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### Neighbourhood Plan

In December the Parish Council put forward to the Vale a request for North Hinksey Parish to become a Designated Area for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Consultation will run until 19th March, and we hope to receive confirmation of designation shortly after that.

Many thanks to all those who completed the recent questionnaire – your input will be very valuable in planning the next stage. Special thanks to those who have offered to help with developing the Plan. The Steering Group will be in touch with you soon.

Neighbourhood Plans cannot conflict with the District Council's Local Plan, but this does offer us the chance to influence some planning issues in a way that can benefit our community. We will keep you up to date on how it is progressing over the coming months including details of several further opportunities for everyone to have their say on what they think should be included in the final Neighbourhood Plan.

Andrew Pritchard, Acting Chair  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.



### 2015 Chairman's Report

This last year has inevitably been the year of West Way. Any plans to redevelop or update the shopping centre will have a major effect on those living in the Parish, and many outside. The Parish Council felt strongly that the various proposals from Doric Properties to regenerate the shopping centre were unacceptable on a number of grounds and spoke out accordingly.

It was a relief that the Vale decided unanimously to reject those proposals. We are now waiting to find out on what grounds Doric are appealing to the planning inspector against the decision, and will insist that as this process unfolds the Vale keep us properly informed.

The Parish does not own any land at West Way – we only hold a lease from the Vale on Seacourt Hall – making it more difficult to negotiate with Doric or the Vale about re-provision of a better community hall in any development. We decided to increase the precept last year to enable us to engage professional help in our efforts to win an improved, bigger Hall for the community. There will be no further increase this coming year. The help has been invaluable in presenting our case to Doric and the Vale, and will continue until a solution is found.

Work is now well under way on the two major housing developments in the Parish, agreed by the previous Parish Council, at Lime Road (now called Harcourt Place by the developer) and at Tilbury Lane. While the latter, on the North Hinksey side, is still a muddy field, the first residents have already moved in to Harcourt Place, and we welcome them to the Parish.

Finally I would like to encourage all parishioners to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting** at **7.30pm on Thursday 12th March in Seacourt Hall** (refreshments served from 7pm). Please send any questions in writing (an e-mail will do) to the Parish Clerk by 12 noon on Monday 9th March to receive a reply at the meeting.

Councillor Andrew Pritchard,  
North Hinksey Parish Council Chairman.

## Planning Committee Report

Members of the Planning Committee have spent many hours throughout the year:

- reading through planning applications, including boxes of paperwork associated with the West Way development,
- visiting neighbours to ensure that they are aware of planning applications, discussing them, and helping them send any objections to the Vale, and
- attending Vale Planning Committee meetings to support objections to any contentious applications.

In dealing with the large number of applications encouraged by the new NPPF planning laws we have been hampered by

- the NPPF itself, which favours "sustainable development" and
- the District Council's lack of a 5-year supply of development land, which plays into the developers' hands
- the desire of many developers to replace family homes by blocks of flats.

The Vale's consultation on their draft Local Plan 2031 Part 1 gave us opportunity to emphasise

- the need for a proper transport strategy and infrastructure for new developments
- the failure to deal with existing congestion in and around the Parish
- Botley is a Local Service Centre, not a District Centre
- the area designated for redevelopment should not include Vale House and the vicarage
- our opposition to any encroachment on the Green Belt in and around the Parish
- the lack of measureable targets for building sustainable housing
- Botley is different in many ways from other Vale centres

The new Local Plan, which hopefully should be implemented later this year still has to be consistent with national planning guidelines.

Councillor Andrew Pritchard,  
Planning Committee Chairman.

## Remembrance Day Service 2014

The 2014 ceremony of Remembrance at Botley Cemetery War Graves, marking the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War benefited from very good weather. It was attended by over 700 local residents, veterans, Armed Forces, Army Cadets, officials from Commonwealth and European countries, political representatives, school children, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs.

Reverend Richard Budgen led the service, supported by other local clergy, the Oxford Youth Brass Ensemble and the Botley Singers. Refreshments, served by the ladies of the W.I. after the service, were appreciated by all.



We were very fortunate to have local historian Dr Malcolm Graham as our guest speaker. In a fascinating talk, he explained why so many casualties came to be buried in Botley and shared some of their personal stories with us.

We wanted to involve young people this year and invited schools to send us work on Remembrance. We received a huge amount of thoughtful poetry, prose and art, a selection of which was displayed in the W.I. Hall. Visitors praised the young people's understanding and maturity. 45 Certificates of Commendation were awarded and Edie Godfroy (North Hinksey Primary School) read her poem 'We Will Always Remember Them' at the service. Some of the children's work and Dr Graham's address can be found on the Parish Council Website (Click on **Remembrance Day Service**).



Local residents also gathered to observe the two minute silence on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 in the precinct. We are grateful to trumpeter

Gareth Jennings for playing the Last Post and Reveille.

We are now beginning to plan for the 2015 service, which will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 2. I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their commitment to remembering those people of so many nationalities who died as a result of war and are buried in our cemetery.

Councillor Voirrey Carr  
Remembrance Day Committee Chairman.

## Allotments Committee

A spirit of solidarity is beginning to make itself felt on the Parish Plots. The Spring plant share and picnic tea organized by Chris and Elaine Sugden was very popular, and has led to greater things in 2015, when we plan not only to have a repeat performance on 12th April, but to organize a show in September.

The well underneath the pump at the School End of the Southern by Pass allotments is due to be re-bored in February with a wider diameter, so that more water can collect there. When we have seen what the flow is, we will decide how best to get it to the surface – bucket or pump. Meanwhile the two tanks by the gate proved a life-saver for new plants over the summer.

The Oxfordshire Association of Bee-keepers has expressed an interest in keeping bees on the clay plots (no's 95, 97), and this looks likely to go ahead, subject to the agreement of the neighbouring tenants. This will be a good arrangement for us, because the hive(s) will be looked after by competent bee-keepers who will be comprehensively insured and there on a regular basis. We will still be able to hold events like the plant swap on the site.

The Allotments Committee is also responsible for the Nature Reserve and the Community Orchard. In the nature reserve the twice yearly mowing schedule worked well, and there were masses of wild flowers all through the summer. We are looking forward to making hay on it this year, with the help of a former tenant who is skilled with the scythe. A successful attack on the bindweed on the memorial garden by a group of volunteers from ERM Ltd encouraged us to plant drifts of narcissus around the tree in the centre, which should be coming into flower as you read this. Do go and have a look!



On February 8th, Oxford Conservation Volunteers laid the short hedge between the nature reserve and the orchard with the help of various local people, as can be seen from the photo. The idea is to thicken it at the base and keep it from shading the young apple trees.

Councillor Ag MacKeith  
Allotments Committee Chairman.

## Recreation & Amenities Committee

The Recreation and Amenities Committee are committed to ensuring the Louie Fields remain a safe, open green space which can be used and enjoyed by all age groups, for a wide variety of recreational purposes.

This year we have been busy,

- Conserving the natural environment: thanks to the efforts of the N Hinksey Conservation volunteers the Louie Memorial Fields and Copse have been cared for with a busy programme of clearing, cutting and planting.
- Keeping the LM Fields safe: A big thanks to volunteers who lock the gates to the LM car park, in all weathers. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by local residents as antisocial behaviour and fly-tipping have been reduced.
- Dealing with crime: We have had issues with cannabis smoking and dealing on the Upper Fields but are working closely with the Police to ensure that the problem doesn't escalate.
- Attempting to acquire more recreational land in other parts of the Parish. Residents have expressed their wish for the Parish Council to negotiate for amenity space near the Tilbury Lane development which could provide more accessible facilities for families and children.
- Seeking a replacement for our Pavilion: We put forward draft plans to Bovis homes to fund a new building but may have to look for outside funding. Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked hard to make the Pavilion a viable concern.
- Keeping our eyes open for opportunities to provide facilities within any new developments that can be used by the whole community.



This is a time of great change for the Parish with two new developments under way and West Way earmarked for updating. Looking to the next decade, we have included a Leisure survey with this newsletter and would be grateful if you could tell us how you spend your leisure time and what amenities you would like to see in our parish in the future.

Councillor Julia Hammett,  
Recreation & Amenities Committee Chairman.

## Parish Councillors to May 2015

### Mrs. P. Allen

79, Hurst Rise Road Tel. Oxford 862353  
E-mail: pollyallen@live.com

### Mr. E. Batts

35, Cherry Tree Close, Tel. Oxford 821565  
Southmoor  
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### Mr. R. Carr

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### Mrs. V. Carr

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### Mr. C. Church

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### Mrs. A. Dykes

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### Mrs. K. El-Barhdadi

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### Mr. D. Kay

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### Mrs. J. Hammett

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### Mr. A. Hardiman

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### Ms. A. MacKeith

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Old Botley  
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### Mr. A. Pritchard

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### Mr. S. Sellars

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Bicester  
E-mail: simon.sellars@gmail.com

### Mrs. E. Smith

2, Sycamore Road Tel. 07986877933  
E-mail: cllremilysmith@gmail.com

## Parish Clerk

### Mr. Alan Stone

27, Long Close Tel. & Fax Oxford 861992  
E-mail: nhpcclerk@msn.com

## District Councillors

Mr. Eric Batts Tel. Oxford 821565

Mrs Debby Hallett Tel. Oxford 240031

## County Councillor

Mrs. Janet Godden Tel. Oxford 862095

## Parish Council Responsibilities:

- Allotments
- Consideration/comments to the DC on Planning matters
- Playing Fields, including the football pitch, MUGA, Trim Trail and children's play area
- Louie Memorial Pavilion
- Copse & concrete path from Cedar & Hurst Rise Roads
- Maintenance/upkeep of parish owned land/buildings
- Parish owned bus shelters, notice boards and seats
- Maintenance of the Parish Council website

## Parish Council Committees:

- Planning
- Finance and General Purposes
- Allotments includes the North Hinksey Nature Reserve and the Community Orchard
- Recreation and Amenities
- Remembrance Day

Details of Committee members and dates of meetings can be found on the North Hinksey Parish Council website:

[www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

## Attendance at Council meetings:

The following are the number and percentage of full Parish Council meetings attended by Parish Councillors over the past twelve months:

Mrs. P. Allen	8 out of 11	73%
Mr. E. Batts	9 out of 11	82%
Mr. R. Carr	11 out of 11	100%
Mrs. V. Carr	8 out of 8	100%
Mr. C. Church	3 out of 8	38%
Mrs. A. Dykes	10 out of 11	91%
Mrs. K. El-Barhdadi	3 out of 11	27%
Mr. D. Kay	9 out of 11	82%
Mrs. J. Hammett	10 out of 11	91%
Mr. A. Hardiman	7 out of 11	64%
M/s A. Mackeith	9 out of 11	82%
Mr. A. Pritchard	11 out of 11	100%
Mr. S. Sellars	8 out of 11	73%
Mrs. E. Smith	7 out of 8	88%

## Other useful Telephone Numbers:

Seacourt Hall Hall Manager/Booking Clerk –  
Eric Batts 01865 821565  
Vale District Council Abbey House 01235 520202  
Oxford City Council–Town Hall 01865 249811  
Oxon County Council County Hall 01865 792422  
Oxfordshire C.C. Highways (Potholes & local  
highways problems (not A34)) 0845 3101111  
Bus Shelter problems 01865 861992  
Thames Water Customer Care Line - smelly  
drains, water & flooding problems 08459200800  
Thames Valley Police Non-Emergency Calls 101