

Crowmarsh News

Issue 471

December 2017

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.

For our advertising rates, please see page 18.

IMPORTANT

The future of *Crowmarsh News*

Your *Crowmarsh News* is run by a small group of volunteers. Most of us have jobs and families as well.

We are delighted that our appeal for additional volunteers in the November issue attracted a response, and we hope we will soon be able to implement some changes which will take some of the pressure off the existing team.

However, we are not out of the woods yet. We still need somebody to understudy our Advertising Manager (who is also our Treasurer). If you feel you could help, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, we are also looking for somebody to take over the distribution of the *Crowmarsh News* for Newnham Green. This is not an onerous task, and the actual work involves just a few hours once a month. If this is something you could take on, please get in touch through one of the contact points shown below.

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, Amanda Maher, Kirsty Dawson

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 January issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our **20th December 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.

The January issue of *Crowmarsh News* will be distributed early in the New Year.

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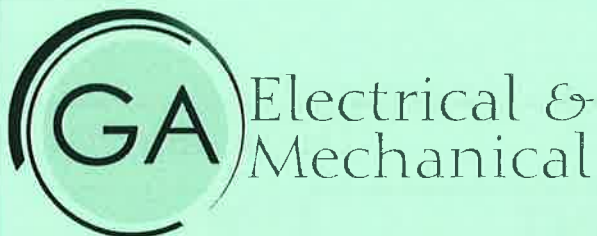


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Christmas Carol Concert

You are warmly invited to join Wallingford Parish Church Choir at their Christmas Carol Concert on Saturday 9th December at 7pm in St Mary's Church, Wallingford. It will last about an hour and be followed by light refreshments.

Admission is free, with a retiring collection.

The concert is part of the Celebration of Light being held in the Church. Hundreds of little lights and stars will create a magical atmosphere in which to hear traditional carols as well as festive works by John Rutter, Andrew Carter plus the ever popular Adolphe Adams' *O Holy Night*.

Do come along if you can. For more information, please contact Sue Huntingford-Ledger on 835207.

Crowmarsh Gifford Scout Post

The Scouts will be offering their postal delivery service around the local area again this Christmas.

The first collection will be on Thursday 14th December, and the last time the collection boxes will be cleared will be at approximately 3.30pm on Thursday 21st December.

To have your cards delivered by the Scouts, please remember to write the full address on the envelope, and put just 25p per card into the collection box along with your cards.

Scout Post Collection Boxes can be found in:

Crowmarsh Village Store; Crowmarsh School; Howbery Park; CEH Wallingford; KP Stationers; House of Cards; Feet First Shoe Repairs; Londis on Sinodun Road.

Delivery Area:

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Interested? Visit oacp.org.uk/jobs for job opportunities and to find out more about working in care.

Corn Exchange update

Work on refurbishing Wallingford's Corn Exchange roof is in its final stages but the theatre will not open until the annual pantomime in January 2018. So in the meantime the cinema venue of choice is The Great Hall in Cholsey Meadows (the location is on the site of the former Fairmile Hospital, off the Reading Road).

Meanwhile, at the Corn Exchange, the seats have been replaced, the auditorium is being redecorated and more of the original features of the building can be seen.

Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall is ideal for children's parties ...

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

Crowmarsh School

December already. It seems this time of year comes around so quickly!

We have just had another amazing week for grandparents - each afternoon, grandparents coming in to share in their grandchildren's learning. We had over one hundred sets of grandparents throughout the week, which just shows how much this event is enjoyed by both the children and the adults. Thank you to our community members who were able to come and visit during the week as well; the children thoroughly enjoy spending an afternoon with you.

We've had many visitors this month including James Carter, a local poet who inspired the children from reception to year 6 to write different forms of poetry. We also enjoyed a visit from Alan Campbell, Olympic rower, who told his story of determination, perseverance and hard work.

Also this month, we saw our RAFTers garden officially open with Station Commander Group Captain Hamish Cormack and one of our parents, Stewart Fryatt. It is thanks to Mr Fryatt's support that we were able to secure a grant from the MOD which helped to fund our new gardening area. The children are looking forward to beginning their planting and have devised a competition for across the school to create the most varied and/or beautiful raised bed.

As always in December, this is the season for nativity plays, concerts and our annual PTA Christmas Fayre which is on Thursday 7th December starting at 5.30 until 7.30. We hope that we are able to welcome many of you into our school over the next few weeks.

We wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Until Next Time...

Flora Barton
Headteacher

Pictures, logos and display ads for the Crowmarsh News...
...are best in .jpg or .pdf format.

Neighbourhood police update

Dog fouling

Dog owners have a duty of care to ensure that they clean up any mess their dogs leave. We are looking at cracking down on this with the Parish Councils working with SODC to start issuing fines for dog fouling. These can be issued retrospectively, so if you witness anyone not cleaning up their dog mess, please get in touch with your local council.

Crime prevention advice

As the days are getting colder and your cars are likely to be frosted in the morning, please remember that it is an offence to leave a vehicle unattended with the engine running. It also leaves you vulnerable to an opportunist stealing your car - and as you have left the keys in the ignition you are likely not to be covered by your insurance. This can and does happen. We had several reports last year of vehicles being stolen on drives or on the roadside. Please ensure that you keep your property safe and secure at all times and don't leave valuables in vehicles.

If you want advice or to contact PCSO Marie Davenport and the neighbourhood team, call the police non-emergency number 101 (or if it is an emergency then dial 999). You can also contact us via email WallingfordBerinsfield-CholseyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. This email address cannot be used to report crimes or for urgent matters.

View more information on the Thames Valley Police website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk - you can choose what updates you receive and how. Or follow the Thames Valley Police Twitter account: @TVP-SouthandVale.

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Women at War, 1914-1918



This month's photograph shows four local ladies working at Walter Wilder's Iron Foundry (Jethro Tull Gardens now occupies the site). They must have found the work very heavy, hot and dusty. During the First World War, nearly two million women took over jobs traditionally done by men.

Without this effort from the women of the nation, the armed forces would have been short of men to do the fighting, and the war would undoubtedly have lasted longer. They became tram drivers and ticket collectors, they worked in factories on lathes and milling machines, they drove coal carts and carried large sacks of coal and coke on their backs, they became lumberjacks. In January 1917 the Land Army was formed and 16,000 women joined up.

Possibly the worst job was working in the munitions factories. There had always been a female work force in munitions manufacturing (212,000) but by 1918 there were nearly a million female workers. The girls' faces and hair would turn yellow due to the lyddite, and because of their colour they were known as "canaries". They also suffered with bad coughing, burns and swelling of their hands. 109 are recorded to have died of lyddite poisoning.

There were several large explosions in the munitions factories, too. At Silvertown in the east end of London in 1917 there was a huge

explosion that destroyed or damaged 70,000 houses and killed 73 people, most of them female workers. At Chilwell munitions factory on the outskirts of Nottingham, there was an even larger explosion. The factory employed 10,000 people, and produced around 45,000 shells a day. On 1st July 1918 eight tons of TNT exploded without warning, killing 134 employees, of which only 32 were positively identified.

The pay in the munitions factories was high compared with work elsewhere. A woman could earn £2 a week for a 12-hour shift. If she worked with TNT, she was paid £5 a week. Initially most of the "canaries" were single or child-less, but the number of wives and mothers increased as the war went on and childcare became a problem.

By the end of the war there were around 100 nurseries nationwide, but most children were looked after by friends, relatives and elder daughters who had to miss school so they could look after their younger brothers and sisters. Many of the munitions factories had their own ladies' football teams to give the girls exercise, and works canteens were introduced so the workers could be fed at the work place and ensure they had healthy diet.

To me the women who worked on the Home Front are the unsung heroes of the First World War and their sacrifice should not be forgotten.

Get into the festive spirit with PACT!

Adoption charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) will be holding its annual Christmas Carol Concert at Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 10th December.

Local families are welcome to attend the concert, which will feature festive readings and performances from talented singers including The Dorchester Abbey Choir. There will also be plenty of opportunities for the congregation to join in with some classic Christmas carols.

The concert will start at 5pm, with light refreshments served from 4pm. It is free to attend but booking is essential via www.pactcharity.org/carols

PACT Chief Executive Jan Fishwick OBE said: "I always look forward to this wonderfully festive event in the beautiful Dorchester Abbey – it really is one of the highlights of the year at PACT. All are welcome, so please do come along and help us celebrate family life this Christmas."

And with Christmas coming, PACT is encouraging people to support its work building and strengthening families through a number of festive fundraising initiatives.

Supporters can once again buy Christmas cards in aid of PACT. These can be ordered via our website at www.pactcharity.org/christmas-cards

PACT is also appealing for people to take part in this year's Reading Charity Santa Run on Sunday 3rd December on its behalf. To find out more or to enter, see www.readingsantarun.co.uk, and for help and advice on how to raise sponsorship for PACT, please email fundraising@pactcharity.org

Or for a less energetic way to support PACT this Christmas, why not wear your best seasonal sweater in aid of the adoption charity? PACT will be holding its Christmas Jumper Day on Tuesday 12th December and is inviting local offices, schools and churches to join in with this. To find out more on how to get involved, please contact fundraising@pactcharity.org



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To book North Stoke Village Hall

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

Wallingford and District Stroke Club

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

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



Treasures with Tales – your help, please!

Most of us keep a few treasured items, not necessarily because they are 'valuable' but because they have a special significance. Often they are very simple things - like an ornament, souvenir, letter, picture, find, etc - but each has some sort of memorable story behind it. Wallingford Museum is asking if you would share one or more of your 'Treasures with Tales' to help create a very special exhibition for 2018.

Once you've had a think, please send details to: 'Treasures', Judy Dewey, Wallingford Museum, 52 High Street, Wallingford OX10 0DB, phone 651127, or email: admin@wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

We're hoping for a great response! The sooner we hear from you, the easier it will be to plan the exhibition. It will open on 1st March 2018 and run until 30th November, after which your 'Treasures' will be safely returned.

The last time we asked the public to lend us things (for 'I Remember That' looking back at life over the last 50 years) we had a fantastic response and created one of our most popular exhibitions ever. We hope our 'Treasures with Tales' will prove just as fascinating for the whole community!

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wallingford Museum Bookshop

As usual, Wallingford Museum will close for its winter break (December, January and February) to prepare exciting new exhibitions for next year. The Museum will re-open on 1st March 2018.

In the meantime, book-lovers and present-seekers should make a point of visiting Wallingford Museum's bookstall while the museum is closed for its winter refurbishment.

We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-

fiction) at sensible prices. We'll be open through December, January and February - every Friday from 10.30 to 3pm, and every Saturday from 10.30 to 1pm.

We look forward to seeing you.

Kathy Benson



'Rena Gardiner: illustrating history'

Martin Andrews will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about Rena Gardiner. Artist and printmaker, Rena Gardiner dedicated her life to the writing, illustrating and printing of over 45 beautiful books about historic buildings, towns and landscapes. Her work is now valued and collected and her contribution to twentieth-century book illustration has been recognised. This illustrated talk will bring the work of this remarkable woman to a wider audience.

Martin Andrews co-authored with Julian Francis on the first book on Rena Gardiner, published in 2015. Martin is a recently retired lecturer at Reading University, and has spoken at least three times to the society in the past.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 10th January, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. www.twhas.org.uk

Katharine Keats-Rohan

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next Sale of Donated Goods is on Saturday 16th December, from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm, but we are unable to accept goods on Sale Day or the day before.

The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF. Please call 01491 641384 ext 246 for further information or details.

Wallingford U3A

At our November meeting, Alastair Lack gave us 'An Anecdotal History of Oxford University'. He packed 800 years into a cheerful and interesting talk.

The University began in the 12th century with students, often aged between 11 and 14, living in 'residences'. They could be wild, and there were frequent gang fights with boys of the town. In 1249 the Bishop of Oxford put up the money to pay for University College, to train 12 Clerics to serve the Church and the State. The Bishop of Winchester founded New College, the Bishop of Lincoln paid for Lincoln College.... and so it went. And still the Great and the Good found Colleges. In the 20th Century, Lord Nuffield founded Nuffield College, for example. And some Trusts and benefactors give huge sums of money to Colleges and to the University.

Oxford gives back: 27 Prime ministers, 13 from Christchurch alone. And President Clinton was a Rhodes Scholar. The Ashmolean is the oldest free public museum in the world and has over a million visitors a year. The Bodleian is one of the world's great libraries. And the Oxford University Press, among other things, knows that thousands of families worldwide have a 'Concise Oxford Dictionary' lying around somewhere. The University did not admit women until the 1870s (600 years!) but in 2017, for the first time, women students outnumber men, and Louise Richardson is the first woman Vice Chancellor.

The city's architecture spans the centuries: medieval, Adam, modern - the Westgate, anybody? - but Oxford University is consistently recognised as one of the greatest Universities in the world. And it's ours.

Our December meeting will be the Christmas Party. At Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm as usual, mulled wine, mince pies, entertainment and food. It's usually good fun.

Holiday: We are going to Norfolk for 5 days in June. For the Itinerary and Booking Forms phone Eileen on 825156.

Theatre: *My Fair Lady* at Sonning Mill on 13th

January is fully booked, but there is a reserve list. There may be cancellations.

Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest*, also at Sonning Mill, is booked for Saturday 30th June. Forms will be available at the January Meeting.

Lunch Club: Sunday 10th December at Goring and Streatley Golf Club. It is a special Christmas Lunch, and is usually a particularly enjoyable occasion. Mike Morfey is organising this, so for information please phone him direct on 680505.

For more information about what we do, please visit our website, Google: u3awallingford or phone Jill on 835994.

Wreath Making at the Earth Trust

Make a beautiful festive wreath for your home or to give as a gift. All materials are provided but feel free to bring along any additional foliage or decorations you would like to include. The £20 cost includes everything you need to make one wreath, and includes a hot drink and a mince pie!

Fridays 1st and 8th December:
Wreath Making (adults only) at 1pm and 2pm each day
Wreath Making for Families (kids welcome) at 3.45pm each day

Booking is essential for these events. You can book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

These events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ and more information can be found on our website www.earthtrust.org.uk.

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District Councillor's Report

Local Plan

The South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033 is now live and the documents can be viewed on our website. The publicity period is more formal than the previous four consultations, as the Planning Inspectorate dictates the specific questions we must ask relating to the soundness and legality of the plan.

Neighbourhood Plan update

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council has submitted its draft neighbourhood plan to SODC. Three neighbourhood plans were approved in October - Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Chinnor and Long Wittenham. These will now form part of the South Oxfordshire development plan.

Go Active Juniors

Do you know a sports club that needs support to help young people become more active? We've launched Go Active Juniors - a new project for anyone up to 18 years old. The project aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity by getting young people active in our area. The team offer a range of support including helping to find new coaches to deliver sports sessions, assist clubs to set up new activity sessions and help clubs with equipment.

Get in touch with Emma Freeman (Emma.Freeman@southandvale.gov.uk) if you know of a sports club that could benefit from our support.

New community lottery

We're setting up a new online lottery for our residents to help raise funds for local community groups and charities. Residents can enter a £1 weekly online draw and be in with a chance of winning prizes ranging from free prize draw tickets right up to the £25,000 jackpot. Each £1 ticket bought has a 1 in 56 chance of winning a prize and nearly 60p of each ticket price will go to a local good cause. We are working with Aylesbury Vale District Council to set up our scheme and website and will use an external lottery manager to run it on our behalf. To get an idea on what the online lottery will look like, you can visit the Aylesbury Vale Lottery website.

We hope to launch the lottery early next year but if you'd like any further information please email Sally Truman (Sally.Truman@southandvale.gov.uk)

New permanent offices in Crowmarsh

We've announced that we intend to return to our Crowmarsh Gifford site. Since moving to Milton Park we've investigated a wide range of options for a permanent home and have now concluded that the most cost-effective solution is to move back to the site. We will now work to prepare and build a new, smaller headquarters, which is more suited to our needs. The building will include a new council chamber for South's committee meetings, whilst Vale's meetings will continue to take place at The Beacon in Wantage.

Recycling, rubbish and waste update

Our new fleet of vehicles are now out and about on collection rounds. There are two different types of vehicle - one large truck for recycling and household waste and a smaller type for food waste recycling. Previously waste was collected in different compartments on the same lorry - but this has now changed. This means that collections are being carried out at different times of the day. There aren't any changes to collection days or the way you will need to put out your bins.

Community Safety Partnership

'Don't bin your batteries' call following waste and recycling truck fires. Residents in South Oxfordshire are being urged not to put batteries or other items which could cause a fire in their waste or recycling wheelie bin. Recently two small fires started in rubbish while it was being transported in waste and recycling trucks. Both were potentially very dangerous incidents to the crews, other road users and pedestrians. They also caused delays to collections and could have resulted in significant damage.

The fires were caused by items residents had put in their bins, most likely to have been standard lithium-ion batteries – like the ones found in most mobile phones.

Batteries should be put in a clear plastic bag and left on top of the green recycling bin, while small electrical items, that may also contain batteries, can be put out in a carrier bag along-

side the grey refuse bin for separate collection.

If an item in a waste truck or at the depot catches fire then it could be extremely dangerous. I urge all of our residents to check that they are not putting items in their bins which could cause a fire.

Reminder - Councillor grants - applications needed

We've started receiving applications for councillor grants and have made our first three decisions with payments now on their way. I have a total of £5000 to distribute to local community groups and can make an award of £500 up to the full amount. If you need help financing a project please go to our website www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants or call 01235 422405. The deadline for groups to apply is 20th December.

Finally, please remember to support all our small independent businesses in the run up to Christmas. I know many towns and villages are organising festive shopping evenings too so do pop along and help keep your local community thriving.

Have a happy and enjoyable Christmas break, whatever you do.

Felix Bloomfield

Wallingford Gardening Club Wine, Mince Pies and Quiz

At the December meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, our members will test their gardening know-how with a short quiz.

Following a very brief Annual General Meeting, they will all enjoy wine and mince pies!

This event will be held in the Ridgeway Community Centre, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th December. Visitors very welcome, £3.

To help you plan ahead, we also have some advance notice of future event: Thursday 11th January - Bugs and Beasties in the garden (Aleck Harrison).

Isabelle Darby

Henley and District Philatelic Society

At this time of the year, because of possible bad weather, club members do the work and prepare various displays. This makes for some interesting evenings as much of the material is a side line of people's collections. It is a good time to come and see what a variety of interesting material can be collected under the all-embracing title of Philately. We wish you all the Season's Greetings and hope to see you in 2018.

13th December - Displays of 'Festive Philately'

10th January - The Chairman's Evening, a popular evening with tales and displays of unusual material

24th January - Displays 'Red and Green' up to 9 pages per member

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

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club is a friendly and welcoming club for photographers of all levels from novice to professional. We meet every Thursday evening at 7.30pm for 8pm in Crowmarsh Pavilion from early September to late May, and we are always very pleased to welcome visitors and new members. We operate a varied programme and full details along with information on how to find us can be seen on our website, <http://www.wallingfordphoto.club>.

Our January programme includes a members' evening; a presentation on movement in photography; a talk on wildlife photography with prints; and a history of Harwell through the camera. So if you have any interest in photography, why not pay us a visit in the New Year to find out what the club has to offer?

Michael Parrott



St Mary Magdalene's Church Crowmarsh Gifford

Team Vicar: The Rev'd Kevin Beer
34 Thames Mead
Crowmarsh Gifford. OX10 8EY
Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Churchwardens:

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

Services for December

All are welcome to join us on a Sunday or at any of our special services (all at St Mary Magdalene except the first one).

Sunday 3rd	4pm	Advent Carol Service at St Mary's, Newnham Murren
Tuesday 12th	6pm	Village Carols (*to be confirmed – please see www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar for updates)
Thursday 14th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Carols (for all, including our local business community)
Sunday 24th (Christmas Eve)	11am 3pm 11.30pm	Family Communion Crib Service Midnight Communion
Monday 25th (Christmas Day)	11am	Family Communion

Are you missing the X-Factor?

The 2017 edition of the *X-Factor* finishes in early December rather than just before Christmas – perhaps they needed more time to guarantee a Christmas No 1? But I wonder whether you will be missing the X-factor this Christmas? I'm not talking about Simon Cowell's latest pop-idol, but the 'X' in Xmas. In algebra, normally we have to solve an equation to work out what 'x' equals. And so it is with Xmas...

We will be bombarded with adverts selling us a dream Christmas that means over-indulgence, with mountains of food and drink and presents, often paid for on credit that brings long term misery. More important still, is to be surrounded by happy families, but we also know that it is a peak time of stress, not least where relationships in families are already strained. Some people just look to Christmas as a week off work with a time to reflect on where they are going, or "careering" through life, with a view to be defined by more than the job that they do in the year to come, with thoughts of "There must be more to life than this".

So, if the X-Factor seems to be missing in your Christmas, I'd simply invite you to consider what it means to put "Christ" back into Christmas. The 'X' originally stood for the Greek character "Chi" which together with "Rho" formed an early symbol for Christ, the "ChiRho".



All the historical evidence points to Jesus walking this Earth as a human being. Hardly anyone would deny that he possessed great wisdom and was an exceptional teacher. Unlike Father

Christmas, he cannot simply be dismissed as make-believe. 2.3 billion people around the world recognise him as the Son of God, and a further 1.8 billion Muslims revere Jesus, or "Isa, son of Maryam" as a holy and blessed prophet. His birth is celebrated with great joy. Jesus is the reason for the season.

I pray that you will find Emmanuel (meaning "God with us") as the true source of joy and peace, purpose and identity this Christmas.

Rev Kev

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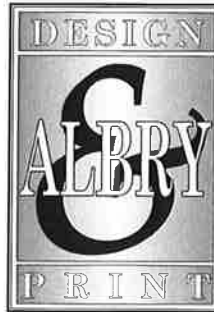
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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

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 Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 9th November 2017

Present: Cllrs Nigel Hannigan (Chair), Francesca Jones, Denise Hall, David Mannering, Fleur Stevenson, David Rowley, Elizabeth Ryall and Stephen Sherbourne; Sue Rance (Clerk), Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer).

Apologies for absence from Councillors John Griffin, Andrew Johnson, Stuart Soames and David Topliss, District Councillors Bloomfield and Pullen and County Councillor Mark Gray.

Matters arising from the October meeting

The grass at Botany Allotments play area has now been cut. The road verges along the A4074 Portway have recently been cut, but it would have been helpful if the County Highways had informed us about this in advance.

The draft letter to neighbouring councils about ways we could work together will be re-drafted in the light of SODC's decision to return to their Benson Lane site.

There had been no objections to removing the noticeboard at Park View. Designs have to be approved by the County Council Highways department. Cllr Jones will obtain quotes.

Cllr Sherbourne attended the recent meeting of trustees of the Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity: this charity has some funds available to distribute as grants.

Request for a scout hut

Mr Ross Edmonds (Chairman of the Scout Group) addressed the council on the need for a scout hut in the parish. Cubs use Crowmarsh Gifford village hall on most Mondays, while Scouts meet at North Stoke village hall. This can hamper the progression of cubs to scouts. The Parish Council is fully committed to help them find a suitable

community facility in the area. It was suggested that the scout group should publicise their need in *Crowmarsh News* and keep the Parish Council informed. There may be several potential sites to explore. Cllr Hannigan reported that it might be possible to have a corner of the SODC site on Benson Lane for community use: plans for the new offices are being drawn up.

Finance

a) A schedule of payments made since the last meeting was approved, including £330 for the traffic survey at Portway and £293 for dog bin emptying. The grass cutting invoice included two cuts at North Stoke recreation ground in October and one cut in September. A grant of £645.55 has been received from Oxfordshire County Council towards cutting grass verges and other areas. £20 affiliation fee was paid to the Allotments and Gardens Society.

b) Accounts for the year to date were presented. Expenditure was broadly in line with budget and there is enough money to pay for new noticeboards. £1688 has been received so far this year from hiring the pavilion for indoor activities, which is an increase over previous years.

e) Requests for grants and donations: It was agreed to donate £100 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal for Crowmarsh Gifford and £100 for North Stoke.

Requests for donations from Sue Ryder and from the Chilterns Conservation Board will be considered at the next meeting.

Planning

Decisions: The Council noted the following decisions from SODC:

P17/S2848/HH (Householder): Raise roof with additional first floor accommodation, rear extension, front porch and garage conversion.

6 Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BD.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S2944/HH and P17/S2945/LB (Listed Building): Change of heating system from oil fired boiler to an air source heat pump. The Grange, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S3221/HH: Double-storey side extension. 22 Howbery Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8NR.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S3402/LDP (Lawful Development Permission): Change of use from bed and breakfast to house of multiple occupancy with short-term and long-term lets. Little Gables, 166 Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BG.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

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

P16/S3852/FUL: (as amended 12th June 2017, clarified on 14th July 2017 and amplified by additional information on 18th October 2017). Hybrid planning application for the erection of 100 new residential dwellings including new access road off the A4074, public open space (full application) and the provision of school land (outline application). Land to the south of Newnham Manor, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED.
RECOMMEND REFUSAL as per original application.

P17/S3620/HH: Proposed ground floor rear extension. 34 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BL.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P17/S3708/FUL: Erection of replacement vehicular gate and a column mounted camera and electrical cabinet. Southern Gas Networks AGI Offtake, Ipsden (on the A4074 in the parish of Crowmarsh), OX10 6AF.
NO STRONG VIEWS.

P17/S3807/HH: Proposed ground floor rear extension and partial garage conversion. Proposed pitched roof over. 5 Murren Croft, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EZ.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033

The Chair of Planning and Dr Nick Robins attended the Launch Forum for the publicity period of the SODC Local Plan 2033 at the Didcot Civic Hall on Wednesday 11th October, 2017. Consultation continues until the end of November.

Neighbourhood plan

Dr Nick Robins reported on a very informative meeting with Rona Knott of SODC on 12th October. Most of the work done so far has been very useful and the baseline report was accepted with a few modifications. There is a government funded outreach organisation which can provide grants for neighbourhood plans with specific projects. A step-by-step guide to the neighbourhood planning process is also available.

The next step is a strategic environmental assessment (SEA), which SODC has already done as part of the local plan. Each site that has been considered in the past needs to be looked at in terms of access, flooding, the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other environmental factors.

The SEA will be sent to Rona Knott, followed by a policy statement on where new houses should be allocated. It is suggested at the moment that the majority of the houses should be allocated at Newnham Manor. Land also needs to be allocated for industry (business).

The intention is that our neighbourhood plan should be completed within 18 months. Once it is made, the planning authority will have to take notice of it in deciding planning applications.

The questionnaires issued at the recent Parish Plan meetings included a question on the site preferred by residents for development. However, one week after these were received, SODC announced their intention to return to the Benson Lane site. As this site was the favourite location identified in the survey responses, another survey will have to be carried out. The new questionnaire will include a question about the number of people living at the house who would prefer to have their own accommodation.

Environment and recreation committee

Pavilion and recreation ground

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 23rd October had been circulated. A quote of £375 had been received for painting lines on the basketball court. This will be considered at the next meeting.

Quotes are being obtained for a smart lock on the front door in order to provide access to the toilets. The Finance Officer confirmed that this would not affect the council's insurance cover.

Play area action group

Following a meeting to discuss the flood compensation scheme, Cllr Rowley has now submitted a proposal to the planning authority. Compensation has been calculated based on the volumes of the proposed mounds.

Traffic and transport committee

The traffic survey will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Jones was unable to attend the recent county meeting of Parish Transport Representatives. An apology has been received from Thames Travel bus company for the sudden changes to routes into Oxford following the opening of the new Westgate Centre.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mannering reported on a recent meeting of the River Users' Group (RUG3), which focused on boat licensing, moorings and clearing trees. The minutes had been circulated to councillors.

Other business

Cllr Soames has obtained a quote of £515 plus VAT from Arrow Fencing for repairs to the fence at North Stoke recreation ground and for supplying and fitting a new gate.

Mr Ian Nutt of Lister Wilder will speak to the council at 7pm, before their next meeting on 14th December about plans for some expansion at their Crowmarsh site.

The next liaison meeting between parish councils and Grundons will be on Monday 20th November. Cllr Mannering will enquire about the daffodil bulbs which have been allocated for the parish.

Following Cllr Hannigan's letter to SODC about contesting the CABI appeal, a reply has been received from the leader of the council, John Cotton. He stated that there were no legal grounds for judicial review as no legal mistakes had been made and in view of the existing permission on the site.

Cllr Jones reported that the disaster plan report has been sent to the County Council. Information from SODC on Section 106 developer payments and a slide presentation on capital grants scheme will be circulated to councillors.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th December at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Short Mat Bowls

takes place at the Pavilion on Tuesdays at 7pm and on Thursdays at 2pm. For more information, please call 837518.

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WHAT'S ON – DECEMBER 2017

Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	08.30-11.15	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary's, W'ford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary's, W'ford

This month

Saturday 2nd	10.00-14.00	Wallingford Fire Station Open Day. Santa in attendance	W'ford Fire Station
Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd	All Day	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway: Santa Specials	W'ford Train Station
Sunday 3rd	11.30	Wallingford Santa Dash, 3km	Wallingford School to the Market Place
Sunday 3rd	10.00	CTC 29-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 3rd	12.00-17.00	Wallingford Christmas Festival	Town Centre
Sunday 3rd	16.00	Advent Evening Service, by candlelight	Newnham Murren Church
Wednesday 6th	14.00	U3A: Christmas Party	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th	All Day	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway: Santa Specials	W'ford Train Station
Tuesday 12th	18.00-19.00	Village Carols	Crowmarsh Church
Wednesday 13th	17.30	Town Centre Christmas Carols	Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 13th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: Festive Philately	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 14th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Thursday 14th	12.30	Lunchtime Carols, followed by hot soup and bread	Crowmarsh Church
Saturday 16th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 17th	13.30	CTC 30-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 24th	11.00	Family Communion	
	15.00	Crib Service	
	23.30	Midnight Communion	Crowmarsh Church
Sunday 25th	11.00	Family Communion	Crowmarsh Church

For details of walks with Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers, please see www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford