

# The Sprout



**First pop-up café of the summer!**

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 139 Summer 2019**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 139, July 2019**

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**From the Editor,**

Having whetted your appetite for cricket, it would have been a shame not to have brought you up to date with the exciting goings-on at Cumnor Cricket Club (p19). Although this is not strictly in Botley, it is the local place to go, if cricket is your sport. If reading is your child's thing, then the Library has a whole summer programme (p29), and if you like to sing, page 33 is for you. There are planning proposals in the air that will affect us all, so we have reported on the plans for the Botley Corridor (p9), which look at ways of making the Botley Road more bike and bus friendly, WWCC brings you up to date with shopping centre developments (p3), and there is a fierce critique of the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme (p15) from the campaign which has now been established to oppose it. For our young readers there are the Brownies (p27) and Branches (p37), and for longer term residents of Botley, there's a tribute to Arthur Howse (p7) who was for many years a trustee of Elms Parade. The Sunday pop-up cafés are back in business up at the Pavilion, and our cover photo shows the first one of the season, with Botley people relaxing in a truly British spirit under a menacing sky! Also on a Sunday, the Sprout AGM on 7th July. This year it will be at Branches Café, so please come and tell us what you'd like to find in your favourite local newsletter.

**Ag MacKeith**

## **West Way Community Concern – Summer 2019**

**Arthur Howse:** We are sorry to report that Arthur Howse, one of the owners of Elms Parade, passed away on 26th May at the age of 81. Arthur was instrumental in building community resolve to defend Botley centre against the plans of developers and the Vale District Council. Arthur's presentations on the history of Elms Parade, and the commitment of all the Howse family, led to the wider determination to preserve it not just as an historic building with its varied businesses, but also as the focus for our community. The Howse family very kindly allowed West Way Community Concern to use the retail unit 5 Elms Parade (now occupied by Mobile Genie) for two years as the base for WWCC's campaign.

**Construction progress:** Construction is proceeding, as we can all see. As we expected it is overwhelmingly BIG. The constructors SDC keep the community up to date in their newsletters and via the Community Liaison Group. Parking around the site has reduced, with the 25 spaces behind Elms Parade no longer available as construction of Block E has commenced. A new car park has been created with access off Arthray Road. SDC expect the lower deck of the new permanent car park in to be available from August 2020.

**Planning Consents:** A planning application for minor changes to Block E has been approved. This consent reiterates the requirement that there has to be a permanently installed physical barrier between the 'Authorised vehicles only' access from West Way and the eastern end of the car parking in front of Elms Parade, to prevent cars passing onto the service access route. It also says that 'notwithstanding any details shown on the approved drawings', full details of cycle parking need to be submitted and approved.

The landscaping plans have been approved. The Equalities Officer of the Vale commented at length on the issues which these plans presented to blind and partially sighted people and to those with limited mobility. It is not clear that these concerns have been addressed. Other conditions which were required to be satisfied before construction above ground floor level have mostly been discharged.

**Comments from Crime Prevention Design Advisor:** The Crime Prevention Design Advisor for Thames Valley Police submitted a comment on the planning application for the latest changes to the

residential Block E (planning ref P19/V0416/FUL). He comments that inadequate attention given to crime prevention in the design of the building increases the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour in residential blocks, quoting the National Planning Policy Framework that 'Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments... create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible ... and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience'. He makes recommendations with respect to entry control, post and deliveries, cycle storage, lighting and CCTV in the building.

Considerable concerns exist about the arrangements for student accommodation buildings (Blocks B, C, and D) which are to house 262 students. In our view, the design of the student blocks fails to meet expectations in terms of the measures needed to ensure the safety, security and well-being of young people and their property, particularly cycles. There is no provision for 24/7 staffing on reception, making anti-social behaviour, tailgating, thefts and burglaries more likely. There is no secure storage for cycles, with cycle stands being in the lower deck of the public two-deck car-park, which will also serve the Premier Inn.

A reputation for petty crime in the area would not only impact on the students, but also lead to a fear of crime for all Botley residents and users of the centre.

We have been assured by the Advisor that he will review the arrangements in all the blocks. Mace's representative has also confirmed that they will work with the Advisor as they prepare the required security and management plan for the centre, and we will continue to follow these issues up at the Community Liaison Group meetings.

**Mary Gill**



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## Arthur Stephen Howse 1937–2019

It is with great sadness I report the passing on May 26th of my cousin Arthur Stephen Howse, the eldest son of Arthur Raymond Howse and Constance Betty Howse. Elms Parade was built by our grandfather in 1937 and it was fitting that Arthur, who was born in October of that same year, became a trustee and took charge of running the estate. He did this with enthusiasm and devotion for 44 years, and it played a major role in his life.



At the age of 28 he married Judith Ann and moved from Flat 5 to Charlbury to be near his Citroen garage in Chadlington, which he ran until he retired a few years ago. I was, in fact, a bridesmaid at his wedding and he took great pleasure in telling me on more than one occasion that it was the last time he saw me in a dress!

Soon Tim and Kate came along, and in due course they married Debbie and Rick and had five grandchildren between them, namely Rory (14), Angus (11), Georgia (17), Eddie (15) and Isobel (10). Arthur and Judith doted on them!

Apart from family, the garage and Elms Parade, Arthur was a great classic car enthusiast, namely Citroens and Bristols. He spent many years driving and exhibiting them at various car shows and we shall miss seeing them parked at the Parade the very many times he was there. He also leaves a devoted sister, Lorna Evans, whose son Steve is also a trustee, and a brother, Vernon. His other sister Gill pre deceased him.

The family wish to thank all who have sent such wonderful messages and cards of condolence – not only family and friends, but present and past tenants as well. The photo shows him as a young man in his vintage Citroen.



**Caroline Kellner**, Trustee of Elms Parade.

## **Botley Road Corridor Proposals**

*What's it all for?* The County Council recognizes that Botley Road is a very slow route in and out of the city centre, with daily congestion problems and poor journey experiences for all road users. But it is also a vital public transport link, as it is the only route from the west, contains Seacourt Park & Ride, and is used by a high number of cyclists and buses both local and from further afield. This project is an attempt to improve things specifically for bus users, cyclists and pedestrians. A 2016 study identified that key changes were needed to encourage more people to travel by bus and bike in order to reduce traffic and vehicle emissions and improve air quality. So the idea is to get us out of our cars and onto buses and bikes. The consultation ended on 21st June, but you can still see the plans on <http://tiny.cc/xfeh8y>

**BikeSafe** (whose hopes for the Eynsham Bike Path have revived after some recent initiatives) have submitted these general comments:

1. We need *coloured pathways* for bikes, both on road and off road to make it clear to people riding bicycles where it is that they are supposed to go. It needs to be hard wearing to assure maintenance departments that they will not face increased costs.
2. There must be *plenty of bike logos* on the ground, so that pedestrians can see where it is safe to walk.

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3. *Cycling momentum needs to be maintained.* All parts of the bicycle pathways should be tested for maintenance of momentum. Failure to keep bicycles moving will cause their riders to take other pathways.
4. *Less confident cyclists, should feel safe.* A good test of the quality of bike path design is to ask if it's negotiable by 12 year olds and less confident cyclists. If OCC seriously want to create "modal shift" onto bikes, they must make sure that cycling infrastructure meets this test.
5. It is not helpful to give priority to buses and cars, and fit in bikes and pedestrians afterwards.
6. Mixing pedestrians and bus users at bus stops does not work, judging from the situations which arise presently at the Lamarsh Road bus stop and the Minns industrial estate bus stops, both of which are shared use at present, and this needs to be rethought.

**CycloX**, the Oxford Cycling Organization, has much to say along the same lines as BikeSafe. Here are some of their more general comments:

*Traffic modelling for reduced private car journeys* These plans are being designed to last decades, and within 10 years we expect to see a big reduction in private vehicles as we move away from single occupant journeys in private cars Yet these plans assume no reduction in traffic flow. We strongly urge that plans should take into account the potential of closing the city centre with the traffic control points included in the Oxford Transport Strategy, as this will markedly reduce traffic flow along the main arterial roads into and out of town.

They would like to see " Traffic speed 20mph along whole length" but at least from Bulstake Bridge eastwards. (Although those of us who live here note that there are already six sets of traffic lights, three of them pedestrian controlled, between the A34 bridge and Osney bridge. )

They are glad that space has been reallocated, and "would like to see the *carriageway width minimised across the whole of the area*. Sometimes it is 3.75m and sometime 3.25. We would suggest that the width should be 3.25 everywhere so that space for cycling and walking can be maximised."

*Side road entry treatments* Junctions with a wide splay are much more dangerous for people on bikes, and where possible they should be tightened. This is especially true of the Eynsham Rd junction at the foot of Cumnor Hill.

There are some aspects that will add to the danger to pedestrians, for instance routing all the lorries into the industrial estates behind Mcdonalds through that narrow end of North Hinksey Lane. It is to be hoped these will be rethought.

**AgM**







## **Public Meeting: Seacourt Hall Surrender of Lease**

Seacourt Hall is scheduled to move to a new permanent location on the ground floor of the new community building currently under construction as part of the redevelopment of West Way centre.

Seacourt Hall Management Committee invites all adult residents of North Hinksey Parish (aged 18 and over) to attend a Public Meeting:

**Date: Thursday 18th July Time: 7pm to 7:45pm**

**Venue: Seacourt Hall (2nd floor above Co-op)**

to consider and vote on a resolution to surrender the current hall lease, sign the lease for the new community hall currently being built, and then to move into the new hall once the building is complete later this year. This public meeting is being held in accordance with Clause 20 of the current lease and Charity Commission guidelines.

**Resolution :** Seacourt Hall Management Committee (hereafter SHMC) proposes that, upon satisfactory completion of the new community hall currently being built by the Botley Development Company (hereafter BDC) as part of the Botley Centre redevelopment scheme block F, SHMC will carry out the following actions, subject to approval by the Charity Commission:

1. Request North Hinksey Parish Council (hereafter NHPC) to surrender the current Seacourt Hall lease between the Vale of White Horse District Council (the lessor) and NHPC (the lessee) as signed by representatives of those bodies on the 16th November 1989.
2. Request NHPC to sign a new lease for the new community hall (as described above) between BDC (the landlord) and NHPC (the tenant), this premises to subsequently be managed by SHMC for the benefit of the residents of North Hinksey Parish, acting as a replacement for the current premises.
3. After completion of the above actions SHMC are to vacate the current Seacourt Hall premises on a date agreed between SHMC and BDC, and move into the new community hall (as described above).

Plans and images of the new hall will be available at the meeting and more details including all the lease documents, plans and images of the new hall and community building can be found on the Seacourt Hall website at: [www.seacourthall.org.uk/new-hall](http://www.seacourthall.org.uk/new-hall)

## Exotic Fun in Botley Park

The Thai Festival has taken place in Botley every year since 2102, so it was high time *The Sprout* went to have a look. It turns out there's a festival circuit for Thai Festivals, just as there is for music festivals of a more familiar kind, and many of the stalls selling exotic vegetables, food and handicrafts spend the summer on the festival circuit before their owners pack up and go off to Thailand for the winter. Here's a picture of a spiky fruit that was on sale. It's called a Durian, and it's famous for smelling horrible while tasting delicious and being packed with healthy vitamins.



The festival organizer, Mark Vongsakul, owns the Bangkok House restaurant in Hythe Bridge Street. He said people come from miles around to get a taste of Thailand, not just from Oxfordshire, although the county is home to a Thai community of some five or six thousand. A downpour of heavy rain had somewhat spoiled the fun on Saturday afternoon, but by Sunday afternoon the festival was in full swing, with gilded dancers on the stage, and a bouncy castle to die for, as you can see from the photo.



## Flood Scheme ‘brutalist and inefficient’

Some Sprout readers (among others) have lodged objections to Compulsory Purchase Orders on their land by the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme. Now we await the announcement of the date of the Public Enquiry triggered by these objections. It should come this month.

Dr Jonathan Madden, a member of the Hinksey and Osney Environment Group ([www.hinkseyandosney.org](http://www.hinkseyandosney.org)), calls the OFAS scheme “a brutalist and inefficient approach in an environmentally sensitive part of Oxford that deserves far better treatment in solving an urgent problem.”

In a recent letter to the Oxford Times Dr Madden argues that Hinksey Meadow plays an important role in moderating Thames flow in times of flood and as a place of tranquillity and visual harmony to enjoy: the Monks’ Causeway and Willow Walk are fields for horses, and footpaths across fields with wildflowers. Mature trees border the watercourses that drain the Meadow. These features have come about over centuries, merging humanity’s intentions and the action of nature. To believe that an industrial-scale engineering project, which divides Hinksey Meadow in two and causes destruction, can soon harmonise with its surroundings is arrogance.

He suggests three alternative plans which we believe offer equal or better protection than OFAS, whilst preserving Hinksey Meadow:

- i) eliminate the channel between Botley and the OAR (Old Abingdon Road) and retain the rest of OFAS. The pinch point at OAR would have flow capacity increased into the Weirs Mill stream.
- ii) Construct an enclosed storage area to one side of the Meadow plain which can advantageously alter the timing of water level changes.
- iii) Run a pair of two-metre diameter buried pipelines along an 8-metre wide trench, and pump water underground from Seacourt to an outflow below the Old Abingdon Road. Pipeline flow capacity is greater than for OFAS, and we estimate the cost at £100m, some £50m less than for the channel scheme.

**Chris Sugden**, Convenor, Hinksey and Osney Environment Group

## Good news from Branches!

We are delighted that the value of our work with young people has been recognised once again. This time by the National Lottery Community Fund. After a successful application process, we have been granted a sum which will help support this work through till the end of the year.

Some of this will be used to support our Young Leaders, to branch out and project manage 'Branches Bar' which will be open after-school on Fridays in Louie Memorial Pavilion on the 'top field', where they will serve shakes, smoothies, drinks, snacks and ices to their young customers until the end of term. Thanks very much to the Louie Memorial Pavilion committee for supporting this.

Branches continues to try to operate with minimum impact on the environment. All our takeaway containers are recyclable or compostable and we are teaming up with the Oxford Food Bank to avoid food waste and reduce our food miles. Look out for some seasonal salads and hot specials as additions to our menu.

We are also looking forward to welcoming the National Citizen Service (NCS) groups back to Branches in July and August. They did some fantastic work with us last summer; I wonder what they'll bring this time.

In June our Young Leaders were pleased to re-join the



Over- Sixties Lunch Club and help out. They enjoyed the experience, hearing about Botley's backstory and would like to arrange some more regular opportunities to bridge the generations. As ever we would be delighted to welcome some new team members, to support your community and youth café as volunteers (minimum age 12, no max!!), and want to thank all our customers for their continuing support. The photo shows some of our after-school customers enjoying the vibe!

**Dave Goodspeed**

# Cricket Scores

## World Cup weekend, 7th–9th June

Despite the wet weather on Friday evening, more than 30 children participated in a special All Stars session with a visit from Twinkle the Star, which was followed by story reading with local author Jackie Holderness, a BBQ, and indoor games hosted by the senior cricketers. On Saturday,



several juniors took part as mascots in a warm up session with the First XI team and held a guard of honour to welcome them to the ground. There was also a very successful Cricket World Cup Quiz with prizes including a Miele Hoover and a £50 meat voucher courtesy of local butcher Michael Cain. On Sunday we hosted the Vale District Kwik Cricket Competition, along with a bake sale and a pop-up stall with cricket equipment from Uzi Sports. The weekend was enjoyed by all, young and old, and raised £100 for our nominated charity Opening Up Cricket who promote mental wellbeing and suicide prevention through cricket.

**Sanjay Mistry**, Event Organiser & 3rd XI Captain

Cumnor Bears (Cumnor Cricket Club) are going from strength to strength, with successes in both the junior and adult sections, on and off the pitch. Our youngest players (5–8yrs) train on a Friday evening with our older juniors training on Wednesdays. Our adults train on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We have lots of matches, BBQs and events planned throughout the summer and everyone is very welcome to come along and join in the fun. Find us on Facebook and other social media for details, or have a look at our website.

Junior matches are normally played on Sunday mornings, Monday and



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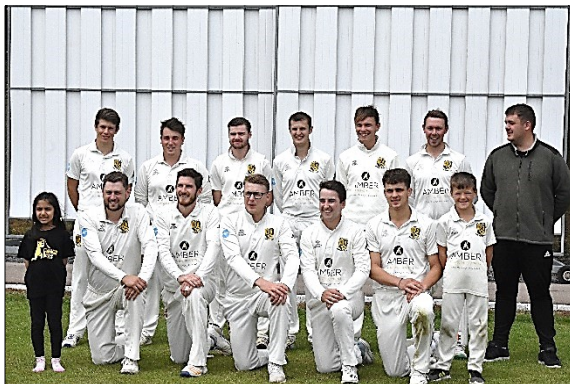


Thursday evenings. Cumnor is a large and thriving club, and boasts the reigning Oxfordshire champions in their Kwiks (under 9s) section, as well as two Under 11 teams and two Under 13s, and Under 15 and an Under 17.

Our adults play their matches on Saturday and Sunday afternoons

**First XI** – Our first team (photo below) have won the Oxfordshire final of the National Village

Knockout cup. Approximately 300 teams enter this competition from all over England, Scotland and Wales. The final is held at Lords in September. We are now through to the National heats playing the winner of the Berkshire group, Binfield.



## Annual Barbecue

Farmoor Village Hall

Saturday 6th July 6:30 – 10.30 pm

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*[You'll have to go to Cumnor News for a blow-by-blow account of this thrilling tournament, but you should know that a 1964 record was broken in the first match, by a 1st wicket stand of 254 between Dylan Driscoll (106 not out) and vice-captain James Lee (125 n.o.) Obviously men to watch!].*

In Cherwell league Division 1 the team sit mid-table having had three wins and two losses. It is still early in this competition and our teams are often stronger in the second half of the season once our players are back from their University studies. Harry Ackland has been outstanding with the bat, scoring his first Cherwell league 100 (126 n.o.) against Long Marston.



**Second XI** – Our second team are second in Cherwell league Division 5 having won four out of their five games. Our opening batsman, Dylan Driscoll may only be 13-years old but he already has over 200 runs to his name in the league, including a stunning 119 against Didcot. He has been ably supported by the bowlers Jack Miell and Joe Clapton who have both taken 7 wickets this season as well as having scored over 100 runs each.

**Third XI** – Our third team sit second in Cherwell league Division 9, having also won four out of their five games. Dan Blakey, the regular wicket keeper, is a product of our youth development programme. He scored his first ever Cherwell league 100 against Bledlow Ridge, and there is lots more of that to come.

**SAS (Sunday Afternoon Side)** – our friendly Sunday afternoon games are a great way to introduce young players to the longer format and for those who want to play some different opposition. So far only two fixtures have been played and both of these were losses. If you used to play cricket and are looking for a way to get back into the game, these games are an ideal opportunity.

**David**

**Clapton**

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## Simon Robinson 1965–2018

### ***Photographs and Paintings - a retrospective***

Botley Arts Exhibition, St Peter and St Paul Church

14 July 2019 – End September 2019

Opening times: Mon-Sat 10am – 4pm; Sunday 1pm – 4pm

Botley Arts is delighted to introduce Simon Robinson's photographs and paintings for their Summer Exhibition at St Peter and St Paul Church.

Simon first became serious about art during a course at Crisis Skylight, and he went on to complete the Access to Art and Design course at Oxford City College in 2016.

He loved the natural world, and took inspiration from his surroundings in West Oxford to create increasingly abstract and sometimes surreal images. He enjoyed working both in monochrome, especially with light effects in photography, and in colour with acrylic paints.

Simon was just beginning to explore further inspiration in wire sculpture when he died suddenly in February 2018.

The exhibition will be both a

summary of his work and a celebration of the joy he found in creating art.



**Charlotte Robinson**

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## Brownie adventures

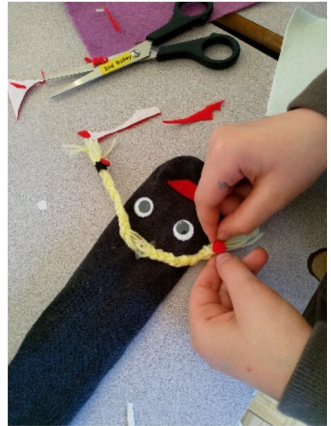
We are very proud to tell you that as part of the programme we recently gave first aid training to our Brownies and they are now very competent at putting breathing casualties into the recovery position, dialling 999 and then handing over the casualty to the paramedics. They learnt this over two meetings and can do the recovery position on girls smaller than themselves as well as adults much bigger than themselves. We even have a badge to prove this.

We made sock puppets from odd socks and oddments of crafting material and then the girls put on an entertaining puppet show the following week. We even found time to make a Father's Day bookmark which is designed to be re-discovered lurking in a book when five or ten years have elapsed.

We are looking forward to a fun woodland day at Beanwood in the summer and then in September we will be back to our regular meetings before we go on our PGL activity weekend in October.

If you know of a girl aged 7 to 10 who would like to join us on our Brownie adventure then please contact us at [2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com](mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com).

**Lucy Howes**



### **SPROUT AGM**

**Sunday 7th July 3pm**

**Branches Café, Botley Shopping Centre**

# Get set to blast-off in our **FREE Space Chase** reading challenge at Botley Library this summer!

**Join us between 13th July and 14th September for an intergalactic reading adventure into space!**

Children across Oxfordshire can take part in the Space Chase Summer Reading Challenge 2019. Join our super space family The Rockets for a special mission to track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens!



Read at least six library books of your choice over the summer holidays and as you read, collect stickers (some are smelly!) to help the Rockets track down the aliens and find the missing books. Complete the challenge and get a Space Chase bookmark and game, wristband, medal, and certificate. Under 3s have their own special card and stickers.



## **Out of this world...**

There'll be lots of brilliant new books and activities at the library throughout the summer holidays and there's a website to add to the fun too, as we celebrate 50 years since the Moon Landing and 20 years of the Summer Reading Challenge. Visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/spacechase](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/spacechase) to find out more.

*Illustrations © Adam Stower for The Reading Agency*

## Police update

This month, PCSOs Moquet and Wright made two home security visits in Boars Hill and Wootton, one to a householder and one to survey the outbuildings of a business after they had been broken into on two separate occasions. If you would like a security survey with advice please get in touch.

We have received reports that a homeless man has been living in the disabled toilet at West Way, Botley. He has been locking the toilet from the inside so nobody can use it, and was in there from about 6am though to 9pm. We are working with homeless support to get him better support and somewhere to live.

Third Acre Rise has now become a Smartwater Street. Smartwater is a property marking kit which puts a unique 'DNA' on your property. If 80% of residents use and register Smartwater, a sign can be displayed in the street as well as stickers in house windows. This is a proven deterrent and increases your chance of getting your property back if it is ever stolen and recovered. Please contact us if you would like any further information. You can download our security advice leaflet from [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valleypolice/areas/advice/home-security-guide/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valleypolice/areas/advice/home-security-guide/)

The next **Have your say meeting** will be on Saturday 6th July, 2–3pm at Dean Court Community Centre, Botley with **PCSO Adi Wright**.

### Want something to do during the summer holidays?

Come and explore your local churches that are open during the day. Find space to think, pray and be quiet. Enjoy the architecture and surroundings.

#### **St Lawrence, North Hinksey Lane.**

A twelfth century church from the Norman period. Simple, light and beautiful. Enjoy the peace and quiet of church and churchyard.

#### **St Peter & St. Paul, West Way, Botley.**

Built in 1958 this church is home to the Botley Fridge and Botley Community Arts Group exhibitions.

#### **St Margaret of Antioch, Binsey.**

At the very end of Binsey Lane you will find the Norman gem that is St. Margaret's. The holy well at St. Margaret's is associated with the story of Alice in Wonderland. St Margaret's has hundreds of visitors each year from all over the world.



## Life is a song – sing it!

We all have mental health, sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad, sometimes indifferent. Mine is the curate's egg type!

I joined Cumnor Choral Society, not so much as a way to make friends, although that has been a bonus, but because as a counsellor I know that singing is so good for our mental as well as our physical health.

Singing has now become such an important activity for me! I have always loved it, but I put off joining a choir for various reasons – my sight reading is not brilliant, I used to be a soprano, would I cope singing the alto part? What if... what if... what if...!

I needn't have worried. No audition necessary, very friendly fellow members, most of the music we sing can be found on a website that plays your part so you can practise at home.

If you enjoy singing and fancy being a part of something that is not only good for you but also gives so much pleasure to our audiences, why not give us a try? We always welcome new singers. We rehearse on Friday evenings from 7.45–9.45 from September to December and from January to March, with concerts at Christmas and Easter.

This Autumn we are joining up with Great Milton and Wheatley choirs to perform Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

For more information contact me at [cockman.caroline@gmail.com](mailto:cockman.caroline@gmail.com) or check out our website [CumnorChoralsociety.wordpress.com](http://CumnorChoralsociety.wordpress.com)

**Caroline Cockman**

~~~~~

## MBE for deserving Head

Congratulations to Katherine Ryan, head teacher at Matthew Arnold School since 2006, for her gong in the recent Honours List. The whole school must be proud to have such a stellar head. Her impressive record in helping teachers be better teachers through partnerships with other educational institutions has resonated across the county and beyond. From her early career she believed that enabling teachers and school leaders to develop professionally throughout their careers

is the best way to support high-quality learning in every classroom, and that children must be at the centre of our thinking, and this shows in a happy and thriving school.



## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                             |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>P19/V1054/HH</u></b>  | 30A Hutchcomb Rd. Demolish existing rear garage. Proposed ground floor rear extension and loft conversion.                                                  | <b>13 May</b><br><i>TDD: 8 July</i>                   |
| <b><u>P19/V1170/HH</u></b>  | 55 Raleigh Park Rd. New car port with storage.                                                                                                              | <b>20 May</b><br><i>TDD: 15 July</i>                  |
| <b><u>P19/V1184/FUL</u></b> | 11A West Way. Change of use ground floor unit from print shop to offices with meeting/conference room. Replace external signage, windows, and doors.        | <b>23 May</b><br><i>Target Decision Date: 18 July</i> |
| <b><u>P19/V1259/FUL</u></b> | Sweetmans Cottage Yarnells Hill. Demolish existing and build new dwelling, separate double garage and associated landscaping.                               | <b>23 May</b><br><i>TDD: 18 July</i>                  |
| <b><u>P19/V1212/HH</u></b>  | 13A Chestnut Rd. Loft conversion of 1st floor flat. Partial hip-to-gable side roof extension, flat roofed rear dormer & 3 roof windows in front roof slope. | <b>28 May</b><br><i>TDD: 23 July</i>                  |
| <b><u>P19/V1274/PDH</u></b> | 19 Chestnut Rd. Kitchen / dining area extension. Depth - 4.1m Height - 3.3m.                                                                                | <b>30 May</b><br><i>TDD: 11 July</i>                  |
| <b><u>P19/V1330/HH</u></b>  | 37 St Pauls Crescent. Single storey rear & side extension and convert garage to study/store/shower room.                                                    | <b>31 May</b><br><i>TDD: 26 July</i>                  |
| <b><u>P19/V1405/FUL</u></b> | Botley Centre West Way. Planning consent for 16 months for installation of marketing suite at Botley Local Centre.                                          | <b>6 June</b><br><i>TDD: 1 August</i>                 |
| <b><u>P19/V1398/HH</u></b>  | 25 Sweetmans Rd. Convert garage to habitable space.                                                                                                         | <b>12 June</b><br><i>TDD: 7 August</i>                |
| <b><u>P19/V1403/HH</u></b>  | Gateways Harcourt Hill. Demolish garage, utility room, & single storey extensions. Extend property to side, rear & front, plus loft conversion.             | <b>13 June</b><br><i>TDD: 8 August</i>                |

# SALES & LETTINGS

**Oxford**  
01865 511444  
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Carter Jonas



## Universal Credit being used in new scam

Universal Credit has well and truly arrived – but now scammers are using the benefit as a pivotal part of a new sting to target vulnerable people.

Citizens Advice says scammers are offering loans to their victims and then using their personal banking details to apply for Universal Credit in their names.

The scam is usually carried out by telephone, so do not accept a loan if you have been contacted by cold calling. If you are contacted in this way, just hang up. In general, personal details should not be divulged on the telephone or in an email.

The Universal Credit scam is also being carried out in public places. As victims leave job centres and pubs, they are approached by smartly dressed people claiming to be from the Department of Work and Pensions, who then offer "government loans". Instead, the victim is signed up for Universal Credit. The scammers then apply for an advance payment of the benefit. This payment goes to the victim's bank

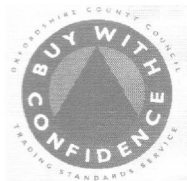
account but the scammers then charge a huge fee, around 50%, for this unnecessary "service".

Citizens Advice has its own free service to help those applying for Universal Credit for the first time. "Help to Claim" is available over the telephone, face to face, and online through "webchat" and Internet content. The national Freephone number for Help to Claim is **0800 144 8444**. Telephone and webchat services are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday–Friday)

For any other issues you might need help with, telephone our Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or come and see us in person at our office in St Aldates. More on

### **GARDEN RESCUE**

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

**[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)**



## Randoms

### Pop-up Café hosted by FOBS

The Pavilion Pop-up Cafés, have started again, up at the Pavilion. These take place from 3– 5pm every Sunday afternoon, and are run by volunteers all through the summer until 1st September. On Sunday 21st July (3–5pm), the hosts will be the Friends of Botley School (FOBS), with all proceeds going to support our school. Please join us for a cuppa and some delicious home-made cake. The cafés are a wonderful opportunity to get to know more members of our community, and on 21st July, you'll also be supporting Botley School. Hope to see you there!

**Abigail Sarfatti**, Friends of Botley School.

### The Botley Connection

Former Botley lad, John McAvoy, who used to live in Westminster Way, worked as a film editor on a television programme about the moon landing that will be shown on the BBC in July to mark the 50th Anniversary. Do look for his name on the credits. *Stargazing: Moonlanding Special*, will be presented by Professor Brian Cox and Dara O'Briain.

**Martin Harris**

### Friends of Raleigh Park

Friends of Raleigh Park have asked us to point out that – contrary to the impression given in last month's *Sprout* – their AGM will in fact be on Thursday 12 September in the Louie Memorial Pavilion (speaker tbc). The June Friends' meeting addressed by Linda Losito on the subject of Beetles, Birds and Dung attracted considerable interest, and was very well attended.

### West Oxford Fun Day, 13th July

The theme this year is 'the river' – the perfect opportunity to include a little get-together at Tumbling Bay to hear something about our Victorian Bathing Place's history and future. It would be great to have some anecdotes from older folk who remember going there as children, perhaps with their school swimming class on the ferry; it would also be great to have someone from the Council talking about the fish pass which is being constructed there. Interested? Then please contact me on [amtalbot393@btinternet.com](mailto:amtalbot393@btinternet.com)

**Tony Talbot**

## **Botley W.I.**

At our next meeting on **2 July** the speaker will be Helen Plum, talking about "Coloured Gemstones." The Walking group will meet at 10am on **Thursday 11th July** at the W.I hall to walk on Boars Hill. The Book Group will meet on **24 July**. We are celebrating our first hundred years with a range of additional activities including a centenary dinner at Denman in August.

**Alison Jenner**

## **Botley Bridges Summer Programme**

Over the summer, starting 29th July, Botley Bridges will be playing away in local parks. Sessions (1.30–3.30 pm) will be on themes like *Pirates*, *Minibeasts*, *Beside the Seaside*, etc, and will be suitable for older children up to 9 or 10 as well. Dates for your diaries: Mon 29th July, Oatlands Park; Wed 7th August, Cumnor Hurst; Mon 12 August, Dean Court Rec; Wed 21 August, Cumnor Park; Wed 28th August, Louie Memorial Rec (Arnolds Way); Mon 2 September, Botley Park (West Oxford Community Centre). More on their Facebook page.

## **Have you been to Waitrose lately?**

I visited the Botley Road store last week and found it abuzz with activity. I was amazed to find they had removed all of their packaging from the fruit and vegetable aisles, everything piled neatly and loose so that you could pick your own! Staff were busy stocking and tidying displays and new plastic-packaging free initiatives, and assisting curious customers as they walked slowly around taking in these long overdue changes. I even caught sight of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall in what used to be the small bakery café – now sporting a chef displaying his culinary skills in fresh fruit and veg prep. It was wonderful to see and I felt, at last, that real change was happening. It made me feel optimistic and to think about how I can reduce my own plastics and waste in general. *Well done Waitrose!*

**Judith Chelbi**

## **SPROUT AGM, Sunday 7th July**

This year's AGM will take place on Sunday 7th July at 3pm at Branches Café above the Library, entrance opposite the Co-op. This is our chance to thank all the volunteers who make it happen every month, and to share a few ideas on how we would like it to look, and what it should cover. All our volunteers are welcome, and any one else who takes an interest in our local newsletter.

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

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>                                                      |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                   |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Meet Fridays, Botley Baptist Hall Contact: Julie Tatham 01865 863074 or Amy Cusden 07887 654386                                                                                                 |
| <b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                                      | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Badminton Club</b>                                                | Thurs 7-8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>                                                         |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.                                        | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>               |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>                                           | Wednesday 9.30 a.m Contact: Briony 246497                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Botley Library</b>                                                | 01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).                                                                                                 |
| <b>Botley Singers</b>                                                | Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>                                                               |
| <b>Branches Café, Westway Place, Open to All 8am-3pm,</b>            | <b>Open for young people</b> 3-5 daily, Th. eves 7–9 Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook Branches Youth Cafe, Instagram @_branches_youth   |
| <b>Community Fridge</b>                                              | For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811                                                                                           |
| <b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>                                         | Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>                                     |
| <b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>                                             | Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>                                                                   |
| <b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>                      | Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>                                         | Details on website at <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone Chris Impey, 01865 721026                                                                |
| <b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>             | Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                                   |
| <b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>                                       | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 01865-863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Let's Sing! – singing group</b>                                   | Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email <a href="mailto:emformusic@outlook.com">emformusic@outlook.com</a>                                                                          |
| <b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>                                    | Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>                                                                                                            |
| <b>Mum and Baby Yoga for babies from 6 wks to crawling</b>           | Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via <a href="https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk">https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk</a>                                                     |

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs</b>  | Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm. 01865 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>                                                                                |
| <b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>                          | Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>                        | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>            | Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <a href="mailto:voirrey@aol.com">voirrey@aol.com</a>                                                                                           |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                        | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                     | Colin Ryde, tel 861992, <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>                                                                                             |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                         | Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>                      | Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386                                                                                                          |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                        | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                 | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group</b> | Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>                                                                             |
| <b>Oxford Otters</b>                                | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420                                                                                                         |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                            | Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a> Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> . |
| <b>Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>    | Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 or <a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                      |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                     | <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Saturdads Botley Bridges</b>                     | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                                                           |
| <b>Seacourt Hall management committee</b>           | Contact: Michael Cockman 07766 317691 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .                                                                                   |
| <b>Shotokan Karate club</b>                         | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                              | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>                                                                            |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                       | Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>                                                                                                |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                  | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>                                                                                  |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                              | (Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>                                                                                                       |
| <b>West Way Day Centre</b>                          | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>                                          |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                   | Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>                                                                                                |