

# The Sprout



**It's Christmas time – beware of the Sprouts!**

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 143 Winter 2019**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 143, Winter 2019**

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### **From the Editor**

This month's seasonal offerings include details of Christmas church services all around the parish (p22), firework night at Botley School (p21), and an account of the local Remembrance Sunday service (p37). As well as all the dead in the catastrophic wars of the past hundred years, we also acknowledge two deaths close to home: Betty Lawes, who died after a long and useful life (p11) and John Howes (p13) beloved by Brownies and work colleagues alike, whose life was tragically cut short in a bike accident at Farmoor. The Sprout always likes to be helpful, so we have included some tips on surviving Christmas (p29) and the first part of a new series on fighting climate change on the home front (p25) – send us your ideas and we'll be happy to print them. We thought you'd like to know just how the Sprout gets onto your doormat, so our delivery team have spilt the beans (p27). Then there are insights into what it feels like to run a Half Marathon (p33), what the new Community Hall's going to be like (p5), and what's in the air with the proposed Xpressway (p17). Our next issue won't be till February 2020, so goodbye till then and Happy Christmas to all our readers!

**Ag MacKeith**

## Letters to the Editor

### **Iniquitous cost of local burial**

It would be reasonable for residents of Botley to assume that their local cemetery was Botley cemetery, on North Hinksey Lane. Not so! Botley Cemetery, while located in the Vale of White Horse District Council, is managed by Oxford City Council. The implication of this for a Botley resident is that they are treated as 'out of area' by Oxford City and therefore incur a triple cost surcharge for burial there. For my mother, Ina Godfrey, who lived in Crabtree Rd for 71 years and who sadly died on 30th September, the cost for burying her ashes in the plot where her husband Ron was already interred was £720.

This seems iniquitous and one that I will appeal. However, I thought that the *Sprout* should make its loyal readers aware.

### **Roger Godfrey**

*[If Botley Cemetery is not our local cemetery, where is it? Enquiries are in train and we will pass on what we find out in a future edition! Editor]*

### **Inclusivity rules at URC**

Ruth Wilson's article about North Hinksey tea party (November *Sprout*) celebrating the founding of Stonewall, the LGBT charity, made interesting and happy reading. I once worked for a wonderful gay man whose partner of 35 years died and a relative had to travel from Scotland to register his death. It was two years before the Government made Civil Marriages legal. My ex-boss also died 18 months later and never lived to see the new law enacted.

Cumnor United Reformed Church became the first church in Oxfordshire to be registered for Same Sex Marriages in June 2017. This small church with mainly older people felt it was wrong to sit in judgement of others and treat people differently. All who join us in worship on Sundays at 10.30 am are warmly welcomed. Also, in our hall is a large, beautifully presented plaque of a testimony given by a former member who was disabled and died last year at the age of 40. He was much loved and is still missed. We are all God's children and celebrate our differences at Cumnor URC. More information at our website: [www.cumnorurc.org.uk](http://www.cumnorurc.org.uk)

### **Briony Newport**

## Your new community hall

If you regularly walk from Elms Rise to the shops or West Way since the summer you will have watched the steady rise of the community hub building on what used to be the car park behind St Peter and St Paul church.

The photo shows the building as at mid November and by the time you read this it will likely be completed.



The new building will be three storeys high, one of the lower buildings in the new West Way Square development. It will be home to the Baptist church at the Arthray Road end, and, at the West Way road end, to Seacourt Hall on the ground floor, the Library on the first floor and office space on the second.

Seacourt Hall Management Committee was set up by North Hinksey Parish Council to run the hall for the community. It consists of four PC reps, plus nominated hall users and elected public representatives. We have been working with a budget provided by the developers for the kitchen, the other fittings and furniture in order to provide the best facilities for all users. We will also reuse what we can from the temporary hall and any older items will be offered to local charities and groups – x

### **Saturday 14th December Farmoor Village Hall**



Doors open 7.30pm

Eyes down at 8pm

Entrance is free

Licenced Bar and Raffle

look out for more information online. Our new Hall will be handed over in December and then the various tenants will be fitting it out and moving in over the next month. We aim to open in early January (date still to be confirmed at time of writing) and we have set a provisional official open day event for Saturday 25th January, so look out for posters and announcements nearer the time.

The new hall was a requirement of the planning permission granted to Botley Development Company. It replaces the community hall facility that was a part of the shopping centre. The old hall was demolished in 2017 and for the past 8 months we have operated from a temporary home on the second floor above the Co-op. We are looking forward to moving to the new building which will provide much more modern, accessible and flexible facilities for the whole community.

The new Seacourt Hall will have large and smaller rooms with the option of subdivision in a number of ways. The large hall area has a wooden sprung dance floor, ideal for the dance and exercise classes that already use the space, and we have interest from a number of new groups too.

The hall also has a modern acoustic ceiling and hearing loop installed making it ideal not just for parish council and other meetings, but also for music practice or performances, and the space with the kitchen works well for parties and dinners. The hall can be extended to the full length of the building to incorporate the vinyl floor area and there is a carpeted lounge area that can be hired separately or extended to the width of that half of the building. The whole space can also be hired. The fully fitted kitchen is accessible from both sides by door and serving hatches, as are the toilets, and there are accessible entrances at the front and side of the building.

Once the building is complete and handed over we will be able to access and take photos of the different rooms and layouts so you can get a real sense of the facilities. We also hope as many people as possible can come to the Open Day in January to see the facilities, demonstrations of how the space can be used, and to let us know how you would like the space to work for you. Look out for more information online at <http://www.seacourthall.org.uk/>, <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/> and on Facebook: [facebook.com/northhinkseypc](https://facebook.com/northhinkseypc)

**Lorna Berrett**

## Citizens' Advice:

### Apply now to remain in UK

If you are a European Union citizen living or working in the UK, you might be wondering what will happen when the United Kingdom leaves the EU, and what you should do so that you have the right to remain in this country. The government has set up a programme called the EU Settlement Scheme which is intended for you. There is no charge for applying to this scheme. Citizens of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland can also apply. It is important that you apply NOW, without waiting until the UK actually leaves. You can begin the process here: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>



If your application is successful you will be able to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. You will also have the right to work in the UK, use the National Health Service, get access to benefits and pensions if you are eligible, and travel in and out of the country. There is more information about your rights on the government website.

The new deadline for the UK to leave the EU is 31 January 2020 but it is still unclear exactly how it will take place, especially in view of the general election in December. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you will need to be living in the UK *before* it leaves the EU in order to apply. Check the Citizens Advice website at: [citizensadvice.org.uk/immigration/staying-in-the-uk-after-brexit](https://citizensadvice.org.uk/immigration/staying-in-the-uk-after-brexit). South Oxfordshire District Council also has up-to-date advice on [www.southoxon.gov.uk/brexit](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/brexit). You can visit us in person at our office in St Aldates or call us on Adviceline (0300 330 9042).

### CA celebrates 80 years as vital service continues

Volunteers and staff from Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale were joined by representatives from the town and district councils at the Guildhall in Abingdon on 15 October to celebrate 80 years of service to the local community. The service was founded in 1939, the day after World War II was declared, to help people deal with the impact of war. Volunteers gave advice on evacuation, ration books, new housing for those whose homes had been bombed, and even provided recipes using the limited ingredients available on rationing. Eighty years on, the issues may have changed, but core values of

Citizens Advice remain the same: to provide free, confidential and impartial advice to everyone everywhere. Last year, Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale, an independent charity, helped 11,999 people resolve 20,200 problems including debt, housing, Universal Credit, benefits, family problems and consumer issues. For many people this service is a lifeline.

The number of people seeking advice has increased by 30 per cent over the last three years and the local offices need more volunteers to keep the service running. Volunteer posts include: advisers, receptionists, administrators, IT support and fundraisers. If you are interested, contact Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale for more information on 01235 550553 or email **recruitment@osavcab.org.uk**

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**Betty Lawes:** ‘a distinguished addition to the communion of saints’

Betty Lawes was the oldest living resident of North Hinksey Village, in a house overlooking the Green until she died in early November, aged 102. She came to Oxford in 1959 with her husband Jim, to teach at Westminster College on Harcourt Hill (now part of Brookes University). Jim, a former parish councillor, died in 2008.

Her thanksgiving service was held on Friday November 15 at Wesley Memorial Church, where she had been a regular attender for 60 years. A fall after church had resulted in a short period in hospital, after which she died. Fifty friends and neighbours, including her Polish carer, attended the service.

Rev Dr Martin Wellings noted that, in character, Betty had left full instructions for the service. He recalled that Betty had trained to be a teacher and then did a post-graduate degree at Durham University, where one of her teachers was a future Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey. She met her husband Jim there on a blind date. He closed by noting that Betty lived a life of service in the context of Christian faith and hope and now joined those who trusted Jesus’ words which were read as a lesson: “I will take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (John’s gospel, chap 14 vs 3).

**Chris Sugden**

## Goodbye 'Mr Tawney'

It is with much sadness that we must report the death of John Howes ("Mr Tawny") who passed away at the end of October as the result of a tragic road accident when he was knocked off his bicycle on his way home from work.

John had been an active member of the 2nd Botley Brownie Leadership Team for over 25 years. He was a selfless, thoughtful and caring man whose actions spoke louder than words. He started volunteering with the 2nd Botley Brownies to help his wife Lucy (Tawny Owl) if we were



short of Adult Leaders. However, over time this became more frequent and he became our official chef on Brownie Holidays, where all his delicious home-made food – and especially his fruit crumble – became a firm favourite amongst the Brownies and Leaders. He would often, to the delight and gleeful encouragement of the Brownies, play practical jokes on the other leaders!

He was also well known in the local community for his (nearly) 25 year-long service as a postman for Royal Mail where, over the years, his deliveries had included North Oxford, Kidlington and Cumnor. He always had a kind word and a friendly smile for anyone who spoke to him whilst out on his cycle delivery.

After Royal Mail, he worked for the Passport Office for ten years, where he continued to be a reliable and supportive friend to his colleagues, before he started working as a Lodge Porter at Nuffield College. Here, too, everyone thought tremendously highly of him and the students were made to feel at home through his friendly and helpful demeanour and in-depth knowledge of Oxford and of history in general.

John was a keen cyclist who had cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats for charity – and then did so again, just for fun, with his wife. In the last few years, he took up running and would often be seen around Cumnor or Farmoor in this year's quest to run 1,000 miles.



John was a devoted loving husband, father and son with a great sense of humour and a heart of gold. He was extremely proud of his family and spoke of them often with great affection. Even after his demise he continues to give, as he has donated his kidneys which his family hope will be life-changing for the two recipients.

John's funeral will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday 3rd December at South Oxfordshire Crematorium & Memorial Park (OX13 5PA). Family, friends and all those lucky enough to have known him are most welcome to join us in celebrating his life. Family flowers only but if you would like to make a donation in memory of John, a collection will be made for a memorial bench.

### **Lucy Howes**

*The Sprout will be happy to make a contribution, Lucy, in memory of such a good man, whose life was cut short so suddenly!*

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## **Expressway – No Way!**

North Hinksey and Cumnor Parish councils called a meeting in early November to inform people about the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. Seacourt Hall was packed, and buzzing with speculation.

David Kay welcomed everyone and opened by explaining that the Expressway, although ostensibly a route from Oxford to the M1 at Milton Keynes, is really designed to enable a 'growth arc' of a million new homes and associated industry. You might think that we should have been consulted before such a huge project was decided on, but we are only being asked which route we think it should follow, not whether it should go ahead at all. There is united and strong opposition to the plan, and it is still growing. As for the autumn consultation, this has now been put off till after the general election.

The second speaker was Prof David Rogers of the No Expressway Group, who went into much more detail. He agreed that the project was driven by the goal of a million homes. In our own county, this would amount to 300,000 new houses. The current total, which has been 1000 years in the making, is 280,000, so the population of Oxfordshire will be doubled by 2030 if it goes ahead.

He explained the difference between an A-road, an 'expressway' and a motorway. Basically, an expressway is like a 'mile-a-minute' motorway, but with lots more junctions. The reason for that would be that each junction would be the site of thousands of new houses, all grafted onto existing small towns and villages along the route. For instance, at the new Abingdon junction, 5,000 new houses for some 13,000 more people; 51,000-plus people in the new houses at the Kidlington/Bicester junction, etc, etc, all along the route; a little village like Oakley, just over the border into Bucks, would swell to the size of Oxford itself. But when huge new developments like this are planted at high speed, driven by developers with an eye on the profits, rather than politicians, they can be bereft of a sense of place, unlike existing small towns and villages.

He ended with a reference to TENTEC, the Trans-European Freight Network. At present, lorries from Felixstowe, the main point of entry from the continent, travel around London via the congested M25. The new corridor would become the route of choice, shorter and potentially faster for the streams of lorries travelling towards the middle of the country. Everything about this proposal is wrong, he ended up. What we need is:

- public transport, not private
- social housing
- more jobs, certainly, but further north
- freight by rail, not by road

and to engage with the affected population.

Chris Church was next, veteran of successful campaigns, putting an environmental perspective.

Questions followed, of which the first and most pertinent was from someone who wanted to talk about water. Already our rivers, streams and aquifers are over-stretched, he pointed out. Even to find enough water to actually build such a huge number of houses would be a challenge, but to supply them once built would be impossible. (An argument against fracking that doesn't get aired often enough!) Someone asked about the environmental impact of the railway connection, and was told that most of it was already there, just the stretch between Milton Keynes and Cambridge left to be redeveloped.

Fired up, the meeting got down to considering how best we could stop the Expressway once and for all. 'By making it politically toxic,' said Chris. Both our MPs have come out against it, and all the local councils. We have to build evidence for the harm it would do, and challenge it at every point. There are so many reasons why it shouldn't go ahead! We can use the elections to press the different parties to stop it. The only major player still in favour is the University, although it was initially opposed on climate grounds. But it does conflict with their stated aim to act to prevent climate change, so they are open to challenge.

Emma Newton mentioned some local issues: if the route went through Botley, it would drastically affect the air pollution in local schools as well as compromise the industrial estates, war graves and houses in Southern By Pass and Stanley Close. If it goes through Cumnor instead it would worsen subsidence at the A420 junction, and might spoil stands of ancient woodland in the parish. The meeting broke up, fiercely determined to do all we can to stop a plan which is in flat contradiction to the needs of the planet in the current climate emergency. In a recent article in the Oxford Mail, one of the leading developers called for an 'Olympic effort' to get the project built – but climate change is what calls for an all-out effort, not something that will only make things worse.

**Ag MacKeith**

## Firework Night

Friends of Botley School would like to say thank you to the local community for attending our Fireworks event in early November and helping us raise money for the kids.

Special thanks to all the neighbours who agreed to have the Finders Keepers sign in front of their houses (they'd sponsored the event with £1000) and also big thanks to Bidwells based at Seacourt Tower for paying for the cost of the Fireworks (£2000) and to our local Tesco's which as usual provided us with food donations.

The event is fully organised by volunteers among the parents and school staff, and to all of them who give up their time and energy for the kids to have a great evening

Caldera]

we are forever grateful.

Money raised will be used to buy much needed IT equipment for the kids at school (the current one is falling apart!). Thank you so much again everyone!

**Laura Jones**, Chair of FOBS (fobsbotley@gmail.com)



[photo by Carmen

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# CHURCH SERVICES FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## Church of England

St Peter and St. Paul, West Way  
& St. Lawrence, North Hinksey

14th	Christmas Messy Church 4-6pm
22nd	Christmas Carol Praise St Peter & St. Paul, 9.30am Carol Service by Candlelight St Lawrence 3.30pm
Christmas Eve	Christingle St Peter and St. Paul, 4.30pm Midnight Communion St Lawrence, 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion St Peter & St. Paul, 9.30am Holy Communion St Lawrence, 11.30am
29th	Holy Communion St Peter & St. Paul, 9.30am Holy Communion ST Lawrence, 11.30am

## Baptists

1st	Advent Service 10:30 am
8th	Church Christmas Lunch 12:00 noon
15th	Traditional Christmas service 6:30pm
22nd	Christmas sing-along 6:30 pm
Christmas Eve	Midnight Service 11:30 pm
Christmas Day service	10:30 am
29th	Year-end Thanksgiving service 10:30 am <i>followed by a bring-and-share fellowship lunch</i> 12:00 noon

## Catholic Church

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Yarnell's Hill  
& Holy Rood Catholic Church, Folly Bridge

22nd (4th Sunday of Advent)

9.15am	Mass	Holy Rosary
11.15am	Mass	Holy Rood

**Christmas Eve 9.00am Mass, (Confessions till 10.30am) Holy Rood**

**5.30pm Children's Nativity Play and Vigil Mass Holy Rosary**

**9.30pm Sung Mass with Blessing of the Crib Holy Rood**

**Christmas Day 9.15am Sung Mass Holy Rosary**

**11.15am Sung Mass Holy Rood**

**29 December (Feast of the Holy Family)**

**Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm Mass (Divine Worship) Holy Rood**

**6.30pm Mass Holy Rosary**

**9.15am Sung Mass Holy Rosary**

**11.15am Sung Mass Holy Rood**

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## Tackling the Climate Emergency on the Home Front (part 1)

*This is the first instalment of a new series of short pieces about small steps towards mitigating Climate Change. Please send us your ideas. All submissions gladly accepted.*

For the last month I've stopped using a petrochemical-based moisturiser in my morning shower. Let me explain: skin irritation had caused my doctor to suggest washing with moisturiser instead of soap.

But in the light of the climate problem, I decided to stop using this moisturiser and wash solely by scrubbing with water. This saves the watercourses from petrochemicals and cuts down on single-use plastic bottles. I rub myself all over with wet exfoliating gloves from Body Shop, then rinse off.

So far, after more than a month, I haven't started to smell, and I have checked this with my nearest and dearest. I don't use deodorant. Perhaps I am just lucky.

Every morning, the gloves rub off a significant amount of dead skin along with any dirt, judging from the cloudiness of the water running off the gloves. I have two pairs of these gloves and after each shower I put the pair I have just used into the washing machine with the day's wash.

In addition, I don't change my clothes until I can detect the faintest of smells from them, or until there are perceptible stains. This saves water and energy and offers fewer opportunities for the shedding of synthetic fibres into the waste water. Scruffy is the new smart.

NB: The Body Shop gloves are made of nylon and recycled polyethylene terephthalate. Before they wear out, I will look for a biodegradable alternative. A loofah or organic exfoliating mitt would do, except that neither would be as good at getting into the ears or between the toes.

Also note that outside the shower, I wash my hands with soap or hand wash whenever there is a risk of contamination.

**Daisy Fresh**



## The *Sprout's* Little Helpers

On the last Thursday of the month (usually), a pallet of twenty boxes of *Sprouts* appears on our driveway. Once they are in our kitchen, the kettle is boiled, some up-tempo tunes are played and the 2400 copies are counted into the forty 'rounds' – the size of these rounds varies from 15 copies for one single road, to nearly 200 for a group of roads.

The rounds are grouped roughly by geographical area, and are collected by the five 'distributors'; volunteers who collect a number of rounds and deliver them to the 'deliverers' who will put them through the door of their designated street(s). As the *Sprout* contains time-sensitive information (and we want them out of our kitchen!), we try to deal with them as fast as possible. Our magazine is delivered by volunteers, who may have other commitments, and be hampered by bad weather and winter's dark evenings, so sometimes there may be delays.

We've been thinking about how to make the *Sprout* greener. There are some rounds which may suit being delivered by cycle; if you or someone you know has a bicycle or tricycle capable of carrying a load, or a trailer, and would like to help, do get in touch. We're delighted to re-use the boxes and bags in which the *Sprout* rounds are packaged – particularly as we have to be creative to find enough packaging to wrap them in.

At present we have enough people to cover all the delivery rounds, but vacancies arise regularly. We also appreciate having 'stand-by' volunteers who can cover a deliverer who is away one month.

We started delivering to Hurst Rise and Crabtree Roads after attending a *Sprout* AGM about ten years ago. A few months later, we had an urgent call from Ag (now the Editor) asking if we could cover deliveries just this once... We love the sense of community being involved with the *Sprout* gives us, the unexpectedly diverse landscape of Botley we've discovered, and the friendly 'thank yous' we get when putting them through letterboxes.

**Bhee and Robin**





# Ghosts of Christmases Past

This is a self-help section of the *Sprout* devoted to surviving Christmas unscathed mentally and physically, based on lessons learned from a gaffe-strewn past.



## Presents

- *'Grandad, is this our Christmas present?'*

'It is, dear ones, because two dozen AAAs, a dozen AAs and few of those little round silver jobbies will save scouring the country for a corner store open, selling batteries for power-hungry dinosaurs on Christmas afternoon'.

*Last year's colouring book for the kids? Disaster.* Only buy presents that can be operated with two thumbs and head down.

Secret Santa is fine as a concept but increasing occurrences of memory lapse mean you need to write down the name of your chosen recipient. This avoids son-in-law finishing up with nothing and daughter with two presents, one of which is after-shave.

## Decorations

Look, just assume last year's lights won't work. You've just spent hours carefully threading 200 of them through a tree when, hey presto, nothing!

That holly had lovely berries on it yesterday ready for cutting. Today, not a sign of red and there's none left in the shops. Silly old you, you forgot the pigeons, the blackbirds and the magpies who have a malicious sense of timing.

Do not try to put fancy decorations back in their original box. That once proud glittering reindeer, now more of a long-eared mouse!

## Shopping

Do not sing along to piped music, this can lead to strange accent disfunction. Santa will become *Sanna*, holly becomes *harley*. So, just

get out of the *sharp pronno*, Sorry, *out of the shop quickly*. See it's happened already!

*It's the last trolley...* Just made it by shoving two zimmer frames out of the way but, hang on, this coin doesn't fit! Dammit, it's a Euro! *Lesson?* Serves you right for going abroad, and two zimmers always win out anyway

Don't buy any more dates and figs, you've still got most left over from last year, and they're just for show anyway as nobody eats them.

## Food and Drink

Oh brilliant, you've left it until the last minute to dig up your precious parsnips and leeks and, guess what, ground frozen and too late to buy any. *Lesson?* Just buy them, for heaven's sake, no one will spot the difference unless prompted.

If providing lunch for six or more, beware at least one will have become vegan since last year and one will have developed a nut allergy. Yep, there goes that chestnut stuffing so lovingly prepared!

*'Yes please, oh, just chuck it in, don't worry about mixing.'* That was a 25 year-old claret. *Lesson?* Don't share decent booze at Christmas.



***BAH HUMBUG!!***

*P.S. Whose turn is it this year? Lesson?* Don't even get involved in this debate. Leave it to the rest of the family!

**E Scrooge**

## Oxford Half Marathon

On 13th October 2019 I made my way to the University Park, along with several thousand other people, for the Oxford Half Marathon. This was something I never considered, having had 6 months off work with a back injury and walking with a stick only a couple of years ago. I started running in May 2018 following the 'Couch to 5K' programme, then moving on to 10k by September. Over the winter I continued running, started going to the weekly Park Run at Harcourt Hill and entered some races. I began to enjoy it and to look forward to running, much to my surprise!

In March a friend suggested we should enter the ballot for the Oxford Half Marathon. I wasn't convinced but entered, never thinking I would get a place. When I received an email with the words 'Congratulations – you're in!' as the subject, I almost cried. I found 10k a manageable distance but had only once run longer and couldn't imagine running over twice the distance. However, I kept training over the summer, slowly lengthening my long runs.

In the week leading up to the event I started having doubts about the race and whether I would be able to finish, never mind finish under the 2hrs 30 time I was aiming for. The day arrived and so did the rain, but I was determined to stay positive. We went from the University Parks to our starting zone and from there moved slowly towards the start in Broad Street. Despite the cold and wet there was a very positive atmosphere and plenty of supporters around the start. My nerves had gone by this point and I just told myself I was out for a normal run.



The route took in parts of central Oxford, Summertown, Marston and back through the park, weaving through streets before ending in front of the Natural History Museum. The support from spectators braving the torrential rain was amazing, and there were numerous musical acts throughout the course giving encouragement too. The rain continued almost constantly and puddles were impossible to avoid. I found the strength in both mind and body to keep putting one foot in front of the other, and only started to tire around the 11 mile marker. The last mile seemed to go on and on, but finally I could see the finish line. I felt so emotional as I finished, I thought back to the journey I had been on and all I had been able to achieve. I was thrilled to have finished in 2:20, smashing my target time. And my next challenge, a full marathon?

**Sarah Gomme**

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**LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

|                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| P19/V2515/FUL<br>Variation of conditions.<br>Details to P16/V0508/FUL | 56 Hurst Rise Rd. Demolition of existing dwelling and associated outbuildings. Erection of two new 4-bed dwellings with associated bin and bike stores. | <b>14 October</b><br><i>Target Decision Date: 9 Dec</i> |
| P19/V2520/HH                                                          | 49 Raleigh Park Rd. Convert integral garage to ensuite bedroom. Erect lean-to single storey side extension.                                             | <b>14 October</b><br><i>TDD: 9 Dec</i>                  |
| <u>P19/V2585/LDP</u>                                                  | 60 Cedar Rd. Enlargement of the existing rear extension.                                                                                                | <b>22 October</b><br><i>TDD: 15 Dec</i>                 |
| <u>P19/V2591/HH</u>                                                   | 17 Yarnells Hill. Infill ground floor side & 1st floor extension. Changes to existing ground floor extension.                                           | <b>25 October</b><br><i>TDD: 20 Dec</i>                 |
| P19/V2546/FUL                                                         | Botley WI Hall North Hinksey Lane. Construct single storey extension to provide disabled WC facilities, meeting space & storage.                        | <b>31 October</b><br><i>TDD: 26 Dec</i>                 |
| P19/V2646/PDH                                                         | Holm Lodge Harcourt Hill. Build single storey conservatory to rear.                                                                                     | <b>31 October</b><br><i>TDD: 12 Dec</i>                 |
| P19/V2651/FUL                                                         | 1 Maple Close. Retrospective change of use to C3 dwelling as 7- bed HMO.                                                                                | <b>1 November</b><br><i>TDD: 27Dec</i>                  |

## Remembrance Sunday

I laid a wreath at the Service of Remembrance on behalf of Botley WI. As Dr Rook said in his address, the wearing of poppies and the laying of a wreath is full of symbolism, the red represents the bloodshed, the black centre reminds us of all those who mourned and the green leaves represent new life. The WI lays a wreath for all those reasons and particularly to remember the women who died in service in the two World Wars. In Botley's local Commonwealth War Graves you can visit the grave of Staff  
**Botley WI**



poppy wreath made by

Nurse Murray, one of those 2000 women who died. The WI was very active during the war years, doing what it could to make things out of very little. The archives have minutes about canning rose hips and fruit; many of the members will have lost loved ones.

On this year's Remembrance Sunday, the sun shone, the service was moving and respectful and several young people took part confidently: a reminder that those who died did so that those young people may have a future.

Afterwards the WI served hot drinks and biscuits in the hall, another tradition that has been going for several years.

**Liz Manson**

***Have you lost your phone?***

***We have found one. If you think it may be yours, please call 01865 244175 to identify it and we will happily return it to you.***

# Br00ko's

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## Branches Café: End of This Episode

On Friday 13th December Branches Café, based above the Library in the old Elms Court office building, will close. We opened in August 2018 with dual purposes of providing a safe space for young people between the ages of 11 and 18, and a community café for residents and visitors to Botley whilst the West Way redevelopment took place.

Since opening, we've engaged with over 250 young people, socialising, developing skills and growing as individuals. Some have come to us through the NCS and Duke of Edinburgh schemes, others have found their own way to us to get involved with the project or simply needed somewhere to 'hang out' with friends. Those who have wanted to gain skills have been taught to make proper coffees, serve customers, prepare food, bake cakes, cash up and even 'wash up and mop out'!

We've also held events including movie and quiz nights exclusively for young people and others such as Burns Supper, Christmas Lunch and Mad Hatter's Tea Party for everyone, with the younger element doing the planning, preparing and serving the food under the guidance of our professional chef.



More recently, with support from the National Lottery Community Fund we've hosted Intergenerational Tea Parties, young and old have been able to enjoy time together, talking and playing games (*see photo*). The last one will be held in the Seacourt Hall on Thursday 12 December from 3:45-5pm.

What's Next? Although the Branches Café is closing, Branches Young People's Support Service CIC, the organisation behind the café, continues. In the new year we will be inviting our members to discuss our next steps to support the young people of Botley and Cumnor.

Finally, we'd like to thank everyone who has visited us (despite the lack of lift!) also Mace and SDC, who assisted us with creating the space and went on to consume vast amounts of sausages and bacon. We'd especially like to thank our adult volunteers and the young people who have engaged with the café and given us the encouragement and support to keep going.

**Diane Long, Dave Goodspeed and Clive Hodge**

# **Randoms**

## **St Lawrence Church**

How reassuring to hear the bells chiming out both at practice on Friday and for the Sunday service. We enjoy ringing the changes and learning a new skill that brings the Village together. But, in the last few months owing to illness or accident, some of the ringers have had to stand down. They will return, but we urgently need more people to be part of the group. Please contact Ginger on 721149.

## **Botley and Kennington Patient Participation Group**

Have Your Say about Your Health Centre! The PPG will be undertaking a survey of services accessed by patients; in particular appointments and prescriptions. The survey will start on January 2nd. Paper copies will be available at both Botley and Kennington medical centres or you can fill it in online. Please take part in this survey if you can as it will help us give feedback to the practice about what patients are experiencing. The PPG hope to repeat this survey in 2021, to see what improvements have been made. Many thanks.

**Sylvia Buckingham**, PPG chair

## **Christmas party at Botley bridges**

Botley Bridges will be holding a Christmas party on Friday 13th December from 9-11am. Just £2 per family but an additional £1.50 per child if you would like a present from Father Christmas. Tickets are on sale now, you can either buy them at our Stay and Play sessions or email [coordinator@botleybridges.org](mailto:coordinator@botleybridges.org) to reserve yours. We will ask for the age(s) of the child(ren) you are bringing to ensure that Father Christmas has the correct number of presents in his sack.

## **Foodbank Christmas feast**

This tremendous occasion will be taking place again on Christmas Day at the Kings Centre on Osney Mead Industrial Estate. It is a free, three-course meal cooked with by volunteers from food that would otherwise have gone to waste, and expects to host some 400 people. Transport is provided – they will pick you up and bring you



home again, full of good cheer. Everybody is welcome, homeless, friendless, or just people who want to spend the feast in a blaze of good will and fellowship. Contact Sara if you want to be included, or to help: [sara@oxfordchristmaslunch.org](mailto:sara@oxfordchristmaslunch.org), or on 07535 314716. You can also find them on Facebook.

## Botley Arts

Botley Arts is having its customary winter break now. We will be returning to St Peter & St Paul's early in February with a sparkling exhibition of work by the **North Hinksey Art Group**.

## Sprout Grants

Thanks for getting back to us with your grant requests. So far we are happy to have been able to support the Botley Baby and Toddler group in replenishing their toy store, the Over-60s Lunch Club in making their move to the new building, and to help with protesting the proposed Expressway. Our grants tend to be around the £200 mark, so if this is a sum that would help you to do something useful in the community, just email [editor@thesprout.org.uk](mailto:editor@thesprout.org.uk) and tell us about it.



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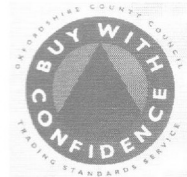
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[michael.fry4@btopenworld.com](mailto:michael.fry4@btopenworld.com)



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

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>                                                      |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                   |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Fridays, cubs 6.30–8, scouts 8–9.30, Botley Baptist Hall. Amy Cusden 07887 654386 <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>Badminton Club</b>                                                | Thurs 7–8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>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><br>Football teams from ages 8–16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>               |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>                                           | Wednesday 9.30am. Contact Briony 01865 246497                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Botley Library</b>                                                | 01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).                                                                                                 |
| <b>Botley Singers</b>                                                | Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>                                                               |
| <b>Branches Café, Westway Place, Open to All 8am–3pm,</b>            | <b>Open for young people</b> 3–5 daily, Th. eves 7–9 Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook Instagram                                         |
| <b>Community Fridge</b>                                              | Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <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 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>                                                                   |
| <b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>                      | Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>                                         | <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone , 01865 721026                                                                                                 |
| <b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>             | Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                                   |
| <b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>                                       | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 01865-863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Let's Sing! – singing group</b>                                   | Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email <a href="mailto:emformusic@outlook.com">emformusic@outlook.com</a>                                                                          |
| <b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>                                    | Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>                                                                                                            |
| <b>Mum and Baby Yoga</b> for babies from 6 wks to crawling           | Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via <a href="https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk">https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk</a>                                                     |
| <b>North Hinksey Preschool and</b>                                   | Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 794287 or email                                                                                                                                                  |

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|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Childcare Clubs</b>                              | <b><a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a></b>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>                          | Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>                        | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>            | Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <b><a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a></b>                                                                                                   |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                        | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                     | Colin Ryde, tel 861992, <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>                                                                                                              |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                         | Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>                      | Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                        | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                 | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group</b> | Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall Contact <b><a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a></b>                                                                                       |
| <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, <b><a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a></b><br>Seniors, training etc <b><a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a></b> . |
| <b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>    | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658<br><b><a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a></b>                                                                                                |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                     | <b><a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a></b>                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Saturdays Botley Bridges</b>                     | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's<br>10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>           | Michael Cockman 07766 317691<br><b><a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a></b> .                                                                                                   |
| <b>Shotokan Karate club</b>                         | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Walking for Health</b>                           | 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.45 Botley Library.<br>Alan 07941 610913                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                              | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso<br>tel: 07779 253899 <b><a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a></b>                                                                                   |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                       | Contact details on <b><a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a></b>                                                                                                          |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                  | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <b><a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a></b>                                                                                            |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                              | (Uni of the 3rd Age) <b><a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a></b>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>West Way Day Centre</b>                          | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971.<br><b><a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a></b>                                                 |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                   | Liz Manson, 244175 or <b><a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a></b>                                                                                                             |