

The Sprout



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The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 166 April 2022

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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The Sprout

Issue 166, April 2022

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From the Editor

This is the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and there won't be another, so let's celebrate in style! The Parish Council shares initial ideas on page 5. Botley in Bloom is joining in the fun (p3), and so is Botley School (p35). A couple of well-loved institutions are under threat – Tumbling Bay has been our local swimming hole for nearly 200 years, but the structure is crumbling (p13). The Farmers Market's been with us for rather less time, but also needs our support if it is to survive (see page 38). The XVth Scouts, long established with the Baptists, are looking for a new home (p9), suggestions welcomed. What makes you happy? Could it be bowls (p21), antiques (p17), or getting close to nature, like Riki, who mortgaged her house to buy a wood (full story on page 27)? The Patients Group continues to ask the BMC hard questions (p18), Kennington Memory Club continues to provide a haven for dementia sufferers (p37). Sustainable Botley's home energy session has uncovered some practical help (p29). Easter events and service times are on pages 19 and 23. Finally, Botley has rallied in support of those displaced by the war on Ukraine. The cover shows the first tranche of food and clothes on its way to Romania (p7).

Ag MacKeith

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Vandal proof

If the art project [to make the A34 flyover more welcoming, see March issue] becomes reality, I hope that it will not become mutilated and spoiled by awful graffiti like the once beautiful artwork under the A34 subway at Montagu Road/Stanley Close.

For probably 20 years the historic murals were left intact – but so sad to view them now. Why did the urge to mutilate special buildings and places fall victim to 'artwork' abusers?

Perhaps future artwork can become vandal proof with special barrier coatings?

Briony Newport

Botley in Bloom – Front Garden Competition 2022

Entry deadline is Monday 6 June

Judging in week beginning Monday 13 June

Winners announced Monday 20 June

Categories:

- Best Front Garden
- Best Cultivated-Wildlife Front Garden
- Best Jubilee Hanging Basket or Window Box

The last category is a special one-off for this Platinum Jubilee Year and we will be looking for creativity and appropriate use of colour.

Botley in Bloom is sponsored by The Sprout, NHPC, and LeoQuent.





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Celebrating the Jubilee

There will be four bank holidays in a row for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and Botley is not going to be backward in coming forward to celebrate.

First there is the beacon, erected ten years ago by the parish council in time for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. The plan is to light it as part of the National Beacon Chain at 9.45pm on the first bank holiday, **Thursday 2nd June**. If you look at the Jubilee Beacon Chain website (<https://www.queensjubileebeacons.com/>) you will find various intriguing possibilities: a special tune has been written for pipers, and there's a fanfare for a cornet to play as the beacon is lit. A special song celebrating the Commonwealth has been commissioned for choirs. If we can find a piper, a cornet player and a choir, perhaps we can manage all three! *Step forward if that sounds like you!* Last time we started with a candlelit procession from the field below, and came back down for hot chocolate at the pavilion. It would be nice to do that again.

A tart has been devised by Countrywomen–Country Wide to celebrate all four countries of the United Kingdom. It contains smoked salmon for Scotland, leeks for Wales, potatoes for Northern Ireland and cheddar cheese for England. There's even advice on how to make enough for 70 people all to have a slice, one for each year, also on **jubileebeacons**. We'll put the recipe in next month's *Sprout*.

Bring your picnics to the playing field from 7pm. There will be a bar and perhaps a barbecue, and some live music or other entertainment. Could we manage a talent show – or at least an open mic session? The picture shows Botley school children singing on the field at the 2012 Diamond Jubilee celebrations.





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The second part of the celebration would be down at the shopping centre on **Saturday 4th June**. This could involve:

- an open air stage with a range of entertainment. Stagecoach have expressed an interest.
- stalls along the open space between Tesco's and the Co-op
- other appropriate entertainment such as Morris dancing and demonstrations by local sports clubs
- a tie in with the Seacourt pub.
- engagement of local shops and restaurants
- decoration, bunting, flags etc.
- the **Crabtree Challenge**. This piece of daftness would involve people carrying heavy weights of some kind racing each other up the hill from St Paul's Crescent to Laburnum Road. How would it work? What would be the prizes? Who could compete? *Send your ideas to the Sprout.*

There'd also be some kind of local history exhibition in the Seacourt Hall, perhaps also an art exhibition, and afternoon tea, courtesy of the W.I., with genteel musical accompaniment.

Sunday 5th June is the day for street parties and the national 'big lunch'. So far we've heard of Poplar Road and Beech/Chestnut Roads, and we look forward to hearing of more. This might be the moment to bake that Jubilee Tart! As it happens, it's also World Environment Day.

Other people are planning other things – please let the *Sprout* know so we can make sure they all get the widest publicity!

Botley in Bloom couldn't be left out. A new category will mark the occasion – Best Jubilee Hanging Basket or Window Box.

Botley and Eynsham help for Ukrainian Refugees

Locals contributed 276 bags of clothing, bedding and food in the first two weeks of March, to be sent by Barnabas Fund to those caring for refugees in Ukraine, Romania, Moldova and Poland.

The first 40-foot-long lorry left the collection warehouse in Swindon on March 13th with 30 tons, and arrived in Romania on March 17th.

Goods are still needed, especially dried and tinned food (sardines and meat), and nappies. These can be left with Canon Chris Sugden at 36 North Hinksey Village (**csugden@ocrpl.org** / 07808 297043) who is arranging regular deliveries to the Swindon warehouse. For more information about the way these deliveries are being used please see **www.barnabasfund.org**.



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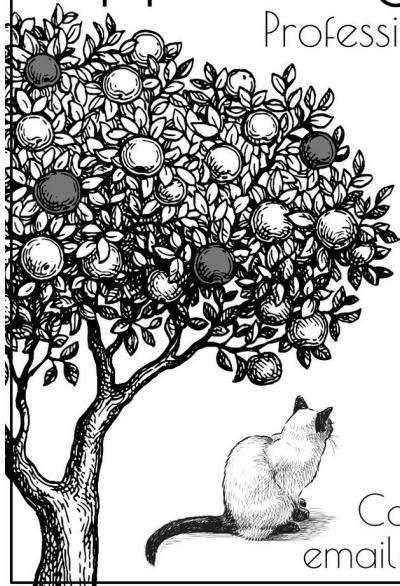


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End of an Era – Botley Baptists call Time on a century of partnership

Scouting in Botley is about to undergo a change. Botley Baptist Church Trustees have decided they will no longer provide a Community Hall for the 15th Oxford Scout Group. We were informed that they are seeking a change-of-use in the new building, giving users of the first-floor hall just two months' notice to seek new homes. Botley Baptist Church have provided a hall for the 15th Oxford Scout Group since their origins in New Inn Hall Street in 1909 and all through subsequent moves to the old and new Church. This eviction brings to an end 112 years of the 15th Oxford Scouts' sponsorship by and association with Botley Baptist Church. The picture shows an earlier cohort in front of the former Baptist church, where the Premier Inn now stands.

To quote the church's own website they joined MACE in "...redevelopment of the Botley shopping precinct, to deliver a new church and community facility which meets the needs of a growing Church and a growing community." What looked like a fantastic opportunity to grow and serve the community better than ever, for us in Botley Baptist Church, is gone.

But this is where we see the 15th Oxford Scout Group at the beginning of a brand-new adventure. It won't be without challenges and the Group (supported entirely by volunteers) is determined to "Do Our Best" to keep a val-



uable resource for the community open, although time is short. It's a daunting task, but one we will not shy away from. Scouts are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers. We do camping, hiking, abseiling, canoeing, tracking, pioneering, orienteering and more! But we also get to hang out with our friends every week – having fun, playing games, working in a team and



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Hopefully by the time you read this, we will already be typing the next *Sprout* article introducing you to our new meeting place. However, we need your community support for this. All help with finding a new venue would be hugely appreciated, so the 15th Oxford can continue to encourage, support and help young people in our community. If you think you or somebody you know can help us with this latest adventure, or in any volunteering role please contact XVOxfordScouts@yahoo.co.uk or XVOxfordGSL@gmail.com. Thank you.

Tom Freeman

SKATEPARK UPDATE Canvas Spaces won the contract with their brilliant tender. There's a picture of the winning design on the NHPC website, but this is only provisional, as consultation will now begin, and we are expecting to make some changes following lots of input from local kids.

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Tumbling Bay Under Threat

Once again, the future of Tumbling Bay is in doubt. Our much loved river swimming pool, behind West Oxford Community Centre in Botley Park, has been partly fenced off by the City Council for several months now. There are real concerns that the northern wall of concrete is ready to give way, with water now running behind it. There was a meeting there on 7th March, when some 40 people gathered in the icy east wind to let the Council know how much they value our local open-air pool. Some four or five hardy souls had even come along to say they swim there a couple of times a week all through the winter.

Tumbling Bay was first opened in 1853, to provide safe bathing for the men and boys of Oxford, and has been used by swimmers ever since. Generations of local children have learnt to swim here. In its heyday, thousands would come to enjoy the waters. There were three swimming pools, a water chute and diving boards, changing rooms and lifeguards. Malcolm Graham records, in his *History of Tumbling Bay*, that 86,000 admissions were recorded between May and September 1947.

Use dwindled from the 60s onwards, as people started to go abroad in search of the sun, and it was officially closed as a swimming pool in the 1990s. There was talk of turning it into a site for pond dipping, but the Environment Agency made it clear that it was an essential component of their flood management strategy, so it was saved and dredged. It carries all the usual dangers of wild water swimming, but it is still enjoyed by many children and families during the summer months and by hardier swimmers throughout the year.

All through the COVID lockdowns, Tumbling Bay was a great source of entertainment and exercise for West Oxford and Botley. There are plenty of river walks and open spaces around but this is our one bathing place. The photo shows a sunny day last summer.



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What did we learn? Consultants have been engaged to explore options, but the survey must wait till June, when fish have finished spawning. The council have undertaken to maintain access. Their 'green and blue spaces team' (what a name!) flag that this a chance to rethink biodiversity. But we had come to speak up for this valuable piece of local heritage, which we were eager to maintain. It would be a shame to lose the pool just as outdoor swimming is gaining popularity again. Over 2000 people have now signed the petition launched by concerned local swimmers, calling on the council to preserve the historic character and shape of Tumbling Bay by repairing or replacing the existing structure. (To add your name, go to <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-tumbling-bay>). The petition adds that we'd be willing to help find funding for the more expensive option of repairing the existing wall.

What came out of the meeting? The council made it clear they will not promote swimming in the river. It will take ten years, they said, for Thames Water to clean up their act and find better ways of dealing with sewage than allowing it to overflow into our streams. In the name of public health they cannot be seen to be encouraging it. However, they did accept that people will keep going to Tum, and that means they may fall in. It's too dangerous to use the ladders on the north side, and they reluctantly accepted that public safety requires steps to be installed on the south side before the summer season begins. We also asked for a proper notice about the dangerous state of the north edge. This would do more to stop people climbing on it than the flimsy fence currently in place. A red DANGER sign painted on the concrete would help. They agreed to clear all the reed from the top basin and reduce the reed in the lower pool by one third. They further accepted that what happens to Tum is a matter of local concern, and said they will not proceed without consulting us all first.

By the end it had become clear that the work can't start this Summer, and plans are unlikely to be in place by the Autumn. It's hard to imagine doing the work once the river is in spate during the Winter, so probably nothing before 2023. Now is the time to revive the Friends of Tum. If you've been a supporter, go to the new Facebook page called the Tumbling Bay Preservation Society and say you're interested. If you're keen to ensure the survival of Botley's hidden asset, please do visit it and post your photos of happy days at Tum, and any ideas you may have of ways of keeping it.

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Delights of the Heights

Somewhere to walk to ... or somewhere to walk from. With stunning views of Oxford. Am I selling it to you yet? At the beginning (or is it the end?) of the Hinksey Heights nature trail, just below the golf course and slightly to the right of the vets, is the old bullpen in what was the farmyard. Still sporting sloping floors and the remnants of a bull proof fence, LeoQuent is the new kid on the hill.

By no means saving the planet, but trying to maintain what we already have, this LeoQuent place houses vintage, recycled, retro, a little bit antique-y, broken but fixed, upcycled and sometimes tarnished, quirky furniture and curios. The showroom and workshop is manned and painted mostly by Leo, occasionally joined and drawn by Q and all sewn up by Judi. It is committed, and very resistant to buying anything new. They can also paint, fix it, or chop it in half to make into something else. We want it to go round again and not into the ground.

But that is not the only reason to head up to Hinksey Heights.

Also up on the hill are Hot Diggity Dawg providing doggy day care.

Cultivate are boxing up their locally sourced low carbon footprint fruit and veg and delivering to anyone locally.

The dog-training club Four Paws, bringing all your dogs to heel.

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And above all – whether you walk there down the impeccably kept nature trail, drive via the garden centre A34 exit, or bike it – everybody gets the view. You can see the whole of Oxford. All those dreaming spires will make you want to cartwheel down the hill.

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Come and look for yourself, we'd love to see you at LeoQuent. In the meantime check out our website LeoQuent.co.uk for opening times and where to find us.

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Botley Medical Centre – update

Following the publication of the Care Quality Commission's report on Botley Medical Centre (which can be viewed on the BMC website), members of the Patients Participation Group met with the staff of BMC and the chair of the Oxford Commissioning Group at Kennington Health Centre to discuss the questions we had submitted.

Our report this month will focus on some of these and the responses they received. We have also identified various issues to do with Appointments and Blood Test Results and will discuss our ideas with the practice. Next month's report will bring further details.

Question: Where is the Botley Medical Centre now?

A replacement Practice Manager has been appointed, starting in May.

A pharmacy clerk has been appointed to liaise between the practice and the pharmacies, to smooth processes and speed up prescriptions. Working with the Clinical Pharmacist she will process patients' requests in a timely way, so they reach the pharmacies quickly. She also deals with requests from care homes.

She is already having an impact. Care-home requests have been reviewed and a monthly plan agreed with all parties involved. The practice is confident the impact on the rest of the patients will soon become apparent.

She cannot be contacted directly about prescriptions. She is part of the Pharmacist Team and reports to the Lead Pharmacist, who is responsible for the smooth running of the prescribing system. If you are still having problems, please contact the practice to let us know.

A full-time Lead Nurse has been appointed to take on the leadership of the nursing team, starting in April. The team will still include the current lead nurse.

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The practice wants to recruit three more GPs. But there is a national shortage of GPs and none have applied so far. Currently the BMC is keeping up through Livi and locum GPs (as well as utilising other Clinicians such as Physicians Associate, nurses, etc). Instead of seeing a GP, patients can be directed straight to a pharmacy.

A web-designer has been appointed to upgrade the practice website.

Question: Why does the CQC report say the practice is open at 7:30 when phones aren't open until 8:00? What happens between 7:30 and 8:00?

Official opening times are: 08:00-18:30.

The report refers to **Extended Hours**. The practice is open from 0730-0800 for pre-booked appointments on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with different clinicians.

There are also evening telephone appointments for extended hours (18:30-19:00 on Mondays and Tuesdays).

Question: Why doesn't the CQC report mention that Kennington Reception closes early on some days?

It is only Reception that closes early. The surgery is still open for GPs, Paramedic, Nurse and HCA. It is not a regular closure and only happens when we cannot cover the Reception on both sites. It will change when all staff are fully trained and can be left without supervision.

Our next PPG meeting is Tuesday April 12th at 6pm To join please contact me at csugden@ocrpl.org

Chris Sugden

Easter Service times in the Anglican Parish of North Hinksey with Botley



| | | |
|------------------------|--------|---|
| Maundy Thursday | 9.30am | Morning Prayer at St. Lawrence |
| 14th April | 7.00pm | Holy Communion at St. Peter and St Paul |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| Good Friday | 9.30am | Morning Prayer at Ss Peter & Paul |
| 15th April | 10.30am | Ecumenical Service in West Way Square |
| | 2.00pm | Good Friday Liturgy at Ss Peter & Paul |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| Easter Day | 9.30am | Holy Communion at St. Peter and St Paul |
| 17th April | 11.30am | Holy Communion at St. Lawrence, |



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West Oxford Bowls Club Welcomes New Members

It doesn't matter whether you're young or old, experienced or a novice, just wanting to play socially, or more competitively, you will be given a warm welcome down at your local lawn bowls club.

The West Oxford Bowls Club can be found in Botley Park, past West Oxford Community Centre, behind the tennis courts and before you reach the Tumbling Bay bathing area. It's a fantastic resource available to the local community, has its own clubhouse and is blessed with its own bar. From the start of the new season, WOBC is looking to recruit new members.

Founded in 1924, the club built a strong membership over time. Although the numbers may have reduced somewhat, the club is still very active both on the playing side and on the social side.

For those of a competitive nature the club competes in the Oxfordshire league and gained promotion to Division 3 in 2019. The club continues to punch above its weight and narrowly missed out on promotion again in 2021. However for those wanting to play a more social game, friendly matches are organised against other local clubs throughout the season.

The club also offers weekly 'turn up and play' sessions when club members compete among themselves for fun. This is ideal for those new to bowls and those keen to practise.

As well as the playing side, the club is renowned locally for its social activities. These range from quiz nights, race & social evenings with bands and discos ... to day trips away to other bowls clubs outside the county. Recent trips included visits to Weston-Super-Mare and Portsmouth.

With an eye to the future, the club is now initiating a recruitment drive for new members, and some activities will align with



activities organised by Bowls England, the national association.



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2. It's not expensive. You don't need lots of new kit. We have a large selection of old bowls to use while you decide on the right bowls for you.
3. Age and gender are less important in bowls, so it's a great way to spend time with people of all ages, enjoying a bit of friendly competition.
4. It's a great social game. Bowls clubs are sociable places full of people looking to have fun, so bowls is a great way to relax, make new friends and feel part of your local community.

Whether you want to be a national champion or just a social player, WOBC is organising a number of open days when you can come along and have a go. The dates for your diary are:

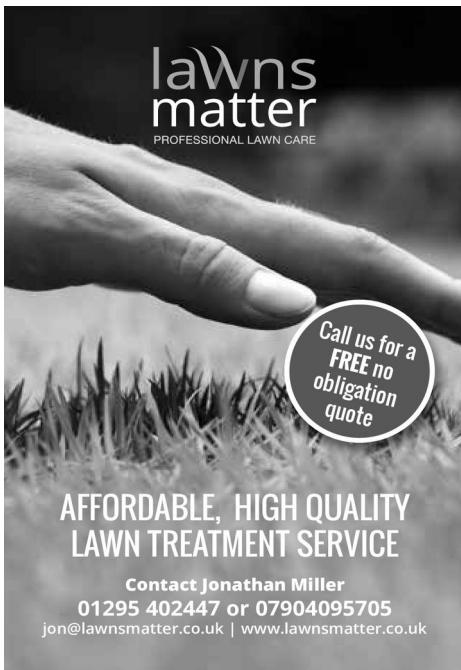
- Weekend 7th May & 8th May, 11am to 4pm;
- Friday 27th May, from 6pm to 8pm;
- Saturday 28th May, 10am to 1pm;
- Sunday 29th May, 2pm to 5pm;
- Saturday 9th July, "Fun in the Park" day.

On these days we open our doors to anyone interested in the sport. Experienced members will be on hand to guide you and give advice.

During the season (from 2nd May) you can always come along every Monday evening from 6.30pm when the club is open for members to practise, have a chat and a drink. Prospective members are always welcome on club nights, so just turn up and introduce yourself.

If you require more information about joining the club, giving bowls a try, or just general info please contact Dave on 07931 603801 or via email: wobc.membership@gmail.com

Dave Ellerker



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£8.00 per person (child or adult)
under 2s free. Tickets include

BBQ /soup and hot drinks in the Friends of Hill End pop-up café.

Book online at: <https://hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events>.

These are self-led open days so children will be the responsibility of their parents or carers throughout the day.

Please note, car parking is limited, so if coming with family or friends consider lift sharing.

Sorry, no dogs.

Fun to Come



4th Oxford Scout Group are organising a large community fun day on Saturday 18th June, from 1-5pm at Oxford Rugby Club in North Hinksey – please save the date. Activities include: a 7m climbing tower, archery from Oxford Archers, football fun from Cumnor Minors, activities and games from the Oxford Sports

Lawn Tennis Club, pony riding, bouncy castle and an obstacle course, plus lots more. Try out Oxfordshire Girl Guides' high rope bridge (see picture), and try to build your own. Oxford Rugby Club will run a Hog Roast, provide food from their kitchen, a bar and touch rugby. Radio Cherwell are running the sound system, and there will be an open mic stage. An amateur radio station will be part of the Oxford/Bonn link 75th anniversary festivities.

Would your community organisation like to join in? All ages catered for. Please contact chair@thefourth.org.uk. Save the date!

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <u>P22/V0070/HH</u> | 34 Lime Rd. Ground floor single storey side & rear extension, top floor rear conversion/ extension. | 13 January <i>TDD: 10 Mar</i> |
| <u>P22/V0158/D</u> | 69 Yarnells Hill. Demolition of house, garage, & swimming pool. | 20 January <i>TDD: 17 Feb</i> |
| <u>P22/V0261/FUL</u> Variation of condition 2 on planning app <u>P20/V2959/FUL</u> | 20 Linden House, Flat 4, Eynsham Rd. Change study into a bedroom in flat 4. Proposed provision of 6 new flats comprising 3x2 bed and 3x1 bed, self-contained units. | 2 February <i>Target Decision Date: 30 March</i> |
| <u>P22/V0392/HH</u> | Elmhurst, Harcourt Hill. Demolish extensions. Build single storey rear extension, & enlarge 1st floor. Change of windows, doors & roof finish. | 17 February <i>TDD: 14 April</i> |
| <u>P22/V0470/FUL</u> | New Barn Stanton Rd. Erect single detached 2-storey house, parking area , soft landscaping. | 21 February <i>TDD: 18 April</i> |
| <u>P22/V0354/FUL</u> Renewal of planning application <u>P19/V0253/FUL</u> | 76 West Way. 1 st floor flat to be retained. Ground floor to be converted back into residential use. Existing single storey raised to 2 storeys. Existing garage removed, | 22 February <i>TDD: 19 April</i> |
| <u>P22/V0480/HH</u> | 42 Hutchcomb Rd. Demolish conservatory & raised terrace, build single storey rear extension, raised terrace, loft conversion and dormer window. | 22 February <i>TDD: 19 April</i> |
| <u>P22/V0482/FUL</u> | 5 Toynbee Close. Erect new four-bedroom family dwelling at rear of 5 Toynbee Close, a driveway on the western boundary plus garage. | 23 February <i>TDD: 20 April</i> |



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LOT 3 Wood

You are probably unaware of a lovely ten acre woodland on the right half-way up Hinksey Hill. Its name is Lot 3 Wood, so called because it was bought at auction. The *Sprout's* very own Riki Therivel was the successful bidder at a sealed-bid auction in 2003 and she and Tim re-mortgaged their house in order to make the purchase.



I talked to Riki about how and why she went about creating and managing her own woodland. She told me that the area had been agricultural land for hundreds of years, had even been painted by William Turner around 1840 ('Oxford from Hinksey Hill' is kept in Oxford Town Hall), but she wanted to enhance habitat biodiversity. In short, she loves woods.

First it needed clearing and next a plan to turn it into woodland. The Oxfordshire County Council Woodlands Officer provided valuable advice and helped with a successful application to the Forestry Commission for a grant for trees.

Planting started that same year, 7000 trees in all. Unfortunately in 2003 the UK registered its driest February–October since 1921. 'The drought was really depressing,' says Riki. 'Without rain the trees weren't able to grow well initially and I was really worried that I wouldn't qualify for the remainder of the grant from the Forestry Commission.' Fortunately the 2,200 oak and 2,200 ash trees, plus field maple, crab apple, wild cherry, hazel, and silver birch survived the hot summer and drought. Contractors helped with some of the planting and did the fencing, a daunting task. Eight acres are now woodland with a separate two-acre wildflower meadow sloping down the hill with a beautiful view of Oxford's dreaming spires.

The O.C.C. Woodland Officer also taught Riki how best to manage the land. The priority job was to mark out seven metre-wide paths and Riki learned that an east/west orientation is good for butterflies. Trees were planted so that the smallest trees were nearest the paths, behind the

medium height ones, then the tallest furthest away so that a bowl shape was created. Before long, many flowers including two types of orchid (pyramidal and common spotted), bluebells, ferns, lots of fungi, badgers, foxes, as well as hungry and destructive muntjac deer, had moved in.

Riki explained to me the principles of coppicing the hazel: apparently you cut one seventh of the trees every February so that each tree is coppiced every 7 years. The sale of the resulting pea sticks and bean poles pays for the insurance and mowing of paths. They are sold out already! Riki teaches coppicing to pass on her skills and she says that timber management also now takes place as after 15 years' growth trees can start to crowd each other out.

In a stroke of genius Riki rents out three areas of her woodland to other people. Riki says: 'One area is used by archers who give bow-making workshops and do green woodworking; another is rented to Oxfordshire County Council for woodcraft sessions with disadvantaged children; and the third is used by a couple who love it so much they have bought their own woodland and will move to Somerset to live in it.

I was excited, but not surprised, to learn that in 2019 the Royal Forestry Society awarded first prize (Small and Farm Woodland category) in the South-East Region to Lot 3 Wood. This year the RFS, which is committed to promoting the benefits of responsible woodland management, will be looking for The Best of The Best. The judges will be considering how the land is managed for high quality timber, biodiversity and education. We wish Riki success in this great undertaking.

My final question to Riki was simply 'Why?' Her reply was immediate: 'It's about joy! The woodland gives me enormous pleasure.' It was an absolute pleasure talking to her.

Viv Smith



Save Energy – Stay Warm

About forty people came along on 12th March to find out how we could reduce our fuel bills and cut back our impact on the planet. First we heard from a line of experts – which is to say,



people who had had experience of the things we wanted to understand. Then we took ourselves off to workshops and went into more detail. The one I attended was discussing small steps that would make a difference. One thing that emerged from it was the existence of an organization called the **Local Energy Advice Partnership** – LEAP for short. It gives free advice and home visits to everyone who's eligible, and that seems to be most of us. The criteria are all on the website (<https://applyforleap.org.uk>), but here are some examples.

You are eligible if you get any one of these benefits: Employment and Support Allowance; Jobseeker's Allowance; Income Support; Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit, Work Tax Credit; Universal Credit; Child Benefit; Carer's Allowance; Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction or a Disability Benefit (Incl. Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP) .

Or you might qualify because of your state of health if you have: Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Neurological or neurobiological conditions (e.g. dementia, Parkinson's, etc); Musculoskeletal conditions (incl. arthritis); Blood conditions or Cancer, among others then you are eligible for free help. If you don't use the Internet, you can phone them on 0800 0607567.

If you go and look this up in the Library, you can watch the reassuring YouTube video which shows how they go about helping you.

Better Housing, Better Health is another organization that offers help and grants (<https://www.bhbh.org.uk>). They give grants for energy efficiency improvements such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation

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So there's help out there, if you know where to look.

The other workshop, which was simply buzzing and could have gone on for hours, covered what people have managed to do and what worked. There were several examples of local efforts that had not cost the Earth. We learned about Green Week, at the end of June, when people across the county will open their homes to show the kinds of eco-renovation they have carried out, and talk about how they did it and what it cost. It would be great if Elms Rise could join in. There will be an Eco Fair at the Town Hall at the end of June, show-casing this kind of work and the companies that carry it out.

As for the tea and cakes, they were home made and free, so that was definitely a plus!

Ag MacKeith

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Join Botley Community Larder and help reduce food waste

From mooli to muesli, papayas to pot noodles, the Botley community larder is the place to try new food, get a fantastic bargain, and help to reduce food waste.

**Every Thursday 3-5pm
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£3.50/wk for 14+ items of food, £7/wk for 28+ items**

Sign up: <https://www.sofea.uk.com/purpose-projects/community-larder/>

The Botley larder is one of about 20 larders run by the charity SOFEA, which gets surplus food from wholesalers and supermarkets – food that is within date and perfectly good to eat, but that would otherwise go into the waste stream. SOFEA runs a warehouse in Didcot where they train disadvantaged young people in warehouse skills, using the surplus food. Every week the larders get an amazing selection of fruit, veg, bread, tinned goods, cereal and other goodies brought up from Didcot, plus top-ups from the excellent Oxford Food Hub. The larder membership pays for food transport and support for the young people – everyone wins!

To join the larder, you need to set up a direct debit: £10 to sign up, and then £14 every month (equivalent to £3.50/week). Then come down on Thursday, join the queue at the larder (we have over 100 members), get your name signed off, and then enter to see this:

A volunteer takes you around and helps you to choose food... and then you can sit at the table in the centre, have a free cup of tea/coffee and slice of Orit's homemade cake, and catch up with your neighbours.

The larder is run entirely by volunteers. The food varies from week to week, depending on what is surplus at warehouses, so it doesn't work as a "weekly shop". But it does allow you to try new things, help the environment, support young people, and meet your neighbours. Other larders are in Blackbird Leys, Barton, West Oxford Community Centre and Cutteslowe.

Riki Therivel



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So Many Things to Celebrate

It has been a busy time once again at Botley School. As is our tradition, Tuesday 1st March saw the children celebrate Pancake Day in style. Children came to school bearing frying pans and pancakes and each class ran races until we were left with finalists for the BIG RACE. The overall winner of the pan-shaped trophy was Ethan from Year 6 who showed skills in running at speed whilst tossing a pancake. Fun was had by all the spectators! The second part of our day was our 'Decorate a Pancake' activity where each child decorated a pancake with healthy items. This year saw depictions of dinosaurs, lions, bees, patterns, suns, etc. Creativity was at its max ... and then was eaten. This is always a fun aspect of the school calendar and our focus was on how this season gives us a chance to think about others.

World Book Day, 3rd March, was celebrated by children enjoying the variety of books on offer in school and with some author focussed activities. In Year 5 and 6, the teachers each chose a particular book by Shaun Tan. His pictures and words are so evocative and inspired the children to create new characters, build an entire city out of recyclable materials, make Cicadas out of paper maché with glittery wings and to set a book to music. Reading at Botley School has always been a strong subject, our commitment to sharing good texts enables children to enrich their vocabulary and tackle diverse issues.

We recently had a guest visitor to school, Moira Darlington, who sat amongst our Year 1 children and broadcast an assembly across school via our online TEAMS facility. She had come to tell us about an exciting project to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee – this is *The Queen's Green Canopy Project* which will see new trees planted across the nation. Our part has been for every child and adult in our school to plant a sapling provided by the Woodlands Trust – Elder, Blackthorn, Crab Apple and Dog Rose. We have been talking about the importance of trees in our school grounds – and in the world! We are also talking about our wishes for the future; trying to look after our environment and becoming more sustainable. We have created a new pathway and will plant a small orchard with some larger trees sponsored by one of our parents from Seacourt, an Oxford-based printing business.

We had great – if muddy – fun! Big thanks to all those who have helped with this project. We look forward to watching the trees grow and make new memories for the children of Botley School.

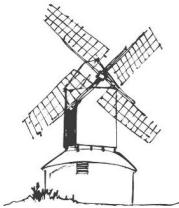
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Good



Kennington Memory Club

Living well with dementia

Do you remember when... ?

How often do conversations start like this! It may be family occasions, the local environment, significant events in public life, old items and tools, or trends in music or fashion that we are trying to recall. Our whole lives are a culmination of what we have experienced up to this point, whether it's things we've enjoyed or want to laugh about, or maybe that astonished or even horrified us.

Once our memory is no longer reliable, we lose so much of our background story. Our own identity is not as clear-cut anymore. This is why reminiscences are so important for people living with dementia, whose memories tend to be very selective. At Kennington Memory Club we try to trigger the recollections of our members by conversation, quizzes, games, pictures and music.

Do you have a passion you could share with our members? This is just one of the talents that we welcome in our volunteers. Being a good listener is another. Helping with the practical tasks involved with the day centre's operation is always valuable, but there are other things you can offer. If you would like to join our band of volunteers, in whatever capacity, please contact our organizer, Helen, on 07852 883496.

A reminder of what the Club does – our day-care sessions provide company, different surroundings, activities, music, friendship and laughter, all much enjoyed by the members, and giving their carers

much-needed respite from their duties. So if you, or someone you know, would benefit from attending the Club, held at Kennington Methodist Church, and want to find out more, please telephone Helen (number above) or email info@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

There's more on our website: kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk



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Randoms

Farmers Market – our community market

Had you heard? – just as the fine weather's coming, Botley Farmers Market is on the verge of shutting down. But Doc Saman has weighed in to help. On behalf of Jack MacLeod and the traders, he has launched a new Facebook page for the market where he will share updates and weekly discount and promotion offers from the traders. On behalf of Jack, he invites us all to get involved. Perhaps you've always fancied having a market stall? Jack will help you take those first steps with no financial risk. Talk to him on a Saturday or message on Facebook (or on 07887 902412 if you don't use social media). They are listening to all ideas and suggestions and they mean to make Botley Farmers Market into Botley Community Farmers Market

Manna from Anna

Botley Baptist Church is open every Wednesday and Friday 10-3pm.
Snacks, cakes, Tea, coffee all donations gratefully accepted.
Every Friday knit and natter, crochet and chatter 12-2pm

Thinking about blue almonds

The debut performance of an exquisite set of instrumental pieces composed by Louisa Lyne Patterson of Oxford-based cinematic Arabic jazz band, Brickwork Lizards. Scored for violin, viola, cello, and piano, Louisa's music comes from the heart. It weaves together subtly shifting tonalities, Debussy-esque shimmers, nods to Yann Tiersen, and the occasional Arabic inflection to create a glorious and emotive sound-world utterly her own.." Not to be missed! Tap Social, Wednesday 13th April, 8:00pm (£7)

Jumble sale

Saturday 23rd April, 2-4pm, Entrance 50p at Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Road, OX2 9QS Items for sale can be left at the hall on either Friday 22nd between 3 and 6pm or on the morning of the sale between 9am-12 noon. Come and grab yourself a bargain. For further information phone 01865327819 Raising funds for UKRANIAN Charities

Botley W.I.

Our next monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, 5 April will have a presentation 'Every Picture Tells a Story,' by Peter & Margaret Preece. Our Reading, Green Fingers, Walking and Music groups will all be holding gatherings. Visitors are always welcome. Contact Val on 01865 245273 for hall bookings.

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

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

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| North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs | Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com |
| N Hinksey Art Group | Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997 |
| N Hinksey Bellringers | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451 |
| N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers | Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com |
| N Hinksey, Friends of | Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213. |
| N Hinksey Parish Council | clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk |
| N Hinksey Youth Club | Weds at LM pavilion, Daz: 07791 212866 or F'book |
| Oxford Flood Alliance | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035 |
| Oxford Flower Arranging Club | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259 |
| Oxford Harmony | Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk |
| Oxford Otters | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420 |
| Oxford Rugby Club | Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk . |
| Raleigh Park, Friends of | raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk |
| Seacourt Hall Management Committee | Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see https://www.seacourthall.org.uk |
| Shotokan Karate Club | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450 |
| Stagecoach Botley | Seacourt Hall, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> Oxf 590510 or 01235 390810 |
| Walking for Health | 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Alan 07941 610913 |
| West Oxford Bowls Club | Dave Ellerker 07931 603801 wobc.membership@gmail.com |
| West Oxford Taekwon Do Club | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk |
| West Oxford U3A | (Uni of the 3rd Age) http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/ |
| West Way Day Centre | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk |
| Women's Institute (Botley) | Alison Jenner 07598 251161 alisonjenner@yahoo.com |
| Weight Watchers | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com |

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

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

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane

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

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

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

Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill

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

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way

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

Calvary Chapel

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

What's On

April 2022

Thur 7th 12 for 12.30, Seacourt Hall Botley Snrs Lunch Club

**Mon 11th 2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk:
“The Mary Rose” by Bob Foster**

Tues 12th 6pm by Zoom PPG meeting

Weds 13th 8pm, Tap Social, “Thinking about Blue Almonds”

Sun 17th Easter Sunday

**Tues 19th, and 20th, 10-2pm, Hill End Camp, Easter Family
Forest Days**

**Sat 23rd 2-4pm, Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Rd, Jumble Sale
raising funds for Ukrainian charities.**

**Mon 25th 2.30, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: “The
Transformative Power of Sports” by WheelPower,
(wheelchair sports) based at Stoke Mandeville Hospital**

Thur 28th 7.30, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council meeting

**Weds and Fridays, 12-2pm, Botley Baptist Church, snacks, hot
drinks. On Fridays, bring your crafts along**

Thursdays, 3-5pm, SsP&P Church Hall – Community Larder

**March 7th to April 29th, *Thanks for All the Fish*, photographic
exhibition at Ss Peter and Paul Church.**

**14th March to 16th April Local history exhibition at West
Oxford Community Centre, featuring lots of old
photographs of the parishes of St Thomas and St Ebbes**