

The Sprout



Floods from North Hinksey Lane

The newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 145 March 2020

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Issue 145, March 2020

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From the Editor

March is here, and with it the floods. Our cover shows James Mayo's photo of the inland sea visible from North Hinksey Lane (likely to defer the Big Clean Up of the Seacourt Nature Reserve). The Gala Opening of the new Seacourt Hall was a great success (p3), now all they need is a new manager and new treasurer. Could it be you? Moving quickly on we have the rise and rise of the Community Fridge (p13), the much enjoyed Isis cycling club (p29), and an account of her new battery-reinforced array from a satisfied solar panel owner (p23), while the kids' computer coding club at Dean Court is proving popular (p9). The campaign to rein in the Flood Scheme is using the delay caused by the need to repair the railway bridge to press for a rethink (p11), and on page 25, Linda Losito calls on those of us who park in our front gardens to redesign them for wildlife, and Martin Harris welcomes the chance to meet a famous figure from his youth (p35). Lots going on in Botley, as per usual then. Happy reading!

Ag MacKeith

Gala Opening for new Seacourt Hall

Were you among the hundreds of people who came along to see what Mace had come up with in our new Community Hub? Did you, like me, go up the stairs to the new library, light, spacious and inviting, but disconcertingly devoid of books! (Back on the shelves now, though!) Did you go on up to the roof and step out to see if you could see your house?



And, coming back down, did you plunge into the buzzing scene in the new Seacourt Hall, to find performances by the Betty Bloom dancers, from our local Morris Cry Havoc, and modern jive and Zumba displays? Not to mention the beautiful singing of Oxford Harmony and the Baby Sensory demo. Just as well the Lunch Club were on hand to refresh us with quantities of teas and coffees, and Botley W.I., with their delicious cakes. Branches cafe were there, too, dispensing Nachos at lunch time.

There seemed to be dozens of stalls. The ones I visited were Friends of Raleigh Park, who have made a huge difference to our valley nature reserve, with guided walks, adventure days, family fun and energetic work parties, as detailed in last November's *Sprout*. Then I had a long discussion with PCSO Rich Osborn on the local police stall. Botley seemed in danger of losing its status as a Low Crime Area, I said. Did he really think – as hinted in a local chat room – that there was a connection between the travellers' descent on Cumnor Parish and the sudden spate of burglaries round here. Absolutely not, he replied. The burglaries were part of a wider pattern, which stretched along the A34 and part of the M40. A criminal gang, efficient and competent, was carrying out the raids, looking for valuable jewellery, which could be slipped into a pocket, unlike a TV or laptop. This might also explain why Asian households were often the target, as they favour gold jewellery.

Botley Bridges had a stall, but I missed the chance to find out if it was true that they were being turfed out of their home at Botley School for reasons of space. This does seem to be the case, and is a crying shame. Those of us who had children at Elms Road Nursery know the space they inhabit was designed for nursery-aged children, and was directly modelled on that very popular nursery when it was closed and the land sold off to build Nursery Close. If you want to know what it looked like, there's a children's picture book by Sarah Garland called 'Going to Playschool' which uses the nursery as its setting. We will be following up the plans for our precious Under-fives centre in a future *Sprout*.

Seacourt Hall Management Committee were on hand to answer questions and invite us to choose the best logo to flag up their publicity. More new activities and classes are planned. You can see what's on and book your own event at the Seacourt Hall website: **www.seacourthall.org.uk/** All in all, it was a very lively and successful occasion. Congratulations to all those involved in organizing it. The photo shows their smiling faces, flanking our MP Layla Moran and some of our local councillors. The next big event there is 'Leap into Action, Botley's Big Green Day' on 29th Feb.

It has come to our notice that Eric Batts, hall manager for many years, has resigned and a new one is sought. Could this be you? Advert below.
Ag MacKeith

Seacourt Hall needs a Hall Keeper

15 Hours a week. £7963.80 (£10.21 per hour)

4 weeks annual holiday & workplace pension contribution.

Located in Botley's West Way centre, the hall keeper is responsible for the day-to-day running and maintenance of Seacourt Hall, for assisting users, for Health and Safety, Fire and equipment testing, and managing hall bookings via an online booking system, email and telephone. The role will suit an active individual with experience of dealing with the public and administrative tasks, including reports for the Committee. There will be some evening work and weekends as necessary. A laptop and mobile phone will be supplied.

Closing Date: 6th March _Apply by email: seacourt.hall@gmail.com

Full job description online: www.seacourthall.org.uk/

What's the link between organ donation, film-making and Hadrian's Wall?

Can't guess? All three are the subject of dozens of free online short courses run by FutureLearn (www.futurelearn.com). Courses last between two and eight weeks, and involve between two and five hours of study per week.

The courses are a combination of reading, videos, exercises and discussion with other learners. They can be accessed at any time, as there are no formal 'classes'. I find the discussions the most interesting, as people from around the world often have unexpected insights and opinions. I'm currently taking a management course, and finding out what works in different countries is a real eye-opener.

Other courses that I've done: how to write a poem, how to create great online content, a history of royal food, modern building design, and the science of nutrition. It's possible to pay to get a certificate for 'attending' the course, and some courses build on each other so that they start forming the equivalent of a proper university course. But I just use the free version to gain new insights. I can really recommend them... and I'm not even employed by FutureLearn.

Riki Therivel

COLONEL CUSTARD

Saturday 14th of March

Family magic show at Wytham Village Hall

Adults £2, **children free** (must be accompanied)

Doors 15:00 for a 15:30 start

45 minute show followed by refreshments



Tickets on the door or in advance from wythambookings@yahoo.co.uk

Dean Court Coder Dojo

A few months ago we appealed for volunteers to help set up and run a Coder Dojo (coding club) for girls and boys aged 7 to 17 at Dean Court Community Centre. Well, we were lucky enough to assemble a crack team of technical bods and our first session took place in January. Ten budding coders (some of them already pretty fully-fledged!) joined James, Peter, Nathan and Kim for 90 minutes of computing fun.



James writes:

"The coders explored the Scratch programming environment, which has been designed as a first stage for children learning programming. Blocks are moved on screen from a library to create a visual code, which then runs on a stage on the same screen. Several of the coders programmed a band which moved around on screen and played music. Singing unicorns also made an appearance (obviously), and ghosts. As the code is created, the changes can be seen and heard, until the project is finished. The sounds can be changed, as can the images used on stage, and all made to work as desired by the program. The coders quickly understood what it was all about! Other coders uses a text-based programming language called Python."

Cumnor Choral Society

perform

Haydn's Little Organ Mass

Mendelssohn's

Hear My Prayer

Faure's

Cantique de Jean Racine

plus orchestral pieces

March 21 at 7.30pm
St Peter & St Paul, Botley

Tickets
(inc. programme & buffet)
£12/10, £3 child

from Caroline Cockman
07961 900670
cockman.caroline@gmail.com

The Dojo is at present fully subsidised by DCCA and we're always keen to welcome more volunteers on board, no need to commit to every session. We're aiming to meet once a month for 90 minutes, so if you think you could bring something to the techie table, get in touch with me on rachael.deancourtcc@gmail.com
Rachael Monks, Centre Manager

Flood Scheme – a chance to rethink?

HOEG (Hinksey and Osney Environment Group) met on 6th February 2020 to consider progress on the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

In early January 2020 the Environment Agency (EA) notified landowners and tenants previously served with OFAS Compulsory Purchase Orders that the Scheme is currently being delayed. This is because there needs to be a new bridge on the bypass at the end of the Abingdon Road. This will affect the new flood alleviation plan because the new bridge will improve water flows. The lead time is likely to be more than two years.

HOEG strongly supports the need to address West and South Oxford flooding concerns. Members think that this planning delay creates an excellent opportunity to improve OFAS further, especially to understand better its immediate and mid-term climate impact both in terms of carbon capture and local air pollution, the economic challenges to the Botley Road during construction, and new opportunities to reduce substantially OFAS' original £150million-plus budget. Members of HOEG will be forwarding fully worked and costed alternative solutions to the appropriate authorities.

Though the effects of even-slightly-above-average rainfall bursts are increasing annually because waterways are silting up and routine maintenance has ended, new technology operating sluice gates above Oxford appears to work well and to limit flooding. At the request of HOEG, the EA is enhancing the hydrological assumptions used in modelling the proposed flood channel. Upgrading the quality of data for this flood modelling for such a major investment benefits all stakeholders.

The current OFAS plan requires excavation of historic meadows west of Oxford, removing the substantial carbon capture provided by existing 1,000 year old grassland and established trees. The planned wide channel will make relatively little difference to the 1300 (not 4500) properties at risk of flooding but will add major air pollution impact due to construction activities and diesel lorry movement of local gravel from the meadows to off-site locations. The carbon, nitrogen and particulate air pollution impacts of the Scheme's first 5–20 years were not fully evaluated in OFAS' initial proposal documents. For more visit: <https://hinkseyandosney.org/>

Chris Sugden (Convenor) with others for HOEG

Community fridges take off!

The Botley community fridge (St. P&P Church, 81 West Way OX2 9JY) will be three years old in mid March, and what an influence it has had!

In just the last year, the fridge has stopped at least 7 tonnes of perfectly good food from being wasted, providing the equivalent of more than 16,000 meals. A team of brilliant volunteers picks up the food from four supermarkets five days per week, and comes in every day to make sure that the fridge is clean. Several food banks donate non-perishables (pasta, tins etc.) which go on shelving next to the fridge, and which are particularly for people in need. Anyone can use the fridge, so do please visit it, put in your surplus food and take food from it.



But the fridge's influence goes beyond Botley. Inspired by our fridge, the Leys community fridge opened at the Blackbird Leys community centre 15 months ago. It also has a team of volunteers who pick up and deliver food, coordinated by Lucy Kozumplikova who lives in Botley.

Because the Leys fridge wasn't getting enough food for the demand, we contacted FareShare, who pick up surplus food from wholesalers around the country, bring it back to regional depots (ours is in Didcot), and then redistribute it. Unlike the Oxford Food Bank who do this for free but who won't deliver to 'open access' charities (where the food might go to people who are not 'in need'), FareShare charges for the transport, processing and warehousing of the food. The Didcot depot is



run by a fantastic organisation called Sofea, which takes young people who struggle in school, gives them literacy/numeracy classes in the morning, and teaches them warehouse skills in the afternoon.

FareShare/Sofea suggested that, rather than buying food from them, we should set up a Leys community larder, and that is what we have done. The larder is a food club. People become members for £2 a week direct debit, and for that they receive access to a café, a children's play area, several events per year (we had a big Christmas party and are planning a summer barbecue), plus ten items of non-perishable food per week, plus free fruit and vegetables. FareShare isn't allowed to sell the food because it is classed as 'waste', but having a club which happens to provide lots of free food gets around this. For their £2 per week, members leave with a HUGE bag of food.

Some of the food is weird and wonderful: cactus water, seaweed crisps, cheese-flavoured

popcorn. But every week there is also bread, pasta, cereal, tins of beans and other basics that will get people through the week. The larder opened in early October 2019 and already has more than 90 members.

Anyone within a 15-minute travel time can



join, and if there's not much traffic on the ring road, the fridge is just about accessible in that time to someone who lives in Botley. Do go if you're interested. Anyone can join – you don't need to be on benefits. It's at the Blackbird Leys community centre every Wednesday, 3 to 5pm.

Coming back to community fridges, two years ago the Botley fridge hosted a national meeting of community fridge co-ordinators. By now, so many community fridges have been set up around the country that we will soon be hosting a meeting of just the Oxfordshire community fridges. These are located in Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Botley, Jericho, Leys, Wallingford, Wantage and Witney.

Riki Therivel

Report on Botley Medical Centre

Patients of the Botley Medical Centre were concerned to read the *Oxford Mail* report of 16th January which carried the headline “GP Practice has improved but work needed, says Watchdog”.

The Patients Participation Group at its meeting on January 29th discussed this report of the Care Quality Commission’s findings with the Manager of the Practice, Caroline Jones.

The finding in question centred around one issue: the lack of high-risk medicine audits. Because these span both Safe and Well-led headings within the CQC reporting structure, the impression given of the report is worse than it actually was. In all other aspects the Centre achieved a ‘good’ rating. This one area of difficulty fell into two headings and so resulted in the final verdict.

In actual fact the inspectors had used a temporary search which had been set up for other reasons, and was not the search the Practice uses to identify high risk drug users. Unfortunately, both managers in the practice happened to be on leave immediately after the inspection, so it was not possible to get the correct search results to the inspectors within their time frame. When the correct search criteria were used, they showed that all monthly audits had been carried out. The procedure for accessing the correct search criteria has since been amended to make it less likely for anyone to use the wrong ones in the future.

Shared Care

The issue with the high-risk drugs was that some patients who attended hospital appointments believed that they did not need to go to the health centre for their blood tests, thinking that all would be dealt with in the hospital. Such patients seemed to be unaware of ‘shared care’. Under this protocol, the administration of drugs/medicines started at hospital was then devolved to the surgery. If a patient missed a blood test at the surgery, the doctor had to do a risk assessment to decide if it was safer to give the medication without the blood test being done or not.

The shared care agreement with the hospital has now been amended so that if patients did not come for the required blood test at the surgery, they would be asked to return to the hospital for their tests and treatment. The PPG was assured that an action plan has been created to respond to the issue raised by the CQC and *Oxford Mail*.

Chris Sugden

And here are some tips from the PPG on

How to get the most out of your GP appointment

As the doctor's time is precious here are a few tips that may help you get the most from the time you have with them. Some may seem obvious but together they'll help get the best from your visit.

Be on time We are all aware that often the doctor runs late through no fault of their own BUT if they *are* running on time, don't waste yours.

Once in the room Don't get too comfy and then waste valuable time taking off layers that are not necessary.

If at all possible, leave your children at home (unless it is they who are unwell). Easier said than done but.... Often children distract you and the doctor from asking the relevant questions.

Don't bring a list! It is unrealistic to expect a doctor to deal with more than one problem. The average appointment is only 10 minutes and it's better to deal with one problem in depth than several superficially.

Tell your story chronologically Try and remember when symptoms started and how they developed. Give as much detail as you can.

Be as accurate as possible. Give accurate timings: the dates or the month or week symptoms started, not 'a while ago', Or 'not very long'.

Try not to be embarrassed The doctor has probably heard it before, or something very like it.

Understand how the consultation works

- * Tell your story
- * The doctor will ask you questions about what you have told them
- * The doctor may examine you if they feel it necessary
- * Your doctor will tell you what they think may be going on and suggest treatment or plan options
- * You ask questions about the plan

Get the important issue out first. Often people will talk about smaller concerns rather than the important one such as 'I think I have a lump'.

The internet is useful but... doctors have a wealth of knowledge, so trust their skills.

Finally be kind. Doctors are trying their best to help you – that's the reason they came into the profession!

Citizens Advice in South and Vale needs help with:

- * Reception duties in Abingdon, Henley and Thame
- * Advisers in Abingdon and Didcot
- * Head office administration in Abingdon
- * IT support in Didcot and Thame
- * Fundraising, communications and website designers (any location)

We are a local charity providing free, confidential advice. Last year, our 150 skilled advisers helped over 11,000 local people from advice centres in Abingdon, Didcot, Faringdon, Henley, Thame and Wallingford. Many people who come to us face difficult and sometimes frightening problems that threaten to overwhelm them. In 2019 we were able to help three quarters of all the people who contacted us. For volunteers, we offer a welcoming office environment and an opportunity to gain new skills, meet new people and make a real and valued contribution to your local community. You choose when you volunteer. We normally ask for two half days a week but can be flexible. If you are interested, please go to: **www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer** Or, if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email Jon Bright, Director at **jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk**

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS

THURSDAY 9 APRIL

10 am – 12 noon

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Botley

Flowers, foliage & containers provided

Bring scissors/secateurs

Beginners welcome!

Coffee & biscuits provided



If you enjoy the class, you might like to join the church's flower arranging rota, but there will be no obligation

Contact: *Dianne Cockburn* - Oxford 247282

How Solar Panels are Working for Me

Are you thinking of installing solar panels? Well make sure you add in a battery! *Which?* has lots of good advice, and was a good place to start.

The first company I called gave me the sales talk, and then pressured me to sign a contract before they would send out a surveyor. They also applied financial inducements to make me choose them. Luckily I was able to back out in time. Meanwhile I had contacted another company (Project Solar) that I eventually went ahead with. The experience here was very different: there was no pressure and the emphasis was on giving me all the technical data I needed.

I've gone on about this at some length because it illustrates how vitally important it is to get more than one quote, and to resist heavy sales pressure. Be clear about what you want, and then make sure that any proposal offered to you can deliver it.

The thing I really liked about Project Solar was their partnership with Social Energy, which is an unusual kind of energy supplier. The power generated by solar can peak when you least need it, but you can sell this back to the grid. The energy companies don't pay much for it, though – at most one third of what you pay for energy from them, and often much less. If you have a battery you can store energy there, for use later. This can save you a lot, but it is limited by the capacity of your battery. Social Energy go a step further: via a hub they install in your house, they trade the energy in your battery with the grid (in both directions), buying it cheaply on your behalf, and selling it back when the price is higher. You need do nothing, the software takes care of it all. This (they claim) can give you a big pay-back, allowing you to cover the additional cost of the battery in a shorter time.

I cannot verify this myself yet. We've only had our panels for a month so far, and it takes three months to get onto the system. However, the benefits of the battery are already very evident. We have already halved our grid consumption (and hence our bill), and it's only February! To be fair, a lot of this saving is down to our increased awareness of how we were wasting energy in a big way, but that's another story.

Our 18-panel installation plus battery, inclusive of taxes, installation and warranty, cost £15,300 and took less than two days. To put this into perspective, it is about the cost of a kitchen makeover. Our roof faces east and west, so we have panels on both sides. This is not ideal – a south facing roof works best. Even so, our panels really do perform even on cloudy days, as we can attest from our monitoring during February.

Sally Prime

Pimp your Patch

Oxfordshire is a crowded space, and likely to get a lot more crowded in the near future if the projected million houses along the Expressway are built. More houses will mean even less space for wildlife to occupy. So the numbers of birds, mammals and insects will continue to plummet across the region. Is there anything we can do to help them?

The numbers of cars are increasing but the street space to park them is diminishing. Young adults are staying at home with their parents for longer because mortgages are out of their reach. Many have cars, so the available space shrinks even further. Householders, increasingly desperate to secure a parking place, are paving over their front gardens. This is perfectly understandable, but creates a number of problems, some of which are soluble.

One problem is porosity. Any new surface laid should allow water to drain through it, but many do not. The soil under the surface can dry out causing clay to shrink, with consequent damage to the house foundations. A layer of shingle will give the best permeability and is likely to be the cheapest to install. Tarmac and concrete are probably the least permeable surfaces but can have holes for drainage put in. If water stays on the surface, it may run off onto the pavement making problems for pedestrians, especially in icy weather, and pushing more water into the overloaded street drains.

Another is the loss of green space. Each front garden may be small, but the cumulative loss to the local area is huge. There are many faces to this loss. People used to be proud of their front gardens and competed in an annual competition run by the Parish Council. They would spend a lot of time creating colourful displays and weeding: time spent chatting to passing neighbours. 'Socialising-through-gardening' is extremely important for keeping less mobile elderly people in the social loop, making them less likely to become isolated and depressed. And, as any estate agent will tell you, it is easier to sell a house with a pretty flower-filled garden next door than one which is filled with rusting old jalopies. It seems to appeal to that very British desire to live in a thatched cottage with roses growing around the door. It's just *nice*. So how can we reconcile this need for parking spaces with our love of gardens? Have both of course! *Pimp your patch*. If you are making a new space, with just a little planning you should be able to create a porous surface surrounded by flowers. Or if you have an existing hard

surface, jazz it up around the edges. Surround it with flower-filled pots or planters to give it that extra buzz. The bees will love it if you use open, pollen-bearing flowers.

Alternatively, dig it up around the edges and put in some colourful shrubs. This is what one of my neighbours has done, and it is a pleasure to look at



throughout the year. When she moved in, there was just plain gravel. Useful but boring. She yearned for something that was easier on the eye, and slowly re-shaped it to her needs. Now, around the functional parking space is a thing of beauty. Under the front window is a cotoneaster heaving with bees in the spring and bright with red berries in the winter. A clematis with large blue flowers scrambles across it in the summer. Green and gold ivy covers the brick walls, with a golden shrub, *Lonicera nitida* adding extra colour. Around the edges, scented lavender bushes and the violet-blue flowered *Symphyandra* (bellflowers) are very happy in this dry, almost Mediterranean, sunny spot. All of them are hardy and low maintenance.

Around the corner, other neighbours have created a tiny green oasis alongside the parking spot. The eye-catching front wall is covered with a mosaic of pretty blue tiles. Just behind it is a pond and a spread of lovely seasonal flowers, and a bird feeder which brings in the more attractive birds like gold finches. In a garden further along, a row of hollyhocks creates a wall of colour around the car. Pretty plant pots filled with flowers add to the cottage garden effect.

Everyone does it differently, but the combined effect is lovely. Good for birds, good for insects (and, consequently, hedgehogs) and good for us. How much better than blank, sterile sheets of tarmac, brick or concrete. So why not go out this weekend, dig up a corner of your front garden and fill it with colour. Your neighbours will love you for it.

(And we will come by, clip boards in hand, looking for the prettiest, most wildlife friendly, parking spot in the local area. There may even be prizes! Details to be announced later.)

Linda Losito

Women's cycling group in Oxford

One of the best things I did when we moved to Oxford many years ago was to turn up in Radcliffe Square for an Isis Cyclist's ride. I was hooked from the start – through it I have discovered wonderful new routes, made friends, appreciated the many hidden gems that Oxford and its environs have to offer, kept fit(ish) and enjoyed many cups of coffee and, frequently, cake!



Isis cyclists was primarily started to help women get fit through cycling. It has since developed into an organisation that offers short (6–10 miles), medium (10–20 miles), and long (20–30 miles) rides each month at the weekends; and when the weather gets warmer and the days longer we include evening pub rides, midweek Stop and Stare rides, extra long rides (50 miles), extra pop-up rides and a weekend away. Our evening pub rides and Sunday social rides are open to male partners and friends. The rides usually start at 10.00 am, take all morning and we arrive back in time for lunch after a refreshment stop during the ride.

Each ride has a leader who will have planned the route and coffee stop, and someone who brings up the rear. The short rides tend to be set at a slower pace than the long rides, but we are always aware of how people are doing, and will adjust our pace to accommodate everyone.

Cycling is a brilliant way of getting about, particularly in Oxford. We choose our routes carefully, avoiding fast busy roads and making use of the many cycle paths and country lanes. Cycling is sociable, healthy and free! It keeps you in touch with your surroundings. If you'd like to join us, take a look at our website isiscyclists.org.uk where you will find details of upcoming rides. You don't need to join, or pay, or book in – just turn up at the starting point of your chosen ride with a roadworthy bike and you will be warmly welcomed in.

Karen Wolff

Calling new Brownies

We at 2nd Botley have a full and constant complement of lovely go-ahead Leaders and a Brownie Holiday licence (which we're not afraid to use!) but we could accommodate more girls (aged 7 to 10 years) right now. If you know of any, please do get in touch at **2ndbotleybrownies@outlook.com**. Indeed, continuing to look to the future of the Unit and Girlguiding as a whole we are very pleased to report that "Fox" (a student by the name of Amber) has just completed her Young Leader Qualification, which she has been diligently working towards over the past two years. All our Leaders basically started in the same way...

We enjoyed being Brownies, we then moved on to Guides and, if lucky enough in the area we were in, then on to Rangers. We started out by helping at a local Unit, be it Rainbows, Brownies or Guides. Over time we were encouraged to take our Leadership Qualification to allow us to be in charge of young girls. We attended formal First Aid trainings and Girlguiding trainings where we learnt about child welfare and safe-from-harm procedures as well as lots of fun activities and camp fires. We learnt to plan our time (which is freely given), organise events, handle a

budget, etc. As Young Leaders or young Adult Leaders we all learnt from and by watching 2nd Botley's Leaders a little older than us with a few years of experience. Girlguiding UK is over 110 years old and this is how we continue to grow and to evolve into the worldwide movement we are today. "Today's Leaders were yesterday's Brownies & Guides, ergo today's Brownies & Guides will be tomorrow's Leaders!" All Girlguiding Leaders, regardless of their age, are just ordinary people voluntarily "doing their best" (Baden Powell would approve) to give a little bit back to the community in which they live.

By the Owls at 2nd Botley Brownies

Live-in Carer/ Housekeeper

seeks position to
replace long term client

Experienced carer
Presently based in Oxford
Extremely capable
Flexible can-do attitude
Excellent references
Live-out option

**Contact Marcia
07392 298881**

Bemused by the bin? Help is at hand.

Thanks to us residents, Oxfordshire is the top performing county in the country, recycling 58% of household waste. Now the county council have come up with a new wheeze to help us do even better.

The Waste Wizard is the county council's response to the evil spell that no-longer-needed items sometimes cast over residents when it's time to recycle or reuse them. The online tool allows anyone bewitched by the bin to type in the name of any item at oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard along with their postcode to find out whether it can be repaired, reused, donated, recycled, if it needs to go into a specific bin or if it can be disposed of at a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

There's lots of different ways to get rid of waste but you only need one Waste Wizard to help make sure you do the right thing.

- Boost the number of items that get repaired locally
- Increase the number of items reused or donated
- Cut the amount of contamination in kerbside collection bins
- Ensure anything that can't be reused, repaired or donated is properly recycled or disposed of

PANEL MEMBERS NEEDED

The Diocese is responsible for administering school admission appeal hearings for all its 200+ aided schools and academies. Panel members can be either from an educational or non-educational background and although the work is voluntary, travel expenses are paid and full training will be given. The amount of time given to this work is entirely up to the individual. We are looking to recruit additional members to our current team. Our panel members find the work interesting, worthwhile and enjoyable.

Please contact:

Mrs Christine Jones, Diocesan Admissions and Appeals Officer,
Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, OX5 1GF,
01856 208279 or 07392 196016
or e-mail christine.jones@oxford.anglican.org

Jingle All The Westminster Way

It's not Christmas yet! In October this year, our local radio station BBC Radio Oxford will be celebrating its 50th birthday. Gordon Kitchen, from Stanley Close, was there from the first day, reading the news. Back in the early 1980s you might have once or twice seen an old black taxi cab driving around Botley to visit me. The driver was Timmy Mallett, who before he become



nationally and internationally famous on television and with his No.1 hit record, presented an “utterly brilliant” radio show for Oxfordshire that

Saturday 14th March
Farmoor Village Hall
Chippy
Quiz Supper

Fish, Chicken or Sausage

Tickets £9.50 with food

£4.50 without

With food tickets must be purchased by 11th

from Michael Baston 01865 862426

Inga Martin 01865 863888

Licenced Bar and Raffle

was especially loved by the younger generation. My sister Diane and I, as young teenagers, would sometimes be at Radio Oxford's studios, then at 242–254 Banbury Road, recording jingles for the show. It was fun, and great for my confidence, to re-write words to pop songs. Timmy Mallett, being at the controls, would press the ‘record’ button, we would sing away and then later it would be played on his show called *Timmy on the Tranny* or *TOTT* for short. On his final show we sang our version of the *Can Can* live with help from Greg Hainge who then lived on Harcourt Hill. The most famous (if you can call it that) jingle that Diane and I

recorded (later also played on Radio Luxembourg, Piccadilly Radio and even on a freeview TV channel!) was a ditty written by Timmy to Tony Basil's 1982 hit *Mickey* re-worked as *Oh Timmy You're So Fine*. At one time the show had a parody competition, judged by Duke D'Mond from the comedic pop group The Barron Knights. Diane and I came 2nd with Abba's *The Winner Takes It All* re-worked as *The Taxman Takes It All*. Joyce East, a wonderful lady and a great Barry Manilow fan who lived in Westminster Way, performed a hilarious version of Sheena Easton's 9 to 5 with her great gravelly voice. One evening Dad took us down to a recording studio in someone's back garden in Yate, South Gloucestershire, and we recorded a song with Timmy called *I'm Timmy the Prince*. The record wasn't released, but almost 10 years later in 1990, Timmy had a No.1 hit with Andrew Lloyd Webber with their version of *Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini*.

Just a few weeks ago, Mum and I met Timmy again at a book signing (*shown in the photo*). It is a well written, intelligent, uplifting and inspiring book about his cycling pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, following the recent death of his brother Martin who had Down's syndrome and dementia. Timmy Mallett is still "utterly brilliant".

Martin Harris

LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P20/V0317/FUL Re application P16/V1976/FUL	12 Cumnor Hill. Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans), 8 (Boundary Treatments), 14 (Parking Provision), 15 (Refuse and Recycling).	3 February <i>Target Decision</i> <i>Date: 4 May</i>
P20/V0301/FUL	5 Toynbee Close. Build 2 two-bedroom flats to rear with parking, bin & bike stores. Replace carport and outbuilding with parking, bin & bike stores for existing house as per P16/V3039/FUL.	5 February <i>TDD: 1 April</i>
P20/V0359/LDP	15 Cumnor Hill. Certificate of Lawfulness for extension of hard standing area at front to provide a parking and turning area.	6 February <i>TDD: 2 April</i>
P20/V0372/HH	30A Hutchcomb Rd. Demolish existing garage and build single storey rear extension.	10 February <i>TDD: 6 April</i>

Randoms

Annual Parish Meeting – 19th March

The Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the new Seacourt Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th March (tea and coffee from 7pm). Come along to hear the latest news on the Botley Centre redevelopment, the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, and other local issues. If there is anything you would like to raise for discussion, please send your questions in writing to Colin Ryde, the Parish Clerk (clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk) by Monday 16th March. Further details can be found on the Parish Council website at www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk and in the NHPC Annual Newsletter.

Redbridge closed

Redbridge recycling centre will be closed for a deep clean on Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th March.

West Way Square Community Update Exhibition: 5 March

Is there any truth in the rumour that the developers are seeking to add another storey to the building on the site of Grant Thornton? Come to the public exhibition to update residents of ongoing progress and next steps of development at West Way Square on 5th March from 4pm to 7.30 in the Seacourt Hall and find out. This will be a small interactive exhibition, with members of the project team on hand to answer questions, and feedback forms available for comments. If you have any questions you can contact Hugh Currie of SP Broadway at hugh@spbroadway.com, or visit www.westwayconsultation.co.uk for further details

Botley Seniors Lunch Club

(formerly Botley & North Hinksey over 60s Lunch Club)

We're still the same Lunch Club, but with a new name as very few of us now retire at 60. We're enjoying the spacious and airy new Seacourt Hall with its modern kitchen and meet, as before, on alternate Thursdays (see *back cover for dates*).

Housekeeper/nanny wanted for Botley family

- Two afternoons per week
- Simple food preparation
- Cleaning
- After school care

Contact funfam219@gmail.com

Run entirely by volunteers, Lunch Club serves a two-course meal at 12.30 prompt, and diners can arrive from about noon onwards to meet and chat with friends. Our ingredients are bought locally with our meat from Hedges on Elms Parade. We charge £5 per head and any profit goes towards meals to celebrate special occasions such as Christmas. There is no need to book. If you would like to join our cheery team of volunteers we would love to hear from you. Either pop in to the Seacourt Hall around 10.30 am on the days we do lunch, contact me on **smithsat23@tiscali.co.uk** (01865 241539), or phone Jackie Warner (01865 721386).

Viv Smith

The Vale tackles Climate Change

On the advice of their Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, the Vale of White Horse District Council have set targets to reduce their own carbon emissions by 75% by 2025, and those in the district by 75% by 2030. There's more information on the advisory committee and the work being done to achieve these targets on **www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk**. Good to see that South Oxford DC have put sustainability at the heart of the design for the new headquarters at Crowmarsh Gifford that they will share with the Vale. Let us hope our own parish council will take note and apply the same principles to the new pavilion at the top of the hill.

Keep Safe! Avoiding Conmen and Other Risks

Scams, identity theft, conmen on the doorstep and the telephone and the web all feature in this U3A talk by Shelley Edwards on 23rd March (details on back cover). The list of risks that modern technologies expose us to can seem to be ever-expanding. But there are many ways that we can protect ourselves, often simply through greater awareness and taking straightforward precautions. Shelley Edwards, Community Liaison Officer with Oxfordshire County Council, will help us understand the kinds of risks we may be open to, and advise us how to keep both ourselves and our neighbours safe.

And another thing...

Another opportunity to get involved in your local community: Seacourt Hall is looking for a new Treasurer. If you are interested please email **seacourt.hall@gmail.com**.

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

1st Botley Brownies Girls aged 7–10	Dean Court Community Centre Thur 6–7.30 Fiona Wheeler, firstbotleybrownies@gmail.com
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 Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts	Scout Hall, Arnolds Way; mail@thefourth.org.uk Website: http://www.thefourth.org.uk/
15th Oxford Scout Group Boys and girls welcome	Fridays, cubs 6.30–8, scouts 8–9.30, Botley Baptist Hall. Amy Cusden 07887 654386 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
Badminton Club	Thurs 7–8pm at Matthew Arnold Sports Hall. Garry Clark 0777 3559 314 garryclark13@gmail.com
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. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8–16	Jason Barley Ox. 242926 jbarley1@sky.com or Brendan Byrne 792531 brendan.byrne999@gmail.com
Botley Health Walks	Wednesday 9.30am. Contact Briony on Ox 246497
Botley Library	01865 248142. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Every other Thursday. Seacourt Hall. Viv Smith 01865 241539 or Jackie Warner 01865 721386
Botley Singers	Thur 7.30, St Andrew's Church, Dean Court. Angela Astley-Penny Ox.242189 angastpen@aol.com
Community Fridge	Mon–Sat 9–5, Sun 11–5. Riki Therivel 07759 135811
Cumnor Choral Society	Rehearsals Friday 7.45 to 9.45 pm John May 07795 054142 or www.cumnorchoralsociety.wordpress.com
Cumnor Chess Club	Thurs 7–9pm Cumnor Old School. Steven Bennett 862788 www.cumnorchessclub.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/ or phone 01865 721026
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
Let's Sing! – singing group	Weds 2pm, WOCC, details Emily 07969 522368 or email emformusic@outlook.com
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 Tel: Christina 07931 707997
N Hinksey Bellringers	Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451
N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers	Meets at weekends. Contact Voirrey Carr 07798743121 voirreyc@aol.com
N Hinksey, Friends of	Annual Cricket Match & Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.
N Hinksey Parish Council	Colin Ryde, tel 861992, clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
N Hinksey Youth Club	Wednesdays at Arnold's Way pavilion, call Daz on 07791 212866 or see Facebook
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
Oxford Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: 01865 865259
Oxford Harmony Men's Acappella singing group	Meets Wednesdays 7.45 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 .
Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club: Melanie Riste 848658 melanie_riste@hotmail.com
Raleigh Park, Friends of	raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Satdads at Botley Bridges	Fun activities and trips for Dads and under 5's 10 am–noon 1st Sat of month. Tel: 243955
Seacourt Hall management committee	Michael Cockman 07766 317691 michael.cockman@gmail.com .
Shotokan Karate club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Walking for Health	2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.45 Botley Library. Alan 07941 610913
Weight Watchers	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com
West Oxford Bowls Club	Contact details on www.westoxfordbowlsclub.co.uk
West Oxford Taekwon Do Club	Mon, Thurs 6.30-8pm, MA gym, contact Chris Hall 01865 570291 www.wotkd.co.uk
West Oxford U3A	(Uni of the 3rd Age) http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/
West Way Day Centre	Mon & Fri 10–3pm, Field House, 07740 611971. oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
Women's Institute (Botley)	Liz Manson, 244175 or liz.manson@virginmedia.com
Yoga (gentle) at WOCC	Fri 10.15 - 11.30 (more energetic on Mon 6.30 – 7.45) yogawithjacqueline@hotmail.com