

North Hinksey Parish Publications Limited

trading as "The Sprout"

(Company number 05609535)

Annual Report for the financial year 1 December 2019 to 30 November 2020

Financial Summary

As the Editor's Review explains, this was an unusual year for the Sprout, as for everyone else. Despite the challenges, the company remained in profit and has again been able to put aside money for grants in the coming year. Income and costs were both reduced compared to the previous year, but a small increase in advertising rates ensured that our margin remained healthy and enabled us to continue slowly building up our reserves to face any future problems.

Our cash flow remains positive, and again we have not had to write off any bad debts. Although 2020/21 continues to be a challenging time, the company remains financially healthy and looks forward to the future with some optimism.

John Clements

Company Secretary

Editor's Review of the Year

2020 was a leap year, and February, the first *Sprout* of the year, continued 2019's climate theme, promoting *Leap in to Action*, NHPC's climate day scheduled 29th Feb. March followed the same curve, reporting on the gala opening of the new community hub, and the logistics of domestic solar panels, and then it was April, and Covid struck.

The Sprout rallied round to collate information about help available, chemists who deliver, food supplied to your door, allotment availability and a handful of useful websites, as well as how to stay safe on Facebook for the older generation. We had just got into print when lockdown was announced. Many of our deliverers were over 70 and unable to go outside, but a quick shout on the Botley Notice Board Facebook page brought a heart-warming 50 offers to deliver for us, and all that vital information was disseminated in record time by people out on health walks.

May and June were published online, and included details of Botley in Bloom, the front garden competition run by the *Sprout* with funding from NHPC. By July we were cautiously back in print, announcing the Botley in Bloom winners, and September took the chance to assess the past few months. The Community Fridge and the Oxford Foodbank had risen magnificently to the occasion, and Lorna Berrett of NHPC was becoming the most popular person in Botley for co-ordinating the Botley Responders' WhatsApp groups.

The rest of the year we came out in print, which means that we had to pay the printer (who obviously needed the business), but also that we generated income from the adverts. As a result, by the end of the year we had money to give away. The grants reflected the continuing demands of the Covid crisis: £200 to Food for Charities, to help with the transport costs of their many volunteers, and £600 to the Friends of Botley School to buy three laptops for children to use when working from home.

Ag MacKeith

Editor