The Sprout



2017 Sprout AGM 'up the top'

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 119 Summer 2017

The Sprout Issue 119, July/August 2017

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From the Editor

Most of this Summer Sprout is taken up with the implications of the redevelopment of our shopping centre - new arrangements for the Seacourt Hall (p23), how it's viewed by some of the traders (pp 13, 17), provision - or otherwise - for cycling (p27) and the view from Mace (p21). The start-date has been postponed until October, but as shops were initially told July, they gave their staff three months' notice, and so won't be able to function after then. This means the centre will likely continue with just Tesco, Co-op and Lloyds, and possibly Iceland and the charity shops, as the smaller businesses close down. There is potential for it to get really run-down over the summer, unless we can scramble some community uses, pop-ups, farmers' markets, etc. If you can think of any possible uses for the empty shops for a couple of months, tell Chris Church at the ABC (Assn for Botley Communities). You can find them on Facebook. The other far-reaching local event was the Great Get Together called in memory of Jo Cox, the MP who was murdered last year in the runup to the referendum. This was celebrated in literally hundreds of thousands of picnics country-wide, at least three of them in and around Botley (p5). The summer beckons, school's out on 21st July, the pop-up cafés at the Pavilion are going from strength to strength. Enjoy the holidays! The next Sprout will be coming your way in September.

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

Too Many Leaves

I have just walked around Botley and North Hinksey with my grandson in his pushchair and found it to be very difficult because so many hedges and trees are overhanging the paths.

In some places I had to walk onto the road to pass and the number of times I had to keep ducking my head because of trees hanging low over the paths! I am sure that lots of pensioners in the area must find it very difficult to walk with walking aids or use their electric scooters. What about the people with bad eyesight, or the blind?

If you have a tree or hedge that borders a path it is your responsibility to keep it clear. So please check your trees and hedges, and if they do overhang a path please spend a little time cutting them back. Also the parish council or county council could do their bit by cutting the trees by the crossing in West Way and on the corner of West Way/Westminster Way.

Graham Wells

A Word of Warning

I live in Botley and receive the Sprout regularly, it's what I consider to be full of useful local information. However, after letting my grass get a bit overgrown I contacted one of the gardening companies via a Sprout advertisement, regarding some grass cutting. Two young men came round with a clipboard and gave me a price of £250 or £320 if I wanted the grass taking away. I expressed my surprise, thanked them for coming but Definitely No. They were hard to get rid of and asked me several times "What price did I have in mind?" and "What did I want to pay?" They were very insistent. I ended up having to say "Leave it with me and I'll get back to you."

I have since found someone who has done the grass cutting for £8 per hr - £32 total instead of ten times that amount.

So, be warned and keep your wits about you. Even Sprout adverts don't come with guarantees!

Name and address supplied

The Great Get Together

On the weekend of 17th/18th June hundreds of people came together across Oxford, and many thousands more – perhaps millions – across the country, in the Great Get Together, to celebrate what we have in common and unites us. The events were inspired by Jo Cox, who was killed on 16 June last year. In her maiden speech to Parliament when she became an MP, Jo reminded us that 'we are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us'. Across the country there were a reported 121,442 community events with people coming together and meeting neighbours to share food and have fun. The gatherings gave some needed hope in the face of the recent terrible events in Manchester and London.



In Botley, in the spirit of communities comina together, the local Muslim community. invited Botley neighbours to join them in breaking the fast of Ramadan. Accordingly, Sunday on evening

people gathered at the Women's Institute Hall in North Hinksey Lane to chat and get to know each other a bit better. Farah Nadeem spoke to us about the guiding principles of Islam, and explained that during the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims fast during daylight hours to appreciate what life is like for those less fortunate and to focus their energies on charitable work and spending time with friends and family. The fast is broken at sunset, which was at 9.31pm, when we all ate dates, after which we set to work on the delicious home cooked food. It was humbling to think that they had eaten and drunk nothing – not even water – since dawn, particularly on such a hot day. (*Photo by David Kay*)

previous The afternoon there was big а community picnic in Botley park, at which the crowds were entertained by local а singing resident songs from operas.

a magician, a local acapella choir and the popular local band 'The Botley



Cruë' (photo by Sally Baden) and a celebration in Dean Court, organized by the community association and the church.

A lunchtime picnic had been held at Oxfam head office the previous Thursday with a performance by the Oxfam choir. Because Jo had worked at Oxfam before becoming an MP, she is remembered with special affection in Oxford. Ex-colleagues and local friends helped organise and attended the events. As Jo's husband Brendan said "We spend so much time talking about the areas we disagree with each other on, finding a moment like this when we get together with neighbours and have a good time in parks and streets up and down the country, is exactly what we need."

Ruth Mayne and Diane Long

Ramadan note

It was such a pleasure to meet some of diverse local Muslim community on 18th June, and who could fail to be impressed by the commitment that inspires whole families to pass the long daylight hours without food or drink. You may wonder, as I did, how people manage in the land of the midnight sun. The answer is that – in Tromsø, at least, 350 km north of the Arctic Circle – they set the clock by Mecca, where at this time of year the sun rises at 5am and sets at 7pm. This makes sense in winter too, when there is scarcely any daylight at all.

News from Botley's Patient Participation Group

In the June edition I reported that Botley Medical Centre had been awarded about £90k from Section 106 monies resulting from local developments and allocated for improved health provision in Botley. The practice plans to use this to increase the size of the surgery by two rooms. It will take time to draw up plans, get quotes and seek planning permission, but patients of Botley Medical Centre can expect enhanced premises in due course.

The merger with Kennington continues to go well. The partners report very positive feedback from Kennington patients. They are determined to ensure equity of access and service delivery across the two sites. It would be unacceptable for any perception to arise that patients at Botley were getting a better service than those in Kennington, or vice versa.

The Botley and Kennington surgeries still have different phone numbers. Once the partners and practice manager feel that the Kennington patients are becoming adjusted to the new practice arrangements, the two phone lines will be combined into a single number. Then patients from the whole practice will only need to call the one number to make an appointment or contact the practice.

To contact the PPG please email: botleyppg@gmail

Harry Dickinson, chair

Marie Lloyd: Advanced Nurse Prescriber

If you ring for an appointment at the Botley Medical Centre, you may be booked to see Marie Lloyd, Advanced Nurse Prescriber, rather than one of the GPs. Seeing Marie has many advantages. You will probably be seen that morning and have an appointment for 15 rather than 10 minutes. Marie can write prescriptions and should she decide that you need to see a GP, can arrange for that immediately.

I interviewed Marie to find out more about her work and what she adds to the practice. Marie has been a nurse for many years. About twenty years ago she began taking courses to enable her to work in the community and in general practice. Two courses allow Marie to prescribe medicines. She also took a course last summer on minor illnesses.

Marie joined the Botley Medical last August. Centre In mornings she sees patients with minor illnesses, such as coughs, sore throats or back pain. Her patients range from babies to the very elderly. On the morning I was with her, she had seen someone with an infected insect bite, a chest infection where the antibiotics weren't working, an ear ache and a child with a high temperature. In that case, she asked one of the GPs to see the child too.

In the afternoons she holds a chronic disease clinic for



conditions such as diabetes, asthma or COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). She will invite patients with these chronic illnesses for an annual check-up. She also does baby and child immunisations, and family planning clinics. Marie enjoys the variety of the patients she sees and the support the GPs give her. For the patient she says, 'If someone needs antibiotics, they will get them. They know they will not be palmed off with someone who can't prescribe.'

Next time you wish to make an appointment at the Botley Medical Centre, consider asking the receptionist to book you in to see Marie. I'll certainly be doing that if I have a cough that won't go away, a persistent ear ache, or an infected insect bite.

Harriet Bretherton, PPG member [This article is written on behalf of

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[This article is written on behalf of Botley PPG. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Medical Practice]

DELIVERERS: ARE YOU BEING SENT TOO MANY SPROUTS? LET BHEE AND ROBIN KNOW!

West Way update

Mace public exhibition

Mace held a public exhibition on Tuesday 13th June where they displayed details of the phasing of the redevelopment, temporary accommodation of facilities during construction, the overall timeline and a few changes. If you weren't able to make it then you can view the exhibition boards on Mace's consultation website: westwayconsultation.co.uk

The only real changes to the development revealed at the exhibition were alterations to the car park to remove the ramps between levels allowing for more a few more spaces and a slight reduction in height; and some landscaping changes.

The main focus of the exhibition was to explain the phasing and the timeline. Mace have submitted a change of use application for the temporary relocation of Tesco, Lloyds Chemist and Co-op to the existing Elms Court and Grant Thornton buildings. Consultation ran to 29th June so will just have closed as you read this. As Mace's proposed revisions to the development constitute a material amendment, we understand an S73 application will also be required, which will enable public consultation to take place on the revisions. The target decision date is the end of August and from discussions at the exhibition we would expect demolition and construction work to start no sooner than 1st October.

What happens now?

The important point to note is that, due to the change in phasing, the central area needs to close first, and so the centre part of West Way Shopping Centre will likely continue with just Tesco, Co-op, Lloyds and possibly Iceland through the summer, as the smaller businesses continue to close. Ways to keep the centre busy during this time are very welcome. Ideas raised in the past with the Vale and Mace have included community uses, pop-up shops and art displays, and farmers markets. If you have ideas or suggestions please let us know: westwayconcern@gmail.com and we would be happy to raise with the developers and the Vale District Council.

Meantime, stay in touch via our website, Facebook, Twitter, or email us to join our mailing list: Westwayconcern.wordpress.com; facebook.com/westwayconcern; twitter.com/westwayconcern

Lorna Berrett, co-chair, West Way Community Concern

The Aloha Café closes

Shortly after 2 pm on Saturday 27 May, the last customers left the Aloha Café and it closed its doors to make way for the redevelopment of the West Way Shopping Centre. For the past 4 years the Aloha has been a popular venue for Botley locals.

Jan Bartlett, who co-owns the café with her son Charlie, said: "Because of the uncertainty over the timing of the redevelopment, the last year has been very difficult. Frankly, I'm very annoyed with the muddled way this has been handled by the developers."

But to date, according to Charlie, the Aloha has been on an awesome journey. The business was built up from scratch, using people skills Jan and Charlie had developed in their residential property sales and lettings

agency, to create a welcoming atmosphere that brought customers in and kept them coming back.

Said Jan: "Some people came here as their only outing. I wonder what



they are going to do now that we have closed. We have genuinely cared. Sometimes we have had to be social workers. I've held customers' hands



as they wept." The picture shows Aloha staff. [from left: Ismael Sanchez. Katie Robinson. Jan Bartlett. Toni Nicole Clav. Flla Mark Crawford. Kubicki. Zivkovic. Mark Hewitt. Carrie Zivkovic, Lukasz Wychodski] It was a family business, with the head chef. Mark Zivkovic, married

to Jan's daughter Carrie, who has also waited on table. Jan gives a lot of credit to manager Nicole Crawford, who started at the Aloha as a waitress. Nicole studied sound engineering at Manchester University so she knew how to fix the café's public address system when it broke down. Said Jan: "In the last few weeks business has boomed, which was only possible because all the staff decided to stay until the very end, even though I told them to leave if they found new jobs. We have had lots of lovely presents and cards from individuals and groups."



During this interview, a long-standing customer came in with several bouquets and handed them to Jan, who was visibly affected for several minutes. Each member of staff has a plan for the future. Mark and Nicole have already lined up new jobs. Jan and Charlie will stay with their

property business.

The two last acts in the Aloha were: switching off the coffee machine, by the same customer (Jackie Beesley, seen above) who bought the café's very first cup, and finally, blowing out Freddie's candle, which has been lit every day to commemorate the death in August 2016 of Mark and Carrie's son, at 16 months, from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The Aloha has raised funds for the Lullaby Trust, a charity which educates families on safer sleep for babies, supports bereaved families and research into the causes of SIDS. Carrie's second child, a daughter, Alesha, is due in July. Jan Bartlett and Freddie's candle



Jan said "I believe everything happens for a reason." This is a new beginning for us as a family, and it starts with Alesha."

Grant Nightingale

Botley Blues

The Sprout Editorial Team has been out and about talking to Botley's traders about how they feel about the redevelopment. Inevitably, those in Elms Parade are more cheerful than those in the Square, where the impending demolition has forced a radical rethink. Problems were compounded by Mace's difficulty in establishing a timetable and sticking to it. **Café Aloha** cut their losses and left, and an account of the farewell party can be found on page 13.

David Tompkins has been in Botley Centre for a long time. In fact he thinks he has probably worked in the Centre longer than anyone else. He opened the Botley branch of Adkins in 1981, then branched out on his own and has been an independent Estate Agent for the past 20 years. He feels Mace's dealings with the tenants in the precinct have been shambolic, and expresses his frustrations like this: 'It is absolutely disgusting,' he says. The independent traders have needed to make staff redundant (which requires 3 months' notice) and in March Mace asked for vacant possession by the end of June, so redundancies were arranged in good faith. Now that the goal posts have moved, with Iceland sticking out for going in October, the traders do not need to close by the end of June – but staff have already been made redundant and have new jobs to go to. David is calling on family and friends to help out in the interim until he leaves his premises in Chapel Way. He stresses that his business will continue as usual. When he does leave he will trade from an office on Cumnor Hill.

Another retailer, who asked not to be named, is feeling betrayed. He expressed real sadness in being forced out of the premises after 18 years of being in Botley. When asked about his immediate plans he said he feels ground down by Mace, and that a couple of months' out to recover from the stress caused by the delays and changes is essential. After that he will look around for another business. He won't be able to come back to the new development, but hopes that eventually he can find somewhere else in Botley. He said he is very, very sad.

Beauty Within

We asked Beauty Within how they think the new development will affect them even though their premises are on Elms Parade. Most of their customers make appointments, with not many dropping-in, so they are hoping that the reduced footfall with not adversely affect business too much. However, they are concerned about the noise, dust, and lack of parking during the construction process. A few customers have said already that they will use the Beauty Within salon at Millett's Farm instead. The future is uncertain. 'We'll have to see what happens!' said the owner.

Gary Walker, the **Botley Barber**, is fairly sanguine about his prospects. He will continue to drive in from Witney every day and provide the essential services of hair-cutting and conversation for the men of Botley. They aren't so likely to be concerned about the dust, and as most of them come on foot, the traffic problems are not likely to deter them. He is very aware, though of the parking issues once the current parking arrangements are drastically reduced.

As life in Botley Square seeps away over the summer, to be followed by walls of hoardings, and all the dust and racket of demolition in this mighty makeover that has been visited upon us, it is probably as well to look to the future and try to remain positive. The up-side of the re-scheduling is that the whole project will be over sooner, and at the end we should have a shopping centre that is elegantly designed and built to last, with pleasant open spaces and plenty of greenery. Mace are predictably upbeat, and have supplied this account of their plans to give us hope:

Update from Mace

We are excited to start delivering a thriving new community centre for Botley. During our community consultation we said we would keep Botley bustling throughout the redevelopment, and complete the work swiftly, so that Botley can get back to normal as soon as possible. We are on track to deliver this. This is despite a few logistical difficulties – for example when we sat down with our building contractors, we were told that with our original phasing plan it would take five and a half years to construct the new West Way. So we changed the phasing plan, to ensure that we deliver on our commitment to keep shops and services at West Way open whilst a new shopping centre is swiftly put in place.

The new phasing plan means that:

- The area around the Grant Thornton and Elms Court buildings will accommodate shops and services, including Seacourt Hall and Botley Baptist Church, throughout demolition and construction. Lloyd's pharmacy and other businesses will trade from there, and the Library will stay open.
- Elms Parade will remain open as well, meaning that all along West Way there will be shops and facilities to visit, and places to park.

 The new community hub, which will be the new permanent home for the library, the Baptist Church and Seacourt Hall, will be ready for use in early 2019.

We have worked closely with existing West Way businesses as they decide whether or not they want to stay into the new scheme. This has been a complicated process, as we need agreement from all tenants before moving forward. We were hoping to have this completed for a start in July, but it looks likely that this may be now be the autumn. We do apologise for the delay, and appreciate the community bearing with us as we work through this complex issue.

We are also working with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership to create new jobs and apprenticeships for local people, as well as work for local companies, through the redevelopment. We look forward to continuing to work with the community as the new West Way takes shape. The new phasing plan, and the boards from the update public exhibition we held on 13 June, can be viewed at our community consultation website www.westwayconsultation.co.uk. If you have any questions please do call Matt Browne, who helps to run our community consultation, on 0203 405 3460.

Huw Griffiths



NOW RECRUITING

If you are a hard working individual who is passionate about local food we might have the job for you. We are looking for new people to join our team within the Farm Shop and Restaurant.

Please see our website for further information on current jobs.

Full and part time hours available.

For more information or for an application form please email: sally@milletsfarmcentre.com

www.milletsfarmcentre.com

Your community hall - update on Seacourt Hall

Back in February we updated you on plans for your community hall in line with the redevelopment of the West Way shopping centre. The new phasing and timing of the redevelopment has meant those plans have changed. This is an update on the plans and information for all those using the hall, interested in booking or getting more involved with the future of our community hall space.

A new Community Hub

If you attended the Mace public exhibition on 13th June or earlier events you will know that the West Way redevelopment will provide a brand new community centre where the new Seacourt Hall will be located with larger, more modern and flexible facilities. The Community Hub is scheduled to be one of the first buildings completed in around 18 months' time. For details Mace's exhibition boards see on their website http://westwayconsultation.co.uk. In the meantime North Hinksey Parish Council (NHPC) and Seacourt Hall Management Committee (SHMC) are committed to ensuring continued availability of nondenominational meeting and party facilities and Mace will provide alternative premises to meet the needs of our users as outlined below.

Seacourt Hall temporary location

The redevelopment seems likely to start now no earlier than October and at that time Seacourt Hall will move temporarily into a larger space on the second floor of the Grant Thornton building just behind the current hall. This will be a temporary move during the first year of construction until the new Community Hub is complete. This is instead of the previous plan to use the vacant Brasserie B – Mace's new phasing means that building will be among the first to be demolished. The Grant Thornton block will be refitted to include a large hall space about three times the size of the current hall, a kitchen, and separate meeting room all bookable for events. On the same floor there will also be a craft room which is being offered to Branches Youth project. There are toilets including disabled toilets and lift access. A floorplan of the temporary layout can be found on the new Seacourt Hall website www.seacourthall.org.uk

Once we have a confirmed move date we will provide notification to users. We plan 30 days' minimum notice. We expect very little disruption as the temporary facility will be fitted out before the current hall is vacated and we will move tables, chairs and kitchen equipment when the hall is not in use.

The Seacourt Hall Management Committee also wish to invite everyone in the community to an open event once refurbishments are completed so you can see the temporary space for yourselves. Look out for a notice some time in September.

NEW: website and booking form for Seacourt Hall

We are continuing to take bookings in the existing hall through the summer and also for the temporary hall from October. We now have a dedicated website where you can view the calendar of bookings and book online, address **www.seacourthall.org.uk** You can also book by telephone by calling Hall Manager and Booking Clerk: Eric Batts on 01865 821565 or 07590 497798. The website will be updated with images and dimensions of the temporary hall and meeting spaces, so check online to find out more.

Phase 2: Seacourt Hall in the new Community Hub

The new hall will be much larger than we have currently and we believe will work better for users. We will also post more information about the new permanent hall on the Seacourt Hall website over the summer. We hope that you will continue to use Seacourt Hall over the summer and through the coming year, and we look forward to a much more modern community hub in the not-so-distant future. If you have more questions, you can contact me on **Lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com**

Lorna Berrett, vice-chair Seacourt Hall Management Committee

Seacourt Hall Management Committee Nominations Sought for Public Representatives

Seacourt Hall is managed by a Committee of Trustees (Seacourt Hall Management Committee), made up of representatives of the North Hinksey Parish Council, Hall Users and public representatives.

At the AGM on 27th September (7pm at Seacourt Hall) two members of the public will be elected by those eligible and present at the AGM.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary before 5pm on 13th September, by post in the letter-box at Seacourt Hall or by email to **michael.cockman@gmail.com**. For more information in advance, including the responsibilities of being a trustee, call Michael Cockman on 07766 317691.

Michael Cockman, Secretary to SHMC, June 2017

Cycling in Botley

Someone needs to get a grip at the Highways Dept of Oxfordshire County Council. Will our new Cabinet member Cllr Yvonne Constance (OBE) be the woman for the job?

Construction works at West Way shopping Centre, Botley are going to take 3½ years. The developers are proposing *two left turns* from West Way into the construction site. Really not a smart idea – unless we wish to kill more cyclists on the Botley Rd. Officers seem to be suffering Corporate Alzheimer's: have they forgotten the risks Botley cycle users face?

Both the cyclists who were killed or seriously injured on the Botley Road at Roger Dudman Way, were hit by left-turning trucks – specifically construction vehicles, of a particular kind: skip lorries & concrete mixers. So for MACE construction to have gained the consent of OCC Highways for not one but TWO left turns across a cycle lane in West Way is very concerning. The obvious solution is to require trucks to enter the construction site from Westminster Way, as will all delivery vehicles once the project is complete. What will be good then will also be good now.

Otherwise cyclists should be safeguarded by the physical management of a "banksmen" who would carefully supervise other road users when trucks turns across a cycle lane. Removing the cycle lane does not

remove the problem. Mace should factor in two full-time banksmen at both proposed entrances to the site, to prevent HGVs cutting up cycles in the cycle lane. At the very least they should provide "tenselator" tape and fish-eye mirrors as at Elephant and Castle.

Fish-eye mirrors on the Cycle Superhighway



Large numbers of North Hinksey workers are bicycle commuters, and many Park & Ride users cycle from Seacourt. It makes good sense. Distance is just a mile to the railway station (41 mins to Paddington) and

11/4 miles to the City Centre. The hills of Elms Rise and New Road past castle mound are not a problem for those of average fitness. It takes just 12 mins of physical effort to get between them. Plus 6 minutes waiting at red traffic lights.

But there are risks. Lazily designed kev. Casual observation infrastructure is discloses a lack of engagement of the County Council Highways Dept. Why else would they lead a cycle path down a concrete staircase (as is the case over the bridge from the railway station)? Or run a cycle track across the top of the steps leading up from "Richer Sounds"? These are just some of the ancient issues which locals have become accustomed to.



Tenselator tape

We know from Fol requests, OCC don't plan for cycling, but factor it in afterwards if there is a problem. Look at "the teardrop" at the Hythe Bridge Street junction with George Street - one of the most dangerous junctions for miles around.

No. There is a more subtle issue here, hidden in the detail: vehicle use is about to quadruple on Arthray Road & Chapel Way. In my view, this consultation was really about plans to create 4 more car parking spaces by removing the ramps in the Westminster Way car park and making upper deck cars use Chapel Way from Arthray Road to West Way. And as a sop, more trees would be planted between the car parks at bedroom height to screen the back gardens of Arthray Road properties. As a result, access to the upper deck of 109 spaces is proposed via the residential street of Arthray Road or through the pedestrian area from shops to the

community centre.

Cycle parking has yet to be considered in this scheme: either during the construction phase, or the completed project. This is serious proper provision needs to be made. Cycle household theft increases contents premiums, county-wide. Good cycle parking provision is what sets Aldi & Tesco apart from the Co-op. Simon Banks

THE SPROUT **NEEDS NEW DELIVERERS!** PLEASE GET IN **TOUCH WITH** BHEE AND ROBIN 01865 0790648 IF YOU CAN HELP.

40 Years of Diabetes

Is it really 40 years ago this year that I first learned that I was a type 1 diabetic and that I would have to inject myself regularly with insulin for the rest of my life? At the age of 9, my pancreas had decided to give up producing this hormone. I hadn't got the usual symptoms (thirsty, losing weight, blurred vision) although I had been feeling a bit tired. In June 1977, sugar was found in my urine and the



Botley GP, Dr Dempsey, called round to our house to say that I had to go into hospital the next day. I had been diagnosed relatively early and was able to go home again after one night's stay which meant that I could be in Botley for the Queen's Silver Jubilee (I saw a super street party in Montagu/Arthray Road). I had much help from the medical profession including paediatric nurse Sally Strang (now living in our parish). Also I remember the kindness of the Southcott family, who lived in The Garth. Katie Southcott, a few years older than me, had been diabetic for quite a while. She reassured me that you could live a normal life with diabetes.

Whilst most diabetics are type 2 and generally diagnosed later in life, when it comes to the fear of complications we are all in the same boat. I do worry about what will happen to my eyes (diabetic retinopathy), feet, kidneys and heart in view of the length of time I have been diabetic. Some of my diabetic friends are no longer with us or are partially sighted (including those I knew at Matthew Arnold School). However no one really knows what is round the corner and, whoever you are, it is important to make the most of each day. I know I'm really lucky to have had great NHS care, along with wonderful support from family and friends.

World War II exhibition, Saturday 16/Sunday 17 September 10am-5pm Cumnor Old School Make sure you're in the area for this weekend (there's also the Food Festival in Botley on the Saturday). Thanks to the Sprout I've found out more on the Goatley family, the Prisoner of War camp and heard about Sri Lankan evacuees and nuns in the area during the War. A house in Laburnum Road was named after a ship used in the conflict. Please do get in touch before the end of August if you have any interesting information on this area or anywhere else.

Martin Harris

Police Update

Burglaries: Several houses have been burgled in the Cumnor/Botley area recently. It appears the same method of entry was used each time, with access gained via a door or window at the rear of the property. It is up to residents to ensure property is secure and to remain vigilant. This area remains a low crime area and we will be carrying out regular high visibility patrols.

Make it difficult for the burglar Effective home security is the best way to reduce your chances of being burgled. A lot of burglaries are carried out by opportunist thieves who don't even need to use force – they get in through an open door, window or other easy point of entry and take their chances. Look at your home through a burglar's eyes If you think your home security looks poor, chances are so will a burglar!

- Are there places where they could break in without being seen?
- If you have forgotten your keys but can still get in, so can a burglar!

Have your say. We are holding a Have Your Say session between 10am and noon on July 27th at Cumnor Hill House, Cumnor Hill, Botley. If you are interested joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme down your road please email Julia.Williams@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for advice and help.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) We have received reports of teenagers misbehaving at the Louie Memorial Field. In particular there has been criminal damage to the Scout Hut where some windows have been smashed and teenagers have been climbing on to the roof. We are working closely with Matthew Arnold School to identify the culprits.

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 (only dial 999 an emergency). email in You can also contact us via AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. But please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvallev.police.uk. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk today. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; you can follow us @TVPSouthandVale

Abingdon Outer Neighbourhood Team

Summer at the Library

Summer is upon us so why don't you check out Botley Library for your holiday reading? Do you know you can request a book for £1 from our on-line catalogue? For those of you with tablets, smartphones or PC's you can download eBooks, audiobooks and some popular magazines like BBC Good Food and Gardener's World for no charge. You can also access a wealth of Reference material online with your library membership card such as Britannica online, Who's Who, Driving theory test and even Music streaming with Naxos. You can access these sites from the comfort of your own home. If you are interested in researching your family tree you can access both Ancestry and Find my Past in the library, we even have an expert on hand every Thursday morning to give you a helping hand.

Our Summer reading challenge for children starts on Saturday July 15th with the theme of Animal Agents, so expect mystery, detectives and animals! There is also a chance for Adults to enter a prize draw so do come in and see what we have to offer. Details and much more on

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

WANTED! EAGLE-EYED CHILDREN TO SOLVE THE STRANGE GOINGS ON IN OXFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES THIS SUMMER.

From 15th July to 16th September children across Oxfordshire can join the Animal Agents for the Summer Reading Challenge 2017. These furry, slippery and scaly friends are specially trained to use their skills and natural instincts to unravel the mystery - with a huge helping of fun along the way!

Read at least six library books of your choice over the summer holidays. As you read, you will collect stickers to help narrow down the suspects. Complete the challenge to crack the case and get your own medal and certificate.

Join up at your library. It's fun! It's free! It's local!

There's a website to add to the fun too!: animal-agents.org.uk

Brownies meet a Guide Dog

Oxford Brownies are 2nd progressing nicely through the clauses for the Disability badge. Awareness Our highlight so far is the other week when Snowy kindly arranged for us to have a visit from Nicola and her Guide Dog. Kimber. Nicola used to be a Brownie leader but lost her sight two years ago. She told us how Kimber has transformed her life for the better since her sight loss. He is a very glossy and very large Labrador/Retriever cross who



also knows how beautiful he is. Nicola's brother (her driver) also told us that when Kimber is not working he is a totally silly dog who likes nothing more than to chase balls in the park with his own dog, but when he is working he is completely focused and behaves very professionally.

Nicola told us about the process involved in getting a Guide dog and the training for both the dog and the new owner. We saw crossing the road, going into town on the bus and going to the cinema and restaurants in a completely new light. Most importantly of all we learnt that if we ever see a Guide dog wearing its harness with its owner that it must be working and so we must never distract the dog by stroking it because this could confuse it and potentially cause it to stop working and that could even endanger the life of the owner. We learnt how to approach a blind or visually impaired person (introduce yourself and talk directly to them. If you are going to offer to guide them, let them take your arm, don't grab theirs). All common sense once you know. Nicola was a very interesting and patient person and thankfully no one asked any silly questions but lots of thoughtful ones and, as a consequence, we learnt such a lot.

She was a truly inspirational lady who now gives talks to children's groups to raise money for Guide Dogs as her way of saying thank you for receiving Kimber her fabulous Guide dog.

Lucy Howes

Celebrating our magnificent meadows



Photo by Riki Therivel

Just 100 years ago there would have been a meadow in every parish, supporting a way of life that had gone on for centuries. They provided grazing and hay for livestock, employment, food and medicine for the parish, and were part of a community's cultural and social history. Today, just 3% of the meadows that existed in the 1930s remain – that's a loss of 7.5 million acres of wild flower grassland.

We are fortunate in that some of the best meadows in the country are in and around Oxford, including Hinksey Meadow. Beyond being a quintessential sight of summer, meadows' value to wildlife cannot be overstated - a single healthy meadow can be home to over 80 species of wild flowers, such as cuckoo flower, yellow rattle, orchids, knapweed and scabious, compared to most modern agricultural pasture which typically supports fewer than a dozen species. They are wonderful places to visit at any time of year, but especially when they are at their best before the hay is cut in mid-late July.

As part of National Meadows Day, Oxford Preservation Trust is holding a free drop-in afternoon at **Hinksey Meadow** on **Saturday 1 July from 2pm – 4pm**. There will be guided walks on the hour and half hour, led by Dr Tim King and Dr Judy Webb, and kids' activities. Come along to learn more about the flora and fauna, and about the impact the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme will have on the meadow and 1000 years of history. **Rachel Sanderson**, Oxford Preservation Trust

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P17/V1418/FUL	8 Elms Road. Demolish existing 2- storey house, replace with 2-storey apartment block with seven 2-bed and one 1-bedroom apartments.	23 May Target decision date: 18 July
P17/V1092/FUL	102 Arthray Road. Creation of self-contained dwelling.	24 May TDD: 19 July
P17/V1507/FUL	Botley Centre, West Way. Temporary planning consent for 3 years for change of use, relocation & addition of units at Botley Local Centre. Includes alterations to access and egress arrangements, provision of 41 car parking spaces, partial demolition of Grant Thornton House, amendments to phasing plan & installation of portacabin (A1 use).	30 May TDD: 29 August
P17/V1491/LDP	26 Crabtree Road. Timber framed home extension, single storey, with a rendered finish, pad foundations.	1 June TDD: 27 July
P17/V1557/LDP	44 Arthray Road. Proposed loft conversion.	1 June TDD: 27 July
P17/V1478/FUL	Gables, 6 Cumnor Hill. Demolish existing guest house & garage. Erect 9 apartments (7 x 2-bed and 2 x 1-bed), with off-street car parking.	5 June TDD: 31 July
P17/V1586/T28	Land beside Convenience Store, Laburnum Road. Replace 1 x 490mm shrouded antenna with 1 x 580mm shrouded antenna.	5 June TDD: 3 July
P17/V1506/HH	16 Finmore Road. Erect a 2 storey side extension with pitched roof.	7 June TDD: 2 Aug
P17/V1639/HH	Dormers, Stanton Road. Rear single- storey extension & external alterations.	12 June TDD; 7 August

Tap Social

Go to the far back of Curtis Industrial Estate on a Friday or Saturday evening, and you'll find Tap Social in full flow. Unit 27 has chairs outside filled with people sipping pints of beer, and a nearby food cart sells delicious curries. Inside is a large dark space festooned with little lights, groups of couches, and chairs around mismatched tables. It has a lovely,

summery vibe, and you may well see a couple of your neighbours enjoying their brew.

Tap Social is social enterprise, the brainchild of criminal barrister Paul. doctoral candidate in criminology Amy, and commerce/beer expert Tess. Thev are all



interested in brewing good beer, but also want to provide a social benefit – hence the name. Noticing the lack of support given to ex-offenders, they aimed to provide somewhere that people with a criminal past can gain business skills and experience, and get help in moving on to more permanent employment.

Tap Social works with Spring Hill open prison in Bicester. People come to Tap Social on day release programmes, first on a voluntary basis for three weeks as community work, and then for training or employment. Tap Social's first 'graduate' is already helping behind the bar, two people are working in the office, and by the time this Sprout comes out they should have two people helping them to brew beer.

Tap Social is still very young, having only been set up last December on minimal funding. The furniture was donated by friends, provided cheaply by furniture recycling organizations, or sourced on Gumtree. "We drove all over the country to pick stuff up," explained Tess when I interviewed her. "We started this from our personal savings and small loans, but are looking into crowd-funding some more brewing equipment".

Tess says that the team had been really pleased by how popular it is. "We were very active on social media, and local businesses have been supportive. For instance Creation Theatre sells our beer, and then people come here to get more. It also helps that we have live music most

evenings – that has been very popular – and we always have street food." The 'interesting' venue both helps and hinders their business. The venue is quite remote, but people come from all over Oxford, possibly because they enjoy drinking beer in the same place that it is brewed, and possibly because there are not many venues that feature live music. Personally I love the way that Tap Social have decorated the space, and their beer is awfully good too.

Future plans include bringing in more people from Spring Hill for both day release and more permanent employment; opening on Thursdays and Sundays as well as Fridays and Saturdays; and maybe broadening the offer to coffee on weekdays, which would allow Tap Social to offer barrista training. They also hope to take more private bookings during the week, run beer-making courses, and increase awareness of day release programmes amongst other local businesses.

In the meanwhile, have a look on their website, **tapsocialmovement.com**, for information about future bands and beer festivals, and do visit Unit 27 if you haven't already.

Riki Therivel



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Randoms

NHHS

N. Hinksey Horticultural Society will be running a trip to the MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW. This is on SEPTEMBER 24TH [A SUNDAY] There will be notices put up soon so look out for them. For those who have been before, we leave the Elms Parade Bus stop at 8.30am & try to be home around 6.30/7,pm. Please phone me on 251821 if you want to come, or email anndykes1@outlook.com. There is an answer phone, so please leave a name & contact no or I will not be able to reply!! Once again this is a Fantastic day out for all the family. Coach & entry costs will follow nearer the time, just book your seats S.A.P. Hope to hear from YOU soon. Ann Dykes

Volunteering for your local Hospital Charity?

As the Fundraising and Events Manager at Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Charitable Funds, I am looking to recruit some new volunteers for our busy events calendar in 2017 and beyond, and am eager to reach as many local communities as possible.

We traditionally rely on the local communities throughout Oxfordshire to help us achieve our fundraising objectives and help our patients. We are looking for individuals who like meeting new people, trying new things and want to join a fantastic social network by volunteering for their local hospital charity. We provide training and pay all reasonable expenses, so you will never be out of pocket, and with a variety of events planned throughout the year there should be an event to suit everyone's tastes. Without our volunteers, we simply couldn't do what we do. For more information please contact me by email on <code>gail.williams@ouh.nhs.uk</code> or by phone 01865 226211.

Gail Williams

Community fridge news: Thank you to everyone who has been leaving food in the community fridge. It always goes very quickly, mostly to people who can really use it. In some cases it is acting as a supplement or alternative to food banks. In case you go on holiday and have food that would otherwise go to waste, or have a super-productive garden or allotment, please could you consider bringing your surplus food to the fridge? It's in Saints Peter & Paul church on West Way.

Riki Therivel

Hill Top shop

Pleased to see that, as shops close in West Way, the shop at the top of Crabtree Rd is now open for business after a 2-year gap. Welcome to the Hilltop Shop (managed by Ellie in the picture)! Newspapers, bread and all the usuals.

Chris Church

(from the ABC facebook page, where they add the opening hours: 7am to 10pm every day, with lunchtime closure from 1 to 2. The Sprout wishes Ellie every success.)



Summer Project for Young People

Looking for something to do this summer? Branches Young People's Support Service will be running an exciting summer project called 'RAISE' for young people aged 13+.

What's the idea? To build a massive sculpture in the shape of a tree and to finish with a spectacular event when the tree will come to life with lights and music. There will also be food, music, and chill.

When and where will it happen? Every Thursday in August (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st) from 11am-1.30pm at Louie Memorial Pavilion, culminating in a parade and spectacle on the evening of Thursday 31st August. You need to be able to do at least 4 of the 5 sessions.

Who can take part? Young people aged 13+.

How much does it cost? £20 if your family can afford it. Or less if you can't, just speak to Diane. Food is included (vegetarian and Halal).

How do I apply? Contact Diane on email diane@branchesyouth.uk or text 07557 981769. Applications need to be in by 10th July. Places are limited so do get in touch asap. We look forward to welcoming you

Diane Long & Dave Goodspeed, Branches Directors

Flood Alleviation Scheme

As part of the flood scheme, we will need to replace some of the existing bridges and construct some new ones, to allow access across the new channel. We have developed a series of design options for the bridges and will be inviting your comments on Tuesday 11th July at Botley

Library, between 9.30am and 2pm. We will use your feedback to help us design the new and replacement bridges in the scheme area.

Would you be interested in seeing benches, cycle racks and information boards installed along public footpaths? And if so, where? How do you use the roads and footpaths that will be affected during construction? Let us know, so we can feed this into our plans for diversions and construction arrangements.

The information from the last round of drop-in events in May can be found in the Consultation Document, which you can download from the consultation webpage **OxfordScheme@environment-agency.gov.uk** Hard copies can be read at the Library. There's more about these consultation sessions on our Facebook page **www.facebook.com/oxfordscheme**

Sally Freeman, Engagement Support Officer

Wildlife Trainee (Conservation, Oxon)

Enthused by Springwatch? BBOWT are looking to recruit two volunteer Wildlife Trainees to join a dedicated team working across Oxfordshire.

The role (unpaid) involves practical conservation work; restoring and improving habitats for wildlife. Trainees will help to look after livestock, repair and install site infrastructure, work with power tools and machinery, carry out species surveys, vegetation management, and work with and lead volunteers. Find out more on: http://www.bbowt.org.uk/what-we-do

Paid work

Or if it's money you're after, McDonald's in Botley are recruiting for full- and part-time staff, and would particularly like to employ local people. Interested? – pop along and ask them!



Gym | Swimming Pool | Sauna/Steam Room | Squash Courts | Table Tennis | Sports Hall | Golf Course | Grass Football/Rugby Pitches | Fitness Classes | 3G Football Pitches

Discounts on Memberships for local residents Memberships available from only £9.99 pcm

Contact for more details

OPENING TIMES

Mon - Fri 06.30 - 23.00 | Sat 07.30 - 22.00 | Sun 08.00 - 22.00

01865 48 8379 | botley.sport@brookes.ac.uk | www.brookes.ac.uk/brookes-sport

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

	e 724452 for inclusion in future issues.			
1st Botley Brownies	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona			
Girls aged 7–10	Wheeler, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com			
2nd Botley Brownies	Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6 -7.30 : Alison			
Girls aged 7–10	Griffin 01865 379247			
4th Oxford Scout Group	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; mail@thefourth.org.uk			
Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/			
15th Oxford Scout Group	Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham			
Boys and girls welcome	01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386			
Badminton Club	Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 garryclark13@gmail.com			
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142			
Botley Baby & Toddler Group	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.15–11am, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall			
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 jbarley1@ sky.com or Brendan Byrne Ox.792531 bb@bridewellconsulting.com			
Botley Health Walks	Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497			
Botley Library	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).			
Botley Singers	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 angastpen@aol.com			
Chair-based Exercise Class	Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Seacourt Hall Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601			
Community Fridge	For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811			
Cumnor Choral Society	Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or www.cumnorchoral.co.uk			
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk			
Cumnor & District Historical Society	Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808			
Cumnor Gardening Club	Details on website at http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ or phone Chirs Impey, 01865 721026			
Fit Steps – exercise based on dance	Friday 6–7pm, Seacourt Hall. Email Rosalie on rosalie.crane@btinternet.com			
Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group	Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk			
Hill End Volunteer Team	Contact: David Millin on hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk, call 01865-863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk			
Let's Sing! – singing group	Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email emformusic@outlook.com			
Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc	Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk			

M	M		
Mum and Baby Yoga for babies from 6 wks to crawling	Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk		
N Hinksey after school club	Mon-Thurs 3-6pm Contact: Oxford 794287		
N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997		
N Hinksey Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451		
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com		
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.		
N Hinksey Horticultural Society	Contact: Ann Dykes 01865 251821 anndykes@hotmail.com		
N Hinksey Parish Council	Alan Stone 01865 861992 nhpcclerk@msn.com		
N Hinksey Youth Club	Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook		
Over Sixties Lunch Club	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Marina Bennett 01865 242312		
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035		
Oxford Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259		
Oxford Otters	Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420		
Oxford Rugby Club	Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jamesy1976@hotmail.co.uk		
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or melanie riste@hotmail.com		
Parkinson's Disease Soc	Contacts: Julie and John Tailor 01865 763394.		
Raleigh Park, Friends of	David Brown raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk		
Royal Voluntary Service	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971.		
(West Way Day Centre) Saturdads	oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's		
Elms Rd Children's Centre	10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955		
Shotokan Karate club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450		
Weight Watchers	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com		
West Oxford Bowls Club	Contact: Marion Bostock 436277		
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 www.wotkd.co.uk		
West Oxford U3A	(Uni of the 3rd Age) Elizabeth Stevens, 739252		
Which Craft?	Pavilion, Arnold's way, third Monday, contact whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk		
Women's Institute (Botley)	Monthly, 1st Tuesday: Liz Manson, tel. 244175 or email liz.manson@virginmedia.com		