 867967

Admin support (e.g. supplies): 07742 662668

Osney Benefice Similar support from the local Church of England pastoral team, see page 9.

Botley and District Labour Party On top of petitioning Layla Moran MP to ask the government to 'freeze rent payments' and 'grant mortgage holidays to those who need to self-isolate,' local Labour Party volunteers are again offering to help the isolated. Contact Ailsa Naumann below if you're interested or need a hand.

Email: ailsanaumann@hotmail.com **Phone:** 07715 112647

Botley Fridge Free Food daily at the Virtual Fridge outside the library – check their Facebook page for timings .

Care packages for people in need are available during the virtual fridge sessions, or contact riki@phonecoop.coop or 07759 135811

Independent initiatives Spontaneous street-based groups are quickly establishing themselves and Pinnocks Way already seems to be streaming ahead. Here's how local resident Rosy Owen describes the creation of the group now serving the area, 'we dropped about 250 leaflets through doors and now have a lovely friendly WhatsApp group of around 30 people (still growing) who are currently all introducing themselves and saying what they are able to help each other with.' For those considering starting such a group, she advises that elderly neighbours without smartphones are connected 'to the wider community group by getting their closest neighbours to be a link via email/phone/notes.' No wonder that 'community spirit is alive and kicking on Pinnocks Way!'

Helplines and listening services:

www.mind.org.uk www.samaritans.org www.youngminds.org.uk

*This list is not exhaustive and new initiatives will likely emerge. For updates on this, do refer to the Parish Council website which will be updated as these groups expand. *(Details on page 25)*

Want to pass the time when you're self-isolating? Try impossible activities like drawing the number six while rotating your leg clockwise. Just done 10 minutes *(or you could take a look at the Clean Hands Create Facebook page (see page 23) – don't forget to send a photo of your efforts to the Sprout!)*

Michael Jacobs

~~~~~

## Osney Benefice

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Church of England has suspended all public worship in parishes, schools and chaplaincies, with effect from 17th March until further notice, including Easter Sunday. While services have been suspended, the ministry of the Church has not. Our church buildings at St. Peter & St. Paul and St. Lawrence remain open daily for private prayer and reflection; Church members will continue to pray at home for the national situation and our community; we will be proactive in taking our part within the community in caring for our neighbours.

Clergy are available to offer telephone-based pastoral support to those who request it (phone numbers on the inside back cover). There are many resources to help us all maintain our spiritual lives and hope in these dark times – call into one of our churches to pick up a simple form of daily prayer for use at home. Do visit our website for more information at [www.osneybenefice.org.uk](http://www.osneybenefice.org.uk). May God bless us all and grant us a joyful Easter celebration.

**The Revd. Clare Sykes**

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## The Botley Community Fridge lives on

What a crazy ten days it has been! I write this on 19 March, and things will undoubtedly have changed again between now and when you read this article. But the short version is that the three-year-old Botley community fridge lives on, but temporarily in a different form. Here are the events of the last ten days:

**Mon 9 March.** Food for Charities, which manages the fridge, had agreed with the Church of St Peter and St Paul, where the fridge had been located, that the fridge would close as soon as the first case of coronavirus hit Oxford. The church was worried about its parishioners, many of whom are in the government's 'at risk' categories. The first Oxford coronavirus case is announced on 8 March, and the fridge closes on 9 March. A volunteer does a final deep-clean and we take away all the remaining food. Hurrah, I think, we can all have a bit of a break from the fridge. *Oh hahaha!*

**Tue 10 March** Other community fridges are asking whether they can have the surplus food from supermarkets that we would normally get for our fridge. But also I receive emails from two local women who separately have the idea of distributing the food locally. We meet up and agree to try a 'virtual fridge' model. I put off the other fridges.

**Wed 11 March** The first 'virtual fridge' event takes place outside the Botley library. We lay the food out on the benches, and as people pass by we offer it to them. Six out of seven crates of food go: success! We plan the next fridge event for Friday.

**Thur 12 March** One of Food for Charities' trustees, rings me. "I'm sure that you're taking all necessary coronavirus precautions with the community fridge, but could you just talk me through what you're doing?" Hmm. Is "I hadn't thought of it" an adequate response? We end up agreeing that nobody with symptoms will go near the food, people will keep a 1m distance from each other, and everyone who touches the food will first put on hand sanitiser..... but where to source this incredibly rare and valuable product? In the end, we have to buy a 5 litre bottle for £99.95 (ouch!). In the next few days I manage to sell on 3 litres to other charities at cost price, and fridge users have been very generous with donations, so that unexpected cost has almost been recouped.

**Mori 13 March** The Manna Café kindly lets us store food in the back of the café. Most of our food pick-ups are in the mornings, but the virtual fridge is run in the afternoon by different volunteers. It is lovely to have a place where we can temporarily leave the food. Thank you Anna and Manna!

**Mon 16 March** It's been confirmed: we will not be able to use the new Seacourt Hall for the fridge – virtual or otherwise – because of difficulties in gaining access and lack of space. The hall will also probably soon be closing due to coronavirus. It looks like we're stuck with outdoor events.



Since then, we have been running virtual fridge events on most days. The fridge gets food from four supermarkets, with an average of two deliveries per day. We get mostly bread, pastries, fruit and vegetables, but also the odd eggs and dairy products. The fresh food is for anyone who wants it (and puts on hand gel), as that cuts down food waste. We also have care packages at the events for anyone who needs them.

Do please come to the virtual fridge events, assuming that they are still running by the time you read this. They are in front of the (new) Botley Library. The times are posted at [www.foodforcharities.com/botley](http://www.foodforcharities.com/botley) and on the Botley Community Fridge Facebook site. If you would like to make a contribution to help top up our food parcels – no more than £5 please, as that goes a long way – Food for Charities' sort code is 30-91-92, account no. 64415660.

We live in weird times, but it is lovely to see the community pulling together to keep the fridge going.

**Riki Therivel**



## Scouting Adventures

The 4th Oxford have had a busy few months. A quick look at the recent programme reveals a night hike, a Chinese Burns Night international cooking extravaganza, evenings practising DIY skills, bike maintenance, fire lighting, and the beavers learnt to put up tents. The Cubs have been building 'Kub Kars' to race in an upcoming district competition, and spent an engaging evening with a representative from the Oxford Association for the Blind and his guide dog.

The group has just completed the Winter Challenge, a sponsored hike along the Ridgeway for either nine or 18 miles. A number of Beavers (6-8 year olds) pressed on for the full 18 miles (see the picture of their finish!).



Several Scouts and Cubs have also been rehearsing music, dance and comedy sketches for the Oxfordshire Gang Show, putting on six performances in Radley College's theatre during half term. At the sixer and seconder camp for older Cubs, the Chief Scout's Silver Award was presented to six of our Cubs (holding them in the photo) who have recently completed all their challenge awards (Adventure, Outdoors, Skills, World, Teamwork, Team Leader & Personal). We organised a Ceilidh for the middle of March, but have had to postpone it due to coronavirus.



We have had long waiting lists for all sections for several years, so we were excited to welcome many young people into our new Tuesday Beaver colony after half term, and we expect to start a second Cub pack soon too. We have 105 young people in the group, boys and girls, and an Explorers section – whether or not you have been involved in a scout group before, we would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to support us, in whatever way works for you. We can be contacted on: [mail@thefourth.org.uk](mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk)

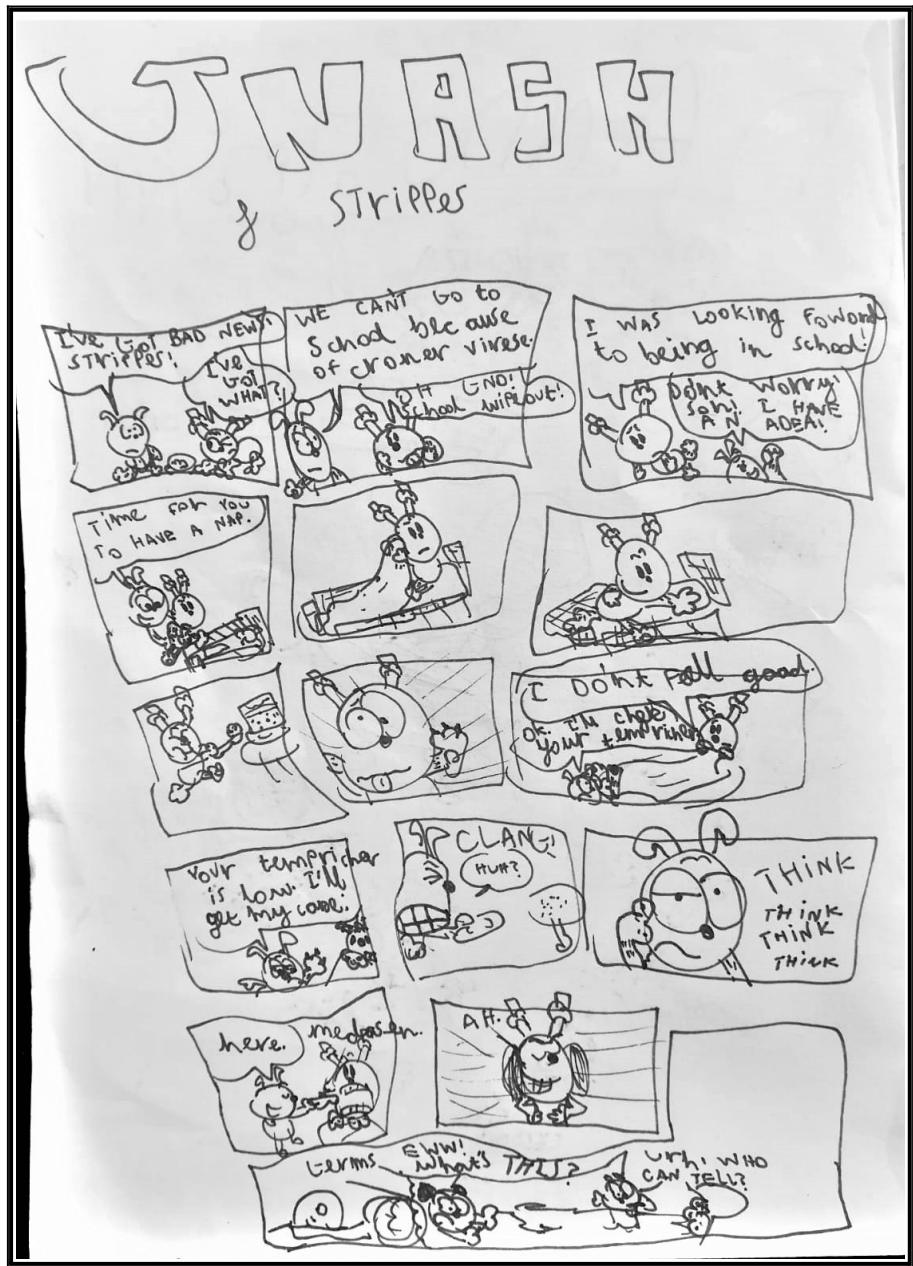
**James Wynne**

### LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">P20/V0443/HH</a>                                                          | 49 Turner Drive. Build single storey front extension.                                                                                                                        | 17 February<br>TDD: 13 April                  |
| <a href="#">P20/V0469/FUL</a><br><a href="#">P20/V0443/HH</a>                         | 75 Laburnum Road. Variation of condition 2 - Approved Plans to application P19/V0538/FUL                                                                                     | 18 February<br>Target Decision Date: 14 April |
| <a href="#">P20/V0493/FUL</a><br>(Re-submission of P19/V1512/FUL as a revised scheme) | 5 Toynbee Close. Demolish existing house & erect new building with one 3-bed flat & two 1-bed flats. Plus new build with two 2-bed flats to rear.                            | 19 February<br>TDD: 15 April                  |
| <a href="#">P20/V0470/HH</a>                                                          | 9 Hazel Rd. Extend the dropped kerb to enable double driveway.                                                                                                               | 24 February<br>TDD: 20 April                  |
| <a href="#">P20/V0482/FUL</a>                                                         | Flat 4 Chelsie House 104 West Way. Change of use from residential house to bed & breakfast accommodation, demolish conservatory & build single storey extension to the rear. | 24 February<br>TDD: 20 April                  |
| <a href="#">P20/V0560/FUL</a>                                                         | Gateways Harcourt Hill. Build 2-storey house with double garage, drive & hardstanding areas, new fence & access onto Stanton Road.                                           | 25 February<br>TDD: 21 April                  |
| <a href="#">P20/V0590/HH</a><br>Retrospective Planning Application                    | 51 Yarnells Hill. For rear patio (works carried out app P17/V2719/HH) and changes to side passage ground level to be re-instated to original levels.                         | 27 February<br>TDD: 23 April                  |
| <a href="#">P20/V0639/HH</a>                                                          | 27 Hazel Rd. Build single-storey front porch & single-storey rear extension.                                                                                                 | 4 March<br>TDD: 29 April                      |

Topical cartoon by a six-year-old.

Thanks, Beatrix



## Good Ideas for Bad Times

**Covered Market:** Bonners (veg people) and Fellers (organic butchers) have stock and both do deliveries. I am told Hedges in Elms Parade are well stocked, but they don't deliver. Also, there is a farm just outside Oxford called Mayfield Farm who deliver free range eggs to Oxford.

Bonners Veg: Tel 01865 242183, website [www.bonnersoxford.co.uk](http://www.bonnersoxford.co.uk)

Fellers meat: Tel 01865 251164 [www.mfeller.co.uk](http://www.mfeller.co.uk), [sales@mfeller.co.uk](mailto:sales@mfeller.co.uk)

Mayfield Eggs: 01993 868584, [www.mayfieldeggs.co.uk](http://www.mayfieldeggs.co.uk) and Facebook

**Jennifer Crouch**

### Quarantinis

There is chat on the school playground of trying out virtual social gatherings (affectionately referred to as 'quarantini'). I've just signed up for a free account with Zoom that will allow online meetings of up to 100 people for 40-minute blocks: <https://zoom.us/signup> I'm using that platform for work and might try it for virtual coffee mornings / social exchange in the coming weeks.

It will take about a month to see if the social distancing starting now has a meaningful effect in slowing the virus spread. So everyone please take extra care between now and then.

**Caroline**

**Potter**

### Botley Notice Board (Oxon)

Are you on Facebook? Even if you aren't, you can still look at the Botley Notice Board Facebook page. Just google 'Facebook', click on it and enter 'Botley Notice Board' in the 'Search' box at the top of the page. Click on it, and up it will come. It is full of helpful stuff. They are trying to co-ordinate people who can help others, and to manage this without posting disinformation.

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If you are feeling anxious, there is a good article here:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51873799>

### **Clean Hands Create**

This is another Facebook page, where people are sharing their glee at the useful things they have made while confined to barracks. If you have a project that you manage to complete under lockdown, do share it with the *Sprout*. We will be happy to publish any photos you send us.

### **Local Chemists**

Woodlands Pharmacy (01865 242649) in the Botley Road and Lloyds (01865 247023) in West Way Place have a delivery service for repeat medication. You can phone them or find them online.

Age UK Oxfordshire offers a new telephone support line for older people. You leave a message on 01865 411288, with name and phone number and they will get back as soon as possible. "Assistance includes a friendly, weekly call to see how you are and to problem-solve if you are facing practical problems." Local Age UK co-ordinators are **Ann Collins** and **Natasha Fielding**: 01235 849 425



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### **Rest for the eyes**

Just a reminder that if you want a visual break from coronavirus notices, pop in to St Peter & St Paul's on Westway. As part of Botley Arts' ongoing exhibitions there, Botley's own North Hinksey Art Group is showing a variety of paintings. Although services have been suspended for the moment, the Church is open daily from 10 to 4 pm, and Sundays from 12.

### **Ruth Cameron**

### **Local shops**

Halfords are waiving the MOT retest fee for anyone who, because of Coronavirus, misses the 10-day window to get a free

retest, following an MOT fail. **Waitrose** are reserving the first hour (8am to 9am) of the shopping day for elderly and vulnerable people to visit before the crush, **Marks and Spencer** have reserved the first hour on Mondays and Thursdays for people in this situation (8 to 9am). (NHS and Emergency workers on Tuesdays and Fridays.) (The main branch, not the store at the railway station.) **Botley Co-op** priority shopping hour for senior citizens and those who are vulnerable is Monday to Friday 9.30–10.30am. **Tap Social Movement** will deliver beer and are providing a venue for pop-up markets. See their Facebook page.

### **Looking out for your neighbours**

Has your street set up a group to look out for your neighbours? So far the Sprout has heard of 47 of these, and the number must be growing every day. The Parish Council is compiling a list of all the street support groups in the neighbourhood, with information on how to ask for help and how to volunteer. You'll find it on the NHPC website, where they now have a special page with all the latest information on what help is available around the parish, shop opening times., doctors etc. Unlike the Sprout, it is being updated on a daily basis, so well worth a look! <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub/> If you have something to add, please email the website manager Councillor Lorna Berrett on [lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com](mailto:lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com)

### **New to Facebook? – a word to the wise**

If you are new to Facebook, and have just opened an account for yourself, you won't want to be sharing your intimate conversations with a load of strangers. How can you avoid this? Just follow this simple step-by-step guide:

1. Click on the downwards arrow in the top right hand corner
2. Click on 'Settings' in the drop down menu
3. A new page will open with a menu on the left. Select 'Privacy'.
4. From the list of privacy settings now on the right, set these to 'Friends,' apart from the one referring to 'Friend requests,' where 'Friends of friends' is the most secure option.
5. For the most secure account, the last two options should clearly be set to 'Only me' and 'No'.

Any questions, please get in touch. My number is: 07722 216152

**Michael Jacobs**

## Get outside in your garden & help wildlife during covid-19!

Imagine if every garden or balcony on your street had more wildlife-friendly features.....if all your neighbours were working towards a more nature-friendly neighbourhood? You can do this, with Naturehood! Naturehood is a wildlife project with community at its heart. I am the Community Engagement Officer in Oxford, and I would like to encourage everybody to get outside in their gardens and explore! We would love everyone to do a little bit more for wildlife, and importantly, to share what you do with us! Visit <https://www.naturehood.uk/> sign up (it's all free), and tell us about your garden. If you compost, have a pond, have flowers, gaps for hedgehogs... we want to know! We have lots of hints and tips for things you could do in your garden, and you can also use the 'spot a species' section to let us know if you've spotted any of our Naturehood 5! Let's use this difficult time to improve our own spaces for wildlife, and explore the wildlife right on our doorsteps.

**Chloe Dalglish**

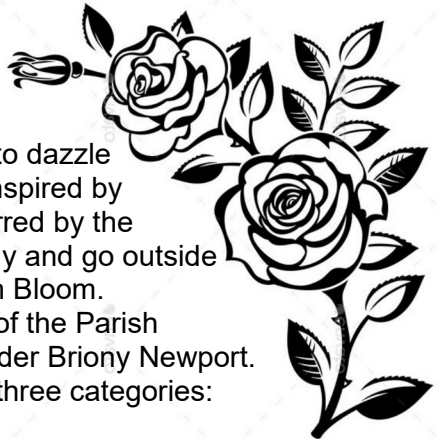
### 'Botley in Bloom'

Remember that front garden competition that used to have neighbours competing to dazzle the world with their beautiful creations? Inspired by Linda Losito's article last month, and spurred by the current crisis and the need to keep healthy and go outside the *Sprout* has decided to revive Botley in Bloom. Hopefully we'll have the help and advice of the Parish Council who ran the scheme for years under Briony Newport. At the moment we're thinking in terms of three categories:

- ★ **Best Overall Front Garden**
- ★ **Best Car Bower**
- ★ **Best Vegetable Display**

We quite fancy 'Most Wildlife Friendly', but it's possible that that might also equate to Most Neglected and Overgrown, which would rather defeat the object! It would be nice to have a children's competition – tallest sunflower, perhaps, but that couldn't be judged till rather later. Meanwhile, we're hoping we'll be able to do the judging in June when flowers are at their best. So get out there and get creative, and watch this space. More news next month!

**Ag MacKeith**





### **Free newspaper delivery**

Have your newspaper delivered free for the next 12 weeks

If you are having to self-isolate (or even if not) you can have your newspaper delivered free of delivery charge under a national scheme that covers all newspapers to which McColl's in the parade is signed up. The scheme provides for vouchers to pay for delivery for three months, to be redeemed at the newsagents before June 30. Ring 0800 980 6907 or go on to **[delivermynewspaper.co.uk](https://delivermynewspaper.co.uk)**

### **Nextdoor North Hinksey**

This is s a local chat room, full of good ideas and help. You can buy and sell (and swap) things there, and post recommendations for good tradesmen. People already on it have 100 invitations at their disposal to invite friends and neighbours, so if you'd like to be on it, contact the *Sprout* and we'll invite you to join.

### **Catholics missing Sunday mass?**

This is being streamed live every Sunday at 8.30am by the Dominican Priory in St Giles. Go to their website **<https://www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/>** and follow the links to YouTube. Hopefully they will have sorted out the sound issues by the time you read this. Other RC churches are doing the same, but no organized list so far. Meanwhile, there's a list of online Church of England services at **<https://anglicanmainstream.org/church-is-still-on/>**

### **Fish and Chips**

The Fishes in North Hinksey, hit as hard as everyone else, has said that if they can get supplies of fish they will do fish and chips from the van in the garden. Check their website for details.

### **Allotments going spare**

The parish council has about eight vacant plots at the moment. They are discussing holding a rent moratorium for this year only, to encourage people to get gardening.

### **Housekeeper/nanny wanted for Botley family**

- Two afternoons per week
- Simple food preparation
- Cleaning
- After school care

Contact [funfam219@gmail.com](mailto:funfam219@gmail.com)



## What's happening next at West Way?

**Changes to plans for the residential block** Botley Development Company (Mace) held a public exhibition on 5th March in Seacourt Hall, at which they revealed proposed changes to the residential Block A. This will be on the corner where Co-op and Tesco are now. Under the approved plans it is to be 8 storeys high and contain 120 flats. They now propose to add an additional storey and 30 extra flats.

The height of the building will be increased by 1.5m, which will make it 30.7m high in total, which is 5.4m higher than the completed Premier Inn block. This building, being closer to West Way, will be very dominant in relation to the houses across the road on West Way and Elms Road.

The additional storey has been accommodated within the additional 1.5m by reducing the ceiling heights in all of the apartments. We understand that there will be a different mix of apartment sizes, possibly with more one-bedroom apartments replacing larger ones.

There will be no increase in car parking provision. Mace says that the additional flats will be 'car-free', requiring residents to sign a pledge not to bring cars to the site. We have strong concerns that this will be unenforceable and will result in more parking on local streets.

A new planning application will be submitted in late March, and public consultation by the Vale of White Horse District Council will take place. We will be preparing our own comments on the changes, and we encourage you to make your views known via the formal consultation.

**West Way Community Concern's opinion** West Way Community Concern's objection to the original application raised key issues: the development is too dense for the area, there is insufficient parking, and the development will overshadow neighbouring houses. The addition of an extra floor exacerbates these previously identified problems, and we will object to the plans if these issues are not properly addressed.

This increase in height is contrary to the Botley Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which sets out that no building should be more than eight storeys. The SPD also describes what would be a viable development on the site. The current approved plans are already a much greater density of development than that considered by the SPD, and an increase cannot therefore be justified on grounds of viability.

The North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan describes the housing needs for the area, which is for more family homes; permanent affordable

housing; sheltered, assisted or flexi-care housing; shared equity, co-ownership and limited private rental sector. (See the draft Neighbourhood Plan at <http://www.nhinkseynp.org.uk/resources/>). Given that there are already a number of completed apartment blocks and several more in the planning stage, any further development should be focussed on family homes and affordable housing.

The suggestion by Mace that providing 30 more flats in this block will reduce the need for building on green field sites is simply not true. The Vale Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan already define how and where the housing needs for this area will be met, and they have specific policies with respect to our local green belt.

### **Other questions which need to be addressed**

There are other issues which need to be addressed, in the event that the changes are recommended for approval by the planning officers.

- How many of the flats would be affordable housing? The current planning application allowed the developer to pay a contribution of £2m to the District Council, instead of providing affordable housing in Botley. This arrangement could be reconsidered.

## **Abingdon Dolphins**

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[www.abingdondolphins.co.uk](http://www.abingdondolphins.co.uk)**

- Where would the additional cycle storage be located?
- Would there be additional provision for refuse storage?
- What additional contributions towards local schools and community leisure facilities would be made?

We will give some guidance on how you can comment on the proposed changes as soon as the Vale's public consultation commences. You can contact us on [westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com) or take a look at our website [westwayconcern.wordpress.com](http://westwayconcern.wordpress.com)

**Mary Gill, Chair, WWCC**

## Falling apart

*Citizens Advice can help you through relationship breakdown.*

There is no storm quite like an emotional storm, and the trauma of a separation from a loved one can be overwhelming. Some people say it feels as if the ground is falling away beneath their feet. It helps if you know there's somewhere you can go right away for help: Citizens Advice.

If you and your partner or spouse have decided that separation is inevitable, you should try to work out the practical details between yourselves. But bear in mind that you might eventually need to consult a solicitor as well to enshrine your agreement in law, especially if you have assets or children. Going to court is best regarded as a last resort.

Discuss with your ex-partner where you will live, where your children will live, and how to split any money or belongings. If you and your partner are too upset to talk to each other calmly, wait and talk later, or use a mediator. If you feel threatened by your partner, get help. Call Refuge or Women's Aid on 0808 2000 247. There is also a Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327.

If you have children with your partner, you are both responsible for the cost of looking after them when you separate, even if you are not married. The parent who moves out might have to pay maintenance to the parent who looks after the children.

Consider any outstanding debts or loans that you might have, and think about who needs to be informed about the separation. If you pay council tax, or receive benefits or tax credits, get in touch with the relevant people and tell them about your new status.

Citizens Advice can help you find the ground beneath your feet so you can move on. Call Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 3309 042 or come and see us in person at our office in St Aldates.

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**CONTACT:** [sid@oddsandsids.co.uk](mailto:sid@oddsandsids.co.uk)

07757 214 301

## Getting outside

Pleasant diversions outdoors still are possible in the current situation of drastically reduced socialising. There ARE outings you can safely make together with others in your household, provided you have access to a car (apologies to those without one):

Only a 15 minute drive from Oxford is the Harcourt Arboretum, Oxford's own Botanic Garden in the Countryside, "contains the best collection of trees in Oxfordshire, including some of the oldest redwoods (*see photo*) and finest conifer collections in the UK, set within 130 acres of picturesque landscape." Events all cancelled, but the Arboretum itself is open in April from 9am to 5pm; in May till 6pm: Nuneham Courtenay OX44 9PX. Admission by donation.

The National Trust is opening up many of its parks and gardens for free, (including car parking) to keep the nation healthy and help fight the spread of the coronavirus, although its shops and houses will be closed. They will try to keep as many spaces available as possible, but please check their website, and especially your chosen site, for current information, as they may be overwhelmed and change their minds. Here are a few nearby:



**Badbury Woodland**, Coleshill, near Swindon, SN7 7NJ (*famous for views and bluebells*)

**Buscot Park**, Faringdon, SN7 8BU

**Basildon Park**, Nr Reading, RG8 9NR

**Stowe Park**, Nr Buckingham, MK18 5EQ

**Waddesdon Manor**, Nr Aylesbury, HP18 0JH

**White Horse Hill**, Uffington, SN7 7QJ

**Cliveden**, Nr Maidenhead, SL6 0HJ

**Watlington Hill**, Watlington OX49 5HS

Then there's the RSPB-run Otmoor Reserve, a "haven for wildlife in the heart of Oxfordshire. The visitor trail leads you alongside an expansive floodplain grazing marsh, home to wading birds and wildfowl all the year round. Hedgerows, bustling with warblers and songbirds, and the rustling reedbed add to the immersive experience of being on the moor." Open from dawn to dusk; free entry. Otmoor Lane, Beckley OX3 9TD



Right now is a great time of year for birds as winter visitors slowly retreat and summer ones arrive. The first sand martin has already been spotted. Here's a chaffinch from Otmoor's 'Seen recently' page:

**Ruth Cameron**

## **WE ARE RECRUITING**

If you are a hard working friendly individual looking for catering, retail or customer service opportunities, and interested in working within a dynamic family business we might have the job for you.

We are looking for new people to join our team within the Farm Shop, Playbarn and Restaurant. Please see our website for further information on current jobs. Full, part-time, weekend and casual/seasonal hours available.

For more information and to apply, please email:  
[vacancies@milletsfarmcentre.com](mailto:vacancies@milletsfarmcentre.com)

## **Botley Bridges Update—coronavirus**

In view of the Prime Minister's statement on social distancing, Botley Bridges has made the very hard decision to close all sessions with immediate effect.

We recognise that we are unable to control social distancing at Botley Bridges. Children love to play together and explore with their hands and mouths. Whilst we usually promote this exploration, we cannot control the risk of infection. Because of the nature of our work and the fact that families and children who attend our sessions are likely to also be in contact with vulnerable people in the community we believe that we should take this step.

The Health Visiting Team has closed all of their drop in sessions too.

We plan to increase our online presence with ideas for play, home learning, advice and behaviour tips so please keep an eye on our Facebook page and also our website at [www.botleybridges.org](http://www.botleybridges.org). Alternatively, ensure that you are signed up to receive mail chimp updates from us (you can sign up by filling in the form on our webpage or by contacting [coordinator@botleybridges.org](mailto:coordinator@botleybridges.org))

If you are already signed up for mailchimp and don't appear to be receiving correspondence from us, please check your junk folder. If you need us, contact us and we can phone you back if necessary.

This is a difficult time for us all and we hope that you and your families can keep safe.

**Hayley**

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Flood scheme – latest

Compulsory Purchase Orders have been withdrawn as the Flood Scheme is redesigned to accommodate replacing the broken railway bridge. A reprieve of up to three years is likely.

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Thinking Day at 2nd Botley Brownies

Thinking Day is always 22nd February when Lord and Lady Baden Powell shared their birthday and so, on the nearest meeting to that date, we celebrated the world-wide family of Guiding with some appropriately themed action games, as well as the difficult Shrove Tuesday relay pancake flapping game, which has been a tradition within 2nd Botley Brownies for as long as we can remember!

As part of the new Unit Meeting Activity Sheets (UMAS) Brown Owl and Snowy Owl then carefully taught the girls one at a time how to strike a match, light a

tealight and then blow out and safely dispose of the match. We finished the evening by renewing our promise around a world map and the Girlguiding trefoil shape made from the tealights they lit earlier in the meeting.

Mothering Sunday was also not forgotten so during the following meeting the girls carefully drew large love hearts onto greetings cards for their mothers and then using a needle and thread and a tying a colourful bow they each attached to the front of the card another heart. This particular one was a 3-D love heart uniquely personalized with their message to their mum plus their own individual signature preserved forever via the power of pyrography.



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Owls at 2nd Botley Brownies

Botley Medical Centre - Coronavirus outbreak

From the Patients Participation Group

We have been in touch with the Medical Centre who have assured us of the following:

- ◆ We are committed to providing the best and safest care possible to our patients during these difficult times.
- ◆ All our doctors' appointments have already been converted to telephone consultations and we ask you please not to attend the surgery in person due to the risk of quickly spreading the virus amongst the population and the Care Workers.
- ◆ We advise those who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 to strictly follow the social distancing and hygiene measures: if you are aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions), under 70 with underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart failure, chronic kidney disease, chronic respiratory conditions, liver disease or a weakened immune system and if you are pregnant.
- ◆ Our Social Prescribers will contact our more vulnerable and elderly patients to check on your more urgent needs.
- ◆ We recommend drawing on support through your friends, family and other networks. We know of many support groups springing up in streets and neighbourhoods. Try to stay in touch with those around you over the phone, by post, or online. Let people know how you would like to stay in touch. This is also important for everyone's mental well-being
- ◆ We will continue posting new announcements on the practice website, <https://www.botleymedicalcentre.co.uk/> through text message or phoning you with any update needed.
- ◆ We will continue doing our utmost to offer efficient and safe care for all of you.

If you need any advice please contact your patients participation group team:

Sylvia Buckingham sylvibuckingham@gmail.com 01865 327739 or 07970 626443

Chris Sugden csugden@ocrpl.org 07808 297043

Anne Feather annefeather@aol.com 07778 639366

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

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com
4th Oxford Scout Group Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; mail@thefourth.org.uk Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, cubs 6.30-8, scouts 8-9.30, Botley Baptist Hall. Amy Cusden 07887 654386 xvoxordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
Badminton Club	Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 garryclark13@gmail.com
BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6-8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 jbarley1@sky.com or Brendan Byrne 792531 brendan.byrne999@gmail.com
Botley Health Walks	Wednesday 9.30am. Contact Briony on Ox 246497
Botley Library	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386
Botley Singers	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 angastpen@aol.com
Community Fridge	Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811
Cumnor Choral Society	Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
Cumnor Gardening Club	http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ or phone 01865 721026
Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group	Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk
Hill End Volunteer Team	Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk
Let's Sing! – singing group	Weds 2pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or email emformusic@outlook.com
Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc	Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk
North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com

N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997
N Hinksey Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
N Hinksey Parish Council	Colin Ryde, tel 861992, clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
N Hinksey Youth Club	Weds at LM pavilion, Daz on 07791 212866 or see F'book
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
Oxfo Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259
Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group	Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk
Oxford Otters	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
Oxford Rugby Club	Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk .
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 melanie_riste@hotmail.com
Raleigh Park, Friends of	raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Saturdads at Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
Seacourt Hall management committee	Michael Cockman 07766 317691 michael.cockman@gmail.com .
Shotokan Karate club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Walking for Health	2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.45 Botley Library. Alan 07941 610913
West Oxford Bowls Club	Contact details on www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk
West Oxford U3A	(Uni of the 3rd Age) http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/
West Way Day Centre	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
Women's Institute (Botley)	Liz Manson, 244175 or liz.manson@virginmedia.com
Yoga (gentle) at WOCC	Fri 10.15 - 11.30 yogawithjacqueline@hotmail.com
Weight Watchers	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com

