

Crowmarsh News

August 2015

Issue 443

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 September issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our 20th August 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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Voting Registration

If you want to vote in future elections, it is vital that you confirm your details and those of everybody in your household who is eligible to vote.

You should receive a form this summer asking you to do this. If you do not receive a form, or have mislaid yours, please call the Electoral Services Team at SODC on 01235 540351.

You can also register online. Please visit www.registerbyinternet.com/southandvale

OCC public consultations

Beginning in mid-August, Oxfordshire County Council will be consulting the public on its minerals and waste strategy including gravel extraction, and on the future of its household waste and recycling centres including Oakley Wood.

Look out for details in the press and on the OCC website.

Your local bus service – funding consultation

Oxfordshire County Council would like your views on service change proposals for subsidised bus services and Dial-a-Ride.

The proposals could mean serious funding cuts and the loss of some rural bus services from next year.

Consultation is currently open until 14th September: find it online at <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/stconsultation>.

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

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

Pump Hunt for Sewage Station Owners

Next year, Thames Water is to take on the responsibility for around 4,000 sewage pumping stations from property owners and managers. The utility will take over electricity and maintenance costs under new legislation, potentially saving customers thousands of pounds.

However, it is now asking for your help in tracking 1,800 'missing' stations that are privately owned.

The utility, which serves 15 million customers across London and the Thames Valley, will take responsibility for these pumping stations in October 2016, but needs to track down the 1,800 that are currently off its radar.

New legislation means sewage pumping stations, which power wastewater away from properties and out into the public sewer pipe network, currently owned and maintained by customers will become legally owned and operated by the local water company.

The pumping stations are found in all shapes and sizes, and can be in places where there are a number of properties needing to connect to the public sewer network. Customers will know they have one as they'll be paying to maintain and power them.

Jerry White, of Thames Water, said: "This is really good news for customers. We'd urge anyone who thinks they may have one to get in touch so we can check they are eligible for the transfer of ownership. In some cases, as well as electricity savings, maintaining and replacing pumps can cost thousands of pounds so it's an excellent deal for them.

"We believe we know where approximately half of the stations we need to take over are, but really need help to find the other 1,800. Please get in touch if you think this applies to you and we can take on the responsibility forever."

Anyone with a private pumping station can make Thames Water aware at thameswater.co.uk/pumphunt

Crowmarsh Pre-School – “Outstanding” again

The pre-school was recently inspected by Ofsted and we are proud to announce we were once again rated as OUTSTANDING! They particularly commented on how excellent the quality of teaching was at the pre-school, allowing the children to become absorbed in their activities resulting in positive attitudes to learning and impeccably behaved children. This is an amazing result and a real testimony to how dedicated our wonderful teaching staff are.

We had a very busy last few weeks of term. We had a lovely visit from Zoolab who brought a range of creatures for the children to hold, stroke and learn about. The children also enjoyed our Sports Day with all our budding athletes participating, our annual teddy bears' picnic in the garden, a wonderful school trip to Bucklebury Farm and a very emotional leavers' party when we said goodbye to our children who will be leaving us to start school in September.

The pre-school is now closed for the summer and will reopen on Thursday 3rd September.

Crowmarsh Pre-school 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. The morning session runs from 8.45/9am until 12pm and the afternoon session is from 12-3pm. Lunch club is 12-1pm 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 07951599623, or e-mail Vikki at admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number	101

LETS

Hello Everyone,

It's me again wanting to tell you about our wonderful organisation called LETS. What we are doing, and what we have planned. You know what we are, don't you? But if you don't, we are a voluntary group who do some wonderful things for our members. Want to know more? Please get in touch with Val and she will send you a pack that explains everything.

Well, we took a group to Charmouth in June and they had a wonderful time. It is a lovely place on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset where we rented a beautiful farm house and no, you don't have to cook because Jane is a fantastic cook and for a small cost she is willing to do it. Look out for next year's holiday and if you are interested, get in touch with Jane later in the year.

If you're planning a summer party or event this year, take a quick look at the directory for ideas – chair and table hire, crockery, cutlery and glasses; hire a fish kettle to cook that lovely salmon in – you may even be able to persuade someone to prepare, cook and garnish it for you! Cake bakers, photographers, helpers, washer-up-ers and organisers; accommodation for your guests, lifts to and from the venue and even a stunning venue – all these things can be found and arranged through our wonderful LETS group; all in exchange for Castles of course!

So, interested? Then get in touch with Val who will send you all the details. There is no catch; LETS is just a wholesome organisation that is run by the members who supply everything or know someone who can. Go on, try it!!!

The contact is Val Woodings, 834519, val-woodings@talktalk.net and she will send you the details.

Band Concerts in Wallingford Castle Gardens

Goring & Streatley Band will be giving a free concert in the Castle Gardens on Sunday 9th August, from 3pm to 5pm.

Wallingford & District Art Club

There is no Demonstration in August but members are reminded there is a Painting Day on Saturday 15th August. Untutored painting evenings continue as usual from 7.30 to 9.30pm every Tuesday at Centre 70, to which anyone is cordially invited.

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next dates for the Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 8th and 29th August – 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.

For further details of these sales, please call 01491 641384 ext 246.

CTC Wallingford Rides - August 2015

The August CTC bike rides will be on Sunday 2nd and Sunday 16th, in each case departing from Wallingford Market Place.

Our quarterly planning meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 12th August in (or outside) the Coach and Horses in Wallingford. All are welcome to attend.



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The Case of Mr Coker's Forgetfulness

On Saturday 9th July 1921, at Caversham Petty Sessions, there appeared Ernest Coker, landlord of The Bell Inn, Crowmarsh. He was charged with supplying intoxicating liquor in an unsealed bottle to a person under the age of 14 years, and also for selling a quantity of less than a pint of stout, for drinking off the premises.

The facts of the case were that Crowmarsh's eagle eyed village constable saw the boy named Griffin, aged 8 and half years, leaving The Bell, with a half pint of stout in a unsealed bottle.

The constable took the boy back into The Bell, where Mr Coker's daughter admitted she had forgotten to put a label on the bottle (which went around the cap and thus sealing the bottle and making it legal to sell). She was also

not aware it was against the law to sell less than a pint for consumption off the premises.

Mr Coker in court admitted that he was unaware that it was against the law to sell less than a pint for consumption off the premises; the fact that the boy was only eight years old and it was illegal to sell beer to a child under the age of 14 seems to have been forgotten. The police superintendent stated that Mr Coker had kept The Bell Inn for over seven years and this was the first complaint against him. The Chairman said that because of Mr Coker's previous good record, the Bench decided not to place a fine.

Did Mr Coker really not know the law on selling beer for consumption off the premises or was Crowmarsh's village policeman being over-zealous?



The Medieval Day

On Saturday 15th August, 11am to 4pm, there will be another lively family day at Wallingford Museum with medieval themed activities and entertainment.

There will be a Medieval Knight there all day, showing weapons and armour and talking about the things he displays and letting people try holding the items.

Have a go at making your own medieval style pottery, and examine the pottery display of local finds. Take a rare chance to handle pieces of real medieval pots, that were made and used by people in Wallingford, and learn more about them from our pottery experts.

And, of course, our ever popular archaeology sandpits and 'smelly/feely' drawers will be in the museum as usual, to enable children to

Medieval Day and our second Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend

sample the fun of discovering things from the past!

Also, there's our special 'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed', and 'Magna Carta and all that!' exhibitions together with the Agatha Christie and Midsomer Murders displays to view. Why not browse the Museum exhibitions, and try the quizzes as you go around?

To enjoy all this entertainment, children must be accompanied by an adult. All children come in FREE and adults pay just £4 each, which gives them a season ticket to the museum which lasts until 28th November this year (present season tickets are valid). The only other cost may be a small charge to cover materials used if you take home things that you've made.

For full details, see our website, www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Our Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend

Building on last year's successful event, a second 'Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend' throughout Wallingford and Cholsey will be held from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th September.

You can discover the real life of world-renowned author Agatha Christie in the ancient town of Wallingford and the neighbouring parish of Cholsey, where she lived quietly as Mrs Mallowan from 1934 until her death in 1976 and wrote many of her novels.

Your weekend could start at Wallingford Museum on Friday afternoon, viewing the 'At Home with the Queen of Crime' exhibition. Your Museum ticket includes this special Agatha Christie exhibition (including personal letters). This exhibition looks at Agatha Christie's home – Winterbrook House, and puts her quiet life in the town into perspective. It includes several original letters from her later life, connected with her role as President of the local dramatic society, The Sinodun Players, still thriving and now based in the Corn Exchange in Wallingford.

At the Museum, you could also enjoy great displays on Wallingford's amazing Saxon and Medieval Royal history.

Friday evening at the Corn Exchange will feature a short talk 'An interview with Agatha Christie - a Wallingford exclusive' by local historian Judy Dewey, followed by a showing of a vintage Agatha Christie film.

On Saturday morning there will be a 'Guided Agatha Christie Walk – Wallingford to Cholsey'. Your guides will be Judy Dewey and Tony Raynor (local historians / authors). You will arrive at Cholsey churchyard where Agatha Christie is buried, and can then view the special exhibition of 'Agatha Christie and Cholsey' including photographs and documents, and take refreshments at the Old School, Cholsey. Your return to Wallingford will be by the Cholsey & Wallingford Railway.

For Saturday evening there is a very special event at St Mary's Church, Cholsey with a

musical presentation 'A concert with a touch of Agatha Christie!'.

On Sunday morning the 'Guided Agatha Christie walk' and the 'Agatha Christie and Cholsey' exhibition will be repeated. In addition, there will be an opportunity to walk from Cholsey to Wallingford instead, returning to Cholsey by train. Additionally, cream teas will be available on the The Forty, provided by the Cholsey Women's Institute celebrating 100 years of the WI.

Cholsey & Wallingford Railway will be running heritage trains between Wallingford and Cholsey throughout Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, visit Wallingford Museum, or the Town Information Centre, or www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Music at St Peter's reaches its Summer Peak!

We have two stunning concerts in St Peter's Church, Wallingford, during August. On Saturday 1st August, the celebrated Sacconi String Quartet pay their 15th visit to us with works by Haydn and Mozart. And to bring us up to date, a quartet by Jonathan Dove, which he describes as 'a serenade for someone I never met'. The Sacconi were promising young players fresh from music college when they first played for us. They have now built a reputation across the country and beyond, and it's great that they are still willing to come back to us in Wallingford!

Then on Saturday 22nd August the eminent counter-tenor James Bowman, with his accompanist Andrew Plant, give us a recital of English songs from the 18th and 20th centuries. James is now retired from the operatic stage, but brings his unique artistry and experience to this more intimate setting.

Concerts start at 8pm. Tickets are £12 in advance or £14 on the door - you can get them in advance from Just Trading at 17 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, or by post. You can find full details on our new website www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk or for a fully detailed brochure with a ticket order form, phone Laurence Attewill on 01865 343336.

Thames Valley Police Open Day – 8 August

The Thames Valley Police Open Day takes place annually at the Force's training centre in Sulhamstead, and last year over 5,000 people came along to find out what really goes on behind the scenes in policing.

This year's event is on Saturday 8 August and carries a theme of 100 years of Women in Policing. It will include talks from a female senior officer from the South East Counter Terrorism Unit and from two retired female police officers about their experiences of serving with TVP.

This year's event is between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 8th August and will be bigger and better than ever, with more exhibits to see and activities to take part in as well as displays from departments including the Dog Section, the Mounted Section, and Berkshire Search and Rescue dogs. There will also be a chance to visit the retired police dogs.

As well as seeing what our animal police friends are capable of, visitors will be able to look around the high speed vehicles used by the Hampshire and TVP Joint Roads Policing Unit, tour the police helicopter with the pilots who fly it from the National Police Air Service, and hear a talk from the Firearms Team about the dangers of replica weapons.

Throughout the day there will also be talks on wildlife crime and on a historical case, otherwise known as a 'cold case'. There will also be an opportunity to take part in Crime Scene Investigation activities with the Forensic Investigation team.

If you've still got any energy left after all that, there are over 40 police departments and external agencies taking part in the day, including the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, various search and rescue charities, the Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, and Recruitment.

The Force Museum will feature vintage and modern police motorbikes. There is also the shop, with all profits going to the museum, and a raffle with excellent prizes, such as a

Vodafone Prime 6 tablet, Whirlpool microwave, £100 Hotelopia voucher, Bobby Police Bear, Sytner Affinity track day and much more.

This year, Thames Valley Police will be supporting two charities: Care of Police Survivors (COPS) and Domestic Abuse Stops Here (DASH), who will both have stands at the event.

Doors open for the event at 9.45am (last entry is at 3.30pm). Parking at the site is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

No dogs are allowed on-site except for guide dogs. Entry is free for adults and children. Food will be available to purchase all day – cash only.

For more information, visit <http://www.thames-valley.police.uk/openday> or follow us on Twitter @ThamesVP #TVPOpenDay

To see photos of last year's event, please see our Facebook page.

Wallingford Gardening Club Summer Garden Visits 2015

Wallingford Gardening Club's summer garden visits are well under way. On 11th June we had a splendid visit to Oxford college gardens, led by Dr Stephen Head. It was comprehensive, inspiring, amusing and the sun shone!

On 9th July, our annual garden party took place by kind permission of Mary Dunn at Brightwell.

On 13th August at 6.30pm, we are returning for a visit to 'Hearn's House' at Gallowstree Common RG4 9DE.

Finally, on 3rd September at 6pm, we will be visiting 'Home Close' at Southend, Garsington OX44 9DH.

All visitors are very welcome to join us, and you can obtain further details from: 836867

Talks at Ridgeway Community Centre will resume on 8th October.

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Coping with mobile phone contracts

I bought a new mobile phone six months ago. Before doing so I consulted the online signal checker, but I never have any signal at home or at work. I want to cancel my contract and go back to my old mobile phone company as I always had good service from them, but my new provider says I'll have to pay all 18 months of the contract remaining even if I want to cancel. I can't afford to pay that all at once as well as pay for a new contract, but I also can't have a mobile phone that never works when I need it. What can I do?

Most mobile phone contracts last 24 months, but often they don't specify minimum standards of service, so it can be tricky to get out of them without having to pay for the unexpired part of the contract. Your best bet is to keep a log of times when your phone doesn't work, then contact your service provider and ask them if there is anything they can do about it. This might resolve the problem without any need for cancelling.

Your contract might say something about how much reception you should get: if so, you should be able to cancel the contract without paying. Unfortunately, you can't rely on what online coverage checkers will say as they are just a guide and will only ever give an idea of the average signal someone can expect outside in that area.

If the mobile phone doesn't work in your house or work place but does work outside, there might be a problem with those buildings themselves. In that case you wouldn't normally be able to cancel the contract without any kind of penalty. It might be that the signal just isn't strong enough, so you should ask your provider to carry out a signal strength check.

If there is no signal anywhere in your area, you might be able to cancel your contract under the Supply of Goods and Services Act. If there is very poor service most of the time, this

might mean that the network is breaking your contract. Some contracts set terms and conditions allowing them to not provide a service sometimes, so you need to get advice to see if this applies to you.

Before anything else, contact your service provider, share any evidence of poor service and explain why you should be let out of your contract early. They might well allow you to cancel without any financial loss.

Local mental health support service

Oxfordshire Mind's specialist Benefits for Better Mental Health team give anyone with a mental health problem expert advice and guidance to help them navigate the complex benefits system.

Now the Oxfordshire Mind Benefits team are working more closely with Didcot Citizens Advice Bureau, as part of the Tap-In Advice Service across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse. David Bryceland, Oxfordshire Mind's Benefits Project Service Manager, explained what the team can do to help people having problems with their benefits:

"We often get people visiting our service who are very confused about the benefits system and who are worried that their current benefits could be taken away. Our team will work one-to-one with that person to give them a thorough 'benefits health check' to make sure they are claiming everything that they're entitled to. We can explain what the letters they receive actually mean and resolve any problems they might be experiencing. We can also help them complete the right forms and make difficult phone calls.

"As we work with people with mental health problems, we have a lot of experience in helping people apply for Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payments. We also have an excellent track record of winning appeals when people have been turned down for ESA."

The Benefits team will be working out of the Didcot CAB twice every month. Anyone who has a mental health problem and would like their advice should make an appointment by either contacting their local CAB.

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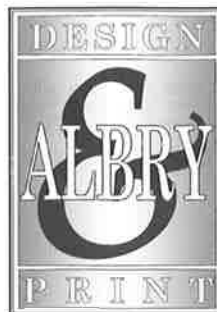
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22 Castle Street, Wallingford
Email: david.rice@ntlworld.com
Tel. 01491 202188

Churchwardens:

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

Services for August

Sunday 2nd	Trinity .9.	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 9th	Trinity .10.	11am	All Age Worship
Sunday 16th	Trinity .11.	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 23rd	Trinity .12.	11am	All Age Communion
Sunday 30th	Trinity .13.	11am	Team Service of Communion

School is out, and no doubt there will be many Mums and Dads who will be thinking "what do we do for the next few weeks of holiday?"

It has been the question on parents' lips for many years, and there are as many answers as there are things out there to do. We must thank the many Volunteers of all ages who put themselves on the line to keep our children safe and amused during the long weeks ahead.

In church our congregation also goes away, and those of us who are left sit and wonder if they are going to be alright, and keep safe. There are just as many dangers for those with more years under their belt, as with the young ones.

We now have our plan in place for the rest of the year while we shall be without a permanent Vicar. It will be good to have a different face each week, and different viewpoints being made. It may be a challenge to some of us.

The Parish Profile is now complete, and I must thank those members of our Parish Council and the School who made contributions to it, making certain that the information contained within was correct.

Our Pet Service this year was again a challenge, but our furry "guests" (9 dogs and photographs of more pets, especially of 6 cats) behaved very well, with not a bark or a scratch during the whole service. I'm sure everyone enjoyed their company.

At the time of our Flower Festival, many in the Village received envelopes concerning the Stewardship of our ancient Church, and the PCC wishes to thank all those who have made contributions so far.

We have two services this month that I would like to bring to your attention. On Sunday 2nd August, we shall have Archdeacon Judy from the Dorchester Archdeaconry coming to take our Service, so if you would like to come along to hear her, and ask any questions, then I am sure she would be delighted to meet with you.

On Sunday 30th August, we shall be having another of our occasional Team Services, and this time it will be held in St Mary Magdalene's Crowmarsh Gifford. Members of our sister churches in Brightwell and Wallingford will be coming here to join with us for our Communion Service. Everyone is very welcome to come and join with us.

Please note that the telephone for the Vicarage has been cut off, so there is no message facility on that old number. If anyone would like the services of a Vicar, then please contact the Team Rector, Rev'd David Rice – details at the head of this column.

Enjoy the sunshine, and we look forward to seeing you some time in our old church – at least one can keep cool in there!

God Bless,
Margaret Foster
Churchwarden

Calling all young singers (who would like to be life-savers!)

Wallingford is very lucky to have Lynda Atkins as its Mayor. She is someone who is so supportive of young people. Lynda is also very supportive of the wider Wallingford Community and its needs. She has set up the Mayor's Defibrillator Fund to raise money to have defibrillators situated around the town (there is already one outside the Old Post Office).

Sue Huntingford-Ledger (who directs Wallingford Parish Church Choir) and Emma Parr (who directs the Wallingford Children's Choir) would like to support Lynda in this life-saving plan. They are holding a Singing Workshop for children from 6 to 14 years of age at St Mary's Church, Wallingford on Saturday 3rd October from 2 to 6 pm. The cost will be £5 per child.

Any youngster who would like to enjoy an afternoon of singing is encouraged to take part. They will be joined by the Junior Choristers and the Children's Choir so it should be a great sound!

They will be looking at a wide range of fun music, songs from the Musicals, some Disney favourites as well as some lively songs with actions! It will be an excellent chance for children to see how the choirs work and what fun they have, but there is no obligation for anyone to join one of the choirs taking part!

At 5pm there will be a concert open to all to showcase what we have been working on. Further details will be available soon; no tickets will be needed but there will be a retiring collection for the Mayor's Defibrillator Fund.

Please contact Sue Huntingford-Ledger on doctorsue25@hotmail.co.uk to book a place for your keen young singer.

To book Crowmarsh Village Hall...

call Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or
e-mail cvhbookings@gmail.com

Adoptive family from Oxfordshire needed for five-year-old Samir*

(*Name changed to protect identity.)

Adoption charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) is searching for a forever family for a five-year-old boy.

Samir is currently living with foster carers but needs a permanent loving home.

PACT is family-finding for Samir under the It's All About Me (IAAM) scheme, which means he will receive specialist therapeutic support tailored to his needs, if it is identified as necessary.

The IAAM scheme encourages families to come forward and adopt children who have been waiting the longest because of their age, ethnic background, additional needs or because they are in a sibling group.

PACT IAAM Manager Amanda Davies said: "Samir is a creative young boy who enjoys dancing, singing and making things. He enjoys looking at books and learning about shape and space.

"We welcome couples and single people to come and find out about adoption and how they could change the lives of children like Samir.

"Both Samir's birth parents are practising Muslims and ideally would like Samir to have an opportunity to become a practising Muslim in the future, so we are particularly interested to hear from people who can help Samir to do this.

"PACT has always been committed to finding families for children who need adoption and we are pleased to be part of IAAM as it allows us to use innovative approaches to finding and supporting families."

All children waiting to be adopted through the IAAM scheme have a comprehensive assessment by the South London and Maudsley (SLaM) Child Care Assessment Centre.

Families adopting under IAAM are given a range of interventions geared to supporting adoptive parents, including training in therapeutic parenting tailored to the specific needs of the child and 24-hour support during the first two years after adoption to reduce the risk of placement breakdown.

To hear an interview with Samir's social worker and foster carer please visit www.pactcharity.org/iaam. To find out more about him, please contact Amanda Davies amanda.davies@pactcharity.org.

PACT supports vulnerable families through outstanding adoption services, permanent fostering, award-winning therapeutic support and community projects in London and the south east.

Up to 3,000 children are waiting to be adopted, with many aged three and over. For more information about the children PACT is family-finding for under the IAAM scheme visit <http://www.pactcharity.org/iaam>

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 Jenny Tatman on 01491 839499 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

If you are planning to submit material for the summer issues of the *Crowmarsh News*...

... please do your best to deliver it early, to avoid complications caused by holidays.



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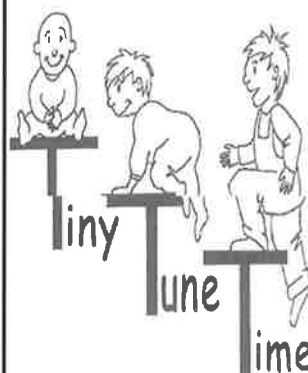
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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523,
email: johngriffin@phonecoop.coop
Parish Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford
Website: <http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php>

Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 2nd July 2015

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Stephen Sherbourne, Francesca Jones and Stuart Soames; Sue Rance (Parish Clerk), Melanie Malcolm (Finance Officer) and County Councillor Mark Gray.

Apologies: from Councillors Francesca Jones, Andrew Johnson, David Mannering, Fleur Stevenson and District Councillor Richard Pullen

Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

County Councillor Gray and PCSO Sue Harris will investigate the car and caravan parked next to the A4074 between the turnings to Mongewell and North Stoke.

Cllr Griffin has been in touch with grass-cutting contractors Scofell about a number of areas that have been missed, including the verge by the path from Crowmarsh Hill to Botany Gardens. Cllr Soames has been in touch with Scofell about North Stoke recreation ground to make sure it would be cut before the village summer event.

Litter bins had been requested at each bus stop on the A4074 at Mongewell, plus a dog bin by the underpass at Mongewell and a litter bin by the bus stop at the Howbery Park entrance.

The Clerk would ask the Town Council to return the flower tubs so that alternative arrangements can be made in future. Some residents near the mini-roundabout were willing to water tubs placed near them. Future planting will be discussed further.

Finance

Payments made in June were approved, including First Aid Training for our recreation

ground manager Chris Strange.

The accounts at 30th June were broadly in line with the budget. The solar panels are working so well that British Gas had asked for a photograph of the meter reading before they would pay the feed-in tariff.

Employees' salaries were reviewed and increased by 1% from 1st April 2015. Salaries will be reviewed annually in March in future.

Chairman's report

We still have four vacancies for Parish Councillors. The vacancies have been advertised in the school newsletter and in *Crowmarsh News*.

Planning

SODC decisions:

P15/S0947/FUL (Full Application): Erection of a two-storey, four-bay building to be used as a maintenance shed, garden machinery store and garage for two cars on the ground floor and storage for the kennels business on the first floor. Avalon Kennels Ltd, OX10 6PP: PERMISSION GRANTED.

Parish Council responses to SODC were agreed as follows:

P15/S1679/A (Advertisement): Erection of two mooring signs on the river bank at HR Wallingford, OX10 8BA, to alert visitors by boat:
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

South Oxfordshire District Council Offices:

SODC would be applying retrospectively for the temporary security fence surrounding the fire damaged council offices in Benson Lane. It was decided to wait for a formal application before making any comments. The District Councillor's report (below) had no news about the future of the site.

Lister Wilder appeal decision:

Following the Inspector's decision to dismiss Lister Wilder's Appeal with regard to the landscaping of their site, it was agreed that the Chair of Planning would contact SODC to discuss the procedure for enforcement and Cllr Jones would draft a letter to SODC about the decision.

CABI:

Representatives from CABI had asked to address the Council about new proposals for development. It was agreed that they would be invited to address the parish council when a planning application has been submitted.

Traffic and Transport

The chairman had written in support of 'Go Ride' as the contractor for the 134 bus service and a meeting will take place with OCC's Allan Field, which our parish transport rep Cllr Jones and representatives from Goring and South Stoke councils will attend. The 134 service is to continue as at present on a short-term contract.

Cllr Jones recommended that everyone read the consultation document on bus services. She would attend the public meeting in Didcot on Monday 6th July. Consultation is currently open (until 14th September) on Oxfordshire County Council's service change proposals for subsidised bus services and Dial-a-Ride: find it online at <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/stconsultation>.

Cllr Sherbourne has drafted a letter to be sent to Thames Valley Police about the traffic problems on the A4074 Portway.

Correspondence

The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils bulletin included:

- A recommendation that Clerks and Finance Officers should use dedicated computer equipment for Parish Council work. This will be discussed at the September meeting.
- Advice on Lone Working. Councillors were advised to read the advice given in the

bulletin and consider whether the Council have a Lone Worker Policy. This was referred to the Recreation and Environment Committee.

Winter preparedness letter from OCC: no additional road salt will be ordered as stocks remain from last winter.

There are three nominations for an Oxfordshire parish council vacancy on the Conservation Board for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Cllr Griffin is the other Oxfordshire parish council member on this board.

County Councillor's Report

Cllr Gray suggested that parish councils might consider underwriting the 134 Wallingford-Goring bus service. Consultation on subsidised bus services and Dial-a-Ride will run until 14th September. Cllr Gray reported that the County Council has very limited resources and that further severe cuts are anticipated. There have been some redundancies and education personnel and finance services are to be provided from Hampshire County Council in future to cut costs.

Children's centres are to be reviewed and some non-statutory facilities are likely to be cut. Cllr Gray is working towards obtaining community funding to maintain the essential children's centre services.

Oxfordshire Highways would like parish and town councils to take over responsibility for some work such as grass cutting, but this is already being done in Crowmarsh. Another idea is for town and parish councils to keep street signs clean. Potholes will remain the responsibility of Highways. Cllr Gray reported how road sweepings are being recycled. Road works at Clacks Lane will be completed in the near future. He reported that Cholsey Parish Council are obtaining quotes for a shared cycle path along the Wallingford Road.

District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Pullen sent a short report: SODC staff are now fully moved into Milton Park. As yet there has been no news from the insurers as to whether the former offices will

be considered beyond economic repair.

Reports from outside bodies

The River Users' Group 3 has met, and minutes are on their website at <http://www.riverusergroups.org.uk/sandford-to-cleeve.php>.

Cllr Soames reported that North Stoke Village Hall needs a new boiler and there are plans to renovate the kitchen.

Next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 6th August at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The Clerk gave her apologies for this meeting: the Finance Officer will take the minutes. As always, members of the public are welcome to attend.

John Griffin

Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall is ideal for children's parties and can be booked for £10.00 per hour (minimum 2 hours).

Please note that bouncy castles or other inflatables cannot be used inside the Hall, and that evening bookings from 7.00pm are subject to the full rate.

To book the Hall, call Chris Strange on 07711 904252.

Pictures and logos for the Crowmarsh News...

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

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

Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers

Walks for August

Sunday 9th

14:00 SU526882 Moderate 7 miles

Meet at East Hagbourne at Upper Cross near the church. This is a monthly village ramble that varies from 5 to 9 miles at a quick pace. Dogs on short leads please. Contact Paul Chambers, 01235 816365.

Thursday 13th

10:30 SU458850 Moderate 7.5 miles

Meet at East Hendred Downs car park for a Downland walk. Please bring packed lunch. Dogs welcome. Contact Sue White, 834370 / 07814 165940.

Tuesday 18th

10:30 SU702868 Moderate 7 miles

Meet at the Old Kiln, Nettlebed for a circular walk through Warburg nature reserve, Maidensgrove, Russell's Water and Park Corner. Bring picnic lunch. Bus friendly. Contact Richard Birch, 07719 692355.

Friday 21st

10:00 SU595927 Moderate 6 miles

Meet at Wharf Road, Shillingford. Walk along river to Wittenham Clumps and back through nature reserve. Registered Assistance Dogs only. Bus friendly. Contact Nuala Clements, 835387.

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WHAT'S ON – AUGUST 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 & 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	08.30-11.15	Wallingford Country Market	Regal Centre Centre 70
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Regal Centre

*Except summer months

This month

Saturday 1st	20.00	Music at St Peter's: Sacconi String Quartet	St Peter's Church, Wallingford
Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd	All day	Teddy Bears weekend	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd	All day	Great Bucks Steam Fair	Shabbington, Bucks
Sunday 2nd	13.30	CTC 26-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 5th	14.00	U3A: Oxford Botanic Gardens	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 6th	19.30	Parish Council	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 8th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 9th	15.00-17.00	Band Concert – Goring and Streatley Band	Castle Gardens
Sunday 16th	13.30 onwards	CTC 34-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Saturday 15th	All day	Medieval Day	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 29th	08.30-16.00	Wallingford Farmers' Market	Market Place
Saturday 29th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st	All day	Diesel weekend	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway

Holidays may delay the arrival of your September *Crowmarsh News*. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.