

# The Sprout



Children demand action on Climate

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 135 March 2019**

## The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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# The Sprout

## Issue 135, March 2019

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### From the Editor

The big story in a beautiful February when Spring came very early indeed, is that people round here have started to get frightened at looming climate change. On 15th Feb many of our local children joined the school strike (p.6) demanding that government take action. On Feb 21st the Vale District Council and N Hinksey Parish Council followed the City Council's lead and declared a Climate Emergency. Just what this will mean remains to be seen – nothing much can be done until the new parish council is elected in May. On the Expressway, our MP got some clarification in Parliament (p.23) and BBOWT got permission to take the Govt to court for the way they have put forward routes without first assessing the environmental implications (p.39). Opposition to the Flood Scheme has also brought results – there will be a public enquiry in the summer if the Environment Agency can't persuade the landowners to accept their plans (p.41). There will be more info about the Expressway on 21st March, at NHPC's Annual Parish Meeting. This is your once-yearly chance to engage the PC in a proper discussion about what needs doing around Botley. The Chair, David Kay, sets out the issues on page 13. Elsewhere, we have an interview with a Life Coach (p.17), looking for butterfly eggs in Raleigh Park (p.21), and for a Rose Coloured Starling which made a rare appearance in Botley's back gardens (p.27). All this and more in your favourite local mag!

Ag MacKeith

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## **Letters to the Editor**

### **Botley Circus**

Thank you for your editorial in the February Sprout alerting readers to the plan to call the centre of the new shopping ‘Westway Place’. This will become, in effect, the name of the whole centre. It is utterly dull as a name. And as you say it is confusing, especially as Westgate is now branding itself heavily. It is also contradictory, as a ‘way’ is a direction not a ‘place’.

Your suggestion that the proud name of Botley be given a home as well as a road is surely right. I’m not convinced that Botley Place is best, as it sounds a bit dull. Botley Square seems a bit snobbish – and Botley is not! I’d prefer Botley Centre or even Botley Circus.

But we live in times when good, sound proposals bite the dust as corporate thinking imposes its bland visions on us all. So what to do about your brilliant suggestion? I suggest you organise a small group of Botleyans to write a letter to the Oxford Mail and also the Times, whose editor complains that it does not get enough letters. It should be short and it could propose that the developers hold a survey of local residents as to what name we would like – provided Botley Circus is one of them. And get the local radio to do a feature as well, and go out and ask residents what they think.

**Anthony Barnett**

### **From Briony**

From 1991–2007 I represented our area on the VOWH District Council and 1995–2012 at NHPC. I met the London agent of the West Way Precinct owners and suggested if they ever intended to sell they should approach the Vale, who were capital rich but revenue poor. It’s history now but the Vale became the new owners and the rental income of over £500k p.a. went towards lowering Council Tax precepts. However, my hopes that the Vale would be better landlords were always disappointed. Years passed and MACE became interested in redeveloping our local shopping area. I realised the Vale would be likely to make a huge profit if they sold their land assets. I decided to keep a low profile and see what happened.

In total I served 22 years as an elected councillor and was particularly pleased how NHPC councillors achieved so many completed projects



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during 2007/11, mainly funded by grants. These included the award-winning Nature Reserve and Community Orchard, both in North Hinksey Lane, and the total replacement of the Elms Rise play park equipment. Then attention turned to environmental issues and the lack of facilities for older children. The result was the *Louie Memorial Fields Project*. Local experts guided NHPC and sadly, around this time, the much-loved Botley Skatepark was vandalised. The Copse rare fen area was in decline, and sometimes rain caused flooding to properties at the bottom of Hutchcomb Road. Pollarding of old, distorted willow trees and diverting the stream back to its original route were recommended, although this did not please everybody.

Finalised plans went on Public display and were mainly well received. Grants were received towards play equipment on the upper field and recommended environmental work in the Copse. Pollarding of the willow trees certainly looked drastic and stark but they became strong and healthy and the stream rerouting was a success.

Now to our current 2019 situation and the developments taking place. I've kept my views to myself, and never joined the West Way Concern group, finding them rather strident and inflexible.

However: *I do feel it is now time to congratulate the developers on their management of the demolition and building work taking place at the shopping area. Their attention to H&S issues and catering for the needs of the shops, customers, car parking and developers' vehicles so far has been impressive.*

Finally, last month the Sprout commented about the chosen name of *Westway Place*. It does not bother me too much but surely in memory of our late and fabulous Chippy it ought to be *Westway Plaice!*

**Briony Newport**, Honorary Alderman, VOWH DC

## Where are the Hedgehogs?

Where have the hedgehogs gone?

I was asking this of a friend on North Hinksey Lane. She and I both agreed that we last saw a hedgehog some 20 years ago. Both of us live in 'natural' areas with plenty of suitable access – but alas no hedgehogs. Previously they were not infrequently seen on our patches. I believe they are around in parts of Botley, though perhaps only on the west side of the A34??

**Elaine Sugden**

## Climate emergency

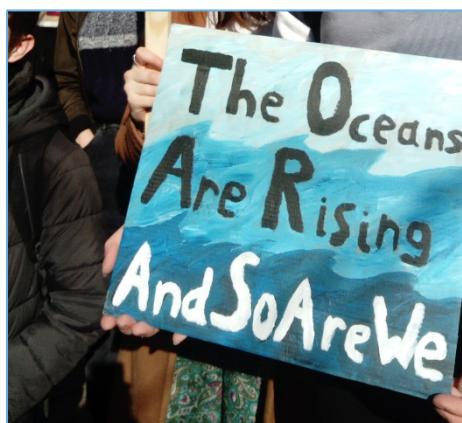
The realities of Climate Change have been taught to our children since primary school – it turns out they believe us and want us to do something about it. *Hooray!*

Many children from our local schools were among the thousands who brought their anxious energy to Bonn Square on February 15th. Their hand-drawn placards were full of telling slogans like the ones shown here. What came across in the speeches and in the placards, was a sense of desperate urgency – of course it was exciting to be out of school and on the streets, but there was no sense that this was just for fun! The climate emergency is deadly serious, and we had better believe it!

It's not just the school children who have decided to act.

On 21st February the Parish Council unanimously agreed to become the first one in England (as far as we know) to call a climate emergency. Earlier in February Oxford City Council led the way, and the Vale of White Horse

has now followed their example. The vote was unanimous, and all the discussion was about what the PC could do make a difference. It was agreed that they had a role to play in keeping people informed, and the new council, to be elected in May, will have a remit to set up a working group to look at what help and advice there is locally to get the message out. Low Carbon West Oxford has made a good start, and the Association of Botley Communities has much to offer.



The North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan, (now out for consultation at the Vale of White Horse), has clear policies for sustainable building in the parish, and it is to be hoped that the Vale will be more willing to enforce them in future. The pavilion replacement in Arnold's Way is designed to be a model of sustainability.

In this context, the proposed Oxbridge Expressway seems increasingly wrong-headed. Apart from the dire effects on wildlife, its very existence will hugely add to car journeys, not just the road itself, but the



million new homes it will bring. With this in mind, the parish council voted to join the No Expressway Alliance linking groups and communities across the county who want the whole project to be abandoned. ([www.noexpresswayalliance.org](http://www.noexpresswayalliance.org))

Is there hope we can come together and do something to fend off climate change after all? There are already small initiatives across the Parish, and the *Sprout* would love to spread the word. Our own contribution is to print on recycled paper.

There will be a national school strike on 15th March. But our children are not in this alone. We can join them – after all, we're worried too!

**Ag MacKeith**



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## **West Way Community Concern update**

Construction of the hotel, student accommodation blocks and the community centre are proceeding. The pedestrian walkway through the site from Arthray Road is now in its final route.

The developer hasn't yet discharged relevant conditions placed on them in their planning consent. The Vale acknowledge that, technically, they are in breach, but that no action will be taken against them.

Parking of constructors' vehicles in residential roads has become an issue. Our District councillors are raising this with the developer. Traders in Elms Parade have commented that they are seeing reduced footfall, and also that parking around the retail area is a problem. We will press the developer to ensure that they comply with their promise that constructors' vehicles will not be parked in carparks designated for users of Elms Parade and the temporary retail units.

The new shopping centre will be called 'West Way Square'. We had commented on the current name 'Westway Place' as being at odds with the location 'West Way'. The Vale have the final say on naming and have been insistent that the name should be spelt as two words. Mace will continue to use 'Westway Place' in their marketing to retailers, but hopefully this name will disappear as soon as the marketing is complete.

The developers have submitted a planning application, reference P19/V0416/FUL, to make changes to Block E; the residential and retail block at the rear of Elms Parade. The elevations have been changed, with the size of the balconies reduced. At ground level, amendments to the retail spaces are proposed, which the agents say will allow flexibility, such that a greater variety of tenants, including A3 uses (for the sale

and consumption of food and drink), can occupy the space.

We will continue to respond to this and any further planning applications, and will monitor the planning conditions as they are discharged. Any concerns will be brought to the attention of the planning officers and our local councillors. More information on

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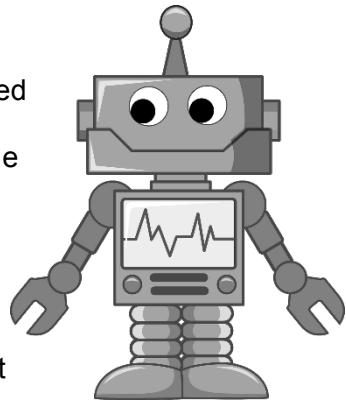
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# **'Artificial Intelligence' Is it all it's cracked up to be?**

*From the Sprout's Raving Reporter*

As a technological Neanderthal who still can't understand how the internet actually works – '*Why do you need to know, Grandad Mike?*' chime in grandchildren but that's not the point – how on Earth can I get any sort of grasp on Artificial Intelligence? Well, perhaps I could start by posing a few simple questions that are giving me sleepless nights.

- ?? Will I still have to pass a driving test if I get a driverless car?
- ?? Are SIRI and ALEXA compatible. No, not a technical question – it's just this: if in the same house will they compete for domestic supremacy when I'm not looking?
- ?? What are they anyway?
- ?? Will a dry Sunday roast no longer be deemed to be my fault? Would lecturing the oven when it goes wrong simply end up in a home visit by men in white coats?
- ?? Will the vacuum cleaner have a sense of humour?
- ?? Is it advisable to consult the dog before sending him off with Derek the Dog Walker? How will it handle poo bags, is that a step too far?
- ?? Will Gary the Robot Gardener continue the tradition of flinging weeds over next door's fence?
- ?? When sent shopping, will my robot be able to avoid imploding on hearing 'Jingle Bells' in October?
- ?? How do I stop it going to Waitrose?
- ?? How will it deal with a rival robot when they're both going for the last 'Meal for a Tenner'?
- ?? As I can now apparently control my central heating from 10 fathoms down or another galaxy, will it tell me when the missus turns up the heating just after I've turned it down?
- ?? What's 4 across in today's Times?
- ?? Frankly, until I have the answers, I shall continue to assume algorithm is a variation on Zumba.



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## **Parish Council update – the key issues**

As we approach the end of this Council, with elections to take place in May, this seems a good time to review some of the main issues from the past four years that will continue to be of importance to the incoming new Council.

The North Hinksey Parish Neighbourhood Plan has recently taken another important step towards adoption. The Plan was approved by the Parish Council in November and then submitted to the Vale. They are now carrying out the first stage of Independent Examination, which is a six week consultation running until the 27th March.

Details of how to submit comments can be found on the Vale website at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/northhinksey](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/northhinksey), along with copies of the main Plan documents. Hard copies of those documents are also available to view at both Botley Library and the Parish Council Office in Seacourt Hall throughout the consultation. In addition the Resources page of the Neighbourhood Plan website at [www.nhinkseynp.org.uk/resources](http://www.nhinkseynp.org.uk/resources) contains copies of all the Plan documents.

The proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway has emerged over the last year as a real threat to Botley. Should a route involving widening of the A34 eventually be chosen, then the local impact would be horrendous. NHPC continues to oppose the Expressway as a whole, and in particular the possibility of choosing a route running through Botley. A public consultation will eventually take place this Autumn at which point around six potential detailed routes will have been selected. This issue will feature in the Annual Parish Meeting, at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st March in Seacourt Hall, so come along to find out more.

Also at that meeting we will be updating everybody on progress with the Botley Centre redevelopment. With new structures springing up across the site, the future look of our main shopping and community centre is becoming progressively clearer. There's still a long way to go before completion though.

A final key issue is the provision of leisure facilities and upkeep of Council owned buildings and spaces. Recently we installed play equipment on the Upper Louie Memorial Playing Field, but the biggest project by far remains the provision of a new Pavilion to replace the current ageing structure. This task will be passed on to the next Council, hopefully with a set of approved plans in place. We will have a fuller update next month on how you can comment on the plans as part of the



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Vale's formal planning consultation process.

A lot has been achieved over the duration of the current Council, but much work remains to be done. I would like to offer my personal thanks to Councillors for their efforts over recent years, and to encourage individuals with an interest in supporting the community to stand in the Parish Council elections. Details about the election process can be found on our website at [www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk) and Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/northhinkseypc](https://www.facebook.com/northhinkseypc).

Finally, I must give honourable mention to our former Parish Clerk. Alan Stone, who retired in December after serving the Council for over 16 years. Alan brought a great deal of experience when he joined the Council, and used this, in combination with a tireless determination to improve NHPC's efficiency and to ensure that the important tasks did get done properly, and on time. His hard work was driven by his desire to do the best he could for the Parish. It has been a pleasure to work alongside him as Chairman over the past few years. Colin Ryde, his replacement, has a tough act to follow. We wish him well!

**Councillor David Kay, Chairman, North Hinksey Parish Council**

---

## **THANKING YOU!**

The volunteers at Botley Over 60s Lunch Club were treated to a meal at the Greyhound at Besselsleigh in February thanks to a generous whip-round from their Lunch Club customers. We were presented with some money after the Christmas lunch and thought the best way to spend it would be for us to enjoy a meal together. As a group we usually don't have a chance to linger as we're anxious to get on with the clearing and washing up after Lunch Club, but this time we enjoyed chatting until gone 3.00pm. I'd like to take this opportunity to publically say a huge 'Thank You' to all our Lunch Club customers and let them know how much their generosity was appreciated.

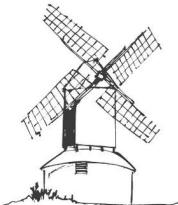
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## Life lessons

Gadi Benyamin is a life coach who lives in North Hinksey but has clients all over the world. Over the course of a fascinating hour, Gadi told me how he came to be a life coach and how coaching works, and suggested a little exercise that we can all try.

Gadi grew up in Tel Aviv (Israel), ‘the white city’ famous for its Bauhaus architecture, and he initially wanted to be an architect.



However he decided in his early 20s that he should do something more meaningful, and he studied economics and communication at Haifa University. One month after he graduated, he started to work in Advertising, since this was a form of “realistic creativity”. However after two years he felt unfulfilled there and, in his own words, left to look for his destiny. One week later he met his now-wife, Neora.

Gadi spent the next three years doing things that he loved: writing, analysing and producing cinema, and then getting an MSc in cinema. He went to drama school to get better at writing, and wrote lots of funny sketches for television. But that still wasn’t his destiny.

So for a year he sat in a café for 9–10 hours per day just writing. Gadi wrote everything, including what it felt like to be a writer, and ended up writing about how he solved problems with playfulness. Aha! That was his destiny. Gadi could help people by helping them to solve problems. He got involved in learning and teaching about the Satya method of life coaching. He has been coaching now for about 13 years, has become a senior coach, and also mentors other coaches.

In brief, the Satya method aims to ease suffering, and to allow people to become free (both ‘free from’ and ‘free to’, in whatever way makes sense for the individual). We all have emotions that make us feel miserable: anger, disappointment, helplessness, jealousy etc. Gadi explains: “The suffering, and what causes the ‘dead ends’ in our life, isn’t the emotions themselves, but being in the grip of these emotions. As we grow up, we condition ourselves to react to those emotions, in a way that doesn’t serve us well. For example, sometimes as children we understand that if we please our parents, they will love us more, or pay attention to us, or even that will keep a peaceful house.

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And when we get older, we are still act like that, but that doesn't work for us anymore. We call that a 'miserable mechanism'. The Satya method helps people to identify their own 'miserable mechanisms', and to free themselves. The person who used to please can now choose what would be the best or most accurate reaction, that will benefit both him and the other."

While he was still living in Tel Aviv, Gadi had a practice and 20–25 weekly clients. When he moved to Oxford with his family, half of Gadi's clients stayed with him – he coaches them via Skype. He also has clients in other countries, since Skype allows for in-depth face-to-face contact. A session lasts 1 hour, and sessions extend for 6–12 months.

To allow all of us to gain a bit of the flavour of life coaching, Gadi suggests that we can ask ourselves a few questions. "But first there is one condition: Be honest with yourself while answering (actually whenever you can). Only with that, can you gain any value from this exercise." The questions can be used with children as well as adults, and could be discussed within a family or household:

- When your children see you (or deal with you), what kind of person do they see (or deal with)? (impatient, compassionate, stressed, etc?)
- What are your most important values? (e.g. love, peace, laughter, compassion)
- What are your most important goals for the next year? What three things would make the most difference in your life?

*Now choose one of your relationships, and see what would happen if you applied your Q2 values to that relationship.*

I certainly enjoyed our time together, and came away feeling refreshed and happier. One thing Gadi said really stuck with me: "If you want to be happier in your life, bring all your values to expression in all your relationships". It's a good life rule.

**Riki Therivel**



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## **Looking for Butterflies – the promise of summer in the middle of winter**

A rainy, bleak Saturday morning in January when the temperature won't reach 5° Celsius all day is an unlikely scenario for butterfly surveying. Yet January is the optimum time to search for the eggs of one of Oxfordshire's more notable butterfly species: the Brown Hairstreak. The UK conservation status of this species is currently 'vulnerable' and their range is limited to the south of the UK where their larva must find blackthorn to feed on.



Finding and recording the eggs of these rare insects is a key activity for protecting their habitats, which was why thirteen determined volunteers gathered in Raleigh Park early that Saturday morning to join Nick Bowles, Chairman of the Upper Thames Branch of the Butterfly Conservation charity. He had brought an example of what we were going to search for: a tiny, bright white dot nestled in the join of a blackthorn twig to its stem. Well-hidden and easy to miss!

We began our search at the blackthorn stand at the eastern end of the Park and Nick soon found an egg in situ. The advice that a female Brown Hairstreak often lays more than one egg on the same twig was proved right when a second tiny brilliant white dot was spotted. The blackthorn stand revealed another two eggs before the group moved westwards up the Park, but no further eggs were found.

A member of Friends of Raleigh Park had seen an adult female Brown Hairstreak laying eggs along the bridleway at the top of Harcourt Hill in August 2018. We went up to check the blackthorns bordering the bridleway and had found six more eggs by the survey's end. Nick and members of Butterfly Conservation were pleased to see sizeable young





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elms in the hedgerows. These are the food plants of the even scarcer White-Letter Hairstreak, listed as having 'endangered' UK conservation status. A brief search did not reveal any eggs on this occasion, but the presence of elms approaching maturity is an encouraging prospect for attracting White-Letter Hairstreaks in the future.

Friends of Raleigh Park members were very grateful for the expert advice and time kindly given by Upper Thames Branch Butterfly Conservation on this chilly day. Further information about local butterflies and the Upper Thames Branch's activities can be found on their website: <https://www.upperthames-butterflies.org.uk>

The Raleigh Park butterfly surveys will run again in 2019. We plan to start in April, weather permitting, and anyone with an interest is very welcome to join the informal survey walks around the Park. We survey every three weeks, usually on a Monday afternoon. More information about all Friends of Raleigh Park activities can be found on the website: <http://www.raleighpark.org.uk>. Do come along and join us in an activity that extends throughout the summer from April until October.

**Barbara Witkowski**

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## **EXPRESSWAY – Food for thought**

*At Prime Minister's Question Time on 6 February.*

**Layla Moran, MP:** Mr. Speaker, the premise for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway has never been consulted on, yet this multi-billion pound, multi-lane highway is set to carve through the landscape between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge and affect millions. Now there is a consultation due to start on the route option later this year but, will today the Minister guarantee that there will also be a formal consultation on whether the Expressway is the right thing to do at all?

**David Lidington, Deputy Prime Minister:** Mr. Speaker, the Expressway is part of a strategic plan for the Oxford to Cambridge corridor which is probably the best opportunity for economic growth for innovation and job creation anywhere in Europe at the moment. Like her, I speak as somebody who has a constituency, not just a government, interest on this. There will be a public consultation on route options later this year, there will then be a public consultation on the preferred route, and communities will be able to comment on all aspects of the Expressway during those consultation [and see page 39]

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

Following Dr McEwan's February talk on ways to reduce the risk of getting cancer, the PPG are planning other talks. We would welcome your input and suggestions for future topics. You can find more information on the Medical Centre notice boards, and in local magazines like this one.

### **Healthwatch and PPGs**

Did you know you can learn a lot about Oxfordshire PPGs on the Healthwatch website? [Www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk) has a whole section devoted to PPG activity, where you can also leave comments about your healthcare experience. Healthwatch Oxfordshire is committed to supporting PPGs in the county. They are endeavouring to increase the number of patients involved locally to ensure more are heard, involved and informed. At Botley and Kennington PPG we subscribe to that belief, so we need YOU to become involved.

At PPG meetings we take the time to discuss people's concerns –: getting prescriptions in time is a current issue. We also learn a lot about developments and constraints on the practice from the source, as the meeting is usually attended by the Practice Manager and one of the practice partners.

### **Cumnor Choral Society**

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Currently meetings alternate between Botley and Kennington and are either on a Wednesday or Monday at 6pm. Let us know if you would like to be involved – we can change the time if necessary. We need new people to bring forward ideas and suggestions, so please come along to the AGM where you can learn more. This will be on **19th March 2019 7pm in the Village Centre Kennington**.

For those not sure where this is, it is close to the medical centre and opposite the Tandem on the main road through the village. Parking is either at the medical centre or pub.

**Chris Sugden** for the PPG Group



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## Have you seen this bird?

Over the past couple of months an unexpected visitor has been spotted in several locations across Botley: a rose-coloured starling. Although similar in size and shape to a standard starling, they have distinctive black and pinky-beige markings. These birds usually live in eastern Europe or Asia, but often follow trails of swarming locusts across Europe, in this case overshooting considerably!

Botley resident Wylie Horn, who is a conservation advisor with the RSPB, said: "Seeing a rose-coloured starling in Oxfordshire is definitely unusual. There have only been a handful of records in the county historically. An irruption across Europe was reported in the middle of last year, [https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bird track/news-archive/2018/rose-coloured-starlings-move](https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bird-track/news-archive/2018/rose-coloured-starlings-move), and it's likely that this bird was a straggler from that. I hope that it makes its way back to its natural homeland in the far eastern European steppe soon."

Unfortunately this rarity has recently dropped out of sight, so we are asking everybody to keep an eye out and report back to [botleyhinksey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:botleyhinksey@hotmail.co.uk) if you spot it. We're keeping fingers crossed that a female sparrowhawk, also spotted in the area recently, wasn't the cause of its disappearance.

David Kay

Dean Court Community Association

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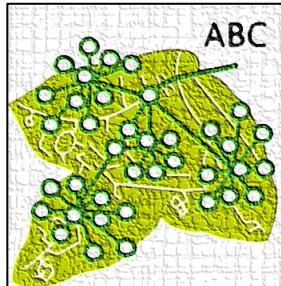


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## Association for Botley Communities

The Association for Botley Communities (or ABC, as we are better known) was formed last year with the vision of facilitating community action in Botley and surrounding areas. We consider membership of the area we call Botley to actually cover parts of both North Hinksey and Cumnor parishes, so all the more useful to gather people together as there is not another obvious umbrella organisation. To this end, a group of us representing many of the community organisations within Botley gathered at Dean Court Community Centre one Monday in January to share ideas and find out what we all do!



There were over 20 organisations represented by 17 of us, with more apologies given from those who couldn't make it and others invited. Groups represented ranged very widely, from the Foodbank to Tilbury Residents, from Friends of Raleigh Park to Botley Bridges, from Ss Peter and Paul Church to Botley Arts, and many more, all of us seeking to serve the local community in some way.

We discussed the aims and needs of each group, and considered what we can do to help each other. Two key themes of the evening were volunteers and fundraising (no surprises!). We hope to be able to take action on both in due course, with the creation of a Botley volunteer database to list opportunities and training available, and a Botley Communities grant fund, to which rich local commercial enterprises could donate and poor local charitable enterprises could apply. Both these ideas are still very much in their infancy, with potential to be shaped, so if you have ideas to offer, we would very much welcome it!

We also talked about creating a mini-group for those of us who run community halls, to share ideas and experience specifically related to keeping a building going, and about the challenges of marketing events, activities and venues. Perhaps most excitingly, we discussed the possible return of the "Best of Botley" awards – maybe in the new Seacourt Hall in the new West Way Community Hub building?! Watch this space...

There is always room for more groups and people to be involved, so if you'd like to be at our next get-together, please get in touch via our Facebook page.

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## Brownies explore the Moral Maze

We welcomed Jameela to 2nd Botley Brownies and two of our ex-Brownies (Lisa & Bella) who are now doing the service element for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, and we also enrolled Michelle.

On a chilly Saturday afternoon we had a very successful cinema trip to see 'Mary Poppins Returns' and we felt as if we had a quarter of the cinema just for us. Some of us had seen the film before our trip but still enjoyed it and spotted things we had not noticed the first time around. The girls were captivated and it was a complete treat for us Leaders to look along our row of girls and see a totally spell-bound girl leaning forward open-mouthed!

The following week at Brownies, as part of the New Brownie Programme, we discussed the film and the morals. Then each Six chose a particular scene or message and re-enacted it for us all. Imaginations ran wild. We had:

1. *Don't judge a book by its cover* – a library scenario whereby the seemingly lovely, sweet "butter wouldn't melt in the mouth" librarian actually loathed the printed word and would have a tantrum and trash the library just after closing time each night before restoring it again!
2. *Learning to love ordinary chores* – for example, bath time, and a typical Mary Poppins magical underwater swimming scene with real dolphins and pirate ships.
3. *Don't be greedy* – turning back time so that with better document filing the corrupt banker could not swindle the grieving Banks family out of their house.
4. *Don't judge a book by its cover* – comparing the outward appearance of the seemingly.

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nice suited-and-booted bankers with their evil cartoon-screen counterparts

Then just before half term, in the lead up to Thinking Day, we played a Trading Game – each Six was allotted a set of template shapes and a country: USA, India, Ghana



or Tanzania. The countries had to manufacture to a set of exacting standards any of these shapes (each worth a different value): triangle, rectangle, circle or semi-circle and remember to cash them at the central bank. With the classic Girlguiding mantra, “If it doesn’t say you can’t, you can” they eventually realized that they could negotiate with the other countries for equipment they didn’t have or perhaps even join forces and share equipment and labour. (see photo). Finally, with pencil, paper, scissors and ruler now in their possession, groups began to manufacture shapes which they took to the bank to exchange for cash. But then global conditions suddenly affected them, and equipment was lost or prices plummeted, and there were cries of, “That’s not fair”. Precisely – life isn’t fair! You just have to make the best of what you have and maybe, just maybe, try and learn to work together!

**Lucy Howes**

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P19/V0090/LDP	6 Poplar Rd. Form room in roof space with rear dormer.	<b>9 January</b> TDD: 6 March
P19/V0030/HH	4 Chelsie House 104 West Way. Pitched roof removed & replaced with enlarged flat roof. Ground floor & 1st floor extensions.	<b>10 January</b> <i>Target Decision Date:</i> 7 March
P19/V0129/HH	Braeriach, Grosvenor Rd. Erect 3 dormer windows on the rear elevation.	<b>14 January</b> TDD: 11 March
P19/V0158/HH	44 Hutchcomb Rd. Demolish existing dormer & chimney stack to rear. Put in new dormer & alter 1st floor window.	<b>16 January</b> TDD: 13 March
P19/V0023/FUL  Retrospective application in connection with P07/V0741/O and P13/V0817/RM,	Tilbury Fields. Change roads, footpaths, parking areas, hard & soft landscaping, boundaries, recycling storage facilities, vehicle access prevention to Tilbury Lane, & surface water drainage.	<b>21 January</b> TDD: 22 April
P19/V0184/HH  Retrospective application	51 Yarnells Hill. For rear patio carried out during the works of the approved front and rear extension, application P17/V2719/HH.	<b>24 January</b> TDD: 21 March
P19/V0284/HH	38 Yarnells Hill. replace side & rear extensions with single storey rear extension & convert garage.	<b>30 January</b> TDD: 27 March
P19/V0372/FUL  Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission P17/V3116/FUL	9 West Way. Increase height by 0.5m & 1st floor window heights. Refurbish B1 offices, external cladding & alter doors & windows. Add 2nd floor extension to provide 10 apartments. Amended plans of 25/4/2018 revising bin location and providing flooding information.	<b>8 February</b> TDD: 10 May
P19/V0357/FUL	1 Hillhead, Lime Rd. Change of use from 6 to 8 bedroom House in Multiple Occupation (Sui Generis).	<b>11 February</b> TDD: 8 April

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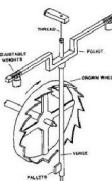
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## Randoms

### Hill End needs you

Hill End along the Eynsham Road are looking for volunteers to help maintain the Centre's grounds both as a wildlife conservation and educational resource. There is much to do: footpath maintenance, weeding and cutting out the invasive plants; protecting habitats and food for wildlife; occasional planting and pruning; building maintenance; surveying and keeping records of the plants, birds, butterflies and bees. Come for entire sessions or just the occasional hour. Tools are provided. More info at [www.hillend-oec.co.uk](http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk) Contact David Millin on 01865 863510 or email at [david.millin@hill-end.org](mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org)

### Hinksey Heights Fen

Work Parties Oxfordshire Fens Project are looking for volunteers to help restore species-rich short sward fen <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/oxfordshire-fens-project/> Meet at the Golf Club car park OX5 1AB. Second Sunday of the month from 10th March, 10am–3 pm. All welcome. Contact [camilla.r.lambrick@gmail.com](mailto:camilla.r.lambrick@gmail.com)

# COLONEL CUSTARD

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## **Botley Women's Institute**

At our next meeting on 5th March, Flo van Diemen van Thor will be speaking about "Dementia". Competition: a spring flower. Walking group: 11th March: meet at Elms Parade for 10am bus to Witney Lakes. Craft group 19th March, 19:30, when we will be making sugar paste flowers. Book group: 27th March. Come and join us in our centenary year. **AJ**

## **Bad news from Botley**

Thames Valley Police local newsletter is mainly about Abingdon and the surrounding villages. Four items relate to Botley in the latest issue.

- Overnight burglary in North Hinksey Lane between 29 and 30 January. Entry was gained by smashing a patio door.(Crime ref. no 43190031194).
- Poaching at Farmoor Reservoir. The perimeter fence was cut and long lines put out to catch fish. Police are investigating with the help of Thames Water's Wildlife Officer, and the Environment Agency.
- Tools have been stolen from vans in the Botley area.
- A house was broken into in Heatley Way (off Tilbury Lane), overnight on 26 January, and car keys taken (Ref no. 43190027216.)

If you have information that might help with any of the above, please call 101 and quote the crime reference number

## ***STOP PRESS ♦ STOP PRESS ♦ STOP PRESS ♦ STOP PRESS ♦***

The High Court has accepted BBOWT's claim that the Govt had a legal duty to assess the impact on wildlife and habitat before they chose a corridor for the proposed Oxbridge Expressway and related housing. *Today shows us that the government has a case to answer and we look forward to fighting for wildlife at the full hearing*, said BBOWT. We mean to *make sure that the potential impact of this concrete corridor is fully assessed and made public*.

## ***Cumnor Choral concert***

Cumnor Choral is putting on a concert of Handel Anthems on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30 in St Peter and St Paul's Church. There will also be



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a new piece by local composer Leslie Perrem “The Isle Full of Noises”, which he wrote as a companion piece to Ravel’s “Introduction and Allegro for Harp, Flute, Clarinet and String Quartet”. Tickets from Caroline on 07961 900670 or [cockman.caroline@gmail.com](mailto:cockman.caroline@gmail.com). Cumnor Choral is always ready to welcome new voices. There is no audition; you just need to bring your enthusiasm and willingness to learn to rehearsal at St Andrews Church, Dean Court on Fridays from 19.45 to 21.45 hrs. (September–March). See [www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com](http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com).

## Flood Alleviation Scheme hits a snag

Landowners protesting against compulsory purchase orders for the controversial Flood Alleviation Scheme have received an encouraging letter telling them that the Dept for Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has taken their concerns seriously. If the OFAS group cannot manage to address these concerns over the coming months, they will be brought before a Public Enquiry in July. As a result, the earliest possible start for preliminary construction work might be Spring 2020.

## Spring Clean 2019

Due to take place this weekend, March 1st to 3rd. Can you help? Good for the planet, good for Botley, good for your waistline! Even the smallest piece of plastic blowing in the wind has the potential to get into water courses and thence into rivers and be washed into the sea, with hideous consequences for marine life. Take this chance to make a difference. Even if you haven't registered you can still get out there and lend a hand to the groups who have.

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a cat's face on the right, with the text "For every cat and kitten" overlaid on the left side of the image. On the far left, there is a logo of a stylized cat silhouette with the text "OXFORD CAT CLINIC". Below the logo, the text reads "Gentle, compassionate veterinary care for cats", "Full surgical and medical facilities", "Call us to register today", and the website "www.oxfordcatclinic.co.uk". On the far right, the text "BOTLEY & MARSTON" is displayed above the address "78A West Way, Botley, OX2 9JU", the telephone number "Tel: 01865 243000", and the text "24 Cherwell Drive, Marston, OX3 0LY" followed by the telephone number "Tel: 01865 950700".

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

<b>1st Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>
<b>2nd Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
<b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>
<b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b> Boys and girls welcome	Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386
<b>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>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
<b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8–16	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 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497
<b>Botley Library</b>	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
<b>Botley Singers</b>	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>
<b>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 Branches Youth Cafe, Instagram @_branches_youth_
<b>Community Fridge</b>	For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811
<b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>	Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoral.co.uk">www.cumnorchoral.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
<b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>	Details on website at <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone Chris Impey, 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 Childcare Clubs</b>	Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>	Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997
<b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
<b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>	Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
<b>N Hinksey Horticultural Soc</b>	Contact: Ann Dykes Ox 251821 <a href="mailto:anndykes@hotmail.com">anndykes@hotmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>	Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>	Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook
<b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. 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 Otters</b>	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
<b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>	Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> .
<b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>	Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>West Way Day Centre</b>	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>
<b>Saturdads</b> Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
<b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>	Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .
<b>Shotokan Karate club</b>	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
<b>Weight Watchers</b>	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>

## Halls for Hire

<b>Botley Baptist Hall Westminster Way</b>	Contact: Rev Kalyan Das Tel. 07841 867967
<b>The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, OXFORD</b>	Contact Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley</b>	Contact: Mr M Shearan Tel: 862748
<b>Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane</b>	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 245273
<b>Seacourt Hall, West Way Place, Botley</b>	Contact: Eric Batts 07452 960100 or <a href="mailto:seacourt.hall@gmail.com">seacourt.hall@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley</b>	Contact: Emmett Casley 427519 <a href="mailto:emmett@kerensagardens.co.uk">emmett@kerensagardens.co.uk</a>
<b>Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village</b>	Contact: Mary Bagnall <a href="mailto:mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com">mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com.</a>

### North Hinksey & Botley Churches

**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 Clare Sykes, Rector Tel: 242345 or [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com)

**Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill**

Saturday 6.30 pm. Mass  
Sunday 9.15 am Mass  
Fr Daniel Lloyd. 07584 323915 [dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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 Kalyan Das 07841 867 967 [www.botleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org)

**Calvary Chapel**

Sunday services held at Botley School 10.30–12 noon

Pastor Philip Vickery 01865 864498

[calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk);

[www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk](http://www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk)

# Sprout – What's On

March 2019

- 1st to 3rd   **Big Clean Up, all around Botley**
- Sat 9th   **9.30–11.30 at King's Centre, Osney Mead: Sale of kids clothes, toys, books etc in aid of N Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs**
- Sat 9th   **1.30pm, Branches Café, Six Nations Rugby for 12–17 year olds, Scotland v Wales, free entry**
- Sat 9th   **7pm, Branches Cafe, Mad Hatters Tea Party, see [www.branchesyouth.uk](http://www.branchesyouth.uk) for tickets**
- Mon 11th   **2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Alan Cutler on 'Judge, Jury, Judgement ... Justice?'**
- Fri 15th   **11am, Bonn Square, National Schools Climate Emergency demonstration**
- Sat 16th   **10-12pm, Branches Café (above Library), District Councillors' Surgery**
- Sat 16th   **1.30pm, Wytham Village Hall, Family Magic Show**
- Tues 19th   **7pm, Village Centre, Kennington: Botley/Kennington Patients Group AGM**
- Thurs 21st   **7pm, Seacourt Hall, NHPC ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**
- Sat 23rd   **7.30pm, Farmoor Village Hall, Bingo**
- Sat 23rd   **7.30pm, Ss Peter & Paul's Church, *An Evening of Handel Anthems*, Cumnor Choral Society**
- Mon 25th   **2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Martin Harris on '200 years of my family in Botley and Cumnor'**
- Thurs 28th   **8pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting**

*More local events and information on [www.botleyhinksey.org.uk](http://www.botleyhinksey.org.uk)*