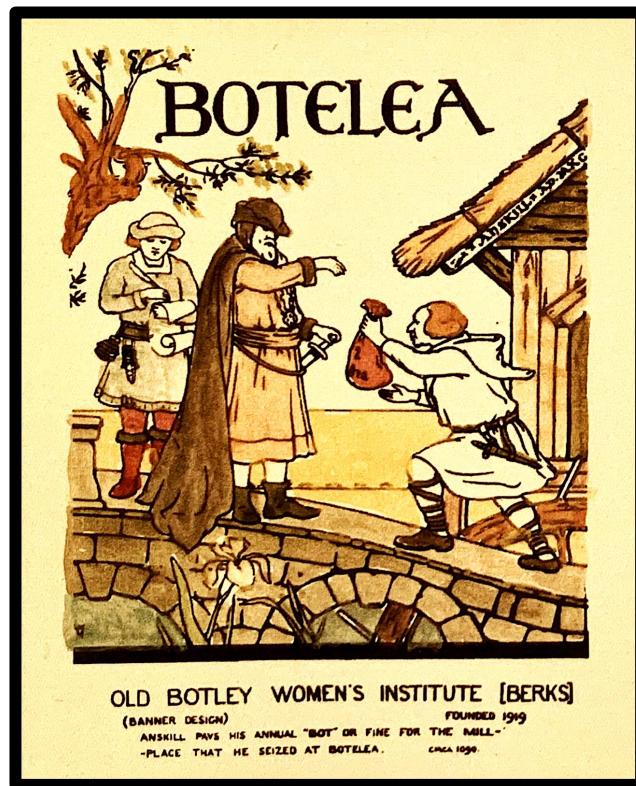


The Sprout



Botley W.I. 102 years old and still going strong!

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 167 May 2022

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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All concerned in the production and delivery of The Sprout are unpaid volunteers.

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The Sprout

Issue 167, May 2022

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From the Editor

Welcome to a well-filled Sprout. As usual, there is a lot going on. Oxfordshire Artweeks runs for most of the month of May, but our local input is mainly in the first half (p7). Botley in Bloom invites entries to the front garden competition (p5), with a special category for the Jubilee. On page 16, ideas are firming up for the Jubilee itself – sadly this does not include the Crabtree Challenge, which failed to find an organizer! But there's lots of other good stuff, so get stuck in and let's make it happen on that long bank holiday at the beginning of June! The massive Flood Alleviation Scheme has applied for planning permission at last, and we are invited to send our comments by 9th May. There are strong feelings about it, and we publish two views of what's proposed (pp9 and 13). Another proposal, this one still awaiting a planning application, is the potential Solar Farm in the field beside the beacon – see page 23 for a less than enthusiastic view. Our various local Scout troops are active (pp 21 and 31) and one lucky local lad has been picked to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea next year (p29). Our District Councillors have started a new series of updates (p19), and Botley W.I. are finally celebrating their Centenary, after a 2-year Covid delay, hence our cover, which shows their original banner.

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Letters to the Editor

West Way Public Art Event

Many thanks for the organizers of the "Public Art for West Way" event on the 19th March! It was really great to come together with the local community and get creative in the various activities set up in the Seacourt Hall. The mosaic workshop was especially interesting and it was wonderful to learn from the knowledgeable instructors and to get to take our art pieces home at the end of the day. I look forward to seeing the mosaic pieces that the commissioned artists will create to beautify the West Way! It would be amazing to get to do some more mosaic work within the community in the future as well, if the instructors would be so kind as to organize other events or workshops. Thanks again!

Local resident (name and address supplied)

The Scouts and the Baptists

It is true that we have had a very long relationship with the [15th] Scouts. As a Church we have offered them free-of-charge accommodation, storage facilities, utilities, as well as cleaning and clearing up after their use. Since the new development the Church building has become multi-use, with accommodation flats above the Church, and we have had to remind the Scouts of this situation.

In the past some of the Scouts and their parents used to worship at Botley Baptist Church, but of late it is of considerable regret [to us that] this relationship has waned to the point where it is almost non-existent. The trustees of the Church have always stated that a priority of this building must be given to Christian worship. When another local church asked whether they could use some of the building to further their Christian activities we willingly agreed, as this was in pursuance of our mandate. We did write to the Scouts advising them of the situation, and followed this up with an offer to sit down and discuss what alternative arrangements can be made within the Church. This letter was rebuffed and instead the Scouts decided to fire off letters to the local press, including yourselves.

It would have been far better if the Scouts had taken up our offer, because we believe this would have led to a much more amicable outcome and prevented any unnecessary animosity between the Scouts and ourselves.

We would have also appreciated, when the original letter from the Scouts was received by *Sprout*, that the editor would have given us the

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opportunity to respond at that time, so that we could have both presented to the readership a much more rounded version of events.

Furthermore, we would like to correct the article labelled 'Manna from Anna' [April, Randoms]. This short article gives the impression that Anna Antell is still running the café at Botley Baptist Church, which was run on a for-profit basis. This is no longer the case. It has now been replaced by a café called Botley Baptist Café, which is run by several volunteers. There is no charge for refreshments except for donations, which are gratefully accepted and passed on to other good causes, such as the appeal for Ukraine.

Botley Baptist Church Deacons

Botley in Bloom – Front Garden Competition 2022

CATEGORIES:

1. Best Front Garden
2. Best Cultivated-Wildlife Front Garden
3. Best Jubilee Hanging Basket or Window Box

The last category is a special one-off for this Platinum Jubilee Year and the judges will be looking for creativity and appropriate use of colour.

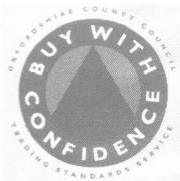
To register your garden (or any garden you feel the judges should know about) just send an email with your name and address to editor@thesprout.org. Don't forget to say which category you are entering for!

- **Entry deadline** is Monday 6 June
- **Judging** in week beginning Monday 13 June
- **Winners announced** Monday 20 June

Botley in Bloom is sponsored by The Sprout, NHPC, and LeoQuent.

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Botley Artweeks

This year our local community is strongly represented during Oxfordshire Artweeks' 40th Anniversary festival, with twenty-one artists and makers exhibiting their work. The artists listed below form a part of the Oxford City portion of the festival and it runs from 7–15th May. Details of specific days and times of opening can be found on the Artweeks website or in the Guides which are free to pick up from libraries, art venues and our local Co-op.

Elizabeth Newbery is showing her range of functional and decorative ceramic creations on North Street, Osney Island.

At the **West Oxford Community Centre** on Botley Road eight thought-provoking emerging and established artists show a range of exciting disciplines.

Further along Botley Road you will find **Frieda Van De Poll**'s surreal/fantasy drawing, painting and sculpture (Riverside Road) and **John Luke King-Salter**'s modernist abstractions inspired by music and literature (Helen Road).

On the edge of Elms Rise you will find **The Old School Collective** triumphantly returning to the festival with six dynamic creatives showing new work on North Hinksey Lane, and Tap Social present the work of artist **McShoesue**, otherwise known as Sue Smith.

On the Elms Rise estate **Ali and Jane Hogg** (Arthray Road) will be displaying their individual new mixed-media collages and further up the hill **Kate Hipkiss**' paper sculptures and landscapes are not to be missed (Laburnum Road). The final show on your Botley trail is on Harcourt Hill for **Becca Rowland**'s inaugural Artweeks exhibition of her glass work.

This Oxford event was the first of its kind in the country, though it is now widely imitated. It maintains its ethos of supporting free exhibitions, demonstrations and selling shows, open to all, of the highest quality artists, makers and creatives. If you have an interest, please support your local venues. You will find out how practitioners push their boundaries to question and change the world around them and use art to work through their own personal life challenges.

Ali Hogg

Elizabeth Newbery (11)

Sue Smith (16)

Kate Hipkiss (20)

WOCArt (12)

Becca Rowland (18)

Old School (17)

Frieda V D Poll (15)

Hoggs (19)

J-L King-Salter (14)

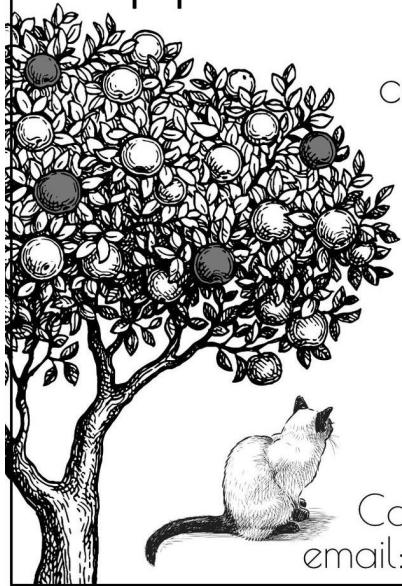


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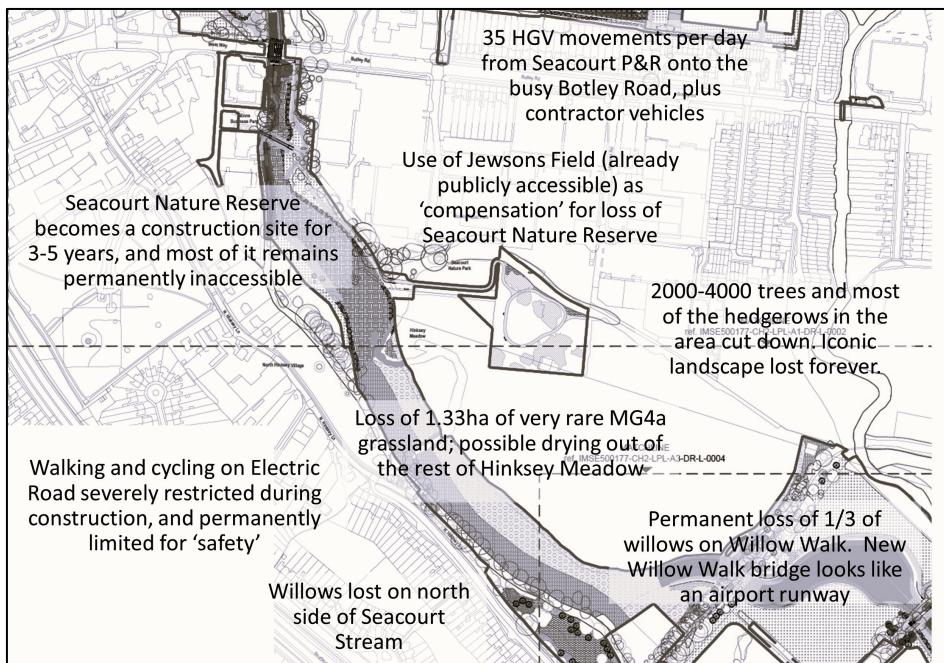


Oxford Needs a Better Flood Scheme

The Environment Agency (EA) has put in a planning application at last for its Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (see *Planning Apps*, page 35). It comprises floodwalls, gates, bridges, culverts, and a giant 5km channel from north of Botley Road to south of Abingdon Road. The EA's own reports show that the channel is the most disruptive, costly and damaging part of the scheme, yet it provides only marginal flood alleviation benefits compared to the other measures.

The channel will take 3-5 years to build, cost at least £23 million, and cause

- **traffic holdups:** 240 HGV movements a day on the A34, a 40mph speed limit on part of the A34, massive queues at Hinksey Hill junction.
- **2000+ trees to be removed**, and much of the biodiversity net gain happening offsite.
- **Loss of 1.3ha of rare MG4a grassland** in Hinksey Meadow, with risk of damage to the rest.
- **South Hinksey village to be surrounded** by works compounds and haul roads.



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- **loss of recreation access** to most of the fields between Botley Road and Old Abingdon Road for 3-5 years, and forever to some areas.
- **Excavation of 455,000 cubic metres** of soil and gravel with loss of carbon sequestration.

The scheme is intended to improve flood protection: the EA's figures show the number of dwellings with a greater than 1% annual risk of flooding would reduce from 1126 to 180. However, the same figures show that the channel only accounts for 5.7% of this reduction (54 properties), which could be protected by more environmentally friendly and effective methods.

Surely it makes more sense to adopt the scheme without the channel: we'd get most of the benefits with far fewer costs and minimal disruption. Meanwhile a pumped pipeline alternative with even fewer costs and impacts hasn't even been analyzed by the EA, despite potentially offering more flood protection both now and in the future.

Please comment on the planning application by 9 May. All documents at

<https://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/ MW.0027/22#undefined> under 'Documents'. The best document to start on is 'ES Non-Technical Summary' (36th document out of 300+). Also see <https://www.oxfordfloodandenvironmentgroup.com/> and <https://hinkseyandosney.org/>.

Riki Therivel



A black and white photograph of a person's hands gently touching a lawn. The hands are positioned as if feeling the texture of the grass. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the lawn. Overlaid on the bottom right is a circular graphic containing the text: "Call us for a FREE no obligation quote".

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Flood Scheme Does the Job

The Oxford Flood Alliance, a group of householders who formed themselves in response to being flooded in 2007, and who have been the prime movers for most of the remedial work done so far, have sent this ‘fact check’ on some of the more exotic claims being made about the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme’.

Myth 1: The two-stage channel provides very little benefit and the scheme would work without it

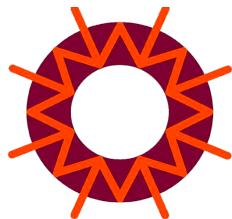
The key document to look at on the County Council Planning Portal is *ES App Q Modelling Review of No Channel*. This compares modelling data for the scheme as designed with options of having no two-stage channel at all or no channel in Hinksey Meadow. The report goes on to discuss the impact of having no channel on the performance of various elements of the scheme, and likely consequences.

With the channel all but 367 houses and 151 businesses are protected against a one-in-a-hundred-year flood event. With no channel at all 524 houses and 210 businesses would be unprotected. That means an additional 157 houses and 59 businesses would be at risk of flooding in a one-in-one-hundred-year event. Over and above this, protective earth bunds and walls, a key part of the scheme, would need to be higher and longer, and in some places this would not be achievable, putting properties and infrastructure at risk.

App Q also says: In addition, the freeboard below-bridge soffits would also need to be increased to meet agreed consenting requirements. This would make the raised bridges more visually intrusive and increase the length of approach ramps to bridges, which then creates additional restrictions across the floodplain. Removing the two-stage channel just in Hinksey Meadow would have a less severe impact on the effectiveness of the scheme. The modelling for this option shows 438 houses unprotected (an increase of 71 compared to the scheme as designed) and 172 businesses (21 more). The scheme is not just about individual homes and businesses but also about general disruption to city life. The channel provides a defined route for the additional floodwater to pass through the western floodplain – it brings certainty and reliability. Without the channel, floodwaters are dispersed, increasing flood risk in some areas. When all factors are weighed up, the scheme as designed offers the best option according to the review.

Myth 2: ‘Hinksey Meadow’ will be ‘destroyed’

Hinksey Meadow, north of Willow Walk (owned by Oxford Preservation Trust) is home to rare grassland. Most of the rest of the scheme area is agricultural land with relatively poor biodiversity. The scheme proposes



Seacourt Hall

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED IN THE BOTLEY COMMUNITY?

Seacourt Hall Management Committee (SHMC) is looking for a new Secretary and Treasurer. The role receives an honorarium of £1000 a year plus £10 a month for miscellaneous costs.

Seacourt Hall is located in West Way Square below the Library and provides modern, flexible facilities for our growing community. The hall is currently the venue for a variety of activities – from exercise classes to baby groups, from martial arts to a seniors lunch club – and can be hired for parties, meetings and more.

Check out the schedule on our website www.seacourthall.org.uk

The combined role of Secretary and Treasurer would suit someone with some accounting, finance or similar experience, a good understanding of financial management and reporting.

The Secretary role involves setting up and taking minutes for 4 to 6 meetings a year, being the point person for contact with the Charity Commission and acting as the custodian of our governing document. The role of Treasurer is to help trustees carry out their financial responsibilities.

For more information please contact Lorna Berrett, Chairman of Trustees at lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com

taking up to 1.3ha of Hinksey Meadow for the two-stage channel, the rest of the meadow (11.7ha) will be preserved. Considerable attention has been given to ensuring the hydrology is not affected by the scheme.

Across the rest of the scheme 17.8 ha of additional flower-rich meadows will be created. This will obviously not have the diversity of Hinksey Meadow, but over the life of the scheme these meadows will increase significantly in complexity. Wetland areas will also be created along the course of the new stream, and the whole scheme area will be actively managed for biodiversity. None of this will happen if we maintain the status quo.

Myth 3: Maintenance has only been budgeted for 15 years

All costs, including maintenance for 100 years, form part of the overall economic analysis, and specific funding sources have been identified for the first 10 years. No construction project is required to specify exactly where maintenance costs will be met from fifty years from now. That's impossible. Any alternative proposal would face the same issue.

Myth 4: Construction means 114 HGV vehicle movements a day on and off the A34 for 3-5 years

Construction of the channel is expected to take three years. Movement of soil from the site will take place mainly in a 15-month period spread over two summers. The EA is proposing to bring forward a separate planning application to move significant amounts of material by rail, which will substantially reduce road use.

Myth 5: Construction will bring a big increase in carbon emissions

The *ES Non-technical summary* for the scheme says: The whole-life carbon dioxide emissions of the project are estimated at 19,558 tonnes and the operational carbon is 4.65% of this (i.e. 909 tonnes), based on the proposed maintenance regime. To put this into context, a 2019 Oxford City Council report stated that carbon dioxide emissions from the city in 2017-18 were 718,362 tonnes per year. The emissions due to the Scheme including operation for 100 years would be equivalent to the direct emissions from the city for less than 10 days.

The planning documents referred to above can be found here:

<https://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/MW.0027/22#undefined>

Look under 'Documents' and use the search bar to locate the document you are looking for. A full description of all design options considered for the scheme is set out in the *Environmental Statement*, section 2.3.

Simon Collings

Let's Celebrate the Jubilee!

The celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee run from the 2nd to the 5th of June. Both Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd are bank holidays. In Botley we have two big celebrations planned as well as some street parties.



Thursday 2nd June – Lighting the Beacon. Party from 7pm

At 9.45pm beacons will be lit across Britain. Ours is on top of the hill above the Louie Memorial Field – with views to the Cotswolds, the Chilterns and the Ridgeway. We will join with people from Cumnor to light the beacon, but first, from 7pm, there will be a party on the playing field, with a Tap Social bar, and a barbecue (by the 15th Oxford Scouts) or you can bring your own picnic. There will be a 'down the decades' family-friendly disco. Period dress welcome! From 9.15 we will collect our candle lanterns and start to make our way to the top, and by 10pm we should be able to pick out the lights from other beacons twinkling around the horizon.

Saturday 4th June – The 'West Way Festival' is back (2pm – 6pm)

On the Saturday we will have our first open-air party in the new shopping centre with music, games and entertainment for everyone. There will be a stage on Church Way and more events in the Seacourt Hall into the evening, including a local history exhibition (see *opposite*). Local heroes the 'Botley Crue' will be among the performers. Food and drink available – the Seacourt Bridge will be running an open-air bar by Tesco. We'll have pub games, sports demonstrations, and hopefully a pop-up skatepark in the car park behind the library. Let's decorate the white hoardings on the building site opposite the Co-op!

We need your help to make West Way come to life! Would you like to help with activities on the day? Are you part of a local organisation that might run activities, have a stall, or help decorate the West Way shopping area (we'll need lots of bunting!). Would you like to perform? Are you a resident in the new West Way flats? Shall we have a 'best decorated balcony' competition? Botley celebrations are being supported by North Hinksey Parish Council, the *Sprout* and other groups – all volunteers welcome. If you would like to be part of this, you can get more information on how you can be involved by emailing janet.bartlam@ntlworld.com If you want to perform, email chriscchurch@cooptel.net Follow our Facebook page for all the latest updates: <https://www.facebook.com/BotleyJubilee2022>

On Sunday 5th June it's the national 'Big Lunch' – with street parties planned all over the place – we know of just two in the area so far. If you're planning one, please contact the *Sprout*. And if you want to celebrate all the way through, the Seacourt Bridge will be having their own Jubilee party on Friday 3rd.

PHOTOS AND MEMORIES

Do you have any old family photos or stories that we can use for a local history display on Saturday 4 June? This exhibition will take place in Seacourt Hall, and will be part of the Festival events celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Amongst the topics we'll be including are:

- 1) Past jubilee events in the Botley area,
- 2) Botley since the 1950s,
- 3) Seeing/meeting royalty (wherever in the world this was),
and of course 4) The 1953 Coronation day.

If you can, please email me your stories and photos (JPEG if possible) on martin.harris321@gmail.com

Martin Harris

Mark Hancox's photo from the *Sprout* archive shows a slow bicycle race under the Arthray Road bunting at the 1977 Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

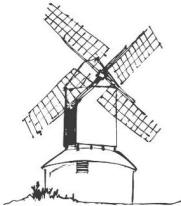


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District Councillors' Notebook

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (OFAS)

The OFAS planning application has been submitted. To see the planning application and respond to the consultation, go to the Oxfordshire County Council's planning portal:

<https://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/MW.0027/22>

If you are interested in the Environment Agency's scheme and how it will help your community resist future flooding events, you're encouraged to have a look at their plans and respond to the consultation. It's open until 9th May, and the targeted committee decision date is 6th June 2022. There's an introductory video, outlining the plan in the context of historical floods and climate change. You'll find the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd-tHCniXvU>

Wait, there's more! Visit the dedicated website to see videos, maps and information about the scheme: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/oxfordscheme/>

Safe Places Scheme Launched in Botley



Vale of White Horse has signed up to this national scheme, which means anyone who is in need of help or not feeling safe for any reason can go into the shops, cafes, or businesses displaying the Safe Places logo for help and support.

So far, Missing Bean, Andrews, Lloyds, David Spicer's and B&Q are signed up, but we are looking for more businesses to get involved and for help to spread the word.

More info at: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-help-and-safety/protecting-vulnerable-people/safe-places-scheme>

Biffa's electric vehicle

Have you noticed a new electric collection vehicle in the past few weeks? Maybe not, as it's very quiet. Check out 'Glitterball' here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/climate-emergency/a-glittering-future-for-waste-collections/>

Debby Hallett and Emily Smith, our two district councillors



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15th Oxford Scouts – New Venue, Same Great Activities

After a turbulent month coming to terms with our eviction from Botley Baptist Church Hall, and exploring how best to continue our 112 year old Scouting story we are delighted to say that the 15th Oxford Scouts have been able to secure the use of the Botley Boys and Girls Football Club Pavilion on Fogwell Road. Our Friday night meetings will be held there from 6th May to 29th July, at our usual meeting times: Cubs from 6pm to 7:30pm, Scouts from 7:30pm to 9pm. We look forward to the opportunities of our new venue and are thankful for the help of Cumnor Parish.

Our thanks are also due to all those that gave messages of support and those who offered us solutions and possibilities to keep functioning without a hiatus. It is particularly heart-warming to know that Scouting is seen as such a valuable resource. And perhaps even more exciting than a new venue is being able to share it with more people from the local area. Cubs is open to all those aged 8–10.5, while Scouts is open to those aged 10.5–14. We currently have spaces in both sections, so get in touch for more details.

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Saturday 14th May

10.30-12.30

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funds are welcome**

Equally if an adult volunteer role is something of interest to you, whether on the committee, as a leader, as an occasional helper or as something as yet unknown, we would love to hear from you! Or why not drop in to our AGM on Friday 6th May at Fogwell Road Pavilion.

We are full of plans over the next few months for both Cubs and Scouts to get out and about, go camping, experience water-based activities, take part in community engagement, have fun, forge friendships and make memories. Maybe our next chapter is the first chapter in a Scouting story for someone you know. [XVOxford
Scouts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:XVOxfordScouts@yahoo.co.uk)

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Concerns About Solar Farm Proposal

When we process up to the beacon to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2nd June, let's all take a good look at the wide-ranging views south for 20kms as far as the Ridgeway, because it might be the last time we see them if an application to build a solar farm on the hill goes ahead.

A company called Solar2 is proposing to build a 31-hectare solar farm – the size of 45 football pitches – on the south side of the hill on which the beacon stands, green belt farmland owned by All Souls College. It could also use a further piece of land – currently horse paddocks – to the south of the bridleway adjoining Brookes playing fields, above Hinksey Heights Nature Reserve and in North Hinksey parish.

We all want and need solar power, but this proposal potentially inflicts loss and damage to other valued environmental and social goods. The visual impact of rows of panels on this prominent site would be enormous. The long views from the top of the hill could be obstructed by six-foot high security fences. The view from the footpaths at the bottom of the hill would be of a near-vertical wall of solar panels. Because the site is on a slope, it cannot be effectively screened – indeed, hedging at the top would only further block those views.

The proposal ignores warnings in the solar industry's own "planning guidance for the development of large-scale ground-mounted solar PV systems". These (by the BRE National Solar Centre) state that "land selected should aim to avoid affecting the visual aspect of landscapes, maintain the natural beauty and should be predominantly flat...." and warn that "the landscape/visual impact of a solar PV farm is likely to be one of the most significant impacts of such a development. Developers may be attracted to southerly sloping sites, where solar gain is greatest. However, such sites ... are likely to be more visible within the wider landscape".

There are other potential impacts. Neighbouring Hinksey Heights Nature Reserve is a nationally rare and biologically rich alkaline fen, with other diverse habitats, and home of several rare species. It is much valued and used by us, the public. How the arrays of panels on the hill and the paddocks might affect the hydrology of the fen is a serious concern. Security fences around the sites are also likely to impede the free movement of animals to and from the reserve.

The electricity produced by the farm would also need to be transmitted to the national grid sub-station at Osney Mead, via underground high voltage cables. The developer's preferred route for these cables would



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be to dig a trench along the bridleway, down Harcourt Hill, under the A34 and across Oxford Preservation Trust land.

Yet despite these concerns, and others, the Vale of White Horse District Council agreed in December with the developer's argument that the impacts would be so limited that an Environmental Statement was not needed at that time. An Environmental Impact Assessment (including a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) will only be required when the developer submits a formal planning application. The Vale's conclusion at the December screening stage that "no significant environmental impacts have been identified" is baffling; for example, Hinksey Hill Nature Reserve is not even mentioned in their screening matrix, although other nature reserves further away are referred to.

Unfortunately, the only time that we, the public, may have the opportunity to see Solar2's plans – and in many cases, regrettably, to hear about them for the first time – may be very soon. Although BRE's planning guidance advises that "the local community should be engaged, by the developer, at the pre-design, conceptual stage, ideally utilizing a local exhibition/presentation where community views can be sought and recorded", this did not happen. Solar2 will only mount an exhibition in the weeks before submitting a planning application. This is likely to be this Spring. Instead, Solar2 has launched a website – [**https://cumnorsolarfarm.co.uk/the-proposal**](https://cumnorsolarfarm.co.uk/the-proposal) – and is dangling the prospect of a "community benefit fund", saying it "would like to hear from individuals and local groups about their ideas for how a Cumnor Solar Farm community benefit fund could work for the benefit of the local community around the farm".

The hillside is within the boundary of Cumnor Parish Council, which has been very active in publicizing the proposal to parishioners. It has also investigated the background and qualifications of Solar2, and its associated companies, as there is very little information on Solar2's main website (see [**https://cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk/planning**](https://cumnorparishcouncil.org.uk/planning)). But North Hinksey parishioners are equally affected, and part of the site is in this parish. Yet North Hinksey PC has not been nearly so active. It should be important to ensure people here are informed about what could happen to these green spaces and to ensure all proposals receive full and objective scrutiny.

John Magrath

[To be fair, John, NHPC did organize a trip to a local solar farm to see what was involved. The Sprout will keep a look-out for an actual planning application. No sign of it as yet. Ed]

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It's worth taking action now to limit the effect of the price rise as much as possible. Citizens Advice can help in a number of ways. Our website contains a wealth of information about energy bills, smart meters, how to complain to your energy supplier and what to do if you're struggling to pay your energy bills. Find it all here:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/>

You can ring our Adviceline (0800 144 8848) and talk to a trained adviser about your energy issues. We can help you check whether you're entitled to any grants offered by the government or by your energy supplier, either to help you pay your bills or to improve the energy efficiency of your home. We can carry out a benefits check to make sure you're claiming everything you are entitled to: we discovered that one client we spoke to recently, who came to us with concerns about her rising fuel bills, wasn't claiming the Council Tax support that she was entitled to. Claiming this will make a big difference to her ability to pay her bills. We can also offer tailored advice if you're struggling with debt.

There are also plenty of simple things you can do to save money on energy bills. These won't solve the problem of rising bills but they will definitely help matters: checking your doors, windows and floors for gaps where draughts can get in and blocking these, turning down the thermostat by just one degree, closing the curtains at dusk to help keep the warmth in, only boiling as much water as you need in the kettle, turning off appliances such as TVs rather than leaving them on standby, making sure you use low energy light bulbs and turning them off when you leave the room, and not leaving mobile phones on charge unnecessarily. Checking your home's Energy Performance Certificate online at <https://www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate> should give you some ideas about how to improve your home's energy efficiency and start a conversation with your landlord about how to improve the insulation in your home.

Caroline B (CA Advisor)



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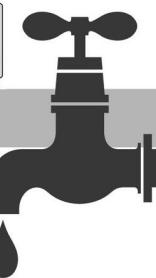
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Oxfordshire Scouts at the World Scout Jamboree

Hello, I am Ben Zaccero, I am 13 years old, I am part of the 4th Oxford Scout Group, and I will be attending the 25th World Scout Jamboree. The World Scout Jamboree is an event hosted by a selected country, that occurs every four years. Around 50,000 Scouts worldwide come to each World Scout Jamboree (WSJ). The UK contingent takes around 4,000 Scouts between the ages of 14 and 18. Many other countries also attend and it's a great opportunity to take part in lots of awesome activities.

The 25th WSJ will take place in South Korea in August 2023. I applied to take part because I wanted to see and experience other cultures and activities. I was also keen to go on a plane for the first time! Around 180 other Scouts from Oxfordshire applied and attended a selection weekend at Hill End to compete for 36 places. We had to take part in many different activities over the weekend whilst being marked on skill, behaviour and most importantly (in my opinion), social skills. I had a great time and met some great people.

At the beginning of March, I found out that I got a place! I am now facing the challenge of having to help fundraise £160,000 between the 36 successful Scouts. As well as covering the cost of our attendance, this amount subsidises the fees for Scouts from poor countries, to ensure that everyone has the chance to take part. We will be organizing lots of events across Oxfordshire over the next year and we really hope our local communities will support us. I have already raised over £300 with my Easter egg raffle for the 4th Oxford, with support from Waitrose, Co-op and Hotel Chocolat, who all donated prizes. I will also be running a stall with other WSJ members at the 4th Oxford Family Fun Day at the Rugby Club on June 18th. I hope you can come along and support us

and enjoy the many activities that will be on offer.

If you would like to help us achieve our goal and get us to Korea then you can donate at:
<https://wonderful.co.uk/pay?ref=291693>

I will provide further updates on my progress in future editions of the Sprout.

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Ben Z.



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Deep Sea Beavers

Last weekend I was lucky enough to join the Beavers on their spring “Under the Sea” Camp, as a weekend helper. They started by arriving in their fancy dress costumes, in time to learn that David Attenborough had phoned to ask them to explore an undiscovered part of the ocean.

First they had to build junk submarines that they could all fit in, to sail to their unknown destination. When they got there, they explored the sea floor and made some sea chimes, some under the sea scenes, octopuses, and fish. Unfortunately, there was a terrible storm that blew them off course and crashed them on to a deserted island.



This was not any island though – it belonged to the magical fire fairies.

They collected firewood and built dens to be safe for the night. Dinner was next, with fish fingers and chips, followed by apple strudel, and singing songs around the campfire with the fire fairies. Then they had an unexpected visit from Olivia the Octopus who read them bedtime stories to help them settle down for the night.



In the morning after breakfast, they lit fires with flint and steel, made water filters (some of which were surprisingly good); did some sensory activities and also learnt about rubbish in the sea and helped to clear some out.

After toasting marshmallows, they heard a blue whale noise. They managed to get the whale's attention and all linked hands to compare the size of it. They rode home on the back of the whale just in time for their parents to collect them. Everyone was exhausted, but I think they all had a good weekend adventure.

Alicia Hodges (aged 12)



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Kennington Memory Club

Kennington Memory Club is very grateful to the School Lunch Company who have been providing hot meals for our members from St Swithun's School kitchen since the Club was set up in 2018. This arrangement worked well, but had the drawback that the Club had to source hot meals during the school holidays.

We are proud to announce a new partnership with the MacIntyre Oxford Learning Centre, based in Kennington, which supports people with a learning disability. The MacIntyre Centre is now supplying us with delicious hot meals all year round. This provision builds on the Centre's aim of helping those they support to develop life skills, such as consulting recipes, purchasing food and cooking it too, as well as engaging with the local community. It is great to be working with another charity based in Kennington and one which is also providing a service for those who need it.

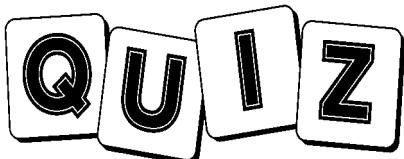
A reminder of what the Club does – our day care sessions, held at Kennington Methodist Church, provide company, different surroundings, activities, music, friendship and laughter, and give their carers much-needed respite from their duties. Phone Helen, our organizer, on the

number below if you know someone who would like to come.

We have excellent professional staff, but we are always on the lookout for new people to join our band of volunteers, to keep things running smoothly. If you would like to help out, contributing to the experience our members enjoy each time they attend the Club, and have a good time yourself, please contact Helen, on 07852 883496. This could be for a half day on a Monday or Thursday once a week, once a fortnight, or at any frequency that suits you.

More information on our website: kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

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Farmoor Village Hall Quiz Supper

Saturday 14th May
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LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<u>P22/V0517/HH</u>	106D West Way. Roof extension with rear dormer and 6 roof lights.	28 February <i>TDD: 25 April</i>
<u>P22/V0555/HH</u>	3 Laburnum Rd. Demolish garage & existing extension, build 2-storey side extension & single storey rear extension.	3 March <i>Target Decision Date: 28 April</i>
<u>P22/V0577/FUL</u>	36 Westminster Way. Change of use from 6-bed HMO to 8-bed HMO	4 March <i>TDD: 29 April</i>
<u>P22/V0583/FUL</u>	72 Westminster Way. Change of use from 5-bed HMO to 7-bed HMO. Demolish garage & single storey at rear, build single storey rear & side extensions.	4 March <i>TDD: 29 April</i>
<u>P22/V0714/HH</u>	27 Lime Rd. Loft conversion.	18 March <i>TDD: 13 May</i>
<u>P22/V0647/HH</u>	57 Yarnells Hill. Double storey extensions to the rear, sides & front with 2 rear dormer windows. New windows & dropped kerb.	22 March <i>TDD: 17 May</i>
<u>P22/V0727/FUL</u> Variation of condition 2, P17/V3275/FUL	The Gables, 6 Cumnor Hill, Replace guest house and garage with 9 flats with off-street parking, covered bicycle and bin storage.	23 March <i>TDD: 18 May</i>
<u>P22/V0563/FUL</u>	190 Westminster Way. Side extension making new self-contained 4-bed house.	28 March <i>TDD: 23 May</i>
<u>P22/V0774/FUL</u>	Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club North Hinksey Lane. Erect floodlights to 2 hard tennis courts.	29 March <i>TDD: 24 May</i>
<u>P22/V0835/CM</u> OXFORD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME	North A420 Botley Rd to south A423 ring road between A34 to west & railway line to east including land between A4144 Abingdon Rd to the west & River Thames. A flood alleviation scheme to reduce flood risk in Oxford .	31 March Consultation End Date 9th May 2022 <i>TDD: 21 April (?!)</i>
<u>P22/V0784/HH</u>	34 Yarnells Hill. Erect 2-storey rear extension & a loft conversion with a raised ridgeline & roof lights.	5 April <i>TDD: 31 May</i>



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Randoms

Cycling volunteers needed

The Botley Bikers are a dedicated team of cyclists who deliver food, toiletries and other essentials to the homeless and vulnerably housed in Oxford city centre. We are currently going out every Sunday and alternate Tuesdays, merrily pedalling away up the Botley Road. However, due to an increased demand for our services, we're looking to add another delivery and for this we need some more two-wheeled heroes! Could this be you? If you are

- a confident cyclist
- free on a Thursday afternoon (4-6 pm). No need to commit to every week
- a team player
- in possession of a good dose of empathy

Then we want to hear from you!

The person to contact is Rachel Monks: rachaelmonks@gmail.com.

Full training will be given and you're guaranteed to meet some amazing fellow humans. You'd also be helping in the battle against food waste, as much of what we hand out is surplus produce that would otherwise be discarded. It's a win-win situation.

CARE INFORMATION DAY

10am – 3pm, Friday 13th May

Do you care for a loved one, or are you looking to understand different care and financial planning options for yourself?

Why not join us for our drop in event at Chawley Grove.

On the day you'll have the opportunity to speak with local professionals who will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

All welcome – drop in at any time between 10am – 3pm

Chawley Grove, Cumnor Hill OX2 9PJ

01865 957650 | mark.laundy@hamberleycarehomes.co.uk

www.hamberleycarehomes.co.uk

Botley W.I.

Our new programme for the year begins in May and can be seen in full on our Facebook page. We shall hold a 'Resolutions and Social' meeting on Tuesday, 3rd May, at 7.30 pm, when we shall discuss the resolution to be put to the national conference in June, that "Women and girls with Autistic Spectrum Disorders or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder are under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed and under-supported." W.I.s have been politically active since their foundation, pressing for health, environmental and social changes in their annual motions. We will combine discussion with a social evening – visitors are always welcome. On Saturday 14th May we will be opening the **Botley Women's Institute Centenary Extension Project** – our new extension, which is now complete.

Alison Jenner

Andrews

It is with real regret that we note that Andrews the Dry Cleaner, where they also cut keys and replace watch batteries, is closing. This is one of the really useful old-style Botley shops, which survived the mighty upheaval of the building works but was defeated in the end. We will miss you, Andrews. Thanks for staying as long as you did.



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

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com
4th Oxford Scout Group Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	mail@thefourth.org.uk Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8–16	Brendan Byrne 792531 brendan.byrne999@gmail.com
Botley Community Larder	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com
Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group	Second Tuesday in the Month, early evening. Contact csugden@ocrpl.org
Botley Library	07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386
Cumnor Choral Society	Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
Cumnor Gardening Club	http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ or phone 01865 721026
Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group	Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk
Hill End Volunteer Team	Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk
Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club Email: Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org
West Oxford Singing Circle	Weds 2–3pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or see www.emilyschoirs.co.uk
Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc	Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk

North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com
N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997
N Hinksey Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
N Hinksey Parish Council	clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
N Hinksey Youth Club	Weds at LM pavilion, Daz: 07791 212866 or F'book
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
Oxford Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259
Oxford Harmony	Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk
Oxford Otters	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
Oxford Rugby Club	Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntiworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk .
Raleigh Park, Friends of	raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Seacourt Hall Management Committee	Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see https://www.seacourthall.org.uk
Shotokan Karate Club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Stagecoach Botley	Seacourt Hall, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds Oxf 590510 or 01235 390810
Well-Being Walks, Botley	2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Ashley 07717 714477
West Oxford Bowls Club	Dave Ellerker 07931 603801 wobc.membership@gmail.com
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk
West Oxford U3A	(Uni of the 3rd Age) http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/
West Way Day Centre	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
Women's Institute (Botley)	Alison Jenner 07598 251161 alisonjenner@yahoo.com
Weight Watchers	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com

Baptist Hall 1 Church Way	Contact: Diane Melchert 01865 243664 botleybaptistchurch@gmail.com
The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise	Contact Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
SS Peter & Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley	Contact: 01865 242057 or osneybenefice@outlook.com .
Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email admin@seacourthall.org.uk
Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com
Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village	Contact:.. Mary Bagnall mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com .

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

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday 11.30am Matins

St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England, West Way

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

Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill

Saturday 6.30pm Mass
Sunday 9.15am Mass
Fr Daniel Lloyd 07584 323915 dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way

Sunday Service 11 am.
Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7.30pm
Choir practice Thursday 2pm
Diane Melchert **07742 662668** www.botleybaptistchurch.org

Calvary Chapel

Sunday services held at Botley School 10.30–12 noon
Pastor Philip Vickery 01865 864498
calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk;
www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk

What's On

May

May 7th to 15th, Botley Art Weeks

Mon 9th Closing date for Flood Scheme comments

Mon 9th 2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A: Launton Handbell Ringers, talk and recital.

Sat 14th 10.30, Farmoor Village Hall, Posh Coffee Morning

Sat 14th 7.30, Farmoor Village Hall, Quiz Supper (book tickets by 11th)

Thur 19th 7.30, Seacourt Hall and Zoom, Parish Council AGM

Mon 23rd 2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: "Keep Calm, I'm an Air Traffic Controller" Phil Holt

June

Thur 2nd 7pm, Louie Memorial Fields, Jubilee Party, 9.45pm Lighting the Beacon

Sat 4th 2-6pm, West Way Jubilee Festival at the shopping centre

Mon 6th Entry deadline for Botley in Bloom

Sat 18th 1-5pm, Rugby Grounds, North Hinksey, 4th Oxford Scouts Family Fun Day