

# **The Sprout**



**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 120 September 2017**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 120, September 2017**

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### **From the Editor**

Autumn's nearly here, school's back any day now, and the Food Fayre and Botley Apple Day are on the horizon. A letter (p3) expresses anxiety over the rumour that Matthew Arnold School is about to take over our only playing field, which generated a petition over the summer. The parish council has responded with a full account of exactly what is in the wind, and a chance for us all to say how we feel about it (p7). It is reassuring to see the PC responding so openly and effectively. Also coming up in September is Martin Harris's exhibition of local photos and memories of Botley during the Second World War (p17) – it will be interesting to find out what stories his efforts have generated. Looking further ahead, the Patients' Participation Group at Botley Surgery are anticipating winter misery and urge us not to pass up the chance of a flu jab if we are eligible (p25). The youth of the parish seem to have celebrated Christmas already (Brownies, p 33) and we learn that the West Way development is now not going to start until January (p31) through concerns (among others) about the safety of cyclists, first aired in the *Sprout* before being taken up in the *Oxford Mail*. Lots to read then, even including some fiction: a moral tale by a new author (p 15). *Happy reading!*

**Ag MacKeith**

## **Letters to the editor**

### **Cat Attack**

I would like to alert the residents near Turner Drive of a dangerous cat living in the area. In June this year, I walked a dog on a lead past a house on the corner of Turner Drive and Millais Road. As we walked past a black car parked very close to that corner, a small black cat poked its head out from under the car, startling both the dog and me. Within seconds it launched at the dog and wrapped itself around him. I tried pulling the dog away, but the cat was firmly attached. I finally managed to get the cat off the dog and hold it away while I picked the dog up. When I let go of the cat, it immediately leapt up at the dog, which was now in my arms. I batted it away, but it tried to leap up again. I finally managed to push it away and walk away quickly. It stayed behind, looking very pleased with itself. The dog and I both had a number of deep scratches and bite wounds.

A very kind lady who lives in the street witnessed the attack. She came to ask if we were okay and said that she had seen that cat attack a dog before. I have since spoken to the police, the RSPCA and the local council and it seems that while we would take action against a dog that behaves like that, there is nothing that can be done with an overly aggressive cat. It will therefore continue to roam that street and seemingly terrorise dogs as it pleases. I felt compelled to write this letter to warn residents of the existence of this dangerous animal and urge caution around that intersection if walking a dog past parked cars. Unfortunately, I went on holiday the day after the attack and missed the opportunity to put this into the last issue of the Sprout. Hopefully, no-one else has been attacked in the meantime! If you do get bitten, please seek medical attention. Cats carry harmful bacteria in their mouths and you will probably need antibiotics. It is possible that the cat's owners are unaware of its behaviour. My only hope is that this letter might bring that behaviour to their attention and possibly drive them to do something about it so that the neighbours can walk their animals in peace.

**Michele Sanders**

### **Playing Fields**

You may be interested to hear that over 150 local residents, in the space of a few hours, signed a petition last month calling for consultation by

North Hinksey Parish Council over plans to lease parts of the Louie Memorial Upper Playing Field to Matthew Arnold School, now an academy and located in Cumnor. At the July Council meeting residents voiced their concerns over the lack of information on this matter, first raised by the school last December. A resident expressed the view of many, "I knew nothing about this.... A major impact on the area and we know nothing about it."

**John Marriott**

*[You'll be reassured to find an account of exactly what is under discussion on the following pages, John, Ed.]*

~~~~~

## **Let us solve your problem**

The last issue of the Sprout included a word of warning from a local resident about trusting tradespeople from an advert. This, along with some personal experiences, has prompted us to think about how we can resolve this problem.

We are currently working to simplify our increasingly complex world by aiming to become the "neighbour" you can trust to recommend good people. We are hoping to set up a hub of people who can offer services to those who need them in our community. These might include gardening, plumbing, hairdressing, rationalising your stuff or providing help for dealing with bereavement. Our recommendations will be based on those who have done excellent work at affordable prices. We are building up a bank of recommendations and will go live when we have enough trades covered, hopefully early next year.

We already have a group of people and organisations we could recommend based on our own experiences. Can you help us in growing this network? If you have had exemplary service from anyone and you would feel happy to recommend them to friends and family, please drop us an email at **botleyproblemsolve@gmail.com** With the support of the

Botley community, we know we can improve access to the services the community needs. Keep an eye on the Sprout for the next instalment.

**Michele Sanders** and **Angie Spendlove**

## **NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Proposal for Matthew Arnold School to use facilities at Louie Memorial Upper Field** *(text of a newsletter delivered to all houses in the parish)*

North Hinksey Parish Council (NHPC) is considering an agreement with The Acer Trust, a non-profit Academy Trust that manages Matthew Arnold School (MAS), for booking the football pitch and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at the Louie Memorial Upper Field for use during school PE lessons and afterschool football fixtures.

The proposal currently being considered includes:

- Access by MAS to the football pitch between 8.40am and 3.05pm on school term days, for a maximum of three hours per day
- Access by MAS to the MUGA, from 9.40am to 10.40am only, on school term days
- Access by MAS to the football pitch for occasional football fixtures (January – April) between 3.05 and 5.00pm on school term days, subject to seven days' notice, availability, good pitch condition and permission granted by the Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees
- A set rental fee paid by MAS to offset any additional caretaking costs or loss of income from other potential users of the football pitch
- Agreement for MAS to maintain the football pitch to suitable standard that ensures continued community usage - as a minimum to a standard similar to the MAS pitches
- A trial period (to expire by April 2019) to test the impact, which is subject to termly reviews and which can be ended at any time with three months' notice on either side

If agreed by NHPC, the general public would not be able to use the football pitch and MUGA when occupied by MAS during the hours listed above. However the surrounding footpaths and open space would remain accessible to the public at all times.

This proposal was first brought to NHPC's Recreation & Amenities committee in January 2017, when a working group was set up to explore the issues further (see overleaf for details). As the proposal has evolved it has been brought to full Council for discussion three times (May, June, July meetings). At the July full Council meeting further changes were proposed that have been sent back to Matthew Arnold School for

consideration. We expect MAS to return a revised draft agreement to NHPC for consideration and possible approval at its next meeting, scheduled for 14th September.

To help inform our decision, **we are seeking feedback from parishioners on how they might be impacted by this proposal.** We would like to know:

- How often do you use the Louie Memorial fields?
- What do you think the positive and negative impacts of this proposal, if agreed, could be?
- If you have any concerns about the proposal, and if so, what they are.
- Any other comments, including your overall feeling about this proposal.

**Please give us your feedback by Sunday 10th September through this online survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LMfields2017>**

**Alternatively you can send comments to the Parish Clerk, Mr Alan Stone, by email ([nhpcclerk@msn.com](mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com)) or by post (27 Long Close, Oxford, OX2 9SG).**

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## **Background**

Currently the football pitch at Louie Memorial Pavilion is available for hire by any individual or community organisation. The Louie Memorial fields were given to the Council in 1939 for the purpose of sports and recreation for the residents of North Hinksey and surrounding parishes. The fields are accessible to the public at all times, including when the football pitch is in use.

From September 2017 MAS will admit an additional form (approximately 30 students) per year. This will ultimately mean around 200 students more at MAS than at present. MAS are looking for additional resources they can draw on to meet students' needs, including additional recreational space for PE lessons and sports. Matthew Arnold School is the parish's only catchment area secondary school, and it is estimated that at least 200 children from North Hinksey Parish attend the school.

## **Timeline**

**December 2016:** MAS approached NHPC to express interest in hiring the football pitch at Louie Memorial Fields. This would be in addition to the current use of their own sports fields and facilities that they hire at Brookes Sport Botley (owned and run by Oxford Brookes).

**January 2017:** The request came to NHPC's Recreation & Amenities (R&A) committee, where it was decided to set up a working group to further discussions with MAS. The working group consists of Emmett Casley (chair of Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees), Cllr Caroline Potter (chair of R&A committee), Cllr David Kay (chair of NHPC), Cllr Andrew Pritchard (chair of Planning committee), and Cllr Voirrey Carr (chair of Louie Memorial Fields Neighbourhood Watch group).

**April 2017:** After initial discussions between MAS and Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees, the working group met with staff at Matthew Arnold School. Issues raised included the requirement for Louie Memorial fields to be open to members of the public at all times, and concerns about the impact that the school's usage could have on the condition of the football pitch. MAS expressed interest in supporting longer-term development of the facilities at LM fields, though no written commitment was made. It was agreed that MAS would explore a joint use agreement, and NHPC would assess the space available in the upper field to see if there might be room

for future additional facilities (e.g. marking out an extra practice pitch or running track).

**May 2017:** MAS sent NHPC a draft lease agreement based on standard template, which was discussed under Urgent Business at full Council. Councillors raised a number of concerns including the long term of the proposal (25 years), the need to maintain Council control of the fields as a public facility, and potential wear and tear on the football pitch. It was agreed that a trial period to end within the current Council's term (to May 2019) would be more acceptable.

**June 2017:** Cllr Potter communicated Council's concerns in a meeting with Ian Carr (MAS business manager). MAS agreed to the principle of a trial period and a more flexible licence agreement with regular checks and reviews by the Council. Cllr Potter reported back to full Council where the issues were debated further, and it was agreed to continue the discussions with MAS.

**July 2017:** MAS sent NHPC a revised draft licence agreement. The working group with the Parish Clerk met with Ian Carr at MAS to discuss the draft agreement in detail. A further revised version was circulated for discussion at the full Parish Council meeting on 27th July, at which a petition was presented by parishioners with 140 signatures, asking to be consulted about the discussions with MAS. A detailed discussion took place between the parishioners and councillors.

Minutes of these discussions are available on our website:  
<http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk>

**14th September 2017, 8pm at Seacourt Hall: Next full Council meeting, where a revised proposal will be discussed and potentially voted on. Members of the public are welcome to attend.**



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## **The Replacement**

Lilly Smith is a normal girl, from a normal house with normal friends. Wait – did I just say normal friends? Oh no – her friends were teachers!

Did I mention Lily was only 11 years old. The good thing about being friends with a teacher is they always give you a good report, even if you did make an explosion in science. Also when all the other kids are out in the rain, you get to eat cake in the staff room.

However there is a problem with being friends with the teachers, all the other kids get jealous, so you never have any kid friends to play with.

One day Lilly decided to go and play with some of the children in her class. She approached Zoe and said "Hi, can I play?"

"Don't you have teachers to play with?" yelled Zoe. When Lilly told her teacher friends about this, they had a word with Zoe's Mum, and Zoe had to say Sorry.

When Zoe had come over to say Sorry, they got talking and started laughing together, but a teacher saw them playing together so she spread the word.

The next time Lilly got her school report it said that she was lacking in learning and that she put other students in danger!

Her parents were not too happy about this and grounded her. When Lilly went to the staff room to hang with her teacher mates, they poured coffee on her head and made sure there was no leftover cake to eat. Lilly told Zoe what had happened and, although Zoe said nice things, she had a smirk in her face.

The next day Lilly decided to go and try again with the teachers, she would say Sorry if she had to, but as she walked up to the door, she saw Zoe was there sitting in the big comfy armchair that she used to sit in, eating cake and high-fiving the teachers! *Zoe is my replacement now*, Lilly thought, *and now I have no friends at all*.



**Ava Goldstein** (aged 9)

## **Botley in the Second World War**

Thanks again to the Sprout and its readers who helped me further during the summer in preparing my local history WW2 exhibition. Cumnor and District History Society will have many photos on display, showing what life in this area was like from 1939 to 1945. I remember a few years ago, the late Pat Halliday spoke on Radio Oxford about the plane that crashed at the top of Yarnells Road in 1940. There were a few others that crashed in the area (thanks to Bob Rivers for recently reminding me about this).

**Cope Close street party celebrating the end of WW2, from the World War II exhibition, Cumnor Old School, 16–17 September, 10am-5pm**



Botley School was a senior school in those days, as well as a primary one. When it opened in 1938, it included two pupils, Basil Bateman and Sid Willis, both of whom

would go on to perish in the war. Basil was my dad's first cousin and Sid's sister Pat Heavens was the school's secretary in the 1970s. It's strange to think that Botley School will be 80 years old next year and Matthew Arnold School will be celebrating its 60th birthday in 2018.

I've also been looking at some of the Commonwealth War Graves in Botley Cemetery. Glenys Harris (no relation) from the Women's Auxiliary Air Force died, aged just 19, in a plane accident at Upper Heyford (near where my mum was living at the time) on 24 September 1945, i.e. just after the war ended. She is buried among the male soldiers in Botley. She originated from Trethomas in Monmouthshire. I wonder if someone in the county still has a photo of her.

I also hope the Food Festival on the Saturday (at St Peter and St Paul's Church in 16th September) is a great success. I learnt about wartime food and rationing when I went to a *Mapledurham at War* event last month. Former "Bake Off" contestant Christine Wallace was delightfully entertaining as she showed us how to cook Lord Woolton pie!

Admission is free to the history exhibition but there will be a collection for ORH Charitable Funds which supports the different departments and wards of Oxford University Hospitals (The John Radcliffe, Churchill, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Horton General and Oxford Children's Hospital), helping to provide the best medical equipment, research and

facilities for its patients. Please do come along if you can. You can contact me on [martin.harris321@gmail.com](mailto:martin.harris321@gmail.com) Tel 01865 864776

**Martin Harris**



*Thanks to Ann Thorne for this photo of her father, L/Cpl Harold Bury, taking the salute outside the Seacourt Bridge Inn at the Armistice Day Parade\* in 1942 or '43, from the Sprout archive. (\*The name was changed to 'Remembrance Day' after the Second World War.)*

## **Editor's Report for the year 2017**

This has been another successful year for the *Sprout*, although in time our profits are likely to go down slightly as the population of Botley goes up, and the lead-up to the redevelopment of the shopping centre blights local businesses. Still, making a profit was never more than a pleasant by-product of our magazine, and last year we had £2000 to give to the community in grants.

Of this, £300 helped to set up Botley Bridges – the new incarnation of our Children’s Centre, closed down by the County Council last March. Another new initiative, the Association for Botley Communities, received £400 towards providing an umbrella for activities in Botley wider than the parish boundaries. It is very satisfying to be able to support community initiatives like these. Keeping the parish informed and supporting good community projects make our efforts worthwhile.

Individual grants also went to Cumnor Choral, who got £250 to help them buy music and advertising; and £250 went towards play equipment for the playgroup at the King’s Centre on Osney, which is run and attended largely by people from round here. We also gave £160 to the over 60s Lunch Club to help them to buy new equipment – they provide such a valuable service, and it’s done entirely through good will – and contributed £400 towards Botley Medical Practice’s heart monitor. £200 went to Botley school to subsidise a whole-school trip to the Christmas panto at the Playhouse.

The problem with writing the Editor’s report is always the dislocation between the period covered by the accounts (November 2015–November 2016) and my perception of the editorial content, which tends to focus on the immediate past. This happens every time – last year for instance I went into some detail about our wide range of contributors,

many of whom were actually writing in 2016, not 2015. So I make no apology for referring with some satisfaction to some *really good* articles this year in the February issue which attracted an unprecedented chorus of applause - notably the fascinating contrast between his own schooling in Philadelphia and his children’s at



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Botley by a local dad, the chart detailing different sources of help for homeless people, and an account of the presence of a Roman Road through Raleigh Park and up over Harcourt Hill and beyond. Not to mention *Son of SuperFly (aka Super Maggot)*, the last in the saga by our youngest contributor Leah Detheridge. The Sprout is only able to flourish through the generous efforts of its dedicated team. We would like especially to thank Mike Cockman for picking up the reins of the

advertising from Gill Thompson when she left in September, and running it so smoothly ever since. And Bhee Bellew and Robin Cox for managing the deliveries; and Colin and Sally Hersom who arrange the adverts into pages ready to insert, thus making the editor's job a whole lot easier. Our Editorial Team continues to be Viv Smith, Riki Therivel and Grant Nightingale, and I am very grateful for their help. We would welcome input from our younger readers, so if you know anyone who might like to join us, please send them our way. Finally, my thanks to our directors – especially to Judi Bolder for joining us – our deliverers, and most particularly to John Clements, our priceless Secretary and Accountant, who works so hard and asks for so little in return.

**Ag MacKeith**, Editor

## **Doctors and Patients**

Botley Patients' Participation Group ([botleyppg@gmail.com](mailto:botleyppg@gmail.com)) has had a quiet July and August. The merger with the Kennington practice continues to go well and patients are becoming familiar with the new arrangements. Botley and Kennington PPGs remain separate, but are moving towards merger. They have very different Terms of Reference /



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Constitutions and the first task will be to agree new Terms of Reference for a combined group.

We are entering the season when those who are eligible will be invited to have their **annual flu jab** and this edition of the newsletter also publicises the setting up of a new health walking group, **Walking for Health Botley**

As many residents will be aware, and as Roy and Briony Newport affirmed in the June edition of the newsletter, Botley has been fortunate to have a walking group since 2004, a group that meets on Wednesdays at 9.30 am. U3A also organise walks on Fridays. The new walking group has arisen directly out of the work of the PPG, and should be seen as complementary to the existing groups and not in competition with them. It provides the opportunity for a week-end walk for those who may not be able to walk during the working week.

These two matters, flu jabs and walking, raise for me the issue of preventive medicine, the importance of taking responsibility for our own health when we can and of following advice from all members of the medical team about actions we can take to keep ourselves well. It is easy to forget that many, if not most, advances in health well-being have come from public health measures and not from advances in the management of acute illness. Thus was the case with clean water, the eradication of smallpox, the emergence of vaccines against common illnesses such as mumps, measles, rubella and polio, the introduction of seat-belt legislation, the ever tighter controls on driving (notably drink-driving) and, more recently, the drive to reduce smoking, to name but a few

examples. Some issues remain to be tackled effectively, notably misuse of alcohol, obesity arising from excessive eating of junk food and sugar, and the new scourge of diesel emissions. All require active Government intervention, frankly.

The great majority of medical time, both in general practice and in hospital medicine, is spent in preventive work and in the management of long-term illnesses (such as heart

### **WALKING FOR HEALTH BOTLEY**

Starts: **Saturday 23 September** then  
every 2nd and 4th Saturday

**9.45 am**, meet at **WI Hall in North  
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or lung disease, diabetes, musculo-skeletal disorders, diseases of old age such as dementia, neurological diseases such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease, and mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia) and not in the management of acute short-term illnesses.

I was reminded of this recently when I had my annual review with a practice nurse for long-standing coronary artery disease and hypertension. I have been lucky medically, at least so far. Having had triple bypass surgery at the (relatively) tender age of 52, my high cholesterol, which led to clogged-up arteries, has been managed with statins and anti-hypertensives, and I am subject to regular review and blood tests. These reviews are important, as are any reviews for a long-standing condition, and such appointments should always be kept. Similarly advice re immunisations, or screening tests for cancer such as bowel screening or cervical screening, should always be followed. Such recommendations are not made to fill the time of practice staff but because they are of proven preventive value.

*Which brings me back to flu jabs and walking. Take doctors' advice. Use it or lose it, as the saying goes!*

**Harry Dickinson**, PPG chair, writing on behalf of Botley PPG. *(The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Medical Practice.)*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  The logo for 'SALES & LETTINGS' features the word 'SALES' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, followed by a large, stylized white ampersand, and then the word 'LETTINGS' in the same bold, white sans-serif font. The background is solid black. | <p><b>Oxford</b><br/>01865 511444<br/>oxford@<br/>carterjonas.co.uk</p> <p><b>Carter Jonas</b></p> |
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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|               |                                                       |         |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| P17/V1647/HH  | 13A Chestnut Road. Loft conversion to 1st floor flat. | 13 June |
| P17/V1679/PDH | 29 Hutchcomb Rd. 1-storey rear extension.             | 14 June |

|                                    |                                                                                                                  |                                                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| P17/V1758/FUL                      | Riverside Court 9 West Way. Re-clad west elevation. Alter windows.                                               | <b>21 June</b>                                               |
| P17/V1808/FUL                      | 62A West Way. Conversion of loft into flat (revised scheme).                                                     | <b>26 June</b>                                               |
| P17/V1862/O                        | Land at Yarnells Hill. Erection of 5 x detached family dwellings incl access.                                    | <b>4 July</b>                                                |
| P17/V1917/FUL and<br>P17/V1916/LDE | Field End Harcourt Hill. Demolish garage & pool house, replace with detached garage, pool house & play room.     | <b>6 July/13 July</b><br><i>Target Decision Date: 31 Aug</i> |
| P17/V1897/HH                       | 12 Cherry Tree Court Chestnut Rd. New roof space room with rear dormer and gable build up.                       | <b>7 July</b><br><i>TDD: 1 Sept</i>                          |
| P17/V1987/HH                       | 44 Arthray Rd. 2-storey front extension & single & 2-storey rear extension.                                      | <b>13 July</b><br><i>TDD: 7 Sept</i>                         |
| P17/V2063/HH                       | 11 Hutchcomb Rd. Extend existing extension to side, replace lean-to, add porch. Bi-fold doors instead of window. | <b>20 July</b><br><i>TDD: 14 Sept</i>                        |
| P17/V2017/HH                       | East Cottage Harcourt Hill. 1-storey side extension, front porch, new fencing to A34 boundary.                   | <b>21 July</b><br><i>TDD: 15 Sept</i>                        |
| P17/V2144/HH                       | 1 Yarnells Rd. 2-storey extension at side & rear 1-storey extension.                                             | <b>28 July</b><br><i>TDD: 22 Sept</i>                        |
| P17/V2078/HH                       | 106 West Way. 1-storey rear extension to existing bungalow.                                                      | <b>31 July</b><br><i>TDD 25 Sept</i>                         |
| P17/V2188/LDP                      | 20 Eynsham Rd. Conversion of existing 2 flats to single dwelling.                                                | <b>4 August</b><br><i>TDD: 29 Sept</i>                       |
| P17/V2189/LDP                      | Highview Vernon Avenue. Rear Garden Terrace & Canopy.                                                            | <b>4 August</b><br><i>TDD: 29 Sept</i>                       |
| P17/V2137/HH                       | 4 Tilbury Lane. Remove conservatory. New 2-storey & 1-storey side extension & 1-storey rear extension.           | <b>14 August</b><br><i>TDD: 9 Oct</i>                        |

## West Way update

There is still no definite date for the redevelopment of the West Way Shopping Centre. Since our last update in July not much has changed except for the sad sight of our small local businesses continuing to close.

This is because Mace's changed phasing plan required the closure of the central area and temporary relocation of the supermarkets and chemist, with room for only another 3 or 4 businesses during the construction period. Work was planned to start in July and so shops were given the end of June as a closure date but with delays this now means we have an increasingly empty centre and reduced facilities.

The application under review now is for the change of use for the Grant Thornton and Elms Court buildings to house the supermarkets, Baptist Church and Seacourt Hall. That consultation closed on 29th June and there are a number of comments lodged, including objections centred on safety for cyclists and pedestrians around the proposed new left turn into the site. The proposed turning is intended for use by shoppers' cars and deliveries. The application was targeted for discussion at the Vale District Council planning meeting on 23rd August but is not on the agenda for that meeting so at this point we do not know when it will be discussed.

These delays and the increasingly derelict centre are a source of concern and frustration for many of us. We will keep up pressure on both the developer and councils to address the issues of transport access and safety and cyclists to ensure we get the best centre for Botley.

Please, stay in touch via our website, Facebook and Twitter. [facebook.com/westwayconcern](https://facebook.com/westwayconcern) and [twitter.com/westwayconcern](https://twitter.com/westwayconcern). To join our mailing list, email: [Westwayconcern.wordpress.com](mailto:Westwayconcern.wordpress.com);

**Lorna Berrett**, co-chair, West Way Community Concern

~~~~~  
**Not very likely!** *Can you spot any truths smuggled into the following passage by a Sprout correspondent?*

"As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year. Men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig'. Today we still say 'here comes the Big Wig' to suggest someone is powerful and wealthy."

## Time-travelling with the Brownies

Doesn't time fly? Well it must do because since I last wrote 30 of us have celebrated Christmas! It all took place one weekend in Gloucestershire. We had a fully decorated house (complete with tree and lights) for the festive occasion. We were joined by six girls from 1st Botley Brownies and Guides from two other units. We arrived on "Christmas Eve" and before bedtime that night we had already spotted Father Christmas putting in an appearance when he delivered mini sacks filled with cookies for all the girls.

We introduced the non-2nd Botley Brownie members to our first night's traditional wide game which must be played in the semi-darkness for the flashing ice cubes to show where the clues were hidden. This time they were based on the carol



the Twelve Days of Christmas. The Guides, who were each heading up a Brownie team, were very quick at finding the far-from-easy solution using the clues collected by their teams.

For the first time in many a holiday we even managed to have a camp fire outside using real wood. This may not seem much of an achievement to you but believe me it was because usually every time we decide on an evening to allocate this activity to it goes and rains. We have tried to hold it early in the holiday, in the middle or at the end and even if the days have been lovely and sunny it always goes and rains before we can hold our campfire. We have sometimes got as far as having the campfire set and ready to go when from nowhere a huge rain cloud will appear and spoil our plans. So this time we were delighted to be able to have a good old sing song followed by summores and hot chocolate.

As part of the Brownie Holiday badge the girls are supposed to make a souvenir or two so this holiday they were not disappointed as we had some very crafty Guiders with us which allowed us to make 3D stars,

snowflakes, silhouette lanterns, pine-cone table decorations, coloured placemats, peppermint creams and rice-krispie Christmas trees.

As the next day dawned we woke up to Christmas Day so after the chores were completed we dressed for our Christmas lunch. Just like Christmas Day itself we had a guest arrive so that at lunchtime 31 of us sat down to a lovely roast complete with seasonal table decorations and accessories. (Thank you Mr Tawny for your fabulous cooking again!). The only concession this year was that his much-requested crumble was actually made by Barn Owl (rather than Mr Tawny) that morning.

Boxing Day dawned and we played another wide game based on the Nativity (written by Little Owl who is training to be a Leader). Much hilarity ensued and then after an outside game of bingo and another yummy meal it was all over for another year.

**Lucy Howes**



**Brown Owl adds:** A very special award was also made following the Christmas Lunch to the author of this article. All the leaders and girls were assembled in the sitting room to join in with Tawny Owl (Lucy) being awarded her 30-Year Service Badge. Well done and Thank-you Tawny Owl.

## ~~~~~ Apple Day

Sunday 8th October, 2 – 5pm

South View, Old Botley, OX2 0JR

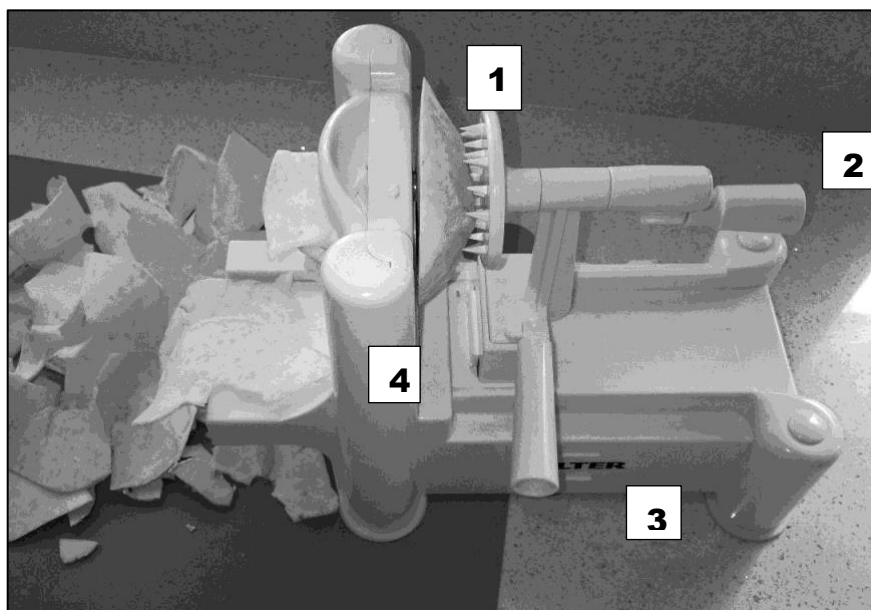


Let's pluck till time and times are done,  
The silver apples of the moon,  
The golden apples of the sun,

The dusty apples of the ring-road...

Bring apples and containers and join the party of choppers and juicers. Also bring good apples to share and store. Apples and pears identified. Everybody welcome, with and without apples.

## Great Little Gadgets – Spiraliser



I have a weight problem, and my spiraliser helps me with it by replacing pasta with less calorific veg such as celeriac (my favourite), courgettes, and carrots.

It works like this: a chunk of veg (1) is mounted between a small static cylindrical blade and a rotor with sharp spikes. The rotor is turned with a handle (2), and as the veg turns, it is pressed against a vertically mounted blade with help from another handle (3) at the base of the rotor mount. Veg ribbons tumble out of the left hand side of the machine.

The picture shows a piece of celeriac being sliced into thin ribbons with one of three static blade attachments which slot into grooves in the two cylindrical uprights (4). The other two attachments create noodles or spirals.

Swede can't be spiralised with this machine because the spikes on the rotor cut through the brittle vegetable rather than gripping and turning it. Many makes of spiraliser are available. This one is by Salter. It has flexible sucker feet which secure it strongly to the work surface. Lifting it off is a bit of a struggle, during which one or more suckers can sometimes be left behind and have to be screwed back in.

**Grant Nightingale**

## **Randoms**

### **Waterblitz**

Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the county wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire. For your free sampling pack register today by emailing [hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk) subject "Waterblitz" and join in on Monday 2nd October. EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.

**Training and Work Experience opportunities at Hill End**



A new employability course is starting at Hill End, the 65 acre outdoor education centre in Farmoor, which since July 1st has become a charitable trust. The course will give learners the opportunity to gain work experience in areas such as horticulture, grounds maintenance and hospitality. Help will be available on topics such as career exploration and applying for a job. The course will take place 1 day per week, starting August, but you can join anytime in 2017. It is expected each learner's



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course will last for up to 12 weeks. As long as you are currently unemployed all learner costs are funded and there is no charge. This is thanks to funding from the European Social Fund and the Skills Funding Agency. There will also be help with travel expenses and lunch provided. To find out more please visit [www.hill-end.org/cando](http://www.hill-end.org/cando) or alternatively call 01865 863510 and ask to speak to Kim.

### FREE fortnightly Environmental Email Bulletin

For the latest conservation news, evening talks, or an afternoon of volunteering, plus jobs and training sign up to Wild Oxfordshire's email bulletin. Just click on their website [www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk)

**Clare Mowbray**, Wild Oxfordshire

### **Botley W.I.**

At our meeting on 4 July Catherine Hitchens gave a fascinating talk about the way humans have shaped our countryside over millennia: "History through the landscape."

Our next meeting will be on 5 September, when the talk will be given by Martin Sirot-Smith on the topic of "Food & drink in Tudor Times."

On 19 September the walking group will meet at Hythe Bridge at 8pm, to walk to Wolvercote and back along the river.

**Alison Jenner**

### **Seacourt Hall Management Committee**

#### **Nominations Sought for Public Representatives**

Seacourt Hall is managed by a Committee of Trustees (Seacourt Hall Management Committee), made up of representatives of North Hinksey Parish Council, Hall Users and public representatives. At the AGM on 27th September (730pm at Seacourt Hall) 2 members of the public will be elected by those eligible and present at the AGM.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary before 5pm on 13th September. This can be by post in the letter-box at Seacourt Hall or by email to [\*\*michael.cockman@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com).

If anyone would like more information in advance, including the responsibilities of being a trustee, they can call Michael Cockman on 07766 317691.

### **Friends of Raleigh Park**

The Friends will hold their 2017 AGM at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th September, in the Louie Memorial Pavilion, Arnold's Way. Our speaker will be Bob Cowley, of the Friends of the Trap Grounds, who will give an illustrated talk on 20 years of conservation work in the Trap Grounds. The meeting will also elect new Committee members, and there will be opportunities to discuss the Wild Oxford project and the impressive changes it has made to the Park, proposed housing developments near the Park, and changes in the cattle grazing.

We need more active members to run the Friends, join in working parties and help with wildlife surveying. Come and join us, and help make Raleigh Park a better place for the whole community!

**Stephen Parkinson**, Chair, Friends of Raleigh Park

### **News from Cumnor Choral Society.**

I'd like to tell you of this term's exciting Concert programme. We will be performing the wonderful Brahms Requiem (in German) and are once again joining forces with our fellow musical colleagues Great Milton Singers and Wheatley Choral Society. This will be a thrilling experience to sing with a large choir and we are inviting newcomers to come and join us! We are renowned for our friendliness, so don't be shy! Our rehearsals start on Friday September 15th and there will be two performances, one in Thame on Saturday November 11th and the other in Botley on Saturday 2nd December. If you want to find out more, then please contact either Marion Owen, our Chairman, by phone on 07552 786127 or by email on [marion.owen@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:marion.owen@mypostoffice.co.uk) or Monica White on 07791 141662 or [m.white14@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.white14@ntlworld.com) We look forward to hearing from you.

**Monica White**

### **Cumnor Minors football club**

Has been offering football and fun to local children for many decades. Now they want to up their game and bring in more parents and local residents to try out new ideas like:

- A partnership with Cumnor Cricket Club that offers kids a year-round opportunity to play our national sports
- A new Executive Committee with new roles that bring local expertise into the club
- Using the clubhouse as a pop-up café.
- Introducing disabled football to The Closes

If you love what football does for kids and what it means to their health and wellbeing, and would like to be part of the new initiative, get in touch with me by email at [stevemoore66@outlook.com](mailto:stevemoore66@outlook.com) by phone on 07759 590113

**Steve Moore**, Transition Secretary

### **Peace of mind for parents**

Botley Bridges is running a baby and child first aid course on 14th September. There will be a session in the afternoon from 1–3, repeated in the evening between 7–9 (cost £12). The course will cover choking, CPR, serious bleeding, head injuries, poisoning and childhood illnesses, and you can book via **coordinator@botleybridges.org** or by phoning 07498 563636.

At Botley Bridges we have aimed to provide some of the activities and services lost when the Children's Centre closed earlier this year. As we are no longer funded by the County Council, we have to rely on the money taken during sessions, and to apply for charitable grants to provide this service. Some grants are given on the understanding that we can show how we are helping families in the community and we have to write reports for this purpose. If you have used our summer holiday programme, please spare a couple of minutes to give some feedback either by sending a private message on Facebook or in an email to **coordinator@botleybridges.org**. All comments will be treated in confidence. Many thanks in advance for your support.

**Sue and Hayley**

## **Botley Food Fayre**

Locally sourced produce, bake-off competition, hot street food, music, demonstrations, children's entertainment. To find out more, address your enquiries to **judithbtbowden@virginmedia.com** or check out their Facebook page. It's a busy weekend – you can go from there to the local history exhibition in Cumnor Old School 10–5pm on 16th and 17th Sept.



**Shaun Guard**  
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**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 in future issues. telephone 724452 for inclusion in future issues.

<b>1st Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>
<b>2nd Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6 -7.30 : Alison Griffin 01865 379247
<b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>
<b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b> Boys and girls welcome	Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386
<b>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 Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.15–11am, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
<b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne Ox.792531 <a href="mailto:bb@bridewellconsulting.com">bb@bridewellconsulting.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>Chair-based Exercise Class</b>	Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Seacourt Hall Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601
<b>Community Fridge</b>	For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811
<b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>	Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoral.co.uk">www.cumnorchoral.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
<b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>	Details on website at <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone Chirs Impey, 01865 721026
<b>Fit Steps – exercise based on dance</b>	Friday 6–7pm, Seacourt Hall. Email Rosalie on <a href="mailto:rosalie.crane@btinternet.com">rosalie.crane@btinternet.com</a>
<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>N Hinksey after school club</b>	Mon–Thurs 3–6pm Contact: Oxford 794287
<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 Society</b>	Contact: Ann Dykes 01865 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. Marina Bennett 01865 242312
<b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dymrna 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:jamesy1976@hotmail.co.uk">jamesy1976@hotmail.co.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>	Contacts: Julie and John Tailor 01865 763394.
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>Royal Voluntary Service</b> (West Way Day Centre)	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>
<b>Saturdads</b> Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
<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 Bansob tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Contact: Marion Bostock 436277
<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) Elizabeth Stevens, 739252

<b>Which Craft?</b>	Pavilion, Arnold's way, third Monday, contact <a href="mailto:whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk">whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Monthly, 1st Tuesday: Liz Manson, tel. 244175 or email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>