

# The Sprout



**Beavers building a den at Hill End – or should that be ‘lodge’?**

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 142 November 2019**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 142, November 2019**

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### **From the Editor**

This month's cover shows the Beavers at Hill End (p31), while the report from the Friends of Raleigh Park's AGM (p15) shows that our own local nature reserve is becoming increasingly rich in wildlife, thanks to the hard work of lots of people. The pioneering Oxford Food Bank celebrated its tenth year of operation (p25). Last month saw several notably inclusive events: Botley Apple Day attracted people of all ages (p19), Branches Youth Cafe (p35) and the Brownies (p21) both enjoyed inter-generational parties, and North Hinksey hosted a tea to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the LGBT charity, Stonewall (p13). Coming up in November: a chance to get informed about the plans for the Oxford–Cambridge Expressway (p23), about Cancer Screening (p11) and Winter Artweeks (p9) and to get fit by joining our local Morris side (p29). Colin and Sally Hersom report on a visit to a little-known Oxford asset, the Oxford Herbaria, one of only 2,600 in the world (p7). Then there's bad news from the local police (p37), where a spate of burglaries gives food for thought, and finally we have one of Riki Therivel's cookery pages, reprinted from five years ago, but still a classic (p39). *Happy reading!*

**Ag MacKeith**

# Letters to the Editor

## Parking problems

I am pleased to learn that double yellow lines are planned for North Hinksey Lane, but will they be enforced? We have similar problems in Westminster Way. Builders park on the path every working day.

When I asked Fix my Street and councillors about lines here, or at least repainting those on the chicane, I was told there was no budget until 2020. What can we do?

Thank you for highlighting this, and well done for avoiding the scam!

**Malcolm Bell**

## More on scamming

I was interested to read in last month's *Sprout* about a telephone scam which nearly cost the victim £6000. It reminded me of a scam which affected me in 2014. These scams have something important in common. The first scam started with a stoppage of internet service, followed very quickly by a phone call, apparently from BT, offering help to get the service up and running again.

My scam started with a delivery of a mobile phone which I hadn't ordered, followed within minutes by a phone call, apparently from the mobile phone company, telling me that a mistake in delivery had been made, and offering me £25 to hand the phone over to a courier who arrived very shortly afterwards. Later I got a large bill for the phone from the company, and it took some effort to convince them that there had been a scam.

Both scams started with an unexpected event, followed by an offer of help from a plausible but criminal source. Both scams could have been stopped at the outset by an independent check. In both cases this would have involved terminating the call and independently contacting the organization apparently offering help, either online (via a different internet connection) or from a different phone (to eliminate the possibility of the scammers staying on line to capture and answer the next outgoing call). In summary, if you get an unexpected and unsolicited telephone call, offering assistance with a just-discovered

problem, there is a very good chance that it is part of a scam. However plausible the contact, it should be checked independently.

For comprehensive advice on detecting and handling scams, contact Citizen's Advice at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

**Grant Nightingale**

### **Good timing**

Thanks for your invaluable article in the *Sprout*. I just got the phone call, but was in the know after reading what happened to you. I strung them along as long as I felt like it, then called them scammers that I read about.

I have forwarded this to BT.

Good mag. Good Work. Thanks.

**Babinder Samra**

## **The Church of St Peter & St Paul West Way, Botley**



**Remembering  
Those we have Loved**  
a quiet service for the bereaved  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 5.00pm



## The Oxford Herbaria

We were lucky enough to be able to visit the Oxford Herbaria as part of Oxford Preservation Trust “Open Doors” in mid-September. We had no idea what to expect, but were told to gather outside the Plant Sciences building on South Parks Road.

Stephen Harris, the curator, took us to a room where there were cupboards full of pressed, dried plants. On display were a few from the collection and also some books of the oldest collections. Each book is a herbarium – hence the collection is the herbaria. One such volume, found in a shed under a pile of straw, turned out to be the oldest in the world (c. 1660) and was in surprisingly good condition given its treatment.

The purpose of these herbaria (around 2600 worldwide) is to record all plant species and allow scientific research with the specimens. One such investigation had found some spores of the blight fungus on an early potato specimen. Analysing the DNA revealed that the fungus originated in Europe, not brought in from Peru as previously supposed. The potato just happened to be a suitable host and we grew it everywhere!

Since the colours are lost when plants are dried, the collection also includes drawings. One beautiful volume from the early 19th century was made by an artist who travelled with a collector and made pencil sketches and numbered the colours. On his return he created the book from those sketches – some of them drawn years after he saw the plant. Each drawing took 1¼ days on average and the colours are completely accurate. It took even longer to publish the book since each page had to be engraved and the prints carefully hand-coloured. Only 25 copies were ever made.

The importance of the original specimens was made clear when he showed us a drawing of a solanum plant from Brazil. It showed a thorn on the stem, and people had searched for years for another example. When they found the original dried specimen, they realised that the “thorn” was in fact a misplaced flower bud and the plant was a common weed! Sometimes a herbarium contains a plant that really is extinct. One such is a vetch collected in the Azores in 1848: the whole of its range disappeared into the ocean a few years later in a landslide.

Another plant on show was a water-lily. It had flowered in

Chatsworth and this was the actual flower – preserved for ever. The flowering success made others try harder and whole greenhouses, including the one in Oxford Botanic Gardens, were constructed specifically for the purpose.

This location was only open to OPT members, but there are many places open to the general public over the weekend, to suit all tastes. If you haven't encountered Open Doors before, why not make a note to explore some of Oxford's fascinating aspects next year?

**Colin & Sally Hersom**

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## Winter Artweeks

Yes, Artweeks is not just in May! A number of Oxfordshire artists will be opening their studios or taking part in fairs and shows this winter, and many will have a Christmas theme.

Here's what to expect in the West Oxford area:

West Oxford Community Centre will host its annual **Handmade Christmas Market** featuring over 20 artists and craftspeople. Tumbling Bay Café will be open for refreshments! (Sat 23 November 11– 6pm & Sun 24 November 11–4pm, West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, OX2 0BT: [www.facebook.com/ OxfordChristmasMarket](https://www.facebook.com/OxfordChristmasMarket)).

**Ali and Jane Hogg** will exhibit 18 years of Christmas card designs with other artworks, photographs, prints, cards and jewellery (two weekends, Sat 23/Sun 24 November and Sat 30 November/ Sun 1st December 10–6pm, 42 Arthray Road, Botley, OX2 9AB – Instagram [@ali.hogg](https://www.instagram.com/ali.hogg)).

Just around the corner is artist **Will Cotterill** who will be showing paintings, sculpture, prints, cards and postcards in his gallery. (Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November, 10–6pm, 2 Springfield Road, Botley, OX2 9HJ – [www.williamcotterill.co.uk](http://www.williamcotterill.co.uk)).

In Cumnor **David Williams**, **Sue Side** and **Steph Monteath's** *Winter Show* will showcase sculpture, drawings/etchings and textiles. (Fri 29 Nov, Sat 30 Nov and Sun 1st Dec 10 – 4pm: Robsart Place Cumnor OX2 9QT).

To find out more visit [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org), click on 'galleries' and select 'artist' or 'Christmas Event'.

## Cancer Screening – is it for you?

Botley and Kennington Patient Participation Group will host a talk by Cancer Research UK's Hannah Hollis, the organization's Facilitator for Oxfordshire and Swindon, at 7.00-8.00 pm on Wednesday 20 November at Botley Medical Centre, Elms Road, OX2 9JS. All patients of Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre are welcome.

Cancer screening looks for signs in symptom-free people that cancer may be developing. If you already have symptoms, contact your GP straight away.

The UK has three national cancer screening programmes. In England:

- \* **Breast screening** is offered to women aged 50--70
- \* **Cervical screening** is offered to women aged 25--64. It is offered every 3 years to women aged 25--49 and every 5 years to women aged 50--64
- \* **Bowel screening** is offered to all men and women aged 60--74 who are registered with a GP.
- \* **If you are older than the age range for breast or bowel screening**, you can make your own breast screening appointment, or request a bowel screening kit. Your GP surgery can tell you how to do this.

Hannah will discuss the pros and cons of cancer screening for individuals and for society. There will be time for questions.

For further information, please see Cancer Research UK's website at

**<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/screening/understanding-cancer-screening>**

*Who we are:* the Botley and Kennington Patient Participation Group consists of volunteers who are registered patients of the Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre. *Our main aims are:* to promote the well-being of patients and to facilitate positive and effective two-way communication between the practice and its patients. For further information about Botley and Kennington PPG, please contact me at **[grantn00@outlook.com](mailto:grantn00@outlook.com)**.

**Grant Nightingale**

## North Hinksey Equali-tea!

North Hinksey residents came out in support of inclusivity and equality for gay and transgender people at a sun-soaked tea party marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of Stonewall, the LGBT charity.

Stonewall-inspired “Equali-tea” parties have been taking place around the country this year. The event in North Hinksey Village drew more than 40 locals, bearing a truly impressive variety of cakes, and raised £190.



Two North Hinksey residents, Ruth Wilson and Kate Sullivan-Estrada, organized the tea party. They were pleased with the results of their efforts, and said: “It was a really lovely afternoon full of sun and smiles and even some dancing! It was heartening to see our local friends having a good time to

support a good cause – and to meet new friends at the event. Although there has been progress towards equality in the UK, LGBT people still face prejudice and sometimes violence. Also, we should remember that in all too many parts of the world, being gay or transgender can mean a prison sentence or worse.

We’re grateful to Botley Women’s Institute for lending their tea urn. There was quite a turnout so it would have meant an awful lot of kettle boiling without it! We hope to make this an annual event – thanks to all who came and helped to make it such a success.”

**Ruth Wilson**

**Saturday 16th November**  
**Farmoor Village Hall**  
**Chippy**  
**Quiz Supper**  
**Fish, Chicken**  
**or Sausage**  
**Tickets**  
**£9.50 with food £4.50 without**  
With food tickets must be purchased by 13th  
from Michael Baston 01865 862426  
Inga Martin 01865 863888  
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## **Friends of Raleigh Park**

The 8th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Raleigh Park, held once more in the Louie Memorial Pavilion, celebrated a very busy year for the Park and exciting prospects for the future.

The meeting was attended by some 20 members and representatives of BBOWT, Oxford City Council (OCC, the trustees of the Park) and the Freshwater Habitats Trust (FHT), and was occupied almost entirely by reports on current and future activity.

The year began well with the award (in September) of a Letter of Commendation by the Oxford Preservation Trust to the Park and the Wild Oxford project, recognising the opening up of a new viewpoint over the City. It was followed by a lively Adventure Day for families organised by Andy Gunn and Ceri Cadwallader of BBOWT during the October half term, and the annual Boxing Day Walk, with a second Adventure Day in February. In May Linda Losito gave an eye-opening talk on dung and dung beetles. BBOWT Work parties including scrub clearance and meadow scything have continued through the year, with a dedicated cohort of local volunteers. Butterfly surveying (led by Barbara Witkowski and Leon Piper) began in January with an egg hunt which identified eggs of the rare Brown Hairstreak butterfly on blackthorn in the Park and on Harcourt Hill; it continued with three-weekly butterfly walks which have recorded over 600 specimens from 20 different species, including some passing Painted Ladies. The most productive walk, in mid-July, spotted 240 butterflies, and was combined with a citizen science survey of flowering plants, which recorded over 40 species, some of which had not previously been noted, and confirmed the vitality of rare species such as the Spiny Restharrow.

David Brown had begun a survey of bats in the Park, using recordings converted to analysable audio signals. The bird boxes installed by Clive Smith (who had also constructed a bird feeding station) have been monitored by Stephen Miller; the 15 boxes had raised some 50 great tits and blue tits, with boxes for owls and wagtails still awaiting their first occupants. Barbara Witkowski reported on a countywide project to vaccinate badgers against bovine TB, and thus eliminate the need for culling; in a notable piece of networking, the extension of this programme to the setts in Raleigh Park was agreed during the meeting by OCC officer Julian Cooper. Andy Gunn announced the release of Judy Webb's latest ecological report on the Park. All of this activity, which has depended

on an active Friends group working closely with the Oxford City Parks management and BBOWT, has continued the transformation of the Park from scrub to a more open wildlife-rich site whose precious areas of rare alkaline fen are being preserved and enhanced.

A new initiative, to be conducted in conjunction with the Freshwater Habitats Trust, will re-wet the fen by constructing dams on the streams. A separate project, for which grant funding has just been requested, aims to improve the Park's accessibility, by installing gates suitable for wheelchair and pushchair access, stabilising major pathways, and installing interpretative signage for entrances and the fen area, with a new seat to encourage use of the new Viewpoint. This will be the first major grant application by the



Friends, and has benefited enormously from input from Michael Woods of OCC, as well as from a generous offer of contribution in kind from OCC and two recent donations which enabled the Friends to pledge money from their own funds towards the total budget. Another project awaiting funding is a hydrological survey of the Park and its water catchment area, to support future responses to development plans which may put the Park's wetlands at risk.

In a panel discussion, Julian Cooper reported that OCC were pursuing an alternative grazing strategy which would bring more manageable rare breed cattle into the Park to fulfil the crucial role of keeping grass short and treading in wild flower seeds. Ellie Mayhew of FHT reported on an innovative method of surveying ponds for their wildlife, by analysing traces of environmental DNA recovered from pond water; the results for the Park would soon be available.

The Friends' website [www.raleighpark.org.uk](http://www.raleighpark.org.uk) has more details of projects and reports, and of ongoing activities. New members are always welcome. We are looking to recruit new committee members, especially parents of younger children who could help plan and coordinate family activities in the Park.

**Stephen Parkinson**

## Apple Day 2019

Well, that was fun! Apple Day took place on October 6th, the rain held off, and adults and children joined together in an afternoon of blameless activity. Vast quantities of apples were brought in bags and tubs and baskets, and the willing cohorts got chopping on a trestle table in the garden. Meanwhile the apple press had been



assembled, the mincer installed over the lining bag and the chopped apples were minced and pressed down. Then the bag was folded shut, the cover tamped down, bolts tightened, and the brawnier members of the company got to work turning the screw. Out rushed the juice, sampled with gusto and saved in bottles and barrels. Come 4pm, it was time for tea and apple cakes of all kinds, but once you'd got into the rhythm it felt like a waste to stop, so refreshments were brought to the workbench. Indoors, the apple and pear identification table was up and running, though nothing rare and strange was logged this year. The pictures give an idea of what it was like. Thank you everyone who came and made it so worthwhile.



**Ag MacKeith**

## Brownies play the game

2nd Botley Brownies are continuing with our Survivor badge. This gave the girls a chance to prepare a wide assortment of fresh fruits – some never seen or tasted before. Once all hands and fruit had been washed, each Six selected a different fruit to peel, open or divide into smaller amounts. The assortment of fruit was then placed into small individual bowls and the meeting ended with all the Brownies and Leaders sitting in a circle to enjoy the “fruits” of their labours!

Our evening spent with the residents of Cumnor Hill House was a new and most enjoyable occasion for our Unit. On arrival the Activities Organiser, Alan, placed the girls into four groups who would in turn rotate around the various games laid out for us. These included dominoes, snakes and ladders, large wooden noughts and crosses, a bagatelle board and a Nintendo Wii Just Dance (which, to the embarrassed delight of all the girls, Brown Owl joined in with and boogied too!). Several of the residents came to join us, to chat to us and to watch what was happening.

One gentleman in particular though, Ernie, decided to join in with the games and stayed at the snakes and ladders table enjoying playing a fresh game with each of the groups. Unfortunately, each time he was just on the verge of winning when Alan got the groups to change around and then he had to start all over again. Sorry, Ernie! It transpired that he was an ex-Scout Leader so already knew a lot about Scouting and Guiding. The evening was finished off with a tray of beautifully prepared sandwiches and a glass of squash each. A big “thank you” to Cumnor Hill House for inviting us into their lovely home and to Ernie for joining in and being such a sport.

## The Owls



## **Oxford to Cambridge Expressway: find out more**

Coming up this month you will have an ideal opportunity to find out what impact the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway might have on you, our local community, and Oxfordshire as a whole.

### **Expressway Public Information Meeting**

**Thursday 7th November, 7.30pm in Seacourt Hall**

**hosted by N Hinksey Parish Council and Cumnor Parish Council**

Many people will be aware of the Expressway, but may not know what the proposals might mean in reality, or what process is being followed to decide if it will be built, and if so, where. Highways England, who are managing the project, have promised a public consultation this autumn, but at the time of writing no details have been announced. We fully expect at least one of the proposed routes to pass through this area.

The public meeting will include speakers who can provide detailed answers on how the Expressway is being justified from the Government viewpoint, and what it might mean in terms of additional housing and infrastructure throughout the wider 'Growth Arc' that the Expressway would pass through. They will also address the potential economic, social and environmental impacts on local communities. There will be

opportunities to question the speakers and panel about all aspects of the proposed scheme.

If the Expressway is built, together with the associated additional housing, industry and other elements proposed as part of the wider scheme, it will be the largest single infrastructure project ever to take place within Oxfordshire. It is essential that everybody has a chance to have their say by participating in the public consultation, and we want to ensure that people are fully informed in advance about the detailed issues. We look forward to seeing you on the 7th.

**Cllr David Kay**, Chairman NHPC

### **Cumnor Choral Society**

perform

## **Bach's Christmas Oratorio**

with

**Wheatley & Great Milton  
Singers  
& The Hurst Sinfonia**

**Saturday 30 November at 7.30  
SS Peter & Paul's, West Way**

**Tickets: £12/£10**

**on the door or in advance from  
cockman.caroline@gmail.com  
07961 900670**



## Oxford Food Bank is ten years old!



Oxford Food Bank volunteers, suppliers and friends gathered on 29th September to celebrate 10 years of preventing unnecessary food waste in Oxfordshire.

The charity based on Curtis Industrial Estate held an open day at its warehouse base and a party at neighbouring brewery Tap Social. Food was provided by Waste2Taste, a social enterprise which works in collaboration with Oxford Food Bank, using the surplus food to run workshops teaching cooking skills to vulnerable adults.

To celebrate 10 years, some of the more energetic volunteers also took part in a 10k walk, taking in Harcourt Hill, Chilswell Valley and

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South Hinksey. In spite of the weather, walkers said they welcomed the chance to get together and chat – and some also took the opportunity to raise sponsorship for the Food Bank.

Volunteers from Unipart Cowley recently worked at the Food Bank base to weigh all food

coming in for a week, helping to put a figure on Oxford Food Bank's impact over the past decade. Over seven days Oxford Food Bank received 7.4 tonnes of surplus food with a retail value of nearly £20,000. "We thought it would also be interesting to calculate some statistics about what we've achieved over the past ten years," said manager Cathy Howard. "We estimate that we have saved around £7.5 million's worth of food going to landfill – that's around 3,000 tons!" (See below for some more statistics – Ed)

Back at the party, volunteers and representatives of charities took the opportunity to celebrate what Oxford Food Bank has achieved over the past ten years. Volunteer Jude Carroll shared anecdotes about some favourite moments, which included Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace, receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2018, and many tales about weird and wonderful vegetables, van-whisperers, and the endless supply of bananas and lemon curd.

Visitors included Vice Lord Lieutenant Brian Buchan, who congratulated the Food Bank on its contribution to the community. Everyone raised a glass to toast 10 fantastic years, and to look forward to many productive years ahead.

**Emma Tinder**

*[Some further figures were shaken out in the ten-year review: Currently there are 120 volunteers, and around 90 charities helped per week. Over ten years there have been 118,000 hours of volunteer labour, 300,000 miles covered collecting and distributing food for 7 million meals. Miles driven were 'more than the distance to the moon', but by keeping that food out of landfill, 12,600 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> were saved – enough to drive for 30 million miles, so very worth doing. The Oxford Food Bank exists primarily to prevent good food going to waste, so in an ideal world it would not be needed. In our own flawed system, however, it does a wonderful job, and we look forward to the day when there's a similar operation in every town .*

*Editor]*

## Come and try Morris dancing

As Autumn takes hold and the evenings start drawing in, it's that time of year when summer has truly gone and winter is just around the corner.

In the world of Morris, this is the time to look forward to next summer, and start preparing. It's practice season. And it's the perfect time for beginners to Morris to start learning.

Dance of any sort has a wide range of health benefits, both physical and mental.

Morris is a gentle form of exercise, something anyone can tackle. Never danced before? No problem. You don't need a partner or any equipment to start. It's a sociable (and slightly daft) way to have fun and get a little fitter – and maybe even a little happier in the process.



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West Oxford Community Centre

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Northcourt Centre, Abingdon

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[www.ryuchoir.co.uk](http://www.ryuchoir.co.uk)

OHOP  
FORWARDS  
SHORTLIST



Did you know Botley has its very own Morris side? Cry Havoc Morris practises every Thursday evening between 8:00 and 9:30 in the WI Hall. Our dancers and musicians come from all round Oxford and further beyond, but there are still some Botley regulars. We're a mixture of women and men of all ages and abilities, and we're always overjoyed to welcome new dancers or musicians. Why not come and try it out?

To find out more, contact me at [info@cryhavoc.org.uk](mailto:info@cryhavoc.org.uk) or on 07941 697732, through Facebook or Twitter as [@cryhavocmorris](https://twitter.com/cryhavocmorris). Then there's our website: [www.cryhavoc.org](http://www.cryhavoc.org)

Jim Hague



## Beavers Space Camp

On the 20th September, 4th Oxford Beavers arrived at Hill End Centre for a space camp. Once they were settled, Adrian (one of the Leaders) took them on a journey through space and the Universe; they then designed unique planets that they would like to visit themselves. I particularly liked the cube planet and the sweet planet.

After tossing a sizeable amount of marshmallows and chocolate biscuits onto the fire, we went out to look at some constellations and planets. We saw shooting stars, satellites, and even the International Space Station went over. After discovering the stars, we came back to enjoy sitting round the fire, listening to space-themed stories, after which it was bed time (not necessarily time to sleep!).



Extremely early the next morning, the Beavers were ready and raring to go... to breakfast. It was such a lovely morning that we went on a walk. It was not long before they were distracted by the chance to build dens (even better than the Scouts!).



Back in the dormitory, we did some fun space-themed activities, including making space gloop; we made planets with CDs; created comets and learned about the phases of the moon through eating Oreo biscuits. We also watched a video of what it is like in the International Space Station. We finished our camp by making and cooking pizza planets in a wood-fired pizza oven; launching bottle rockets and building our own International Space Station out of cardboard boxes (*see photos above*).

I think all the Beavers had a good time and I can't wait to help at the next Beaver camp. You can see two 360 degree photos of the camp at: <http://bit.ly/2MF9Vt9> and <http://bit.ly/2MDELST>

**Will Hodges** (a Scout at the 4th and a helper with the Beavers)

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#### LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<b>P19/V2188/HH</b>	52 Hurst Rise Road. Garage Replacement.	<b>13 Sept</b> <i>TDD: 8 Nov</i>
<b><u>P19/V2256/HH</u></b>	7 Lime Rd. Single storey rear extension. Loft conversion.	<b>16 Sept</b> <i>TDD: 11 Nov</i>
<b>P19/V2253/HH</b>	3 Lime Rd. To erect a white PVCu-framed conservatory.	<b>17 Sept</b> <i>TDD: 12 Nov</i>
<b>P19/V2277/A</b>	Unit 1 Westway Place, Chapel Way. (Mid-Counties Co-op.) 3 x illuminated fascia signs.	<b>24 Sept</b> <i>Target Decis Date: 15 Nov</i>
<b>P19/V2307/HH</b>	5 Hurst Rise Rd. Single-storey side and rear extension.	<b>25 Sept</b> <i>TDD: 20 Nov</i>
<b>P19/V2369/LDP</b>	9 Conifer Close. Certificate of Lawful Use for single storey side extension and garage conversion.	<b>2 October</b> <i>TDD: 27 Nov</i>
<b>P19/V2414/A</b>	Seacourt Tower, Homepage Ltd. New B & Q external wall mounted & free standing parking signage (non-illuminated & illuminated).	<b>8 October</b> <i>Target Decision Date: 3 December</i>
<b>P19/V2377/HH</b>	Courtenay House, Stanton Rd. Retrospective planning permission for single storey staff rest room to main house.	<b>9 October</b> <i>TDD: 4 Dec</i>

## Afternoon Tea at Branches

On Tuesday 19th September, the Branches team and the Young Leaders hosted an afternoon tea party for people over the age of sixty. Despite only having four people at their first event, it was a very enjoyable time with games to play and scones, sandwiches and cakes to eat, all made by young people. Our next dates are

- Thursday 31 Oct, 3.45 – 5pm
- Thursday 14 November, ditto
- Thurs 12 December, ditto

We would love to have more people, so that the old and the new generations can come together and have fun. All of our tea parties are hosted at the Seacourt Hall, West Way, Botley OX2 9LP. If you have any enquiries, phone Oxford 251115 or come along on the day. We would like to thank the Lottery Community Fund players for their contribution. We were very grateful for their grant. This article was written by us three young leaders, who were helping at the event.

**Amelie, Lizzie and Shannon**

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## Police Report

There has been too much happening recently in and around Botley, which just shows we can't take our reputation as a 'low crime area' for granted. Thanks to PCSO Adi Wright for keeping us informed. If you can help with any information please tell TVP by phoning 101 and mentioning the crime reference number if you have it.

- On 19 September around 2.30pm a property in Hurst Rise Road was broken into and small items were taken (ref 43190290309)
- On 24 September between midnight and 7.45pm a property in Denton Close Botley was broken in through the rear patio door and small items were stolen (ref 43190296203)
- On October 8th, between 11.00 and 14.30hrs, there was a burglary on Orchard Road. The thieves gained access via a bedroom window. A messy search was conducted and a safe was stolen that contained jewellery, passports and other items (ref 43190311921)
- On the evening of 14th October, Police had reports of a male acting suspiciously by hanging around an alleyway and later that evening someone tried a garage door handle. We don't know if this was the same person, or if these incidents are related, but we would invite residents to remain vigilant and let us know if they see anything suspicious.
- On 17th October between 7 and 10pm, burglars forced a rear window in Denton Close. It is unknown if anything was taken.
- Similarly, on October 18th at 19.30hrs, burglars gained access to a house in Pottle Close through a forced rear window.

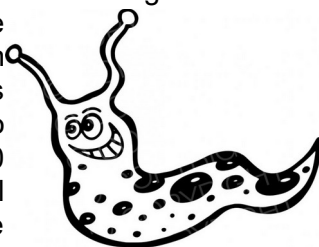
Police have also had a report of suspected rogue traders visiting residents of caravan parks offering various works including structural maintenance. They provided quotes and advertising material, but the contact details they provided did not relate to a legitimate business. If you get unexpected visitors offering work of any description please do not agree to anything, sign anything and especially do not part with any money. You should be given time to research the company and potentially get additional quotes for the work. If in any doubt call 101 or Trading Standards.

On 28 September the Abingdon Neighbourhood Team were in Hurst Lane, Cumnor, offering crime reduction advice and discussing Smartwater property-marking kits. If 80% of residents have used and registered Smartwater security marking, a street sign can be displayed to deter burglars. If you would like help with a similar scheme for your street, just ask. More information on TVP website.

## Food ideas: Slugs

After the recent rain, the only thing that seems to be thriving in the garden is slugs. From the amount of damage that they have caused to my fruit and vegetables, they must be the size of small dogs.

Hoping for revenge, I did a bit of research on slug recipes, and you'll be happy to know that your gut feeling is correct. Slugs are not the new, must-have, low-fat, high-nutrient taste sensation. Their slime can contain lungworm and cause a form of meningitis (they can do that to dogs too). The way to avoid this is by soaking the slugs in a 50:50 mixture of vinegar and water for several minutes, which gets rid of most of the slime and conveniently also kills them. It would be wise to also remove their digestive gland – if you're keen, you can get instructions on how to do this off the Internet. Then they can be used like clams: simmered in stock or stir-fried.



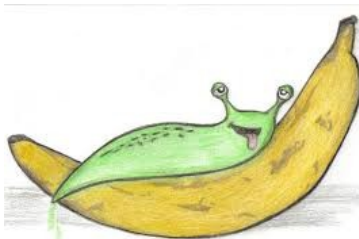
Assuming that this does not sound fantastically appealing, here are a couple of more palatable recipes featuring seasonal produce, most of which can come from the garden or allotment:

**Mashed slug:** Sorry, I meant potato there, mashed potato. Cut several potatoes into small pieces (I leave the skin on), cover them in water and boil until soft (about 10 minutes), drain off almost all of the water, add a good dollop of milk, a lot of butter and some salt, and mash with a potato masher or a fork. Instead of just potato, you can make a mixture of any of: potato, parsnip, swede, turnip, apple.

**Black slug with apple:** Meat Master on Osney Mead sells large tubes of black pudding (whoops, my mistake earlier) for not very much. If you haven't had black pudding since you were a child, try it again – it's delicious stuff, albeit high in fat. Cut two apples into slices and fry them gently in several tablespoons of butter. Remove the apples when they are golden and add the black pudding to the pan: 2-3 slices per person. Fry for 3 minutes on each side, and serve with the apples.

**Stir-fried slug:** Slice one onion and a medium-sized slug of your choice: red, green (oh ha ha I meant cabbage, not slug), kale, etc. Heat up two tablespoons of oil, and add the onion and cabbage plus a teaspoon of salt. Fry at high heat for several minutes until the cabbage is wilted.

**Slug crumble:** Pick a large bowl of slugs fruit: some combination of berries, apples, pears, plums etc. Put them in a baking dish. For the crumble mix, combine 300g plain flour, 175g brown sugar, and 200g butter by rubbing them together with your hands until it has a, well, crumble-like consistency. Alternatively, buy a package of crumble mix from the Coop. Put the crumble mix on top of the slugs and bake at gas 4 (180C) for about 40 minutes. Serve with yoghurt or cream.



**RT** (*reprinted*)

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**HAMBERLEY**

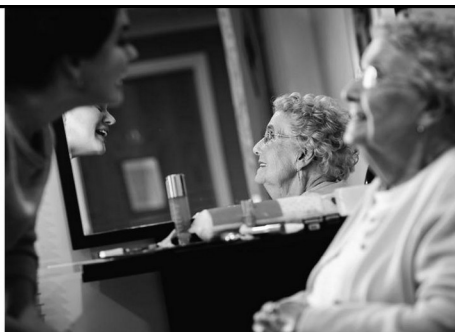
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# **Randoms**

## **Cumnor Choral Society:**

Bach's Christmas Oratorio on 30 November in St Peter & St Paul's Church at 7.30 in association with Wheatley & Great Milton Singers. Tickets £12 and £10 from Caroline on 07961 900670 or at the door.

## **Andrews Dry Cleaning:**

Andrew Shea has expanded the offer in the shop in Elms Parade and can now provide key cutting, much missed since Motorist Discount moved out, shoe repairs, saving a long journey into town, and Rug Doctor Rental, unavailable since Homebase closed.

## **Girls' Football**

The Football Association and SSE (Scottish and Southern Energy) have launched an initiative to provide girls between 5 and 11 with regular opportunities to play football and take part in organised sessions. 200 clubs have already been established across England. Recently Botley Boys and Girls FC were contacted by the FA and asked if we would like to come on board.

Our club has always promoted equal opportunities, but the male dominated nature of the game has discouraged girls from joining. SSE Wildcats will provide a safe environment where girls with no football experience can have fun engaging with sport, develop fundamental skills, try a variety of sessions, learn new things and create foundations for a lifelong love of sport.

Therefore, we are now delighted to inform you that, with the help of a group of willing volunteers, we are in a position to firstly offer a safe girl-only environment for female footballers, and secondly apply to become an accredited Wildcats centre.

## **Sprout grants**

Good news! Thanks to the hard work of our advertising manager, Mike Cockman, *The Sprout*, has once again achieved a small surplus. From next month we will be happy to return this to the local community in the form of grants. If your worthwhile project requires some funding, get in touch and we'll help if we can.

**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><br>Girls aged 7C10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                           |
| <b>1st Botley Rainbows</b><br>Girls aged 5--7                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.15 Jennie Shepherd, <a href="mailto:firstbotleyrainbows@gmail.com">firstbotleyrainbows@gmail.com</a>                                                       |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>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><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                   |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Fridays, cubs 6.30-8, scouts 8-9.30, Botley Baptist Hall. Amy Cusden 07887 654386 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a>                                    |
| <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>BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign</b>                       | Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6-8 weeks. Contact via website <a href="http://B4044path.org">B4044path.org</a>                                                                 |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.                                        | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>               |
| <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>Branches Café, Westway Place, Open to All 8am-3pm,</b>            | <b>Open for young people</b> 3-5 daily, Th. eves 7–9 Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook Instagram                                         |
| <b>Community Fridge</b>                                              | Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</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>                                         | <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone , 01865 721026                                                                                                 |
| <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</b>                                         | Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline                                                                                                                                              |



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|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| babies from 6 wks to crawling                       | 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 Parish Council</b>                     | Colin Ryde, tel 861992, <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</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 Harmony Men's Acappella singing group</b> | Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>                                                                                |
| <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><br>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<br><a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                         |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                     | <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Saturdads</b><br>Botley Bridges                  | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's<br>10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                                                           |
| <b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>           | Michael Cockman 07766 317691<br><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>Walking for Health</b>                           | 2nd/4th Saturdays 9.45 Botley Library Alan 07941 610913                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                              | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso<br>tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>                                                                            |
| <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 01865 570291 <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>West Way Day Centre</b>                          | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971.<br><a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>                                          |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                   | Liz Manson, 244175 or <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>                                                                                                      |

