

The Sprout



Crunch time for Westway House

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 131 October 2018

The Sprout

Issue 131, October 2018

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From the Editor

Lots of looking backwards and forwards this month. No updates on the shopping centre – the remaining shops are all in place for the moment, Branches café is up and running (and needs our support) and the devastation is being recorded by numerous cameras. Many thanks to John Gaisford for our memorable cover image. There's a review of Summer outings with Botley Bridges (p.5) and celebrations are in train for the Diamond anniversary of Ss Peter & Paul Church (p.33). There's a tribute to Eleanor Bolton, 'the Botley Bag Lady' whose funeral was on 4th September (p.23). A couple of campaigns are on the starting blocks – an Osney/North Hinksey alliance to postpone the huge works of the Flood Alleviation Scheme until we know whether the measures put in place in recent years actually do the job (p.19), and a focussed opposition to the proposed Oxford–Cambridge Expressway (p.41). If this goes ahead on 'Route B' (the northern one), the effects round here will be dire, so we can't stay quiet. Luckily we have a history of effective protest to build on. There's a chance to learn more about our District Council, with a report from Cllr Emily Smith (p.13) and an interview with Cllr Debby Hallett (p.29). And on the side of culture, Martin Harris's exploration of Literary Botley is making its way up Yarnells Hill in its third phase (p.9). *Happy reading!*

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

Branching out

I volunteer for Branches Café at Elms Court. It is above the library on the 1st floor with a great view of all the demolition happening around us. I have learnt new skills to work in a community café environment. The coffee machine needs a lot of concentration – respect is due to baristas who manage to remember all the drink variations and not scald themselves!

Branches Café is not just open for young people. It is serving *all* the community and is run by a very small team who would appreciate your custom. Come and try the coffee and delicious cake. We are open to everyone from Monday to Thursday 8am–3pm, plus take-away coffee 3pm–5pm; On Fridays we are open to all from 8am to 5pm, and again on Saturday mornings 9am–12pm, serving Breakfast and Lunch, Pastries and Homemade Cakes. www.branchesyouth.uk

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Summer holidays with Botley Bridges

Throughout the 2018 summer holidays, Botley Bridges have been out and about in different parks again. A total of 111 families (of which there were 207 children) attended sessions during the 6-week holiday period, and it was fantastic to see so many of you. We had 37 families join us for the very first time and we hope that you will be back to see us in the future.

We visited parks in West Oxford, Dean Court, Botley and Cumnor. We were lucky enough at Cumnor Park to be accompanied by Oxford Museum services who brought us lots of fossils to look at along with various dinosaur-related arts and crafts activities. There were large dinosaurs and a volcano for the children to play with, as well as salt-dough fossils and dinosaur rubbing. The maze was perfect for a dinosaur hunt where the children looked for hidden dinosaurs and marked them off their checklists.

At Cumnor Hurst the children and families enjoyed a fire pit, and we made stick bread, sun-catchers, nature crowns and clay pots. Many stones have been decorated over the course of the summer, too, and some are still waiting to be found. Perhaps you may find a hidden one somewhere?



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As well as the park sessions, we also held our usual weekly Play & Learn sessions (at Botley Bridges on Fridays, 9–11.30am). Here, families had access to our fabulous outside area and were able to take part in various arts and crafts activities such as decorating biscuits and superhero capes and creating gardens on a plate, to name but a few.

It has been fantastic sharing your summer, and we look forward to seeing you very soon at one of our future sessions. For more information, please email coordinator@botleybridges.org or see our full programme on our website www.botleybridges.org



We are now open for Play and Learn sessions at Botley School on Mondays from 1.15–3.15 and Fridays 9.00–11.00. Our baby play and learn sessions are on Fridays from 1.15–3.00. All are welcome. A big thankyou to the Sprout for giving us £200 towards the equipment and staffing of the sessions.

Hayley Hayle and Sue Dowe

~~~~~ **What happened to the apples?**

It was a good year for apples in the community orchard. Masses of them, weighing down the trees. Not ripe yet, mind you, at the beginning of September, just very rosy after all that sun. So what happened to them all? One day they were there, loading the trees. The next they were gone!

Well, they are there for the community, aren't they? Yes, they are. But surely they are to be shared, not stripped! And wouldn't it be better to wait till they are ripe?

Botley Apple Day is coming up on Sunday afternoon 7th October, in the community orchard, but the cupboard will be bare. So be sure to bring lots, to juice and to share (don't forget juice containers) and let's hope the sun shines!

AgM

Literary Botley (Part 3): Yarnells Hill

Thank you to all you literary sleuths who continue to tell me about literary people in the Botley area. **Sir William Ogden Hart** (1903–1977) may have lived in Yarnells Hill, or possibly in Sweetman's Road. The address of this Wadham College tutor in a 1940s directory was given as Sweetman's Close, Yarnells Hill. Does anyone know where he lived? What is certain is that he worked with his father Sir William Edward Hart on the 1934 and subsequent updates of *Introduction to the Law of Local Government and Administration*. He was only briefly at Wadham, as he went on to manage the development of a then New Town called Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire. The National Portrait Gallery has an official portrait photograph of him!

Honorary Dame **Anna Morpurgo Davies** (1937–2014), a renowned philologist (i.e. an expert on the historical growth and adaptation of languages, especially in written literature) lived at 22 Yarnells Hill although she originated from Milan. She had several books published during her years at Oxford including *Mycenaeae Graecitatis Lexicon* (1963), *Hittite Hieroglyphs and Luwian: New Evidence for the Connection* (1973) and *Language Classification in the Nineteenth Century* (1975). Her third and final volume of *A Companion to Linear B. Mycenaean Greek Texts and their World* was published in 2014.

Anna's neighbours, who still live on the hill, **Uwe Ackermann** and **Catherine Elwes** also have quite a few books to their names. Retired physiologist Uwe has had three books published inc. some Chinese editions: *Essentials of Physiology* (1992), *Ace the Boards: Physiology*

(1996) and *Physiology* (2005).

Uwe is also well known for his photography skills which have been exhibited in places like the John Radcliffe Hospital. [and also in the *Sprout!* Here's an example, from his ongoing record of the piecemeal demolition of familiar landmarks. Ed].



Catherine is an artist, critic and curator who works mostly in artists' film and video and has been doing so since the 1980s. Her 2005 book *Video Art – A Guided Tour* looks at its history going back to the 1960s and the way technology has changed since then. She has also written *Video Loupe* (2000) and *Installation and the Moving Image* (2015).

Other Yarnells Hill academics include **Sir Brian Harrison**, **Stephen Parkinson** and **Brian Livesley**. Sir Brian Harrison was Professor of Modern History at Oxford (1996–2004) – his first book in 1971 was *Drink and the Victorians: The Temperance Question in England 1815–1872*. Stephen Parkinson, a former Associate Professor in Portuguese Language and Linguistics, has published extensively including his co-written *Companion to Portuguese Literature*. In one book he contributes a section intriguingly entitled, *How to Eat a Spider: Alfonso X's Cantiga 225*. Brian Livesley, expert in the care of the elderly, has written some thought-provoking books on this subject including *The Dying Keats: A Case for Euthanasia?* (2009).

Yarnells Hill is packed with literary greats, but I'm afraid you'll have to wait for another edition of the *Sprout* to hear about the Browning family (no relation to Victorian poet Robert Browning). You can email me on **martin.harris321@gmail.com** if you'd like to add to the list.

Martin Harris

~~~~~

## Randoms

### News from Botley WI

Our next meeting will be on 2nd October, when the speaker, Simon Jones, will talk to us about 'Collectors' Clues'. The October WI Walk will be on 17th October, meet 10:00. Book group will be the same night and Craft night is on 16th October at the WI Hall in North Hinksey Lane. Do feel welcome to come and join us!

**Alison Jenner**



### Hallowe'en @ Branches Café

There will be Hallowe'en Celebrations @Branches Café on Wed 31st October after school, 3pm-5pm. Get your Ghoulish make-up done, and create terrifying eats like Witches Fingers and peppermint Eyeballs! (Free entry). Hallowe'en Party on Thursday 1st November from 7pm-9pm (£1 entry). Come in your Hallowe'en outfit for a Spooky Night of Frightening Fun.

## District Update from Cllr Emily Smith

As ever, Debby Hallett and I have been busy representing local residents at the District Council. Here is a flavour of what we have been up to.

**Vale Local Plan Part 2:** Debby and I have been taking part in the 3-week Planning Inspectors' Examination of LPP2 which aims to identify sites for 2200 additional homes to help meet Oxford City's shortfall and to set new development management policies that developers must adhere to. We spoke about a huge range of problems with the Part 2 plan, including the lack of provision for homes local people can afford, revised housing need projections and the gaps in transport infrastructure. We argued the plan should not be approved and it seems the inspector agrees. He closed the hearing saying; "There may be some further work needed to make the plan sound." He will write to the Vale detailing the required next steps... but he wouldn't commit to a deadline for this letter.



**Vale Spending on Leisure:** At the last Vale council meeting Debby asked how much the Vale's leisure team spend on Botley and the surrounding villages, compared with other parts of the Vale. The answer was shocking! In the past 5 years Wantage got £905k, Faringdon got £186k, Abingdon got £4.5m and Botley got £0. Looking at planned spend for the next 5 years, Wantage will get £1.9m, Faringdon £1.5m, Abingdon £1.5m, yet the amount committed to be spent our area is £0. When asked how this could be fair, the Cabinet member did not provide an answer. In this context, North Hinksey Parish Council's request for £1.2m for the rejuvenation of Louie Memorial Playing fields and Pavilion seems highly reasonable and we will continue to make this case.

**Civil Parking Enforcement:** My motion to work towards the Vale's employing traffic wardens to enforce dangerous and illegal parking passed. A business case is being worked up and I hope that it will result in a self-funding scheme that will make the council responsible for parking enforcement, rather than our over-stretched police.

**West Way Development:** Parking at West Way is no longer the responsibility of the Vale so we have limited power to make changes, but



Debby and I are both in regular contact with the developers and the Vale officer to resolve issues with parking, pedestrian access, etc. as they arise. The builders' newsletters and contact details can be found at [www.westwayconsultation.co.uk/construction-updates](http://www.westwayconsultation.co.uk/construction-updates)

**Tilbury Fields:** Those of you who attended the residents' meeting in August will be all too aware of the appalling state of the drainage, roads and public spaces on the Tilbury Fields development. I am liaising with the Vale planning enforcement team and County Cllr Judy Roberts to ensure we maintain a united front to get Persimmon to finish the development to an acceptable standard. Debby and I will work closely with the Residents' Association currently being formed to hold Persimmon to account. The experiences of residents here have highlighted a number of issues around the lack of consumer protection for owners of new-build homes which need to be addressed nationally, so I am also bringing Layla Moran MP on board to assist.

**Oxford to Cambridge Expressway:** We are expecting a visit from the Transport Minister to Botley 'between now and Christmas'.

**Community Grants Available:** Applications for the Vale's community grants are open until 22nd October. Recent beneficiaries include North Hinksey Pre-School, Botley Bridges and Branches. To apply for a grant groups can visit [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants) for the forms and additional information. We are happy to help groups from our ward with applications if needed. In addition, Debby's motion to introduce a Charity Lottery to increase funds available to community groups was voted through council in July so there may be some new funds available soon.

**Keeping in Touch:** Local district councillor surgeries will be held on the following dates. Do come along to meet us and to raise any district-related concerns:

**Mon 17th Sept, 1–3pm, Wyevalle Garden Centre Café, Southern-by-Pass**

**Sat 29th Sept, 10am–12pm, The Fishes, North Hinksey Village**

**Wed 17th Oct, 10am - 12pm, Branches Café, 1st floor of Elms Court, West Way**

And of course, you can get in touch with us anytime via Facebook, email or phone: Cllr Emily Smith [emily.smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:emily.smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) or on 07986 877 933 & Cllr Debby Hallett [debby.hallett@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:debby.hallett@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) 01865 240031. And access our monthly reports to parishes, Debby's email bulletins and more at: [www.cllrdebbyhallett.com](http://www.cllrdebbyhallett.com)

*Best wishes, Cllr Emily Smith*

## Brownies Under the Greenwood Tree

The majority of the Unit attended our “Robin Hood” themed Brownie Holiday held in a Girlguiding house in a magical forest location in Gloucestershire, right at the end of the school holidays. After everyone had settled in and we had had our first meal we played the traditional first night evening wide game, but with a twist. This time, after finding all the hidden clues in the twilight, the teams had to use them to solve a logic puzzle to work out what had become of some of the Sheriff of Nottingham’s lost treasure. A wonderful campfire, complete with songs, summores and dampers, finished our outside activities and then it was time for bed with a story read by Snowy Owl.

The following morning after a good breakfast (which included warm mini baguette-shaped breads made by Little Owl and shaped and baked by Mr Tawny) we made hats in the style of Maid Marion and Robin Hood and arrow-fletched pencils as a memento of the holiday. A hilarious grape game followed and then it was time for our medieval banquet. Everyone had to wear one of their hats to be admitted to eat. The girls were shocked to find out that, to add to the experience, they would have to manage with just a soup spoon



for the entire meal.



After the chores were completed the girls then had a go at archery, run very proficiently by Little Owl and Owlet, and there were some fabulous scores. Feeling rather pleased with themselves the girls then went off to make up one Robin Hood themed play per group, to be performed later that evening to us all.

After another healthy meal and plenty of clean plates and bowls it was time to perform the plays – props and costumes had been fashioned by the groups themselves from newspapers and Sellotape. We enjoyed the performances and then, almost before we

knew it, it was bedtime again and time for the next instalment of “Gangsta Granny”. Luckily, Snowy just managed to get to the part where the story starts to get exciting before they all fell asleep.

After the following morning’s enrolment for Ailla we had a wool trail around the site and then it was lunch time. One last washing-up and drying up session and then it was time to see which team had earned the most points. Throughout the weekend the girls were working towards a Robin Hood Challenge woven badge and in groups for points on the archery target poster. The winning team members with the highest points would each win a prize but in the end it was a draw between two of the three teams and so there was a tense playing card draw to find the eventual winner – Team Quivers in this case. After thanking the leaders for giving up their free time to make the event happen *[the picture shows the volunteer chefs dishing up]* the girls received their recently earned woven challenge badge, plus a surprise new souvenir location badge. Then it was home time and our equipment was boxed up for another year.



**Lucy Howes**

~~~~~

Hinksey and Osney Environment Group

Campaigning to modify the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

In mid-August some residents from the network of streets of Osney and neighbouring North Hinksey, who love our local willows and ancient flood meadows, met in the Fishes Pub to discuss ways of getting the planners to modify the Flood Alleviation Scheme. They decided to form Hinksey and Osney Environment group and launch a website which carries the following petition:

"That the Secretary of State for the Environment require the Environment Agency to carry out a pilot scheme to dredge the watercourses in West Oxford before giving any permission for the over-engineered Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme". (See www.hinkseyandosney.org)

Some local residents seem to think that the scheme has already been approved. It has not. It is expected to come before the County Planning Committee on December 10th, where people can make comments.

We have put up notices drawing attention to the devastation planned for Willow Walk where all the trees marked in yellow along a third of the walk will be destroyed. Realigning the channel could have consequences for the Seacourt Stream. Planning Blight has already removed the Old Manor House Riding School. The plans suggest that 4000 trees will be destroyed through the scheme. The tree cover that shielded North Hinksey Lane from the view of the Botley Road warehouses will go. 133 acres of greenbelt will be affected.

The Group seeks answers to the following questions:

- Has this sort of scheme been successfully implemented elsewhere in the UK and if so where?
- Is a cost-benefit analysis available? If so where?
- Why have Freedom of Information requests about correspondence between local Councils and the University been blocked?

The whole area which has been successfully grazed by horses and other large animals for centuries, maintaining its unique biodiversity, will no longer be fit for purpose. Once the solid soil base and fences are gone, no animals can be grazed and the cycle that has produced these unique grasslands will be ended.

Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council have obtained a £6 million Housing Infrastructure grant for the Osney Industrial Estate redevelopment. Is the flood alleviation scheme being paid for by taxpayers to enable Third Party Land development at Osney Industrial Estate? If so, this was not the purpose of the Water Industry Act. Has the scheme been designed so that Oxford University can develop flood plain land into student housing?

Some of us have lived in the area for many years and know and feel responsible for the environment we have cared for, better than people working on maps and computers elsewhere. We stand for 'local control of the local environment'. **We propose:**

"Why not dredge and clear the rivers and streams which have not been dredged for 40 years, unblock the outflow from the flood plain by the old Abingdon road and then assess whether further work is needed?"

"Why not concentrate on spending money on improving flood measures in the Botley Road and Osney?"

Chris Sugden

Eleanor Bolton

There have been so many rumours about 'the Botley Bag Lady' – 'She and her husband were both medics', 'she walked out of the house when she found he had killed himself and never went back', she 'had a double first in Maths from Oxford', etc, etc, that we thought it would be a good idea to go to her funeral, pay our respects to a remarkable character, and learn a few facts. It turned out that she grew up at Bloxham School, where her father was a much-loved housemaster; was very clever and bright as a child; got a Maths degree from Royal Holloway College; and was always concerned about a life of such privilege when others had so little. Her personal life remains private, but none of the above rumours seems to be true. People remember her on the Botley Road from the Eighties. The tribute below comes from someone who knew her better than most: Mary Squires, who worked at the Luther Street Clinic which cares for homeless people. A doctor from the same clinic, Kate Short, sang Schubert's 'Ave Maria' with touching sweetness at a funeral that was calmer and more upbeat than most, and her ashes were buried in her parents' grave in Bloxham churchyard.

Editor.

Eleanor was a very private person, yet she lived in the midst of the busy city of Oxford and through her regular walking along the Botley road, of sitting reading of newspapers at bus stops along the way and daily picking through bits of rubbish, collecting bits of discarded paper, plastic lids and bottles, stuffing them in bags, she also became part of many people's routine. They knew her as the Botley Bag Lady. Some never spoke to her – in a rush for work – some would nod a greeting, others stopped for a regular chat: she was noticed, seen, people cared and wondered, and now she is missed.

I met her in back in 2001. It took at least a year to build up any rapport with Eleanor. I saw how she lived and wanted to "help" her. I wanted her to have. I wanted to give food to her, I wanted clothes for her, a house for her. I saw a petite, slightly stooped, older lady looking uncared for – and I cared. But she would politely and steadfastly refuse anything – everything – offered.



So I would leave things for her secretly, hoping she might take them if she found them in a bin. I thought she was being ignored. *Why hasn't anything being done before? Why isn't she being helped?* Eleanor helped me grow. Eleanor taught me what humble really means. She lived this way because she believed it was the right way for her to live. She didn't push it on anyone else. She never told me my need was excessive, that I took too much. She didn't judge me or anyone else, she just quietly went about living her chosen way of life.

I realised eventually my acts of kindness were ignoring what she was saying to me, that this was a barrier – by asking her to have something, I wasn't listening.

I stopped asking, we worked well, she talked. I began to understand, and I grew to deeply respect her. I would go and see her all weathers, but particularly in the very bitter winter. I struggled not to give and we began to compromise: a warmed egg from my chickens, a blanket I wrapped around her. I'd be scarved and booted, navigating the winter wonderland around her home – a tumbled down metal shack. She would be found surrounded by bags of bits of bags and bottles and tops and papers – many papers. I would check her for signs of hypothermia; I would feel her hands – she would be warm and I would be cold, and she would laugh at me coming out to check her when I was colder. The rain was the worst: she would get horribly wet and there was flooding, and she would move to a safer place when prompted. But she wasn't ill – I never saw her with a cold.

She would have birds frequently around her. There was a swan in the little stream that ran nearby, robins, sparrows and thrushes. She knew them all and they would come in and peck crumbs and sing – they had a similar life style really.

There is a sadness about her death, but let there be also a joy and celebration that this lady touched so many just by living the way she believed she should, that she achieved that much. Even at the end of her life she died how she would have wanted, without fuss or intervention.

We have all wondered why she chose the life she did. She wrote an account and gave it to me, and here it is:

This is what Eleanor wrote.

Let me explain the situation. Staying alive is not the most important. What is important is to be as far as possible doing your best and what you can.

Christianity has always been important to me. I think it matters to get to places outside the mainstream.

I started when I was a student. I had no problems academically, but I don't have a lot of energy physically and am not very good in close contact. My mind wanders. I don't stay on the right wavelength well. I think the best teachers and communicators are those who connect well with their pupils or hearers. If you are not particularly good there, I'm not sure it's a good thing to fill the gap just by talk, talk, talk.

I had a lot of help in my early 20s when I was in difficulties. That is why I don't feel able to accept more now. If I accepted help, I would not feel I could ask for attention to go to where I think it should be, the area I committed myself to; then I would be left with nothing to do or aim at.

If you are not able to go and be yourself, you can at least do what you can to facilitate, so others may be able to act. People with families would not want to take what they think could be going to their children or grandchildren. I don't have family, but I do have commitments.

As I said, I had a lot of help earlier in life, also in hospital as a child and help at other times, and other advantages, free University education.

I should not want to be taking what I see as more than my share, or what can't be afforded. Overspending causes problems and tension for everyone. There can be envy in other parts of the world, where people don't have the advantages, and that can lead to trouble and conflict. I do not want to be causing that, it would be on my conscience for ever afterwards.

I think there has to be balance between what you are taking and what you are doing. If you come to the end of what you can be doing, you need to be allowed to accept your situation, trust in God. The big fear is of getting into a situation where you could be just costing money that could be going elsewhere, and not doing anything.

Signed, Eleanor Bolton

Managing to keep to principles that require an extreme level of hardship and endurance as a way of life, with the determination to be true to yourself in a world where there is a constant push to keep within parameters of expectation is a real achievement, and Eleanor did just that. She achieved what she lived to do, and we should celebrate that and carry that with us as we go on with our lives.

Mary Squires, former health worker at Luther Street Clinic
(Photo courtesy of Mike Wiggins)

Crumbs of comfort (2)

I have especially mourned the loss of two lovely trees from our shopping centre. Where the new entrance is, at the town end of Elms Parade, there stood a handsome lime tree. It must have been planted in the Seventies when Dutch Elm disease did for the elm trees of Elms Parade, so it was in its prime: tall and straight and on the way to matching the trees that make Botley Road smell so sweet in late June when the flowers and bees are at the top of their game. Gone now, though.



The other one was the copper beech outside the Baptist Chapel. It dated from when the chapel was new in the Sixties, and was just coming into silky leaf when it went under the axe. The photo reminds me of what we have lost. It was a while before I could bear to go past the empty space, and I am taking what comfort I can from the news that some of the wood will be made into a cross for the new Baptist Church in the finished shopping centre.

Yes, I know that the new mall is going to be decorated with the kind of tree that can be transported in a lorry and installed there, but I've seen them before and they are not in the same league as trees that have stood for fifty years. Still they are better than none, I suppose. There's some comfort in that!

AgM



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Meet... Debby Hallett

Debby Hallett is a politician, is into human development, and is (now) British. I found out about these things in an interview that needs several entire Sprouts to do it justice, but I'll do my best to summarise.

Debby has been Leader of the Vale of White Horse Liberal Democrats for the last intense three years. She has just stepped down and is now Deputy Leader, mentoring the new Leader, Emily Smith. What have been her greatest accomplishments? "Well, if I can secure funding for the new facilities at Louie Memorial field, that would probably be it."



What about getting the first proposal for West Way rejected? And getting Layla Moran elected? And saving all those Green Belt sites that Vale of White Horse District Council had put into the Local Plan as development sites? "Those too. But I do none of these things alone; it's all dependent upon many people working together toward a common goal. Right now I'm also working against the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway which will either widen the A34 through Botley or go through the Green Belt."

How does Debby manage to be an effective politician when she is, by her own admission, very, very introverted?

"Being introverted means I spend a lot of time processing things internally, alone. I'm an ideas person. In order to get things done in the real world, the main thing is to influence the decision-makers. Politicians who aren't in power get things done by influencing others. I find out how the decision-makers think, how they make meaning of their experiences, and work from that basis. I don't enjoy big meetings, or the cut and thrust of politics. Instead I get to know people; I have a lot of one-to-one meetings."

The public side of Debby is politics. The inner side of Debby is her interest in adult consciousness development, which was the focus of her post-graduate education.

Debby came to Oxford and married David in 1997, became a citizen in 2001, and in 2017 renounced her US citizenship, mostly as a result of the

unfair way the US taxes its citizens abroad. Her career has been in IT, and she recently retired from Blackwell Publishing. But she is most interested in exploring how adults make meaning out of their experiences, and learning about how that affects their outlook on life. She is particularly interested in the work of Ken Wilber, author of *Spectrum of Consciousness* and *Sex Ecology and Spirituality*. Debby says, “The work and writings of Ken Wilber have changed my life. He gave me a model of consciousness development that works to explain the world that I experience, in a way that no one else has.”

“There’s a clear progression in how we mature, from children where we are the centre of our own world, to needing to fit in with the crowd, to where we want to be valued for our uniqueness, to where we recognize people’s different skills and approaches and want to work towards a common goal, to where we can change our perspective. Most of the work around personal psychological development only goes up to about 18 years old. I’m interested in what happens beyond that.”

“It’s the people who keep learning and evolving who are most interesting; the ones who feel themselves to be an integral part of everything. When they say ‘we’, they mean ‘we, humanity’, not ‘me and my family’ or even ‘me and my neighbourhood’.

Bill Gates, much as he is criticised, is a good example of someone who matured and gained wisdom as he did it. He moved from writing software, to forming a company with other people with different types of expertise, and then to using his fortune to help cure malaria. How amazing is that?”

I was sorry to only have an hour with Debby, and just a few pages to write about her. She has been a very effective politician and was a fascinating interviewee. Thank you for the interview, Debby, and for all your work on behalf of the parish over the years.

Riki Therivel

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18 September 2018

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GO ACTIVE GOLD

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Vale of White Horse District Council

The Church of St Peter and St Paul is 60

On 13th and 14th October the church of St. Peter and St. Paul will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a weddings event on Saturday, showcasing a weddings exhibition by Martin Harris, wedding dresses and photos from the past six decades, teas, floral displays and information on how to get married in the Church of England. On Sunday at 9.30am we welcome Steven, Bishop of Oxford, for our anniversary service.

The church was consecrated for worship by the Bishop of Oxford, Harry Carpenter, on 18th October 1958. It was through the vision and dedication of successive Vicars of North Hinksey, starting around the early part of the twentieth century that we have a church here in West Way. In 1914 The Revd Osborne Jones, then Vicar of North Hinksey saw how fast the hamlet of Botley was developing and obtained a piece of land upon which, with the aid of the Diocese, a Mission Church was built.

It was known fondly as the Tin Church and dedicated to St. Paul. In 1914 the population of the parish was just 300 but it had increased ten-fold by 1940. Botley needed a more permanent place of worship. *'So, in 1941 on a November night in war-time black-out at a meeting*



presided over by Dr Gerald Allen, Bishop of Dorchester, the Botley Church Building Fund was opened.' After a good deal of prayer and fund raising, the nave and chancel of the new church were opened in 1958, amid much rejoicing at a cost of £21,313. Our 1957 photo (above) shows the Tin Church looking N.E. with the footings for the new church in the foreground, and the Seacourt Bridge pub over the road. The lower photo shows the church as it is now, looking South.



The Church of England still provides a Christian presence in every community and we continue to be here to pray for everyone who lives here, works here and passes through this parish. See our website www.osneybenefice.org.uk for more information.

10th October is World Homelessness Day and the Gatehouse, which is 30 this year, invites guests, volunteers, staff, local services, donors and supporters to a night of music, speakers and refreshments at the King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES from 5–8pm. Just turn up.

Sunday 4th November at 5pm A Service to Remember those we have Loved at St. Peter and St. Paul. A memorial service for the bereaved. It will include a prayers for Eleanor Bolton, the Botley Bag Lady

Rev Clare Sykes

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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| P18/V2012/FUL<br><i>Target Decision<br/>Date: 2 October</i> | The Thatched House Stanton Road. Demolish existing house, outdoor sheds, car port. Erect new house with indoor pool and separate garage.                                                                    | <b>7 August</b>     |
| P18/V2070/FUL<br><i>TDD: 11 Oct</i>                         | Minns Business Park West Way. Install new bridge and footpath to North Hinksey Lane.                                                                                                                        | <b>16 August</b>    |
| P18/V1913/FUL<br><i>TDD: 16 Oct</i>                         | 184 Westminster Way. Conversion into 2 self-contained flats; a ground floor 2-bed flat & 2-bed flat on 1st & 2nd floors.                                                                                    | <b>21 August</b>    |
| P18/V2264/HH<br><i>TDD: 1 Nov</i>                           | 36 St Pauls Crescent. Rear and side extensions to house.                                                                                                                                                    | <b>6 September</b>  |
| P18/V2221/FUL<br><i>TDD: 7 Nov</i>                          | 1 Cumnor Hill. Demolish house and erect two 3-storey buildings (one fronting Cumnor Hill & one fronting Conifer Close) providing 6 x 2 bed flats (3 flats each building) + car & cycle parking, bin stores. | <b>12 September</b> |



## University of the Third Age – West Oxford

Summer's over and it's time to explore some new directions! The U3A is here for you. Its mission is to help you "Learn, Laugh and Live". Your local branch is the West Oxford U3A.

Our core events are the fortnightly meetings at Dean Court Community Centre, Pinnocks Way. These are at 2.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month from September to June. A guest speaker will inform and entertain us followed by tea and a chance to socialise with the other members. Come along to a meeting (for a modest fee) and see what is happening. We look forward to seeing you.

Special Interest Groups exist through which you can enjoy an existing enthusiasm or to develop a new one. They include Art History, Bridge, Churches & Pubs, Cinema, Computer Users, Craft, Garden Club, Music Appreciation, Languages, Scrabble and a Walking Group. Lastly, the Thames Valley region organises a number of events each year. Recent trips have included a Dunkirk Event and a Polar Exploration day.

Membership is currently £15.00 for the year starting on 1 September. Our website is at [www.westoxfordu3a.org.uk](http://www.westoxfordu3a.org.uk). For further information you can email the Membership Secretary at [memsec@westoxfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:memsec@westoxfordu3a.org.uk).

**Hugh Manson**

### **D.S.Thomas Garden Services**

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Firewood Logs

**Contact Derek:**

**01865 739341  
07989 021045**

**[d.sthomas@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:d.sthomas@tiscali.co.uk)**

138 Cumnor Rd  
Boars Hill, OX1 5JR

### **October Talks:**

**8th October** Ian Brearley The Sounds of Music from Cylinder to CD and Beyond

Ian Brearley has spent many years training people to use and teach software such as Microsoft Word and Excel. He has also, in the past, spent some time DJ-ing at parties and dances. All this stems from a childhood in which his father had a substantial record collection and encouraged Ian to do the same. Whilst Ian was doing this, he

gradually became more fascinated by the equipment and its ever-changing development as opposed to the actual music. Although this talk will be tracing the development of how music is produced, Ian promises that it will be non technical as he appreciates that we are not a group of nerds!

## 22nd October Robert Bishop, Chairmaking in High Wycombe

Robert and Christina Bishop have lived in High Wycombe for some years. They manage a site in the centre of the town which houses a Chair-making museum, artists studios, art gallery and shop. They also run workshops. Robert is a registered professional wood-turner who specialises in turning large bowls and other hollow vessels from Burr wood, particularly Monkey Puzzle. High Wycombe has a long and successful history of furniture making especially chair-making which dates back at least to the 16th century. The source of the wood was, of course, the wonderful beechwoods which cover the Chilterns. Robert's talk will take us through this history with descriptions of the chair-making process and the people involved.

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| <p><b>PROFESSIONAL FOOT CARE</b><br/>home visiting service</p>                                                                                                             |
| <p><i>Treatment and advice for all<br/>common foot problems</i></p>                                                                                                        |
| <p>tel: 07591-134666<br/>email: <a href="mailto:pj.pod@btinternet.com">pj.pod@btinternet.com</a></p>                                                                       |
| <p><b>Philip Joyce BSc (Hons) DipPodM MChS</b><br/>REGISTERED PODIATRIST<br/>THE HEALTH &amp; CARE PROFESSIONS COUNCIL<br/>THE ONLY REGISTRATION RECOGNISED BY THE NHS</p> |

|                                                                                      |                                                                                     |
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|     | <p><b>Piano Lessons</b></p> <p>Experienced teacher<br/>Beginners welcome</p>        |
| <p><b>Call Oona Bannister</b></p> <p><b>07816 833873</b><br/><b>01865 790118</b></p> |  |

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|                                                                               |  |
| <p><b>SJC</b></p> <p>Plumbing &amp; Heating<br/>Simon Crowther<br/><a href="mailto:Sjcplumbheat@gmail.com">Sjcplumbheat@gmail.com</a><br/><b>07709102328</b></p> |                                                                                     |

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| <p><b>Shaun Guard</b><br/><b>TV AERIAL SERVICES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Poor Reception Solved</li> <li>■ Internet - extensions &amp; improved wifi</li> <li>■ TV's - hung on your wall or set up and tuned</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Aerials - repaired &amp; supplied</li> <li>■ Extra TV points - for aerial and Sky (in HD)</li> <li>■ Sky TV - also foreign language TV</li> </ul> |
|  <p><b>OXFORD AERIALS</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.oxfordaerials.co.uk">www.oxfordaerials.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Call Oxford 01865 400141</b></p>            |                                                                                                        |

## Police Update

**Preventive action:** Over the weekend of 18th–19th August, the Neighbourhood Team visited parts of Botley that had been targeted by burglars in the past six months . 150 SmartWater Kits (property security marking) were distributed to the identified areas, with a view to getting 80% of residents in any given street to register with SmartWater. This would make them a SmartWater area, which, when advertised by a notice, can have a very positive effect on crime reduction. The feedback from the residents has been positive and most of the streets that were visited will meet the 80% criteria once the kits have been registered.

### Witness appeals

- On 13th August around 1pm a spare wheel and a tow bar were stolen from a vehicle on West Way, Botley. The thieves made off in a Grey VW.
- On 14th August between 8am – 9am thieves forced their way into a transit van on West Way, and stole power tools and gardening equipment
- Overnight on August 27th, Botley Foodbank in Curtis's Yard was broken into, and approx. £200 was stolen
- On 28th August a white moped was stolen from Eynsham Rd, between 1 and 2pm. It was found shortly afterwards in the underpass between Westminster Way and Southern bypass and has since been returned to the owner.
- Also, on the night of 28th August, a vehicle was broken into on Seacourt Rd, and a Sat Nav was stolen.

*If you have any information regarding these incidents please call 101.*

**Contacting us and reporting crimes online** Did you know that you can now get in touch with us online as well as by calling 101? Please visit **[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)** where you can: Provide more information or request an update on a crime report; Tell us if you recognise a face or description from one of our witness appeals; Contact an officer or department directly, for example our Fixed Penalty Support Unit. This also helps you reach an officer or PCSO who may be working unsociable hours.

You can also use the new online reporting form on our Website to report any type of crime, traffic collisions involving an injury, a missing person and anti-social behaviour. Just click on REPORT.

*From the **Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter***

## Expressway? – No way!

In mid-September the government moved closer to developing the Oxford–Cambridge Expressway when they announced their chosen ‘corridor’ for the road. This failed to provide much clarity since the corridor chosen could entail a route south and east of Oxford to join the A34 near Abingdon, or a route north and west of our city. There was one positive point – it ruled out Otmoor, Oxfordshire’s most valuable wetland, which had been a possible route.



The ‘north and west’ route has caused much concern in and around Botley. It could involve new roads (possibly around Wytham and Boars Hill) but a cheaper option might be to expand and upgrade the A34. As the tightest part of the A34 is Botley itself, this could mean demolishing homes, and has implications for the Commonwealth War Graves.

Opposition is growing fast. Groups opposed to the Expressway on any route have joined the No Expressway Alliance. It was launched here in Botley on September 14th. Our councillor Emily Smith was among the speakers and North Hinksey Parish Council members were present.

The Alliance founders believe that:

- **There is no need for this road, and no ‘best’ or ‘least worst’ route.**
- **The plan would not solve Oxfordshire’s transport problems and would generate more congestion around the city.**
- **The new road would cause significant loss of irreplaceable nature sites across Oxfordshire.**
- **The increased car journeys would add to air pollution and increase carbon emissions, undermining efforts to tackle climate change.**

The Alliance wants to see transport links improved through the rapid construction of the Oxford–Cambridge rail link. This should be built before any road programme is developed. A central reason for building the Expressway is to open up new land for housing along the route, but homes for car-borne commuters in the countryside will do nothing to meet Oxford’s desperate need for low cost homes for local people.

The Alliance welcomes as members any local group that shares its concerns. See [www.noexpresswayalliance.org](http://www.noexpresswayalliance.org) for more information.

**Chris Church**

**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.**

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 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             | Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386                                                                                                 |
| <b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                                      | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Badminton Club</b>                                                | Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.                                        | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or<br>Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>            |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>                                           | Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Botley Library</b>                                                | 01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).                                                                                                 |
| <b>Botley Singers</b>                                                | Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>                                                               |
| <b>Branches Café</b> , Seacourt Hall, Open to All 8am-3pm,           | Youth Cafe @ Branches 7-9pm evenings tbc. Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook Branches Youth Cafe, Instagram @_branches_youth_             |
| <b>Community Fridge</b>                                              | For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811                                                                                           |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoral.co.uk">www.cumnorchoral.co.uk</a>                                                              |
| <b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>                                             | Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>                                                                   |
| <b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>                      | Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>                                         | Details on website at <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone Chris Impey, 01865 721026                                                                |
| <b>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>                                                                                                            |

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|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mum and Baby Yoga</b> for babies from 6 wks to crawling | Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via <a href="https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk">https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk</a>                                                        |
| <b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs</b>         | Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>                                                                                |
| <b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>                                 | Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>                               | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>                   | Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>                                                                                         |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                               | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey Horticultural Soc</b>                         | Contact: Ann Dykes Ox 251821 <a href="mailto:andykes@hotmail.com">andykes@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                                          |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                            | Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</a>                                                                                                                   |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                                | Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>                             | Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386                                                                                                          |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                               | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                        | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford Otters</b>                                       | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420                                                                                                         |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                                   | Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> . |
| <b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>           | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                      |
| <b>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>                             | Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                            | David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                     |
| <b>West Way Day Centre</b>                                 | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>                                          |
| <b>Saturdays Botley Bridges</b>                            | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                                                           |
| <b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>                  | Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .                                                                                   |
| <b>Shotokan Karate club</b>                                | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                                     | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>                                                                            |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                              | Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>                                                                                                |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                         | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>                                                                                  |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                                     | (Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>                                                                                                       |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                          | Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>                                                                                                |



