



Online edition No. 4

August 2020

From the Editorial Team

Although the lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease, we have decided to suspend normal publication of the *Crowmarsh News* for a fourth month. Some of our regular advertisers are open for business again, and we have listed these along with useful details of village support groups. As before, we are asking for readers to be kind enough to print off a copy of this issue for neighbours who do not have access to the internet.

We sincerely hope to return to normal publication in the near future. In the meantime, we hope you will all keep well and stay safe.

E-mail: Crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

Crowmarsh Stores is open

The village shop in Crowmarsh Gifford is open and welcomes customers, up to two at a time.

Opening times are

Monday to Friday 7.30am – 6.00pm

Saturday 8.00am – 6.00pm

Sundays 8.00am – 12 noon

Please help by respecting the shop's attempt to maintain social distancing rules by limiting the number of customers in the shop to two at any one time.

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency number 101

Playground and outdoor gym reopen

Crowmarsh playground and outdoor gym are now open again following easing of lockdown restrictions. Before use, please read the signs and follow the guidance.

Opening has involved checking that the equipment is in good order, putting up signs to make sure everyone takes responsibility to use the equipment safely, and fitting hand sanitisers to encourage frequent hand cleaning.

Please note that by using the play area or outdoor gym you will be accepting that it is not risk-free with regards to COVID-19. We expect parents and carers to take responsibility.

This means:

- don't use play equipment or gym if you or if anyone in your household or support bubble has COVID-19 or is showing symptoms
- those with health vulnerabilities should avoid using these confined, busy spaces at this time
- hands should be washed/sanitised before, after and during use of the equipment and you may wipe it down before and after use.
- supervise children closely at all times to maintain social distancing – we recommend at least 2 metres
- parents and carers must also maintain social distancing
- to help reduce numbers, only 1 family member may accompany a child

The play area may be in high demand, so please be patient. Do not enter the play enclosure if it is so busy that social distancing will not be possible.

If you are using any green spaces or gym please adhere to the guidelines on social distancing, maintaining a distance of 2 metres (6ft), alone or with members of your household and wash/sanitise your hands before, after and during usage of the equipment.

To report any problems please contact Crowmarsh Parish Council at crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

To report any anti-social behaviour call 101.

Corn Exchange news

Well, what a year it has been. Everyone at the Corn Exchange in Wallingford hopes that you are keeping safe and well. Now that lockdown is easing, we want to update you on our plans.

You will have heard that the Government authorised cinemas to open from 4th July, but there is still no date for when theatres will be allowed to re-open for live performances. Because we provide both cinema and theatre, this means we will only show films when we first re-open.

We are totally committed to the health, safety and well-being of our fantastic volunteers and our loyal and supportive audience, and are working hard to ensure we make the Corn Exchange as safe as possible for all our visitors.

We are taking professional Health & Safety advice on how best to modify our unique building, create COVID-19-safe procedures and ensure that everyone is fully trained.

We will also be using this enforced shut-down period to complete our annual maintenance tasks.

Because we are all volunteers, this will take us some time, so we will not be re-opening until at least the beginning of September. Re-opening will also depend on the status of the virus and government guidelines at the time.

We will update you on any further developments as and when we have them. We will also be eagerly awaiting advice from the Government on when we can resume live performances and theatre.

Your *Crowmarsh News* needs you!

When we return to the long-awaited New Normal, *Crowmarsh News* will need additional volunteers. We need someone who can edit copy, and someone who can handle layouts (we use Microsoft Publisher). If that might be you, please contact James and Toni on 201580.

Parish support contacts

Here are some details of various groups you can join in the villages. If you want to join your local group but don't know how to make contact with them, please contact the *Crowmarsh News* and we will 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

Parish council vacancies

There are two vacancies on the parish council following the resignation of Jon Grove and Gaynor Hopkins.

Please contact the parish clerk, Sue Rance (crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com) or the chairman (johngriffin@phoncoop.coop) if you might be interested in joining the council, or talk to any councillor (see page 5).

Residents of North Stoke or Mongewell are especially welcome to apply.

Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation on the Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan continues until 21 August. The plan and all the supporting documents are available as pdf files on the parish website crowmarshgifford.org.uk.

You can get a printed copy of the plan from Crowmarsh Stores, or from Stuart Soames in North Stoke. Please take a copy for any neighbours who do not have access to the internet. Opportunities to talk about the Plan will be made available in August in the grounds of the two village halls – dates to be announced.

Please return your comments by Friday 21st August, by email to the Parish Clerk at crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com or in writing via the Pavilion letter box at Crowmarsh Rec. The Parish Council is particularly keen to hear comments that will strengthen the Plan.

Please note that all responses will be catalogued and may be published in the consultation statement alongside details of any changes made to the plan in consequence of the consultation responses.

From the Queens Head

The Queens Head is now open again but we are still doing takeaways as our pub reopens its doors. To book a collection visit <https://www.simpleerb.com/9861/queens-head-at-crowmarsh> or ring 01491 839857.

Beers to takeaway have been popular too: just bring along a clean sealable container and we will measure it in by the pint.

Stuart & Natasha

The Queens Head, 72 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8ER

talktous@queensheadcrowmarsh.pub

Past Times

The boiler explosion at Wallingford Mill

On Thursday 21st July 1864, at about twelve o'clock, the inhabitants of Wallingford were startled by a loud explosion, thought to be similar to the firing of cannon. An immense cloud of steam, smoke and dust was seen rising into the air in the vicinity of the Town Mill, occupied by Mr T K Adkins (the mill was located on the right-hand corner of St Leonard's Lane and St Mary's Street).

The steam boiler had exploded. The whole of the mill engine house was destroyed, brick work and metal from the boiler was scattered all over the area, some bricks were found 160 yards away. Mr Brasher's house was riddled by bits of brick and metal and looked as if it had been under shell fire.

There appeared to be only one person injured, a boy named Alfred Whitmore of Chalmore Lock. He was struck by flying debris and was so severely injured that he was taken to the Royal Berks Hospital. His jaw and collar bone were broken and part of his lip was severed. The engine man was blown through the roof but was uninjured!

The following week many complaints were published in the local press about the mill being close to a main road and surrounded by many houses and cottages. A demand was made that any replacement boiler should be inspected on a regular basis, and if this was not done the locals would all withhold their rents or rates.

At the inquiry it was found that a tube within the boiler had burst. The demands of the residents were enforced when the mill was rebuilt — and Alfred Whitmore made a full recovery.

David Beasley

Wallingford Country Market update

As you may know, Wallingford Country Market, which is normally open each Friday morning in St Mary-le-More Church behind the Town Hall, has been closed since mid-March due to the onset of COVID-19.

We are very much looking forward to the time when we can safely re-open our market so that all our regular customers, and new ones, can again purchase our lovely home-baked goods, home-grown flowers, plants, produce, eggs, preserves, honey and hand-crafted items.

We miss you all! When we have more news on a date for our re-opening we will let you know via our website www.oxfordshirecountrymarkets.co.uk and local magazines and notice boards.

If you would like to contact us in the meantime with any questions or requests, please email us at wallingford@oxfordshirecountrymarkets.co.uk

Wallingford Country Market Committee

Church News

Resuming Public Worship in August

I am delighted to confirm that we are resuming our Sunday services, although with many adaptations to ensure everyone's safety. Our PCC has finalised our risk assessment to include all the latest recommendations and guidelines from national government, the Church of England and our own diocese. Face coverings are "strongly recommended" although not mandatory. However, congregational singing is not allowed. Alternate pews are marked as out of use, and everyone will need to observe social distancing, for example, one "household bubble" at a time to come up to receive the communion wafer (which will have been covered during the words of consecration).

Please note that no-one should feel under any pressure to attend public worship if they deem the risk is too great or attendance would bring additional anxiety. Obviously, do not attend any public worship if you or anyone in your household bubble is showing any symptoms of the coronavirus. For everyone's safety, we will be temporarily keeping attendance lists for Track & Trace purposes as recommended by the Government.

The "Worship at Home" service from St Mary's will continue to be broadcast on YouTube for anyone for whom the risk of returning to public worship is too great. Village worship will appear on the Wallingford CofE Facebook page (www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe), which should also be accessible without an account via the column on the righthand side of the team website (www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk). We hope this will be live but if the 4G signal is too weak within the church walls, then the recording will be posted as soon as possible afterwards.

We hope you can join us in our worship, either online or physically in person!

Blessings, Rev Kev

*The Revd Kevin Beer, The Vicarage, 34 Thamesmead, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EY
Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)*

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on-line on Thursday 2nd July.

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chairman), Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, Ken McCrea, Fleur Stevenson, David Topliss, Andrew Johnson, Julian Park and Liz Ryall, District Cllr Sue Cooper, County Councillor Mark Gray, Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer), Sue Rance (Clerk). Apologies were received from Cllr David Rowley.

Finance

A donation of £200 was agreed to the Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub, who need funds urgently to continue supporting patients at home.

The approved accounts may be inspected until Friday 7th August 2020. A summary of the accounts has been posted on noticeboards and the website.

Planning consultations

P20/S1589/FUL The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BE. Amendment – biodiversity study. This does not change our previous response.

P20/S0465/HH 1 Newnham Farm Cottages Old Reading Road Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW Two storey extension to side of existing dwelling. New garage, utility, master bedroom and ensuite. Single storey extension to rear for kitchen. Amended 15 June 2020 changing design of the extension. NO OBJECTION

P20/S1744/HH 4 Whitehouse Road North Stoke OX10 6BADemolition of conservatory. Two storey side and single storey rear extensions, as amended on 1 July 2020. NO OBJECTION

P20/S1755/HH 15A Wallingford Road North Stoke OX10 6BD. Erection of Garden Shed. NO OBJECTION

The public and parish councils should soon be able to contribute directly to virtual committee meetings as well as putting forward views in writing.

District and County Council reports

SODC's Community Hub has been extremely active in supporting vulnerable residents over the past few months, but activity levels have now started to reduce. Both County Cllr Gray and District Cllr Cooper are keen to continue supporting volunteer community groups after the pandemic.

A meeting would be held at Jewsons to discuss the problems with delivery lorries. Cllr Mark Gray had arranged with Jewsons for lorries to wait at the Fairmile layby in Cholsey to await their delivery slot.

The County Council has funding for Active Travel to make pavements and cycle routes clear and wide enough to be used safely following lockdown. Visit www.widenmypath.com to submit a suggestion for improvements.

The SODC Local Plan Examination in Public runs from 14th July for 4 weeks. Since the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, instructed the Council to take the plan through examination and to adopt it by the end of December, the Council's Planning team is defending the March 2019 plan, but the councillors elected in May 2019 are putting forward significant improvements to the plan to deal with climate change and environmental threats.

Strategic priorities

Money from the Community Infrastructure Levy will allow the parish council to proceed with some infrastructure improvements. The pedestrian and cycle crossing of the A4074 Portway is included in the planning application for development on the Newnham Manor site. Cllr Sherbourne will commission a design for a pedestrian crossing in The Street near to the Bell pub and will discuss this with Oxfordshire Highways. A crossing in Benson Lane should be funded as part of the SODC office development.

Environment and recreation

A revised design for improvements to the pavilion facilities has been drawn up by the architects Carrolls. New toilets will each have a separate entrance. The plan includes a new meeting room.

Government guidance will now permit the re-opening of play areas and outdoor gyms providing suitable risk assessments are in place. The open spaces at Crowmarsh Gifford recreation ground and North Stoke Village Green are being well used for exercise following government rules.

Traffic and transport

The Chairman met the County Council's Ralph Green on site to discuss the Parish Council's request for two bus shelters near the CABI site. These are now being funded by the CALA Homes development. We hope to have real-time information at these bus stops.

Allotments

The water supply leak at Botany Allotments has been repaired. A tap has been installed and a key provided to the allotment holder who had requested it.

Future meetings

The next meeting will take place on-line on Thursday 6th August starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are entitled to attend council meetings, whether online or otherwise. For details, please contact the clerk, Sue Rance (e-mail crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com).

Advertisers

These regular *Crowmarsh News* advertisers have confirmed to us that they are now open:

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	
GA Electrical	reception@groupga.co.uk 01491 835875	
Garden Machinery repairs and servicing	Call Jon 07766 755652 anytime	
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
Puppy Classes	info@sohelpmedog.co.uk 07788 174506	sohelpmedog.co.uk
Roy Windebank	roysworkshop@gmail.com 01491 652345	roywindebank.co.uk
RefreshPro	info@refreshpro.co.uk 07772 416465	refreshpro.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
South Oxfordshire Wellness	jo@sowellness.co.uk 07775 943574	sowellness.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	



From our MP

I want to begin this month with a huge thank you to everyone in our communities who has done so much to help others through the coronavirus crisis. I have been so encouraged by the resourcefulness of communities, the way in which people have adapted to the circumstances, the support that has been given to the vulnerable, and the resilience shown over so many weeks.

Lockdown has gone on for longer than many of us imagined at first and I know that in some respects the initial community spirit has become jaded by our own weariness and frustrations.

Many people are still worried about their health and others are frustrated and worried about their livelihoods whether in their own business or in employment.

I am also aware of many concerns over the risks not of the virus but of the vacuum created with life on hold. These include concerns over missed education, missed health treatments, mental health and well-being issues and so much more.

It was always going to be easier to go into lockdown than to come out and we need to move out with care for one another. The risk of a second wave of the virus is constant and we must not allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security. Yet we must do what we can to return to normal, whatever that will be going forward.

When the Prime Minister delivered his speech on recovery I know that the 'Build, build, build' slogan worried some people as they took it to be primarily about house building and were concerned that this might be uncontrolled. It is certainly not about uncontrolled development and indeed is very much wider. It is about rebuilding our collective lives, about investment in infrastructure that has been long called for – in schools, hospitals, and transport, and in turn in creating jobs and rebuilding our economy.

There has also been right and proper concern that we take this opportunity to rebuild with the environment in mind, a green recovery as it has been called. I have supported this and was pleased to see this coming through in the Chancellor's mini budget delivered on 8th July.

During this time when many people have been unable to work and so have had more time to themselves I have seen the number and variety of issues raised with me grow enormously. Over the last month, with the help of my team, we have dealt with over 3500 emails, this represents over a five-fold increase on more normal months. A large number of these have been helping people on individual issues and problems related to Coronavirus.

With other emails it has been interesting to see the wide range of concerns on people's minds. Clearly planning and development concerns and environmental issues remain high on the agenda for constituents.

On many issues I make comment on my website so please do have a look:
www.johnhowell.org.uk.

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 my constituency office: PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. My staff all continue to work remotely, and all mail is diverted to my constituency office.

John Howell MP