

# WEST OXFORD NEWS

27

JULY 1978

## Month of drama for a tiny hamlet

THERE'S NOT USUALLY much going on at the small cluster of buildings at the far end of the Botley Road which make up Old Botley. But June has seen a series of dramas, starting with the closure of the Carpenter's Arms on the 14th.

For some time the landlord and landlady have been struggling to make ends meet. Regulars know that despite the continual worry they have always managed to maintain a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

But the crunch came at last and they were advised to declare themselves bankrupt. Morrells, who own the pub, moved in with the receivers and padlocked the bars; and now Frank and Bette and their four 'dogs' are 'squatting' in the home they have lived in for thirteen years, while they try in vain to find alternative accommodation.

### NEW ROOFS

Meanwhile the rest of Old Botley is a maze of scaffolding, as four of the seven houses are in process of re-roofing. Showers of moss and plaster-dust have become part of the local weather.

### BIG GUNS AT BOTLEY?

Then on the night of June 26 we were roused from our usual torpor in front of the telly by a sound like gunfire in the street. We rushed outside. One of the warehouses in Curtis' yard was ablaze. Flames lit the night sky and the air was peppered with small explosions. With trembling hands we dialled 999 - but the number was engaged! Luckily the alarm had already been raised, and in minutes three fire-

engines and numerous police cars were at the scene.

It didn't seem possible that the small figures with their hosepipes could make any impression on the leaping flames, but within an hour the fire was under control. Men with breathing apparatus went in to deal with the smouldering core.

Well, this has been June. What can we expect in July? Watch this spot!



ENTHUSIASTS HAVE TURNED AN OVERGROWN CHURCHYARD INTO A SMALL PARK. BUT IS WILDLIFE THREATENED BY THIS CHANGE? See p. 2.

## City can purchase Binsey Green

ANXIETY HAS ARISEN recently over the question of access to Medley Sailing Club and Bossoms Boatyard at Binsey. The riverbank site occupied by them was bought by the local authority from Christ Church in 1928, but the only access for vehicles is over the rough track across Binsey Green - which belongs to Christ Church.

The college has been threatening to close this access, which would clearly be a disaster for the sailing club and boatyard. Christ

Church has now agreed however to sell the southern half of Binsey Green (just over six acres between Binsey Lane and the Thames), complete with the access road, to the City Council for £3,000. The field will continue to be let as farmland.

WORK ON RENOVATING The Perch public house at Binsey is due to start shortly. Ind Coope, the pub's owners, expect it to be open for business by Christmas.

West Oxford Community Association



# BARBECUE

July 15 7.30 - 11 pm

with the ROYAL GARDEN JAZZ BAND

in the BOTLEY ROAD RECREATION GROUND

TICKET £1.50 (accompanied children 50p age 5-15)

BARBECUE TICKETS are now on sale. They can be obtained

from 25 Binsey Lane, 8 Helen Road, or 30 Abbey Road.

## Sharp rise in house prices

HOUSE PRICES ARE on the up nationally, and West Oxford certainly isn't an exception. Within the last month there have been some unprecedented prices being put on local houses.

A well-modernised 2-bedroom house on Osney was asking for offers around £13,750: it sold for £16,000, and a bid of £16,750 was refused!

Two completely unmodernised 3-bedroom houses went on the market in Hillview Road at £13,750 and £13,950: both have access from Ferry Hinksey Road. And a house in Helen

Road, modernised and fitted with storage heaters, is understood to have fetched nearly £17,000.

But top of the bill are the new Techomes flats in Binsey Lane. These 1-bedroom flats, known as Edwin Court, came on the market at from £18,250 to £18,950. They will be ready for occupation in August. The development opposite will include some 2-bedroom flats, and these are expected to be in the region of £21,000 - £23,000 when they come on the market probably at the end of the year.

## Improvements planned

SEVERAL REHABILITATION schemes for Cherwell Housing Trust properties in West Oxford have been approved by the Housing Corporation.

They include Christ Church Old Buildings, 1 - 7 The Hamel, 20 Hollybush Row, and 90 Botley Road. This will improve a total of 34 homes.

The City Council has allocated finance in its 1979/80 budget for the construction of 6 new homes on the site of the huts in Ferry Hinksey Road.

## Police take prints

IN A BREAK-IN at the Centre on Thursday June 15, goods stolen included tins of coke, biscuits, and a record player belonging to the youth club. The police are investigating, and have taken finger-prints from items handled by the intruders who are thought to be young.