

# The Sprout



Photo from Miles Gomme's expo for Botley Arts

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 126 April 2018**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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# The Sprout

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### From the Editor

Is this going to be the month when Spring finally gets here? The clocks have gone forward (sorry about getting it wrong in last month's Diary) and the days are their proper length again. Stories that follow on from last month are the official reply to our reservations about the Flood Scheme (p.11), the latest on the Shopping Centre (which Mace have decided to call 'Westway Place') on p.26, and some reawakened memories of the railway carriage home in Seacourt Road (p.29). We forget how dire housing need was after the last War – there was a family living in a converted coach along North Hinksey Lane around the same time. Coming up are Hedgehog Week (p.17) and Botley's Artweeks exhibition at the Pavilion in May. The picture on this month's cover is one of Miles Gomme's stunning photographs which can be seen at the latest exhibition by Botley Arts, opening in April (p.35). One of the *Sprout's* uses is to document change in Botley, so there are some rather more ordinary photos on page 27, recording the way the shopping centre looks now. We have also found a space for some of the graffiti that has kept us entertained for a while, which was so quickly painted out! Happy reading!

Ag MacKeith



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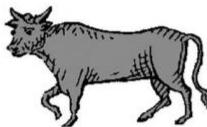
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## Letters to the editor

### Sweetmans Farm

On reading planning applications in March issue, I saw Sweetmans Cottage. It made me think of Sweetmans Farm, that was here before Elms Rise Estate.

Just to think what it must have looked like when it was all beautiful fields! What that cottage could tell us if it had a voice! How old must it be!

Edith Mabbatt

*The following letter was too scurrilous to print (and anyway it wasn't properly signed), but we're printing some of it as we like to represent a range of opinions. The photos below express another view which we feel should also be recorded. Editor.*

### The heart has its reasons

"Am I missing something? Where was the bustling community hub of [West Way shopping centre] during the 10 years I have lived in Botley, that everyone seems so keen to preserve? As far back as I can remember, the [centre] has always been a dilapidated mis-matched assortment of terrible shops with a fronting that wouldn't look out of place in a WW2 photo. The poor selection of shopping choice is mirrored in the equally awful selection of food and drink options. Furthermore, the ugly architecture is nothing if not uninspiring ... Get some perspective people, amongst the rest of Oxford, Botley is regarded as a big joke. Knock the lot down and start afresh – maybe we would end up with somewhere nice, like Summertown.

To the person who insists on scrawling I <3 Botley on the boarded-up shops – I implore you to look deeper and think – Why?"



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Did you know that Facebook has 30 million UK users per day – just on mobile devices? Or that as well as over 70% of 16 to 22 year olds, nearly 60% of 52 to 71 year olds are on Facebook? That's why Facebook is still the top social media network with 74% of the share of UK social media accounts, even though numbers of users of Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and others continue to grow.

I'll assume most of you reading this have a Facebook account or someone in your household does. I'll also assume, as you are reading *The Sprout*, that you want to keep up-to-date on the latest local news and community activities. So, did you know that your Parish Council has an active Facebook page that you can follow for up-to-the-minute news and information in between Sprout issues? You can find us at: [facebook.com/northhinkseypc/](https://facebook.com/northhinkseypc/) or just search for North Hinksey Parish Council on Facebook.

### **What will you find on the page?**

We post about local news, information, events, consultations, surveys, and more. Over the past year some of the most popular posts included:

- Roadworks and diversion information
- Bin collection changes
- Weather information, like the recent post on where your nearest salt bins can be found ahead of the forecast snow
- Consultations including the consultation on proposed new road crossing on West Way
- Grants available from Vale District Council
- News of defibrillators installed in the Parish
- Adverts for community social and fundraising events like the recent Promises Auction for Branches Youth Café and Botley Bridges.

Topics coming soon include a parish-wide consultation on the Louie Memorial Fields, Pavilion and recreation facilities.

We often post dates and links to the agendas and minutes from our Parish Council meetings and other events like the Neighbourhood Plan meetings and Mace's exhibitions on the West Way redevelopment. Councillors are regularly sent notices from the District



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As well as Facebook, other ways to stay up to date include attending Parish Council meetings, Councillors' surgeries (we usually hold these to coincide with other events like the pop-up summer café at the Pavilion), visiting the website, checking local notice boards, and of course these articles in *The Sprout*. We launched an e-newsletter last year. It had very little take-up, but if you would like to receive news by email please sign up using the link on the home page of our website. Do let us know how you prefer to receive local news and how we can improve communications with all of the community.

**Lorna Berrett**, on behalf of NHPC Communications Committee

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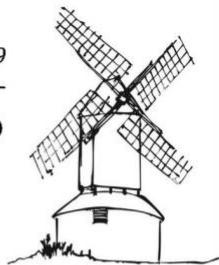
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## First anniversary of Botley Community Fridge

The Botley community fridge had its first birthday on 13 March, complete with cakes, balloons, flowers and a rousing rendition of ‘happy birthday to you dear fridge’.

Volunteers are picking up surplus food for the fridge three times per week from the West Way Tesco, twice a week from the Magdalen Street Tesco, three times a week from the St. Aldate’s Sainsbury’s, and at random times from other sources.



The fridge also gets non-perishables from several food banks when they have surpluses. Almost all of the food from the fridge is taken: almost none of it gets thrown out, and any left-over bread goes to a small chicken farm in Cumnor. So the fridge is saving a lot of food from going to waste.

The fridge is kept clean by a rota of wonderful volunteers. One year on, it's a fixture in West Way. Do visit it to take some food or drop something off: it's at St. Peter & St. Paul Church, 81 West Way OX2 9LS, open Mon-Sat 9–5 and Sun 11-5.

**Riki Therivel**

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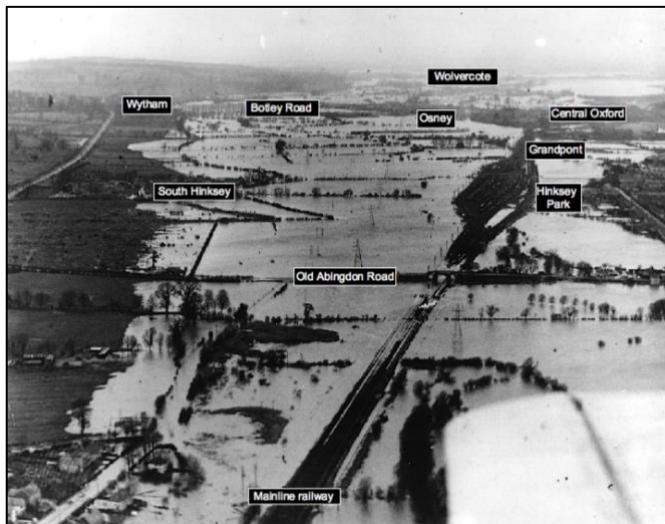
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# Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme – a response

*To help answer some of the recent questions about the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, here the scheme partnership provide some background to its aims and progress.*

For those that experienced the floods of 2003, 2007 or 2013/2014, the disruption will be memorable. Floodwater cut off Botley and Abingdon Roads, closed the railway line and caused devastation to many homes and businesses. But decades earlier, the floods that deluged Oxford in 1947 (see aerial photo, with wing of the plane in foreground) were on an altogether different scale. Aerial photos from the time show the area as a giant lake. This was a major flood, an event that most people won't have experienced in living memory. Yet with climate change, flooding is expected to become more frequent and more severe. The purpose of the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme is to future-proof the city by reducing flood risk.



The scheme will reduce flood risk to all properties in Oxford currently at risk of flooding from the River Thames, as well as to the railway and Botley and Abingdon roads. It will also deliver environmental benefits, including creating over 15 hectares of new priority habitat.

In recent months partners working together on the scheme have achieved some major successes. In February, we secured the £121 million that allows the scheme to move to the next stage. As well as design and construction costs, this covers maintenance for 10 years, which is

required for government approval. But the scheme partnership are

going further and developing a long-term maintenance plan for the next 100 years. The planning application for the scheme was submitted in March, with construction expected to start in early 2019.

The aim of the scheme is to reduce flood risk to existing properties and infrastructure. It is not to remove undeveloped land from the floodplain for development. We're aware of Oxford University's proposals to redevelop Osney Mead, which would regenerate the existing industrial estate rather than build on undeveloped floodplain.

### **How will the scheme work?**

The scheme will use the natural floodplain to the west of Oxford to create more space for water. We will be lowering the ground level to create a 2-stage channel, with a narrow, deeper section that will always carry water, and a wider, shallower section that will only carry water during a flood. This second stage has been designed as floodplain grazing marsh, a new habitat type for the area.

The design keeps hard engineering to a minimum. However in a few areas embankments and flood walls are needed to protect houses which would otherwise still flood. There will also be a number of new bridges and culverts to carry water under major roads. This design has been reached after careful consideration of over 100 combinations of options to reduce flood risk here. These included measures such as dredging, which was shown to be unsuitable. Even if we dredge all the channels that currently exist in Oxford, it would not reduce flood risk from a major flood. Rivers have a natural tendency after dredging to deposit more silt. Dredging can even increase flood risk downstream and alter the ecosystem. It would be costly, disruptive and environmentally damaging. Of all the 100 options the current scheme design was shown to be the most effective and economically viable. It will also bring environmental benefits and we are working with environmental stakeholders on an ambitious Environmental Vision for the scheme.

### **What about environmental impacts?**

We know that the construction phase will bring disruption and there will be unavoidable environmental impacts. We are working hard to minimise these. We have conducted surveys of animals and plants over several years and use our environmental impact assessments to make design changes wherever possible. We recognise the importance of Hinksey Meadows and have listened to Oxford Preservation Trust about this valuable wildflower-rich habitat. The

scheme will minimise the impact in this area by routing the channel as far as practicable around the edge of the meadow and avoiding the main areas of snakes-head fritillary. We are also working to minimise changes in groundwater levels in the meadow by including gravel features, called riffles, in the channel downstream of Willow Walk.

Approximately two hectares of floodplain meadow will need to be dug up and replanted. We will create nearly 18 hectares of new floodplain meadow using seeds taken from existing local sites. We are working with the Open University's Floodplain Meadows Partnership to ensure we do this as sensitively as possible. Once the scheme is in place, grazing will be an important way we will maintain plant biodiversity.

At Willow Walk, a new, sensitively designed bridge will take the path over the new channel. We will have to remove several mature trees and new trees will be planted on either side of the bridge to replace these. Willow trees will also need to be removed from the northern bank of the Seacourt Stream and to help mitigate this we will plant areas of native woodland north of Hinksey Meadow and in the old paddock between the Seacourt Stream and North Hinksey Lane.

We will continue working closely with local wildlife groups to maximise environmental benefits. Once the temporary disruption of the construction phase is over, the scheme will deliver a true green legacy. It will create new priority habitat and establish a wildlife corridor to the west of Oxford that links existing wildlife sites and improves biodiversity, as well as delivering its primary aim: to keep Oxford open for all those that live, work in and visit the city, as flood events become more frequent and severe. You can find out more via Facebook (look for '**oxfordscheme**') and Twitter (**OxfordFAS**) **Environment Agency**



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## **Patients Participation Group update**

Have you heard of the NHS HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ADVICE CENTRE? If you have a health issue, you have probably seen a GP, a specialist consultant, have had some tests and you may be on a treatment (drugs, physiotherapy etc.). Then what? If we need more information, more support and sound advice, where can we turn?

The ‘Here for Health’ Improvement Advice Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital was set up in 2014 and has developed year after year to respond to the needs of patients, visitors and staff in Oxfordshire. It is the only centre of its kind in the county within a hospital. It gives “advice on healthy living and on how to reduce your risk of ill health”. *Who runs the Centre?* Qualified Health Advisers do, with much experience and “skills in the promotion and maintenance of healthy behaviours”. The advice given is “based on current evidence and policy-relevant research”.

*Useful Partnerships* The Centre has developed partnerships with OUH departments, community services and the charity sector. Last year alone they launched a new Oxfordshire Mental Health Partnership bringing six local mental health NHS organisations together with the charity sector. They’ve teamed up with OUH Oncology and Macmillan Cancer Support to host a free Health and Wellbeing event for anyone affected by cancer. To help patients deal with obesity, diabetes and related conditions, they have worked with Good Food Oxford and the County Council for the nationwide SUGAR SMART campaign and can provide excellent information related to those conditions. Moreover, they have begun regular ward visits within the John Radcliffe hospital to help support vulnerable patients prior to their discharge from hospital, improving patient confidence in self-management and self-care. Those partnerships bring numerous benefits to patients, such as helping to access the best services in the community, allowing the staff in the Centre to pass on useful information to all who want to better manage their health and improve their wellbeing. It’s good to go there to find out about specialist clinics, such as a smoking cessation clinic with a 12 week programme including free therapy and behaviour-change support or another clinic supporting families with health problems associated with weight. Referral system Staff within the OUH trust are able to refer patients to the Health Improvement Advice Centre using the new e-referral function set-up on the electronic patient records system.

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*How to access this wonderful free service* The Centre is situated in the Blue Outpatients area on level 2, John Radcliffe Hospital, just a few minutes' walk from the main reception. You can call them on 01865 221429. Their website is at [www.ouh.nhs.uk/hereforhealth](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/hereforhealth); their email address is [hereforhealth@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:hereforhealth@ouh.nhs.uk) You can also drop in on Mondays to Fridays, 9.00am–5.00pm. No need to make an appointment.

**Lyliane Doumeche**, Botley & Kennington Patients Participation group

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## **Botley's Hedgehog Highway**

We are once again approaching Hedgehog Awareness Week which this year starts on 6th May. Hedgehog numbers are still declining country-wide but there is encouraging evidence that populations can be sustained if enough gardens are linked to form 'hedgehog highways'. These highways depend on sufficient numbers of hedgehog-champions cutting a CD-sized hole in their garden fence so that hogs can forage for food and mates.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) produces green 'hedgehog highway' signs (pictured) to mark these fence-holes and *The Sprout* has five of these signs to give away, which I am happy to donate.

If you are willing to link your garden to Botley's 'Hedgehog Highway', please email a photo of the access point you've created to [roger.dalrymple@spc.oxon.org](mailto:roger.dalrymple@spc.oxon.org). The senders of the first five emails received will be the lucky winners of the Hedgehog Highway signs. I will also email you by return a British Hedgehog Preservation Society sheet giving advice and tips on how to make your garden even more hedgehog-friendly, and you can get more information on how to help hedgehogs from their website: [hedgehogstreet.org](http://hedgehogstreet.org)

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## A Parish Benefactor: Richard Jefferey

I first met Richard Jefferey on Willow Walk, where he was picking up litter. After that I'd see him again and again, always carrying bags of litter. I was intrigued, and asked him about it. "Oh, I've collected 131,000 cans so far," he said modestly. It was definitely time for a *Sprout* article about this unassuming benefactor of our parish.

Richard lived in London as a small boy, during and after WWII, but his grandparents lived at Hillside, Harcourt Hill. This was before the ring road was built. Richard's mother's prayer book of 1916 called it 'Ferry Hinksey Hill', but by the time the house was named Hillside the road was probably already called Harcourt Hill. Hillside was the second oldest house on the road, but following the redevelopment of what was then the oldest house, it is now the oldest house on the hill.

Richard and his parents moved in with his grandparents when Richard was five, and he went first to the Dragon School, then to Eton on a scholarship, and then to Christ Church to study mathematics. Our environmental hero is bright!

As a teenager, Richard became passionate – the first time he had ever been passionate about anything – about J.R.R. Tolkien's books. When a new house called Hillrise was built on Harcourt Hill, and post from Hillrise and Hillside started to become mixed up, he persuaded his family to rename theirs Lothlorien. "My mother said we should call it Rivendell, but I said that you couldn't call it the last homely house east of the sea, and anyway it's not in a cloven vale. At least Lothlorien really was in the golden wood, since we had a beautiful laburnum out front." So Lothlorien it became, and remains.

Although Richard claims that he did no work at Christ Church, he got accepted on a doctoral programme in mathematics at the University of Newcastle. That didn't suit him – "I hadn't discovered any maths that I particularly liked" – and he returned to Lothlorien and started to work at the Oxford University Press's printing section. He proofread



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mathematical books and journals, and later branched out into “languages they hadn’t got a specialist in”, including looking up Chinese characters in a Chinese dictionary, and relating the older to the modern transliteration into Roman letters. He also taught himself Welsh so that he could work on the big Welsh dictionary, and fell in love with a lot of Welsh writing, particularly poetry.

In 1986 the OUP’s printing section closed, and its publishing section moved from London to Oxford. Richard copy-edited from home for his new employers for about ten years, and particularly enjoyed checking a multi-volume encyclopaedia for children. He cut back, and then stopped, work, when his father became ill in 1998.

Throughout this time, Richard remained – and remains – fascinated by the magnificent Tolkien. He gave a talk about Tolkien to the C.S. Lewis Society which was later printed in a collection, and hopes to give them a talk about being a lifelong Tolkien fan. But he also has other long-term interests. He plays the piano with various informal musical groups; has written and spoken in favour of the ordination of women; likes thinking about prime numbers; and enjoys fantasy, science fiction and detective stories. Kerry Greenwood and Ursula Le Guin are particular favourites.

He also obviously likes helping to keep our community clean.

“How did you get started on your odyssey of 131,000 cans, Richard?” “It’s 132,830 now. I think it’s about two tonnes. I started counting one day in September 2003 when I picked up thirty cans between Cumnor and Wootton, and just carried on. Once I start something, I tend to stick with it.”

“Do you pick up other kinds of rubbish?”

“No, just cans. Somebody told me that metal gets recycled in the UK rather than being sent on to China. Also, of the various things that get recycled, it saves the most energy by being recycled rather than being produced from virgin materials. I normally put the cans in the recycling containers on Ferry Hinksey Road.”

“Have you figured out how many cans per day you pick up?”

“Last year it was 14 per day\*. One of the nice things about counting the cans is that it allows me to think about the numbers. Yesterday, I think that my total count hit a prime number multiplied by five...”



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I thoroughly enjoyed my interview, and thank Richard very much for adding to the eclectic, interesting and community-spirited atmosphere of our parish.

## Riki Therivel

\* When Richard proofread this article, he noted that readers might calculate that 14 cans per day wouldn't add up to over 131,000 since 2003. He says that he is now 76 and he walked a lot more in his 60s, all around Oxfordshire, when he picked up over 30 cans a day on average.

## Three poems from Botley School

### The Face of Life Safe Zineddin

The face of life, granting them greatness,  
a silent sound gazing in their ears.  
Traces of a fading smell,  
and many happy people come clear.

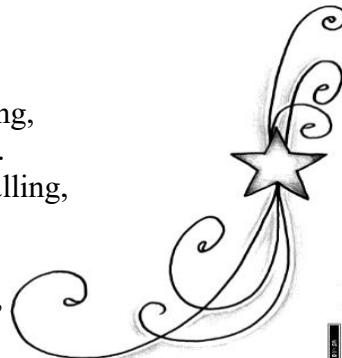
The sound of joy, all over the world,  
the taste of defeat and hatred no more.  
Happiness is swirling in the air,  
calming and smoothing the face of life.

### The Plant of Life Callum Lieberman

With a gust of icy wind,  
a spit of pale-green dust.  
The petal of a rose,  
clamped in a leaf.  
The thorn is part of a  
plant; the plant of life.

### *Stars of Hope by Alice Gibbons*

A midnight beauty,  
that's like the sun.  
Shines out so bright,  
singing a peaceful song,  
bringing people hope.  
Twinkling as if it's calling,  
It smells like your  
favourite food.  
Bright, like a blanket,  
The stars of hope  
feel like this.



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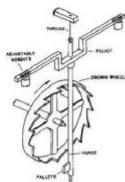
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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<a href="#">P18/V0423/HH</a>	Old Manor Stables, 20A N.H. Lane. Repositioning internal vehicle entrance and closing off internal pedestrian gate.	<b>21 February</b> <i>Target Decision Date: 18 April</i>
<a href="#">P18/V0357/HH</a>	87 Southern Bypass. Closure of existing vehicle access, new vehicle access onto side road.	<b>22 February</b> <i>TDD: 19 April</i>
<a href="#">P18/V0336/LDP</a>	62 North Hinksey Lane. Room in roof space with rear dormer and gable.	<b>26 February</b> <i>TDD: 23 April</i>
<a href="#">P18/V0519/HH</a>	34 Montagu Road. Loft conversion / extension for added bedroom & ensuite.	<b>27 February</b> <i>TDD: 24 April</i>
<a href="#">P17/V3270/HH</a>	47 Raleigh Park Road. Entrance lobby to front with internal alterations to create annexe. Plus summer house.	<b>28 February</b> <i>TDD: 25 April</i>
<a href="#">P18/V0485/LDP</a>	3A Cumnor Hill. Brick in garage doors and add window. Create patio doors at rear.. Add two 1st floor, one 2nd floor side windows, & 2 dormer windows at rear.	<b>1 April</b> <i>TDD: 26 April</i>

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## **WWCC Update: The shopping centre**

Botley Development Company (the original Doric company now part-owned by Mace) has now taken over ownership of the shopping centre. What is disappointing is the apparent lack of management and forward planning. Toilets were closed briefly; bins were provided after we raised it with them but not emptied until we raised it with them again. The continued neglect of the centre is a concern for all residents and shoppers.

The mysterious graffiti artist has continued to decorate the boarded-up shops with messages against the Vale and comments on the state of the centre. We do not condone damage to other people's property, but we are aware that some in the community may share the feelings expressed – which is anger and sadness about how a thriving, if dilapidated centre has been vacated and neglected for so many months. We understand that local schools and art groups are producing art work to feature on the boards and hoardings around the site, and this should go up soon. This should help make the centre more attractive during this long limbo period.

SDC is the construction partner for the development, and they have now put construction railings around the Grant Thornton and Elms Court buildings, in preparation for the conversion to temporary accommodation for Tesco, Co-op, Seacourt Hall and Baptist Church. Demolition will follow – although the required demolition plan has not yet been submitted. Mace have indicated that the shops, Seacourt Hall and Baptist Church may be able to move to their temporary locations in the Grant Thornton building in June.

Savills are responsible for managing the centre and the planning aspects. Point of contact for any problems with the centre is via David McFarlane MBE, of the PR company SP Broadway, email: [david@spbroadway.com](mailto:david@spbroadway.com), tel: 0203 405 1400.

A newsletter from Mace is in preparation, which will be distributed to all the residences in North Hinksey parish, but not to those in Cumnor parish, who will be able to access it only on-line.

### **Planning issues**

The application for changes to the plans (P17/V3298/FUL) is still on-going, with possible decision in April. Our main concern in this application is that the new Church Way, originally designated as a



**1Four views of the shopping centre in March 2018**



space', now becomes the route to most of the convenient car parking, and will also be the delivery route for HGVs serving three supermarkets – Co-op, Iceland and Tesco.

We met with Savills and the planning officer on 15th March. We discussed the cause of the problems and potential changes to ameliorate them. A proposal is to place moveable bollards across Church Way, closing off the vehicle route between West Way and Arthray Road other than for service and emergency vehicles. This would do nothing to address the concerns over the volume and types of vehicles using Arthray Road. We expect a revised plan and traffic assessment to be submitted and a further two weeks of consultation.

The planning decision for the development allowed Mace to make the case for there to be no affordable housing on the site, notwithstanding the Vale's policy on affordable housing. This decision was based on a viability assessment submitted by Mace in 2016. As we know, the price paid for the site was reduced, and one would therefore assume that this would create room for some affordable housing to be included, or lead to increased profit for the developer. We have asked whether the affordable housing viability should be reconsidered using up-to-date figures, but have been told No.

### **Freedom of Information**

Information released under Freedom of Information is now fully released (unredacted). This is available on our website if anyone wishes to understand the full story of the decisions made on the sale of the site to Doric and Mace. To stay informed, check:  
[facebook.com/westwayconcern](http://facebook.com/westwayconcern)  
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**Mary Gill (chair)**

---

### **New life for Reveremorewell**

Diana Swayne, in her history of North Hinksey Village (*The Story of North Hinksey* (1973)) recounts how 17th Century Oxford got its first municipal water supply. Here's what she says: "In 1610, Otho Nicolson of Christ Church embarked on a philanthropic project to give Oxford a supply of pure water. In the City, the overcrowded tenements with their lack of sanitation, and the narrow streets whose gutters overflowed with garbage, were in danger of polluting the wells,

and the College authorities and leading citizens were in constant fear of an outbreak of plague. Nicolson must have had some knowledge of the old conduit which had supplied the Abbey of Osney with Hinksey water for so many years, and decided to use the same spring, 'Reveremorewell' for his own scheme.

"On the slope above North Hinksey he constructed a solidly built stone house enclosing a large lead cistern for the collection of the water ... From there the piped water ran down the hill, through Hanging Close ... across the Green ... under the Hinksey Stream and two other branches of the Thames and so ... to St Aldate's and on to Carfax.

"At the centre of Carfax Nicolson ... started to erect an ornate, finely carved stone fountain. ... Pipes were laid to eleven colleges and ten private houses and the health-giving North Hinksey Water gushed forth from the fountain for the use of the ordinary citizens." In 1787 the crossroads was widened, and the 40-foot-high fountain (12 metres!) was given to Lord Harcourt, who took it away and erected it at his house at Nuneham Courtenay. By 1869 the flow was much reduced, and the system was sold to Oxford Corporation. "

This is the channel, alongside the road through North Hinksey village, leading to the back gate of the Rugby Club's ground. It dried up completely over the last two years for reasons yet unknown, but on Saturday March 10, with funds from the parish council, Ian Beesley with his JCB completed the process of digging out the ditch by the



A34 and exposed a large pipe. As yet this shows little if any flow of water. Such water as now flows in the renewed channel oozes from the ground around, and although this should help to keep the trees on the green alive, it doesn't seem to be the Reveremorewell spring.

The next stage will be to flush out the pipe and find out if that sets the water free to flow again along the ancient channel. The picture shows Ian Beesley in the recently cleared channel indicating the pitiful flow of water.

Chris Sugden



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## Seeking Ferddie



*Those of our readers who may have wondered how Anthony Broome got on with his efforts to give some substance to his childhood memories, may be glad to know the Sprout has so far received the following replies to his letter in the March issue.*

**Ann Thorne told us** “The railway carriage (a Pullman) was situated at No 3 Seacourt Road. First occupied by Mrs Ilene Bright and her daughter with a Mr Tommy Fleming, after these it was occupied by another couple with a small boy, who later moved to Headington, not sure of their names. Then MR FERDDIE FIELD moved in. He lived there until 1963/64 but I cannot remember where he moved to.

He was friendly with my late mother Mrs Margaret Bury who lived at No 5 where I also lived with my two sisters. The carriage was removed by crane and low loader lorry, I can remember this as it took all morning to complete, and many people watched. Please forward to Tony Broom who made the request in the hope it helps with his project.

**Jean Rivers** said “We have lived in Seacourt Rd since 1965 and remember the railway carriage set back from the road in the first plot on the left after the rear of the Seacourt Inn. The plot had very tall pine trees and quite a large garden. We recognise the man in the photo but didn’t ever speak to him; we were newly resident in the road as a young married couple and he was already there and seemed quiet. I expect you will have others who remember him. The carriage was gone by around 1970 when the bungalow that is there now was built.”

And **Jenny Holloway**: “Of course, I remember the railway carriage situated behind a pair of high gates in Seacourt Road, which ... were never unlocked. We used to play outside in Seacourt Road where Lyn, my sister-in-law, lived at number 7. There is a bungalow built on the land where the railway carriage used to be next door to Mrs Booth’s garages. We knew a man lived behind those gates and we called him the “ bachelor.” He kept to himself and we never spoke to him but I have photos of my friends and me posing outside the gates. We never once ventured in. It is interesting after all these years to give him a name.”

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## Brownies get creative

We welcomed a transferee, Elizabeth, to 2nd Botley Brownies this month.

Having now successfully finished the Brownie Skills badge as a Unit we took time out to remember our mothers and other significant females in our lives who love us. To mark Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day, whichever you prefer, the girls each decorated a small heart-shaped gift box to mark the occasion. Each Six had the same raw materials to use –heart stickers, assorted stick-on jewels and felt tipped pens – and as the photo shows they had great fun doing it and each box ended up being very different.

Each of us in Girlguiding makes a Promise that we'll do our best to get involved with the community and the world around us and help others and make a positive difference. With this in mind, we decided to take part in the annual

OxClean organized Litter Pick in early March. However, due to the significant snow disruption and Arctic blast, which prompted the simple questions: "Would we be able to see any rubbish?" and "Will the pavements be slippery?" We have rescheduled the date. Our next adventure will be a trip to Beanwood to complete the Out and About Badge organized by Little Owl as part of her adult leadership qualification.

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## Botley Arts

Running from mid-April to the end of June, our new arts exhibition in Ss Peter and Paul Church will feature Miles Gomme, a local photographer based in Botley, Oxford. He bought his first SLR film camera when he was 18 and it has been a hobby and passion ever since. He has shot weddings, portraits, events and street photography on film and digital over the years. Near the end of 2014 he bought a small mirrorless camera and it reinvigorated his passion



for photography.

All the images in the exhibition have been taken since that date. The canvases are his view of Oxford and London. The majority of street photography photos are part of a project called Plug in–Plug out: the iPhone phenomenon, where people “plug in” to the internet and “plug out” of their surroundings. This project will soon be turned into a book.

Last year he had his first exhibition as part of the Oxford Arts Week. “The Botley Heron” was in the Oxford Mail twice in 2017, the second time as the Chief Editor’s favourite photo of the year. All the photos shown are one of only ten copies that will be printed. Some have already been sold and therefore only nine or fewer are available of each print. If you see a photo that has been sold, you can contact him about obtaining an additional print, via *James Rutherford Photos* on Facebook, by phone on 07794 717333 or at [jamesrutherford@me.com](mailto:jamesrutherford@me.com)

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## **Randoms**

### **Community Gardening**

North Hinksey School has had an allotment for two years running where the children have enjoyed the opportunity to visit, plant, pick and eat some excellent produce. We now have had the allotment levelled and heavy groundwork done (thanks to a kind parent), in preparation for the growing season.

This year, we would like our allotment to become more of a community based project by opening this up to local people. We would like to invite anybody with any gardening skills and a love of the outdoors to join some children and their families on our allotment between Southern-by-pass and North Hinksey Lane in the alleyway by the gate at 3.30.pm on Wednesdays

If you are interested and would like to know more about it or donate anything towards this project, please contact N Hinksey School on 01865 248626 and ask for Mrs Colucci or Mrs Brett.

### **The Small Allotment Committee, N Hinksey School**

**Botley Library** (phone 01865 248142 to book a place)

**'Explore Learning' Free Writing Workshop for ages 4 to 14.**  
Monday 9th April, 3–4 pm (Children must be accompanied)

**'Drop in' Craft sessions for Children Age 4 to 11.** All materials will be supplied. Saturday April 14th, 10.30–12.00 and Saturday April 28th 10.30–12.00 (Children must be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian)

**Digital Help** We are offering free sessions in April if you need encouragement in using computers, whether it be setting up an email account, searching for jobs or just giving you confidence in navigating the internet. You will need to book in advance and our Volunteers will be most happy to help you. Dates are: Tuesdays 4th, 17th and 24th April, 10–12, and Thursdays 12th, 19th and 26th April 10–12.

### **Singing the Beach Boys**

Harmony Inspires are holding a day of singing The Beach Boys with the educator Jo Sercombe on 28th April. If this sounds like you, there are more details to be found on [http://www.2m.org.uk/beachboys/Beach\\_Boys\\_2018\\_Flyer\\_single%20A5+reply\\_slip.pdf](http://www.2m.org.uk/beachboys/Beach_Boys_2018_Flyer_single%20A5+reply_slip.pdf)

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## **Sobell House charity shop**

The Sobell donation point was such a success that we will be making it a weekly event throughout April and will be accepting donations every Monday in St. Peter and Paul church hall between 12–3pm  
PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS AT ANY OTHER TIME

## **Parenting course**

Botley Bridges is running another 10-week Family Links Course in conjunction with Abingdon College and the Kings Centre, to help parents of kids from 2-10 years to think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us feel. Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging. This tried-and-tested Nurturing Programme helps deal with those challenges, so that you can have a calmer, happier life.

There are ten two-hour sessions (with a tea break) and they cover:

- Understanding why children behave as they do
- Recognizing the feelings behind behaviour (ours and theirs)
- Exploring different approaches to discipline
- Finding ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline
- Learning the importance of looking after ourselves

To book (places are limited and not free, sadly) contact me at [coordinator@botleybridges.org](mailto:coordinator@botleybridges.org) or on 07498 563636. **Sue Dowe**

## **Rainbow House looking for help**

Rainbow House is a drop-in centre and café for young children and their carers, in the centre of Oxford, which opens from Wednesdays to Fridays, 10:30–2pm, term-time only. It is only able to run because of its marvellous teams of volunteers. We are currently looking for help in the kitchen on Fridays. Time commitment: 2–4 hours, term-time only. If you'd like to help, contact Bryony Thomas at [rainbowhouseox@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowhouseox@gmail.com) or 01865 243216

## **Arts Prize**

Artists among us may be interested to hear about the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize and associated Exhibition established by the Friends of the Ridgeway. The subject is '*Spirit of the Ridgeway*', and it can relate to its history, ecology, and landscape. Prizes are offered for works of painting,



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sculpture, photography and writing (poetry or prose), with separate prizes in each category and an overall winner. They be awarded at the Ridgeway

Friends Day on Sunday 22 April, and there will be a public exhibition of works submitted for the competition in Uffington over the same weekend. More details on their website: <http://www.ridgewayfriends.org>.

### **Update on the path into Seacourt Nature Reserve**

The path into the Seacourt Nature Reserve – the one that starts between Wickes and Richer Sounds – has been in very poor condition for the past months, particularly the section after the Minns – Aldi cycle track. The contractors carrying out the archaeological work for the flood alleviation scheme didn't reinstate the path properly in the autumn when they were done, so it quickly became very boggy. The farmer whose cattle graze Hinksey Meadows made some impressive ruts when he moved his cattle in and out. Subsequent journeys by vehicles from the city council and Environment Agency have worsened the situation.

I have tried (hard) to get the path reinstated. The city council initially said that it's up to the Environment Agency to reinstate the path, since they made most of the ruts. The Environment Agency said that it's up to the city council, since they own the land. John Tanner says that the flood alleviation "is a major project for the benefit of the whole city and we must all expect some significant disruption as it proceeds."

The city council now says that they will be repairing the path "as soon as the site has dried out" and "when the alleviation works have finished", not at all the same thing! In case anyone else would like to write to the council about this, it's [M.Woods@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:M.Woods@oxford.gov.uk).

**Riki Therivel**

### **Botley Over-60s Lunch club**

Are you over 60? Fancy a freshly-cooked hot meal with some friendly chat? Then come along to the Lunch Club which meets fortnightly on a Thursday in the Seacourt Hall. We have a few spare places at the moment so you would be very welcome to join us. We open around noon with lunch served at 12.30 p.m. and it'll only cost you £4.00 for two courses. April dates are the 5th and 19th April, continuing every other Thursday. It would be a good idea to ring one of the volunteers

first, either Jackie Warner on 01865 721386 or Viv Smith on 01865 241539.

## **Viv Smith**

### **Allotment skip**

A hardy band of allotmenteers gathered in a break in the snow on Saturday March 17 to clear rubbish from the allotments into a skip. A large amount came from the school end which had been cleared of rubble and refuse to make way for the new compost bins. So the first task was to load the rubble into the skip. It was perishing cold, and the rump of the party warmed up with a thermos of coffee afterwards.

Five lawnmowers, including a classic Suffolk Pony, have been taken to Meadham's in Kidlington for refurbishing or spares. A number of usable flowerpots, tubs and bins have been taken to new homes. And just this once, the broken bikes have been taken to Halfords who will send them to Africa for reuse. Of course bikes are not allotment equipment. For the avoidance of doubt the allotment skip is not for the disposal of household junk which the owners should take to Redbridge – or, better still, to Halfords.

**Chris Sugden** for the allotment committee

### **Artweeks exhibition**

Still time to show your creativity and share your artwork in the Artweeks Community Art Exhibition at the Louie Memorial Pavilion in Arnold's Way. Emmett Casley is curating it, and it will run over the weekend of 19th/20th May, supported by the pop-up café. If you have a piece of work, whatever the medium they would love to display it. Contact Emmett on **emmettcasley@gmail.com** or by phone on Oxford 427519.

### **Shout it loud!**

Have you got solar pv, or some other form of renewable energy attached to your property? Low Carbon Hub is collecting the info, and putting together a map: <https://peoplespowerstation.org>. You just fill in a survey, and they'll add you to the map (can be as anonymous as you like). There is a lot more in and around Botley than is currently on there, so let's shout about it!.

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

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

<b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs</b>	Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>	Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997
<b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
<b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>	Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
<b>N Hinksey Horticultural Soc</b>	Contact: Ann Dykes Ox 251821 a <a href="mailto:nndykes@hotmail.com">nndykes@hotmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>	Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>	Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook
<b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386
<b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259
<b>Oxford Otters</b>	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
<b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>	Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntiworld.com">kevin.honner@ntiworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> .
<b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>	Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>Royal Voluntary Service (West Way Day Centre)</b>	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>
<b>Saturdads</b> Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
<b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>	Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com.</a>
<b>Shotokan Karate club</b>	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
<b>Weight Watchers</b>	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Contact: Marion Bostock 436277
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>
<b>Which Craft?</b>	Pavilion, Arnold's way, fourth Monday, contact <a href="mailto:whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk">whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>

## Halls for Hire

<b>Botley Baptist Hall Westminster Way</b>	Contact: Rev Kalyan Das Tel. 07841 867967
<b>The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, OXFORD</b>	Contact Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church Hall West Way, Botley</b>	Contact: Mr M Shearan Tel: 862748
<b>Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane</b>	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 245273
<b>Seacourt Hall, Chapel Way, Botley</b>	Contact: Eric Batts 07452 960100 or <a href="mailto:seacourt.hall@gmail.com">seacourt.hall@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley</b>	Contact: Emmett Casley 427519 <a href="mailto:emmett@kerensagardens.co.uk">emmett@kerensagardens.co.uk</a>
<b>Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village</b>	Contact Julie Kelly <a href="mailto:julie.kelly14@btinternet.com">julie.kelly14@btinternet.com</a>

## North Hinksey & Botley Churches Times of Services and Contacts

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

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

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

**Botley Baptist Church**, Westminster Way  
Sunday Service 10.30 am.  
Mid Week House Group 8.00 p.m.  
Family Worship Service 5-6pm on Saturday  
Rev Kalyan Das 07841 867 967 [www.botleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org)

**Calvary Chapel**  
Sunday services held at Botley School 10.30–12 noon  
Pastor Philip Vickery 01865 864498  
[calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk); [www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk](http://www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk)

# **SPROUT – What's On**

## **April**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Tues 3rd</b>     | <b>11–11.30, Botley Library, Rhymetime</b>  |
| <b>Thurs 5th</b>    | <b>12 for 12.30, Seacourt Hall, Over 60s Lunch club</b>   |
| <b>Mon 9th</b>      | <b>2.30, Dean Court Community Centre: U3A talk by Dr Eric Sidebottom on The History of Penicillin</b>                   |
| <b>Tues 17th</b>    | <b>11–11.30, Botley Library, Rhymetime</b>  |
| <b>Thurs 19th</b>   | <b>12 for 12.30, Seacourt Hall, Over 60s Lunch club</b>   |
| <b>Mon 23rd</b>     | <b>2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk Marina Hamilton Baillie on The History of the National Garden Scheme</b> |
| <b>Thurs 26th</b>   | <b>8pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council meeting</b>   |
| <b>Mid April on</b> | <b>Ss Peter and Paul Church, Photographs by Miles Gomme curated by Botley Arts</b>                                      |

## **May**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Sun 6th</b>    | <b>National Hedgehog Week</b>   |
| <b>Thurs 17th</b> | <b>8pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council meeting</b>   |
| <b>19th/20th</b>  | <b>Louie Memorial Pavilion, local art show (Oxford Artweeks), contact Emmett on 427519 to take part</b> |

*For more local events and information visit [www.botleyhinksey.org.uk](http://www.botleyhinksey.org.uk)*