

# The Sprout



Flower-filled mechanical egg, snapped by WI at Malvern Show

**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 129 July 2018**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 129, July 2018**

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### **From the Editor**

*The Sprout* continues to monitor ongoing changes. The shopping centre redevelopment update is on page 15, and on page 5 an account of walking the route of the proposed Flood Relief channel. The Parish Council has now moved into the Grant Thornton building, and you can read about the new set-up on page 31. We were sorry to learn that last month's cover caused consternation in the Baptist community, and we would like to apologize unreservedly to anyone who thought we were announcing the demise of the congregation, rather than the church building. We are glad to report the Baptists of Botley are still thriving, and are looking forward to moving to their new church in due course. You will find a history of the Baptists in Botley on our centre pages (p.22). The Neighbourhood Plan is in its final stages (p.13), and there will be a display at the Seacourt Hall Open Day on July 15th. There are changes at the Library, too, where we now have a new manager (p.39). We were sad to hear of the death in May of Philip Stevens, a founder-member of North Hinksey Publications (aka *The Sprout*). There are tributes to this much missed community stalwart on page 19. Don't forget *The Sprout* AGM, up at the Pavilion on Sunday 8th July at 3pm. Linda Losito will give a short talk about the flora and fauna of our playing fields. See you there! There won't be another issue now until September. Enjoy your summer, we'll be back with the new school term.

**Ag MacKeith**

## Letters to the Editor

### Money well spent?

The statistics produced by Cllr Potter in the June *Sprout* on the recent consultation by Nortoft for the Parish Council on the “rejuvenation” of the Louie Memorial Fields and Pavilion were interesting. One in particular stands out: fewer than 1 in 20 parishioners contributed to the consultation, including those in the age range 10–24, for whom the changes were specifically designed.

As a Vale taxpayer, I would find it very difficult to see how the Vale can justify spending more than one million pounds on such a poorly supported project, at a time when essential services for both young and old are being cut back, and hospices are being forced to close some of their activities.

Interestingly, the support was almost the same as the level of interest shown when the Parish Council circulated all households in 2015 with a questionnaire about leisure facilities. This could well reflect the large variety already available in the area, as shown in the draft North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan.

**Andrew Pritchard**



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## Flood Alleviation Channel Walk

About 25 people, three dogs and two bicycles gathered at the Park and Ride for a walk along part of the proposed flood channel on 2nd June. The walk was organised by Debbie Dance (Director) and Rachel Sanderson (Land Officer) of the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) who own some of the land. Rachel explained the object of the walk was to locate where the flood channel was going to be on the ground, and to explain how the hydrology would change. She said that the lack of trees and loss of flowers, such as the snake's head fritillaries, would make the area feel much more suburban. More trees will be planted, but not here.



We set off, entering the Nature Reserve (Oxford City Council land) via the gate off the Botley Road, and regrouped to look at a map showing the extent of the channel. Debbie emphasised that nearly all of the current trees will be felled so that the water can flow unimpeded in time of flood. The Seacourt stream will be deepened, to provide a “first stage” channel, while the area where we were standing is to be lowered by at least one metre to be the “second stage” channel for flood events. It will be grassed and mown several times a year, but maintenance is only guaranteed for 5 or 10 years. We walked on till we came to the pylons where she explained that the two channels will divide leaving the pylon on an island.

Then onto OPT land where the wide channel keeps close to the stream before veering off towards the middle of Willow Walk. Hinksey Meadow is MT4 grassland (a rare, nationally recognised ecological category) the value of which has only recently been recognized by the planners. Consequently the width of the channel here has been reduced from 150m to 60m, but it is still going to be very wide. The remaining OPT land, small and unfenced, will not easily find a tenant. Debbie was also concerned that the modelling was not reliable, since it was only two months ago that they had realised that without an additional bund at Bulstake Stream, the Thames could be flowing upstream towards North Hinksey.

Willow Walk will get a 19m single-span bridge, two metres higher than at present. It would be 'Highways standard width' so that the bridge could be maintained. It was hard to understand why this was necessary, since the old bridge near North Hinksey Lane is much weaker and narrower. A more appropriate design should be sought which still allows access. Trees to 40m each side will have to be felled in order for a 1:20 slope to be installed.

On the other side of Willow walk are more OPT fields, once used to graze ponies from the local riding school. This field contains the only known population of Creeping Marshwort in the country. It was transplanted from Port Meadow when that population became threatened. The only other place it has been found is Thetford, but that is now believed to be extinct. Earlier that week the grass near it had been cut with a lawnmower, but today it was under water due to the recent heavy rain.

This was an enjoyable walk with the information presented in an unbiased way. The OPT has been working very hard to try to mitigate the effect of the channel, but comments were still welcome from the public, especially to change the style of the new bridge.

**Colin & Sally Hersom.**



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## Immy Howard, Milliner

You may have admired all the wonderful hats at the recent Royal Wedding and felt inspired to find something gorgeous for your next special occasion. Look no further! Botley can now boast its very own milliner. Immy Howard is a hat-maker par excellence who provides headwear for all events, including photoshoots and a bespoke service as well as hats for hire.

I visited Immy in her workspace in Botley and found her oozing with creativity, enthusiasm and love for her work. Inspired by many things, she particularly likes vintage silhouettes, bold colours, and flowers and feels that

a good hat should stand on its own merit rather than be a last minute add on to an outfit. Consultations are relaxed, though professional, and Immy is particularly keen to ensure that clients feel comfortable with her creations. She tells me that she strives to make hats accessible to everyone and anyone – to wear one of her hats should make you feel confident and not self-conscious.



Immy graduated from Arts University Bournemouth with a First Class (Hons) degree in Costume Design in June 2017. Since then she has been working part time at the Oxford Playhouse as a wardrobe assistant and has worked on the last two Playhouse pantos including creating the hats for their production of Cinderella while still an undergrad. She also works on bridal wear with Rosie Red Corsetry & Couture in Eynsham and is collaborating with Rosie on a collection of bridal headpieces planned for 2019 which, although based in Oxford, will be

mainly online. Apparently hats are easy to post! All this still leaves plenty of time for her own creations and Immy is currently working on bespoke pieces for Ascot. She provides a colour-matching service for those who have already chosen their outfits and everything is handmade by her. She also makes sample pieces to help a client find the right shape for themselves before deciding on final colour and personalized embellishments.

The latest feather in her cap? Tatler magazine selected one of Immy's creations to feature in a piece entitled 'Head Turners' and I quote: 'Immy Howard creates wonderfully designed millinery pieces for any occasion. Be it classic or "out of the ordinary" the sky is the limit for Immy Howard Millinery'. What an accolade! This local girl is certainly going places with her beautiful creations.

For an informal consultation or queries contact Immy by email [immyhowardmillinery@gmail.com](mailto:immyhowardmillinery@gmail.com) by phone on 07584 559240 via her website [www.immyhowardmillinery.com](http://www.immyhowardmillinery.com).

**Viv Smith**



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## Neighbourhood Plan – Final Consultation to 31st July

The North Hinksey Parish Neighbourhood Plan has now reached a very important stage, as it is finally nearing completion. Up to 31st July Parishioners, local businesses and other key stakeholders will have a last opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Plan and the twenty-one planning policies it contains.

Copies of the Plan itself, plus various support documents, can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website at [www.nhinkseynp.org.uk](http://www.nhinkseynp.org.uk) together with a feedback form.

Printed copies of all documents are also available at Botley Library throughout the consultation, and will be on show at the **Open Day in Seacourt Hall from 11am to 5pm on the 15th July** where there will be a display, and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Team will be on hand to answer your questions.

Following the consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan Team will consider the feedback and, where appropriate, make final changes before the Plan is submitted to the District Council for consideration by an Independent Examiner.

The Independent Examiner may suggest further changes, but all things being well, the Plan should go to referendum later this year. At this point you will get an opportunity to vote on adopting the Plan, but will not be able to suggest any further changes as the referendum is a simple yes / no vote.

Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the legislation applying to all planning applications up to 2031, alongside the Vale's Local Plan 2031, and will therefore have a major impact on future developments within our local area.

**Cllr David Kay**, Chairman, N. Hinksey Parish Neighbourhood Plan

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## July update on West Way Redevelopment

**Demolition and Relocation:** July should see the next stages of relocation and demolition, when the (now rehoused) old Baptist Church and Seacourt Hall will be the next buildings to be demolished.

Mace has submitted two separate planning applications to demolish units 25-28 West Way shopping centre. Demolition is already approved under the full planning application, but these have been submitted to allow the demolition to proceed and the temporary units to open, in advance of the pre-commencement conditions being discharged.

The decision date for these applications is 19th June. WWCC has asked to be told how the demolition will impact on Chapel Way and how safety will be ensured.

Work to fit out the temporary retail units continues. Tesco and Co-op are doing their own, and will relocate once they are ready. Before they can open, the roadworks to allow delivery vehicle access from West Way must be completed, and the conditions placed on the relevant planning permission be discharged. The conditions on cycle parking and public toilets are still under discussion, as the County Council have concerns about cycle stands blocking the Chapel Way pavement, and about the width and safety of the access route to the public toilets.

**Construction vehicle routing and safety:** Last year, Mace promised that construction vehicles would use the least dangerous routes into and out of the site, which are a right turn inward from Westminster Way, and outward via West Way. SDC submitted a Construction Environmental Management Plan, which proposed the more dangerous route involving a left turn in from West Way. At the public drop-in event on 4th June, they said that the right turn-in route would be used. They also said that there would be a banksman available on Church Way, to walk beside large vehicles, to ensure the safety of pedestrians, and to avoid conflict with vehicles turning into or out of Elms Parade. We have asked them to clarify and update the submitted plans.

**Planning Applications: Approval of application for changes to the full development:** This application was considered by the Vale's planning committee on 30th May. WWCC, and local councillors Debby Hallett (District) and Judy Roberts (County) spoke about safety issues. A letter from Layla Moran MP also expressing concerns about safety was read out. The committee approved the plans, subject to conditions. A cycle parking plan will need to be approved, covering means of access to

each location, method of storage and type of racks to be used and associated security measures to be employed.

**New planning application for the temporary units:** Mace have now submitted a new application for the temporary units, to cover these changes: demolition of units 25-28 of West Way shopping centre (on Chapel Way opposite Seacourt Hall); a portacabin to house Chancellors estate agents, and space for Branches Youth Café on the first floor of Elms Court. We queried safety precautions during the demolition.

**Cycle parking:** We continue to be disappointed that Mace does not take the need for safe cycle parking more seriously. They have increased the number of parking spaces, but again cycle parking is an after-thought, resulting in locations which are inconvenient or which create an obstacle for other users. Space should be found for the promised provision of a secure cycle compound for residents and employees (and showers for employees). This would be in the interests of all users, and result in a more successful and pleasant centre.

Besides, many will use the West Way centre for convenience or top-up shopping, for which bicycle would be the appropriate means of transport. We are interested in the safety of and convenience of all cycle users. It is national and local policy to encourage cycling over other forms of transport, and Oxford claims to be a 'cycling city'.

Mace have taken the opposite approach, maximising car parking, and squeezing cycle spaces into dark corners or with racks which would be unusable for many cycles or by anyone not tall and strong. This is hard to understand, given that the 260 students will not be allowed cars, and that Premier Inn promotes itself as cyclist friendly. Students will park their cycles where they consider safe (which may inconvenience other users of the centre), and may even prefer to live where secure compounds are available for their cycles.

Mace and Mountford Pigott should take this into consideration if they wish the centre to be a success.

We will continue to monitor the planning process until the development is built and take part in ongoing dialogue with the developers and the community. Over the summer you can keep up-to-date via our website, Facebook and Twitter and contact us any time by email. You can find us on **[Westwayconcern.wordpress.com](http://Westwayconcern.wordpress.com)** **[facebook.com/westwayconcern](https://facebook.com/westwayconcern)** **[twitter.com/westwayconcern](https://twitter.com/westwayconcern)** or email us on **[westwayconcern@gmail.com](mailto:westwayconcern@gmail.com)**

**Mary Gill**, Chair, West Way Community Concern

## Tributes to Philip Stevens

With Philip's passing at the end of May, we certainly lost a hard working community stalwart. He was kind, generous, a very reliable man with a lovely sense of humour and a twinkle in his eye when being mischievous. His commitment to serving others was amazing. After his retirement as a senior planning officer he always kept abreast of all legislative changes. When elected to North Hinksey Parish Council he was an obvious choice to become Chair of Planning. He personally visited every planning application site in our area, made detailed notes and quietly advised the Planning Committee of his observations. Long after his time on NHPC his expertise was sought on complicated and big planning applications.



He was one of the group of six who started The Sprout and worked hard to ensure its survival before more advertisers and volunteers came on board. The *Sprout* continues to provide news and information free of charge to every household and business in the North Hinksey area. He covered a delivery round until ill health forced him to stop.

Philip was Vice Chairman of the Botley & North Hinksey Community Team that runs the community website [www.botleyhinksey.org.uk](http://www.botleyhinksey.org.uk) and was responsible for keeping the calendar diary up to date.

He was a wonderful community-minded man and if he committed to a cause he was reliable, hardworking and a pleasure to have on a team. Like many others, I shall miss him and his expertise will be a big loss to many organisations. At one time he was treasurer on four different groups he was involved in, no one wanted to take over so he did his best. Typical of Philip!

**Briony Newport**

It would be hard to find another individual who has given up more of their life to supporting local organisations, and the community of Botley and North Hinksey as a whole, than Philip Stevens.

Although his time as a Parish Councillor ended a number of years ago, his contributions to many of the Council's core activities, in particular relating to Planning, had a major impact that continues to resonate today. While moving NHPC's archived files into the new location for Seacourt Hall, we found a surprising number of plans and other documents with Philip's name on them.

In more recent years Philip continued to contribute to other Parish Council related activities, including membership of the Seacourt Hall Management Committee, and volunteering with the Neighbourhood Plan Team. In the latter role he not only became a member of the overall Steering Committee and took on the position of Treasurer, but also joined the Housing Working Group, undoubtedly the trickiest section of the whole Plan. As ever Philip always put forward his opinions calmly and listened carefully to others even when discussions got particularly heated. Although he had considerable experience in planning matters he never suggested that he thought he knew better than you, but he did have a knack of gently guiding the process forward in a logical way.

Overall Philip was a true gentleman, and he will be greatly missed by all those people who have worked closely with him over the years.

**David Kay**



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## Botley Baptists

*Planted in the past as a lasting witness for the future*

Botley Baptist Church was born in 1892, when regular meetings for divine worship were held in the Workman's Hall in Old Botley, rented from the Earl of Abingdon. It survived its first decade with the dedicated help of New Road Baptist Church, in Bonn Square, which supplied preachers and financial assistance. The new Church had a real heart and zeal for its mission. During the summer months, evangelical meetings were held in Dean Court, Wytham Lane (now Botley Interchange on the A34) and also the then Co-op Recreational Grounds on Botley Road (now under the Park & Ride). The rise in general literacy towards the end of the nineteenth century, encouraged them to distribute leaflets widely.

At the turn of the nineteenth century, Baptist witness in Botley was well established and a chapel on Botley Road was built in 1912–13, financed by the sacrificial giving of a small community, aided by an individual grant of £100. The chapel (now a surveyors' office) stood witness to the transforming work of Jesus Christ for the next fifty-four years.

Regent's Park College's move to Oxford in 1927 was a blessing to many Baptist Churches. During 1929–1933 four student ministers among others sustained the work at Botley, made possible through generous grants by members towards their stipends.



In March 1932 a Women's Bright Hour initiative started ministry among women. The tireless endeavours of Mrs J Tucker, Mrs E P Sharpe and Mrs Neale over several years, laid the foundation for a robust women's fellowship, now known as Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT).

During the Second World War, membership dwindled, and the morning service was suspended. Members of the New Road Church living close to Botley were encouraged to attend the Botley Church's afternoon service and the New Road Young People's Fellowship started a local youth centre. Brixton Girls' School moved to Botley during the War, and their use of the Church premises bolstered finances. As a result, Botley was able to contribute towards the work of the Baptist Missionary Society and make a donation to the newly established John Bunyan Baptist Church in Cowley.

After the war ended, a succession of student ministers from Regent's Park College increased the congregation and Sunday children's services to 60 in the morning and 52 in the afternoon! In October 1951, 13 new members were received and a further 10 were baptised in that year.

In 1952, at a joint meeting between Botley and Eynsham Baptist Churches, Richard J Hamper, student Minister at Regent's Park College was unanimously invited, ordained and inducted as the first full-time Minister serving both Churches. Botley recorded 12 new members, including 8 through Baptism. Growth in Church and Sunday school attendance made it necessary to consider larger premises. A new Church building on the corner of Westminster Way and Chapel Way came into service on 9 September 1967 with financial assistance from the Baptist Union Corporation helped by the sale of South Hinksey Baptist Church (now the village hall).

In 2004, 112 years after the arrival of the Church in Botley, its members desired a renewal of the Church to serve Botley, North Hinksey, Cumnor and neighbouring areas. Woodfield Brady Architects were briefed to develop a scheme that reflected the Church's aspiration to provide a place of worship and fellowship, fit for purpose in the 21st century, and which also offered a renewed partnership with Regent's Park College. The College's Principal, Revd Dr Robert Ellis said, "The Botley Centre offers us the opportunity of extending our provision for students, and in such a way as to create a small, self-contained community away from our main college site. It's an exciting development."

At a special meeting in September 2016, the Botley Baptist Church decided unanimously, to join the scheme for the redevelopment of the West Way shopping precinct as proposed by MACE, and approved by the county council in April 2016. A new purpose-built building will offer a modern worship space, several spacious meeting rooms and residential flats for the church to serve the community in new and exciting ways. See [www.botleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org) to learn more about us, or email us at [botleybaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:botleybaptistchurch@gmail.com).

*Please pray for us and join us if you are able, in God's exciting ministry in the west of Oxford!*

(From a leaflet submitted by **Rev. Kalyan Das**)



## Brownies Take the Challenge

Since the previous article 2nd Botley Brownies welcomed another newcomer, Ailla, before continuing to work through the syllabus for an anniversary Trefoil Guild badge. The latest thing we did was play map-symbol bingo which was exactly that – but great fun.

As promised, we had a fabulous Division Guiding Activity Day at a local Scout campsite. The leaders at Division level had kindly organized an activity day for all Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from the West of Oxford area. Our coach had to arrive in an allotted time-slot so that everyone could get a fair share of the activities on offer. Our Brownies enjoyed increasing levels of difficulty as they climbed up the climbing wall and then abseiled



down again four times. Then we moved on to caving – a “Marmite” experience. After our lovely lunches, we completed a small puzzle book and a bingo-style quiz, in which you could earn a lollipop by asking other girls and leaders questions as an “ice-breaker”. All the girls were desperately keen to complete that quiz and get the reward, so there was a lot of helping each other with the questions to make sure this happened! Finally, we tried our hand at archery, leaving just enough time to cook some summores over the camp fire before catching our coach home.

Here are some comments from the girls themselves:

*“Rock wall – I really liked it. Hard but I did it.”*

*“Scary caving – but I tried it.”*

*“Caving – I did it! It was scary and claustrophobic.”*

*“Archery – I scored two in the red!”*

*“I liked the campfire.”*

*“Bingo lollipop was a great idea.”*

*“It was great seeing so many Guiding faces.”*

Before the next edition we shall be off on our themed “Robin Hood” Brownie Holiday.

**Lucy Howes**





## Essential Tremor Awareness

"I don't have Parkinson's. I inherited my shaking head from my grandfather Hepburn. I discovered that whiskey helps stop the shaking. Problem is, if you're not careful, it stops the rest of you too. My head just shakes, but I promise you, it ain't gonna fall off!"

When Katherine Hepburn said these words in the documentary "All about me" she was referring to a neurological condition variously called Palsy, Benign Familial Tremor, and now Essential Tremor (ET).

The National Tremor Foundation (NTF) is the registered British charity which supports people with this condition. Established in 1994 they estimate that up to eight times as many people have the condition as have Parkinson's. But have you even heard of it?

ET most commonly occurs in the hands, head, jaw, lips, voice, legs or trunk. Some people are born with the condition, but it can develop at any stage of life frequently increasing in severity with age. Described as an "intention tremor" or "action tremor" it's cause is not known – this is what the "essential" in Essential Tremor means in medical parlance. Though for many it may be no more than an annoyance, its severity can increase until people have difficulty performing everyday tasks of eating, dressing or teeth cleaning. It is exacerbated by stress, hunger, cold or tiredness. Some prescription medicines also seem to make the tremor more marked. Those with the condition are often accused of being nervous or afraid, or to be suffering the after effects of drink or drugs.

Diagnosis is important, to rule out other conditions such as Parkinson's or Dystonia. In the past, and in some parts of the world still today, patients were recommended to drink alcohol; but though it hides the symptoms in the short term this can lead to very dangerous dependence. The drugs commonly prescribed often have side-effects, but a treatment has been developed that stimulates the brain using wires attached to a battery under the skin, and trials are underway using ultrasound waves.

March is the Month designated for raising awareness of ET. This year the NTF held an Open Day at the Holiday Inn in Oxford. Presentations included the recent trials of Magnetic Resonance-guided Focused Ultrasound, and Kevin Harfoot, Chair and Treasurer of the NTF, and Jackie Farrell, support group coordinator, spoke about their respective roles. Jackie also gave a presentation on ET. I spoke about my own experience of the condition and set out the plans for the new Oxford support group, which I presently organize.

It is important to raise awareness in society generally, and so to empower those with the condition. This can be done through a network of local groups, sharing experiences and exchanging coping strategies. Support is growing. Downton fans will remember Carson the butler developing the shaking hands which had brought an end to his father's career. This was written into the series by Lord Fellowes (President of the NTF), who had developed the condition himself. Corrie's Rob Mallard spoke out about the condition after being accused of taking drugs when his tremor was noticed in a television interview. Charles Schultz, the creator of Peanuts, had the condition, and probably so did a medieval scribe who is known to us only as "The Tremulous Hand of Worcester" and whose wobbly handwriting may be seen in beautiful ancient manuscripts where he translated Old English into Middle English.

If you have Essential Tremor and would like to meet up with others with the condition for social get-togethers, trips out, or educating ourselves and others about it, please get in touch with me; and if you know someone who has a tremor, please pass them this article to read. You can contact me at: [oxford@tremor.org.uk](mailto:oxford@tremor.org.uk) or on 07851 774182. For further information go to [www.tremor.org.uk](http://www.tremor.org.uk)

**Katherine Phillips**

## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P18/V0973/DIS, P18/V1239/FUL P18/V1190/D, P18/V1191/D	Botley Centre West Way. Discharge of several conditions, temp change of use, change to access arrangements. Demolish Baptist Church & units 24-28 Chapel Way.	<b>15 May</b> <i>Target Decision Date: 11 July</i>
P18/V1208/HH	14 Sweetmans Rd. Variation of conditions 2 & 3 of P17/V0600/HH. including new drive access.	<b>15 May</b> <i>TDD: 10 July</i>
P18/V1133/HH	12 Poplar Rd. Proposed loft conversion, single storey rear extension and alterations.	<b>22 May</b> <i>TDD: 17 July</i>
P18/V1322/HH	1 St Pauls Crescent. 2 storey side extension over garage to enlarge bedroom & create a study.	<b>24 May</b> <i>TDD: 19 July</i>
P18/V1328/HH	108 North Hinksey Lane. Single storey rear extension.	<b>25 May</b> <i>TDD: 20 July</i>
P18/V1426/DIS	Gables 6 Cumnor Hill. Discharge several conditions to P17/V3275/FUL..	<b>6 June</b> <i>TDD: 18 July</i>

## Seacourt Hall Open Day – Sunday 15th July

You are invited to an Open Day on Sunday 15th July to view the new location for Seacourt Hall.

After a couple of years of uncertainty and delays around the West Way redevelopment, Seacourt Hall has now moved next door to the second floor of the Grant Thornton building. The new location is temporary, but we will be located there for at least a year until the brand new Community Hall is built as part of the West Way redevelopment. This temporary elevated location provides new opportunities for the community, with more space and light, larger hall and dance floor, meeting / presentation room, craft room and fully fitted out kitchen. The spaces are ideal for clubs, exercise and dance classes, meetings, catered events and parties! The new hall space provides:

- Larger hall – 230 m<sup>2</sup> including dance floor area (120 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Kitchen facilities
- Larger meeting / presentation room (c. 50 m<sup>2</sup>)
- New Craft room (c. 30 m<sup>2</sup>) primarily used by Branches Young People's group
- Lift with wheelchairs provided and accessible toilets
- Lots of light (trees screen the view of the A34!) and good soundproofing.

As you may know, the ground floor houses the Co-op and the first floor is the temporary home for the Baptist Church and their café, open from Monday to Saturday. It's a great place to catch up for a coffee, cake or lunch after your class or meeting!

We have more photos on the website [www.seacourthall.org.uk](http://www.seacourthall.org.uk) and on the Parish Council Facebook page, but why not come and see for yourselves on our Open Day? The day will include:

- Information on how to hire the hall and meeting rooms

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- Details of the long-term plans for the permanent Community Hub
- A display about the Neighbourhood Plan consultation
- Opportunities to meet local groups and organisations
- Art activities for all ages in the Craft Room
- Tea, coffee and cakes provided by Branches Youth café
- And more.

We are excited to welcome existing and new users to this expanded, flexible space. You can book the hall online at [www.seacourthall.org.uk](http://www.seacourthall.org.uk), by email: [seacourt.hall@gmail.com](mailto:seacourt.hall@gmail.com) and by phone on 07452 960100. It's the first step towards Botley's new Community Hub, planned for the redeveloped shopping centre. Come along on July 15th and get a feel for how it might work.

**Lorna Berrett**, Chair, Seacourt Hall Management Committee

## Botley Bridges Summer Programme

What will you be doing with your little ones over the summer? Botley Bridges is here to help! As well as the Wednesday and Friday regular programme starting on 30th July and findable on their website [www.botleybridges.org](http://www.botleybridges.org) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/botleybridges](http://www.facebook.com/botleybridges), they will be reprising last year's popular sessions in local parks with fun and crafts for kids aged 1–10.

They cost £2.50 per family (concessions: £1) and will be all around the area as follows: **30th July, Cumnor Hurst**, 1.30-3.30; **8th August, Louie Memorial Field**, same times; **15th August, Botley Park**, ditto; **20th August, Cumnor Glebe Rd Park**, morning session 10.30 to 12.30, **Wed 29th, Oatlands Rd Rec**, same times, and **3rd Sept, Dean Court Playground**, 1.30 to 3.30. *Be there or miss a treat!*

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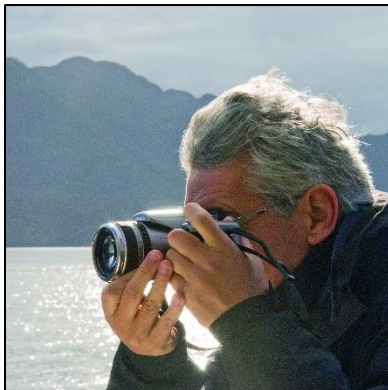
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## Literary Botley (part 1)

This article looks at some authors of books who, at one time or another, lived in North Hinksey parish (their names will be in **bold**). They don't have to be living here at the time that the book was written or published.

North Hinksey Village seems to be the literary capital of this area. Undoubtedly one of its most successful authors, who is also a publisher, is **Chris Andrews**. (See photo.) He is renowned for excellent photograph books of places like Oxford, the Cotswolds, Stratford Upon Avon and Cheltenham. His *Oxford, The Colleges and University* (2004) even has a foreword from the University's chancellor, Chris Patten. He also published *Rocking in Oxford* by Botley's **Trevor Hayward** who died in 2016. This year Chris published *The Spirit of the Royal Air Force – One Hundred Years of Excellence*.



**Sir Walter Raleigh** of Harcourt Hill, as mentioned before in *The Sprout* was the first official historian of the RAF and his book *The War in the Air: being the story of the part played in the Great War by the Royal Air Force*, was published shortly after his death in 1922.

One of my favourite books to be written by a local is by **Alice Maud Harvey** (née Bishop), who recorded her memories in the book *Memories of a Country Childhood in North Hinksey Village*. She spent much of her long life living here and was a lovely lady.

The van Heningen family once lived at College Farm in North Hinksey and have had talent in abundance. **Ruth van Heyningen**, a leading researcher on the biochemistry of the eye, celebrated her 100th birthday last year. Her husband (known as Kits) who, after World War Two, carried out research with Howard Florey at the William Dunn School of Pathology in Oxford published, under the name **W.E. van Heyningen**, *The Key to Lockjaw: an autobiography* in 1987 and also translated Marcel Pagol's books *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources* into English. They were subsequently made into films. Carol Phillips, who was his secretary from 1971–81 recalled to me that one of her favourite jobs was typing up these translations on a Monday morning. Kits was the first master of Oxford's

St Cross College when it was founded in 1961. Both Kits and Ruth also had published many scientific papers and reviews in journals.

**Chris Sugden**, a North Hinksey Village resident since 1983, mentioned in the May 2018 edition of *The Sprout* a book on a sensitive but important issue, *Talking about Dying* of which his wife **Elaine Sugden** was a co-author. Another of her books was *Unfamiliar Journey – Christian and Inter-Faith Relations*, co-written with John Sargent. Chris has also written several books on faith matters including his *Radical Discipleship* (co-written) in 1981, *The Natural Mystery of Folk Religion* (1992) and *Seeking The Asian Face of Jesus* (1997) amongst others.

Finally I must mention a gem of a book, *The Story of North Hinksey* by **Diana Swayne** (1973), who came to live in Ferry Cottage by the Fishes in the mid 1960s. In her credits she mentions fellow villager Maggie Berry (née Floyd) and Richard Jeffery from Harcourt Hill. She later moved away but whatever happened to this remarkable lady? Find out in part 2! If you know of anyone you'd like to add to the roster of local authors, please do get in touch. You can phone me on Oxford 725116 or email me at [martin.harris321@gmail.com](mailto:martin.harris321@gmail.com)

**Martin Harris**



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## Summer at the Library

Jim Keen has managed Botley Library since 2010, but has left to move back to Wantage, his home town, and take up the post of Group Library Manager with responsibility for Faringdon, Bampton and Grove as well as Wantage itself. He leaves with mixed emotions, he says, looking forward to the challenge, but sure he will miss 'the excellent staff and the community surrounding us which has always been welcoming and supportive throughout my time here.' Thanks, Jim, for all your hard work. And a warm welcome to Elizabeth Ward, the new manager. She has worked in Oxfordshire Libraries for 17 years, and comes to us from Summertown Library.



This year's **Summer Reading challenge** for children starts on Saturday 14th July and the theme is 'Mischief Makers'. Oxfordshire children can join Dennis, Gnasher and friends in libraries this summer for an epic journey in Beanotown. Find buried treasure, solve clues and collect stickers as you read 6 books of your choice. Pop in to the library and we can sign you up.

We are not forgetting the grown-ups, either, as the library service is running **Oxfordshire Reads** from Saturday 7th July, when we'll be inviting readers to tell us about their favourite books. Everyone who completes a postcard, available from libraries, is then entered in to a prize draw and could win some exciting prizes!

We are running **Craft sessions** on Sat 14th and Sat 21st July. Materials all provided but children must be accompanied by an adult. Don't forget that **Digital helpers** are available for help with computers so please check with the library for dates and times.

Readers who are going away on holiday and prefer eBooks to lighten their load can check out our ebooks, Audio books and magazines available for downloading via the 'Libby', Borrowbox or RBDigital apps. Please ask your friendly library staff if you want to learn more.

Finally, can we reassure our readers that we are not moving from our present location until the new library is built.

*A happy Summer to all our readers.*

**Botley Library Staff**



## Police Update

**Parking problems** The neighbourhood team has recently been called out to a parking confrontation around Cumnor Hill and Delamare Way. While we appreciate that intrusive parking can be frustrating, we would like to remind people that damaging or interfering with vehicles, or acting in a threatening or abusive way to their drivers, is not acceptable and will be dealt with appropriately. If residents have a grievance about parking they should contact the Vale or the County Council highways department, unless an offence is being committed, in which case call 101.

**Witness appeals** A house on Lime Road was burgled on the afternoon of May 18th. The burglars forced the front door and a high value of gold was stolen. A house on Evelyn Close was also broken into sometime during 23rd May. The offenders gained entry by forcing a rear door, although nothing appears to have been taken.

If anyone has any information about either of these incidents please call 101. If you would like any security advice, you can email me on **AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**.

**Have your say meetings** Alternatively, if you would like a face-to-face chat with me about any local concerns, you will find me at the Dean Court Community Centre between 2 and 3pm on **9th June** and **7th July**. I was there recently on 21st May for a meeting of the University of the 3rd Age, making a presentation on crime prevention covering home security, burglaries and fraud.

**New South and Vale Facebook site** To complement our other channels of communication we have launched the South and Vale Facebook page. If you are on Facebook please visit **[www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale](https://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale)** and like/follow us.

**Contact us** If you would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 (in an emergency dial 999). To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: **[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)**. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at **[www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)** today. You can choose what updates you receive and how you would like to receive them. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is bang up to the moment. You can follow us **@TVPSouthandVale**.

**PCSO Adrian Wright**

# Randoms

## **Part-Time Caretaker needed at LM Fields**

North Hinksey Parish council is looking for a new part-time caretaker. The current post holder is leaving for full-time work, so there is an outdoor job on offer up the top. The gross salary is £247.45 a month, for an average of 24 hours work. (It's worked out by averaging the monthly hours over the year, as there is less to do in the winter.) The pavilion is run by a management committee and the caretaker's work will involve liaising and working with them, carrying out safety checks on the play equipment, marking the lines on the football pitch, etc, etc. For further details and a job description with a full list of duties, please contact the Parish Clerk on Oxford 861992 or by e-mailing [nhpcclerk@msn.com](mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com) Closing date for applications: 18th July.

## **Sprout Deliverers needed**

If you'd like to volunteer locally in a way that is mildly good for your general fitness, please consider becoming a Sprout deliverer. It can take as little as half an hour a month, so it's hardly arduous, and it's so worth it! We also need a few people to sit on the relief roster, ready to step into the shoes of a regular deliverer who's ill or on holiday. If this could be you, contact [deliveries@thesprout.org.uk](mailto:deliveries@thesprout.org.uk) or come and talk to us at the Sprout AGM on 8th July up at the Pavilion.

**Have you got surplus food?** Are you going on holiday with your fridge half full? Is your garden or allotment producing more than you can eat? Are your trees drooping with fruit? Please help to reduce food waste: **bring your surplus food to the Botley community fridge.** It is in St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, West Way OX2 9LS, and is open Mon–Sat, 9am–5pm and on Sunday 11am–5pm.

**Riki Therivel**

## **Sobell House**

Donations will be collected every other Monday until end August, 12 noon till 3pm at Ss Peter & St Paul's Church Hall. Tracy & our wonderful volunteers from our old Botley shop will be on hand to accept your donations. Come and see us and bring along your clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac etc. It will be just like old times!

**Judi Bolder**

### **Seacourt Hall Management Committee seeks nominations**

Seacourt Hall is managed by a Committee of Trustees made up of representatives of the North Hinksey Parish Council, hall users and public representatives. At the AGM on 26th September (7pm at Seacourt Hall) two members of the public will be elected by those eligible and present at the AGM. Nominations must reach the Secretary before 5pm on 12th September, by post in the letter-box at Seacourt Hall or by email to **michael.cockman@gmail.com**. To find out about the responsibilities of being a trustee, call me on 07766 317691.

**Michael Cockman**, Secretary

**Botley Women's Institute** is looking forward to listening to Liz Woolley's talk, "The Coming of the Railway to Oxford" at our meeting on 3rd July, starting at 7:30 pm. The walking group will meet at 10am on Thursday, 12th July at the W I hall for lifts to a walk around Blenheim; and on Tuesday 17th July the Craft evening will meet at 7:30pm to try decorating a little box alongside members' own craft projects. Visitors welcome!

**Alison Jenner**

### **World Poohsticks Champion**

Innes Turnbull brought the title of World Poohsticks Champion back to Botley on 3rd June, when he won the competition in Witney. He's seven years old and attends North Hinksey Primary. There's lots of good photos on their Facebook page, if you'd like to know what that entailed.

### **Sprout AGM 8th July Pavilion**

Your chance to hear Linda Losito talking about the flora and fauna of the Louie Memorial Playing Fields, a matter of close interest in the context of the proposed new pavilion and play equipment.

### **Open Day on July 15th at the New Seacourt Hall**

(Aka Grant Thornton Building). Various local groups will have stalls there, including *The Sprout*. The Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion and will be on display, and there will be a chance to comment, as well as lots of other things to do, with refreshments courtesy of the Branches Youth Cafe. Branches now has a summer programme, which they will be happy share at the open day. If you want to know more, they also have a Facebook page: **Branches Youth Cafe**

**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> 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> 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> Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>
<b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b> 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> Football teams from ages 8-16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne Ox.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>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 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:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
<b>N Hinksey Horticultural Soc</b>	Contact: Ann Dykes Ox 251821 <a href="mailto:andykes@hotmail.com">andykes@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. 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 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>Parkinson's Disease Soc</b>	Contact: Pen Keyte, Branch Secretary 01865 556032.
<b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>	David Brown <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.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>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 07815 899698 <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>Which Craft?</b>	Pavilion, Arnold's way, fourth Monday, contact <a href="mailto:whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk">whichcraft.botley@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>	Liz Manson, 244175 email <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>