

Crowmarsh News

April 2015

Issue 439

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 currently 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 – £7.50
- 3 months – £21.00
- 6 months – £39.00

Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £25.00 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: James and Toni Taylor

Editorial support: John Griffin

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 May 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 Editor at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

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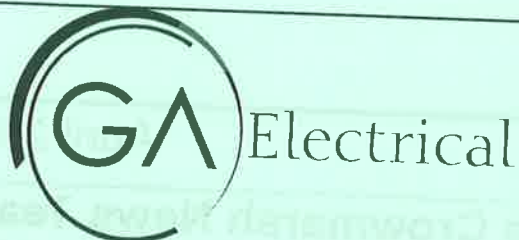


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Local Plan exhibition

More than 60 residents came to the latest Local Plan exhibition run by South Oxfordshire District Council and Crowmarsh Parish Council in the Pavilion on Saturday 14th March.

Thanks for all your comments and ideas about the shortlist of sites proposed for housing over the next 15 years. The District Council will consider all these local views in drawing up detailed plans for the village. SODC is looking to allocate land for at least 48 homes at Crowmarsh Gifford.

The short-listed sites are the Newnham Manor caravan park (site ref. CRO6) and the land south of that (CRO7 – using only part of this site). Both these sites proved the most popular for development with local people at the last two exhibitions, and they were again well received this time. The main comments raised were support for re-using this partly brownfield site close to the centre of the village, and suggestions about access options to the A4074 to avoid adding to road safety concerns outside the school.

To find out more see the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 Refined Options document at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/options>: follow the link to 'larger village allocations' and to 'how to comment'. The consultation runs until Thursday 2nd April. The next stage after this will be a consultation on preferred options in the autumn.

Crowmarsh Cricket Club

...is looking for new players of all abilities.

Did you play cricket at school and fancy getting back into it? Would you like to try a new sport? Would you like to meet new local people in a relaxed sociable environment?

We play our home games at the Crowmarsh Recreation Ground. Friendly matches are on Sunday afternoons and 20/20 games on Wednesday evenings. For more information, see <http://www.crowmarshcc.org.uk> or call Justin on 07825 896837.

Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number	101

Parish Council elections – could you join the Parish Council?

Alongside the General Election on Thursday 7th May, we will also have elections for South Oxfordshire District Council and Crowmarsh Parish Council (which includes Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell).

The parish council has 12 seats: nine for Crowmarsh Gifford plus three for North Stoke and Mongewell. All 12 are up for election this year and anyone on the electoral roll in the parish, working in the parish or living within three miles can be eligible.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, nomination forms (available on the District Council website) need to be handed in by 4pm on 9th April at the Old Abbey House, Abingdon. This is not as convenient as usual since the SODC offices in Crowmarsh were destroyed. If you require any advice or a copy of the form, please contact me or look on the SODC website, <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/elections-0>.

Voter registration has changed, so there is extra publicity about how to make sure you are registered to vote in all three elections. Do contact the District Council if you have not had a confirmation letter.

John Griffin

29 Thames Mead, tel 838523,
email johngriffin@phonecoop.coop

Compost news

Agrivert (who run the composting and anaerobic digestion site near the A4074 by the RAF Benson airfield) are now providing compost to both the Botany allotments and the Emery & Owen Trust Allotments. A group of local residents enjoyed a guided visit to the facility on 7th March.

To book the Pavilion or Hardcourt area in Crowmarsh...

phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or
e-mail chrisstrange47@gmail.com

Crowmarsh Pre-School

This term the children have been enjoying learning about St David's Day, World Book Week, Mothers, Green, St Patrick's Day and Easter.

For World Book Day the children and adults enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters and along with a book stall, the pre-school managed to raise £45 towards books for children in Africa.

On Saturday 9th May the pre-school will be running its annual quiz at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Tickets will be available to buy from 1st April at Crowmarsh Stores or directly from the pre-school. We will also be holding an amazing raffle on the night with prizes including:

1st prize – two-course dinner for four with wine at The Queen's Head, Crowmarsh

2nd prize – day pass for two adults and two children to Blenheim Palace

3rd prize – bottle of Bollinger champagne

Some of our parents will be going round the village selling raffle tickets with all the money raised going directly to the pre-school and its children.

The pre-school is collecting 'Active kids' vouchers from Sainsbury's and would welcome any donations of these.

As the demand for the pre-school is continuing to grow we have now started a waiting list. If you have a child who you would like to attend Crowmarsh pre-school we suggest registering early to avoid disappointment.

Crowmarsh Pre-school has been rated outstanding by Ofsted and has a strong emphasis on learning through play. We are open to all children between the ages of two and five years old and provide the perfect (and FUN) preparation for children getting ready to start school.

We offer two sessions a day during term time. Morning session 8.45am / 9am-12pm and an afternoon session 12pm-3pm. Lunch club is 12pm-1pm and may be added on to the morning session. To find out more information about the pre-school please call our Manager, Dilys

Beaumont, for a chat on 07951 599623, or e-mail Vikki at admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk

Crowmarsh Gifford School

It seems that the year is just flying by. We are almost coming to the end of another academic year!

The children have been very busy over the past term. Topics have been ranging from Rivers, to Space, to Tudors, to Birds. Year 2 have been writing postcards from the Moon and Year 6 have been writing prose that truly takes your breath away.

Our children are pushing themselves to be their very best every day. They are constantly challenging themselves. We now see children excited by making mistakes because they realise that they are 'learning'. They now understand the difference between a silly mistake and a 'learning' mistake. They don't give up..... they are resilient..... they have grit.

There has been a real focus on Science with the visit of the Explorer Dome where children get to gaze up to the stars and planets. The inflatable dome takes over our hall every year and gives every child the chance to learn new and exciting things about the solar system. Children also took part in investigations and experiments regarding the solar eclipse on 20th March. Some children were able to just make out the eclipse in the hazy skies while others watched it live from a webcam in their classrooms.

Our school has just achieved the Foundation Level International School's Award. It celebrates the multicultural work that we do across school through different events, activities and international links. This award highlights the hard work of the staff in ensuring that the children learn about the world around them in an engaging and 'hands on' way. We now look forward to working towards the next tier of this award!

Finally, we hope that you and your families have a very blessed Easter. As always, we welcome you to visit our school or to come in to volunteer or listen to readers. If you are

interested, please just phone Mrs Rance in the school office.

Mrs Barton
Headteacher

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next dates for the Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 4th and 25th April – 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm. We regret we are unable to accept goods on Sale Day or the day before.

Volunteers are always needed to select and allocate donated goods and to assist with Sales. The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF, phone 641070.

Wallingford & District Art Club

Wallingford and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm at Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane. On 21 April, artist Robert Newcombe will demonstrate painting in an Impressionist style using gouache and you are most welcome to join us for what is always an entertaining and interesting evening (visitors £5, members free). And why not come along to a FREE taster session at one of the untutored painting evenings we have on all other Tuesdays? Just bring your own materials and ideas. Or simply come to have a look round and a friendly chat. Do ring or e-mail me if you would like more information on this or on the other exciting demonstrations we shall be having each month.

Stephanie Toole

825042 / toole.stephanie@yahoo.co.uk

To book North Stoke Village Hall

contact Nikki Arnfeld

– 839736, 07969 788766, or

narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk

or Stuart Soames

– 836058, or

sjwsoames@btinternet.com



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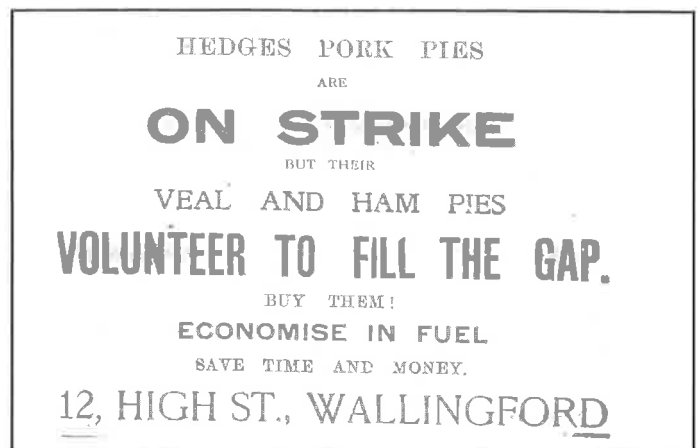
The 1926 General Strike

The 1926 General Strike lasted nine days, from Tuesday 4th to Thursday 13th May. The strike was called by the General Council of the Trade Union Congress in an unsuccessful attempt to force Stanley Baldwin's Government to prevent wage reduction and the worsening of conditions for 800,000 locked-out miners. Their wages had been reduced since the end of the First World War, from £6 a week to £3 18s (£3.90p) a week. In fact the Samuel Commission, (a Royal Commission that looked into miners' wages and conditions) recommended a wage reduction of 13.5%.

The Government had prepared for the strike over the previous nine months. They used the Army and raised large numbers of volunteers, largely from the middle-classes, who were able to maintain the essential services. Unlike the miners' strikes of the 1970s, there was little violence, in fact there were several accounts of football matches being played between the strikers and the police. There were society girls peeling potatoes and running soup kitchens in Hyde Park, Oxbridge undergrads and retired army officers driving trains and trams, but England-Australia Test matches carried on as normal.

On 12th May, the TUC visited Downing Street and stated that they would end the strike if the Government would make the employers take back the striking miners. This, the Government refused to do. Thus, the TUC was forced to end the dispute without any such agreement.

The first thing that happened in Wallingford was that Special Constables were called out to patrol the town and Crowmarsh throughout the night. The railway workers at Wallingford Station ceased work on Monday night, but reported for work after a few days on strike. Wallingford Grammar School's annual sports day was postponed indefinitely. On 5th May, a Food and Coal Committee was formed in Wallingford for the whole Borough and Crowmarsh. Major Hugh Rankin was the Officer in charge of securing voluntary assistance. After three days he had secured the services of 42 ladies and 99 men from Wallingford and Crowmarsh.



As the rail workers were on strike most goods had to be transported by road; all the lorries were driven by volunteer drivers, usually during the night. It was found necessary to set up a canteen in the Market Place which was open from 11pm until 6am, and was run by Mrs Rogerson, Mrs Hedges, Mrs Nelson and Miss Hendley.

The Emergency News bulletins were broadcast to the public from loudspeakers set up on the verandah of the Berks and Oxon Advertiser's Office (next door to the Dolphin Public House). The larger shops in Wallingford also had wireless loudspeakers set up inside. Arthur Jenkins, the news agent, put loudspeakers on a van and drove around Crowmarsh; this allowed the news to reach the villagers.

To help with the shortage of coal, two trees were cut down in the Kine Croft, and the wood was distributed to houses throughout the town. Sir George Rowley, of Riverside, Wallingford, who was enrolled as special constable, placed his car at the disposal of the police. The car was used on two occasions to take a prisoner from Wallingford to Oxford jail.

When the Strike ended, a service of Thanksgiving was held at St Mary's Church.

The miners, however, continued with the strike until November, when most went back to work. They were forced to accept lower wages and longer hours, and many were not offered jobs and so were unemployed for many years. The strikers must have felt they had achieved nothing.

Benson Community Health Fair

Can playing the trombone boost your immune system?

What is the difference between Exerstrider and Nordic Walking?

Legal / illegal drugs. What's the difference?

Is your blood pressure within the normal range? In fact, what is the normal range?

When you should go to A&E? Is it better to go to the Surgery if it is open?

What is the first aid treatment for severe bleeding?

Who can help if someone close to you is affected by cancer?

Where can you find ideas for healthy eating recipes?

Is boccia an illness, a sport or a medicine?

How often should smoke detector batteries be checked?

How is the NHS funded?

How can Lloyds Pharmacy support you?

The answers to these questions, and many more, can be found at the Benson Community Health Fair to be held on Saturday 25 April from 10-1pm in the Benson Parish Hall. We are looking forward to an informative, entertaining and fun event, with opportunities to ask questions of health experts, find out about healthy living, and have a go at various sports and activities. There will be a treasure hunt around the Fair and free refreshments.

It is never too early to start thinking about our health, and the Fair will provide something for everyone aged from 0 to 100. There will be short talks from surgery staff and representatives of health related organisations, on topics ranging from A Day in the Life of Millstream Surgery to Emergency First Aid, Mental Health, Parenting Teenagers and Living with Cancer. There will be activity taster sessions, from the gentle Tai Chi and Exerstrider, to the more active Zumba and Nordic Walking. A Health Walk and a Benson Striders run will take place during the morning and there will be table tennis and tennis, a rowing machine, Tai Chi, Zumba, Nordic Walking and more.

The Fire Service plan to bring a Fire Engine and Thames Valley Police will bring a police car; they will be sharing the Parish Hall Car

Park with the Bicycle Repair man who will be offering bike health checks.

It's important to keep our brains healthy too, and the Fair will also focus on mental, emotional and social health. Local clubs and groups have been invited to display publicity information, and some of them will take an active part in the event. For example, the Roke and Benson Brass Band will join us, and they are keen to attract new players. Research shows that playing a musical instrument can bring physical and mental health benefits – it can lower blood pressure, decrease heart rate, reduce stress, and lessen anxiety and depression – to say nothing of the potential social health benefits of playing in a band or orchestra and making new friends.

Look out for the full programme which will be available from early April in the Benson Library, Millstream Surgery and Lloyds Pharmacy. Entrance to the fair is free, and whatever your age we are confident that you will find ideas, information and opportunities. We hope to see you there.

Fenella Galpin, Benson Patients Panel
email: bensonhealthfair@gmail.com

Everyday First Aid course

PiP, the Wallingford Patient Group, is organising a one-hour course to brush-up patients' everyday skills in first aid.

Jill Organ from The Red Cross will be giving the talk in St Mary's Church, Market Place, Wallingford on Tuesday 19th May starting at 2.30pm, doors opening at 2.10pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served following the talk. Patients registered at Wallingford Medical Practice are invited to attend.

To cover overheads there will be a charge of £5 per person. Please send your cheque (non-refundable) made payable to "Wallingford Patients in Partnership", with your name, telephone number and email address (if you have one) to Mrs Valerie Wolsey (PiP), 30 Goldsmith's Lane, Wallingford, OX10 0DN. Tel: 836820. If a receipt is required, please enclose an SAE. Applications will close on Monday 11th May, so be sure not to miss this opportunity!



'Living History' – the Roman Army



Roman Oxfordshire

Wallingford Museum is pleased to present an extra event this year to coincide with schools' Easter holiday.

This special event will be a 'Living History' display of the range of equipment Roman legions used for body armour, weapons, pottery, clothing, boots and even the skin cleaning Strigil tool. This event will be run by expert John Smith, and will include short talks, displays, and opportunity for lots of questions. All children will receive a Latin diploma!

Come along and learn why the Roman Army came to Oxfordshire and Wallingford, at the Museum on Friday 10 April from 2 to 5pm.

Entry is by Museum ticket at the door – £4 per adult (which gives unlimited entry until 28 November) but accompanied children are FREE.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

... and Historic guided walks

By popular demand on Saturday 11th April, two historic guided walks have been arranged, which will be led by Judy Dewey (local historian and Museum curator).

At 11am there will be a Castle history walk, followed by a Town history walk at 2.30pm. Each walk lasts about 2 hours, and starts at the Museum. There is a charge of £5 for each walk (sorry, unsuitable for dogs!).

So, why not immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history for the whole day and also visit the new 'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed', and 'Magna Carta and All That' exhibitions at the Museum?

Just come along or contact Judy Dewey for details, tel 651127. You can also visit www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

April's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by John Smith. He will present 'Roman Oxfordshire'.

Historian and archaeologist John Smith returns with a further talk, which examines the role and effect of the Roman Army in Oxfordshire. Beyond the first century arrival of the Roman Army and administration, there is a continuing role for the Army in construction, peacekeeping, and recruitment. The soldier's equipment changes from 1st to 4th centuries. The important Roman military site at Alchester will feature throughout the talk.

This talk will be held on Friday 10th April, 7.45 for 8pm, at Wallingford Town Hall. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.
www.twhas.org.uk

Wallingford Gardening Club Shrubs of Distinction

At the April meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, John Negus will talk about "Shrubs of Distinction". This will cover varieties prized for flowers, leaves, berries and bark.

Photo-journalist John Negus (Dip Hort Wisley) enjoys sharing his passion for gardening and other outdoor pursuits. He specialises in trees, shrubs and climbers, and lectures regularly. John broadcasts on Radio Surrey and Sussex, and on board cruise liners.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th April.

Visitors will be very welcome for a fee of £2.

Advance notice: Saturday 9th May – Plant sale in Wallingford Market Place.

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836867

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Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers

Walks for April

Sunday 12th

14:00 SU526882 Moderate 5-9 miles

Meet at Upper Cross, East Hagbourne, near the church for a monthly village ramble which varies from 5 to 9 miles at a quick pace. Contact Paul Chambers, 01235 816365.

Tuesday 14th

10:15 SU552993 Moderate 10.5 miles

The actual walk starts at Nuneham Courtney at the bus stop near the pub. Join the leader starting at Benson Marina bus stop for 09:55 X39 bus towards Oxford. This is a linear walk via Marsh Baldon and Drayton St Leonard to Benson. Please bring packed lunch. Registered Assistance Dogs only. Contact Barry Cowlard, on 838707.

Sunday 26th

10:00 SU718886 Moderate 8 miles

Meet at Maidensgrove on the common near bends in road. This is a Bluebell walk via Green Wood. Please bring packed lunch. Dogs on short leads please. Contact John Rust, on 836563.

Tuesday 28th

10:00 SU648912 Moderate 8 miles

Meet at Ewelme at Cow Common car park. This is a circular walk via Harcourt Hill, Ewelme Park, Swyncombe and Swyncombe Downs. Please bring packed lunch. Contact Richard Birch, 07719 692355.

Wallingford U3A

Our March speaker was Jill Carey, who was one of "Three Birders in the Bush". She began by assuring us that she was not a "Twitcher". Twitchers, she said, just count birds they have seen, whereas Birders observe and study wild birds in their natural habitat, (the birds' habitat that is).

This intrepid trio took their camper van, binoculars and cameras for six months on a

great sweep round Northern Australia, from Perth to Broome to Darwin, with a diversion to Alice Springs, and on to Brisbane. The result, for us, was a panorama of how amazingly beautiful Australia is, even away from the coast and into the vast Interior.

Mrs Carey's pictures of mountains, rivers and huge skies and spaces were remarkable. Brilliantly coloured birds came as startling extras, as did close-ups of plants, fruits, flowers and termites. A wonderful and exotic reminder for those of her audience who had been to Australia of what is there, and an incentive for those who had not been to get up and go if possible.

For your diary:

6th May, Dr Gillian White: Chatsworth and the Cavendish Family, 1550-1850

Our Programme of Talks for 2015-2016 can be seen on our website, as can the Programme of Outings for the next eight months. More details of what else we do can also be found on the website: www.u3asites.org.uk or phone Hermione on 01865 858024.

Our meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Visitors are made welcome. Tea and conversation after the talk. Come and join us.

Life of Riley

Sinodun Players' spring production is *Life of Riley*, a dark comedy by Alan Ayckbourn.

When friends of fun-loving schoolteacher George Riley learn he has only months to live, they vow to make his final days as happy and carefree as possible.

But their efforts result in questions regarding their own personal and marital relationships. In typical Ayckbourn style, there is a final surprise. And laughter is ever present as Ayckbourn, as always, cleverly observes the complacency, worries and angst of the middle classes.

Performances run from 15-18 April at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford at 7.45pm. Tickets are £10; www.cornexchange.org.uk.

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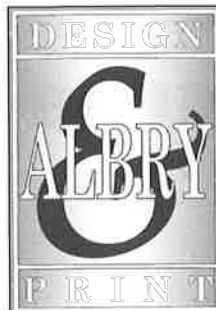
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email: jgoulston@btinternet.com
Churchwardens:
Sarah Nesbitt, tel: 825903
Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Services for April

Wednesday 1st		8pm	Service of Compline
Sunday 5th	Easter Day	6am	Sunrise Service
		11am	Easter Communion
Sunday 12th	Easter 2	9.30am	Team Communion, at St Agatha's Church, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
Sunday 19th	Easter 3	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 26th	Easter 4	11am	All Age Communion
		12.30pm	Baptism Service

The experts are informing us that we have had the warmest winter for many years! Maybe we have, but it has still felt very bitter to me at times, and the winter woollies have not yet been consigned to the back of the cupboard.

We have had lots of bad and sad things happen around the world and locally. But when the weather changes, we appear to change and we become more optimistic in our outlook and how we see things. We begin to hope for better times to come in the summer; and it is up to us to continue with these good feelings, because they are catching. Have you ever noticed, that if you smile at someone, they smile back, and that smile can transfer to others as you walk along? It is the same with feelings: have a good vibe about something, and you feel you must pass it on.

The first event on our calendar, will be Easter; following the season of Lent when there have been no beautiful things on show. On Easter Saturday there will be a buzz in the church, as we make it look beautiful again with candles, flowers and greenery. If anyone would like to come along and help, or to donate some flowers, please give me a call; I shall be pleased to speak with you.

On Easter Day, there will be the Sunrise Service at 6am, a bit early, but oh so rewarding, it makes the season of Lent all worthwhile,

and the Hallelujahs are more heart felt. We shall be having a simple breakfast in church following the Service. We shall have our Easter Morning Communion service as usual at 11am; following this will be the Easter egg hunt!

The following Sunday, 12th April, we shall be holding a Team Service. This will be held in our sister church of St Agatha's, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Please note that the service in that church starts at 9.30am. You will be most welcome to join with us.

April is a busy month one way or another; as it seems that this is when we set the timetable for the rest of the year. Easter is the first proper holiday, and we really get to grips with what we want to do for the rest of the year. On that theme, let me advise you that our planning is well on its way. This month we shall be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in church on Wednesday 15th April at 7.15pm. Everyone in the village is most welcome to come along. We shall start with light refreshments before the meeting starts at 7.30pm, when we shall have the first Agenda item, which will be the appointment of two Churchwardens for the ensuing year.

Please keep in your diary the dates for the Village Fete and Flower Festival, 13th and 14th June. The theme this year will be 'Kings

and Queens'. If you feel a burst of floral enthusiasm coming on, then please contact me, and I will point you in the right direction for help with the affliction!

Just keep a weather eye open for details of other events we have in the pipeline, by looking on the red notice board by the Lych Gate. We would love to see anyone who would like to attend the service of Easter Communion on Easter morning, when we could all share the good news of Easter.

With all good wishes

Margaret Foster, Churchwarden

Music at St Peter's, 2015

Music at St Peter's reaches its 30th season this year - thirty years of presenting top-class classical chamber music in the perfect acoustics of St Peter's Church, the church with the spire by Wallingford Bridge. And some excellent performers are lined up to mark this special anniversary year, starting on Saturday 16th May with the DeNote Ensemble playing an all-Mozart programme on period instruments.

Two internationally renowned singers will also be taking part in the season, the tenor John Mark Ainsley in May, and the counter-tenor James Bowman in August. Two String Quartets and a solo pianist, a cello and piano duo, and two locally-based ensembles, the Millbrook Ensemble and the Thames Consort, complete the programme.

All concerts are on Saturdays at 8pm. For a detailed brochure with full information about dates, programmes to be performed, and tickets, please send an email with your name and postal address to Laurence Attewill at laurence.attewill@gmail.com or phone him on 01865 343336.

If you've never been to one of these concerts before, literally feel free to try one by using our First-Timers Free scheme. And those between 8 and 25 years of age get free admission as well. See the brochure for details.

To book Crowmarsh Village Hall...

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Treehouse School 10k and Bunny Run

Are you worried about eating too much chocolate over Easter? The Treehouse School are awaiting your entries for their second 10K run to be held in the beautiful South Oxfordshire countryside. We had so many positive comments after last year's event that we felt we had to organise another one!

Once again the route is a mixture of on and off-road trails and the run takes place on Sunday 26th April at 10am, starting at Cholsey Rec. Entry is just £15 and includes a free T-shirt and handmade wooden medal for all entrants. This year we are also encouraging runners to persuade friends and colleagues to take part and enter as a team.

In addition we shall be holding the popular Bunny Run again for anyone under 16. This is a 0.5km course and children can run this as many times as they like. Their final distance will then be burned onto a wooden medal for them to keep. Last year we had 11 children who ran the full 10K distance in the Bunny Run! We shall also have a bouncy castle and bacon butties for all supporters and their families.

If you'd like to enter please visit www.treehouse10k.org.uk to register and if you have any questions please contact Sally Eccleston on 07837009774 or info@thetreehouseschool.org.uk. All money raised will go towards supporting The Treehouse School.

Henley Philatelic Society

Our meetings are usually held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.45pm, from September to June inclusive. Visitors and new members are welcome. Details from 681739 or on our website, www.henleyphilatelic.co.uk

8th April – Members of Woking Philatelic Society visit us with some of their displays

22nd April – Colin Such from the Auctioneers Warwick and Warwick gives his presentation – '40 years on the Rostrum'. Postcard collectors will also enjoy this interesting evening.



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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 5th March 2015

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Stephen Brown, Francesca Jones, Andrew Johnson, Anne Lowes, Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames and Fleur Stevenson, Melanie Malcolm (Finance Officer), Susan Rance (Clerk) and County Councillor Mark Gray.

Three members of the public attended part of the meeting.

Apologies: from Councillor Faye Cheeseman and District Councillor Kristina Crabbe.

Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

Cllr Sherbourne reported a leaking water pipe at the allotments. Mr John Bellamy has been re-appointed as a trustee to the Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity.

Finance

Payments made in February were agreed. £1014 was paid to Arrow Fencing for work on the children's play area. £1752 was paid to Tom Cottrell for work on the allotments.

An enquiry had been received from a prospective allotment holder. There is a plot that could be made available after removal of tree stumps. It was agreed to obtain a quote from Dave Cottrell for carrying out this work.

The financial report showed total funds at 28 February of £126,455. The estimated figure at year-end was £124,549. Interest received on the deposit account was £194 for the year to date. A breakdown of administration costs was presented. A recent £818 solar electricity rebate will bring the total rebate for the year to over £2000, in line with the budget.

Grass-cutting contract

Three quotes received for the main grass-cutting contract were discussed in detail.

It was decided that Scofell be awarded the contract for one year. This includes the recreation ground and other areas in Crowmarsh Gifford, Jethro Tull Gardens and the grass outside the school, plus the North Stoke recreation ground, which should be cut five times per year and Cllr Soames notified after each cut. The grass cutting contract for Newnham Murren churchyard was treated separately and Tom Cottrell is the contractor preferred by the church: his price was higher but includes removal of the grass cuttings.

It was agreed to appoint Roger Syms as our internal auditor at a cost of £480, a saving of £120.

The publications scheme under the Freedom of Information Act was approved with three minor amendments and will be posted on the noticeboard and the website.

Grants and donations

North Stoke Village Hall Committee: a grant of £760 was agreed for grass cutting and grounds maintenance.

Enrych Oxfordshire (formerly Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers), who support adults with a physical disability to enjoy leisure, learning and sport: a donation of £250 was agreed.

Planning

SODC decisions:

P14/S3055/HH (Householder): Remove rear extension and replace with new timber framed extension with increased footprint (as amplified by shadowing report received 20th December 2014), Church Cottages, Church Lane, North Stoke:
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P14/S3056/LB (Listed Building): Remove rear extension and replace with new timber framed extension with increased footprint. Church Cottages, Church Lane, North Stoke: PERMISSION GRANTED.

P14/S4073/HH: Part-retrospective application for extensions to accommodate enlarged kitchen/dining area, home office and studio (amendments to approved application P14/S1177/HH), 39 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford: PERMISSION GRANTED.

Parish Council responses to SODC were agreed as follows:

P15/S0134/HH: Demolition of single-storey front extension, construction of larger single-storey extension, internal alterations and creation of a new rear door. The Old Farmhouse, The Street, North Stoke: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P15/S0135/LB: Demolition of single-storey front extension, construction of larger single-storey extension, internal alterations and creation of a new rear door. The Old Farmhouse, The Street, North Stoke: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P15/S0397/HH: Single-storey rear extension, 2a Carmel Terrace, Mongewell: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 Refined Options

SODC is consulting on details of the revised Local Plan, which will run until 2031. Parish-ioners were asked for their views on the ideas for a new local plan back in the summer of 2014. The full Plan can be viewed at local libraries or online at www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan. The consultation lasts until 2nd April. As part of this consultation there will be an exhibition of proposed housing sites in Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion on 14th March.

Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule

South Oxfordshire District Council have considered the representations from the earlier

Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and are now asking for comments on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule, which sets out the proposed charging rates for developments in South Oxfordshire to pay for infrastructure. The consultation runs until 26th March 2015.

Environment and Recreation Ground Committee

Plans were discussed to change two unused changing rooms at the pavilion into meeting space. Some councillors had visited the pavilion to view the facilities, but more detailed information was needed about the likely demand for additional bookings. After discussion, it was agreed that a pedestrian crossing for The Street should be a higher priority for the council's expenditure. The management committee will discuss options for use of the space at the pavilion at their next meeting in May.

Cllr Lowes requested litter bins at the foot of Constitution Hill, Mongewell, near the bus stop on the A4074 near CABI and a litter bin and a dog bin are needed near the A4074 under-pass. Cllr Brown requested deterrent signs to discourage anti-social behaviour with regard to dog fouling.

Traffic and Transport Committee

Cllr Sherbourne reported on the Truvelo speed camera system. It was hoped that the police would provide support by enforcing this as necessary to slow speeding traffic on the A4074 Portway. Cllr Sherbourne is liaising with Superintendent Andy Boyd and will keep County Cllr Gray informed. Cllr Jones hoped to obtain a quote for a pedestrian crossing at the Portway.

County Councillor's report

Mark Gray reported that the County Council is considering devolving some services to parishes. It is hoped to resurface the A4074 at Benson. 91% of students are now getting into their first choice of secondary school.

Cllr Gray will send the specification for the proposed pedestrian crossing to Cllr Brown. The report on the public transport review

should come before OCC very soon and Cllr Gray was urged to support the hourly 134 service, which is of great value to the local community, and report back to Cllr Jones.

District Councillor's report

District Councillor Crabbe submitted a written report on meetings with Thames Water. Council officers met Thames Water for a progress meeting on 22 January, where John Backley reiterated the request for a follow-up public meeting to discuss the results of the sewer flow monitoring. The timing is in Thames Water's hands while we await the conclusion of the work and the analysis of the data.

The key actions for Thames Water in Crowmarsh Gifford are to do a 'look and lift' survey, to carry out a CCTV drain survey by the end of May, to do flow surveys and to monitor through the winter to assess infiltration and provide a summary report. They are being urged to respond to Cllr Crabbe and residents soon.

Correspondence

The Chairman and Clerk had received invitations to a reception at RAF Benson on Thursday 21st May.

Mr Richard Neale wrote asking to give a presentation on a proposed radar survey of archaeological features in Crowmarsh. The chairman would invite Mr Neale to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting, but it was noted that the parish council could only give grants to societies and organisations, not individuals.

The Riverside Meadows and Castle Meadows consultative group was meeting on Tuesday 17th March at the headquarters of the Earth Trust, who manage the sites for SODC.

The River Users Group (RUG3) met on 26th February. The walkway across the weir at Benson (part of the Thames Path) is now open again after repairs.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday

9th April, starting at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday 19th May, starting at 7.30pm, either at the school or at the village hall.

Stoke Row Covered Market

The next Covered Market will be held on 18th April in the Stoke Row Village Hall, from 10am to 2pm.

Stalls sell local produce such as local lamb and other meats, bread, pies, buns, organic vegetables (subject to season), cakes, jams and juice. A range of arts and crafts stalls includes mosaics, felt products, cards, jewellery, knitted goods, refurbished wood products and bric-a-brac. A hurdle maker will give a demonstration in the car park, too.

After browsing the stalls, you could enjoy one of our delicious bacon rolls, or choose from a variety of other snacks and cakes on offer.

For stall or market enquiries, please call Sue Woodley on 07782 187866 or Mary Edwards on 641434.

Wallingford & District Stroke Club

We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month in Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, 2-4pm with tea. Subscription is £2 per month. We also organise other activities and outings.

For further details, or to discuss transport needs, please phone

Veronica Port - 652310 or
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WHAT'S ON – APRIL 2015

Regular events & meetings

Every Tuesday	19.00-21.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
3rd Tuesday	14.00-15.30	Age UK: Line dancing (over 50s)	Village Hall
2nd and 4th Weds	Evenings	Crowmarsh Ladies	Telephone 201756
Every Thursday	14.00-16.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	8.30-11.15	Wallingford Country Market	Regal Centre
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Regal Centre

This month

Saturday 4th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 4th to Monday 6th	All day	Easter Special: Ivor the Engine	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 5th	11.00	Easter Sunday Service	St Mary Magdalene Church
Sunday 5th	13.30	CTC 20-mile plus road race	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 8th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Competition and fun quiz	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 9th	19.30	Parish Council	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Friday 10th	19.45	TWHAS: John Smith, Roman Oxfordshire	Wallingford Town Hall
Saturday 11th	11.00	Castle History Walk	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 11th	14.30	Town History Walk	Wallingford Museum
Sunday 12th	14.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	East Hagbourne Circular Walk
Tuesday 14th	10.15	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Nuneham Courtney
Wednesday 15th	14.00	U3A: Garden hunting in China	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Wednesday 22nd	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Colin Such	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 25th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 26th	10.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Maidensgrove Bluebell Walk
Tuesday 28th	10.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Ewelme Circular walk via Swyncombe