

# The Sprout



Botley's Front Garden Competition is this month

**The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 158 June 2021**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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# The Sprout

## Issue 158, June 2021

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### From the Editor

What has happened since last month? The Neighbourhood Plan has been voted in, for a start. And the County Council will now be run by a more climate-aware coalition, so things may be looking up for the planet. There are details of the reconfigured Parish Council on page 7, and of plans for greening Botley on page 13. There's also an update on sewage pollution in the Seacourt Stream (p24), with ideas for lessening the problem. The Flood Alleviation Scheme, now inviting fresh questions, is raised on our Letters pages (p3) and Randoms (p35) has details of the forthcoming Parish Poll, and the new arrangements at the Tap Social and the Foodhub. For the kids, Girls football gets a boost (p19), and the Library is running its summer reading challenge (p23). How's your front garden coming along after all this rain? Have you booked your visit from the Botley in Bloom judges yet? An email entry to [editor@thesprout.org.uk](mailto:editor@thesprout.org.uk) will do it (p33). Lots going on then, and you can read all about it in the June *Sprout*.

Ag MacKeith



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## **Letters to the Editor**

### **The Roman Bridge**

I thought that I should respond to Ann Ford's enquiry (*Sprout*, December 2020) about the Willow Walk bridge in case nobody else does. The bridge was built in 1877–8 as part of an ambitious plan for a Hinksey Building Estate to be built above North Hinksey and linked to Oxford by way of a completely new carriage road (Willow Walk) branching off the ancient Ferry Hinksey causeway. The contractor died in 1878 and, although a timber road bridge was built across the Bulstake Stream in the early 1880s, no further progress was made on the estate. Willow Walk remained a private road for decades until a footbridge was built in 1923 on the site of the decayed timber road bridge and the route became the footpath it is today. The stone bridge is sometimes called the Roman Bridge because the supposed Roman road from Frilford through North Hinksey to North Oxford might have crossed the river near here, but the bridge is undoubtedly Victorian! Similarly, Willow Walk is sometimes said to have been the work of John Ruskin's undergraduates who 'improved' the village road through North Hinksey in 1874, but they certainly didn't engage in serious engineering work and bridge building. I wrote up the story of the Hinksey Building Estate for *Oxoniansia* in 1990 – you can find it here: <https://www.oxoniensia.org/volumes/1990/graham.pdf>

**Malcolm Graham**

### **Fields we love**

Do you have favourite photographs of the Hinksey Fields and the Seacourt Stream, from the Botley Road through the Fields and down to the Abingdon Road? Landscape, wildlife, flora, people and animals?

A local group, including the Oxford photographer and publisher Chris Andrews, would love to see your pictures with a view to producing a small colour souvenir of the area as it is now.

The booklet will be distributed free with the *Sprout*, sponsored by local people, businesses and the Hinksey and Osney Environment Group.

Please send any images that you would be happy to have reproduced, from any device, including phones, to [chris@cap-ox.com](mailto:chris@cap-ox.com). Though no fee is available, we hope you might be happy to join in. Please include your name so they may be credited if used. Images may also appear on the HOEG website.

**Chris Andrews**

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## **Concerns about the Flood Scheme**

The Environment Agency (EA) have now issued their consultation on their flood scheme, closing date 31st May.

Local residents, businesses, councillors and community groups need to ask questions about the scheme, which involves excavating a vast 200-metre-wide trench through the heart of Oxford's greenbelt. Should this go ahead, Oxford will witness the largest environmental catastrophe in its history. The distinguished Oxford ecologist, Dr Tim King, calculates a net loss of 160 biodiversity units, not the EA's miscalculated 40-unit gain.

The EA propose to transplant approximately one third of the rare MG4 grassland to a new location. Nobody can guarantee that the unique plant communities will survive this move, because it's not been done before.

How will the 4000 planned tree saplings, which take 80 years to grow into mature trees, compensate for the loss of nearly 4000 mature trees, three miles of hedgerow and the birds, mammals and insects that depend on them?

While Oxford needs a flood scheme, how can the EA justify a cost of over £100,000 per house at a cost: benefit ratio calculated by two independent Oxford economists of just £2 for every £1 spent?

Why is the Environment Agency not actively pursuing several engineering alternatives which have been shown to deliver the same or greater benefits in flood protection, at less cost, and without the environmental destruction and removal of thousands of tons of spoil necessitated by the flood channel? How many lorry loads, going along what routes, and for how long, will that entail?

A flood scheme that protects Oxford residents without destroying its natural heritage is 100% possible. Nobody wants the delays and costs of a public enquiry. We urge readers to make their views known.

We can provide further evidence on request.

**Chris Sugden**, Chair, Ferry Hinksey Trust

**Dr Rod Chalk**, Hinksey and Osney Environment Group

*[They may take comments and questions for a few days after the closing date. Always worth a try! Ed]*

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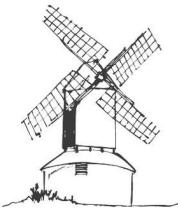
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## Your Parish Council: changes for the new Council year

Each May, North Hinksey Parish Council holds its Annual Meeting. This is when we elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and agree the members and chairmen of the various committees.

After six years as Chairman of the Parish Council, David Kay decided not to stand again. We thank David and express our deep appreciation of his hard work, dedication and diligent chairmanship since 2015. His leadership has steered us through changing times and overseen the achievement of some of our key objectives, including, most recently, the referendum and adoption of the North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan, which David championed over seven years. We also appreciated his calm leadership during the unprecedented disruption of COVID-19.

Replacing David as Chairman of the Parish Council is Caroline Potter (*see photo*), who has been leading the R&A Committee for some years and was previously Vice Chairman of the Council. The new Vice Chairman is Lorna Berrett, and committee chairmen are:

- Recreation & Amenities (including Louie Memorial Playing Fields):  
Darren Blase
- Planning: Adam Rankin
- Environment & Wellbeing:  
Chris Church
- Communications: Lorna Berrett
- Remembrance Day:  
Graham Fairclough



There were not enough volunteers to form an Allotments committee, so currently allotments matters will be dealt with by the full council. We will discuss how to manage the parish-owned allotments in the future at the 24th June Parish Council meeting.

Other roles agreed in our Annual Meeting include Parish Council representatives on various bodies including the Seacourt Hall and Louie Memorial Pavilion management committees, and local groups on transport issues. For a full list see the Committees and Councillors pages on our website.

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June's Parish Council meeting will be in-person, as the emergency Legislation to allow online meetings during the COVID pandemic expired on 7th May and has not been extended by the Government. Some committee meetings in May are currently being planned with Councillors in person and members of the public joining online. If the Government's roadmap is on track, we could be holding in-person meetings with members of the public present in Seacourt Hall from 24th June, following whatever Government protocols are in place at that time.

The Government have opened a call for evidence until 17th June to understand the experience of local authorities regarding remote meetings. NHPC held our meetings successfully over Zoom for the past year, with attendance from members of the public at most meetings and more than double the usual number of attendees at March's Annual Parish Meeting. Many of us feel that hybrid meetings with remote attendees would be more inclusive for councillors and the public, but these are not currently legal without a change in legislation. If you would like to give your views on remote access to future Council meetings, you can fill in the questionnaire online at: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-stewardship/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence/>

We've got exciting things ahead of us this year, including designing a new skate park and taking the next key steps towards a new pavilion. Everyone is warmly invited to engage with us in this work for the benefit of our diverse and growing community. Please check our website ([northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/](http://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/)) and follow our Facebook page ([facebook.com/northhinkseypc](https://facebook.com/northhinkseypc)) for updates on future meetings, as the situation is subject to last-minute change depending on the national COVID roadmap.

Cllr Lorna Berrett

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I am writing this at the end of the first week that the Kennington Memory Club Day Centre has been in operation again after the Covid-19 closure. It felt very good to be able to open the doors again on May 10th, in a Covid-safe way, to members, old and new.

Hopefully we will be able to welcome more members again to each session very soon, so more people with a diagnosis of dementia will be able to benefit from the Day Centre sessions, and more carers will get respite from their 24/7 responsibilities. We would like to invite potential members, their families or carers to get in touch with the Club Organiser, Helen, on 07852 883496, to discuss names going down for the Club. There is more information on our website: [kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk)

**Isobel Birse**

---

## Heimat

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The Ruskin labour aristocracy  
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**Dan Ferrett** (who, like the Hinton Waldrist church, is a new immigrant to Oxfordshire)

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## **Greening Botley and North Hinksey – next steps: can you help?**

Following the meeting in March on looking after our green spaces, North Hinksey Parish Council agreed in May to take this further. We are focussing on three areas:

- ‘A cleaner, greener safer Botley’ – ensuring that our green spaces are well looked after;
- ‘New uses for local green spaces’ – looking at ideas such as new food growing areas;
- ‘Making more space for nature’ – action to improve local biodiversity.

Some of this is work for the Parish Council. We will consider the green spaces which we already manage and find ways to make them more nature friendly, perhaps with more tree planting and wild flower spaces around the edges. We will also review our pesticide use with the aim of cutting back to the minimum necessary. We support the Hedgehog Street initiative ([www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org)), and will work with local people to promote the ‘hedgehog highway’ (see below).

While most of our green spaces are protected, others are under pressure from new development. We review all new planning applications, though sadly our powers are limited when it comes to stopping ones that we think damaging or inappropriate. However we make a point of looking at ways current planning policies and processes can promote local biodiversity in and around new developments, and we will be taking this up with Vale District Council.

But there’s only so much that we can do on our own. If we are to make lasting improvements, we need your help. We would like to set up a Botley Green Spaces Group (what should we call it?). In this we can learn from the work being done by Cumnor and Eynsham parishes who have established a

‘Nature Recovery Network’ (<https://www.nature-recovery-network.org/>).





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We are fortunate in that we already have great groups of volunteers looking after sites like Hinksey Heights, Raleigh Park (*Friends of Raleigh Park seen planting yellow rattle in the photo*), and Hutchcomb Copse and Fen – we'd like to bring these and all interested people together to look at ways to make sure we are as effective as possible.

A range of issues came up at the first meeting:

**Roadside verges** Parts of Botley are fortunate to have wide roads and grass verges. For some these are useful parking spaces, but other people view them as green spaces to be looked after. A few have been sown with wild flowers and protected with stones, etc. We have contacted Vale officers to discuss if we could 'adopt a verge' for suitable roads. If you and your family would like to be part of this, please get in touch via [Environment@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Environment@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk).

**Local walks and green spaces.** Lockdown has seen many more people out in our green spaces. We could do with an on-line green spaces map full of information about each, linked to local walks, historical background, etc.



(Picture shows path along Hutchcomb's copse)

Perhaps we could produce a printed poster of Botley green spaces. This 'Parish Map' could be a lasting asset for the Parish and the community – if you would like to help make this happen please

get in touch via the email above.

**Hedgehogs.** We know that there's a lot of them around the parish, but more would be better! We have agreed to join 'Hedgehog Street' as a parish and would like to encourage more people in the area to do so. There's more at: <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/> The simplest things that you can do are: leave a small part of your garden to grow up a bit to provide a place for hedgehogs to sleep during the day; create (by agreement) a small ground level hole in your garden fence that lets any hedgehogs travel to adjoining gardens; and put out some water (and maybe dried cat food) for them to drink and eat.

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**New uses for local green spaces.** There is enthusiasm for new work to make unused land more productive. Various pieces of land have been identified e.g. the patch of grass on the corner of Crabtree and Chestnut roads. In some cases there are questions about the ownership of uncared-for bits of land. NHPC has agreed a small budget to do 'land registry' searches to identify who owns these areas. If you've been wondering why a patch of land in your area is neglected and can't find out anything about it, then do get in touch

**Leaving wild alone!** We also recognise that we should identify areas to leave unmanaged to allow wildlife to flourish. This works very well at Hinksey Heights, where fallen trees are left unless they are a safety risk. Where areas have been deliberately left for nature, do we need a sign to say so? (e.g. the copse off Toynbee Close, see photo).



**The Oxfordshire 'Great Big Green Week' is coming!** In September



communities across the UK will join together for the 'Great Big Green Week'. It will be the biggest event for climate and nature ever held in the UK. It takes place just five weeks before the UN 'COP26' Climate Conference in Glasgow. We

will use it to commit to more action to tackle the crisis we face and also to celebrate what has been done. Different organisations are already planning events. **What can we do in Botley? What might YOU do?**

There's so much to do, and we need all the help we can get. If you would like to be involved in any of this, please email: [environment@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:environment@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk) We will be holding an open meeting in June (date tbc) to work out our next steps.

**Chris Church**



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## **Botley Girls FC**

That's right, *Girls play football too!* Botley Boys and Girls FC now have a Wildcats (girls' football) group, set up to provide girls aged 5 to 11 with a safe and fun place to learn about football. It's non-competitive football for girls who want to give it a go for the very first time or want to play with other girls their own age. Most importantly, the Wildcats is all about having fun, meeting new friends, getting active and boosting confidence in a friendly sporting arena. Although I stated it was non-competitive, when the girls are playing it's quite clearly competitive and each and every one of them mucks in, all aiming to score goals and impress their friends (and parents cheering from the side lines).

First formed in October 2019 with eight girls who joined and then trained strongly through winter, the group has now grown in size to twenty-plus girls who train every Monday evening from 6pm till 7pm at Fogwell Road Recreation Ground. Due to the age, size, and varying abilities of the group, training starts off in a single large group. It usually entails a warm up, followed by some non-football games, and then a skills session. The aim of the first part of training is to build the team, create a sense of belonging, and teach the girls basic footballing skills. From week to week the girls are then encouraged to develop and improve on the skills they are taught.



For the second half of the session the girls separate into teams so that two football games can be played. This is where the competitiveness kicks in, with lots of noise, plenty of movement, excitement and even the occasional tear. And that's just the parents. The girls always have a great time and return every week, even when it's raining and blowing a gale. It's wonderful to see the smiles and laughter of all the children, with the added bonus of developing their skills, plus some fresh air and exercise.



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We are always looking for more girls to join in the energised fun, so if your girls are interested then please do make contact. Our email is: [botleygirlsfootball@gmail.com](mailto:botleygirlsfootball@gmail.com)

The Wildcats and BB&G FC are always looking for extra volunteers to assist with training, coaching, general administration and running the club in this wonderful community of ours, so if you would like to help, or know someone who might be interested in assisting, please contact via the email above. We are always looking for coaches and committee members to make sure that this great club keeps going, and continues to provide a valuable opportunity for exercise and team spirit for all our youth.

**Nick Dunn, Darren Blase**

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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <u>P21/V0947/HH</u>   | 47 Raleigh Park Rd. Single storey extension.  | <b>29 March</b><br><i>TDD: 24 May</i>                 |
| <u>P21/V1011/FUL</u><br>Variation of<br>P18/V1886/FUL<br>(approved) | 15 Cumnor Hill. Add balconies to rear and mono-pitch roof to the entrance porch.                  | <b>1 April</b><br><i>Target Decision Date: 27 May</i> |
| <u>P21/V1018/FUL</u>  | 32 Lime Rd. Change small HMO) to a large 7-bed Sui Generis HMO, with hardstanding & dropped kerb. | <b>2 April</b><br><i>TDD: 28 May</i>                  |
| <u>P21/V1013/HH</u>   | 23 Cumnor Rise Rd. Rear single-storey extension and front porch.                                  | <b>6 April</b><br><i>TDD: 1 June</i>                  |
| <u>P21/V0856/HH</u>   | 30 Hurst Rise Rd. Convert garage to include front extension for shower room & gym. New porch.     | <b>16 April</b><br><i>TDD: 11 June</i>                |
| <u>P21/V1161/HH</u>   | 1 Tilbury Lane. Replace garage/workshop and external recreation area with enlarged version.       | <b>19 April</b><br><i>TDD: 14 June</i>                |
| <u>P21/V1107/HH</u>   | 106 Westminster Way. Convert garage into bedroom and build new garage.                            | <b>4 May</b><br><i>TDD: 29 June</i>                   |



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## More About Sewage

We go on seeing sewage in the Seacourt Stream far too often, although the Parish Council has now started to take an interest. There's some good news to report though. *Sprout* readers may remember the spill in July 2016, when so many fish were killed. We showed a photo of Thames Water's efforts to aerate the water after the event. It was so shocking that the Environment Agency brought Thames Water to book for the spill. TW admitted the offence at High Wycombe Magistrate's Court in March this year and the case will go to Aylesbury Crown Court in the Autumn for sentencing.

If only the likely large fine would stop TW from discharging sewage into the river every time there's heavy rainfall! But, sadly, that's not going to happen. The law allows such discharges because the alternative could mean local houses getting sewage coming back up through their toilets and drains – the last thing anyone wants.

The problem is that the system was designed long ago for far fewer houses. Rainfall from roofs and roads runs away in the foul water pipes along with the sewage. We can hardly dismantle the existing system, so we need to think of ways around it. Every paved front garden adds to the problem, so we need to make sure the surfaces under our cars permit drainage. At the same time, if we all collected as much of our own rainwater as we can, and found ways to use it at home before it went into the pipes, that would make a real difference.

Is funding available? Well, things are moving! There are Rainwater Harvesting Grants and Water Capital Grants available for farms and businesses – as much as £350 per cubic metre for underground storage tanks and pumps in farmyards, for instance – but no grants as yet for domestic use.

Isn't this just the kind of thing that councils committed to fending off the climate crisis could stimulate? Perhaps now we've got parish, district and county councils all aware of the climate emergency, grants could be found. A shared effort to install tanks and pipework in our houses to flush our toilets with rainwater could start the ball rolling. It would be great to get this going in Botley instead of leaving it to West Oxford.

Personally, I would love the Seacourt Stream to return to the way it was a few decades ago, when it had a gravel bottom, lots of fish, and children learned to swim in it. If we wait for Thames Water, it may never happen. But we could do something ourselves, if we worked together. What do people think?

Ag MacKeith

## Finding a Voice at Botley School

At Botley School we like to hear what our children have to say, and this term pupils have learned to express themselves in many different ways. Firstly, following the local elections, some of our Year 5 children held their own election campaigns, supporting issues which are meaningful to them. Five parties devised their manifestos and during an online live assembly (via Microsoft TEAMS) they held a hustings where candidates presented their party's aims. We heard from:

- the 'School Trips Party' who were looking to enrich the curriculum through trips to places outside Botley;
- the 'Fundraising Five Party' who proposed holding fun activities to raise money to support the wider curriculum;
- the 'More Equipment in School Party' for computers, play equipment and much more;
- the 'Emerald Explorers Party' – campaigning for more Forest School sessions for Years 5 and 6;
- and, finally, the 'Animals in School Party' – who were asking for chickens and other animals which the children could help to care for and learn animal husbandry.

The whole school was invited to vote in the purpose-made ballot box placed outside the Head's office! Children debated the issues and cast their votes for their favourite party on the 'official' ballot paper provided. The count revealed the Animals in School party had carried the day, with twice as many votes as the next contender.

Year 6 pupils have been practising their public speaking by presenting live to the school via video – reciting poetry and Shakespeare, to mention but a small part of their repertoire. We have found ways around the Covid restrictions so that pupils can still manage to make their voices heard at whole school assemblies. Children in Year 2 have been developing drama skills to voice the strength of the giant, Finn MacCool, as well as increasing vocabulary and empathy through voicing other characters. We have also trained up two Forest School Leads, to help children to find a voice in the outdoor environment.

As part of our internal monitoring we have held pupil conferences this term. Children from all age-groups have discussed every aspect of school life with senior leaders – how teachers ask questions, behaviour in school, what it is like being a second language student and other



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current topics. The children's views are then fed back to staff to ensure that we are listening to them and using their comments for positive change. As teachers gear up to complete end of year school reports, the children's views on what went well helps inform us for next year so we can do an even better job.

While we have tried to keep things as near to normal as possible during this challenging year and a bit, we recognise that keeping children talking and expressing their thoughts has been more important than ever. We continue to be impressed by their resilience and their keenness to be heard. The School Council is invaluable in drawing attention to the ideas and thoughts of the community they represent.

As our oldest children transition to secondary school we have organised a programme of activities for them to explore their feelings about moving on. Giving them the chance to air their thoughts, providing help where necessary, will hopefully see the transition as smooth and as purposeful as possible. This will involve parents' voices, too, completing the circle of support. Listening to children and helping them to find their voice is an essential part of their education, and one we are happy to facilitate here at Botley School.

**Jo Reid**, Headteacher

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## Miles Gomme at Botley Arts

Botley Arts is truly excited to announce that we are back in action! We reopened on Monday, May 17th, with Miles Gomme's dramatic Black and White representations of New York City. (See *following pages.*)

This is how he describes himself and his project:

My name is Miles Gomme. I'm an Oxford-based event and portrait photographer. I've professionally covered music, running and social events, including weddings, as well as portraiture and headshots. Privately I capture street photography, in a candid documentary style, showing life in detail and with humour.

For my third exhibition, I'm telling the story of "50 miles around New York", through the photos I took, as I walked 50 miles through the city, over 5 days to celebrate my 50th birthday.

It was my first time to New York, but it had been on my bucket list as a place to photograph for a long time. Having seen it in so many movies and heard so many stories about the city, I wanted to see and feel it for myself. My wife and I walked the streets with my camera always to hand and gathered images of what we saw over those busy days.

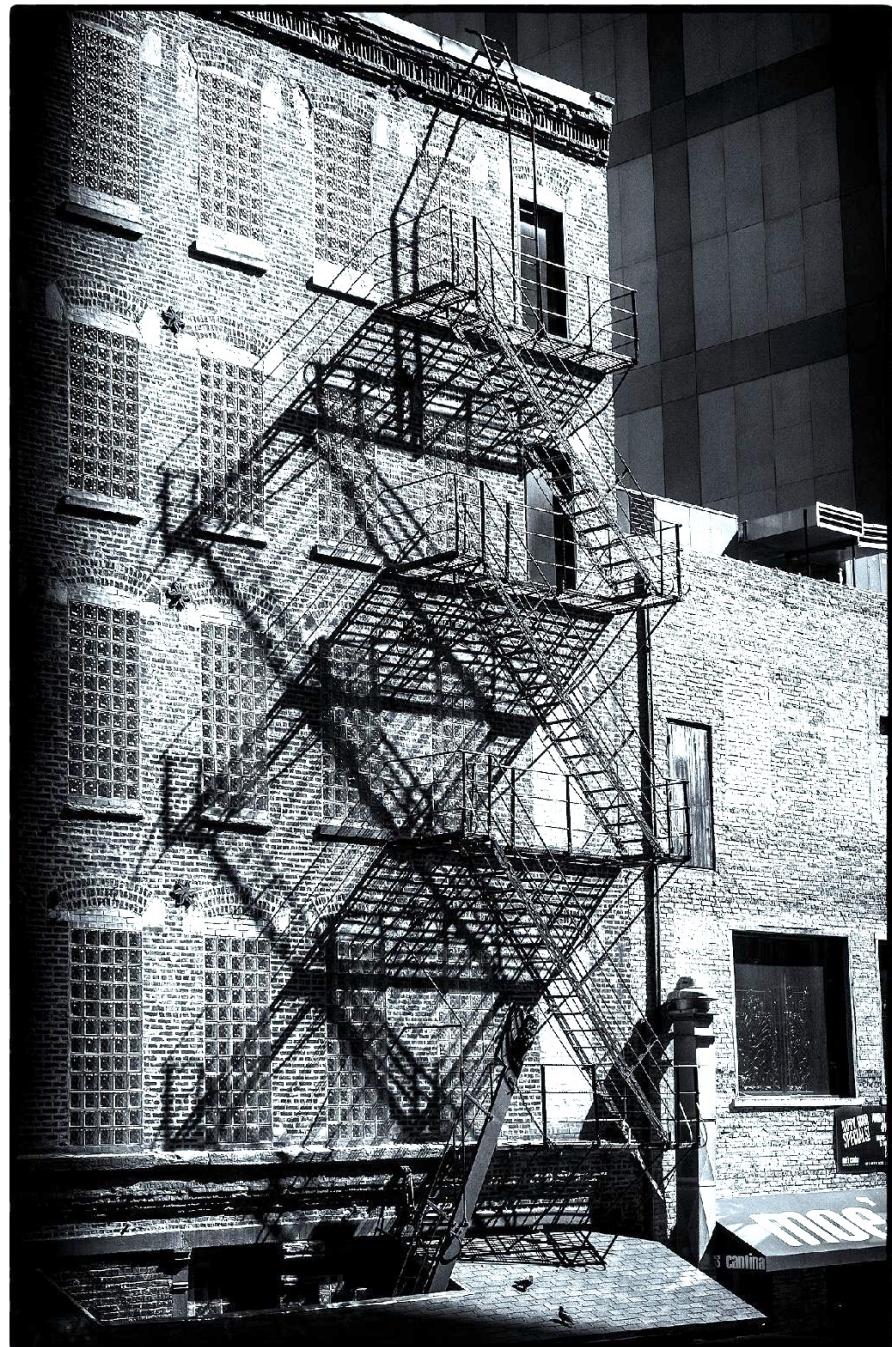
I'd expected noise, dirt and overcrowding but the contrast between the glitz and glamour and reality of life and poverty was very strong. Times Square was just too full, but I took an image that captures it perfectly. The Chrysler building was spectacular, as was the view from the top of the Empire State building. The Guggenheim Museum was architecturally interesting, as was the Flat Iron quarter. We frequented the cafés on the side streets, where the locals ate, trying to get a feel of the real life around us. "This is the Big Apple!"

Each print can be reproduced, but will be limited to a maximum of 10, in different sizes, with or without a frame as desired. Please contact me for further details on [milesimages.com](http://milesimages.com), phone me on 07794 717333 or email me at [milesgomme@me.com](mailto:milesgomme@me.com)

St Peter & St Paul's Church is open Monday to Saturday, 10am – 4pm and 12 – 4pm on Sundays. Entrance is free, and don't forget to sign our new Visitors Book!

If you are unable to visit the exhibition in person, do look at our website: [Botleyarts.uk](http://Botleyarts.uk) where you will find a selection of Miles Gomme's photographs, and the work of past exhibitors.

**Jennie Hopkins**, Chair, Botley Arts







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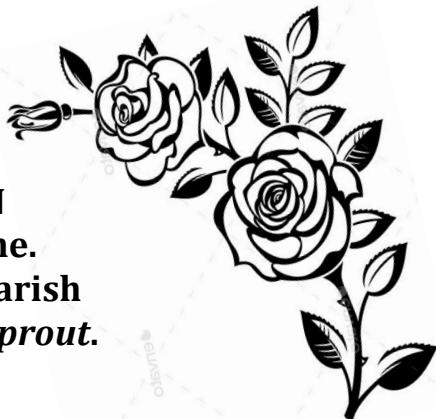
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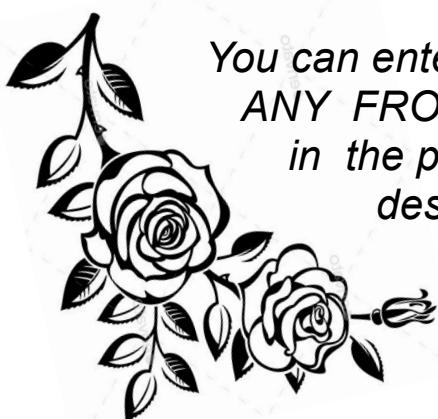
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## **Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group**

Emma Teasdale from Healthwatch Oxfordshire joined the Botley Surgery PPG meeting on Tuesday 27th April 2021 to talk about its work.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is the county's independent health and social care watchdog, which works to help shape and improve health and social care services in the county. It does this by listening to what children, young people and adults have to say about local health and social care services, whether it is praise, criticism, or ideas for improvement. Healthwatch Oxfordshire then passes on what it hears to service providers and commissioners and holds them to account on how they use this feedback.

Emma's role within Healthwatch Oxfordshire is to provide support to Patient Participation Groups (PPGs). She does this by organizing events that bring PPGs together and keeping them informed on how they can best support their surgeries. Healthwatch Oxfordshire also runs a series of regular webinars for PPGs. These have recently focussed on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout programme in Oxfordshire, social prescribing in the county and, more recently, on recruiting new PPG members and increasing representation of all patients. Please take a look at [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/ppgs](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/ppgs) to find out more about these webinars and the work of PPGs.

You can get in touch with Healthwatch Oxfordshire by calling 01865 520520 or emailing [hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)

Healthwatch Oxfordshire also has a feedback centre at [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/services](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/services) where people can share their experiences of using local services – including GP surgeries, hospitals, pharmacies, dentists, care homes and more.

The next meeting of our local PPG is by zoom on Tuesday 8th June from 6–7.30pm. We will be joined by doctors from the Botley Medical Centre. The zoom link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85296376510> Meeting ID: 852 9637 6510

**Chris Sugden** (Secretary)



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## Randoms

### Do you enjoy sewing, crochet, knitting?

I am thinking of starting a group meeting at my house. The idea would be to share our skills, learn more, enjoy the company, drink coffee and eat cake. Would need to be during the day. Anyone welcome. If you want to find out more about the Slow Stitching I do, please check out <https://www.annebrooke.co.uk>. Let me know by phone on 07961 900670 or by email at: [Cockman.caroline@gmail.com](mailto:Cockman.caroline@gmail.com) I'd love to hear from you.

Caroline Cockman

### Parish Poll on renewing the Scout Hut lease

It's not surprising people got a bit confused over this request at the parish council's Annual Parish Meeting in March. Who knows when one was last held? If ever. But the law allows 10 parishioners to ask for one, and ten did. At first, the Vale ruled against holding it, but then they changed their minds, and they have now decided that it can go ahead after all. The poll tests the parish's views on renewing the lease on the Scout Hut for 20 years, though the result is not binding. Likely date is June 9th.

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Email:  
[bookings@heyfordian.co.uk](mailto:bookings@heyfordian.co.uk)

[heyfordian.travel](http://heyfordian.travel)

ENQUIRIES:  
01869 241500



## Career and Life Coaching



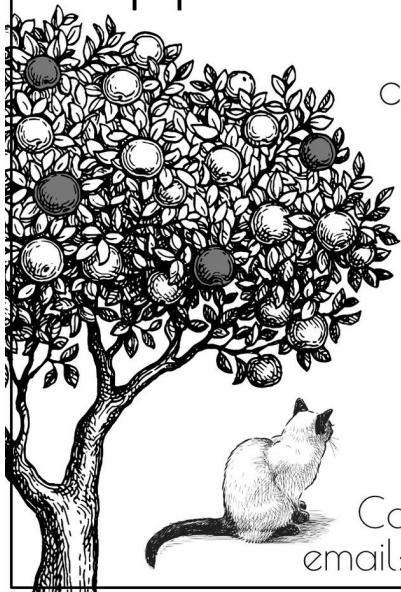
### Ariadne's Thread

offers personal and professional one-to-one coaching specialising in:

**career development**  
**presentation skills**  
**job applications**

Contact Lucy on 07879405525  
[ariadnesredthread@gmail.com](mailto:ariadnesredthread@gmail.com)

## applecat garden services



Professional and considerate gardening and horticultural services in Oxford, Botley, Cumnor and surrounding villages.

[www.applecatgardens.co.uk](http://www.applecatgardens.co.uk)

Call Max on: 07771 904 504  
email: [max@applecatgardens.co.uk](mailto:max@applecatgardens.co.uk)

## National Flower Arranging Day



Yes, there is such a thing! It was on 7th May, and Ann Dawson, who uses her plot to grow flowers, decided to mark it with an arrangement on the allotment gates. The National Association of Flower Arranging Societies has clubs country wide, and our local one is in Cumnor (see Local Organisations page), where you can enjoy:

- Workshops
- Demonstrations
- Competitions,

as well as fun and friendship. Thanks, Ann, for adding sparkle to the day.

## Foodhub

Did we mention that the Oxford Foodbank has changed its name? They got tired of explaining that it wasn't like other Food Banks, in that people don't buy one tin and donate the free one in the box by the supermarket door. The food that pours into the renamed Foodhub all comes from overstocked supermarkets and other wholesale suppliers. It has reached its 'sell-by' date, but not necessarily its 'use-by' date. This brilliant Oxford initiative, based in Curtis's Yard, is going from strength to strength. We'll be reporting more fully next month.

## Tap Social Movement

Are now open again: Thursdays 5–10pm, Fridays 4–11pm and Saturdays 2–11pm, with a food vendor/food truck on those evenings. Still finalizing plans for music and ticketed events earlier in the week.



Health & Fitness  
For Mums By Mums

**Mum and baby/toddler fitness classes  
running in Cumnor, Abingdon, Didcot,  
Wallingford & Oxford.**



07771 848387



didcot@onefitmama.co.uk



Onefitmamaoxfordsouthvale



Onefitmama\_oxfordsouthvale

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

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| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson, <a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>  |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>   |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a> Website:<br><a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>   |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | Fridays, Cubs 6.30–8, Scouts 8–9.30, 1 Church Way, Botley Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 <a href="mailto:xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk">xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>                                      | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall  |
| <b>Badminton Club</b>  | T Thurs 7–8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 <a href="mailto:garryclark13@gmail.com">garryclark13@gmail.com</a>  |
| <b>BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign</b>                       | Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website <a href="http://B4044path.org">B4044path.org</a>  |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.  | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142   |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8–16 | Jason Barley Ox. 242926 <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or Brendan Byrne 792531 <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a>                      |
| <b>Botley Community Larder</b>                                       | Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, contact us via Facebook or email <a href="mailto:botteylarder@gmail.com">botteylarder@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>   | Wednesday 9.30am. Contact Briony on Ox 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 Seniors Lunch Club</b>                                     | Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox721386   |
| <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>Cumnor Choral Society</b>   | Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com">www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com</a>  |
| <b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>   | Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>  |
| <b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>                      | Last Monday of the month 7.30–9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808   |
| Cumnor Gardening Club  | <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone 01865 721026  |
| Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group                    | Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>  |
| Hill End Volunteer Team  | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>              |
| <b>Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey</b>                                   | Family club Email: <a href="mailto:Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org">Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org</a>  |

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| <b>Let's Sing! – singing group</b>                  | Weds 2pm, WOCC, 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>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs</b>  | Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 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 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 Parish Council</b>                     | Sharon Henley, <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>   |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                         | Weds at LM pavilion, Daz: 07791 212866 or F'book  |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                        | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035   |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                 | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259   |
| <b>Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group</b> | Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>   |
| <b>Oxford Otters</b>                                | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420  |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                            | Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a><br>Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> . |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                     | <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Saturdads at Botley Bridges</b>                  | Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's<br>10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955   |
| <b>Seacourt Hall Management Committee</b>           | Michael Cockman 07766 317691<br><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>Walking for Health</b>                           | 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Alan 07941 610913  |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                       | Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>   |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                  | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>   |
| <b>West Oxford U3A</b>                              | (Uni of the 3rd Age) <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>  |
| <b>West Way Day Centre</b>                          | Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971.<br><a href="mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk">oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                   | Liz Manson, 244175 or <a href="mailto:liz.manson@virginmedia.com">liz.manson@virginmedia.com</a>  |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                              | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall<br>Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>  |

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| <b>Iey Baptist Hall<br/>West Way Place</b>                   | Contact: Rev Kalyan Das<br>Tel. 07841 867967  |
| <b>The Rosary Room<br/>Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise</b>          | Contact Maria Brown,<br>Tel: 01865 247986.  |
| <b>SS Peter &amp; Paul Church<br/>Hall, West Way, Botley</b> | Contact: 07946 463741 or<br><a href="mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com">osneybenefice@outlook.com</a> .                      |
| <b>Women's Institute Hall,<br/>North Hinksey Lane</b>        | Contact: Val Warner<br>Tel. 01865 245273  |
| <b>Seacourt Hall, West<br/>Way Place, Botley</b>             | Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100,<br>or email <a href="mailto:admin@seacourthall.org.uk">admin@seacourthall.org.uk</a> |
| <b>Pavilion, Arnold's Way,<br/>Elms Rise, Botley</b>         | Contact: Darren Blase 241254<br><a href="mailto:louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com">louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com</a>        |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club,<br/>North Hinksey Village</b>          | Contact:.. Mary Bagnall<br><a href="mailto:mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com">mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com</a> .                 |

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

**St. Lawrence, Church of England**, North Hinksey Lane  
 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday, Sung Eucharist 11.30 a.m.  
 3rd Sunday, Matins 11.30 am

**St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England**, West Way  
 2nd Saturday each Month, 4–6pm Messy Church for children and their carers  
 1st Sunday of the Month, 9.30am All Age service of Holy Communion  
 All other Sundays, 9.30am Holy Communion with activities for children  
 Every Wednesday, 10.30am Holy Communion at Field House  
 Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com)

**Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Roman Catholic**, Yarnells Hill  
 Saturday 6.30 pm. Mass  
 Sunday 9.15 am Mass  
 Fr Daniel Lloyd. 07584 323915 [dilloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dilloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**Botley Baptist Church**, West Way Place  
 Sunday Service 10.30 am.  
 Mid Week House Group 8.00 p.m.  
 Family Worship Service 5-6pm on Saturday  
 Rev Kalyan Das 07841 867967 [www.botleybaptistchurch.org](http://www.botleybaptistchurch.org)

**Calvary Chapel**  
 Sunday services held at Botley School 10.30–12 noon  
 Pastor Philip Vickery 01865 864498  
[calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk);  
[www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk](http://www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk)

# Sprout

June 2021

**Still not enough going on for a monthly diary. Let's hope there's more to note next month. Meanwhile, for help with Covid, see the numbers below.**

See North Hinksey Parish Council website for a comprehensive list of all the local support groups currently in operation, as well as advice on asking for help and looking to volunteer. It's at <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub/> If you have something to add, please email the website manager Councillor Lorna Berrett on [lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com](mailto:lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com).

**Church contact details on inside back cover**

**Oxford Hub's email is: [hello@oxfordhub.org](mailto:hello@oxfordhub.org)**

**Phone: 07957 105129 (9-5pm Mon-Fri)**

**Citizens Advice AdviceLine on 0300 3309 042**

**Woodlands Pharmacy: 01865 242649**

**Lloyds Pharmacy: 01865 247023**

Age UK Oxfordshire offers a new telephone support line for older people. Leave a message on 01865 411288 and they will call you back.

Nextdoor North Hinksey is a local chatroom full of help and advice. Anyone already on it can invite you to join (or contact the Sprout)

**Finally, two handy Facebook pages:**

**The Botley Notice Board (OXON)**

**and Oxford Covid-19 Mutual Aid group**