

The Sprout



Sunny Sunday afternoon at the Pavilion's pop-up Café

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 118 June 2017

The Sprout

Issue 118, June 2017

Contents

3 Letters to the Editor	25 Old Manor House Riding School
5 Botley Patients Group	20 Flood Alleviation Scheme
9 Thoughts on General Election	31 Planning Applications
15 Guiding Round-up	33 Police update
19 First Botley Brownies	35 North Hinksey Allotments
21 Second Botley Brownies	37 Randoms
23 Recipe for June	39 Local Organizations

From the Editor

The main event of interest to us all in June is the General Election on the 8th, and the *Sprout* is sponsoring a Q&A session with our main candidates on 1st June in Ss P&P Church. It's a bit early in the month for us, but was the only possible date and time in our candidates' busy schedules. We have done our best to get the issue out slightly early so you have time to see the notice, but if this has not trickled down to you, hopefully you will have seen the posters in time to get your questions in. Martin Harris offers some thoughts on the subject (p9). Other news is the potential closure of the Old Manor Riding Stables, already struggling with the huge increase of traffic in North Hinksey Lane and finally brought down as a consequence of the Flood Alleviation Scheme which will affect local pasture. Our cover photo shows the first pop-up café of the season. These will run 'up the top' every Sunday till August, and the one on 25th June will coincide with the Sprout AGM, at the Pavilion at 3pm – your chance to come along and have an input into our local magazine, while eating some of the delicious cakes! We also have reports on Girlguiding (inc Brownies) from p.15 onwards, the Botley Surgery Patients Group (plus details about what's on offer for under-fives at Botley Bridges) on p.5, and some Parish Council input on the subject of Allotments (p35), not to mention a timely recipe for pickling cauliflowers. It's all here in the *Sprout* – happy reading!

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

Botley Health Walks

Both of us trained as Volunteer Health Walk Leaders and started Botley Health Walks on the 9 September 2004, under the then Government's banner of "Look after your Heart". These days it falls under the "Go Active" remit. We still meet at Seacourt Hall every Wednesday at 9.30 am, wait no more than 5 minutes and then go for a walk, usually with animated chatter so it does not seem like exercising at all. Also, since the *Sprout* began our details have been published each month in the list of Organizations. Not surprising though, as with four others we were co-founders of the *Sprout* and key workers for many years.

So you can image our surprise to read the *Note on Botley Health Walks* by Lyliane Doumechhall about the need for a pool of trained walk leaders and offering training at Dean Court Community Centre on the 28 May. It was news to us as leaders of Botley Health Walks!

Lyliane probably has good intentions but she is not part of Botley Health Walks and she did not discuss the contents of her article with us prior to publication. So what is it all about – a takeover bid?

Roy & Briony Newport, Leaders, Botley Health Walks

[Lyliane has since realized her mistake, see page 7 – Ed.]

SPROUT AGM 2017

**Sunday 25th June
3–4pm**

**The Pavilion, Louie Memorial Fields
Arnold's Way**



*Everybody welcome, especially Sprout volunteers.
Please come and tell us how we are doing.*

News from the Botley Patients Group

The merger of the Botley and Kennington practices continues to go broadly to plan. At the meeting of Botley PPG on 3 May 2017 Caroline Jones, Practice Manager, asked that her thanks to her deputy, Hazel Quick, be put on the record for the amazing job that she did in merging the IT systems of the two practices in April.

The Duty Doctor system is not entirely satisfactory. Occasionally patients are having to travel from Botley to Kennington, or vice versa, to be seen. Various options are being tried to make duty run smoothly. There are currently two phone numbers, one for each surgery; these will be merged.

Section 106 money: The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) recently submitted a bid, on behalf of the practice, to the Vale for Section 106 monies which have accumulated as a result of local developments and which had been allocated for improved health provision. The practice heard in early May that it has been awarded in the region of £90k, which will kick-start improvements to the surgery. This is excellent news for the practice, which is to be congratulated. I shall be reporting further on this in future newsletters. You can email PPG on botleyppg@gmail.com

Harry Dickinson, Chair

Botley Bridges – a wonderful resource for new parents

I remember staggering into the Children's Centre for the first time when I was eight and a half months pregnant, and collapsing onto one of their sofas. My midwife had recommended the *Bumps & Babies* group as a way of meeting other soon-to-be and recent mums for moral support and friendship.

Initially I was pretty apprehensive about going along but one of the staff bounded over to me, introduced herself in a cheery fashion and immediately insisted on making me a cup of tea. It was wonderful! I continued to go to the baby group until my baby arrived and then afterwards until my baby was officially designated a toddler.

As well as meeting other mums I also went there for all my postnatal appointments with the midwife and after that regularly to see the health visitor as, and when, weigh-ins were required and for any other non-medical queries. The early days of parenthood were quite overwhelming

and so having a place like the Children's Centre proved vital support. As my son got older we moved on to Stay and Play sessions instead, which was great preparation for preschool. Over the years I have also attended weaning advice sessions, first aid courses and a parenting course, all of which have proven invaluable in the journey of parenthood.

Unfortunately council funding was withdrawn from this wonderful resource, potentially leaving a lot of new parents in limbo, but a charity was established which took over in March of this year – called **Botley Bridges** – which aims to continue as much of this fantastic work as possible.

A group for toddlers called *Movers, Shakers and Talkers* started at the end of April, and is running on Monday afternoons. *Stay, Play and Learn* sessions take place on a Friday morning, and a *Bumps & Babies* group runs in the afternoon. The health visitor is also available for a drop in session at 1pm on Wednesdays and *Saturdads*, a sessions for dads/male carers is being held on the first Saturday of every month.

All the groups have information about other services which people can access for help like Domestic Abuse support, Talking Space and Mind etc. Support and friendship from other new parents is also invaluable. It's great to have an environment that is set apart from the more clinical nature of a doctor's surgery where you can receive fantastic support and advice, and ask those little questions which do not require a visit to the doctor. I cannot stress enough what a wonderful resource this is. Please do continue to use it and to support its excellent work in any way you can. Botley bridges has a Facebook page, or you can find further information on: <http://www.botleybridges.org/>

Karen Nixon

This article represents the views of the Botley PPG which are not necessarily those of the Medical Practice.

An apology

The name of "Botley Health Walks" was wrongly used in May's *Sprout* to describe the future walks to be organised by the Botley PPG, as there is already a "Botley Health Walks" in our community, which takes place on Wednesday mornings. We apologise for this oversight. A different name for the future PPG walks will be decided at a later date.

Lyliane Doumèche

Hooray for another general election!

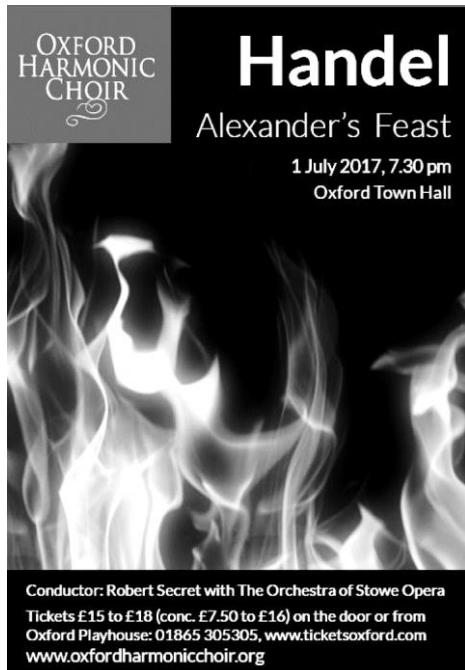
Sometimes I think it's such a joy to be in a political constituency called *Oxford Gone West and Abingdon*, although I may have misheard the name from someone.

Like one of those great boxing bouts, we've got a re-match between the blues and the yellows – Nicola Blackwood in one corner for the Conservative Party (the reigning champion) and Layla Moran for the Liberal Democrats in the other. Some others are also entering the ring (Marie Tidball for Labour) although this time Larry Sanders, the brother of American political heavy weight Bernie, won't be there for the Greens.

You may think that this parish is a bit Liberal-Democratty as we've had Janet Godden as our County Councillor for many years, now followed by Judy Roberts. Or it might be personality over politics as they have both been well known, well respected hard working individuals. However at the last general election, the Conservatives increased their majority quite considerably. Will this change if our voting decision is based on Brexit or if we feel that Labour needs a new leader?

If I was the 1997 Tony Blair transported into 2017, I'd say the important issue is "Transport, Transport, Transport." West Way cannot seem to cope, especially at weekends, and even during the week it holds back traffic wanting to turn onto the ring road. Whatever the reason for the recent cyclist tragedy, safety on roads and pavements needs to be improved. Who will do something about the polluting A34? How much are our lives at risk from this?

Once again the NHS becomes a political football. Here's hoping all parties can work together on this. I doubt if any political party will ever bother to control house price inflation which has made owning a home more and more unaffordable to the younger generation.



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Whatever your view, whether you vote tactically or just for your favourite colour, I hope that you do vote. Democracy is something to be treasured. And whoever wins, whilst they might not be a famous war hero and Colditz escapee like Airey Neave (our MP 1953–1979), I hope they play their part both locally and in the House of Commons in uniting our great country and great people.

Martin Harris (a “strong and stable” local, one of the “many not the few”)

*[To help you make up your mind by giving you a chance to ask some pertinent questions of the candidates, the Sprout is joining Ss P&P Church in sponsoring a hustings here in Botley. Candidates will be at the church on West Way on **1st June at 6pm** for a Q&A session chaired by Rev Graham Sykes. Submit your questions in advance on the form which you can pick up in the Library or download from botleyhinksey.org.uk, the community website. Make sure your question is back in the library or submitted online by 29th May at the latest to allow time to organize. See you there! Ed.]*

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NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL IS SEEKING A Part-Time Caretaker for Louie Memorial Pavilion, Arnold's Way

The current post holder will be retiring on the appointment of a new part-time caretaker and the Parish Council is now looking to appoint his replacement. The new appointee will be an employee of the Parish Council and will be subject to any deductions that the HM Revenue and Customs require to be made. The gross salary for the post will be £245 a month. The average monthly hours of work over the year are 24 and this is what you will receive payment on per month. Because the number of hours will fluctuate between summer and winter, your monthly payment is based on average hours. The pavilion is run by a management committee and the caretaker's work will involve liaising and working with them.

The main duties of the post include:

Line marking of the football pitch (on average twice a month during the football season).

Visiting the Pavilion three times a week to check the building and undertake any minor maintenance work, safety checks etc.

Liaising with the Parish Clerk to arrange any statutory building checks e.g. fire extinguishers, electrical certificates.

Maintaining the main hall, kitchen, changing rooms and showers.

Cleaning the MUGA and Children's Shelter area to remove litter etc. and the general maintenance of the Trim Trail equipment.

Strimming various areas.

Litter Picking in the 'Lower' playing field, children's play area, the copse main paths, the 'Upper' playing field, its play equipment areas and the Children's Shelter as needed. When walking both fields, looking out for safety hazards.

Once a week undertaking the required ROSPA safety checks, completing the report form and returning to Parish Clerk. (*Training will be given for this.*)

Undertaking the specified weekly, monthly and annual maintenance checks on the defibrillator cabinet.

Cleaning out Lime Road Bus Shelter once a week.

Other reasonable duties as requested by the Parish Council.

For further details, a job description and a list of full duties, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01865 861992 or by e-mailing nhpcclerk@msn.com. The closing date for application is **Friday 16th June 2017**.

Guiding Round-up

Girlguiding in West Oxford District

This year has been a busy year for West Oxford District Guides. Last summer saw us combing Oxford City Centre in our innovative *Hunt Oxford Owl Trail*. It really was a HOOT! The Owl Hunt was supported across the county by local artists and local children. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped, especially the talented artists who decorated some beautiful owls for us. HOOT, the auction and the raffle enabled us to raise over £1000 for our district. The photo shows some of the owls created for the occasion.



Last year also saw our magnificent first District Fete. With the help of all 11 units in our thriving district we managed to raise some much needed funds to ensure no girl misses out on the exciting opportunities Girlguiding has to offer. There was, as usual, a great turn out for the Remembrance Day Service at Botley War Graves in November.

Our Christmas Disco was much enjoyed for the second year in a row, providing some welcome down time for parents to complete their Christmas preparations and allowing children to burn off some festive excitement. Over 100 girls attended this winter party and thoroughly enjoyed the dancing, the Christmas films and eating far too many sweets.

Our annual Thinking Day celebrations this February saw all units come together to think about the other ten million Girl Guides around the globe. Working together, the girls created a variety of crafts, built shelters, planted seedlings and played a variety of games from different cultures. The unity shown within this event always helps to bring home the breadth and diversity of our World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to the younger generation.

This year we also welcomed two new units, bringing the number of young girls in our district up to over 200 members! We hope that by having both a new Rainbow and Brownie Guide unit that these girls will later become the next generation of Girlguiding, inspiring others for years to come.



Remembrance Day service in Botley Cemetery

We have celebrated many achievements already this year and are proud to announce that two older Guides have completed their Baden Powell Challenge and five members of Aspire Rangers have completed their Chief Guide Challenge this term. Both awards require much hard work and dedication to complete and very few girls achieve them. Although many leaders have worked hard this year, one of our younger leaders, Katherine Haigh, has recently completed her Queen's Guide award – the highest award you can receive within Girlguiding. We send our congratulations to all these young women and hope many more will follow their example and take up the challenges.

As the year continues, we have more exciting adventures planned. Five members of the district have been selected to take part in Girlguiding Anglia International Service Projects abroad to Nepal and Fiji. Fundraising continues for both these exciting opportunities and for our district, so we hope you will support us by joining us at our **Summer Fete**, being held at Louie Memorial Pavilion on Arnold's Way on **Saturday 17th June**. If you would like further information, or to hold a stall at our fete please contact me on catriona_allen@hotmail.com.

Catriona Allen, District Organizer

1st Botley Brownies Visit Field House

On a sunny evening in April, First Botley Brownies walked to Field House with Easter gifts as part of our Promise to serve the Queen and our community and to help other people. I was proud of the pack who had worked hard preparing the gifts and really were on their best behaviour.



Once there, the Brownies gave the residents pansies in pots that they had decorated and Easter cards that they had made. Everyone enjoyed talking about the ways the uniforms had changed over time, badges and our Promise, since many of the residents had been Brownies and Cubs when they were young. We were also asked about the Remembrance Day service that we attend every year.

A Brownie pack is made up of sixes, with Sixers who lead each six with help from their Seconds. We start our meetings with 4 Brownies forming a bridge and the pack walking through singing the traditional Brownie Song. 'Brownie Bells' is our goodbye song.

Thank you to all at Field House who welcomed us so warmly. Here's how Lisa and Megan described the visit: "To get there we walked from Dean Court Community Centre to Field House in pairs. We walked into the room in a Brownie line. Rona who is a Second, held our Brownie flag. When we went in we made a Brownie ring led by Megan. After that we gave the pansies and Easter cards to the people who live there. Lots of the people were looking at the badges on our sashes. A little bit later they offered us food and drinks that made people laugh and smile. After that everyone was silenced because some Brownies were moving up to Guides. Mementos of Brownie activities were given to Daisy, Daisy, Eleanor, Connie, Rona, Isabelle and Isabelle. Amy and Lisa received their hostess badges for organising an Easter party for us. Finally it was time to leave. We walked from Field House back to Dean Court, eating our sweets on the way."

We meet on Thursday evenings and could do with more adult helpers. For more info go to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>

Penny Catt (Brown Owl)

2nd Botley Brownies Tackle

Disability Awareness

We have started working as a Unit on our Disability Awareness badge. The first clause (of seven) that we chose to do says, "Make up, or change, a game or activity so that everyone can take part in it, however mobile they are".



We decided to get the girls to play the game of "Traffic Lights" in the usual way and then told each Six that they would be joined by an imaginary Brownie with a specific disability and that they should adapt the game so that everyone would still be able to join in. Snowy Owl did not give out purely mobility problems she made the girls do a bit more thinking by including a deaf girl or a visually impaired girl. We found it was very easy to include a girl in a wheelchair or with general mobility issues – in fact we found that later in the evening we had automatically amended our pow wow circle so that had a wheelchair user been there she would have just blended in with us on our chairs as we had decided to sit on seats instead of our usual choice of sitting on the floor.

The inclusion of an imaginary deaf girl really got the girls thinking and there were promises from the Brownies to go home and look up sign language gestures so that we could play the game again and use them in place of the verbal traffic light commands. This led us straight into another clause where we need to know the finger-spelling alphabet. Quite a lot of girls already knew this and we all had a go, so this should not be too difficult to teach the rest of the unit. Thanks to Little Owl we already have a donation of earplugs to use to take part in a game or activity later on so that we will get a flavour of being partially deaf – another clause done.

Snowy Owl has organized a visit from someone who is visually-impaired – and has a Guide Dog – so there is much to look forward to. We also had a Mum kindly offer to help us find out about dementia so we shall soon have earned the Disability Awareness badge and learnt a lot about different ways the world can be perceived and how to approach people accordingly.

Lucy Howes

Recipe for June

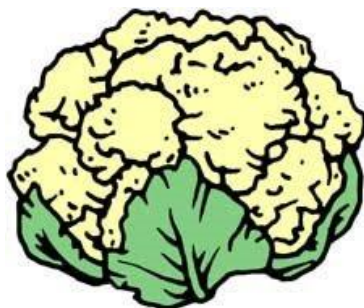
Sometimes cauliflowers these days are too big for one meal so there is some left over. Surplus ones may also be found in the Community Fridge. I found this recipe which we like and it keeps for weeks in the fridge. It can be used to enliven bread and cheese meals.

Lemony Pickled Cauliflower

(adapted from the "Serious Eats" website)

(Makes 2 large jars)

Half a medium cauliflower (0.5–1kg), broken into small florets
250ml cider vinegar
250ml water
2 tps salt
1 small lemon, sliced
1 large garlic clove, sliced (optional)
1–2 tps fennel seeds (or 10 peppercorns)



- In large pan combine water and salt and bring to boil.
- Add cauliflower florets (add more boiling water if needed to just cover) and bring back to boil.
- Remove immediately from heat and drain (reserving liquid).
- Place 2 slices of lemon, garlic (if using) and spices in large jar then pack in the cauliflower.
- Add the cider vinegar and top up with the reserved brine.

- Top jar with 2 slices of lemon and seal it.
- Leave till cold and place in fridge.
- Keep for 24 hours before eating – it improves for up to 4 weeks, getting stronger in flavour!

Peter England

website and graphic design

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Sally Hersom

Old Manor House Riding School to close

Eagled-eyed readers of the *Oxford Times* and this month's *Sprout* will have seen that a planning application has been lodged for 10 dwellings at 18 and 20A North Hinksey Lane. This translates as "converting the Old Manor House Riding School into five houses and five flats". Generations of people have learned to ride at the riding school, which has been in operation since 1946, so if planning permission is granted, this will have a big impact Oxford-wide.



I talked to the owner of the riding school, Garry Donnelly, and his partner Stewart Booth, about why this is happening. We sat in their lovely courtyard, which opens onto their new kitchen addition. "We have hated making this decision," said Garry. "As you can see from this kitchen, from the mirrors which we put onto the riding ring only a year ago, and from the new stables, we weren't expecting this. We had been planning to stay here for at least another five years." However he then explained their reasoning.

The adjacent owners, with whom the riding school shares a drive, had already been thinking of redeveloping their house into ten flats; and directly across from the Old Manor House planning permission has been given for six more. Both would significantly affect the riding stable's operations, in terms of traffic and parking. The adjacent development has since been incorporated into the new planning application as the five flats. This joint redevelopment had always been 'Plan B' if the riding school became unviable.

However the preparatory works for the Oxford flood alleviation scheme (OFAS) are being carried out much sooner, and will be much more intrusive than they were expecting, making Plan B into Plan A. Extensive archaeological digs near Willow Walk will probably start this year, and in time the flood alleviation works would take about 30 acres of land grazed by the riding school horses. The new scheme would not be safe for the horses because they could get stuck in the soft ground or fall in the channel, but fields cannot be fenced off because fencing could obstruct the flow of material down the new stream during a flood.

The OFAS has suggested alternatives, but none would work well. Grazing the horses further away would make getting them to the riding school more difficult and dangerous. Hacking (riding through the fields) would not be possible during the three-year construction period because of the lorries in the fields, and would anyway not be as attractive as now. The OFAS has offered to provide a horse trailer, minivan and drivers to allow hackers to go to Boar's Hill, but this is unlikely to be attractive to people who just want to be able to get onto a horse and ride through the fields. (Garry gave a lot more detail, but you get the gist.)

Another problem is that traffic on North Hinksey Lane has already grown to a level where it is difficult to bring horses from the grazing fields to the riding stable. The times of the school run and the evening rush hour are already impossible, and at other times the traffic can still be dangerous.

Garry also explained that people are setting off more and more fireworks in October, November and December. Two of his horses have already died as a result: one had a heart attack after running around in circles, and another broke a leg trying to get away.

Finally, six of the riding school's 17 horses are getting very old, so Garry would need to get six more horses to allow the riding school to continue. He has no intention of getting rid of his old horses. The current grazing lands would already be insufficient for six more horses, much less the reduced grazing area post-flood alleviation scheme.

Garry has been running the riding school since 2011, when he took over from Pat Halliday. He and Stewart took beautiful care of Pat as she became frail, and are now keen to carry on her legacy. However a business that started off with having the horses much closer by (some in Hinksey Field which became unusable for horses when a scrape was put in to increase its wildlife value), when there were fewer cars on the road, and less development nearby, has slowly changed over the years, and the flood alleviation channel is the final nail in the coffin.

Having been Pat's neighbour for many years, I agree with Garry that Pat's real legacy is a love of horses, not a wish to maintain a business model that no longer works. Garry and Stewart hope to move north with the horses ('hopefully to Scotland' says Stewart in his gorgeous Scottish lilt), and to find a house with adjacent land where the old horses can live out the rest of their lives without the stresses of suburban Oxford.

Riki Therivel

What OFAS will mean for Botley & North Hinksey

The information below is based on the public consultation event at West Oxford Community Centre, 11 May.

The Oxford Flood Alleviation scheme will run from north of the Botley Road, through Hinksey Field, under Willow Walk, and from there southward towards Redbridge. The aim of the scheme is to reduce flooding in Oxford, including on the Botley Road. It will do so by moving excess floodwater through a two-stage channel: a deeper narrower one which will remain wet all year round; within a wide, gently-sloping one which will hold water only during floods.

I suspect that Botley & North Hinksey residents will be most interested in the plans for Willow Walk and Hinksey Field. The two culverts at Willow Walk will be replaced by a bridge which, depending on whom you talked to at the public consultation event, will accommodate only walkers and cyclists, or also vehicles. The construction works for this will be quite large scale and will involve closing Willow Walk for a while (a lot of the details of timing are TBA).

Hinksey Field – between North Hinksey Lane and the retail parks on the Botley Road – is an ecologically rare 'MG4 grassland' because of how it has been grazed for centuries. The flood alleviation scheme has been made as narrow as possible here to minimize the ecological impact, but will still affect about a quarter of the field. The large poplars at the north-west side of the field will be kept, but the willows on the field side of Seacourt Stream will be cut down (those on the North Hinksey Lane side will be kept). In the field to the south of Willow Walk, the width of the scheme will again be narrow to protect the nationally rare, and really unimpressive-looking, creeping marshwort which grows there.

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A road will be built adjacent the flood alleviation works (but not in Hinksey Field), where it will be within the area of the flood alleviation works. Although that is more difficult to do, again this aims to minimize the scheme's footprint on this sensitive area.

Works on the overall scheme are expected to start in late 2018 and to finish in 2021. The major works will start in the south and head north, but some engineering works in the Botley area will start in 2018/19. Public access to Hinksey Field will be maintained, but different access points may be shut for some or all of the works. If you are one of the many people who use the field, you may want to explain, at consultation, how often you use it, and stress the importance of keeping access points open.

The public consultation will run from 22 June to 20 July. Make your voice heard at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/oxford-flood-alleviation-scheme-design-consultation.

Riki Therivel

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P17/V1039/PDH	67 Montagu Road. Single Storey Rear Extension: Depth 6.0m Height 3.621m Height to eaves 2.242.	18 April target decision date: 30 May
P17/V1046/FUL	Old Manor Stables 20A North Hinksey Lane.. Conversion & alterations to existing barn to form staff annexe. Access through existing wall, parking area and ancillary works.	19 April TDD: 14 June
P17/V1047/FUL	18 and 20A North Hinksey Lane. Demolish existing buildings and erect 10 dwellings.	19 April TDD: 19 July
P17/V1074/LDP	38 Lime Road. Loft conversion with rendered gable end.	21 April TDD: 21 June
P17/V1010/HH	32 Arthray Road. Extend existing house, new access to parking at rear.	24 April TDD: 19 June
P17/V1048/HH	Tredinnock Harcourt Hill. First floor side extension to main house & convert summerhouse to annexe.	24 April TDD: 19 June
P17/V1231/HH	89 Southern Bypass. Rear extension. <i>Comments by 1st June</i>	4 May TDD: 29 June
P17/V0601/LDP	14 Sweetmans Road. Loft conversion to new bedroom and ensuite.	5 May TDD: 30 June

Police update

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) We have received a report of small gas canisters believed to be used as a laughing gas found in the Cumnor area. We are aware there was a party in the village and suspect it is linked with this. Further enquires to be completed, but we believe this was a one off incident. If you have any information please contact us using the details at the bottom of the page.

Offenders brought to justice: There has been a series of moped thefts in the Botley area. We believe we know who is responsible and are in the process of identifying the suspects. The investigation is ongoing.

We had reports of scrap metal collectors taking items without consent. Police units located two males who had been collecting scrap and on further investigation these males were collecting scrap lawfully. However, we ask members of the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious incidents, vehicles or people.

Botley shopliftings Unfortunately we have had reports of shoplifting at Botley shops. We will be carrying out high visibility patrols in the area specifically through Elms Parade and The Square, Botley and working with the shops closely on preventative measures.

Future events/meetings PCSO Harry Cornforth will be at Cumnor Hill House Care Home on the 6th and 29th of June 10am - midday. If you have any concerns or issues you would like to share with us this is a great opportunity to do so.

Contact us If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email **AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: **www.thamesvalley.police.uk**. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at **www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk** today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account **[@TVPSouthandVale](https://twitter.com/TVPSouthandVale)** is kept up to date with what we are up to; if you would like to follow us.

PCSOs Harry Cornforth, Jamie Moya-Flood and Adrian Wright

News from the plots

The year started with the Annual Public Meeting and an inspiring talk by Ann Dawson (plot 49) about growing flowers on your allotment. She is planning to open her plot to the public for a couple of hours on 13th August, as part of the National Gardens Scheme, so we'll be able to see for ourselves what skill and dedication can do.



During the previous year the number of available plots and the number of people wanting to rent was quite finely balanced. The PC is aware that if the waiting list rises to six or more, we will have to return the community orchard, wildflower meadow or memorial garden back to allotment use again. They have therefore asked the Allotment Committee to consider our options and if necessary to revise the rule book to ensure that this does not happen. There was an energetic discussion at the public meeting, which noted that the 50% cultivation requirement was being seen as a *target* rather than as the *minimum acceptable*. 60% or even 75% was recommended, and rigorous enforcement so that those who did not play by the rules would be required to hand over their plots to people who really wanted to cultivate them. Another possibility would be to permit a second plot to those who were clearly doing a good job of their first one, but only on a two-year lease, so that they could be taken back if the need arises. Other ideas included bringing some of the smaller, less rewarding plots back into cultivation by enriching the soil with manure ourselves, and giving people whose plots are too much for them the chance to share them. As it happens, some eight plots have since become vacant, and four new tenants have come forward, so the problem has receded for the moment. Nevertheless, the committee will meet to discuss these issues on 22nd June, with a view to putting some proposals for rule changes to the Council in September.

The first quarter saw a flurry of activity: a skip was provided and a working party formed to disinter the ancient carpets and other rubbish from the plots. Chris Sugden took three trailer-loads of junk to Redbridge for us as well, and everyone celebrated our useful work with a picnic. Hand-holes have been cut by both the gates to the Southern By Pass plots to make the padlocks more accessible; the water tanks have been moved and filled. Our rules require tenants to look after the paths around the plots,

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but not everyone has the tools. A well-wisher has donated two good trimmers which people are welcome to borrow (at their own risk!). An inspection was carried out on 25th April, which showed that the plots were looking pretty good on the whole, although there were some concerns about trees, which are not supposed to be more than 10 foot high, or planted without express permission of the committee. The next inspection will be on Saturday 8th July, and then on Sunday 6th October.

Ag MacKeith, Chair of the Allotment Committee

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## Randoms

### Community fridge update

The fridge at St P&P Church, West Way is going well. It has been getting surplus food from Tesco, and should start getting food from the Coop soon... and thank you to everyone who has been dropping off food as well. Lots of people have been taking food, and the bulk of it has been going to people who can really use it: rough sleepers, on benefits etc.

If you are going on holiday, or your garden is producing a glut, or you have stuff in your cupboards that you're not going to use, please consider bringing your surplus food to the fridge. And do take stuff from it, since its main purpose is to reduce food waste. We could use another 1–2 volunteers to check the fridge and bring food from the shops to it. Contact [riki@phonecoop.coop](mailto:riki@phonecoop.coop)

**Riki Therivel**

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

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## **Botley W.I.**

Julia Mile spoke to us in May about her extraordinary life as a diplomatic wife in a talk called "Ragbags and Cocktails." Our speaker in June will be Chris Caddy, on the subject of "Trees". On 14 June the walking group will meet at Elms Parade to walk round Cumnor Hurst and the Chiswell valley and our Craft evening will be on 20 June, when members choose their own topic.

**Alison Jenner**

## **Coming up at the Tap**

Tap Social is a newcomer to Botley. A craft brewery, community space, and social enterprise in Curtis's Yard, it provides training and employment programmes to people in prison to aid effective rehabilitation and help them secure permanent work. Recent growth has brought more attention, and now some members of the Oxford City Amnesty group have suggested hosting our first ever **pub quiz**. On **Friday 23 June**, 8pm, volunteers from Amnesty will run us through 6 rounds of questions from trivia to music to current events. The £1 per team member will help support Amnesty International's human rights campaigns worldwide. Please join us! To find out which bands have been signed up for the coming weeks, see our website: (<http://www.tapsocialmovement.com>). We are also on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/tapsocialbrew>), Instagram [@tapsocialmovement](#), and Facebook as Tap Social Movement.

## **General Election**

Hustings in Botley on Thursday 1st June 6–7.30 pm at Ss Peter and Paul Church. Come and hear what your would-be MPs have to say about issues that concern you. This will be a 'Question-Time' style Q&A session chaired by Rev Graham Sykes. Submit questions in advance via the forms downloadable from [Botleyhinksey.org.uk](http://Botleyhinksey.org.uk). or available from Botley Library. Our chance to get straight answers to some difficult questions...

## **West Way redevelopment**

Since last month's Sprout article where we outlined Mace's proposed new timeline, there has been no real news on the West Way redevelopment except a possible mid-June date for a public exhibition. Look out for more details from Mace. Meanwhile we have not seen the change of use application come in for the temporary housing of facilities in the Grant Thornton and Elms Court buildings so the timeline may move on again.

**Lorna Berrett**

## Traffic

The hazards of too many cars on roads not designed for them has not gone away. The Sprout would welcome an update from our various local campaigns, but here, to be going on with, is a photo showing the dangerous way cars park on the pavement at the West Way end of North Hinksey Lane. The woman manhandling her twins in their double buggy over the cobbles that mark the North Lodge boundary, is Sophie Tyler, on her way back home from North Hinksey school with her 9-week old baby strapped on in a sling. She says she feels she is taking four people's lives in her hands as she negotiates that dangerous junction. It's easy to see why cars park on the pavement – the carriageway is too narrow to accommodate parked cars in the road. The local residents have asked the County Council to remove the right to park there, and to replace the dotted line with a STOP sign as cars sweep across the junction, but so far to no avail. We will keep trying!



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***Don't forget!* SPROUT AGM 2017**



**Sunday 25th June
3–4pm**

The Pavilion, Louie Memorial Fields, Arnold's Way

Everybody welcome, especially Sprout volunteers.

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**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 in future issues. telephone 724452 for inclusion in future issues.**

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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 -7.30 : Alison Griffin 01865 379247                                                                                                                              |
| <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>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 Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                               | Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.15–11am, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall                                                                                                                                       |
| <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<br>Brendan Byrne Ox.792531 <a href="mailto:bb@bridewellconsulting.com">bb@bridewellconsulting.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>Chair-based Exercise Class</b>                                    | Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Seacourt Hall<br>Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601                                                                                                              |
| <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>                                         | Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoral.co.uk">www.cumnorchoral.co.uk</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 Chirs Impey, 01865 721026                                                                    |
| <b>Fit Steps – exercise based on dance</b>                           | Friday 6–7pm, Seacourt Hall. Email Rosalie on <a href="mailto:rosalie.crane@btinternet.com">rosalie.crane@btinternet.com</a>                                                                        |
| <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:hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk">hill.end@oxfordshire.gov.uk</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>                                                                                                                |



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|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mum and Baby Yoga</b> for babies from 6 wks to crawling | Mondays 10.30 at Dean Court CC, contact Jacqueline Rice via <a href="https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk">https://yogawithjacqueline.co.uk</a>                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey after school club</b>                         | Mon–Thurs 3–6pm Contact: Oxford 794287                                                                                                                                                       |
| <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:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>                                                                                   |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                               | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>N Hinksey Horticultural Society</b>                     | Contact: Ann Dykes 01865 251821 <a href="mailto:anndykes@hotmail.com">anndykes@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                               |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                            | Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</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. Marina Bennett 01865 242312                                                                                                                             |
| <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 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:jamesy1976@hotmail.co.uk">jamesy1976@hotmail.co.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>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>                             | Contacts: Julie and John Tailor 01865 763394.                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                            | David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                               |
| <b>Royal Voluntary Service</b> (West Way Day Centre)       | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. <a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>                                    |
| <b>Saturdads</b> Elms Rd Children's Centre                 | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955                                                                                                     |
| <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: Marion Bostock 436277                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                         | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>                                                                            |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                                     | (Uni of the 3rd Age) Elizabeth Stevens, 739252                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Which Craft?</b>                                        | Pavilion, Arnold's way, third Monday, contact <a href="mailto:whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk">whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</a>                                                               |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                          | Monthly, 1st Tuesday: Liz Manson, tel. 244175 or email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>                                                            |

