

# The Sprout



Tulip time

**The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 177 May 2023**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this newsletter, mistakes may happen. The Editor and Team apologize unreservedly for any errors that may occur and will do their best to correct them. This publication is not a vehicle of the parish council, and parish councillors working with the Sprout do so in a personal capacity. Opinions expressed are the opinions of the individual contributors.

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# The Sprout

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#### From the Editor

Most of this month's *Sprout* is taken up with lists. The almost comprehensive list of candidates standing for the parish council on 4th May (p3) shows the profiles of 25 of the 26 candidates standing for just 14 places. There are parishes, I'm told, where people have to be *begged* to stand and there are no elections because not all the spaces are filled. Not so in Botley and North Hinksey, where public spirit reigns supreme! This will be evident, no doubt, around 8th May, when we are invited to celebrate the Coronation by getting together with our friends and neighbours and doing something helpful in the community. There is no shortage of possibilities around our patch, and anyone who wants to write in and tell us what they did can expect to be published next month. Official celebrations will be rather low key compared with the shenanigans around the Platinum Jubilee last year, but the beacon will be lit at 9pm on Saturday 6th, by Cumnor Parish this time, and there will be picnics and burgers and beer on the playing fields starting at 6pm. Hopefully there will also be bands. On page 27 is another list. It is of all those local artists who will be showing off their work in Artweeks at the end of the month. The *Sprout* was happy to endorse the good work with a grant to cover the local flyer.

Botley in Bloom, our front garden competition, is gearing up (p29) – please don't be backward in coming forward!

Ag MacKeith



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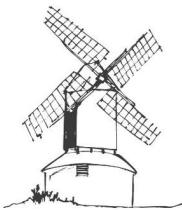


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# NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## STATEMENTS FROM CANDIDATES

A total of 26 candidates have offered themselves for election to the 14 places on North Hinksey Parish Council on 4th May 2023. All but two of them have sent statements, and they are listed below in alphabetical order. The District Council elections for two District Councillors will take place at the same time, but these are party political. You can vote for Emily Smith and Debby Hallett for the Lib Dems, for Nekisa Gholami Babaahmady and Jamie Spooner for the Labour Party, for Alexander and Elina Turner for the Conservatives. Katherine Phillips is standing for the Green Party. Editor

### Linda Morrison Allsopp (Independent)

If elected as Parish Councillor, I will give my time to ensuring that Parishioners are listened to in Council. As a qualified Clerk with experience of managing Projects and Personnel I can guide the Council in meeting its legal duties to ensure Equality of Services, Transparency, Duty of Care for Staff, Data Protection and GDPR. I will support a new Clerk/RFO in their roles as CEO and CFO to the council, rationalise the number of committees, committee meetings and policy documents and concentrate council efforts in completing projects which benefit the Parish. For more information: [linda.morrisonallsopp@outlook.com](mailto:linda.morrisonallsopp@outlook.com)



### Nekisa Gholami Babaahmady (Labour Party)

On May 4 I am standing alongside Jamie Spooner as a District and Parish Councillor, proudly representing the Labour Party. I was brought up in the Parish and as a young person want to ensure that there is better affordable housing and that rogue landlords don't get away with exploiting tenants in the way that they have been locally. I want to tackle the climate emergency, sort out local air pollution and support sustainable transport in the Parish. I also want to ensure safer communities particularly for young women who don't feel safe here. And finally, I want to improve opportunities for young people



across the Parish. Jamie and I can and will make a real difference.

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**Lisa Barnes** (Councillors for our Community)

I am a health coach, currently studying naturopathic nutrition. I am passionate about wellbeing and enabling people to live their healthiest, happiest lives. We are so fortunate in North Hinksey and Botley to have so much green space around us and I cherish my runs, walks and swims out in our natural environment. I have three children and believe that the mental and physical wellbeing of all generations is partially determined by the opportunities and facilities available to us. I hope to support current and future projects to improve the lives of both children and adults in our community.

**Alistair Bastin.** (Councillors for our Community)

I've lived in Botley since 2016, and was elected onto the Parish Council in 2019. I want to help Botley and North Hinksey to be a better place to live, work and raise families. Botley is changing rapidly, with new developments and a growing population. I'm proud of the positive work of North Hinksey Parish Council to address these challenges: working to provide new community facilities and improve the public realm. My recent work chairing the Environment and Well-being Committee has concentrated on air quality and road safety within the Parish. I'm pleased to confirm that residential streets will have their speed limit reduced to 20mph this Summer

**Lorna Berrett** (Councillors for our Community)

I've lived in Botley for 18 years and been a Parish Councillor since 2015. I work in publishing and I'm passionate about communication and community. I created the Botley Responders group, uniting street champions to support vulnerable community members during Covid. As chair of Seacourt Hall I support the hall as a community facility. I also helped coordinate the community input into public art for Botley centre. If re-elected I will work with other organisations on a new emergency response plan, support a new forum for senior residents and continue the public arts programme.



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### **Calum Byrom (Independent)**

I've lived in North Hinksey for the last 14 years and consider myself very lucky to call it my home. I love this place and feel privileged to have raised two children here. Now they are teenagers, I have more time to myself and am keen to give back to the local community. As a life-long environmentalist I have a strong interest in promoting sustainability and protecting green spaces for the health of the neighbourhood. As an independent candidate, I think I am well placed to provide pragmatic, accountable representation from a fresh perspective.



### **Rod Chalk (Independent)**

I have lived locally for 24 years. Previously I have been secretary to the governors, served on the after-school club committee and been PTA treasurer for West Oxford School. I have 17 years' past experience as a volunteer youth worker. I am a founder member of Hinksey and Osney Environmental Group. Loss of three parish clerks in the past four years is unsustainable. If elected I will work towards good governance, financial responsibility, democracy, transparency and protection for the environment. Vote Independent and let's make Botley and North Hinksey a better place to live.



### **Chris Church (Councillors for our Community)**

I have lived in Botley since 2012 and have served on the Parish Council for six years. I work on planning and sustainability issues and have used my experience to help improve our local environment. I set up the Council's green space survey which showed how those spaces are highly valued, and organised four tree planting sessions. I helped manage our Jubilee celebrations and raise the money for Sustainable Botley's energy advice work. As we welcome more young families into the community so we need better facilities and to safeguard our neighbourhood in the face of new commercial development pressures.





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### **Erica Davis (Labour Party)**

As part of the Labour Team and branch Secretary of a thriving Labour branch here in the Parish, I want to work with Nekisa, Jamie, Chris and George to bring about real and meaningful change. Having lived in the Parish for decades I have seen how poorly served older people are. It's as if we are invisible. Older people deserve better and this will be one issue I will fight for. Along with seizing the opportunity to improve and protect our green spaces, increase access to nature, expand biodiversity, plant new trees and ensure that as many local people as possible are involved in the process. Please Vote Labour!



### **Martin Dowie (Independent)**

Please re-elect me to continue serving parishioners. Over the last four years I have supported local charities, facilities and interest groups; protected parishioners' rights; defended parish green spaces; campaigned for changes to Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme; opposed the Expressway; opposed the Pavilion planning application and made a case for changes that would retain a Scout Hut. For the future, I am concerned about the loss of yet another Parish Clerk, the Council's financial management, local development, solar farms, Botley Medical Centre and traffic issues. For more information please see my election leaflet in circulation or email me at [martintdowie@gmail.com](mailto:martintdowie@gmail.com).



### **Chris Hall (Labour Party)**

I have lived in Botley almost 20 years. I run a local Taekwon-Do club and I am a member of the Labour Party. I am proud to support workers striking for a better future. Nationally, I believe our two most pressing issues are Wealth Inequality and Climate Change. I bring a perspective of trying to achieve the 'win-win' locally. I would support much better youth facilities and would want to ensure that our local facilities are as inclusive as possible. Let's bring people together and make things better. See: [@garyseconomics](https://twitter.com/garyseconomics) [@MrH4112016](https://twitter.com/MrH4112016)





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### **Julia Hammett (Independent)**

I have lived in the parish with my family for 25 years and care very much about local issues which affect parishioners' quality of life. All sections of our community need to be heard and treated with respect and, if elected, I will work hard to represent a broad range of opinion. I believe that there should be greater transparency and consultation in decision making, that public money should be spent wisely and any projects should be affordable, inclusive of all groups, shown to meet a genuine demand, and not compromise our precious Open, Green Spaces.



### **Nicola Johnson (Councillors for our Community)**

I have lived in Botley for 11 years, I've been a Botley responder for my Close since Covid, helping with sending out communications to the Close and arranging shopping and medication as and when needed. As the parent of a child who will soon be a teenager, I am aware that there isn't much for youngsters to do in the area. I would like to see more facilities for children and teenagers.

I support the new pavilion and development of the skate park.



### **Laura Jones (Councillors for our Community)**

I moved to Botley with my husband almost 11 years ago, a month before the birth of my kids. The welcome from our neighbours made us love Botley straight away. The amount of volunteer work I witnessed first hand during my last four years as a Parish Councillor (we counted almost 45 different groups in December) makes me feel that not all is lost when we want to achieve something for the good of the whole community. Onwards and Upwards!



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### **David Kay (Councillors for our Community)**

As a Councillor since 2012 and former Council Chairman (2015-21) I have been heavily involved in most of the Parish Council's major activities over that time including leading both our Neighbourhood Plan Team and our successful campaign opposing the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. I have helped manage our community hall facilities as a Trustee since 2012 and took a prominent role in Council negotiations for improved facilities in the new Seacourt Hall. Outside of the Council I work as a fundraiser for Oxford homeless charity the Gatehouse and also volunteer for the Oxford Food Hub and the Botley Community Fridge.



### **Shazia Keily (Councillors for our Community)**

I have been living with my family in Botley for 11 years. My two children attended Botley School, where I have been the treasurer for FOBS (the PTA) for the last five years. I think Botley is a great place to live and have always felt a strong part of the community, having been involved with neighbourhood groups such as Botley Community Fridge during Covid. I believe that it is important for local people to engage with the parish council so that we can all have a sense of pride within our community, ensuring that all voices in the community are represented.



### **Julie Lesniarek (Councillors for our Community)**

I moved to Botley in 2015 and have really enjoyed living in such a lovely community. Since moving here, I have been active in environmental projects helping people understand the climate crisis, as well as enhancing and preserving our natural habitats. I am standing for the Parish council as one of the Community Councillors in order to help them to continue their great work building the community and enhancing the environment for everyone in the parish, be they young, old or in between! I am keen to help the council build our community's resilience in the face of the ongoing climate crisis.



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### **Ag MacKeith (Councillors for our Community)**

I've lived in Botley for ages, and if I'm elected this will be my sixth term on the Parish Council. While my children were growing up, I joined local campaigns, and together we saved the nursery school from closure (1980), built Botley Skatebowl (1990), and held tight to our library when it was threatened with closure (1998 and 2010). I'm a founder member of Sustainable Botley, as I am deeply concerned about the climate crisis. As the editor of the *Sprout*, I help to keep the parish in touch. I'm very pleased to see the new skatepark is underway at last, and as a pavilion trustee I am looking forward to getting a pavilion that will be fit for purpose.



### **John Marriott (Independent)**

I will work to ensure that the Parish Council is a) representative and inclusive of the whole community (all ages, abilities and interests). b) financially responsible and manages its assets (green, open spaces and existing buildings) efficiently, protecting them for future generations, including seriously considering the refurbishment of the Pavilion and Scout Hut c) makes transport concerns a priority, including being proactive in addressing issues arising from the closure of Botley Road, congestion and remodelling and d) publishes Councillors' attendance at meetings, missing from the latest PC Newsletter.



### **George Nicolls (Labour Party)**

As a young person living in the parish and working hard to make ends meet, I am standing with Nekisa, Jamie, Erica and Chris on behalf of the Labour Party. I am a law student at Brookes and have lived in the Parish for the past six years. I am a proud member of the Labour Party and believe that the biggest issues facing students and young people in the Parish are the cost of housing and wage stagnation and poverty. I want to tackle these issues so that young people and students in the Parish stand a real chance to survive and thrive.



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### **James Poyser** (Councillors for our Community)

Six years ago we moved to Botley to start our family (our kids are now five and two), and we were attracted to the green spaces, the exciting plans for the area and the active community (it was thumbing through a snaffled copy of *The Sprout* that cemented our decision to move here!). We've been wholeheartedly welcomed by neighbours and new friends, and now I'd like to support our community by standing as a councillor to ensure our parish continues to thrive and provides the services and facilities that make living in Botley a brilliant choice for families.



### **Andrew Pritchard** (Independent)

I have lived in North Hinksey since 1973. If elected I will seek to reduce the Parish Precept that we all pay, by reducing unnecessary administrative expenditure, and not trying to duplicate work already done better by other organisations (e.g. Low Carbon West Oxford). I will try to get the Louie Memorial Pavilion and Scout Hut refurbished to help our young people instead of planning to spend at least £2m on a new pavilion, for which little money has been raised after three years. We also need better public transport, and we should talk to neighbouring Cumnor Parish Council. For further information see my circulated leaflet or email [3andrew3@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:3andrew3@tiscali.co.uk).



### **Adam Rankin** (Councillors for our Community)

As a current Parish Councillor, I believe that I am serving the community well in the work that is both preserving the character of the parish and looking to improve our facilities to endure through the following generations. As Chair of NHPC Planning Committee, I have worked hard to protect our green spaces and rare habitats, often representing the community against uncharacteristic developments. Improving leisure facilities for the community are also key. I will continue working towards this if re-elected.





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## **Matthew Scarborough** *No information received*

### **Jamie Spooner** (Labour Party)

On May 4 I am standing as a Parish and District Councillor for the Labour Party alongside Nekisa. Having lived and worked locally for many years, I feel it's time for real change. Nekisa and I can and will make a real difference, fighting for a greener Parish, a fair economy supporting our local small businesses so that they can thrive. Championing the Oxfordshire living wage and helping those in the Parish who are hardest hit by the Tory cost of living crisis. I want to make this Parish fit for purpose and as a youth and community worker I understand the importance of investing in our communities.



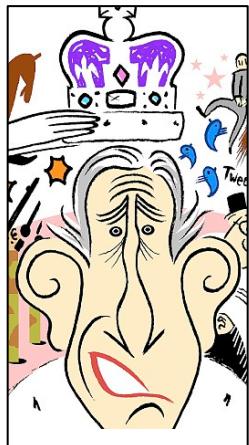
### **Nicholas Wedd** (Independent)

I'm in favour of the Flood Alleviation Scheme, but believe that the creation of a channel through Hinksey Meadow should be avoided and would not contribute significantly to the scheme. I hope that if the Scout Hut is to be destroyed, the Scout Group will receive adequate compensation for their loss.



## **CORONATION CAPERS**

The coronation itself, as we know, takes place in the middle of the day on Saturday 6th May, at which point many of us will be glued to the television, keen not to miss this rare spectacle. Later on, though, we'll need to get out, and the place to go for a party is the Louie Memorial playing fields in Arnolds Way. Here Tap Social will be providing a bar from 7pm, the 15th Scouts will be doing a barbecue and at 9pm Cumnor Parish Council will be lighting the beacon. It is hoped there will be music in the MUGA for those who want to shake a leg. The following day there will be street parties – or so we are told – and on the bank holiday Monday we are invited to get out and do some good work in the community with our neighbours. There are a range of perspectives on the monarchy in Botley but we all know how to enjoy a party, and how to help our neighbours, so it should be fun!





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## **Finding a New GP Provider for the Medical Centre**

The Executive of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) have been in regular contact with the Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB) Integrated Care Board (ICB) regarding their intent to find a new provider of GP services at Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre and we are happy to say the BOB ICB are on the case.

See below for a draft timeline produced by the BOB ICB for finding a new provider(s). You will read that 'Expressions of Interest' are being sought from Oxfordshire GP practices, who can provide primary care services at either Botley or Kennington sites or at both sites. BOB ICB have listened to patients' views expressed at the recent meeting in Kennington, and maximum flexibility has been allowed for within the 'Expression of Interest'.

It is a DRAFT timeline, not set in stone and, depending upon the number of GP proposals advanced, the later dates in the timeline may change.

The PPG are to be involved in the process throughout. There is likely to be commercially sensitive information submitted in the process so we will let you know as much information as we can.

The ICB have asked for confidential 'expressions of interest' from Oxfordshire GP practices which could provide primary care services from either the Botley or Kennington sites or both. They will be asked to explain how they will provide an effective primary care service. Their 'bids' will be assessed by a panel which will include

- representatives of BOB ICB from primary care, quality and finance.
- BOB Local Medical Council (which represents GPs).
- a member of staff from the Botley Medical Centre.
- an NHS procurement expert.
- a representative from the independent patient watchdog Healthwatch Oxfordshire as an observer.
- a patient representative nominated by the Patient Participation Group (PPG)

By the time this is published the information may well be out of date. More up to date information may be found at 'Botley Medical Centre BOB ICB'

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## DRAFT Timeline:

Date	Action for finding new provider (s)
24/03/23	Invitation to all Oxfordshire practices to express an interest
11/04/23	Deadline to receive 'Expressions of Interest'. BOB ICB to seek proposals from interested practices
Early May	Deadline for return of GP proposals
Mid May	Panel meeting made up of NHS and patient reps to assess the proposals
Mid June	BOB ICB recommends a preferred provider(s)
Early July	BOB ICB confirms new provider(s)
Mid July	Patients informed of decision
End Sept.	New provider (s) starts delivering a primary care service

### What happens if there is no interest?

If no local provider submits an 'expression of interest' BOB ICB will find a caretaker practice (from a national list) to deliver health services for the two sites from the end of September 2023, when the doctors' present contract ends, for one year. During this time, they would carry out a wider search to find a new provider from September 2024.

### Chris Sugden

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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<u>P23/V0616/HH</u>	54 Arthray Rd. Single storey rear extension.	<b>22 March</b> TDD: 17 May
<u>P23/V0682/FUL</u>	167 Southern Bypass. 2-storey side & rear extension. Conversion of the existing residence into 3x 1-Bed flats. New side entrance to shared garden.	<b>22 March</b> <i>Target Decision Date: 17 May</i>
<u>P23/V0842/FUL</u>	Louie Memorial Fields, Arnolds Way. Build reinforced concrete skatepark on grass area of Louie Memorial Fields, south of the Pavilion and Multi Use Games Area.	<b>6 April</b> TDD: 1 June
<u>P23/V0848/LDP</u>	Wolfson House, Yarnells Hill. Single storey rear extension with lean-to roof.	11 April TDD: 6 June

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## Girls Can Do Anything

Following on from last month we can now reveal that along with a new logo, Girlguiding also has a new strapline which is “Girls can do anything”. In short, Girlguiding offers a safe, inclusive space for all girls – one where they can try new things with friends they trust and volunteers they look up to. This will give them courage, connections, confidence, and memories they’ll never forget. And when girls feel confident, they are more likely to know they can do anything. We’ve been by girls’ sides for over a century. Today we’re focused on what drives, challenges and excites girls here and now, and in the future. Girls are at the heart of all that we do. We’re excited to be moving forward together, into the future where all girls know they can do anything.

With all that said we Second Botley Brownies are cracking on as a Unit with the current programme only to stop for one evening to create a Mothering Sunday present. This you can see from the photo, was a unique hand-painted Spanish slate memo board with a piece of chalk and a small sponge. Earlier in the term whilst researching the slate craft for the girls, we saw similar but plain slate boards retailing for around a fiver. We are happier with ours as they are not only unique but made from quite a lot of recycled items.



The following week we attempted “Architecture & Skyscrapers”. This was supposed to be achieved by using quantities of food (apples, cucumber and pasta etc) but we decided that that would be a waste of perfectly good food, as well as too expensive. So instead, we sourced the recycled items you can see in the photo. The girls worked well in pairs and were tasked with making the tallest structure possible. Two pairs worked out that by



erecting a flag pole made from skewers and drinking straws on top of their structure they could increase the building's height by another 30 centimetres! Almost at the end of their allotted time one of the structures dramatically collapsed, but with the resilience and newfound knowledge of construction the pair swiftly rebuilt it "as good as new" in less than five minutes. The joint highest buildings were constructed by Natasha & Alice and Embla & Catherine. Well Done All – Girls can do anything!

Term ended with a fun Easter Egg Hunt. The chocolates went home in little baskets which each girl carefully coloured and assembled. As we start the new term, we have lots of ideas for the rest of the year. We still have a few spaces, so if your daughter is aged 7 to 9 years old and would like to join us at 2nd Botley then please get in touch with us via [www.girl-guiding.org.uk](http://www.girl-guiding.org.uk).

### **Brown Owl**

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## **Musical Endings and Beginnings**

As Cumnor Choral Society, we performed Haydn's *Creation* last month to an appreciative audience who also enjoyed a sumptuous after-concert buffet.

This was an especially emotional occasion for us as we said farewell to our Musical Director of fifteen years, Peter Foster. Peter has been an amazing MD, his patience and gentle chiding will long be remembered. He will be greatly missed but we are excited and grateful that Ben Goodall has stepped in to take his place.

Ben is both a conductor and singer. He works with professional and amateur groups and performs regularly as a soloist counter-tenor with professional choirs. We look forward to finding out what his plans are for our next concert this winter.

We start rehearsals in September on Thursday evenings. If you are interested in joining our very friendly choir (no voice test needed), please email me at [Cockman.caroline@gmail.com](mailto:Cockman.caroline@gmail.com) or visit [Cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com](http://Cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com).

### **Caroline Cockman**

## **Artweeks Comes to Botley**

Once again, artists in the Botley and wider area are making a big contribution to Oxfordshire Artweeks in May 2023. The three-week festival of all things creative runs from 6-29 May, but artists in our area will be part of the third week: 20-29th May. You'll find crafts, art, sculpture, photography, ceramics and artists at all stages of their creative journeys from talented debutants to established artists and craftsmen, all using no end of different materials and mediums: There'll truly be something for everyone!

With apologies to anyone I may have missed or who may fall just outside the *Sprout's* circulation area, here is a short breakdown of all those artists exhibiting in the Botley and wider area.

For further details on all these exhibitions (and everybody taking part in the whole Artweeks festival across Oxfordshire (there are 2,000 of us in total!) visit the Oxfordshire Artweeks website, [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org). Use the Advanced Search function for the May festival and type in the venue numbers provided for specific information and opening times for each venue.

### **Hannah Vickery (Venue 34)**

**Mixed Media & Painting**

**2B Hurst Lane, Cumnor**

"I explore concepts of space and place through mixed media paintings. Influenced by numerous physical places and experiences. My paintings communicate a sense of mystery, of journeying to lands unknown and undiscovered, of inner spiritual landscape." [www.hannahvickeryart.com](http://www.hannahvickeryart.com)

### **Claire Francis, Dominique Malacarne (Venue 405)**

**Malphor, Hinksey Heights Barns (nr Hinksey Heights Golf Club)**

**Furniture, Photography**

Dominique is a designer-upcycler, a member of The House of Upcycling and has exhibited at Grand Designs Live. As a designer she is actively seeking ways to promote sustainable life styles, from which she has created the professional upcycling studio Malphor.

Claire specializes in alternative process printing: cyanotype and gum bichromate. She has been making photographs and prints for 25 years, producing an ever-growing collection of handmade images.

[www.malphor.co.uk](http://www.malphor.co.uk) [www.instagram.com/c.francis](https://www.instagram.com/c.francis)

## **Rebecca Rowland (Venue 406)**

**Glass**

### **Raleigh House, Harcourt Hill**

Rebecca's fused glass reflects her analytical approach, fascination with straight lines and anticipation of how and where hot glass will flow. Pattern and structure are important features, along with reactions made possible when chemicals in the different colours of glass interact.

**[www.beccarowlandfusedglass.com](http://www.beccarowlandfusedglass.com)**

## **Botley Drawing Group (Venue 407)**

**Drawing, Mixed Media**

### **Louie Memorial Pavilion, Arnolds Way**

Founded and led by Botley artist Ali Hogg, the Botley Group meets weekly to produce life drawings and mixed media work. This is their first group exhibition since their foundation in 2022.

## **Nick Thorn (Venue 408)**

**Sculpture**

### **26 Hurst Rise Road**

Nick carves in a range of stone from the UK and overseas, including Caen, Portland and Purbeck limestones. He works with both figurative and abstract forms, but in all of them he seeks to bring out a sense of poignancy. NB. While Nick's studio will be cleaned for Artweeks, it is not possible to remove all traces of stone dust, so you should not wear your finery to visit! **[www.nickthorn.co.uk](http://www.nickthorn.co.uk)**

## **Mark Clay and Peter Wardell-Yerburgh (Venue 409)**

**Drawing, Mixed Media, Sculpture, Pottery**

### **88 Arthray Road**

Mark returns to Artweeks with more drawings, sculpture and mixed media work inspired by landscapes near and far (including Hinksey Heights Nature Trail, where he and Peter are both active volunteers), and by the resonance and fleetingness of memory and experience. This year he is joined by Peter Wardell-Yerburgh for his first ever exhibition, showing his elegant and thoughtful pottery. **[www.markrclay.co.uk](http://www.markrclay.co.uk)**

## **Emmett Casley (Venue 410)**

**Drawing, Mixed Media, Painting, Printmaking**

### **5 Crabtree Road**

Emmett's work is concerned with our relationships with the landscapes around us, detachment, changing identities and our changing culture, particularly with regard to the landscape and history around his home town of St. Just in Cornwall. [www.emmettcasley.com](http://www.emmettcasley.com)

## **Old School Art Collective (Venue 411)**

**Ceramics, Miscellaneous, Mixed Media, Multidisciplinary, New Media, Painting, Pottery, Wood**

### **140 North Hinksey Lane**

Five varied and talented artists come together at the Old School for another year featuring original, inspirational, colourful artwork and functional homeware. Their collection this year includes a variety of new work from artisanal ceramics, unique woodturned pieces and functional pyrography art to art inspired by Oxford.

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## **Botley In Bloom – Front Garden Competition 2023**

### **Categories:**

- **Best Overall Front Garden**
- **Best Cultivated-Wildlife Front Garden**
- **Best use of Vegetables in a Front Garden**



### **Crucial dates**

- **Closing date for entries: Monday 5 June**
- **Judging: week beginning Monday 12 June**
- **Results announced: Monday 19 June**

To enter, simply email [editor@thesprout.org.uk](mailto:editor@thesprout.org.uk) with your name, address and the category you are entering. And if you want to nominate someone else's brilliant front garden, please do. See March issue for what the judges will be looking for.

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## 4th Oxford – The Year So Far

The 4th Oxford Scout Group ran 55 evening sessions last term, on every weekday night, also several weekend activities for all ages. We have over 20 regular leaders/helpers, and lots of other support from parents and others to make this all run smoothly. We thought we'd write about some of the things we've done so far in 2023...

Everyone has been practising first aid this term, our tiny Beavers can put adults in the recovery position, and our Scouts can handle all sorts of injuries and do CPR. All sections visited the fire station or the ambulance station; big thanks are due to everyone there who stayed late to show us so much of what they do. Young people worked towards their air activities badges, with Scouts making and flying model planes, and a day trip for everyone to the RAF museum just outside London: loads of activities, exhibits and historic aeroplanes to clamber around. Pancake day was celebrated by everyone, with different approaches depending on the age group, as was International Women's Day, with lots of interesting discussion led by our Scout leader, Kat. There was also a group visit to the annual Gang Show, where three of our Scouts were performing after many months of rehearsals.

Beavers and Cubs often cover similar themes each week, but with activities pitched towards their age group. Cubs had an evening of Lego construction challenges, another on mental health and well-being including a yoga session, Chinese New Year was celebrated, and there were evenings of storytelling, online safety and digital maker activities at Oxford Library, also fire lighting and lots and lots of games. Weekend activities for the Cubs included a camp near Donnington Bridge, and a District orienteering competition in woodland east of Oxford.

The Scouts have also spent lots of time outdoors, mostly wrapped up warm as it was chilly. There was an evening of wide games, a campfire and hot chocolate all in the dark (and in the mud!) on Hurst Hill. Scouts completed their artist badge and as part of their writers' badge they have been interviewing people with interesting stories, including a policeman, a beekeeper, a podcast producer, a scientist and a former head of the Army in Scotland. Weekend activities included a District cooking competition, and the North Leigh 18-mile hike (with all our teams putting in great effort to complete the route, and one of our teams coming fastest). The older Scouts ran the whole of the last session of term, which included a dancing competition and loads of party food. Several of them will now move up to Explorers.

The adult volunteers have already been planning a full programme for the summer, including several camps, lots of kayaking and the traditional summer water fight as the last event of term. Scouts summer camp will be in Devon, with trips to the beach, surfing lessons, a bike expedition and coasteering (clambering on rocks around the coast above the breaking waves).

If you might like to get involved – and we're always on the lookout for more adult volunteers – please chat to Amber [gsl@thefourth.org.uk](mailto:gsl@thefourth.org.uk).

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# Kennington Memory Club

Living well with dementia

Kennington Memory Club ([kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk)) is gearing up to give the red, white and blue bunting and outfits another airing for the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. Does that still sound strange to you? Those with memory problems such as dementia may find it difficult to take in that our monarch is not still Queen Elizabeth II, who reigned for most if not all of the lives of very many people. Let's hope for fine weather and great celebrations for the Coronation weekend. *God save the King!*

We now take 12 members a day at our Day Centre sessions in Kennington Methodist Church on Mondays and Thursdays, increased from the previous maximum of 10. This means there are more spaces for those with a diagnosis of dementia to attend the sessions. Perhaps you, or someone you know, would like to attend. Or maybe there's someone who's a carer for a person

with dementia that needs just a few hours of respite, and would really appreciate if their loved one could be looked after at the Day Centre. The answer is to contact our Organiser, Helen, on 07852 883496, email [memoryclub1@outlook.com](mailto:memoryclub1@outlook.com).

## TANIA MECHLENBORG



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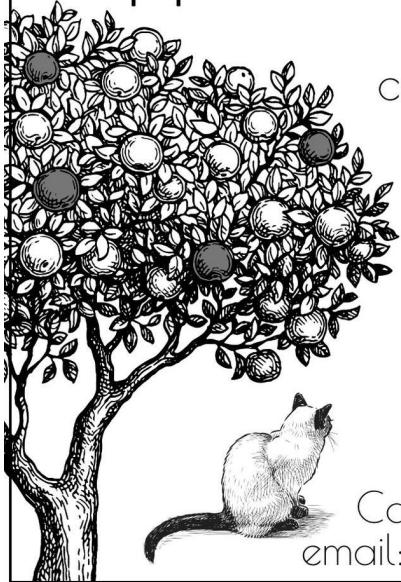
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[tmechlenborg@aol.com](mailto:tmechlenborg@aol.com)

Fundraising for this year is well under way. Arrangements for LADDERTHON 2023 are proceeding apace. Look out for publicity about the event and for the date, when it is revealed. Could you assist? Help in any form is welcome – baking cakes or knitting items for a sale, perhaps, or putting up posters for an event. Many other roles available! Please contact our fundraising supremo, Chris, on 01865 300345 or [jfauthor@aol.com](mailto:jfauthor@aol.com), if you have any ideas or could help in any way.

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A black and white photograph of three people, two men and one woman, all wearing glasses and smiling. They appear to be a family: a father on the left, a daughter in the middle, and a mother on the right. They are all wearing glasses and are smiling warmly at the camera.

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## Helen Ward at Botley Arts

Botley Arts is delighted to be introducing modern and vibrant paintings and drawings by Helen Ward, a local Botley Artist. Here's how she describes her work:

My inspiration comes from patterns, shapes and colours in the world around me. I paint mainly abstract or semi-abstract landscapes, with the intention of suggesting and simplifying. My aim is to portray a feeling rather than a specific moment in time or a recognisable place (or thing, or person). I feel that pleasure can come from the pure sensation of seeing – without the necessity for a work of art to be a realistic depiction of anything. I agree with Mark Rothko, who apparently said, 'A painting is not a picture of an experience, but is the experience.'



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My approach is experimental, which means that I use a variety of styles and media for painting and drawing – from collage to acrylic paint to watercolour (and occasionally oil paint), as well as pen, ink and charcoal. I work from sketches made outside in the landscape as well as from photos and memory.

I studied Art to A level, and I attended the occasional class or workshop over the years, but since I stopped being employed full-time, I've been able to spend more time looking at paintings and making my own art. I'm very grateful to the teachers I've studied with locally and those at the St Ives School of Painting. I've also learned a lot from various artists online. I'm a member of the Oxford Art Society, having had paintings selected for display at two of their open exhibitions, and I'd like to thank Botley Arts for the opportunity to exhibit my work. You can see more of what I do here: [instagram.com/hward1820](https://instagram.com/hward1820) and you can contact me here: [hward1820@btinternet.com](mailto:hward1820@btinternet.com)

The exhibition is open 1 May–7 July 2023 and the Church of St Peter and St Paul is open from 10–4pm Mon–Sat and 12–4pm Sunday

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## **Randoms**

### **Our Spikey Friends**

Readers who would like to support Hedgehog Awareness Week (30 April–6 May) might consider creating a hedgehog access point in their gardens, installing an official 'Hedgehog Highway' sign, or adding a 'Hedgehogs Crossing' sticker to their wheelie bins to raise driver awareness. For more details, please contact local British Hedgehog Preservation Society member Prof. Roger Dalrymple on [roger.dalrymple@spc.oxon.org](mailto:roger.dalrymple@spc.oxon.org)

### **Report from Botley WI**

Botley WI's year has just finished and we were pleased to have enjoyed several good speakers, social events, and workshops. Our new programme will begin with a special coronation evening to be held on 9th May. Members have been crafting coronation souvenirs to go with the bunting we made last year. We will have a coronation quiz and, of course, cake! Coming up in June, we will be holding a race night on Saturday 17th June. Please feel welcome to attend.

We would love to see some new members join us, first Tuesday every month at 7.30pm. Come and give it a try for two sessions before deciding to become a member. As well as the evenings themselves, you will have access to a book club, craft, a walking group, gardening, and music groups. Alongside this, we have trips, workshops, and special social evenings.

### MAY IN BOTLEY LIBRARY

**THREE bank holidays this month: Mon 1st, Mon 8th, Mon 29th**

**Saturday 6th Coronation Day** – Open as usual.

**Monday 15th and 22nd** – 10-12pm, Drop in for Tea and Coffee

**Tuesday 9th** 11am 'Bloom'. Nature themed mini show for pre-school-aged children. Sensory play with music and puppetry. Booking required.

**Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th** – Lego Club 3-4.30pm

**Thursday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th** – Craft Club for Adults 2pm

**Friday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th** – Rhymetime 10am, Board games 4-6pm

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**myowncar29@gmail.com**

## **Seacourt Hall Annual Public Meeting & Call for Public Representatives APM 7pm Monday 5th June – all welcome**

Nominations are now open for up to six public representatives to join the Seacourt Hall Charity Trustees. Any Botley and North Hinksey resident aged over 18 may have their name put forward by two parishioners on the electoral roll of this parish. Nominations should be sent by **5pm on Monday 29th May** to **admin@seacourthall.org.uk** or posted in the Seacourt Hall letterbox at the Library end of the building. Public representatives will be elected as Charity Trustees at the AGM by the Trustees. The APM is open to members of the community. Please come along and send any questions in advance to the Chair, Lorna Berrett on **lorna.berrett@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk** To find out more about Seacourt Hall and what being a Trustee involves, please check the website at **seacourthall.org.uk** or contact the Chair.

### **Sprout notices**

Many thanks to the people who got in touch to offer to be directors or deliverers, and thanks, too, for the friendly messages of support for our efforts! Here's another kind of help we could do with: our editorial team should really be a bit more varied. We could especially do with some input from THE YOUTH! Are you a young journalist? Would you like to be? Get in touch! *The Sprout* needs you.

### **Cherry Trees**

Shortly after Easter, a semicircle of white flowering cherry trees was planted on the lower memorial field, mainly in memory of local people who had died in the Covid pandemic, although one was planted for Jane Chapman, a well known local figure who died a few years ago. Volunteers from Hinksey Heights Nature Trail very kindly carried out the installation, adding a protective hedge between the trees. Claire Sykes, the vicar, led the dedication team.

### **Skatepark**

The planning application is in, and the Vale have opened the consultation period. Do have a look and feel free to throw roses as well as brickbats. The concrete park has been carefully designed with all types of users in mind and will fill a long unmet need.

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

<b>1st Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>
<b>2nd Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
<b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	<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	Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
<b>BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign</b>	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website <a href="http://B4044path.org">B4044path.org</a>
<b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
<b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8–16	Terri Matthews: <a href="mailto:clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com">clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley Community Larder</b>	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email <a href="mailto:botleylarder@gmail.com">botleylarder@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group</b>	Second Tuesday in the Month, early evening. Contact <a href="mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org">csugden@ocrpl.org</a>
<b>Botley Health Walks</b>	2nd & 4th Sats 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, or Tues 11 am Library <a href="mailto:botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com">botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley Library</b>	07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
<b>Botley Memory Lane Café</b>	Thursdays 10–12 Seacourt Hall Lounge, Diccon James 07740 611971
<b>Botley Seniors Lunch Club</b>	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386
<b>Botley Youth Club</b>	<a href="mailto:botleyyouthclub@gmail.com">botleyyouthclub@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>	Thursdays, 19.30–21.30 St Andrew's Ch. Steve Morris, chair. <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>
<b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
<b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>	<a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> tel 01865 721026
<b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>	Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonynspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonynspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>	Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>
<b>Lawn Tennis Club</b>	Family club Email: <a href="mailto:Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org">Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org</a> 07824 881680 <a href="http://www.oxfordsportsltc.org">www.oxfordsportsltc.org</a>

<b>West Oxford Singing Circle</b>	Weds 2-3pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or see <a href="http://www.emilyschoirs.co.uk">www.emilyschoirs.co.uk</a>
<b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>	Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>
<b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs</b>	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>	Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall 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 Parish Council</b>	<a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dymphna Walker: Ox 865259
<b>Oxford Harmony</b>	<i>Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall</i> Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>
<b>Oxford Otters</b>	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
<b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>	Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> .
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>Seacourt Hall Management Committee</b>	Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see <a href="https://www.seacourthall.org.uk">https://www.seacourthall.org.uk</a>
<b>Shotokan Karate Club</b>	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
<b>Stagecoach Botley</b>	Botley School, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> 01865 590510 or 01235 390810
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Dave Ellerker 07931 603801 <a href="mailto:wobc.membership@gmail.com">wobc.membership@gmail.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Alison Jenner 07598 251161 <a href="mailto:alisonjenner@yahoo.com">alisonjenner@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Weight Watchers</b>	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>

<b>Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way</b>	Contact: Building Manager 07742 662668 <a href="mailto:botleybaptist@gmail.com">botleybaptist@gmail.com</a>
<b>The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise</b>	Contact: Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley</b>	Contact: 01865 242057 or <a href="mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com">osneybenefice@outlook.com</a> .
<b>Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane</b>	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
<b>Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way</b>	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email <a href="mailto:admin@seacourthall.org.uk">admin@seacourthall.org.uk</a>
<b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley</b>	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 <a href="mailto:louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com">louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com</a>
<b>Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village</b>	Contact: Mary Bagnall <a href="mailto:mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com">mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com</a> .

## **North Hinksey & Botley Churches Times of Services (once resumed) and Contacts**

**St. Lawrence, Church of England**, North Hinksey Lane  
 1st, 2nd, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday      11.30am      Holy Communion  
 3rd Sunday      11.30am      Matins

**St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England**, West Way  
 Sundays      9.30am      Holy Communion  
 Wednesdays      10.30am      Holy Communion in Chapel of Holy Spirit  
 1st Saturday each month, 4–5.30pm      Messy Church for children and carers  
 Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com)  
*See table above for Church Hall enquiries.*

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic**, Yarnells Hill  
 Saturday      6.30pm      Mass  
 Sunday      9.15am      Mass  
 Fr Daniel Lloyd 07584 323915 [dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**Botley Baptist Church**, 1 Church Way  
 Sunday Service      11 am  
 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study      7.30pm  
 Choir practice      Thursday      2pm  
 Diane Melchert **07742 662668** [www.botleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org)

**Calvary Chapel**  
 Sunday services on 1st Floor, 1 Church Way at 9.30am with  
*crèche, children's Sunday school and youth group*  
 Pastor Steve Vickery 01865 586332  
[contact@ccox.church](mailto:contact@ccox.church)      website: [www.ccodoxford.church](http://www.ccodoxford.church)

# **What's On**

## **May**

**April 30 –May 6th Hedgehog Awareness Week**

**Mon 1st Bank Holiday**

**Thur 4th Local Council Elections**

**Sat 6th Coronation Party on the Playing Fields 7 pm,  
Beacon lighting at 9pm**

**Mon 8th Bank Holiday**

**Mon 8th 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk:  
John Tyler: The Ever-changing Life of an English  
Wood**

**20–29th Botley Artweeks. Eight venues (see inside)**

**Mon 22nd 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Liz  
Woolley: Beer, Sausages and Marmalade: Food  
Drink, Politics and Tourism in 19th Century Oxford**

**Mon 29th Bank Holiday**

**Every Tuesday, 1pm—**

**2.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Age UK Warm Space for everyone, especially older adults, with free tea and coffee.**

**Through the week, plenty of different activities in the warm space of the library (see page 37)**