

The Sprout



The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 148 June 2020

The Sprout

Issue 148, June 2020

Contents

3 Letters / Botley in Bloom	14 Scouts Zoom into Action
4 Botley Bridges	16 Dean Court Development
6 Latest from WWCC	17 World in a Jar
8 Community Fridge	18 Ashmolean online
10 Planning Apps	20 Carmen Caldera
11 Covid-19 infection	23 Elderflowers
12 Rugby Club	25 Randoms
13 Planning apps	28 LOCKDOWN SUPPORT

From the Editor

Although lockdown has eased a bit, we still aren't in a position to deliver a paper version of the Sprout, so this is our second online production. I'm enjoying the chance to have bigger pictures and in colour, so it may come as a surprise to find the front cover is in black and white. It shows the Balch family, just one of the striking photos taken by Carmen Caldera for her project to record locked-down Botley families for posterity (p20). Other lockdown activities are: studying pondlife (p17); exploring the Ashmolean virtually (p18); cooking with elderflowers (p23); delivering food to the housebound (p8); supporting young families, especially ones with babies born in the last two months (p4); and camping out in the garden (or camping in in the sitting room) (p14). On page 11 there is an article from a retired oncologist explaining how the virus is passed on, and our end pages detail support available in Botley for everyone who needs it. And just to remind us there is life beyond all this, good news about the Community Land Trust's project to develop some affordable housing along the Eynsham Road – they will start building in the autumn (p16). And on page 12 is a history of the Rugby Club at the end of North Hinksey Lane, the oldest in Oxfordshire. There's still time to comment on the latest proposal to increase the height of the block of flats on the corner of Westminster Way if you're quick. Details on page 6. *Happy reading!*

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

Good Old Co-op!

I'm sure I must be writing on behalf of many customers of our local Botley Co-op when I say thank you very much to all the staff involved in the deliveries they have been making these past few weeks.

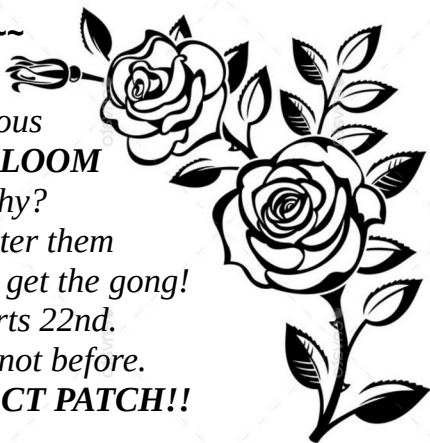
The service is brilliant – well-organised, quick and efficient, and much appreciated.

Well done everyone!

Brenda Bernau

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

*Just 2 weeks left to enter your gorgeous front garden into the **BOTLEY IN BLOOM** competition. Is your neighbour too shy? Why not give them a surprise and enter them as well. They'll thank you when they get the gong! Closing date, 15th June, judging starts 22nd. Winners announced by June 30th, if not before.*
PRIZES FOR THE MOST PERFECT PATCH!!



3 CLASSES:

- **BEST OVER ALL front garden**
- **BEST CAR BOWER**
- **BEST VEGETABLE ELEMENT**

*Show Botley you've got what it takes to give us a thrill. Post a picture on our Facebook page to show how it's coming along. Perhaps you'll find it's there already – someone else may have admired it too! To enter, just email name, address and category to **editor@thesprout.org.uk** CREATIVITY AND INVENTION REWARDED, AS WELL AS ALL THAT HARD WORK.*

BOTLEY IN BLOOM 2020 – OUR LOCAL FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION.

Botley Bridges during lockdown

Botley Bridges, the local family support service, has been busy adapting our usual practice to continue to provide services for families remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Our Coordinator, Hayley Hayle, has been doing Facebook live, interactive story and singing sessions twice a week from her shed. These sessions have also suggested ideas for home learning including easy and cheap craft activities with everyday household items. We have had fantastic feedback from families:

"I've found these virtual sessions so important in keeping the kids connected and feeling part of the community. All your activity ideas have also helped keep them happy and occupied. A really valuable and important service. Thank you."

"Thanks so much for making this easier"

We have been running two Zoom Baby Groups a week for babies up to one year old. Parents can sign up for this, share information, support each other and join in with and learn songs suitable for babies. We also include a relevant baby topic during every session such as Treasure Baskets, early language and communication and looking after yourself. Botley Bridges also recognised that there was a brand new set of families who would have given birth during the lockdown period. But these families haven't just missed out on the professional support usually available to parents of a new baby, they were also missing out on support from their families, due to social distancing regulations. They must be feeling doubly isolated! So we have joined in partnership with Wheatley's 'Maple Tree', Donnington



Doorstep, Flos in the Park, NHS Health Visitors, Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support, Oxford Sling Library, Motherkind Café and OXPI, and are running two weekly Zoom Baby Groups for babies born since the 1st of March. These have been going for six weeks now, and we have 59 families signed up from all over Oxfordshire.

Here is some of the feedback:

"It has been so isolating as a first time mum under lockdown – this group helps me feel less alone, exchange tips and advice with other new mums and build new friendships for the future."

"I've always felt less alone afterwards. It's just been lovely to see the faces of other new mums and babies. I have also found it a helpful forum to share some of my challenges as a new mum."

"As a new mum I have felt isolated and have found these sessions invaluable. It is so lovely to see other mums and their babies. Everyone is supportive of each other which really helps in this crazy time."

"As we don't get to meet other new mums under lockdown it really is reassuring to hear what everyone else is going through, to know you aren't alone and what is normal for a baby your age. I've sadly lost both my parents and my sister lives in Devon, so it's also a bit like extra family support at this time, great to have the visiting specialists too from OXPI, OBS, sling library, etc – such a great help!"

During the stay-at-home period lots of people have been discovering paths and walks that they didn't know existed. A couple of volunteers have also been busy mapping walks in the local area*. These are now available on the Botley Bridges website along with ideas for activities to do on your walks.

For further information about any of the above, see our website, www.botleybridges.org <https://www.facebook.com/botleybridges/> is our Facebook page, or contact coordinator@botleybridges.org.uk

Sue Dowe

~~~~~  
**\*Seven Fields Walk** *On the subject of walks, can anyone shed light on the route of this walk from North Hinksey to South Hinksey? We have heard it was a popular Sunday walk before the A34 took over. Editor*

## **West Way Community Concern update – June 2020**

**Application to increase the height and number of flats in residential block:** Botley Development Company (BDC) have now submitted their application for the changes to the plans for the residential block, which they revealed to us at their public exhibition in March. This block will be on the corner where the Co-op and Tesco are now. See <https://westwayconcern.wordpress.com/mace-consultation/> for the links to the exhibition panels. The application is **P20/V0921/FUL** and can be viewed on the Vale planning website

We encourage you to make your views known via the Vale's consultation process. Comments can be submitted via the website, or by email to [planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk). Public consultation is open until 30th May. Comments can usually be received after the official closing date, so please do comment if you can.

We had hoped to have paper copies of the documentation for people to look at. However, given the lockdown, that has not been possible.

### **Summary of the changes:**

- Under the approved plans, this building is to be 8 storeys high and contain 120 flats. They now propose to add an additional storey and 30 extra flats. There would now be 67 1-bed flats, 82 2-bed flats and 1 3-bed flat, increased from 51 1-bed, 68 2-bed and 1 3-bed flats.
- The height of the building will be increased by 1.5m, which will make it 30.7m high in total, which is 5.4m higher than the completed Premier Inn block.
- The additional storey has been accommodated within the additional 1.5m by reducing the ceiling heights in all of the apartments. The size of apartments has been reduced, increasing the proportion of 1-bed flats has allowed more flats in each storey.
- The developer proposes that 10 flats in Block E would be offered as 'affordable'. This is in addition to the £2m payment which they are to make, in lieu of providing any affordable flats in the approved development.
- There will be no increase in the number of car parking spaces on the development, as the additional flats will be 'car-free'.
- There is now just a single ground-floor cycle store instead of one on each floor.

- The ground floor would be seven retail units plus one unit shown as office/commercial.

### **Other documents**

The application also includes supporting documents: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment; Transport Statement; Planning Statement, Daylight and Sunlight Report, and Statement of Community Engagement.

### **Planning policy**

The application will be considered against the current planning policy, which is contained in the Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031; Botley Centre Supplementary Planning Document; Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document; North Hinksey Parish Neighbourhood Plan; and the National Planning Policy Framework.

There is more description, documentation and planning policy on <https://westwayconcern.wordpress.com/resources/resources-2/>

### **Our comments**

We object to the increase in the height of the building. The Supplementation Planning Document states buildings of “up to 8 storeys”.

- The development area is already over-developed.
- There is inadequate outdoor amenity space.
- The proposal that some of the flats could be sold as car-free is not credible. It would be highly likely to lead to further parking on local streets, unless a Controlled Parking Zone is put in place.
- A new Visual Impact Assessment is needed. It is not enough to assert that the additional height will not have an impact.
- A single cycle store serving all 150 flats is unlikely to be secure. It is not conveniently located for the entrance to the flats.
- The refuse stores are not conveniently located.

Contact us by email at [westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com) or read the history of the campaign at [westwayconcern.wordpress.com](https://westwayconcern.wordpress.com)

**Mary Gill**

## The Botley community fridge is now one of Oxford's three food parcel delivery hubs

Had you happened past the parking lot at the back of the new Seacourt Hall on a Thursday morning, you'll have seen lots of people making a miniature city from boxes and bags of food parcels. The Botley community fridge has, for the duration of the lock down, become one of Oxford's three main food parcel delivery hubs, and Thursday is our main delivery day.



The April *Sprout* described how the community fridge had to move from St. Peter & St. Paul's church and become 'virtual' because of Coronavirus. Shortly after that, the Seacourt Hall Management Committee kindly offered us the use of the lovely new Seacourt Hall, and Branches café lent us their refrigerator.

We then started receiving free pre-packed food parcels from SOFEA, which is a brilliant Didcot-based charity that picks up surplus food from wholesalers regionally, brings the food back to their depot, and gives warehouse training to young people who would otherwise be excluded from school. Each of their parcels contains ten items of non-perishables (pasta, tins etc.) plus fruit and vegetables. To that we add 'Botley bags' of surplus food from Waitrose, Aldi, Magdalen Street and



West Way Tescos, the Oxford Food Bank, and donations from local residents. The parish council kindly contributes toilet rolls.

We started 'advertising' the food parcels in late March, and in the first few weeks we increased the number of recipients by about 50% each week. It currently stands at nearly 200 households. In mid May, we formally became one of Oxford's three food parcel hubs, responsible for everyone in OX1 and OX2. The other two hubs, Barton and Rose Hill, are bigger than us and responsible for the rest of Oxford. We are the only hub run entirely by volunteers.

The food parcels vary in size according to the number of people in the household, and the contents depend on what is surplus in any given week. We do not attempt to provide all the food a household needs, but we do provide a good basis.

We soon found out that young families needed milk and nappies, and that some people need incontinence pants. Happily, two Oxford residents made large money donations – soon to be topped up with a grant – which allow us to deliver these things on Mondays, along with extra food for larger families. On Mondays we also deliver specialist food: gluten free, FODMAP food for people with IBS, food for people with no cooking facilities etc. We provide emergency food parcels five days per week, and bike food to homeless people three times per week.



If you live in OX1 or OX2 and need a food parcel – emergency, weekly or both – please email [food@myphone.coop](mailto:food@myphone.coop) or preferably fill in the form at <https://forms.gle/ofPngUCzU8ER5FRD8>. If you live in OX3 or OX4 fill in <https://forms.oxfordtogether.org/support-form>.

The Botley community fridge's food parcel operations would not be possible without about 40 fantastic volunteers, and donations from many people from the local community (including a regular supply of much-appreciated home made samosas for our volunteers). If the epidemic has brought about one good thing, it has been the heart-warming surge of support between neighbours. Our volunteers not only deliver food but also make sure that the food parcel recipients get other support that they need, and in turn the Botley community fridge feels wonderfully supported by the local community.

After this is all over, the plan is to maybe move to a 'larder' model, where people become food club members and pick up their own food parcels, possibly from the West Oxford Community Centre. In the meantime, Thursdays have become the best day in my week – it gives me a real thrill to see all of those parcels being packed with donated food and going out in our volunteer drivers' cars.

**Riki Therivel**

~~~~~

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P20/V1036/FUL	Black Horse House, Wallbrook Court North Hinksey Lane. Minor external alterations.	29 April <i>Comments: May</i> <i>TDD: 24 June</i>
P20/V1073/LDP	10 Chestnut Rd. Loft conversion, extending hipped roof to form a gable end & window alterations.	4 May <i>Target Decision</i> <i>Date: 29 June</i>
P20/V1138/HH	17 Yarnells Hill. Extend existing ground floor extension to line of first floor extension.	13 May <i>Comments 10/6</i> <i>TDD: 8 July</i>
P20/V1132/FUL	186 Westminster Way. Convert existing separate garage into habitable space for full time rental.	21 May <i>Comments 16/6</i> <i>TDD: 16 July</i>

Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group

An 80-year-old friend asked Dr Elaine Sugden (a retired consultant oncologist) a number of questions about the spread of COVID-19. She checked the latest information from various sources. Here is what she said.

1. *How likely is it that a person without any symptoms could infect others?* Very. A person who has the virus is infectious for 2--3 days before showing symptoms. They are at the peak of 'infectivity' just after symptoms start, and then gradually less so for up to 10 days or more. And usually still infectious for a few days after the end of symptoms.

2. *How is the virus mainly spread from one person to another?* Spread is either directly by coughing or sneezing, or by touching contaminated surfaces – which is where the hand-washing routine comes in.

3. *What is the likely outcome for someone who is infected by the virus? Is it a child?* The majority have either no or only very mild symptoms. But, as with adults, there is a significant risk for children with underlying health conditions to be very poorly. In a recent study in the USA, 80% of children needing intensive care had underlying health conditions.

Is it a healthy adult? Good.

Is it a healthy old person? Less good, but still reasonable. As we age our immune system is less effective (so cancers increase with age).

'Underlying conditions' which increase vulnerability are: diseases which affect the lungs, heart, kidneys, liver, nervous system, diabetes; serious obesity; pregnancy; those having chemotherapy and some sorts of radiotherapy for cancer.

4. *What proportion of people who are infected require treatment or Intensive Care in hospital?* We don't know for the UK because in general we don't know who has had the disease (most of those in the community with symptoms have not been tested). In China it was recorded that about 1 in 5 over 80s and 1 in 100 under 30s needed to be hospitalised.

5. *What is the rate of success of such hospital treatments?* Half of those in intensive care survive, but only one in three of those who need ventilation (this is why medics clap someone who is able to leave intensive care).

Not everyone goes into intensive care. If someone is known to be already very frail and medical experience has shown that they will not survive the ordeal, it is better not to go. Of course this may mean dying at home, but they might well prefer that to dying in isolation in hospital.

The care home situation has been serious – hospitals were emptied of all who were ready for discharge to make room for Covid patients. But it appears that some of the elderly returning to care homes were infected, though we can't be sure, as they were never tested. The care homes didn't know these residents were infected and anyway often didn't have enough personal protective equipment, and so the other residents, far from being shielded as was intended, were an opportunity for the virus to spread unchecked. Sadly, of course, this also exposed the staff to the virus and some of them, and even members of their families, have died, as well as many care home residents.

Who we are: Botley and Kennington Patient Participation Group consists of volunteers who are registered patients of the Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre. *Our main aims are:* to promote the well-being of patients and to facilitate positive and effective two-way communication between the practice and its patients.

Sylvia Buckingham (Chair), **Chris Sugden** (Secretary)

~~~~~

## **Oxford Rugby Club – historic sporting venue**

Oxford Rugby Football Club, situated down the far end of North Hinksey Lane, is the oldest rugby club in Oxfordshire by some distance. It was formed in 1909, following a meeting at the old Clarendon Hotel in Cornmarket Street, where the Gap store now stands. The founding member, Alfred St George Hamersley, played in the first ever International rugby match for England against Scotland in 1871, and he remained as President for twenty years.

The club was called the Oxfordshire Nomads: 'Oxfordshire' because there were no other rugby clubs in the county, and 'Nomads' as it never had a home ground and played on several grounds as the years went by. This accounts for the Nomadic figure in the club's badge.

But all this changed in 1947. The Club President, Mr RB 'Bunny' Cole, a local solicitor, negotiated the sale from Wadham College of a plot of land just off the Southern Bypass beyond North Hinksey Village. The rugby club could not afford to run the ground alone, so Oxford Sports Ground was formed to include cricket, hockey, rugby, tennis and archery. The photo shows Bunny Cole at the official opening of the ground in May 1950, with the Mayor of Oxford, Mrs F M Andrews. At this time the Oxfordshire County Union was refused entry to the national County Championship because it was not strong enough. To raise standards, it was suggested that local clubs send their best players to the club, from which a county team could be selected. After much discussion this idea was accepted and to facilitate this the club agreed to change its name to Oxford RFC, thus reflecting the city. The name 'Nomads' was kept for the Second XV to preserve the club's past.



In 1969 the rugby club found itself in a position to buy the assets of the Oxford Sports Club, as its sister sports had financially fallen by the wayside, and in that year the rugby club became the sole owners of the ground. Since that time the club has improved the facilities with two squash courts. It became the first club in Oxfordshire to provide floodlights on the First XV pitch.

In 2009 the club celebrated 100 years with many varied activities and, ten years on, provides rugby for two and sometimes three senior men's teams and a senior ladies' team, all playing in the national league structure. On Sunday mornings the premises are a lively hub for much younger players, as the mini and junior sections run separate teams from Under 7 right through to Under 16 years of age.

Today the clubhouse provides a warm and comfortable bar with a separate lounge and a large hall with kitchen used for meetings and after-match dinners. It is an ideal facility for outside hire for parties, wedding receptions etc. Why not come along and sample the happy atmosphere for yourself?

**Richard Tyrrell**

## Scouts Zoom into Action

Young people from the 4th Oxford Scout Group have been continuing to meet on weekday evenings using Zoom. The leaders sent Beavers packs of materials to use for activities this term. They have been completing their health and fitness badges, as well as celebrating the anniversary of VE day and planting seeds in yoghurt pots to work towards their gardeners' badge. The Cubs have been learning semaphore (and learnt that flags at arm's length don't fit within the video screen!). They've also been making short stop-motion films. The Scouts' packs included such things as maps, a compass, electronic parts to build a Morse code buzzer, and the parts to build mini 'pioneering' structures like bridges and towers.



The Scouts also received bingo cards, with each 'number' being a picture of something needed for survival in the wilderness. Interestingly, bingo has featured before in the group's history: our accounts show that a large part of our fundraising when we built our hut in the early 1970s was from regular bingo nights. We'd be interested to hear from anyone involved who can remember them.



Over 90 young people in the group took part in a world-wide #CampAtHome event on the night of 30th April. Everyone slept somewhere other than in their bed: dens were made in living rooms, tents put up in gardens (and indoors). The leaders lit a virtual campfire with all sections joining one enormous



Zoom call in the early evening. Much fun (and not much sleep) was had by all. Over 95,000 young people from 68 countries took part on the same evening, to make a new world record.

**James Wynne**



## Oxfordshire Community Land Trust

Since we last contacted you, we've seen the world change as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We know that the situation will be affecting our members and our wider community in Oxfordshire in different and challenging ways, particularly around their housing security. Our solidarity goes out to you all. For this reason, we also hope that **the important role that Community Land Trusts can play in rebuilding our housing system** is recognised, and the progress we've made can be built on in recovery planning. Despite the lock down, we have news to share of our **progress on the exciting Dean Court housing development**. Here is an artist's impression of what we plan to build.



It involves **eight affordable homes** for rent in an area with an acute shortage of affordable housing on the edge of the City of Oxford in the Vale of White Horse District Council. We can reveal that we are currently appointing contractors and, whilst the Covid situation may bring delays, we hope to be commencing building work on site in Autumn. Watch this space for more updates.

Are you from the Dean Court area and on Vale District Council's Housing Register ([find out more](#))? You might be eligible to move into our new development – [get in touch](#).

We've been following the [National Community Land Trust](#)'s arguments about how, whilst house building may help support economic recovery, it is vital that these homes are affordable and in community ownership ([read the article here](#)). The good news is that the Government has finally acknowledged the contributions of land trusts to local communities and the call for further investment ([read more here](#)).

**Fran Ryan**, Director



## Lockdown Life

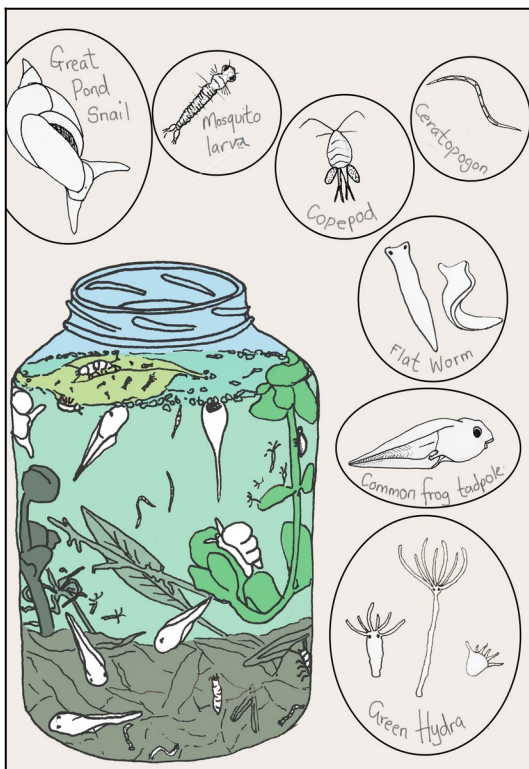
*What have people been doing during lockdown? Emma Gordon has been studying nature. Ruth Cameron has been absorbing culture, Carmen Caldera has been taking photographs, and your editor has been picking elderflowers. How about you?*

### A World in a Jar

How have you been spending your lockdown days? I had a happy time recently in the company of my four-year-old son and a big jar of pond water. Isolation and the slower pace of life let me marvel at the minutiae of things that I had scarcely registered before.

Overnight, the murky water settled to crystal clear, and an ecosystem of fascinating characters was revealed. Initially it was the tadpoles which caught our attention, but then there was the whirligig beetle. Surprisingly, it was the water snails who turned out to have the most personality. The longer we watched (magnifying glass in hand), the more fascinated we became by the tiny creatures zipping back and forth.

As we studied the action, it became clear that the surface of the water – the meniscus – has a very real presence in the everyday lives of these aquatic dwellers. Did you know snails can slither along the underside as if it were a polished floor, and that the malicious, hairy looking mosquito larvae anchor themselves into it?



I was surprised that it was not more of a dog-eat-dog world in there. I kept expecting the tadpoles to eat the sludge worms or the water hoglice to gobble up the mosquito larvae. But mostly they all avoided each other. In fact the most sinister residents turned out to be one of the smallest and most fascinating. The water hydra – tiny green plants, less than a millimetre long, who capture prey in their hair-like tendrils and ingest them through what could be the top of their heads! Fascinating to my young companion (and to me too, it must be said)

A most serene and satisfying afternoon was spent drawing and identifying these characters, and we were sad when the time came to pass them on to our friend to populate his pond. We had grown fond of our temporary guests. But the insight into the plethora of dynamic animals and plants that live in what I had thought of as nothing more exciting than a murky, smelly pond will remain with me long after lockdown is over!

**Emma Gordon**

## **The Ashmolean at your Fingertips**

So: Lockdown continues, and our favourite museums and galleries remain closed. But there *is* hope. Oxford's own Ashmolean has prepared an online Pandora's box of treats to please a variety of tastes.

Predictably, the site concentrates on **Young Rembrandt**, the Museum's Spring feature, open for scarcely a month before the premature closure. However, the Staff have compiled a series of thematic presentations which bring the Dutch Master into your own home. They begin with a 7-minute video introduction by the Curator. I really appreciated the video's brevity: these things can be unbearably long. The Curator gives a vivid picture of Rembrandt from a hesitant, blemished 18-year-old starting his career in 1624, to international prominence at 28, when the Exhibition ends.



These thematic presentations include his early formative years in his home town of Leiden; the move to Amsterdam; descriptions of his family; details of his particular interest and expertise in etching; the innovative nature of his subjects, i.e., ordinary people doing ordinary, even crude, things; the breadth of his scope, notably in his frequent depiction of old age.

Having saturated yourself with Rembrandt, you've a choice in this website of several other types of presentations. My first port of call was looking at the feature on the **Society of Wood Engravers**, which is celebrating its centenary this year with a comprehensive exhibition at the Ashmolean. Sadly, lockdown arrived just before it was due to open. Let's hope we can see it in person later in the year. In the meantime, you can explore a clear and concise explanation of what wood engraving is, a hands-on introduction to having a go at it yourself, and illustrations of stunning work from previous SWE exhibitions.

Besides specific exhibitions, the museum continues in its ambitious project to catalogue its entire Collection on line. Thus far, they have managed to include 131,500 pieces of work: paintings, ceramics, sculpture. You choose a category, click onto whatever catches your fancy, and up comes factual information about your choice.

Possibly my favourite section in The Ashmolean Online is their **Stories**. These are refreshingly brief but sufficiently detailed accounts of a particular work, or type of activity. For example, at the moment there are features on working at home in wartime China in 1943, contrasted with contemporary Oxford artists' lockdown experiences...or you might prefer to refresh your memory of ***Last Supper in Pompeii***, with several lively pieces on offer, including a video of Heston Blumenthal's instructions on how to make carbonised bread.

Finally, for anyone wanting something more hands-on, there are two activities: **Artists in Residence**, a competition whose theme is your reaction to lockdown. There are three age-related entry groups and a wide variety of media is invited. The deadline is July 31st.

Even more innovative is **Isolation Creations**, an ongoing compilation of your reactions at home to particular artworks at the Ashmolean which they are posting on Twitter. Some early examples of creative results are displayed on their website. Why not have a go yourself?

**Ruth Cameron**

## Carmen's Coronavirus Project

My name is Carmen Caldera, and I was born in Spain in 1970. After a what seemed like a lifetime as a lawyer, I moved to England in 2014, and in Botley I found a new home, new friends and a welcoming community. Not wanting to work as a lawyer any more, I turned to my old passion for photography, and it keeps on growing. I take hundreds of photos, learning all the time. What drives me is a desire to identify in my photos the beauty and sweetness of life.

I have started a project to photograph the people of Botley on their doorsteps during the Covid-19 lockdown. I created this project so that, in the midst of so much pain, there would also be a nice memory for all the confined families. And I chose black and white as a sign of respect for the victims and to give a more serious touch to a moment like this. When I have finished, I will print the photos in an album, and donate it to Botley library as a historical memento.

After the pandemic is over, I would like to work as a professional photographer and make my dreams come true.

If you would like me to take your family's photograph, please phone me on 07884 055393. Thank you very much.

**Carmen Caldera**



*This is Carmen (below), and here are a few more of her family portraits: Jez and Fiona Marshall (bottom left), Richard and Adam Evans-Lee and their dog, Chico (bottom right) and the Clay family (opposite). On the previous page we saw Simon Chorley and Aquila Mavalankar (upper) and the Edens family (lower).*







## Elderflowers



Elderflowers are one of the miracles of Nature, and 2020 is a good year. They are all around us right now. Pick them when they are creamy-yellow with pollen for the best taste. Here are some topical recipes.

### **Elderflower Cordial** – perfect for hot weather!

You will need:

- 25 Elderflower panicles
- 1 kg granulated sugar
- 50g citric acid
- 2 or 3 sliced lemons
- scant 2 litres of water

Put them all in a bucket or bowl, cover it and stir off and on for three days, then strain and refrigerate – lasts about ten days in the fridge. Dilute to serve, add ice cubes.

### **The Long Hello**

Having made your cordial, you could use it in this exciting cocktail.

- a measure of Calvados
- a measure of cordial
- dash of bitters

Dust off the cocktail shaker and fill it with ice. Pour in the ingredients



and shake them all together, strain into a cocktail glass and top up with cremant or any other sparkling wine (champagne, for instance!). Grate a little nutmeg on top as a finishing touch.

### **Elderflower Sorbet**

You could also use your cordial to make this refreshing sorbet. Just freeze a suitable quantity of neat cordial, stirring it now and then. When it's getting stiff, whisk up the whites of a couple of eggs till they are a dense froth and stir them gently in, then put it back in the freezer till it is quite solid. Serve garnished with a sprig of mint.

### **And, easiest of all Elderflower fritters**

Pick your panicles with six-inch stems for this.

Make a thick pancake batter, and heat an inch of oil in a pan until it is good and hot. Check the elderflowers for insects, then dip them into the batter, give them a shake, and press them into the hot oil. Twirl them round to spread them out. When they look crispy, take them out and dredge them with sifted icing sugar. Delicious!



Finally, if you're making **gooseberry jam**, don't forget to add a couple of elderflower heads (or a splash of cordial). It makes all the difference!

### **Ag MacKeith**



## **Randoms**

### **Fears for Kennington Health Centre**

Our local Patients Participation Group has expressed concern that the Kennington Heath Centre was closed without warning at the end of March. It has been transformed into a Coronavirus Clinic, providing patient care during the crisis for people with suspected Covid-19 infection.

This means that, for the duration of the crisis, people in Kennington no longer have a local health centre. Unfortunately there has been sparse communication from Botley & Kennington Medical Practice, and the opportunity to liaise with Kennington patients via the PPG has been missed. The PPG is worried that once the crisis is over they may find they have lost their local surgery permanently.

When they asked the Practice how the Health Centre would reopen (expecting to hear that it would be duly disinfected and reopened as soon as possible) there was no reply. Consequently they fear the worst – that they will find when the crisis is over that their local health centre was another coronavirus casualty. They have written to Layla Moran explaining how vital the health centre is to the residents of Kennington, and seeking her support to ensure it stays open. They have enlisted the support of local parish councils as well, and invite Botley residents to get in touch with the PPG if they are experiencing knock-on effects with the increased take-up at Elms Road.

These are strange times, we can all agree, and we have every sympathy with our local practice as it tries to hold the line under huge pressure. But the whole point of Patient Participation Groups is to give doctors a way of relating to their patients as a group. Let us hope that the Botley & Kennington Medical Practice finds a quiet moment in the whirlwind to reassure the PPG that they will not let the Kennington Health Centre go to the wall.

### **Mixed Feelings about Hinksey Heights Nature Park**

It is clear that the Hinksey Heights nature park is suffering from too much attention. *Sprout* readers will be aware that it has become a very popular place for local families with children during lockdown, but the effect of heavy foot traffic on the elderly boardwalks was punishing. A

large part of the problem was the mountain-bikers. The board walks were not designed for this kind of use, hence the No Cycling signs.

John Brimble, one of the directors, was seriously thinking of closing it, but was persuaded by a chance meeting with Ruth Vaughan and her family, that this would be a shame. Instead, he advertised on Botley Notice Board for some help to get the boardwalks repaired, and found a whole team of willing volunteers. The work is now under way. Well done, everyone, for finding this creative solution!

And now local residents in Stanton Road have got in touch to say they are suffering from the park's popularity. Dodgy activities take place there at night (the police are investigating), there have been problems with seriously bad behaviour and some villains have made off with the painted stones that gave so much innocent pleasure. It is so crowded that it's hard to maintain social distancing, and it doesn't feel as safe and pleasant as it used to.

Hopefully, now that lockdown has eased a bit, and some of our children are back in school, the pressures will be less. But please be aware of the problems and spread your visits more thinly. As for the bikers, let us hope that the burly volunteers repairing the boardwalks will take the chance to talk to them and suggest they go further afield.

### **North Hinksey Plant Stall**

Thank you to all who supported the North Hinksey Village Green plant sales for the NHS Oxford Masks appeal this last month. Over £1200 has been raised so far from the sales of flower and vegetable plants. Thank you to those who brought plants to contribute to the sale. There are plenty of tomatoes of different varieties left. The plant trolley is out on the Green daily.

**Sian Lewis, Sally Prime, Chris and Elaine Sugden, Josie Webber**

### **Washable face masks**

Hi all! I just wanted to thank you for helping me raise £1000 for NHS Charities Together! Since lockdown is starting to come to an end I am reopening for curtain and alteration needs from 1st June, so please contact me. I am still raising money for the NHS. You can buy my cloth face masks for £6, just message me via Nextdoor North Hinksey. A pound from every sale goes towards NHS Charities Together. **Nasrin**

## Parish Clerk

The Parish Council would like to thank the outgoing Clerk, Colin Ryde, for his hard work over the last couple of years, and to welcome Sharon Henley, Parish Clerk for Leafield, who will be doing the work *in locum* for the next three months, while a replacement for Colin is found.

## Fenland Regeneration Group

Every second Sunday each month, between 10am and 3pm, volunteers are working on the Hinksey Heights Fen Restoration Area, an internationally important Priority Habitat, to help regenerate small wild wetland flowers. The Hinksey Heights fen is one of several around the city including the ones in Hutchcomb Copse and Raleigh Park. If you would like to volunteer with the Hinksey Heights group – at a Social Distance of course! – contact [sally.gillard17@gmail.com](mailto:sally.gillard17@gmail.com) tel. 07950 558609 or [emayhew@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:emayhew@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk) tel. 07894 036363

## Botley in Bloom

Here is the form if you don't have email. Send it to Ag MacKeith, South View, Old Botley, OX2 0JR.

Closing date is June 15th.

### ***Botley in Bloom 2020***

***I would like to enter the Botley in Bloom competition***

***Name*** (please print).....

***Address*** .....

***Contact details: email*** ..... ***phone*** .....

**Please tick relevant category**

***Category 1 (Overall best front garden)***

***Category 2 (Car bower)***

***Category 3 (Vegetable element)***

# Support during the COVID-19 'lockdown'



## ***Advice from North Hinksey Parish Council & 'Botley Responders'***

More online at: [northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub/](http://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub/)  
regularly updated information, local services and list of **local street contacts**.

If you need help or can help others email: [BotleyResponders@gmail.com](mailto:BotleyResponders@gmail.com)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Oxfordshire support for vulnerable and 'at risk' people:</b><br/> <b>01865 89 78 20</b> (8:30am to 8:00pm Mon to Fri, 9:00am – 5:00pm Sat and Sun)<br/> or email <a href="mailto:shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk">shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Vale of the White Horse District Council:</b><br/> <b>community support for those in need (not high risk): 01235 422600</b><br/> or email <a href="mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk">communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk</a></p>  |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Botley Community Fridge:</b><br/> Free food deliveries for those in need and to reduce waste: <a href="mailto:food@myphone.coop">food@myphone.coop</a> or phone or text: 07759 135811</p>                                                     | <p><b>Food deliveries from Botley Co-op:</b><br/> (limited support from local store for those isolated at home; payments taken over phone): 01865 721935</p> |
| <p><b>Age UK Oxfordshire:</b><br/> Helpline for older local people: 01865 411 288. <a href="http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire">www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire</a></p>                                                                               | <p><b>Childline:</b><br/> free and confidential: 0800 1111<br/> <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a></p>                           |
| <p><b>Mental Health 24/7 helpline:</b><br/> For adults: 01865 904 997<br/> For children &amp; young people: 01865 904 998<br/> <b>Samaritans:</b> 116 123<br/> <b>Oxfordshire Mind:</b> 01865 247788</p>                                            | <p><b>Oxfordshire domestic abuse helpline:</b><br/> 0800 731 0055 (Mon-Fri 10-19:00)<br/> UK Domestic Violence helpline: 0808 2000 247 (24 hour)</p>         |
| <p><b>Medical:</b><br/> Prescription deliveries (by local Scouts): 07514 059123 or: <a href="mailto:spdsxford@gmail.com">spdsxford@gmail.com</a><br/> Botley Medical Centre: 01865 248719<br/> Lloyds Pharmacy: 01865 247023</p>                    | <p><b>NHS:</b><br/> For all concerns: 111<br/> <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/">https://www.nhs.uk/</a></p>                                                     |

***Stay safe – stay home – use these services***

## COVID-19

### Community Hub website and Botley Responders

For all you need to know for local and national support during the lockdown visit the COVID-19 community hub page on the parish council website: <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub/>

The hub includes sections on how to get support, medical and prescription services, food deliveries and shop opening details, how to stay connected, keep fit and stay mentally healthy, council services, financial advice, how to volunteer and things to do for all the family.

The Things to do Section includes ways to safely enjoy the outdoors plus online exercise, art and crafts like Artweeks online, music, free online learning, a local weekly pub quiz and much more. Stay fit, learn and enjoy while supporting your local small businesses.

The hub also has links to our list of Botley Responders – over 50 volunteer street coordinators who represent their roads, providing information and support, setting up local street WhatsApp and email groups, delivering leaflets, helping with shopping and friendly phone calls to make sure no-one is cut off even if they have to self-isolate. A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help in their street and to put the resources together for the website.

We still have some streets without representatives and other volunteer opportunities so if you can help please email [BotleyResponders@gmail.com](mailto:BotleyResponders@gmail.com) Please check the web page regularly as it is kept continually up-to-date.

**Lorna Berrett**

#### COVID-19 community hub

This page is intended to act as a hub for information and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ask for help, to volunteer or to provide information for this page please email [BotleyResponders@gmail.com](mailto:BotleyResponders@gmail.com)

There is a growing amount of help available to those at risk and also for those who are isolated or have related problems. So PLEASE don't suffer in silence or take risks – use the help that is available. This support is here for you!

#### What are you looking for?

Click on the items in table below for information and resources

- |                                                    |                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| * <a href="#">Help for you or someone else</a>     | * <a href="#">Financial or employment help</a>    |
| * <a href="#">Food, shopping &amp; deliveries</a>  | * <a href="#">Things to do for all the family</a> |
| * <a href="#">Medical help &amp; prescriptions</a> | * <a href="#">Volunteering opportunities</a>      |
| * <a href="#">Staying connected</a>                | * <a href="#">Council services</a>                |
| * <a href="#">Keeping fit and mentally healthy</a> | * <a href="#">Something else</a>                  |

#### Key links and numbers:

Find your nearest Street Coordinator [HERE](#)

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

**Directors:** Janet Bartlam, Judi Bolder, John Clements,  
Michael Cockman, Ag MacKeith, Robin Palmer

### *Editor*

#### **Ag MacKeith**

South View House, Old Botley, OX2 0JR Tel: 724452 [Editor@TheSprout.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TheSprout.org.uk)

### *Advertising Manager*

#### **Michael Cockman**

50, St Paul's Crescent OX2 9AG Tel: 07766 317691 [Adverts@TheSprout.org.uk](mailto:Adverts@TheSprout.org.uk)

### *Deliveries*

#### **Bhee Bellew and Robin Cox**

15 Seacourt Road, OX2 9LD Tel: 790648 [Deliveries@TheSprout.org.uk](mailto:Deliveries@TheSprout.org.uk)

**Copy Date:** Copy by 15th of month preceding publication. Earlier submission is welcome. Later contributions may have to be held over to the next issue.

**Advertisements:** If you have print-ready advertisements in the correct format the last day for booking advertising is the 10th of the month preceding publication; in all other circumstances more advance notice will be needed. For details about exact sizes, quality requirements, advice on text and help with production, please contact the Advertising Manager.

### **Advertising rates:**

½ page: 1 issue £56; 3 issues £135; 5 issues £182; 10 issues; £308

¼ page: 1 issue £28; 3 issues £67.50; 5 issues £91; 10 issues; £154

1/8 page: 1 issue £14; 3 issues £33.75; 5 issues £45.50; 10 issues; £77

**Subscriptions:** If you live outside North Hinksey Parish you can still receive The Sprout on a regular basis. Just take out a postal subscription – only £10 per annum, delivered to your door. Contact: Carol Kramer 01865 243002.

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

**All concerned in the production and delivery of The Sprout are unpaid volunteers.**

**The Sprout is (normally) printed by Dataprint Ltd, and is published by North Hinksey Parish Publications Ltd, (a company limited by guarantee) Registration No. 05609535.**

**It can also be found online at [BotleyHinksey.org.uk](http://BotleyHinksey.org.uk)**