

Crowmarsh News

Issue 475

April 2018

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, Kirsty Dawson, Amanda Maher

Editorial support: John Griffin, Rev 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 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 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 Gym Update



We have been out and about sharing the plans over the past month at the community café and at Crowmarsh Primary School. As you can see from the picture, the children are very pleased with the plans.

If you missed seeing the plans, they are on the Parish Council web site, www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk under Facilities/ Crowmarsh Playground Proposal.

The design has considered requests for equipment made in our previous survey in spring last year, which had 215 people supporting the principle of a new improved playground and 126 supporting the gym.

The Parish Council is now seeking external funding through grant applications. To help secure external funding we would like to provide further evidence to potential funders that local people support the proposed design and equipment. Thank you to those who have already responded, but we need many more to

give the application its best chance.

This means we need you to send letters or e-mails to us (The Parish Council) supporting the new play area and gym, ideally referring to the design features and which aspects will be most beneficial to you and your family. Please include your name and where applicable please include comments / quotes from the children (noting their ages) who would benefit from these improvements.

Letters can be sent into school addressed to Michelle Reynolds or e-mailed to michelle.a.reynolds@hotmail.com before the end of the second week in April. The responses will be submitted as part of our grant applications.

Expressing your personal support could make the difference in securing the necessary funds for this great project to be realised.

Crowmarsh Parish Council

Pictures, logos and display ads for the *Crowmarsh News*...

...are best in .jpg or .pdf format.

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency number 101

Crowmarsh School

The children of Crowmarsh Gifford School would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to Mrs Selwood for opening her shop every Friday and turning it into a place of learning where the children can explore and investigate the concept of money and use the basic skills of adding and subtracting. Mrs Selwood (Karin) has given the children a new-found confidence to independently select items, work out calculations and see mathematics in a fun way. Make sure you go and visit your local shop to experience the wonder and excitement that our children do!

Please read the following from our school journalists:

We have had an amazing rest of term and we have had a lot of fun with World Book Day, Coleshill Heath Primary School in Birmingham's teachers, Sport Relief and Random Acts of Kindness.

World Book Day was one of the best we have had as there were a lot of new interesting character costume designs, giving our imagination a boost for life. We also had some teachers and senior leaders from Coleshill Heath Primary School in Birmingham, come and visit our school for the day. They enjoyed spending time in all of our classes, learning about Purple Learning and how we do Verbal Feedback. They watched us in a verbal feedback group in Year 6. A verbal feedback group is a group with our teacher (Mr Silvester, for Year 6) where you go through your latest piece of work and edit it to make it significantly different to the last, a constant question asked throughout.

For Sport Relief this year we were challenged to travel our way to Masakene through different sporting events. On the Monday we had a dance-a-thon which was filled with power as we tried to complete our goal. Tuesday was a new challenge, run as many laps as you can in 15 minutes. We all gave it our all. The rest of the week we continued to run miles, hula hoop and danced our way to Masekane. In total we completed 1,254 miles. We estimate it is about 6,000 miles in total, so we still have a way to go!

Finally, Random Acts of Kindness is something we focus on as a school. Recently, students from Key Stage 2 went on a trip to the town centre in Wallingford where they handed out flowers, books and Easter eggs to unsuspecting pedestrians. We had asked parents and pupils to donate one of their favourite books for us to pass on as a gift. This was all to help raise awareness of World Book Day. We love brightening up people's days and making them feel valued.

Kindest regards,

Flora Barton
Headteacher

Crowmarsh Pre-School

The children have been busy learning and playing at pre-school. Highlights from this term include cooking, story-telling and acting, science activities, PE sessions and outdoor learning in the school grounds.

We are all looking forward to the warmer weather which will provide us with even more opportunities for outdoor exploration. On Sunday 20th May, the pre-school will be providing a selection of beverages at the school fete. This is a wonderful fund-raising opportunity for us. We are keen to raise as much as possible, as this enables us to provide new learning materials and resources for the children.

We are especially excited about returning to our Forest School site after the Easter break. Huge thanks to the Owen and Emery Allotments for letting us use the site. Please do say 'Hello' to us when you see us en route!

We have already received many applications for spaces for the academic year 2018-19. If you are interested in a place for your child, please get in touch with us. Our phone number is 526118, or email: admin@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk.

Short Mat Bowls

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A Crimean Veteran

When David and Ann Massey's third son, Benjamin Bailey Massey, was born in April 1827 in Goldsmith's Lane, they had no idea what sights he would see and experience in his short Army career. He joined the Grenadier Guards in April 1846 and served for ten years. When not on duty the soldiers had little to do and Benjamin, like many soldiers at that time, drank heavily, and was court martialled seven times for drink related offences.

Benjamin arranged for 2 shillings 6 pence of his pay each week to be paid to support his nephew, the orphan of his brother David, who died in Crowmarsh in 1847.

The Crimean War started in 1854 and the Grenadier Guards formed part of the Army that Britain sent to the Crimea. While on active service, Massey's conduct was exemplary and he was promoted to sergeant. At the battle of Alma, he was badly wounded when a musket ball passed through his shoulder blade into his back, where it lodged in his back muscles. He lay on the battlefield wounded all night.

In the morning he was collected by a donkey cart and taken out to the ships in the bay and onto the hospital ship *Scutari*, where he had the ball removed from his back. Because of his wound he was unable lie down and spent several weeks sitting up. While he was recovering at the hospital he met Florence Nightingale and he could remember her and her nurses at night moving around the wards, checking on the wounded.

Eventually he returned to England and brought with him the musket ball that had wounded him and an officer's sword of the Russian Imperial Guard. But with little to do, he returned to drink and was reduced to the ranks. Because of his wounds he was discharged from the Army in 1855; on his discharge papers his conduct was described as irregular. In 1856 he was presented with the Crimean Medal in St James Park by Queen Victoria.

He was employed by Wallingford Brewery as a painter where he worked for the rest of his working life. He married Ann in 1857 and they lived at 2 St Leonard's Lane, where they raised three children. He was still a heavy drinker and was arrested and charged some 15 times for assault or drunkenness. Despite his drinking habits he was still held with much affection in Wallingford. He must have been an active man as, in 1887, he rescued a woman from drowning, and was second in a veterans' foot race during the celebrations for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. He received a pension from Chelsea Hospital, which after a petition from the Mayor was increased in 1902.

Benjamin's eldest son also named Benjamin joined the army. He served with distinction and was part of Edward VII's escort when he toured the Empire after his Coronation.

Benjamin Bailey Massey died on 10th January 1906 and was buried with full military honours.

Litter clearance – Crowmarsh spring clean

On Saturday 21st April (postponed from 3rd March because of snow), please join in the parish clean-up and help to pick up litter around Crowmarsh Gifford.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the end of Thames Mead at 10am – equipment will be provided but please wear stout footwear and warm clothes. Look out for posters.

Wallingford Flower Club

A floral demonstration "Do you see what I see" by Anna Steven will be presented by Wallingford Flower Club on Wednesday 11th April, 7pm for 7.45pm at Crowmarsh Village Hall.

There will be coffee, a raffle and a sales table. Visitors welcome, £5 each.

For further information, please contact Fay Crabbe on 834303.

Humphry Repton, landscape gardener

This year, to mark the bicentenary in March of the death of Humphry Repton, the Gardens Trust is leading a national celebration of his life, work and legacy. Repton was the last great landscape gardener of the eighteenth century, responsible for some 400 landscapes across Britain, including Longleat (Wiltshire), Woburn Abbey (Bedfordshire) and Russell Square (London).

More than 200 sites and project stakeholders co-ordinated by the Gardens Trust, from English Heritage to local volunteer and friends' groups, are coming together to run hundreds of Repton-inspired activities, ranging from conferences to special public garden openings.

For more information about Repton and this year's celebrations, visit:

www.humphryrepton.org

or follow @humphryrepton, #humphryrepton, #sharingrepton, or [fb.com/humphryrepton](https://www.facebook.com/humphryrepton)

Quiz'n'Chips

Friday 13th April at St Mary Magdalene Church

Our spring Quiz'n'Chips night will be Friday 13th April: doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a licensed bar with wine, beer and soft drinks; fish and chips will arrive around 8pm. To book your team, please collect an entry form from Crowmarsh Stores or the church or contact Sarah Nesbitt by email to sn62@icloud.com or call 825903.

It's £10 per head with food, £7.50 without. Ideally teams are 6-8 people, but if you don't have a team, come anyway and we'll create one. Please get your entries in by Sunday 8th April so we may order the food. We look forward to a full house.

**Please make use of the
Parish Council web site
for news and updates of local affairs**

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Wallingford's Guided Town Walks

Guided Historic Town Walks are on every Saturday morning from 31st March to 29th September, starting at the Town Hall at 11am. Walks last 1-2 hours and cost £5 per head; this will be donated to Wallingford Museum.

These are general walks covering the rich history of Wallingford, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and *Midsomer Murders*. They will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

These walks also provide an ideal opportunity to visit Wallingford Museum, which has just re-opened with great interest in its 'Treasures with Tales' exhibition. Residents from Wallingford and the surrounding villages have loaned the museum a wide variety of fascinating objects, each with its own special significance – from exotic to fun to poignant! Visitors can follow the 'Treasures Trail' and discover these things for themselves throughout the museum. Each has its own 'tale' displayed and can be enjoyed by the whole family.

The treasures are woven in amongst other exhibitions which include not only the story of Wallingford's Saxon origins, its great Royal castle, and the town's links with Agatha Christie, but also updates on the recent archaeology that is being uncovered by new developments around the town. For more information visit www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Stu Darby



Historical research in the Wallingford area

Judy Dewey will present a talk titled 'Making History - TWHAS and Wallingford Museum 1973-2018' to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about the

development of historical research in Wallingford and its surrounding area.

Judy Dewey and her late husband Stuart were respectively founder Secretary and Chairman of TWHAS in 1973. Judy has been Curator of the Wallingford Museum since its opening in 1981 and Stuart was its Artistic Director from 1981-2012.

The talk will, inevitably, be a personal overview of the history of these closely linked volunteer organisations, but it will also set them in the wider context of evolving public attitudes to history and archaeology since 1973. It will consider how the initial purpose of the Society and the Museum – to research and present the history of Wallingford and its surrounding area – has developed, and what impact it has had on the community. Where are we now, and what might the future hold?

This talk will be held on Wednesday 11th April 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome. For more information visit www.twhas.org.uk

Katharine Keats-Rohan

Letter to the Editor Thank you, 'Snow Wombles'

Remember when we had a little snow last month? May I thank those householders who cleared the pavements alongside their curtilage.

There seemed to be three approaches to the task:

Clear the entire pavement and treat with salt or grit (5-star service)

Dig out just a narrow walkway (3-star service)

Don't do it at all ('nul points').

Either of the first two methods did the business. Good exercise, and socially very useful! At any rate I found it made life much easier for me when I wanted to get out and carry on with life as usual.

Jennifer Brooker

Slices of Singing with Coffee & Cakes!

Wallingford's award-winning Parish Church Choir, directed by Sue Huntingford-Ledger, does its job every Sunday, morning and evening, in its home churches of St Mary and St Leonard. Over Easter we sing the Fauré Requiem on Good Friday at 7pm, then Philip Ledger's Risen Christ on Easter Sunday at 6.30pm.

But we're in demand too for away fixtures, next in Suffolk, with St Paul's and Winchester Cathedrals to come. To keep our home fans happy, we're giving an informal concert in St Mary's, Wallingford on Saturday morning 28th April between 10.30 and 12 noon with our latest concert programme, including music by David Ogden, Richard Lloyd, Philip Ledger, Gabriel Fauré and some lighter stuff. If you are popping in to Wallingford, do drop in, for as little or long as you like – there will be several breaks. It's free, as long as you buy a coffee! We look forward to seeing you.

Music at St Peter's, Wallingford

Our summer programme of nine chamber concerts from May to September is now out. You can see them at a glance on line at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/musicatstpeters> or pick up a snazzy newly designed brochure at the library or tourist information office, or call Laurence Attewill on 01865 343336 and he will send you one. Now's the time to plan your diary!

We sometimes assume that everyone knows about us and what we do, but for those who don't, we are a volunteer-run group led by our experienced and knowledgeable Chairman, Glynne Stackhouse, committed to bringing you a varied programme by the best professional players we can find at an affordable price. The renowned Sacconi Quartet are our headline act, appearing at our first concert. St Peter's Church in Thames Street is a lovely venue for chamber music thanks to its size and acoustic, much praised by players, critics and audience alike. Our fans come from miles around – be one of them!



Help with debt

Q: *I have a mental health condition and am struggling with debt. Who can help me?*

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If you'd like to speak to someone, call Advice-line on 03444 111444 or drop in to your local Citizens Advice. Locations and opening hours of Citizens Advice offices in Oxfordshire South and Vale can be found on <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>.

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is an independent charity that provides the local Citizens Advice service. Our 150 skilled volunteers work from 5 locations and are supported by 9 FTE staff. They advise over 9,500 clients each year. All our income is raised locally.

The Crowmarsh News team

We are delighted that our appeal for additional members of the team bore fruit, and feel sure readers will join with us in welcoming Kirsty Dawson and Kevin Beer (the Rev Kev) to the team who produce the *Crowmarsh News* every month.

We bet nobody noticed that the March issue was put together by a team of first-timers, using a new computer and software that we have now bought. Our congratulations go to them: we know how hard it can be!

Meanwhile, if anybody feels able to understudy our hard-working Advertising Manager (and Treasurer) Pat Shields, we're sure she would be delighted to hear from you!

James and Toni Taylor

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Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076
Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services and Events for April

Sunday 1st	11am	Easter Festival Family Communion, followed by Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 8th	11am	Parish Communion
Saturday 14th	10am-noon	Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 15th	11am	Parish Communion
Friday 13th	7 for 7.30pm	Quiz'n'Chips
Sunday 15th	11am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 18th	7.30pm	Annual Parish Church Meeting
Sunday 22nd	11am	Family Communion
Sunday 29th	11am	Parish Communion

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer - every Sunday at 6pm

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

"We are an Easter People and 'Alleluia' is our song." This quote is attributed to St Augustine of Hippo from around 1600 years ago and it is still as true today as it was then. He was writing at a time when the world was a dangerous place and, for many, life was "brutish and short". It was against that background that Augustine declared the hope, the promise and the truth that gave Christians their strength and determination to stand against the tide of paganism and violence that beset the world around them.

They were "Easter People" because they believed in Jesus' resurrection: he had died but, by the power of God's Holy Spirit, had been brought back to a new life which was witnessed by many of his followers at the time. They were an "Easter People" because they had decided to follow that same Jesus and to model their own lives on what he did and taught. Above all, they were "Easter People" because they had confidence in God despite anything the world might say or do to them. That is what they believed and that is why their song is "Alleluia".

"Alleluia" means "Praise the Lord". The word has been used by Christians of all denominations for centuries. It is used most often during the 40 days of the Easter season but is a good word whenever we want to praise God and to thank him for his goodness. There are times when we most certainly do not feel like praising God: life can be tough through illness, bereavement, injustice, redundancy or whatever. When we praise God we are not saying that "everything is OK". What we are saying is that, despite anything else that might be going on, that we have the knowledge of God's loving purposes for us and the hope of glory in our hearts.

So when we wish each other a "Happy Easter!", it is a greeting full of hope and joy, reminding us of the good news of what God did through Jesus at Easter:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Rev Kev

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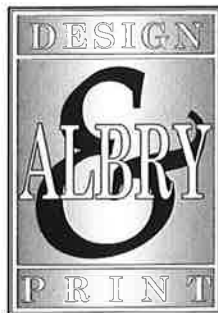
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Cycling Event – 21st April

On Saturday 21st April a non-competitive cycling sportive event will be passing through our parish.

Starting and finishing at the Wormsley Estate, Stokenchurch, the Brewin Dolphin Ridgeway Rouleur Sportive is a 3 route (Epic 95 mile / Standard 55 mile / Short 40 mile) race.

The short route of 200 cyclists will be travelling through Crowmarsh Gifford via the Street from Wallingford; the standard route of 350 and the Epic route of 400 cyclists will affect North Stoke and the Portway.

Sections of the return route have the potential to alter slightly in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions, contact UK Cycling Events on 01425 653372, email enquiries@ukcyclingevents.co.uk or see full race details at www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk/events/ridgeway-rouleur-sportive/

Wallingford has a theatre and cinema again!

On Friday 2nd March, Edward Hall, Artistic Director of Hampstead Theatre and Propeller Theatre Company, formally opened the Corn Exchange. Edward is the son of the late Sir Peter Hall, doyen of the RSC back in the 1960s and director of the National Theatre in the 70s and 80s. Edward has strong connections with the area having lived here as a boy, and he began his theatrical career as theatre director at the Watermill Theatre in Bagnor.

It is particularly poignant that Edward Hall reopened the theatre as his father first opened the Corn Exchange in December 1978 when it had been converted from a derelict building over a three-year period by volunteers.

In his remarks Edward Hall told the audience of principal donors, "It's a delight to look round a theatre like this where all the departments are under one roof. That is something quite rare, even in professional theatres. It is the people who give soul to a company and what we see is how you have managed to retain the

heritage of this building and at the same time create an environment with soul. The Corn Exchange is a fabulous theatre, run by such a passionate, dedicated group of people which, I have no doubt, will be thriving forty years further down the line."

After a £650,000 renovation programme to replace the roof, heating and ventilation and several items of theatre equipment, the Corn Exchange finally opened its doors again in January with a stunning performance of *Cinderella* by the resident company Sinodun Players, their 70th pantomime. And proof that the residents of Wallingford and district were more than ready to resume their patronage was shown by the tremendous sales of tickets which peaked at 99% capacity over the fifteen performances.

So the 162-year-old Corn Exchange is now back in business, with a full programme of theatre, cinema and other entertainment. Resplendent with a new watertight roof, modern heating and ventilation system and a new look in the auditorium. The seats are refurbished, the carpet is new, the walls have been freshly painted and it's possible to view much more of the original Wilder ironwork which supports the roof.

You can find the full listings and book your tickets on our website:
www.cornexchange.org.uk

Henley and District Philatelic Society

April for Henley Stamp Collectors will be an interesting month as two diverse guest speakers will be visiting us to give their displays.

11th April: 'A Philatelic Autobiography' by Bill Jackson from Oxford Society.

25th April: '1890 Penny Post Jubilee' by John Davies from Banbury.

We hope to see you at Bix Village Hall at 7.45pm. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning 681739 or on our website:
www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Wallingford and District Stroke Club

Wallingford and District Stroke Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall for activities and companionship, tea and cake. In the summer months we arrange outings, both locally and further afield, using the Wallingford Coach with its accessible platform.

We'd love to welcome more members (fees are very reasonable at £2 per month). If you, or someone you know, would like to join us – or just give us a try – please contact Norman Goodall on 01235 834503 or Nigel Hessey on 01491 651114 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Our club continues to go from strength to strength with entertaining speakers and enthusiastic members. April promises to be another great month with not-to-be-missed meetings.

On 5th April, Richard Wakefield will give a presentation on Cinematic Photography, followed by Dave Mason on the 12th, with a journey into Street Photography. On the 19th, the club will hold Portfolio and Travel competitions for members. Finally, on the 26th Viveca Koh will be talking about her life through a lens in A Photographer's Perspective. Viveca is a Fellow of The Royal Photographic Society and this promises to be a fascinating evening.

The club meets every Thursday evening in the Crowmarsh Pavilion at 7.30 for 8pm and is always delighted to welcome visitors and new members. For full details and directions please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club.

Michael Parrott

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

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

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Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next Sales of Donated Goods are on Saturdays 7th & 28th April and 19th May, from 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. The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF. Please call 01491 641384 ext 246 for further information.

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 1st March 2018

*Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair),
Francesca Jones, David Mannering, Fleur
Stevenson, Elizabeth Ryall, Nigel Hannigan,
David Rowley, Denise Hall, and Stephen Sher-
bourne; Sue Rance (Clerk) and Yvonne Peet
(Finance Officer).*

*County Councillor Mark Gray and District
Councillor Richard Pullen and six members of
the public attended some of the meeting.*

*Apologies for absence were received from
Councillors Andrew Johnson, Stuart Soames
and David Topliss.*

Finance

Additional chairs have been purchased for the pavilion, half of them paid for by the Photographic Club. New LED wall lights have been installed.

Neighbourhood plan leaflets had been printed by Albry Printing and distributed in *Crowmarsh News*. Copies of the neighbourhood plan reports have been printed for display in public areas in the parish.

There will be an excess of income over expenditure at the year end: income to date was £56,000; expenditure to date was £43,000.

Grass cutting contract for 2018

Berinsfield Community Business will hold their current prices for two years if the council signs a two-year contract. This was agreed as the arrangements have been satisfactory. A grant of £645 has been received from the County Council towards grass cutting under an agreement signed recently. The contract for grass cutting at Newnham Churchyard is continuing with Tom Cottrell.

Planning

Decisions:

The Council noted two decisions by SODC:

P17/S1168/O (Outline): Two pairs of semi-detached dwellings with access, parking and gardens. Land east of 206 Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BG.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S4329/FUL (Full Application): Extension to existing building to increase parts storage. Lister Wilder, The Park, Port Way, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8FG.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

Applications:

The Council agreed its response to SODC on the following applications:

P18/S0179/FUL: Demolish existing barn and erect three new terraced dwellings with parking. The New Barn, Mongewell Park Farm, Wallingford Road, Mongewell, OX10 8BS.
NO STRONG VIEWS.

P18/S0406/LDP (Lawful Development): Formation of habitable room in roof space with side and rear dormers. 78 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ER.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P18/S0526/D: Demolition of fire damaged office building. South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8AX.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P18/S0593/HH (Householder) &
P18/S0220/LB (Listed Building Consent): Remove existing rear extension and replace with new timber framed extension with increased footprint. 1 Church Cottages, Church Lane, North Stoke, OX10 6BH.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL in both cases.

P18/S0596/HH: Proposed extension and alterations. 2 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford,

OX10 8BJ.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

Planning appeal at Benson Lane site – ref: APP/Q3115/W/17/3186858

South Oxfordshire District Council has now told the Parish Council that they will not be defending reason 1 given in the refusal letter to the appellant, which is the subject of the Public Inquiry into this application (P16/S3608/O: Outline planning application for up to 150 dwellings with associated access, public open space, landscaping and amenity areas. Land to the east of Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED).

The Chair of Planning had already submitted the Parish Council's Statement of Evidence. The Public Inquiry will now be shorter, but will still start at 10.00 on Tuesday 27 March at the Fountain Building, Howbery Park, Benson Lane.

Neighbourhood Plan

The steering group has met with SODC's Planning Policy Officer, Rona Knott, who has gone through the documents recently posted on the parish website. Two public consultation meetings are planned (Tuesday 13th March at Crowmarsh Gifford School and Thursday 15th March at North Stoke Village Hall), both at 7.30pm.

The neighbourhood plan is the responsibility of the whole parish, not just the parish council, and it needs to be agreed by the community, not just the steering group. More assistance would be welcomed with the development of the plan and interested residents are encouraged to come forward and contribute to the process. Contact Nick Robins at nicks.robins@gmail.com.

Environment and recreation ground committee

Replacement noticeboards

Cllr Hall and Cllr Jones will research costs of providing and installing new noticeboards, including a half glazed noticeboard at North Stoke Village Hall. Quotes for installation will be sought from Arrow Fencing and another contractor. The Finance Officer had confirmed

that the Parish Council has £10 million public liability insurance.

Update on playground project

Cllr Rowley reported that requests for letters or emails of support for the proposal have been attached to school newsletters and put in all the children's bags. Notices have also been posted on noticeboards and in the village shop. See also page 3.

An exhibition of the proposal has been held at the school (for three weeks) and at the monthly community café in the village hall. Letters of support have been received from Revd Kevin Beer, County Councillor Mark Gray and the mayor of Wallingford, Councillor Mick Kidley. Members of the parish are asked to write in support to Mrs Michelle Reynolds, michelle.a.reynolds@hotmail.com.

The headteacher, Mrs Barton, has taken a photo of all the children supporting the project in front of the display (again, see page 3).

Cllr Hall has written to local businesses requesting donations towards the project. Cllrs Johnson and Rowley will attend a grants workshop on 8th March in Wallingford.

Traffic and transport committee

Councillor Jones and County Councillor Gray attended the recent Parish Transport Reps meeting. Consideration is being given to what can be done with community transport with support from local bus companies.

County Councillor Gray suggested doing a traffic speed survey (cost £100) as evidence to support the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to do one survey in Benson Lane and one in The Street.

Howbery Park has requested a pedestrian crossing on the A4074 near the north end of Benson Lane for employees who need to cross to or from the bus layby.

Cllr Jones has contacted the parish transport rep in Benson and it was suggested that Agrivert might be prepared to help in a practical way.

Cllr Hall reported on feedback from Thames

Valley Police on speeding at Portway. Twenty-two visits were made by the police in 2017: 595 detections of speeding were made in the 30mph limit and 194 in the 40mph limit.

Review of strategic priorities

The list of strategic priorities had been re-circulated. It was agreed to review them again as soon as the outcome of major housing development applications is known. Cllr Stevenson wanted to prioritise a pedestrian crossing in The Street and offered to consult the school about fund-raising. Cllr Sherbourne recommended agreeing a preferred location and arranging for a design to be drawn up.

Cllr Pullen confirmed that demolition of the former office building is to begin soon and advised the Parish Council to let SODC know of any ideas they would like to put forward for community use of part of the site. The Chairman will write to SODC.

Cllrs Soames and Sherbourne have discussed the possibility of a traffic-calming chicane on the main road through North Stoke and suggested a traffic survey there. Cllr Ryall had concerns about a chicane in that location because large agricultural vehicles need to use this road.

County Councillor's report

County Councillor Gray reported that there will be a 6% rise in the County Council tax. An overspend on children's services has led to the need for a 1% increase. More children are being taken into care and the cost of maintaining one child in a secure unit is £200,000 per year. A 3% increase will be spent on care of the elderly and 2% on general cost increases. The county council has given £400,000 to volunteers who provide daytime support for older people.

Cllr Gray is willing to allocate £1500 from his local councillor's budget as matched funding for community projects in the parish. The County Council will draw up a list of accredited contractors that can be used for Parish Council projects. It was suggested that roundels could be painted on the A4074 Portway in the 30mph and 40mph stretches, which would cost £90 each.

The contract for Wallingford School bus transport is due for renewal in May, which may affect some residents of North Stoke and Mongewell.

District Councillor's report

The Newnham Manor housing application, recently approved for 100 houses, has been referred back to the planning committee to reconsider the parcel of land on Old Reading Road, which was now judged too small to be useful for school expansion.

The SODC Local Plan is due to be submitted soon. The planning enforcement team is to be strengthened. A new charity lottery scheme is being launched to raise funds.

Website

Cllr Stevenson reported that the website has been updated with information on the neighbourhood plan and the playground project.

Cllr Rowley reported that the Cherry Orchard eco-friendly house is now under construction at Mongewell. The owners plan to publish information about this project on the website.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 29th March at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School, starting at 7.30pm. The following meeting will be on Thursday 3rd May at North Stoke Village Hall. All parish council meetings are open to the public.

To book North Stoke Village Hall

contact Nikki Arnfeld (839736,
narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk) or
Stuart Soames (836058,
sjwsoames@btinternet.com)

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WHAT'S ON – APRIL 2018

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's, W'ford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary's, W'ford
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family service first Sunday of month.	Crowmarsh Church

This month

Sunday 1st	11.00	Easter Festival Family Service & Easter Egg Hunt	Crowmarsh Church
Sunday 1st	13.30	CTC 25-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd	All day	Easter Weekend trains	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Wednesday 4th	14.00	U3A: The life and songs of Nat King Cole	Village Hall
Saturday 7th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Wednesday 11th	20.00	TWHAS talk: Wallingford Museum Making History	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Wednesday 11th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: A Philatelic Autobiography	Bix Village Hall
Friday 13th	19.00	Quiz'n'Chips	Crowmarsh Church
Saturday 14th	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Village Hall
Saturday 14th	09.45-11.30	Sustainable Wallingford Swapshop and Repair Café	Centre 70, Kinecroft
Sunday 15th	13.30	CTC 30-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 18th	19.30	Annual Parish Church Meeting	Crowmarsh Church
Saturday 21st	10.00	Crowmarsh Litter Pick	End of Thames Mead by the Chestnut tree
Wednesday 25th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: 1890 Penny Post Jubilee	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 28th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed

May

Thursday 3rd	19.30	Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Sunday 6th and Monday 7th	All day	May Bank Holiday trains	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway