

# The Sprout



**Botley Baptist Church R.I.P.**

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 128 June 2018**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 128, June 2018**

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### **From the Editor**

This month's *Sprout* is simply packed with information, and so we've had to carry a couple of articles over to next. Sorry to disappoint if you sent something in and it hasn't appeared yet. Last month's letter, wondering what made people care what happened to the shopping centre, has attracted a slew of replies (p.3), and there is also a letter decrying, among other things, the lack of disabled access at the Pavilion. Hopefully the new one will be more accessible. See page 19 for a full account of last month's public consultation. There are also updates on the Seacourt Hall move (p29), the timescale for changes (p7) and from WWCC (p39), and a last chance to have your say on the Neighbourhood Plan, now nearing completion (p37). Dr Chadwick is retiring, and invites all patients past and present to his retirement party on 27th June (p9). Botley Branches reports on the youth café which should be up and running in the new temporary Seacourt Hall in time for the summer holidays, and there is a fascinating article on the unlikely subject of birds and dung-beetles from Linda Losito, who always has something interesting to say about the natural world (p.31). This month's cover shows a lino print of the Baptist Church from Emmett Casley's series on Botley Centre. Sprout AGM on 8th July – your chance to come and tell us what you'd like. See you there!

**Ag MacKeith**

## Letters to the Editor

*Editor's Note: Letters to the Editor on any and every subject are always welcome, but in future they will only be printed if they come with the sender's name and address.*

### Botley shopping centre defended

**Community spirit:** Quite obviously Carolina hasn't spent much time in the square, so has no idea of the community spirit that was there. I ran a shop there for seven years and I am still mourning its loss. I wonder how some of my elderly customers are coping without their daily fix of cafe, coffee and charity shop. But I do know lots of people who don't have any attachment to the shops or the square, and can't wait to see it redeveloped. Carolina represents those people and their perspective on things is equally important. So although her views are different from mine, they are equally valid, and I am glad you published her letter. Everyone should have a chance to have their say.

**Judi Bolder**

**Overall:** I have lived in Oxford for over 60 years and in Botley for 30 years. I have watched gradual improvements made to the area and was frankly dismayed by the original redevelopment plans, which would have reduced the West Way area to the level of a forbidding barbican. It is the efforts of those who wish to improve the local environment which have made the final plan halfway acceptable, as well as the steadfast loyalty of the family who own Elms Parade shops. For Carolina's information, these shops represent the last architecturally consistent 1930s shopping parade in the Oxford area and the tenants do not deserve them to be called grumpy, dirty, musty, unkempt and ugly.

Has the writer set foot in Botley Library recently? Saved from closure by a community campaign some years ago, it is friendly and welcoming with staff who maintain a pleasant atmosphere for the many users. Does she not realise that small shopkeepers are unlikely to be able to afford the rents necessary for the developers to turn a profit, and that the individual and distinctive shops are likely to be replaced by the same sort of chains which have made Oxford an increasingly boring place to visit?

Perhaps she was swayed by the artists' impressions of the cafe society which the developers envisage, with trendy folk supping the sort of coffee one gets in these sorts of outlets. Perhaps she thinks that is what a community is. If so, she might reflect on the fact that a community is only as strong as the people who make it, not the facilities they choose to be seen in!

**Martin Roberts**

**Library:** I was very surprised to read in a letter in the May edition that the atmosphere in the library was not good. I have always been impressed by the friendliness, helpfulness and professionalism of all those who work there, and I know I am not alone in this. They treat all those using the facility with equal courtesy, be the member 8 or 80. Their knowledge of authors is impressive and they are always ready to suggest 'a good read'. We are very lucky to have our library. It is valued by the community and I hope we can continue to enjoy what it offers when it is finally rehoused.

**Jennifer Wade**

### **Local democracy at work?**

Local people not "online" may like to know that there has been a consultation event on the development of the Louie Memorial Fields. Just 450 flyers were printed for a parish of over 2000 homes advertising this single-date event in April which was held at a venue without full disability access. An online survey for this wasn't advertised in the May 2018 Sprout either. Local democracy at work?

**John Marriott**

~~~~~  
**SPROUT AGM 8th JULY, 3PM, LM PAVILION, ARNOLD'S WAY –  
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~~~~~

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## Works in progress - Botley is on the go!

After many delays, and much deliberation, everything is happening all at once, with a number of local projects progressing rapidly. Here's a short round-up of some major issues from a Parish Council viewpoint.

- The Botley Centre redevelopment. Works are well under way, preparing the temporary locations for the various community and retail users. By the end of June all of them should have been relocated, allowing the main works on the shopping precinct to start in earnest. NHPC continues to be involved in ongoing meetings with the developers, and negotiating via the Community Liaison Group to minimize disruption during the works.
- After several years hard work the Neighbourhood Plan is reaching fruition, with a final public consultation in June and July – see the separate article on this topic for further details. Public support, and approval through a referendum later in 2018, is key to gaining some control over planning issues that affect us all.
- Work continues on developing a masterplan for the rejuvenation of facilities on the Louie Memorial Playing Fields. Many thanks to those who participated in the recent consultation, including well over 100 people who turned up for the event on the 28th April. Feedback so far shows very strong support for the replacement of the current Pavilion and Scout Hut with a new (rather than refurbished) single building, whilst a range of opinions about the exact mix and locations of leisure facilities and parking spaces will help us to develop the plans further. The level of funding from the Vale still has to be agreed, and will be essential for implementation.
- A planning application (ref. **MW.0028/18**) has been submitted by the Environment Agency for the proposed Flood Alleviation Channel, and comments are being sought by 14th June. Details can be found on the [myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk) website.
- Highways England are choosing the corridor for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, with an answer expected in July, after which a detailed route will be identified. We will continue to oppose any plans to widen the A34 through Botley until that option has been discarded.

**David Kay, North Hinksey Parish Council Chairman.**

## Dr John Chadwick retires

*Dr Chadwick writes:*

Having qualified as a doctor in 1978 from the Oxford Clinical School, I joined Drs Jackson, Slater and Blazewicz at Botley Medical Centre in 1981, taking over from Dr Dempsey, who had retired. Dr Jackson retired the following year and the three of us worked very hard until Dr Rawcliffe joined in 1986. We practised from the now demolished double fronted green painted house on the corner of Elms Road with the beautiful cherry trees outside, until it became unsuitable, when we planned and had built the present surgery, moving in just before Christmas 1991.



For many years there were 8-8,500 patients but this grew to 9,500 patients when we joined with Kennington in April 2017. We are now looking to extend the building as work and staff have expanded.

Besides working during the day, we shared out-of-hours cover, 24/7 and 365 days a year, which included all public and bank holidays. In 2004 with the new GP contract, out-of-hours cover was taken over by Oxford Emergency Primary Care Medical Service (OXEMS) based in Manzil Way.. It was a huge relief to be able to do sessions there for a fixed time rather than be available for 3 nights from Friday to Monday once a month. I used to get a male version of PMT before my weekends on call!

We had branch surgeries in Wootton and in the Bear & Ragged Staff outbuilding in Cumnor, which both ran three days per week.

In 1981 we had no typist and wrote all our referral letters by hand. We soon became organised with Dictaphones, and a group of local ladies typed up our dictated ramblings! A practice nurse joined in 1986, and we now have two splendid nurse practitioners and two excellent health care assistants who can also take blood. Before these, we doctors took all our own blood samples.

Initially on the administration side we had a senior receptionist, but now also have a practice manager. She has the difficult task of trying to ensure that all aspects of the practice run smoothly, as well as keeping

abreast of all the frequent changes in the NHS. She, as well as all our other staff, are invaluable.

We were one of the last practices in Oxfordshire to become computerised, but now we wonder how we managed without information technology. It gives us speedy access to records and data about patients and eases communication. It can also advise us of “best value” drugs, and warn us about potential drug interactions.

I became senior partner in 2007 when Dr Slater retired, and when I started to wind down, Dr Ballestero took over this role in 2016, steering the practice forward.

The concept of Health Promotion became prominent from the early 1980s and much practical effort is spent on “prevention rather than cure”. In those days low-risk mothers were allowed to be delivered by midwives and their GP. This was often a very happy event and some of the children born then are now parents themselves, and still patients!

Many medications have changed or been introduced since then! Whilst the humble aspirin has been available for many years, ACE inhibitors (such as the Ramipril many of you take) were just being introduced in the late 1970s. Statins and PPI blockers (Omeprazole and Lansoprazole) and bone-strengthening pills (such as Alendronate), all now liberally prescribed, were not available then. Possibly the pattern of disease has changed too. In 1981 few patients had coronary artery bypass grafts, whereas appendicitis was more prevalent then than now. For unknown reasons there is currently a widespread incidence of scarlet fever.

The way GPs work has changed too. With time pressures now, we do more phone consultations and fewer home visits. In 1981 we were 4 full-time male partners, but now



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we have a much larger number of doctors, of both sexes. All complement each other. Over my 37 years in the practice I have seen many medical conditions, had many fulfilling days, as well as frustrating days, but also some sad and tragic situations. It has been very hard work, stressful at times, and highly responsible.

What I have enjoyed most is meeting you and talking to you as individuals. You have taught me so much about life itself, and the human condition! The model of a GP caring for you over many years is a treasured institution which should be preserved if at all possible.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to look after some of you and I wish you all a healthy happy life ahead.

**Dr John Chadwick**

Dr Chadwick cordially invites all patients, past and present, to join him at his retirement tea-party on Wednesday 27 June between 5 pm and 8 pm at the Botley Medical Centre, Elms Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9JS.

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## Botley lives!

Hello! We're Nicholas and Hannah, new Botley residents. We've been living in Oxford for about 8 years and are excited to finally make the move from East to West! We're both music obsessed and believe in using art to create positive environmental and social change.

Nicholas is a sound engineer and Hannah is a musician. We run a recording studio in East Oxford, producing sound for music, film and documentary, and have just started a record label called Upcycled Sounds Records. (More on [upcycledsounds.eu](http://upcycledsounds.eu)) You might well have seen us cycling around with lots of instruments on our bikes!



We operate on a reduce, reuse and recycle policy to minimize our consumption of resources while maintaining the highest quality output. For example, alongside our state-of-the-art studio equipment, we also repair and build kit with reclaimed materials, make use of solar power, and can even fit a professional recording set up on a bicycle! We help clients to make ethical choices, such as offering local food for sessions, ecofriendly packaging options and links with local artists and businesses.

We also volunteer with a number of projects using the arts to engage people in social and environmental issues, including Tandem Festival which is coming up in a few weeks' time. Tandem Festival (<http://tandemfestival.com>) is a 3-day music festival bringing you different worlds of music, art, talks, workshops, film, dance, food and eco-friendliness. It was first held at Hill End Camp four years ago, when it was reviewed in *The Sprout*. The fourth edition will run from 22nd–24th June at beautiful Lower Farm in Ramsden, near

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**Philip Joyce** BSc (Hons) DipPodM MChS  
REGISTERED PODIATRIST

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Witney. This year's headliners are Tantz, Perhaps Contraption, Raka, Peter & Kerry, Paddy Steer and Iyatra Quartet. They are part of a huge programme of music, from funk to a full-piece orchestra, Balkan beats to late night DJs. There will be resident musicians from around the globe sharing the sounds of their cultures. The festival will also be packed with dance, storytelling, crafts and workshops to introduce you to everything from yoga to didgeridoos to Bitcoin. There are loads of new family activities this year with arts, activities and unamplified stages for little ears. It's local and not outrageously expensive: Adult weekend camping tickets start from £85 and under 12s go free!

Hope to see some Botley folk there, and do drop us a line if you want to visit the studio!

**Hannah Jacobs**

~~~~~

**Sprout AGM on  
8th July 2018, 3pm  
Pavilion, Arnold's  
Way**  
*Everybody welcome!*

## **Literary Botley – an update**

Thank you for the terrific response I have had. There have been some amazing books written by Botley people on topics ranging from fish to Ivor Novello. Part 1 should appear next month. Has anyone come across some authors called van Heyningen? You can phone me on Oxford 864776 or email [\*\*martin.harris321@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:martin.harris321@gmail.com).

## **Farewell to rocker Roy Young**

I was very sad to learn of the death of musician Roy Young, who once lived in the parish. He was an amazing talent, playing with the Beatles, but also kindly performing at a church bazaar here in 2011 which I was lucky to see. The picture shows him there with my cousin, Pat Young.

**Martin Harris**



## Public support for rejuvenation of Louie Memorial Fields and Pavilion

The Louie Memorial Fields were donated to North Hinksey Parish Council in 1939 by builder Henry Stephen Kingerlee, in honour of his late wife and for the purpose of organized sport or other recreation (including 'buildings to be used for recreational purposes'). Currently the Fields contain one adult-sized football pitch, a Pavilion, the 4th Oxford Scout Hut, a multi-use games area (MUGA), freestanding fitness equipment (Trim Trail), a children's play area and a car park. The built facilities occupy around 5% of the available space, the football pitch around 15%, and the woodland copse and fenland over 20%, with the remaining 60% maintained as open grassed area for informal recreation. Regular users of the Pavilion include two community football teams, the North Hinksey Youth Club, and a local craft group. The Pavilion is also hired for casual bookings such as pop-up cafés and larger-scale events such as the recent Explorer Scouts Green Belt Run.

In the March *Sprout* I summarised efforts across the last ten years to improve recreational facilities at our parish playing fields. Most recent was NHPC's appointment in December of planning consultants Nortoft, with support from Vale District Council, to undertake a first phase of planning for the overall site. Nortoft presented their emerging proposals at the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd March, which was attended by over 50 parishioners (the highest attendance I've seen as a councillor!). This launched a period of public consultation that included an all-day event at

the Pavilion on  
28th April.  
Around 150  
people attended  
across the day.  
David O'Neil of  
Nortoft gave a  
presentation in  
the morning and  
again in the  
afternoon, each  
lasting over 90  
minutes thanks  
to plenty of



questions and comments from the audience. Posters of the emerging proposals were on display, and two members of the Nortoft team were available throughout the day for informal discussion.

In spite of the dreary weather, attendance was steady. Those who attended the afternoon presentation were encouraged to give their feedback through the online consultation link available on the home page of NHPC's website. The consultation link stayed open through 13th May and was advertised on parish council noticeboards, the NHPC website and Facebook page. Parishioners could also request a paper copy of the form from the Parish Clerk.

### **Consultation results:**

Over 260 responses were received, 90 in paper form and around 170 online. At the time of writing Nortoft were doing detailed analysis in preparation for their full consultation report, but initial results were discussed at NHPC's meeting on 17th May.

The aim of the consultation was to identify which of the options proposed by Nortoft should be taken forward as community priorities for more detailed planning. Options included:

- Replacing the Pavilion and Scout Hut with a shared new building
- Providing up to ten car parking spaces (including disabled parking) by a new building
- Providing cycle parking
- Extending the current car park for an additional row of parking
- Moving the Trim Trail equipment from the upper field to the lower field
- Providing new youth adventure and fitness equipment
- Moving the football pitch from year to year to reduce wear and tear
- Adding or improving paths for walkers and joggers
- Providing a skatepark
- No change at all

Four options emerged as clear priorities among respondents:

- A new joint use Pavilion building (80% agree, including 40% who strongly agree)

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- Cycle parking at the building (90% agree, inc. 63% strongly agree)
- New youth adventure and fitness equipment (75% agree, including 55% who strongly agree)
- Provision of a skatepark (72% agree, inc. 52% who strongly agree)

When asked to consider all options together the same pattern emerged: a new building, youth adventure / fitness equipment, and a skatepark were rated 'high value to the community' by 63%, 55%, and 54% of respondents respectively. Conversely the option of no change at all was seen as 'no value to the community' by 64% of respondents.

Results for other options were more mixed. Concerns were raised about the provision of additional parking, which would reduce the grassed area and potentially encourage driving over more sustainable forms of transport. The importance of maintaining open space for informal recreation (walking, relaxing, hanging out with friends) was strongly emphasised. Striking the right balance between providing facilities to encourage use of the playing fields and supporting its natural resources (woods, fenland, wildlife corridor) was a recurring theme that will continue to inform the planning work.

### **What's next?**

Nortoft will complete the first phase of planning, including projected costs and potential future income, in July. By then the parish council will need to decide how to proceed with phase two (detailed planning including a formal planning application). NHPC will also be considering specific options for new youth adventure and fitness equipment that could be purchased with available funds this autumn. Feedback from parishioners about the plans as they continue to emerge and attendance at our meetings are welcome at all times – see the parish notice boards or our website for contact information and meeting details.

If you missed the consultation events you can access the presentation slides on our website: **[www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)** (see home page or follow links to 'Louie Memorial' page)

You can also watch video clips from the April presentations and see our latest updates on our Facebook page: **[www.facebook.com/northhinkseypc](https://www.facebook.com/northhinkseypc)** (you can view the page without a Facebook account)

**Cllr Caroline Potter** (chair, NHPC Recreation & Amenities Committee)

**Do You Remember ..?...** *Great to meet some of Botley's first wave of skateboarders at the consultation, equipped with pictures. Glad*



*you are still around and still taking an interest! Thanks for the photos, and thanks for the memories! :*  
**AgM**

**Henry MacKeith and Robert Cotterell outside the Seacourt Hall c 1990**

## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                               |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>P18/V0969/DIS, P18/V1027/DIS, P18/V1029/DIS, P18/V1032/DIS, P18/V1112/DIS</b> Botley Centre West Way. Discharge of several conditions of planning permission <b>P16/V0246/FUL</b> and <b>P17/V1507/FUL</b> etc. |                                                                                                               | <b>16 April.</b> <i>Target decision dates</i><br><b>28 May</b><br><b>13 June</b> |
| <b>P18/V0959/LDP</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               | 12 Chestnut Road. Change of use to provide utility & games room additional to main house.                     | <b>18 April</b><br><i>TDD: 13 June</i>                                           |
| <b>P18/V0629/LDP</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               | 9 Raleigh Park Road. Loft conversion                                                                          | <b>19 April</b><br><i>TDD: 14 June</i>                                           |
| <b>P18/V0913/HH</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                | 6 Stanley Close. 1-storey rear extension - remove conservatory flat roof.                                     | <b>23 April</b><br><i>TDD: 18 June</i>                                           |
| <b>P18/V0785/FUL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               | Church Of Our Lady Of The Rosary 1 Yarnells Hill. Erection of storage shed located on upper edge of car park. | <b>25 April</b><br><i>TDD: 20 June</i>                                           |
| <b>P18/V1088/PDH</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               | 48 Cedar Road. Demolish existing rear extension and build new rear extension.                                 | <b>30 April</b><br><i>TDD: 11 June</i>                                           |
| <b>P18/V1168/FUL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               | 52 Arthray Road. Conversion into 2 apartments and change hipped roof to gable roof.                           | <b>11 May</b><br><i>TDD: 6 July</i>                                              |



## Sweet little rabbit baskets

As well as us being out and about recently we did find time to make sweet little rabbit baskets for Easter. Rather than buying new card, Tawny breathed new life into discarded file dividers and, after making a template and drawing the outline on each piece of card, got the girls to carefully cut out the elongated rabbit shape. The girls did the best job of cutting out difficult shapes that we had seen in a very long time.



After some folding of the card rabbit so that it would sit down came the shaping of a few of the brightly coloured egg boxes, saved from our recent fire-lighting at Beanwood. The girls needed to trim down and zig-zag the top so that they had what looked like the lower half of a recently hatched egg. Then they added a layer of tissue so that the chick had somewhere comfy to sit down, and attached a staple to the rabbit so that it ended up hugging the newly hatched decorative chick.



After Easter we welcomed new joiners Maia and Libby to our Unit.

We have much to look forward to this term, and look forward to telling you about our amazing large-scale activity day where – along with other members of Oxford City II Division – we will get to climb a climbing wall, have a caving experience and try archery.



**Lucy Howes**

## Seacourt Hall is moving!

On Saturday 16th June Seacourt Hall will be packing up and moving next door to the second floor of the Grant Thornton building. This temporary relocation is for at least a year until the brand new Community Hall is built as part of the West Way redevelopment. After the move the existing hall will be demolished in the redevelopment's first phase.

This new location will provide new opportunities for the community with more space and light, a larger hall, meeting room and dance floor, and fully fitted out new spaces ideal for clubs, exercise and dance classes, meetings, catered events and parties!

What you can expect from the new temporary Seacourt Hall:

- Larger hall space (c.200 m<sup>2</sup>) with dance floor area (103 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Kitchen facilities
- Larger meeting room (c. 50m<sup>2</sup>)
- New Craft room (c. 30 m<sup>2</sup>) primarily used by Branches Young People's group
- Lift with wheelchairs provided and accessible toilets
- Lots of light (trees screen the view of the A34!)

At time of press the building was still being fitted out. We will be adding photos to the website at [www.seacourthall.org.uk](http://www.seacourthall.org.uk) during June. You are also invited to view the facilities for yourself on Open Day in July.

### **SUNDAY 15TH JULY 11AM TO 5PM- SEACOURT HALL OPEN DAY**

Please come along to see your new hall and find out what is happening there. This is a chance to look around and to learn more about the space and facilities available. You will also be able to see plans for the permanent Community Hub.

This is your chance to meet local groups and other organizations and charities, learn about what they provide, experience the space and see if you might want to make use of the hall and rooms for your group or event. There will be tea, coffee and cakes available and members of the Seacourt Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council will be on hand to answer questions and booking enquiries.

If you run a local club, organization or charity and are interested in taking part in the Open Day please contact me on the email address below. Regular bookings for the hall can be made online at our website above, by email: [seacourt.hall@gmail.com](mailto:seacourt.hall@gmail.com) and phone: 07452 960100.

**Lorna Berrett**



## That Marie Antoinette Moment ...

A few weeks back, I was discussing the in and outs of veganism with an enthusiastic young man on a stall in Cornmarket Street. (They were giving away free cake.) His desired objective was to remove all domestic livestock from farms – even to the extent of replacing all woollen products with synthetics. “But what will the birds do without the dung?” I asked. “Lots of them rely almost entirely on the beetles that they find in sheep and cow dung.” “They can eat berries!” he replied confidently.

This, probably well-educated, individual clearly lacked understanding of the world around him. He had no concept that many birds are completely or partially reliant on insects and will die out if they can’t find any. And no doubt he is not alone.

Until recently, insects were abundant in Britain and other parts of Europe but suddenly they are in a steep decline (70% reduction in 30 years). While many scientists are very worried, the general public seem much less concerned than they should be.

There are several reasons for the decline, but the use of pesticides is the most important. Modern farmland is ecologically dead. There is nothing moving but the crop sprayers. The sound of machinery has replaced the sound of birds. But try visiting an organic farm like Adam Twine’s place at Watchfield. The crops are bursting out of the ground as on any other farm, but there are also butterflies moving between the wild flowers around the edges. Buzzards are hovering overhead, and the sound of skylarks drowns out the noise of the traffic on the A420.

These days, most farm animals are locked away in sheds living totally artificial lives. If they are out in the fields, they are often so full of chemicals that dung beetles cannot survive in their dung. As a result, the dung does not get eaten by the beetles and so remains to form a hard dry crust on the grass, preventing new growth.

On Willowbrook Farm, another organic farm (at Hampton Gay), there are so many dung beetles in the sheep droppings that the dung is gone almost as soon as it is produced. It is astonishing that most modern farmers seem to be unaware even of the existence of dung beetles, let alone the



many benefits they can provide.

Many of us who care about birds hang up bird feeders and plant berry-bearing shrubs in our gardens to help them survive through the winter. But that only helps some birds some of the time. Baby birds need to be fed on insects or other sources of animal protein. Peanuts just will not do.

But there is deep rooted prejudice against insects. If they exist in your garden or on your farmland, the expectation is that you will kill them, no matter how harmless or useful they are. Strangely, people seem to make an exception for those they find beautiful, like butterflies – but not their caterpillars!

In my front garden is an old, lovely viburnum which is smothered in white blossom every year. This is followed by an outbreak of the viburnum beetle which totally defoliates the whole plant. These in turn are followed by flocks of beautiful little long-tailed tits that flit among the branches, feasting on the beetle larvae. The viburnum thrives, the beetles thrive, and the long-tailed tits thrive.



And it is not just insects - slugs and snails suffer unfairly too. Personally, I never use slug pellets and as a consequence song thrushes visit regularly, using the garden path as an anvil. The garden is full of flowers (and bees) but they are all tough enough to thrive alongside the slugs and snails – as they do and always have done in the natural world. It makes life a lot easier (with the thrush's lovely song thrown in as an extra).

There is also prejudice against dung. It has to be cleaned up and tidied away so that we are not offended by it. Anti-social dog owners who leave their dog's waste in the middle of a public footpath or on a children's play area rightly should be fined and publicly shamed. But I feel a particular animosity towards those idiots who put their pooch's poo in pretty pink polka dot bags and then abandon it. They may think the packaging makes it better. It doesn't. It makes it much worse. Somebody has to remove it. They are making it somebody else's problem.

As a pathway warden, it often becomes my problem. More and more of these little bags build up – offensive to look at, and offensive to smell, especially in hot weather. And, most importantly, they never go away. A naked, not plastic-wrapped, dog turd will quickly decompose and disappear. Plastic lasts for a very, very long time.

I know a number of dog owners who use “a stick-and-a flick” if they are in the countryside. The offending material is dispatched from the path into the undergrowth where it cannot be seen or trodden in. And guess what? It is often eaten by the very same dung beetles that can no longer find anything to eat on farmland. And another bird gets to find a protein based meal and survive a bit longer. *Result!*

**Linda Losito**

~~~~~

**BRANCHES CAFÉ**  
**Serving the Community**  
**with Young People at its Heart**



Branches Café will be on the 1st Floor at Elms Court above the library. It will feel like a refreshing and friendly place to escape from the building works and come together! We will be open from 8am–3pm for the whole community, and then, from 3pm–5.30pm it will be a safe and nurturing place for young people to socialise and learn skills – with a take-away service for the wider community. In the evenings there will be open-access youth sessions and Food Heaven nights for young people to get more involved as Young Leaders in running the social enterprise.

If you are aged 12–17 and want to help us make the Café look and feel right there will be a Design Day on Thursday 28 June from 5pm–7pm. Come and choose colours and cushions! Free drinks and toasties! Find us online at **[www.branchesyouth.uk](http://www.branchesyouth.uk)**.

It's taken over two years to make this vision a reality, and we are so grateful for the support of the community on this journey, including the *Sprout*, who bought us a water boiler and sponsored our T-shirts. We will try our utmost to be open before the summer holidays so the young people can come down before school term ends.

**Now is the time to join Branches Team as a Volunteer!** Come and join us on our journey and provide our young people with a safe and lively destination. Please get in touch with me on 0755 798 1769 or email **[diane@branchesyouth.uk](mailto:diane@branchesyouth.uk)**. We will give you support and training – and we know you can show us a thing or two! There's FREE Level 2 Food Hygiene qualification if you get in touch by 10 June, with thanks to Janice Morrison **[www.thamestraining.co.uk](http://www.thamestraining.co.uk)** .

**Diane Long**

## **Neighbourhood Plan – last chance for comments**

During June and July we will be running a six week final consultation period for you to be able to comment on any aspect of the North Hinksey Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2031.

The Plan contains important policies aimed at improving the planning legislation for our area including guidance on appropriate types, scale and design of housing developments, protecting and maximising the efficiency of business sites, managing transport issues (including parking, and encouraging walking and the use of bicycles and public transport), protecting green spaces and leisure / social infrastructure, encouragement of carbon reduction and renewal energy, managing groundwater issues, and ensuring appropriate redevelopment of the Brookes University Harcourt Hill Campus.

After the consultation we will make changes to reflect your feedback and then the documents will be submitted to an Independent Examiner. Assuming all goes well there will be a referendum later this year where everybody has an opportunity to vote on adopting the Plan. The referendum will be a straight yes or no vote, so this really is the last chance to suggest improvements.

### **The consultation will run from 18th June to 30th July.**

Throughout the consultation you can participate in several ways:

- The complete Plan plus feedback forms will be available online, both at <http://www.nhinkseynp.org.uk/> and at [www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)
- Hard copies of all documentation, including feedback forms, will also be available to view at Botley Library.
- There will be a public consultation event on July 15th as part of the Open Day for the new Seacourt Hall facilities in the Grant Thornton Building. This will allow you to see displays, and discuss all aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan with the team that has drawn it up before providing feedback. Further details about this event will be included in the July edition of The Sprout.

Please do take this opportunity to participate in shaping a Plan that will impact on the whole community for many years to come.

**David Kay, North Hinksey Parish Neighbourhood Plan Chairman**

## Friends of Raleigh Park

The Wild Oxford volunteer teams have continued to clear the area round the pond, which is now restored to its former open state, and have laid an impressive new hedge by the main gate. Our local ecologist Judy Webb has completed a detailed report of the work in the Park, which is available on our website <http://www.raleighpark.org.uk>. There is great nesting activity in the new bird boxes, which are being regularly monitored, and a butterfly survey group has been formed.

We hope that there will be some cattle grazing the park over the summer. The cattle are there to reduce the rank grass and nettles and encourage the development of wild flowers. If left ungrazed, trees and brambles will increase and the park will once more become scrubby woodland.

But when cattle are present, do give them a wide berth. Keep your dogs well under control and preferably out of sight of the cattle, particularly towards dusk as they become frisky before bedding down for the night. If there are any issues please contact the Parks Dept [parks@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:parks@oxford.gov.uk) or let us know at [raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk](mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk). Contact details for the owner of any cattle will be displayed in the park and on our website.

**David Brown and Stephen Parkinson**

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## Shopping Centre developments

Last month's article described the changes to Mace's latest proposals for West Way, which included closing off Church Way to all traffic apart from deliveries. Following objections to the changes to the main vehicle access route to the centre, a further set of amendments has now restored the ramps within the two-deck car park, and had Church Way closures for part of the day. This is a step in the right direction, but issues remain namely:

- Inadequate cycle parking for all users. The approved plans said that 'cycle parking would be provided at one space per dwelling and student room within compounds or building'.
- Block E is at a lower level than Blocks C and D opposite, meaning that the main street through the site will have steps and ramps, rather than the current gentle slope.
- The proposed access restrictions to Church Way will not protect pedestrian users.
- No coherent and workable scheme for scheduling deliveries has yet been produced by the developer.



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- During construction up to 250 lorries a week come to the site. The management plan proposes these will come along West Way and turn in left at Church Way. This is not a safe practice for cyclists who risk being overlooked by a lorry driver making a left turn. Mace promised that the construction traffic would come in from Westminster Way. But the diagram shows two way routes, although the text says only one way will be used)

As the plans have changed, car parking has been prioritised in order to maintain the same number of parking spaces. This has squeezed space available for cycles, which are scattered around the car park areas, insecure and unsafe. They may not fit into the spaces provided. Some will be two-tier racks or vertical racks which are difficult to get a cycle into and to lock securely. This matters, because the viability of the centre relies heavily on the student accommodation, and if it is not popular with students, then the centre is at risk financially.

Those who are responsible for decisions on this development need to look carefully at the impacts of the proposals. At present they are not sustainable and WWCC have objected to them. Issues arise directly from over-development of the site: there is inadequate space and small changes have knock-on effects.

The application will go to planning committee on 30th May. If permission is granted, then the development will proceed, with all the flaws which we have identified.

### **What now?:**

The Co-op, Tesco, Lloyds Chemist, Baptist Church and Seacourt Hall will be relocating temporarily to units within Elms Court and Grant Thornton building and a portacabin, during June.

Demolition of part of Grant Thornton Building is in process, as this is covered by the planning permission for the conversion of Grant Thornton and Elms Court. Seacourt Hall will follow.

Demolition will start on the Baptist Church in June. This is part of the main development site, and will commence once all the pre-commencement conditions of the planning permission are discharged.

To stay informed, please keep an eye on our website **[www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com](http://www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com)** and you can also find us on social media **[www.twitter.com/westwayconcern](https://twitter.com/westwayconcern)** and **[facebook.com/westwayconcern](https://facebook.com/westwayconcern)**.  
**Mary Gill**, Co-chair

## Randoms

### **Volunteer trustees needed for Botley Bridges**

**Treasurer:** Are you good with figures and could you volunteer a couple of hours a month? Botley Bridges, a local family-support charitable company, will have a vacancy for a **treasurer** at the end of July. About 2 or 3 hours a month, plus 6 two-hour trustee meetings a year. Involves:

- liaising with the accountant
- basic book keeping
- making payments and tracking direct debits and standing orders
- managing receipts and invoices
- assisting with reports

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact [info@botleybridges.org](mailto:info@botleybridges.org) and see our website <http://www.botleybridges.org>

**Volunteers to help with drop in sessions:** Do you enjoy spending time with children and families? Botley Bridges are looking for volunteers to help with the drop in sessions on Monday afternoons, Friday mornings and Friday afternoons. Any regular time that you can offer will be valuable – could be just a couple of hours a week. We need help with welcoming new families to the sessions, making snacks and supervising craft activities. If you are interested please contact Hayley, our coordinator on 07498 565636 or at [coordinator@botleybridges.org](mailto:coordinator@botleybridges.org) **Sue Dowe**

### **Botley W.I.**

Our next meeting will be on 5th June, when Ian Paxton a chilli farmer will tell us all about growing and using chillies. The following day, 6th June, we visit Sudeley Castle - meet 10am outside the Seacourt Pub. If you'd like to join us please call Marion on Oxford 864323. The Walking Group will meet at WI Hall 10am on 19th June to walk round Thrupp, and the Craft Evening will also be on 19th June. Do come along and join us!

**Alison Jenner**

### **The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme**

is now a live planning application and it is the time when the public can comment. Oxford Preservation Trust is looking at what it will mean for Oxford and our fields, and is encouraging everyone to 'Have their say'. With so many documents to look at, responding is a rather daunting task but it's your city, your voice. For info on the most relevant parts of the application, email us at [info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk) or drop in to the



Snug at The Fishes on Thursday 31 May from 6.30-8pm to have a chat with us. We will also be leading a walk across our fields on Saturday 2 June, starting at 10.30am from Seacourt Park and Ride. Phone 242918 for more information about the walk.

**Rachel Sanderson, OPT**

### **Peace and quiet**

Looking for somewhere peaceful to sit whilst all this building work is going on around West Way? St Peter & Paul church (next to Barclays) is open every day from 9 to 5 and offers a quiet, cool space for anyone to drop in and take some time out. You can also take a look at our community fridge and use it if you wish.

**John Clements**

### **B4044 Botley to Eynsham Path ready to apply for planning**

The BikeSafe campaign to get a path built along the B4044 between Eynsham and Botley is now ready to apply for Planning Permission. But before we do, we'd like everyone who is interested to come and have a look and bring comments and suggestions. Dates: **Saturday 30th June** Farmoor Village Hall, 10.00am to 1.00pm and **Thursday 5th July** at Eynsham Village Hall, 5pm to 8pm.

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**ken.smith92@yahoo.co.uk**

**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 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>
<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 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>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 href="mailto:anndykes@hotmail.com">anndykes@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. Dymrna Walker: 01865 865259
<b>Oxford Otters</b>	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
<b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>	Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> .
<b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>	Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>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>Satdads Botley Bridges</b>	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
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<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>
<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>

