

The Sprout



Fighting Climate Change in Botley on 29th February

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 144 February 2020

The Sprout

Issue 144, February 2020

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From the Editor

Welcome to the first *Sprout* of 2020! As befits a decade in which there is everything to play for on the climate front, this month's offering has several articles designed to help us get into gear. Recycling properly (p 31) shows how to make your recycling effective. Eating to Save the Planet (p21) is an account of the third talk in Low Carbon West Oxford's series Act Now. (The fourth will be on Avoiding Waste on 8th February.) LCWO is a priceless local resource, as is the waste-busting Oxford Foodbank. They will both have stalls at 'Leap Into Action', Botley's Big Green Day on 29th Feb (p5) when we can find out what's being done locally, and what might be done. It will take place in Ss P & P Church Hall and at Botley's snazzy new Community Hub, which opened its doors to the public on 25th February (p27) with a display by clubs and groups that meet there. What else? An informal running group (p35) a choir (p35), and family-friendly Taekwondo (p9). Also worth reading is Malcolm Graham's latest look at the stages by which Botley developed into the place we know and love – the route of the main road out of town before Cumnor Hill took its familiar shape. It sheds light on the anomaly of Y-shaped end of North Hinksey Lane – the eastern arm's not N Hinksey Lane at all, but the first section of the original main road from Oxford to Faringdon.

Ag MacKeith

Letters to the Editor

Same sex marriages in churches

It was heart-warming to read in the *Sprout* about Cumnor URC's decision to register same-sex marriages. Quakers have been sanctifying same-sex marriages since 2014 at our Meeting House at 43 St Giles. Our belief is that marriages are 'made by God' and 'we are but witnesses'. At a Quaker wedding everyone present signs the certificate to name all the witnesses. We are legally allowed to register our own weddings and that is probably why Cumnor can claim to be the first in 2017, while we were entitled to do so as soon as the law changed – but it isn't a competition and it is lovely to hear about their registration and the plaque.

Anne Watson and John Mason

Stream restored

The *Sprout* may like to note that the original freshwater stream that flowed from Conduit House down Harcourt Hill through North Hinksey Village to provide fresh water for the city of Oxford at the Carfax fountain has now been restored. The pipe that brought it under the A34 had got completely blocked up over the years, until three years ago it finally stopped flowing. This led to the field south of the A34 becoming partly waterlogged. Following repeated requests from locals over many months, during the closure of the northbound A34 on November 9, engineers took the opportunity to clear the pipe and the water began to flow freely again.

Chris Sugden

[Congratulations, Chris, that all your hard work got such a good result in the end. Editor]



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LEAP INTO ACTION!

Botley and North Hinksey 'Big Green Day'



When the Parish Council declared a climate emergency, nearly a year ago, there was some doubt about what we could actually do. Parish councils, the lowest tier of the democratic system, don't have much power beyond allotments and playing fields. One thing we can do, we agreed, was help people get active and share information. At an early meeting of the PC's new Environment Committee, we agreed to pull together all the examples we could find of work by local people and organisations to tackle climate change and share them at a Big Green Day of Action.

2020 is a Leap Year, and Feb 29th looked like a day to remember, so that was a good day for us. We have teamed up with the Association for Botley Communities, booked the new Seacourt Hall and Ss P&P church hall and invite you to join us there from 11am to 4pm. There will be stalls offering ideas and information on what we can do to protect and improve our environment, as well as some short talks and question-and-answer sessions. There will be a couple of well-known speakers – watch for news on this.

There will be plenty happening in both halls, including play activities for children and face painting, and some great food. If you've got your seeds off to an early start and have plants to spare, bring them along – there'll be a plant and seed swap event. We are also hoping to have a big 'bring and take' element where you can bring your unwanted books, clothes and more and then take away whatever others have brought that looks useful to you. 'Doctor Bike' will be holding a clinic where you can get your bike back into working order or simply tuned up for spring.

We'll invite you to join the Parish Council in agreeing to play a part in tackling climate change, and there'll be a special 'photo booth' where you can make your own commitment and take a photo away to remind you of your pledge. You can also record your own contribution on a big map, based on the one that records all Oxford's efforts to fend off climate change that you can find on the People's Power Station (<https://peoplespowerstation.org/>) showing what's happening locally. The Sprout will have a stall where the people who've written articles over the years can share ideas and answer questions about what they've done and how it worked.

At the end of the day (from 3–4pm) we will be holding a ‘mini-conference’. We will draw together the ideas and commitments from the day and look at how the Parish Council can support local people in making the changes we will all need to tackle in the years ahead.

We will also draw up and agree a message from local people to our MP, to government ministers and even to the UN climate conference that will take in the UK later this year. We may only have a small voice, but if we make a noise together we are more likely to be heard.

This is all about creating a better future, and there's a lot of groups already working for a better Botley in their own ways, whether it's through working with young people, sports or creative arts. Leap Into Action invites every Botley and North Hinksey community group to come along and have a stall, to share what you are doing and to encourage people to get involved in your work. We need people to help plan and run the day. If you would like to help make this happen please do get in touch. There's more information at <https://leap-into-action.eventbrite.co.uk> and if you'd like to help in any way please contact me, as chair of NHPC's Environment Committee: chrischurch@cooptel.net

Chris Church

<h1>SALES & LETTINGS</h1>	<p>Oxford 01865 511444 oxford@carterjonas.co.uk carterjonas.co.uk</p> <p>Carter Jonas</p>
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Not just for kids!

Cat – mum of two – says this:

Taekwondo in Botley is a family affair!

If you're a parent wanting to get fit after Christmas excesses but not sure how, you may be feeling like I did back in 2015. The only exercise I was getting on weekday evenings was the treadmill of pick-up, homework, dinner, cubs/swimming/football/*insert any childhood activity here*. Long gone were the days when I would pop to the gym for an hour or two – and to be honest, gym is boring! I wanted to do something new, something fun, and ideally something that was local – NO DRIVING!

I took a look in the Sprout to see what was available, and on the back page found that West Oxford Taekwondo Club ran sessions on Mondays and Thursdays at Matthew Arnold School. I texted Chris Hall, who runs the club, and on a cold blustery evening, rocked up to MA School for my first session. Feeling like I needed some moral support, I dragged my eldest son Fraser with me (really he dragged me).

The class was full of both adults and children, ranging from white belts (beginners) through to black belts (very good!). It was a lovely family atmosphere and everyone made us feel welcome. The class starts with a warm up and then moves on to line work (everyone lined up in rows, kicking and striking in formation). After this there are patterns (my absolute favourite), kicking circles, board breaking (only for grown-ups, and SO MUCH FUN), some self-defence, and finally, sparring. Back then, Fraser couldn't wait to get sparring, but I was very nervous. Chris explained that sparring was 'tag' contact only in his class, or 'play-fighting'. I wasn't sure I believed him, but I gave it a try and he was right – it was a lot better than I expected. I went home buzzing,

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and couldn't wait for the next session (although the next morning I could barely walk...) Four years later, I'm hooked – sufficiently so that my husband frequently refers to me as 'Taekwondo nerd.' Both of my sons now train with me at least once a week, and for some reason relish the opportunity to get one over on their Mum during sparring. We've also made some great friends, and the club has lots of social events throughout the year. I love practising my patterns (like



'kata' in Karate) and as a present last year, my husband made me something called a 'breaking horse', which is a stand for holding boards for breaking. More than anything though, I feel fitter and stronger. So, if you're thinking 'Now's the time to try something new', or if you want to reclaim some of your fitness in 2020, I can really recommend it!

Fraser says: I've been doing Taekwondo for four years. I started going because I didn't know any martial arts and I wanted to learn some self-defence. I think the club is brilliant for beginners, because they are fair and want you to do well. My favourite bit of Taekwondo is that you're never sitting down and not doing something – there's always an opportunity to be involved. I enjoy sparring because you get to express all the things you've learnt and practise them properly, but my favourite is the games we sometimes play to improve our reflexes in a fun way.

Dougie says: In Taekwondo I like sparring and doing patterns. Sometimes they make us do one pattern as a race, but I prefer doing it slowly! I also like playing games, especially 'murder ball' which isn't as bad as it sounds!

West Oxford Taekwondo Club numbers are about 15-20, but there are a lot of senior grades now, so we would definitely benefit from some new junior members. You'll be given a warm welcome. And then a seriously fun workout! If you're tempted the first session is free, so definitely worth a go! Call Oxford 570291 or visit www.wotkd.org.uk for details.

Cat (40), Fraser (10) and Dougie (8)

The First Cumnor Hill

Botley is now firmly locked into the national road network, and under threat from a proposed Oxford–Cambridge Expressway, but it was once a much quieter place. Until the mid-18th century, most long-distance traffic from Oxford to Gloucester and beyond left by the Woodstock Road and headed west through Bladon towards Witney. Traffic for Bristol and the south-west went via Abingdon Road and Foxcombe Hill towards Faringdon. Botley offered no realistic alternative to these routes. The Botley causeway, built or upgraded in the 16th century, provided a link with Oxford across the Thames floodplain, but it was just 14 feet wide – the western end still survives in Old Botley behind McDonald's – and it was in poor repair. In 1751, the ancient horse road over Wytham Hill to Eynsham was said to be in so bad a state that 'Travellers on Horseback cannot, especially in the winter season, pass through the same without great danger.' West of Botley, lanes from Botley Pound and Dean Court climbed steeply to Chawley and Cumnor, but served only local needs.

By 1770, turnpike roads had transformed this situation. Road improvement in 18th century England depended on the work of turnpike trusts, bodies established by Act of Parliament to manage sections of the road network and to raise money for improvements through tolls.

The horse road over Wytham Hill to Eynsham and Witney was first turnpiked in 1751, and a toll-gate was erected in Botley at the western end of the Botley causeway. Proposals from the mid-1750s to upgrade this road for use by carriages led eventually to an Act of Parliament in 1767 setting up the Botley and Newland Turnpike Trust. Botley Road was widened to 30 feet and what is now West Way was formed to bypass Botley village. A new toll-house was erected east of Osney Bridge to collect tolls from road users.

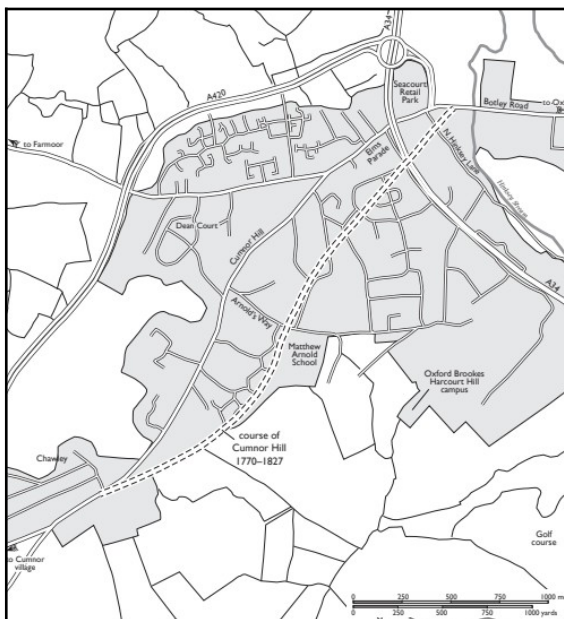


In August 1769, the Stroudwater coach was the first to use the new route, heading over Wytham Hill to Lord Abingdon's new Swinford Bridge.

The 1767 Act also required the trust to improve the road from Botley to Fyfield and, in April, contractors were asked to send in proposals for making this a turnpike road 30 feet wide. The most striking feature of this improvement was a completely new carriage road up Cumnor Hill, beginning just west of Botley Mill and passing south of Botley village; the initial section survives as the link road between West Way and North Hinksey Lane. [*Looking towards town in photo, and known as Old Road on pre-Google maps.*] This road climbed up to Hurst Lane, where part survives as an unmade track, before bypassing Chawley and crossing Cumnor's common fields on the way to Besselsleigh (*see map below*).

The first Cumnor Hill was certainly in use by August 1770 when Mr Ridge, an Oxford baker 'somewhat disguised by Liquor', was killed by a fall from his horse while racing his companion down 'the new Turnpike Road from Cumner Hurst to Botley.'

Mr Ridge's unfortunate end perhaps owed something to the steepness of the road, and today's more gently graded Cumnor Hill was built between 1825 and 1827.



The old road was closed on 11 April 1827 and any subsequent users were threatened with prosecution. The central section had vanished by 1876 when a rifle range for University Volunteers occupied the site of Hurst Rise Road. Field boundaries continued to mark other portions of the road until 20th century housing development obliterated them.

Malcolm Graham

Dance-outs and Saturdads

Cry Havoc – a Botley-based Morris side have raised £1000 over the past year for Botley Bridges by collecting at their dance-outs. They presented the cheque at the monthly Saturday Play session for dads and their young children at the beginning of December. Dads and children took part in a dance – two children insisting that Morris dancing could be done on bikes!

Botley Bridges is a local charity which was set up after the Sure Start Children's Centres were closed and has continued over the past 2½ years to provide drop-in sessions, Summer fun-in-the-parks sessions, parenting



courses, paediatric first aid courses and advice to local families. Initial transition funding will end in March 2020 and the service will then be solely dependent on grants, contributions and donations. Local County Councillors Susanna Pressel and Judy Roberts have both been very supportive and helped financially as have Cumnor and North Hinksey Parish Councils. Botley Bridges will need to raise £20,000 a year to continue to provide the current level of service and the trustees are very grateful to Cry Havoc for this donation. Over 300 local families have used the drop-in services in the past year. Thirty-one people came to parenting courses and forty-five took advantage of the paediatric first-aid courses, so it is a well used service. The sessions are run from a room at Botley School by a paid coordinator who is supported by volunteers. One dad at the session this month said 'there are very few opportunities for dads in the area to meet up and get to know each other. Saturdads offers a unique event for friendships to form and for dads to provide support to each other.' Another dad said 'the Children's Centre was very supportive when the twins were tiny – it's great that Botley Bridges has continued with this good work'.

Botley Bridges are always looking for volunteers so if you think supporting families is important and have early years or play experience and a couple of hours to spare please contact the coordinator on coordinator@botleybridges.org. Donations can also be made on the website <http://www.botleybridges.org/donate>

If you fancy trying your hand at Morris Dancing, Cry Havoc are also looking for new dancers – so do get in touch if you would like to join them by contacting info@cryhavoc.org.uk **Sue Dowe**

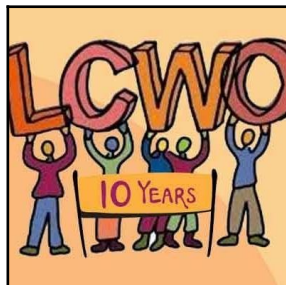
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## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| P19/V3166/LDP                                                            | 53 Montagu Rd. Loft conversion with rear dormer + roof lights.                                                                                                                  | 2 December                                        |
| P19/V3193/HH                                                             | 106E West Way. Erection of outbuilding to be used as a home office.                                                                                                             | 5 December                                        |
| P19/V3207/HH                                                             | 2 Hurst Rise Rd. First floor extension to existing single-storey dwelling.                                                                                                      | 11 December<br><i>TDD: 5 Feb</i>                  |
| P19/V3180/FUL                                                            | 20 Eynsham Rd. 6 flats comprising 3 two-bed & 3 one-bed, self-contained units,                                                                                                  | 20 December<br><i>TDD: 14 Feb</i>                 |
| P19/V3252/FUL<br>change to house plans on application ref. P16/V2166/FUL | 34 North Hinksey Lane. Variation of condition. Demolish existing house, erect 3 houses, access from North Hinksey Lane, parking, garages.                                       | 20 December<br><i>Target Decision Date 14 Feb</i> |
| P19/V3278/FUL<br>Variation of Conditions on application P19/V0667/FUL    | 9 Eynsham Rd. Demolish existing house & replace with 6 two bed flats. Trees retained due to re-planned parking; & re-planned unit 4 to orientate habitable rooms towards front. | 20 December<br><i>TDD: 14 Feb</i>                 |
| P19/V3354/HH                                                             | 3 Hazel Rd. Single storey extension at the rear.                                                                                                                                | 20 December<br><i>TDD: 14 Feb</i>                 |
| P20/V0002/O                                                              | The Willows 4 Yarnells Rd. Demolish existing buildings, erect single building of eight 2-bedroom flats.                                                                         | 2 January<br><i>TDD: 27 Feb</i>                   |
| P19/V3355/HH                                                             | 10 Yarnells Rd. Side & rear 2-storey extension. P19/V3166/LDP                                                                                                                   | 6 January<br><i>TDD: 2 March</i>                  |

## Eating to Save the Planet

The latest workshop in Low Carbon West Oxford's ACT Now programme took place on Saturday morning 11 January. ACT Now – Action on Climate Together Now – is our current programme to help local people reduce our carbon emissions by taking action to maximise energy efficiency in our everyday lives [see *last September's Sprout*]. As part of the programme, we are running a series of Saturday meetings and this one was on how what we eat makes a difference.



*It's complicated!* was the first thing we learned, as Susan Hutchinson gave us an overview of how various foods impact on the environment. Cheese has quite a negative impact! The best things are locally grown vegetables. In spring and early summer apples from New Zealand can have less impact on the environment than British ones – because British ones will have been kept in energy-hungry chillers, while New Zealand apples have been transported by sea, using less energy.

Anais from Oxfordshire Community Action Groups (CAG) gave us some surprising statistics: the average four-person household in the UK throws away £800 of food every year. Nina from Good Food Oxford told us about the Sugar Smart project run by Sustain ([See \*\*sustainweb.org\*\*](http://Sustainweb.org) It exists to run multiple campaigns to improve food and farming), and also about their Food Access Alliance. They're looking for volunteers to be trained to teach healthy cooking skills.

It was a well attended and interesting session. ACT Now meetings are open to everyone. People who sign up for the Programme get free Home Energy Assessments, and small grants for improvements. And it's open to Botley and Hinksey residents too (subject to availability).

Forthcoming Saturday morning workshops are: Reducing Waste on 8 February – Energy Efficient Transport on 7 March – Energy Efficient Finance on 25 April – and a session on talking about climate change and managing emotions about it on May 9th. They are all at West Oxford Community Centre. See you there!

**Alison Mathias**

## Brownies get Christmas Treats

2nd Botley Brownies enjoyed our annual trip to the panto where the classic story of 'Beauty and the Beast' was re-told in a somewhat complicated yet enjoyable way. During the interval we made use of the theatre's selfie photo frame prop "pantogram" (see photo).



The following weekend ten of our girls were lucky enough to be allocated places on our District overnight trip to Birmingham joining 120 other girls from Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. After our coach ride up we began our weekend in the Legoland



Discovery Centre indoor playground where we enjoyed being giants in the Mini-land, watching the 4D film and going on the rides. Then once the National Sea Life Centre had closed and all the visitors had gone home, we were given a VIP tour but not before we had crossed the canal to eat our pizzas. The late-night tour took us to see all the creatures including the sleeping penguins, colourful clownfish, majestic jelly fish, Molokai the giant sea turtle and, of course, the sharks. We slept in our sleeping bags in the Coral Caves underneath a 360 degree ocean tunnel surrounded by strange-looking fish and the octopus. On Sunday morning we saw the penguins up for their morning swim as we got ready to get back onto the coaches back to Oxford.

Back at our usual meetings we finished off our Christmas preparations by each carefully making a Christmas card using strips of ribbon to make a tree shape and then had fun at a weekend Brownie disco.

## The Owls



## **Botley Baby and Toddler Group**

Did you know that this group at St Peter & St Paul's hall (West Way) has been running for over 30 years? It is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9.30–11.00 am during term time and occasionally over the school holidays.

The group is run by volunteers on a charitable basis, attended by not only parents but also by other relatives and carers. It provides a large space for children to learn through play with our great range of toys and equipment, while they begin to socialise with others before moving onto preschool. We welcome all under fives. Babies can play with toys on the 'baby mat' or learn to walk using the push along toys. Toddlers can practise their hand-eye co-ordination playing with the puzzles, the playdough, the Happyland toys and expand their imagination with the dressing up/role-play box and much more. There is something for every child to keep them amused and challenged! For us adults, it's a place to catch up with friends and for new parents, carers or people just moved to the area to get to know others with children of a similar age. Everyone is made to feel very welcome. Sessions are reasonably priced at £1.50 per family, which includes drinks for adults and children plus a healthy snack.

Of course if you would like to help with the group there are many different ways you could do this – helping with craft activities, meeting and greeting newcomers, advertising the group, helping with the treasurer's job, preparing refreshments... Find us on Facebook 'Botley Baby & Toddler Group' for more information or to send us a message.

The Sprout has kindly donated £200 towards the cost of some new toys. We are extremely grateful and would like to say a very big thank-you! Now we just need you to come along and make the most of them!

**Sian Baldwin and Ann Andrews**

## **Welcome to your new community hall**

The modern and flexible Seacourt Hall opened its doors in the new community building in January. The Open Day on Saturday 25th was too late to make the print deadline for this issue of The Sprout but we hope you had a



chance to visit or read about it. If not, here are some details of what the new hall offers our community.

The hall is on the ground floor with power assisted entrances at the front and side. The Main Hall is 125 square metres with a sprung wooden floor ideal for dance and exercise, floor to ceiling windows for maximum light and adjustable blinds for privacy if required.

There are two additional areas – the Meeting Room is 50 square metres with a vinyl floor and windows onto the car park and the Lounge is also 50 square metres with carpeted floor and access from the side of the building. The areas can be divided or opened up with modern ceiling-hung dividing walls so the Meeting Room can be used as an extension of the main hall or of the Lounge. The whole space can also be hired and is ideal for parties or conferences.

There is a fully fitted modern kitchen with access and serving hatches on two sides so it can be used with different hall layouts. We also have plenty of toilet facilities including accessible toilet and a baby changing facility. The main hall now includes a wall-mounted large monitor generously donated by SDC – the company building West Way Square – to support





Branches Youth Group who plan to hold screenings for young people. The monitor can also be booked by any hall users for meeting presentations or similar. The hall also has an acoustic ceiling and hearing loop installed throughout.



Seacourt Hall is operated by a Management Committee of Trustees and is a registered charity. The replacement of the old hall was a requirement of the redevelopment of the shopping centre. The new building, also home to the Library and the Baptist Church, is the first part of the development to open. The new hall facilities are the result of several years of negotiations with the developers by current and previous members of the Management Committee who always kept the needs of our growing community at the forefront of discussions.

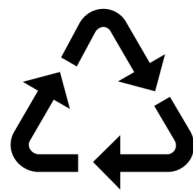
We hope the new Seacourt Hall will provide opportunities for all members of the community – from the youngest who may attend the new baby and toddler sensory classes, to the elderly residents who can benefit from the on-going bi-weekly Lunch Club and new options. As well as the existing users including yoga, Zumba, choir and music rehearsals, children's dance and sewing group, we have new classes starting in February including adult ballet, beginners Spanish lessons and art and craft classes, and more bookings are coming in.



Visit our website [seacourt.hall.org.uk](http://seacourt.hall.org.uk) for more details of what's on and information on how to book the hall for you class, meeting, or party. Do also give us feedback on the hall at [seacourt.hall@gmail.com](mailto:seacourt.hall@gmail.com) and tell us how we can continue to improve facilities for our community.

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

## **Recycling properly – can we wash away our consumer guilt and learn to love the Binzone?**



In Botley, we're great at recycling! England classifies 45.7% of its household waste as recycling (it's only 25.8% in the US) and Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWH) has recently been ranked 4th best recycling district in England, which is certainly something to be proud of.

### **The Binzone beckons**

If you are surprised by this success, or feel that you need more information on how you can recycle better, then fear not because deep within the VoWH website machine there is a handy tool for you! It's called the Binzone. Here you can type in the item that you are considering throwing away and it will spit out not only which of your bins it should go into, but also what day the collection of that bin is next due. Don't forget to wash and squash plastic bottles and cans, and to wash glass jars – items contaminated by food, etc, may be rejected.

Did you know that, over and above the usual items, VoWH residents can even put small electrical items out next to their black bins? Textiles too can go in clear plastic bags and be put out alongside your green bins. True convenience! VoWH have done well to make it so easy for us to do the right thing. But although recycling is better than just using something once, it is still not enough.

### **But then where does our rubbish go?**

Generally the plastics that we recycle are recycled into non recyclable items. So not single use, just twice used. Not the great infinite cycle we conjure in our mind's eye when we see the familiar symbol stamped on so much of our packaging.

The items that we put in our recycling bins are traded on the international commodities market. In 2018 China, one of the biggest importers of our recyclable waste, closed its doors to international imports of waste plastic. England then upped consignments to other South East Asian countries who, apart from becoming saturated, have much lower health and safety and environmental standards than we do here, and are also expected to ban imports of international solid waste

very soon. Not only this but there is still embodied energy in recycling plastic – imagine your little yogurt pot being shipped half way across the world to be sorted and shredded and melted before it's ready for one more reincarnation!

### The three Rs – Refuse, Reduce, Re-Use

The price for plastics and card has plummeted, and we are not ready to deal with all of our recycling within our own borders yet. Biffa, who have the contract with VoWH to collect our recycling, say that they “recycle as much as possible in the UK and are investing in their recycling facilities to increase capacity to do this, such as a new PET facility in Seaham which opens in 2020.” Which is timely and necessary, but not yet in place.

So as things currently stand – yes it is better to recycle than just throw in general waste. But recycling will not wash away our consumer guilt. Much better would be to follow the other Rs, which are: Refuse, Reduce and Re-use before resorting to the penultimate option of recycling.

**Emma Gordon**

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## Botley Running Group.

I've been a runner (on and off) for several years now, doing the odd 10k here and there, usually with my son Charlie. Charlie then went off to university and I found that I was lacking the motivation to get my trainers on and pound the streets. So, last summer, I posted on the Botley Facebook page to find out if anyone was interested in starting up a Botley running group with the emphasis on all abilities being welcome to join. I think I used the tag



line: "I'm 50 with a belly!" I got a good response and we started straight away, meeting two days after I first suggested the group. We don't have any set time and day to run, we have a WhatsApp group and, when anyone fancies going out we just suggest it to the group.

There are twenty of us at the moment and small groups of us get together about two or three times a week, doing runs/jogs from two miles upwards. We have done one organised run together so far, the Silverstone 10k, where six of us took part, and we expect to do many more this year. We really do not take ourselves too seriously, we are just a group of similarly minded people (the photo shows Ruth, Charlie, Andy, Scott and Sarah) who like to go out for a jog now and then. If you would like to join us, just drop me a text 07943 082897. **Andy Duffy**

## Cumnor Choral Society Christmas Concert

A real treat in November at Cumnor Choral Society's Concert to hear Bach's Christmas Oratorio. They were joined by Great Milton and Wheatley Singers and accompanied by the Hurst Sinfonia. As usual it was a stunning performance. We were also treated to two orchestral pieces by Bach – Sinfonia from Cantata No 29 and Air and Fugue from Orchestral Suite No.3. This has to have been one of their best concerts. Peter Foster certainly gets the best out of his singers. For a small choir to attract such talented soloists is surely a feather in their caps. As usual they provided a sumptuous after concert buffet. **Clare Isaacs**

## Scouting at Christmas

On the first weekend in December, the 4th Oxford Scout Group came together for one of the highlights of the year – the Christmas Camp! Around 80 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, plus leaders and helpers, headed up to Youlbury for a weekend of fun, learning and adventure!

After finding dorms and unpacking bags, all scouts, cubs and beavers were divided into mixed-aged teams with a Christmas-themed name (all too often involving Brussels sprouts). Points were available for those teams that performed well in the camp activities!

The weekend's adventures then commenced. Groups headed out for a torch lit scavenger hunt in the camp grounds, followed by camp fire songs and that all-time favourite hot chocolate with marshmallows. Everyone then settled down for the night, knowing that Saturday would be jam-packed with fun activities.

After a hearty breakfast, Saturday morning started with room inspections, earning points towards the team totals. Everyone made an effort, though certain rooms stood out – the Beaver girls' room was particularly tidy. The main activities then started, with some lucky teams heading outside into the cold, crisp morning to take part in winter Olympic events, and have a go at

pioneering – the art of using sticks and ropes to build structures strong enough to stand on! Other teams picked up cameras to snap frosty shots of the landscape (or each other), whilst others stayed inside to try out circus skills, computer programming and make t-shirts and badges to take home.

After such a busy day, everyone was hungry, which was just as well as a group of parents had cooked a full Christmas dinner, complete with turkey (and vegetarian option), roast veg, stuffing, Xmas pudding and mince pies. Then it was time to sit back and enjoy the traditional leader panto, this year telling the story of a poor girl, her rather evil and eccentric relatives and the opportunity she gets



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to improve her life situation – yes, you’ve guessed it! – Cinderella! It’s probably not going to make it to the Playhouse anytime soon, but it was enjoyed by all there, not least for the extraordinary costumes!

Cubs and Beavers spent Sunday morning making dens, trying archery and picking up team points towards the camp totals. Scouts, meanwhile, set about the fun task of dredging a stream as part of their site service badge. Following a pasta lunch, points were totalled, and team winners confirmed, and then parents arrived to find out what their young people



had been doing for two days, and see if they had won anything in the raffle. And finally, it was time to head off home, tired but with memories to last until next year’s camp!

**James Gagg**, 4th Oxford Assistant Beaver Leader

## **LARGE HALL FOR HIRE** **St Peter and St. Paul, West Way OX2 9JY**

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## **Randoms**

### **Kennington Memory Club**

Kennington Memory Club is your local Day Care Centre for people living with dementia. The club is small (no more than ten members per day) with three members of staff and up to two volunteers per session, so we can offer activities to suit our members, as well as the personal attention which is so important. Lunch can be provided at a modest extra cost, and drinks and snacks are served. We can cope with mobility problems, provided not more than one helper is needed for transfer from wheelchair to chair. The venue is wheelchair accessible, there is a 'disabled' toilet and ample parking.

Two open days are coming up when you can find out what we do. They are Monday February 10th and Thursday February 13th at our usual venue, the Methodist Church, Upper Road, Kennington OX1 5LR. If you are a dementia professional, living with someone afflicted or a carer, this is for you. All are welcome and there is no need to book. If you, or someone you look after, is interested in joining the club, our Organiser, Helen, will arrange for one or more "taster days" before you decide whether the club is right for you. We currently have places available for new members. For information, phone 07852 883 496 or visit our website [www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk).

### **Cumnor Choral Society Easter Concert**

Following the success of their Christmas Concert (see page 18) Cumnor Choral Society have put out an early warning that their Easter Concert on 21 March will include Haydn's Little Organ Mass, Mendelsohn's "Hear My Prayer" and Faure's "Cantique de Jean Racine". Tickets from Caroline Cockman on 07961 900670

### **Have you taken the PPG patient survey?**

The Botley and Kennington Patient Participation Group's survey of patients' experiences of using GP services continues throughout February. Paper copies are available at both Botley and Kennington surgeries or the survey can be completed on line at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/YourexperienceofusingGPservices/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/YourexperienceofusingGPservices/)



## **North Hinksey Art Group**

Our latest exhibition is at the SS Peter & Paul church in Botley, from Monday 3rd February until Friday 3 April 2020. This is part of the ongoing exhibitions organised and hung by Botley Arts.

We are a small and friendly art group, where a social environment with regular meetings, with tea and biscuits, is crucial to making our art. Creativity and development are encouraged with a new subject every week in the classes led by Christina Wartke-Dunbar. The exhibition shows a wide range of those different subjects – flower and animal studies, interiors, landscapes, seascapes and local scenes. The pictures featured are by ten different students from the class, and employ a number of different media: pen and wash, pastel, oil on canvas, and (of course) watercolour.

We welcome you to explore and enjoy our work in the church between the hours 10am and 4pm. Details will be available should you wish to purchase a picture, and we look forward to your comments in the visitors' book.

**Jennie Hopkins**

## **Make Botleyclean again! OxClean, 28 February – 1 March**

This year, OxClean's annual city-wide litter pick will take place from Friday 28 February to Sunday 1 March. If you would like to organise a group of people to pick litter, OxClean will advertise your event; provide bags, litter pickers and high vis vests; and organise for the bags of litter to be taken away by the city's waste collectors. Please see <https://www.oxclean.org.uk/>. You can join any of the groups shown on the website, or contact the Sprout if you want something local. We will, as every year, be picking litter in the Seacourt Nature Reserve on Saturday 29 February, 2-4pm. Do come along! We will meet at 2pm at the entrance to the nature reserve, between Richer Sounds and Wickes on the Botley Road. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves.

**Riki Therivel and Tim O'Hara**

## **LEAP INTO ACTION! 29Th February**

Seacourt Hall and Ss Peter and Paul Church Hall, 11am to 4pm. See what's being done locally to fight climate change, and get some ideas on how to play your part.

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

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Botley Brownies</b><br>Girls aged 7–10                        | Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler,<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<br><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, Botley Baptist Hall.<br>Amy Cusden 07887 654386 <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<br>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://www.b4044path.org">B4044path.org</a>                                                             |
| <b>Books on Wheels</b> R.V.S.                                        | Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Botley Boys &amp; Girls F.C.</b><br>Football teams from ages 8-16 | <b>Jason Barley Ox. 242926</b> <a href="mailto:jbarley1@sky.com">jbarley1@sky.com</a> or <b>Brendan Byrne 792531</b> <a href="mailto:brendan.byrne999@gmail.com">brendan.byrne999@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Botley Health Walks</b>                                           | Wednesday 9.30am. Contact Briony 01865 246497                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Botley Library</b>                                                | 01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).                                                                                                 |
| <b>Botley Singers</b>                                                | Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 <a href="mailto:angastpen@aol.com">angastpen@aol.com</a>                                                               |
| <b>Branches Café, Westway Place, Open to All 8am-3pm,</b>            | <b>Open for young people</b> 3-5 daily, Th. eves 7–9 Tel:01865 251115 <a href="http://www.branchesyouth.uk">www.branchesyouth.uk</a> Facebook Instagram                                         |
| <b>Community Fridge</b>                                              | Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811                                                                                                                                               |
| <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<br><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.<br>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 01865-863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a> |
| <b>Let's Sing! – singing group</b>                                   | Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email <a href="mailto:emformusic@outlook.com">emformusic@outlook.com</a>                                                                          |
| <b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>                                    | <b>Barbara Brett 249599</b> or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>                                                                                                     |
| <b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare Clubs</b>                   | <b>Mon–Fri 7.45am –6.00 pm.</b> 01865 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>                                                                      |

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>                          | Weds 10 – 12.00 W.I. Hall Tel: Christina 07931 707997                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>N Hinksey Bellringers</b>                        | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>            | Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>                                                                                         |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                        | Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>N Hinksey Parish Council</b>                     | Colin Ryde, tel 861992, <a href="mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk">clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk</a>                                                                                             |
| <b>N Hinksey Youth Club</b>                         | Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Over Sixties Lunch Club</b>                      | Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386                                                                                                          |
| <b>Oxford Flood Alliance</b>                        | R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging Club</b>                 | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Oxford 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> 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 <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>Saturdays 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 <a href="mailto:michael.cockman@gmail.com">michael.cockman@gmail.com</a> .                                                                                            |
| <b>Shotokan Karate club</b>                         | <b>6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450</b>                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Walking for Health</b>                           | 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.45 Botley Library. Alan 07941 610913                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Weight Watchers</b>                              | Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 <a href="mailto:bansob@aol.com">bansob@aol.com</a>                                                                            |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                       | Contact details on <a href="http://www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk">www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk</a>                                                                                                |
| <b>West Oxford Taekwon Do Club</b>                  | Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 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. <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>Yoga (gentle) at WOCC</b>                        | Fri 10.15 - 11.30 (more energetic on Mon 6.30 – 7.45) <a href="mailto:yogawithjacqueline@hotmail.com">yogawithjacqueline@hotmail.com</a>                                                           |

