

Crowmarsh Rews

Issue 437

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.

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Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the Crowmarsh News (size up to A4), our current rate is £25.00 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies, please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

February 2015

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

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 March issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our 20th February 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.

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Local arson attacks

Along with local residents and employees we were all shocked by the arson attack on the District Council offices and Howard Chadwick Funeral Service on 15th January. Our thoughts are with everyone affected.

It will not be easy to recover quickly from this devastating fire, and the news media have suggested that the SODC offices will remain

unusable for between two and three years. SODC now has a website again at www.southoxon.gov.uk and the council is working hard to get back to business as usual. Planning is the service most seriously affected. For the time being, please do not call SODC except in in an emergency (on 01235 520202). Latest information is at www.southoxon.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-01/latest-news-council.

Photograph: Toni Taylor

An update from our District Councillor

On 19th January, the Police handed the site at Crowmarsh back to the SODC as they had finished their investigations. We are now providing 24/7 security arrangements, but the police will be visiting frequently in the short term and until the site is fully secure.

The next planning committee is now scheduled for 11 February, replacing that scheduled for 28 January. Cornerstone, Didcot is being used for most committee meetings, but the location for the next planning meeting is to be confirmed.

The SODC are still rebuilding IT systems and restoring data but until all the data is restored it will not be clear what has been lost. Emails sent on 15th and 16th January will probably not have reached their intended recipients.

The elections team are working hard to meet the deadlines for the May election and believe that they were up to date with the data entry of voter information. However, some paper applications for registration may have been lost. A planned communication to all households will list all people registered to vote in each home and include which ones will be postal voters. This letter will explain that an update may be required if an application was made during the disaster period.

There is now a lot of speculation about the site and its future and it would be helpful for local businesses as well as residents to be able to plan. The Leader of the council has said it is far too early to know. As far as when decisions will be taken on the next steps I'm told 'at least a month, perhaps longer'.

If you have any concerns regarding the impact of the recent disaster on any of the service provisions, please say and I can help your concern reach the right person.

Kristina Crabbe

kristinacrabbe@hotmail.com 07714291907

Crowmarsh Gifford School

The children have all come back to school ready for learning and the start of a brand new year and new term. We have been focusing on the idea of 'growth mindset' and challenging the children and adults to look at 'problems' with a new perspective. When someone says, "I can't do it," we reply with, "Yet." For a more detailed and up to date insight into our weeks at school, you can always follow our blogs on our website at www.crowmarshgiffordprimary.com

We are looking forward to another exciting term full of visits, hands on learning and dynamic learning. I think after the bustle of Christmas we are all happy just to settle back into our normal routines. Already in school we have seen beautiful drawings of Tudor houses, bridge building, story writing, Macbeth, myths and legends, measuring with lentils and rice, and the list goes on and on! But over the next few months we will keep you updated with all of the adventures that we get up to.

We send a huge thank you out to all those in our community who attended our various Christmas events. We really do enjoy having you come into our school and share in the celebrations. Perhaps you would like to help the children with their reading, or would like to help with a gardening club, or you have a special skill you could come and demonstrate – we would love to welcome you to our school. Please ring Mrs Rance in the office if this is something you may be interested in.

Mrs Barton Headteacher

Crowmarsh Pre-School

Happy New Year!

The children have been enjoying welcoming all the new starters this term after a nice break at Christmas. They have also been getting used to the exciting new layout of their class room which the children are really enjoying.

The themes this term are winter, white, animals and Chinese New Year. The children love exploring different cultures, festivals and

traditions from around the world and we are encouraging all contributions of ideas for the future.

As the demand for the pre-school is continuing to grow we have now started a waiting list. If you have a child who you would like to attend Crowmarsh Pre-school we suggest registering early to avoid disappointment.

Crowmarsh Pre-school has been rated outstanding by Ofsted and has a strong emphasis on learning through play. We are open to all children between the ages of two and five years old and provide the perfect (and FUN) preparation for children getting ready to start school.

We offer two sessions a day during term time. Morning session 8.45am / 9am-12pm and an afternoon session 12pm-3pm. Lunch club is 12pm-1pm and may be added on to the morning session.

To find out more about the pre-school please call our Manager, Dilys Beaumont, for a chat on 07951599623 or e-mail Vikki at admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next dates for the Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 21st February and 14th March – from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4pm, but we cannot accept goods on Sale Day or the day before.

Volunteers are always needed to select and allocate donated goods and to assist with Sales. The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF, phone 641070.

Wallingford Photographic Club

ing wallingfordphotoclub@gmail.com

If you would like to join as a member in February we have a special offer of £20 to cover the remaining meetings through to May. We have a varied programme, and you can find further details of it on our website http://www.wallingfordphoto.club/ or by email-

Wallingford Gardening Club

At the February meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Tony Clear will give an illustrated talk on Cottage Gardens.

Tony trained in landscape and amenity horticulture in Surrey and has been involved in horticulture for more than 45 years. Moving to Worcestershire, he took up a position as assistant gardener at Spetchley Park Gardens, staying there for 17 years. He has been Head Gardener at Brook Cottage Gardens near Banbury for the past 20 years.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th February. Visitors will be very welcome for a small charge of £2.

Isabelle Darby

'Arias at the Abbey 2'

'Arias at the Abbey 2' will be held at Dorchester Abbey in aid of the Bone Cancer Research Trust, on Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm.

The evening will feature soloists Stuart Pendred, Hannah Pedley, Kylie Watt and Anthony Gregory; The Oxford Chamber Orchestra conducted by Neil Farrow and the award winning Wallingford Parish Church Choir directed by Sue Ledger. The programme will include excerpts from Carmen, Tosca and Les Misérables.

Tickets £25, students/U18 £15 at www.bcrt.org.uk/ariasattheabbey; enquiries to ariasattheabbey2@bcrt.org.uk or call 825680.

Henley Philatelic Society

Meetings are usually held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.45pm, from September to June inclusive. Visitors and new members are very welcome. Details from 681739 or on our website: www.henleyphilatelic.co.uk

This month: "An evening with David and Brian" on 11 February, and an Auction Viewing on 25 February for our popular Open Auction.



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St John's School Christmas Plays of 1949

Wallingford Boys' School held their School Concert in the Masonic Hall on 15th December 1949. The hall was full to capacity, with some 300 parents, relations and friends attending. The proceeds were in aid of the School Library Fund.

The concert consisted of five short sketches; the nativity play called "The Children's King" was the central performance, which was performed by boys from Miss Naish's class aged 7 to 8 years old. Two residents of Crowmarsh had leading roles in the play. Richard Lay performed well as the money grabbing innkeeper, and Mary was played by me (David Beasley) a performance that has haunted me for the rest of my life.

I recently had a conversation that I never thought I'd have with two ladies in Wallingford Bookshop about the dress I was wearing (for the reader who is fashion conscious it was a blue dress with white piping). I have never performed on the stage since, as I didn't want to become typecast.

Peter Shayler played a very attractive Innkeeper's wife, Alan Coles, Billy Batten and Tony Morris played the three wise men, the Cherubs were played by John Chedzey, Brian Tilly and Johnny Hobbs; one can't help but think how miscast they were. The narrator was John Davis, who lived in Old Buildings off Wood Street and his father was the local barber. Mrs. Kiddie played the pianoforte with great gusto as always. Equipment and stage effects were loaned by Mr Moody, Headmaster of the Grammar School. The nativity play was so successful that it was performed again a week later for the inmates of the Workhouse.

The best of the five sketches was "The Bottle" performed by John Whale of St Nicholas Road, Malcolm Mattock of Wantage Road, and Eric German of St Mary's Street. A choir of the older boys sang a number of songs to close the concert.

Strangely after over 65 years I can still remember my lines. Maybe I'm still waiting to play that part again.

Come and Walk the Line with Sinodun Inner Wheel Club

On Sunday 8th February we are organising a Charity Film Performance of the Johnny Cash film, Walk the Line, at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford starting at 2.30pm. Tickets are £7 each and available from the Corn Exchange Box Office, telephone 825000, or online at www.cornexchange.org.uk

All profit is going to the Alzheimers Society.

We would love to sell all the tickets so that we can make the maximum profit for this worth-while charity whose slogan is "Leading the Fight against Dementia". The film won many

Wallingford & District Stroke Club

We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month in Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, 2-4pm with tea. For further details, please phone Veronica Port (652310) or Jenny Tatman (839499).

awards and going to watch it will be a most enjoyable way to spend a Sunday afternoon in February.

Hope to see you there!

Many thanks to anyone reading this who bought a ticket for our Christmas Raffle. We raised £505.85 for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Eira E Hoare President, Inner Wheel Club of Sinodun

To book North Stoke Village Hall

contact Nikki Arnfeld – 839736, 07969 788766, or narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk or Stuart Soames – 836058, or sjwsoames@btinternet.com

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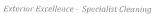
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February's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Ben Ford. He will present 'Winchester - A City in the Making'.

Ben is from Oxford Archaeology and his illustrated talk will describe the archaeological results from the largest recent excavations to be published from Winchester. He will discuss the changing nature of peoples' lives and the city's development from the Iron Age enclosure, through the Roman civitas of Venta Belgarum, to the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval streets of England's first capital.

This talk will be held on Friday 13th February, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Minstrel T-shirts are still available from Wallingford Museum. These were on sale during 2014 and proved popular but stocks are now running out. There is now a final chance to buy these garments (various colours and styles) at a discounted price, from the Museum.

The Museum volunteers are busy preparing new exhibitions for opening on 3rd March 2015 - 'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed', together with a display that will highlight Wallingford's mention in the Magna Carta.

In the meantime, the highly successful Museum bookshop, with its constantly changing stock of good second-hand books (all modestly priced) will remain open during February. The shop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 1.00pm for books and T-shirts!

Wallingford Museum is also looking for people to help with the running of this popular attraction and we would love to hear from you if you have half a day or more to spare once a month. Please contact Gerard Latham on 832224 or email

admin@wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers

Walks for February

Tuesday 3rd

10:00 SU645820 Moderate Meet at Woodcote village hall car park. Walk to Great Chalk Wood, Cleeve, Goring and Elvendon Priory. Registered Assistance Dogs only. Bus friendly. Contact Barry Cowlard on 838707.

Sunday 8th

13:30 SU526882 **Moderate** 7 miles Meet at East Hagbourne at Upper Cross near the church. This is a monthly village ramble that varies from 5 to 9 miles at a quick pace. Contact Paul Chambers on 01235 816365.

Tuesday 10th

10:00 SU638788 Moderate 5.5 miles Meet at Whitchurch Hill at the playing fields (just off B471) near to church. Walk via Coombe End Farm and Whitchurch. Dogs on short leads please.

Contact John Rust on 836563.

Tuesday 17th

Moderate 10:00 SU702868 7 miles Meet at Nettlebed at the Old Kiln. Walk through Warburg nature reserve, Maidensgrove, Russell's Water and Park Corner, Dogs on short leads please. Bus friendly. Contact Richard Birch on 07719 692355.

Friday 27th

6.5 miles 10:00 SU666874 Moderate Meet at Nuffield Church. Walk along Grimms Ditch to Hailey and Well Place. Dogs on short leads please.

Contact Nuala Clements on 835387.

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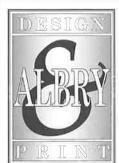
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Services for February	у		
Sunday 1st	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 8th	Second Before Lent	11am	All Age Worship
Sunday 15th	Next Before Lent	11am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 18th	Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Imposition of Ashes,
	•		St Agatha's Church,
			Brightwell cum Sotwell
Sunday 22nd	Lent 1	11am	All Age Communion

The New Year has come in with a bang. There has been so much bad news reported in the Media about terrorism, Ebola, terrible fighting in the Middle East, refugees left to try and fend for themselves when abandoned and set adrift by the so called helpers; there have been freaky weather patterns; and just to bring it all close to home, the awful fires at the offices of South Oxfordshire District Council and Chadwick's Funeral Directors. The one good point in our local disaster has been that noone was hurt.

What comfort can we possibly obtain from all that is happening? Where is God in all of this? Those who have faith do have the comfort of knowing that it is not God who ordains the deeds of man, only man himself. Man was given the freedom to choose which way he wanted to go from the days in the Garden of Eden. Since then, we do not seem to have learned a lot, and sometimes we repeat our actions over and over again. God did send down his Son Jesus, to show us the way that life should be lived – that is if we only bother to sit and reflect on the 'Good News' which he gave to us.

This month sees the start of Lent, when we all try to learn something new about ourselves. It is not about giving up something we enjoy, but more, how about doing something for someone else?

The Season of Lent starts on 18th February, Ash Wednesday, with the Service of Imposition of Ashes. At this service, those present receive the mark of a cross, which is made from ash, on their foreheads. This year the service will be held in St Agatha's Church in Brightwell at 7.30pm. You will be most warmly welcomed to the service.

Looking forward to March, there are two events I would like to draw to your attention. One is to be on 6th March, and is 'The Women's World Day of Prayer'. Each year a different country prepares the Order of Service for the women the world over to follow, and this year it is the Women of the Bahamas. If you would like to attend, then be at St John's Roman Catholic Church, Wallingford at 7pm, for a lively service, with lovely refreshments to follow.

The other date to mark up is 20th March when we shall be holding another of our fantastic 'Quiz 'n' Chips' evenings. Mr John Ham will be our Quiz Master, so come along with your Team, and pit your wits against all comers. Entry Forms will be available later from the Village Store – I still think of it as the Post Office!

With all good wishes Margaret Foster Churchwarden

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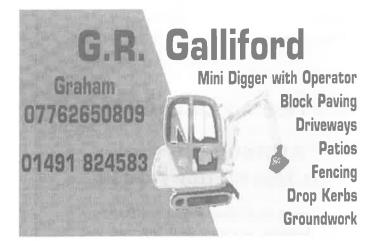
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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

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

The Parish Council did not meet in January, so our next meeting will be on Thursday 5th February in Crowmarsh Gifford village hall, starting at 7.30pm – you are very welcome to attend.

We have two vacancies on the council: contact the parish clerk (details above) if you would like to find out more. The whole council will be up for election on 7th May, the same day as the General Election and the District Council elections.

In setting our budget for 2015-16, we are again keeping the amount we raise from each household through the Council Tax the same as the past year.

We reported a year ago that construction of

the new access road to the Riverside Park from Bellamy Way had been delayed further by the flooding. Since then the recreation ground committee offered help with a possible flood compensation area on our nature area, but we are still awaiting details from SODC. We hope this project will get moving soon, although the recent fire will undoubtedly cause further delay.

If you know of anything the parish council should be dealing with, please contact the parish clerk (contact details above).

Please use the parish website at http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php and contribute any news or event details – as well as to the *Crowmarsh News*. We also have a Crowmarsh Gifford Facebook page.

High-speed broadband arrives in Crowmarsh area

As part of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme, two fibre-enabled cabinets are now live and ready to take orders in the Crowmarsh area. This means that over 400 residents and businesses served by these cabinets will be able to request upgrades to fibre-enabled broadband from a range of Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

In most cases, this means residents can select a product offering download speeds above 24Mb/s following infrastructure upgrades made via Better Broadband for Oxfordshire. The aim of the £25m programme, funded by Oxfordshire County Council, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) and BT, is to provide access to fibre-enabled broadband where this is not commercially viable without public sector investment.

Wallingford Cabinet 24, located at the junction of Wallingford Road and Constitution Hill, serves the following postcodes:

OX10 6AD; OX10 6AE; OX10 6AF; OX10 6AU; OX10 6AX; OX10 6AY; OX10 6AZ; OX10 6BE; OX10 6BW; OX10 6BZ; OX10 8BP;

OX10 8BS; OX10 8BU; OX10 8BX; OX10 8DY; OX10 8BZ; OX10 8DA; OX10 8DD; OX10 8DE; OX10 8DT.

Wallingford Cabinet 6, located at The Street, opposite Thames Mead in Crowmarsh Gifford, serves the following postcodes:

OX10 6LX; OX10 6PS; OX10 6SL; OX10 8BA; OX10 8BB; OX10 8BD; OX10 8BE; OX10 8BG; OX10 8BJ; OX10 8BL; OX10 8BN; OX10 8BQ; OX10 8BW; OX10 8DG; OX10 8DH; OX10 8DS; OX10 8EA; OX10 8EB; OX10 8ED; OX10 8EE; OX10 8EH; OX10 8EQ; OX10 8ET; OX10 8EW; OX10 8FD; OX10 8HE; OX10 8HF; OX10 8NR.

The cabinets should by now be sporting a large white sticker to indicate they are live and that providers are ready to take orders for these postcodes.

Improved broadband services are not turned on automatically. To access fibre-enabled broadband, contact your chosen ISP or use comparison sites to find available packages. There is a list of ISPs on the Better Broadband

for Oxfordshire website: www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org/broadband-providers

If you contact an ISP, state that you wish to order 'fibre-enabled/superfast broadband', otherwise they may offer you a slower broadband service. Your chosen ISP should be able to offer any technical assistance necessary to access fibre-enabled/superfast broadband.

It is important to note that not all premises within a postcode area will necessarily be able to order superfast speeds (above 24Mb/s). Premises will be able to access a range of speeds – some will get superfast broadband and others will be able to get anywhere between 2Mb/s and 24Mb/s, depending on their distance from the cabinet.

Mongewell area

This area is fed from a Secondary Connection Point 17/1 which is 2.5km from Wallingford 17. he distance here is too far for superfast broadband speeds. If Wallingford 17 does come into plan with additional funding, then the BT Unlimited option may help residents – this is an option for upgraded cabinets and details are on the FAQ section of the website. Go to http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/ questions-and-answers and then look under 'My cabinet is upgraded but my broadband speeds are still low. What can I do?'

Some postcodes in Mongewell may well be fed by Wallingford 24, too.

North Stoke

North Stoke is fed from Wallingford 24. For areas requiring additional funding the results of the remodelling plan are being collated, so communications at a Parish level are anticipated to commence in January. I have included details below on the additional funding.

For postcodes in Crowmarsh, Mongewell and North Stoke not currently within the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire project (ie showing on the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire website http://www.better-broadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/home as subject to additional funding), South

Oxfordshire District Council has committed to providing additional funding to the programme to extend coverage in the district, which in turn OCC applied to BDUK for match-funding.

People living in the postcodes NOT listed can look on the County Broadband postcode checker map, where the following message may come up:

'Commercially Covered.

'The Broadband infrastructure serving this postcode has already been upgraded through commercial work, or there are plans to do so in the near future.

'Please contact suppliers to check availability.'

This applies to some of the Thames Mead estate whose postcodes are not listed by the County.

Wallingford & District Art Club

Wallingford and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm at Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane. On 17th February artist Peter Keegan will demonstrate painting a portrait in oils. Non-members are welcome for a fee of £5.

On the other Tuesdays of the month there will be the usual untutored workshops, where nonmembers are welcome for a fee of £3. Please bring your own materials and a project to work on at the workshops.

For further details about this or future demonstrations, please contact me on 825042.

Stephanie Toole

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Every Tuesday 2nd and 4th Weds Every Thursday Every Thursday Every Friday Every Saturday Most Saturdays	19.00-21.30 Evenings 14.00-16.30 19.45-22.00 8.30-11.15 10.00-12.00 10.00-13.00	Short Mat Bowls Crowmarsh Ladies Short Mat Bowls Wallingford Photographic Club Wallingford Country Market WAGS Store open Local Producers' Market	Crowmarsh Pavilion Telephone 201756 Crowmarsh Pavilion Crowmarsh Pavilion Regal Centre Centre 70 Regal Centre
This month			
Sunday 1st	13.30	CTC Wallingford, Road ride	Wallingford Market Place
Tuesday 3rd	10.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Woodcote Circular Walk
Wednesday 4th	14.00	U3A: Charles Dickens, by Professor Stokes	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 5th	19.30	Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Sunday 8th	13.30	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	East Hagbourne Village Walk
Tuesday 10th	10.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Whitchurch Hill Circular Walk
Wednesday 11th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Members' evening	Bix Village Hall
Friday 13th	19.45	TWHAS: Winchester, a city in	Wallingford Town Hall
Sunday 15th	13.30	the making CTC Wallingford, Road ride	Wallingford Market Place
Tuesday 17th	10.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Nettlebed Circular Walk
	19.30-21.30	Wallingford & District Art Club, Peter Keegan oil painting demo	Centre 70
Saturday 21st	10.30-12.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Wednesday 25th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Auction viewing	
Friday 27th	10.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Nuffield Circular Walk

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

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

To book Crowmarsh Village Hall...

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

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