

The Sprout



The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 176 April 2023

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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From the Editor

The clocks have gone forward, April showers are here (unlike last year) and there's lots going on in Botley as usual. There will be changes at the Medical Practice (p5), although hopefully this will not mean closure, the Flood Scheme is up for consultation (p13) but still fails to get the support of HOEG. Oxford Flood Alliance has details of changes in the application if you'd like to know more: <https://oxfordfloodalliance.org.uk/> In the pipeline are the re-formed Youth Club (p33), affordable housing locally (p28) and works to restore Tumbling Bay (p9). Now with us are the first tranche of public art in the shopping precinct (p31 and cover), and the first two cafes and a new restaurant (reviewed on pages 27 and 23). No longer with us, sadly, is an unsung local hero, Robin Palmer, who died in February (p18), a man of many parts. Two major events will hit Botley in May, local elections for Parish and District Councils on Thursday 4th (p27), and the long weekend of Coronation Celebrations, around May 6th. Next month's issue will come out in good time so you can read what candidates for election have to say about themselves. And there will be details of Coronation plans, still under consideration. Officially they won't include a beacon chain, but that doesn't mean we can't light the beacon!

Ag MacKeith



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Letters to the Editor

Gadgets

The best thing about the egg topper (March Sprout, page 34) is its original German name: *Eierschalensollbruchstellenverursacher*. As for the gadget in the photo, my sister gave me one of those a few years ago. She said it was for removing the hulls from strawberries. I personally think it's a Denis Healey eyebrow plucker. With best regards,

Uwe Ackermann

*[Thanks, Uwe. – might have known the Germans would have had a name for it. But the Sprout is not convinced by the strawberry huller – we'll be putting it to the test in June and reporting back!
Ed]*

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Changes at Botley Medical Centre

Patients have been notified that the partners at the Practice have decided to give notice on their contract with the NHS. They will continue to practise until early September 2023.

The Practice is not closing.

The Chairman of the Patients Participation Group has received a letter from the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Integrated Care Board who intend to keep primary care services at Kennington and Botley. They wish to work closely with the Chairman, the PPG and other stakeholders to explore options and find the best possible solution.

The chair and vice chair have already begun to dialogue with the ICB. The PPG has received some FAQs from the ICB, the link to these is here – <https://www.bucksoxonberksw.icb.nhs.uk/our-places/oxfordshire/botley-medical-centre/> Patients are advised to read these questions carefully.

Until September, the Practice and surgeries are open as normal. Patients who require medical treatment should contact the surgery in the normal way. For a prescription or a repeat prescription they should also continue to contact the surgery, or their pharmacy, as normal.

The PPG is confident that a new provider to manage the surgeries will be found in the timescale with a seamless change of management and a continuing local health care service.

The Practice has excellent clinicians. In consultation with the Practice the PPG has summarised the roles of clinicians (below) so that patients can arrange appointments with a clinician in the first instance rather than a doctor. Appointments with these clinicians can be booked in advance. This will enable doctors to prioritise emergencies.

Clinical Pharmacist

They apply their pharmaceutical knowledge in hospital or secondary care discharge management, patients' prescription requests and issuing, medication reviews, reviewing and setting up patients' Dossett boxes, medication queries, adverse reactions to medication, etc. The

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practice team is formed by a lead pharmacist (in house), a prescription clerk, a prescriber and two PCN pharmacists.

Physiotherapist

Physiotherapists are qualified independent clinical practitioners who can assess, diagnose, treat, and manage musculoskeletal (MSK) problems and undifferentiated conditions and, where appropriate, discharge a person without a medical referral. Reception and other clinical staff can refer patients to them to establish a rapid and accurate diagnosis and management plan: they usually treat back pain, foot and knee pain, and all type of musculoskeletal conditions. The Practice offers this service three days a week.

Advance Nurse Prescriber

The ANP can deal with minor illnesses, plus other requirements like contraception, etc, and she can prescribe for the patients. The ANP will be able to check with a doctor on the day if needed or signpost the patient to other services. The ANP can deal with a range of things from asthma to ear infections, minor pain management, abdominal pain, chest infections, colds, coughs, skin rashes, urinary tract infections, etc.

Physician Associate

They can treat the same medical conditions as a GP, but cannot prescribe. They are supervised by an experienced GPS if needed. They visit our care home population and can manage chronic diseases and all sorts of medical issues. The Practice shares a physician associate with our PCN colleagues.

Social Prescriber

The social prescribers can support people with a wide range of social, emotional, or practical needs, and manage resources to improve the mental health and physical wellbeing of our patients.

People with mild or long-term mental health problems will be referred to them, as well as people with complex needs, people who are socially isolated and those with multiple long-term conditions who frequently attend either primary or secondary health care. On many occasions they support elderly and vulnerable patients. The Practice has one in-house social prescriber and two PCN social prescribers.

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Tumbling Bay Update

A year ago, 40 or so people gathered at Tumbling Bay early one evening to hear of the Council's plans for Tumbling Bay. The concrete north wall had become unstable and needed sorting. The



Council talked of collapsing the bank into the basin and naturalising a new bank.

Six months later, in October we gathered at WOCA and the Council was talking of a bank of gabion baskets (stone-filled wire baskets) on the north side stepped down into the basin. We were concerned about the risk of baskets hidden in the water and how people would get out on the north side given these rock baskets are not exactly kind on bare feet, since the Council did not want to provide steps.

All went quiet. Then word came that a planning application was being prepared, at which point the community would be able to comment. We decided to take the initiative and submit the petition to Council. Signed by 2271 people it called for:

- · Preservation of the historic character and shape of Tumbling Bay by seeking to repair or replace the existing wall.
- · For ladders to continue in situ to allow people to get out of the river safely.
- · For Council co-operation with local residents to explore ways in which funds could be raised to pay for the renovation work so that cost would not be a barrier, as we understand that Council funds are hard pressed.

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On Monday March 20 we spoke to the petition at Full Council. You can see the petition fantastically presented by Alice and hear the councillor discussion here at https://youtube.com/watch?v=TB_WI_z24zw It starts at 3:15 mins.

We felt that there was a lot of positive support and agreement that there should be dialogue with the community. The Council voted unanimously for what we wanted, which was further engagement with local residents.

As of February, we were still in the dark about the cost and durability of options. So we submitted a Freedom of Information Request to obtain the details we knew the Council had looked at. This is what we now know;

Option 1 – replacement by a concrete wall £202,000 with a life of 80 years.

Option 2 – steel piling £192,000 with a life of 125 years.

Option 3 – Re-naturalisation of the bank £173,000 with a life of 4 years.

Option 4 – gabion baskets (we have been told these can not be vertical but must be stepped) £166,000 with a life of 100 years (although some suppliers at least seem to say 60 years in water).

So what next? We are looking for a community meeting in April. Our aim is to ensure community feedback on the options. We are heartened that the option that provides the longest life, while not being the most expensive, is steel piling – a tried and tested method of edging Oxford's waterways. It replaces the basin's damaged vertical wall with a vertical wall and retains the sense of history and purpose of Tumbling Bay.

Elizabeth Ball for the Tumbling Bay Preservation Society

Botley In Bloom – Front Garden Competition 2023



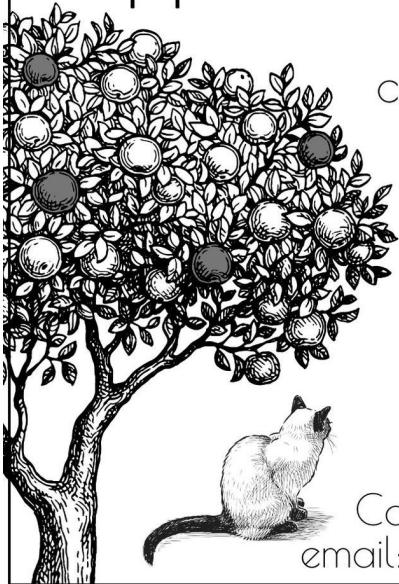
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- **Judging: week beginning Monday 12 June**
- **Results announced: Monday 19 June**

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Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

– your views are needed!

The Environment Agency's £176 million (originally £120 million) Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme includes a 5km long flood channel from north of the Botley Road to north Kennington, together with flood embankments, culverts, bridges, etc. It aims to reduce flooding in Oxford and 'keep Oxford open for business'. Maps on the county council website (details below) show the northern part of the scheme that affects Botley and North Hinksey. The scheme needs to go through two separate processes before it can go ahead:

1. The **Planning Application** must be agreed by Oxfordshire County Council, and
2. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs must make **Compulsory Purchase Orders**.

A **planning application** for the scheme was made last year. It is at mye-planning.oxfordshire.gov.uk, application no. **MW.0027/22**. At the time, 300 local residents wrote in. More than 90% opposed the **flood channel part of the scheme**, which would:

- permanently reduce biodiversity, notably at Hinksey Meadow;
- be poor value for money, protecting only 51 extra homes at £470,000 per home in a 1-in-50 year flood event, compared to the scheme with no channel;
- reduce access to a huge area of public space, especially during the 3-5 year construction period;
- and require 40mph restrictions on the A34 at South Hinksey to allow lorries carrying the scraped-out spoil from the channel to get onto the ring road.*

Oxfordshire County Council responded by asking the Environment Agency for more information. This has now been delivered and is on the planning application website (totalling about 400 documents!). It shows that, even without considering Hinksey Meadow, and despite the wetland habitats that the scheme would create, there would still be a loss of biodiversity on site. It also confirms (at Appendices Q and U for any keen planning application readers) that **the scheme without the channel would provide significant flood protection, be cheaper, and avoid almost all the damage and disruption.**

* An option of removing spoil by rail is being explored.

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Please comment on the planning application by **20 April** to **Matthew.Case@oxfordshire.gov.uk**. The information about how to do this is on www.oxfordfloodandenvironmentgroup.com, and [www.hinkseyand osney.org](http://www.hinkseyandosney.org) but just a brief email summarising your reasons for supporting or opposing the scheme would already be helpful.

There will be a meeting about the scheme at the **Assembly Room at Oxford Town Hall on 17 April at 7pm**

A **Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)** allows an organisation to force people to sell their land to the organisation. Because CPOs are so drastic, removing people's rights to their own land, objections to a CPO often go to public inquiry. Land owners' objections carry more weight, but other users of the land, such as recreational users, can also object.

Normally, organisations serve CPOs only after they have received planning permission. However the Environment Agency has *already* served CPOs for the flood alleviation scheme, including for Hinksey Meadow and nearby fields, one owned by the Ferry Hinksey Trust and leased to the Scouts, Seacourt Nature Park, and the fields along the Electric Avenue from Osney Mead to South Hinksey.

If you use any CPO land, please send comments to FloodsCasework@defra.gov.uk by **2nd April** (though they may well accept comments after that, so do write in regardless). Your comments should state the title of the order "Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme: compulsory purchase order 2023", the grounds for your objection, your address, and your interest in the land (e.g. dog walking).

Professor Riki Therivel and Canon Dr Chris Sugden
Hinksey and Osney Environment Group

Sprout notices

The *Sprout* is looking for **new directors** to help us stay on track. It's not an onerous job. We meet two or three times a year, to review the accounts, plan the AGM and discuss any controversial issues that may arise. The atmosphere of our meetings is friendly and co-operative. If this sounds like something you'd like to do, please get in touch via editor@thesprout.org.uk.

We also need some more **deliverers**. Just half an hour a month, and the chance to get out and see what's going on in another part of the locality. Painless really, but a vital job! Get in touch initially via the Editor as above.

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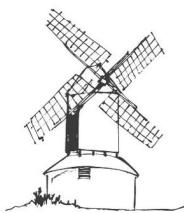
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4th Oxford Scouts

The 4th Oxford Scout Group will be organising the Oxford Greenbelt 10k run on Saturday 24th June. It will start on the playing fields at Brookes Sport, Harcourt Hill at 11.00. The run is through beautiful countryside with views over the dreaming spires and is open to anyone of any ability who is 16 years or older. The funds raised will go to 4th Oxford Scout Group and Oxfordshire Jamboree Unit (to help scouts attend the World Scout Jamboree in Korea this summer). Please use this QR code, or this link https://bit.ly/greenbelt_10k, for more information and joining instructions. Hopefully we'll see many of you there!



James Wynne, Chair of Trustees.

Kennington Memory Club

Kennington Memory Club is pleased to announce that the number of members it can accommodate at its Day Centre is set to rise by two a day to twelve. This means there will be more spaces for those with a diagnosis of dementia to attend the Day Centre at its Monday and Thursday sessions. If you or someone you know would like to attend, please contact our Organiser, Helen, on 07852 883496, or by email to memoryclub1@outlook.com.

LADDERTHON 2023 is now fast approaching. This is a crazy idea! A long, long ladder will wind its way on a long, long circuit from Headington to Kennington, carried by stalwart volunteers, taking in Cowley Centre and Oxford City centre en route, fundraising all the way. Three charities based in Kennington, Headway and the MacIntyre Centre as well as Kennington Memory Club will benefit from this extraordinary endeavour. They all extend their services to an area well beyond Kennington, including Cumnor. If you would like to be part of the Memory Club volunteer army along the way, please contact Isobel Birse by emailing chair@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk. Many thanks to Roger Dennett who came up with this unique idea and is the mastermind behind its organisation.

Isobel Birse

Robin Palmer – A Football Story

Robin Palmer, who died on 19th February at the age of 83, left his mark on the world as a champion of indigenous land rights, and particularly women's land rights, in Southern Africa, first for Oxfam and then for the Mokoro consultancy. While still with Oxfam UK he established the Land Rights in Africa website which collected information relating to the struggle for the return of land rights to indigenous small farmers on the Continent.



If you google **Robin Palmer, Oxfam**, you will find a string of heart-warming tributes to his passion for justice for the underdog, to the breadth of his knowledge and willingness to share it, and to his generosity as a mentor. There is so much to say about Robin that these short pages can hardly do him justice. He was a valued *Sprout* director and always enlivened our meetings with a bottle of wine from his carefully chosen cellar. What is less well known is his lifelong love of sport, which led to this favourite anecdote, told at his funeral by his daughter Janna.

"I wasn't planning to be in England at all in 1966.

In late 1965 I was living in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe), researching for a PhD on land and politics in Rhodesia, based at the local University College.

Then, on 11th November, Ian Smith, the white settler leader, made his illegal **Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) from Britain**. Subsequently a number of people at the University College, including myself, signed a letter to *The Times* saying that we did not recognize or accept the illegal regime of Mr Smith and his colleagues. Fairly soon after that, I received a letter from the Rhodesian Immigration Ministry stating that in view of my action they would not be renewing my Student's Residence Permit, I was now a Prohibited Immigrant (capital letters!) and so I was required to leave the country within seven days.

That was a bit of a shock! The University College appealed on my behalf and the thing dragged on until the end of March 1966 when I got my final marching orders!

About the first thing I did when I arrived was to get along to Wembley to buy tickets for the World Cup!

I managed to get tickets for all the England group matches at Wembley – against Uruguay (0-0), France (2-0) and Mexico (2-0), and also for the quarter-final against Argentina (1-0) and the semi-final against Portugal (2-1).

But I wasn't able to get a ticket for the final (England v West Germany). To be honest not many people (me included) thought that England would get that far.

A curious thing then happened. The biggest surprise of the entire tournament was when the total outsiders North Korea knocked out the fancied Italians 1-0.

A few days later, I was having lunch at a favourite Italian restaurant near Russell Square, *Trattoria Verdi*. Rather mischievously, I asked the waiter if they had any North Korean food on the menu! He laughed and said no. But he did have a ticket for the World Cup Final! Would I like to buy it from him?

Would I! How much? I asked. Ten pounds he said. That was a lot of money in those days, but I knew with absolute certainty that England would never get to a final of the World Cup again in my lifetime, so I bought it.

And what a ticket it was – just about the best in the house! It was right in the middle, just below the royal box, and in a seat right at the end of a row. Which meant that when Bobby Moore and his team climbed up the steps to receive their winners' medals, they passed right in front of me and so I was able to pat them all on their backs as they went up to shake hands with the Queen.

Moral of the story – life can often be full of surprises!"

Robin was one of those rare human beings who left the world a better place than they found it. We were lucky to have him here in Botley where he was a solid supporter of the library campaigns (fending off closures of Botley Library) and West Way Community Concern, as well as a keen allotment holder. The Sprout sends sympathy and best wishes to his wife and family.

AgM

VACANCIES AT NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

North Hinksey Parish Council is recruiting for two roles:



Parish Clerk - 27 hours/week

Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) - 10 hours/week

*The roles can be combined into one full time role for candidates with appropriate experience.
Other types of job share may also be considered.*

Salary: Pro rata, NJC pay scales 24 to 28 (currently £31,099 to £34,723). Progression to scale points 29 to 32 possible with experience and training.

Local Government Pension scheme.

With a population of c.5000 and an annual Parish Precept around £100k, Botley & North Hinksey is an active Parish Council with 14 members. We are seeking committed and enthusiastic professionals to help us achieve our ambitious vision, including delivery of new leisure facilities and becoming a zero-carbon Council.

The Parish Clerk provides executive support for all NHPC activities and advises the Council on legal, personnel, planning, and regulatory matters related to Council business. Located in the Parish office in West Way Square with some home working also possible, you will attend all Council and Committee meetings, requiring evening work on Thursdays. The Clerk will have management responsibility for the part time RFO and part time groundskeeper.

Requirements: attention to detail, computer literacy, teamwork, a friendly and professional communication style, excellent organisational and time-management skills. CiLCA qualification and Local Government experience are highly desirable, but the Council can support training towards CiLCA qualification.

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) administers all of the Council's financial affairs. The position requires strong organisational and interpersonal skills, experience with financial/accounting practices, a good working knowledge of Receipts and Payments bookkeeping, VAT, payroll processes, and use of commercial accounting software. The Council will support the successful candidate in any further training needed and continuing professional development.

The RFO will report to the Clerk and predominantly be a homeworker with options to spend some time in the Parish office.

Application deadline: 21st April Application form and job descriptions online at www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk You may also contact the Chair Caroline Potter to discuss the role: caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk, 07590 194768.

Your Council Tax 2023-24

Dear Residents,

I received my council tax bill via email, and I realised it's a pretty complicated thing. So I thought that, to be useful, I could help by explaining how it all works.

This article is a necessarily brief approach. For the more thorough treatment, see my blog: <http://cllrdebbyhallett.com/2023/03/15/your-council-tax/>

Your council tax amount is based on your property value as assessed in 1991. If your property is newer than that, valuation assessors have determined its value for tax band purposes.

You pay your council tax monthly (actually 10 out of 12 months; you get a break in Feb and March). It comprises four separate taxes, set by each authority:

1. Oxfordshire County Council
2. Thames Valley Police
3. Vale of White Horse District Council
4. Your parish precept

For the upcoming 2023-24 year, here are the taxes for a Band D property:

1. County: £1734.03
2. Police: £256.28
3. Vale: £151.26
4. Parish, which is set by the parish council or parish meeting:
 - a. North Hinksey: £51.20
 - b. South Hinksey: £105.06
 - c. Sunningwell: £55.33
 - d. Wytham: £39.44

As you can see, County gets the largest portion of your Council Tax by far. They fund social care, NHS, fire & rescue, schools, roads and many other things. Police get the next highest amount; they were allowed to put their rates up by £15 this year. Districts are limited to a maximum £5 rise, and that funds waste and recycling collection, planning services, leisure facilities and more. Parishes set the precept based on their planned spending.

So that's how it works!

Debby Hallett District Councillor.



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- *Google Review*

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- *Google Review*



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Dosa Park has Arrived In Botley

So what IS a Dosa? This was the first question I asked Mani Velusamy, the manager of the much anticipated and newly arrived Dosa Park in Botley's West Way Square.

If, like me, you love Indian food but are unfamiliar with South Indian nosh, you will be interested to learn that a Dosa is a thin pancake made from a fermented batter of ground black lentils and rice. Dosas are served hot with a variety of fillings, often with chutney and sambar (a spicy stew of lentils and mixed vegetables) and not only are they gluten free, vegan, probiotic, and low in calories but they provide a perfect balance of protein and carbohydrate. What's not to love? At Dosa Park you have a choice of 10 different toppings as well as an extensive menu featuring authentic classic Indian dishes. Everything is freshly cooked to a high standard.

I chatted to Abdul who, along with his business partner Raji, originally set up a chicken shop in Park End Street. Then, in 2009, when Abdul's long-term friend Mani joined the team, it blossomed into Dosa Park serving traditional South Indian food. This original branch used to be take-away only but it now has seating as well.

The Dosa Park team are thrilled to have been able to expand the business by opening the new restaurant in Botley, with 60 covers and more seating planned for outside in the summer. The Botley venue has the advantage of two hours' free parking in any of West Way's official car parks, enabling Dosa Park's many fans to make a trip from further afield, via the ring road. Mani has lived in Botley for three years, handily only a couple of minutes' walk from the restaurant and his twins attend a local school. Abdul mentioned that he is hoping to move here too and they both cited the really good feeling of community in our neighbourhood.

There are plans afoot to bring in a student discount in Botley, like the one already enjoyed at the Park End Street shop. By the time you read this it may already be in place along with a children's menu which is





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currently being worked on. Although these guys are planning ahead – hoping to open more branches eventually – Abdul emphasized the importance of the human connection, running his team of 25 people as a family and feeding people from the heart was how he put it. His maxim for the team is ‘Work together, grow together’. The respect they have for each other and the community is palpable.

Alongside Dosa Park’s commitment to provide fresh, quality food is the desire to keep things affordable. As well as the student discount mentioned above, Dosa Park are planning a 20% discount (both eat in and take-away) on Mondays to Fridays between the hours of 12 noon and 4.00pm. They’re also happy to offer coffee, and dessert if that’s your fancy, as a welcome break from your shopping trip.

Opening hours from the beginning of April will be 12 noon until 10pm Monday to Saturday, and from noon until 9pm on Sunday. Dosa Park is also open for take-away and there are plans to collaborate with Just Eat, Deliveroo, and Uber Eats.

Mani asked me to pass on Dosa Park’s thanks to the Botley community for the local support and said it has given them a great confidence boost to see so many people enthusiastically visiting them. Judging from the delicious meal my husband and I enjoyed at Dosa Park the other evening, that support is well deserved.

Viv Smith

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<u>P23/V0355/HH</u>	56 North Hinksey Lane. Single storey rear extension, 2-storey side extension, replace garage for accommodation.	10 February <i>Target Decision Date:</i> <i>7 April</i>
<u>P23/V0386/T56</u>	Land at Oxford RFC North Hinksey Lane. New 30m lattice tower to include relocation of 12 antennae, 4 x 0.6m dish antennae.	13 February <i>TDD: 9 April</i>
<u>P23/V0490/S73</u> Variation of condition 2, app P20/V0921/FUL	Botley Centre West Way. Addition of a plant room and updates to window design.	27 February <i>TDD: 29 May</i>
<u>P23/V0553/HH</u>	36 Hurst Rise Rd. Erect partial two-storey, partial 1-storey rear extension.	6 March <i>TDD: 1 May</i>



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Botley Has Cafés

The Mystery Eater (ME) and a friend went to sample **Loomsbury** in the first week that it opened. The pink-and-baby-blue exterior sign gave way to a yellow-and-green interior with attractive lights and a large, pinkish, not-sure-what-to-call-it-but-maybe ‘bouquet’ at the back. After all the Facebook hoopla, we were expecting the place to be heaving, and every booth did have one person in it, but the atmosphere was relaxed and quiet. It was easy to talk.

The ice creams and cakes were colourful and attractively laid out. We ordered two cakes and drinks. There were no prices on anything and the total ended up being more than £20. *Ouch!* The cakes arrived in a bowl, with a thick layer of whipped frosting, and swimming in neon-coloured sauces. They were tasty in an experimental, not-sure-if-I’d-want-this-again way. The drinks didn’t come. And didn’t come. We flagged down one of the charming staff and they finally did come, and were good.

A few days later the ME and another friend went to the **Missing Bean**. The décor was less jarring, mostly wood and neutral colours, but the seating was less comfortable: lots of people crammed together in a small noisy place. The pricing was clear, and our two drinks and two cakes cost less than £12. The cakes didn’t look as vibrant as those at Loomsbury, but tasted like they were made with real ingredients, and were very moreish. Our drinks arrived promptly.

Overall the ME thinks that Loomsbury would be good for families because of its nice booths, ice cream, and bright colours... that is, if Loomsbury could bring their prices down to a more manageable level. Being of a more advanced age, the ME prefers the taste of the cakes at Missing Bean, and the lower prices, but wishes that they had more generous, comfortable seating.

There will be more reports from our Mystery Eater as Botley’s new eateries open up. We welcome reviews from friends and neighbours.

Parish and District Council Elections

Will take place on Thursday 4th May. You will need to bring photo ID (passport, driving licence, etc). If you don’t have it, apply before 25th April for a free Voter Authority Certificate. The online page with more info and an application form is here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>. Or vote by post (no ID needed).

Local Affordable Housing – Crofts Court

Local people and businesses have pledged over £540,000 through a community share offer to support the affordable housing scheme at Crofts Court in Dean Court. Thanks to this great success, the share offer will stay open until 12 April 2023, so there's still time to invest. Details at www.ethex.org.uk/invest/OCLT (or scan the QR code).



More than 170 investors have already put in amounts of between £250 and £50,000. The money raised will reduce how much the scheme's developer and owner, Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT) needs to borrow at commercial rates to complete the project.

The eight affordable one- and two-bedroom homes are due to be finished and let to people with a Cumnor Parish connection this summer. When Directors visited the site on March 10th, they found the internal walls have been plastered and painted, making the rooms look light and spacious. The next stage is for scaffolding to come down and kitchens to be fitted.

OCLT board member and local resident Alison Mathias said: 'We've been overwhelmed by the response and the number of people who want to support our work and build community-owned, permanently affordable homes. Huge thanks to everyone who has invested so far – we hope to attract even more new investors in the weeks ahead.'

You can also support the project by becoming a community member of OCLT for just one pound, or by offering your time, help, services or resources in any other way – we're open to all ideas, especially from people and companies near to Dean Court.

To find out more about the Crofts Court development and OCLT's future plans to build more affordable homes to tackle Oxfordshire's housing crisis, please email info@oclt.org.uk or call 07889 209448.



Culture Corner

There is a classical gig coming up at the tap Social on **18th April at 7.30**, but without any of the formal trappings often associated with the classical genre. Tickets/ details here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/559667188627>
The Salomé Quartet are four award-winning musicians who met at the Royal College of Music and have performed at many of the most prestigious venues in the UK.

But they've never played a concert quite like this before...

Despite the fact that hearing classical music can be a thrilling experience, people can sometimes feel that it's formal and stuffy and somehow not for them. This concert aims to change that. You're invited to sit on the floor right next to the musicians if you like (bring a cushion!), to clap when you want, to show your emotions and respond to this fabulous music just as you would to any other.

They'll be playing:

SCHUBERT: Quartet in D Minor "Death and the Maiden"

CAROLINE SHAW: Entr'acte

HAYDN: Quartet in B flat "Sunrise"

HILDEGARD VON BINGEN: Three Antiphons

PS The Earthquake Fundraiser concert raised a wonderful £1094!



Exam Invigilators (several vacancies)

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Art ‘reveal’ and workshop kicks off Spring

Saturday 18th March felt like the start of Spring in Botley. Sunshine and intermittent showers, warmer temperatures and the promise of brighter days ahead. So it was the perfect conditions for the official ‘reveal’ of the first of three public art works in our shopping and community centre.

I hope readers have all now had a chance to see the mosaic panels by Clare Goodall with their beautiful depictions of plants, animals, birds and bugs, now they are in position on the outside of the community building on the corner below the Library. As mentioned in last month’s *Sprout*, the mosaics have been created with community input from the original ideas to the hands-on creation. Local people of all ages were involved, with specific input from the children of Botley and North Hinksey Primary Schools, so we hope many people will be able to spot their own or their family’s and neighbours’ contributions to these works. The photo shows the artists in front of the panels.



Look out for the next artworks to be installed: two huge carved stones by Alex Wenham have been finished and planning permission granted to install in the central area of the shopping centre. We are discussing dates with Mace and Gilbert Ash who are organising the bases. Then the third element is a mural by Nor Greenhalgh who held another workshop on Saturday to gather more ideas and input from local people of all ages. Look out for dates for these installations later this Spring and Summer. Thank you to Fusion Arts for their ongoing support with this work as well as our Vale Arts Officer, Abi Brown, and the artists themselves.

What's next for public art in Botley?

These public artworks are funded by Section 106 money from the West Way development which is specifically earmarked for spending on

artwork in the vicinity of new developments. We will soon have more S106 art funding available for other projects:

1. **Phase 2 of the West Way development:** to be completed by November 2023. There is more funding for an artwork that could go near the junction of West Way and Westminster Way, visible to traffic entering Botley.
2. **Turner Drive:** there are allocated funds for art to be spent in or around the vicinity of the Turner Drive development. This needs to be spent by November 2025.

We would be interested in hearing from residents in the Turner Drive area who have ideas to put forward, and to get further input from the community as a whole on how public art could enhance the area for residents. Please get in touch via PublicArt@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk

North Hinksey Parish Council Public Art Working Group

Part-time Grounds Keeper required



North Hinksey Parish Council

The Parish Council is looking for a Grounds Keeper for the Louie Memorial playing fields. The Grounds Keeper's average working hours are 6 hours a week. Necessary training will be provided including RoSPA training. The salary is equivalent to £22,780 per annum at full time hours – pro rata for 6 hours a week this is £307.84 per month. Duties of the post include, but are not limited to:

- Weekly safety checks of the play equipment
- Maintenance checks of defibrillator cabinet
- Cleaning and litter picking, general maintenance of the Trim Trail equipment
- Reporting and removing graffiti
- Ensuring safety of paths, checking for any tree damage
- Line marking the 11-a-side football pitch
- Taking care of groundskeeping supplies tools and inventory

Full job description online at northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/.

Please apply to the Parish Clerk clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk or by post to Parish Office,
5 Church Way, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9TH

Botley Youth Club – 2023 Update

As you may well know by now Botley Youth Club is returning as a weekly Wednesday night club, meeting at the Louie Memorial Pavilion and Fields. We hope to begin sessions towards the end of April/early May – we're just waiting for constitutional and operational formalities to clear.

In the meantime we held our second taster party at the end of January, celebrating the New Year together with games, food and fun!

Thirty five young people between 10 and 15 wrapped up warmly and enjoyed fruit smoothies, hot dogs and a ton of fresh fruit and veg (believe it or not!), while playing table football, floodlit table-tennis, Christmas card memory game, (non) Beer Pong and one or two tricks, puzzles and challenges

that defy names ... not forgetting the Jackson Pollock painting room – see pic.

Two hours of organised chaos passed almost as quickly as the sighting of the International

Space Station flying overhead, which ended our evening...indeed blink and you'd have missed it! The good news is we'll be back EVERY WEEK very soon!

We will also have hosted a volunteers evening to meet anyone interested in getting involved, share ideas, plan for the future, and combine our backgrounds, skills and interests to create a safe, dependable and nourishing space for our young people to grow. Above all we hope to have FUN!!

To find out more about BYC contact us botleyyouthclub@gmail.com or on Instagram [@botley_youth_club](https://www.instagram.com/@botley_youth_club)



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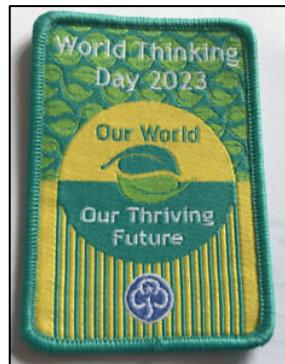
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Second Botley Brownies

February has been a remarkably busy month for us all. We started off with a trip to the annual Oxfordshire Scout & Guide Gang Show at Radley College. This is a full two-hour show of skits, dancing and songs all performed by young members of both the Scout and Girlguiding movements between the ages of 7 and 25 years. The Brownies really did enjoy themselves – some even joined in with the singing! It was a very special year this year as it was the 70th Anniversary of the show and it also featured Snowy Owl's daughter, Gemma. Both Tawny and Snowy Owl had also appeared in the Show when they were younger as Brownies and Guides.

The following Saturday several of the girls attended the Oxford City II Division Thinking Day Activity morning at the King's Centre on Osney Mead. Here they worked diligently towards the Girlguiding "Our World, Our Thriving Future" badge by completing a pictorial quiz on inspirational women, a balloon paint art of the world, further crafts and a calming meditation activity. "Thinking Day" is always on 22nd February and is the birthdate of both our founder Lord Baden Powell and also that of his wife Lady Olave Baden Powell, our first World Chief Guide. On this day members of both Scouting and Girlguiding think of other members all around the world.



Within our weekly meetings all the girls have been working very hard on the Innovate section of the programme. This has involved thinking about a lot of inventions which we all take for granted now but which, at some point in history, needed inventing. Alarmingly, we have been thinking about life before toilet paper, torches and ball-point pens! The girls were then tasked, in two groups, to come up with a completely new invention and wow did they come up with a couple of brilliant ideas! (*Dragons' Den* here we come).



STOP PRESS: as we were putting this article to bed Girlguiding has just announced that it is "refreshing our brand". More about what that will entail next month.

Brown Owl

STEVE MONCUR

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Randoms

CoE Easter services: Maundy Thursday 6th April, 7.00pm Holy Communion; Good Friday, 2.00pm, An Hour at the Cross; Easter Day, 9.30am Holy Communion at Ss Peter and Paul; and at St. Lawrence, North Hinksey, Holy Communion at 11.30am on Easter Day. Plus: Saturday 29th April, 4-6pm – Messy Church: Bible stories, games, craft, food, songs for primary school ages children and their carers at Ss Peter and Paul, and on Monday 8th May, 2-4pm – Coronation Cream Teas and guided Tours at St Lawrence's Church, raising funds for North Hinksey Primary School. Teas: £5.00 per head, children free.

Hill End Family Days

11-12-13 April. Easter Family Forest days: trails, nature crafts, pond dipping, campfire & a BBQ lunch. <https://hill-end.org/news>

Oxford & District ROS Support Group

The Royal Osteoporosis Society (ROS) has an Oxfordshire based local Support Group. We are a team of volunteers who raise awareness about bone health and aim to eradicate the many negative impacts of the condition, such as disability following fractures. We can provide you with information, and support from others with osteoporosis. We hold events throughout the year, such as online talks with trusted medical professionals knowledgeable about the condition and we meet face to face at local venues. To find out more, please get in touch by calling 07900 303510 or by emailing oxfordvolunteers@theros.org.uk

April in Botley Library

Saturday 1st April	– Cllr Judy Roberts Surgery 10-12pm
Monday 3rd	<i>Ex Library Stock Book Sale Starts (running for 2 weeks)</i>
Mondays 3rd, 17th, 24th	– 10-12pm ‘Pop in’ for tea and coffee
Tuesdays 4th, 11th	– 2pm Craft Event for children
Tuesday 25th	– Lego Club 3-4.30pm
Thursdays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	– Craft Club for Adults 2pm
Friday 7th	<i>Closed (Bank Holiday)</i>
Saturday 8th	– Open 9.30 -1pm (usual Saturday Hours)
Monday 10th	<i>Closed (Bank Holiday)</i>
Friday 14th, 21st, 28th	– Rhymetime 10am – Board games 4-6pm



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

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com
4th Oxford Scout Group Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	mail@thefourth.org.uk Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, Cubs 6.30-8, Scouts 8-9.30, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6-8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8-16	Terri Matthews: clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com
Botley Community Larder	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com
Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group	Second Tuesday in the Month, early evening. Contact csugden@ocrpl.org
Botley Health Walks	2nd & 4th Sats 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, or Tues 11 am Library botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com
Botley Library	07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Memory Lane Café	Thursdays 10-12 Seacourt Hall Lounge, Diccon James 07740 611971
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386
Botley Youth Club	botleyyouthclub@gmail.com
Cumnor Choral Society	Thursdays, 19.30-21.30 St Andrew's Ch. Steve Morris, chair. www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
Cumnor Gardening Club	http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ tel 01865 721026
Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group	Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonynspires@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	Family club Email: Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org 07824 881680 www.oxfordsportsltc.org

West Oxford Singing Circle	Weds 2-3pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or see www.emilyschoirs.co.uk
Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc	Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk
North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com
N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997
N Hinksey Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
N Hinksey Parish Council	clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
Oxford Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dymphna Walker: Ox 865259
Oxford Harmony	<i>Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall</i> 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	Email: raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Seacourt Hall Management Committee	Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see https://www.seacourthall.org.uk
Shotokan Karate Club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Stagecoach Botley	Botley School, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> 01865 590510 or 01235 390810
West Oxford Bowls Club	Dave Ellerker 07931 603801 wobc.membership@gmail.com
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/
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

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way	Contact: Building Manager 07742 662668 botleybaptist@gmail.com
The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise	Contact: Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
SS Peter & Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley	Contact: 01865 242057 or osneybenefice@outlook.com .
Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email admin@seacourthall.org.uk
Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com
Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village	Contact:.. Mary Bagnall mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com .

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

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane
 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion
 3rd Sunday 11.30am Matins

St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England, West Way
 Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion
 Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion in Chapel of Holy Spirit
 1st Saturday each month, 4–5.30pm Messy Church for children and carers
 Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or revclare@btinternet.com
See table above for Church Hall enquiries.

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

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way
 Sunday Service 11 am
 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7.30pm
 Choir practice Thursday 2pm
 Diane Melchert **07742 662668** www.botleybaptistchurch.org

Calvary Chapel
 Sunday services on 1st Floor, 1 Church Way at 9.30am with
crèche, children's Sunday school and youth group
 Pastor Steve Vickery 01865 586332
contact@ccox.church website: www.ccodoxford.church

What's On

April

- Sun 9th Easter Sunday**
- 11-13th Hill End Family Days**
- Mon 17th School term begins**
- Mon 17th 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk:
Julie Ann Godson, The Water Gypsy**
- Mon 17th 7pm, Town Hall, Q&A about Flood Scheme**
- Tues 18th 7.30pm, Tap Social, Informal Classical Concert,
Salome Quartet**
- Thur 23rd 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting**
- Mon 24th 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk:
Jane Fletcher, Art of Giving**
- Every Tuesday, 1pm-2.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Age UK Warm
Space for everyone, especially older adults, with free tea and
coffee.**
- Through the week, plenty of different activities in the warm
space of the library (see page 38)**

May

- Thur 4th Parish and District Council Elections**
- Sat 6th Coronation (extra bank holiday on Monday)**