

The Sprout



44 Westminster Way, Winner of Botley in Bloom 2021

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 159 Summer 2021

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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Issue 159, Summer 2021

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From the Editor

Lots to report this month as various projects get under way. But first – our cover shows the winning front garden in Botley in Bloom 2021 – congratulations Leo McAllister (p19) of Westminster Way. The Skatepark project has started rolling (p7), the Arts project to turn the dreary A34 flyover into a pair of open arms is getting going (p5). Kennington Memory Club is back in business and looking for volunteers (p13). The Brownies have plenty of qualified volunteers but a shortage of girls (p27), so hurry up and join, Botley girls – the Sprout wouldn't be the same without the Brownies' escapades! Sunny Days (p31) describes two popular local assets which will keep going through the summer: Hill End Camp and the Pop-up Café ‘up the top’. The Letters page concerns itself with the 4th Oxford Scouts and the fate of their scout hut (p3) and there is more on this and the parish poll on page 37. On page 38 we have reprinted the fine map of walks round Botley published with help from the NHS – it's even better in full colour, but you'll have to get that from their website. Our next issue will be out in September – till then, *happy holidays!*

Ag MacKeith

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Letters to the Editor

Oxford 4th, the scout hut and the parish poll

The parish poll on the future of the scout hut was held on 9 June. We would like to thank everybody who engaged in the debate, whichever way you voted. The future of the pavilion and the scout hut are important issues for the community for generations to come. We would also like to thank those parishioners who pushed for the poll, and campaigned to keep the scout hut, it's not something we could have done ourselves. We believe that keeping the scout hut, and building a new pavilion, is the best outcome for the whole community. The poll results strongly supported retaining the hut and returning it to the scout group, by about 3:1, and we hope this will be the catalyst for changes to the parish council's project that will maximise the benefits to everyone and enable the scout group to continue to thrive. Thanks again to all who were involved and engaged, whichever way you voted.

The Trustees of the 4th Oxford Scout Group

Another view

"Why do you hate the Scouts? They do a wonderful job, and hurt nobody." This direct and divisive question was fired at me after I commented that the Parish Poll, and the campaigning around it, was flawed. As a former Scout, I know the Scouts are a welcome addition to any community, and I want them to return home from the Rugby Club. But the dilapidated Scout Hut now (by law) requires significant investment to modernise it. Personally, I would rather see our money and energies being put towards an inclusive pavilion for the whole community's benefit, including a new home for the Scouts.

This campaigner couldn't understand that I welcome the Scouts *and* want modern facilities for our community. If we all compromise, it doesn't have to be one or the other.

There is a huge amount of misinformation circulating at the moment, which is driving a needless divide between friends and neighbours. Please, let's take the time to ask questions, listen and discover what we have in common. I guarantee it's much more than the campaigners *want* us to disagree on.

James Poyser

[More on Randoms on page 37. Ed]

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Botley GAP needs you!

Have you ever felt your heart sink as you walk, drive, or cycle under the A34 away from Oxford into Botley? Although it doesn't mark any official boundary, that point on the map is a transition and a gateway to Botley and areas beyond. But it's a dismal and depressing gateway and not representative of our vibrant and growing community! Well we now have an opportunity to do something about that.



Botley GAP (Gateway Art Project) has formed to improve the gateway to Botley with a vibrant art project and they are looking for more members of all ages across our community. We are a working party of people who are keen to improve the gateway area and get things done. This is part of the wider project to add public art to the new West Way development.

As a requirement of the West Way Square development, the developers Mace had to provide £46,000 specifically for public art in and around the shopping centre. North Hinksey Parish Council, with the guidance of the District Council Arts Officer and informed by public consultation, issued a brief to artists at the end of 2020. They received 12 responses, interviewed and selected three of them to work with the community to create a series of public artworks. The artists selected are Alex Wenham, a sculptor (alexwenham.co.uk), Claire Goodall, a mosaic artist (cgmosaics.co.uk), and Nor, a mural artist (eleanorg.org), selected to work on a mural for the A34 gateway. Fusion Arts will be managing the community consultation over the coming months so look out for more information soon on the overall project.

Meanwhile, Botley GAP are focusing specifically on the gateway area. The group want to get more ideas and expertise involved. This area is also a gateway to Cumnor, Appleton, Farmoor, Eynsham and beyond so involvement from all these communities is very welcome. We will need to raise more funding and get grants or local and national businesses involved. Only part of the section 106 money can be spent outside the shopping area and so more funding is required if we really want to make the most of this opportunity.

If you'd like to be involved in this project in any way – with ideas, fundraising, admin, publicity or physical work – please contact us and check out our website and social media: Website: bit.ly/35a8sVs and Instagram: [@botleygap](https://www.instagram.com/@botleygap)

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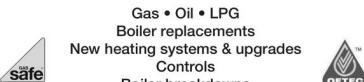
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The Botley Skatepark: An Idea with Wheels!

As our young people rejoin the outside world and look for things to do, a local action group are proposing to bring back an ambitious – and previously successful – facility to keep our kids moving. The relaxation of restrictions released local young people from lockdown and enabled more social interaction. It's a good thing – providing they have somewhere to go, and something to do. And that's not true for everyone.

While toddlers and younger children are well catered for on the Louie Memorial Field (LMF), teenagers have less purpose-built infrastructure beyond a busy zipwire, multi-swing and the MUGA, which is quickly filled, and incompatible with multiple users playing different ball sports. Another option is needed.

The tide of Matthew Arnold pupils sweeping through Botley every morning reveals a local demographic which includes many teenagers, and 'tweenagers'. So, it makes sense to ensure Botley's leisure facilities meet their needs. A properly planned, professionally designed, and well maintained skatepark, created in consultation with Botley residents, can fill a vacuum that has existed, arguably, since the previous facility closed. Reviving the skatepark many *Sprout* readers will remember, to meet a need for families they have had since it was filled in, works on many levels.

All aboard

The popularity of skateboarding is booming, along with such wheeled teen transport as BMX bikes, rollerblades and scooters. The Botley Skatepark will be a healthy alternative to the Xbox. It will be a safe place for our younger members to meet their friends and 'do their thing' away from roads, pavements, West Way precinct and other urban centres. Safety-wise, it ticks all the boxes. Too many children end up in A&E following a spill, and their parents will prefer a purpose-built modern skatepark to roads and car parks. Early insights include providing a flat area at the new facility, for those just learning cool tricks. Planning is key. We want to be sure the facility is low maintenance, attractive, does not jar with the immediate environs and is acceptable to residents.

What about the old bowl?

If you remember Botley Sk8s of the early 90s, you'll know the old Botley Bowl was enormously popular. There are still YouTube clips to prove it.



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Many of us have scarred knees as souvenirs. However, it's a fact that it was designed by two champion boarders, and this meant hard work and lots of tumbles for the less skilled.

Our vision is to create something that will be more accessible, a skatepark for everyone, from the hardcore, through to beginners – and their parents! And not just skateboarding: the new facility will be a space for lots of different kinds of fun on wheels. Our photo shows local children with boards, bikes and roller blades begging for a skatepark outside the former Seacourt Hall.



About the NHPC Skatepark Working Group

We are a mix of councillors, skaters and parents with deep roots in the community, and memories of the pleasure the previous bowl brought to Botley. As practical people, we mean to make sure what we are creating is a community asset. We'll do this through extensive consultation, thoughtful planning, and by considering the aesthetics very carefully. We are carefully reviewing the 2013 NHPC skatepark document to make sure lessons are learned. We want 'Skatepark 2.0' to work for residents and users alike.

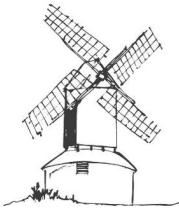
We are confident that a well designed, open, accessible space creates benefits for the whole community. This is why we are working with experts, both in our planning and in the design process, to make sure we create a safe, inclusive space that works for all. We will start by placing the skatepark in a high-visibility area with lots of activity and social interactions, as this is key to reducing potential crime. The Upper LMF has great sightlines, making it much harder for criminal activity to go unnoticed. Mitigating nuisance through environmental design, a practice known as CPTED, is high on our agenda. Thames Valley Police have made clear they regard skate parks as a good way to reduce antisocial behaviour.

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Current Action Plan

We are in the early stages of moving this forward. Action points include talking to experts, considering logistics, researching funding options, studying best practice and engaging local residents and stakeholders. There's lots to do. Here's what we have in mind:

- Discussions with skatepark developers, and advisory group The Skateparks Project.
- Reviewing the 2013 NHPC report to address past concerns.
- Liaising with other skateparks to learn from their experiences.
- Working with young, local people to see what they want.
- Talking to the Oxford Wheels Project, the charity managing the Meadow Lane facility

Next steps

We are still at the early stages, but local reaction has been positive. There will be ample opportunity for everyone to comment and raise concerns as the project matures. We'll keep you informed through the Sprout and other channels to encourage feedback of all kinds.

Skateboarding, like riding scooters and BMX bikes, offers exercise and a shared experience beyond the school setting and more formal frameworks. It's an enduring subculture that shows no sign of waning, so it makes sense to create a safe space to enjoy it. We want to build an inclusive community facility that offers our younger people somewhere to enjoy their freedom after so many months in lockdown, and to forget for a while the uncertain future ahead.

The new Botley Skatepark will put Botley back on the map and create a 'leisure legacy' that will benefit our young people for years to come.

Let's roll!

Stephen Moore

TIMELINE

Over the summer

- ⇒ Consult the experts on what's possible and what it might cost.

In the autumn

- ⇒ Consult the locals on whether our suggestions meet their needs
- ⇒ Modify accordingly
- ⇒ Apply for planning permission

By Christmas – Research and apply for funding

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Kennington Memory Club

Living well with dementia

Business as usual, well almost!

Kennington Memory Club Day Centre sessions are back in full swing. There are some changes with Covid protection measures in place, but the sessions are again a place of fun, stimulation, companionship and care for those with a diagnosis of dementia, and an opportunity for respite for their carers. If you would like a place for a family member or friend please contact the Organiser, Helen, on 07852 883496.

Volunteers Wanted: Over the last year there have been many examples of volunteers stepping up to the mark to help out in circumstances old and new. The NHS Responder scheme was set up, and people have been stewarding at vaccination centres. Communities have been helping out those in need over shopping, collecting medications, etc. Some of these roles are no longer as vital, as people are able to get out themselves, having received their vaccinations. Whether or not you have gained experience of volunteering over the last year, maybe you would now like to make a contribution yourself.

Before the pandemic the Club had a stalwart band of volunteers who helped out at Club sessions. They would assist staff to get set up, help members settle in, prepare drinks, collect lunches from St Swithun's School, do kitchen tasks, join in activities, and be involved in the clearing up, depending on which part of the day they attended. At present the Club is being staffed by the professionals, without volunteer assistance, but, as soon as possible, volunteers will be needed again. We would like to increase that band of helpers. The role is very satisfying and rewarding, as well as enjoyable, because of the relaxed atmosphere at the Club, and you know you are making a difference to the lives of members and their carers. Could you be one of these heroes? If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please telephone the Chairman, Isobel, (07843 755564) or the Organiser, Helen, (07852 883496) or go to kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

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Sports Leadership at Botley School

Keeping healthy and active is an essential part of our learning and development here at Botley School, as well as preparing our pupils for life beyond primary school. We are therefore delighted to introduce the new Sports Leadership Team for Botley School from September 2021. We recognize, and are committed to, the importance of keeping active, having healthy lifestyles and the benefits of this to our mental and emotional well-being. We decided to develop a team of Sports Leaders from within our year 5 pupils who will take up their roles formally from the start of year 6. Their task will be to help lead sports and games and become active role models for the pupils in the younger years. We will be offering them training with specialist sports coaches, starting next week, and asking them to collaboratively develop a job description for the role.

As the role of Sports Leader will be a prestigious position within our pupil body, we felt that the recruitment process should mirror the commitment of the senior leadership team in supporting the new initiative. We therefore decided to hold a structured recruitment drive amongst our year 5 pupils.

During an assembly, the year 5 pupils were introduced to the concept of Sports Leaders and were invited to apply for a role in the team. They completed a written application form, explaining what their hobbies were, what would make a good sports leader, and why keeping healthy and active was so important. The applications were then shortlisted



and a formal letter of invitation was sent to the successful candidates. The final stage was an interview with Mrs Bosco, who will become our PE and Sports Lead Teacher in September, and myself.

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During the interview, the children were asked a range of questions such as: Can you explain the off-side rule? What would you do if someone on your team was cheating? What are the qualities that make a good team player? We also asked them to complete activities such as prioritizing a group of core sports skills cards and explaining their decisions.

I have to say, we were absolutely blown away by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all our year 5 pupils. Every single pupil entered an application form and they were all truly impressive. An overwhelming sense of good sportsmanship and fair play shone through. The shortlisting was tough and took the year 5 teaching team, the PE lead teachers and myself longer than expected simply owing to the fantastically high standards. The interviews were equally impressive, with some of our pupils demonstrating interview techniques that adults would be proud of! I can certainly see some brilliantly successful, career driven young adults emerging from Botley in the future.

For those who were unsuccessful this time, our message is, 'Don't give up!' Your applications were all amazing and there will be lots of other opportunities to become pupil leaders at Botley next year. We note your skills and enthusiasm. For those who were successful, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you develop the new Botley School Sports Leadership Team!

Mrs Reid, Headteacher

CUMNOR CHORAL WILL BE PERFORMING Handel's *Messiah*, conducted by Peter Foster, on 27th November at St Peter and Paul Church in Botley. Rehearsals will resume on **10th September** at Cumnor Old School, starting at 8 pm – all welcome to join this friendly choir. For more details please email John May at johnmay@btinternet.com or phone 07795 054142 or see cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com



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BOTLEY IN BLOOM 2021

Many thanks to all those who participated in this year's Botley in Bloom Front Garden competition. Although there were fewer entrants compared with the gardening enthusiasm of 2020's sunny lockdown, the judges were impressed with the quality of the planting gracing many of Botley's frontages. A cold, wet May this year has resulted in most gardens being a little behind the season but, despite some residents' concerns, we didn't worry as the advantage of a local competition is that we all experience the same conditions. We very much enjoyed looking at the 2021 front gardens and some interesting plants inspired us to note that we'd like one of those for our own plots!

I am delighted to announce the winners in each of the three categories as follows:

BEST OVERALL FRONT GARDEN [see front cover]

1st prize – 44 Westminster Way. Leo McAllister's lovely and colourful planting was looking even better than last year when he narrowly missed out on a 'Highly Commended' in a hotly contended competition. We noted that many plants not only looked good but are wildlife friendly too.

2nd prize – 44 Poplar Road. Gill Belcher was working hard on her front garden as we arrived with clipboards in hand. It is a beautiful garden with a sense of tranquillity. We loved the varied planting including roses, salvias, alliums, and foxgloves.

Highly Commended – 94 North Hinksey Lane. Phil Bloomer's colourful planting with its beautiful wildlife-friendly seed heads scattered throughout impressed us again this year.

BEST CULTIVATED-WILDLIFE FRONT GARDEN

1st prize – 36 North Hinksey Village. Chris & Elaine Sugden's planting by the stream running alongside their property is delightful. The creamy-white of the climbing rose 'Rambling Rector' perfectly sets off





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the different greens. Bird and insect boxes plus obvious wildlife corridors makes this garden a worthy winner.

2nd prize – 50 St Paul’s Crescent. Caroline Cockman’s good design incorporating attractive pots earned her a ‘Highly Commended’ last year in the ‘Best Overall’ section. This year we liked also her wild area with the bird feeders and insect house.

We have a tie for second place in the Cultivated-Wildlife section:

ALSO 2nd prize – 44 Poplar Road. Gill Belcher’s pretty garden deserves another second place. A hollow tree, feeders, and excellent wildlife corridors complement the sympathetic planting.

Highly Commended – 94 North Hinksey Lane. Another accolade goes to Phil Bloomer for those fabulous seed heads!

BEST USE OF VEGETABLES IN A FRONT GARDEN

1st prize – 15 Poplar Road. Elisabeth Clarke and Peter England successfully defended their crown with their lovely and inspiring small garden. Colourful planting of roses, sweet peas, campanula and geraniums jostle with a good variety of vegetables. These include tomatoes, broad beans, and herbs as well as berries.

This year there were only a few entries in the Use of Vegetables section so the judges decided to award a first prize only in this category as 15 Poplar Road scored the most marks by a wide margin.

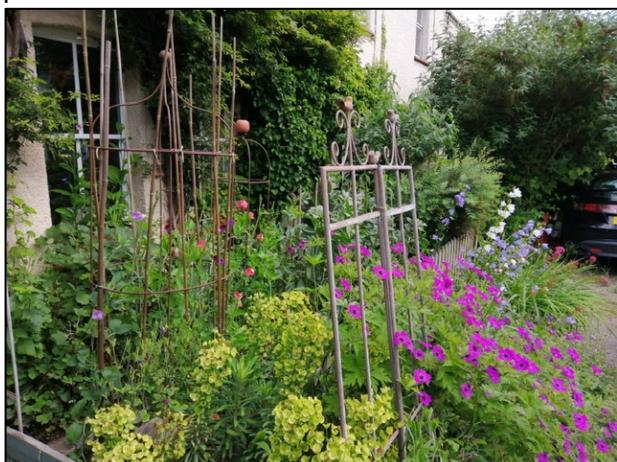
Our thanks go to North Hinksey Parish Council for providing funding allowing us to award prizes and certificates to all first and second places.

National Garden Scheme vouchers of £30 will find their way to first prize winners with £20 vouchers for second place. Highly Commended places will receive a certificate.

Most of all we wish to thank everyone who entered the competition, with

special congratulations to all those whose hard work and imagination gives so much pleasure to the rest of the neighbourhood.

Viv Smith





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Seacourt Hall AGM and nominations for Public Representatives

Seacourt Hall is a registered charity managed by a committee of trustees (Seacourt Hall Management Committee), made up of representatives of the North Hinksey Parish Council (NHPC), hall users and public representatives.

At the AGM on **Monday 27th September** (7:30pm at Seacourt Hall or via Zoom, to be decided nearer the time) to which North Hinksey parish residents are invited, 2 members of the public will be elected as Charity Trustees (public representatives) by residents over 18, present at the AGM.

Any North Hinksey parish resident aged over 18 may put their own name forward to be a Charity Trustee and a seconder is not needed.

Nominations should be sent to the Treasurer before 5pm on Monday 17th September. This can be by post in the Seacourt Hall letterbox at the Library end of the building or by email to treasurer@seacourthall.org.uk

If anyone would like more information in advance, including the responsibilities of being a trustee, they can check the website (seacourthall.org.uk) or contact the chair Lorna Berrett on lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com or call 07967 111014.

VACANCY: PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER
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A black and white photograph of a smiling family of three: a father, a mother, and a young daughter. The father is in the foreground, the mother is behind him, and the daughter is perched on the mother's shoulders. They are all wearing glasses and are smiling warmly at the camera.

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LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<u>P21/V1352/LDP</u>	82 Westminster Way. Loft conversion plus single storey, flat roofed, rear extension.	7 May <i>TDD: 2 July</i>
<u>P21/V1179/FUL</u> on planning app P17/V0205/FUL	Land adjoining 16 Yarnells Rd. Removal of condition 5 (Tree Protection). Erection of a 3 bedroom bungalow and drive.	10 May <i>Target Decision Date: 5 July</i>
<u>P21/V1436/HH</u>	West Cottage Harcourt Hill. Rear extensions to form wing.	17 May <i>TDD: 12 July</i>
<u>P21/V1343/FUL</u>	176 Westminster Way. Change of use to large 8-bed HMO with single-storey rear extension.	20 May <i>TDD: 15 July</i>
<u>P21/V1466/HH</u>	Willows 5 Harcourt Hill. Single storey side/rear extension.	21 May <i>TDD: 16 July</i>
<u>P21/V1538/HH</u>	3 Crabtree Rd. Construct single storey rear extension & replace garage to side of house.	24 May <i>TDD: 19 July</i>
<u>P21/V1386/FUL</u>	Oxford Rugby Football Club North Hinksey. Lighting for another pitch.	28 May <i>TDD: 23 July</i>
<u>P21/V1594/HH</u>	52 Hurst Rise Rd. Replace garage with home office over.	28 May <i>TDD: 23 July</i>
<u>P21/V1607/HH</u>	40 Hutchcomb Rd. Loft conversion.	1 June <i>TDD: 27 July</i>

Thank you, Parish Council for the new picnic tables by the pavilion.





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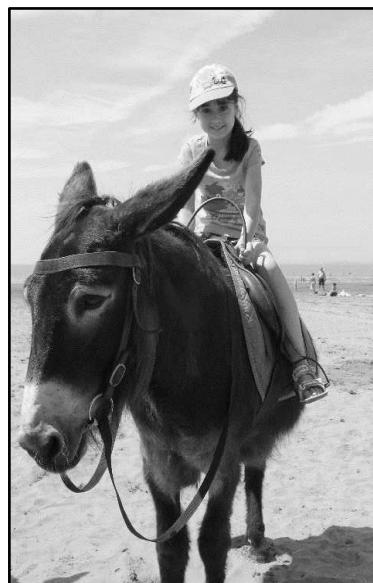
Save the Brownies!

It is with some alarm that we have to share with you the serious prospect that, after almost 50 years, 2nd Botley Brownies may be forced to close due to a shortage of girls. Since COVID-19 the number of girls on our books has dropped significantly.

Girlguiding will not allow us to continue in the long term if we cannot boost the number of girls attending each week. Therefore, we need your help if we are to survive. Thankfully we at 2nd Botley have enough qualified leaders, and they have permits to do all sorts of exciting activities, but we cannot continue without sufficient girls aged 7 to 10 years.

As regular readers of this publication, you have shared our activities and adventures over the years. You have come on our train trips to London for the Trooping of the Colour (and enjoyed seeing Buckingham Palace complete with Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip). On another occasion we visited Weston-Super-Mare to spend a traditional day at the seaside, where we organized a sandcastle building competition, and had donkey rides and ice creams. You also came with us on our visit to the Bath Postal Museum where we completed our Collectors badge, dressed up in Victorian outfits and learned all about the Postal Service through the years. Later that afternoon Brownies and Leaders alike let off steam at the largest adventure playground we'd ever seen.

You read all about our trips to the Oxford Playhouse to see the annual Christmas pantomime, the New Theatre Oxford for the Gang Show (now held at Radley College), and to the Vue cinema to see "Mary Poppins Returns". You learned about our many interest badges including the Disability Awareness badge which introduced a lady from Guide Dogs for the Blind who brought her guide dog along to an interesting talk; we had a visit from Dementia Friends who explained the breakdown of



the memory process. For our UK Parliament badge we transformed our meeting room into the Chamber of the House of Commons, which included Her Majesty's Government and Opposition. A Brownie was the Speaker of the House of Commons who soon got into the swing of shouting, "Order! Order!" after a little encouragement. Naturally, we also celebrated the centenary of women obtaining the vote. The photo shows work on the badge 'Free Being Me'.



As you know we have also spent countless days up at Beanwood having campfires, cooking and sumidores, pitching tents, playing water games and earning many and varied badges: Science Investigator, for example, where lab coats and protective specs were provided for the experiments.

You packed your metaphorical holdalls and came with us on our full board residential Brownie Holidays to Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire – each one with its own theme. Here are just a few of them: Winnie the Pooh, The Wind in the Willows, Little Miss and Mr Men, The World of Beatrix Potter, Peter Pan, Robin Hood, The Flower Fairies, Paddington Bear, Cluedo (neighbouring "Chequers" the country house of the Prime Minister), Old Bear & Friends, in 2014 it was Brownie Centenary Year, then there was Alice in Wonderland, and Christmas (celebrated in June!).



We are a local Brownie Unit, making wonderful memories for generations of

Botley girls. If you know a girl who would like to have fun, make new friends and learn new things then she should definitely join 2nd Botley Brownies! Email us at 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com

Brown Owl, Tawny Owl, Snowy Owl and Little Owl

West Way Community Concern Update

Conclusion of the appeal against planning refusal: In December last year, the Vale of White Horse District Council refused planning permission for the proposed increase in size of the remaining block to be built on the West Way site (planning application P20/V0921/FUL). The developer (Botley Development Company) appealed against this refusal. The Inspector has now granted planning permission, overturning the District Council decision.

The developer now has permission to increase the size of this residential block, from eight to nine storeys and to include 150 flats plus retail units at ground level. Thirty of these flats are to be 'car-free', in the sense that residents in these flats will not be allowed a permit to park on the West Way site. It's a disappointing outcome, but we are still grateful to the planning committee for their support for the views of local people.

Details of the Inspector's decision: The three reasons for refusal were: height of building, potential highway safety problems arising from a shortfall of car parking, and lack of affordable housing. The inspector considered these after a site visit on 6th April, and concluded that:

- The height would lead to an adverse impact, but this would be limited by the context and views.
- He acknowledged concerns about problems arising from commuter parking, but considered that this situation could be managed.
- Whilst the affordable housing payment would not meet the target in the local planning policy, some provision would be made, which would be a notable benefit.
- The additional housing would bring substantial economic benefits.
- Although it conflicted with Local Plan Policy in terms of the building height, taking into consideration the Development Plan as a whole and the National Planning Policy Framework, he considered the merits of the development outweighed the conflict with the policy.

The Inspector also concluded that Vale of White Horse District Council had not acted unreasonably in refusing the application, based on the criteria in the Development Plan policies. As such the applicant had not been put to wasted time and expense in pursuing the appeal and an award of costs is therefore not justified. More information on westwayconcern.wordpress.com

Mary Gill



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Sunny Days

ffennell festival 101 (so named because the centenary celebration had to be postponed from last year) took place on 12th June, a wonderful sunny day. There was plenty of local support, including local MP Layla Moran, Cllr Liz Leffman and the Lord Mayor of Oxford, Cllr Mark Lygo. Hill End is a priceless resource, bequeathed by Colonel ffennell as a place where children can experience nature at close quarters, and learn to love the natural world. We are lucky to have it so near – and it will be even better when they finally make the B4044 bike path, so that you can get there easily by bike.



Families had a great time, despite the social distancing measures. There was so much to do: wildlife walks, inspecting the WWI practice trenches, pond dipping, willow weaving, listening to local groups playing music in the marquee, visiting the succulent barbecue or simply sitting in the shade under a tree, viewing the scene and eating your picnic.

As I sauntered around taking in the sights, I bumped into a friend and asked her what her children had made of it all. ‘My boys,’ she said, ‘did the nature trail, the dormitories, the willow weaving and the Owls and they LOVED IT! It was a beautiful, friendly, relaxed and well organised day with the family. We were so impressed we have enrolled the boys in a survival camp at Hill End during the Summer.’



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More summer sun up at the Louie Memorial Fields the following day, when the first Pop-up café had a Spanish theme. This entirely voluntary effort, initiated by Orit Sarfatti and enthusiastically supported by a network of public spirited Botleyites, gives neighbours a place to meet and chat on sunny summer Sunday afternoons while their children play in the playing fields and everyone eats home made cake over a cuppa. Only this time it was *gazpacho*, or so I'm told. Here are a couple of pictures to remind us all of a happy time:

AgM



15th Oxford Scouts Summer Update

New members: We're so pleased to be able to welcome many new faces to the troop this year, and seeing the first of the new Cubs move up into Scouts from the original intake when we restarted the pack 18 months ago, after a couple of years' hiatus. At the start of the Summer term we invested seven new Cubs and four new Scouts. This means they have taken the Cub or Scout promise with their leader, got their very first badges and our purple neckerchief (that you may have spotted young people wearing on the estate on a Friday evening). Even better news is we have spaces in both Cubs and Scouts for new members. Contact details can be found at the bottom of the article.

Euro 2020: By the time you read this Euro 2020 will be in full swing, and hopefully football is close to coming home. Before the tournament started we ran an evening based on the fixtures, giving each Cub and Scout countries to 'predict' who will be victorious in the final. After some hard-fought rock/paper/scissors that saw one pair get seven draws in a row, mental stamina was tested with Connect 4 and 3D Connect 4, to whittle the teams down further. Some early favourites were eliminated and Scotland beat England! On to throwing darts at a board of balloons,



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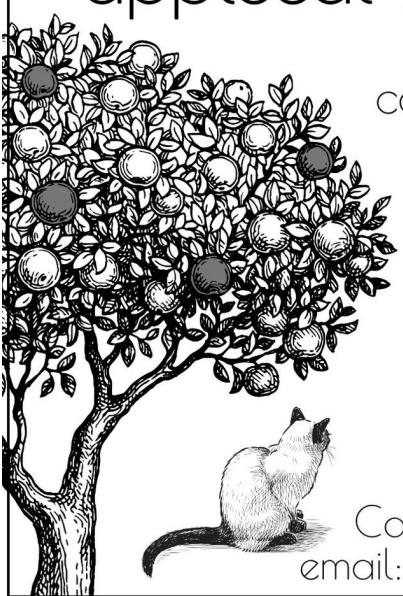
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each one containing a number of goals scored for the team. An eye-catching result had Ukraine beating Austria 7–5, but this was not enough for them, as the less fancied North Macedonia and Slovakia had to be decided on penalties for the Cubs and Turkey came out victorious for the Scouts. You heard it here first.

Troop history: The 15th Oxford Scout Group was founded and registered with the local Oxford City Scout Association in 1915. They met in the Baptist Church school-room in New Inn Hall Street. There have since been nine Scout Leaders, a Cub pack was registered in April 1920 and a move to Elms Parade. We are now helping a former Scout with their Archaeology and History degree dissertation about Army and POW camps at Youlbury Scout Camp during WW2. They have already found a number of items through metal detecting there and we are now asking anyone local who has memories of Youlbury, the 15th Oxford or Oxford in the last war to get in touch, and hopefully to help with the dissertation. So if you have anything to share, please get in touch. Contact for the troop is XVOxfordScouts@yahoo.co.uk

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Randoms

Botley W.I.

Botley Women's Institute has relaunched its live programme, after using Zoom to hold recent meetings. Our Walking, Green-ish Fingers, Reading and Music groups have gradually resumed over recent months, with our Craft (& Chat & Cuppa) group allowing members to meet again after so long. July's meeting will feature a talk about Teddy Bears by Bess Harris. Two sessions on Tuesday, 6 July, at 14:30 and 19:30, will allow plenty of space to stay Covid safe. Visitors welcome – call 07598 251161 for more information. Full programme on our Facebook page. Get rid of all those things you cleared out during lockdown at our Car Boot Sale on 25 July, from 11–1:30. £10 per car, at our WI Hall on North Hinksey Lane. Refreshments will be available. Contact 01865 254273 to book your place.

Alison Jenner

Parish Poll Results

Electorate: 4081

Ballots issued: 425

Turnout: 10.4%

Both questions asked whether the lease on the Scout Hut should be renewed, although one was more loaded than the other. 317 voted in favour. 108 people voted against. In response, the Parish Council has decided to hold a surgery where parents can find out what was actually on offer for the Scouts in the plans for the new pavilion, in the hope that this could be seen as a viable alternative to the dilapidated scout hut.

Botley Health Routes Walking Group

The parish council's review of ways of making more of our local green spaces has been bolstered by a splendid map made by Nhsforest, to get us out with the Botley Health Routes walking group. They meet every Tuesday at 11am outside Botley Library (OX2 9TH) to go on a free and social distanced walk to different local green spaces. See Nhsforest.org/botley-health-routes and map overleaf.

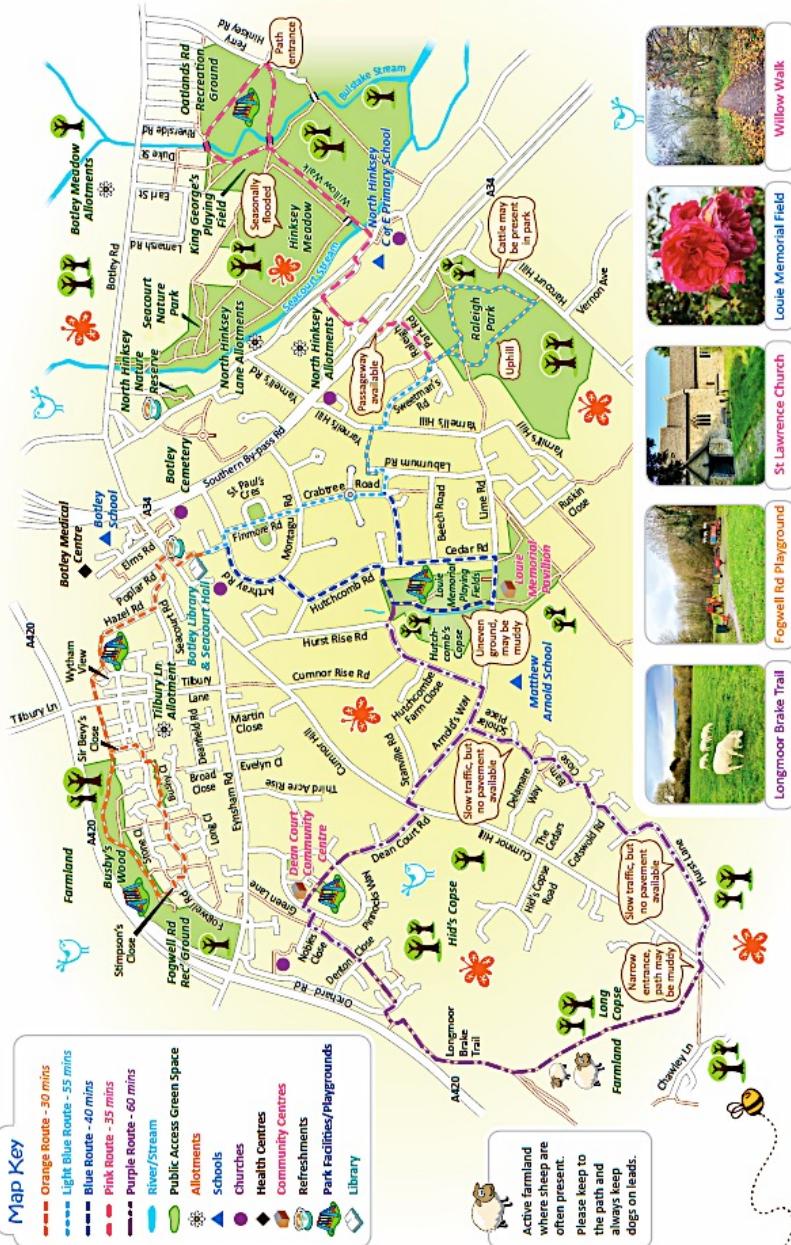
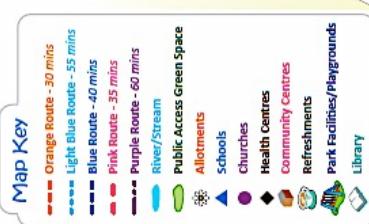


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Botley Health Routes Map



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

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com
4th Oxford Scout Group Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	mail@thefourth.org.uk Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, 1 Church Way, Botley Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
Badminton Club	T Thurs 7–8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 garryclark13@gmail.com
BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8–16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 jbarley1@sky.com or Brendan Byrne 792531 brendan.byrne999@gmail.com
Botley Community Larder	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, See Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com
Botley Health Walks	Wednesday 9.30am. Contact Briony on Ox 246497
Botley Library	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox721386
Botley Singers	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 angastpen@aol.com
Cumnor Choral Society	Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
Cumnor Gardening Club	http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ or phone 01865 721026
Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group	Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk
Hill End Volunteer Team	Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk
Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club Email: Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org
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	Sharon Henley, 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 Men's Acappella singing group	Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk
Oxford Otters	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
Oxford Rugby Club	Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk .
Raleigh Park, Friends of	raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Saturdads at Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
Seacourt Hall Management Committee	Michael Cockman 07766 317691 michael.cockman@gmail.com .
Shotokan Karate Club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Walking for Health	2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Alan 07941 610913
West Oxford Bowls Club	Contact details on www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30–8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk
West Oxford U3A	(Uni of the 3rd Age) http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/
West Way Day Centre	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
Women's Institute (Botley)	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 West Way Place	Contact: Rev Kalyan Das Tel. 07841 867967
The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise	Contact Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
SS Peter & Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley	Contact: 01865 242057 or osneybenefice@outlook.com .
Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
Seacourt Hall, West Way Place, Botley	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email admin@seacourthall.org.uk
Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com
Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village	Contact: Mary Bagnall mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com .

North Hinksey & Botley Churches

Times of Services (once resumed) and Contacts

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

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

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

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

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

Sprout Summer 2021

Still not enough scheduled events for a summer diary, but things are opening up slowly. Here are some of them.

Kennington Memory Club (for people suffering with dementia and their carers) is now open on Mondays and Thursdays (Google, or phone 07852 883496)

Botley W.I. is back in business, full programme on their Facebook page. There's a car-boot sale at their HQ in North Hinksey Lane on 25th July.

The Pop-up Café has resumed on sunny Sunday afternoons up the top by the Louie Memorial Pavilion. Home-made cake and a chance to fraternize with neighbours.

Junior Park Run, for kids under 11, now taking place on Sunday mornings at 9 o'clock, up at the Brookes Harcourt playing fields. Adult sessions will resume on 24th July.

Botley Health Routes Walking Group meets on Tuesdays at 11am outside Botley Library for a 45min walk, all welcome.

Hill End is running summer activities, but you will need to book. See <https://hill-end.org>.

Age UK is running free guided walks for people over 50 around our beautiful city, throughout July and August. Phone Petra on 01235 849434 to book a place.

And the Library is running its Summer Reading Scheme "Wild World Heroes", details from them.

There will be more – go to Botley Notice Board (Oxon) Facebook page for the latest information.