

The Sprout



Platinum
June 2022

Beacon,

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 169 July 2022

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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The Sprout

Issue 169, July 2022

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From the Editor

Most of this month's *Sprout* is a record of the many and varied local responses to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Pages 17 to 29 cover the Beacon Party, the West Way Festival, the Local History Exhibition, the street parties – even the Lunch Club had a special meal. We won't soon forget the excitement as the beacon flared into the night – it doesn't happen very often! It was great to get together and enjoy the simple fun of shared celebration, and it was well recorded by local photographers. Thank you, Miles Gomme, for the picture on the cover and thanks also to everyone else who sent in photos. There have been other things going on too: we are happy to announce the deserving winners of Botley in Bloom 2022 (p5), the prizes (thank you NHPC) will be presented on 3rd July. The Botley Medical Practice now has a new practice manager (p15); the Skatepark designs are nearly finished (p11); and Chris Andrews, living locally but globally famous for his beautiful photos of Oxford, has a special offer for Sprout readers (p33). The Big Bring and Take on 9th July (p3) gives us a chance to recycle things we no longer need. It's the Sprout AGM on 14th August up at the Pavilion – a chance to thank all the people who make it happen (p38). Summer holidays are coming up – our next issue will be in September. Have a good summer!

Ag MacKeith

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Letters to the Editor

Plaudits

I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful people who worked so hard to make the fantastic Jubilee celebrations.

Also for the excellent work done by the litter pickers.

Kathleen E. Cattell

I have been in Botley nearly 12 years now and I have always found all the Staff at the Botley Medical Practice to be very friendly and efficient.

Adam Hardiman

Oxford Area Quillers

Quilling is an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped, and glued together to create decorative designs. The paper is rolled, looped, curled, twisted, and otherwise manipulated to create shapes that make up designs to decorate greetings cards, pictures, boxes, eggs, and to make models, jewellery, mobiles,etc.

We will be holding an **Open Day with workshops**, showing how you can use quilling alone, or with other crafts you might already do. There will be cakes for sale, etc on **Saturday 30 July from 10:30 am until approximately 3pm** (drop in and drop out as you please) at the WI Hall in North Hinksey Lane. Just come to look, browse, chat, or to buy, or just to see the hall's new extension. We would love to see you all. If you would like more information you can email me on angelaarnold@aol.com or phone 01865 244265.

Angela Arnold

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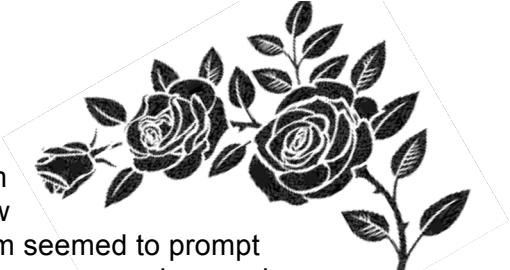
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Botley In Bloom 2022

Many thanks to all those who took part in this year's Botley in Bloom Front Garden competition. After a slow start, Jubilee Bank Holiday enthusiasm seemed to prompt a flurry of entries! The diverse planting was more impressive than ever this year, and the combination of sun and rain has resulted in a riot of colour in our gardens. We saw so many pretty gardens, and with the roses in full bloom we had a hard job to make decisions. However, I am delighted to announce the winners in each of the three categories as follows:



BEST OVERALL FRONT GARDEN

1st prize – 3 Halliday Lane. John and Vicci Fleming have turned a rectangle of lawn into a beautiful crevice garden with a winding gravel path, inspired by RHS Wisley. The creativity and design are most impressive!



2nd prize – 94 North Hinksey Lane. The appropriately named Phil Bloomer's front garden has a real 'wow' factor, with a riot of colour. He also scored very highly for the environmentally sympathetic planting – the judges felt it was a close run thing for first place.

Highly Commended – 13 Maple Close. Andrea Flear's lovingly created front garden is beautiful with a great mix of plants and colour.

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BEST CULTIVATED-WILDLIFE FRONT GARDEN

1st prize – 1 St Pauls Crescent. Rebecca and Fred Walker have



designed a lovely front garden which supports a lot of wildlife, including a good-sized pond, grasses, and trees. We loved the planting.

2nd prize – 36 North Hinksey Village. Chris & Elaine Sugden take full advantage of the stream running alongside their property and the judges really like the native plants and wild flowers that grace its banks. If anything, the garden looks even better than last year when they won this category!

Highly Commended – 9 Sweetmans Road. Jan Shirley's front garden is delightful with the 'lawn' a mass of marjoram.

Highly Commended – 30 Cope Close. The wildlife friendliness of Linda Losito's garden is lovely and very worthy of a second Highly Commended rating.

BEST JUBILEE HANGING BASKET OR WINDOW BOX

1st prize – 31 Chestnut Road. Ilaria, Thomas and Julia Yeomans



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have created an ingenious rain-water harvesting area with decorative window boxes on the front. They are to be complimented also on their environmentally-friendly off-road parking.

There were no other entries for this category.

Our thanks go to LeoQuent for kindly sponsoring the cost of posters and North Hinksey Parish Council for providing funding, allowing us to award prizes and certificates to all first and second places. National Garden Scheme vouchers of £30 will find their way to first prize winners with £20 vouchers for second place. Highly Commended places will receive a certificate. Prizes will be presented in the garden of 23 St Paul's Crescent on Sunday 3rd July.

Most of all, my fellow judge Jan Bartlam and I wish to thank everyone who entered the competition, with special congratulations to all those whose hard work and imagination give so much pleasure to the rest of the neighbourhood. We really enjoyed looking at all the front gardens and especially meeting some of you on our way round.

Viv Smith

Part-time relief caretaker required

Are you interested in occasional local caretaker work? Perhaps you work in a similar role with flexibility in your schedule? The Parish Council are looking for part-time relief Caretakers to cover holiday (4 weeks a year) and sick leave for the Caretaker for the Louie Memorial Pavilion and playing fields.

The responsibilities include Pavilion building safety checks and maintenance, weekly play equipment safety checks, cleaning and litter-picking, sports pitch line-marking, among other duties and will vary depending on the time of year.

Full job description online at northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/

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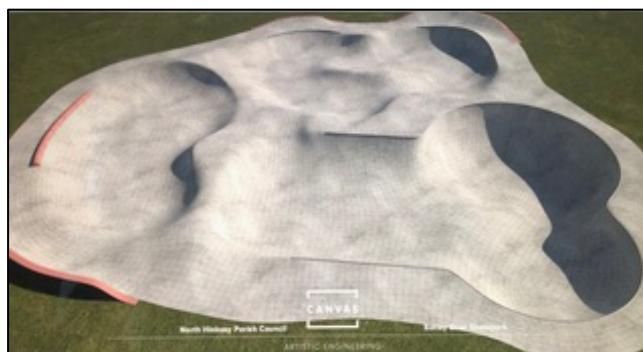
On Saturday June 4th, Botley came together to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, and with bunting flying and skates on, we presented the latest proposals to the general public for the new Botley Skatepark.

At our stall we were met with the excited faces of children peering over their own boards, out from under oversized helmets, parents in tow. It was two girls, Sky Brown and Bombette Martin, who represented Britain at last year's Olympics in skateboarding and, well, why couldn't we find the next one in Oxford?

Well, we can't if we don't have parks! It was heartening to speak to the community in Botley about this project and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and supportive. Here are some of the comments:

- "This would be a really good local resource. My sons are 10 and 11 and would love to be able to learn locally, as we do not drive."
- "It would be nice to see a skate park somewhere near where everyone lived. Please make this happen."
- "What a great plan. This would be such a great place for people, young and old, to socialize and enjoy a fun hobby."
- "I THINK THIS WILL HELP PEOPLE LOCALLY GO OUTSIDE AND GET OUT MORE!" (this from a wise child!)

We are really grateful to North Hinksey Parish Council for providing this welcome local facility. The project is now well under way. Canvas Spaces have been chosen as the contractor who will provide the



park, and their first design, which was a mass of billowing curves, is being revised by our core design working party of users and their parents.

The first version of the design is above, the second version, has more differentiated sections. As you can see from the image, it retains the



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bowl element that references our famous earlier park, but has acquired a flat space for street skating (and little kids on scooters) and a mini-ramp off to the side for less experienced skaters to practise tricks and kids on BMXs to have fun away from the main action.

The two parts are much the same size despite the image above), and the whole park is being tailored to fit in behind the play equipment on the site of the old bowl.

The core group of users will finalise the design very soon, and then it will be time to go for planning permission and start raising the money. It's not going to be cheap, and we'll need all the help we can get! Follow us on Instagram at [@botleyskatepark](#) for updates, or keep on reading *The Sprout*, another proud part of our Botley Community.

Georgia Wren



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Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group

On May 19th the PPG executive met with Pete Culley the new Practice Manager of the Botley Medical Centre. His career experience is as a practice manager in dentistry, work for BUPA as an area manager and operations manager. He has most recently worked as practice manager at Southam.

He told us that he had prepared a lot of practices for Care Quality Commission visits and saw his role as ensuring that they got to 'good' or above. He has developed an action sheet for what needs attention and will seek to ensure that everything is in place before the next CQC inspection, due in June or July. His post is full time: he will spend three days a week in Botley and two in Kennington. We learned the new BMC website should go live by the middle of the summer.

The PPG Executive discussed the following points with him:

- How he sees communication and consultation with the PPG;
- The need for 6-monthly meetings of a monitoring team, which includes the PPG, to keep progress on track;
- Securing test results and where tests take place;
- Issues around securing appointments;
- Developing a practice newsletter;
- Holding 'face-to-face' PPG meetings in the surgeries, along with technological support to enable them to be 'hybrid'.

PPG is now holding meetings face-to-face, and he made clear his intention to attend.

Chris Sugden (Secretary)



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Jubilee Beacon Party

Thursday June 2nd 2022 was the day our community began a weekend long celebration commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The first event of this four-day party was our Community Beacon Party, held on the Louie Memorial playing fields. The high point of the evening was the lighting of the magnificent beacon at 9:45pm, our link in the chain of 1500 beacons, lit simultaneously across the UK and beyond.

The LM Pavilion, MUGA and playing fields, festooned with rows and rows of bunting, hand painted by pupils of all the local schools, hosted a Tap Social pop-up bar, a BBQ courtesy of the 15th Scout Group and a 'Down the Decades Disco'. People brought picnics to share, and some even made the Jubilee Tart, specially devised for the celebration, as promoted in *The Sprout*.

By eight o'clock the playing field outside the LM Pavilion was packed with eager beacon-ites. It's hard to put an exact figure on the night's attendance but estimates range from 400-1200 people, young and old, royalists and revellers, but all wonderfully patient and good natured. Sightings of some super fifties, sixties and seventies fashions were rumoured among the throng. These photos (thank you, Miles Gomme) record a couple of the more memorable efforts.

The beer, burgers and boogying kept the crowds happy until nine o'clock when Philip Powell's bagpipes

played the candle-lit (er... tealight in a jar) procession across the field to the trail up the hill. Oxford Harmony Choir were there to welcome them with some rousing choruses. When the time came, Sam Pogose sounded and resounded the fanfare, and our invited igniter, Layla Moran MP, sparked up the beacon, making sure it was well lit on all sides, to the joy of the cheering crowds.

Everyone launched into the national anthem as the beacon flared into the night sky overhead. As the spectacular flames settled into a steady





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blaze, we counted the distant sparks around the horizon that indicated other beacons like ours – the best count showed seven of them, the nearest on Beacon Hill at Farmoor.

Before very long the blaze subsided, and people began to make their way back down, very grateful to the marshals whose steady torches lit the dark path. At the Pavilion they found a welcome cup of hot chocolate waiting for them. The last of the jubilee revellers departed around eleven o'clock.

It was a brilliant night, not only celebrating the Queen's remarkable reign, but for many a celebration of the rebirth of our community activities, of getting together with family and friends old and new, and sharing good times once again.

Ali Hogg



Botley Seniors Lunch Club – Jubilee Celebration

On Thursday, 26 May Botley Seniors Lunch Club celebrated the Platinum Jubilee with a special lunch. The menu was:

Gammon with Cumberland Sauce
Roast Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables
Jubilee Meringue Nests with cream, strawberries and blueberries

The tables were decorated with red table-cloths and napkins and looked very festive.

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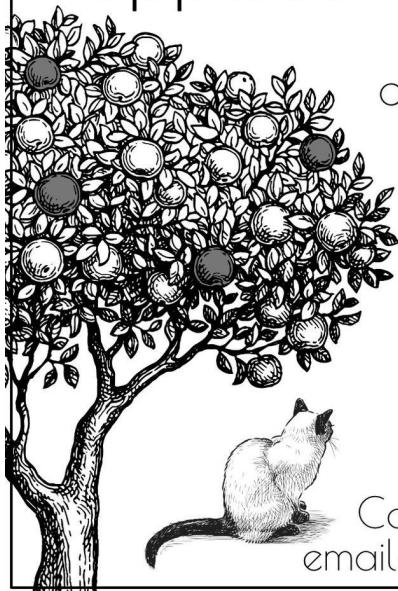
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West Way Jubilee Festival

So much happened at the shopping precinct on Saturday afternoon that it's hard to know where to start – perhaps with the Bötley Crüe, who fired up the party spirit from their first song. You can see accounts of the Skatepark stall and the History Exhibition on other pages, but what about the Cake Competition? All those



lurid creations ably ranked and judged by Kyle from the Missing Bean. Here he is, and here's one of the more regal cakes.



Then there was Ali Hogg's Stamp Portraits (my personal favourite), where you profile, thrown against the back wall of the hall by a strong torch. Then you coloured it in and he applied the perforations round the edge and there you were, a modern Penny Black.

Here he is with one of the portraits:

And finally, among all the other memorable acts – Barricane, songs from Stagecoach – who could forget the synchronized trampolining of three women from Bounce Fitness, one of whom somehow managed to keep calling the moves all the time she was jumping without ever losing her breath or missing a beat. The kids loved it too, bouncing along on their own mini trampolines. And did I mention the Capoeira display? The children's Treasure Hunt? The Henna painting? The exhibition by Botley Arts? Well done, all those volunteers, and particularly Lorna Berrett, recently honoured by Buckingham Palace for her community work during the first lockdown, and the one person who managed to keep all Saturday's different elements in her head at the same time!

he drew round the shadow of



Ag MacKeith

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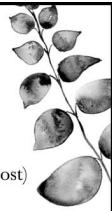
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Jubilee Local History Exhibition

With all of the Festival action going on outside Seacourt Hall on Saturday afternoon, we initially wondered how much interest would be shown in our rather more sedate attraction inside. We didn't have to worry for long as the space was soon packed with locals keen to find out more about the history of Botley over the years, with an emphasis on the 1950s and royal connections as befits an event celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Displays included slideshows on the Hall's large screen of local photographs from Victorian times to the present; a range of historical maps of Botley from the 1760s through Ordnance Survey plans to the intriguing Russian map of 1973; the disappearing world of the many local landmarks that have been swept away over the past century; hot topics locally in the post-WWII era before and after the Coronation (lots of allotments, pig swill, housing, flooding, public toilets, and even a proposed swimming pool); photos of locals meeting members of the Royal Family and much more. The photo shows the authors of the three parts of the exhibition: Martin Harris (Royalty), Malcolm Graham (maps and the slide show) and David Kay (parish council history).

There was even an informal poll to gauge people's opinions about monarchs of the past 1,200 years (excluding the current Queen). It clearly showed the lasting impact of the Tudors who gained almost half of the total votes across three categories. The winners and some of the reasons given for choosing them were:



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- Best monarch – Queen Elizabeth I (mostly for initiating girl power – an early Ginger Spice)
- Most interesting monarch – King Henry VIII (also a strong second in the most overrated category, lots of mentions of the 6 wives and their fates, plus he ticked off all of the Seven Deadly Sins by the end)
- Most overrated monarch – Richard I (the Lionheart, but other than bravery during the Crusades he almost bankrupted the country when captured and ransomed, he probably didn't speak a word of English and only spent about 6 months of his entire life here.)

The three of us certainly had an interesting time putting together this exhibition, and from the enthusiastic response of the several hundred visitors who took the opportunity to view all of the displays, it seems that there is a much wider interest in this topic. Our thanks to the Oxfordshire History Centre for supplying copies of maps and Henry Taunt photos, also to Cumnor & District History Society, retrowow.co.uk, to all who provided photos, documents and reminiscences and to everybody who came on the day.

David Kay

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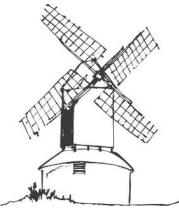


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Jubilee Street Parties

The celebrations carried on over the weekend, with locally organized street parties all around. Here are three *The Sprout* has been told of:

North Hinksey Village held its own Jubilee Party on the village green on Sunday 5th. It was a bring-and-share do and included a jubilee trifle (which did not take 14 hours to make). While rain threatened, it held off till the clearing up had begun. Peter Skinner brought his Nostalgia Travel double-decker Dennis Bus (used for wedding parties) as a refuge in case it rained.

The highlight was Ukrainian singing by Natalia, who came to live in the village a few weeks ago with her 12-year-old daughter under the Government's visa scheme. She is a school music teacher, and has been given a home in the house of a member of the Cumnor Choral Society. By a lucky chance, another music teacher lives in the house opposite, who was able to accompany her on the cello, with a guitarist as well. Natalia sang a couple of Ukrainian songs and then had the whole gathering of 40–50 residents singing a simple song in Ukrainian, about a family with red hair starting with the Granddad. Once we had the words and the tune she then had us clapping, and finally foot tapping as well. She certainly knew how to work a crowd! Thankfully she stopped before making us sing faster and faster!! She said that she had felt welcome as

into a family. Her husband is still in Kyiv in the military. The picture gives a sense of this festive occasion.

Plants had been sold on the village green over the last two weeks, raising

£100 for extra food for those looking after internally displaced people in Ukraine.

Chris Sugden



Beech Road also had a party. Julie Watson sent this account:

The residents of Beech Road came together for a jubilee/post-Covid street party. Although the weather wasn't very favourable, a bit of rain couldn't stop multiple genera-



tions of people (from just 11 weeks up to the extreme age of the Queen!) gathering to celebrate.

Reminiscent of times gone past, children played for the first time together along the empty street and live music was provided by two of the residents.

Lots of lovely food was shared, Pimm's and fizz were flowing and lots of cake was eaten. **Pictures show Old and Young, the Musicians, and the lavish spread**



Finally, here's an account of the goings on behind the Seacourt Bridge.

Poplar Road held a fabulous street party on Sunday 5th June. After a long and lovely weekend of Platinum Jubilee celebrations, under skies that threatened – but did not deliver – rain, around 30 neighbours enjoyed each other's contributions to the feast. We had the official Jubilee pudding, delicious devilled eggs from our resident American and a 'scone-off' from two houses on opposite sides of the street. Rogue republicans were tempted in when passing for the odd piece of cake, there was a promise to 'regalise your future' from a monarch visiting from centuries from now*, a new and extremely cute puppy, and a whole range of flags adorning the house of Poplar Road's very own vexillologist (clue, Latin for flag is *vexillum*).



Zuhura Plummer



(**The Sprout* can reveal further information on this interesting visitor from the future, as follows: "Another character gracing the party was Quing Eli Zabeth Windsor, the current Queen's great, great grandson. He had travelled back from the future and was sporting a stylish take on 'smart/ casual': dinner jacket, bow tie and sarong.")

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From Your District Councillor

Lots of people already do litter picking in our community, helping to make Botley better. Thanks for all you do!



This summer Vale are running a Litter Mapping exercise. If you can let Vale know the sort of litter you find, and where you find it, our clean-up programmes can be more effectively targeted. All the details are here, including an online form to fill in. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/our-litter-mapping-project/>

Won't you check it out?

Councillor Surgeries: Residents from across North Hinksey parish (including Parish Councillors of course) are invited to drop in and speak to us in person at any one of our surgeries. Upcoming dates are:

- **Fri 15th July**, 1:30-3pm, Pappo, West Way Square, Botley
- **Weds 7th Sept**, 11:30am-1pm, The Flowing Well, Sunningwell
- **Sat 8th Oct**, 10:30-am-12pm, Pappo, West Way Square, Botley
- **Sat 12th Nov**, 10:30am-12pm, The White Hart, Wytham

You can also phone me on 07545 241013

Cllr Debby Hallett, Lib Dem member for Botley & Sunningwell Ward

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P22/V1130/HH	4 North Hinksey Lane. Rebuild existing outbuilding as a workshop.	9 May <i>TDD: 4 July</i>
P22/V1144/LDP	71 Arthray Rd. Change hip to gable loft conversion with rear facing dormer.	10 May <i>TDD: 5 July</i>
P22/V1156/HH Material Amendment to P21/V1013/HH	23 Cumnor Rise Rd. Replace existing garage & carport with timber-framed ditto. Erect single-storey extension to rear of dwelling & porch at front.	16 May <i>Target Decision Date: 11 July</i>
P22/V1253/FUL	3 Laburnum Rd. Convert to 8-person HMO, demolish garage, outbuilding & single storey at rear. Erect 2-storey side & single storey rear extensions.	19 May <i>TDD: 14 July</i>
P22/V1262/HH	Grayflete, Vernon Ave. Extension and alterations to existing dwelling.	20 May <i>TDD: 15 July</i>
P22/V1182/HH	35 Montagu Rd. Single storey extension & internal alteration of existing semi-detached house.	25 May <i>TDD: 20 July</i>

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Chris Andrews and the Romance of Oxford

In June 1982 I walked into central Oxford with my newly produced postcards in my hot little hand and approached half a dozen shops to see if they would sell them. The cards featured my photography in what I hoped was an attractive but atmospheric style. The then manager of Blackwell dubbed them 'The Romance of Oxford'. We still use this title.

The first deliveries were on 8th June 1982, a Tuesday. By Friday five of the six shops had phoned me, having sold so many cards they needed to reorder. Since then we have sold over 20 million postcards, around a million books and half a million calendars. All using my photography.

I have photographed most of the Oxford Colleges as well as some in Cambridge, photographed and published books on the Cotswolds, Chilterns, Bath and Stratford, as well as the Channel Islands (including decamping the whole young family for a year to live on an island), established a publishing business in Belfast, been commissioned to go to Chile for location work for a film, gone to the Falkland Islands for work on a book and been to South Africa to launch a book of Botanical Illustrations we had published for another company.

If you go to <https://mailchi.mp/cap-ox.com/40-years-in-publishing> you can see a lighthearted little film piece on us as a whole.

To share this achievement with readers of the Sprout I would like to offer **15% discount** until end July on all our products (except Limited Edition books). Just email me at pictures@cap-ox.com or call the office on 01865 723404 quoting "Sprout". To see our current publications please go to www.cap-ox.com

Here is one of my pictures: Broad Street (minus cars)



It's All Happening at Botley School

This term has seen the return of KS2 SATS, and a growth in after-school clubs, which now include tennis, football, dance and netball. We hosted and participated in the local 'Quadkids' sporting festival, and are sending our winning teams to the Vale finals in Abingdon at the end of the month! The highly popular Kindness and Chess clubs are also up and running. In fact we are starting to challenge other local schools to chess tournaments – so watch this space!



Some of our Year 6 pupils went to London to take part in 'Young Voices' at the O2, joining forces with 8000 other primary-age children to lift the roof with their singing; Years 3 and 4 experienced a 'Stone Age' day at Hill End; and the School Choir are getting ready to perform at the Festival of Voices in Dorchester Abbey this month. The Friends of Botley School (FOBS) organised our first School disco for a long time; pupils across the school took part in magic lantern art workshops; KS1 were excited to get a visit from the author Mini Grey to talk about her books; the Early Years pupils' chicks hatched; and we finished the term by inviting parents to our Jubilee celebration of country dancing, culminating in a celebratory dance when pupils, staff and parents joined forces on the playground – a truly special moment when our community came properly back together again at last!

We are now fundraising for a new Early Years play area at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/botley-early-years-playground. It would be wonderful if any ex-pupils, families, businesses – or indeed anyone from the local community – were able to support us!

We are also on the lookout for new Play Workers for our Breakfast Club and After School Club. Both are lovely part-time roles, ideally suited to people who like children and (for Breakfast Club), getting up early! The hours are 7:15-8:45am, Monday to Friday for Breakfast Club, and for After School Club it's 3:15-6:15pm, Monday and Friday only. The hourly rate is £9.99, rising to £10.19. See www.botleyschool.org.uk/vacancies for the advert, job description and application form. The closing date is 11 July, with interviews on July 15th. Please get in touch with business.manager@botley.oxon.sch.uk if you'd like to know more. If you know of anyone who might be interested, do tell them! Thank you!

Alex Neil

The Big Plastic Count

This has been sent in by a concerned local resident:

Did you take part in The Big Plastic Count (week of 16th to 22nd May)? This is a collaboration between Greenpeace and the social enterprise Everyday Plastic. The Big Plastic Count is a nationwide investigation into what happens to the plastic that packages our food, drink, and other goods after it leaves our homes.

Participants had to tally all the plastic packaging they threw away at home, ideally for seven days, categorising it according to headings provided by Everyday Plastic. The deadline for submission of individual results was 31 May, and the overall results from around the UK will be released in mid-July.

At the end of seven days of tallying my own waste I was shocked to find my Botley household of two people had thrown away 93 items of plastic packaging.

According to the organisers' estimates, only 12% of all plastic waste is recycled; the rest is exported, burnt, or sent to landfill.

This investigation is meant to send a wake-up call to government, supermarkets, and big brands to take more action on plastic in the environment. But is there anything *Sprout* readers can do to improve their recycling scores? I look for recycling information on all plastic items (sometimes having to use a magnifying glass) and also use paper packaging wherever possible.

And someone else added:

I did the big plastic count too and was horrified that our household of two used 88 items of plastic packaging despite my being careful to avoid plastic whenever I can.



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[It really is a big problem. I checked www.oxfordshire.gov.uk 'Waste Wizard' to see if the Vale would recycle the two sackfuls of 'stretchy' plastic in my shed. It seems they do take it, but where does it go after my green bin? Can we be confident that it is actually recycled? Ed]

Botley Arts features Roger Smith

For reasons beyond their control, Botley Arts was obliged to cancel the Tereza Barnard exhibition announced in last month's Sprout. Their current exhibition is of works by Roger Smith.

I have been interested in photography since my teens, when it was part of my work at the Royal Aircraft establishment at Farnborough. That was when I built my first pinhole camera, completely fascinated by how nothing more than a pinhole could produce an image. Camera Obscuras are like pinhole cameras but with a lens. They were used to observe eclipses, avoiding the damage to the eye that can be caused by direct observation of the Sun. They were also used by many famous artists, Canaletto and Vermeer, for instance, to sketch out the scenes they wished to paint. In Venice, I actually handled the Camera Obscura that Canaletto used, and I have followed his example by using it for some of the pictures in this exhibition.



When I retired in 2000, I enrolled at Rycotewood College in Thame for a two-year full-time HND course in Restoration Studies. For me it brought together several areas of long-standing interest, in design, science, carpentry, art, and engineering. The HND course included time as an intern at Oxford's Museum of the History of Science, and I was able to make a replica of a portable early 19th century Camera Obscura as a final project for my course (see photo). I studied the history of this appliance and have made several more. The Bodleian Library commissioned me to make a working example for their exhibition on John Aubrey, and I have also made some for the National Trust.

We are fortunate to have Marcus Hodge as course tutor at Sunningwell School of Art. He is one of the UK's leading portrait painters, and worked as war artist for *The Times* in Afghanistan. I was grateful for all he taught me about oil painting techniques during lockdown. You will find oil paintings in the exhibition, as well as pen and ink drawings.

I hope to include a short presentation of the Camera Obscuras and paintings during my exhibition at St Peters and St Pauls with Botley Arts. The exhibition runs from **Monday 4th July to the end of August.**

Randoms

West Oxford U3A Music Group

Did you know about the West Oxford U3A Discovering Music Group? It is small, friendly and sociable. We meet at 2.15pm in our homes, usually on the third Thursday of each month to listen to recorded music, mainly classical (including opera). We bring items which we enjoy and think others will enjoy too, or find intriguing. In this way we have made many delightful discoveries, and we freely express our reactions. We often finish with something in lighter mood.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact me at grimshaw.johnla@btinternet.com or telephone 01865 861949.

John Grimshaw

Mosaic workshops

There will be 5 mosaic workshops at the Seacourt Hall on Thursdays 10am-12pm between 23rd June and 21st July. These are free public sessions with artist Clare Goodall, and will form part of her mosaic panels commission for public art in West Way Square. Participants will be able to learn cutting and layout techniques to make mosaics to the designs set out in the plans. Full guidance will be given. All abilities welcome.

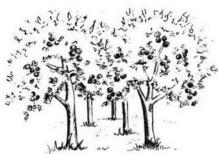
Attendance is limited to 12 participants in each workshop. Interested? Contact Lorna on lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com

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Natalia's music lessons

Natalia is a music teacher from Ukraine, living for a while in North Hinksey (see page 27). She can teach piano, ukulele and recorder, but her main work experience is in running group classes for all ages using the Orff approach.

She's hoping to find work teaching group classes for parents with kids, plus some private lessons. Don't miss this unusual opportunity – you can contact her via her mobile (with its Ukrainian number): it is +380666 384453

Saturdads

This Saturday session for Dads and their young children is starting again on 2nd July, 11-12 noon at Botley Bridges in Elms Road, and on the first Saturday of the month thereafter. Just drop in – there's no need to book. Further info from coordinator@botleybridges.org

Louie Memorial Pavilion Committee AGM,

The Louie Memorial Pavilion Committee invites you to its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 4 September at 3.30pm. Items to be covered include the annual accounts, business during the year, and election of members. The meeting will be an informal event, taking place during the pop-up café. If you've been thinking about being more involved in your community, do come along, as the committee is always on the look-out for new members to bring fresh ideas to the forum.

Sprout AGM

This will take place at the Pop-up café on the Louie Memorial Upper Field on Sunday 14th August, 3.30 pm. Do come and tell us what you'd like to see in our friendly local mag, hear about the challenges we face as Botley fills up, and get a sense of our likely future.

Cumnor Choral Society

The society had a joyful return to live performance during 2021-2022, following the Covid lay-off. We performed Handel's Messiah in the Autumn 2021, followed in the spring of 2022 by Fauré's Requiem and Mendelssohn's Hear My Prayer.

This Autumn we will be performing Haydn's *Harmoniemesse* and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* **Rehearsals will start on 23rd September at Cumnor Old School, starting at 8 p.m.**, all welcome.

The performance on 3rd December will be at St. Peter & St. Paul Church in Botley, conducted by Peter Foster, our musical director.

If you enjoy singing in a friendly atmosphere we would love you to join us. A voice test is not required, just that you are enthusiastic about the music. Each section has experienced singers who will be happy to support you if you are new to choral singing. The choir sings a classical repertoire drawn from both sacred and secular, with concerts twice a year in the autumn and early summer. Rehearsals are once a week, with breaks over Christmas, the school holidays and through the summer (early June – early September) For more details please contact John May at johnmay@btinternet.com or 07795 054142 or go to cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com

Steve Morris

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

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

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

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

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

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane

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

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

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

Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill

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

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way

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

Calvary Chapel

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

What's On

July

- Sat 2nd** 11–12, Botley Bridges, Elms Road, Saturdads
- Sat 2nd** 4–6pm, Ss Peter & Paul, Messy church for children
- Thur 7th** 10–12pm Seacourt Hall, Mosaic Workshop, also on 14th and 21st.
- Thur 7th** 12.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Seniors Lunch Club, also 21st, then summer break, resumes 8th September.
- Sat 9th** 10–12.30, Ss Peter & Paul Church Hall, Great Botley Bring & Take
- Sat 9th** afternoon, WOCA, West Oxford Fun Day
- Sat 9th** from 6.30pm, Farmoor Summer Barbecue
- Fri 15th** 1.30–3pm, Pappo's, West Way precinct, District Councillors' Surgery

Fri 22nd END OF TERM

- Sat 30th** 10.30–3pm, W.I. Hall, N Hinksey Lane, Quilling Open Day and Workshops
- All July and August, from July 4th, Roger Smith's Exhibition for Botley Arts at Ss Peter & Paul Church**
- End of July, Chris Andrews' *Romance of Oxford* offer for Sprout readers ends.**

No U3A talks in July or August

August

- Sat 6th** 7pm, Farmoor Village Hall Race Night
- Sun 14th** 3-5pm, LM Pavilion, Arnold's way, SPROUT AGM