



# North Hinksey Parish Council

## 2023 Newsletter



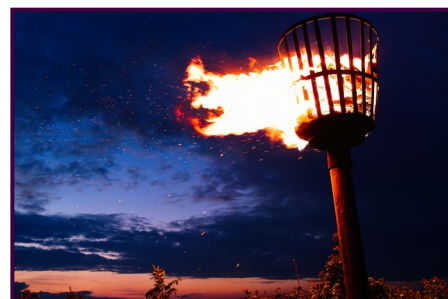
### Community spirit in Botley and North Hinksey

As I write I am reflecting on the positive difference that even a few determined people can make for those around them. We were astounded at December's 'All in One Room' celebration to see just how many local people – often getting on quietly in small groups – are making a real difference for others.

Sustainable Botley, which started as an idea in a committee meeting, is now showing us how to make our homes warmer and save on energy costs (p.2). Plans to replace the lost Botley Bowl with a new skatepark were kicked off by a call from a local resident at the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting, and the design now going for planning approval is the result of many months of community input (p.2). The positive feedback and challenges raised during fresh consultation on the new Louie Memorial Pavilion led to a much-improved design for renewed planning permission (p.3). The great work of other local organisations supported through the Parish Council's community grants scheme (p.2) also gives me inspiration.



Could you be part of this sustained community effort? Whether it's helping at one-off events like the Jubilee celebrations (pictured here), or standing for election to Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council (as it will be renamed) in May, please consider how you could make a positive difference.



My first step was dropping into an Annual Parish Meeting, where I learned about local issues that I came to care a lot about. Please come along to this year's APM on 16th March (see below) and get involved.

**Cllr Caroline Potter, NHPC Chair**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm      Annual Parish Meeting:      Seacourt Hall and online via Zoom**  
please send topics or questions by Monday 13th March to [caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

### North Hinksey mourns the passing of Her Majesty

North Hinksey Parish Council was deeply shocked to hear the news on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The prepared Royal Protocol swung into action and that evening's Parish Council Meeting was postponed after a two minute silence.

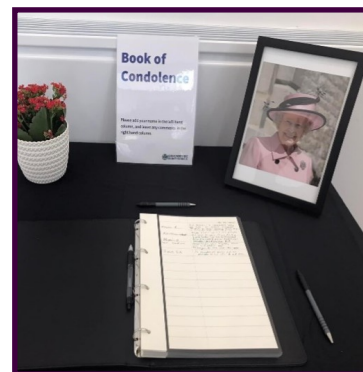
The Protocol was jointly written with the Library and the Church Benefice and by the time the Parish Council meeting broke up a condolence table had been set up in the foyer of SS Peter and Paul Parish Church on West Way.

The Clerk worked with the Library to set up a further condolence table in the front foyer of the Community building. A local photograph of Her Majesty taken at Oxford Castle was placed in a black photo frame on

top of a black tablecloth. The Library supplied the book of condolence with a small pot plant to round things off.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September a commemorative service was held in St Peter and St Paul Church which was well attended by a large number of parishioners. A fitting way to mark the passing of a much-loved monarch.

**Parish Clerk, Linda Morrison Allsopp**



## Green Energy initiatives

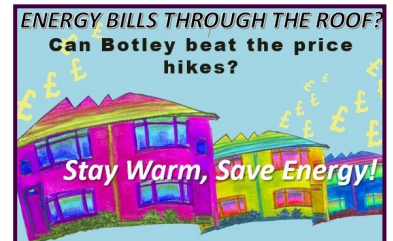
Rocketing fuel prices have caused stress to many families as people struggle to pay fair bills. The Parish Council is keen to help people save energy and cut those bills. We have funded the Sustainable Botley group to do surveys of six typical local homes to show how these can save energy. A report on this is now being produced.

The group have also raised extra funds from Vale District Council and have trained local people as energy advisors. They are now able to offer advice to people in Botley. This includes visits to people's homes to suggest ways in which those homes can be warmer and cheaper to heat and talks to local groups.

If you would like to get some advice please email energy adviser Steve Jones via [sustainablebotley@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablebotley@gmail.com)

The Oxford 'Low Carbon Hub' are supporting this work and have an excellent 'Winter Warmer' checklist that shows what support is available and what anyone can do:

<https://www.lowcarbonhub.org/energy-saving-advice/warmer-winter-checklist/>



## Grants up for grabs!

Over recent months we've handed out several thousand pounds worth of grants to local organisations, but as we approach our financial year end a substantial amount is still available.



Organisations that have benefitted so far include:

- Hinksey Heights Trail Regeneration (pictured)
- The Sprout
- My Vision Oxfordshire
- Sustainable Botley
- Food for Charities

Any local charity or non-profit making organisation benefitting residents of our Parish can apply for funds using the NHPC Grant Application Form at:

<https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/about/grants-to-local-organisations>

Completed forms need to be submitted by e-mail to our Parish Clerk, Linda ([clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)) one week before a full Council meeting.

The next one is on the 23rd March, so if you're involved in a local organisation that urgently needs funds send your form in now!

## Botley skatepark

The final design has been agreed, and the plans were reviewed by the Parish Council in February. Please check the NHPC website for how you can submit comments to the Vale on the planning application. The park will be built on the Louie Memorial playing fields, on the site of the former Botley Bowl, tucked away behind the MUGA and the teenage play area.

It will consist of a few concrete billows for 'flowing' around, a flat 'street' area that includes a mini-ramp (like a half-pipe but just 60cm high), some kerbing and a low rail. It has been designed to be fun for bmxers, scooters, inline skaters and skateboarders, at all levels of expertise and none, and it can be delivered within the budget of £180,000. Here's what it looks like:

What next? It's a lot of money to raise, but we've made a start. We have a few promising leads, and some offers of help. We can always do with more. If you have any fundraising expertise, or access to corporations that like to give grants to worthy causes that keep teenagers out of trouble, please do get in touch with the Parish Council.





## Public art for West Way Square

We are excited to be installing and unveiling artworks in West Way Square in March. This has been a truly collaborative process with residents of all ages across Botley taking part.

The artworks comprise three elements:

- ♦ Three mosaic panels by Clare Goodall ([cgmosaics.co.uk](http://cgmosaics.co.uk)) on the wall of the community building
- ♦ Two large carved standing stones by Alex Wenham ([www.alexwenham.co.uk](http://www.alexwenham.co.uk)) in the centre of the shopping area
- ♦ Two painted murals by Nor Greenhalgh ([eleanorg.org](http://eleanorg.org)) on walls next to Loomsbury and between The Missing Bean and Tesco



The artists have immersed themselves in our local history, culture, nature and community for inspiration. They visited local schools and groups including the Pop-Up Café, Senior Citizens Lunch Club and the Community Fridge, had a guided nature walk, and took part in public events last March and September. Clare Goodall's mosaic panels were created with input from local primary school children and members of the community in a number of hands-on workshops.

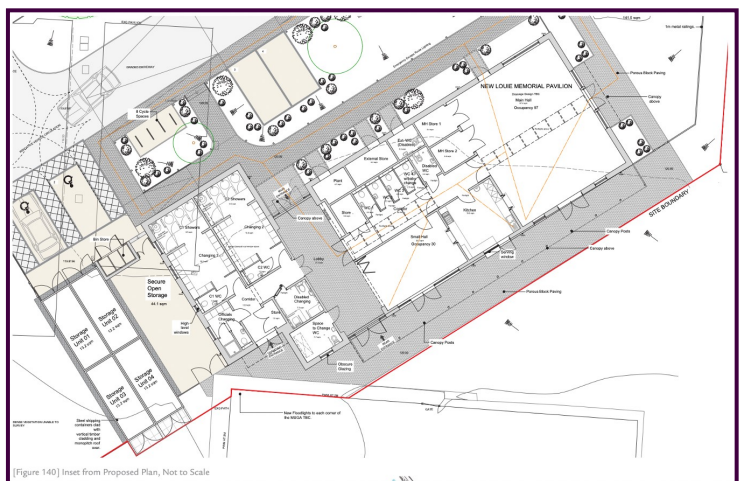
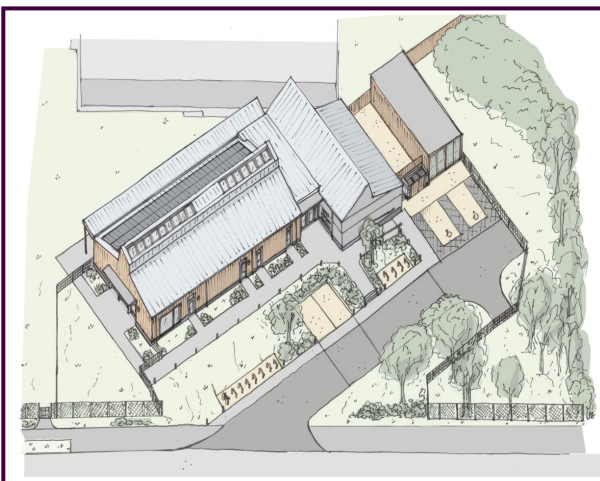
The resulting artworks are designed to connect to the people, history and environment of Botley and to brighten up our community centre for many years to come. Check our website and Facebook or The Sprout for details of the unveiling.

## All systems go for pavilion 2.0

After the long lull of lockdown, we kick-started the Pavilion project back into life last year with appointment of architects to see us through the end of the project. With the original planning permission nearing its end, we ran a series of consultation events in May before putting in an updated planning application.

The new plans include a reduced building footprint, a more interesting external design, and an updated environmental assessment showing a 24% net gain in biodiversity from the planned landscaping. It's been an exercise in extreme patience, but we anticipate a planning decision from the District Council in March.

With refreshed planning permission in place, we can go full-speed ahead with fundraising to match the £400,000 currently earmarked for the building project by the Vale and NHPC. Every contribution large or small helps us to get our new Pavilion sooner, so if you've got a fundraising idea or just enthusiasm to help us out, please get in touch!



[Figure 140] Inset from Proposed Plan, Not to Scale

## Upcoming dates for your diary

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm**

### **Annual Parish Meeting:**

Seacourt Hall and online via Zoom

A chance for Parishioners to discuss matters of local importance, please send topics or questions to the chair by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March:

[caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

Public Art unveiling, West Way Square

Check The Sprout for details of the unveiling of public art including mosaics, stone sculptures and mural.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Local Elections:**

**Parish and District Council elections**

Polls open 7am to 10pm.

Polling station location to be confirmed.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**Coronation of King Charles III on**

**Saturday, Bank Holiday on Monday**

Look out for details of local events in future issues of The Sprout.

## Useful local contacts

**Parish Clerk:** Linda Morrison Allsopp, Parish Office, 1st Floor, 5 Church Way, Oxford, OX2 9TH

Open 09.00 to 12.00 Mon to Fri

Tel. 07494 054581 or Ox. 861992

[clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

**Parish Councillors:** contact details for all 14 parish councillors can be found at:

<https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/councillors>

**Chair:** Caroline Potter:

[caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.potter@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

**Vice-Chair:** Lorna Berrett:

[lorna.berrett@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:lorna.berrett@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

### **Planning issues:**

Chair of Planning Committee Adam Rankin:

Tel: 07989 574862

[adam.rankin@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:adam.rankin@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

### **District Councillors**

Cllr Debby Hallett

[debby.hallett@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:debby.hallett@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Tel. 07545 241013

Cllr Emily Smith [emily.smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:emily.smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Tel. 07879 640645

### **County Councillor**

Cllr Judy Roberts [judy.roberts@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:judy.roberts@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Tel. 07534 784144 or Ox. 864041

**Allotments:** for details including how to request an allotment see our website at

<https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/allotment>

**Grass cutting:** contact Parish Clerk

**Seacourt Hall bookings:** Tel. 07452 960100

[admin@seacourthall.org.uk](mailto:admin@seacourthall.org.uk)

[www.seacourthall.org.uk](http://www.seacourthall.org.uk)

**Louie Memorial Pavilion and free football pitch bookings:** [louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:louiememorialpavilion@gmail.com)

### **Fix My Street:**

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/reports/Oxfordshire> for anything from potholes to street lighting, property damage to road markings and more.

**Parking issues:** report illegally parked vehicles to the County Council enforcement team via <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/illegal-parking>

**West Way Square shops, car parks & public toilets:**

contact Lisa Himpson of Savills

[Lisa.Himpson@Savills.com](mailto:Lisa.Himpson@Savills.com)

**PCSO:** Adrian Wright:

[Adrian.wright@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:Adrian.wright@thamesvalley.police.uk)

**The Sprout:** now has a website at:

<https://archive.thesprout.org.uk>

## E-newsletter option

You can sign up to receive this newsletter and future news via email. North Hinksey Parish Council is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

To learn more about how we collect, keep, and process your private information in compliance with GDPR, please view our privacy policy.

To sign up for the e-newsletter either scan the QR code or go to our website at <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/newsletters>

