

# The Sprout



**Botley families at the Bike Ride for Climate Action**

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 141 October 2019**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 141, October 2019**

### **Contents**

<b>3 Botley Arts</b>	<b>23 Well and truly SCAMMED</b>
<b>5 Apple Day</b>	<b>27 Scouts on the River</b>
<b>7 Memory Club</b>	<b>29 Changes at the Practice</b>
<b>11 Model House</b>	<b>33 Parking Blues</b>
<b>15 Planning Apps</b>	<b>35 Botley in Russian</b>
<b>17 Tattoos</b>	<b>37 WI Summer Festival</b>
<b>10 Brownies Chase a Badge</b>	<b>39 ABC meeting</b>
<b>Well-being for us all</b>	<b>41 Randoms</b>

### **Local organizations**

#### **From the Editor**

Lots of interest in this month's *Sprout*, starting with Dick Wolff's blow-by-blow account of how he modified his new house in Tilbury Lane to make it a net exporter of electricity to the grid (p11), and a cautionary tale of a scam that very nearly succeeded (p23) – read and learn, you wouldn't want this to happen to you! The illegal parking in North Hinksey Lane is getting so outrageous it inspired a satirical poem (p33) and on page 17 you will find the stories behind one man's tattoos. The Patients Participation Group of the local medical practice is soldiering on under difficult circumstances (p29), there's a new club for people with dementia (p7) and a map of Botley in Russian, relic of the Cold War (p35). Our cover shows Botley's presence at the Family Bike Ride for Climate Action on 20th September, and page 39 has an account of the meeting of the Association for Botley Communities, pledged to do all it can to protect the environment and avert a climate catastrophe. If all this seems a bit much, turn to page 19 for some advice on ways to maintain health and happiness despite the challenging times we live in. Or you can restore calm by remembering the Scouts and Brownies are still doing what they love, the Women's Institute in Botley is celebrating 100 years, and Apple Day's coming up on 6th October.

**Ag MacKeith**

## **Local art exhibition**

Summer's over, but we at Botley Arts are delighted to welcome back Gordon Stokes whose gorgeous and inspiring photographs remind us of sunny days. The exhibition can be found in St Peter and St Paul's Church, West Way, daylight hours, from Monday 30th September until the end of November. Not to be missed! Here's what he says about his work:

### **The Far West – the sea in west Cornwall and Isles of Scilly**

These photographs show the variety of moods and colours of the sea around the Isles of Scilly and the far west of Cornwall. Cornwall has big beaches, big breakers and keen surfers. Scilly attracts those who love peace, quiet and tranquillity.

West Cornwall, especially St Ives, is famed for the quality of its light and has attracted artists for 100 years. The special light is largely due to being at the end of the long South West peninsula, surrounded by sea, but with damp air that deflects light, making shadows less harsh. The Isles of Scilly also have a special quality of light. It's influenced by the remoteness of the islands allowing so much light to be reflected by the sea, the clarity of the water, and the white sand and seaweed that reflect light back up again from the shallow sea beds. While Scilly is way out into the Atlantic Ocean, the outer rocks and islands shelter the sea between the islands and the water often has an almost treacly look – at other times glittering – it is seldom grey!

I visit West Cornwall regularly and I've loved the Isles of Scilly since I first went there in the 1980s, especially the smaller islands of Bryher, Tresco, St Martins and Samson. The photos concentrate on the water and the sky, but they wouldn't be the same without the white beaches, the soft grassy dunes, the rugged saw-tooth islands and rocks.

My photography is often minimalist, simple in terms of composition, and my influences are from abstracted painting and printmaking rather than conventional photography. The aim is to please and uplift rather than to challenge. I hope that they convey a sense of the places they were taken and how precious the natural environment is – for the world and for our spirit.

I started printing photographs aged 13, and have used monochrome,

colour print and slide film. All is now digital and is mainly seascapes from the Scilly Isles, Cornwall, the Outer Hebrides and elsewhere, combined with landscapes of Oxfordshire.

I have exhibited in various places including the Hexagon in Reading, West Ox Arts in Bampton, and more locally at the John Radcliffe, Churchill and Warneford Hospitals. For the last 30 years I have lived and worked in the Oxford area, but love nothing better than to escape to the quiet coasts and beaches of the far West. My photography has been combined with a career in research, including working for the Countryside Agency. A geographer by training, I also am a Visiting Research Associate in the University of Oxford. I regularly take part in Artweeks at the Edith Road Studios off Abingdon Road in Oxford.

My work can be seen on [www.gordonstokes.co.uk](http://www.gordonstokes.co.uk)

**Gordon Stokes**

---

## **BOTLEY APPLE DAY**

**South View House**

**Old Botley OX2 0JR**

**SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER**

**2.30 pm - 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. (Good ones can be stored or shared) Apples identified. Apple recipes and storage ideas. Bring knives, juice containers. No apples? Just come anyway. Fun for all the family!

**Phone 01865 724452 for details or just turn up**

## Memory Club

Kennington Memory Club has just celebrated its first anniversary. It opened a year ago to meet the need for a local Dementia Day Care Centre for people living in the area which includes Kennington and the Hinkseys, Botley, Cumnor, Wootton, Marcham, Abingdon, Radley, and surrounding villages.

With qualified and experienced staff and our team of dedicated volunteers, we aim to provide a safe and supportive meeting place for people with dementia. Our members have the opportunity to exchange memories and opinions, take part in a choice of stimulating activities,

as well as enjoying the fellowship of shared meals. We give their families respite and the offer of support, advice and comradeship.

Our activities include gentle exercises, reminiscence, musical bingo, card games and lots of memory games. There is plenty of opportunity for conversation with other members, staff and volunteers, and music and singing are popular. A hot lunch is available for members at modest extra cost. If they want to, carers can go to the carers' support groups that take place every two months.



## Isobel Dunnet Acupuncture

At Raleigh Park Clinic or in your home

- Arthritic/lower back pain
- Fertility & pregnancy
- Migraine/tension headache

Contact Isobel on  
01865 240643 / 07751 477476  
belokuk@gmail.com

**[www.isobeldunnet.co.uk](http://www.isobeldunnet.co.uk)**

Member of Acupuncture for Childbirth Team (Oxford)



The club has had a very successful first year. As one of our volunteers wrote in our newsletter, "The members certainly enjoy themselves and there can be lots of laughter. They go home relaxed and cheerful and the carers can seem positively reinvigorated by their few hours of respite".

The club meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30 to 3.30 in Kennington Methodist Church, Upper Road, Kennington, Oxford, OX1 5LR. Members must have a diagnosis of dementia, and we welcome enquiries by them or by carers on their behalf. For enquiries about vacancies, membership and cost, please phone our Organiser Helen on 07852 883496. Or you can email us at [kenningtonmc.info@gmail.com](mailto:kenningtonmc.info@gmail.com) Our website address is [www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk).

And if you know someone who is living with dementia, or is caring for someone with dementia, and you think that the club might be useful to them, please tell them about us. We always need volunteers, so if you think you might like to join us, please phone Helen. We can provide safeguarding and dementia awareness training and arrange for volunteers to have DBS checks.

**Margaret Newton**

## **LARGE HALL FOR HIRE**

### **St Peter and St. Paul, West Way OX2 9JY**

Hall newly decorated throughout with large, well-appointed kitchen

Suitable for children's parties, meetings,  
wedding receptions, exercise classes and more

Easily accessed by foot, bike, bus or car

Plenty of parking at evenings and weekends

£13.50 per hour for community, not for profit groups  
and those living in the parish

£16.50 per hour for commercial hirers and those not living in the parish

£10.50 per hour for church members

Contact our bookings manager to make a booking or arrange a visit

[osneybenefice@outlook.com](mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com) or 07946 463741

[www.osneybenefice.org.uk](http://www.osneybenefice.org.uk)



## Model home

When we bought a house on Tilbury Fields in June 2016 it was with the deliberate intention of trying to create a net zero carbon house out of an ordinary new-build. We'd factored in the cost of doing that when we assessed what we could afford. We had chosen a south-facing plot, and discovered as an added bonus that the garage roof was also south-facing, enabling us to install 28 solar panels (8kW max).

The first challenge was to get Persimmon to build the house properly: amongst its 15 building regulation failures it failed our independent air tightness test spectacularly through sloppy construction, and because an extractor fan was not connected to ducting in the hidden space above the ground floor ceilings, that space was effectively open to atmosphere. Insulation was completely missing over the porch space, meaning the en-suite bathroom floor was more or less at outside temperatures. So the first lesson is, "Don't trust the Energy Performance Certificate". Under-floor heating was not offered as an option, so we had to remove all the ground floor skirting boards, doors, toilet and washbasin in order to install it. Likewise strip out the gas central heating system in order to install an air source heat pump and 100 litre hot water tank. Had we been able to buy the property 'unfinished' (as it were) I estimate we could have saved £2,000 in labour plus the cost of the unwanted gas heating system (about £4,000). The whole process took six months — much of that chasing Persimmon to fulfil their responsibilities.

For some years, the government's own energy advisors have been recommending air source heat pumps as the default heating system for all new builds, but government has largely ignored the advice. Heat pumps are essentially air conditioners working in reverse. For every

*"Don't let tax, tax you"*

### **BBPS Accountancy Service**

Bookkeeping  
Self Assessment,  
Payroll, CIS, VAT  
Auto Enrolment

Call; 01865 730064/ 07890 503392  
Email; [Alison@berrybps.co.uk](mailto:Alison@berrybps.co.uk)

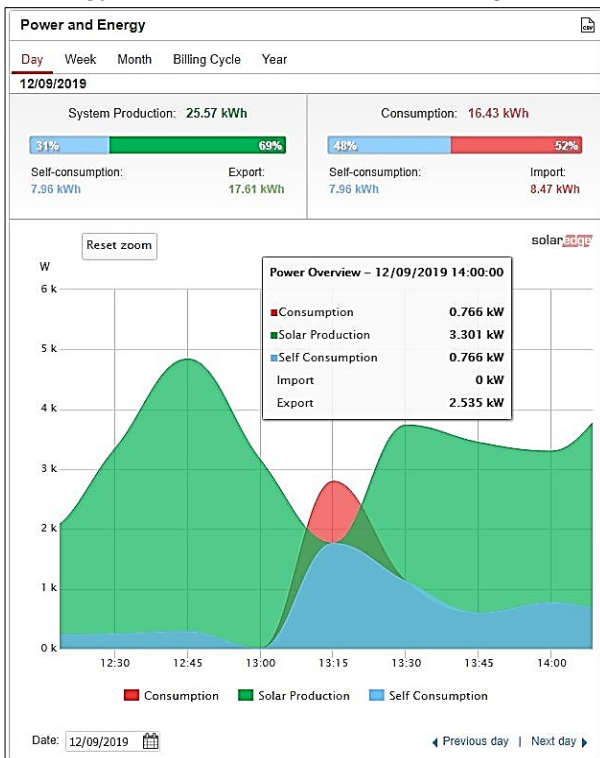
kilowatt of electricity you put in to drive the heat pump, you get three kilowatts of heat out. The trick is to store as much as possible of the energy off the solar panels in the hot water and underfloor heating during the hours of daylight, and then 'cruise' through the night. The heating control system feels unnecessarily complicated, but

once it's set up properly, it's done. We run the washing machine and dishwasher in the middle of the day.

We're delighted with the results. The house remains at a steady 21°C through the winter. Between November and March in both years the house has imported more energy than it has exported to the grid from the solar panels — in December, nine times more — but for the other seven months we're a net *exporter*. In July 2018 we exported eight times what we imported.

The solar panels came with smart metering, enabling us to see at a glance (on computer or smartphone) what's going on, and keeping records for us. Since the system was commissioned we've exported nearly three megawatt hours more than we've imported, so over a whole year we're better than 'net zero carbon', and with the Renewable Heat Incentive and (much reduced) Feed-in Tariff payments we have a negative fuel bill.

Even if we had no solar panels at all, the efficiency of the heat pump combined with the better-insulated house means we're only using a quarter of the energy of our previous gas-heated house; but arguably we'd be saving almost 100% of the carbon emissions of our previous gas-heated house, because we no longer burn gas, and the electricity we do import (from Good Energy) is renewably generated.





What about the costs? Rising fuel prices, government abolition of the Feed-in Tariff and dropping technology prices mean that our example is only a 'snapshot in time', but solar panels, heat pump, u/f heating and tank installation cost us just under £26,000 (including redoing Persimmons' work), and we're on course to recoup that within 11 years from the start. It's only a small proportion of the house price, and the inflated profits from developers like Persimmon suggest there's no reason why a system like ours couldn't be standard on all new builds. If the government mandated heat pumps on new-builds, land prices would adjust to compensate, meaning it would cost house-buyers nothing extra.

**Dick Wolff**

~~~~~

## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                             |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                       |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>P19/V1887/HH</u></b>  | 198 Westminster Way. Replace conservatory with single storey extension.                                                                              | <b>14 August</b><br><i>TDD: 9 Oct</i>                                 |
| <b><u>P19/V1965/HH</u></b>  | 14 Hutchcomb Rd. Single storey extension, demolition of conservatory.                                                                                | <b>15 August</b><br><i>TDD: 10 Oct</i>                                |
| <b><u>P19/V2057/HH</u></b>  | 106D West Way. Single storey flat roof extension and two outbuildings, which have already been erected.                                              | <b>27 August</b><br><i>TDD: 22 Oct</i>                                |
| <b><u>P19/V2157/FUL</u></b> | Seacourt Tower, Homebase Ltd West Way. External alterations, new entrance lobby, variation to service area and reconfiguration of car parking areas. | <b>4 September</b><br><i>Target<br/>Decision Date:<br/>30 October</i> |
| <b><u>P19/V2177/FUL</u></b> | 9A Eynsham Rd. Demolish existing 2 storey detached house & build 7 flats, 4 x 1 bedroom, 2 x 2 bed & 1 x 3 bed.                                      | <b>5 September</b><br><i>TDD: 31 Oct</i>                              |
| <b><u>P19/V2142/HH</u></b>  | 34 Cedar Rd. Remove rear porch & build single storey rear extension.                                                                                 | <b>10 September</b><br><i>TDD: 5 Nov</i>                              |

## Tattoos a personal matter

I have seven tattoos, none of which is purely decorative.

My first tattoo is my partner's name, in her own handwriting, decorated with a few stars. I gave the tattooist a paper copy of her signature and he copied it onto a transfer, which in turn was pressed onto the skin of my upper arm, leaving an image which he traced with his tattoo gun. It was a little uncomfortable, no more than that. Why this tattoo? I found the idea of being signed for very appealing. I enjoy the idea of being wanted and enjoyed,

My next tattoos celebrate my parents. I have never met my father, and communicated with him only twice before he died. I found I had two half-brothers, and one of them sent me a rubber stamp which my father had used to authenticate his architectural drawings. So my second tattoo, on the other upper arm, was my dad's stamp. Next to that, I put the third: my mother's signature, from one of the last postcards she sent me from holiday. Her handwriting was unique, and I loved the sense of the tattoo promoting her uniqueness.

My fourth tattoo is the number 42, ironically placed below my navel. 42 is the number that Douglas Adams's Deep Thought computer offered as the Answer to the "question of the meaning of the universe and everything" (in his "Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy"). At the time I took it to mean that the ultimate question was simply the question of species survival, and therefore the rationale for procreation, but now I think that Adams meant that the answer was "whatever you want," which, increasingly, I think, may well be true.

Next, I had the then logo of the NHS Blood and Transplant service tattooed on the inside of my right wrist, intending to signal that I am a potential organ donor. (Though medical professionals would ignore the tattoo and would check for an entry on the NHS Organ Donation Register. But from 2020 in England all adults will be deemed to be transplant donors unless they have opted out.)

Recently I've felt the pressure of time running out, and to concentrate my mind, I have had a mirror-image chest tattoo reading "Do it Now" which I see in the bathroom mirror as I shave. Finally, the tattoo on my left foot is the number 73. This is my target weight in kilograms. I am currently obese, have diabetes type 2, sleep apnoea and high blood pressure. This tattoo is part of a programme to extend my (relatively) healthy life. It was the most painful tattoo of all.

*(Name with-held)*

## Brownies New Term

We started our new term (and new Brownie Year) welcoming five new girls (Veronica, Lauren, Charlotte, Daria and Neve). To help us get to know each other and to tie into this term's badge we had a very competitive game of Beetle Drive. Once the girls, and also all the Leaders, got into the game the sound of squeals, encouragement and laughter soon filled the room. The eventual all-out winner was Faith and also our Young Leader Fox so "Very Well Done" to the both of them!

At the beginning of next month we have a visit to Cumnor Hill House arranged to spend the evening with the people there, and to get to know them by playing some classic board games together. Two different generations will be enjoying spending some time together.



This term we are doing the "I'm a Survivor - Guide Me Out Of Here" badge which is all about team-working with a jungle theme, and includes crafts, activities and food. We will keep you all updated on as we progress through it. The picture shows the badge we chose, about 7cm wide.

**Alison Griffin**

---

## Well-being for all of us: five principles

I was talking with Liam Corbally, who manages the Oxfordshire Recovery College. The college is a ground-breaking project for people with mental health issues, and their carers and friends. Courses at the college are normally three hours long, and are co-taught by an 'expert by experience' (someone who has had mental health problems) and an 'expert by training'. Courses include Understanding Depression, Food and Wellbeing, Introduction to Personality Disorders, and Wildlife and Wellbeing which I teach. (See [www.oxfordshire-recoverycollege.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshire-recoverycollege.org.uk).)

Anyway, Liam was telling me about the five principles of wellbeing that apply to everyone, the mental equivalent of ‘five fruit and vegetables a day’. The principles emerged from a government project into mental capital which drew on the advice of over four hundred experts from around the world: [www.gov.uk/ government/publications/mental-capital-and-wellbeing-making-the-most-of-ourselves-in-the-21st-century](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-capital-and-wellbeing-making-the-most-of-ourselves-in-the-21st-century). Here is a direct quote from the study and inspiration for all of us:

**1. *Connect...*** With the people around you. With family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. At home, work, school or in your local community. Think of these as the cornerstones of your life, and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

**2. *Be active...*** Go for a walk or run. Step outside. Cycle. Play a game. Garden. Dance. Exercising makes you feel good. Most importantly, discover a physical activity you enjoy and that suits your level of mobility and fitness.

**3. *Take notice...*** Be curious. Catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual. Notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment, whether you are walking to work, eating lunch or talking to friends. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

**4. *Keep learning...*** Try something new. Rediscover an old interest. Sign up for that course. Take on a different responsibility at work. Fix a bike. Learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you enjoy achieving. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.

**5. *Give...*** Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join a community group. Look out, as well as in. Seeing yourself, and your happiness, as linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with the people around you.

**Riki Therivel**

## Well and truly SCAMMED

Have you heard of the BT SCAM, in which gullible elderly persons are cheated out of their savings by plausible rogues? Yes, I had too, but I didn't pay too much attention. I hardly expected it to happen to me.

And then, just as I was trying to get on with editing the October *Sprout*, my internet died. The phone rang. I picked it up and was told it was BT's service team on hand to help reinstate my internet, which had gone down because it was under siege from hackers.

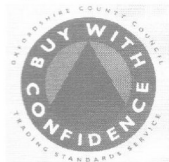
What did they sound like? Patient, polite, fairly strong accents that suggested BT had a well-rounded employment policy. For the next hour, we strove to reconnect the broken internet. By the second hour, I was on my knees with the tedium of it all, and grateful for their weary patience. They asked questions about my spending that seemed plausible: Did I do much buying on line? Did I use my phone for telephone banking? Did I have more than one bank account? They urged me to check my bank account to see if there was any unusual activity on it, and reassured me that they couldn't see what codes I used to get in.

Patiently, skilfully, they reeled me in. I should have suspected their sincerity when they complimented me on my computer skills – well, I did suspect their sincerity, but I thought they were just trying to jolly me along. I should have smelt a rat when they seemed to think my provider was Virgin, when I had closed that arrangement a month ago, but they smoothly explained that BT provided the services for all the internet.

Finally, when it was clear that the internet was still working on my mobile phone, they suggested I use it check my bank account was safe. They told me to place the phone by the house hub while I went back to my computer in the other room. That's when they took the vital information from my

### **GARDEN RESCUE**

D J NEWMAN



**Fencing**

**Turfing & Lawn Maintenance**

**Paving, Patios & Planting**

**All aspects of gardening and  
landscaping covered by our  
trained, insured professionals**

**Free Quotations**

**01865 739621 or 07901 826455**

**[www.garden-rescue.org](http://www.garden-rescue.org)**

It took about ten seconds for light to dawn – after two hours of patient politeness, he'd hung up without saying good bye. *Why not?* I ran for my bank card and dialled the emergency number on it with trembling fingers. I got through to an assistant and told them I thought I'd been scammed. They checked my account and found I'd just authorized a payment of £6,000 to a Mr G Ray.

**Aq MacKeith**

**Your local heating & plumbing  
engineer. Plus full bathroom  
installation**



## No Job too Small



Both English &  
Continental  
17th - 19th C.  
Fully qualified,  
based in Wootton  
01865 321770  
07748 658084

wimvanklaveren49@gmail.com  
www.clockconservator.com

Newly decorated hall with kitchen and large parking area

Next to

**Our Lady of the Rosary Church**

**Contact: Maria (01865) 247986**  
**[hinksey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hinksey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

**House / Attic / Garage**

## Down-Sizing Services

## Athol Whitmore

**07776 254103**

atholwhitmore@hotmail.com

## 4th Oxford Scouts on the river

This summer the 4th Oxford Scouts spent four evenings doing activities on the Thames at King's Lock near Wolvercote. We paddled kayaks and open canoes, and some scouts learnt how to row and how to handle a motorboat. The river is beautiful on summer evenings, and warm enough to spend lots of time falling out of boats or jumping into the river off a rope swing tied to a tree. On a previous evening the scouts had built a boat/raft/aeroplane type thing out of plastic bottles, a few planks and lots of duct tape –



from the pictures you can see it in all its beauty on dry land, and then half submerged under the weight of six scouts.

### James Wynne



## Changing Times

Our medical practice is turning into a Primary Care Network (PCN) as part of the NHS's Long Term Plan. PCNs and Integrated Care Providers are the new way for general practices and health and social care services to collaborate. These collaborations are intended to provide better ways for patients to access a wide range of services. The PCNs will act as co-ordinators for these services, making greater use of digital resources to do so.

**Why are PCNs being set up?** Limited funding, shortages of practitioners especially GPs, plus an aging population who are living longer with often complex needs, have meant we must look differently at making primary care work. The PCNs will expand over the next ten years and it is hoped this will offer the community in which they work better and more appropriate care. In future patients may be referred to allied health professionals rather than a GP, if this is more appropriate to their needs. This doesn't mean when patients are sick they will not get the care they need.

### Thursday 17th October Farmoor Village Hall

An evening talk from a  
former Royal Footman

Find out about the  
fascinating world of the  
Court, the Royals and  
their staff

Doors open 7pm

Entrance £5

Licensed Bar

The Botley/Kennington practice has networked with Faringdon White Horse Practice, so it is now part of an integrated care system across three (BOB) counties: Berks, Oxfordshire, and Bucks. As a result patient engagement will be changing.

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) is also due to change, in ways that are as yet unclear. It has announced it will stop supporting



the six PPG localities that make up Oxfordshire as from the end of October. This decision has been made with very little notice to PPGs and it closes the channel of direct communication with the OCCG. It's not clear, yet, how patients will have an input to the practice they are registered with once this channel is closed. What will this mean for the future of the Patient Participation Groups? We don't yet know.

Despite this, I and my colleagues have been busy over the summer working on an Action Plan for Botley/Kennington based on patient feedback and the findings of the March Care Quality Commission. It is worth going on the website to review this, if you haven't done so already.

We plan to continue working with the practice to ensure that patients still have a voice. Please support us.

**Sylvia Buckingham**, Chair Botley/Kennington PPG

### **ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS**

**CAD Drawings For Extensions**

**Alterations and New Builds**

**Competitive Rates**

**Free Initial Consultation**

**01865 244 178**

**[www.otprojects.co.uk](http://www.otprojects.co.uk)**

### **JP Heating Ltd**

Gas · Oil · LPG · Boiler Replacements

Full Heating Systems

Energy Efficient Controls

Service & Maintenance

Domestic · Industrial · Commercial

**01865 864697 / 07809 204444**

**[info@jpheating.co.uk](mailto:info@jpheating.co.uk)**



224209



C9279

### **STEPHEN BRAGG CARPENTRY & JOINERY**

All aspects of  
Carpentry and Joinery  
undertaken

**Tel: 01865 721331**

**Mobile: 07766 746619**

**Email: [sbragg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sbragg@hotmail.co.uk)**

**[www.spbcarpentryandjoinery.co.uk](http://www.spbcarpentryandjoinery.co.uk)**

### **DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS**



**Most carpets dry within the  
hour**

**Unbeatable results, removes  
almost all spots & stains  
call**

**GRIMEBUSTERS**

**01865 726983 01235 555533**

**[www.grimebusters.co.uk](http://www.grimebusters.co.uk)**

## **Another Reason Why I Don't Keep a Gun in the House...**

Billy Collins wrote a marvellous poem with the above title. It is about a neighbour's dog that will not stop barking. In the end he imagines the dog playing in a Beethoven symphony, "his eyes fixed on the conductor who is entreating him with his baton / while the other musicians listen in respectful / silence to the famous barking dog solo, / that endless coda that first established / Beethoven as an innovative genius".

Driven to distraction by the unsafe parking on North Hinksey Lane, which nobody seems to be doing anything about, I wrote this homage to Billy Collins:

In the morning they start parking  
On the edges of the lane  
In the evening they return, and  
Take their cars back home again

They park their cars so tightly packed  
That they form a single chain  
And turn our two-lane road into  
A single-lane North Hinksey Lane

It's as though a mystery warden  
Was urging them to park right there  
"Please park and park and park and park  
And drive the local people spare"

We've rung the council, the police,  
Put posts on traffic problem logs  
Is it time to move near them  
With barking barking barking dogs?

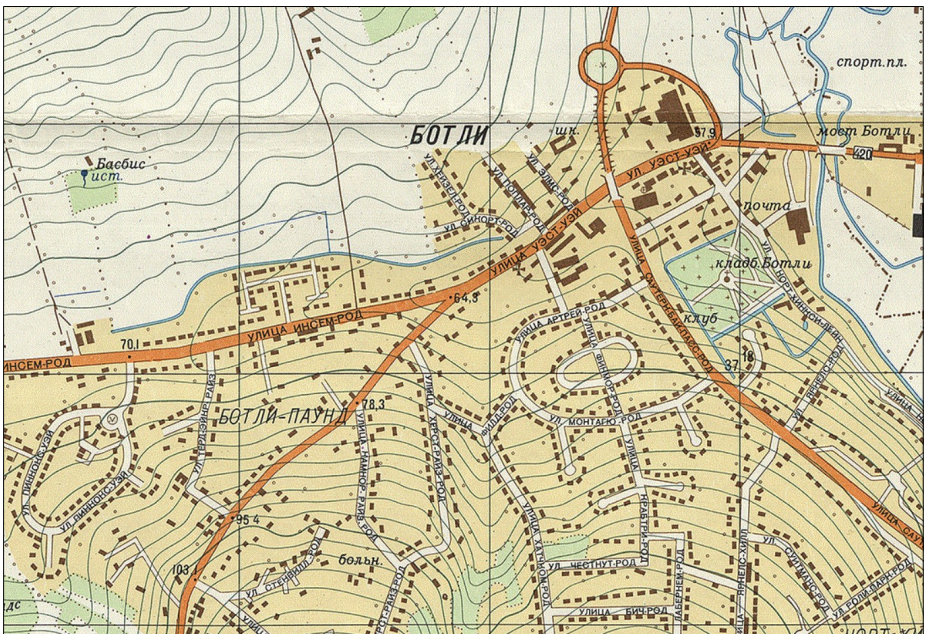
### **Riki Therivel**

*[Help is on the horizon, Riki. The County Council intends to put in double yellow lines for the whole length of North Hinksey Lane over the week starting 28th October – Editor]*

## Botley in Russian

Malcolm Graham, our local historian, has got in touch to show us the Botley section of the Soviet era maps of Oxford and Oxfordshire that he bought copies of years ago for the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. They had been discovered in a remote store when the Berlin Wall came down and the USSR unravelled. The maps have now been digitised and can be seen on Oxfordshire County Council's **Picture Oxon** website – [www.pictureoxon.com](http://www.pictureoxon.com) The extract shown is from a 1:10000 scale (roughly 6 inches to the mile) map of Oxford published in 1973. It's hard to reproduce the map very clearly in the *Sprout* format, but anyone interested can find it in higher definition at Picture Oxon. The maps have all the strategically important buildings picked out, such as the car Factory and the University Press. University College is also picked out, and it looks as if they thought this was the University's HQ! Names are phonetically written in Russian script, like Botley below!

*Picture Oxon* now includes a huge number of local images, including maps and plans as well as photographs, prints and drawings, and you can also search for oral history recordings. A simple search for Botley images comes up with 1970 images; for North Hinksey, there are 1533 and for Cumnor 1424. You can find it by googling Oxon History Centre. Access is through [oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk), the County Council's website.



## 100 Years of Botley Women's Institute

Botley Women's Institute had it all on Saturday afternoon 14th September. The weather was as perfect as it could be; the tables in the WI Hall were covered with exhibits reflecting the many and varied talents and skills of Botley WI members and competition for prizes was strong. We enjoyed the singing by Cumnor Community Choir, dancing from Cry Havoc Morris Dancers and a wonderful and talented folk group called Mother Folkers. There were games for children, and stalls in the car park including a stall with handmade articles for sale in aid of SERV, young people from Branches Youth Cafe helped

wash up and serve refreshments; profits from the day will go to them. Everyone was able to sit in warm sunshine enjoying time with their friends, family and visitors to the festival. Tea and wonderful cakes were consumed by all present. It was a quintessentially English afternoon. We can now look forward to the next 100 years!

**Jenny Holloway**, Secretary, Botley WI



## Better for Botley, better for the Planet

About 20 people met up at the ABC (Association of Botley Communities) Environment meeting on September 6th. We were fortunate to be joined by Emily Smith – our district councillor, now leader of Vale council. Emily stressed that the Vale are upping their game on the environment and are looking to develop a climate action plan as well as acting on other environmental issues. They welcome advice and examples of good practice. The meeting also discussed:

*Botley Neighbourhood Plan* Our proposed Neighbourhood Plan has set some ambitious environmental goals but one has been challenged by the government's inspector (who looks at all neighbourhood plans). This is that all new homes should be built to the highest environmental standards. This seems an obvious requirement if the UK is to meet its agreed 'zero carbon by 2050 goal', but if it turns out we can't have it, then let's hope the Vale will put it into the Local Plan. We must keep up the pressure for change.

*Air pollution* is a major issue – there are serious concerns about air quality around our schools. The meeting heard the exciting news that a large funding bid is going to Highways England (who are responsible for the A34) to build a protective wall – and perhaps a living 'green wall' – between Botley Primary School and the A34. We considered how the Vale's new 'anti-idling' campaign could be used to discourage 'idling' in traffic jams. There are also plans to develop a campaign to set 20mph as the maximum speed on local residential roads – something that has already happened in the city.

There was much discussion about what we can do to tackle climate change locally. ABC will work with North Hinksey Parish Council's new Environment and Well-being committee, which has plans to produce a leaflet for every household explaining why this matters and what we can do (last month's *Sprout* made a start). Support for our natural environment is a critical part of this. Tree planting is one simple part of tackling climate change and the new 'Oxfordshire Trees for the Future' campaign ([www.oxtrees.uk](http://www.oxtrees.uk)) is encouraging councils, communities and everyone to plant with the aim of doubling tree cover in 25 years across the county. There are a number of street trees on Elms Rise. We need

to work out whose responsibility it is to look after these.

It was agreed that we need an event to bring all these activities together, and we support the plan from the parish council for a 'Botley Green Day' to be held in early 2020. We'll be needing people to make this happen, so if you'd like to help organise a big day for Botley that will bring together all the local initiatives to combat climate change, or if you've got something to contribute, please email me, as chair of NHPC's Environment committee, [chrischurch@cooptel.net](mailto:chrischurch@cooptel.net)

**Chris Church**

~~~~~

## **Randoms**

### **Botley W.I.**

Speakers at our meeting on 1st October will be Liz Manson & Alison Jenner on the subject of "Botley WI Remembered" The theme of the month's competition will be 'WI Memorabilia'. On 9th October the walking group will meet at the WI Hall at 10:00am for a trip to Standlake. Craft group meets on 15th Oct, 2.30pm at the WI Hall. The Book group on 23rd Oct at 7.30, Green fingers will meet on 31st Oct at a location to be confirmed. The music group is discussing its choice of concert. Do feel free to come along to the WI Hall and join us!

### **History and Holidays**

During the summer, I managed a brief trip to the Isle of Wight. In a cemetery in East Cowes I found the grave of Fred Goatley. At one time, he was uncle/great uncle to quite a few people in Montagu Road in the Clack, Jeffery and of course Goatley families. For those that want to learn more about history, Cumnor & District History' Society's 2019/20 season of talks start on Monday 30 September, 7.30pm at Cumnor Old School . Everyone is welcome. Next year we also hope to put on an exhibition on the history of education.

**Martin Harris**

### **Eynsham Bike Path**

Good news! Following their earlier withdrawal of the scheme from a funding bid, Oxon County Council have now undertaken to help get the Path funded and built. We at BikeSafe are hopeful that Andrew



Gilligan's appointment as transport adviser to the Prime Minister will work positively for the B4044 path. It was specifically mentioned in his report – Running out of Road – as being a necessary piece of infrastructure. There is also huge pressure being applied by CyclingUK for more money for walking and cycling infrastructure. BikeSafe now meet once a month with the team of officers appointed by the OCC to help the project get planning permission. Please keep your support going – that given this year has been quite exceptional and has produced positive results in the face of adversity.

**Ian Leggett**

### **Greening up Botley**

Botley isn't the worst for green, but we could easily make it better. We could improve shading and appearance, keep some of the cars from parking on the pavement, and generally spruce things up. It would be a small action we as a community could take to help the climate. The Woodland Trust is offering free trees to groups with places to plant them. If you'd like to pursue this as a community project, email me at [emma.burnett@linacre.oxon.org](mailto:emma.burnett@linacre.oxon.org) to discuss locations and timings, subject 'Botley Trees'. This is currently aimed at people who would plant them on their own land, particularly on verges at the front of the house, rather than community-owned land (though, of course, if the Council wants in, we can get lots more trees...!).

**Emma Burnett**

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

Fencing – Patios  
Turfing – Mowing  
Hedge Cutting/Planting  
Tree Surgery  
Paddock Topping  
Firewood Logs

**Contact Derek:**

**01865 739341  
07989 021045**

**d.sthomas@tiscali.co.uk**

138 Cumnor Rd  
Boars Hill, OX1 5JR

**NEW SURFACES OR RESURFACING  
CONTACT THE EXPERTS**

## **G. AYRES & SONS**

Established 1953

CAR PARKS, DRIVES, PRIVATE ROADS,  
PATHS, FORECOURTS, TENNIS COURTS  
COMPETITIVE RATES  
FREE ESTIMATES

REPAIRS TO ROADS AND OTHER  
SURFACES

A PERSONAL SERVICE  
WITH GOOD ADVICE

LOCAL AUTHORITY WORK-ANY DISTANCE



**(01865) 864540**

**Mobile: 07831 132905**

**ROCKLEY END, FARINGDON ROAD,  
CUMNOR, OXFORD. OX2 9RA**

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

<b>1st Botley Brownies</b> 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> 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> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>
<b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b> Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, cubs 6.30-8, scouts 8-9.30, Botley Baptist Hall. Amy Cusden 07887 654386 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
<b>Badminton Club</b>	Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>
<b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
<b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b> Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>
<b>Botley 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, Westway Place, Open to All 8am-3pm,</b>	<b>Open for young people</b> 3-5 daily, Th. eves 7–9 Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook 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>	Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>
<b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>	Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
<b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>	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>



<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:voirrey@aol.com">voirrey@aol.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
<b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>	Colin Ryde, tel 861992, <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>
<b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>	Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook
<b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386
<b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259
<b>Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group</b>	Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>
<b>Oxford Otters</b>	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420
<b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>	Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> 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>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	<a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>
<b>Saturdads</b> Botley Bridges	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 Banzo tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>
<b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>	Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>
<b>West Way Day Centre</b>	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.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>

