



Crowmarsh News

Issue 495

December 2019

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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

Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30.00 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies, please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News Team

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

Editorial and Layout: James and Toni Taylor

Editorial support: John Griffin, Kirsty Dawson, Amanda Maher, Doug German, Rev 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 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

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or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

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Free Parking In December

Drivers in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse can benefit from free parking in district council car parks on certain days in December.

The annual free parking tradition is provided by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents. The free parking days allocated to each area are agreed with the individual town councils depending on which day would best suit local traders.

Free Christmas parking days also means people don't have to pay to park if they wish to catch up with friends and family in the pubs, cafés and restaurants during the festive period.

Drivers will be able to park without paying for a ticket in South and Vale car parks on the following days:

South Oxfordshire

- Didcot – Mondays (9, 16, 23 December)
- Goring – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 Dec)
- Henley – Tuesdays (3, 10, 17 Dec)
- Thame – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 Dec)
- Wallingford – Thursdays (5, 12, 19 Dec)

Vale of White Horse

- Abingdon – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 Dec)
- Faringdon – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 Dec)
- Wantage – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 Dec)

On the above days there's no need to display a ticket.

Parking is also free on a Sunday in many of the council-owned town centre car parks in South and Vale - please check the tariff boards in car parks for further details.

For details on parking in southern Oxfordshire, please visit:

southoxon.gov.uk/parking
whitehorsedc.gov.uk/parking

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number 101

Flu Vaccine Clinics

The NHS flu vaccination is available for eligible patients including those aged over 65, people with a long term condition, pregnant women and for toddlers aged 2 and 3 years in the form of a nasal spray vaccine.

Children in primary school can also have a nasal spray flu vaccine via Oxford Health team of school nurses.

GP practices are holding flu vaccine clinics across Oxfordshire. For more information on the flu vaccine, please visit www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk

General Election

Polling day is Thursday 12th December, 7am to 10pm. The candidates are

Jo Robb (Green Party)
John Howell (Conservative and Unionist Party)
Laura Coyle (Liberal Democrats)
Zaid Yaqoob Marham (Labour Party).

You can apply for a proxy vote up to 5pm on Wednesday 4th December (or up to polling day if prevented from voting in person because of a medical emergency or work reasons) - call the helpline 01235 422528.

Temporary footpath closures in Crowmarsh

Oxfordshire County Council has issued an order relating to the temporary closure of footpaths Nos 181/3 & 2, to the east of Benson Lane. Closure Order no 2020 notes that these footpaths will be closed because of housing development work being carried out that will affect them. The closure will take effect from 1st February 2020 and will last for six months, or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner. For clarification, there are maps on the village notice board and the Parish Council web site.

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

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

News from Crowmarsh Pre-School

Christmas is coming.....!

This is one of our busiest terms as we prepare for Christmas! At Pre-School, we put children's learning and development at the centre of all we do. It follows that our Christmas activities will all offer meaningful learning experiences for the children, rather than being a 'production line' of Christmas crafts. For example, we will be offering activities such as cooking, writing and posting our Christmas cards and wrapping presents as well as learning some new songs and rhymes.

Last month, we were delighted to have the opportunity to run the Community Café at the Village Hall. It was lovely to be able to welcome so many of you and wonderful to see all the generations mixing and enjoying spending time together. As part of your local community, we are very keen for local people to become more involved at Pre-School. If you are interested, 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@crowmarsh-pre-school.org.uk.

If you live in the village and are interested in a place for your child from September 2020 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!

Christmas Scout Post

We will be joining Scouts from across the local area to provide the Christmas Scout Post once again and you will be able to post your cards in the special Green Scout Post box at Crowmarsh Village Store. All money raised is divided between the local Scout Groups to benefit local young people.

Please pop your card and money (30p per card) in the Scout post box for delivery before Christmas to all of the following places:

- Crowmarsh Gifford
- North Stoke
- South Stoke
- Cholsey
- Moulsoford
- Brightwell
- Benson
- Preston Crowmarsh
- Roke
- Rokemars
- Berrick Salome
- Shillingford
- Warborough
- Ewelme
- Wallingford
- Winterbrook
- Shillingford Hill

First Collection: Friday 13th December
Last Collection: Approx 3.30pm, Thursday 19th December.

Wallingford Art Club

Wallingford Art Club are having their usual Christmas Exhibition on the 30th November and 1st December 10am – 5pm. This year we will be at 21 St Martins Street, Wallingford (the old Pettits' men's shop). Lots of original art and craft at affordable prices.

These exhibitions are always great fun and a part of the Christmas Festivities and Santa Run. They offer you a chance to browse and buy presents, or why not treat yourselves?

Have you always wanted to paint and draw? Then come and join us. We have tutored classes on Tuesdays, am and pm. These are fee paying and run by professional tutors who teach in all mediums.

On Tuesday evenings we have a painting evening from 7.30 to 9.30pm. No tutor, no pressure, just an evening of painting with friends. Just bring your materials and subject. Members are free and we charge just £3 for visitors, who are very welcome.

All classes are held at Centre 70, Goldsmith Lane, Wallingford. Further information about our activities is available from David on 681400 or from www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk/ where you will find our programme of events.



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The Marriage of Miss Ann Maria Hedges

The weather on the 8th November 1876 was sunny but cold, but for Ann Maria Elizabeth Hedges it was a perfect day for her wedding at St Mary's, Newnham Murren. Ann was the eldest daughter of Charles Hedges of Newnham House. She was to be married to Frederic Robinson, Curate at St Lawrence's Church, Reading, and late of St Mary's, Wallingford where he was also Curate.

The wedding was to take place at 11am and had caused considerable excitement in the neighbourhood. The approach to the Church from the Reading Road and the Church itself was beautifully decorated with autumn greenery and flowers from the greenhouse at Newnham House.

The bridegroom and the best man, Mr A Rowlin, arrived at 10.30am. Miss Hedges was very prompt in arriving, accompanied by her father, Charles Hedges, who gave her away, and six bridesmaids. They were Alice, Fanny, Ada and Kate Hedges, all sisters of the bride, Miss Ellen Hedges, a cousin, and Miss E M Robinson, sister of the bridegroom. The

bride was attired in a dress of rich white corded silk with satin tulle and flowers with a veil of Honiton lace.

The wedding party, which reads like a Who's Who of the neighbourhood, included Mr Edward Wells MP, Mr John Kirby Hedges of Castle House, his son, Lancelot and his two sisters, Sophia and Julia, Mr Reade and Miss Reade, of Ipsden, Mr Francis Edward Hedges and Mrs Elinor Hedges, Revd G Crake Robinson, vicar of Benson and many more.

The service, which began immediately, was choral throughout. The service was officiated by three clergymen, including Revd Stanwell, vicar of St Mary's, Newnham Murren. After the ceremony the couple left the church to the strains of the Wedding March. The wedding breakfast was served at Newnham House, before the newlyweds left for Torquay.

In the afternoon, the school children of the two parishes, about 90 in number, were entertained to a large tea, paid for by Charles Hedges.



Oxford's Penicillin - a TWHAS talk

There will be no TWHAS talk in December, and these details are for our January event.

When Alexander Fleming was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1945, he shared it with Howard Florey and Ernst Chain. Why? Because while Fleming first observed and named penicillin, it was Florey, Chain and a group of scientists working in Oxford who developed it into a viable drug. This talk will tell the story of the life saving work carried out in the Dunn School, the wartime struggles the scientists faced and the experiences of the first patients to be treated with penicillin.

Our speaker, Marie-Louise Kerr has over 15 years' experience of working in the heritage

sector, including 10 years as a curator looking after museum collections and developing exhibitions. She has cared for a wide variety of collections such as regimental, textile, social history, archaeology and the history of science.

Every object holds a story, and the love of discovering this information and sharing it with others is what drives a curator. Researching artefacts is the area of museum work that Marie-Louise enjoys the most and is one of the reasons she decided to follow this career. Finding herself between collections, developing and presenting public talks seemed the natural next step.

This talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society will be held on Wednesday 8th January, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan



TWHAS receives the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS), a group of local volunteers, has been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The award evening was attended by over 100 TWHAS and Museum volunteers. The Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Mr Tim Stevenson, presented the award to Judy Dewey (Vice-Chair of TWHAS and Curator of Wallingford Museum) and Stephen Capel-Davies (Chairman of TWHAS and Wallingford Museum). Honoured guests included The Mayor of Wallingford Councillor Lee Upcraft, The High Steward of Wallingford Ken Lester, and three Deputy Lieutenants: Brian Crossland, Robin Buxton and (newly appointed) Lynda Atkins.



Judy Dewey gave a short talk about the work of TWHAS from 1973-2019, and the Lord-Lieutenant outlined his role and the significance of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Award made was an engraved domed glass crystal, with a signed certificate from Her Majesty the Queen. The award is to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society for 'Engaging the community with local history through research, archaeology, publications and its museum.'

Stu Darby



Wallingford Museum Bookshop

As usual, Wallingford Museum will close for its winter break (December to February) to prepare exciting new exhibitions for next year. The Museum will re-open on 3rd March 2020.

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 - it's free to browse!

Isabella Darby

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Henley and District Stamp Club

Our final meeting for 2019 will be on 11th December, when our Chairman entertains the members of the Society with one of his eclectic displays. There will be a longer interval to have some light refreshments too.

If you would like a new interest for 2020 why not give collecting a go – stamps, old letters postcards, masses of topics and much more enjoyable in company of likeminded people. Give it a go!

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month 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

Short Mat Bowls

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

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Applications are open now, closing date is 9th December.

Benson Garden Club

No sooner will we – hopefully! – have mastered the art of creating our own Christmas wreath and table decoration, as demonstrated to us by Ivone Delgado at our final meeting of the year on 5th December, than Christmas will be behind us and we will be embarking on our programme for 2020.

We begin on 9th January, when father and daughter David and Hanna Cottrell, from Winterbrook Garden Nurseries at Brightwell-

cum-Sotwell, will be telling us a little of its history and, more importantly for the plantaholics amongst us, what their plans are for the future. Then, on 6th February, our speaker will be Jim McDonald from the National Sweet Pea Society.

We have a number of other treats in store over the course of the year, and on 5th March will be welcoming BBC *Gardeners' World* and ITV's *Love Your Garden* presenter Frances Tophill. So save the date!

Our meetings are all held in Benson Parish Hall, starting at 7.45pm. If you're new to the area, or just wondering what we are all about, why not come along as a visitor? We would love to see you. Or email us to find out more at bensongardeningclub@gmail.com.

Relationship Abuse Awareness

In November the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) launched a video, *Don't Disappear*, to raise awareness of relationship abuse as part of the Victims First initiative. This follows the *Know this isn't Love* coercive control campaign from earlier in the year. Victims First supports victims and witnesses of crime across the Thames Valley and is managed by the OPCC.

Don't Disappear tells the story of Jamie and Emma; from the seemingly loving early stages of their relationship, to the development of coercive and controlling behaviours such as jealousy and possessiveness, control, love bombing and isolation.

The aim of the video is to raise awareness of the red flags – the early signs of coercive control which at the time, may be missed or misinterpreted as acceptable behaviour in a relationship.

We hope the video will help people who may be in controlling relationships to identify with it and potentially seek help.

Anyone who is concerned they may be experiencing relationship abuse can contact Victims First for support on 0300 1234 148. You can find further information about Victims First at www.victims-first.org.uk



Right to remain in the UK

If you are a European Union citizen living or working in the UK, you might be wondering what will happen when the United Kingdom leaves the EU and what you should do so that you have the right to remain in this country.

The government has set up a programme called the EU Settlement Scheme which is intended for you. There is no charge for applying to this scheme. Citizens of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland can also apply. It is important that you apply NOW, without waiting until the UK actually leaves. You can begin the process here: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

If your application is successful you will be able to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. You will also have the right to work in the UK, use the National Health Service, get access to benefits and pensions if you are eligible, and travel in and out of the country. There is more information about your rights on the government website.

The new deadline for the UK to leave the EU is 31 January 2020 but it is still unclear exactly how it will take place, especially in view of the general election in December. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you will need to be living in the UK BEFORE it leaves the EU in order to apply.

Check the Citizens Advice website at: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/immigration/staying-in-the-uk-after-brexit>
South Oxfordshire District Council also has up-to-date advice on www.southoxon.gov.uk/brexit

You can visit Citizens Advice in person or call us on Adviceline (0300 330 9042). For locations of offices and opening hours, see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

Citizens Advice celebrates 80 years as vital service continues

Volunteers and staff from Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale were joined by representatives from the town and district councils at the Guildhall in Abingdon on 15th October to celebrate 80 years of service to the local community.

Citizens Advice was founded on 4th September 1939, the day after World War II was declared, to help people deal with the impact of war. Volunteers gave advice on evacuation, ration books, new housing for those whose homes had been bombed, and even provided recipes using the limited ingredients available on rationing.

Eighty years on, the issues may have changed, but the core values of Citizens Advice remain the same: to provide free, confidential and impartial advice to everyone everywhere.

Last year, Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale, an independent charity, helped 11,999 people resolve 20,200 problems including debt, housing, Universal Credit, benefits, family problems and consumer issues. For many people this service is a life-line.

Jon Bright, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale, said: "This service is only possible thanks to the dedication and commitment of our 160 highly trained volunteers who give up their time to help people in our community find a solution to their problems."

The number of people seeking advice has increased by 30 per cent over the last three years and the local offices need more volunteers to keep the service running. Volunteer posts include: advisers, receptionists, administrators, IT support and fund-raisers.

If you are interested, contact Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale for more information on 01235 550553 or email recruitment@osavcab.org.uk

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Crowmarsh Gifford. OX10 8EY
Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Churchwardens:

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

Services and Events for December

Sunday 1st	11am	Advent Family Service
	4pm	Advent Carol Service (Newnham Murren)
Wednesday 11th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Carols
Saturday 14th	10am-1pm	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 15th	6pm	Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 22nd	11am	Family Communion
Tuesday 24th	3pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service
Wednesday 25th	11am	Christmas Day Family Communion

The time of preparation for Christmas, called Advent (meaning 'coming'), begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas which, this year, falls neatly on the 1st December. We will mark this with an Advent Carol Service at 4pm at Newnham Murren – this year the theme is "Looking for the Light", which seems even more appropriate in this church which has no electricity or heating, so wrap up warm!

In the midst of our winter darkness and our fractured politics, the Church proclaims the approach of God's kingdom: "The true light, which enlightens every one, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him" (John 1:9-10). Into this darkness the 25th December comes as a celebration of the invincibility of the Light. During the last half of December, when the Roman pagans celebrated the feast of the Unconquered Sun, the Church now gathers to proclaim that the Son has indeed come into

the world. As John writes in the gospel: "In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:4-5). The Feast of Our Lord's Nativity (December 25th) celebrates the mystery of God's incarnation in human flesh.

The thematic pattern of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany can be seen as darkness-light-manifestation or as promise-fulfilment-proclamation. I hope you will join us in church for each step of the journey through the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season to appreciate the anticipation and preparation, celebration and reflective appreciation of the Incarnation – as one famous carol puts it: "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing".

With every blessing and joy in the light of Christ,

Rev Kev

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

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

You can hire

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

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

Panto at the Corn Exchange

It will soon be Pantomime season in Wallingford, and production is under way!

Sinodun Players present *Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood* - a rollicking good tale of derring-do in the Forest of Sherwood.



A much loved English legend, combined with traditional pantomime fun, as Robin and his trusted band of Merry Men try to outfox the baddy we love to hate!

Can Robin thwart the plans of the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham? Of course he can. But you'll have to come along to see how Maid Marian and the Babes are saved.

17th January to 1st February: Tuesdays to Fridays at 7:30pm; Saturday matinees at 2pm and evenings at 6:30pm.

Tickets on sale from the Corn Exchange box office 825000 or online at <http://www.cornexchange.org.uk>

Corn Exchange

Please note that the Corn Exchange in Wallingford will be closed from Sunday 22nd December until the pantomime starts on Friday 17th January.

For listings earlier in December, please visit www.cornexchange.org.uk

Climate Action Fair

A Climate Action Fair will be held on Saturday 7th March 2020. It will be an opportunity to share ideas about how to reduce our impact on the environment and campaign to persuade government and business to react faster to the developing climate and environmental emergency.

There will be information stalls, short talks, shared food and conversation. Find out more about green finance, tree planting, repair and repurposing, car sharing, growing your own food and many other ways of making your life more sustainable.

St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford has offered their space so that we can bring this together after the local market.

If you would like to help with this or have an idea for an information stall, or 20 minute talk please email Amanda on acgriff9@phonecoop.coop

Christmas Wishes from John Howell

As regular readers will know, I usually write a monthly newsletter for parish magazines. As Parliament has been dissolved for the General Election I am no longer in a position to do so. However having worked with you all for the majority of this year I would like to send a personal thank you for all that you do in your communities week by week, and month by month. I know that at times our community work can be a thankless task but please be assured it is appreciated, especially by me.

As this note will appear in the December magazines, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

Should I be in a position to work with you again in 2020 I look forward to it. If not, then my sincere thanks for all that you have done in the time that we have worked together.

With best wishes
John

A Beginner's Guide to Climate Change

Many of us are not at all clear about why people are so worried about Climate Change. This is the first of a series of short articles to try to discuss some of the issues. If you have any specific questions that you would like considered or have a response to what you have read here, please email Amanda Griffin on acgriff9@phonecoop.coop

1. *How does carbon dioxide warm the earth?*

Our earth receives energy from the sun in the form of light. When the light lands on a plant it is absorbed and used to make food for the plant. In this process heat is given out. Most of the gas in the air (nitrogen and oxygen) lets this heat out into space. Fortunately for us, some gases, e.g. carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, water vapour, absorb some of this heat and return it to the earth. This is the process that has enabled the earth to warm enough to support life as we know it. This is called "the greenhouse effect" because CO₂ is acting like the glass in our greenhouses. They both allow light in, but trap heat inside, so that the inside of the greenhouse and the surface of the earth are kept warm.

CO₂ is absorbed by plants, but this is balanced by most animals, including ourselves, producing CO₂ and breathing it out. This carbon cycle has kept levels of CO₂ fairly steady for millions of years.

We know this because we have an amazing way of measuring how much CO₂ was in the air going right back 800,000 years. The thick ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctic are laid down year by year in very thin layers. We can extract cores of ice from these sheets and look at the conditions that existed when each layer was frozen (a little like tree rings). We can even extract tiny bubbles of air from these layers and find out how much of each gas was present when the layer was frozen. What we find is that levels of CO₂ have varied over this time within a narrow band until about 170 years ago. We also find from these cores that global temperatures vary with the levels of CO₂ in our atmosphere.

2. *So why are we worrying about levels of CO₂ now?*

From the beginning of the Industrial Revolution levels of CO₂ have been increasing way above the range experienced in the previous 800,000 years, and the rate of that increase is speeding up rapidly. With this increase the average temperature of our world is rising too. One climate scientist describes it like this.

If all the carbon dioxide was gathered at the bottom of the atmosphere at any time in the last 800,000 years before the middle of the eighteenth century, it would form a layer about 7 feet thick. If we did that now it would be 10 feet thick.

Like trying to get to sleep on a summer's night under your winter duvet?

Next month:

3. *What are the causes of the increase in carbon dioxide in our atmosphere?*

Following later:

4. *How do we know that the earth is getting warmer?*

5. *What have we been doing about global warming so far?*

Feel free to contact me with any queries. I am happy to give short talks about these issues to any group or organisation.

Amanda Griffin

**Pictures, logos and display ads
for the *Crowmarsh News*...**

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

To book North Stoke Village Hall

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

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 7th November 2019

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, David Rowley, Ken McCrea, David Topliss, Liz Ryall, Andrew Johnson, Gaynor Hopkins and Julian Park, Sue Rance (Clerk), Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer), District Councillor Sue Cooper.

Apologies were received from Councillors Jon Grove and Fleur Stevenson.

Matters from the previous meeting

Kerbside weeds along Benson Lane have now been cleared as part of the District Council deep cleanse, postponed from August. The County Council has refilled the grit bins in the parish as requested – please use these if needed in icy weather. Cllr Sherbourne and the Finance Officer will meet before the start of the next season to finalise the grass cutting contract for next year, taking into account experience this season.

Finance

The payments made since the last meeting were approved. This included £1498.50 to Scofell for two grass cuts at the nature area, £4054.59 to Came and Company for the parish council's insurance, upgraded to include the playground: the price is fixed for three years. Donations of £100 each were made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeals for Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke.

The accounts to 31st October showed income for the year so far was £203,000, expenditure was £80,000. Invoices and receipts for the playground have now been completed. The draft budget for next year will be presented at the December meeting (now on 5th December

at North Stoke).

District Councillor's report

The District Councillor's report had been circulated. Councillor Sue Cooper answered questions.

The Council has been prevented by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government from debating or taking any decisions on withdrawal of the Local Plan 2034.

The Council has agreed to protect the rights of EU Citizens and help is available for EU nationals wishing to apply for Settled Status.

The District Council has agreed a budget for work to rebuild the offices in Benson Lane. Members are keen to invest in a sustainable, energy-efficient building that will be fit for the future, will set the standard for anyone else wishing to develop commercial buildings in our district and will be something which everyone can be proud of. Such a building should have much lower running costs than the one it replaced. But we do have to show value for money at all stages. Andrea Powell leads the members group to oversee the project.

Councillor grants are still available to local organisations – please apply through the SODC website.

Review of strategic priorities

A residents' survey had been published in *Crowmarsh News* and is also on the parish website; it can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NSDQY2V>. Thirteen on-line responses have been received so far, plus a few others in writing or by email. More responses are welcomed to help the parish council update our strategic objectives in 2020. See last month's *Crowmarsh News*.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P19/S1217/DIS CAB International, Nosworthy Way, Mongewell OX10 8DE
Discharge of appeal condition 9 (travel plan).
DISCHARGE DETAILS AGREED.

P19/S2624/LB 79 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF
Repairs and redecoration to the external fabric of the building (The Bell public house).
LISTED BUILDING CONSENT.

P19/S2545/HH Crowmarsh Stores, 64 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ES
Single storey rear extension.
PLANNING PERMISSION.

Consultation on applications

P19/S3063/HH Summerlea Cottage, Pocock Lane, North Stoke OX10 6ET
Minor alteration to roof on main dwelling; conversion of garage to annexe; conversion of carport to annexe. (Councillor Soames declared a personal interest as a neighbour.)
NO STRONG VIEWS.

Neighbourhood plan

The plan is being updated by consultants O'Neill Homer and prepared for public consultation.

Environment and Recreation Ground Committee

The latest version of the safeguarding and child protection policy was circulated, discussed and agreed. It will be reviewed annually and hirers will be given a copy.

The committee is looking for an architect for extra toilets for public access. There have been two accidents from falls from the play equipment.

Traffic and Transport

The Clerk will contact County Councillor Gray

requesting lane markings on the approach to the Mongewell roundabout from the North Stoke direction. Cllr Sherbourne asked all councillors to let him know whenever they see a police speed enforcement van in the parish.

Other business

There were reports from the River Users' Group RUG3 and the Emery Owen Trust. Cllr Ryall reported that efforts are being made to cut back trees on the Wallingford side of the river towards Benson so they will not block the river. The Head of the River Race will take place on Sunday 1st December. The path between Wallingford and Benson has been resurfaced. There is now an accessible boat based in Wallingford which may be hired for anyone with disabilities. Cllr Johnson reported that the Emery Owen Trust used its allotment income to help people in need in the parish and had supported the accessible boat. There is a waiting list for allotments.

Cllr Rowley will attend the 'Punchbowl Event' at the Corn Exchange on Tuesday 3rd December. Daffodil bulbs donated by Grundon are available to plant. Quotes will be sought to cut back vegetation at Cox's Lane and Robert Sparrow Gardens.

The litter bin at the bus stop in The Street opposite Home Farm is being replaced.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council was to be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 12th December, but has been moved because both village halls are in use as polling stations in the General Election that day. Instead we will meet at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 5th December, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Please note that the Parish Council does not meet in January.

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

SODC - Council Grant Schemes

Our grants are there to support community projects that will make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of our residents.

We are also currently accepting Councillor Grant applications. Make sure you speak to your South Oxfordshire district councillor about the £5,000 they have available to award to projects or services that offer community benefits in their ward area - visit our website for more information or speak to your district councillor directly.

Wallingford Country Market

The Country Market is held every Friday 9.30am to 12 noon at St Mary-le-More Church, Market Place (situated just behind Town Hall).

Why not let Wallingford Country Market help take the strain of Christmas preparations? Ideas for Christmas throughout December. Orders taken for most items sold including Christmas Baking, particularly Cakes and Mince Pies. Seasonal hand-crafted decorations and small gifts make welcome presents, as well as special jars of preserves and honey. Gardeners will be producing attractive fresh and artificial decorations and wreaths at competitive prices. Eggs, including Duck Eggs, are available each Friday.

Our last Market of 2019, marking the end of our special Centenary year, will be on Friday 20th December. We return on Friday 10th January. We thank our regular customers for their support and we look forward to welcoming new ones during 2020. A very Happy Christmas to you all!

Further information from our Market Manager, Alison, tel: 681596 or pop in and see her one Friday morning. New producers are always welcome.

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next Sale of Donated Goods will be held on Saturday 14th December from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on

week days between 9am and 4.30pm, but we cannot accept goods on Sale day or the day before. South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub, Nettlebed, Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 5DF. Please call 641384 ext 246 for further information.

Cholsey Repair Café

The next Cholsey Repair Café will take place at the Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 18th January 2020, opening from 11am to 1.45pm. Talented volunteer fixers will try to help mend your household items, clothing, tools, toys and much more. There is even PAT testing, a sharpening service and an ultrasonic cleaner for small items. More details at <http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.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.



The January 2020 issue of *Crowmarsh News* will be published during the second week in January.

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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FRIDAY	8.30 am - 9.00 pm
SATURDAY	8.00 am - 6.00 pm

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WHAT'S ON – DECEMBER 2019

Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	09.30-12.00	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
Every Sunday	11.00	Parish Communion; Family service first Sunday of month	Crowmarsh Church

This month

Sunday 1st	All day	Wallingford Rowing, Head of the River	Riverside
Sunday 1st	09.30	CTC 24-mile cycle ride	Meet in Market Place
Sunday 1st	12.00-17.00	Wallingford Christmas Shopping Extravaganza	Town Centre
Sunday 1st	16.00	Advent Carol Service	St Mary's, Newnham Murren
Wednesday 4th	14.00	U3A: Christmas Party	Village Hall
Thursday 5th	19.30	Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th	All day	Santa Specials	C&W Railway
Wednesday 11th	18.30	Wallingford Town Carols	Market Place
Wednesday 11th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Chairman's Evening	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th	All day	Santa Specials	C&W Railway
Saturday 14th	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Village Hall
Saturday 14th	10.30-12.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 15th	09.30	CTC 30-mile road ride	Meet in Market Place
Sunday 15th	18.00	Christmas Carol Service	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd	All day	Santa Specials	C&W Railway
Tuesday 24th	15.00	Christmas Eve Crib Service	St Mary Magdalene
Wednesday 25th	11.00	Christmas Day Family Communion	St Mary Magdalene

January

Sunday 5th	09.30	CTC 20-mile road ride	Meet in Market Place
Wednesday 8th	19.45	TWHAS: Oxford's Penicillin	St Mary-le-More, Wallingford

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