

# The Sprout



**Oxford's green Father Christmas is Botley's Bob Cowley**

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 123 December 2017**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 123, Winter 2017**

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### **From the Editor**

Lots going on in the run-up to Christmas, see Diary on the back cover. A really striking example of the spirit of good will in action is being provided by the Oxford Food Bank based in Curtis's Yard, who will be providing Christmas dinner for upwards of 400 people on the Day, with the help of 100-plus volunteers. If last year is anything to go by, this will be an unforgettable occasion (p.15). Details of Christmas services are on page 2 – but only for the Church of England. We'd have printed more, but you need to send them to us! Phone numbers for the other denominations are on the inside back cover. For the first time since the *Sprout* was founded twelve years ago, we will be putting up our advertising rates (p.21). *Sprout* adverts are still very good value for money, but the raise is needed if we are to keep a fund available for grants for local projects. There's some money in the kitty at the moment, so if you think we could help you, get in touch. Then there's the good news that the Day Centre is back in business at Field House (p33), and that our local Morris team have raised solid money over the summer for Riding for the Disabled (p.9) – good for you, Cry Havoc! On 8th December at Dean Court Community Centre, there's a chance for the over-60s to have a Fitness MOT, ready for a whole new series of energetic activities in the new year, funded by the Vale and Sport England - good subject, perhaps, for New Year's resolutions! Happy Christmas everyone, and a Happy New Year! We'll be back in February.

**Ag MacKeith**

## Letters to the Editor

### It's too much!

With reference to S Cohen on air pollution in the November *Sprout*: Well done! It's about time – long over-due – someone highlighting this health hazard. I wonder how many people who don't smoke have had a cough for months they cannot shift. I know I have!

And let's not forget noise pollution. Standing in Botley cemetery, the hideous din – not at all reverent. Also no peace in my garden. And open the windows of the home, your senses are assaulted straight away. What a racket, twenty-four seven!

**Edith Mabbatt**



### CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Sunday 17th December –**

**3.30pm Traditional Carol Service at St. Lawrence**

**Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve**

**4.30pm Christingle Service at St. Peter & St. Paul**

**11.30pm Midnight Mass at St. Lawrence**

### Christmas Day

**9.30am Christmas Day celebration of Holy Communion at St. Peter & St. Paul**

**10.30am Christmas Day celebration of Holy Communion at St. Lawrence**



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## **The first Father Christmas and the first Christmas**

When everyone is getting together and having a good time at Christmas why are we reminded of the needs of the less well off through campaigns such as “Crisis at Christmas”? Isn't this spoiling the party?

The first Father Christmas was St Nicholas of Smyrna. He lived from 270–343 AD. One Christmas he came across a poor family where three daughters were due to be “sold” into what we would term today “sex slavery” to pay for the family's debts. To help them avoid this, he secretly threw three bags of gold coins into their home which landed in some stockings. Hence the tradition of hanging up Christmas stockings.

But it goes back further than that. Nicholas of Smyrna was a Christian Bishop, inspired by the story of the first Christmas when Jesus, son of Mary – the one whom people claimed at the end of his earthly life to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords – was born not in a palace but in a stable next to an inn. His family then fled the country as refugees to Egypt. Jesus once said words to the effect that “the poor would always be with us, even when he himself had gone.” What he meant was that when he was not present people could honour him by assisting the poor. So in honour of his birthday we honour his wishes.

Thomas Hardy evokes this birth in a stable in his lovely Christmas poem:

### **The Oxen**

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.

“Now they are all on their knees,”

An elder said as we sat in a flock

By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where

They dwelt in their strawy pen,

Nor did it occur to one of us there

To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave

In these years! Yet, I feel,

If someone said on Christmas Eve,

“Come; see the oxen kneel,

“In the lonely barton by yonder coomb

Our childhood used to know,”

I should go with him in the gloom,

Hoping it might be so.

**Chris Sugden**

# Cry Havoc

## Morris Dancers Raise Funds for Disabled Riders

You will have seen Botley Morris dancers, Cry Havoc, out and about over the summer, enjoying themselves dancing and making music. You might also have noticed that as they do so, they collect money to donate to charity. This year they have been supporting Riding for the Disabled.

At their centre near Southmoor, Riding for the Disabled Abingdon Group enables people of all ages and with a wide range of disabilities to benefit their health and wellbeing by riding on horseback. There are 85 riders, 164 voluntary instructors, and 12 horses and ponies. The time has come to raise funds for a new indoor arena. This is badly needed, to allow riders to reach their potential and achieve higher levels of riding skills, including dressage and jumping.

Members of Cry Havoc met the riders, horses and helpers at Southmoor on November 4th and presented Ann Barlow of Abingdon RDA with a cheque for £850 towards the new indoor school. One modification to the Morris kit was required – they took their bells off so as not to frighten the horses! The photo shows Barbara Brett presenting the cheque.



Cry Havoc dancer Charlotte Ritchie helps with the riding once a week. She says: 'Volunteering with the Abingdon Group has made me realise how brilliant these children are, and how beautifully the ponies work with them to build up their muscle strength and confidence. It's a great thing to do, raising money for their new arena!'

If you would like to donate to the new indoor school you can do so via <https://www.justgiving.com>. Search for RDAbingdon/newindoorschool. If you would like to help in a class or to ride, the person to contact is Ann Barlow at [annps.barlow@googlemail.com](mailto:annps.barlow@googlemail.com). If you would like to join Cry Havoc and learn to Morris dance: come along on a Thursday evening at 7.30 to the WI hall in North Hinksey Lane.

**Barbara Brett**

## West Way redevelopment update

West Way Community Concern have been keeping the community updated on the prospective redevelopment of the West Way centre for four years now, via our newsletters and articles in parish magazines. Mace's community engagement over the past year, on the other hand, has consisted of a public meeting in June, and very little since. What information we receive, particularly via the planning process, often proves to be unreliable.

The original plan was to commence work in November 2016, with a 3½ year programme. This was later extended. Early this year, the intention was to change the phasing to reduce the programme from 5½ years back to 3½. Traders in West Way Centre were instructed to leave by the end of June, so we might have expected commencement of works soon after, although this depended on a planning permission for the change of use of Elms Court and the Grant Thornton building which hadn't yet been granted. In September, Mace asked the planning department of the Vale for a quick decision, so that they could be on site in October. In November, they submitted a required planning document, saying they wished to be on site in November. But approval of this document will not be achieved before December.

Mace have prepared an information leaflet, which was distributed electronically to some members of the Community Liaison Group. When asked when this was to be sent to residents, their PR agents responded that copies would be in the library, and WWCC and local councillors could give it to 'interested parties'. If interested parties aren't the residents, who are? Are we expected to print this out and deliver it ourselves? Does Mace's budget not run to keeping us informed?

The leaflet can be found on our website and in the library. It repeats the aspiration to commence work 'soon', but confirms that existing shops will stay open where they are over Christmas. There is nothing new in it but it may act as a reminder of the plans as it is five months since their last public meeting. Actions speak louder than words, and we haven't seen much yet!

### **Mary Gill, Co- Chair, WWCC**

*To stay informed, please check our website and social media ([www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com](http://www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com) [www.twitter.com/westwayconcern](http://www.twitter.com/westwayconcern) [facebook.com/westwayconcern](http://facebook.com/westwayconcern)) or sign up for our email updates via [westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com) .*



## Remembrance Sunday

I would like to thank North Hinksey Parish Council for inviting me to speak at this year's Remembrance Sunday service, held at Botley's Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. When I look back at what it must have been like for those soldiers killed during both World Wars, it makes me realise how vital it is to be at peace. As I mentioned in my address, I was glad to see that, once again, Botley people had not forgotten the German and Italian graves. By the German graves, wooden crosses had been placed with the words, "zum gedenken" (in remembrance). This cemetery is certainly a jewel in Botley's crown. The picture shows the Scouts and Guides playing their part in the ceremony.



Afterwards in the WI Hall, some of us were talking about the late Sir Martin Gilbert (1936–2015), the official biographer of Winston Churchill, who once lived in the parish. Did you ever know him or his family? I



hope to write further about him and his achievements in a future *Sprout*.

I am keenly interested in local history and all the local stories, so if you would like to contact me and add your own tale to the rest, you can find me on [martin.harris321@gmail.com](mailto:martin.harris321@gmail.com) or by phone on 01865 864776.

**Martin Harris**

## Christmas Spirit rules

This Christmas Day, volunteers from the Oxford Food Bank will once again be cooking a traditional Christmas meal for up to four hundred diners at the King's Centre, Osney, with food that would otherwise have gone to landfill. Despite not knowing until the night of Christmas Eve exactly how much food will end up being donated by supermarkets and wholesalers, the organisers are adopting an 'everybody welcome' approach, with over a hundred volunteers on standby to cook, entertain and provide free transport.

Last year, over thirty turkeys and almost a tonne of vegetables were eaten, along with many kilos of smoked salmon, mince pies, and Christmas cake. Here's how they described it on Facebook: "An army of kitchen volunteers toiled



away cheerfully and tirelessly for 2 days, unseen by our hundreds of guests. They prepped, baked, roasted, carved and designed dozens of dishes; using several tons of food collected by OFB volunteers in the days leading up to Christmas to ensure that it didn't go to waste. And they even stayed behind to do the washing up!" The first photo shows some of the volunteer army in the kitchen, and second one the scene on the other side of the serving hatch around the Christmas tree.

### COME AND SING HARMONY

Do you love to sing, but are not actively involved in music making at the moment?

Do you sing already, but would like to try something new in 2017?

Harmony InSpires, an all-female a Cappella chorus based in Appleton, invites women of all ages to join a FREE evening course in a Cappella harmony singing on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Find out more at: [www.harmonyinspires.org](http://www.harmonyinspires.org) or email [sing@harmonyinspires.org](mailto:sing@harmonyinspires.org)





“We realised the majority of the eighty or so organisations we supply all year with waste food shut down over Christmas,” OFB spokesperson Cathy Howard explains. “That left some people with nowhere to go for up to four days – just at the point where supermarkets have a glut of waste food on their hands. So we decided to try to plug the gap ourselves.”

Diners last year included local families, the elderly, Syrian refugees, those facing food poverty and many more. “It’s great to see people from all walks of life coming together to celebrate Christmas with a free festive feast, and reducing food waste at the same time,” says lead organiser Sara Strong. “You don’t have to be a client of one of the charities we supply to come along – last year many diners were just local people who wanted to do something more community-based at Christmas. There was a real spirit of joy and togetherness. And it was certainly something to see groups of Syrian men leading other diners in traditional Dabke dancing.” A video of last year’s meal posted on Facebook has received over six thousand views (third photo).

This year the meal will once again be held



from midday at The King's Centre, OX2 0ES and is open to all comers. There will be family-friendly entertainment and vegetarian options, although there won't be any alcohol, except in the cake.


"To be honest, we probably have enough volunteers now, although we're always looking for experienced entertainers," Sara Strong says. "As well as those cooking, we have enough drivers to give anyone who wants one a lift there and back home again afterwards. And we also have volunteers on every table making sure everyone's having a good time."

"Our main drive now is to make sure everyone hears about the meal," she adds. "By definition, those who might benefit most from it, such as the elderly or isolated, are some of the hardest to reach on social media, so we really just want everyone to think about whether they know of a neighbour or acquaintance who might like to be told."

Although diners can just turn up, those wishing to come are asked to contact Sara on **sarastrong@tesco.net** to arrange free transport. She can also be contacted on 07802 773846 by those without email.




What a brilliant initiative, and it was clearly so much fun! If you know anyone who might enjoy the festivities – not to mention the meal! – make sure you tell them about it. Lifts are available.


**Sara Strong**



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## ***Sprout* matters**

The *Sprout's* financial year starts on 1st December, so the Directors' November meeting takes a hard look at our finances. As new estates have opened up off Lime Road and Tilbury Lane, more people have come to live here, and many houses have now been turned into flats. More households means more copies, and the increased print run means higher costs. If we are to maintain the level of community grants at £2000 a year, something has to give.

Should we stop using recycled paper? This is much more expensive than it was when we first started to use it. No! It is important to tread lightly on the planet, and recycled paper is part of the *Sprout* ethos.

Advertising rates, on the other hand, are still at the level set in 2005 when the *Sprout* was founded. There can be few other business costs that are still the same as they were 12 years ago! And although so many local businesses have had to shut up shop to accommodate the new West Way development, the *Sprout* continues to be a popular channel for local advertisers. We have therefore agreed on a new scale of charges, which can be found on the inside front cover.

Why do we bother? The *Sprout* wasn't set up to make a profit, after all! That's true enough, but we really like the way we can give small local initiatives a leg-up. Sometimes this really helps get good things off the ground – for instance Botley Bridges, which was able to use a *Sprout* grant to investigate the viability of the current arrangements before any other money came in. Or we can help to keep good things going – like the grant we gave the Over-Sixties Lunch Club to get new saucepans. Or provide a treat, like the panto subsidy for less well-off Botley school children last Christmas, and the Field House outing this one. We've never given out more than £500 in one go, and our grants more usually range between £50 and £200, but they come with no strings attached and can make a real difference. There's some money to spare at the moment, so if you have some kind of community project that we could help, now is the time to ask us.

Finally, our deliverers continue to be a modest lot who don't like to be made a fuss of. But we couldn't manage without you, as quickly becomes apparent when there are gaps in the rota. Pat Back is one of our older supporters, and there's a picture of her 80th birthday party in Randoms.

Thank you, Pat, and everyone else involved in our great little magazine!  
**Ag MacKeith**, Editor

## What's in a name? ... A lot when it comes to the NHS

When you are referred to a hospital specialist it is really helpful to have confidence that they actually are competent to diagnose our condition and prescribe for it, especially if it is really serious.

So it is unnerving to discover, if the consultant is not available, that we will be seen by one of those currently referred to as "junior doctors". This creates the impression that such doctors are fresh out of medical school. But in fact, they have already had five years in medical school, and two years training in hospital. The term 'junior' is then applied for at least a further seven years. No wonder the doctors themselves feel that such a term undermines their own sense of worth and morale!

I still deal in "old money", so I'm old enough to know that new doctors used to be called 'house officers'. Then they progressed to Senior House Officer, Registrar and Senior Registrar. By the time they were a registrar they were really knowledgeable and skilled. Under the present system they continue to have very senior responsibilities such as being in sole charge of the hospital out of hours, but now they are all known as 'junior doctors'.

Consider for a moment if the same system were applied in other organisations. The police do not have name-labels saying 'Trainee' until they are Chief Superintendent. The army does not designate corporals, sergeants, lieutenants and captains as 'junior'. Why is this being done to doctors?

The chief medical officer for England, Professor Dame Sally Davies, says: "These titles ('junior doctors') do not seem to work for staff or patients. All health workers should get the respect they deserve ... and this should include how their jobs are described."

Dr David Matthews, a world-renowned specialist in Diabetes resident in Cumnor, has been leading a campaign to change the current misleading set of terms and return to simple levels such as Doctor, Registrar and Consultant. The only cost would be for some new name labels, letter heads and room signs. Yet he and his colleagues claim the impact would be highly beneficial to everyone. What do you think?

**Chris Sugden**, Secretary, Botley Medical Centre's Patient Participation Group

*This article is written on behalf of the Botley PPG, although the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Medical Practice*

## Goodbye Margaret

Five new girls have recently been enrolled in Second Botley Brownies, but there has been some sad news as well. We have learnt that Mrs Margaret Ballard has passed away. Before she retired from Girlguiding, she was our Brown Owl for over 35 years at the unit that she founded with Mrs Angela Bye back in 1972. Girlguiding was well represented at her funeral – it was the least we could do for all those years of service and all of them as an unpaid volunteer (as we all still are). The mood lifted afterwards at the wake where two large boards covered in photographs old and new prompted exchanges of many stories involving Margaret's sense of mischief and fun.

I think my all-time favourite prank happened on our first Brownie Holiday back in 1999, when Margaret was also presented with her 30-year award. The holiday was for four nights and five days and as it was our first holiday the would-be licence holder (me) and the team had to be assessed in action. Usually, the day when the assessment will be done is pre-arranged but for unknown reasons that was not so in this case, so we were all on tenterhooks the whole time until the examiner finally appeared – thereby lies another tale involving a special bucket but that's for another time.

Anyway, as the assessor had been and gone away satisfied with our running of the holiday the whole team and the girls were finally able to relax. Later that day, in the kitchen Margaret (Brown Owl) and John (Mr Snowy) were hard at work preparing yet another delicious meal whilst the girls and the other leaders were out on the field running around. All of a sudden, Mr Snowy (in his chef's whites) is seen being slowly led out of the holiday home by Brown Owl, both of them looking rather pale. He has a bloodied tea towel wrapped around his left hand and mumbles something about the knife being

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rather sharper than anticipated. The first aider, Alison (Tawny Owl), is quickly summoned from the far corner of the field (and at this point is carrying Snowy's two year old son in her arms because he is tired). Mr Snowy repeats that the knife was sharper than anticipated and he may have done some damage. Certainly the tea towel has been expertly wrapped around his hand except for the tips of the fingers. There is a considerable amount of blood present around the wound and he says he feels faint. Brown Owl has drifted back towards the house.

Tawny swiftly arrives (still carrying the boy) and as she draws level with Mr Snowy he stumbles and drops a severed finger on the floor. Quick as a flash Tawny looks at the grass thinking about retrieving it so that it could be packed in ice cream ready for the hospital to deal with it and then she spots that it is not in fact a severed finger at all but a raw chipolata! She looks up to Mr Snowy, who shrugs and smiles. She knows at once who is responsible for the whole prank and looks towards the house where she sees Brown Owl laughing as she disappears through the door, her mischief done.

Thank you Margaret (Brown Owl) for your sense of humour, community spirit and friendship.

**Lucy Howes**

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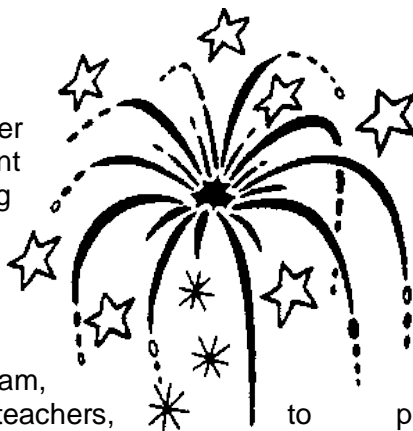
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## 'Matthew Arnold Rocks'

### *Fireworks and HUGE thanks!*

Once again the early November weather was kind to us and after a significant amount of preparation and planning Matthew Arnold Home School Association (MAHSA) hosted its third Fireworks event of recent times: 'Matthew Arnold Rocks'!



It took just over seven weeks for a team, which included some very dedicated teachers, to put together the fireworks event. Finally, stalls were erected with sterling help from the Sixth Form and other students, and representatives of each of the five school House teams stepped forward to welcome arrivals with a funfair atmosphere. Local bands (two talented student bands: 'Grey Shift' and 'The Paperboys', followed by the brilliant local West Oxford band, 'Bötley Crue') created a festive feel for all to enjoy. A grand choice of bonfire night food, a bar and warming hot drinks catered to the needs of all you wonderful people that came along to enjoy the fabulous 'Stormworks' fireworks display. Thank you to each and every one of you, you made it all worthwhile.

The place was buzzing and it certainly felt like a good time was had by all... and in so doing we raised over £2,000!

As some of you may know, due to the increasing local population, Matthew Arnold School is having a new build comprising a new Sixth Form Centre 0 and four new classrooms. Though primarily funded by Section 106



### **15<sup>th</sup> Oxford Cub and Scout group need you! So join the adventure.....**

New Cubs and Scouts are warmly welcome in the New Year for wide ranging activities, making new friends, having fun, getting outdoors and learning exciting things.

**Where:** Botley Baptist Hall  
(new venue due in early Jan)

**When:** Friday evenings

**Cubs:** For boys and girls aged  
8-10½yrs @18:00-19:30

**Scouts:** For boys and girls aged  
10½-14yrs @19:30-21:00

In 2018 new Cubs and Scouts get their first term for FREE!

Subscription after this is £25 per term.

No pre-booking required, just come along!

For further info contact:  
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Amy (Scouts) 07887 654386

monies, this will only cover the actual construction, the school has to find the funds to furnish and equip the new building. To that end the Home School Association has pledged to raise £20,000 of the additional £35,000 needed over two years. We usually raise about £3,500 to £4,000 per year but since December 2015 we've raised £11,000 so we're well on the way to reaching our target!

So whether you're a student at the school, know someone who is, or simply live locally, please look out for future events and come along, have some fun and support us in the process. By the time the *Sprout* lands on your doorstep we will have had our Autumn quiz but please do look out for future adverts in the *Sprout* for our Spring quiz when Ruth Lyster will be creating yet another one of her fantastic themed feasts – when you see them, so get those tickets purchased quick, they soon run out!

Early in the New Year we hope to finalize the organization of our School Lottery, so for those of you who want to support the HSA's fundraising endeavours but who feel a Fireworks Night or Quiz isn't your thing, perhaps you can buy a couple of lottery tickets every month and be in with a chance of winning a cash prize. And finally if anyone fancies getting involved with the Home School Association, or has a good idea for fundraising for the school, please do drop us an email on [hsa@maschool.org.uk](mailto:hsa@maschool.org.uk) and we'll let you know the details of our next meeting in 2018! *We look forward to seeing you there!*

Take good care and once again huge thanks to all.

Oh yes, one last specific thank you... to the lovely man that gave Joe, one of our more senior and distinguished guests his woolly hat to wear... we really hope you, Joe and Joe's friends had a lovely time 😊 Here's to random acts of kindness everywhere!

**Angela Bloss**, Chair, Matthew Arnold Home School Association.

## OXFORD CRAFT CLUB



Create a beautiful, unique Christmas wreath with a glass of mulled wine and mince pie. All abilities welcome, just bring enthusiasm!

**Date: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Time: 19:30-21:30**

**Venue: Oxford RFC, North Hinksey**

**Price: £20pp**

Booking required for all workshops, places are limited.

All equipment supplied

Please contact Julie Kelly

[Julie.kelly14@btinternet.com](mailto:Julie.kelly14@btinternet.com)

0770 485 7055



## West Way Day Centre is alive and well!

Amidst all the current debate about the development of West Way, there is one small but very important concern of which many people are probably unaware. Like many services the Day Centre for elderly people was hit by cuts and staffing shortages which signalled the end of Friday sessions and fuelled rumours that we had closed altogether.

However, I am happy to report that **West Way Day Centre** for elderly people is now well and truly up and running at **Field House** on **Mondays** and **Fridays** from **10 am to 3 pm** and provides a wonderful opportunity for the not-so-young to meet and socialise. Activities include tea and biscuits on arrival, gentle exercise, games, quizzes, visiting speakers, outings, a two course lunch, afternoon tea and, of course, endless chatting and lots of laughter. We are a very friendly bunch and have been delighted to welcome several new members recently but would love to see more joining us. Transport can be arranged if required.

For many elderly people who live alone, the centre is their main social contact; coming along to meet friends is the highlight of their week and contributes significantly to their physical and mental well-being.

With the recent increase in numbers and days offered, we are also on the lookout for new volunteers. If you could spare six hours a week, or maybe a month, we would love to hear from you. Many volunteers find that even giving a small amount of time reaps enormous benefits for them too, not just the people they are helping. For more information call 07740 611971 or email [oxfordshire.hub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:oxfordshire.hub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk) We look forward to welcoming you soon.

**Elaine Spencer**, Manager, West Way Day Centre.

Is it about time you had a **Fitness MOT?**

Get in contact for your free fitness check with GO Active Gold for everyone aged 60+



Venue: Dean Court Community Centre  
Date: Friday 8 December 2017  
Time: 10 am - 12 noon

To book your free space, contact:  
Aled Newton 07748 770567  
[aled.newton@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:aled.newton@southandvale.gov.uk)



## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<a href="#">P17/V2789/HH</a>	40 Hutchcomb Rd. Ground floor side extension for extra bedroom en suite.	<b>16 October</b> <i>TDD: 11 Dec</i>
<a href="#">P17/V2861/LDP</a>	80 Arthray Rd. Alteration of existing hipped roof to form a gabled roof.	<b>17 October</b> <i>TDD: 12 Dec</i>
<a href="#">P17/V2865/DIS</a> <i>Discharge of conditions - P17/V1047/FUL</i>	18 & 20A North Hinksey Lane. 3. Materials, 4. Levels, 9. Landscaping, 11. Arboricultural Method Statement & 13. Drainage. Demolish existing buildings & build 10 dwellings.	<b>18 October</b> <i>Target Decision Date: 29 Nov</i>
<a href="#">P17/V3033/FUL</a> <i>Variation of 2 P17/V1047/FUL</i>	Land Off North Hinksey Lane. Flats Changes to windows, internal layouts to flats 1-5, add balconies to flats 4 & 5, roof dormers, landscaping, refuse & cycle parking, car port. Demolish existing buildings & build 10 dwellings.	<b>6 November</b> <i>TDD: 5 February</i>
<a href="#">P17/V2876/HH</a>	Brookside 4 Tilbury Lane. Single storey side and rear extensions.	<b>18 October</b> <i>TDD: 13 Dec</i>
<a href="#">P17/V2928/HH</a>	40 Westminster Way. Remove veranda to rear & replace with garden room.	<b>25 October</b> <i>TDD: 20 Dec</i>
<a href="#">P17/V2944/DIS</a> <i>Discharge of condition 5 - P16/V0963/FUL</i>	Hillhead Lime Road. Convert to semi-detached & relocate main driveway to rear via Turner Drive, off road parking & cycle & bin stores.	<b>26 October</b> <i>TDD: 7 Dec</i>
<a href="#">P17/V2940/A</a>	Approved Drive-Thru (Unit 12) Seacourt Tower Retail Park. Erect 1 height barrier sign, 2 key seller signs, 1 double menu sign, 1 roof letters + tray sign, 2 fascia signs. Illuminated.	<b>2 November</b> <i>TDD: 28 Dec</i>
<a href="#">P17/V3008/D</a>	7-8 Hinksey Business Centre North Hinksey Lane. Demolition of toilet block.	<b>6 November</b> <i>TDD: 4 Dec</i>
<a href="#">P17/V3052/DIS</a> <i>Discharge of condition 3 traffic management. P17/V1507/FUL</i>	Botley Local Centre West Way. Temp change of use planning consent for 3 years, relocation & addition of units. Changes to access & egress, provision of 43 parking spaces, partially demolish Grant Thornton House & Seacourt Hall & install portacabin (A1 use) As amended by plans received 4/09/2017.	<b>7 November</b> <i>Target Decision Date: 19 Dec</i>

# **Randoms**

## **Centenarians**

Mrs Ruth Van Heyningan celebrated her 100th birthday in October. She joins other centenarians, Mrs Betty Laws and Mr Cyril Hawkins (102). They all live within 100 yards of each other in North Hinksey Village. Is there something in the air there?

## **Green Fair**

The Green Father Christmas on our front cover is of course, Bob Cowley of Cope Close. Oxford Green Fair is the biggest event of its kind in the country, now in its 37th year!. This is the place to find unique handmade gifts, and where all the local campaigns have a stall to explain what they do to the public at large. It's in Oxford Town Hall on 2nd December.

## **Walking around Botley**

And on December 3rd, starting at the Community Orchard in North Hinksey Lane at 2pm, is a guided walk around Botley, taking in its green spaces and history. It will go down the lane to the village, through the underpass to Raleigh Park, and across the top of Elms Rise to the Pavilion where there will be refreshments at 3. If you like you can join it there and continue on down through Dean Court to Tilbury Fields. This one-off chance to get to know parts of the area you may not normally visit is a bright idea of the Association for Botley Communities.

## **Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme**

Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) has been working hard to learn more about the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme, how (and if!) it will work, and to understand the detail of what this channel, which cuts across the whole of the west side of the City will look like. We have also been keen to understand how it will affect the natural environment and Oxford's precious green spaces, notably Hinksey Meadow next to Willow Walk, which is owned by OPT. Come to a public meeting on Wednesday 31 January at 7.30pm at the Botley WI Hall to find out more.

## **Botley W.I.**

In November we enjoyed a talk by Captain Cyril Mannion, about the routine on the flight deck of an airliner. Our next meeting will be on 5th December, when we will be entertained by Cumnor Community Choir..

On 12th December the walking group meet at 10.00 at Elms Parade, to take a bus to Wootton and walk to Cotehill, with lunch at the Merry Miller. The book group will meet in December; but no Craft group this month. Sign up now for the Scarf workshop on 24 February 2018.

*Wishing a Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all members.*

**Alison Jenner**

### **Active Seniors**

The Vale of White Horse in cooperation with Sport England is turning its attention to the needs of its senior citizens. They have taken on Aled Newton to coordinate sessions, either instructor-led (like Zumba gold, seated yoga) or self-run (like table tennis). Sessions will start in the new year, and costs will be covered for the first 10 weeks, after which the instructor or participants will take over. First-off is the Functional Fitness MOT at Dean Court Community Centre on 8th December, to gauge general fitness and the level of interest in the sessions.

### **Jane Chapman**

The *Sprout* was very sorry to learn of the death this autumn of Jane Chapman, a local character if ever there was one. She was a colourful piece of the jigsaw that makes up the Botley scene, and will be missed – our sympathy goes out to her family. There must be lots of stories about Jane, who famously spoke as she saw things, without fear or favour – and at least some of them should be printable. So if you would like to share your funny memory of Jane, please get in touch with the editor at the address on the inside front cover and we will print a selection.

### **Pat Back**

Celebrated her 80th birthday in style at a party on 7th October. As one of our deliverers she gets a special mention in this column, and here's a photo of the happy gathering showing Pat and some of the forty or so friends and neighbours from Hinksey Lane who joined her in the W.I. Hall.





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

<b>1st Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>
<b>2nd Botley Brownies</b> Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6 -7.30 : Alison Griffin 01865 379247
<b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>
<b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b> Boys and girls welcome	Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Tues / Thurs 9.15–11am, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
<b>Badminton Club</b>	Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>
<b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
<b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne Ox.792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley Health Walks</b>	Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497
<b>Botley Library</b>	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
<b>Botley Singers</b>	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>
<b>Chair-based Exercise Class</b>	Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Seacourt Hall Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601
<b>Community Fridge</b>	For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811
<b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>	Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoral.co.uk">www.cumnorchoral.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
<b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>	Details on website at <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone Chirs Impey, 01865 721026
<b>Fit Steps – exercise based on dance</b>	Friday 6–7pm, Seacourt Hall. Email Rosalie on <a href="mailto:rosalie.crane@btinternet.com">rosalie.crane@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>	Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>	Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 01865-863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>
<b>Let's Sing! – singing group</b>	Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email <a href="mailto:emformusic@outlook.com">emformusic@outlook.com</a>
<b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>	Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>
<b>Mum and Baby Yoga for babies from 6 wks to crawling</b>	Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via <a href="https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk">https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk</a>

North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>	Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997
<b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
<b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>	Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
<b>N Hinksey Horticultural Soc</b>	Contact: Ann Dykes Ox 251821 <a href="mailto:andykes@hotmail.com">andykes@hotmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>	Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>	Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook
<b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Marina Bennett 01865 242312
<b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>	Liz Sawyer 07981 339301 <a href="mailto:lucas.liz@gmail.com">lucas.liz@gmail.com</a>
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dymrna Walker: 01865 865259
<b>Oxford Otters</b>	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
<b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>	Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> .
<b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>	Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>Saturdads</b> Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
<b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>	Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .
<b>Shotokan Karate club</b>	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
<b>Weight Watchers</b>	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Contact: Marion Bostock 436277
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) Elizabeth Stevens, 739252
<b>West Way Day Centre</b> (Royal Voluntary Service)	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Elaine Spencer, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>
<b>Which Craft?</b>	Pavilion, Arnold's way, fourth Monday, contact <a href="mailto:whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk">whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Monthly, 1st Tuesday: Liz Manson, tel. 244175 or email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>

