

The Sprout



Jane and Ali Hogg are among the local artists showing in Artweeks in May

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 116 April 2017



The Sprout

Issue 116, April 2017

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From the Editor

We don't often get the chance to blow our own trumpet, but TWO letters applauding the March issue just had to be shared! We are glad the article describing how to support homeless people was seen to be so useful. No question but that it's a growing problem, so it's good that we now have the community fridge (p37) as well as the foodbank to offer some food. The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 16th March, and we can deduce from the decidedly sparse attendance that NHPC is getting it right. Pleasing to see a motion adopted that will make it easier to ask questions in future (p35). Page 9 has an account of the launch of the new Association for Botley Communities, and there's an invitation to join the discussion on the Vale Local Plan, part 2 on page 25. Botley Medical Practice has taken on Kennington, which will bring economies of scale (p15). What can we look forward to? Hedgehog Awareness Week in April (p13), Artweek's in May (p29) at which more local artists than usual will be showing their art – hence our cover – and in September a new local history exhibition, focusing on WW2, send contributions to Martin Harris (p21). It is becoming clear that the West Way development has stalled – no sign yet of the changes so amply described in our Feb issue. The meeting to explain why isn't till 10th April, so expect to see a full account in May. Plenty going on then, and it's all here in the *Sprout*!

Ag MacKeith



Letters to the Editor

March issue gets a gold star

Thanks ever so much for the hard work you do in producing *The Sprout*. I know there are many others involved too, but I wanted to thank you particularly.

I've just finished reading the latest *Sprout* and I think it was the best *Sprout* I've ever read. And it reminded me that I keep forgetting to thank the team and you in particular. So thank you for your part in producing it.

I particularly enjoyed the Roman Road through Raleigh Park article, the Inner-City America to Outer Oxford article and the Flood Alleviation scheme update! And then there was the homeless article too, which was also very informative.

I know you need local people to contribute and I will try and think of something myself at some point.

But it is always good to see the regular sections such as local organizations list, Local Planning Applications, Randoms, Halls for Hire – and the adverts of course.

Chris Taylor

Homelessness

I was delighted to see the very useful section regarding resources for helping the homeless in the latest issue of *The Sprout*. I've been living in Botley for just two years, and one of the first things I noticed when walking around in the centre of Oxford was the remarkably high number of homeless people in the streets — a shameful phenomenon that I regard as one symptom of a much deeper failure in our society.

Anyway, it seems to me that the homelessness section you printed deserves a wider audience in Oxford. It occurred to me that the DailyInfo website (<http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk>), which as I'm sure you know has daily listings for Oxford regarding events, services etc., might be an excellent platform for this kind of information that could serve both the homeless themselves and those wishing to point them to the available resources. I'm therefore writing to suggest that one of us could pitch the notion of including this information to their editorial staff. I'd welcome your thoughts regarding my suggestion.

Erik Kowal [Notion duly pitched, Erik, and waiting to hear from them.]



Some TLC for Raleigh Park

You may have noticed a considerable change to the appearance of Raleigh Park over the winter and a greater presence of Volunteers and Council Staff on site. Raleigh Park has been included in The Local Wildlife Trust's (BBOWT) Wild Oxford Project which aims to improve Oxford City Council Nature Reserves for the benefit of people and wildlife. Winter works have included mowing areas of limestone grassland to increase the diversity of the meadow area flora, clearing bramble from

pathways and felling small trees in the unusual calcareous fen and from around the pond to give wetland plants a better chance of establishing. The project has also involved working with Oxford Preservation Trust to enhance an important "view cone" of Oxford



from the top of the hill with views over North Hinksey and of The Dreaming Spires.

Over the coming months BBOWT will be working with OCC and The Friends of Raleigh Park to install new interpretation boards to help spark interest in the site and explain to people about the park's significance in the local landscape. If any people who have lived locally have any memories of how the site used to look or any interesting stories about the sites history we would love to hear from you.

One of the other beneficial aspects of The Wild Oxford Project is that we carry out full ecological surveys of the sites we work on, which helps us to determine appropriate management of the sites for the species which are present and the ones which may utilise the site with appropriate management. If you would like to get involved in survey work for the site, please get in touch.



Work on other Wild Oxford sites continues and we have made significant improvements to Chilswell Valley in South Hinksey by installing a new boardwalk through the fen, keeping the rare limestone grassland clear of scrub and restoring the old hazel coppice and planting trees in the woodland. There are also opportunities to help here if you are interested. The Wild Oxford volunteer team



meets twice a month, please get in touch if you would like to join in – it's always good fun and there is always plenty of tea and cake to be had. or more information about the Wild Oxford Project including work party dates please visit the Wild Oxford web page here: **www.bbowt.org.uk/wildoxford** and if you would like more information please contact: **wildoxford@bbowt.org.uk** **Andy Gunn**

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ABC gets into gear

The launch of the new Association for Botley Communities was well attended. About 40 of Botley's movers and shakers turned out to endorse the project and discuss what the new association might do. Officers were elected – Chris Church in the chair, John Clements minding the money and Kirsty Gay wielding the laptop, plus an eager band of trustees, and then we got down to considering possible areas of intervention.

Community Hub The new three-storey community hub building in the West Way redevelopment will include Seacourt Hall replacement facilities on the ground floor, the Library and “shared space” on the middle floor and business space on the top floor. The actual layout and uses of the “shared space” and business space are as yet undecided. Mace are looking for more contact with the community to discuss options and take suggestions. We have been in touch to propose the Association of Botley Communities (ABC) as a contact point, liaising with community groups and interested parties to agree on possible uses. A set of questions for the architect at the forthcoming public meeting was formulated, and we will be reporting on these next month.

Local economy We need to ensure that Botley remains a good place to shop and do business, especially during the delayed redevelopment of West Way. This means promoting the short-term use of empty commercial premises – keeping the centre lively during the upheaval, but being careful not to undermine local businesses struggling to survive. This could include a weekly market of some kind, ‘try it out’ spaces for new businesses, pop-up shops and restaurants. Could we offer support to new local start-up businesses? Is there scope to work with people such as the Old Bakehouse Trust? We must talk to Neighbourhood Plan group working on the local economy.

Young People There is a real need for more support. Young people need to feel that they belong to a welcoming community – this needs planning and investment. They need facilities where they do not feel restricted – a ‘safe hangout’. The Branches Project can be part of this. There is scope for both structured volunteering (e.g. D of E awards)

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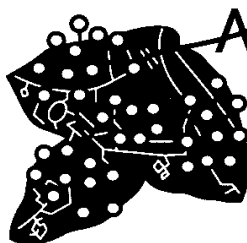


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No Job too Small



and simple day-to-day activities. We should also recognise the needs of vulnerable young people and ensure that there is good signposting to existing support services. Agreed to liaise with existing groups working on this, such as the Youth Club, Botley Bridges and Branches and the NHPC Recreation and Amenities Committee.



Association for Botley Communities

The Environment This attracted a wide range of suggestions of which these are just a few: *Tackle the traffic!* Plant ivy along the Westminster Way sound barrier; map green spaces and wildlife corridors; pollinator-friendly planting on verges; intergenerational gardening projects. And in the longer term: set up a repair café; persuade businesses on industrial estates to install solar panels; bring grazing back to Raleigh Park.

Of course, Botley already has plenty of different bodies working away on all fronts, some formal like the Parish Council, some less high profile, like the Neighbourhood Plan, but all doing useful stuff. The ABC is not intended to replace any of these, but to work with them and link them together so that Botley speaks with a united voice. It is easy to see how valuable this could be, and the Sprout is happy to help.

What are the next steps?

- hold meetings for people interested in each of these themes
- identify other organisations to cooperate with
- choose some priority points to work on
- consider how these points link to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan

Watch this space!

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### Toads on Roads

It's that time of year again, and we note that the toad barrier is up along North Hinksey Lane. The idea is to guide toads and frogs crossing from the cemetery to breed in the pond into buckets and carry them over. It's prompted by the past sad spectacle of hundreds of flattened amphibians, and their numbers are so reduced these days that they need all the help they can get. So please drive carefully along North Hinksey Lane – you wouldn't want to add to the carnage!





## Hedgehog Awareness Week

**30th April - 6th May 2017** is *Hedgehog Awareness Week*, reminding us that hedgehog numbers are declining nationally. This decline is due to a variety of factors including use of pesticides, netting and slug pellets, mowing and strimming equipment; and autumn/winter bonfires.

But the main reason for the decline is habitat fragmentation, which prevents them from roaming freely. Studies suggest that hedgehogs require at least 1km<sup>2</sup> of good quality connected land if they are to forage for food and to find mates. Each new garden wall or fence erected in a hedgehog habitat could be the obstacle that tips the balance the wrong way. Fortunately, Botley and North Hinksey still has a small population of hedgehogs. To help them survive we need to link as many of our gardens as possible to create a 'Hedgehog Highway'. How can we do this?

- By cutting or drilling a CD-sized hole in a wooden fence
- By digging a small channel underneath your wall, fence or gate
- By removing a brick from the bottom of a garden wall.

There is a campaign called **Hedgehog Street** which produces signs to mark these 'Hedgehog Highways' (see picture). To launch Hedgehog Awareness Week, the *Sprout* has four of these signs to give away, donated by local British Hedgehog Preservation Society Member, Dr Roger Dalrymple. If you are willing to create a CD-sized fence-gap in your fence and thus contribute to Botley's 'Hedgehog Highway', please email a photo of it to

**roger.dalrymple@spc.oxon.org** The first four emails received will be the lucky winners of the Hedgehog Highway signs. Roger will also email you by return a British Hedgehog Preservation Society sheet on how to make your garden even more hedgehog-friendly. Or you can look up more information on **hedgehogstreet.org** to find out how to help hedgehogs.

**Roger Dalrymple**





## **Botley and Kennington medical practices merge**

In late October 2016 the Oxford Mail reported that the partners at Kennington Health Centre had decided 'reluctantly' to terminate their contract with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG). To their credit OCCG acted swiftly. It would have been unfortunate if there had been a repetition of the problems that afflicted the Deer Park surgery in Witney in 2016. That practice was run by Virgin Care, a private provider, until the contract ran out in 2016. The contract was put out to tender but, despite prolonged negotiations, was not awarded. The OCCG were faced with having to extend the contract until 31st March 2017, by which time it anticipated that all Deer Park patients would have been dispersed to other practices in Witney. Currently this is still unresolved and putting GP services in Witney under very considerable pressure. Botley Medical Centre, amongst others, expressed interest in taking over the Kennington contract and, after submitting a bid, were quickly identified as the 'preferred provider'. In early January 2017 Botley was informed that they had been awarded the contract, though the OCCG wanted to inform Kennington patients before it became public knowledge.

### **Beginning to work together**

Kennington Health Centre has its own well-established PPG and Botley and Kennington PPGs met together at the Botley surgery on 1st March.. Caroline Jones, Practice Manager, was present, as also was Dr Aintzane Ballastero, Senior Partner.

The two practices have already become a single practice run under one management team based at Botley. The practice manager and her deputy plan to spend between them at least two days a week at Kennington. The clinical systems of the two practices will be amalgamated by 24th April. From 1st April doctors, nurses and admin staff will have access to both sets of clinical records.

The managers and partners at Botley believe that economies of scale from combining the two practices will benefit patients at both sites. Combining 9600 patients at Botley and 6500 at Kennington creates a total of 16,100. Spreading management costs across the two populations means that savings can be invested in improved provision of services within the practice.

### **A full complement of staff**

The practice is already advertising for a physiotherapist and a practice-based pharmacist. The physiotherapist will undertake assessments and



practice-based treatments but also signpost patients as appropriate. The pharmacist will assess and treat minor illnesses, undertake medication reviews and do preventive work. Having a pharmacist within the practice can only help to smooth the process of discharge from hospital. These two professionals are expected to take significant work off the doctors and nurses in the practice and provide a more responsive and flexible service for patients.

The three partners will continue to be based at Botley. Dr Chadwick will continue to see patients at Botley only, but the other two partners will between them spend at least two days a week at Kennington. At the Kennington surgery, two current partners, Drs Hall and Akinola, will continue working in the practice but as salaried doctors rather than as partners.

In recent weeks the practice has successfully recruited three new doctors, who will have started by the end of April. One of these will be employed mainly at the Botley end, whilst the others will divide their time between the two sites. These five appointments should mean that the practice has its full complement of clinical staff.

## Appointments

The doctors at Kennington are preparing a list of vulnerable patients who will be given a named doctor in the coming weeks, and who will usually be seen at Kennington. One Duty Doctor, to deal with emergencies, will cover the two sites and will be based at either Botley or Kennington. This is another example of the benefits of economies of scale. Thus patients needing an urgent appointment will be seen on the same day. Other patients will usually be able to be seen within 4–5 days. Non-urgent patients will be able to make appointments up to 6 weeks ahead at their convenience.



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It is intended that patients should always be seen at their most local surgery, though this can be flexible depending on the patient's wishes. Some Botley patients, for example those living in Wootton or Boars Hill, may find it more convenient to be seen at Kennington.

### **Nursing teams**

Currently there are two nursing teams and the practice is investigating any gaps. It is keen to train up the health care assistant at Kennington and have an advanced nurse practitioner working there initially for a month, as this role has been found to be very helpful at Botley. Advanced nurse practitioners can prescribe for minor illnesses, or develop an area of expertise, for example contraception; some young women may find it more acceptable to see a nurse than a doctor. Advanced nurse practitioners can refer immediately to a doctor as necessary, without the need for a new appointment. Members of the PPG are keen to see the role of nurses being as fully valued by patients as the role of doctors. It is all too easy for us as patients to assume that we must see 'the doctor' when seeing a nurse or other health care professional may be just as, or even more, appropriate.

### **A full service**

A receptionist from Botley will work at Kennington *pro tem*, to ensure a consistent approach within the practice. The intention is to offer a full 5-days-a-week service at Kennington with no lunchtime closing. Kennington will work to the same systems as Botley, with phones being answered at lunchtime.

The government is choosing to commission GP services more and more through local federations. The Oxford City Federation, 'OXFED', has been commissioned to provide 8am–8pm seven-day access to GPs. In the first instance this will be based at St Bart's Surgery, Cowley Road. We hope to be able to report further on this development as it takes place. Currently, as already indicated, each site has its own PPG. A decision on whether to merge the PPGs is yet to be taken. At this stage each PPG is having its own meeting and there will be a further joint meeting at the beginning of May.

Finally I would like to say that both PPGs are convinced that the merger of the Botley and Kennington practices offers considerable potential benefits to the patients of both former practices.

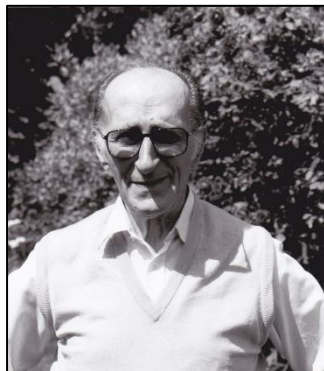
**Harry Dickinson**, Botley Medical Centre Patient Participation Group



## Investigating The Second World War

During the last month I've spent some of my spare time finding out about the Second World War ready for the Cumnor & District History Society exhibition on 16/17 September this year. My starting knowledge has been various sources over the years – television documentaries, oral histories, books, films like *The Great Escape* and *The Dambusters*. When I was at Botley School I think I recall watching a programme about evacuees.

I wonder if anyone remembers the teachers Mr Smallridge and Mr Bennett (*pictured*) who taught us between the 1960s and the 1980s, telling the pupils about their time in the War. Mr Bennett, I think, used to mention being in Burma. Also, is anyone still in contact with the Goatley family who used to live in Montagu Road – the daughters Jane and Clare would be around 50 years old now? I was once told that one of their cousins (I'm not sure how close) was Fred Goatley (c1875–1949) whose designs were used for the canoes in the Cockleshell Heroes event of that 1939–1945 period. Have you heard stories about D-day in 1944, or do you remember the night that Coventry was targeted in 1940? One Botley lady was in the crowd when the new Coventry Cathedral, designed by Sir Basil Spence to replace the one that was bombed, was consecrated in 1962 and our founding *Sprout* editor Jenny Barker once told me that her father was involved in this building.



Thank you to those who have already been kind enough to help me with information. Please do contact me if you have any photos and/or stories about World War Two whether it is about this area or wherever in the world your family were then. You can reach me by email on **[martin.harris321@gmail.com](mailto:martin.harris321@gmail.com)** or by phone on 01865 864776

### Martin Harris

*[Come on, Sprout readers, there are loads of Botley stories waiting to be told. Evacuees who came and stayed, the double shifts at Botley School to contain the extra numbers, the Prisoner of War camp up on Harcourt Hill, the plane that came down near Southern By Pass, the mighty machines parked along what is now the A34, the V E Day street parties, and so much more. Let's help make Martin's exhibition a good one! Ed.]*



## Growing your own flowers



With longer day light hours and a few warmer days, it's time to start planning for a summer of cutting your own flowers. The brighter weather is a good time to get outside and start planning where you are going to grow them. All day sun is best. The soil needs to be dug over and manure or homemade compost added, and then raked to a fine tilth. I like to get my allotment ready early, then when the soil is warm enough, I can get sowing direct into the ground.

Do not sow too early, if the soil feels cold to touch the seeds will not germinate. Plan what you are going to grow. I have sweet peas growing in my unheated greenhouse which I sowed in February. I have ordered all my seeds and saved some from last year's flowers. I grow mainly annuals, with lots of dahlias.

The following are a few of my favourite annuals which have grown well on my allotment plot at North Hinksey. These are, Cornflowers, Cosmos, Marigolds, Sweet peas, Nigella, Clary sage, Asters, Malope (mallow), Amaranthus, Sunflowers.

It is also nice to have a rose bush or two just for cutting, with Lavender planted underneath. I hope this article helps to get you started, even if it is just a small patch, do have a go – it doesn't cost much, and having your own cut flowers is wonderful!



**Ann Dawson**

*[And here she is, at work among the sunflowers!]*



## Vale Local Plan (Part 2)

### Preferred Options Consultation

The Vale of White Horse District council's Local Plan Part Two Consultation **will go live on Thursday 9 March and will run until 5pm on Thursday 4 May 2017**. In line with our Statement of Community Involvement, we are keen to ensure that members of the public have a range of opportunities to become aware of the Local Plan and that they understand the importance of giving us their feedback.

### How to take part in the consultation:

A series of public events are being organised to enable members of the public to meet with Vale Planning Officers to discuss the Local Plan and to share their views on the proposed changes. We will be running 7 Local Plan events in March and April across the district. Dates and venues will be published in our Vale Local Plan bulletin and on our website: **[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building)**

### How to comment:

There are a range of ways you can become involved. They include:

- Providing feedback at our events
- Participating in our online survey, available from our website – **[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building)**
- Completing a paper-based survey, available at local libraries and council offices
- Submitting your comments by post or email using our comments form.

**All our consultation materials will be available from the consultation start date on 9th March, until 4th May.** They will be accessible on our website and paper copies of the plan and comment forms will be available at all Vale libraries and our council office.

We will be contacting everyone on our consultation database to invite them to take part in the consultation and to inform them of local events. Please use the contact details below if you would like to join our consultation database.



The consultation period is being extended to eight weeks (instead of six) due to the Easter break and we hope this will encourage greater participation in the consultation. For more information on the consultation process please contact Louise Rawlins, Community Engagement Officer at [planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) or call 01235 422600.

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Safe and Well?

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Did you know that Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service offer free Safe and Well Visits? Our firefighters will visit you at home to see what they can do to help you reduce the risk of fire.

What does a visit cover? It combines a Home Safety Check to help reduce the risk of fire in your home, such as checking and fitting smoke alarms and helping you make a fire escape plan. During the visit firefighters are able to provide advice and support to reduce any

immediate risk from falls, fire, flood or power cuts. They can also provide advice on health and crime prevention too.

You can request a visit online at www.365alive.co.uk/safewell or call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999. If a loved one or friend would benefit from a visit please let them know about our Safe and Well visits. Do you have a fire safety concern or question? There's lots of great tips and advice to help keep you and your family safer at home on our website Or you can call our Community Safety Helpline at the number above.

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West Oxford Artweeks 2017

The annual Oxfordshire Artweeks festival approaches, spanning the whole of May, with particular focus on Oxford City from 20th–29th May. This year, West Oxford (specifically Osney Island, Botley Road, Osney Mead & Botley areas) has 28 artists exhibiting in 10 locations, ranging from group exhibitions to artists showing their work at home or from their studios. With such a strong presence at various points off the Botley Road, a trail map is being prepared to encourage people to take in all the exhibits in the area, a community of local artists working together to promote each others work. This map will be available at local Artweeks exhibitions and in next month's *Sprout* – keep an eye out for copies at the library and the community centre too!

As ever, the work on show covers a wide range of media - exhibits in Botley alone will cover printmaking, collage, jewellery, drawings & paintings! Sites on Osney Island, at the West Oxford Community Centre & the Kings Centre on Osney Mead will add photography, ceramics, mixed media works, paintings, textiles and sculpture. A broad spectrum of styles and subjects, free for all to enjoy, with many artists having work for sale. Some venues will even have refreshments available! Further information can be found in the main Artweeks guide or at **www.artweeks.org**

Work by local artists will include outlines of abstract landscapes by Elaine Kazimierczuk (**<http://www.elainekazimierczuk.com/gallery>**) and you can download them from her website by adding **[#/colouring-in-2](#)** to the address. Jane and Ali Hogg will contribute works in collage, wire & polymer clay jewellery, life drawing, mixed media, figurative & abstract painting, and text art, as shown on this month's front cover. Seven local artists will be showing ceramics, collage, jewellery, painting, photography, prints, textiles & mixed media, at West Oxford Community Centre – one is shown on the right.

Emmett Casley



Brownies Tackle Crime

2nd Botley Brownies are now working on our Crime Prevention badge. Before the Police Neighbourhood Team came to visit us the girls acted out short plays showing how they would keep themselves safe as per the badge's criteria. That was interesting – mainly “cops and robbers” and well-intentioned citizens finger-wagging and shouting, “Stop thief!” We thought it was time to call in the professionals for a bit more realism.

Carl and Jamie came from Abingdon Police Station in uniform in their large Police van. In our Six groups we learnt about the vehicle's control panel which seems to determine the sound and light displays available. The girls got to make the siren and lights work and they also had a tour of the front and “customer” end of the vehicle.

The seating area in the rear of the vehicle looked very bare and the girls noticed how seamless everything in there was. They sat inside it and my group seemed quite happy and calm until Jamie closed the first set of cage-like doors which turned them wild. They were like a group of frustrated caged-animals bouncing around. We then slammed the



exterior doors and that was much better – we could still see them but no longer hear them. We relented and let them go back into the hall where Carl was telling the rest of the group about his Police uniform and its special features

Then he asked the Brownies if we had any questions. Did we? Of course we did. No one was shy and lots of questions about crime were asked. Did ‘life’ mean life? Had Carl ever used a Taser on anyone? Was he sure he had never seen anyone on the Botley Road with a really long gun? But for me the best set of questions came from one of the youngest Brownies. “I have a few questions”, said she, “Okay that’s fine” said Carl. “Is graffiti a crime?” she asked, “Yes, criminal damage”, came the reply. “Don’t people who do it sign their own name?”, “Yes, they call it tagging”. “So, if they sign their own name why can’t you just call round to where they live and ask them to stop?” was her direct question. She was told, “We have to catch them “red-handed” as it were”, “Oh”, she replied to the clearly unsatisfactory answer to what must have seemed to a child an easy crime to solve.

Lucy Howes



LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P17/V0233/DIS	19 Laburnum Road. Loft conversion, with box dormer to rear roof, new roof windows to front. Single storey side and front extension, garden building.	20 February Target decision date: 3 April
P17/V0429/HH	35 Crabtree Road. Turn an existing flat-roofed rear extension into a two storey, semi-detached house and alter the rear to provide a window and folding doors.	20 February TDD: 17 April
P17/V0449/HH	53 Yarnells Hill. Single storey extension.	21 February TDD: 18 April
P17/V0406/O	Riverside Court 9 West Way. Demolish and erect a 4-storey building with mixed use: commercial (ground floor) and residential with 38 flats (upper floors) + parking.	28 February TDD: 25 April
P17/V0530/HH	12 Yarnells Road. Two storey side and rear extensions. <i>Comments by 29 March</i>	2 March TDD: 27 April
P17/V0580/HH	Greystones Old Botley. Erect new single storey extension and conservatory at rear. <i>Comments by 29 March.</i>	6 March TDD: 1 May
P17/V0600/HH And P17/V0601/LDP	14 Sweetmans Road. Two-storey side extension and internal refurbishment. Plus loft conversion. <i>Comments by 31 March.</i>	7 March TDD: 2 May
P17/V0614/HH	24 Hazel Road. Two storey extension at the rear. <i>Comments by 3 April.</i>	8 March TDD: 3 May

Flamenco treat

With spring just around the corner, be transported to sunnier climes at a concert of Spanish flamenco guitar and dancing given by virtuoso guitar player **Tomas Jimenez** (<http://flamencotomas.co.uk>). It will be held at 4pm on Sunday 9th April at St. Michael's Church, Cumnor OX2 9QN and will be followed by tea and cakes. Admission is by suggested donation of £5 and all proceeds will go to the charity Project Trust which sends school leavers to teach in deprived areas of Africa and Asia. For further information, contact **carl.olavesen@hotmail.com** or me on 07752 135568.



Nicole Olavesen



North Hinksey Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Nineteen people turned up at North Hinksey Parish Council's (NHPC) Annual Parish Meeting, on the evening of 16 March in the Seacourt Hall. Annual Meeting is a summary of the activities of the Council and its various committees, groups and officials over the past year. It's also an opportunity for parishioners to get answers to some current local issues. Much of the proceedings are succinctly covered in the Council's 2017 Newsletter. This has already fluttered through your letterboxes, and should also be available on the Newsletters page of the NHPC website.

What follows is an interim, unofficial digest of much of what isn't in the Newsletter. Draft minutes of the meeting will become available on the Council's website in due course.

Policing Report

Police Community Support Officer Jamie Moya-Flood of Thames Valley Police (TVP) said that arrests had been made in the cases of a rape (by a non-local) on Harcourt Hill and a number of burglaries in Cumnor and Dean Court. On the West Way precinct, shoplifting at the Co-op has been looked into, and a crime prevention advice session held.

Questions from parishioners:

Q: Are pavement-parkers breaking the law? Could I post notices asking drivers not to do this?

A: If a double child buggy can't get through the street, let TVP know. You can leave polite notices on cars.

Q: Builders' vehicles parked on the corner of Yarnell's Hill and Sweetmans Road obstruct drivers' view. What can be done about this?

A: We have asked developers to be more considerate.

Q: Can the Parish Council's Recreation and Amenities Committee get advice on crime-prevention features in the design of upgraded facilities, for example, on the Louie Memorial Field?

A: We will be available to advise.

New procedure for verbal questions to Councillors

A motion was proposed and carried to allow more time for parishioners to put verbal questions during the Annual Parish Meeting's regular Q&A session with County, District and Parish Councillors. At the chairman's discretion or on a vote of parishioners the standard time limit of 20 minutes can be extended by another 10 minutes,



Q&A Session with Councillors

Q: Where are the Parish boundaries?

A: Parish boundary maps are displayed on the Vale of White Horse website. The next boundary changes are due in 2 years. Suggestions for change of boundaries can be sent to NHPC.

Q: How might the Parish be affected by the adoption of a Unitary Council for Oxfordshire?

A: An update on this issue will be coming from the County Council shortly.

County Councillor Janet Godden said the proposals for a Unitary Council would be with the Secretary of State before the end of March and a public consultation would start thereafter. If the proposal goes ahead it should be implemented in the Autumn. She felt that there was more to be gained than lost from a Unitary council because of inefficiencies resulting from two-tier local government.

Parish Council Chairman David Kay said such a proposal could, for example, affect the amount of council tax the Parish would charge, and might also affect the parish's planning function.

Q: When will the West Way redevelopment start?

A: David Kay said that Mace was still finalising details. Mace will hold a Community Liaison Group meeting on 10 April at which more details will be released. Mace had revised the phasing of the build to accelerate it, reduce costs, and also reduce uncertainty for local businesses. The Seacourt Hall will remain available until the end of June

Botley Community Fridge

Riki Therivel announced the successful launch of a three-month trial of the Botley Community Fridge on 13 March, only the fourth such project in the entire UK. Sited in the St Peter Paul Church, Fridge's key aim is to reduce food waste in the Parish, and secondly to help people in need. The Fridge is accessible between 9 am – 5 pm Mondays to Saturdays, and 11 am – 5 pm on Sundays. Access between 9 am – 10 am on Mondays and Saturdays is reserved for people in need.

Individuals and businesses can add food to the Fridge or take it out. Tinned food, fruit, vegetables and bread are welcome. Pastries with a cream filling, raw meat, fish and eggs are excluded. Food sourced from businesses must obey the same health and safety and environmental regulations as if sold to consumers. A full set of rules are in a ring binder on top of the fridge.



David Kay, a member of Oxford Food Bank, said that food given to the scheme from the Bank would not otherwise go to charities.

A team of volunteers keeps the Fridge clean, monitors its temperature and makes sure that the food inside is useable. Riki reported that in the first few days of operation there was good throughput of food, and that two people in need were taking food. She added that the *Sprout* had made a pledge to cover the cost of electricity for the fridge's first year of operation. There is further information on the fridge's own Facebook page, "Botley Community Fridge."

Financial Matters

Alan Stone, Parish Clerk, presented the Council's Audited Final Accounts for 2016-17.

David Kay said that an increasing number of new households in the Parish has meant a fall in the Parish precept's contribution to individuals' council tax bills.

Phillips Stevens asked about section 106 funding for play equipment on Elms Road. Alan Stone explained that when the surgery on the corner of West Way and Elms Road was redeveloped in 2002-3 the s.106 funding could not be spent because no suitable land was locally available. This money is still available until the end of the year. The Parish Council is currently in negotiations for suitable land, but if that can't be found, the money will be spent on siting play equipment elsewhere.

The meeting ended at 20:37.

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## COMMUNITY FRIDGE UPDATE

The Botley community fridge has only been open for five days as I write this, but seems to be working well. It's a fridge in the **Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (81 West Way)** into which anyone can put food, and from which anyone can take food. Its main aim is to reduce food waste, so **please everyone come and bring/take food from it**, but there are special sessions for people in need when larger quantities of food are likely to be in the fridge:

Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Sun 11am-5pm

Priority for people in need Mon & Sat 9-10am



The fridge opened under the eyes of BBC Radio Oxford who put a video of it on their Facebook page. People have been putting food in and taking food out of the fridge, judging by the movement of bread, potatoes, tins of soup etc. The Oxford Food Bank have kindly provided not just their surplus cauliflower and bread but exotic (but hard to shift to their charities) items like samphire and pak choi. I hope that you're all getting interested in the contents of this fridge? It has its own Facebook page which will regularly show what is in the fridge: look for and 'like' the page for Botley community fridge.

The fridge is subject to lots of health requirements. Individuals (you!) can only put in fruit, vegetables, bread, pastries that do not have cream fillings, and non-perishables like tins and pasta. Registered food businesses can also put in cooked food and other 'at risk' food under stringent conditions like having to specify what allergens the food contains. No raw meat/fish, eggs, cooked rice or food past its 'use by' date is allowed in the fridge, although food past its 'best before' date is welcome. An excellent team of volunteers clean the fridge daily (we're OK for volunteers at the moment, and thank you to all the current volunteers), and environmental health will have held its first inspection by the time you read this.

ITV would like to interview people who take food from the fridge (whether 'in need' or not). We already have one volunteer, but could use a couple more. Please contact me at riki@phonecoop.coop or 07759 135811 if you are willing to be interviewed.

Our fridge has prompted FareShare/Tesco to have a national review of how they want to treat community fridges, after an initially frustrating session of "yes you can have our food, no you can't after all, well maybe". Iceland's national level management team have confirmed that "Iceland don't do this kind of thing" despite their stores selling bread, fresh veg etc. My request to the Coop is also stuck at national management level. We're sharing our experiences with other organisations, including one that is hoping to set up a community fridge in east Oxford.

Thank you very much to the church for hosting the fridge; the Sprout for funding its start-up; and the Association for Botley Communities for being willing to adopt the fridge once the ABC is up and running. Please have a look at <https://foodforcharities.wordpress.com/botley> to find out more, and do visit the fridge.

**Riki Therivel**





## **Randoms**

### **Up for Grabs**

What's this we hear about the timetable for the West Way Shopping Centre development, so carefully detailed in the February *Sprout*? It's all been radically revised? It's not starting till July after all? *What's going on? Who knows?* Not us, unfortunately, and the Mace meeting that's going to spell it out to the Botley community won't be till the beginning of April. Luckily for us WWCC will be there, to provide a full report which you can read in the May edition of your favourite local mag.

### **Collecting for Chordoma Research**

Please could you let *Sprout* readers know that any monies raised from any sales from my art exhibition in St Peter and Paul's Church are being passed to my daughter-in-law Emma Holloway via the JustGiving website towards Chordoma Research UK? Thanks.

**Jenny Holloway**

### **Youth Club says "Ta Very Much"**

THANK YOU...very much indeed to Gaynor the duty manager of a local retail outlet, who without hesitation kindly donated two items from off the shelf that will help North Hinksey Youth Club tuck shop storage. Your support is much appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS...needed. As the evenings lighten we expect numbers at youth club to increase and we would love to see some new faces. We have a great group at the moment and you will be made very welcome. A little bit of madness keeps you sane! The club meets every Wednesday during school terms – 7–9pm (and a bit before and after). Contact Daz – 07791 212866

**Ali Hogg**

### **Mum and Baby Yoga**

A new class for parents and babies from six weeks old to crawling is being held at Dean Court Community Centre on Monday's at 10.30. Interested? Find out more at <https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk>.

**Jacqueline Rice**



## **Botley Bridges**

On Friday 17th March Botley Bridges held its first session at Botley School from 9.00am until 11.30, in the room previously used by Elms Road Children's Centre. The sessions are for children up to 5 years old and there are a range of activities inside and out, finishing with music and stories. Please come and join us, and pass on the word via your Facebook friends. Because this is a new organisation and sessions are not funded by the County Council, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £2.

**Sue Dowe**, temporary co-ordinator

## **Litter pick**

A group of mums, dads, sons, and daughters, managed a littler pick on Saturday 4th March in Botley. We collected around the streets on the hill near the bus stop, through the underpass and down to the shops. Dog mess was noted by several of the groups as being an issue on the streets and verges. We were either completely ignored or praised by passers-by. Luckily the weather held and we enjoyed it! We were supported by the OxClean team for kit and the Vale for collection of over 8 big bags of rubbish and recycling.



**Catherine Casley**

And a massive pile of rubbish was noticed yet again at the gates of the Seacourt Nature Reserve, collected by the team of unsung heroes led by Riki Therivel. It's become a yearly event and the quantity of rubbish is simply astonishing! Sadly there was no one to clear the other side of the road this year, and it's looking just as dingy and scruffy as ever.



**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 in future issues. telephone 724452 for inclusion in future issues.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>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><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6 -7.30 : Alison Griffin 01865 379247                                                                                                                              |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                       |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386                                                                                                     |
| <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 Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                               | Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.15–11am, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or<br>Brendan Byrne Ox.792531 <a href="mailto:bb@bridewellconsulting.com">bb@bridewellconsulting.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, Botley Baptist Church. 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<br>Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601                                                                                                              |
| <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:hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk">hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk</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>                                                         |



|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>N Hinksey after school club</b>                      | Mon–Thurs 3–6pm Contact: Oxford 794287                                                                                                                                    |
| <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<br>07798743121 <b>voirreyc@aol.com</b>                                                                                            |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                            | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>N Hinksey Horticultural Society</b>                  | Contact: Ann Dykes 01865 251821<br><b>anndykes@hotmail.com</b>                                                                                                            |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                         | Alan Stone 01865 861992 <b>nhpcclerk@msn.com</b>                                                                                                                          |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                             | Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on<br>07791 212866 or see Facebook                                                                                          |
| <b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>                          | Fortnightly on Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Marina<br>Bennett 01865 242312                                                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                            | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arrangement Club</b>                   | 4th Thursday Cumnor.<br>Dympna Walker : 01865 865259                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Oxford Otters</b>                                    | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice<br>monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420                                                                             |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                                | Boys and girls from 5–19 years. Contact Kevin Honner<br>438655, <b>kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</b> For Seniors,<br>training and Touch Rugby <b>jamesy1976@hotmail.co.uk</b> |
| <b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>        | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or<br><b>melanie_riste@hotmail.com</b>                                                                                                  |
| <b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>                          | Contacts: Julie and John Tailor 01865 763394.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                         | David Brown <b>raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</b>                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Royal Voluntary Service</b><br>(West Way Day Centre) | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971.<br><b>oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</b>                                                                        |
| <b>Saturdays</b><br>Elms Rd Children's Centre           | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's<br>10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                               |
| <b>Shotokan Karate club</b>                             | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                             |
| <b>St Andrew's playgroup</b>                            | Friday mornings during term time at St Andrew's<br>Church, Orchard Rd <b>standrewsplaytime@gmail.com</b> .                                                                |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                                  | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso<br>tel: 07779 253899 <b>bansob@aol.com</b>                                                                             |
| <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<br>07815 899698 <b>www.wotkd.co.uk</b>                                                                                    |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                                  | (Uni of the 3rd Age) Elizabeth Stevens, 739252                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Which Craft?</b>                                     | Pavilion, Arnold's way, third Monday, contact<br><b>whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</b>                                                                                     |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                       | Monthly, 1st Tuesday: Liz Manson, tel. 244175 or<br>email <b>liz.manson@virginmedia.com</b>                                                                               |



