

North Hinksey Parish Publications Limited
trading as "The Sprout"
(Company number 05609535)

Annual Report
for the financial year 1 December 2018 to 30 November 2019

Financial Summary

The company made a small surplus in 2018/19, following the deficit the previous year. The Board's plan of recovery was successful and the long overdue increase in advertising rates did not have any adverse impact on income, which increased by c£900. Costs of producing the *Sprout* also increased due to inflation on paper costs and the Board has regularly reviewed our printing contract to ensure it is competitive. The return to surplus has allowed us to put aside £1200 for future grants. It is also pleasing to report that this year we had no bad debts to write off which hopefully indicates that all our advertisers' businesses are flourishing.

The balance sheet and cash flow remain healthy and the Board looks forward to continuing to serve the community of Botley.

John Clements

Company Secretary

Editor's Review of the Year

Nationally, 2019 was the year in which the over-riding concern was the climate. It was the year of the school strikes, of Extinction Rebellion's challenging actions, and the year when the County, the City, the Vale and the Parish Councils all declared a climate emergency. Inevitably the *Sprout* reflected this, interviewing local school strikers at Matthew Arnold, Elms Rise parents who took their children to XR's London actions over Easter and in October, and drawing attention to local classes in ways to mitigate global heating at Low Carbon West Oxford. The October cover showed Botley families at the Bike Ride for Climate action and that month there was a full account from a local resident who retrofitted his new house to be net zero carbon.

2019 was also the year of local elections, and the May edition came out early so we could profile all the candidates for election to the Parish Council. It was also the year in which the new shopping centre finally got under way, and by the end of the year the new Baptist Church/Library/Council offices (aka Community Hub) were ready to open.

The *Sprout* did well this year, and generated a small profit. This enabled us to us to hand out £150 to the Botley Seniors Lunch Club to help them settle in to their new home in the Community Hub, £225 to Riki Therivel towards huge banners opposing the Oxford–Cambridge Expressway, and £200 to Botley Baby and Toddler Group for replacement toys.

Ag MacKeith

Editor