

The Sprout



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The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 157 May 2021

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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Issue 157, May 2021

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From the Editor

What happens in May? Well, Hedgehog Awareness Week, for a start (p9) and Oxford Artweeks start on 9th May, with Botley featured on sites 67–70 – see last month for details. Local elections coming up on 6th May, when we will also get a chance to vote on the Neighbourhood Plan, seven years in the making and finished at last (p11). Kennington Memory Club is opening at last, giving sufferers from dementia and their carers a welcome break (p35). The Annual Parish Meeting on March 19th revealed two exciting initiatives – the long-anticipated Skatepark, and a chance to brighten up the dreary A34 flyover. If you'd like to be involved, get in touch (p29). The Parish Council has been busy – on page 15 there's an account of the refurbished Minns Memorial Garden in North Hinksey Lane, and on page 36 of the newly installed bird-boxes in Hutchcomb Copse, which are looking for people to adopt them. Could you be one of them? And how are your plans for your front garden? Will it get gold stars from Botley in Bloom this year? (p37) Lots going on then, all this and more, and you can read all about it in your favourite local magazine.

Ag MacKeith

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Letters to the Editor

To My Patients at Botley Medical Centre

I wanted to write to you all: to thank you, say goodbye, and wish you all the best.

I apologise I did not have the opportunity to inform you in advance of my departure from the practice, which was rather sudden.

I was sad to have to leave the practice, and I will miss working there. The decision to leave was entirely mine; my reasons were professional, and arose through no fault of my own. I wish the best for the practice.

Thank you for the warm reception you gave me, and for entrusting me with your care. I remain a member of the local community.

Best wishes,

Dr Simon Clough

St Peter & St Paul Church Hall

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Oxfordshire Social Prescribing Strategy

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) is putting together a Social Prescribing Strategy for Oxfordshire. We are seeking views and feedback from a variety of stakeholders – providers; voluntary organisations; GP Practice staff; Link Workers; Healthwatch Oxfordshire; and patients and patient groups – to help shape the strategy.

What is Social Prescribing?

Social prescribing is a means of referring people to a range of local, non-clinical services. The referrals generally, but not exclusively, come from professionals working in primary care settings, for example, GPs or Practice Nurses. Other agencies can also refer, or people can refer themselves.

Social prescribing is designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs. Those who could benefit include people with mild or long-term mental health problems; people who have complex needs; people who are socially isolated and people with long-term conditions who frequently attend health care services.

The key aspect of social prescribing is that people are referred to a Link Worker, who will discuss with the person what is important to them or the problem they need to address. The Link Worker can tell them what options are available and refer them to an organisation or activity that can help them. Link Workers may also be known by other names, such as ‘Community Navigator’, for instance, but they perform the same role. The activities available tend to be provided by voluntary and community sector organisations. Some examples include volunteering, arts activities, gardening, befriending, cookery, lunch clubs as well as a range of physical activities.

We are seeking your help to develop the strategy

Oxfordshire has a diverse range of social prescribing approaches which reflect local needs. The aim of the strategy is not only to describe the current picture and to highlight best practice, but to identify issues and gaps and what could be improved and how. It is also to set out a five-year vision of what social prescribing should look like in order to set up appropriate funding and resources.



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We welcome feedback and input to shape the strategy.

Some points to consider:

- Is there a social prescribing service provided by your local Primary Care Network ?
- If so, do you know who the Link Worker is? Have they linked with your local Practice or the Patients Participation Group? Have you heard any patient feedback?
- If there isn't a social prescribing service, should there be?
- Have you, or a relative or friend, had experience of being supported through social prescribing? Did it help?
- How would you like social prescribing to develop?

These are just some examples. We would like to hear any other ideas/ suggestions and feedback. Please contact Maggie James, Equality & Access Manager at OCCG via email at: Maggie.james2@nhs.net or via telephone on 07769 307054

Chris Sugden, Botley and Kennington PPG

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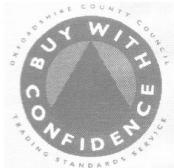
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Hedgehog Awareness Week 2021

This year's Hedgehog Awareness week is from **2nd to 8th May** and as in previous years, I'm writing as a member of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society to encourage *Sprout* readers to get involved in measures to protect our declining hedgehog population. There are two main ways in which you can help.

- **Add to the Botley hedgehog highway.** By creating a 15cm square hole in your fence you can make a vital difference in allowing hedgehogs to roam freely to find food and mates. This is particularly important if you have installed a new fence recently or moved into a property with new fencing where established roaming routes might have been disrupted. If you create such a hole and email me a photo, I will be pleased to send you a 'Hedgehog Highway' plaque to mark the spot (pictured).



- **Add a driver-awareness sticker to your wheelie bin to reduce hedgehog roadkill.** There are growing numbers of 'Hedgehog Crossing' signs now visible on *Sprout* readers' wheelie bins so that drivers (on bin nights at least) are alerted to watch out for hedgehog crossing points. This is particularly important in the current period of traffic diversions into Arthray, Hutchcomb and Hurst Rise roads which are known to be hedgehog crossing points. If you are willing to add a sticker to your wheelie bin (pictured) please email me on roger.dalrymple@spc.oxon.org and I will be pleased to post one to you.



Thank you for your support in preserving our hedgehog population.

Roger Dalrymple, British Hedgehog Preservation Society

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Having your say: Neighbourhood Plan referendum and more

As the Parish Council moves forward into a new administrative year, and the country gradually moves out of lockdown there are changes afoot.

Alongside the County Council elections on May 6th, there will be an important referendum on our Neighbourhood Plan, which has been on hold for the past year because of Covid-19 restrictions. This is your chance to answer a simple yes or no question on whether the policies in the Plan should be implemented alongside the Vale's Local Plan as part of the legislation that all local planning applications have to adhere to.

In addition to measures aimed at countering inappropriate housing proposals, the Plan includes important policies that provide protection for our local green spaces and community infrastructure, and stricter regulations aimed at helping to counter climate change.

Further information can be found on our website at www.northinksey-pc.gov.uk including a link to the Vale's website where the Plan can be downloaded.

This is an important opportunity for you to help introduce policies that reflect the wishes and needs of our local community, and in addition will have a positive impact on all of our lives. Please make sure that you vote in this referendum on May 6th.

There is also a chance throughout May to vote in an online poll being run by our Parish Council in support of a

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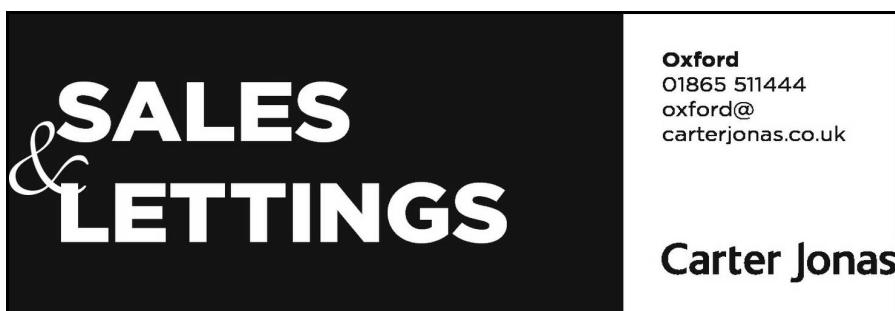
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campaign to introduce a 20 mph speed limit on all residential roads throughout the Parish. The question being asked in our poll is simply “Should North Hinksey Parish be a 20mph zone?” When this proposal was discussed in the recent Annual Parish Meeting an impressive 92% of attendees voted in favour, so we now want to find out if that enthusiasm is reflected across all local residents. Look out for details on our website, and find out more about the national ‘20 is plenty’ campaign at www.20splenty.org

The wording of a motion on another issue raised at the Annual Parish Meeting relating to the former Scout Hut was not agreed by the meeting attendees. As a result the Vale have adjudicated that a subsequent Parish Poll requested in the meeting will not take place.

Finally, some news about changes to the way we hold Parish Council meetings. As things stand it looks like the Government are not going to extend the current legislation that allows us to hold meetings online, which means that we would have to return to physical face-to-face meetings from 7th May. Like many Councils we are not in favour of this, and would prefer that the option of holding online or hybrid meetings is continued. However we will have to await the outcome of a review to learn the final decision. Our website will have up-to-date information about public access to meetings and their rescheduling, as there is likely to be an interim period through to the end of June as we establish a new structure to allow us to continue to work effectively.

David Kay, Chair, North Hinksey Parish Council



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Minns Memorial Garden

In the NHPC survey of Botley's green spaces, the Minns garden in the North Hinksey Lane nature reserve got a bad press. For most of last summer it was the haunt of a band of genial old drunks, who made it their home from first thing in the morning till last thing at night. If you stopped to chat they were quite welcoming, but their presence was a real disincentive for anyone who might have wanted to sit and enjoy a few peaceful moments in the sun. And the litter and



mess were something else! Kevin Minns had funded the original garden as a memorial to his grandfather, whose firm had built much of Elms Rise. When it got overgrown he gave the PC some money to get it back into shape, and we were keen to spend it. But the hot weather, the lockdown, and the constant occupation meant that we couldn't manage to get started. There didn't seem to be any way of reclaiming the space, until a simple solution presented itself: the

benches were in a bad state and needed to be refurbished. Taking them away magically removed the attraction, and the garden was ours again.

Over the winter we were able to get it cleared, and it has now been planted with shrubs that should provide flowers



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and scent all the year round: winter-flowering honeysuckle and wych hazel in the winter; bulbs and japonica in the spring; summer flowers like roses, mock orange blossom and lace-cap hydrangea, and autumn berries and colourful leaves from red currants and pyracantha. A double row of lavender bushes lines the path, and there will be a rosemary bush in the round bed in the centre. We are waiting for a suitable moment to restore the benches – not sure yet when that might be!

The Nature Reserve itself consists of the garden, the wildflower meadow with its pond and ditch, and the Community Orchard. The orchard blossom is just coming out, the pond has tadpoles and kingcups, and so far there are cowslips and wild daffodils in the meadow. The plan is to plant riverside plants like purple loosestrife and monkey flower along the banks of the ditch, currently full of watercress, and yellow rattle has been sown in the orchard to encourage the flowers by restricting the grass. Do come and visit – it's there for everyone.

We've done our best to make this public space wildlife friendly. **Roselle Chapman** of Wild Oxfordshire has tips to apply at home:

- maximise the biodiversity of your garden to ensure a healthy web of predator and prey, which means that the critters you don't want around (eg, aphids) will be taken care of by their natural predators (eg, parasitic wasps). If you use chemicals to kill aphids, the wasps will be killed too!
- your lawn doesn't need to be carpet-perfect (unless you are a bowling or golf club!). If you leave the moss it will keep in the moisture so you don't have to water it so often, and if you don't cut it so short and allow clover, daisies and dandelions to flourish you will be providing welcome food for pollinators.
- everyone who buys flowers to feed bees and other pollinators that visit their garden will be gutted to realise that those flowers (often marketed as 'bee-friendly') will be a poisoned chalice if they contain pesticides. In the Great British Bee Count of 2018 there was much media coverage of the issue of neonicotinoids. In response to this, B&Q and other retailers stopped suppliers from using neonics. But other pesticides that are very harmful to



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pollinators are still legal. The problem has not gone away. So be careful who you buy from. There are plenty of organic bulb and plant suppliers to choose from.

- Also make sure that everything has been grown in peat-free compost, because peat acts as a carbon store, it's a great habitat for wildlife, it has a role in water management, and preserves things well for archaeology. And it's finite – we don't want to use it all up!

More here: [//www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources)

The Parish Council's Environment Committee, set up in response to the climate crisis, is looking at ways of greening Botley. There will be more on the ideas arising from the recent Green online workshop in next month's *Sprout*.

Judi Bolder, NHPC Allotment Committee

Meet... Clare Sykes

Officially, Reverend Clare Sykes is Rector of the Benefice of Osney, and is responsible for the churches of St Peter & St Paul (West Way), St Lawrence (North Hinksey Lane), St Frideswide (Botley Road), and St Margaret of Antioch (Binsey). Less officially, Clare is the lovely woman who walks her whippets Poppy and Fizz – the ‘Holy Dogs’ – around the neighbourhood, stopping to talk to people on the way; and who has a large camper van in her drive. I talked to Clare about how she ended up in Botley, and the pains and pleasures of her job.



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Clare grew up near High Wycombe, and became a Christian when she was 14 years old. In her early 20s, she started thinking that she might have a vocation in the church. At the time, women couldn't get ordained: but time passed, and women were ordained as deacons in 1985, as priests in 1994, and finally as bishops in 2015. All Church of England clergy start as deacons, many go on to become priests, and some to become bishops. Clare was ordained as a deacon in Hereford Diocese in 1996, and as a priest in 1997.

Clare, moved to Oxford with her family in 2012. Oxford was closer to parents, and besides, they wanted to be somewhere more cosmopolitan. Clare remembers coming to Oxford on the bus as a teenager, visiting the shops and going punting, so Oxford also felt familiar.

Clare's first priority after moving here was to bring her two parishes – North Hinksey with Botley, and St Frideswide with Binsey – together more, and make all four churches functional, with good quality public worship, organised administration, and active church members. That has now been done, and she is concentrating on helping the churches be more outward-facing: not just perceived as little groups of people who meet on Sunday mornings, but open to the entire community.

One interesting aspect of the CofE is that it is, by law, a public good which serves the whole community, not just the people who go to church. Everyone who lives within the ecclesiastical parish boundaries has a legal right to be baptised, married and have a funeral in the church, and to be buried there if there is space. In contrast, churches that are not CofE are only responsible for their own congregations. So, for instance, every December Clare runs a memorial service for people who have been bereaved over the course of the previous year. She also provides memorial services, for instance for Eleanor, the lady who lived by Seacourt Stream. and died a couple of years ago.

Organisational objectives tend to be dry reading, but Clare gives good examples of how the CofE's objectives affect what she does:

- **Pastoral** – Looking after people who need support, exercising love and praying for the community.



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- **Social** – Supporting the social life of the parish. For Clare, this includes providing a venue for the Botley Community Arts Project, the community fridge and the community larder, welcoming North Hinksey Primary school into St Lawrence for weekly collective worship.
- **Evangelistic** – Sharing the message of Jesus, the good news of the Gospel, both through services and in day-to-day interactions. The churches will be open on Sundays from Easter Sunday, and during the week from June or July.
- **Ecumenical** – Co-operating with local churches: the Roman Catholic church on Yarnells Hill, Baptist church in West Way, Calvary Church which meets in Botley School, Kings Church on Osney Mead, and Elim Pentecostal Church on the Botley Road.

"I love my job and I'm never bored," says Clare, "but it is very unboundaried. The church's overall mission is 'loving God and loving our neighbour'. There is always much more that could be done than is physically possible." The rapidly-changing context of the Botley area is hard to deal with. The number of homes on West Way has almost doubled in the time that Clare has been here, homelessness has been rising, the West Way development has gone on during the entire time that she has been the local priest, and of course dealing with Covid has been difficult.

In the immediate future, Clare plans to reopen the church buildings and get the church's activities going again, and she thinks lots of pastoral work will be needed. The church has a clear role to be there for everyone: "We have been through such a tumultuous time that, as a wider community, we need to pay attention to our spiritual care, and I am trained in that.

Also, when the churches reopen, there will be a sacred space that people can go into. We live in such a frenetic society, which is so busy with traffic and people, that to have a public space that people can just retreat to is tremendously valuable."

Riki Therivel

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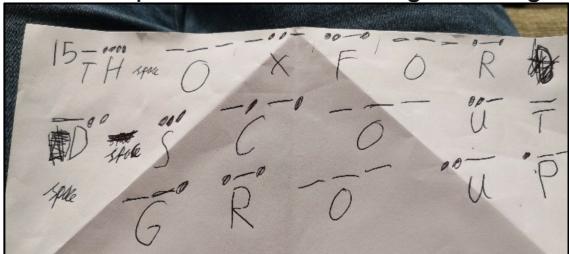
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Oxford XVth – Home Camping

As national restrictions ease, here at the 15th Oxford Scouts, our plans are ramping up for a Spring and Summer of outdoor activities, culminating hopefully in our annual Summer Camp residential. Whilst overnight stays are not currently allowed, that didn't stop us running a Virtual Spring Camp at Home for our Cubs and Scouts over the Easter Weekend. The emphasis was on den building and sleeping somewhere unusual, all from the comfort of their own home, with less of the home comforts, if you know what I mean. Between the comfortable, or uncomfortable, overnight sleeps there was plenty more to do to fill the days.



Friday saw digital escape rooms, a navigational Pac-man game based on map symbols, an online puzzle, and an eating challenge. There was no let-up on Saturday as everybody had 24 hours to complete up to 40 mini tasks, with notable entries of building towers, learning languages, telling jokes, balancing biscuits, juggling, making hats, upside down photos, using morse code (*just as much fun as ever, see photo*) and singing campfire songs.



On to Easter Sunday, an egg-based day of course, which saw us all egg-decorating, hunting Easter eggs, making eggy bread and other eggs-periments, egg and spoon races, and eating your body weight in chocolate (or maybe that was just the leaders?!). Virtual camp ended with a series of badge-focussed activities that taught and

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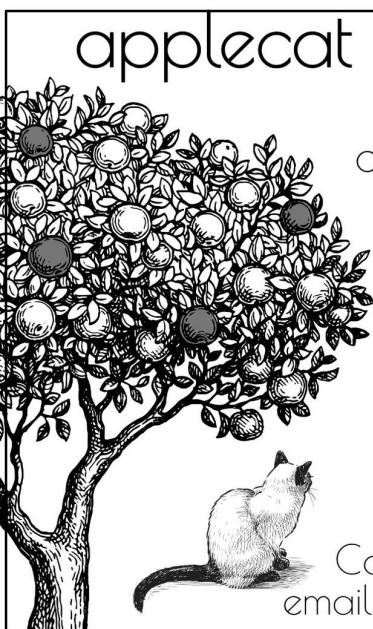
explored key Scouting values. They were a series of 'How to' tasks that covered;

- Air Activities – Star Wars Origami and RAF Paper Plane
- Chef – Constellation cookies and Armpit Rocky Road
- Craft – Duct tape wallet and Wooden Stand
- Creative – Mini pioneering and Build a Space Station
- Nature – Build a bug hotel and Make a bird feeder
- Science – Foil boats and Parachutes

All this is just a taste of what we get up to on our regular Friday night meetings and camps. By the time you read this we will have hopefully been meeting face-to-face for a couple of weeks, with a St George's day Dragon wide-game and Among Us wide-game already planned (wide-game being the term for a game played over, you guessed it, a large area like Raleigh Park or Louis Memorial Fields). Spaces are filling up quickly to join us so if any of this sounds like something an 8 to 18 year old you know would like to get involved in. You can email us on XVOxfordScouts@yahoo.co.uk or check out our website <https://sites.google.com/site/15thoxfordscouts/>

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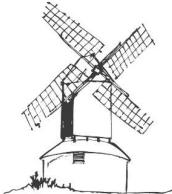
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Skatepark and Art projects need YOU

On 18th March over 100 people attended the North Hinksey Parish Council Annual Public Meeting online to hear updates on some major projects in and around the Parish. Two of those projects involved the creation of new working groups of members of the public and it's not too late to get involved:

Skatepark working group

We have set up a working group to help deliver on our key objective of "Engaging young people in the design and provision of a skate park." By the time you read this, people who have already come forward will have been invited to join the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting online on 29th April where the remit of the Working Group and its Council members will be agreed. But you can still join after this date. We want enthusiastic skaters, parents and supporters to get involved. Look out for details on our website and Facebook page or find out more about how to join the working group from Cllr Caroline Potter: Cllr.caroline.potter@gmail.com

Mural working group:

We are also looking for members of the public to join Councillors working with local artists on planning a mural for the main entrance to Botley: the pedestrian, cycle and traffic route under the A34 bridge over West Way. This is your chance to get involved in transforming a tired and drab area into a vibrant gateway to Botley and the west of Oxford, helping to improve the perception of our community and cheer up commuters, locals and visitors for years to come.

This is just one part of a public art project for the West Way Square shopping and residential area, made possible by Section 106 money earmarked for public art in and around the new development. We need enthusiastic people to help us work with commissioned artists, the public, and Highways England, and to fundraise for more money to extend and maintain the project in future years. To join please contact Cllr Laura Jones: NHPCLauraJones@gmail.com

Updates on these and other projects can be found on the Parish Council website at <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/>

Lorna Berrett , North Hinksey Parish Council



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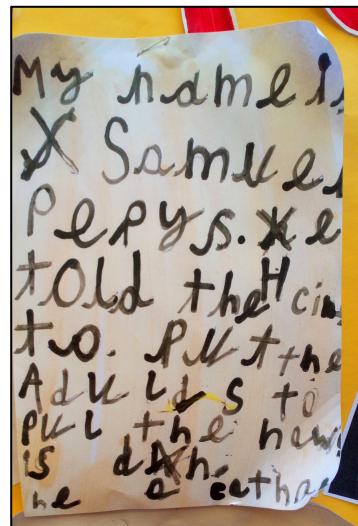
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Bringing on Great Writers

There are always challenges on our learning journeys, both for the children and the staff, and our mission to create great writers has been part of a team effort this year! Back in September the teachers looked at how we could help our children become lively, enthusiastic writers. How could we instil a love of words and an enjoyment in creating writing? We thought hard about where to focus our teaching, where to scaffold and support the children's needs. The thing we all love about Botley School is the wide range of languages spoken, beliefs, cultures, etc, all coming together to create our community. We took this as our inspiration and challenged our staff to find writing opportunities in all areas of the curriculum. We looked at the skills needed, we modelled our writing on good texts and examples, we developed skills and vocabulary. When we set the challenge we had not anticipated yet another lockdown, with partial opening and remote teaching. But, despite the hurdles, the children have done well and we are confidently creating successful writers for the real world. Much credit goes to the staff teams in each school year group, and thanks, too, to the parents who supported children's online lessons. Here are a couple of examples from all those displayed around the school at the moment. We are looking forward to the day when we can welcome people back into school to see all the amazing writing the children are doing.

Jo Reid, Headteacher

[The Sprout format can hardly do justice to the examples shown, but we can give you some idea. Catherine (Yr 1) wrote the first with ink and a quill as Samuel Pepys, observing the great fire of London in 1666. The cartoon, by Kiko (Yr 5), is a lively account of the formation of a fish fossil found in Lime Regis by Mary Anning. Its wit, humour, clarity and precision are striking, and we have given it a full page so you can appreciate it properly. Ed]



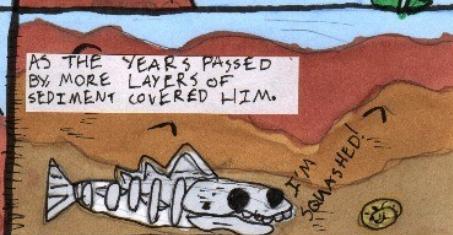
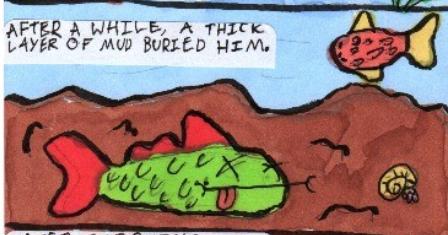
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Tackle weight gain during lockdown!

As we mark the anniversary of the Covid pandemic, we can reflect on all the things we have lost: freedom, jobs, friends, people, and hugs, to name a few. We have gained things too: more time with children and partners, some perspective on what's really important and, for many of us, weight. In fact, latest statistics show that 47% of people in the UK claim to have gained weight in the last year.

As the roadmap to freedom plays out, many of us will stand in front of our wardrobes, wondering what we will wear when it gets warmer, or if we are invited to attend a social gathering. This induces anxiety, which in turn makes the thought of losing weight very daunting.

Remember, we are still in a pandemic and we are emotionally fatigued. Trying to lose weight now is really tough. So see this time as an opportunity to do things differently. Yo-yo dieting often occurs because people start from a place of not liking their bodies. How about instead of criticising yourself, you look in the mirror and say, *"It's ok. You have been through a lot this year. I see that you used food and drink as a comfort and that's OK. I love you; I've got you and I am going to do my best to slowly get you back to where you were. You are amazing, strong, brave, and beautiful. You survived."*

Allow yourself a glimpse into the future at a healthier version of you. What will your lifestyle look like? What needs to change to get there? Take one or a few things at a time. Some ideas include:

- if you enjoy a glass of wine, drink it only on the weekend
- switch your evening snacking to healthier options
- restart that yoga class
- work on your mental health
- begin mindfulness
- download the **Couch to 5K** app
- snack less
- buy extra veggies and fill up more of your plate
- reach out to a friend for support or maybe get a fitness or health coach involved.

You can't do it all at once, but your body and soul will thank you for taking the first step. Change that voice in your head, maybe right now it will be enough to help you make a start.

Claire Cattel, Mindset Coach



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Living well with dementia

**KENNINGTON MEMORY CLUB WILL RE-OPEN
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Social distancing Initially there will be fewer members attending than in normal times, to allow for the social distancing required. There will be some other changes from before Covid, but the welcome will be as warm, the activities will be as stimulating, and the change of scene will be appreciated by members.

Helpers Initially there will be no volunteer helpers, so everyone within the building will be protected by the COVID vaccine. There will also be all the necessary infection control procedures in place, so members and their families can have confidence that they are as safe as they possibly can be when at the Day Centre.

Members As restrictions are eased the number of members at each session will go up again, so more people with a diagnosis of dementia will be able to benefit from the Day Centre sessions, and more carers will get respite from their 24/7 responsibilities. We would like to invite potential members, their families or carers to get in touch with the Club Organiser, Helen, on 07852 883496, to discuss names going down for the Club. Details here:

kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

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New residents at Louie Memorial Playing Fields

If you stroll through the woods in the Lower Louie Memorial Playing Field off Arnold's Way, you might notice some newly constructed houses. Don't worry – we haven't lost any green space to speculative developers! These new (tiny) homes have been built for our feathery friends.

Local bird enthusiast Clive Smith has made ten bird boxes for the Louie Memorial copse, at the request of North Hinksey Parish Council. NHPC has been reviewing the management plan for the playing fields through a working group that includes local residents with experience in ecology and conservation. Bird boxes were one of the working group's first recommendations for encouraging wildlife to flourish in our lovely green space. Thanks to Clive's quick work, the new boxes were installed in time for the start of the nesting season.



In mid-April I accompanied Clive on the first check of the boxes. He'd already noticed activity at the ones previously installed in Raleigh Park, so we were hopeful that the birds might have discovered our new boxes too. We weren't disappointed – six out of ten boxes already had nests in them, with one of them occupied when we visited! I am new to bird-box monitoring, but to Clive's trained eyes the nests were made by Great Tits and Blue Tits (two species that can do well in this area). The boxes were designed for smaller birds like these. Longer term, we are also considering installing larger boxes for owls and bats.

The bird boxes require very little maintenance, but their presence creates an exciting opportunity to get involved in wildlife monitoring and conservation efforts. The British Trust for Ornithology supports many projects to keep track of how our bird populations are doing,

including monitoring nests in gardens and woodlands (<https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/nesting-neighbours>).

Could you be part of North Hinksey citizen science? If you are interested in adopting a bird box to monitor during the nesting season, we'd love to hear from you. NHPC (with support from Clive) can provide information and guidance – the essential elements for successful monitoring are enthusiasm and confident use of a ladder! Let me know on cllr.caroline.potter@gmail.com

Caroline Potter, Chair, Recreation & Amenities Committee

BOTLEY IN BLOOM

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Judging by June 30th

No entry form. Entry by email to editor@thesprout.org
You can enter ANY FRONT GARDEN in the parish you think deserves to be noticed, including your own.

STOP PRESS: Botley Arts is starting up again after the long, dismal winter! Exhibition of pictures by local photographer Miles Gomme at St Peter & St Paul's Church, West Way from Monday May 17th.

Randoms

Lunch Club

Time on your hands? **Botley Seniors Lunch Club** very much hopes to resume meeting fortnightly again – as soon as government guidelines allow. They are looking to expand the team of volunteers to help prepare, cook, and serve a two-course lunch to local older people in the Seacourt Hall. If you can spare some time every other week and would like to join the friendly team please contact Jackie Warner on 01865 721386.

Churches open

The Churches of St. Peter and St. Paul, West Way and St. Lawrence, North Hinksey are now both open for Sunday worship at 9.30am and 11.30am respectively. Social distancing is in place and masks must be worn. We look forward to welcoming you back.

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P21/V0769/HH	4 Stanley Close. The demolition of existing garage and the erection of a two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension.	12 March <i>Target</i> <i>Decision Date:</i> <i>7 May</i>
P21/V0791/HH	24 Crabtree Rd. Demolish existing single storey extension, replace with full width extension plus basement room.	15 March <i>TDD: 10 May</i>
P21/V0483/HH	Stanton House Stanton Rd. Single storey garage.	16 March <i>TDD: 17 May</i>
P21/V0705/HH	38 Arthray Rd. Demolish garage, build single storey lean-to rear extension extended to side for house entrance.	25 March <i>TDD: 20 May</i>
P21/V0710/LDP	31 Chestnut Rd. Convert hip roof to gable roof, increasing south-facing roof elevation for solar panels plus 3 Velux roof lights.	29 March <i>TDD: 24 May</i>
P21/V0725/HH	9 Cumnor Hill. Part demolition of front porch structure & erection of two storey front extension.	29 March <i>TDD: 24 May</i>

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

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7-10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6-7.30 Jean Metson, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7-10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com
4th Oxford Scout Group Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	mail@thefourth.org.uk Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, Cubs 6.30-8, Scouts 8-9.30, 1 Church Way, Botley Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15-11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
Badminton Club	Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 garryclark13@gmail.com
BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6-8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 jbarley1@sky.com or Brendan Byrne 792531 brendan.byrne999@gmail.com
Botley Community Larder	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, contact us via Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com
Botley Health Walks	Wednesday 9.30am. Contact Briony on Ox 246497
Botley Library	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox721386
Botley Singers	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 angastpen@aol.com
Cumnor Choral Society	Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7-9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
Cumnor Gardening Club	http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ or phone 01865 721026
Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group	Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk
Hill End Volunteer Team	Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk
Let's Sing! – singing group	Weds 2pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or email emformusic@outlook.com

Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc	Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk
North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com
N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997
N Hinksey Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
N Hinksey Parish Council	Sharon Henley, clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
N Hinksey Youth Club	Weds at LM pavilion, Daz on 07791 212866 or see F'book
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
Oxford Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259
Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group	Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk
Oxford Otters	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
Oxford Rugby Club	Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk .
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 melanie_riste@hotmail.com
Raleigh Park, Friends of	raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Saturdads at Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
Seacourt Hall Management Committee	Michael Cockman 07766 317691 michael.cockman@gmail.com .
Shotokan Karate Club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Walking for Health	2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Alan 07941 610913
West Oxford Bowls Club	Contact details on www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk
West Oxford U3A	(Uni of the 3rd Age) http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/
West Way Day Centre	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
Women's Institute (Botley)	Liz Manson, 244175 or liz.manson@virginmedia.com

Botley Baptist Hall West Way Place	Contact: Rev Kalyan Das Tel. 07841 867967
The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise	Contact Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
SS Peter & Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley	Contact: 07946 463741 or osneybenefice@outlook.com .
Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
Seacourt Hall, West Way Place, Botley	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email admin@seacourthall.org.uk
Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com
Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village	Contact: Mary Bagnall mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com .

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

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane
 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Sung Eucharist 11.30 a.m.
 3rd Sunday, Matins 11.30 am

St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England, West Way
 2nd Saturday each Month, 4–6pm Messy Church for children and their carers
 1st Sunday of the Month, 9.30am All Age service of Holy Communion
 All other Sundays, 9.30am Holy Communion with activities for children
 Every Wednesday, 10.30am Holy Communion at Field House
 Rev C Sykes, 01865 242345 or revclare@btinternet.com

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

Botley Baptist Church, West Way Place
 Sunday Service 10.30 am.
 Mid Week House Group 8.00 p.m.
 Family Worship Service 5-6pm on Saturday
 Rev K Das 07841 867967 www.botleybaptistchurch.org

Calvary Chapel
 Sunday services held at Botley School 10.30–12 noon
 Pastor Philip Vickery 01865 864498
calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk;
www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk

Sprout

May 2021

- 2nd--8th Hedgehog Awareness Week**
- Thurs 6th County Council Elections,
Neighbourhood Plan referendum**
- 8th—16th Oxford Artweeks (Botley)**
- Mon 10th Kennington Memory Club reopens**
- Mon 17th Miles Gomme's photos in Ss P&P church**

Some useful phone numbers

See North Hinksey Parish Council website for a comprehensive list of all the local support groups currently in operation, as well as advice on asking for help and looking to volunteer. It's at <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub/> If you have something to add, please email the website manager Councillor Lorna Berrett on lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com.

Church contact details opposite.

Oxford Hub hello@oxfordhub.org 07957 105129 (9-5pm Mon-Fri)

Citizens Advice AdviceLine on 0300 3309 042

Woodlands Pharmacy: 01865 242649

Lloyds Pharmacy: 01865 247023

Age UK Oxfordshire offers a new telephone support line for older people. Leave a message on 01865 411288 and they will call back.

Nextdoor North Hinksey is a local chatroom full of help and advice. Anyone already on it can invite you to join, or contact the Sprout

**Finally, two handy Facebook pages:
The Botley Notice Board (OXON)
and Oxford Covid-19 Mutual Aid group**