

**Issue 483** 

December 2018

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:

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#### 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 Revd Kevin Beer

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 2019 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 Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

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# New Playground and Outdoor Gym

With thanks to £185,000 worth of grants from funding bodies SODC, WREN's FCC Community Action Fund and ACTIVE SPACES (The London Marathon Charitable Trust) and Fields in Trust as well as local contributions from businesses Agrivert, Howbery Park and Waitrose, and donations from local people in memory of former parish council chairman John Bellamy, the New Playground and Outdoor Gym project is now underway.

Crowmarsh Parish Council is pleased to inform you that Eibe has been appointed contractor for the New Playground and Outdoor Gym Installation. Plans are currently in place to commence work on the 8th January with an estimated handover mid to late March — therefore the playground and surrounding area will be off limits for this time.

We will be putting further images and information onto the Parish Council web site. www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk in the Facilities/Crowmarsh Playground section.

We look forward to being able to welcome you all back to the New Playground and New Outdoor Gym with a Grand Opening around Easter 2019.

Crowmarsh Parish Council

# **Oxfordshire County Council**

Entry to primary or infant school – September 2019

Children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015

OCC have sent out corrected Key Dates relating to admission to Primary School in September 2019. The correct dates are: 15th January 2019 – closing date for on time applications, either online or on paper. 16th April 2019 – letters offering places will be posted second class. Online applicants will receive an email.

## Free Christmas Parking

SODC is providing FREE parking in the district council owned car parks in the run up to Christmas. You can park for free at the following locations and dates:

Didcot - every Monday from 3rd December Goring - every Saturday from 1st December Henley - every Tuesday from 4th December Thame - every Saturday from 1st December Wallingford - every Thursday from 6th December

You can find out the list of all car parks on the website http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/transport/car-parks/car-park-locations.



# **1st Crowmarsh Gifford Scouts**

#### **Scouts Christmas Post**

Scouts from across the local area will provide the Christmas Scout Post again. Please post your cards in the special Green Scout Post box at Crowmarsh Village Store with money (25p per card) for delivery to Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke, South Stoke, Cholsey, Moulsford, Brightwell, Benson, Preston Crowmarsh, Roke, Rokemarsh, Berrick Salome, Shillingford, Warborough, Ewelme, Wallingford, Winterbrook and Shillingford Hill. All money raised is divided between the local Scout Groups.

In November Beavers, Cubs and Scouts helped to sell poppies for the Royal British Legion with a door to door collection in Crowmarsh and North Stoke. The Beavers made a beautiful wreath of felt poppies for the church and Cubs painted poppies with the names of people from our village who died in WW1 and WW2, for the end of each church pew.

The Remembrance Sunday Service, marking 100 years since the end of WW1, was well attended by 35 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts who took part in the service and paraded the colours. Cubs had a visit from a local war historian who was dressed as a WW1 soldier. They learnt about similarities of their uniform and looked at the rifle, bayonet, gas cape, money and medals of a soldier, and discussed the terrible conditions in the trenches. The Cubs also enjoyed a sleepover camp with a hike, a trip to Wallingford Castle, Lego model building, Christmas crafts, camp fire singing and a film before lights out! They completed their navigation, local history and music badges. We had tired but happy Cubs and the Leaders were delighted the youngsters had great fun and behaved so well.

The Scout group helped to guard the Wallingford Bonfire for 1155 this year. We hope to be invited to join in again next year. We are very grateful to 1155 who kindly donate to our group from funds raised by the firework night.

To find out more about 1st Crowmarsh Scout Group contact Ross Edmonds by email to

chair@crowmarshgiffordscoutgroup.org or telephone/text Siobhan on 07703 473250

Beavers meet 5-6pm Monday, Cubs meet 6.15-7.45pm Monday, Scouts meet 7.00-9.00pm Tuesday.

# **News from Crowmarsh Pre-School**

"It's the most wonderful time of the year....!"

Term Two is one of our busiest terms at Pre-School as we prepare for Christmas! At Crowmarsh Pre-School, we pride ourselves in putting children's learning and development at the centre of all we do. All our Christmas activities therefore offer meaningful learning experiences for the children, rather than a 'production line' of Christmas crafts. This term, we will be busy planting bulbs as gifts, baking our own Christmas cakes, making and posting cards and wrapping presents to go under the tree as well as learning some new songs and rhymes for a Christmas Rhyme Challenge.

If you would like to become involved in your local Pre-School in any way, we would love to hear from you! Perhaps you have a craft or skill that you would like to share, or maybe you would like to come and read stories with us? Please get in touch with us by emailing admin@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk.

If you live in the village and are interested in a place for your child from September 2019 onwards, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. Our places are filling up fast!

Finally, all the children, families and staff would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Short Mat Bowls** takes place at the Pavilion on Tuesdays at 7pm and on Thursdays at 2pm. For more information, please call Don on 202543

**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



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# AGE UK Activities and Advice

In South Oxfordshire, AGE UK Oxfordshire provide:

- •Film clubs at Horspath and Woodcote (film, tea/coffee and cake for £3.50).
- •Henley Information Drop-in (first Monday morning of the month).
- •Goring Late Spring Group (every second and fourth Monday morning).
- •Cholsey Film Club (every 3rd Tuesday of the month).

If you would like to receive information about activities, services and opportunities in your area, please contact Age UK by:

Email: admin@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk Website: www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/newsletter

Letter: Age UK Oxfordshire, 9 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT.

Please include your name, telephone number, address (if you require information by post) or email address.

For more information contact the SODC area reps:

Kate Hart (07827 235 403 or katehart@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)
Rachel Poole (07827 235 460 or rachelpoole@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)

# Have you been a victim of crime or abuse?

Being a victim or a witness of a crime can be an emotional and difficult time. Victims First provides free emotional and practical support to all victims and witnesses of crime or abuse, as well as family members of victims. It is available across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and can provide help regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police.

A Victims First Officer can discuss any emotional or practical needs you may have and work with you to put a tailored support plan in place. This could involve referring you to a specialist service such as services for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

The type of assistance available includes telephone and face to face support, advocacy including help to access other services such as sexual health clinics, drug and alcohol services and legal services, support through the criminal justice system (if you have reported the crime to the police) and therapeutic counselling. A Young Victims Service is also available to anyone under 18 and works with young people to help them cope with the effects of crime.

To speak to a Victims First Officer about any of the services and to receive support please call 0300 1234 148. Find more information or make a referral online at www.victims-first.org.uk



# Become a support worker and change someone's life

We are recruiting locally and have full and part time **support worker** and **relief support worker** positions available in our South Oxfordshire and Berkshire service.

You will be supporting people with learning disabilities, encouraging independence in the practical aspects of their lives and helping people to have fun doing the things they love to do.

You don't need experience of support work or any special qualifications for this job as we will provide all the training you need.

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To find out more, or to apply to join our friendly team, call us on **01235 827605** or visit **hft.org.uk/jobs** 

# Past Times: The Life of Harvey du Cros

from David Beasley

Harvey du Cros was descended from an old Huguenot family who were driven from Montpelier during the dragonnades of Louis XIV, finally settling in Dublin in 1702. Born in June 1846, Harvey du Cros developed the pneumatic tyre commercially from George Dunlop's improvement of Thompson's invention of 1746.

In 1888 Dunlop improved the pneumatic tyre, to give his son a more comfortable cycle ride around the cobbled streets of Belfast. Harvey du Cros and his six sons were keen cyclists and they soon realised that Dunlop's reinvention would revolutionize cycling as a sport and recreation. In 1889 Arthur du Cros, one of Harvey's sons, came to London with a bicycle with pneumatic tyres. This bike was used in the Surrey Club's Cycle handicap, at the Kennington Oval. The bike was used by four different riders who all won their races.

Eventually Harvey du Cros and Dunlop formed a small company with £15,000, which grew into the Dunlop Tyre Company. In 1902 Harvey du Cros purchased Howbery Estate, where he erected new stabling, cottages for his staff, a new boat house and elaborate gates at the entrance. He also laid the French Gardens (now the site of the demolished Council Offices).

In 1906 he became M.P. for Hastings, a post he held until 1908, when the Suffragettes burnt down his house at Hastings, and he subsequently took the Chiltern Hundreds. Locally he took little part in public affairs but did allow the Oxfordshire Horticultural Society to hold their annual show in the grounds of Howbery Park. When his health began to fail, he stopped coming to Howbery. On Boxing Day 1918 Harvey du Cros died of heart failure at his residence in Dublin, he was aged 72 years. The contents of the Howbery Estate were sold by auction and the house was empty until 1922 when Lord Wittenham purchased it.

# Citizens Advice – Warm Home Discount

People who have difficulty paying their energy bills might be able to take advantage of the Warm Home Discount, a new kind of grant offered by the government and energy suppliers.

The Warm Home Discount is a scheme that provides people on low incomes with a single discount of £140 on their winter electricity bill. You might be able to get the discount applied to your gas bill instead - contact your supplier to find out. The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment.

Not all energy suppliers are part of the scheme. You can contact your supplier to see if they offer the discount. If the supplier doesn't, you might want to switch to a supplier that does. Most people who are eligible will receive the discount automatically, without having to apply. This will be the case if, on 8th July 2018, they were with an energy supplier that is part of the scheme **and** they were receiving the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit **and** their name (or their partner's name) was on the bill.

If you don't receive the discount automatically, you might be eligible if you have a low income and receive certain means-tested benefits. Bear in mind that energy suppliers could have different eligibility rules. Applications for the discount open at different times for each supplier and people who are not auto-enrolled need to apply as soon as possible to improve their chances. Further details are available from https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme

Citizens Advice can help. Contact us in person during opening hours or by phone, (Adviceline 03 444 111444). For locations of offices and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

## Wallingford U3A

At our November meeting David Barker spoke about Swan Upping. 'Swan is delicious, dense, a bit like beef' a member of the audience told us at question time. David Barker seemed a bit distressed. Mute swans are big birds, weighing up to 15kilos, which is probably why in the early Middle Ages they were proclaimed Royal Property. Subsequently monarchs raised cash by selling "Marks" to various Groups or Associations allowing them to take their birds from the water. Unmarked birds belonged to the Crown, so marking was a serious business.

Now only two Liveried Companies, the Vintners and the Dyers still mark swans. Swan Upping takes place on the Thames in July between Sudbury and Abingdon. Companies' and Queen's men assemble: the Vintners uniformed in white, Dyers in blue and the Queen's men in scarlet, in lovely Edwardian mahogany and oak skiffs.

Cygnets are vulnerable to herons and crows from above, pike from below and mink, foxes and dogs, as well as boys with airguns and careless anglers but swan numbers seem to be holding steady. Swan Upping is now a serious scientific check on river health. Local schools are involved to promote interest in the natural world. Mr Barker, by Royal Appointment Swan Marker to the Queen told us that it is good to feed bread to the swans, the extra calories can help them through the winter. Perhaps swans are too elegant to take the place of turkey for Christmas. At least for now.

December 5th meeting - Christmas party.

There will be raffle for a local charity and a collection of Christmas goods for the local food bank.

December 16th - Christmas lunch at Goring and Streatley Golf Club. (Phone Mike on 680505).

Our meetings are held at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome. There is tea and the chance to meet and chat after the talk. For more information please visit our website: u3asites.org.uk/ Wallingford, or phone Jill on 835994.



#### FOUR PAWS CAT RESCUE



Four Paws Cat Rescue is an Oxfordshire-based, entirely voluntary, cat charity, caring for unwanted, ill-treated and stray cats and kittens until they find new homes. If you are interested in rehoming a cat, please contact us. More information can be found on our website: www.fourpawscatrescue.org.uk

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# Have your say on keeping the Chilterns special

A new Draft Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan is open for public consultation and the Chilterns Conservation Board welcomes your thoughts on how you think the AONB should be looked after.

The new Plan covers a range of issues from biodiversity and wildlife conservation, to looking after the special character of the Chilterns villages, managing access and recreation and helping local businesses to thrive. You might be concerned about climate change, the loss of hedgerow trees, the impact of housing and infrastructure development or the loss of wildlife due to poor condition of chalk streams. If you have concerns about the area or ideas for how best to protect and use it, we want you to have your say. The draft Plan can be viewed, and comments submitted at: www.chilternsaonb.org/management-planreview. The deadline for feedback is 31st December. We'd particularly like to hear people's thoughts on the Vision and General Policies set out on pages 15-18 of the Plan. All feedback welcomed.

> Vicki Pearce Communications Officer for the Chilterns Conservation Board 01844 355 521

Please use the Parish Council website for news and updates of local affairs:

www.crowmarshgifford.org

#### To book North Stoke Village Hall

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

# Plan to build 100,000 new houses in Oxfordshire

The Oxfordshire Growth Board is a committee comprising of all District Councils and the City Council, with the aim of delivering enhanced economic growth. They want to build 100,000 new homes in Oxfordshire by 2031 - there are currently 268,000. This represents a 40% increase. An online petition has been raised by a group in Garsington aiming to stop this plan. More information and the petition can be found at: www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-growth-board-rethink-oxfordshire-s-economic-growth-plan.

# Celebrate Christmas with PACT!

Adoption charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) will be holding its annual Christmas Carol Concert at Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 9th December. All are welcome to attend the concert, which will feature festive readings and performances from Dorchester Abbey Choir and the Benson Military Wives Choir. There will also be 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: "Our annual Carol Concert is such a lovely way for PACT families and supporters to get together and celebrate the coming of Christmas in the stunning surroundings of Dorchester Abbey. We are all particularly looking forward to this year's event given that we had to cancel last year's due to heavy snow! All are welcome to attend, so please do join us if you can."

PACT is also selling Christmas cards in support of its work building and strengthening families. These can be ordered from www.pactcharity.org/christmas-cards



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Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

### **Services for December**

Sunday 2nd 11am Advent Family Service

Sunday 2nd 4pm Candlelit Advent Service, Newnham Murren Church

Sunday 16th 6pm Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 23rd 11am Family Communion

Monday 24th 3pm Christmas Eve Crib Service

Tuesday 25th 11am Christmas Day Family Communion

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am, Evening Prayer - every Sunday at 4pm Full details at www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar



With Christmas falling on a Tuesday this year, our celebrations will feel even more "compressed" than usual as we have:

Christmas Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 16th December

Family Communion at 11am on Sunday 23rd December

Crib Service at 3pm on Christmas Eve Christmas Day Family Communion at 11am

All these services are at St Mary Magdalene's and we extend a warm welcome to all villagers to join us.

But why not beat the rush this year and extend the joyful season with us? We will begin with our Family Advent Service at 11am on Advent Sunday (2nd December) and then at 4pm in the afternoon we move to the lovely rural church of St Mary's in Newnham Murren for a candlelit Advent Carol Service.

And of course, there are the 12 days of Christmas, so the Sunday afterwards (30th Dec) will also be full of carols and celebrations. Then the Sunday after that is the 6th of January which is Epiphany, traditionally the date when the Wise Men arrived to pay homage to the new born King. We celebrate this at our 11am Family Service.

So, we have a choice at Christmas. Like our dinner, we can either cram, stuff and binge for a short period or we can savour the flavours for a full appreciation of the season... that is "Joy to the world" as we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us! Come and join us to "Follow the Star" this Christmas, and see where it leads you.

With every blessing and joy in Christ for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Kevin

### **Benson Garden Club**

We came away from our November meeting wishing we had taken more notes! Ray Broughton's talk 'The Gardening Year: A month-by-month guide', turned out to be a treasure trove of hints and tips, all with a sound scientific basis but many of them definitely more than a little surprising and unusual. It had never occurred to me, for example, to clean my secateurs by coating the cutting edges with tomato ketchup (that's what he said), whilst spraying magnolia blossoms with a protective fine mist of water at 6pm in the evening when a frost is forecast (I'm not sure anyone questioned how critical the time was), was a new one on me too. He was an engaging speaker and it proved to be a very enjoyable and informative evening.

The topic of the talk at our December meeting, on Thursday 6th, is 'The Natural History of Christmas', which our speaker, professional naturalist and wildlife author Michael Leach, will be basing on his recently published book of the same title.

We will then be turning our minds to our 2019 programme. At our first meeting of the year, on Thursday, 3rd January. Tamsin Borlase from Bosley Patch near Henley (a family-run business providing local produce) will be speaking about 'The Cutting Garden' and guiding us through the various stages, from sowing the seeds to gathering in the flowers.

Our meetings are held in Benson Parish Hall, starting at 7.45pm, and visitors are always most welcome. Find us on Facebook, or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com for further information.

Linda Parkin

# Sue Ryder Sale Dates

The date for the next sale of donated goods is Saturday 15th December – 10.30am to 12.30pm. Saleable donated goods are welcomed on weekdays between 9am and 4.30pm. We regret we are unable to accept goods on Sale day or the day before. Volunteers needed to select and allocate donated goods and to assist with Sales. For further

details call: 641384 ext 246 Sue Ryder, Nettlebed Hospice, Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF.

# Henley and District Philatelic Society

Would you like a new hobby for the dark winter evenings? If you enjoy 'collecting' why not try stamps, postcards or anything philatelic. There are so many subjects that can be covered from Art to Science, do come and see how much more fun it is to do this with likeminded people. It is a great hobby, friendly, interesting and for people of all ages. We would be delighted to see you at a meeting.

December 12th – Chairman's evening – a Miscellany of Stamps, from a person whose knowledge of stamps is unbounded and who is also a great raconteur, it will be an interesting evening for all.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.45 pm. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning 681739 or on our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

### **Christmas Events**

Wallingford Local Producers Market has everything you need to stock up for Christmas. Held in St Mary's Church, Market Place, Wallingford on Saturday December 1st, 8th,15th and 22nd from 10am to 1pm.

Wallingford Christmas Shopping Extravaganza is a great opportunity to support the many retailers in the town. There will be music and entertainment, stalls, Santa's grotto and a fireworks grand finale at 5pm. Sunday December 2nd from 12pm to 5pm in the Town Centre.

Wallingford Santa Dash is back for a third year! Join hundreds of Father Christmas lookalikes – and the Mayor of Wallingford – on Sunday December 2nd for the 3km run/jog/walk from Wallingford School to the Market Place. Briefing and warm up at 11.15am, before the Mayor's deputy officially starts dashers at 11.30am from the school.



# New Visitor Facilities and Archaeological Store

Wallingford Museum is extremely pleased and grateful to announce that it has been awarded a grant by the LEADER fund to extend and improve its facilities. The Museum needs additional space to achieve improved exhibition and archive areas, accommodate group visits and larger school parties, provide a visitor toilet and better access and facilities for disabled visitors. Many of the Museum's resources are currently stored in unsatisfactorily crowded conditions.

To address these issues the Museum received planning permission in December 2017. The work covers proposals to modify the ground floor of the Museum to provide a public disabled WC and create a space that can be used by groups visiting the Museum. Also, we plan to replace two timber storage sheds, located in the rear yard of the Museum, with a larger single storey timber unit which will enable purpose-built housing for part of the Museum's collections and archaeology equipment.

The building works are planned to be completed during the winter. The Museum will reopen on 1st March 2019 with a new exhibition, 'Once upon a time .....' - a timeline showing the changing face of Wallingford through photographs. The Museum is run entirely by volunteers who provide a particularly valuable resource for Wallingford's history for local people, schools and visitors. In the future it will contribute more significantly to the tourism attraction of the town.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk Steve Capel-Davies



David Beasley will be returning to The Walling-ford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) to show his 'Women at War' presentation. It will be lavishly illustrated from David's extensive photographic collection, and feature much local interest covering both World Wars, enabling a comparison to be made between the two eras. David lives in Crowmarsh Gifford, is well known throughout southern Oxfordshire, and has an in depth knowledge of the locality. He has written several local history books, all using his own research from photographs and postcards of the past.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 9th January, 7.45pm for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. There will be no TWHAS talk in December.

www.twhas.org.uk Katharine Keats-Rohan

## **Santa Specials Trains**

The Cholsey & Wallingford Railway celebrate the festive season in a family friendly way. Price includes mulled juice and a mince pie for all adults and a present from Santa's Grotto for every child. Teenagers aged 13-15 get a choice of either a mince pie and mulled juice OR a present. December weekends 8th-9th, 15th-16th and 22nd–23rd from 10:30am-3:30pm

Advance tickets: Adults £10, Child (2-15 inclusive) £7, Children under 2 £5.

On the day: Adults £12, Child (2-15 inclusive) £8, Children under 2 £5. For more information visit our website: www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com/santa-tickets

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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 8th November

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Denise Hall, Elizabeth Ryall, Stephen Sherbourne, Francesca Jones, Patricia Millar, David Rowley, Fleur Stevenson and David Topliss, Sue Rance (Clerk) and Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer).

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrew Johnson and Stuart Soames and from District Councillor Sue Cooper.

#### Matters from the previous meeting

Quotes have been received from Mr Cottrell and from Coulton Tree Services for cutting the hedge at Home Farm and beside the footpath from the church to the recreation ground. We accepted Coulton's quote and will seek a further quote for pruning the shrubs on the corner of Portway and Cox's Lane.

We have had legal advice about registering North Stoke Village Hall with the Land Registry. Cllr Millar will ask a local estate agent about a valuation and check with Cllr Soames what covenants exist.

#### **Finance**

Payments made in October were approved for dog bin emptying, grass cutting, photocopying, boiler repair at the pavilion, hire of North Stoke Village Hall and councillors' travel to inspect traffic speed indicators. Donations of £100 each were made to the British Legion Poppy Appeals for Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke.

Three quotes for repairs to the pavilion roof have been sent to the insurance company.

The accounts show income to date of £60,485 and expenditure on running costs of £42,238. The neighbourhood plan project is in surplus by £9572 and the playground project currently shows a deficit of £7644 but grant money is

expected. All documents relating to the recent audit are now on the website. Our internal auditor, Mr Roger Symes, is retiring and will not undertake any further audits. The Finance Officer confirmed that we pay £40 per annum for Data Protection registration.

Cllr Sherbourne's recommendation for a copper beech to replace the ash tree in Jethro Tull Gardens was accepted, but after discussion it was agreed to set a maximum price, including delivery and planting, of £1500 (ex. VAT). Cllr Sherbourne was thanked for his work and asked to place an order within that limit.

#### **District Councillor's report**

Councillor Sue Cooper submitted a written report. There has been a lot of work on the Local Plan, which will come to the full council on 20th December. Tenders to design and build new SODC offices have been invited. The parish council will ask again to have some input to the specification to seek flexible community facilities.

After consultation with the enforcement officer, the retrospective application for second hand car sales at the top of Crowmarsh Hill would be recommended for refusal because of its impact on the Chilterns AONB and the intrusive lighting. [See planning decisions].

### **County Councillor's report**

Councillor Mark Gray gave an update on the Joint Spatial Strategy and the growth fund and housing infrastructure fund that total £500 million, with additional funding for roads and schools. He recommended inviting residents' views on infrastructure to accompany major developments. He is awaiting news on a Unitary Authority for Oxfordshire. The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway proposal is encountering increasing opposition.

Cllr Gray has emailed officers to speed up repair of the collapsed drain cover at North

Stoke crossroads. He is talking to county and district council officers about parking at the entrance to the Riverside Park.

He was asked about charges levied for school transport, but explained that this only applies when parents elected to send their child to a school outside the catchment. As part of a change in policy, a small subsidy will now be available for some community transport, which might allow two daily trips from Wallingford to Watlington.

### **Planning**

### **Decisions by SODC:**

P18/S2764/HH: Extension, remodelling and associated works. Tinkers Dell, 9 Wallingford Road, North Stoke, OX10 6BD. PERMISSION GRANTED.

P18/S2871/FUL: Retrospective planning application for a change of use from an existing car workshop (B2) use to the retention of the car workshop use (B2) with ancillary car sales (Sui Generis use) as subsidiary to the car workshop, and the erection of a fence. Nuffield Garage, Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BG. PERMISSION REFUSED.

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

P18/S3020/HH and P18/S3021/LB (Listed Building): Erection of a single-storey rear conservatory to extend the existing kitchen area. 45 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EA: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P18/S3445/HH: Single storey rear extension, and P18/S3620/HH: Door and window alterations to existing outbuilding. Both at Days Cottage, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL: RECOMMEND APPROVAL (Cllr Millar declared an interest and took no part in the decision).

P18/S3505/HH: First floor side extension over existing. 49 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BJ: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Hannigan and Dr Robins met with the new lead officer for SODC, Cheryl Soppet, on the

9th October to discuss the current draft of the plan. She asked for our vision of the Parish in 2033, bearing in mind the number of new houses already approved.

# **Environment & recreation ground committee**

### Replacement noticeboards

Cllr Jones has drafted an order with Greenbarnes for six noticeboards and three sets of posts, including one set for the noticeboard at St Mary Magdalene Church. All are wood except at North Stoke Village Hall which will be made of aluminum and include a glazed lockable section. The total cost of the new boards is £5692 plus VAT. Cllr Jones was thanked for her hard work on this project. A replacement noticeboard at the pavilion and a new one at Crowmarsh Hill will be considered in future.

### Update on playground project

The funding agreement has been signed and orders have been placed. The Parish Council will contribute £33,000 to the project. The existing play area will be closed from January for construction work to begin and we hope to open the new playground during the Easter school holidays (5th–23rd April 2019).

Press releases have been sent to radio stations and newspapers including the December *Crowmarsh News* and *Window for Wallingford*. The parish council approved a Health and Safety policy and an Anti Discrimination policy, which SODC require before any funds can be released.

Mr Chris Strange has obtained quotes for new front doors at the pavilion to provide wheelchair access.

#### **Traffic and transport**

Cllr Jones had circulated notes of the recent Parish Transport Representatives' meeting. Cllr Hall circulated photos of the Elan Citi Radar Speed sign, our preferred option. It was agreed that the unit with its batteries would be too heavy to move each month, but Cllr Hannigan suggested purchasing a fixed solar powered sign that could be switched on and off. Cllr Hall will research solar powered

options. It may be possible to obtain an additional unit with developer funding in due course.

#### Correspondence

Invitation from Oxford Victoria County History Group to a lecture on 3rd December, plus a request for a grant. The Chairman and Mr David Beasley hope to attend.

Information from Oxfordshire County Council about primary school admissions in September 2019: the Clerk will put the poster on the noticeboard and ask that information be included in Crowmarsh News.

#### Other matters

Cllr Ryall reported on the meeting of the River Users' Group (RUG 3). Riverside trees between Wallingford and Benson Lock are encroaching on the river and dredging is required. The Environment Agency licence fees for boats on the Thames are being increased.

Cllr Sherbourne has planted many of the daffodil bulbs donated by Grundons but more are available and suggested sites include North Stoke crossroads and Mongewell and the grass verge in The Street opposite Newnham Manor.

Cllr Millar reported that the North Stoke defibrillator needs to be registered with South Central Ambulance service. North Stoke residents have had training in its use. Defibrillators are also sited at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, the Pavilion and at Crowmarsh School.

Cllr Millar requested that the few street lights in North Stoke conservation area be replaced with more efficient white LED lamps.

Parking on the grass verge in The Street near Home Farm has been restricting visibility for traffic

#### **Next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 13th December at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Requests for grants and donations will be considered, along with the proposed budget for next year. The Clerk will draw up a list of suggested meeting dates for 2019. We

do not usually meet in January. Elections for parish and district councils are to be held in May.

# **Christmas Waste Recycling**

Cooking oil - don't pour it down the drain as it can congeal and cause a blockage, use our new cooking oil recycling service instead.

When the oil has cooled, pour it into an old 1 litre plastic bottle, pop the lid on and put it in your food waste bin for collection.

**Wrapping paper** - Try the Scrunch Test to see if it can be recycled: if you scrunch it and it bounces back, it can't be recycled.

**Christmas cards** can be recycled if they don't have glitter on them. If they do, tear off the glittery bit and put into the black bin, and recycle the rest.

Christmas Trees - If you are signed up to the garden waste service, put your real Christmas tree out next to your brown bin on your scheduled garden waste collection days in January. The max size of tree for collection is 6ft. If it is bigger, then cut it into max 6ft lengths and put it out for collection. If you're not a garden waste customer, please see our website: southoxon.gov.uk/christmastrees to find out where your nearest 'Christmas tree collection' point is.

If you have too much recycling for your bin on collection day, put any extra in a cardboard box or clear plastic bag beside your green bin. To find out which bin or when your collection day is visit the Binzone at southoxon.gov.uk/binzone or download it as an app on your phone.

Cllr Felix Bloomfield

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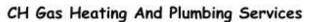
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# WHAT'S ON — DECEMBER 2018

Regular events and meetings			
Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	9.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary-le-More Church or Market Place, Wallingford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary-le-More Church, 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 1st Dec	19.30 onwards	Benson Choral Concert: A Plea for Peace	Dorchester Abbey
Saturday 1st Dec	15.00-17.00	Children's Christmas Party	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Sunday 2nd Dec	12.00-17.00	Wallingford Christmas Shopping Extravaganza	Wallingford Town Centre
Sunday 2nd Dec	13.30 onwards	CTC 20-mile cycle ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 2nd Dec	16.00 onwards	Candlelit Advent Service	St Mary's Church, Newnham Murren
Wednesday 5th Dec	14.00 onwards	U3A: Xmas party	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 8th Dec	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 8th, 15th, 22nd and Sunday 9th, 16th, 23rd Dec	All day	Santa Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Wednesday 12th Dec	18.30 onwards	Wallingford Town Carols	Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 12th Dec	19.45 onwards	Henley Philatelic: Chairman's Evening	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 13th Dec	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 15th Dec	10.30 onwards	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 16th Dec	09.30 onwards	CTC 30-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 16th Dec	18.00 onwards	Christmas Carol Service	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
Monday 24th Dec	15.00 onwards	Christmas Eve Crib Service	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
Tuesday 25th Dec	11.00 onwards	Christmas Day Family Communion	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
January 2019			
Wednesday 9th Jan	14.00 onwards	U3A: Lecture, the Spanish Classical Guitar	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Wednesday 9th Jan	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Women at War	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford