

Issue 487

April 2019

The *Crowmarsh News* is a self-funded publication, and we regret that we are unable to accept unpaid advertising, even from local businesses and societies.

We welcome material for inclusion but do not necessarily endorse the views of contributors. We reserve the right to refuse material or to shorten contributions as may be appropriate: editorial decisions are final.

ADVERTISING RATES

The *Crowmarsh News* is distributed to over 700 households in Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell.

Our rates for a one-eighth-page display advertisement (nominal 9cm wide x 7cm tall) are:

- 1 month — £8.50
- 3 months — £25.00
- 6 months — £45.00

Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News team

The *Crowmarsh News* is run by the Crowmarsh News Association, a group of local volunteers.

Editorial and Layout: Amanda Maher and John Griffin

Editorial support: James and Toni Taylor, Kirsty Dawson and Revd Kevin Beer

What's on listings: Julian Park

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and team

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the April 2019 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our **20th April deadline**.

For all items of news, articles or correspondence, please e-mail

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.



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Crowmarsh playground and outdoor gym Grand Opening

Crowmarsh Parish Council invite you to the Grand Opening of our new playground and outdoor gym at Crowmarsh Gifford recreation ground on **Sunday 7th April** at 12.30.

This is a great chance to come together and celebrate the new facilities and to thank all those involved in this tremendous project. Councillors Andrew Johnson and David Rowley and their team have spent much of the last two years bringing this to fruition for the benefit of our community.

There will be food and drink provided by local charities (Scouts, Crowmarsh Preschool and Crowmarsh Primary School PTA) and music from the Roke and Benson Band. The staff from Lifestyles Gym (based in Howbery Park) will be there to help those new to gym equipment to learn how they can use it best.

We look forward to this new facility being a hub for community gatherings, and hope to see you on Sunday 7th April for the opening.

*Michelle Reynolds
(on behalf of Crowmarsh Parish Council)*

Local elections, 2nd May

Elections to South Oxfordshire District Council and Crowmarsh Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 2nd May** from 7 am to 10 pm.

See local noticeboards for details of all the candidates. Use your vote!

Many thanks to all councillors, particularly those not standing again. Special thanks to Francesca Jones for all her stalwart work on the parish emergency plan and arranging for our smart new noticeboards: please treat them with respect and use only pins, not staples.

Nominations for election need to be delivered to SODC's offices at Milton Park **by 4pm on 3rd April**. Forms are available from SODC or crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com.

Litter clearance – Crowmarsh spring clean

Thanks to the wonderful team of around 30 volunteers of all ages who helped with the village clean-up around Crowmarsh Gifford on Saturday 16th March. So many children from pre-school, primary school, Beavers and Cubs took part that we ran out of vests and litter-pickers. This year the Parish Council worked with the Wallingford 1155 charity, who organised litter picking in the town at the same time. Their team did a very impressive job on the bypass and main roads.

We collected more than 20 full bags plus other items which included road signs, shoes, number plates, hub caps, a dinghy, paddle, a plastic container of descaler and a dog guard.

Please do your bit to keep the village clean all year round.



News from our District Councillor, Sue Cooper

Local Plan update

During the six-week consultation on the South Local Plan 2034 we received 2592 responses. The Planning Policy team are now processing these and preparing material for submission to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of March.

Binzone wheels: waste sorting help

SODC's Waste Team have produced cardboard Binzone wheels to enable you to look up how to recycle or dispose of various types of waste and one is enclosed with this issue of Crowmarsh News. I hope you will find yours useful.

PopUp Business School at Berinsfield

SODC are sponsoring a PopUp Business School which is coming to Berinsfield to give local residents a chance to start up their own business. Starting on Monday 29 April, the five-day workshop is free to anyone with a business idea. Sessions include: how to market a new or existing idea or business, how to use social media to get new customers, and the legal and tax obligations that you need to complete.

If you know someone who could benefit from attending the course please encourage them to visit popupbusinessschool.co.uk/berinsfield. I also have two "Golden Tickets" for this to give away so if you know anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact me on 01491 835631 or email Sue.Cooper@southoxon.gov.uk

Crowmarsh Pre-School news

The African proverb states that it takes a village to raise a child. At Pre-School we are keen to turn this into a reality. We would like to become more involved in our local community and would love to hear your ideas about how we could do this. You can see us at the opening of

the village playground on April 7th and we hope to meet many of you there as well as at the Quiz Night on April 27th. We also plan to become more involved with the wonderful Community Café, which takes place on the second Saturday of the month at the village hall. Please pop along and say hello!

Similarly, if you have a skill to share or time to spare to come and read stories, sing songs and play games, you would be very welcome to come along to Pre-School. You can email us at manager@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk or call us on 526115. Please be ready to leave us a message, as we are often very busy playing! We will always get back to you.

So many of you have told us how you enjoy seeing the children as they walk to and from Forest School. We just love it when you say "good morning" to us! Please feel free to stop and have a chat too.

Crowmarsh Pre-School are also holding a fundraising quiz on Saturday 27th April at Crowmarsh Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Knowledge of CBeebies is not a prerequisite for attending! This is a general knowledge quiz, and all are welcome. Teams can be a maximum of 8. No team? No problem! There'll be plenty of teams to join in on the night.

There will be a cash bar selling wine, lager and soft drinks, and a raffle and a silent auction.

For tickets, £10 including food, email crowmarshpreschoolquiznight@gmail.com or collect from the pre-school.

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

Call Chris Strange on 07711 904252
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To book North Stoke Village Hall

Contact Nikki Arnfeld (839736,
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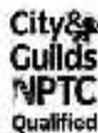
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Deadline threatens mixed age couples' benefits

Legislation that will come into effect on 15 May 2019 could mean difficult choices for mixed-age couples, deciding whether to live together or separately.

The law has changed so that, from that date, a "mixed age couple" (in which one partner is a pensioner and the other is under pension age) will be considered to be a "working age couple" for the purposes of means-tested benefits. This means that if they apply for benefits after that date, they will need to apply for Universal Credit instead of Pension Credit, leaving them much worse off financially, as the standard rate of Pension Credit guarantee is paid at a higher level than the standard rate of Universal Credit.

From 15 May, both partners in a couple will need to have reached state pension age in order to claim Pension Credit or pension-age Housing Benefit. Mixed-age couples will face a stark choice between living separately so that one of them can receive Pension Credit or living together and claiming Universal Credit.

However, the new ruling only applies to NEW claims, so those already receiving pensioner benefits before 15 May will keep those benefits unless their circumstances change.

If you are in a mixed-age relationship and claiming or expecting to claim benefits, Citizens Advice encourages you to examine your financial situation before the crucial date of 15 May. However, claims for Pension Credit

can be backdated for up to three months, so on or before 13 August 2019 claimants can start to receive these benefits if they meet the entitlement conditions on 14 May.

Legislation is changing quickly at the time of writing, so keep up with the latest information by visiting www.gov.uk. For help and support on this issue contact Citizens Advice in person or on Adviceline (03 444 111 444) or see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale.

Country market

'Spring is in the Air' at Wallingford Country Market on Friday 12th April, with an array of spring flowers and seasonal plants on the Gardening Table, and delicious home-baked items on the Baking Table, including some especially for Easter. Orders can be taken for most items we sell, including Simnel Cakes and decorated Easter sponges. Easter cards, small gifts and novelties will also be available, made by our talented crafters. So do pop in and see us at St Mary-le-More Church in the Market Place, open every Friday between 9.30am and 12 noon. You might be quite amazed at what's on sale.

Please note our Easter Market will be held on Maundy Thursday, 18th April, and not on Good Friday. New producers are always welcome – if interested, please visit us one Friday morning and speak with Alison, our Market Manager, or phone her on 681596.



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Past Times: Fire at Newnham Croft

from David Beasley

The picturesque house of Newnham Croft was located opposite St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh. It was built in 1903, after the site had been purchased in 1902 by Mr John Whittaker-Ellis, Lord Mayor of London in 1881. Newnham Croft was built by his relative Mr Corbould-Ellis. His wife, Mrs Eveline Corbould-Ellis was an excellent miniaturist painter, and her cameos of Queen Victoria and George V were exceptional. In June 1904 she gave an exhibition at Newnham Croft.

In 1909 the house was being rented by an author named Mr E le Breton Martin. On Monday 13th October, shortly before 9 o'clock in the morning, the kitchen chimney caught fire. The roof was made of thatch and Mr le Breton Martin used his garden hose to spray water onto the roof, but was unable to stop the fire spreading. With the help of employees from Wilders, Phillips and Bowden's, they started to remove the furniture from the bedrooms.

Mr le Breton Martin had a narrow escape: when attempting to remove some of his bedroom furniture he was struck on the back by a burning rafter, which also cut off his escape route through the bedroom door and he was forced to jump out of the window, a drop of some 15 feet.

Finally, the Wallingford Fire Brigade was called and they connected their hose to the South Oxford Water Company water main that was laid along the Street. Meanwhile, much of the furniture on the ground floor had been removed. By about 1pm the fire was put out, but most of the thatch had been destroyed and the rafters were exposed.

The fire damage had been confined to the roof, but there was a lot of water damage to the bedrooms and ground floor. The cost of the damage was put at £550.

The house was quickly repaired and the roof was tiled with slate. Newnham Croft was demolished in 1967 to construct the entrance to Thames Mead. This was a very attractive house and today its demolition would not have been allowed.



Wallingford U3A

In the 1920s London Underground posters advertised all day countryside outings to Edgware and Hounslow. At our March meeting, we learnt about more than just posters when Dr Graham Twemlow spoke on the Golden Age of Posters in Great Britain.

Coloured picture posters appeared first in Paris in the late 19th Century. Although they were difficult to produce, they rapidly became popular worldwide, bringing bright sheets of colour into grey urban life. Artists like Toulouse-Lautrec, Graham Sutherland, Eric Gill and Paul Nash designed some, reproductions of which can now be found for sale in Ikea!

Advertisements were not always accurate. One railway poster in the 1920s made Southport look like the French Riviera. A contemporary photograph of the huddled reality showed it differently! "Skegness is so bracing" was cheerfully more honest.

Wonderfully illustrated, Dr Twemlow's talk kept us fascinated and laughing through this slice of British history. We are grateful to him.

On 3rd April our speaker is His Honour Patrick Eccles QC, a former Judge, who will talk about his work in the judiciary.

On 25th April we visit Bletchley Park, the home of the WWII Code Breakers and birthplace of the modern computer. There are also interesting gardens and several cafes on site.

For more details of outings please phone 01865 858024. U3A meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall, with tea, biscuits and conviviality following. Visitors are welcome. Why not drop by to a Wednesday meeting and see what you think?

For more details of what we do please visit our website: u3awebsites.org.uk/Wallingford, or phone Marilyn on 651692 or Jill on 835994.

Allotments available

A few full-size and half-size plots are vacant at the Parish Council's Botany Allotments off Cox's Lane. For further details please apply to the parish clerk (see page 16).

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What's on at the Wallingford Corn Exchange

Dead Funny, 10th-13th April

Sinodun Players present the comic play by Terry Johnson. When the members of the Dead Funny Society learn that Benny Hill has died, they decide to honour him with a memorial get together. Set in 1990s London, an hilarious and poignant comedy about morality and marriage. Warning: Adults only.

Live screenings

Tuesday 23rd April, 7:30pm The King and I. £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s) Recorded at the London Palladium.

Thursday 25th Apr 7:30pm NT Live: All about Eve. £12.50 (adults), £10 (seniors & under 18s) Recorded at the Noël Coward Theatre in London's West End.

Tuesday 30th April, 6:45pm Royal Opera: Faust. £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s) Live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London.

Cinema

All films start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated. Please look on www.cornexchange.org.uk for further updates on screenings.

Thursday 18th April, 7:30pm Monty Python's Life of Brian (15)

Friday 26th April and Saturday 27th April, 7:30pm Fisherman's Friends (12A)

Monday 29th April 7:30pm Capernaum (15)

Temporary road closure

Notice has been given that these roads in Wallingford will be closed to all vehicular traffic between 10am and 4pm for the St George's Day celebrations on Saturday 27th April:

- ◆ St Martin's Street from the High Street to St Leonard's Square, including the Market Place
- ◆ St Mary's Street to St Leonard's Square

Know this isn't Love – coercive control campaign

Victims First, which supports victims of crime and abuse across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, has launched a campaign to raise awareness of coercive control and emotional abuse in relationships.

The campaign is called 'Know this isn't Love' and focuses on early warning signs of controlling behaviour and emotional abuse to help victims identify any potential signs within their own relationships and seek support.

Coercive control became a criminal offence in 2015 and involves an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse by a perpetrator that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim.

Although many people associate domestic abuse with physical violence, coercive control recognises the damaging impact of other forms of abuse in relationships as well.

Some examples of this type of abuse include: isolation from friends and family, depriving someone of basic needs such as food, monitoring their time and activities, taking control over aspects of their everyday life (e.g. where they can go, who they can see, what they can wear and when they can sleep), repeatedly putting them down, such as saying 'you're worthless', humiliating, degrading or dehumanising them, controlling their finances, as well as threats or intimidation.

The campaign focuses on various aspects of emotional abuse and controlling behaviour, told through both male and female examples and including examples from same-sex relationships.

Victims First is managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley and supports all victims of crime regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police.

Anyone who needs support can contact Victims First on 0300 1234 148 or make an online referral at www.victims-first.org.uk



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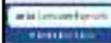


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Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services for April

Sunday 7th	11am	Family Service
Wednesday 10th	7.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Saturday 13th	10am	Crowmarsh Community Café, Village Hall
Palm Sunday 14th	10am	Procession with donkey, Brightwell
Maundy Thursday 18th	7pm	Shared supper with Brightwell congregations
Good Friday 19th	11am	United Service in Wallingford Market Place
Holy Saturday 20th	8pm	Easter Vigil Service, St James's Sotwell
Easter Sunday 21st	11am	Family Festival Communion and Easter egg hunt
Sunday 28th	11am	Sunday Service

Morning Prayer every Friday at 9am, Evening Prayer every Sunday at 4pm

Full details at www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar

At our Family Services on the first Sunday of each month, we are now using a screen instead of service booklets and hymnbooks. This allows us to use an increasing variety of sung worship, including modern worship songs as well as well-known traditional hymns, so please join us if you can and help us shape our worship together. Our next family service, on Sunday 7th April, will be followed by the opening of the new play and gym equipment on the rec, so join us for both, starting at 11am in the church.

There are several other special events and services this Springtime and for Holy Week:

The Church APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) includes all the financial and other reports for 2018 and will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th April in the church.

On Palm Sunday 14th April we join the congregations of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell for the procession led by a donkey leaving St James', Sotwell at 10am to St Agatha's, Brightwell where we will hear a dramatised reading of the story of the Passion of Christ.

Maundy Thursday on 18th April, 7pm: we join the Brightwell congregations for a shared supper – a sit-down meal during which we will recall Jesus' "Last Supper" with his disciples.

Good Friday, 19th April: join the Churches Together in the Wallingford Market Place for a united act of worship (10.45 for 11am start). We then observe "The Final Hour" with a service reflecting on the cross from 2pm in our own church here at St Mary Magdalene's.

Holy Saturday / Easter Eve 20th April: St James's Sotwell will host an Easter Vigil Service at 8pm with the lighting of the Easter Fire at sundown, followed by meditative readings and prayers and a renewal of baptismal vows as we anticipate Easter.

Easter Sunday 21st April: at 11am we celebrate in our Family Festival Communion Service will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

We hope to see you soon as we journey through Holy Week and Easter and the joyful activities ahead.

Blessings, Rev Kev



The turbulent lifetime of Thomas Vachell

Tony Hadland will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) on Wednesday 10th April about the turbulent lifetime of Thomas Vachell.

Thomas Vachell was the heir of an old Reading gentry family. His wife was a Reade from Abingdon. His story spans five monarchs and four changes of religion. He became the most fined man in Oxfordshire, his wealth was seized in a government raid and, as a result of 'swimming against the tide', he fell out with his wife. Thomas Vachell's story illustrates some of the huge changes England went through in the Tudor and early Stuart era – but it has a fairly happy ending!

Our speaker is a retired chartered building surveyor, information scientist and operational risk manager. Today, Tony is a historian, writer and broadcaster specialising in bicycle history and various aspects of local and family history. Since retiring the first time, he has been administrator of the Vale & Downland Museum and editor of Oxfordshire Family Historian.

The talk will start at 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan
www.twhas.org.uk

Sue Ryder sale dates

The next Sales of Donated Goods are on Saturdays 6th and 27th April and 18th May, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on weekdays between 9am and 4.30pm, but we cannot accept goods on sale day or the day before. The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames RG9 5DF.

Please call 641384 ext 246 for further information.

Poos from the Past



For many people the idea of excavating old human poo is disgusting! Not so for archaeologists, who call them 'coprolites'. Coprolites can include loads of evidence to help understand what people ate in the past and how they prepared their food. They can tell archaeologists about past eating habits, trading of foodstuffs and much more.

During the Easter holidays (9, 11, 16, 18 April), Wallingford Museum will hold 12 one-hour workshops in their new meeting room to explore this subject! This will give families a hands-on experience of excavation, recording and analysing the contents of **fake** coprolites. The challenge will be to work out from which time period they came and share their findings with members of the workshop. If time allows, you will also look at food timelines to discover which foods were introduced and when!

We expect these workshops to be popular, and so advance booking is required. This activity is suitable for ages 7 to adult, but children must be accompanied by an adult. It is free to children and season ticket holders. Adults accompanying children will pay a charge of £5 for an annual season ticket.

Please see www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk for full details including online booking.

Wallingford Town Walks

The popular Saturday morning Guided Historic Town Walks will start again at 11am on Saturday 6 April 2019 from the Town Hall. Walks last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head, which will be donated to support Wallingford Museum.

These general walks cover the rich history of our town, but also touch on the links with Agatha Christie and 'Midsomer Murders'. They will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

If you'd like to organise a Town Walk like this for your group / society / school at a different time, then please contact Philip Burton on 836200 or pburton6@talktalk.net.

On-call Firefighters needed

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service are looking for On-call Firefighters to join their team!

Do you want to earn extra money, serve your community and save lives in a rewarding role? If so, a career as an On-call Firefighter might be just the thing for you.

On-call Firefighters are the backbone of the fire service and anyone can be one. If you're employed full-time, are a parent, out of employment or just have some spare time, you can respond to emergency calls.

On-call Firefighters are trained and paid for their time and service. On average they can expect to be called out two or three times each week for about an hour at a time – this can be at night or during the day.

We are looking for anyone over the age of 18, who is physically fit (this can be worked on), enthusiastic, reliable and honest, with good common sense, who doesn't suffer from vertigo, claustrophobia or a dislike of the sight of blood.

If this sounds of interest, please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters.

Wallingford Photographic Club

On Thursday 4th April Ted Kinsey will give a presentation on 'Large projects – it's more than just clicking the shutter'.

On the 11th there will be two club competitions, one a Portfolio of 4 images, and the other on the theme of Architecture. On the 18th is a Members' evening covering a range of topics and on the 25th there is a presentation by Colin Harrison FRPS on 'I Did It My Way'.

Visitors are welcome to club meetings every Thursday in Crowmarsh Pavilion at 7.30 for 8pm. More information on the club's website www.wallingfordphoto.club

John Howell MP writes

Crime has been in the news this month. In our constituency rural crime is a problem and it was good to see the police have a 'Rural Crime Week' at the beginning of the month to draw attention to the problem of rural crime which can impact on insurance premiums, food prices and damage local communities not to mention

the damage to livelihood and the emotional impact on victims.

Knife crime has hit the news headlines too with fatal attacks. I meet regularly with our local police Superintendent and both rural and knife crime will be high on the agenda at my next meeting. However, I am aware that constituents will be concerned that one crime is not overly prioritised to the detriment of another. Balance is important.

You can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or at PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. My website is at www.johnhowellimp.com and Parliament's is at www.parliament.uk. You can follow me on Twitter @JHowellUK or Facebook www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire

Letter to the editors

In the March 2019 on page 17 I was amazed at the parish council's response to SODC of "no objections" to the Land off Benson Lane application, (1) Layout of site not suited" and "already congested" etc., (2) "Drainage system could cause flooding". If those aren't grounds for objection then what would be?

Yours faithfully,
Trevor Cotton, 9 Benson Lane

[In response: The parish council did object to this and previous applications on this site on flooding and sustainability, but they were rejected at the committee and public inquiry stages. At the meeting in February we had no grounds to refuse the details of layout and design, but wanted to reiterate those points.]

Inspiration for environmental change

Sustainable Wallingford's AGM will feature short talks by three local people taking action to live without single-use plastic or chemicals and reducing food waste.

Come and hear how they are managing or not! Refreshments and socialising afterwards.

Monday 29th April, 7.30pm to 9.45pm at St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford.

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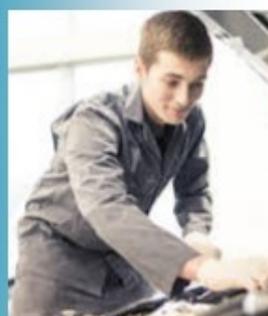
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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523

email: johngriffin@phonecoop.coop

Parish Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford

Website: <http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php>

Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 7th March

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Denise Hall, David Rowley, Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Francesca Jones, Stuart Soames, Liz Ryall, Fleur Stevenson and Patricia Millar, Sue Rance (Clerk) and Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer), County Councillor Mark Gray and District Councillor Sue Cooper.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Topliss.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

The replacement noticeboards have been installed and Cllr Jones was thanked for all her hard work on this project.

The Finance Officer confirmed that the new grass cutting contractor has sufficient public liability insurance cover. A new online payments system allows the Finance Officer to put invoices onto the system but all payments must be authorised by two councillors.

A useful meeting was held to discuss plans for the District Council's new offices and to express our wish for high environmental standards and flexible community facilities, as well as parking for weekend events.

Finance

Payments made in February were approved including £810 to Arrow Fencing for installing new noticeboards and £480 for new arches at the playground. Two payments to Eibe for £36,000 and £34,000 for the new playground were discussed but not confirmed for payment until itemized invoices are received.

The financial summary for the year to date showed income £178,000 and expenditure £202,000. The playground project affected the

figures significantly.

It was agreed to donate £100 to Clean Slate, an organisation providing support for victims of abuse in Oxfordshire.

Allotment invoices for the coming year will be sent out in April. There are three vacant plots and applications are invited.

District Councillor's report

Cllr Sue Cooper reported that Bin Zone recycling wheels, giving information on recycling and waste, will be distributed with Crowmarsh News. The SODC council tax levy is to increase by about £5 per annum for a Band D house.

The Newnham Manor development application, the Parish Council's preferred housing site, is expected to go to committee in April. The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 consultation will finish on 24th March.

County Councillor's report

Cllr Mark Gray reported that the OCC council tax levy is to increase by about £42 for a Band D house. This is regrettable but necessary because of cuts in funding from central government.

Street lamps are to be replaced over the next 3-4 years with lower energy LED units, giving savings within the next four years. The new ones will have electric car charging points. It may be possible to switch them off at night if appropriate.

The results of speed checks last summer have now been received and need analysing.

The County Council will spend one billion pounds from borrowing and growth deals on infrastructure over the next ten years. This will focus on roads and schools. Contributions from developers will be used to pay back the money borrowed.

Councillor Gray is compiling a list of roads which are in a bad state and suggestions were put to him of several in the parish that need urgent attention.

In future when utility service companies need to carry out work in the road, they will have to apply for permission from the County Council before they start, which should improve coordination. Cllr Gray will ask for details of expenditure of the contributions received from the Stephens Field developers in connection with the access and parking issues. Residents will be asked for their views before any decisions are made. Cllr Johnson asked for improved signage to the recreation ground from The Street.

A Community Transport Officer has been appointed. There is spare capacity for the Comet minibus service in the Wallingford area. Cllr Millar will report the untidy state of the grid over the culvert at North Stoke, and ask the County Council to remove the orange fencing.

Planning

Decisions by SODC:

P18/S4209/HH: Two-storey rear extension to form a ground floor family room and additional bedroom at first floor. Infill extension to form downstairs WC with window. 3 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EU: PERMISSION GRANTED.

P19/S0022/FUL: Construction of a steel portal framed building to be used as a grain store. Lonesome Farm, OX10 6PS: PERMISSION GRANTED.

Parish Council responses to SODC:

P19/S0067/FUL: Proposed single storey building for sample storage to reasonably extend and support the specific activities which take place on site and enhance the existing use. Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Maclean Building, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BB: RECOMMEND APPROVAL (Cllrs Griffin and Johnson declared an interest and took no part in this decision).

P19/S0440/LDP (Lawful Development): Creation of new vehicular access to an unclassified road (un-named) and hardstanding. Blenheim Farm Barns, Icknield Way, OX10 6PR: NO COMMENTS ALLOWED

by the Parish Council.

P19/S0441/FUL: Conversion of former commercial pottery barn to form a single dwelling, together with associated parking and vehicular access amendments. Blenheim Farm Barns, Icknield Way, OX10 6PR: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P19/S0456/N4C: Change of use from agricultural to B8 storage and distribution for Barn A (haybarn). Blenheim Farm Barns, Icknield Way, OX10 6PR: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P19/S0691/FUL: Amendment to planning permission P15/S3387/FUL to amend the fenestration of residential plots 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 87, 25, 52, 57, 53, 54, 70, 71, 83, 84 and 85. CAB International, Nosworthy Way, Mongewell, OX10 8DE: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

Neighbourhood Plan

A meeting is to be arranged of the Steering Group to discuss the implications to the Neighbourhood Plan of the SODC Draft Local Plan 2011-2034.

Environment & recreation ground

The committee met on Monday 18th February. Quotes are being obtained for repairing or replacing the shutters and electrical safety work is to go ahead. The hard courts had been pressure washed. Consideration is to be given to converting one of the redundant changing rooms to provide a Parish Council office.

Update on playground and gym project

The play area is almost complete and most of the planting has been done. The Finance Officer has contacted the council's insurers to ensure that the necessary insurance cover is in place. The picnic benches near the zip wire need a suitable surface underneath. The temporary safety fencing will be kept up after handover to protect the grass until 5th April, just before the official opening.

A vote of thanks was made to Cllrs Johnson and Rowley and all those involved for carrying this tremendous project through to completion.

Councillor Lorraine Hillier, Chairman of SODC, will perform the opening ceremony on Sunday

7th April at 12.30 for 12.45. All are welcome. The cubs and scouts will run a barbecue, the pre-school will have a cake stall and the Roke and Benson Brass Band will provide music.

Traffic and transport

Cllr Sherbourne reported that signs powered by mains electricity would require an arrangement with Scottish and Southern Electricity and they could not be moved once fixed. After discussion it was agreed that two solar-powered signs would be purchased.

Cllr Jones was thanked for representing Crowmarsh as Parish Transport Rep for many years. Several points were noted from the meeting held on 20th February. Mr Chris Strange will obtain a quote from RefreshPro for cleaning graffiti from the three bus shelters in Crowmarsh.

Strategic priorities

The proposed pedestrian crossing at Portway on the A4074 remains at the top of the strategic priorities list, followed by a crossing in The Street at Crowmarsh. Cllr Sherbourne suggested that a residents' survey could be carried out inviting ideas for other projects: this will be discussed at the June meeting.

Outside bodies

Planning permission has been granted for an extension to the village hall.

Cllr Ryall had been unable to attend the River Users' Group 3 meeting on 28th February, but it was reported that a 5.7% increase in the licence fee has been approved for 2019 / 2020, the cost of the public moorings in Wallingford will go up to £10 per night and it has been decided to bring back resident lock and weir keepers at every lock.

Other matters

The revised emergency plan was approved and will be circulated to SODC, the County Council and to all listed in the document. Cllr Jones was thanked for her painstaking work on this. A new coordinator will be needed.

The District Council had asked for suggestions of street names for the CABI housing development: seven names were put forward.

Elections

Elections for parish and district councillors are to be held on Thursday 2nd May. Nominations are invited for new parish councillors: the deadline for submitting nomination forms to SODC is 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April. Forms are available from the parish clerk or SODC.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 4th April at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall starting at 7pm (note earlier start time). Highways officers Ian Marshall and Jason Sherwood will attend the meeting to discuss the proposed Toucan crossing at Portway.

The Annual Parish Meeting for all electors will be held at the school on Thursday 16th May at 7.00 for 7.30pm, subject to the school hall being available. All are welcome.

Short Mat Bowls takes place at the Pavilion on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm. For more information, please call Don on 202543

You can hire the Dance Studio, Sports Hall or the Astroturf at Wallingford School.

Call Wilson Chong on 829762, or email Leisure-centre@wallingfordschool.com

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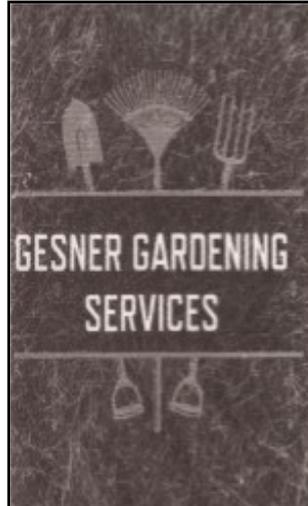
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WHAT'S ON — APRIL 2019

Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	09.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary-le-More Church or Market Place, Wallingford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Various days	Different times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford	Different places
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family service on the first Sunday of the month	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh

This month

Wednesday 3rd	16.00	Deadline for local election nominations	SODC offices, Milton Park
Wednesday 3rd	14.00 onwards	U3A: A Judge's Life	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 4th	19.00 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 6th	10.30 onwards	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 6th	11.00 onwards	Guided Historic Walks [restart]	Meet Wallingford Town Hall
Sunday 7th	12.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Playground and Outdoor Gym: Grand Opening	Crowmarsh Recreation Ground
Sunday 7th	13.30 onwards	CTC 25-mile cycle ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 10th	19.45 onwards	Henley Philatelic: Ireland 1900-1930	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 13th	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Easter Weekend 19th - 22nd	All Day	Easter Trains	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Friday 19th	10.45 onwards	Good Friday United Worship	Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 21st	11.00 onwards	Easter Sunday Service & Egg Hunt	St Mary Magdalene Church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Sunday 21st	13.30 onwards	CTC 32-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 24th	19.45 onwards	Henley Philatelic: Reflections on Overseas Exhibiting	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 27th	19.00 for 19.30	Crowmarsh Pre-School quiz	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Monday 29th	19.30 onwards	Sustainable Wallingford AGM	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford

May

Wednesday 1st	14.00 onwards	U3A: History of Cartoons	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 2nd	07.00 - 22.00	Local elections for District and Parish Councils	Crowmarsh Village Hall & North Stoke Village Hall
Thursday 9th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall