

The Sprout



Apple Day coming up!

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Issue 170 September 2022

The Sprout

The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

Directors: Janet Bartlam, Judi Bolder, John Clements,
Michael Cockman, Ag MacKeith, Robin Palmer

Editor

Ag MacKeith

South View, Old Botley, OX2 0JR Tel: 724452 Editor@TheSprout.org.uk

Advertising

Michael Cockman

50, St Paul's Crescent OX2 9AG Tel: 07766 317691 Adverts@TheSprout.org.uk

Deliveries

Jan Shirley and Isabelle Hayes

9, Sweetmans Road OX2 9BA 07706 606719 Deliveries@TheSprout.org.uk

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Issue 170, September 2022

Contents

3 Letters to the Editor	19 Botley–Eynsham Bike Path
5 Crevice Garden	21 Peppy Smeaton
7 Planning Apps	23 Meet Chris Church
9 DC Update	27 Unpopular Flood Scheme
11 Saving Energy	29 Support for Solar Farm
13 Mosaic Workshops	31 Randoms
15 Calling Musicians	34 Big Green Week coming up
16 Crofts Court	35 Local Organizations

From the Editor

Welcome to the September *Sprout*. What have we for you in this issue? Two local heroes make an appearance, Peppy Smeaton (p21), much loved and missed, and Chris Church (p23) still a highly active player on the local scene. There's an account of the unusual crevice garden, overall winner of this year's Botley in Bloom competition (p5), and of the mosaic workshops (p13) which gave some local people a chance to be part of the arts projects adding colour to the new shopping precinct. Sustainable Botley have garnered funds to help householders cut down on energy use (p11) and the Community Land Trust have broken ground on Crofts Court (p16), a development of eight flats at an affordable rent for people with a local connection on the Vale's housing list. Congratulations, CLT, for getting things moving at last. Shame we can't say the same for the Eynsham Bike Path, sorely needed, but still seemingly stuck in a stalemate (p19) at the hands of the County Council. Apple day will be on 2nd October this year (details on page 33) and also on 2nd October, at the end of the Big Green Week (p34), a march into town will demonstrate that people are concerned about climate change and the threat to the environment. The theme of this year's BGW is Energy, and local events are in the pipeline.

Ag MacKeith



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Letters to the Editor

Women's football

Given the great impact of the Lionesses' spectacular success in Euro 2022, I believe that it is really important that *The Sprout* investigates the current status of girl's and women's football in Botley's schools and clubs and outlines what needs to be done, and by whom, to enable more girls and women to play the game.

Robin Palmer

(More going on than you might think, Robin! Article coming up in next month's Sprout. Ed)



Prize giving to Botley in Bloom winners, seen here with their certificates.

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John and Viccy Fleming's Crevice Garden

In a front garden in Botley the size of a small sitting room is an amazing collection of more than 400 plants set between vertical rocks. Some of the plants look like tiny trees, some like moss, some are whorled, others are little spikes. This is John and Viccy Fleming's year-old crevice garden. John and Viccy talked me through how this gorgeous space was created. Crevice gardens aim to replicate the limestone strata found in the high mountains of Central Europe. They are made by vertically placing slabs of rock and planting alpines (tiny mountain plants) between the slabs so that they look natural.



John and Viccy have always loved to garden. Their previous garden was almost an acre in size and they had opened it for charity under the National Garden Scheme. So when they downsized by moving to Botley, they knew that they would need to get used to gardening on a smaller scale but more intensely. Their front garden was a patch of grass when they moved in: this would definitely have to change.

First, they visited several other crevice gardens. They then tracked down the man who had provided the rock for the Pershore crevice garden at his quarry in the Forest of Dean. The rock is a beautiful pink-sand colour, and split into slabs about 1-2 inches wide. But how much to get? John had done a drystone walling course. "People who build stone walls know about rock quantities," says John "and a crevice garden is basically half a dry stone wall laid on its side." He ordered five tonnes (FIVE TONNES!) of rock and six tonnes of sharp sand, and held his breath, hoping that this was about right.

"We had made a scale model out of pasta and sand," explains John, "so that we would know where to lay the rock. We dug out the grass and sculpted the soil underneath into higher and lower parts. We put a 20cm layer of the sharp sand on top of these hills and furrows, and then set the rocks in the sand. The quantities were just about right." They aimed to set up some microclimates: the rocks are set east-west, leaving a north and a south side. "That way, we can locate plants



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appropriately. For instance, plants that don't like the sun go on the north side."

They put a mixture of grit and John Innes No. 2 compost between the rocks and started planting. "You can't get the plants for a crevice garden in a garden centre," says Viccy. "They're usually not small enough. There are about a dozen specialist alpine nurseries in the UK, and we used those". Some of their 464 (!!!) different kinds of plants also came as seeds from the Alpine Garden Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club, and were grown in the couple's greenhouse.

There are about 150–200 linear metres of crevice in their garden, with two or three plants per metre. John and Viccy have aimed to make it look nice quickly, but also to get plants that flower at different times and have a variety of leaves and structure. "It's our first crevice garden" says John, "so

we'll need to see how it evolves. Downsizing our garden was hard, but the attraction of a crevice garden is that you can pack so many plants into a small space." It really is a thing of beauty: a miniature world where every plant seems to have its own character, carefully nurtured by two very talented gardeners, and well worthy of its First Place in this year's Botley in Bloom Front Gardens competition.

Riki Therivel



LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P22/V1495/FUL	Land adjacent to 82 Westminster Way. Creation of 4-bed house.	21 June 22 TDD: 16 Aug
P22/V1480/FUL	West Way Square Botley 2 large stone sculptures.	27 June TDD: 22 Aug
P22/V1776/LDP	51 Yarnells Hill. Rear extension to existing small brick outbuilding with new entrance.	22 July Target Dec Date: 16 Sept
P22/V1869/HH	1 Lime Road. 2-storey side extension & rear dormer loft.	29 July TDD: 23 Sept



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End of Summer Update from your District Councillors

North Hinksey Parish council possible name change

The Community Governance Committee will decide about changing the parish council name from ‘North Hinksey Parish Council’ to ‘Botley and North Hinksey Community Council’. They meet on 12 Sep 2022 at 7pm in the council offices at 135 Eastern Ave in Milton Park. You can attend remotely via Teams. If you do attend in person, you’ll need to bring your own laptop and headphones to address the committee and fully experience the debates. To address the committee, you must make application in writing to democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk by 5.00 pm on Friday 9 Sep.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050

Announcement by all Oxfordshire councils (Aug 22): “The five Local Planning authorities in Oxfordshire have been working together on a joint plan for Oxfordshire to 2050. [We] regret that we were unable to reach agreement on the approach to planning for future housing needs within the framework of the Oxfordshire Plan. Local Plans for the City and Districts will now provide the framework for the long term planning of Oxfordshire. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work programme will end and we will now transition to a process focused on Local Plans. The issue of housing need will now be addressed through individual Local Plans for each of the City and Districts. The Councils will cooperate with each other and with other key bodies as they prepare their Local Plans.”

This means that it will be for each local planning authority to determine our own housing needs. We are still committed to everything contained in our current Local Plan; the strategic sites will still be brought forward before the end of the Local Plan period (2031). For the emerging new Local Plan 2041, we can benefit from including some of the good policies created for OxPlan50, particularly around the environment, renewable energy and sustainable housing and transport. Debby is Vale’s elected member responsible for Local Plans.

Climate Action Funding

We are happy to announce that Vale’s Climate grants support several local projects:

- **Sustainable Botley – £4,900** for Energy-Saving Homes in Botley to train local people to offer home energy advice and to carry out DIY measures such as loft insulation.
- **Cumnor Conservation Group – £3,444** for a habitat survey of part of the Hurst Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest which will help to deliver a management plan and improve public education of the site.
- **Hinksey Trail Regeneration CIC – £2,821** to improve the trail boardwalk with sustainable materials next to a small lake that is a popular place for visitors to stop and watch wildlife.

West Way and Mace

Debby and Emily met with Mace over the summer to discuss ongoing construction and recent issues on the site. We're pleased to say Mace will be reviving the West Way Community Liaison Group, a regular meeting between site management and local leaders to resolve issues affecting the development and us all. Our next local surgery will be at the Missing Bean café from 10.30 to 12pm, on **Saturday 8th October**.

Debby Hallett and Emily Smith

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Saving Energy in our Homes

As energy bills rise past affordable levels, many people will have to live in colder homes, as well as cutting back on other spending. If your household includes people with vulnerabilities (for instance due to age, health or low income) there is some financial support available for energy-saving home improvements. But all of us need to find ways to stay warm and healthy while reducing the amount of energy we use.

Sustainable Botley has been awarded two grants (from Vale and North Hinksey Parish Council) to support local households with advice on saving energy and getting financial help. There will be two main strands to our work: 1) **training up home energy advisers** who will visit homes and help identify low-cost ways of saving energy and accessing funding; and 2) **carrying out whole-house assessments** to advise on the measures such as insulation, double and triple glazing, and heat pumps which could help future-proof your home.

We are looking for about six Botley residents who are interested in training as volunteer energy advisers. This will involve taking a short course provided by National Energy Action. We aim to carry out 50 home visits this autumn and winter – and we think that would mean being willing to give around two half-days a month to the project.

We are also looking for six houses – representing some of the common types around Botley – for which we will carry out free whole-house assessments. We will publish the results (anonymised) to show how each can save energy and money now and in the longer term. We will be holding public meetings to share what we're finding, so please stay tuned!

If you'd like to get involved, either as an adviser or by having a retrofit assessment for your house, please get in touch with Laurie Michaelis – laurie@livingwitness.org.uk or any other member of Sustainable Botley. It's an open group, set up to do what we can locally about the climate emergency. You might even like to join us yourself!

Laurie Michaelis

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Mosaic Workshops

Lots of local people joined in with the five mosaic workshops that took place in the Seacourt Hall on Thursday mornings in June and July.



These were free public sessions to form part of the mosaic panels commissioned as public art in West Way Square. Participants were able to learn cutting and layout techniques to make mosaics to the designs set out in the plans. The artist, Clare Goodall, was on hand to show us what was needed and to give us help and ideas where and when necessary. It was great fun meeting old friends, as well as making new ones, and exciting to all be part of such a creative community project.

The finished mosaics are going to be displayed on the outside walls of the hall. It will be wonderful to see them up there. No doubt we will all proudly point out the parts of the designs that each of us helped with, to our families and friends and anyone else in the vicinity.

Alison Provan

**Clare Goodall
with a finished panel**



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Kennington Memory Club operates on two days a week in Kennington Methodist Church to provide day care for people with dementia, and respite for their carers. There's more about us on our web site: kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk One of the main pleasures for our members is music. The brain seems better able to recall songs and music that were enjoyed in earlier years than many other aspects of life. There is a particular joy in listening to and joining in with live music.

This is why we would love it if there were any musicians, who could volunteer to visit Kennington Memory Club occasionally or regularly, on Mondays or Thursdays, sometime between 11am and 3pm, to add those special moments to the day. You might be a pianist, guitar player, instrumentalist or singer. All can contribute their own brand of musical magic! This would give the members a valued opportunity just to listen to the live music or join in with singing and foot-tapping.

If this sounds like you, please get in touch with our organiser, Helen, on 07852 883496 or email memoryclub1@outlook.com

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Oxfordshire Community Land Trust Breaks New Ground!

Work started on 7th June on the next stage of Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT)'s exciting journey towards providing permanently affordable homes for rent in the county. Crofts Court is being built on Eynsham Road in Dean Court, Botley, in the administrative areas of Cumnor Parish Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council. The photo shows the delighted Directors at the opening event.



Planning permission was granted in April 2020 for five one-bedroom apartments and three two-bedroom apartments. The homes will be provided at affordable rents, and be let to eligible households on the District Council's housing register, who can demonstrate a local connection. They will not be available to purchase, and OCLT's intention is that the properties remain available for affordable rent in perpetuity.

The flats themselves are designed to achieve high levels of energy efficiency including PV solar for each apartment, promoting sustainability and minimising energy bills for residents. The development will be managed as a mutual housing co-operative, for which prospective tenants will receive training. Trust Secretary, Fran Ryan, emphasized the importance of the co-operative element, "I think it really makes a significant difference to the quality of daily lives to know our neighbours, and what better way to create a successful small community than by helping run the building where you live. The training that tenants will receive and the experience of running the property together, are also valuable and marketable skills."

Want to live in Crofts Court?

The new apartments are due to be ready for the first residents in June 2023. There will be three two-bed (3 person) flats, three one-bed (2 person) flats and two one-bed (1 person) flats.

The flats will be rented at about 70% of local rent and if you're interested and you can meet the following requirements, then keep an eye on the Vale of White Horse website (search for **Homechoice**) to see when the project is advertised. Meanwhile please get in touch and let us know of your interest. To qualify to rent one of our flats, you must follow these steps:

1. You must be registered on Vale of White Horse Housing Register.
2. A local connection is required. You will need to be able to show that:
 - You have lived in Cumnor Parish for not less than five years within the last eight years, and that you are currently a resident of Cumnor Parish; or
 - You have previously lived in Cumnor Parish for at least five years and your parents or children still live there and have done so for at least ten years; or
 - You have worked full time for two years in Cumnor Parish or the equivalent part-time, with evidence of a continuing commitment to work in Cumnor Parish;

If not enough eligible Cumnor people come forward, the test will be applied to the parishes of Appleton with Eaton, Besselsleigh, North Hinksey, South Hinksey, Sunningwell, Wootton, and Wytham, and if there are still insufficient people, anyone on the Vale's housing waiting list first in Cumnor Parish, then the above parishes, and finally anyone within the Vale's District will be considered.

3. The apartments will be managed as a housing co-operative. Training meetings about this aspect of the project will start in early 2023, and consideration will only be given to people who have attended these meetings and shown they are willing to work with fellow tenants on the project.

No one can be considered for a tenancy unless they meet all of the above criteria.

**Want to know more? Join us at OCLT's 2022 AGM
Monday 19th September 2022
7pm to 8.00pm,**

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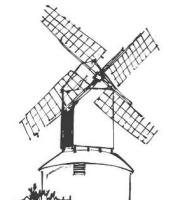
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Fran Ryan

Botley to Eynsham Bike Path

Five years ago, a posse of supporters cycled from Eynsham to Botley along the notorious Eynsham Road through Farmoor, full of hope that their long awaited bike path was on the verge of being built at last. Who would have thought that after five more long years of campaigning, they would be doing the same ride again, with the end no nearer in sight. It was all looking so hopeful – the County Council had come on board and were helping with the planning application. Following the lessons of the first lockdown, money was being made available to make cycling less hazardous, the climate emergency had underlined the need to get people out of their cars.

But the best has been the enemy of the good! The Council are anxious to make sure the path ties in neatly with proposed changes at either end. So instead of just building it, and dealing with the ends when the time is ripe, they have held up the whole process yet again. There have been accidents, near accidents, and the death of a local father, in the past few years, and problems won't go away until the path is built. The picture shows the 50-odd cyclists outside the Missing Bean at the end of their ride on 30th July.



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Penelope (Peppy) Smeaton

“A wonderful blend of grit and grace...” This is how one of Peppy’s friends described Peppy’s character.

Many people will remember Peppy Smeaton. Her name brings a warm smile of recognition with appreciative comments about the advice and support she gave as a Health Visitor. She was well qualified for this role: her first job was as a Norland Nanny, and when she trained as a nurse at the Radcliffe Infirmary, she was named Best Surgical Nurse in her year group. She did extra midwifery training, too, which was to prove invaluable when she went to Nepal as a missionary nurse.



In 1965 she was posted to the Shining Hospital in Pokhara, so named because it consisted of aluminium huts. It was comparatively advanced with an operating theatre, but the mud hut where Peppy lived was very primitive. “She made it beautiful with curtains and covers for the tea-chest furniture, and welcomed everybody,” remembers one of her colleagues. She also worked in the primitive rural clinic of Baglung – two days’ trek from Pokhara. At that time there were no roads or motor vehicles in this part of Nepal. Peppy was tone deaf, and her language skills were imperfect, but she was known for her warmth, kindness and decisiveness.

She returned to the UK in the 1970s, trained to become a Health Visitor and went to live in Hurst Lane. As she had in Nepal, Peppy appreciated her home and delighted in sharing it with others. Hundreds of people, both young and old, including many international students, found a warm welcome and new friendships there, over beautifully prepared meals. Friendships were very important to her, she had become an orphan at the age of 12, and was brought up by kind guardians, but it was her relationship with Jesus that was most precious of all. From this flowed her love for others, and a longing that they should know Him too.

Life changed overnight for Peppy in June 2019, when she suffered a stroke. She died earlier this year, and was buried in St Michael’s churchyard, Cumnor, in July 2022, followed by a thanksgiving service at St Ebbe’s Church in Oxford. We will miss her enormously, but we thank God for the joy of having known her.

Jennie Gatenby (from tributes at the thanksgiving service)



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Meet Chris Church

Chris Church has only been living in Botley for ten years, but he has earned the title of Green Man of Botley. He was the first chair of the Parish Council's Environment and Wellbeing Committee, he helped to start up Sustainable Botley, co-ran the energy event in March, helped plan the bring and take event for July, and is involved in the Hinksey Hill nature trail. *Phew!*

I asked Chris where his interest in the environment came from. Chris studied environmental biology at the (then) Oxford Polytechnic in the mid-1970s. At the time, Oxford Poly was known for its music scene, and Chris organised several gigs during his time there. That continued after his studies, when he briefly ran a music business, promoting and managing bands...

... and then he got involved with Oxford Friends of the Earth. The threat of the M40 running through Otmoor inspired him to be one of the key people who bought a field on Otmoor and re-sold three thousand small bits of it to people all over the country to make compulsory purchase of the land really difficult. That was one reason why the M40 now curves around Otmoor.

In 1984, Chris moved to London to work for Friends of the Earth, supporting local groups across the country and helping them tackle their own issues. When Chris started at FoE there were only twelve members of staff. When he left six years later, there were 100. "It was the first period of real environmental activism," says Chris, "when Jonathan Porritt was at the helm and people were really getting involved."

In 1990, Chris set up his own business, Community Environment Associates, working with community groups on issues of poverty, environment and housing. He authored an influential report about local action on environment and equity, coordinated people in making pledges to act environmentally, supported local environmental groups in



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eastern Europe, and chaired the London (Agenda) 21 Network. Chris was living in Hackney at the time, but he felt that London would not be a good place in which to grow old. He decided to come back to his home town. He chose Elms Rise because house prices were more manageable there than elsewhere in Oxford, even though his friends claimed that “nothing happens in west Oxford”.

Hahaha! Shortly after Chris arrived here, the first development proposal for West Way came forward. Convinced its enormous scale would have been a disaster for the community, Chris campaigned to rein it in. Many red balloons and planning meetings later, we have a more appropriate West Way development.

Chris works from home, and in 2019 several of his bigger projects were coming to an end. Then Covid hit, and he thought he might be retiring. However, this is not to be: his next project looks likely to be an oral history of Britain’s environmental movement, for the British Library.

Chris says that, in just the decade that he has lived in Botley, the area has changed. It seems to be becoming younger and more diverse, and more of a neighbourhood. The protests around the West Way development certainly helped it to become more cohesive, thanks in part to our very own Green Man.

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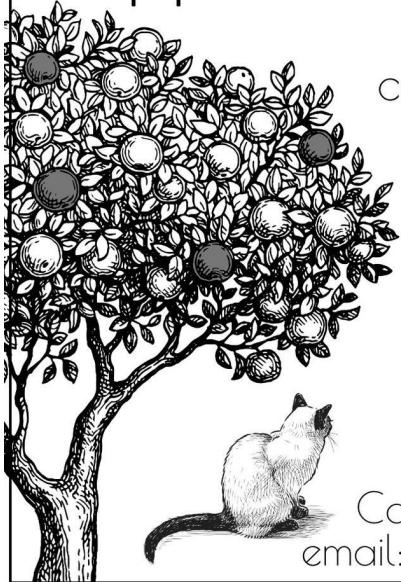
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Continued Resistance to Flood Scheme

Feelings at either end of the Botley Road are still running high over the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme. Residents and landowners around the affected fields have set up the Hinksey–Osney Environment Group to oppose it. Here is their analysis of the response to the consultation:

Two hundred and thirty-two comments on the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme application have been received by the planning authority. Two hundred and twelve (91%) rejected the proposals in their current form, especially its flood channel component.

- Two thirds of respondents objected to the proposed damage to Hinksey Meadow MG4a grassland and the loss of biodiversity.
- More than half objected to the loss of access and amenity, wanted alternatives to be properly evaluated and viewed the current scheme as a waste of taxpayers' money.
- Over one third objected to the traffic congestion the scheme would cause, the felling of mature trees, the scheme's carbon footprint and its impact on climate change.
- Just under one third objected on the grounds of the scheme's inadequate flood protection and hydrology.
- Around one quarter objected to contravention of the National Planning Policy Framework or local planning guidelines, the unacceptable pollution of the works, the lack of a budget for long term maintenance and the damage to Willow Walk.

Other common reasons for objection were inadequate public consultation (20%), the removal of spoil and gravel (17%), development on Green Belt (16%) and the disproportionate costs borne by many to benefit a few (14%). 11% of respondents regarded the decision as requiring consideration by a higher authority or public enquiry; 8% of comments came from residents at significant flood risk, while 5% came from community groups or other organizations.

In consideration of the multiple flaws in the channel component of the scheme, it is time to ask why Oxford City Council continues to support such an unpopular project? An annotated copy of all the responses to the OFAS planning application is available on the Hinksey and Osney Environmental Group website www.hinkseyandosney.org and the original is available on the OCC planning website. For more information email HOEG at info@hinkseyandosney.org

Chris Sugden Convenor, Hinksey and Osney Environment Group

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Support for Solar Farm

The May 2022 addition of *The Sprout* included a useful contribution by John Magrath that raised concerns about a proposed local Solar Farm. The site would be the south side of the hill on which the Jubilee beacon stands, around half a kilometre due south of Matthew Arnold School. As a local resident (Laburnum Road) I can confirm that members of the local community would like an opportunity to be consulted on the plans. However, we could start by looking at some of the more positive aspects.

To provide a bit of balance to views expressed so far, it is possible to find a lot of good things to say about this opportunity. It has been scientifically established beyond doubt that climate change is happening and, if unchecked, will ultimately threaten much of human civilisation and likely lead to conflicts as ecosystems collapse and populations compete for dwindling resources. At the present time, the public lacks opportunities to act and help prevent the worst of climate change. However, by supporting a solar farm in principle, instead of simply saying No, local people will have made a real difference through reducing local drivers of climate change. Powering around 7000 homes with renewable energy, the solar farm would be something to be proud of, and to tell the grandchildren about: Botley and Cumnor stepped up to the plate at a time of need.

For the last eighteen months or so, the site has been grassed over but before that it was ploughed and used for crops. Such usage helps to feed people, which is important, but it doesn't help the local ecology, is a source of Co2 emissions through soil exposure, and can produce agricultural runoff into local water courses. Have you ever seen the algae blooms at Farmoor Reservoir, which kill the fish?

A local consultation might bring a nicely balanced approach to the use of the site as a solar farm. The rows of solar panels would be spaced to allow for maintenance and cleaning, and these are typically green spaces. Much of the area could be seeded with meadow flowers to improve the local ecology for pollinators, insects, and small mammals, while improving the appearance of the site.

Decommissioning would be easy. There would be no slag mountain, nuclear waste, or ground pollution and the whole site could most likely be returned to agriculture, or nature, within weeks.



AGM and Call for Public Representatives

**Monday 10th October
7pm at Seacourt Hall**

All welcome

Please come along to the Seacourt Hall AGM to learn more about your local community hall, ask questions or make suggestions. Seacourt Hall is situated below the library in West Way Square and provides modern, flexible facilities to hire and many different activities for our growing community.

The Seacourt Hall Management Committee is a registered charity with trustees nominated by regular hall user groups, North Hinksey Parish Council, and public representatives. The committee meets around 4 to 6 times a year. We are now open for nominations for public representatives.

Any North Hinksey parishioner aged over 18 may put their name forward to be a Charity Trustee. Nominations should be sent to the Treasurer by **5pm on Monday 26th September** to:

- treasurer@seacourthall.org.uk
- or the Seacourt Hall letterbox at the Library end of the building.

Public representatives will be elected as Charity Trustees at the AGM.

If you would like more information on the responsibilities of being a trustee, please check the website at **seacourthall.org.uk** where you can see our list of activities, current trustees and history. You can also contact the chair Lorna Berrett on lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com or 07967 111014.

Finally, as mentioned in the *May Sprout*, the company, Solar2, proposes a community benefit fund (see <https://cumnorsolarfarm.co.uk/the-proposal>). A consultation would provide clarity about the scale and scope of such a fund, which could be of benefit to the local area. All in all, the solar farm looks to be a significant opportunity and worthy of an open-minded approach by local people.

Jonathan Mason (Dr)

Randoms

Public Notice from the County Council

“In the interests of public safety it will be necessary for Oxfordshire County Council to close a short section of Bridleway 14 to facilitate demolition and reconstruction of Willow Walk 2 footbridge. A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is being made to implement the temporary closure and will operate from 29 September up to and including 29 November 2022. This is a 24-hour bridleway closure.”

Although the Order refers to a ‘short section’ to repair ‘Bridge 2’ (presumably the one half-way along) the map suggests the whole length will be closed. So if Willow Walk is the way you get to school or work, you’ll need to find an alternative for the whole of October and November.

Open Rehearsal

Kennington & District United Church Choirs invite you to an Open Rehearsal on **Friday 9th September** at 7:30 p.m. in the Methodist Church, Upper Road, Kennington, Oxford OX1 5LR. The rehearsal will be led by our Director, Claire Sutton-Williams. We shall rehearse the Fauré Requiem, so bring along a copy if you have one, though copies will be available (Novello edition). If you haven’t sung for a long time or if you sing with another choir and would like to join us as well, then this is for you! We are keen to have new members, especially basses and tenors, but all are welcome. Come and meet our current members and find out about the music we sing. We hope to do a concert ‘Come and Sing’ of the Fauré Requiem on Sunday 23rd October and a Christmas Special in December when the choir will celebrate 50 years since it was founded. We look forward to seeing you!



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Botley WI

We held our annual charity afternoon tea on Tuesday 2nd August, in aid of the Children's Air Ambulance, with all seats taken. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th September at 7:30 pm, when speaker John Paine will give us a quiz about Oxford. We always meet on the first Tuesday in the month and we have lots of interest groups as well which take place in between our scheduled meetings: Walking, Reading, Music, "Green-ish fingers" and craft meetings. Visitors are always welcome! At the moment we have some vacant spaces in our car park. If your business needs additional car parking, contact us on 07598 251161 or via botleywi@oxfordshirewi.org.uk for details.

Apple Day 2022

Apple Day is coming up. This has been provisionally fixed for Sunday 2nd October. The long bout of warm weather has meant that pears and apples are ripening early, so we have chosen an earlier date. It will be held at South View, behind McDonalds, as previously, and will run from around 3pm. Bring apples, knives, containers for juice and cakes made from apple recipes (optional!). We'll supply the apple identification, the apple press and plentiful cups of tea.



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Good News from Tap

On Saturday 20 August, Tap Social Movement, our very local drinks producers (tapsocialmovement.com) hand in hand with Missing Bean (themissingbean.co.uk) officially opened Proof Social Bakehouse, a collaboration social enterprise wholesale bakery and cafe. The two organizations have partnered to build a bespoke, open-plan bakery on Tap's former brewery site, at Sandford Industrial Estate in Kennington (OX1 5RP). As with all of Tap's work, Proof offers paid training and employment to people who have been in prison. Find out more on proofbakehouse.com

Sprout AGM

Undaunted by the sizzling weather, a range of interested parties met at the pavilion on 14th August to ratify the Sprout's Annual Report and Accounts for another successful year. This September issue will see the start of the 17th year of unbroken publication. Congratulations to all our many volunteers. Long may we continue to thrive!

GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 24th September to 2nd October

This is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. The theme this year is **ENERGY**.

Low Carbon West Oxford have created an environmental business score card for retailers along the Botley Road, and plan to launch their report on 24th Sept on the opening day of the Big Green Week.

On the last day of the week, on 2nd October, there's the March into Oxford. Botley had a visible presence last year, as some will remember, *see photo*, and we can do it again. There will be a meeting in Frideswide Square between 12 and 1pm, and those so inclined may decide to move on to the Calamity Cabaret at the Old Fire Station at 2pm, where we can encourage each other with accounts of successful efforts to tackle climate change and protect nature, as well as some singing and dancing.



Sustainable Botley is drawing up plans for events during the week, which could include drop-in sessions around saving energy, and film shows – and who knows what else! Meetings will be advertised on the Botley Notice Board, and all are welcome to come along and bring your creative ideas.

AgM

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 Jean Metson, 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	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, Pavilion, Fogwell Rd. Amy Cusden (Cubs) 07887 654386, Tom Freeman (Scouts) 07837 623768 xvoxfordscouts@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	Tues/Thurs 9.15–11, SS Peter & Paul Church Hall
BikeSafe. B4044 community path campaign	Wants to connect Botley to Eynsham. Meets every 6–8 weeks. Contact via website B4044path.org
Books on Wheels R.V.S.	Free Library Service for housebound Ox. 248142
Botley Boys & Girls F.C. Football teams from ages 8–16	Brendan Byrne 792531 brendan.byrne999@gmail.com
Botley Community Larder	Thursdays, 3.30 to 5.30 at St P&P Church Hall, West Way, Facebook or email botleylarder@gmail.com
Botley and Kennington Patients Participation Group	Second Tuesday in the Month, early evening. Contact csugden@ocrpl.org
Botley Library	07922 849680. Open till 7 on Friday and 1pm on Sat, otherwise 9.30 to 5.30 (closed Wednesdays).
Botley Seniors Lunch Club	Alternate Thursdays. Seacourt Hall. Jackie Warner Ox.721386
Cumnor Choral Society	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 01993 684494 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 harmonylspires@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
Lawn Tennis Club, N Hinksey	Family club Email: Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org
West Oxford Singing Circle	Weds 2–3pm, WOCC, Emily 07969 522368 or see www.emilyschoirs.co.uk
Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc	Barbara Brett 249599 or bag@cryhavoc.org.uk

North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs	Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email nhps.manager1@gmail.com
N Hinksey Art Group	Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997
N 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	clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
N Hinksey Youth Club	Weds at LM pavilion, Daz: 07791 212866 or F'book
Oxford Flood Alliance	R Thurston 01865 723663 or 07973 292035
Oxford Flower Arranging Club	4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259
Oxford Harmony	<i>Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall</i> 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 .
Raleigh Park, Friends of	raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk
Seacourt Hall Management Committee	Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see https://www.seacourthall.org.uk
Shotokan Karate Club	6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450
Stagecoach Botley	Seacourt Hall, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> Oxf 590510 or 01235 390810
Well-Being Walks, Botley	2nd & 4th Saturdays 9.50 Louie Memorial Field car park, Arnolds Way. Ashley 07717 714477
West Oxford Bowls Club	Dave Ellerker 07931 603801 wobc.membership@gmail.com
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)	Alison Jenner 07598 251161 alisonjenner@yahoo.com
Weight Watchers	Thursdays 6pm at SS Peter & Paul Church Hall Banso tel: 07779 253899 bansob@aol.com

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way	Contact: Building Manager 07742 662668 botleybaptist@gmail.com
The Rosary Room Yarnells Hill, Elms Rise	Contact: Maria Brown, Tel: 01865 247986.
SS Peter & Paul Church Hall, West Way, Botley	Contact: 01865 242057 or osneybenefice@outlook.com .
Women's Institute Hall, North Hinksey Lane	Contact: Val Warner Tel. 01865 245273
Seacourt Hall, 3 Church Way	Contact: Lottie White on 07452 960100, or email admin@seacourthall.org.uk
Pavilion, Arnold's Way, Elms Rise, Botley	Contact: Darren Blase 241254 louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com
Oxford Rugby Club, North Hinksey Village	Contact:.. Mary Bagnall mary.bagnall1@btinternet.com.

North Hinksey & Botley Churches Times of Services (once resumed) and Contacts

St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane

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

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

Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion in Chapel of Holy Spirit
1st Saturday each month, 4–5.30pm Messy Church for children and carers
Rev Clare Sykes, Tel. 01865 242345 or revclare@btinternet.com
See table above for Church Hall enquiries.

Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill

Saturday 6.30pm Mass
Sunday 9.15am Mass
Fr Daniel Lloyd 07584 323915 [dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.](mailto:dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way

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

Calvary Chapel

Sunday services held at Botley School 10.30–12 noon
Pastor Philip Vickery 01865 864498
calvarychapeloxford@yahoo.co.uk;
www.calvarychapeloxford.org.uk

What's On

September

- Thur 8th 12.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Seniors Lunch Club resumes, and fortnightly thereafter**
- Thur 8th 7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, North Hinksey Parish Council**
- Fri 9th 7.30pm, Methodist Church, Upper Road, Kennington, open rehearsal for Fauré's *Requiem***
- Mon 12th 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: David Bailey, 'The Stories Behind the Images'**
- Mon 19th 7–8pm, Dean Court Community Centre, Oxon Community Land Trust AGM**
- Sat 24th to Sun 2nd October Great Big Green Week**
- Mon 26th 2.30pm, Dean Court Community Centre, U3A talk: Lauren Bamford 'Tax, Care & Toy Boys'**

October

- Sun 2nd 12, place tbc, Climate March into town**
- Sun 2nd 3–5pm, South View, Old Botley, Apple Day**
- Wed 5th 10–3pm, Oxford Town Hall, 'Older People's Day'**