

The Sprout



The

Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley



**Issue 163 Winter
2021**



The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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From the Editor

Christmas is coming, and now's our chance to bring some festive cheer to local families who are feeling the pinch. Botley Bridges is organizing family hampers. To apply for one, or to donate to one, see page 5. See page 29 for Anglican Christmas services. For others, phone numbers on inside back cover. Green issues continue to dominate: there's a letter defending garden parking (p.3), an article about trees (p19), some signs of hope in our area (p35) and information about Sustainable Botley, our new local group to combat climate change (p6). Elsewhere, District Councillors announce a new Community Lottery (p23), Friends of Raleigh Park have had a productive year (p7), as have 15th Scouts (p13), carers can now get some help (pp 11 and 29), and Seacourt Hall needs a treasurer/ secretary (p17). A much loved local figure is remembered on page 25, and the Patients Participation Group has some practical advice on getting the best out of our local medical practice (p31). The Sprout Delivery team is stepping down after ten years on the job. Their role is vital – we will need a replacement for

our next issue, which will be in February. Please get in touch if you can help. Meanwhile, a very *Happy Christmas* to all our readers.
Ag MacKeith



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Letters to the Editor

Front garden parking

The last two editions of the *Sprout* have contained some rather one-sided reporting on the subject of Front Garden Parking, that I think needs challenging with a bit of pragmatism.

I too like the look of a nice front garden and it certainly has wildlife benefits I'm sure, but car ownership is unfortunately a fact of modern life and turning your front garden into a car park has benefits:

- It reduces on-road parking, which can cause disruption to bus services and emergency vehicles.
- It reduces parking on grass verges, which turns them into muddy puddles and restricts pavement access for the disabled in particular.
- Parking on the road and verges is dangerous for pedestrians, especially children, as it creates blind spots when crossing the road.

Going forward, front garden parking is more likely to increase, too, because a lot of Elms Rise houses have driveways that are too narrow for modern cars and actually most are shared drives anyway. Couple that with the emerging need to charge your electric vehicle, and I am really struggling to see how this can be achieved otherwise. Extension leads across the pavements?

So, yes I can absolutely see the point, but there has to be balance and pragmatism. How about a bit of "offset" with some of the lovely rear gardens hidden behind those houses with front garden parking?

Dave F.

Green Guide

I received the "**Local green guide**" with the November *Sprout*. But why such a tiny hard-to-read font?

Well meaning, I suppose, but rendered almost impractical by being inaccessible to many.

A. Curmudgeon



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Christmas Hampers for local families on low income

All hampers to be delivered by December 23rd

Botley Bridges Family Support, The Community Larder and Food for Charities are again working together to spread some Christmas cheer to local families in Cumnor, Botley and West Oxford. Last year we distributed over 100 hampers, brimming with a variety of food and gifts, all donated, packed and delivered by local volunteers.

With the continuing pressure on family incomes and rising prices many families find Christmas a difficult time.

We are looking to our local community to spread some Christmas cheer. Can you donate?

- Dried food
- Fresh fruit- oranges/bananas/ dates/ pineapple
- Christmas treats
- Wrapped gifts for children or adults - with a removable label saying what the gift is and age/ sex it is suitable for
- Non alcoholic drinks

Donations can be dropped off at St Peter and St Pauls Church Hall, Botley on Tuesday 21st December from 10-4pm. If you cannot drop off at these times please email sue@botleybridges.org to arrange an alternative venue and time. If you would like to volunteer to take in deliveries, pack hampers or deliver please contact Sue Dowe as above, or phone on 07769 275084.

Requests for a hamper from households on a low income can be made by adults in the household or by adults on behalf of a household by one of the following methods:

1. Online: the link will be on the Botley Bridges website at the end of November www.botleybridges.org
2. Download a form from the Botley Bridges website and e-mail to sue@botleybridges.org
3. Complete a form and hand it in to your school or pre-school – **schools will have hard copies available.**

Thank you.

Sue Dowe, Chair of Trustees, Botley Bridges

Remembrance Day 2021

Following last year's small scale NHPC Remembrance Day Service due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year's event returned to its normal much larger format. It was fantastic to see such a high degree of participation from so many military and civilian organisations, and of course from local parishioners.

For the Council it was a great honour to have Claire Horton, OBE, attending her first local Remembrance event since taking up her role as Director General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and likewise a privilege to have Her Honour Ann Campbell representing the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

We were grateful to three Royal Logistics Regiment based at Dalton Barracks for providing the Honour Guard,



and for attendance by military representatives from further afield, shown here laying the wreaths. . It was very satisfactory to see the widespread participation by younger members of the community, too, in including pupils from Matthew Arnold School who read so eloquently during the Service, the musical contribution made by members of the Oxfordshire Youth Brass Ensemble and the presence of local Scout and Guiding groups. The active involvement of these and other young person organisations is critical to continuing the tradition. Particular thanks are also due to Max Carter, who again played the Last Post at the 11th hour on the 11th day in the West Way shopping complex. Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed on the day to the British Legion, raising over £250, and to the Botley W.I., who refreshed us afterwards with hot drinks and home made biscuits.

Cllr Graham Fairclough

Friends of Raleigh Park

The Friends of Raleigh Park held their AGM on 11th November, by Zoom for the second year. While COVID may have reduced the number of events in the Park, there has been no lack of activity and progress. This article summarizes the reports presented at the meeting; fuller details will be found on the Friends' website (www.raleighpark.org.uk).

We offered many congratulations to Judy Webb, our ecological champion, who was recognised first by inclusion in the Woman's Hour Power List for 2020, and subsequently by the award of the British Empire Medal for services to Oxfordshire wildlife. We also remembered Sue Cassetta, whose work on the Forest School at North Hinksey Primary School was closely linked to the Park; the Friends were glad to be able to contribute to the funding of a memorial bench, which is now in the Forest School area.

The Wild Oxford Project, which has brought so much change to the Park since 2016, has shifted its focus from direct work to the support of local groups. The Friends will be working with the Friends of Rivermead in the organisation of work parties, with Adam Bows as our Volunteer co-ordinator, using tools donated by BBOWT. Andy Gunn will still be our BBOWT patron, and will continue to provide the expert advice that has served us so well. The City Council volunteers will also continue to work in the Park under the leadership of Carl Whitehead. We are already seeing the results of the two/year project by the Freshwater Habitats Trust to rewet the main fen by retaining the water which previously flowed through and out of the Park. Rob d'Ayala has constructed some impressive leaky dams, which have already restored many dry areas to their original wetland state. The City Council have upgraded some of the Park gates for better access. The Badger vaccination project, agreed at our 2019 AGM, has finally started up in the Park and the grazing field adjacent to it, which Barbara Witkowski reported on.

A lot of effort has gone into documenting the biodiversity of the Park. Building on Judy Webb's Wild Oxford reports, Adam Bows has conducted a two-year project to assess the effect of management on Wild Oxford sites, comparing Raleigh Park with Lye Valley and Chilswell Valley. His results show significant increases in water quality and fen flora in all sites, limited in Raleigh Park only by the

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activity of the grazing cattle in munching through the year's flower production, with knock-on effect for numbers of pollinators and nectar-feeding insects. There have been some notable successes, including the reintroduction of the rare Grass of Parnassus which had not been documented in the area since the Seventeenth Century. The City Council are looking at innovative ways of restricting the cattle's movements, to protect flowering plants in future years. The richness of invertebrate species was documented by a study funded by the Freshwater Habitats Trust, which found a wide range of species in the fen, including nationally rare insects, particularly in the Long Southwestern Fen, also known as the Tongue, which has only recently been opened up to management work. Our programme of supporting the bird population has continued. Clive Smith reported on the birdboxes he has installed and maintained, which have been well used by great tits and blue tits, and the feeding station, now fully protected against squirrel incursions, is back in operation. As well as small birds, buzzards have been sighted over the Park, and Tawny Owls were seen watching the early morning stages of the badger vaccination.

Development on the fringes of the Park continues to threaten its stability. The Friends, with support from all the Wild Oxford stakeholders, are actively contesting a proposal to build three large houses on the most important part of the rainwater catchment area of the fen, which would also require the destruction of a large badger sett. We are grateful to Cllr Debby Hallett, to North Hinksey Parish Council, and to Harold Grant for their help.

Our website, ably managed by David Brown, is now being supplemented by regular Twitter posts using the hashtags #raleighpark and #raleighparkoxford. Watch out in particular for Adam's sightings of exotic fungi, and his dialogues with Judy Webb on plant identification...

Our thanks go as ever to Julian Cooper and Carl Whitehead of the City Council Parks department, to Judy Webb who has been a constant source of wisdom and advice, to Ellie Mayhew and the Freshwater Habitats Trust, and to BBOWT and Andy Gunn. It is now ten years since the Friends were founded, and we have seen many changes in our beloved Park. We look forward to helping it continue to flourish and provide pleasure to the community in the next ten years.

Stephen Parkinson



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Counselling Carers Launches in Botley

Have you ever felt completely overwhelmed? That no-one really understands what your life is like? All too often life can get on top of us and we need someone to walk alongside us for a while, hearing our pain, helping us through tough choices and to move forward.

As a Botley-based counsellor and psychotherapist with a personal caring role, I have experienced first-hand the lack of emotional and mental health support for carers, and the burden they carry alone when there is no support in place. It was this crossover between my personal and professional life that inspired me to do more to support the most vulnerable in our society by caring for their carers, who may themselves be struggling to process a loved-one's diagnosis, or the relentless everyday demands of care, and whose own difficulties are often overlooked.

Caring for another person can be extremely rewarding, and most carers are motivated by love and compassion. However, without adequate support they can burn out and struggle to cope. *At any one time, 1 in 4 people in the UK* is suffering with a mental health problem. This is especially true for carers, who are often balancing their own needs with those of the people they look after. They may feel overwhelmed, depressed or anxious, but their responsibilities mean they put their own mental health needs to one side. And so, having got together as a dedicated group of other carers and professionals, we decided to do something about it.

After many months of discussions (and paperwork!), Counselling Carers was born: a social enterprise that specialises in counselling and psychotherapy for carers. This includes those caring for disabled or elderly relatives, children with Special Educational Needs, adults with learning disabilities, Looked After Children, and those who work in the caring professions. We support people of all ages and from all walks of life, giving confidential space to talk to a qualified professional about the struggles they face.

Whether you are young or old, have recently become a carer, or have been one for years, Counselling Carers is here to help. We give you space to process your feelings, find healing, and be empowered to be resilient. To find out more visit our website www.counsellingcarers.org or give us a call on 07309 255133.

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15th Scouts Out and About

With Christmas nearly here and being outside feeling like a distant memory, we look back at the 15th Oxford Summer of Scouting.

The pinnacle of our year and every leader's favourite week of Scouting is our annual Summer Camp, which this year took place at Hill End. In a large field complete with fire pit, we took 10 Scouts and 6 Cubs away to sleep under canvas. For most this was not only their first night in a tent but also their first night away from their parents! Here is how one Scout summed it up:

As a first time camper with the 15th this is my record of all the ups and downs (not that there were any downs, it was great) and the great experience. For 4-and-a-bit days we camped in a field at Hill End. The Cub pack even came for a day. We all learned a lot of important life skills. We cooked our own food and put up our own tents. Afterwards I felt a lot more independent. I don't think a better learning experience for children of a wide variety of ages exists.

And that's without mentioning the obstacle courses they completed, the climbing wall, silly sports, practical first aid, pioneering, team building, glow-stick games in the dark and much more!

This year we embarked on a trip into Oxford with the Scouts and a few Cubs. The day started with a treasure hunt, taking in many landmarks and tourists spots, with questions and clues along the way to test their observation skills. Time was spent in the Ashmolean Museum, which inevitably turned into 'ghost stories' as we passed the Ancient Egyptian Mummies. This was followed by a refreshment break at the Westgate Social, with the Cubs putting into practice their recently learned Money Skills badge. Lastly was a round of Junkyard Golf, with the consensus being that more 'sports' should use UV lights and cheesy 90's disco music to attract a younger audience.

It's amazing what we at the 15th Oxford Scouts can fit into a Friday evening, a day trip or weekend away, or week long camp. For more info, or if you or someone you know wants to get involved, check out our website <https://sites.google.com/site/15thoxfordscouts/>

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News from Botley School

You may not know it, but Botley School has amazing outdoor places – a huge field, a nature reserve, an adventure grove and an area of woodland. The children have the chance to learn and play outside on a regular basis, and even more so this year. Two members of staff have completed their Forest School training (based at Hill End Outdoor Education Centre) and as a result, each class from Nursery to Year 6, now has an afternoon a week for half a term exploring and learning outdoors in their Forest School sessions. The autumn has been particularly fun with scavenging activities and a pumpkin trail. There are plans to develop the children's skills as they progress through the school, with den building, use of tools and fire lighting on the agenda. And as far as mental health and well-being is concerned, what could be better than a scamper and game in the colourful autumn leaves?

If you would like your child to have fun in Forest School then it's that time of year when our EYFS team are supporting parents in applying for a school place, ready for their child to start in September 2022. For those children who were born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, parents are now able to apply for their Reception school place through the OCC website. We have two open events for prospective parents, on Thursday 2nd December and Thursday 6th January, from 3.45pm. We are inviting parents into school to have a tour of the school and meet our EYFS staff – perhaps a look around our grounds? We will have a meeting to discuss what our school is like and provide support for applying for a school place. If you are interested in attending these events, please email our EYFS lead Laura Jones for details on: earlyyears@botley.oxon.sch.uk

Karen and Adam, Forest School Leaders

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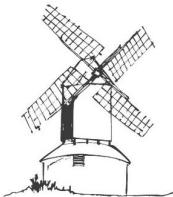
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Secretary / Treasurer for Seacourt Hall

Seacourt Hall Management Committee (SHMC) is looking for someone to take on the role of Secretary and Treasurer. The role receives an honorarium of £1000 a year plus £10 a month for miscellaneous costs.

Seacourt Hall moved to its new location in West Way Square at the start of 2020 and, following the interruptions of lockdowns, the operation has now settled into a stable routine and the hall is thriving as a flexible community facility at the centre of Botley.

The Treasurer's job is to help trustees carry out their financial responsibilities. Accounts are based on the bank account. The payroll is outsourced and there are only a few invoices to be paid each month. Hire invoices are sent out from our online booking system.

The Secretary role involves setting up and minuting 4 to 6 meetings a year, being the point person for contact with the Charity commission, and acting as the custodian of our governing document.

The combined role of Secretary and Treasurer would suit someone with some accounting, finance or similar experience, a good understanding of financial management and reporting. There is more information about Seacourt Hall here www.seacourt-hall.org.uk.

Initially please send expressions of interest to Lorna Berrett, Chairman of Trustees, at lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com



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For the Love of Trees

Every Autumn, people re-connect with trees. They gather the ripe nuts and fruits, which sustained our ancestors throughout the bleak months when little food was available. The turning leaves create an explosion of russet, red and gold, but then they fall, leaving behind black skeletons. We will miss them until the spring. The ugly old sheds and raw new buildings that were hidden all year are now clearly visible.



Britain in the distant past was a place of trees. Not the deep dark forest of fairytales, but wood pasture with areas of open grassland where animals foraged. The trees provided wood for building and fuel for fires. Our world-renowned navy was built with wood from thousands of oaks. The Industrial Revolution felled thousands more. In Britain, the percentage of land covered by trees is now smaller than in any other European country. Every year more trees are destroyed by disease, and by the advancing tide of development. Movement of goods brought in the fungus which wiped out our Elm trees. Now millions of Ash trees are being destroyed by Ash Dieback. We may not be able to control disease, but we can fight insensitive planning decisions, and make sure those trees which have been lost are replaced.

Planting trees is relatively easy. Making sure that they survive is a bit more of a problem. They need lots of water and tending in the early stages. The hot summers that are now common in Britain are creating drought conditions that can kill off newly planted trees. In the cold months, they may die of exposure. The best way to protect them is to surround them with nursery shrubs, as is now the norm in planted sections of supermarket carparks. It works, and the flocks of birds, like Waxwings, which descend on them in the Winter are very grateful.

In Blenheim High Park, there are ancient Oaks, alive since the time

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of William the Conqueror. Cumnor Fit4Future (www.cumnorf4f.org/ancient-oak-tree-survey) has a project to find and record all the ancient Oaks in their parish.

In Scotland, tree replacement is taken seriously: old patches of native trees are being connected up by new planting. I had the privilege to plant Scots Pines on denuded hillsides at the Trees For Life site at Dundreggan. It was hard physical work, but very rewarding. Fencing keeps out the deer (which love to eat the young bark) until the trees have become established, and the programme is very successful.

The Woodland Trust is putting a lot of effort into protecting existing woodland and planting up new ones. It is much better to expand an old wood than to create a completely new one because the woodland ecosystem is already in place. But woodland needs management. To get a floral carpet in the Spring, there must be enough light reaching the forest floor. Climate change has meant that the leaves appear a little bit earlier every year and this creates unwelcome shading. One day it may have an adverse effect on the glorious swathes of bluebells that we can experience locally at Shotover Plain and Besselsleigh Wood.

Trees are carbon dioxide sponges. They take it in through their pores and convert it into leaves and wood, forming a store of locked-up carbon. So, the more trees the better. But they have to be the right trees in the right place. The Oak trees in St Paul's Crescent are a delight. They look magnificent and bring in flocks of birds like the beautiful blue Jay to feast on their acorns.

An Oak tree in a suburban garden may not be such a good idea because of its size. Smaller 'hedgerow' trees will fit in much better, like the new Bird Cherry tree behind the new signage opposite McDonalds. This is not only a very pretty tree with blossom that enhances a rather bleak patch of short grass, but the birds and insects will benefit. Indeed, if you want birds to inhabit an area, you must have trees preferably growing in dense hedges. They are essential as nest sites and places to forage for food. Chris Church has ordered up a stash of 'whips' – single thin stems that will be trees after a year or two – for planting in and around Botley on December 5th. Did you join him last year? If not, here's another chance. Louie Memorial Upper Field, December 5th, 11am.

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But, it has to be said, not everyone is equally keen on trees. Some people like neat and tidy and become upset about leaves falling on their carefully mown lawns. If a tree is too tall, it might cut out light from a window, so that daytime lighting is necessary. But tree shade can be welcome where too much light falls on a window. We will need more of such shade as the summers become fiercer. Trees planted around a house will keep it cooler in the summer. And the local birds will love you for it...

Linda Losito

New Community Lottery

The White Horse Community Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery, set up by the Vale of White Horse District Council. You can buy tickets – which are £1 each – to be in with a chance of winning cash and other prizes, but more importantly, this lottery is designed to raise much needed funds for charities and initiatives that benefit local people.



Whether you are part of an organisation looking for funds, or someone interested in playing the lottery to help the good causes registered, you can find out more at www.whitehorselottery.co.uk

District Councillor Surgery Dates

Face-to-face District Councillor Surgeries are starting up again. Residents are invited to drop by to speak to Cllrs Emily Smith and Debby Hallett about any council matters at the following event:

The surgery on **Friday Dec 3rd**, will once again be held at the Missing Bean Café, West Way Square, Botley, from 1:30–3pm.

If you need to reach Emily or Debby you can get in touch with them at any time via debby.hallett@whitehorsedc.gov.uk, 07545 241013

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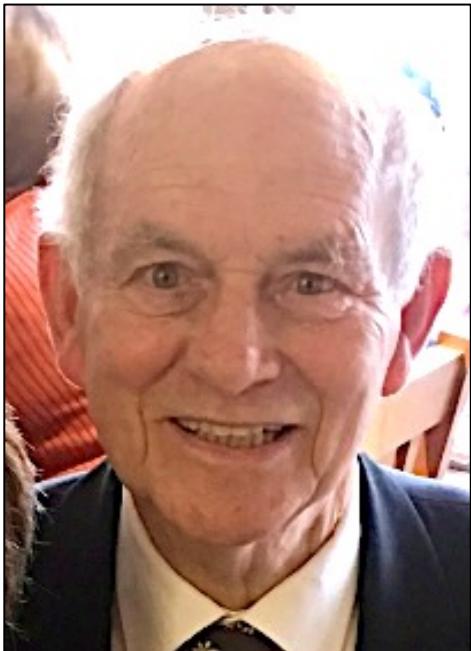
Roy Newport – a Tribute

Roy was born in the Spring of 1937. His childhood along with his two brothers and two sisters was coloured by the deprivations of wartime and shaped by hard family circumstances. He grew up in West Street, Osney, in a house without running hot water or indoor sanitation.

Although he could have avoided National Service, his mother encouraged him to take this opportunity to broaden his horizons. There are many stories from his time in Germany, and especially his time in Cyprus during the conflict there. His attachment to the military and to those who serve veterans continued throughout his life and he gave outstanding service at this time of year to the Royal British Legion, standing out in all weathers to sell poppies as both an act of fundraising but also of respect. His last collection, outside Waitrose, netted £2,271 – the tins were almost too heavy to carry!

Roy had left school at 14 and after National Service returned to working for his uncle's firm where, training with experienced craftsmen, he learned a range of building trades and skills. He spent the last 25 years of his working life at the Radcliffe Infirmary in the maintenance team, where he was widely known and appreciated, not only as one able to turn his hand to so many different jobs, but also as a good colleague who enjoyed a laugh and joke.

When, in the 1980s, the local County Councillor recruited a



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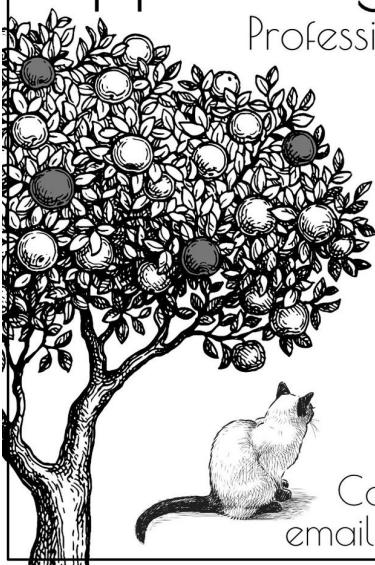
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leader to re-start a youth club in Botley, she advertised for volunteers and both Roy and Briony responded. Within a month the Youth Leader had left and Roy took over and continued for the next decade.

Practical service and a willingness to take on responsibility without fuss were hallmarks of so many of the roles Roy undertook. He was a member of Botley Baptist Church for more than thirty years, a Deacon and for many years helping with the Saturday coffee shop, with Jumble Sales and providing all manner of practical support for the Church and the Community. He was a founder member of the *Sprout*, and organized the deliveries for the first five years. He also helped found the original Botley Health Walks, in response to the then Government's Look After Your Heart campaign.

His sporting interests stretched from football, playing for the county youth team and for around 15 years for the Gas Company Team, to darts and bowls. These latter interests continued until ill-health curtailed them.

As for Roy and Briony, she was just 16 when they met and they were married a couple of years later in 1959. The marriage lasted for 62 years. She would say it was a relationship of opposites. I'm not so sure, different personalities, true enough. But so much shared commitment to family, to friends and to community. Devoted, loving, supportive and generous in so many ways; an example to us all.

And for Roy a supporting role for his energetic wife in public perhaps, but the final arbiter in private. He may not have said much but when he spoke matters were settled. A man of great emotional intelligence making it easy for family members and those in the wider community to turn to him to seek advice, to unburden or just to find a friendly listener.

Uncomplaining and resolutely cheerful he coped with failing health as he had coped with all other hardships and setbacks: with quiet determination and humour. A very special man.

[taken from Nigel Appleton's funeral address]



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Kennington Memory Club

Day Centre News

Kennington Memory Club has had a busy autumn. As well as running the twice weekly daycare sessions for people with a diagnosis of dementia, there have been two fund-raising events: a Cream Tea and Sale of Goods on a Saturday afternoon in Kennington with lots of yummy scones and cakes; and more recently an Autumn Fayre in Abingdon. Both of these were well supported which was gratifying for those organising and volunteering to help out. Would you like to join our band of volunteers for these events? They are great fun and so rewarding. The club couldn't make ends meet without on-going fund-raising, so any ideas for new events would be welcome.

You don't have to live in Kennington to join us. Our members come from a much wider area, including Botley, Cumnor and Boars Hill. So if you are interested in a place for a relative or friend with a diagnosis of dementia from anywhere within reach of Kennington please do get in touch with our organiser, Helen, on 07852 883496 or visit our website www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Isobel Birse



Local Anglican Christmas Services

Sunday 19th December

6.00pm Carols by Candlelight at St. Lawrence, North Hinksey

Christmas Eve, 24th December

9.30am Morning Prayer at St. Peter and St. Paul, West Way, Botley

4.30pm Christingle Service at St. Peter and St. Paul.

11.30pm Midnight Communion at St. Lawrence, North Hinksey

Christmas Day, 25th December

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Peter and St. Paul

11.30am Holy Communion at St. Lawrence

Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Peter and St. Paul.

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Getting Help at Botley Medical Centre

A Short Guide

The Patients Participation Group has been working with the Botley Medical Centre as it seeks to improve its service.

Here is a short guide to help patients during this time:

- 1. Use a Livi appointment if you can.** These are being under-used currently, so please do download the app onto your smart phone or your computer and give it a go if you think it might work for you. (<https://www.livi.co.uk/download/>)

You can have a Livi appointment at the weekend or in the evening as well as during normal surgery times, and you can forward book them too. Livi GPs are trained in our local healthcare system. They can do anything your usual GP can do, but they do it online, including making referrals, issuing prescriptions to a chemist near you, issuing fit (formerly 'sick') notes and organizing blood or urine tests if you need one.

Please do ensure we have the correct contact details for you if you are using these appointments, so we can get in touch with you if a follow-up is needed. You can update them yourself here: <https://www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/secure/cod.aspx?p=K84025>

Also, please note that you will not be contacted about test results if they are normal, only if you need to have a follow up discussion. If you install the NHS app then you can also check your results yourself.

- 2. Book appointments with Clinicians rather than the GPs** if you can, as there are other Clinicians at the practice who can help, as described in the October update. Please do accept an appointment with a Clinician rather than a GP if the receptionist suggests it. It is better to call in the afternoon if you know you

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need to book an appointment with someone other than a GP.

3. **Order your repeat prescription through your pharmacy or at the surgery** in plenty of time, but no more than a week in advance for safety reasons. Please be aware that GPs are not able to issue certain medications more than 48 hours in advance.
4. **Book Covid-19 jabs** through the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

You can choose where to receive it (could be the Kassam Stadium, a pharmacy or somewhere else in Oxfordshire). Appointments come up at different times so it is worth checking again if you have not been able to find one suitable the first time you look. The PPG may be able to help with lifts after you have secured an appointment. You can also 'walk-in' to Kassam between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the moment, provided it is more than 6 months and a day since your second vaccination

Our next PPG meeting (by Zoom) is on Tuesday December 14 at 6 p.m. The subject: 'What your pharmacy has to offer' – contact me at csugden@ocrpl.org for a link.

Chris Sugden



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Green Shoots

Thames Water made to pay

People concerned about sewage pollution in the Seacourt Stream will be pleased to hear that Thames Water was fined £6 million at Aylesbury Crown Court on 19th November. The judge described their actions in polluting the river in 2016 as 'reckless'. TW agreed they had not sufficiently maintained the local sewage system. They only had to pay two thirds of the fine as they had admitted liability last March. In the grand scheme of things, this was not a lot of money for them, but the judge made the point that it was not to come from their customers, but from their profits. They insisted they were doing things better now. Let us hope so. They certainly weren't just a year ago, when the smell of sewage floating up to a parish councillor cycling over the bridge by Richer Sounds prompted the PC to send Thames Water a stern letter.

Sustainable Botley

This new group which has come into existence to do what we can collectively to reduce the local impact on the climate crisis, met recently to formalise its name and aims, and to decide on a programme of action. The aims were twofold, and not complicated:

- To work to improve our environment in Botley, North Hinksey and the surrounding area and
- To support local engagement with the climate and ecological crisis.



In the short term, there will be tree planting on the Upper Memorial Field at 11am on 5th December. Trees are available for gardens as well, and ideas for further planting are invited. Next year we will address issues around energy saving in the home, thinking about how to reduce our carbon footprints without breaking the bank, and what options might be available when gas boilers are no longer

permitted. Presumably grants will become available. There is a lot of local knowledge to draw on, which is just as well, because we'll need all the help we can get! A repair café is being lined up, and we also want to investigate water quality in and around Botley – not just the river, but all the little streams as well. If any of this interests you, please get in touch, initially via editor@thesprout.org.uk, while an email account is set up. For ways to join, see page xxx. (*Photo shows Botley at the climate march in Oxford on 6th November.*)

Proposals for a Solar Farm ‘up the top’

Solar2, a British company with a handful of offices around the country, are proposing to install a solar farm for a 21MW site in the field on your left as you walk past the Jubilee Beacon. It could produce around 7000 homes' worth of clean renewable energy, offsetting around 12,000 tonnes of carbon, or the equivalent of 2,600 cars' worth of emissions. Hitherto, the two fields on either side of the path have had swathes of oilseed rape and wheat, so the soil is not currently in a good state.

The company are also looking at ecological improvements to the site, which could include wildflower meadow planting, locally managed beehives, and wildlife habitats – for example, the muddy bottom the field might be a suitable place for a pond. They aim for a biodiversity net gain on site, which means that it will be more improved for local plants and wildlife than it currently is (not hard!).

They intend to consult the public in November, with an in-person exhibition at a local venue, and an online webinar to give local people a chance to find out more and have their say.

The material they referenced in their proposal suggests they have a good understanding of the need for hedges, and it's easy to see, as one walks over that windswept hill, that hedges have been lost. A hedge by the path, especially one that was low and thick, so it did not obscure the view, but with



the odd tree, would be of real benefit to wildlife and to the feel of the place. Expect to hear more about this soon. (*The photo shows the community-owned solar an wind farm at Westmill, on the edge of the county.*)

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P21/V3002/HH	52 Hurst Rise Rd. Replacement garage with home office over.	20 October TDD: 15 Dec
P21/V3015/LDP	Ardmore, Stanton Rd. Single storey detached outbuilding for home office.	21 October TDD: 16 Dec
P21/V3098/LDP	14 Lime Rd. Demolish garage. Erect single storey outbuilding on same plot.	1 November TDD: 27 Dec
P21/V3123/FUL	Whitwick, Grosvenor Rd, Harcourt Hill. Demolish existing house, erect 3 x 5-bed houses, with parking, private amenity space, bin & cycle storage.	3 November Target Decision Date: 29 Dec
P21/V3149/HH	29 Stanley Close. Single storey rear extension & first floor side extension.	5 November TDD: 31 Dec
P21/V3118/HH	3 Chestnut Rd. Double storey side & single rear extension.	8 November TDD: 3 Jan



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Randoms

Sprout Deliveries URGENT

Bhee and Robin are retiring after ten years of masterminding the *Sprout* network of deliverers. This month will be their last. They will be a hard act to follow, but the good news is that all their systems are now in place, and don't need to be reinvented. Is there someone out there who can take over this vital job for February 2022 and beyond? You don't get paid, but you do get a warm glow to think that you are playing a valued part in our community. It's just one evening a month, and without you the *Sprout* can't function. Please get in touch with editor@thesprout.org.uk if you think you can help. Everyone will love you for it!

Editor

Sustainable Botley

After three lively meetings over the past few weeks, we have decided what Botley needs is a local Community Action Group! Community Action Groups (CAGs) bring together proactive people to help create positive change in the local environment.

Our focus is on cost-effective, peaceful, proactive and positive change starting at home. We will help each other take small steps into a brighter, healthier, happier and more sustainable future.

Do you want to join us? We are still in the very early stages, so we don't have an email address yet. But you can get in touch with me, Anita, for an informal chat, via the Sprout initially (editor@thesprout.org.uk). We would love to hear from you.

Merry Christmas, Seasonal Greetings and Happy Holidays everyone!

Anita on behalf of Sustainable Botley CAG.

Botley W.I.

Building work is coming on well at the WI hall in North Hinksey Lane. Our 7th December meeting will be a Christmas social with entertainment from "Mother Folkers," who have been rehearsing in our hall. We will have light refreshments and visitors are welcome. We shall have a Christmas flower workshop on 11th December with Ann Dawson. We look forward to 4th January and a talk about the Tap Social movement which brews – and purveys – "criminally good beer" in their microbrewery in nearby North Hinksey industrial estate. Call 07598 251161 for more details.

Alison Jenner

Skate Park

The Skate Park has now gone out to tender via the official councils' tendering platform, and attracted interest from five firms. One, which has been building parks in Norway for over ten years, and in England for the past two, turns out to have been set up by someone who cut his teeth (so to speak) on the Botley Bowl. They sent us this atmospheric photo of him at the Bowl in 2005 (*photo credit Alex Burrell*).



Community Larder needs volunteers – suit Duke of Edinburgh award type, Scout or anyone community-spirited!

The Botley community larder provides low-cost food that would otherwise be thrown away – an environmental and social win-win – every Thursday afternoon at St Peter & St Paul Church Hall. We need a few more volunteers for the 3:45–5:45pm shift to join our excellent team. The work involves helping larder members to choose food until 5pm, and then moving tables and crates of food into storage. Volunteers must be 16+ or 14+ and enrolled on a formal volunteering programme. We also need a few drivers to deliver food parcels to people who are house-bound. Anyone interested should contact **botleylarder@email.com**. Thank you.

Doc Saman

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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.

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com
4th Oxford Scout Group Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	mail@thefourth.org.uk Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, 1 Church Way, Botley Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8–16	Brendan Byrne 792531 brendan.byrne999@gmail.com
Botley Community Larder	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com
Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group	Second Tuesday in the Month, early evening. Contact csugden@ocrpl.org
Botley Library	07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox. 721386
Cumnor Choral Society	Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
Cumnor Gardening Club	http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ or phone 01865 721026
Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group	Wed 7.30 at Marcham Centre, OX13 6TY. Email us at info@harmonyinspires.org to know more
Hill End Volunteer Team	Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk
Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club Email: Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org
Let's Sing! – singing group	Weds 2pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or email emformusic@outlook.com
Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc	Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk

North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com
N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997
N Hinksey Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
N Hinksey Parish Council	clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
N Hinksey Youth Club	Weds at LM pavilion, Daz: 07791 212866 or F'book
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
Oxford Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259
Oxford Harmony	Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk
Oxford Otters	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
Oxford Rugby Club	Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk .
Raleigh Park, Friends of	raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Seacourt Hall Management Committee	Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see https://www.seacourthall.org.uk
Shotokan Karate Club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Stagecoach Botley	Seacourt Hall, Saturdays 9:00am–15:00pm Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds. Call 01865 590 510 or 01235 390 810
Walking for Health	2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Alan 07941 610913
West Oxford Bowls Club	Contact details on www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk
West Oxford U3A	(Uni of the 3rd Age) http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/
West Way Day Centre	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
Women's Institute (Botley)	Alison Jenner 07598 251161 alisonjenner@yahoo.com
Weight Watchers	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com

Baptist Hall 1 Church Way	Contact: Diane Melchert 01865 243664 hall rent botleybaptistchurch@gmail.com
The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise	Contact Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
SS Peter & Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley	Contact: 01865 242057 or osneybenefice@outlook.com .
Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email admin@seacourthall.org.uk
Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com
Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village	Contact: Mary Bagnall mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com .

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

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane

1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Sung Eucharist 11.30 a.m.
3rd Sunday, Matins 11.30 am

St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England, West Way

2nd Saturday each Month, 4–6pm Messy Church for children and 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, Tel. Ox 242345 or revclare@btinternet.com

Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill

Saturday 6.30 pm. Mass
Sunday 9.15 am Mass
Fr Lloyd. 07584 323915 dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way

Sunday Service 11 am.
Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7.30 p.m.
Choir practice Thursday 2p.m.
D Melchert, secretary 07847 62534 www.botleybaptistchurch.org

Calvary Chapel

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

Sprout

December 2021

- Thur 2nd** 12.30, Seacourt Hall, Botley Seniors Lunch Club
- Fri 3rd** 2-3pm, Missing Bean, District Councillor surgery
- Sun 5th** 11am, Louie Memorial upper field, tree planting
- Thur 16th** Seniors Lunch club, as above.
- Thur 16th** 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, N Hinksey Parish Council meeting
- Tues 21st** 10am-4pm, Ss Peter & Paul, bring donations for hampers
- Sat 25th** Christmas Day. Oxford Christmas Lunch at the King's Centre is happening again this year, everyone welcome. See their Facebook page for details.

January 2022

- Wed 5th** New restaurant opening at last at West Way shops
- Thus 6th** 3.45 on, Botley School, open event for new parents
- Mon 10th** 2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Hugh Granger on 'The Art of Deception in WW2'
- Mon 24th** 2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Chris Perrins, 'Swan Upping on the River Thames'

More local events and information on www.botleyhinksey.org.uk