

The Sprout



Little Red Riding Hood

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 156 April 2021

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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Issue 156, April 2021

Contents

3 Letters to the Editor	27 More About Scams
5 Bakers at the Farmers Market	31 Ka Hinga Te Arai (poem)
9 Bring It On, Botley School	31 Planning Applications
13 Botley Artists in Artweeks	33 Kennington Memory Club
17 Meet Mark Clay	35 Remaking Hinksey Trail
21 Annual Parish Meeting	40 Q&A at Botley Surgery
24 Trees are Precious (poem)	41 Randoms
25 Lockdown's Lighter Moments	43 Local organizations

From the Editor

Welcome to the April *Sprout*, out as a proper booklet again at last. If it feels a bit dense this month, that's because there aren't as many advertisements – local trades are feeling the pinch. Still, there's plenty to ponder in this month's issue. For instance, an account of the Annual Parish Meeting (p21). Zoom is all very well, but like online publication, it can exclude the older members, so the *Sprout* has come to the rescue. A Patients Group Q&A session with the medical practice (p40) provides some welcome answers to Covid questions, and on page 27 there is some further information about current scams. Oxford Artweeks will take place at the end of May, and there is a preview of local artists on page 13. Our roving reporter has done some further interviews with stallholders at the Farmers Market (p5), the new head brings you up to date on events at Botley School (p9), illustrated on this month's cover, and there's an inspiring account of volunteering work in one of the area's more popular outdoor spaces (p35). Finally, the kids get a look-in on pages 24 and 25. Happy reading!

Ag MacKeith

STOP PRESS – REFERENDUM ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WILL BE ON 6TH MAY. REGISTER TO VOTE BY 19TH APRIL. SEE P42 – STOP PRESS



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Letters to the Editor

Hats off to our local councillors

I read the Parish Council's Annual Newsletter with a rising sense of optimism and gratitude for the work of our volunteer councillors. In such a difficult year for everyone in our community, and around the world, I feel blessed to have such public-spirited people in our community who will continue to serve us, even when their own lives are disrupted by the tragedy of the pandemic.

Thanks for encouraging more people to take up allotments and looking after our precious nature reserves and Raleigh Park. Both are a source of sanity to me and a lot of friends and neighbours. Thanks also for speaking out for our green spaces, against the Expressway, and being a first parish to declare a Climate Emergency.

As we hopefully start to see some relaxation in the current restrictions, I hope we can all put into the consultation on the skatepark to make it great for our kids, and the neighbours.

So hats off to our local councillors for all your work for us though this rough and rum year.

Phil Bloomer

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Baked Goods at the Farmers Market

We are spoiled for choice on the baked goods front at Botley Farmers Market. The Bitmead Family-owned and -run Old Farmhouse Bakery from Steventon has admirable standards. In the words of Beccie, daughter of the house, they are “a small artisan bakery producing good old-fashioned bread by hand, from scratch, in small batches, using no chemicals or preservatives, to traditional recipes.” Casting a glance at the array of bread and pastries on their website, I am tempted in particular by their wholemeal loaf with sunflower seeds and their Oxford brown sourdough.



A bit of history: Beccie's parents, Kate and Rodney, were established local dairy and arable farmers in Steventon. In 1980, the village baker retired, after which Kate no longer could find good nutritious bread anywhere nearby, so took matters into her own hands. The family converted some barns opposite their home, reinstated the equipment from the former bakery there, and opened the Old Farmhouse Bakery in 1982. Beccie – a primary schoolgirl at the time – remembers “it sounds very simple, but was in fact a major job!”

Now, almost 30 years later, the Old Farmhouse Bakery is a well-known fixture in the Oxfordshire area. In addition to the Steventon base, they have a shop in Kintbury (Berks) and with their “small but talented” team manage a presence at no fewer than eleven local farmers markets! It’s evident that Botley is fortunate to be among them.. When I asked Shirley, one of their team, whether she noticed anything distinctive about the Botley Market, she replied that she was struck by the wide variety of ages and backgrounds in our population.

Beccie makes a cogent point here: “We don’t travel any further than 30 miles to attend genuine Farmers Markets. They mirror our belief

in keeping food miles down and helping to keep money circulating within the local community. Customers can talk directly to producers and shopping in the open air is a great benefit, particularly in current times.”

Wherever possible, the Bakery sources its ingredients locally. Their eggs are delivered by a farmer from Newbury; their flour comes from one of three Oxfordshire millers. At the actual shops, the Bakery stocks a variety of local produce, in addition to the flour and eggs: beer, honey, and a large selection of British farmhouse cheeses. “As ex-dairy farmers,” says Beccie, “this is something we’re passionate about.”

Little wonder, then, that the Old Farmhouse Bakery is one of the original Rick Stein *Food Heroes*, and that for the past 20 years, it has featured in Henrietta Green’s *Food Lovers Guide to Britain*. You can find out more from their website:

[Www.farmhousebakerycafe.co.uk](http://www.farmhousebakerycafe.co.uk)

Severn Bakery But the Old Farmhouse Bakery is not the only stall at our weekly Market to entice you with its array of tantalising breads and croissants. Oli Chias, 31, is a young independent baker who has created the Gloucester-based Severn Bakery and who normally (pre-lockdown) focuses on the wholesale trade, notably with cafes. But Oli likes to balance the wholesale side of his business with farmers markets, finding it worth his while to make the journey to Botley on Saturdays and Summertown on Sundays.

Oli's story is rather different from that of the Bitmead Family. He says that he “accidentally fell into the trade”. After leaving school, he took a general assistant job at a local supermarket in Gloucester, and just happened to be assigned to the bakery department. As he was quick at his own relatively limited tasks, he would offer to help the bakers finish their work, and rapidly developed a strong interest in the actual dough development and baking of goods. This led to the successive opening of many doors, starting with an NVQ apprenticeship and consequent promotion to bakery supervisor. By the age of 21, Oli was the Bakery Manager. Not wanting to cease learning at that point, he spent the next two years juggling his managerial role (Wednesdays – Sundays full time) with spending Mondays and Tuesdays in Leeds, doing a specialist Food Manufacturing and Development qualification at a college there. Punishing, I call it ... but he WAS very young.

At 23, Oli fancied diversifying, so went to work for some six years at a French wholesale bakery in Tewkesbury, where he enhanced his bread skills while also becoming proficient on the patisserie side. When Oli got a yearning for his own business, his boss Thierry, was especially supportive, continuing to employ him part-time while he gradually transitioned to self-employment. He even lent him spare equipment that he himself wasn't using ... how generous is *that*? I was curious about his motivation, and found his reply to my question interesting, and indicative of Oli's evident unassuming nature: "I'm not too sure how the idea came about. Originally I didn't have any interest in starting my own business; however I think I wanted change and didn't see the point to just move jobs where my current boss was such a great and supporting employer."



Oli now is a limited company, with aspirations to hire staff post-lockdown once the business returns to strong growth. For the moment, it is just him, and ... unsurprisingly ... his devoted mum, who helps at the weekends when his already heavy schedule is stretched even further. I have to admit that when he showed me his actual timetable of 12-14 hour stints on weekdays, extending to 24 continuous hours at the weekend, it was hard to see a window for rest. Ever unperturbed, Oli replied that on Tuesdays he sleeps between 16 and 20 hours, "so my body can catch up." Well, he IS dedicated!

Did he have a favourite loaf, I asked. "My favourite loaf is Ciabatta; it has a great crust and large irregular air bubbles in the crumb – I make this the traditional way, a process known as Double Hydration, allowing the dough to hold a large amount of water. It has no olive oil in the dough, as this is NOT in a traditional recipe!"

So whether you fancy a bit of double hydration, or one of the variety of seeded brown loaves, or sourdough, or a baguette, give the Severn Bakery a whirl.

Ruth Cameron

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Bring It On, Botley School!

Monday 8th March finally arrived. It was fantastic to have all our school back in the building and to see the smiles on the pupils' faces and hear the excited 'Morning Mrs Reid' as they came through the school gate. At lunchtime the joy on the children's faces was wonderful to see as they played with their friends for the first time since December. The children have come out of the restricted attendance period resilient, positive and full of the characteristic enthusiasm that has been so apparent to me in the Botley School community since I joined in September.

There are many people who contribute to that positivity. I want to applaud the efforts of the Botley School teachers and staff who worked so hard to deliver the spring term curriculum both remotely and in person for the pupils who were coming to school every day.

They went above and beyond to ensure our pupils were able to access their learning, and that they were being safeguarded to the same high standard as would be expected in school.

I also want to say a huge 'Thank you' to all our parents for supporting the children so well with remote learning and enabling them to build the resilience they have demonstrated this week as they settled back into school life. Many of us at the school are also working parents, so we truly understand the effort and organisation that went into making sure the children were online every day and accessing their learning.

Part of our remote learning plan was to try and increase our access to laptops to provide support for pupils who had limited access at home. We worked closely with the Dean Court Community Action group who were able to lend our pupils a number of laptops. We also had chrome books donated from members of the local community. These extremely generous actions, alongside our allotted number of laptops from the Department for Education, allowed us to offer laptops at home for pupils who would not otherwise have had access to learning. Thank you to all those involved, from the people donating laptops, to the IT gurus who set them up for our pupils to use safely.

In addition, a huge congratulations and 'Thank you' goes out to our Friends of Botley School Association, who, through fundraising,

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were able to donate an amazing £10,000 for new laptops and iPads for the school. These will be an enormous help in ensuring our pupils have the best access possible for their learning, whether remotely or in school.

The National Lockdown hasn't stopped us from developing our learning spaces and celebrating some of our usual annual events. The children were thrilled to arrive back in school and find a brand new all-weather Multi Use Games Area in our field. With lots of new equipment and ideas for outdoor games to play, this area has already proved a hit with the children.

We also celebrated World Book Day. There were virtual author visits and messages from Taylor Dolan, author of the 'Ghost Scouts' series and Sophie Anderson, author of 'The Girl Who Speaks Bear'. The children created models and dressed up as their favourite book characters (featured on this month's cover) and took part in various different activities across the week. Great fun was had by all and, most importantly, we enjoyed so many fantastic stories and books!

I am writing this in the week we will be celebrating Red Nose Day, when we will be holding a **BE A COMEDIAN** competition throughout the day, and coming to school out of uniform for the occasion.

We are already thinking about next academic year 2021-22, in particular about our Nursery provision. Did you know that you can apply for a Nursery place when your child is 2 years old? Please contact our School Office for details if you are interested.

If this term (and this year) has taught us anything, it is that we can find ways to come together, to look after each other and celebrate together remotely and begin to look forward with hope to the time when we can all be together again in person. Until then stay safe and well.

Jo Reid, Headteacher



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Oxfordshire Artweeks 2021 – Botley Artists

With May comes the joy of Oxfordshire Artweeks!! Once again, this amazing festival offers you the opportunity to meet artists, to talk about their work and enjoy a fantastic range of Art.

This year, due to some pandemic restrictions still being in place during the Festival period, all venues have committed to be Covid-secure to make your visit both an enjoyable and safe one. With hand gel, ventilated spaces and masks a plenty, our artists are very much looking forward to sharing their work with you. With safety in mind, most venues will be by appointment only, in line with government guidelines - so do book ahead to get your preferred spot! Some venues, however, have decided to remain “online only” for a further year, so please be sure to check before you visit!

We are so lucky to have several talented artists in the Botley, Cumnor and Wootton areas and they would love you to visit over the festival: to be inspired, entertained and delighted. You are welcome to browse, chat and perhaps you will buy a treasure to take home with you. Entry to all these exhibitions is **free**.

For reasons of space, we have restricted this list to Botley artists, but you can find details about local artists in Cumnor and Wootton as well on www.artweeks.org alongside information about the many other artists taking part in the festival. For now, here is a little about each artist showing in our area. Do book a visit. It's the perfect way to slowly ease out of a long winter of lockdown.

Site 67

Kate Hipkiss

Open: 8th–16th May, 11am to 6pm



Kate Hipkiss works with paper, cutting intricate designs by hand to create layered images ranging from picturesque Oxford architecture

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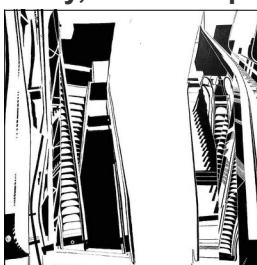
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and landscapes to microscopic patterns found in the natural world. She will be exhibiting a range of framed and unframed work in her Botley studio www.katehipkiss.co.uk and <https://www.instagram.com/katehipkiss/>

Site 68

Emmett Casley

Open: 8th–9th and 15th–16th May, 11am to 5pm



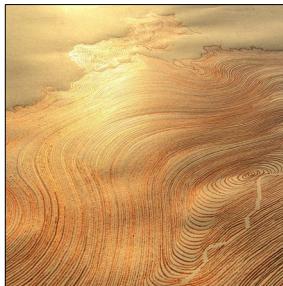
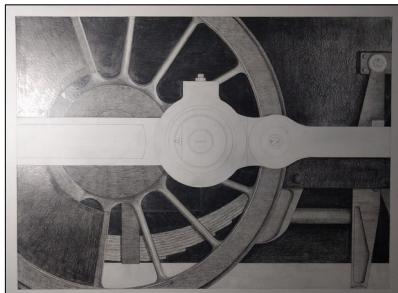
Emmett works predominantly as a printmaker. He is mid study and currently experimenting with less literal approaches to his craft. This year's exhibition explores printmaking and drawing, focussing on ideas of landscapes and coexistence. <http://www.emmettcasley.com/>

Site 69

Mark Clay

Open: 8, 9, 12–16 May, from 10am to 6pm

Book here for an appointment: <http://www.calendly.com/markrclay>



Mark shares work from his recently completed Masters in Fine Art and current projects. His work explores landscapes and industrial history, looking for stories of transformation and change, especially those that are overlooked or hidden in plain sight. His work takes



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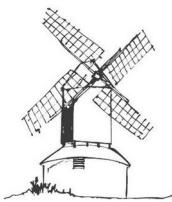
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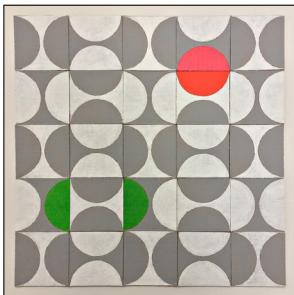
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<https://www.facebook.com/MarkRClayStudio> www.markrclay.co.uk

Site 70

Ali Hogg and Jane Hogg

Open: 8th–9th, 13th (to 8pm), 15th–16th May, from 10am to 6pm

Viewing by appointment only



Ali and Jane will be showing a range of work from different practices, including: painting, drawing, collage and paper making.

<https://www.instagram.com/ali.hogg/>

Meet... Mark Clay

Mark Clay (seen here with his family in Carmen Caldera's historic record of Botley Under Lockdown), has been living in Botley since 2004. But he wasn't an artist at all until six years ago. Well, he had done an O-level in Technical Drawing many years before, but he was busy being a charity fundraiser for 25 years, working first in Leeds and London before moving to Oxford with his wife Sarah. His first steps to becoming an artist were doing fun art projects with his young daughters Ellen and Rose, as an antidote to having a stressful job.

But in 2015, Mark decided to challenge himself by studying for a



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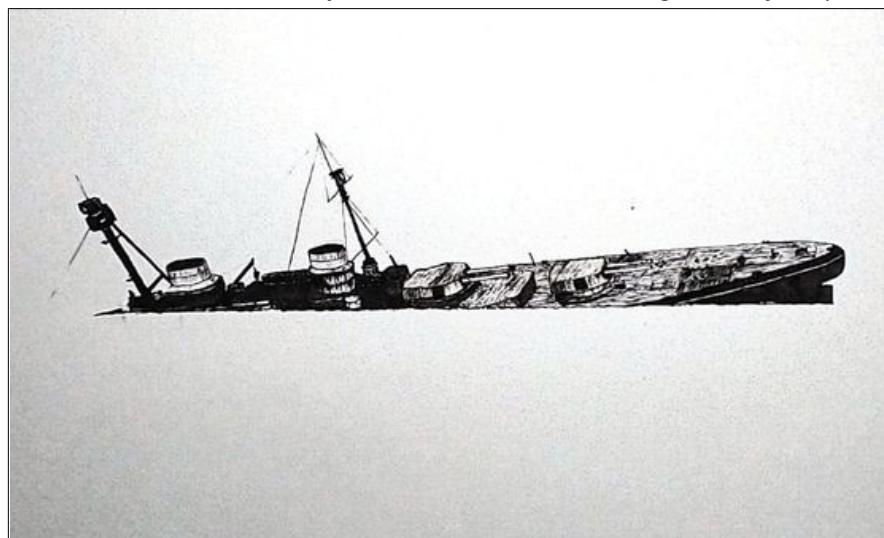
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Diploma in Art and Design at City of Oxford College. This involved a lot of exploration of different media – painting, drawing, sculpture and a great deal besides. “It was kind of a quick introduction to many forms and styles of art so that we could work out what our own interests were, and the best decision I ever made,” he says. “I found out that drawing is key. And once I started, I knew I wanted to keep going.”

Mark went on to complete his MFA in Fine Arts at Oxford Brookes last September. “By that time, my interest had really focused on landscape and industrial history, by way of lots of other false starts,” he says. “My subject was an abandoned railway line on Anglesey. As well as drawn work, I did sound recordings, installations, textile work, even some text-based art. The beauty of an MFA (and the challenge of it) is that nobody tells you what to do. You have to decide for yourself. A lot of my work is about how things change over time. Some things change very slowly, for instance a railway line becoming derelict, but other things change quickly. So, more recently, I’ve been looking at the remarkable story of how the German Fleet was scuttled in Orkney in 1919. Imagine watching an entire fleet disappear beneath the waves. It must have been an incredible and tragic sight.” (*Our limited format can't really do justice to 'Four Minutes Left', but you can see the whole image in May. Ed*)



One of Mark’s Anglesey-inspired pieces was short-listed for the 2020 Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize. Only 71 drawings were

selected out of more than 4,000 entries, and Mark's piece is now on a brief tour of the UK with all the other shortlisted works. "I consider myself an Oxford-grown artist," he says, "but I'm just one of many artists and creators in Botley and the wider area. Ellen and Rose are also talented artists."

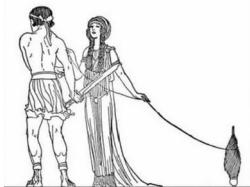
Drawing has been particularly important for Mark over the past year. "I like to travel the UK, particularly remoter places and islands," he says, "but over the past year I've had to travel in my imagination only. It has been a real plus to have an artistic outlet during coronavirus. Drawing has become a wonderful and immersive way to see out the lockdown."

Mark still works as a charity fundraising consultant, but his portfolio of exhibition, sales and commissions is growing fast. His website www.markrclay.co.uk gives more information, including how to commission an artwork. In his remaining spare time, Mark likes to run and play the piano, and he loves hill walking (especially in the Lake District) and exploring the countryside. He is a member of the volunteer team that is renovating the Hinksey Heights Nature Trail.

Mark will be participating in Oxfordshire ArtWeeks once again, between 8 and 16 May. He will be showing some of his MFA work,

plus more recent work and projects in progress. His garden studio will also be open. Viewings will be by appointment only, so that numbers of visitors can be managed in a Covid-safe way. More information is available on www.artweeks.org or on his website.

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Mark and his family love living in Botley. "We like the people. We like how easy it is to get into Oxford, with all it has to offer, but also to get out into the countryside. But mostly we love the community. We wouldn't want to live anywhere else in Oxford."

Riki Therivel

Annual Parish Meeting

I'd have preferred someone else to write this, as it is so contrary to my past form to be complimentary about the parish council. But the Annual Parish Meeting of 18th March was exemplary, and showed a council at the top of their game. The presentations were enthusiastic and well informed, and the contention around the scout hut ensured there was an audience – up to 105, as against the more usual 40 or so of recent years. The Chair, David Kay, maintained a friendly calm to the end, and the efficient new Clerk, Sharon Henley, managed Zoom and the online votes as if she'd been doing it all her life.

Lorna Berrett, Chair of the Communications Committee, kicked off the main business with an outline of actions to meet the council's seven Key Objectives for their term, which ends in 2023. These are:

- to conduct business in an open and transparent way
- to improve the range of recreation activities (a big one, which includes replacing the pavilion and building a skatepark)
- to get the best possible value for the community from the new shopping centre
- to put the Neighbourhood Plan into place
- to mitigate the climate crisis as far as possible
- to provide emergency support for Covid.

She herself had led the effort to rally community support in the Covid crisis, and we all know how effective that has been. The new Seacourt Hall, although not used for meetings, had become the temporary home of the Community Fridge, from which food parcels had been delivered across the parish. Laura Jones spoke of the community arts project, which is looking at putting the S106 money from the shopping centre towards a mural to beautify the hideous A34 flyover (to be discussed at the next council meeting). Chris Church, Chair of the Environment Committee, described its work, reminding us of the two tree planting sessions that we joined in our hundreds in last December. He's been part of a team developing a tool to help parish councils nationally to deliver on climate change. The Neighbourhood Plan, seven years in the making, has now reached a point when it can be put to the parish in a referendum, and this will happen as soon as lockdown restrictions allow.

After a brief account of the work of the PPG attached to the local



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surgery, regularly covered in the *Sprout*, someone put forward a motion that the whole parish should adopt a 20mph speed limit. A vote showed there was a lot of support for the idea. PC take note!

Next came questions from the public. First up, people really wanted to know when the skatepark would be built and offered to help get things going. The idea is to have it in place by 2023, and the soon-to-be-set-up working group will include local skate-boarders, who are invited to come forward with their ideas. This Q&A session gave the parish the chance to set the record straight with regard to some anonymous posters seen around which claim the precept had gone up by 9% this year (it was actually 1%) and that £30,000 had been spent on legal advice around the scout hut (considerably less, and likely to be reduced further when parish is reimbursed for costs incurred in relation to the failed judicial review).

* * *

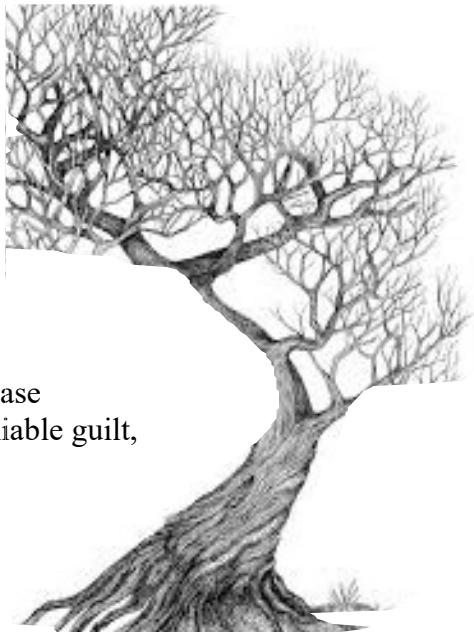
There was a ten-minute break, and then the meeting got down to plans for the playing fields. Caroline Potter, Chair of Recreation and Amenities, gave an account of the thinking behind the project. Once the local pub had been demolished in favour of housing, Elms Rise had lost its only meeting place. The decrepit pavilion was no longer fit for purpose, but it would be a wasted opportunity if its replacement did not include facilities for all the groups that meet up the hill, including the youth club and the scouts. The scouts had originally welcomed the plan, but then realized that no amount of snazzy new facilities outweighed the advantages of having their own space. A formal Parish Poll, whereby ten parishioners can require the council to hold a referendum on an agreed motion, was demanded. Cllr Kay pointed out that this would cost a further £3,000 of public money, and offered to hold a free public survey instead, but to no avail. By this stage the meeting had been going on for nearly three hours, and numbers were falling away like autumn leaves. But there was solid support for the poll, which the Vale will administer. The motion we'll be asked to vote on, is that the lease for the Scouts pavilion should be renewed for the next twenty years.

By this time it was half-past ten, and everyone was tired out. But we had got an insight into the workings of a highly proactive and effective parish council; and two parties of public-spirited volunteers, who had somehow lost the ability to talk to each other, had held an open public discussion of the issues that divided them, from which, hopefully, all can now move forward.

Ag MacKeith

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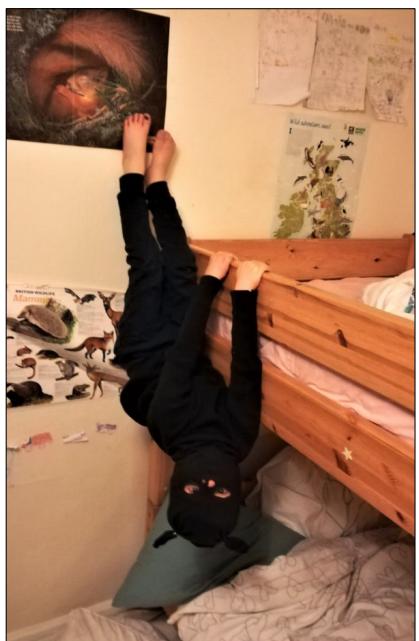
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No Job too Small

Lockdown's Lighter Moments

Facing page: Bronwynn, 4 last July, bringing sparkle to home-schooling in a flamenco outfit, and preparing to escape lockdown by broomstick; 2 year-old William being a superhero from his high chair, with the help of a Botley Bridges activity pack; and Alexander (aged 4) springing from cupboard to bunk in a black panther outfit crafted by his dad. *Thanks to all who sent in photos*



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More About Scams

A local bank manager (a rare breed these days!) has got in touch with these warnings:

“There are a number of new scams on the rise, particularly impersonation scams. The criminals make their call or text appear genuine by cloning the number or sender ID with one the organisation uses (known as ‘**spoofing**’).

“**Police Impersonation** has also happened recently, where a ‘police officer’ contacts you to warn you that staff in your local bank branch are using counterfeit notes and your assistance is needed in an undercover police operation. You are then instructed to come in and make a large withdrawal, which you are to hand over to the police for the notes to be analysed. They will return the money to your account later that day. Once the money is handed over, of course, you will never see it again.

“Another scam claims to be from the ‘**fraud squad**’ making enquiries about suspicious payments on your account. Your account is now compromised and you must urgently move the money to a safe account to protect it. Once you have transferred the money, you have lost it!”

Keen followers of Nextdoor North Hinksey will have noticed a string of scams shared by numerous neighbours to protect each other and reassure themselves. These include:

- from ‘**HMRC**’ warning you will be arrested for fraud if you don’t press 1. (But of course, the real HMRC never phone you. They send you a letter.)
- a text from ‘**Royal Mail Parcels**’ saying you owe them a smallish sum, which you must pay if you want it delivered.
- A call saying **DPD** had tried and failed to deliver a parcel, and your only chance of getting it is to drive to a depot in London and pick it up. The idea seems to be to trick you into divulging your address – but if the call was genuine they would surely know your address, so alarm bells ring!

Here’s one from Chris Pelling of Cumnor Hill: “New scam call this morning: this one was offering a free ‘**medical pendant alert**’ worth £400, offered on a government scheme to those at risk, and sounded half-way plausible until I asked a few questions. It was for those known to have a pre-existing health condition (I don’t) and



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who are over 50 (I am). These scams seem to be a known thing in the US, but I haven't heard of them over here before. Beware!"

Here's one copied from a post in FabulousFarmoor: "The latest technique claims to be from **BT**, and is a threat to cut you off, and to 'do it now'. The caller then plays a disconnect sound, and places the call on mute at their end so that if the recipient tries to make an outgoing call, all they get is a dead line. The scammer can hear all this as they've not hung up. They then end the call, ring the victim back and ask for their credit card details in order to 'avoid further disconnection'. If you're ever unsure if it's a scam, ask the caller to tell you your name and account number – BT will have this info, scammers won't."

But watch out for this: **A phishing call that turned out to be genuine!** "Yesterday I had a series of texts and robotic calls to my mobile phone claiming to be my bank, RBS, warning me a fraudulent card activity. They turned out to be genuine! The main mistake that RBS made was to ask me to contact a phone number given out during the call or message, – a classic fraudster's ploy, I thought. Eventually I decided to check as a precaution – but I used a phone number that I knew, the one on the back of my card. It turns out that my card *had* been compromised, but RBS had detected the first fake transaction and blocked the card until they could speak with me. Well done them! The point that I wanted to share is that if you are concerned about warning or threatening messages – check them out using a phone number that you already know, like the ones on the back of your cards."

These scam calls most likely would have originated from outside the country, and the criminals will be hiding behind an anonymous VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol, which means it can be from a computer anywhere in the world). There's not a lot you can do to protect yourself, but in the case of a text, you have the option of copying it and sending it to 7726, where it will be investigated. If it's an email, you can forward it to the body it purports to be from – e.g., HMRC – and let them know what's being done in their name.

Otherwise, chat rooms like Nextdoor North Hinksey are a great resource. Once you've learned to recognize scams for what they are, you can share them and laugh at them, and perhaps marvel yet again at all the ingenious ways humans find to take advantage of each other – or not!

Ag MacKeith



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P21/V0441/LDP	47 Raleigh Park Rd. Single storey extension.	11 February <i>TDD: 8 April</i>
P21/V0470/HH	15 Yarnells Rd. Construction of detached single garage.	5 March <i>TDD: 30 April</i>



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Re-opening – Hurray!

We are aiming to re-open the Day Centre in late April or at the beginning of May, as allowed by Government guidelines. With the rapid local roll-out of vaccines, all members should have been vaccinated, and the staff will have received their jabs and will be doing Covid tests on themselves regularly too. Initially there will be no volunteer helpers, so everyone within the building will be protected by the Covid vaccine. There will also be all the necessary infection control procedures in place, so members and their families should have confidence that they are as safe as they possibly can be when at the Day Centre.



Frustration compounded! With no volunteers helping out initially, numbers of members who can attend will be limited for the time

being, but we know how difficult it has been for those living with dementia and their families. We have all got frustrated at times at the restrictions on our lives and had to be patient. How much worse it must be for those living with dementia who don't fully comprehend what it's all

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about, and for those caring for them, when there has been no relief from their constant responsibility and the demands of being stuck at home.

Members We are keen to make sure that Helen, our organizer, is made aware of names of any potential members, so that they can go on the waiting list. They would then be the first to be contacted when spaces become available after re-start. Her phone number is 07853 883496. After having been severely limited in what activities have been possible during lockdown and with restricted contact with others outside their own household, the prospect of attending the Day Centre will be very welcome. Carers may also look forward to the chance of a short period of respite during the Day Centre hours.

Thank you We do owe an immense thank you to all NHS staff who have worked so hard during this pandemic, and also to the scientists and medics who made the vaccines available, distributed and delivered so rapidly. Note to everyone – **please, please** do get your vaccine as soon as you are offered it. It really is a case of the sooner the better, the more the merrier! More information on kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk

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Remaking the Hinksey Trail

The call came in April 2020 as the shackles of the first lockdown began to loosen. It was a lengthy plea for help that appeared as a post on the Botley Notice Board. The author was John Brimble, owner of the land adjacent to the permissive path that runs through the nature trail next to the Hinksey Heights Golf Club. The trail had become immensely popular during the months of March and April with local residents who were eager to “max-out” on their exercise allowance. Large sections of the trail comprised lengths of wooden boardwalk, and the additional visitor load had damaged the timbers to the point where the trail was at risk of closure in the interests of public safety. Urgent action was needed. John Brimble’s clarion call was for local volunteers who were willing and physically strong enough to take on the work of rebuilding extensive sections of the footpath. I must have been the first to answer the call, as I immediately found myself appointed as “volunteer co-ordinator”, charged with organising the small band of largely inexperienced individuals who had responded to the appeal. We were a diverse bunch, including a nursery worker, a lawyer, a retired drilling engineer, a professional artist and a couple of architects; we even had our own rocket scientist (*photo shows Pete Yerburgh*). Preparing the ground these days involves as much paperwork as spadework and some novel risk assessments were produced combining the real danger of Covid with the more customary perils of splinters and sprains. Once





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we were on site, the scale of the problem was only too clear. There are some 3km of paths running through 12 hectares of scrub and wetland, set in a location ecologically sensitive enough to qualify as one of Oxfordshire’s official County Wildlife Sites. The area



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is criss-crossed with natural springs and the boardwalk had been devised as a way of providing a safe, dry route over the boggiest sections of the trail. The walk had been built by students at Peers School (now The Oxford Academy), as part of an outdoor educational programme and made possible with the help of a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE). Parts were over 15 years old and the work of maintaining the path had stopped some years before, when the school project had come to a close. This meant that much of it was in a poor state of repair.

Fortunately, there was a stockpile of timber left from the original project and a bundle of landscaping tools such as wheelbarrows and spades and a few boxes of nails and screws to get us started. Working in teams of four to six, (*in photo, Pete, Hamideh Rimaz, Mark Clay and Henry Saunders*) we began on the worst-affected areas – the ones that were a danger to limb, if not life. It was tough, arduous work; sometimes we would have to carry heavy materials nearly a kilometre to where the repairs were needed. It was disheartening to find areas that had been finished only the previous month had been damaged again, and it soon became clear that a wooden boardwalk was not a sustainable prospect, given the limited amount of human and material resources at our disposal. Building a new wooden section of boardwalk is expensive - around £70 per metre.



We began to look at alternative ways of developing the path, and approached TOE once more for their advice and support. As a result, we are now about to embark on a pilot project to replace some areas of the boardwalk and to build new sections of path using hard surfacing – compressed limestone chippings with proper pipe drainage running beneath. The £2,300 cost of the materials and tool hire has been met by TOE, and the work is due to begin in



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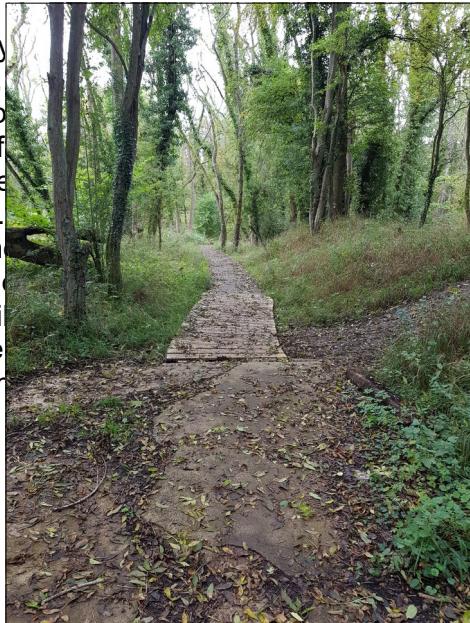
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April as the latest relaxation in the lockdown regulations is phased in and we can work in teams once again. The result should be that more sections of the path will be able to be enjoyed, mud-free, all year round. The introduction of limestone paths will form the first phase of a rebuilding of the trail (which will eventually include the replacement of the large wooden bridge with one constructed from more resilient materials). The first new sections of path should be ready by the end of June.

Longer-term there is real interest in seeing the trail integrated into a much more extensive network of long circular walks, linking with the BBOWT site at Chilswell Valley to reach as far as the Thames at Sandford Lock. We have registered a not-for-profit company to try and raise the funding to support these ambitions *Hinksey Trail Regeneration CIC* and donations can be made through our website, where there is also information about how to best enjoy the trail and the flora and fauna that you will find there. You can also visit the website to get in touch if you would like to join our team of volunteers.

As we approach the anniversary, out wheelbarrows and spades, been achieved by a small group within a continuous cycle of approach of the new nesting season, optimism among the volunteers. to a time where we can gather Heights clubhouse and slake beers after a long morning's toil, all who have supported us especially generosity these past 12 months. Hinksey Trail.



## **Q &A to Botley/Kennington Medical Practice**

Several questions were raised by the Patients Participation Group at its meeting on 9th March. Here are the answers

Kennington Health Centre has a **small indoor garden** which looks very neglected. Kennington PPG have some money which could be used to rejuvenate the garden for the benefit of patients and staff. It was agreed that this would be beneficial to all. The practice has vaccinated over 5,000 patients to date.

**Second doses of vaccines** will start being given toward the end of March (22nd is the proposed date), as always it is dependent on the availability of the vaccines. Patients will be contacted by phone (especially the elderly) or text if the practice has the phone number. Patients are asked not to contact the practice: they will be contacted when it is their turn. There may be a possibility for some patients to book direct via an app.

Cohort 7 have gone to the Kassam Stadium, cohort 8 will be vaccinated soon at the health centre. Doses will not be mixed. If your first dose was the Pfizer, that will also be your second dose, as the various vaccines work in different ways.

**Vaccinating volunteer drivers** is under consideration, and should happen soon. There were over 60 volunteer drivers, some of whom were helping patients in other areas, such as taking relatives to care homes and GP appointments.

**Appointment system on the day.** It was explained that patients can phone the practice to get a same day appointment, but not an appointment for the following day. This is because the following day must also be kept clear so that patients phoning then can get an appointment.

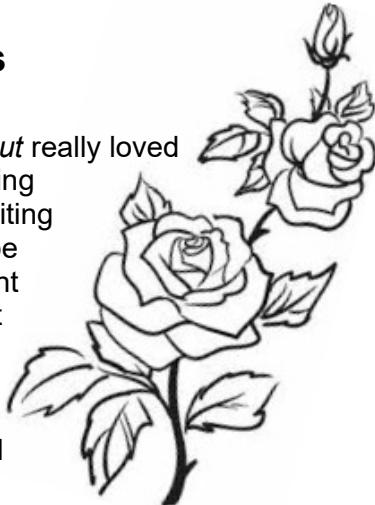
**Answer phone:** the message is now a bit shorter, but the practice is obliged to include certain information and cannot change this.

The needs of **patients with learning disability** were raised. Doctors explained that patients got an annual review which took over an hour. They were aware of the need to ensure such patients' health needs were fully met, including cancer screening.

**Date and time of next meeting 27th April at 7.30pm**

## Randoms

Remember **Botley in Bloom?** The *Sprout* really loved this front garden competition and is looking forward to doing it again. We are just waiting to hear if the parish council is willing to be a sponsor. Look out for an announcement in the May *Sprout*, and meanwhile, start choosing a category and making plans. Classes will be: Best All Round; Best Vegetable Element, and a third yet to be decided, as car bower was so hard to judge. We are open to suggestions.  
*Watch this space!*



### Thinking of Adopting?

Adoption charity Parents And Children Together (PACT, [www.pactcharity.org](http://www.pactcharity.org)) is appealing for people from key worker professions to consider adoption. Key workers such as nurses, teachers, police officers, social workers, doctors, ambulance staff, childminders and those in the care sector have the professional experience and skills that typically make strong adopters, and they are particularly valued by local authorities looking to place a child.

Rated outstanding by Ofsted and offering its families award-winning adoption support services for life, PACT has been building and strengthening families since 1911. Last year it placed 89 children with 66 families through its adoption services. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, children have continued to come into care and the need for adoptive families is increasing.

PACT is a warm, welcoming and professional agency open to a wide range of people including couples or single people, people from the Black and Minority Ethnic community and LGBT+, who can consider adopting children over four years old, sibling groups of two or more children, children with a black or minority ethnic background and children who may have physical or learning disabilities. You can find out more from their website, or by phoning 0300 456 4800.

# North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

## Thursday 6 May 2021

Voters can vote at the polling station, by post or by proxy. For information about registering to vote (deadline 19 April) and voting options please see [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/elections](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/elections).

Vale of White Horse District Council has published the specified referendum documents on its website. These are:

- North Hinksey Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner
- Statement that the draft plan meets the basic conditions (decision statement)
- Independent Examiner's Report (appendix 2 of decision statement)
- Information Statement and Information for Voters

These documents can be inspected on the Council's website.

Go to [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/north-hinksey-np](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/north-hinksey-np)

or

scan the QR code on the right.



If you need help accessing the referendum documents, please call the District Council's neighbourhood planning team on **01235 422600** or email [planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

Please help spread the word about the elections to those shielding or without access to the internet.



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

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Jean Metson,<br><a href="mailto:firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com">firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com</a>                                                               |
| <b>2nd Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15–7:45 Alison Griffin <a href="mailto:2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com">2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com</a>                                                             |
| <b>4th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts         | Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; <a href="mailto:mail@thefourth.org.uk">mail@thefourth.org.uk</a><br>Website: <a href="http://www.thefourth.org.uk/">http://www.thefourth.org.uk/</a>                          |
| <b>15th Oxford Scout Group</b><br>Boys and girls welcome             | 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>                                                | 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 R.V.S.</b>                                        | 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:botleylarder@gmail.com">botleylarder@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>                                     | Every other Thursday, Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386                                                                                                              |
| <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                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Cumnor Gardening Club</b>                                         | <a href="http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/">http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/</a> or phone 01865 721026                                                                                                          |
| <b>Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group</b>             | Wed 7.30 at Appleton village hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or <a href="mailto:harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk">harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk</a>                                                          |
| <b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>                                       | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 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, Emily 07969 522368 or email <a href="mailto:emformusic@outlook.com">emformusic@outlook.com</a>                                                                                         |
| <b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>                                    | Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                   |

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|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>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 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 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 on 07791 212866 or see 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: 01865 865259                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group</b> | Meets Wednesdays 7.45 pm at Seacourt Hall, Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>                                                                               |
| <b>Oxford Otters</b>                                | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                            | Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a><br>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<br><a href="mailto:melanie_riste@hotmail.com">melanie_riste@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                         |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                     | <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Saturdads at 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>           | 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 Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>                                                                               |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Botley 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 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, 01865 242345 [revclare@btinternet.com](mailto:revclare@btinternet.com)

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

**April 2021**

**Still nothing much in the way of meetings,  
and the Library's still shut. Some useful 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 opposite.**

**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**