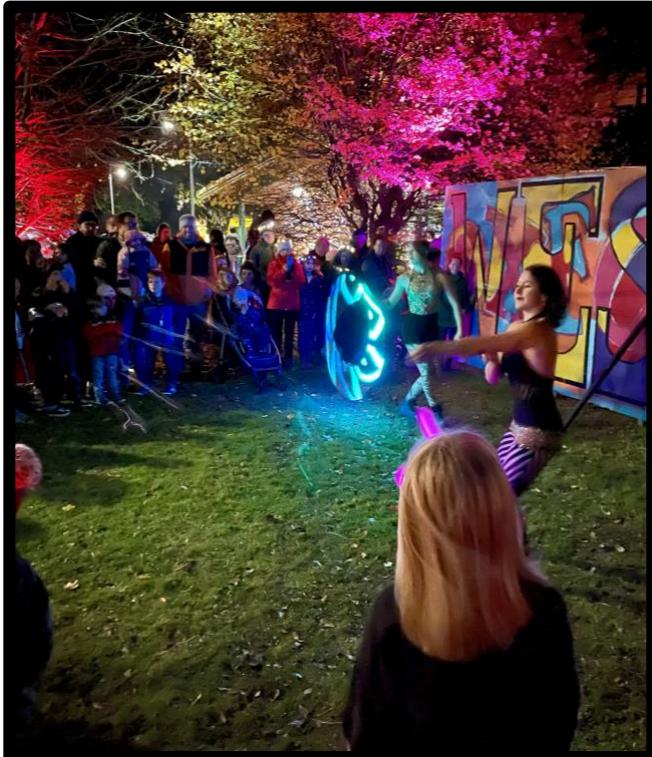


# The Sprout



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**The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 183 December 2023**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

**Directors:** Janet Bartlam, Judi Bolder, John Clements,  
Michael Cockman, Louise Kunzemann, Ag MacKeith

### **Editor**

#### **Ag MacKeith**

South View House, Old Botley, OX2 0JR Tel: 724452    **Editor@TheSprout.org.uk**

### **Advertising Manager**

#### **Michael Cockman**

50, St Paul's Crescent OX2 9AG Tel: 07766 317691    **Adverts@TheSprout.org.uk**

### **Deliveries**

#### **Jan Shirley and Isabelle Hayes**

9, Sweetmans Road OX2 9BA 07706 606719

**Deliveries@TheSprout.org.uk**

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

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# The Sprout

## Issue 183, December 2023

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### From the Editor

Welcome to the last *Sprout* for 2023. In it there are the usual shout-outs for help from every quarter (pp 9, 11, 29 and 36) and some heartfelt thanks for volunteer input (p 21). Voluntary help is a precious thing, and this is recognized by the parish council's 'All in One Room' party on December 10th for anyone in the community who is an active volunteer (pp 2 and 36). It will be at the Women's Institute in North Hinksey Lane. Last year around a hundred came – will there be even more this year? Volunteers, you know who you are! Get in touch and claim your ticket! Then there's a tribute to a long-term resident of Poplar Road (p27), an interview with a local author (p 17) and a review of last month's work across the Beaumont Elms Practice (p15). Finally, we are excited to announce a bold new initiative – Jack Webb, a young journalist recently returned to Botley, will be guest editor for the February *Sprout*, which will give a voice to Botley's young people. You can meet him on page 3 and read about his plans on page 7. Are you one of Botley's nearly 3,000 school students? This is your chance to share your ideas with the rest of us, don't hold back! And, until then, *A Happy Christmas to all our readers!* The team is looking forward to a festive break, but your favourite mag will be back on your mat in February.

Ag MacKeith



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## Introducing Jack Webb

Hello! My name is Jack Webb and I am privileged to be chosen as *The Sprout's* guest editor for the February issue next year. I thought you might like to know a bit more about me.

I recently moved back to Botley after living as a student in Bournemouth for four years, so I think we can all agree that I have lived an incredibly experienced and cultured life! Perhaps I should also mention that for every long period of time spent in the coastal town, I often longed to be back in Botley, and would return to visit regularly. I think it's because, for me, there has always been something very interesting about this place, for somewhere so small, and every time I came back, I would usually find something intriguing had taken place.

For me, this is what *The Sprout* is all about. Showing everybody what Botley has to offer.

In terms of my own journey, I became interested in writing at a young age, because I enjoyed being able to express myself creatively, on my own terms. At school I found maths, for instance to be incredibly boring and restrictive, but anything that was related to writing immediately excited me. There were no rules there. I could do whatever I wanted. Come to think of it, that's still how I like to live my life now.

From the minute I realised I was only semi-bad at writing, compared to being totally useless at literally everything else, I decided to try and make a career as a football journalist. Since I was, and still am, mad about football, it made sense to me to combine my two passions. It really helped that I cannot kick a ball to save my life, and therefore my opportunities within the sport have been extremely limited!

So far, I have begun to turn this ambition into somewhat of a reality. When I am not finding stories in Botley, I am managing the social media accounts for the sixth-tier outfit, Weymouth Football Club, and interviewing the players and manager on a weekly basis. Right now, the club isn't quite where they would like to be, regarding results. However, they do have a manager and chairman who are fully committed to making the team as successful as possible, both in terms of accolades and finance.



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This has been a fantastic opportunity in allowing me to understand how a football fan thinks. For those who already follow football, it will come as no surprise to hear that a large chunk of supporters can get rather impatient quite quickly! As a season ticket holder at Arsenal myself (the best team in the world, I will not be hearing otherwise), I know all too well what football fans can be like.

But, it's fascinating. In a strange way. I love to make their voices heard. I also think they are a reflection of how people behave as a whole. People have a lot to say and they are very happy to say it.

Ultimately, what I hope to bring to *The Sprout* is the voice of the youth. For me, it's an overriding problem that the voices of young people today are not listened to enough, and are sometimes even ignored or ridiculed. I want *The Sprout* to not only show them that their opinions are heard, but also encourage them to express themselves.

**Jack Webb**

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## February 2024, Guest Edition

Hello, everyone!

Jack Webb again, and I am here to tell you about my plans as Guest Editor for the February 2024 issue of *The Sprout*. The idea is to bring a new emphasis on youth into the magazine, and I have been tasked with this, based on my age and supposed knowledge and connections among the younger people of Botley!

So here we go! Below are a list of themes and agendas that I am hoping to introduce into February's issue:

**What do the youth think of Botley?** This is technically an ongoing theme, as it has been discussed for a while, and was advertised in the November issue. We asked THREE questions (What annoys you about Botley? What do you like the most about Matthew Arnold School? What is missing from the new shopping precinct?), and people could answer ONE. Their entry would go in the magazine, and the BEST answer would get a £10 reward. This hasn't been totally successful yet, and so we have widened it out to be 250+ words *along the lines* of the above (what makes you happy about Botley, what you hate about MAS, etc, *anonymity granted on request*). I am hoping from now we can start to get at least a few answers; I will start pushing my sister and her friends for ideas!

**What changes do the youth of Botley want to see in 2024?** Over the next month I am hoping that young people will get back and share their ideas. I really want to hear what you think! For this question, I will leave it as broad as possible in the hope of receiving many different types of answers.

The BEST answer on here (as decided by myself as the editor) will receive a £20 reward.



**Skatepark.** As the skatepark now has planning permission, I would like us to do a big piece on the campaign and building of the park. Ideally, it would be great to speak to campaigners

AND the general public, and find out what it is that makes the skate park such a great idea (or otherwise, if that's your view).

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**Things you don't want to miss out on in 2024** – I intend for this to be a promotion of as many different things in Botley/West Oxford as possible, ranging from local shops & businesses to upcoming events.

**The importance of protesting** – Recently, there have been a lot of protests in Oxford around the ongoing situation in Palestine. Whilst I wouldn't aim to use *The Sprout* as a way of projecting my own views, I would like to dedicate a page to Botley people explaining why it's important to become active and involved in public protests like these.

To get the ball rolling, I will be interviewing my friend who is a North Hinksey resident and archaeologist. I am also sure that, as always, there will be plenty of other brilliant ideas, so please do send anything my way that you feel is worth including! You can text me on **07519 822002** if you want to discuss anything, and submit your masterpiece to [editor@thesprout.org.uk](mailto:editor@thesprout.org.uk)

**\*\*DEADLINE IS 14TH JANUARY 2024 \*\* so please get your articles to me before then!**

*Looking forward to it very much! Jack Webb*

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**Can you donate any of these:** Tea/ Coffee/ Hot Chocolate/ Squash/ Soft Drinks (no alcohol please); Fresh fruit or veg ; Christmas treats; Jam/ Marmalade/ Honey/ Syrups; Tins or Jars – Fruit/ Tuna/ Baked Beans/ Pasta Sauces/ Soup; Bread/ Crackers/ Oats/ Breakfast Cereals/ Rice/ Pasta

We are also hoping to include some small (stocking filler) gifts in the hampers. Can you donate? (Please leave these unwrapped so we can best match them to the recipients.)

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If you would like to make a financial contribution to the hampers, please email [treasurer@botleybridges.org](mailto:treasurer@botleybridges.org) for details of how to do this.

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2. Or you can download a form from the Botley Bridges website and email it to [sue@botleybridges.org](mailto:sue@botleybridges.org)
3. Or you can ask your school for a hard copy and hand it in to them.

**Sue Dowe**

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## Thermal Imaging

**18th December to 2nd January**

One of the fun things about winter is that we can do some thermal imaging and see in technicolour where the heat is leaking from our homes. Sustainable Botley will have an infrared camera over the festive period and we can offer you a free thermal imaging visit. Normally it takes 30 minutes to an hour to walk around your home with you, inside and out, so that you can see things like gaps in loft and wall insulation, cold spots that might cause mould to form, and leaky spots where draughts are getting in around doors and windows. Visits will be during daylight, and preferably at times when the outdoor temperature is below 8°C. Just get in touch with me at [laurie@livingwitness.org.uk](mailto:laurie@livingwitness.org.uk) to arrange your free visit.

We can also do a more substantial energy survey, for which we'd ask for a donation to Sustainable Botley to help cover training and accreditation costs.

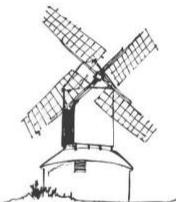
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The purpose of this detail isn't to blow our own trumpet but to provide some context for when you next have a dealing with the surgery and to say what a pleasure it has been to see and speak to you all!

We are aware some people thought the practice was no longer open – as you can see from the above this is definitely not the case, and we are very much open to our registered patients. The phone number is 01865 240501 and the website is [www.19beaumontstreet.com](http://www.19beaumontstreet.com)

The NHS App is now available for all patients and can be used to request repeat prescriptions, check results and book covid and flu appointments. Some patients may be able to connect/reconnect without intervention from the practice, but if you need help please come to reception with photographic ID.

We are gaining a much clearer picture of the needs of the patients in the Botley area and are aware that many patients are due reviews for long term conditions. We are planning our clinical provision accordingly, so please rest assured that we will contact you to arrange these reviews.

Looking forwards, Christmas is just around the corner. The practice will be closed on bank holidays, but open as normal otherwise over the Christmas period. We also look forward to welcoming new GPs in January, when we will also begin to allocate GPs to patients transferred from Botley. And our third Pharmacist joined the team at the beginning of November.

Thank you for welcoming us into the Botley community and we look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months.

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## There Is No Escape – Profile of Simon Mason, Oxford Author

Sometimes daydreaming can produce great results. Simon Mason, one of Oxford's star authors, is living proof. He was chosen by the Botley Library Staff to be the subject last month of one of their occasional literary Q&A events.

An only child, he spent much of his early years daydreaming, which he views as a direct link to his eventual success as a writer. In his own words, 'I think of writing as daydreaming; a transfer of words.'



Born in Sheffield and educated at a comprehensive school there, Simon made the leap to studying English Literature at Lady Margaret Hall here in Oxford, where, at first, finding nothing in common with or comfortable in university society, he spent his time reading in the Library (open 24/7) ...undoubtedly laying down the foundation for his future career.

With characteristic self-deprecation, he admits that after graduating, he settled in Oxford because editing at Oxford University Press was the only job offer he got. Later, he worked in publishing in London, writing most of his books – including one entirely – standing on the commuter train. As he says, 'It was an absolute nightmare – it used to take two or three hours some days. Once I locked myself in the toilet just to be able to sit down and write.'

Following several adult novels written in the 1990s, Simon turned to his young family for inspiration. Indeed, his writing developed and grew in tandem with his children's progress over the years. When his two children were small, he wrote books about and for young children, including the popular Quigley Family series. But he's quick to counter any direct resemblance: 'Because the Quigleys were so closely associated with us, I got a bit fed up when reviewers kept describing them as *hapless parents* or a *dysfunctional family*. The Quigley books have received much critical acclaim, including being nominated for the Branford Boase Award in 2003. Later, *Moon Pie* (2011), a singular and perceptive book featuring an 11-year-old parental child with an alcoholic widowed father, was shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize in 2015.

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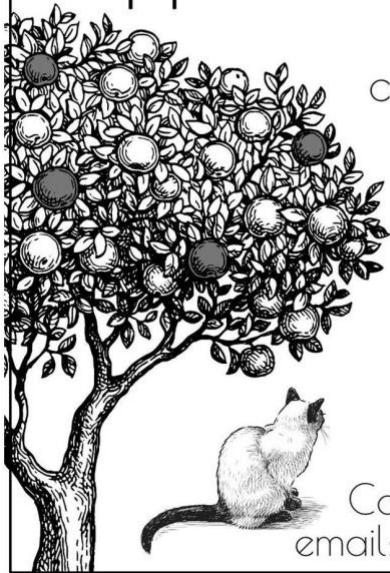
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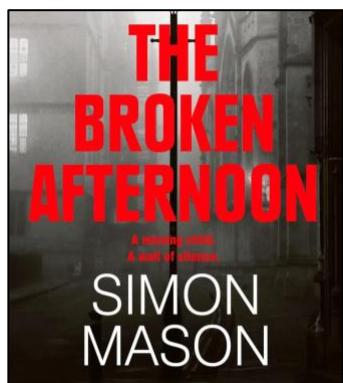
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Once his children were teenagers, he turned to Young Adult fiction, notably the *Garvie Smith* series (2015-19). Simon has a soft spot for his creation Garvie: ‘The world hasn’t done anything for him, why should he do anything for the world? Fair enough. Such boys are very well represented in life but less so in literature. I wanted to put him in a book.’

From the *Garvie Smith* series (categorised as YA Crime), Simon advanced to the full Monty, in the form of Oxford-based detectives Ryan and Ray Wilkins: no relation, and less chemistry. This interviewer could not put down either *A Killing in November* (2022) or *The Broken Afternoon* (2023) and is waiting impatiently for *Lost and Never Found*, to appear in January 2024. The storylines are great, but it’s the marvellously depicted mix of caustic repartee and instinctive -- but resisted and resented -- symbiosis which enlivens the Wilkins’ books with unique delight.

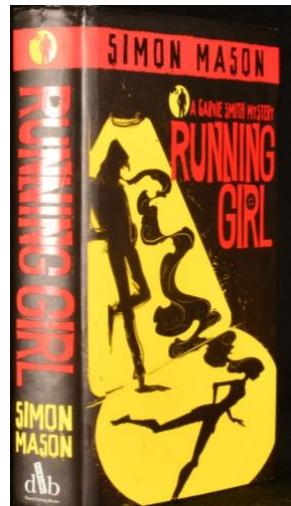
Although we will have to wait until January 2025



for the 4th in that series (sob), there is hope; Simon has created a different crime series, one based on missing persons: *Finder*, to be launched in September 2024. My name is down for that one already!

In 2019, an interviewer asked him, ‘What’s your favourite escape from writing?’ His reply was: ‘There is no escape.’ How fortunate we are to have Simon Mason in captivity!

Ruth Cameron



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## Remembrance Day Service

As many of you well know, Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council annually organize a Service of Remembrance at the Commonwealth War Graves in Botley Cemetery.



This year was no exception. Rain was forecast, but it held off for the eleventh hour and was never heavy.

The service was well-attended, with representatives from the Lord Lieutenant, the different levels of local government and local community groups as well as Commonwealth forces, past and present, and the Embassies of foreign soldiers buried in the cemetery. The 4th Regiment Royal Logistic Corps provided a magnificent Guard of Honour around the Stone of Remembrance and also organised an impressive parade, which

include the 15th Oxford Scouts, 3rd West Oxford Guides and the Botley Detachment Army Cadets, who all marched in formation up from the Minns car park, through the cemetery gates and into their positions. It was lovely to see. A Muslim cleric presided alongside the usual Christian and Jewish Clergy, and joined them in delivering an interfaith Order of Service that reminded us that after times of war, we all remember together.

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After the two-minute silence, local historian, Malcolm Graham, gave a brief account of the history of the site, mentioning local men buried, not just in this cemetery, but also in Osney Cemetery near the

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railway station, where of the 16 men buried there, the youngest was just 16, the oldest 53. After this, the various groups laid wreaths to remember the fallen who fought for our today.

It must be recognised that this was a collaborative event, with many people playing a part in bringing the whole thing together. The Parish Council would particularly like to thank Reverend Richard Budgen, the 4th Regiment of the Royal Logistic Core, Radio Cherwell, Matthew Arnold School, St. John's Ambulance, the Oxfordshire Youth Brass Ensemble, various Parish Councillors, Oxford City Council, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Kevin Minns for their contributions in both the run up and on the day. We would also like to thank the wonderful Women's Institute for the refreshments.

Another thank-you must not be forgotten. On the 11th hour of the 11th day Julie Goldsmith of the City of Oxford Silver Band marked the moment by playing the Last Post and Reveille to bookend the two minutes silence organised by the Parish Council on Church Way, Botley. Locals came specifically for the moment, to listen and to reflect.

Our thanks go out to all of these people and organisations and also to the many attendees who made the two events so special.

**Adam Rankin** (Remembrance Day Cttee) and **Emma Gordon** (Clerk)

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#### LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>P23/V2303/LDP</u> | 2 Hurst Rise Rd. 1-storey side and rear extension. Two new roof windows to west facing roof slope. New flat rooflight to existing flat roof. | <b>13 October</b><br><i>Target Decision Date: 8 December</i> |
| <u>P23/V2328/T56</u> | Oxford RFC North Hinksey Lane. New radio mast.                                                                                               | <b>13 October</b><br><i>TDD: 7 Dec</i>                       |
| <u>P23/V2390/HH</u>  | 23 Crabtree Rd. 1-storey rear extension to form open plan kitchen/dining & garage.                                                           | <b>24 October</b><br><i>TDD: 19 Dec</i>                      |
| <u>P23/V2347/LDP</u> | 48 Yarnells Hill. Loft conversion, hip-to-gable raise & rear facing dormer with juliet balcony.                                              | <b>30 October</b><br><i>TDD: 25 Dec</i>                      |
| <u>P23/V2450/HH</u>  | 11 Chestnut Rd. Remove existing rear extension. Build 1-storey rear extension + extra parking.                                               | <b>31 October</b><br><i>TDD: 26 Dec</i>                      |

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## Making Connections

Following lots of feedback from local people that Facebook is best for sharing news and community info, Network Rail have got in touch to say that you can now find the latest on Botley Road traffic on Facebook at **Oxfordshire Connect**. To be fair, they put effort into making it a lively place to visit, and they do bring in all the players involved in the obstacle course otherwise known as 'getting in and out of Botley'. (The same is true of their weekly e-mail newsletter which anyone can sign up to receive: <https://lineside.networkrail.co.uk/oxfordshireconnect>.)

For instance, they reported on the West Oxford Light Festival on 19th November like this: 'This fantastic lantern, which was created by the local



community, is the first of many new train services that you can expect to see on the western side of the station once the new platform is built next year. With so much time and effort put into creating 'Wocamotion', organisers now want to find a permanent home for it, so please get in touch with any suggestions.'

The playing fields were flooded, so the festival took place in and around the community centre, and Osney Island. The lantern parade, energetically led by Oxford Samba Band, stopped the traffic on the Botley Road and wound its way back around the school and up West Street. The splendid WOCAmotive, pictured above, was manoeuvred with some difficulty along the narrow path beside the school, but got home without mishap, and is now looking for a permanent railway shed. Hundreds came, many with their home-made lanterns, and were entertained, indoors and outside, by the fantastic women of Aerial Emporium, who demonstrated daring feats of skill and balance, on ropes and with fire poi and flaming hula hoops. More on them in a future issue.

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Muriel lived in Poplar Road, Botley for 50 years, initially with her husband Roy and latterly on her own, following Roy's death.

Muriel was born and brought up in Oxford, spending her early years in Cowley. She was proud of her father's prowess as goalkeeper of Headington United football team in the 1930s (now Oxford United) and often told tales of his skill and abilities. Muriel spent brief periods in her youth in the WAAF and later working in London, but always returned to Oxford.



Muriel spent more than half her lifetime living in Poplar Road, where she was always part of the Poplar Road social events and her mischievous sense of humour was well known. She talked with fondness about ballroom dancing, which she and Roy had enjoyed all over Oxford in earlier years. Hers was a familiar face in Botley. She was a regular visitor to Elms Parade shops, attended social events with residents in Seacourt Road, and could often be found at lunchtime Bingo sessions at the Seacourt Bridge pub. For many years Muriel was also an avid member of the Gladiators Club in East Oxford, where she had many friends. Muriel was widely known as the 'Queen' in her social circles – an image she enjoyed and played up to.

Muriel moved to Headington Care Home in February 2021, and always told visitors and the Care Staff about the house in Poplar Road which was her adored home. *Rest In Peace, Muriel.*

**Ruth Ashwell**

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## The Year in Raleigh Park

The Friends of Raleigh Park held their 12th AGM this month, to review the year's activities, highs and lows. We marked the sad passing of our founder member Carol Kramer, a stalwart of early work parties, a fount of wisdom on flora, cattle and horses, and an uncompromising contributor to discussions of policy and principle. We will remember her as we pass her memorial tree in the Park (currently a birch, soon to metamorphose into an elm). We rejoiced in the success of our opposition to the development of land adjoining the Raleigh Park fen, and in particular its demonstration that community groups and ecological experts working together can be listened to and respected by Planning Committees.

Some of our regular activities have continued, if at a less intense level. Work parties organised by Adam Bows were active until the Summer, and took part in a major project funded by the City Council to stabilise one of the most notoriously muddy slopes down to the pond. The pond

and the main fen have gone from strength to strength under the custodianship of the Freshwater Habitats Trust, who have announced further funding for fen protection works in 2023/24, as well as commissioning a survey of biodiversity showing that the management of the fen has significantly increased the presence of fen flora including rare species, since 2017. We were delighted to support the third year of the Oxford Badger Group's vaccination programme, conducted in the Park and neighbouring land owned by the City Council. A trusty group of volunteers has replenished supplies of bird food at the feeding station, established and maintained by Clive Smith. Full reports on all these will be found on the Friends of Raleigh Park website [www.raleighpark.org.uk](http://www.raleighpark.org.uk).





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Other activities have been lost or reduced in the face of dwindling participation by members. The regular butterfly walks have been in abeyance for two years. Our birdbox expert Clive Smith has been unable to carry out his observations of nesting patterns in addition to maintaining the boxes, which will soon be relocated to make them more accessible. The Boxing Day Walk will be revived this year, after two blank years. The Friends' Committee is in need of renewal, as its officers have been unchanged since 2017, and it is now reduced to a bare minimum of three members, two of advancing age. While we have a large number of supporters, we do urgently need more active members to coordinate activities, to represent the Friends at community days, to organise meetings and outdoor events, and to gain the experience to allow them to take over the main committee roles when the current officers take a well-earned rest. We would dearly like to recruit a butterfly walks coordinator, an events coordinator, a fundraising coordinator, a birdbox assistant, and more work party volunteers and coordinators. We know how much the community values Raleigh Park as a local resource, and how much the City Council and our stakeholders value the input of an active Friends group. All we need are more active Friends!

It was in 1926 that Raleigh Park was gifted to the people of Oxford by Raymond ffennell, whose other environmental benefactions include Hill End and Wytham Woods. We need new members now to help prepare a suitable celebration. Please talk to any member of the Committee about future participation, or join us in the park in December to plant out seedlings of wetland plants raised by the GroWet project, on Boxing Day for mulled wine and a walk, or in January for our annual search for the eggs of the elusive Brown Hairstreak butterfly. Notices of work parties and other events will be found on our website. You can email us on [raleighpark@btinternet.com](mailto:raleighpark@btinternet.com) and [raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk](mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk)

**Stephen Parkinson, David Brown, Adam Bows**

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## **Oxford Christmas Lunch**

is happening again in 2023! It'll be at The King's Centre, Oxford on Christmas Day 12.30-4pm. To book a place and transport, or to volunteer, contact Sara on [sara@oxfordchristmaslunch.org](mailto:sara@oxfordchristmaslunch.org) or call her on 07535 314716.

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# Kennington Memory Club

## December's Monthly News Blog

Christmas is coming! I don't know about the geese getting fat, but thoughts have begun to turn to plans for festive occasions and get-togethers, present buying, card writing, carol singing, cake baking, and when to put up the Christmas tree. For some of those with dementia, memories of Christmases past about the family traditions that have grown up over the years may be very hazy, but the one aspect of the season which is often still remembered and enjoyed is the singing of Christmas carols. Why do our brains have such a good capacity to retain the tunes and words of familiar songs and carols when other memories have taken flight? We don't know, but we do realise that this is the case, and singing is so appreciated by most of us, including those with dementia. There will be plenty of carols sung at Kennington Memory Club in the run up to Christmas, to get our members into the mood and help them to enjoy the season as fully as possible. To find out about applying for a place with us for someone with dementia, contact the Club Organiser, Helen, on 07852 883496 or email [memoryclub1@outlook.com](mailto:memoryclub1@outlook.com). Alternatively, you can visit the Club website by scanning the QR code above or by going to [kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk).



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## Brownies Learn a Lot

Our new autumn term was full of action, as we got on with a lot of the official Girlguiding programme.

One of the Unit Meeting Activities (UMA) was to learn some facts about the planets. Working in our Sixes, each group had to put the planets from our solar system into the correct order from the Sun. Some of the girls knew nothing about the solar system but some of the Brownies knew quite a bit and, surprisingly, the two newest girls who had only joined us the week before knew lots of answers and had great fun joining in. Well done, Alice & Mabel. Tawny Owl's daughter's mnemonic to remember the correct order of planets had to be amended when it was pointed out by one of the older Brownies that Pluto's status had been downgraded to that of a dwarf planet, and so could no longer be included. In case you are wondering the correct order is: My (Mercury) Very (Venus) Exciting (Earth) Mother (Mars) Jumped (Jupiter) Suddenly (Saturn) Using (Uranus) No (Neptune) Pogostick (Pluto) - but with Pluto now removed it ended with Nothing (Neptune).

The following week we started work on an Interest Badge (IB) called Jobs (*jobs badge on right*). This required the Brownies to find out about different jobs by interviewing some adults. They were started off in the weekly meeting by being given a talk by Bumblebee, one of our Adult Leaders, and her friend Kate.

Bumblebee is a Veterinary Surgeon and so the Brownies learnt the difference between working with small domestic pets, larger working animals and exotic animals. They learnt that an average day for a vet could include anything from consultation to performing surgery. An array of very good questions was asked and informative answers were given. The Brownies



then got to try on some scrubs and were shown how to use a stethoscope correctly.

Kate is an Optical Engineer, specialising in working with lasers. The Brownies learnt about the experiments performed in laboratories with very expensive lasers – both small ones and also very powerful ones. They learnt about streamlining a process to make it more efficient and the process of determining the correct answer to questions by experimenting and through rigorous analysis of results and their associated errors. Then, as a simple experiment, they managed to establish the contents of sealed containers without opening them, using a cat laser toy

### The Owls, 2nd Botley Brownies



## LOOMSBURY CAFE

### Coffee:

Now using beans from  
**Jericho Coffee Traders**

### Wine & Beer:

Local beers & cider, wines by  
**Oxford Wine Company**

# 2 for 1

Lunch Offer until December 24<sup>th</sup>

From Monday to Friday 11am - 5pm  
buy **2** Alcoholic Drinks  
(or 75cl bottle of wine)  
and receive **2<sup>nd</sup>** lunch item free

### Open:

Monday to Friday: 8am - 6pm,  
Sundays & Bank Holidays:  
9am - 4pm

Wheelchair Accessible.  
Parking free for first 2 hours &  
6pm - midnight

16 West Way Square, Botley,  
Oxford OX2 9TJ  
Tel: 01865 241111

## **Randoms**

### **All in One Room – Celebrating Volunteers**

Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council is inviting all volunteers in the local community to the WI Hall at 4:30pm on Sunday 10th December for mince pies and mulled wine or soft drinks, as a thank you for all your community work this year. We ran this event for the first time in December 2022 with around 100 volunteers attending, from baby and youth groups to pensioners' lunch clubs, from sports groups to food banks, and groups supporting our local natural habitat. As well as a recognition of all their various contributions to the community, the event was also a time to pause, connect, meet and to share and discuss common issues and ideas. We look forward to welcoming even more volunteers to this event this year. Please do come along to the WI Hall, North Hinksey Lane at 4:30pm on Sunday 10th December.

RSVP: [chair@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

### **Anyone for Badminton**

It has been some years since Badminton at Matthew Arnold School closed its doors, and, as they have no plans to hire the sports hall out in the foreseeable future, I thought North Hinksey residents old and new might be interested in joining the badminton club at John Mason School Abingdon. We are a non-league club and open to players of all ages from 18 to 80 – a varied group of excellent, not so good and plain old rusty. If you want to run off those extra calories put on over Christmas and would like to join us on Wednesday evenings, please visit our website for more information and contact details. We are, Mike's Badminton Group <https://badminton.abingdon.onl/>

**Alison Hall**

### **Acorns and Oaks**

Come along and see us this week at our fortnightly Intergenerational Group held at Chawley Grove. This is a lovely session where older and younger generations come together to play, chat and sing. No need to book, just turn up. Babies are especially welcome and we have activities available for toddlers and pre-schoolers. Next two sessions (2-3pm) are 6th and 20th December.

**Hayley Hayle**

## **Age UK**

As we move into the colder and darker months, we become more aware of the need to look out for vulnerable older people in our communities. We have brought together some useful information and resources and you can find them online at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/winter-hub/> Of course, not everyone has or wants access to the internet, so we have created physical Winter Wellbeing packs which we can post out to anyone who asks for one. These include: Our 'Little Handbook of our Services'; A 'Live Well' Oxfordshire bookmark; AgeUK "Winter Wrapped-Up Guide"; an Oxfordshire Talking Therapies leaflet; Our Cost-of-Living Payment Grid. Please get in touch via [contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk) or 0345 450 1276 if you would like one or more of these.

## **Joyriders need leaders**

JoyRiders Oxford warmly invites female cyclists to join their friendly team of Ride Leaders, mostly aimed at the Beginner+ (up to 10 miles) and Intermediate (up to 15 miles) level, and we also run cycle training projects for absolute beginners. JoyRiders Ride Leaders are confident cyclists who ride assertively to look after the inexperienced riders on our rides, but we didn't all start like that! Our Ride Leader training will boost your cycle skills and confidence: the main qualities we'd like you to bring to our team are calmness, patience, understanding and kindness. If that's you, please drop us a line at [oxford@joyriders.org.uk](mailto:oxford@joyriders.org.uk).

## **Cumnor Pre-School**

Cumnor Pre-school is looking for a part-time assistant to work with 2–4-year-old children in a supportive and friendly environment. Monday–Wednesday 8.45–15.30, £10.42–£11.67 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications. More information and application form at [www.cumnor-preschool.co.uk](http://www.cumnor-preschool.co.uk) or email [cumnorpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:cumnorpreschool@gmail.com) with any questions.

## **Looking for friends**

To form a gardening group for North Hinksey Nature Reserve. Hands-on help or plant donations equally welcome, and it would be nice to get planting over the winter. Call the Parish Clerk on 07494 054581 if this is something you'd like to do.



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

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                                           |

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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<br>(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<br>Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>                                                                        |

|                                                              |                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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  
 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**

### **December**

- Sat 2nd    10–12, Botley Baptist Church, Christmas Fair**
- 2/3rd Dec    More Green Open Homes**
- Wed 6th    2-3pm, Chawley Grove Care Home, social group for the very old and the very young, and on 20th**
- Sun 10th    4.30-6-30, Botley WI Hall, 'All in One Room' party to celebrate Botley's many volunteers**
- Thur 14th    7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting**
- Tues 19th    1-8pm, St Peter and St Paul's Church Hall, drop off your donations to Christmas Hampers**
- Wed 20th    8-11am , St Peter and St Paul's Church Hall, drop off Christmas Hamper donations**
- Mon 25th    CHRISTMAS DAY Christmas Lunch, 12-4, Free to all at the King's Centre, Osney Mead**

### **January**

- Mon 9th    2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Carole Page: My Career with Thames Valley Police**
- Sun 14th    Copy deadline for your Sprout articles.**
- Mon 22nd    2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Christina Hardyment: The Serpent of Division**

*[More details of many events can be found on Randoms page]*