

# **The Sprout**



**The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 124 February 2018**

# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 124, February 2018**

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### **43 Local Organizations**

#### **From the Editor**

Welcome to the first Sprout of 2018. Lots here to interest you. There are various items of public information, like the account of the new defibrillator outside the Rugby Club (p.5), the dates of our District Councillors' surgeries (p.7), and the article explaining how best to get the prescriptions you need, via doctor or chemist. In it, Dr Ballastero makes the point that 'free' prescriptions are not free to the NHS, and sometimes we should make the choice to buy our medications ourselves over the counter, and free up NHS money for other things (p.24). WWCC has a page explaining the latest hitches, and their implications (p9). Then there are the things we can look forward to: an art show of local talent at the Pavilion during Artweeks in May (p.27); an auction of 'Fantastic Favours' in February to raise money for Botley Bridges and Botley Branches (p.13); and the Great Spring Clean to sign up to (p.25). Then there are some reviews of Christmas things: the Foodbank Feast (p.31); the Cumnor Choral Concert (p.19). Finally a couple of personal reflections (p.15, p.37) and a little piece of daftness (p.21). And that's just to start with! Enjoy the read!

**Ag MacKeith**

## Over 60s Lunch Club

The Over 60s Lunch Club in Botley said a fond farewell to three long-standing and stalwart volunteers at the Christmas lunch on 14 December. Marina Bennett, with over 40 years' worth of service behind her, Margaret Ansell with 24 years, and Lyn Blizzard with 18 years, all stood down for a well-earned rest. They were our backbone and, by my reckoning, between them they will have cooked nearly 100,000 meals for Lunch Club! There's no doubt that running Botley Lunch Club can be hard work, we're on our feet all morning, and I'm sure that our retirees won't mind my saying that some of our customers are now younger than they are. Jackie Warner presented Margaret and Lyn with flowers (*see photo, Margaret on the left*) and others were taken to Marina later in the day – a small token in recognition of their devotion to keeping Lunch Club going for so many years.

The Christmas lunch was enjoyed with the usual decorations, raffle (with prizes doled out by our very own Santa), washed down with wine



or fruit juice. Any profits we might make during the year are ploughed back into making the Christmas meal special. Margaret and Lyn have promised that they will continue to make the floral table decorations for us – anyone who doesn't win a raffle prize is always welcome to take home one of their lovely arrangements.

We are keeping Lunch Club going and volunteers are always welcome. If you can spare us alternate Thursdays, please drop in around 10.30 am for a chat and see what we're up to. We start back on 11 January so are at the Seacourt Hall every second week from then on.

**Viv Smith**

## Defibrillator now available at Oxford Rugby Club

Sudden cardiac arrest can strike without warning, regardless of age. Now, thanks to members of Oxford Rugby Club and North Hinksey Parish Council, the club is host to a piece of lifesaving kit, a defibrillator, which could dramatically improve the chances of survival for someone having a heart attack.

Fundraising for the equipment got underway after a group of parents attended a first aid course at the club and learned just how important a swift response can be when someone suffers a cardiac arrest.



As the First Aid

Co-ordinator for the Junior Section at Oxford Rugby Club, I know that when someone has a cardiac arrest, the quicker resuscitation starts, the better their chances of survival, so we were keen to get a defibrillator on-site. Thanks to generous donations from club members we were able to purchase one. We were thrilled when North Hinksey Parish Council agreed to fund the purchase of a secure cabinet to house the defibrillator outside our building, which the club has installed. This has made the kit accessible to the whole community, even when the club is shut. We hope it isn't needed, but it is reassuring to know it is there just in case.

Last year North Hinksey Parish Council identified the provision of publicly accessible defibrillators throughout the Parish as an important facility to ensure the well-being of local residents. "When the Rugby Club requested a grant to buy a secure cabinet for the defibrillator they were obtaining, we responded with enthusiasm, as it seemed an ideal location within North Hinksey Village," said NHPC chairman, David Kay. "The Parish Council has also already installed a defibrillator at the Louie

Memorial Pavilion, and another unit will be added in the shopping precinct off West Way when the redevelopment works there allow that to happen.”

Andrew Lloyd, Chairman of Oxford RFC, said “I am very pleased that we now have the defib set up at the Rugby club. I would like to thank the generosity of the parents who paid for this and also the support we received from the parish council. Let’s hope we never need to use it.”

A defibrillator, sometimes called an automatic external defibrillator, or AED, is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone who is in cardiac arrest.

AEDs are automated so that all you need to do is open the case, turn it on and follow the instructions. They are often in public areas and if someone can retrieve and use it while resuscitation is being given then can be lifesaving.

The defibrillator at Oxford Rugby Club is just one of a growing network of publicly available AED units across the region. Should you need a defibrillator dial 999 and the ambulance service will direct you to the nearest one. You can find out more by googling **BHF Cardiovascular Disease Statistics - UK Factsheet - British Heart.**

**Saskya Huggins**

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## **District Councillor surgeries**

Our two district councillors, Cllr Emily Smith and Cllr Debby Hallett are touring their ward between January and March 2018. This is our chance to come along and tell them what’s bothering us. Or just see the colour of their eyes. Here is the where and when:

|                                   |                  |                                                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday<br/>7th February</b> | <b>12pm–2pm</b>  | <b>The Fishes, North Hinksey Village,<br/>OX2 0NA</b>        |
| <b>Thursday<br/>15th February</b> | <b>10am–12pm</b> | <b>Wyevale Garden Centre Cafe, South<br/>Hinksey OX1 5AR</b> |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>14th March</b>   | <b>10am–12pm</b> | <b>The Seacourt Bridge, West Way,<br/>Botley, OX2 9JU</b>    |
| <b>Saturday<br/>24th March</b>    | <b>2pm–4pm</b>   | <b>The White Hart, Wytham, OX2 8QA</b>                       |

# **West Way redevelopment update**

## **Where are we now?**

We have known since early last year that Mace intended to make changes to the plans which were approved by the Vale of White Horse District Council in June 2016. These changes were shown at Mace's public exhibition in June 2017. Mace submitted their 'Section 73' planning application for these changes in December, (reference P17/V3298/FUL) and this was open for public comment until January 21st. We expect that it will go to Planning Committee in February.

The material changes which concern us relate to:

- (i) re-configuration of Block D, to house Tesco and Iceland;
- (ii) re-design of main car park, to remove the internal ramp between lower and upper decks;
- (iii) proposals within the new draft deliveries and servicing strategy.

We are pleased that Tesco and Iceland want to trade in the new centre. However, in accommodating these two foodstores, the vehicle access, servicing and deliveries changes significantly, and new issues of public safety arise. WWCC have, therefore, submitted an objection on these grounds.

## **Details of the changes:**

All HGVs servicing the three foodstores (Tesco, Iceland and Co-op) would now pass through the site along Church Way and Arthray Road, either on an anti-clockwise loop from West Way or a clockwise loop from Westminster Way. These vehicles would then unload in a lay-by on Church Way or on Westminster Way. There will be three times as many articulated lorries using the West Way / Church Way junction and Arthray Road as was previously expected. The absence of dedicated service areas and the use of public roads as delivery routes is contrary to the planning policy for the centre as set out in the Botley Centre Supplementary Planning Document.

Church Way was designated as 'shared use' including community use for functions and festivals but in the current application, Church Way would

- provide delivery bays for the large HGVs serving two foodstores, and a delivery bay for Block F directly opposite;
- provide a through route from West Way via Arthray Road for HGVs delivering to 2 bays on Westminster Way;

- provide the only vehicle access to 137 car park spaces;
- accommodate smaller delivery vehicles at the northern end and the West Way junction.

In summary, there will be more traffic on Church Way (and Arthray Road) than there is now - hardly suitable for a festival! As a consequence of the proposed delivery and parking arrangements, pedestrian safety would be compromised, amenity space adversely impacted, and permeability of the site reduced. There are issues relating to disability and accessibility and security arising from bad design, which also need to be addressed.

### **What's taking so long?**

Some things need to happen before work starts. Like all large applications the planning permission had several conditions which have to be met, before work can commence.

Nothing has started yet because:

- Mace (Botley Development Company) don't yet own the land (at the time of writing). The sale contract with the Vale and with the other owners of the office block has to be completed. We had been assured that it would happen just before Christmas.
- They haven't yet satisfied the conditions for starting the temporary works on Elms Court and Grant Thornton and they haven't submitted applications to discharge the conditions for starting work on the demolition of the West Way Centre.
- They haven't got planning permission for the amended plans outlined above

WWCC's remit is to monitor the development against the planning conditions, essentially to make sure as much as possible that the development goes to plan. We are commenting on Mace's planning applications, and raising concerns about how the centre will operate. Some may fear that commenting on Mace's current application will slow the process down overall. We don't believe that will be the case, given the approvals that need to be completed. Our focus is on trying to ensure we have a new centre that is safe and workable.

**Mary Gill**, Co-chair, WWCC

*To stay informed, please check our website and social media*  
 ([www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com](http://www.westwayconcern.wordpress.com)      [www.twitter.com/westwayconcern](http://www.twitter.com/westwayconcern)  
[facebook.com/westwayconcern](http://facebook.com/westwayconcern))

# FANTASTIC FAVOURS AUCTION

Friday 23rd February 2018

**PLEASE DONATE A PRIZE OR AN EXPERIENCE TO SELL AT AUCTION, RAISING FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES!**

Botley Bridges and Branches are hosting a **Fantastic Favours Auction to raise £5000** for these two good causes. Bridges supports families with young children, Branches supports Botley's young people. Tickets for the auction will be available from January.

Favours can range in value – Legal Help to Make a Will, an IT health check, a Balloon flight or a Holiday in a second home – or items such as a bottle of whisky, dinner for two, dry cleaning or gardening. We are grateful for all favours!

Botley Bridges is a charity for families and young children. We run inclusive Play and Learn sessions, parenting courses, paediatric first aid courses and support children's learning. We aim to create a strong local community by supporting families from different cultures and backgrounds. We also run activities for families in the summer holidays, encouraging families to explore local outside spaces. Future plans include activity days for children from low-income families who may not otherwise have a holiday. This all costs £30,000 per annum to run.

Branches Young People's Support Service is a social enterprise founded to support local young people. We plan to open a Youth Café during the Botley West Way redevelopment, serving the community with young people at its heart. Branches needs to match-fund equipment for the kitchen to make the Café a safe and vibrant place where young people can socialise and learn skills.

To pledge a **Fantastic Favour** please contact Andy Marsh (email [andymarsh58.biz@gmail.com](mailto:andymarsh58.biz@gmail.com) or mobile 07498 563636) with your Name, Company name, Contact number and e-mail, details of your **Fantastic Favour** (include any time constraints/ reserve price). If you have any questions contact **Sue Dowe** (Botley Bridges) on 0776 9275 084 or **Diane Long** (Branches) on 0755 798 1769.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**



## Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

*What would you do in our position?* Imagine you were Oxford Preservation Trust and you had to make the choice between assisting with flood relief or preserving precious green space. Would you wait around to find out whether our land is going to be compulsorily purchased knowing that it will be left harmed and spoiled? Or would you stand and fight? Knowing that if we stand back from a fight, it makes the work we do seem just a little foolish? (*with apologies to 'Love Actually'*)

The management of land is a partnership between man and the environment. This is never more obvious than at Oxford Preservation Trust's Hinksey Meadow where rare ancient flower-rich fields, classified as MG4 grassland, have been farmed in the same way for centuries by taking the hay off the water meadow once the flowers have set, and then allowing cattle to graze. Nature in turn has rewarded us all with the sweeping green landscape abundant with wild flowers, including an ever-increasing colony of Oxford's own Snake's-head Fritillaries. Nestled in behind the Botley Road, the fields wrap tenderly around the village of North Hinksey and the Willow Walk path retains the fragile rural character of a bygone age before the city reached out to shake hands.

The Oxford Flood Relief Channel is being promoted by the Environment Agency, who have recently showed us their latest plans. As planned, the channel will cut a swathe through these precious green fields, open to everyone all day every day, as it stretches out along the west side of the City from Botley to Kennington. The channel would be 60 metres across, running the whole length of Hinksey Lane. Ground level will be lowered and trees removed to keep the channel free of debris when it floods, altering the character of the area and reducing groundwater levels across most of the field so that the current flowers cannot grow and thrive any more. Once dug up or compacted by construction machinery, the hay meadow cannot be restored to its original state; the ecological complexity, evolved over centuries, will never return. It is simply impossible for humans to reproduce.

Further down, the channel takes a wide sweep up alongside Willow Walk to meet, we are told, a necessarily very large and high new bridge of engineering quality and proportion, where more trees will be felled, to allow water to flow freely under Willow Walk and continue downstream.

From here, the channel will continue to the south of Willow Walk across OPTs Hinksey Fields where a colony of the very rare plant Creeping

Marshwort grows, before leaving OPT land and heading downstream across other ownerships.

We have asked the EA to mark all this out on OPT land now and to leave it there for the duration of the planning application, so until at least the end of 2018. This will mean that when the application is out for consultation everyone will be able to go and see for themselves and make their own judgements, getting a sense of the scale, where the channel will go, what the bridge will be like and which trees will be felled.

We were able to get a sense of the size of the operation for ourselves late last year, when giant trial holes were dug and the archaeologists were on site looking for the prehistoric and Roman route thought to run here and the causeway that links two fords which might hold the real clue to the start of the name Ox 'Ford'.

Willow Walk, once known as Ruskin's Ride, after the nineteenth century art critic who loved its rustic charm, was built for the Harcourt family in 1876–77. It became a public path in 1922, as it remains today, well-used by both pedestrians and cyclists. To the south is a much older, raised and unmade path which once had fords and ferries at either end to cross the Seacourt and Bulstake Streams, immortalised in the words of nineteenth century poet Robert Binyon in 'Ferry Hinksey':

Between the winding willows  
To a city white with spires:  
It seemed a path of pilgrims  
To the home of earth's desires.

This was the main route into Oxford from the west until the Botley Road was improved from the sixteenth century. Ox Ford first appears in a document dated 1352 and may refer to two fords, giving rise to the rather dramatic speculation that a marker post carved with a bull's head gave its name to the Bulstake Stream.

We have asked the Environmental Agency if something on this scale is really necessary, and whether they might first try better management of the channels and streams in the old-fashioned way. We are told that this won't work, and the big scheme is the only way, based on existing

development and using figures for climate change across 50 years, with the lifespan of the scheme being 100 years.

*But will it work?* The figures on the EA chart show differences of mere centimetres in flood levels after the work is carried out. And no one, however clever, says it will stop the floods, it will rather reduce the risks. We are also told that the EA can only commit to the maintenance of the channel for ten years of the 100 years the project runs for. Meanwhile we see no intention to stop building in the flood plain, with the City continuing to promote an extension to the Seacourt Park & Ride and the University quietly buying up Osney Mead with plans to redevelop. And at the end of it all, and if we don't say yes, then the EA can compulsorily purchase whatever they need. *What would you do?*

**Debbie Dance**

*[This article also appeared in the Oxford Times. The Sprout will report on the OPT public meeting in the W.I. Hall in due course. Ed]*

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## **Cumnor Choral hits top notes!**

What a fantastic event our December concert was, performing *Brahms German Requiem*! The thrill of performing with a chorus of approximately 100 was exhilarating! Our collaboration with singers from Great Milton and Wheatley Choral Society was a triumph, and this must have been one of our best concerts ever. Everyone played a part in creating an emotional and stirring performance: Choir, Soloists and Orchestra, all under the leadership of our Conductor Peter Foster. The photo shows us singing our hearts out at the concert in Ss Peter and Paul Church.



If you think you would like to experience a slice of this then please come and join our very friendly choir, especially as we are celebrating our 60th Anniversary this year. More news will follow about this, so watch this space! For more information please contact our Chairman Marion Owen on 07552786127 or email [mowen1192@gmail.com](mailto:mowen1192@gmail.com).

**Monica White** (Happy Choir member!)

## Irresolute Resolutions

That's it, I've had it with New Year resolutions. The making is tough enough, the breaking, through no fault of one's own I might add, creates an instant pall of depression – *failed again!* Not only that but then I have to face 'the inquisition' by supposedly supportive family and friends: a tough and humiliating confessional made worse by trying to explain away one's errant behaviour. Not a note of sympathy that 'outside forces' have conspired. Let me explain.

### January 1st

Resolutions prepared and shared. Disconcerted by the odd disbelieving snigger behind hands but onwards, undeterred, to a new, healthier dotage.

*Resolution 1 Alcohol:* No more than 3 units a day and possibly one day off – but not promising, mind.

*Resolution 2* With new Fit Bits thingy, 10,000 steps a day as recommended

*Resolution 3* Morning swim, Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

*There, that should silence the doubters when I emerge, bristling with vitality, at the end of 2018.*

Results so far, shall we say have been somewhat chequered:

### January 2nd

*Resolution 1* Curmudgeonly mate points out that 14 units a week is the new 'sentence'. Ridiculous! However, just read latest research findings from Trondheim University about benefits of red wine. Churlish not to accept and adhere to findings.

*Ah well – cheers!*

### January 3rd 10.45 p.m.

*Resolution 2* 8,647 steps so far. Hang on, now it's bucketing down and I'm not going up and down the stairs.

*Ah well – cheers!*



**January 5th 7.15 a.m.**

*Resolution 3* Day of first swim. Car encrusted with frost, can't open door, de-icer in car.

*Ah well – bit early but – cheers!*

Undeterred, had a therapy session with 'Resolution Advisor'. 'Don't be so ambitious' she said, *how humbling*. 'Go for something simpler and achievable'. So:

*New Resolution 1* I will not enter the London Marathon

*New Resolution 2* I will not try to convert Andy Brock to veganism

*New Resolution 3* I will support social enterprises. Booked own seat in Tap Social every Friday.

*New Resolution 4* I will only throw soft items at telly when see picture of Trump.

*Ah well – cheers! So far so good and a happy New Year to you all!*

**Mike Bartlam**

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## How do I get a prescription?

### *A quick guide for patients on ways to use your GP effectively*

Most of us value our precious NHS even though we know it is stretched and constantly in the news as under crisis. I hear you say “how can I do my bit as a responsible patient to help the NHS and my GP make good use of the limited resources available?”

Many of us will find ourselves in need of medications or treatments for short term illness or chronic conditions at some stage in our lives. There are a whole range of ‘sudden onset’ illnesses, for which the local chemist is best placed to provide advice and to recommend treatments that can be bought over the counter (OTC) without needing a prescription. These conditions can involve the skin, breathing, pain, abdominal or urological problems, as well as many others. The chemist is also the best person to ask about possible medication clashes or “interactions”.

‘Chronic’ illnesses are conditions that are long-term. They need ongoing treatment and monitoring, as they cannot be cured. This often means that regular prescriptions are required. As a patient with a chronic disease you have your part to play in ensuring you receive your regular medication smoothly when you need it.

There are three different ways you can order your repeat prescription:

1. The simplest is via an on-line request through your patient access account. You can set this up by completing a registration form at <http://www.botleymedicalcentre.co.uk/prescriptions1.aspx>, or by requesting the form from reception. At the time of registration you will be asked for photo ID to ensure confidentiality.
2. The second option for requesting a repeat prescription is to tick the items you need on the B-side (back) of your last prescription. If the item you require is not on the repeat list, you can write it at the foot of the sheet. If you do not have a prescription with a B-side, the chemist can provide you with a copy. There are post-boxes for repeat prescriptions at the Botley and Kennington branches of the surgery, and a letter box to leave the request in when the surgery is closed.
3. Finally, you can request repeat medication in writing by post or fax, or by bringing your request to the surgery. (For safety reasons we do not take repeat prescription requests over the telephone.)

Please allow at least two working days for a prescription to be generated. Last-minute requests for medication create a further burden on the already stretched system. With over 16,500 patients in Botley and Kennington combined, you can imagine how many prescriptions need to be checked on a daily basis for safe issuing. Don't forget that if your medication is due for review the process may take a little longer and you may be asked to see the doctor or nurse.

To sum up, be proactive about your repeat prescription, allowing sufficient time to ensure you do not run out of medication. Know when your chronic disease condition(s) are due for review (usually in your birthday month) and proactively arrange appointments with your nurse or GP. You can check with the receptionist when they are due. Speak to your pharmacist if you have queries about your medication.

Sometimes, patients who have been seen in hospital are advised to start medication from there. If the hospital specialist deems this must be started urgently within the next 14 days, the hospital have an obligation to provide the medication to the patient. If this is not the case, the hospital will usually send a letter recommending that treatment is started on a non-urgent basis. Depending on the type of medication, the GP may want to further discuss any treatment suggestions with the patient.

Why might my GP not prescribe the medication I want? GPs are tightly regulated to comply with local NHS prescribing regulations. There are many medicines for which cheaper alternatives are available, and your doctor may prescribe something less costly. In this sense, you can do your bit by buying medication that is usually inexpensively available OTC from the pharmacist. In the year up to June 2017, the NHS spent approximately £569 million on such costly prescriptions. This huge sum could have covered some 56,000 hip replacements.

In short, make sure you leave plenty of time when ordering your repeat prescriptions. There is a whole process involved in generating a prescription, as your pharmacist can tell you.

**Dr A Ballestero**, on behalf of local doctors

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**SPRING CLEAN 2018 Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th March**

Every year since 2008, hundreds of people have come together on the first weekend in March to clear litter and rubbish from streets and parks. It makes a real impact. To join in, go to [oxclean.org.uk/spring-clean/](http://oxclean.org.uk/spring-clean/)



# Pavilion Community Art Exhibition

**Weekend of 19th & 20th May – 11am till 5pm**

Every year in May, the Oxfordshire Artweeks arts festival takes place across the county, with the city featuring in the latter half of the month. In previous years, local artists have participated, sometimes exhibiting individually from home or their studios, sometimes in group exhibitions at venues like the West Oxford Community Centre. This year, the Pavilion Trustees have decided to host a community art exhibition at the Louie Memorial Pavilion, on Arnolds Way.

2018 will see an increase in the numbers of artists exhibiting within our Parish for the Festival. Hosting such an exhibition is quite an undertaking and can require a lot of time and material, as well as costs. We wanted to open up the festival to all members of our community who enjoy being creative. If you have a piece of work, whatever the medium, we would love to display it in the exhibition. Work should be no larger than 30cm x 30cm and must be created/submitted by a Botley/North Hinksey resident. The works will not be for sale and there will be no entry fee.

This exhibition is a chance for everyone to show their creativity, in a year when our Parish is undergoing so much change. Perhaps you want to represent that change or capture something of our area that may soon be gone for good. Whatever your theme, let others see what you can do!

The popular Pavilion Pop-Up Cafe will be open each day as well, providing refreshments while you enjoy the artwork (*see photo*)!



For further information, please contact [emmettcasley@gmail.com](mailto:emmettcasley@gmail.com) or call 01865 427519. **The deadline for entries is 15th April.**

## Home Produce at Botley School

In early October 2017, Year 3 went to one of our huge apple trees in our playground and collected some of its ripe, juicy apples. Our mission was to create some apple chutney as part of our harvest celebration. The ingredients we needed were:

Apples  
Sugar  
Raisins  
Vinegar  
Mustard seeds  
Salt



The first job was to peel and chop the apples. It was very hard work! The apples were then put in a pan with all the other ingredients and heated gently for 20 mins. The chutney was complete. We poured it into a large sterilized jar and it was stored in a cupboard for 3 months to mature.

On Friday 12th January we were lucky enough to try it. Mrs Neil brought in some crackers and cheese for us to eat it with. Some of us had never tried chutney before and they were not sure if they would like it. Most of us gave it a go and were pleasantly surprised by how tasty it was! It was much sweeter than we thought it would be.

We had a vote, rating our chutney out of 5. 22 out of 45 gave it 5/5! Miss Marsh, our Headteacher, said "It was the best chutney that she had tasted over the Christmas holidays!"

**Immy Senge** and **Ashton Au** (Year 3)

## Christmas dinner with the Foodbank

We wanted to do something different this year, so we decided to help at the Oxford Foodbank's Christmas Day Community Meal, held at the King's Centre on Osney Island, and open to everyone.

Our first task was to help wrap presents to go under the large tree. The wrapping was the easy bit, trying to work out what age they were appropriate for was harder! The pile of gifts grew higher and were being taken away by excited children almost as fast as we added to it. Enthusiastic carol singing added to the Christmassy atmosphere. There were lots of people dressed as Santas, elves, fairies and a real ballerina. An entertainer, as well as a face painter, were on hand to amuse the children.



People circulated with large platters of smoked salmon starters for the guests to nibble as they arrived. Eventually we made our way to the tables, marvellously decorated with crackers, holly swags, clementines and various things to drink to go with the bowls of olives. Next, generous portions of turkey were distributed, with stuffing balls, sprouts, parsnips,

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>OXFORD<br/>CAT<br/>CLINIC</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  <p>For every cat<br/>and kitten</p> |                                                                                                |                                                                             |
| <p><b>Gentle, compassionate veterinary care for cats</b><br/><b>Full surgical and medical facilities</b><br/><b>Call us to register today</b><br/><a href="http://www.oxfordcatclinic.co.uk">www.oxfordcatclinic.co.uk</a></p> <table border="0"><tr><td data-bbox="593 1348 806 1476"><p><b>BOTLEY &amp; MARSTON</b><br/>78A West Way,<br/>Botley, OX2 9JU<br/>Tel: 01865 243000</p></td><td data-bbox="806 1348 1019 1476"><p><b>24 Cherwell Drive,<br/>Marston, OX3 0LY<br/>Tel: 01865 950700</b></p></td></tr></table> |                                                                                                                          | <p><b>BOTLEY &amp; MARSTON</b><br/>78A West Way,<br/>Botley, OX2 9JU<br/>Tel: 01865 243000</p> | <p><b>24 Cherwell Drive,<br/>Marston, OX3 0LY<br/>Tel: 01865 950700</b></p> |
| <p><b>BOTLEY &amp; MARSTON</b><br/>78A West Way,<br/>Botley, OX2 9JU<br/>Tel: 01865 243000</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>24 Cherwell Drive,<br/>Marston, OX3 0LY<br/>Tel: 01865 950700</b></p>                                              |                                                                                                |                                                                             |

carrots, roast potatoes, gravy and cranberry sauce. For those who did not fancy turkey, there was some delicious beef and vegetarian (and gluten-free) moussaka. This feast was followed by trays of mince pies, cup cakes and Christmas pudding with brandy sauce or custard. Christmas cake was then offered, with the option of a doggy bag for people who were too full to eat another mouthful! Excess portions of Christmas dinner were available for people to take home. People chatted at the tables and moved around to make new friends in between courses. There was a very relaxed, friendly atmosphere and it was great fun.

In another room was a free shop for people to take home yet more food as well as clothes. It is amazing that the meal for 400 and everything in the shop had been discarded by supermarkets and would have been thrown away but for the Food Bank's efforts.

When people started drifting away, the clearing up process began. The tables were cleared of plates of discarded food; rubbish was collected; chairs were stacked and tables tidied away. Eventually everything was put to rights and the tired helpers sat and supped cups of much needed coffee.

**Sally Hersom**

## **Ragwort Patrol**

Many were saddened by the closure of Manor Stables. It ended the tradition in North Hinksey of the country sight and sound of horses and ponies being led along the lane and grazing in the fields. Planning blight from the proposed Flood Alleviation scheme



finally persuaded Garry Donnelly that his business would not be viable. So the stables have gone and developers are moving in.

But all is not lost. Ailyn Energeli grew up with Manor Stables and is planning to pasture horses again in North Hinksey.

To that end, ragwort, which had infested the ten-acre field opposite Oxford Rugby Club, needed to be cleared. So a team led by Philip Hunter of Oxford Conservation Volunteers, together with some local people, joined Ailyn to clear the ragwort (which is poisonous to horses) on Saturday January 13.

If all goes well horses should be back enjoying North Hinksey pasture from March.

**Chris Sugden**

### **LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

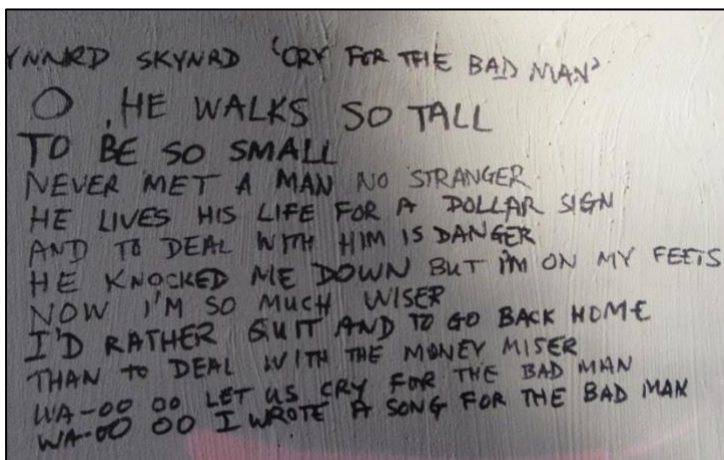
|                                       |                                                                                                                                    |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| P17/V3113/PDH<br>and<br>P17/V3103/HH  | 33 Raleigh Park Rd. Single storey rear extension, and 2-storey side extension with single extension to front, and loft conversion. | <b>14 Nov</b>                       |
|                                       |                                                                                                                                    | <b>16 Nov</b>                       |
| P17/V3136/LDP<br>and<br>P17/V3370/LDP | Six Elms, Stanton Road. Single storey brick extension and side extension.                                                          | <b>20 Nov</b>                       |
|                                       |                                                                                                                                    | <b>14 Dec</b>                       |
| P17/V3116/FUL                         | 9 West Way. Refurb existing B1 offices, with 2nd floor extension to make 10 flats.                                                 | <b>23 Nov</b><br><i>TDD: 22 Feb</i> |
| P17/V3200/LDP                         | 42 Arthray Rd. Loft conversion with box dormer and roof windows.                                                                   | <b>27 Nov</b>                       |
| P17/V3039/FUL                         | 8 Elms Rd. Demolish house, replace with 10 flats. Develop P17/V1418/FUL.                                                           | <b>4 Dec</b><br><i>TDD: 5 March</i> |
| P17/V3275/FUL                         | Gables, 6 Cumnor Hill, Demolish house & garage, replace with 9 flats (8 two-bed, 1 1-bed), parking etc.                            | <b>4 Dec</b>                        |
| P17/V3287/HH                          | 94 West Way 1-storey rear extension                                                                                                | <b>4 Dec</b>                        |
| P17/V3242/HH                          | 27 Maple Close. 1-storey annex.                                                                                                    | <b>5 Dec</b>                        |
| P17/V3257/FUL                         | Botley Cemetery. Remove shed, extend toilet facility.                                                                              | <b>5 Dec</b>                        |
| P17/V2908/HH                          | 33 West Way. Build children's summer house on shed.                                                                                | <b>6 Dec</b>                        |
| P17/V3298/FUL                         | Botley Centre. Variation of Conditions 2 & 4 of P16/V0246/FUL amended plans.                                                       | <b>6 Dec</b><br><i>TDD: 7 March</i> |

|               |                                                                                                               |                                     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| P17/V3356/HH  | Ferry Cottage 7 N.H. Lane. Refurb & extend Grade II Listed cottage with external works, remove C20 extension. | <b>15 Dec</b><br><i>TDD: 9 Feb</i>  |
| P17/V3329/LDP | Old Manor Stables, N.H.Lane. Single conservation rooflight. Enlarge opening with french doors.                | <b>18 Dec</b><br><i>TDD: 12 Feb</i> |
| P17/V3417/PDO | St Lawrence House, N.H. Lane. Change of use from office to 20 residential flats                               | <b>22 Dec</b><br><i>TDD: 16 Feb</i> |
| P17/V3393/FUL | Botley Medical Centre Elms Road. Single storey extension.                                                     | <b>3 Jan</b><br><i>TDD: 28 Feb</i>  |

## Poetry – what jolly fun!

I do realise that poetry is not everybody's cup of tea. I remember being slightly underwhelmed at Botley School in the 1970s when our class had to learn, parrot fashion, the Lewis Carroll ditty,

*You Are Old, Father William.* However, I do recall being greatly entertained by Elms Road's Dorothy Squires (not the one who married Roger Moore) who recited an amusing rhyme about a jumble sale. Then there was Greta Browning's father, Henry Francies, who finished off his funny poem about stitches in a medical operation with a line that went



something like "Why don't they use a zip?" These days poetry doesn't seem to be in such high prominence unless you classify pop song lyrics as great literature. I did

spot some lyrics from 1970s rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd under the A34 fly-over but apart from perhaps Bob Dylan songs or the stunning story told in Don Maclean's *American Pie*, there is little to challenge a Shakespeare sonnet or even a Lear limerick. [*Wot about Leonard Cohen, Ed.*]

Perhaps poetry has to be read in the right way, sometimes out loud to be appreciated. I was pleased to discover Michael Caine's rendition of Rudyard Kipling's *If* on YouTube. I am also finding YouTube useful for discovering Matthew Arnold's poems. Later this year I'm planning on giving a talk to our Cumnor & District History Society on this poet who had a lot to do with this area and education, which explains why our local secondary school was named after him 60 years ago. If you have any interesting details, or pictures connected with this poet, school inspector and literary critic then please do let me know. You can phone me on Oxford 864776 or email [martin.harris321@gmail.com](mailto:martin.harris321@gmail.com)



You may never have heard of Sir Walter Raleigh, who until his death in 1922, lived in a house called 'The Hangings', at the foot of Harcourt Hill, but he was the author of these familiar lines (from the 1998 BBC book *The Nation's Favourite Comic Poems*)

**Wishes of an Elderly Man,**

*(wished at a Garden Party, June, 1914)*

I wish I loved the Human Race; I wish I loved its silly face;

I wish I liked the way it walks; I wish I liked the way it talks ;

And when I'm introduced to one, I wish I thought "What Jolly Fun!"

**Martin Harris**

~~~~~

## **Randoms**

### **Have your say on Oxfordshire's Waste and Recycling Strategy 2030**

Now's the time to help promote more waste reduction and recycling in the County. Although Oxfordshire ranks as one of the best in the country, with recycling rates at about 60%, there's room for improvement. The county is seeking residents' views on ways to reduce waste and recycle more over a 6-week consultation, open till **18th February**. The online survey is at: **[www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk)**. So send in your suggestions on e.g., left-over food, ideas on incentives/ rewards or views on changing bin sizes and the frequency of collection. The Oxfordshire Environmental Partnership will make recommendations over the summer and then each council partner (e.g. the Vale of the White Horse district council) will adopt changes later in the year.

**Jan McHarry**

### **Mare maths?**

Kumon Maths and English Study Centre in Botley is offering a two-week, no obligation, free trial during February. They accept Childcare Vouchers and Working Tax Credits and are now open on Sundays. For more information and to book, text Louise on 07809156502

### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year the service has been compiled by the Christian women of Suriname and the theme is 'All God's creation is very good!' The service



will be at **10.30 on Friday 2nd March** at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Yarnells Hill. All are very welcome!

**Monica White**

### **Families Surviving Alcoholism**

A talk on Wednesday 21st February 2018, from 7 to 9pm at Botley Medical Centre, Elms Road, Oxford, OX2 9JS, organized by Botley/Kennington Patient Participation Group and Al-Anon Family Group. Further information from **Botleyppg@gmail.com** or phone 07503 943812.

### **Home Library Service**

The Home Library Service is offered in partnership with Age UK and the Royal Voluntary Service to people who are unable to visit the library themselves through frailty, infirmity or a disability and who have no other means of getting access to reading materials. Full-time carers and those who might need the service on a short-term basis following debilitating illness or hospitalisation can apply too.

Contact us to discuss the kind of books, DVDs, music CDs or audio books that you like to read or enjoy. We will then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home. Our volunteers wear identification badges and provide a helpful and friendly service. Whenever possible, we try and arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The service is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns. To register for this service or for further information call the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email **homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk**.

### **Art Group Show at Ss Peter and Paul Church**

As part of the ongoing art exhibitions in the Church of SS Peter & Paul on West Way, North Hinksey Art Group will be showing paintings from Monday 5 February until mid-April 2018.

The group is a watercolour and drawing class that meets in Botley W.I. Hall on Wednesday mornings during term time. It is tutored by the very able Christina Wartke-Dunbar. The classes are friendly and relaxed yet structured, with the emphasis on developing individual styles. You can find out more about the classes of North Hinksey Art Group at **[www.christinas-art-classes.co.uk](http://www.christinas-art-classes.co.uk)** (where you can also see more of our art work) or call 07931 707997. The classes are for complete beginners or those with some experience.

The exhibition is arranged by Botley Arts. If you are interested in submitting work, please email Jennie Hopkins at [jennie@talk21.com](mailto:jennie@talk21.com) or Ruth Cameron at [cameronruth40@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cameronruth40@yahoo.co.uk)

The church is open Mon–Fri from 9 am until 5 pm so do feel free to pop in next time you are at the Botley shops. We hope you enjoy looking these examples of what we have achieved in our classes - you could even buy a picture if one took your fancy!

### **Parkrun for active children**

Junior Parkrun is for children aged 4 to 14 and takes place at Brookes Harcourt Campus on Sunday mornings at 9am. The course is 2km on grass, and the event is free, subsidized by the VOWHDC. Just register online at [parkrun.org.uk/register/](http://parkrun.org.uk/register/) and print off your barcode, which you will need to bring with you to enter.

### **Volunteers needed**

ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children) is looking for volunteers to help children who are struggling with reading. Twice weekly sessions of 1½ hours during the school day in a primary school near you. Full training is given and we provide ongoing support and reimburse travel expenses. To find out more, visit our website [www.archoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.archoxfordshire.org.uk) or telephone us on 01869 320380

**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 -7.30 : Alison Griffin 01865 379247
<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 Singers</b>	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>
<b>Chair-based Exercise Class</b>	Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Seacourt Hall Contact Lizzie, Oxon Age UK, 07785 425601
<b>Community Fridge</b>	For all. Put food in, take food out. Ss P&P church, Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811
<b>Cumnor Choral Society</b>	Friday 7.30 to 9.30 pm Contact: 01235 533726 or 07552 786127 or <a href="http://www.cumnorchoral.co.uk">www.cumnorchoral.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor Chess Club</b>	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 <a href="http://www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk">www.cumnorchessclub.co.uk</a>
<b>Cumnor &amp; District Historical Society</b>	Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808
<b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>	Details on website at <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone Chris Impey, 01865 721026
<b>Fit Steps – exercise based on dance</b>	Friday 6–7pm, Seacourt Hall. Email Rosalie on <a href="mailto:rosalie.crane@btinternet.com">rosalie.crane@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>	Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>	Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto: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:anndykes@hotmail.com">anndykes@hotmail.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>	Alan Stone 01865 861992 <a href="mailto:nhpcclerk@msn.com">nhpcclerk@msn.com</a>
<b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>	Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook
<b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386
<b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dymrna 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>Royal Voluntary Service (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: Marion Bostock 436277
<b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 07815 899698 <a href="http://www.wotkd.co.uk">www.wotkd.co.uk</a>
<b>West Oxford U3A</b>	(Uni of the 3rd Age) <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>

