

The Sprout



The aftermath of the A34 lorry fire

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 187 May 2024

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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Copy Date: Copy by 15th of month preceding publication. Earlier submission is welcome. Later contributions may have to be held over to the next issue.

Advertisements: If you have print-ready advertisements in the correct format the last day for booking advertising is the 10th of the month preceding publication; in all other circumstances more advance notice will be needed. For exact sizes, quality requirements, advice on text and help with production, please contact the Advertising Manager.

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| 1/8 page: | 1 issue £14; | 3 issues £33.75; | 5 issues £49; | 10 issues; £91 |

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All concerned in the production and delivery of The Sprout are unpaid volunteers.

**The Sprout is printed by The Holywell Press, and published by
North Hinksey Parish Publications Ltd, (a company limited by
guarantee) Registration No. 05609535.**

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Issue 187, May 2024

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From the Editor

Plenty to report in the May *Sprout*. First, of course, the dramatic incident on the A34 in the early hours of 13th April, when a mighty lorry burst into flames between Yarnell's Road and Yarnell's Hill (p13). Less dramatic but a lot more fun was the Botley Green Spaces walk later that morning (p23). There's a rather special event at Ss P&P Church on 4th May – a 'Death Café'. Not a Goth festival, but a rare chance to talk about mortality (p21). Artweeks is coming up this month, and there are details of local events on page 19, as well as an invitation from Botley Arts to see Miles Gomme's photos in Ss P&P Church (27). On page 3, the Responsible Finance Officer spills the beans on how the parish council manage our money, and there's an update on the work of the Beaumont Elms medical practice on page 9. Our local kids' football club needs our support (p5), and last but not least, there's a suggestion for a challenging addition to our reading lists (p11). So, plenty to get your teeth into – happy reading!

Ag MacKeith

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Your Parish Council – what it costs and what the money is spent on.

It's hard to get too excited about Parish Council budgets, but most people have an interest in how much it is costing them and want to know that their money is being spent wisely.

As the Responsible Financial Officer my job is to make sure that the elected councillors (who make the decisions on spending) are fully informed about all things financial and ensure that they know what impact their decisions will have.

Each year we set a budget and decide on the 'precept' that we need to fund most of our expenditure. This precept comes out of your Council tax payments and for April '24 to March '25 it will be £53.75 for the average household for the year, or £1.03 per week. That is less than 5% higher than for the current year (inflation impacts us as well) and is nearly £30 less than the national average.

This money goes towards many things including the maintenance of our open spaces, such as the Louie Memorial Fields and North Hinksey Nature Reserve, playgrounds, and other facilities. Around 8% is put towards grants for local non-profit organisations, which in the last year included Counselling Carers, Citizens Advice and Botley Bridges.

Projects are handled separately, with funds received from other sources. Over the last year we have delivered public arts projects in the West Way centre, with follow-up projects scheduled for later this year. These have all been fully funded through specific public arts money from developers.

Our current focus is on fundraising for our new skatepark and pavilion projects, which will provide safe and accessible leisure facilities for parishioners of all ages and abilities. These major projects will be funded mainly from a combination of grants, developer funds and money raised from local supporters within our community (both individuals and organisations).

We think that we do a pretty good job in providing value for money for our parishioners. Hopefully after reading this brief summary, you will too.

Alice Handscomb Retallack, RFO for Botley & North Hinksey PC.



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The Future of Botley Boys & Girls is at Risk

Botley Boys and Girls FC has been in existence since 1985. But without new players, and more parents and volunteers stepping up to run the club and manage the teams, its future is uncertain. Can you help?

I became involved when we moved to Botley and my son joined the Under 6s squad in 2012. He's now in the U18s. Over the years I have helped coach and manage his squad, and I spent many years on the committee as Secretary and Chair. I work full-time, often away from home, and like everyone who coaches teams and runs the club, I am a volunteer. There is a myth that coaches and administrators are paid – they are not. They are parents, relatives and local people, who volunteer to see children thrive.

This is the first season since 2012 that Botley Boys & Girls has not fielded an Under 7s team. The future of the club rests on new children and families beginning their footballing journey. We are really hoping to form new U6s and U7s 5-a-side teams for the 2024/25 season, so are urgently seeking new members.

Grassroots football is a fundamental part of local communities. A study by the Football Association¹ in 2021 showed that grassroots football contributed over £10 billion to the UK economy. But the most striking benefits can be seen in the health and wellbeing of the most important people: the players. Participation in grassroots football lowers the risk of poor health and disability in adulthood by improving childhood cardiometabolic and bone health. Children who play football, through being more active in childhood, are more likely to become active adults. There are fewer cases of childhood depression and anxiety as a result of football participation. Children who regularly play a team sport, such as football, are significantly happier than those who do not play sport.



¹ *The Social and Economic Value of Grassroots Football in England*, The FA, March 2021
<https://www.thefa.com/-/media/cfa/gloucestershirefa/files/news/news-item-2020-21/the-social-economic-value-of-grassroots-football-in-england-march-2021.ashx?la=en>

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Carter Jonas

Childhood football participation helps address societal challenges by supporting children's development, both as individuals and as part of their community. The costs are not high, and we do everything we can to ensure that everyone can participate. Having been involved with a team and many of the same players for over 10 years, I can't stress enough how heart-warming it is to see what well-rounded and respectful young adults they have become. And for the avoidance of doubt, they are also an outstanding A-League team.

It's not just the children who benefit. Grassroots football has a physical and mental health benefit to the coaches and match day volunteers. Let's be honest, coaching a team of young people, standing on the side lines in all weathers, and dealing with the regular upsets, is often extremely tiring and frustrating. But we do it because it brings joy and so many benefits to the children. And when we all get together for our annual Presentation Day in the summer, the sense of community is so strong. I've met my best friends in the local community through Botley Boys & Girls and grown as a person.

As my young adult reaches the end of his journey with Botley Boys, I am saddened that the club's future is at risk. We have seen a steep decline in the number of volunteers willing to support the running of both teams and the club. We need a minimum number to ensure the safety and welfare of players and sadly the club has just that, the bare minimum. And yet, our community is growing and there is a demand for sports activities.

The future of the club rests on a new generation of players and their families getting involved. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a new generation of tiny people running chaotically around after a football. Then watching them progress through the years into talented footballers and grounded young people.

If your children (both boys and girls) are aged 4 to 6, and are interested in football, please consider joining the club and getting involved. The current coaches and committee will support and assist in forming new teams, fund training for new coaches and referees, and support new volunteers to help run teams and the wider club.



Looking forward to seeing you at Fogwell Road.

Brendan Byrne (Vice chair)

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Items to highlight this month are:

- On 18th April we welcomed Dr Mary Purcell to the clinical team. She will be working entirely at the Beaumont Street site on Monday mornings, Thursday all day and Friday mornings. We thought Mary would complete the clinical team, but we are recruiting for another GP and a paramedic to help with on-the-day demand.
- In general, we are not currently able to offer online bookable appointments. However, we are trialling a system using SMS booking links for certain types of appointments – if you receive one of these it will enable you to book the correct type of appointment for your requirements. The link is valid for seven days and the appointment can be booked up to six weeks in advance.
- The Covid booster spring campaign began on 22nd April. Eligible groups are those aged 75 or over, some (but not all) patients who are immunosuppressed, and residents of care homes for older adults. If you haven't been contacted but believe you are eligible, please get in touch.

Health matters

Spring and summer are just around the corner, but unfortunately for many that means hay-fever season. If you need help managing hay-fever symptoms, many treatments are available from supermarkets and pharmacies without needing to contact us for a prescription. Depending on your symptoms, good options to consider are an antihistamine (such as cetirizine or loratadine), a steroid nose spray (such as beclomethasone) and eye drops (a wide range of anti-allergy eye drops are available). Community pharmacists can give advice on what might be the most suitable treatment for you, and we recommend them as your first source of advice.

Kate King, practice manager

Sam Miller, Ice Hockey Hero

Brilliant news! We have just heard that last month's article succeeded in finding Sam a sponsor. As we write he is on his way to Latvia for the Riga Cup tournament, where he will captain the GB U16s men's team. More next month.

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BOOKS-U-LIKE

Hard-boiled Wonderland and the End of the World, by Haruki Murakami, 1991

This thriller follows its main character though events taking place alternately in Tokyo, where he works as a data handler for a top scientist who has apocalyptic visions of progress, and in a separate world created by his own subconscious. In the latter he has little access to the memories he created in Tokyo.

When I read this for the first time, I was baffled by an apparent lack of coherence in the plot. I think this was because I had a habit of skimming text and paying little attention to transient feelings as they arose. I slowed down during my second read and, I feel, captured more of the author's intent.

Why do I feel that this is an interesting read for many? This is what I now think:

It's about the differences in experienced reality, in a conventional sense (when we try to cooperate with others) and in the personal sense (when we try to make ourselves more comfortable with our selves). The light it sheds on our predicaments will differ from reader to reader. After having read it and considered it for a while, I found myself more accepting of the strangeness of my inner world.

Don't be put off by the Japanese context. There are frequent appreciative references to Western culture (such as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and a number of alcoholic beverages most likely available to *Sprout* readers locally). Is it fun to read? You'll have to find out for yourself.

Grant Nightingale

The **4th Oxford Scout Group** will be organising the Oxford Greenbelt 10k Run on Saturday 22nd June. It will start on the playing fields at Brookes Sport, Harcourt Hill at 11.00. The run is through beautiful countryside with views over the dreaming spires and is open to anyone of any ability who is 16 years or older. The funds raised will go to 4th Oxford Scout Group. Please use this QR code, or this link (https://bit.ly/greenbelt_10k), for more information and joining instructions.





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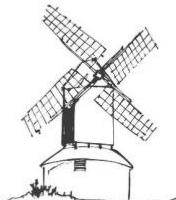
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It just started exploding

One Botley resident has told us what she saw in the early hours of Saturday 13th April, the night of the recent A34 lorry crash. Our roving reporter was on the case.

Ruth Vaughan, of Yarnells Road, was at home when her 18-year-old daughter returned from the pub with her friends. Suddenly they heard a large crash from outside.

"At first, we thought a piece of metal had fallen off the roof of the flats or the house," Ruth said. "It was a real almighty crash."

However, when her daughter and husband, Neil, went outside to investigate, they realised that something much more alarming had happened.



What they instead saw was that a giant lorry had crashed into the safety barrier that runs along Westminster Way.

It was at this point that the vehicle began to catch fire.

"It just started exploding; you could feel the heat," Ruth told us. "A lot of embers were flying into our garden."

"I thought everything was going to catch fire."

After Ruth's family saw the explosion, her daughter immediately rang 999.

Thanks to her actions, fire and rescue were able to arrive "shortly after 1.40am," according to the *Oxford Mail*.

Ruth would find out the next day that her daughter called for help at just the right time.

"The incident team told us it took four fire engines full of water to put the fire out," Ruth explained. "It was a good job that she called when she did."

Even more luckily, the lorry driver somehow escaped without serious injury.



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According to Ruth, he had managed to flee across the dual carriageway, over to where her family, and other residents, were standing. He was dazed and in shock, but “very lucky” to have come away without significant harm.

However, shockingly, the driver’s first concern was not about his lucky escape. “He asked Neil for the postcode because he wanted to be collected by his boss. He was hoping his boss could just come and pick him up!” Thankfully, though, the police were able to take the driver to safety.

But, for Ruth, the accident raises a larger issue, one that she feels puts the lives of Botley residents at risk.

“Why isn’t there a crash barrier on our side of the road?” she demanded. “If the lorry had been going southbound, it would have gone straight through the flats next to our house.”

“Without the barrier, the lorry would have crashed into houses on Westminster Way.”

Jack Webb

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <u>P24/V0378/LDP</u> | 10 Conifer Close. Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed use of existing storage building as a dwelling. | 13 March <i>Target Decision Date: 8 May</i> |
| <u>P24/V0776/FUL</u> & <u>P24/V0777/A</u> | Wallbrook Court North, Hinksey Lane. External alterations & signage display. | 5 April <i>TDD: 31 May</i> |
| <u>P24/V0814/S73</u> (P22/V0347/FUL Demolish house & garage & build 2 houses.) | 69 Yarnells Hill. Variation of conditions 2 (Approved plans), 7 (Boundary Details), 8 (Slab Levels), 9 (landscaping) & 14 (trenches) on the application. | 10 April <i>TDD: 5 June</i> |
| <u>P24/V0815/DIS</u> & <u>P24/V0816/DIS</u> | Botley Centre, West Way. Discharge of conditions. | 10 April <i>TDD: 5 June</i> |



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Not only can a FHL be a source of profitable income for you, but it is also somewhere you can enjoy when you want to get away. Whereas the more common investment buy-to-lets restricts landlords from using the property for any personal use and has fewer tax advantages.

The conditions of a FHL are that it must be available to rent publicly 210 days a year, no individual guest can stay more than 31 days at a time, and it must have the facilities to be self-catering.

Some of the generous tax advantages they offer include being able to claim for capital expenses such if you spend to improve the property. This can range from building an extension to upgrading to better quality fixtures and fittings. You cannot claim capital expenses against rental income from buy-to-let but you can do so for income generated from FHLs.

Other tax advantages include being able to apply business rates instead of the council tax rates you would usually pay on the property, as well as being able to offset mortgage interest repayments, if you purchased the property with a mortgage, to list a few.

As you can see a FHL is an attractive investment for many that allows you to enjoy your own holiday home It may well be a suitable option for your second property so why not look into it further?



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Artweeks 2024 in Botley and West Oxford

We have an exciting range of artists' exhibitions to enjoy in this year's Artweeks. The Guide, available from the Library, gives opening times.

Four sites in Botley: The **Botley Drawing Group** (site 167) is a collective of local artists exhibiting at the Louie Memorial Pavillion. The Group, set up and run by Ali Hogg, will be displaying selected pieces from sessions in 2023, plus some of their other work.

Around the corner at 45 Cedar Road are **Lihua Yuan** and **Sophie Cook** (Site 164). Using a wide range of media, Lihua creates works in Chinese and Western styles, while Sophie is inspired by "curious creatures and textures"

Further down, at 30 Hutchcomb Road, are two well established artists. **Morna Rhys** (site 165) will show copper plate etchings, with many works inspired by her love of Oxfordshire, Cornwall and Wales. **Andrea Hewes'** work, influenced by her love of nature and the woodlands, rivers and landscapes of the UK (site 166), is both printmaking and painting, including ink made from Alder cones and Buckthorn berries.

The **Old School Collective**, (site 163) in North Hinksey Lane, is showing a broad and exciting mix of media. Well worth the wander down the leafy lane from Botley.

Eight sites in West Oxford are solo and group exhibitions. They include: "**wocART**" at the West Oxford Community Centre (site 155): This is a group of five local artists, who exhibit together every year. **Andrew Walker, Deborah Williams, Miranda Miller, and Helen White** work in a variety of media: Ceramics, Collage, Drawings, Paintings, Photography and Textiles. **Joy Taylor** makes one-off silver jewellery pieces, some with semi-precious stones. A long-established local artist, she still gets a thrill from seeing people wearing her pieces. **Becca Rowland, Ursula Irvine and Helen Ward** are this year's guests.

Dave Lambert's one-man show, (site 157) is also at the WOCC. "We're all in the same boat" is a new inter-active installation that encourages the viewer to look at the subject of immigration and community. It asks the viewer to add to the piece, making something bigger and better: Open Sat 11th (to 9 pm) and Sun 12th May only, then going on tour.

Maia Ottenstein, ceramicist (site 524) has just moved to Oxford from the US, and is exhibiting at 30 Alexandra Road.

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Dying Matters – let's talk about it

Every year, Hospice UK holds Dying Matters Awareness Week as a moment to encourage all communities to get talking in whatever way, shape, or form works for them about something which affects all of us.

This year it runs from 6th to 12th May, and the theme is 'The way we talk about Dying Matters'. It will focus on the language that we use, and conversations we have, around death and dying – specifically between healthcare professionals and patients, their carers and their families.

In Botley there will be a Death Café at St Peter & St Paul Church Hall on Friday 10th May from 10am – 2pm. Refreshments will be available and a free soup lunch between 12noon – 1pm. Please join Rev Clare and the team for a friendly and informal open café, run in partnership with Oliver and James Funerals. Come and ask the questions you feel awkward about, talk about the things that are worrying you and take away some information that might help you or your loved ones.

Good conversations about death and dying are essential to good end of life care. Yet all too often barriers, including lack of confidence, taboos around discussing death, and confusion about who should be having

these conversations mean patients, carers and families may not understand what is happening, or get the information and support they need.

This is open to everyone in the community of Botley, West Oxford and beyond. Please let people know it is taking place. For more information contact Rev Clare Sykes revclare@btinternet.com

[And a note from the Editor – don't be put off by the strange idea of a death café – I went to one a few years ago and it was a very lively event. People really responded to the chance to talk about something so important, yet never discussed, and we made friends and learned a lot!]

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Our Green Spaces Walk

You couldn't have asked for a more beautiful spring day to take a tour of Botley's Green Spaces. The sun sparkled on the new leaves, and the birds sang shrill and clear against the deep silence of the closed A34. It was 13th April, the morning of the lorry crash (see page 13).

We started in the North Hinksey Lane Nature Reserve, some twenty of us, where we took in the apple blossom in the Community Orchard, the cowslips in the small meadow, and looked in vain for frogspawn in the pond. The Friends of the Reserve had planted some tulips in the Minns memorial garden. They added a gorgeous splash of colour as they spread their petals in the sunshine.

From there we trooped through the underpass to Raleigh Park, where we had the benefit of Adam Bowes's ecological expertise. He explained how the alkaline fen worked, seeping down from the pond above. Who'd have guessed there were several feet of peat under the marshy tussocks? The spring flowers were just getting started. These, with all the various grasses attract loads of insects, food for birds and also for the bats, which can be seen darting after them as night falls.

He talked about future plans to extend the fen by clearing the brambles further down the hill. This would remove prime nesting space for birds, but expand the available food, as well as increasing the fen's ability to capture carbon. We could see that it was all a matter of striking the right balance.

From the park we struck across to the Oxford Preservation Trust field behind Harcourt Hill. Malcolm Graham, the local historian, who was also on the walk, told us about earlier plans to turn these fields into a huge suburb of Oxford. Fortunately, they came to nothing. OPT are managing the site as a place of open access. In the summer it is a sheet of wild flowers, but right now, in this windy weather, it's the perfect spot to fly a kite.

The last part of the tour took us to Hinksey Heights nature trail, just across the field. As we entered the wood, we were met by Nick Thorne, who leads the 18 volunteers doing the work of coppicing, reed-clearing and extending the boardwalk through the muddier parts. He was a mine of information, particularly on Ash Dieback (sadly prevalent in the wood). Many trees have been felled – though how to get that prime timber out is a puzzle – but many others have been left. It seems that ash trees grow in clusters, and whole clumps can share resistance. Adam filled us in on the various plants growing in the marshy hinterland.

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The original boardwalk was put in place by some boys from what was then Peers School in Blackbird Leys.

After a brief detour to look at some hazel coppicing in action, we fetched



up at the glassy pool below the wood. It was crystal clear, the surface like a mirror, surrounded by bull rushes and yellow irises which have yet to flower. Low woven hazel fencing has been put round the pond to deter dogs from jumping in. Apparently, the poison from the flea collar (or the treated coat) of ONE swimming dog could wipe out every fish and insect in the pond. BE WARNED!

The last leg was a short hike up to the 19th Hole. By now it was one o'clock, so a beer and one of their excellent sandwiches was in order. What a satisfactory end to a very enjoyable morning!

The series of related talks planned for the following weekend had to be postponed, as two of the speakers pulled out at short notice. It will be put on later in the year. As for the walking tour, it was such a success that the Parish council is considering doing it again.

Sounds like a good plan to me!

Ag MacKeith

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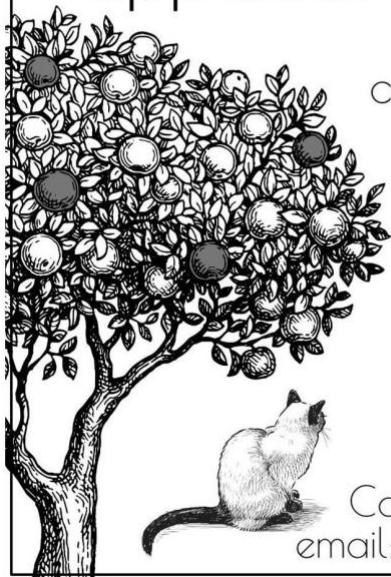
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Miles Gomme, 'Wanderlust'

Botley Arts is pleased to present our new exhibition which opened on Monday 29 April and continues until the end of June in SS Peter & Paul Church on West Way. This is the third time that talented local photographer, Miles Gomme, has exhibited with Botley Arts and his pictures are always well received. You'll find the church opening times at the end of this article, so I recommend trying to pop in when you're near the Botley shops.

This is what Miles has to say about the exhibition:

"The theme this year is "Wanderlust", from the German word meaning the desire to travel.

"It is based around holidays with my wife, before, during and after the lockdown. How much we wanted to get away into the great outdoors! Lots were taken while travelling in a camper van, as this was the only way we could ensure that we were sticking to Covid restrictions. It was during these strange times that it became apparent to me that after being stuck in our houses for such a long time we just wanted to get away from our surroundings and see what else there was to see, but within the restrictions of the UK, and not being able to travel abroad.

"We travelled sometimes only to Oxford city centre, other times to the further reaches

of
Scotland
or the
south
west and
east
coasts.

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from
before the
world
changed,
but my
favourites



are when we really knew how glad we were to be outside and enjoying these spectacular views.

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"Our first Scottish holiday in a camper van was where we saw the beauty of this small island. We were on a campsite with no signal, just like in the olden times. No phone, no internet, just a pack of cards and a cup of tea. It made us realise how lucky we were.

"In Dorset we saw the beauty of Durdle Door (*first photo*), watching the sunrise over Bournemouth beach gave a new meaning to the morning. In Kent, feeding seagulls was a joy.

"Some of the images, from before Covid, were taken on holidays that were on bucket lists. Places to go to, things to see, something outside the four walls we live in and can touch.

"I will continue to add to this collection, so that in the future I can remember all the places that we saw, touched and the food we ate there.

My favourite must be the Fairy Pools on the Isle of Skye (*2nd photo*). To actually capture a Fairy dancing in the water was spectacular. In order to see it I had to



precariously climb over several large boulders. Balancing on one with my tripod and camera, I took the long exposure photo, trying to keep everything steady, while not falling off into the pools below. Sometimes you have to go to great lengths to get that shot.

Enjoy..." Miles Gomme Images

St Peter & St Paul Church's usual opening times for visiting the exhibition are 10.00am-4.00pm Monday to Saturday and 12.00-4.00pm on Sundays.

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Randoms

Karate Success

Martyn King who runs the Shotokan Karate Club sent us this note: "I've seen the article in the Sprout, thanks very much. I thought you may like to know that Cyrielle won a bronze medal at The Europeans and has now been selected for the team for the World Championships in Japan this October. I'm not expecting any follow up report, I just wanted to let you know because I'm bouncing around the room with pride at the moment!" Good news, Martyn!

U3A in May

The University of the Third Age is a thriving group with sections devoted to Scrabble, Bridge, foreign languages, exploring mediaeval churches and checking out good pubs, as well as film and walking groups, etc. It's generally aimed at people who have retired and have time to spare. Right now, they need more people to help set up before the Monday talks, which take place in Dean Court Community Centre at 2.15. The talks coming up in May are:

13 May: Mike Shapton – “The Englishman of the Peseta” Mike Shapton will tell the remarkable story of a wealthy young man from Victorian Manchester, who ended his life penniless but adored by the people around him.

20 May: Lizzie Rowe – “The Art and Architecture of Friedrich Hundertwasser” Lizzy Rowe, will be exploring the work of this 20th century Austrian artist. Her talk will follow the Annual General Meeting, which will start at 2.15.

Come and Sing

Cumnor Choral Society invite you to a Come and Sing Day on May 18th. The day will start at 10am in SS Peter & Paul Church, Botley. We will be learning some choruses from Gilbert & Sullivan operas. There will be tea and coffee breaks (provided) and a shared lunch, also provided. The day ends at 6pm with a drinks reception. Tickets are £15 on the day. Contact cumnorchoralsociety.co.uk for more information, and please email cockman.caroline@gmail.com if you are planning to come, so we have some idea of numbers.

Caroline Cockman

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Botley WI

We are looking forward to our next meeting on Tuesday 7th May where we will hear from 'Friends against Scams' – something of interest to us all. We hope to organise a few trips over the summer months. We will not have coaches, but rather pay drivers for sharing their cars with those who wish to go. Here's a reminder of our details. We meet in the WI Hall, North Hinksey Lane. Most meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. You are welcome to visit us for two meetings before deciding whether to join. During the month we have a craft and chat session, a book club, gardening club, and often go to plays and musicals. Do come and give us a try. All are welcome. **Bess Harris**

Cream Teas at St. Lawrence – Bank Holiday 27th May 2-4pm

We will once again be serving cream teas in the lovely church and grounds of St. Lawrence, in North Hinksey Village. Come and enjoy home-made cakes and scones. £5.00 per person and children go free. Funds being raised for North Hinksey Primary School and the church's Spend a Penny campaign to install a toilet in church.

Happening at Hill End

Quite a few things happening at Hill End this month, starting with a walk to listen to the Dawn Chorus from 5.30 to 7.30 am on Saturday 4th. Events planned for half term are: Family Bushcraft, on Saturday 28th from 10 am for two hours, and Wild in the Woods on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 from 10am – 2pm

Skatepark news

News of the £100,000 grant from FCC has given a massive boost to fundraising efforts. Two more grant applications have gone in, which we hope will bring another £30,000. Meanwhile a second local fundraiser was scheduled for the end of April – a film show at the Tap, courtesy of Cinema Behind the Curtain. The film was 'Back to the Future 2', a family show, with a raffle. Botley Sk8s' efforts to collect raffle prizes were met halfway by local companies eager to give them, and the results were so magnificent that we decided to hold a separate Botley-wide Skatepark Raffle as a fundraiser in itself. The next event will be the roller disco at the Tap on the Sunday at the end of half term. Keep an eye out for posters with details of all these events.

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| 2nd Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10 | Rosary Room, Yarnells Hill. Tues 6:15-7:45 Alison Griffin 2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com |
| 4th Oxford Scout Group Cubs Beavers, Scouts, Explorers | mail@thefourth.org.uk Meets every weekday evening. Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/ |
| 15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome | Fridays, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk |
| Baby & Toddler Group | Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall |
| BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign | Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6-8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org |
| Books on Wheels R.V.S. | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 810159 |
| Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8–16 | Terri Matthews: clubsecretarybbgfc@gmail.com |
| Botley Bridges (for under 5s) | Mondays, 9-11, Stay & Play Botley School, and Fridays 10-12, Baby Group at Seacourt Hall botleybridges.org |
| Botley Community Larder | Thursdays, 3.00 to 4.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com |
| Botley Health Walks | 2nd & 4th Sats 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, or Tues 11 am Library botleyhealthroutes@gmail.com |
| Botley Library | 07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays). |
| Botley Memory Lane Café | Thursdays 10-12 Seacourt Hall Lounge, Diccon James 07740 611971 |
| Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council | clerk@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk |
| Botley Seniors Lunch Club | Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386 |
| Botley Youth Club | Weds 7pm-9pm in term time. Louie Memorial Pavilion. botleyyouthclub@gmail.com |
| Cumnor Choral Society | Thursdays, 19.30-21.30 St Andrew's Church OX2 9BH www.cumnorchoralsociety.co.uk |
| Cumnor & District Historical Society | Last Monday of the month 7.30-9.00 Cumnor Old School. 01865 724808 |
| Cumnor Gardening Club | http://cumnorgardens.org.uk/ tel 01865 721026 |

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| Harmony InSpires, Ladies' Acappella Singing Group | Wed 7.30 at Appleton Village Hall. C. Casson 01235 831352 or harmonyinspires@hotmail.co.uk |
| Hill End Volunteer Team | Contact: David Millin on david.millin@hill-end.org , call 863510 or visit www.hillend-oec.co.uk |
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| Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc | Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk |
| North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs | Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com |
| N Hinksey Art Group | Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997 |
| N Bellringers | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451 |
| N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers | Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798 743121 voirreyc@aol.com |
| N Hinksey, Friends of | Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213. |
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| Oxford Harmony | Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall Contact pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk |
| Oxford Otters | Swimming for people with disabilities. Sundays, twice monthly. Contact: Alan Cusden 723420 |
| Oxford Rugby Club | Boys and girls from 5, kevin.honner@ntlworld.com Seniors, training etc jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk . |
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| Shotokan Karate Club | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450 |
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| West Oxford U3A | http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/ |
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| Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley | Contact: Darren Blase 241254 louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com |
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North Hinksey & Botley Churches Times of Services (once resumed) and Contacts

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion
 3rd Sunday 11.30am Matins

St. Peter and St. Paul, Church of England, West Way

Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion
 Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion at Field House, West Way
 Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or revclare@btinternet.com
See table above for Church Hall enquiries.

Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill

Saturday 6.30pm Mass
 Sunday 9.15am Mass
 Fr Daniel Lloyd 07584 323915 dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way

Sunday Service 11 am
 Wednesday Zoom Bible Study 7.30pm
 Choir practice Thursday 2pm
 Diane Melchert **07742 662668** www.botleybaptistchurch.org

Calvary Chapel

Sunday services on 1st Floor, 1 Church Way at 9.30am with
crèche, children's Sunday school and youth group
 Pastor Steve Vickery 01865 586332
contact@ccox.church website: www.ccodoxford.church

What's On May

- Thur 2nd** 12pm, Seacourt Hall, Seniors Lunch Club (and 16th)
- Thur 2nd** 2pm, Botley Library, Adult Craft Club (and on 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th)
- Fri 3rd** 10am, Botley Library, Rhymetime for 0-5s (and on 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st)
- Sat 4th** 5.30 to 7.30am, Hill End, Dawn Chorus
- Sat 4th** 10am, Botley Library, Cllr Judy Roberts' surgery
- Tues 7th** 3.30 pm, Botley Library, Lego Club for all ages (and 14th, 21st, 28th)
- Fri 10th** !0am – 2pm, SS Peter & Paul, Death Café, soup lunch
- Sat 11th** 10-12pm, Botley Library, Digital Helper
- Mon 13th** 2.15pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk:
Mike Shapton – “The Englishman of the Peseta”
- Thur 16th** 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting
- Sat 18th** 10 am, SS Peter & Paul Church, Cumnor Choral's
'Come and Sing Day' ends with a reception at 6pm
- Mon 27th (Bank Holiday)** 2–4pm, St Lawrence Church, Cream
Tea to raise money for a toilet in the church
- Mon 27th** 2.15pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A AGM,
followed by a talk by Lizzie Rowe – “The Art and
Architecture of Friedrich Hundertwasser”
- Sun 2nd June** Tap Social, Roller Disco to raise money towards
the new skatepark, tbc.

[More details of events can be found in the Randoms section.]