

# The Sprout



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**The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley**

**Issue 192 November 2024**

# The Sprout

## The Newsletter for North Hinksey & Botley

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

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# **The Sprout**

## **Issue 192, November 2024**

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### **From the Editor**

The big news this month is that the Parish Council has decided to reprise the Best of Botley awards, for exemplary volunteers on our patch. They will be handed out at the All in One Room party at the Seacourt Hall on 15th December. If you know someone who has gone beyond the call of duty to be kind and helpful, now is your chance to thank them publicly. Details of how to put names forward are on page 19, and of the party itself on page 31. Elsewhere, Botley School's had a positive Ofsted report (p3), a community workshop (The Shed) is opening at the Rugby Club (p29), Beaumont Elms has celebrated its first anniversary (p17) and the Remembrance Sunday Service at Botley Cemetery will be on 10th November this year (p27). Page 7 has a note of the sad passing of a well-known local plumber, Peter Deadman. On page 13 you will find a book review of an exciting tale of efforts to thwart the infamous Oxford–Cambridge Expressway, based in and around Oxford. If you'd like to review a book of local interest, let us know! Finally, you may be wondering about our cover photo – a piece of impromptu art by a man with a chain saw. If you have a photo you think would look good on the cover, just send it along to the usual address. **Ag MacKeith**

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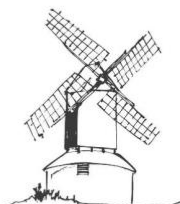


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## When Ofsted came to call...

Botley School hosted Ofsted inspectors in July, in one of the last 'old style' Ofsted inspections to take place. Their full report was released in September. We are delighted that it pointed to significant improvements since the school was last inspected in 2019. In their report, the inspectors noted that "This is a rapidly improving school. Recent work to improve the curriculum, supported by the Acer Trust, is having a positive impact."



The inspection highlighted lots of positives including an 'Outstanding' judgement for Personal Development and Well-being, saying "The school goes the extra mile to ensure all pupils can access and benefit from various opportunities to develop different talents and interests." The school was judged to be good in all other areas except quality of education, which the inspectors found to require improvement. The Ofsted rules mean that the overall judgement in this situation has to be 'Requires Improvement', which is better than the 2019 judgement but just short of the 'Good' judgement we were aiming for.

In a letter to parents the Headteacher, Jo Reid, confirmed that the areas for improvement highlighted by inspectors were already identified by the school and action to develop these was already in place. Mrs Reid assured parents, "We will be continuing this work on developing these areas to ensure the rapid progress we have been making, and the improvement in outcomes we have already seen in the 2024 data will



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continue to grow in 2025 and beyond.” (The inspectors had to base their findings on data from 2023.)

The Ofsted report affirmed the quality of relationships in the school community and the outworking of the school’s values of inclusivity, teamwork, kindness, respect, resilience, and creativity, which “run through everything it does”.

The Chair of Governors, Sue Millar, wrote to staff after the inspection: “I would like to thank you so much for all the hard work you continue to put in to Botley School and, in particular, your efforts to help overcome the challenges faced by the children in your care and our community.

“The Ofsted feedback recognised so many of the achievements you have already made and we hope you are all proud – as we are – of how the inspectors recognised the enormous improvements the school has made.

“We have complete confidence that the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and staff are well able to meet the areas for improvement that have been identified by Ofsted and take the school to the next level.”

Botley parent Stephen Harness commented “As parents we already felt we knew the school was doing well, but it’s good to hear that confirmed from an independent source. Plus, it seems the school is already taking steps to move towards being outstanding in all areas.” This was echoed by Botley parent-governor Louisa Wynn-Mackenzie, who said “I was very pleased to see that Ofsted recognized the huge progress that Botley School has made, even though I had thought they might be even more positive given my child's wonderful experience there. Whilst Ofsted have identified a couple of areas to improve that the school is already working on, my child is thriving there academically and socially and loves coming to school each day.”

Here are some other highlights from the report:

“Pupils are happy at this welcoming school, where differences between people are valued and nurtured ... This school is well led. Decisive leadership within the school and unwavering support from the trust have brought stability ... Staff feel valued and supported in their roles.”

“Positive relationships between pupils and staff are very important here. Staff often go to great lengths to support pupils and their families. Pupils speak highly of the adults and show great respect towards them.”

“Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported.”

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"A well-thought-out curriculum is in place. This is ambitious and sets out the essential knowledge pupils should learn from early years to the end of key stage 2 ... The environment is rich with opportunities for children to deepen their understanding of the curriculum."

As part of the Ofsted visit, parents are encouraged to fill in a survey:

- 97% of those who responded felt their child was happy in the school;
- 100% of parents of SEND children felt the school gives their child the support they need;
- Over 90% felt that the personal development and wellbeing and the access to clubs and activities was excellent.

Botley School is one of the last to receive a 'one-word judgement' for our inspection, following announcements early in September that Ofsted were scrapping this approach in favour of a rounded 'scorecard' approach. If you would like to read the full Ofsted report it's available from **[botleyschool.org.uk](http://botleyschool.org.uk)** under 'Key Information'. Families who would like to find out about joining our school (including the nursery) please email **[office.2569@botley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2569@botley.oxon.sch.uk)**

**Jenny Ayres**, School Operations Manager

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### **Peter Deadman R.I.P.**

The family of Peter Deadman is sorry to share the sad news of his passing on 7th Oct after a short illness. For 25 years Pete worked as a Heating Engineer and Plumber around the Botley area. After he retired, he delivered prescriptions to many of his previous customers. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Pete's funeral will take place at South Oxford Crematorium on Mon 4th November at 12 noon.

**Lorna, Michael and Lucy Deadman**

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# Memory Cafés

## Kennington Memory Club

November is the month of Remembrance. On Remembrance Sunday there are many solemn ceremonies and services recalling the sacrifices made by so many for their country in times of war. 'Lest we forget' is an oft-quoted phrase at this time of year, from the famous author and poet Rudyard Kipling. For anyone who has been personally involved in conflict, they may not want to remember too much of what they went through.

Forgetting and not being able to recall events are both part of the condition of dementia - even the pleasant and happy memories of the past. It is so important that those with dementia have the opportunity to experience rewarding and joyful moments in the present. Kennington Memory Club Day Centre aims to provide these for its members. On Mondays and Thursdays the Day Centre sessions are filled with fun, laughter, games, music and reminiscences. There is also the important aspect of respite for carers on those days.

If you'd like to know more about the Club and Day Centre for people who are living with dementia, or to arrange for someone to come along for a visit or a free taster day, email the Club Organiser Kay [organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](mailto:organiser@kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk) or phone her on 07852 883496. If the phone is not answered straight away, please do leave a message and she will always get back to you within a day or two. More information can also be found by scanning the QR code above or on the website [www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk](http://www.kenningtonmemoryclub.org.uk). We look forward to welcoming you to the Club.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Following the very successful Quiz Night held at The Vine pub in Cumnor in aid of Kennington Memory Club earlier in the year, this is to be repeated in November.



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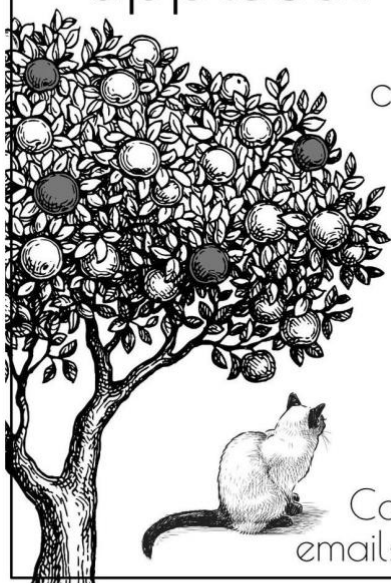
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## **QUIZ NIGHT in support of Kennington Memory Club**

**When: Sunday 10th November, 7.30pm**

**Where: The Vine Inn, 11 Abingdon Road, Cumnor, OX2 9QN**

This is the Vine's monthly Sunday evening charity quiz in aid of local groups and they've kindly agreed to run this one in aid of KMC again. You, family and friends are invited to come along for a fun evening. If you need encouragement – there will be a £50 prize for the winning table, plus several raffle prizes. Raffle tickets cost £5 a strip. There is plenty of parking in the car park. Tables are for teams of 2, 3 or 4 people and entry costs £2/person. Tables should be booked directly with The Vine, by calling the publican, Richard, on 07749 233450 or the pub during opening hours on 01865 862567.

**Isobel Birse**, KMC chair

## **Cumnor Memories Café**

With the demise of the Botley Memory Café and difficulties in travelling to memory cafés in Kennington and Oxford, the Cumnor Memories Café may be of interest for some North Hinksey and Botley residents.

The Café has been running for over ten years. It is an informal opportunity for local older people to meet old and new friends in a relaxing and supportive environment, with tea and coffee and cake supplied. Around twenty people normally attend. There is no fee or charge, though donations are welcomed.

Café sessions take place in the pleasant surroundings of the lounge of Cumnor Cricket Club on Appleton Road. It meets on alternate Tuesdays between 2:30 and 4 pm, with the next session being 5th November.

There are also occasional seasonal trips out and visits by the Oxfordshire Museum Service "Hands On Oxfordshire's Heritage" with their memory boxes.

For further details please call me on 01865 864169.

**Jan Harris**



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## ‘The Price of Dormice’ by Steve Lunn

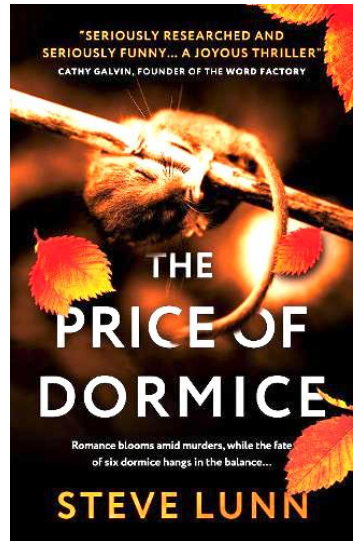
Mick Jarvis lives in Wolvercote with his dog Friday. One day, walking Friday, Mick is nearly hit by a large car which then slams into a bus. The car’s driver is large, unpleasant and threatening, but his wife and children are charming. Mick finds out the driver’s name a few days later when asked to fill in a witness statement, and starts looking into the odious Conrad Sefton-Shaw’s activities. He quickly finds out that Conrad is Director of Sustainable Development at Oxford City Council, has friends in high places, and is up to no good.

So starts Steve Lunn’s thoroughly enjoyable *The Price of Dormice*. The book follows the progress of Mick and his ramshackle group of friends piecing together what Conrad, his lawyer and the University of Oxford are trying to do, namely get in early on developing the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. The Arc was a real-life threat under Boris Johnson’s government and has still not fully gone away: it was a plan to build one million homes between Oxford and Cambridge – a UK-style Silicon Valley.

In *The Price of Dormice*, these dastardly forces are opposed by farmers Linda and Tom, wildlife officer Andrea, Mick’s high tech wizard friend Kanhai, and the elusive, on-again-off-again Naomi. The six dormice around which all of the action swirls never do show their furry little faces, but represent the many small, beautiful things that would be lost under large-scale development.

In a book that combines comedy and crime, it must be hard not to caricature its actors. Here, some of the goodies are mutually supportive spliff-lovers, but they turn out to have hearts of steel. The cops are good, bad, and not-very-sure-yet. The children are cute but dangerous. The baddies are dons, developers, and officials, all out to line their pockets. But if the book strays into caricature, it doesn’t mean that the caricatures aren’t often correct.

What I really enjoyed about the book are its many references to Oxford: not the grandiose city centre that acts as the backdrop for so many other books, but Botley, Cumnor, Wolvercote, Hinksey Hill, Boars Hill, Wytham

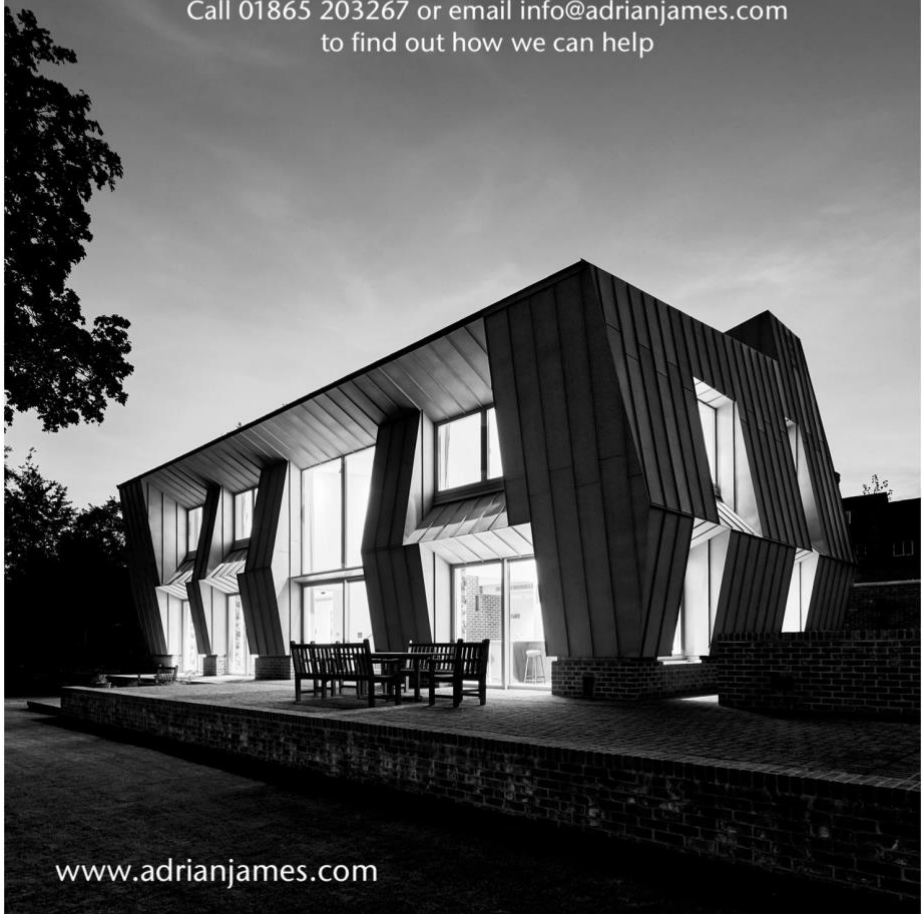


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A black and white photograph of a modern, angular house with large windows and a flat roof, situated on a raised platform with a stone wall and outdoor seating. The house features a series of large, dark, angular panels that form its exterior walls, creating a sculptural and geometric appearance. The windows are large and rectangular, some of which are set into the angled walls. The house is built on a raised platform made of stone or brick. In front of the house, there is a paved area with a wooden bench and a small table. The background shows a cloudy sky and some trees on the left.



Woods, the motorcycle café on the way down to Dorchester. The book also has an important core message. From the mouth of our hero, Mick:

“... then I had one of those shifts in perspective that is irreversible once it's happened. I was looking down on my life as a diligent and hard-working journey... A life of conforming to expectations and avoiding confrontation... And now Naomi and Andrea were showing me it was possible to do something positive together, rather than just accept and accommodate wrongs in isolation. We all know the word 'activism'. Now I knew what it meant.”

*The Price of Dormice* is Steve Lunn's first novel. It is just (28 October) published and is “available in all good bookshops” for £9.99.

**Riki Therivel**

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## Learn to Quill

Oxford Area Quillers would like to thank everyone who came along to Oxford Open Doors and saw our displays and interacted very positively with us. For those unable to make it a picture is included here

Our next regular group meetings are on 9th November and 7th December for this year, and dates for 2025 are 1st Feb, 1st Mar, 5th Apr, 3rd May, 7th Jun, 5th Jul, 6th Sep, 4th Oct, 1st Nov and 6 Dec.

Visitors are welcome at any of our meetings. We meet at Botley WI

Hall on Saturdays (as above) from 10 am for a 10:30 start – we finish at 2pm. First session is free, and all materials and equipment are provided. Feel free to bring a packed lunch if you want one. Subsequent meeting cost £7 to cover Hall rent. Free Tea/Coffee/Biscuits for all at all meetings.

If you need further information then either contact Jennie on [\*\*Gretanius.curbridge@talktalk.net\*\*](mailto:Gretanius.curbridge@talktalk.net) or visit **Oxford Area Quillers** our Facebook Page.

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# BEAUMONT ELMS PRACTICE



## **On 1st October we celebrated our first anniversary**

It has been a busy 12 months, full of highs and lows (and bits in the middle), but we have enjoyed getting to know many of you and have been made to feel welcome. We appreciate there are still some things we need to iron out and are grateful to you for bearing with us. We look forward to the next year, and many more after!



## **Covid and flu vaccines**

Our covid and flu vaccination programme is underway. It is a massive undertaking with nearly two and a half thousand 'covid and flu' vaccination appointments on offer, to give five thousand immunisations to eligible patients. These appointments are in addition to our usual services, so in order for this to be feasible we spread the appointments over several weeks. Please do not be concerned if you are having to wait a while for your appointment for these vaccines – indeed it is worth keeping in mind that particularly with flu vaccine there may be some benefit in delaying receiving it until later in the autumn to give maximum protection during the winter months when flu usually peaks.

## **Harcourt Hill leisure facilities**

We are concerned and saddened by the closure of the swimming pool at Oxford Brookes' Harcourt Hill site. Access to leisure facilities and green space are important for physical and mental health and wellbeing. Keeping active reduces the risk of developing conditions such as diabetes, and can also be part of the treatment for these conditions. Members of our practice team have joined the North Hinksey and Botley Parish Council working group for this matter. In the meantime, please do continue to use the gym, pitches and green space at Harcourt Hill as much as you can – they are open for use, and we understand they will be until at least August 2025.

**Kate King**

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## **‘The Best of Botley’ awards for 2024 – who’s helping make Botley better?**



There are a lot of people who work hard as volunteers to make Botley an even better place to live. ‘The Best of Botley’ awards are to celebrate work done voluntarily by individuals and groups in and around Botley. This work goes on every day, and much is never noticed or recognised. So the Parish Council is launching these awards, and we invite you to suggest the people you think are doing good work in our community.

We are inviting nominations in eight categories:

1. Young volunteer of the year
2. Retired volunteer of the year
3. Business supporting the community
4. Arts group
5. Conservation / environment group
6. Sports group
7. Long-term volunteer of the year
8. Community Group of the year

So please think – who do you know who’s doing good work? You can nominate any group or person as long as they do most of their work in Botley. This is your chance to thank them and get some recognition for our ‘unsung community heroes’ – is there anyone or any group who’ve made your life better?

You can get a nomination form from the Botley Library, or download it here: <https://botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk/news/> This form asks you to name the person or organisation, add some contact details for them and write a few sentences about why they deserve the award. Completed forms can be handed in at the Library, put in the parish council post box (by the Library) or emailed to: [clerk@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk).

All entries must be received by Monday 25th November. The judges will be an independent panel of local people. The winners will be announced and certificates awarded (no cash prizes!) at All-in-One-Room, the volunteers’ party to be held at Seacourt Hall on December 15th.

Best of Botley is being organised by Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council. If you’d like to help with making this a success, please get in touch by emailing Emma, our parish clerk at the address above.

**Chris Church**

## Worried about the impact of the Budget on your finances?

*Jason McGuigan, Chartered Financial Planner*

Labour's pledge not to raise income tax, national insurance or VAT but at the same time looking to plug a reported £20bn black hole, tax rises are inevitable, whether it's now or in the future.

We're writing this in October before the Budget is revealed, so it's mainly speculation over capital gains tax (CGT) and pension tax relief, but the point remains.

Taxes have the power to dramatically affect financial plans and working with a local financial planner can help mitigate the impact of this on your pensions and investments.

Our job is to make sure that the plans we make with our clients are maximising the allowances available and structured in the most tax-efficient way, so they keep more of their wealth.

Using something we call cashflow planning technology, we can plot your finances against your current and future lifestyles to show how your money can support you and identify any issues or opportunities.

### Talk to us about your financial planning

So, if you're concerned about the impact of tax rises on your finances, you can speak to a member of the team at our Botley office to see if we can help you. Your first appointment is always free of charge and we can do this face to face or over the phone, whichever you prefer.

Get in touch with the team at [contactus@wrensterling.com](mailto:contactus@wrensterling.com) or call on 0186 567 1220.

*This article is for general information only and does not constitute advice. Please do not act based on anything you read in this article. All contents are based on our understanding of current HMRC legislation and taxation, which is subject to change.*

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## Brownies Keep Busy

At the beginning of this Brownie Term, 2nd Botley Brownies welcomed three new girls, Layla, Sadie and Annabel. This term we have decided to learn some first aid and are doing it in the form of 'Skills Builder Stages 2 & 3', which means the girls will earn badges.

So far, each girl has learned to use the primary survey which enables them to recognize how responsive a person who is hurt is, and when and how to get help. The primary survey is a quick way to find out how to treat life-threatening conditions in order of priority. We used DR ABC to do this: Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing and Circulation/Check. Week three had them practising how to put a casualty – both child and adult – into the recovery position and then how to call for help and which emergency service to request. *(Photo shows starting to do the Recovery Position)*



Knowing what to do and when to call the emergency services can potentially save lives, so they practised how to communicate, clearly, and with confidence, where they were calling from and what had led to the situation they encountered.

The remainder of the month will also be very busy with Remembrance Sunday where our Unit will once again have the honour of laying Remembrance Crosses at the graves of the Air Crew of our adopted Veteran, Ted. His daughter attends the Service and is able to oversee us doing this and to answer any questions the girls may have.

After this, we will use the next two meetings to complete the annual UK Parliament badge. The girls will take part in a debate, make a new law and complete a State Opening jigsaw. There will also be a lively quiz on the 'Start of a Parliament' and the 'End of a Parliament'.

Finally, on the very last Sunday morning of the month we will be going by Park & Ride bus to see this year's pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Oxford Playhouse. There will be more about that later, *'Oh, yes, there will!'*

We can be contacted at **[secondbotleybrownies@outlook.com](mailto:secondbotleybrownies@outlook.com)**

**The Owls & Robin**, 2nd Botley Brownies



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## Beware of the Mud

Many *Sprout* readers may be unaware of the brilliant Botley Health walks which set off from the Library at 11 o'clock every Tuesday morning. Anyone can go, and that's what I did on a week in October. Our walk took us up to the Hurst, via Turnpike Lane and the Chilswell Path. The last time I went to the Hurst, it was almost inaccessible due to the quagmire across the gate, where the mud had been churned up by cows. Only the brave – or foolhardy – tried to get through. Here's the experience of active pensioners David and Rene Gill, taken from a *Sprout* of 2012:

### Mud Wrestling

"There's a patch of mud by the entrance to Hurst Woods, churned up by the cows. We thought we could surely get across, stepping on the peaks between the holes left by the cows' hoofs. First thing that happened was we both lost our balance and fell flat in the mud; our clothes were caked. David managed to get to *terra firma*, but I was stuck in the middle.



"It was frightening: I couldn't move my feet. Finally, I grabbed the top of my right wellie with both hands and tugged, while pushing up with my foot, and with a tremendous tug got it out of the mud and onto a better bit of land. But my left foot, now rather far behind, was sinking deeper into the mud. I heaved, I tugged, I tried wiggling it, but more and more mud dropped down onto the foot and I started to feel a bit desperate. David tried to drag me out bodily, but the left foot would not move. I started wondering how soon it would be dark ... I thought of Flanders ...

"Well in the end I started scooping out the mud with my hand and finally got my hand under the sole of my boot and raised it. A friendly dog walker then pointed out the safe way to get into Hurst Woods. Too late for us! We struggled homewards.

"Mud is NOT glorious for us humans. Don't trust it! Give it a wide berth! Best to go back the way you came!"

\*\*\*

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Our recent experience was very different. A path of crushed hardcore has now been laid along the fence, so it was perfectly possible to get into the wood without getting very muddy at all.

It would have been even better to have been able to come back over the hill past the beacon, but – *oh dear! The mud!* Steps have been provided on the path from the field, but they stop halfway down. And the gate below is on the other side of an impassable swamp. It seems a shame that a potentially pleasant walk should be cut off in this way. But who would be responsible for fixing it? Does anybody know?

**Ag MacKeith**

~~~~~

## LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

|                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>P24/V1972/HH</u></a>                                                     | 37 St Pauls Cres.<br>Retrospective permission for single storey side & front extension, as not built to plans on planning permission approval notice P19/V1330/HH.                                                                                            | <b>18 Sept</b><br><i>Target Decision Date: 13 November</i> |
| <a href="#"><u>P24/V2092/HH</u></a><br>Amendment to approved permission<br>P18/V1133/HH | 12 Poplar Rd.<br>Ensure the property meets building regs in relation to thermal performance, requiring a slightly higher roof level & addition of external insulation to walls.                                                                               | <b>30 September</b><br><i>TDD: 25 Nov</i>                  |
| <a href="#"><u>P24/V2120/PDH</u></a>                                                    | 30 Wytham View.<br>Single storey rear extension.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>1 October</b><br><i>TDD: 12 Nov</i>                     |
| <a href="#"><u>P24/V1839/FUL</u></a>                                                    | 28 & 30 Lime Rd.<br>Change of use from dwelling houses to one 9-person HMO & one 7-person HMO. Bin & bike stores for each. Internal changes on one property & a part 2-storey side-, part 2-storey rear-, and part single-storey rear-extension on the other. | <b>7 October</b><br><i>TDD: 2 December</i>                 |
| <a href="#"><u>P24/V2159/HH</u></a>                                                     | Southfield, Harcourt Hill. Part 2-storey & part 1-storey rear extension.                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>8 October</b><br><i>TDD: 3 December</i>                 |

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**Carter Jonas**

## Remembrance Service on 10th November

The annual Service of Remembrance, orchestrated by Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council and supported by Oxford City Council, will take place at the Commonwealth War Graves in Botley Cemetery on 10th November (be there by 10.45).

This is a significant year, because it was the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in June (covered in detail in the July *Sprout*). There was an earlier ceremony in the Botley CWG which featured the Torch of Liberation. Our War Graves were the first ones to be established in the UK, so we were the first to welcome the torch on its journey round capital cities and key cemeteries and memorials across the country.

All the local faiths will be represented at our local Remembrance Day Service. There will be a parade from the Minns Estate to start the event. The speaker is an official representative of the CWG, and we can look forward to an informative talk, as well as a brief tour of some of the more notable burials when the service is over.

A wide range of local dignitaries and military personnel will lay wreaths, and afterwards you are invited to enjoy refreshments at the Botley W.I. hall, across the road from the Cemetery.



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## Shed, Oxford – a new community workshop

Shed Oxford is opening a new community workshop at Oxford Rugby Football Club in North Hinksey on November 4th.

The workshop provides materials, tools and benches for woodworking and metalworking. Members will be able to work on their own projects, or on joint projects for the workshop. Guidance and advice are available from other members.

Initially, we will be open 10.30–3.30 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but we may add extra days / hours if needed.

If you are interested in joining, please contact me on [info@shedoxford.co.uk](mailto:info@shedoxford.co.uk) for further information, or to arrange a visit

I would like to thank Oxford Rugby Football Club for providing the building, and Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council for its financial support

**Jon Willis**, Chair – Shed Oxford

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Christina Hardymont is an author and journalist with a keen interest in the historical context of everyday life, focusing on how we manage our homes, raise children, and the food we consume. Additionally, she has a deep passion for literary geography, exploring the real-world locations that inspired both classic and contemporary writers. Christina has authored eleven books on these topics, including *Mangle to Microwave: A History of Domestic Technology* and *Behind the Scenes: Domesticity in Historic Houses*.

Tickets £12 include a glass of wine and nibbles, buy from Eventbrite, or email [office@osneybenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@osneybenefice.org.uk) Ticket sales go towards Spend A Penny – a project to install a much-needed toilet at St Lawrence.

**Gwen Davies**

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# All in One Room – Celebrating Volunteers

Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council is inviting all volunteers in the local community to Seacourt Hall from 3pm on Sunday 15th December for mince pies and mulled wine or soft drinks, as a thank you for all your community work this year.

This is our third year of running this event. We look forward to again welcoming at least 100 of you, from baby and youth groups to pensioners' lunch clubs, from sports groups to food banks, and groups supporting our local natural habitat. As well as a recognition of all your various contributions to the community, this event has been also a time to pause, connect, meet and to share and discuss common issues and ideas.

We are pleased to announce that this year the event will also include the Best of Botley awards, returning after 9 years (see page 19).

We look forward to welcoming even more volunteers to this event this year. Please do come along to Seacourt Hall from 3pm on Sunday 15th December. Consider this your invitation, and please RSVP to [chair@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@botleynorthhinksey-pc.gov.uk) to give us an idea of numbers.

**Lorna Berrett**

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## Randoms

### Botley W.I.

We have had an interesting talk from Simon Wenham about one of the oldest (160+ years) family-run business in Oxford: Salters boatyard. Apart from housing, they were involved in the rowing scene and ran the biggest passenger boats on the river Thames.

Our many and various groups are active and well attended. As a member of the WI, you are able to access many courses covering many subjects. For instance, some of us will be learning circus skills and drumming. We will be supplying tea and coffee and home-made biscuits after the Remembrance Service at Botley Cemetery on Sunday 10th November. Our meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month at WI hall at 7:30, everyone welcome to visit.

**Janet Watanabe.**

### Cumnor Pre-school

is looking for a part-time assistant to work with 2- to 4-year-old children in a supportive and friendly environment. Monday to Wednesday, 8.45–15.30pm, £11.44–£12.02 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications. There is more information and an application form at [www.cumnor-preschool.co.uk](http://www.cumnor-preschool.co.uk) or email [cumnorpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:cumnorpreschool@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Botley School fireworks, 8th November

The gates open at 6pm (BBQ and refreshments available), fireworks display starts at 7pm. Tickets available from Botley Library until Wed 6th November. There is also the Bear Trail in our Early-Years Garden from 5 to 6pm, along with a treasure hunt and crafts, for children under six.



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## **November at Hill End**

### **Visit WW1 Practice Trenches**

Saturday 9 November, 10am - 12pm

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### **Family Bushcraft**

Saturday 16 November, 10am - 12pm

<https://hill-end.org/activities/upcoming-events>

### **After School Forest Sessions**

Wednesdays during term-time, 4 - 5.30pm

<https://hill-end.org/news/afterschool/>

### ***From the Editor***

Are there any retired editors (or home-based ones) living in Botley or Dean Court who might be interested in keeping the Sprout fit and free? It hardly seems possible, but I've been editing it for fifteen years now, and though I'm happy to keep going for as long as I can, I'm not getting any younger. Now feels like a good time to find someone who could shadow me and be ready to step in when needed. Could it be you? Please give it some thought and get in touch if you'd like to talk about it a bit more. The email is, as always, [editor@thesprout.org.uk](mailto:editor@thesprout.org.uk).



### **Save Our Swimming Pool**

The petition, now at nearly 2,000 signatures, has been presented to the Vale by reps from both PC and District, and it has been passed to the Vale's Cabinet to see what can be done.

### **November at the Library**

*All below are free and no booking required.*

**Cllr Judy Roberts Surgery.** Saturday 2nd November, 10am.

**Rhymetime** for ages 0-5yrs. 10am Fridays, 1st, 8th, 15, 22nd, 29th.

**Lego Club** (all ages) 3.30pm Tuesdays, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th.

**Adult Craft Club** 2pm Thursdays. November 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th.

**Digital helper** 10-12pm Saturday 16th November.

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

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|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hill End Volunteer Team</b>                     | Contact: David Millin on <a href="mailto:david.millin@hill-end.org">david.millin@hill-end.org</a> , call 863510 or visit <a href="http://www.hillend-oec.co.uk">www.hillend-oec.co.uk</a>             |
| <b>Kumon Maths and English</b>                     | After school classes, Seacourt Hall, Tues & Sat. 07377 430063 <a href="http://www.kumon.co.uk/oxford-botley/">www.kumon.co.uk/oxford-botley/</a>                                                      |
| <b>Lawn Tennis Club</b>                            | Family club <b>Email: <a href="mailto:Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org">Tennis@OxfordSportsLTC.org</a></b><br>07824 881680 <a href="http://www.oxfordsportsltc.org">www.oxfordsportsltc.org</a>             |
| <b>Morris Dancing – Cry Havoc</b>                  | Barbara Brett 249599 or <a href="mailto:bag@cryhavoc.org.uk">bag@cryhavoc.org.uk</a>                                                                                                                  |
| <b>North Hinksey Preschool and Childcare clubs</b> | Mon–Fri 7.45am–6.00 pm. Tel 794287 or email <a href="mailto:nhps.manager1@gmail.com">nhps.manager1@gmail.com</a>                                                                                      |
| <b>N Hinksey Art Group</b>                         | Weds 10–12.00 W.I. Hall Christina 07931 707997                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>N Bellringers</b>                               | Contact: Ray Rook 01865 241451                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>N Hinksey Conservation Volunteers</b>           | Meets at weekends Contact Voirrey Carr 07798 743121 <a href="mailto:voirreyc@aol.com">voirreyc@aol.com</a>                                                                                            |
| <b>N Hinksey, Friends of</b>                       | Annual Cricket Match/ Walk. Douglas Bond 791213.                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Oxford Flower Arranging</b>                     | 4th Thursday Cumnor. Dympna Walker: Ox 865259                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Oxford Harmony</b>                              | <i>Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Seacourt Hall</i><br>Contact <a href="mailto:pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk">pro@oxfordharmony.co.uk</a>                                                                     |
| <b>Oxford Rugby Club</b>                           | Boys and girls from 5, <a href="mailto:kevin.honner@ntlworld.com">kevin.honner@ntlworld.com</a><br>Seniors, training etc <a href="mailto:jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk">jbrodley@chandlings.org.uk</a> . |
| <b>Raleigh Park, Friends of</b>                    | Email: <a href="mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk">raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk</a>                                                                                                             |
| <b>Seacourt Hall Management Committee</b>          | Contact Lottie White, 07452 960100, or see <a href="https://www.seacourthall.org.uk">https://www.seacourthall.org.uk</a>                                                                              |
| <b>Shotokan Karate Club</b>                        | 6+ WOCC twice weekly Martyn King 07836 646450                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Stagecoach Botley</b>                           | Botley School, Saturdays 9:00am–3pm <i>Performing Arts for 4-16 yr-olds</i> 01865 590510 or 01235 390810                                                                                              |
| <b>West Oxford Bowls Club</b>                      | D Ellerker 07931 603801<br><a href="mailto:wobc.membership@gmail.com">wobc.membership@gmail.com</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>                             | <a href="http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/">http://westoxfordu3a.org.uk/</a>                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Women's Institute (Botley)</b>                  | Alison Jenner 07598 251161<br><a href="mailto:alisonjenner@yahoo.com">alisonjenner@yahoo.com</a>                                                                                                      |

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

## North Hinksey & Botley Churches Times of Services and Contacts

### **St. Lawrence, Church of England, North Hinksey Lane**

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

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

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

### **Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman Catholic, Yarnells Hill**

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

### **Botley Baptist Church, 1 Church Way**

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

### **Calvary Chapel**

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

# What's On

## November

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|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fri 1st</b>   | <b>10am, Botley Library, Rhymetime for 0-5s (and on 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th)</b>                                                          |
| <b>Sat 2nd</b>   | <b>10am, Botley Library, Cllr Judy Roberts' surgery</b>                                                                                 |
| <b>Tues 5th</b>  | <b>3.30pm, Botley Library, Lego Club for all ages (and on 12th, 19th, 26th)</b>                                                         |
| <b>Thur 7th</b>  | <b>2pm, Botley Library, Adult Craft Club (and on 14th, 21st, 28th)</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Fri 8th</b>   | <b>Botley School, 5-6pm, Bear Trail, etc, for under 6s, Gates open 6pm for 7pm, fireworks display.</b>                                  |
| <b>Sun 10th</b>  | <b>10.45am, Botley Cemetery, Remembrance Sunday Service in the Commonwealth War Graves</b>                                              |
| <b>Sun 10th</b>  | <b>7.30pm, The Vine, Cumnor, KMC Quiz</b>                                                                                               |
| <b>Mon 11th</b>  | <b>2.15pm, Dean Court Community centre, U3A talk: 'The Remarkable History of Great Ormond Street Hospital', speaker to be confirmed</b> |
| <b>Thur 14th</b> | <b>12noon, Seacourt Hall, Botley Seniors Lunch Club (and on 28th)</b>                                                                   |
| <b>Sat 16th</b>  | <b>10-12pm, Botley Library, Digital Helper</b>                                                                                          |
| <b>Tues 19th</b> | <b>7pm, St Lawrence's Church, N Hinksey, talk on The History of the Toilet by Christina Hardyment</b>                                   |
| <b>Thur 21st</b> | <b>7.30pm, Seacourt Hall, Parish Council Meeting</b>                                                                                    |
| <b>Mon 28th</b>  | <b>2.15 Dean Court Community centre, U3A talk: Caroline Jackson-Houlston, 'Fungi in your Garden and Further Afield'</b>                 |
| <b>Sat 30th</b>  | <b>7.30pm, St Peter and Paul Church, Cumnor Choral concert</b>                                                                          |

*Hill End dates in Randoms*