

# The Sprout



**The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**  
**Issue 181 October 2023**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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# The Sprout

## Issue 181, October 2023

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### From the Editor

Welcome to the October *Sprout*. The cover shows an evocative campfire image taken from an eleven-year-old's rapturous account of his first camp (p.5). and on page 31 there's another exhilarating account – of the packed meeting with the new practice that will take over Elms Road Medical Centre. More Botley specials: sheds to envy (p27), latest on the new skatepark (p25), surprising insights into Botley's past (p7) and on the same page – Apple Day coming up. There's an interview with Emily Smith (p10), a well known local figure who has done a lot to earn our respect, and a tribute to Carol Kramer (p25), who died recently. Finally, West Way Community Concern have got in touch with the latest developments at the new shopping precinct (p15). Of course, the main news that concerns us all is the unwelcome announcement that the railway bridge will not open in October as promised, but will remain shut for another year. We received an incandescent letter on the subject, but, sadly, it was too late for this issue. The parish council is negotiating a public meeting with Network Rail – let us hope they can get Highways England to join them.

Ag MacKeith

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## 19 Beaumont St and Botley Medical Centre

From 1st October 19 Beaumont St GP Surgery will be taking over provision of NHS GP services at Botley Medical Centre. We are a long-established Oxford GP practice, with many of our current patients living in West Oxford and Botley. We are looking forward to offering appointments at both the 19 Beaumont Street and Botley Medical Centre sites and to ensuring that Botley and Cumnor residents can access high quality primary care close to home.



The two sites will be run in an integrated manner and there will be medical and nursing cover at both sites Monday–Friday 8.30–6.30pm. There will be some temporary staff whilst we recruit to full capacity.

There is not space here to go into specific details of different aspects of the service, but the current 19 Beaumont Street website [www.19beaumontstreet.com](http://www.19beaumontstreet.com) gives information about various practicalities such as booking appointments, ordering repeat prescriptions etc. Please note that from 1st October there will be one phone number covering both sites, which will be **01865 240501**

We hope to run a covid and flu vaccine clinic at Botley Medical Centre on Saturday 7th October (although this is dependent on us being provided with sufficient vaccine). We will invite eligible patients as soon as we have confirmation. Further opportunities for vaccination will be available at later dates. Please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details (there is a section on our website for submitting changes to contact details). We are aware not all patients have access to the internet and SMS and will do our best to publicise vaccination clinics in other ways too. If you would like to volunteer as a marshal please do get in touch.

Clearly the transition period will involve change, and undoubtedly have challenges, but we are looking forward to working with you over the coming months and years to help you with your healthcare needs.

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**Kate King (Practice Manager) and Dr Jayne Haynes (GP).**

*[See page 31 for an account of the public meeting where these plans were presented.]*

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## A Scout's Eye View

This Summer I attended the 15th Oxford Scout camp. Fourteen scouts were going on an adventure. We met at our pavilion and travelled to the Macaroni Downs Farm in Gloucestershire. This was my first scout camp and my first time without parents for a whole week! I have never been apart from them for more than one night before, so I was VERY NERVOUS – on a nervous scale from 1 to 100, I was 1,000! But I was also very excited. That was also at 1,000 on the scale.

On the first day it was roasting hot. We had lunch and put up the three tents. It felt like it took three hours. By the time we were done it was very hot. It was a good job we had help or it would actually have taken three hours! After that we went to get fire wood and then we unpacked our stuff. We played games in the dark and then we sat by the fire. The flames were very hot by it. The next day was even better than the first.

If I had to pick 3 words to describe my experience they are: *exhilarating, fun and toughening*.

We did a great variety of exhilarating activities. We played many different games, went on long walks, explored our camp, cooked, collected firewood and made fires. We learnt new skills, including how to build a catapult and how to tie a reef knot. We were never BORED!!!!!! The camp was toughening because there were early mornings, chores, so many activities that our legs hurt and *NO TECH*. This last point really scared me, but I had so much fun I didn't miss it. That really surprised ME!!! We had so much fun that time went by in a blur. Days felt like hours and hours felt like minutes. I made new friends. It rained a lot, unfortunately the rain stole a day of being outside, but we persevered and we played card games and went ten-pin bowling.

The scout leaders were very supportive and understanding. They were kind and empathetic. It felt like they understood what each of us needed and they gave us the encouragement to try everything and not give up. I loved every second of scout camp and would recommend it to anyone.

Scouts is very good and you can come and try it out for yourself.

**Adam (aged 11)**



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## **Do you remember...**

### **Secret Botley**

Or should that be ‘seedy’? A few years ago, we looked into rumours about a casino in the Seacourt Tower (or Hartford Motors, as it was known then) and learned that there was indeed a night club on the first floor, called La Ronde. It was the scene of many a pleasant evening out for David and Ann Peart. “There was a small band – just a trio, that played dance music like waltzes, bebop and jive – and tables for dining as well as some gaming tables. It closed after perhaps five years, for lack of support – sometimes it was so quiet that we wondered how long it could last.”

A bit too exciting for Botley, perhaps! Well, we knew about that, but what about the “topless hairdressers” in the same building?? Seriously? Our informant assures us that it did exist because ‘a friend went there to get his hair cut’. And the striptease (or was it lap-dancing?) that went on at the George after hours? Any information will be treated in strictest confidence....

**AgM**

---

## **BOTLEY APPLE DAY**

**South View House, Old Botley**

**SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER**

**3–5pm**



Are apples going to waste in your garden? Bring and share them at Botley Apple Day. People-powered apple press to turn bruised apples and leftovers into juice. Apples identified. Apple recipes and storage ideas. Bring knives, juice containers. No apples? Just come anyway. Fun for all the family!

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## WHAT

Each Friday we prepare 2 main-course dishes (see below).

Puddings will usually be something like a crumble, rice pudding or bread and butter pudding with gelato as an option.

## HOW TO BOOK

Reservations are essential for any time between 6pm and 8pm

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## PRICES

Adults: 1 course £11.50, 2 courses £15

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2 courses £7.50 (1 scoop of gelato)

## DRINKS (Supplied by Oxford Wine Company)

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Prosecco £17.50

20cl Prosecco bottle £7.50

Soft drinks also available

## MENU FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

**Friday 20 Oct** Mediterranean Chicken  
Halloumi and Roasted Vegetables (v)

**Friday 29 Oct** Meatballs and Chickpeas  
Cauliflower, Manchego and Almond Gratin (v)

**Friday 3 Nov** Butter Chicken Curry  
Potatoes, Mushrooms, Chestnuts and Sherry (v)

**Friday 10 Nov** Beef and Ale Pie  
Thai Green Tofu Curry (v)

## Normal Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday 8am – 6pm

Sunday & Bank Holidays 9am – 4pm

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## Meet... Emily Smith

Local resident Emily Smith is the new CEO of the Oxford Food Hub, having previously been Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council. I talked to her about her reasons for that move, and what the new job is like.

Emily grew up in Sunningwell, and has been living in Botley since 2006. She has always been interested in politics and democracy, and joined the Liberal Democrats in 1997 because of their policies on voting reform. But she first became a parish councillor in 2014 to try to get a skate park for Botley: “I had been volunteering at the youth club. The young people had set up a petition for a skate park and were asking for help to make it happen. They campaigned and spoke at a parish council meeting asking for a replacement skate park [but without success]. It was heart-breaking that those young people’s first experience of democracy was so negative. I think that to make change in the community, you can try to influence decision-makers, but if that doesn’t work you need to become a decision-maker.”

Emily was on the North Hinksey Parish Council for 18 months, became a District Councillor in 2015, and was Leader of the Council from 2019 until December 2020. She loves being able to push things in the right direction, and help make the community a nice place to live.

However, it is clear that being a politician can be a bruising experience. “We get so many people having a go at us on social media. But ‘keyboard warriors’ are a small minority and when you meet and talk to people in person, the vast majority are really lovely, and you can talk through problems or disagreements.” Politicians’ hours aren’t family-friendly, and people are often surprised how little councillors get paid. District Councillors get about £5000 per year, on the assumption that most of what they do is volunteering. Even the Leader of the Council, a 50hr a week role responsible for £60million of public funds and crucial public services, only gets about £22,000 per year, with no pension or sick pay. “While my family could make this work for a few years, the low pay really acts as a barrier to diversity,” says Emily. “You can see why nationally it’s mostly retired, well-off people who become politicians. As Leader of



the Council, I tried to support and promote people who wouldn't usually get into politics, like single parents, younger people and those from ethnic lower-income households. There are a lot of barriers, but being a councillor is a fantastic experience. You learn so much, meet people you wouldn't usually come across and really feel part of the community."

With bills to pay and only being in her early 40s, Emily decided to look for a paid job (alongside remaining as our local district councillor). Her time in politics had given her lots of management and financial skills, and the Oxford Food Hub was the kind of organisation she feels comfortable in. "It's a really busy, friendly place that has grown over the years so that we now have two warehouses, six vans and almost 100 volunteers. Following a period of rapid growth, we are playing catch-up with admin and governance systems, and my first major project is to develop a three-year strategy for the charity."

It's a difficult time for the Food Hub, which picks up surplus food and makes it available to 200 other charities, working to relieve food poverty. Supermarkets have become better at reducing their surplus; apps like Too Good to Go and Olio mean that some surplus is going to individuals instead of charities; and charities' need for food has soared. There are huge areas of deprivation in Oxfordshire, and the cost-of-living crisis is affecting people who haven't needed free food before. Emily is exploring ways to get more food grown locally, keeping surplus food local, ensuring that people have access to healthy food. One possible venture is setting up satellite locations for the Oxford Food Hub, for instance in Banbury.

"My background in local government is serving me well in the new post. And," says Emily, "I'm hoping that as well as securing the Food Hub's future in Oxfordshire, I can continue to influence political decisions about food, waste and health."

### **Riki Therivel**

[Those who went to the Oxford FoodHub's 15th anniversary party on 17th September were encouraged by Emily's account of the Foodhub's plans for the future. We note in passing that Curtis's Yard is up for sale. It is a prominent player in the local economy, and a flourishing centre for local businesses like the Tap Social, the Natural Bread Co, and the various local car repairers, plumbers' and car parts suppliers, etc. It certainly needs some tlc, but let's hope this doesn't mean it'll be smartened up to a point when it becomes unaffordable for small businesses – a lesson to learn from the West Way precinct. *Ed]*



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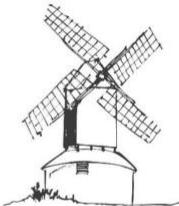


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## West Way Precinct Update

**Construction:** The progress of construction of the large block on the corner of West Way and Westminster Way is plain to see. The construction company is Gilbert Ash, with Mace acting as project manager. The client is Grainger plc, who describe themselves as 'one of the UK's largest professional landlords'. So, the apartments will be to rent, rather than to buy.

Mace and Gilbert Ash were expected to have regular Community Liaison Group meetings, to update the local residents about progress and to address any issues arising. After a first meeting in March, no further meetings have been held. The failure to schedule further community liaison meetings is disappointing as these were meant to be a forum for two-way communication for the community – to learn about progress with the site and to raise questions not only on the building work but in the operation of the site.

**Church Way:** A condition of the planning consent was that Church Way (the through route between West Way and Arthray Road) would be semi-pedestrianised, with traffic only allowed between the hours of 4pm to 10am. There would be no parking on Church Way, other than deliveries.



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There are now concerns over the safety of Church Way – poor barriers and signage, unclear and unenforced rules, dangerous driving and parking that makes the route unsafe for shoppers and visitors of all ages. These issues have been raised to the Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council multiple times by parishioners.

Therefore, the Vale of White Horse District Council and Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council have requested that Church Way become pedestrianised at all times, with only deliveries and emergency vehicles being able to use the route. To achieve this, they require that the owners of the centre,



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Botley Development Company (BDC) apply to the council for a change in the conditions. BDC have agreed to do this, but have not done so. Attempts to get movement on this from Mace, BDC and Savills (the managers of the centre) have failed so far. The Liberal Democrats have launched a petition, which can be found at <https://www.oxonltd.uk/pedestrianise-church-way>

**Parking:** There have been many reports of people being sent penalty notices for parking ‘infringements’. While it’s fairly clear that you need to pay if you stay more than two hours and Automatic Number Plate Recognition is used, many are sent penalty notices if they use the car parks twice in a day. It seems that if you are there from, say, 9am to 9:30 and then from 2:30 to 3pm you are often assumed to have stayed 6 hours.

Apparently upon being asked about this, “Smart Parking” (who operate the car parks on behalf of BDC) said that their technology couldn’t cope with this sort of parking behaviour, implying that only one entry and exit record per vehicle can be stored.

West Way isn’t the only car park in the area to have such reports. Most car parks along Botley Road are private ones, run on a similar basis, many also with reports of ‘overzealousness’.

**Electric vehicle charging points:** As part of the planning application, and in line with council policy, electric vehicle charging points were to be provided in the car parks. There has been a long-drawn-out saga in trying to get these functioning. The responsibility for them, as with most charging points nationwide, is with an independent company, and Savills, as managers of the centre struggled at first to get their chosen supplier to get the charges functioning. There have been many complaints about them – ridiculously low charging rates and apps that simply don’t work or change without notification. In the absence of a joined-up policy for charging stations, aspirations to increase electric car use will not be met.

**Student accommodation:** The student accommodation is now operated by Prestige Student Living. In February, Savills submitted a planning application (P23/V0420/MPO) to change the conditions of the student accommodation. This condition is currently: *For a period of at least 43 weeks per year, not to permit the Occupation of any units of Academic Residential Accommodation by any persons other than full time students attending universities in the City of Oxford, the Vale of White Horse or South Oxfordshire, or employees including (but not limited to) interns and research assistants working or studying at academic institutions in the City of Oxford or the Vale of White Horse.*

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Savills would like to allow a broader range of occupants, and requests rewording to: *For a period of at least 43 weeks per year not to permit the Occupation of any units of Academic Residential Accommodation by any persons other than college students, university students or occupants studying for academic purposes, or employees including (but not limited to) interns and research assistants working or studying at academic institutions.*

The application has not yet been decided. Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council haven't submitted a response to the consultation.

**Contacts:** WWCC's role is to provide a means of communication on the development and to raise issues of concern with Mace, BDC and their contractors, and to monitor the planning conditions until the development is built. We can be contacted on [westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com). To ask questions or raise concerns about how the centre works, e.g., parking, pedestrian areas, contact the Facilities Manager for the centre – Lisa Himpson of Savills, who is regularly on site and can be contacted at [Lisa.Himpson@Savills.com](mailto:Lisa.Himpson@Savills.com)

**Mary Gill, West Way Community Concern**

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#### LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                      |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| <u>P23/V1810/HH</u>  | 12 Chestnut Rd. Rear extension & loft conversion.   | <b>9 August</b><br><i>TDD: 4 Oct</i>                        |
| <u>P23/V1904/HH</u>  | 14 Montagu Rd. Drop kerb.   | <b>16 August</b>  |
| <u>P23/V1782/FUL</u> | 3 Laburnum Rd. Change of use to 7-person HMO. Demolish garage, outbuildings, & rear structure. Build 2-storey side & single storey rear extensions. | <b>17 August</b><br><i>Target Decision Date: 12 October</i> |
| <u>P23/V1912/LDP</u> | Begbroke House & Eaton House (Wallbrook Court) 3 North Hinksey Lane. Install solar PV roof on existing roof.  | <b>17 August</b><br><i>TDD: 12 October</i>                  |
| <u>P23/V1962/HH</u>  | 3 Chestnut Rd. 2-storey side & single rear extension + rear dormer & front skylights. Loft conversion.  | <b>24 August</b><br><i>TDD: 19 Sept</i>                     |
| <u>P23/V1967/PDH</u> | 53 Laburnum Rd. Single storey rear extension.   | <b>29 August</b><br><i>TDD: 10 Oct</i>                      |

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## Young Carers need our Support

I work for Be Free Young Carers, a small charity based on the Harwell Campus that provides vital support for young carers based in South Oxfordshire, the Vale of the White Horse, and Oxford City itself. We are currently supporting 550 young carers, but we know there is much more to be done. It is estimated that there are over 12,000 young carers in Oxfordshire alone, who are currently left isolated with very little support. It is our hope to change this. We believe that every young carer deserves the chance to have a fulfilling childhood and a bright future, unhindered by their caring responsibilities.



As a charity, one of our services is to provide trips to places these children would otherwise not have access to, whether that's something big like a theme park or something small like a trip to the beach. These trips and activities are vital to provide young carers with respite from their caring role and offer a chance to make friends with other children in the same position. They allow the young carers the opportunity to be children for a few hours. Here is feedback we have received from our young carers' parents:

"Thanks to you and the team for all the visits this Easter, H and J had such a great time ! They are already asking to go back to the ice skating and the escape room with the family, if only we could find the time and energy to take them."

We also rely on volunteers to help facilitate these trips, as well as being the foundation of our befriending service. Our befrienders offer key guidance to our young carers with any struggles they are facing. Whether this is with school, caring or general anxieties. They meet once a week for one-to-one support, as well as doing a fun activity of their own choice.

We are currently looking for volunteers. If this is something you feel is worth exploring, please do get in touch. I'm more than happy to chat. Call me on 07894 442287 or 01235 838 554

**Callum Watkins** (Volunteering & Befriending Co-ordinator

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Every volunteer gets something different from their volunteering experience. When prospective volunteers apply Citizens Advice discuss time commitment, the range of roles available, and explore which roles might be suitable. For those looking to get back into work, or considering

a career with Citizens Advice, volunteering can be a great place to start. We particularly welcome applications from people of colour, disabled people, people with physical or mental health conditions, LGBTQ+, non-binary people and people with experience of life's challenges..

Keen to find out more? Here's what to do next – phone 01865 721849 (leave a message if necessary), email [office@cab-oxford.org.uk](mailto:office@cab-oxford.org.uk) or write to Citizens Advice c/o Wesley, New Inn Hall Street, OX1 2DH.

There's more about volunteering on the national Citizens Advice website:

[https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk  
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## **Carol Kramer (Clements) 1936–2023**

Many readers will remember Carol Kramer (latterly Clements) who was an invaluable source of knowledge to many, particularly about nurturing plants, nutrition and wellbeing, and a familiar face in the area since moving to Raleigh Park Road in 2004. Carol ran her own clinic from her house until retiring following the pandemic, and was a familiar sight on her allotment off Southern Bypass. She was involved with the *Sprout* and was also an active supporter of many local environmental and other campaigns and initiatives, such as the Friends of Raleigh Park. Carol sadly passed away on 18th August 2023 peacefully at home with her husband, John, and one of her daughters by her side. Her funeral on 5 September saw St Peter and Paul Church packed with family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

**Anna Kramer**

---



## **Botley Bowl Skatepark**

Now we have planning permission, it's all hands to the wheel to get fundraising. Where will the money come from?



There are national grant-giving bodies for initiatives that encourage young people to get active, like Sport England and the National Lottery and many others. And then there are local businesses, which often have funds to support projects in the local community. Do you work for one of these? Would you like to see a skatepark in Botley? Could you find out if any money might be available, for all or part of the project? The whole sum needed is around £180,000, but we can break it up into smaller sections that local businesses might sponsor.

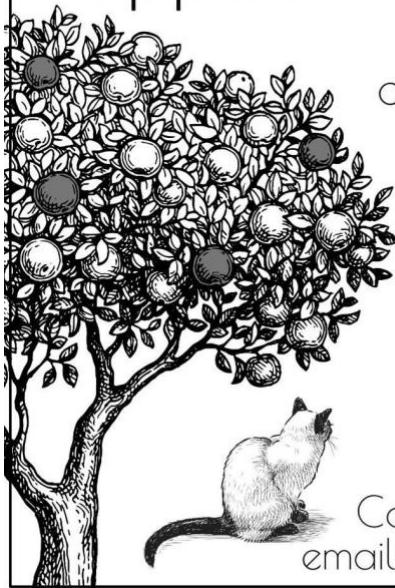
Meanwhile, the campaign is planning a series of events to keep everyone interested and informed, starting with a pop-up café on 24th September. If you have any ideas, or would like to help in any way at all, please get

in touch with the parish council skatepark working group via **[northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)** or talk to the *Sprout*.



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## The Beauty of Botley Sheds (Part two)

Here are a couple of Botley sheds whose owners have reason to be proud. The first was submitted by Hilary Nixon who feels that decorative detail of "a litter of happy piglets does bring country life to a suburban garden", thus neatly tying in with July's porcine

feature. It's a shame the Sprout's format can't do justice to the banks of gorgeous flowers – but you can see them in colour online at [archive.thesprout.org.uk/](http://archive.thesprout.org.uk/)



The second shed belongs to Cllr Alistair Bastin. It's fetchingly framed by a flourishing grapevine, festooned with perfect bunches of black grapes. They won't be there for much longer, though, as harvest approaches, and they will soon be transformed into this year's vintage. Who'd have thought the Botley *terroir* would have been so fruitful!

That's all for the moment, but don't hide your shed under a bushel, share it with admiring neighbours! Just send two photos with a line saying what you like about it, to Grant on the *Sprout* editorial team at [grantn00@outlook.com](mailto:grantn00@outlook.com)

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# Kennington Memory Club

Living well with dementia

## Day Centre News

'Living well with dementia' is our motto at Kennington Memory Club, so we were very pleased to be able to showcase our activities at Healthfest Abingdon in the Market Square in early September. This is an annual event promoted by the organisation Healthy Abingdon where many agencies operating locally are represented, highlighting their objectives and advertising the services they provide.

Abingdon is the major hub from which Kennington Memory Club draws its members, as well as serving all the villages around, including Botley. It was set up after a Day Centre for people with dementia in Abingdon was closed down. The Club now operates a safe day-support service on two days a week for those with dementia, providing its members with an enjoyable day out and invaluable 'time off' for carers.

To contact the club Organiser, Helen, please ring on 07852 883496 or email [memoryclub1@outlook.com](mailto:memoryclub1@outlook.com) for more information. Alternatively, you can visit the Club website by scanning the QR code below or going to [kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk)

**Isobel Birse**

### STOP PRESS!

Kennington Memory Club are holding an **AUTUMN SALE** on **Saturday 21st October** in **St Nicolas Church, Abingdon** at 10am. Lots of bargains!





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## **Warm welcome to new medical practice**

It was standing room only at St Peter and St Paul Church on 20th September as over 250 patients filled the church, despite pouring rain, to meet the doctors, nurses and managers from the Beaumont Street Practice which will take over Botley Medical Centre on October 1st.

Loud applause greeted the appreciation which County Councillor Judy Roberts expressed for the new practice coming to Botley. It will be called the Beaumont Elms Practice, with sites at 19 Beaumont Street and Elms Road Medical Centre (Botley Medical Centre renamed to mark a new beginning).

Patients were heartened to hear that the 8am scramble for same-day appointments will be a thing of the unlamented past. Instead, if people need an urgent appointment that day they can ring any time. Future appointments can also be requested by phone.

Concerns were expressed by those living outside the catchment area that they had been allocated elsewhere by the Integrated Care Board. It was explained that since the doctors did home visits for the housebound by bicycle (to save time), their own previous experience showed it was not possible to do this beyond a certain distance. While people may not need house visits now, there will come a time when they will, and transferring practices at such a time is not wise.

The participant who emailed after the meeting: “This evening’s meeting was so encouraging,” spoke for us all.

**Chris Sugden**

---

## **Randoms**

### **Dean Court Community Centre**

Community Coffee on Wednesday mornings is back after the summer break. Pop in for a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cake from 10.30am to 12noon, and enjoy a lovely chat with your neighbours! On Wednesday 1st November community coffee will include a short talk from AgeUk on Benefits at 11am, promoting awareness of benefits you may be entitled to. Please come for coffee from 10.30am in the Orange room as usual, and stay to listen for some useful information. There is also Community Tea on the third Sunday of each month, 2.30pm–4.30pm (15th October, 19th November and 17th December) – homemade cakes and a savoury option at very reasonable prices, tea and coffee with free refills, and lots of good company!

**Antje Frotscher**



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SCAN ME

## Farmoor Reservoir

Waterside Café, at the Oxford Sailing Club at Farmoor Reservoir, is now under new management, with a menu that features fresh local ingredients and home baking. It will be open to all from 8:30am to 5:30pm and will serve daily brunch, lunch, sandwiches, salads, cakes, and daily specials. Once up and running they look forward to hosting evening pop-up events. Could be a welcome addition to the local scene!

## Botley Library

Our regular events continue. At present we have:

- Lego Club Tues 15.30
- Adult Craft Club Thurs 14.00
- Rhymetime Fri 10.00
- Scrabble on demand, Fridays at 4

We have a digital helper to assist with computer use available every Thursday 2–4 pm. On Tuesday 24th October there will be a 'Half term Craft Event'. Particularly for ages 5–10 yrs but all welcome. Free, but limited numbers, so bookings must be made at the desk or on 07922 849680. Botley Library is committed to the 'Warm Spaces' scheme so there will be provision for customers to help themselves to a free hot drink, as the weather becomes colder.



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## Air quality website

**www.oxonair.uk** is a new community website, providing air quality guidance and resources across the county. It has been created by the county and city councils, in partnership with various district councils, including the Vale, to integrate all relevant air quality-related information. It replaces <https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/>, and includes several new features, including:

- Air pollution forecasts up to five days in advance
- Air pollution alerts for Oxfordshire
- Air quality footprint calculator
- Air quality pledges for individuals
- Information on individual council air quality projects across the county

with a map and real-time readings of monitoring stations across Oxfordshire including NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>, as well as general advice on air quality and how it is monitored. Of course, it is only measuring pollution, not tackling it, but still, you can't tackle what you haven't measured. We are invited to get in touch with them if there are other features we would like them to include.

## Botley Flyer

This still exists, as a way to get into town on the bus, so here's an update. It runs on the hour at 11, 12 and 1pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Leaving from West Oxford Community Centre, it comes down the Botley Road, and the first (and only) stop is at West Way shops. From there it goes down the Eynsham Road to the A420 flyover, where it turns right onto the 420 and goes down to the Botley Interchange, north to Pear Tree, then into town where it stops at the Jericho Medical Centre. The other stop is outside the County Hall in New Road. From there it goes down the Abingdon Road and back into Botley, ending up at WOCA. The vehicle is wheelchair accessible, but space needs to be booked in advance. Passengers can call 01865 768329 to book.

## Autumn Adventures for families and friends

Lots to do at Hill End Camp, on Saturday 7th October from 10 till 4, when you can explore beautiful Hill End in the autumn! There are wild walks, natural painting, campfire with s'mores to cook, conkers to collect, seasonal crafts and a scavenger hunt. Bring your own picnic or get drinks and cakes from the pop-up café. There is a charge, but it's reasonable, and you can book at: [www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events](http://www.hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events)

**Organizations: If your organization is not listed here, please send details to 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 Jean Metson, <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> Cubs<br>Beavers, Scouts, Explorers     | <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Meets every weekday evening. Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                          |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                                      | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall   |
| <b>BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign</b>                       | Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website <a href="http://B4044path.org">B4044path.org</a>   |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.  | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 810159  |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8–16 | Terri Matthews: <a href="mailto:clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com">clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com</a>  |
| <b>Botley Bridges (for under 5s)</b>                                 | Mondays, 9–11, Stay & Play Botley School, and Fridays 10–12, Baby Group at Seacourt Hall <a href="http://botleybridges.org">botleybridges.org</a>   |
| <b>Botley Community Larder</b>                                       | Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email <a href="mailto:botleylarder@gmail.com">botleylarder@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group</b>            | Second Tuesday in the month, early evening.<br>Contact <a href="mailto:csugden@ocrpl.org">csugden@ocrpl.org</a>   |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>   | 2nd & 4th Sats 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, or Tues 11 am Library <a href="mailto:botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com">botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Botley Library</b>  | 07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).   |
| <b>Botley Memory Lane Café</b>                                       | Thursdays 10–12 Seacourt Hall Lounge, Diccon James 07740 611971   |
| <b>Botley Seniors Lunch Club</b>                                     | Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox. 721386  |
| <b>Botley Youth Club</b>   | Weds 7pm–9pm in term time. Louie Memorial Pavilion. <a href="mailto:botleyyouthclub@gmail.com">botleyyouthclub@gmail.com</a>  |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>   | Thursdays, 19.30–21.30 St Andrew's Ch. Steve Morris, chair. <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>  |
| <b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>   | Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 01993 684494 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>   |
| <b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>                      | Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808  |
| <b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>   | <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> tel 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:harmonynspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonynspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>   |

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| Hill End Volunteer Team                     | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>         |
| Lawn Tennis Club                            | Family club Email: <a href="mailto:Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org">Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org</a><br>07824 881680 <a href="http://www.oxfordsportsltc.org">www.oxfordsportsltc.org</a>                |
| Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc                  | Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>  |
| North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs | Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>  |
| 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 07798 743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>  |
| N Hinksey, Friends of                       | Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.  |
| N Hinksey Parish Council                    | <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>  |
| Oxford Flower Arranging                     | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259   |
| Oxford Harmony                              | Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall<br>Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>  |
| Oxford Otters                               | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420  |
| Oxford Rugby Club                           | 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> |
| Raleigh Park, Friends of                    | Email: <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>   |
| Seacourt Hall Management Committee          | Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see <a href="https://www.seacourthall.org.uk">https://www.seacourthall.org.uk</a>  |
| Shotokan Karate Club                        | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450   |
| Stagecoach Botley                           | Botley School, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds 01865 590510 or 01235 390810   |
| West Oxford Bowls Club                      | Dave Ellerker 07931 603801<br><a href="mailto:wobc.membership@gmail.com">wobc.membership@gmail.com</a>  |
| West Oxford Taekwon Do Club                 | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>   |
| West Oxford U3A (Uni of the 3rd Age)        | <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>   |
| Women's Institute (Botley)                  | Alison Jenner 07598 251161<br><a href="mailto:alisonjenner@yahoo.com">alisonjenner@yahoo.com</a>  |
| Weight Watchers                             | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>   |

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| <b>Botley Baptist Church,<br/>1 Church Way</b>               | Contact: Building Manager 07742<br>662668 <a href="mailto:botleybaptist@gmail.com">botleybaptist@gmail.com</a>              |
| <b>The Rosary Room<br/>Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise</b>          | Contact: Maria Brown,<br>Tel: 01865 247986.   |
| <b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church<br/>Hall, West Way, Botley</b> | Contact: 01865 242057 or<br><a href="mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com">osneybenefice@outlook.com</a> .                      |
| <b>Women's Institute Hall,<br/>North Hinksey Lane</b>        | Contact: Val Warner<br>Tel. 01865 245273  |
| <b>Seacourt Hall,<br/>3 Church Way</b>                       | Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100,<br>or email <a href="mailto:admin@seacourthall.org.uk">admin@seacourthall.org.uk</a> |
| <b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way,<br/>Elms Rise, Botley</b>         | Contact: Darren Blase 241254<br><a href="mailto:louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com">louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com</a>        |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club,<br/>North Hinksey Village</b>          | Contact: Mary Bagnall<br><a href="mailto:mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com">mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com</a> .                   |

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

**St. Lawrence, Church of England**, North Hinksey Lane

1st, 2nd, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 at Field House, West Way  
1st Saturday each month, 4–5.30pm      Messy Church for children and carers  
Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org)

**Calvary Chapel**

Sunday services on 1st Floor, 1 Church Way at 9.30am with  
*crèche, children's Sunday school and youth group*

Pastor Steve Vickery 01865 586332

[contact@ccox.church](mailto:contact@ccox.church)      website: [www.ccodoxford.church](http://www.ccodoxford.church)

# **What's On**

## **October**

- Sun 1st**      **New arrangements begin at Botley Medical Centre**
- Sat 7th**      **10am to 4pm, Hill End, Family Day – Foraging!**
- Sun 8th**      **3–5pm, South View, Old Botley, Apple Day**
- Mon 9th**      **2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk:  
Famous Local Folk: The People behind the Blue  
Plaques of Oxfordshire**
- Thur 19th**      **7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting**
- Tues 24th**      **Botley Library, half-term craft event for 5-10s**
- Mon 23rd**      **2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk:  
Fran Sandham will be recounting his challenge of a  
lifetime, A Solo Walk Across Africa**

## **November**

- Wed 1st**      **11am, Dean Court Community Centre, during the  
community café, AgeUK short talk about benefits**
- Sat 11th**      **11am, West Way Centre, Remembrance Day**
- Sun 12th**      **10.45am, Botley Cemetery, Remembrance Service**

*Botley Library welcomes people looking for somewhere warm to sit,  
and will provide hot drinks on request.*