

Issue 491

August 2019

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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

Leaflet distribution

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

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News team

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

Editorial and Layout: Amanda Maher and Kirsty Dawson

Editorial support: James and Toni Taylor, John Griffin and Doug German

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 next 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 Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

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District Councillors Report

South Oxfordshire pauses Local Plan for road fund discussions

The Local Plan continues to dominate discussion at the Council, and several meetings have been held to discuss how the plan has evolved and the data it was based upon. Before deciding on the next steps for potential changes in the district's Local Plan, South Oxfordshire District Council has voted to take time to protect infrastructure funding promised to Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire was awarded £218m of Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) by Homes England earlier this year to address inadequacies in road capacity around Didcot. The Council has voted to express its continued support for the funding.

At a Council meeting on the 18th July, councillors voted to ask council officers to explore with Oxfordshire County Council, Homes England and MHCLG arrangements to retain the HIF. There are some contractual details to iron out. The district council wishes to address public concerns about some aspects of the district's emerging Local Plan whilst also retaining the HIF. Those concerns cover a range of issues including climate change and the amount of housing - including that required to help Oxford City.

The Council also voted to express its determination to maintain its housing land supply and avoid speculative housing development.

Cllr Sue Cooper, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We're all very keen to make sure that we have a Local Plan that protects the best interests of South Oxfordshire. The district needs infrastructure funding to support the houses that have already been built or allocated, which is why it's important to

give time to protect the HIF before deciding what changes should be made to the Local Plan."

Recycling - Biffa

You may have seen stories in recent weeks about our waste contractor, Biffa, being fined for illegally exporting waste products to China back in 2015. This has led to questions about how SODC waste is recycled and processed, and the Environment Team has issued the following statement:

"To find out full details of the destinations of waste collected in our districts please visit www.wastedataflow.org.uk. Anybody can register for public access and run reports on the waste and recycling figures reported by all the local authorities in the UK.

Under the current contract we have with Biffa, they are responsible for collecting, sorting and delivering materials to a reprocessing facility and for the sale of all material.

Presently, around 90% by weight of the waste plastics Biffa trades from their sorting and transfer facilities is sent to companies within the UK, including for reprocessing into secondary raw materials. Around 10% (mainly comprising LDPE film like bread bags) is exported, predominantly to reprocessors within the EU.

Lower grade ("C" grade) film like plastic carrier bags, which makes up about 2-3% by weight, is currently considered to be at greatest risk of not being properly recycled if exported and therefore is not currently exported but is sent to energy recovery in the UK.

The commodities market changes daily, we have and will continue to work with Biffa to ensure that any recyclable plastics that cannot be reprocessed in this country are only exported through well-established, trusted and Environment Agency accredited brokers.

We are working on updating our website to provide more information to residents on where our recycling goes and to inform residents how they can help by reducing the amount of single-use plastics they use."

Volunteering Grants – apply by 9th August

Local community groups have benefitted from an extra 5,000 hours of voluntary work thanks to South Oxfordshire District Council's new volunteering grants.

To date, more than £14,000 has been distributed to local charities and organisations by the council as part of its pilot volunteering grant scheme, which has helped create five new football teams, provide extra athletics coaching and a new archery judge.

The pilot volunteering grant is open to small voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations operating in South Oxfordshire with a revenue turnover of less than £100,000 per year.

One of the most recent recipients are Wallingford Street Pastors, who were given £600 to extend their service in Wallingford from one to two nights every weekend with extra cash to recruit and train volunteers.

Small voluntary groups can apply for a volunteering grant of between £250 and £750

to help cover costs, for example, training as a sports coach or additional insurance needed to be a volunteer driver. The deadline for applications is midday on Friday 9th August.

To find out more about the grant, eligibility and how to apply see www.southoxon.gov.uk/volunteering.

Andrea Powell

andrea.powell@southoxon.gov.uk or 07882 584120

Sue Cooper

sue.cooper@southoxon.gov.uk or 01491 835631

Contact via email is preferred please.

New Speed Indication Device (SID)

Crowmarsh Parish Council installed a speed indication device (SID) in The Street just in time to check the speed of the Ovo Energy Women's Tour as they sped past on 12th June. Further SIDs will be installed soon on the A4074 Portway and on Benson Lane.



Photo credit: John Le Jeune

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Thank you...

To the Parish Council for the lovely tubs of geraniums on Benson Lane by the little roundabout. An extra 'thank you' is due for Councillor Sherbourne for planting and maintaining them though the season. They really do brighten up the village!



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Summer Holiday Family Fun



Wallingford Museum has a series of mini challenges during the summer holidays, and a special 'Mystery Day'!

By popular request, these are interactive family friendly events.

Our mini-challenges will be spread over five weeks, with a new challenge each week. Just drop in during our usual opening hours - you will need about 30 minutes to complete the challenge.

Each challenge runs from Tuesday to Sunday, starting Tuesday 30th July and ending Sunday 1st September, with the following themes:-

- 1 Hunt the Dragons
- 2 Solve the Picture Puzzles
- 3 Get the Emojis
- 4 Solve the Word Puzzles
- 5 Read the Runes

Complete three challenges over 3 weeks to win a prize from the museum shop, (one entry per person)!

Our 'Mystery Day' is an Experiment Day on Saturday 17th August! Have you ever wondered how things used to work? This is your chance to try writing in hieroglyphics, spinning wool, making a magnetic compass and other simple experiments and games. Just drop into the Museum any time between 11am and 4pm to have some fun experimenting

Entry is by Museum ticket at the door - £5 per adult (which gives unlimited entry until 30th November) but accompanied children are FREE.

Sue Wright

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

AGATHA CHRISTIE WEEKEND in Wallingford and Cholsey Breaking news for your diary Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September



This year's Agatha Christie Weekend is looking to be bigger and better than ever before! This is a joint initiative by Wallingford Museum and Cholsey 1000 Plus.

Main events summary:

- Science Oxford's CSI Forensic Challenge
- Celebrity talk: 'Murder Most Flowery: Agatha Christie's Use of Horticulture in the Creation and Solving of Whodunits' by Ruth Brompton-Charlesworth Ph.D. FLS.
- Exhibitions: 'At home with the Queen of Crime' at Wallingford Museum, and an 'A is for Agatha' art exhibition in Cholsey Old School.
- Agatha Christie Trail walks.
- Guided history walks and themed walks around Wallingford, and Cholsey churchyard.
- The heritage Cholsey & Wallingford Railway will be running trains linking town and village and you can partake in a vintage style afternoon tea in the Town Hall.

As the weekend is all organised by volunteers, we would very much welcome any help. It should be fun and Judy Dewey looks forward to hearing from you! (tel: 651127).

Please come and join us for a fabulous weekend of celebrations for the life and works of our internationally acclaimed local author! Further details, and how to book, will be posted online.

H Poirot

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wallingford Museum @ BunkFest



Wallingford Museum has three special offers for the town's BunkFest:-

Firstly, extended Opening Hours - Tuesday to Friday 2pm - 5pm, Saturday 10.30am - 5pm, Sunday 10.30am - 5pm.

Secondly, special admission prices - Between Friday 30th August and Sunday 1st September the Museum is offering a special 2-for-1 admission. Two adults can enjoy the Museum for just £5 in total (normally £5 each). Accompanied children are FREE.

Thirdly, on Friday 30th August and Sunday 1st September, there are two Guided Walks ably led by a member of The Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society. On Friday you can join an history walk around Wallingford Castle (unsuitable for dogs!) at 4pm, starting from Wallingford Museum and lasting about 2 hours. Immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history! On Sunday, you are invited to take a gentle stroll around our lovely historic town. Meet for the walk at Wallingford Museum at 11am, and be back by 1pm.

These two walks are FREE (donations really appreciated!), but they would also be an

excellent opportunity to combine with a visit to the Museum to see our exhibitions.

NEW SPECIAL OFFER: you may wish to join our regular Saturday Town Walk (11am from Town Hall). This is a general walk covering the rich history of our town, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and 'Midsomer Murders'. This will appeal to residents and visitors alike. There is a charge of £5, but for BunkFest a voucher will be issued to provide you with the opportunity to also visit the Museum on Saturday or Sunday.

Steve Capel-Davies

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

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

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

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency number 101

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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Past Times: Death on the Farm

from David Beasley

The farming industry today has a high level of accidents compared with other industries, machinery causing most of the deaths and injuries, with animals being responsible for 16% of deaths and injuries. In the Victorian period, because there were more men working on the land you would expect there to be more accidents. The new machinery that was being used on the farm by the Victorian farmer was poorly guarded and the farm worker was not used to using machinery.

In August 1861, a young man named George Lovegrove, had been employed for eight years as an engine driver to a steam thrashing machine, by Mr. Charles Clarke of Wallingford. Mr. Clarke would hire his steam thrashing machine and driver out to other farmers as is done today with combine harvesters. On the 4th August Mr. Fuller, farmer of Lonesome Farm, Crowmarsh, hired Lovegrove and a thrashing machine to thrash his barley. At about four thirty in the afternoon Lovegrove (whose job it was to attend the machine and keep it running), noticed that the barley horner strap had come off the drum. He foolishly tried to replace it while the machine was still running; his foot slipped and his arm came in contact with the barley honer trigger, and as he fell back, the shutter caught his arm and severed it at the shoulder, at the same time mercifully he was struck on the side of the head and rendered unconscious.

George Lovegrove was taken to his father's house and was attended by Dr. Marshall and Dr. Barrett, who tried to stop the bleeding but were unsuccessful and George passed away at about 11pm. George was married and had one child. A public fund was started in The George and The Lamb Inns for his widow. Many of the local farmers for whom George had worked over the years gave very generously. George Lovegrove was buried in St. Mary's, Crowmarsh on the 7th August.

Music at St Peter's Wallingford

A couple of novelties for August! 'Harmonie' wind bands were once all the rage in the Classical and early Romantic periods, often enabling pocket-size performances of bigger works. On Saturday 3rd August we welcome 'Boxwood and Brass', a wind sextet who enthusiastically research this forgotten genre and give fine examples by Mozart and Beethoven.

A fortnight later, on Saturday 17th August 'Nuns and Roses' is the intriguing title of a programme from virtuoso a cappella 5-strong female vocalists 'Papagena'. They will be singing a huge variety of pieces from Hildegard of Bingen to the present day.

Full details can be found at www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk. You can pick up a colour brochure at Wallingford Town Information Centre or ring Roger Morgan on 837494 and I will send you one.

Tickets are £16 online via our website, at the door, or from Just Trading, 17 St Mary's Street, Wallingford for £15. If you've not been to one of our concerts, we have a 'First Timers Free' scheme - see the link on our website to see how it works. All our concerts start at 8pm, seats are unreserved, so get there in good time for the best choice.

Sue Ryder – sale dates

The next Sales of Donated Goods are on Saturdays 10th and 31st August from 10.30am – 12.30pm. Saleable items are welcomed on weekdays between 9am and 4.30pm, but we cannot accept goods on a sale day or the day before. The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub, Nettlebed, Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 5DF. Please call 641384 ext 246 for further information.

Wallingford U3A

The U3A is a rapidly growing worldwide organisation for people over 50, no longer in full time work, who want to go on learning, making friends and trying new things. Come and join us!

At our July meeting John Caldicott gave us a fascinating account of "The Foundling Hospital". In 1722, 120 years before Bernardo, Thomas Coram, a retired shipmaster aged 54, embarked on his project to 'do something' about tiny children who died abandoned on the filthy streets of London. Initially slowly, money was garnered, then, in 1739 King George II gave permission for the establishment of "A Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of Exposed and Deserted Young Children". Coram leased a house in Hatton Gardens, which is still there, and his project was under way.

The Foundation became a fashionable charity with aristocratic patronage. Hogarth designed a uniform, a coat of arms, and sold paintings to raise funds. (This, incidentally, led to the beginning of the National Gallery). From a performance of "The Messiah" Handel donated £7000 (about £1.5 million at today's value), and Parliament approved a grant of £10,000.

The Foundation kept careful records. The hospital had to have an open admission policy, although the mother had to be 'of good character'. Only babies under 2 months old were admitted. The parents undertook not to attempt to contact the child, who would never know its birth identity. On admission the child was issued with a new name and a registration number. "For example," said our speaker, "I was given the name, 'Jack Caldicott'." The audience reaction was palpable. At a year old the child was fostered out, to be returned to the Foundation at 5 years old. No adoption was allowed. Back at the Foundation children were regimented wearing uniform, marching in formation everywhere, silence at meals. It was, our speaker told us, a bleak environment, especially during the 20th Century Wars, but probably no worse than at many contemporary public schools.

The 1948 Education Act set up a Schools' Inspectorate, and Local Authorities became responsible for publicly funded schools. Questions were raised about the "archaic" system at the Foundation. Before long most of the Foundation children were fostered and attending local primary schools. Now the Foundation concentrates on fostering and family care and is the Nation's leading adoption organisation, with 99% success rate. A spellbinding and deeply moving talk. We are very grateful to John and are looking forward to our visit to the Foundling Museum in September.

On 7th August our speaker will be Marcia Watson who will tell us about "Volunteering in Nepal". On 9th August we go to Millet's farm for an open-air performance of "A Comedy of Errors".

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2.00pm. Visitors are always made welcome. Drop by for the talk and tea and see if what we do appeals to you. For more information phone on 835994 or visit our website: u3asites.org.uk/Wallingford.

Wallingford Photographic Club

On Saturday 31st August from 10am to 4pm Wallingford Photographic Club will hold their Annual Exhibition in St Mary's Church Hall, Wallingford. Around 100 prints will be on display showcasing the work of members, covering a broad range of subjects and photographic genres, in both colour and black and white. Club members will be on hand to answer any questions.

Entry is free so why not come along to see some great photography and meet and chat with some of the members. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be available for a small charge so you can also enjoy a cuppa while you are there ! The club's new season will commence on Thursday 12th September with a 'Welcome Evening' at Crowmarsh Pavilion. Full details on the website www.wallingfordphoto.club.

Michael Parrott

Please make use of the Parish Council website for news and updates of local affairs
<http://crowmarshgifford.org.uk>

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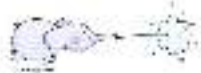
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Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services for August

Sunday 4th	11am	Family Pet Service
Saturday 10th	10am - noon	Crowmarsh Community Café, Village Hall
Sunday 11th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 18th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 25th	11am	Family Communion

Morning Prayer every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer every Sunday at 6pm

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

and don't forget the Autumn Fair & Fun Dog Show – Sat 7th Sept

The Vicar writes ...

"Love thy neighbour... especially online!"

As a former IT Consultant, I follow internet and social media trends with interest. Fifteen years ago, there was no Facebook, Twitter or YouTube. Yet today, two out of every three Brits are active users of at least one of them, and now spends almost 2 hours each day on social media.

I think of the internet as just another communication platform like the telephone, it can be used for good or ill, just as each of us is capable of good deeds or bad. Every time we post, we can choose to be constructive or destructive, whether to share gossip as fact or to correct an error. However, social media acts as an echo chamber, so that our political views and our religious views seem to be the norm, encouraging us to ever narrower minds and to be more outspoken. Where will this lead? Few of us have stopped to consider what it means to live well in the digital age, but as Christians, we have an essential part to play in the shape of online society.

You may have read recently that the Church of England launched a "Digital Charter", guided by values such as Truth, Kindness and Safeguarding. Bishop Steven of Oxford has distilled these into the following guidelines, based on the Beatitudes, that we may play our part in making social media "kinder". I hope you will ponder them...

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

I will remember that my identity comes from being made and loved by God, not from my online profile.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted - *This world is full of grief and suffering. I will tread softly and post with gentleness and compassion.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth - *I will not boast or brag online, nor will I pull others down.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled - *There are many wrongs to be righted. I will not be afraid to name them and look for justice in the world.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy - *I will not judge others but be generous online. I will be conscious of my own failings.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God - *I will be truthful and honest, and I will not pretend to be what I am not.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God - *I will seek to reconcile those of different views with imagination and good humour.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven - *I will not add to the store of hate in the world, but I will try to be courageous in standing up for what is right and true.*

Blessings, Rev Kev

What's on at the Wallingford Corn Exchange

Cinema

Regular performances start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated. Please look on www.cornexchange.org.uk for full listings.

The venue will be closed from Sunday 11th August to Sunday 18th August for annual maintenance.

Friday, 2nd August 7:30pm *Yesterday* (12A)

Saturday, 3rd August 7:30pm *Yesterday* (12A)

Monday, 19th August 7:30pm *The Current War* (12A)

Monday, 19th August 7:30pm *The Current War* (12A)

Tuesday, 20th August 7:30pm *The Current War* (12A)

Wednesday, 21st August 7:30pm *The Current War* (12A)

Friday, 23rd August 7:30pm *The Lion King* (PG)

Saturday, 24th August 2:30pm *The Lion King* (PG)

Sunday, 25th August 2:30pm *The Lion King* (PG)

Monday, 26th August 7:30pm *Pond Life* (15)
part of the BFI World Series of films

Live events

The Corn Exchange is one of the venues for Bunkfest which is held on Friday 30th August and Saturday 31st August. There will be music in the foyer and auditorium and the bar will be open all day. Come and join in the fun.

Coming soon

Thursday 26th September 7pm NT Live: *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Tickets £12.50 (adults), £10 (seniors and under 18s). Pre-recorded from 2011, the hit play by Richard Bean, based on 'The Servant of Two Masters' by Carlo

Goldoni. Featuring a Tony Award-winning performance from host of the The Late Late Show, James Corden, the hilarious West End and Broadway hit *One Man, Two Guvnors* returns to cinemas.

Citizens Advice - TV licence for over-75s

The BBC is planning to start charging over-75s for their TV licences unless they receive Pension Credit. Pension Credit is a benefit for people on low incomes who have reached the state retirement age. Currently, those aged 75 or older receive free TV licences which cover them and anyone else they live with. However, as from June 2020, over-75s will be means tested for the free licence. It is thought that more than three million people will no longer be eligible to receive it for free.

But if you can provide evidence that you get Pension Credit, you can continue to receive a free TV licence. Over a million people who qualify for Pension Credit aren't claiming it, the government says, so it's worth checking your eligibility. Call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 991 234 Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm to find out about your entitlement. Alternatively visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit. You'll need to quote your National Insurance number and be able to give details of your savings and pensions, as well as the account into which you want your Pension Credit paid.

If you live in a care home or sheltered housing you can get an Accommodation for Residential Care licence which costs £7.50. You only need this if you watch TV in your own separate accommodation.

If you need help understanding this change, telephone Citizens Advice Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

Wallingford Bridge Club Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

Wallingford Bridge Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary this summer. To mark the occasion the club recently held a Swiss Pairs bridge afternoon with nearly 50 members turning up to play in what was a very successful day.

Lunch was provided by the Chequers pub in Roke and 23 tables played six rounds of four boards each.



Wallingford Bridge Club started in Wallingford School library in 1969 and moved to different venues over the years before establishing itself at the village hall in Roke where it has been since 2001. This relationship has benefited both the club and the village with the club providing funds to fully restore the hall and add to the excellent facilities.

The club has grown significantly over the years and now has over 350 members. There are at least eight playing sessions on offer throughout the week, both day and evenings, and these cater for all standards of player with sessions ranging from 'friendly afternoon bridge' with a

tea break to more competitive evenings and team play. Wallingford Bridge Club has climbed to 20th on the English Bridge Union's list of clubs based on the number of playing sessions per year.

There is also an increase in the number of lessons and seminars that are on offer and from 10th September there will be new beginner and improver classes starting on Tuesdays in both the mornings and evenings. For further information on all the lessons and seminars see the Wallingford Bridge Club website www.bridgewebs.com/wallingford or contact Joan Bennett on 579795 joanmbennett@hotmail.co.uk

New members and visitors are always welcome, the annual membership is just £10 per person with each session costing just £2.50.



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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

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Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, email crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

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

Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 4th July 2019

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), David Rowley, Liz Ryall, Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, Andrew Johnson and David Topliss, Sue Rance (Clerk), Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer), District Councillor Andrea Powell and County Councillor Mark Gray, plus four members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fleur Stevenson and Julian Park.

Matters raised by the public

Toilets at the recreation ground should not be open to the public unless safeguarding issues have been addressed.

Speeding on the A4074 and The Street: a request for additional speed indicator devices (SIDs) and more police speed traps, especially at weekends.

Speed humps in The Street: cost of damage to a vehicle caused by road defects can be claimed from Oxfordshire Highways.

Potential development of the chalk pit in Crowmarsh Hill, where trees have now been cut down: there is outline permission for 2 pairs of semi-detached houses but no further planning application has been submitted.

Request for a tap at the Botany allotments: this had been discussed and refused at the last meeting.

Matters from the previous meeting

The District Council will carry out deep cleansing in late August and will be asked to clear overgrowing vegetation along Benson Lane. Students from Wallingford School would help with vegetation clearance on footpaths in Crowmarsh Gifford.

Finance

The schedule of payments made in June was approved, including another speed indicator device at a cost of £2176. £1000 would be funded from Cllr Gray's local budget.

The accounts for the first quarter were presented. All grant money for the playground has now been received, including a final £33,000 from SODC and £12,000 from WREN. There are still some payments to be made, but overall the Parish Council has contributed £33,500 towards the project.

It was agreed to donate £250 to Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.

The internal audit of accounts is now complete and the last year's accounts are available for public inspection: notices have been posted on noticeboards and on the website.

County Councillor's report

Councillor Mark Gray reported on the recent trial of parking restrictions in Stephens Field and the consultation of residents, carried out by him and the parish council chairman. There were 24 responses, of whom 21 wanted to make parking restrictions permanent and 3 did not. The result and the correspondence from residents in Bellamy Way and The Street had been passed to the county highways officers. Mark Gray will discuss with them why they want to do further official consultation of residents.

There were also problems reported over the following weekend (after the end of the trial) with a football event coinciding with heavy use of the riverside park in the fine weather. A letter was received from Chris Allum of Cholsey United FC in response to the many complaints about parking.

Co-option of parish councillor

Ken McCrea outlined his interest in becoming a parish councillor. After discussion he was unanimously co-opted and joined the council for the rest of the meeting.

District Councillor's report

District Councillor Andrea Powell reported on the Local Plan and other SODC matters – see separate article on pgs 3 & 4.

Planning

Decisions by SODC:

P18/S0827/O Outline application for up to 150 dwellings together with associated access, public open space, landscaping and amenity areas. Land to the east of Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford. OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.

Applications:

P19/S1800/DIS Discharge of conditions on P19/S0067/FUL, Single-storey sample storage building at the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BB. Not subject to consultation

P18/S4138/RM Reserved matters for the erection of 150 dwellings to include appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (all matters reserved except access) pursuant to outline permission P16/S3608/O, appeal reference APP/Q3115/W/17/3186858.

Amended plans received 19 June 2019. Benson Lane Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. The parish council repeated the comments made previously, that the layout is not integrated into the village, will add considerably to traffic on Benson Lane and could lead to flooding off-site.

Environment and Recreation Ground Committee

The Environment and Recreation Ground met on 20th June. Improvements to the play area will include cycle racks (to be installed in July) and a platform for the zip wires (to be installed in early September). A new fuseboard is to be fitted at the pavilion and a security shutter repaired.

We are looking to appoint a local person to

stand in for Chris Strange to look after the recreation ground when he is on leave.

Many positive comments on the playground have been posted on Facebook. Cllrs Rowley and Johnson have been asked to give advice to Wallingford Town Council on their new playground project.

An Environment Agency biodiversity expert has looked at the nature area to recommend improvements and management. There are a lot of wild flowers and butterflies at present and it is a good time to go and have a walk around there.

Toilets at the recreation ground

A member of the public has expressed strong concerns about the safety of children using toilets in the pavilion. The parish council had opened the toilets to users of the playground for their convenience, anticipating that young children would be well supervised, but recognises the importance of safeguarding and that the risks of unsupervised use need to be assessed. Hirers who had paid to use the pavilion could also expect to have exclusive use of the facilities. Therefore, after discussion, the council resolved that the toilets at the pavilion should not be made available to the public. They are for the exclusive use of hirers and signs will indicate that.

Traffic and Transport Committee

A speed indicator device (SID) has been ordered for Benson Lane. The SID on the A4074 will activate at 26mph, with a smiley face instead of 'thank you' in order to use less energy.

A meeting will be arranged with Jewsons about large lorries parking in The Street and the bus layby, which cause traffic congestion.

A resident has complained about parking on the green in Jethro Tull Gardens, which could damage the new tree, which is already under stress in the hot dry weather.

Cllr Soames reported that visibility at the northbound bus stop in North Stoke is very poor due to overgrown vegetation. He will find a contractor to cut it back.

Amanda Griffin attended the Oxfordshire

Parish Transport Reps meeting on 3rd July.
The County Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTP5) will look ahead as far as 2050: it will include air quality and focus on decreasing car usage. Consultation will open in the Autumn.

Oxford-Cambridge links were discussed. East-West Rail is developing in stages, with the first stage from Oxford to Bicester already operating very successfully. The business case for the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway has yet to be proven. There is a project to stop fraudulent use of concessionary cards.

Report from River Users Group 3

Cllr Ryall reported concern about people jumping off Wallingford Bridge. A boat had capsized at Sandford Lock. Trees are to be cut back where they are encroaching on the river.

Vacancies for Parish Councillors

There are now ten councillors, so there are still two vacancies on the Parish Council. Expressions of interest from Mongewell or North Stoke would be particularly welcome.

A list of committees and representatives on outside bodies will be circulated in August so that roles and responsibilities can be discussed in September.

Other business

There were reports of increased incidents of shed burglaries. Our neighbourhood police have recommended security measures to deter thieves.

There was a discussion about making our meetings more efficient, keeping them to two hours whenever possible. Ways to achieve this will be considered at the August meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 8th August, starting at 7.30pm.

John Howell MP Newsletter

By the time this newsletter is published we will have a new Prime Minister and Parliament will probably be in recess. This is a time when MPs often take a holiday and it is also a time when we can spend more time in our constituencies. I find it a good time to catch up with local meetings and spend more time out and about in the constituency.

As I think of holidays, I am sure many will be travelling abroad. With climate change high on our agenda the issue of CO2 emissions from aviation is a hot topic. Some people avoid travelling by air but for others this is not realistic. As with all issues around climate change we need to tackle it on all fronts. There is a need for action at a global level to address CO2 emissions from aviation. I am pleased that Ministers are taking action to encourage the development of lower carbon jet fuels. Amendments have been made to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order (RTFO) to include the use of sustainable alternative fuels in aviation. Further to this, £20 million has been made available through the National Productivity Investment Fund to leverage private sector investment to help develop and commercialise alternative fuels. This has the potential to reduce the carbon impact of aviation and heavy goods vehicles and capitalise on the industrial opportunities for growth and jobs.

Every action taken by an individual is a move in the right direction and we should not feel that it is too small. I welcome initiatives such as Young Climate Warriors which encourages positive shared action. I know that there are several communities in the constituency where a climate action group has been set up. I would welcome knowing more about these so that we can encourage one another and share ideas.

More generally, if you have an issue or concern relating to Parliament which you would like to discuss you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

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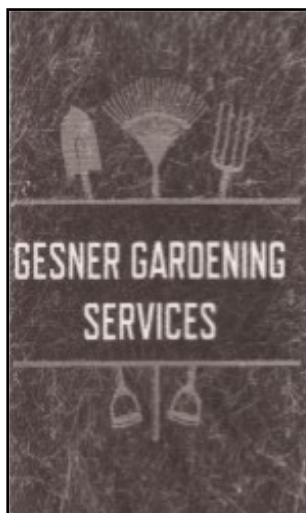
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WHAT'S ON — AUGUST 2019

Regular events and meetings

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

This month

Saturday 3rd	20.00 onwards	Music: Boxwood and Brass Sextet	St Peter's Church, Wallingford
Sunday 4th	09.30 onwards	CTC 25 mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 7th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Volunteering in Nepal	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 8th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 10th	10.30 onwards	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 11th	15.00-17.00	Goring and Streatley Band	Wallingford Castle Gardens
Saturday 17th	11.00-16.00	Mystery Day @ Wallingford Museum	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 17th	20.00 onwards	Music: Papagena sing Nuns and Roses	St Peter's Church, Wallingford
Sunday 18th	09.30 onwards	CTC 30 mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 25th & Monday 26th	All day	Bank Holiday Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Saturday 31st	10.30 onwards	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Friday 30th - Sunday 1st September	All days	Bunkfest	Locations throughout Wallingford

September

Sunday 1st	09.30 onwards	CTC 20 mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 4th	14.00 onwards	U3A: From Page to Stage	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 5th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 7th	20.00 onwards	Music: The Barbican String Quartet	St Peter's Church, Wallingford