



Online edition No. 9

April 2021

From the Editorial Team

Welcome to the ninth of our online editions of *Crowmarsh News*. Once again, we are asking readers to be kind enough to print off a copy of this issue for neighbours who do not have access to the internet.

We are very much hoping to return to a printed monthly edition in the near future, when we will once again be able to carry advertisements for local businesses in the usual way.

Local Elections

Local elections for Police and Crime Commissioner and Oxfordshire County Council will take place on 6th May. If you are interested in working at a polling station or counting votes, please see <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/working-elections-2> or call 01235 422528.

You are encouraged to consider applying for a postal vote if you are at all concerned about voting in person – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>.

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number	101
NHS Emergency Only	999
NHS Non-emergency	111

Parish support contacts

There are various groups you can join in the villages. If you don't know how to make contact with your local group, the *Crowmarsh News* will help to put you in touch.

WhatsApp groups

- Bellamy Way, Stephens Field and The Street (from the bridge to Colliers)
- Crowmarsh Hill (numbers 164 to 206)
- Home Farm
- Jethro Tull Gardens
- Lane End and immediate neighbours in The Street
- Mongewell
- Murren Croft
- Newnham Green, numbers 20A to 52
- North Stoke
- Park View
- Robert Sparrow Gardens
- Winter's Field

Facebook groups

- Crowmarsh Parish Council
- Crowmarsh Gifford Community
- Crowmarsh COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 vaccination programme

The nationwide programme will take several months to vaccinate the whole population.

The key messages to all local residents are:

- The vaccination programme is being phased in across the county following the national guidance on prioritising patients.
- Please do not contact your GP or another NHS service to seek a vaccine – please wait until the NHS contacts you.
- When the NHS does contact you, please be ready and attend your booked appointments.
- Please continue to follow all the public health guidance to control the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives.

PACT calls for key workers to consider adoption

Adoption charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) is appealing for people from key worker professions to consider adoption.

The agency would really like to hear from key workers such as nurses, teachers, police officers, social workers, doctors, ambulance staff, childminders and those in the care sector, as given their professional experience and skills they typically make strong adopters, and they are particularly valued by local authorities looking to place a child.

Rated outstanding by Ofsted and offering its families award-winning adoption support services for life, PACT has been building and strengthening families since 1911. Last year it placed 89 children with 66 families through its adoption services.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, children have continued to come into care and the need for adoptive families is increasing.

Over the last 21 months PACT's enquiries team has spoken with many people considering adoption and heard how this year has given people the time to consider their route to completing their families.

PACT is a warm, welcoming and professional agency open to a wide range of people including couples or single people, people from the Black and Minority Ethnic community and LGBT+, who can consider adopting children over four years old, sibling groups of two or more children, children with a black or minority ethnic background and children who may have physical or learning disabilities.

If you would like to advertise in future printed editions of *Crowmarsh News*.....

We are hoping to return to the familiar printed edition of the *Crowmarsh News* in the near future, and to resume our usual advertising service.

Please direct all enquiries about this to crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com.

Past Times

The death of Colonel Roberts

Tuesday 11th of April 1916 was a sad day in Wallingford and in the surrounding villages, for on that day Colonel Charles Roberts of Bridge House, Wallingford, died.

He was the cousin of Lord Roberts of Kandahar. He served in the 93rd Highlanders (Sutherland Highlanders), in India, Burma and Canada. He fought in the Afghan War of 1878-80 and took part in the march from Kabul to Kandahar under the command of Lord Roberts.

After leaving the Army he bought Bridge House in 1905; in 1909 he became a Justice of the Peace for Berkshire, was a member of the Town Council and was on the Board of Guardians for St Peter's Parish. He helped raise the Volunteer Training Corps and commanded the Corps when on exercise and during their drills. At the outbreak of World War I, he offered his services to the War Office, but received a very curt reply, "Too old".

But in 1915 he was invited to help train young officers in Scotland. He drove himself to Scotland, a journey of some 600 miles, completed the training course and drove back to Wallingford. This proved too much for the 70-year-old man and in April 1916 he passed away after an attack of bronchitis.

His funeral was held at St Mary's, Crowmarsh. The funeral was attended by a large number of people, from Town Councillors, serving and retired officers, and members of the Police Force. The road to Crowmarsh church was lined all the way with members of the public. Only relatives and the Corporation were allowed in the Church, all other mourners had to use the churchyard. A squad from Aldershot fired a volley over the grave. During the whole the time the funeral was being conducted, it never stopped pouring with rain.

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice needs volunteer advisers



We can all face problems that are too stressful or complicated to sort out alone.

In 2019, our 150 volunteers advised over 11,000 people. We helped three quarters resolve their debt, benefits, employment and housing problems.

We now need more advisers to help us during and after the Covid-19 crisis.

Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame. Since March 2020, 90 volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

What will you get out of it? You will join a friendly team, meet new people, develop your skills and make a real difference to people's lives.

You'll need to have good listening and interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn and be confident with computers. Full training will be provided.

If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years or more and are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role in your local community, please contact us at: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/

As a reminder.....

Advertisements, as well as pictures intended for inclusion with articles for the Crowmarsh News, are best supplied in .jpg form.

Please do not embed pictures in text because we will have to reformat what you have written to suit the layout of our newsletter.

The Vicar writes...

Good news! As we celebrate our risen Lord at Easter, so we return to our regular weekly Sunday service at St Mary Magdalene's at 11am, following the same COVID safety precautions as before Christmas. The livestreamed service will continue to alternate each Sunday with the earlier 9.30am service from Brightwell. People are welcome to attend either in person at the church or online via our live stream on Facebook (also available on the righthand sidebar of our website www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk). We recognise that there are very diverse responses to the risks from coronavirus, so we leave it to each individual to decide how to join in.

For our Family Festival Communion on Easter Sunday at 11am, we ask people to pre-book their places (i.e. the number attending in their household bubble) so that we can make best use of the available seating. Please contact Margaret Foster 836076 / crowmarshcw@wallingfordcofe.org.uk if you wish to attend. Easter Sunday will be especially poignant this year as it also marks the anniversary of the death of our much loved organist Derek Nightingale. Easter reminds us of the empty tomb and we worship our risen Lord, who promises us life after death for all who believe in him.

Despite the pandemic, we continue to host funerals with up to 30 mourners (and live streaming for anyone who cannot attend). We are now rebooking the weddings that have been postponed from last year to a time when more guests are allowed (the current limit of 6 guests increasing to 15 at Step 2 (<12th April), to 30 at Step 3 (<17th May) and no limit at Step 4 (<21st June).

We are looking forward to being able to restart our Community Café at the Village Hall on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10.30am-12.30pm, whilst continuing virtually on Zoom in the meantime. We may be back as early as June, but should certainly be on again by July. Like many village organisations, a year of lockdown has drained financial reserves to a critical level, and so we hope that some stalls will be able to help with fundraising. We rely on the support of the village, including fundraising and legacies towards the maintenance of our Grade 1 Listed Norman church.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy Easter!

Blessings, Rev Kev

April Services

Livestreamed Services on www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe

Sunday 4 th	11am	Festival Communion
Saturday 10 th	10.30am	Crowmarsh Community Café (on Zoom; Meeting ID: 687 610 8967 / Passcode: 422377)
Sunday 11 th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 18 th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 25 th	11am	Family Communion

Morning Prayer Every Friday at 9am on Zoom

Evening Prayer Every Sunday at 6pm on Zoom

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

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on-line on Thursday 4 March.

Present: Cllrs John Griffin, Ken McCrea, Julian Park, David Rowley, Liz Ryall, Stephen Sherbourne, Robin Smith, Stuart Soames and Fleur Stevenson, Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk), Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer), District Cllrs Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Andrew Johnson and David Topliss.

District Cllr Sue Cooper and the Chairman have met with Thames Water to discuss sewerage issues. Cllr Ryall reported on the generator provided as a temporary measure at Newnham Farm: plans to replace the pumping station are in hand. Thames Water will survey the pipe from this pumping station to the village of Crowmarsh Gifford.

A meeting has been held to discuss the future of the former SODC offices site following the recent survey. Options are being drawn up.

Cllr Sherbourne will write to Greene King to enquire about the future of The Bell.

Planning

There were no consultations this month. The neighbourhood plan is now under examination.

The Newnham Manor major application is not expected to come to planning committee until the Spring after a 21-day consultation on an amended layout:

District Cllr Cooper has asked for a consultation with Thames Water.

Finance

A donation of £250 was made to Riverside Counselling Service,

Expenditure included £109 for boiler service at the Pavilion, £414 for repairs to the train in the play area plus renewal of subscriptions to Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

The financial risk assessment was reviewed and approved with minor amendments. The asset register was reviewed and a few items added including new sanitisers and benches.

Environment and recreation

The playground has been used a lot and parts of the ground are very muddy. Parents are reminded that there should be a maximum of 30 children at any one time and to note the need for social distancing. Chris Strange is keeping the toilets and the car park open.

Please do not park in Bellamy Way.

Traffic and transport

Highways Officer Lee Turner will be asked for advice on a pedestrian crossing and other traffic management for North Stoke, as well as possible crossings in Crowmarsh Gifford.

Double yellow lines have been repainted in The Street including the bus stops.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will take place online on Wednesday 31 March, starting at 7.30pm. Please contact the clerk if you wish to join the meeting. The following meeting will be online on Thursday 29 April.

Vacancy

The parish council still has a vacancy and would welcome expressions of interest: please contact the parish clerk.

Toc H Trees for Crowmarsh

Some readers will remember that before the pandemic we had started a branch of Toc H in the village. Toc H is a national and international movement whose principles are to promote Friendship, Fair Mindedness, Service and Reconciliation.

Unfortunately, our plans were stymied by Covid. As it is still probably some time before we can organise live meetings, we have devised a plan to reintroduce Toc H to Crowmarsh and at the same time promote care for our environment in the village.

We propose to obtain about 50 tree saplings that Wessex Toc H branch will provide as a gift to the village. People will then be able to claim them to plant in their gardens, or in a public place or on farm land where they have permission. This will be a way of raising the

profile of Toc H in the village ready for when we start live meetings and also improve the local and global environment.

Before we go ahead with this scheme, it would be good to know the degree of interest in it. If you would like to take part then please e-mail Linda Parker at tochwessex2016@gmail.com.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club continues to meet virtually but we are offering a full programme of speakers, competitions, and other events to help you improve your photography and meet like-minded people.

The club meets via Zoom every Thursday. Evenings start at 7.30pm and run until around 9.30 or 10pm, with Zoom access from 7.15pm.

On 1st April, internationally exhibited photographic artist Catherine Knee will give a talk called "Reality is Overrated".

On the 8th we will have our annual portfolio and architecture competition.

The 15th will be a practical or members' evening and the 22nd will be a talk by Kevin Day.

Finally, on the 29th Dave Mason will give a talk on street photography.

Please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club to learn more about the club and find out how to get involved.

The Crowmarsh News Team

Crowmarsh News is produced every month by a group of volunteers in the parish.

Editorial team: James and Toni Taylor, Amanda Maher, John Griffin, Kevin Beer, Caroline Campbell and Rachel Wakefield.

What's on listings: Julian Park, Advertising: Pat Shields, Distribution: Frank Sadler and team.

Henley and District Stamp Club

Our members have continued to enjoy their Zoom meetings over the last two months and have found they are learning a lot about using PowerPoint, Zoom and their scanners to improve their presentations. Please note that we are now trialling **Monday** evenings as our meeting time!!

Monday 12th April at 7.30 we are fortunate to have a guest Zoom speaker. Barry Stagg gives his display on John Williams which covers 'the life and work of the 19th century Missionary, John Williams, and his legacy in the South Pacific'.

Monday 26th April - members will give short displays on 'Anything Purple' i.e. any philatelic item, including postcards, with the colour purple (or lilac) on it.

Visitors are welcome and if you would like to know more or to come to one of our Zoom presentations, please phone 681739 or see our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Crowmarsh News needs you!

We are still looking for an additional volunteer with experience of using Microsoft Publisher, which is the software we use to produce the page layouts.

If you think you can help us, or would like more information, please send us an email to crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com.

John Howell MP writes....

I hope that the hint of Spring and the progress that we are making nationally to emerge from the restrictions that the pandemic has forced upon us bring a note of optimism to many. I say that knowing the wide range of difficulties that the prolonged lockdown has brought for many people which we will need to work through together in the coming months and years.

It was a delight to see such positive reports from teachers and children as they returned to school. It was also moving to hear children say what they had missed and the hopes that they have on going back. Mindful of the mental health concerns that the pandemic has given rise to I was pleased at the recent announcement of £79 million to expand mental health services for children and young people. I know from many emails sent to me that young people across the age range have faced many difficulties in this time.

Last month I mentioned new legislation coming forward to help protect our communities from illegal encampments. This is a problem that has been prevalent in the last year. Mindful of concerns to cut crime and build safer communities, the Government has now laid the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill before Parliament. This Bill seeks to ensure that the police have the powers and tools they need to protect themselves and the public. It also looks to overhaul sentencing laws to ensure that there is better protection from serious sexual and violent offenders and also to place greater emphasis on rehabilitation for offenders to help them rebuild their lives and prevent reoffending. This Bill will now make its way through due process in the coming months.

I know that Climate Change is an issue dear to many hearts. Whilst there are many big things that Government can do and is doing, I have often said that there are also many things that we as individuals and households can do that will also make a significant difference. The recent Food Waste Action Week focussed on one such issue. This was led by the Waste and Resource Action Programme and supported by Defra. Some of the data produced to support this campaign is very revealing as indeed is the impact that we can make if we all try to reduce our waste - for example, the fact that around 20 million slices of bread are thrown away at home every day. It has been said that stopping this would do the same for greenhouse gas emissions as planting 5.3 million trees! Such data certainly focuses our attention and, of course, reducing food waste also saves us money. For more information on this do go to the WRAP website.

Also on the subject of the environment there is also good news from the Department of Transport on the planned introduction of a new blend of petrol for cars and motor bikes to be available later this year which will help reduce harmful emissions. This is not to discourage the move towards electric vehicles but E10 fuel will mean greener fuel available to help reduce emissions from millions of vehicles already on our roads. When it is available it will be important to check compatibility with your own vehicle before use.

Many of our communities have completed, or are working on, Neighbourhood Plans. I continue to lobby Government where there are concerns related to these. I know that there have been concerns over the work involved in producing a plan, especially in smaller communities. I was therefore pleased this month to see some new funding come forward to pilot a simpler approach. The aim of this pilot is to test a simpler approach which aims to overcome the perceived complexity of the process and lack of volunteer capacity that can often result in low uptake for producing a plan despite a strong appetite in the local community to shape their areas. I have written to both SODC and Cherwell DC to encourage them to consider taking part in the pilot.

I hope that Parliament will soon return to a more normal pattern of working but in the meantime the work continues albeit largely remotely. If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email you can write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD.

If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters, and briefings on specific issues, please visit my website www.johnhowell.org.uk and subscribe at the link on the home page.

Advertisers

These *Crowmarsh News* advertisers have confirmed to us that they are open for business:

Name & services	Contact details	Website
Arbocare Tree Services	07778 811136 or 01235 813619	Arborcare.co.uk
Clean Machine	01491 825600	Machinesthatclean.com
Crowmarsh Tyre	01491 834088	
Feet First	21 St Mary's Street, Wallingford 01491 825224	
GA Electrical	reception@groupga.co.uk 01491 835875	
Howard Chadwick Funeral Service	office@chadwickfuneralservice.co.uk 01491 825222	
Howbery Park	01491 822495	howberypark.com
Joss Coulton Plumbing	info@coultonplumbing.co.uk 01491 824486	coultonplumbing.co.uk
Me My Spade and I garden and grounds maintenance	07899 868183	memyspadeandi.com
Purely Plants	andy@purelyplants.co.uk 01491 833831	
RefreshPro	info@refreshpro.co.uk 07772 416465	refreshpro.co.uk
Roy Windebank	roysworkshop@gmail.com 01491 652345	roywindebank.co.uk
Scott Gesner gardener	gesnergardening@yahoo.co.uk 07818 244787	gesnergardening.co.uk
SH Decor	enquiries@shdecor.co.uk 01865 400208	shdecor.co.uk
The Landscape Group Oxford	lee@tlgo.co.uk 01865 341750	tlgo.co.uk
Warmingham	01491 874144	warmingham.com
WEPS	sales@weps.org.uk 01491 827825	