

Crowmarsh News

Issue 449

February 2016

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.

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

- 1 month – £7.50
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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.

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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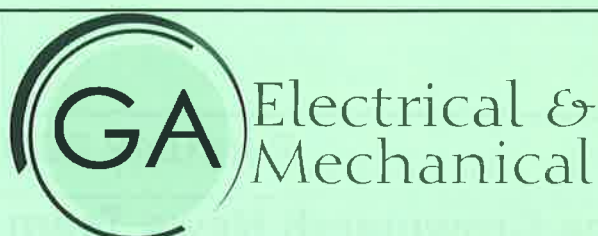


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Quiz'n'Chips - Friday 11th March

St Mary Magdalene are holding their spring Quiz'n'Chips in the church on Friday 11th March. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30 start and there will be a licensed bar. Entry forms are available from the church and from Crowmarsh Village Stores and need to be returned by Sunday 6th March please (Mothering Sunday). Tickets are £10 with food, £7.50 without food. Ideally teams are 6-8 people, but if you don't have a team, we will find you some friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sarah Nesbitt
07770 930756 or sjn62@icloud.com

'80s Disco

Dust off your legwarmers and shoulder pads and come along to a Charity '80s Disco – to raise money for Wallingford Young People for Kenya and the Nasio Trust. We are raising funds for the next group of young people to travel to Kenya to work with the Nasio Trust.

Date: Friday 19th February
Venue: Crowmarsh Village Hall
Time: 7.30 to 11.45pm
Entry: £10 includes cocktail
Licensed bar

“Live” at the Corn Exchange

In addition to a full programme of films during February, the Corn Exchange in Wallingford will be hosting two “live” events.

On Friday 19th, there will be Stand-Up Comedy Night with Ellie Taylor, Luisa Omelian, Alistair Williams and David Morgan. A night of hilarity is guaranteed with this feisty set of comedians who are well-known on the comedy circuit and on TV. Tickets cost £10 and the show will begin at 8pm.

On Saturday 20th, the Corn Exchange hosts *The Little Match Girl*. This will be a magical and mischievous twist on a classic tale, complete with puppetry, story-telling, live music, and audience interaction. The Moon On A Stick company will transform the stage into a

stunning snowy spectacle. This event is suitable for ages 3 years and upwards. Tickets cost £10 (under 16s £5), and the show will begin at 3pm.

For the future, March 15th-19th will bring an evening of well-loved songs from *Mary Poppins* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* in a Spectacular Evening Celebrating the Music of Richard and Robert Sherman. Directed by Marilyn Johnstone, this show is a joint venture between the Corn Exchange and internationally acclaimed Crescendo Music. There will be singing, dancing and much more, including the appearance on stage of the Chitty Chitty car.

Tickets for this fun-packed and memorable evening for all the family cost £15 for adults or £12 for children under 14. Shows will be at 7.30 each evening, and there will also be a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Tickets and further information, including any last minute additions to the cinema programme, are available either online at www.cornexchange.org.uk or directly from our box office, whose telephone number is 01491 825000.

Crowmarsh Cricket Club

The Crowmarsh Cricket Club AGM was held on 27th November 2015 at the Comrades Club in Wallingford. The following officers were elected:

Chairman - Justin Fanstone
Secretary - John Bromley
Treasurer - Chris Strange
Fixtures Secretary - Brian Gray
Club Captain - Henry Garth

The club plays Sunday friendlies and midweek 20/20 games during the summer. Home games are played at the Recreation Ground in Crowmarsh.

The club is looking for new players for the 2016 season and net practice is due to start on Friday 19th February at Wallingford School. If you are interested in playing or coming along to the nets to see what it is all about, please call Justin on 07825896837 or contact us through the club website at <http://www.crowmarshcc.org.uk>

Crowmarsh School

At Crowmarsh Primary this term, we are being 'extraordinary' learners.

We have been talking a great deal about what it means to be extraordinary, looking at ordinary people in history who have proved to do 'extraordinary' things despite other people telling them to give up – or often proving that the perceived 'impossible' truly can be 'possible'!

This all ties into our ethos of being 'purple learners', challenging ourselves to step out of our comfort zones with a mindset of resilience, perseverance and fortitude.

We believe that our ethos starts with the staff. Therefore to continue our own learning we kick-started the New Year with a week of professional development. All staff began the week with training delivered by Tim Rylands and Sarah Neild who showed us how to use technology to inspire creativity in writing. The following day, teachers were able to observe Tim teaching children using ICT to engage and motivate talk for writing.

On the Wednesday and Thursday of that week we then welcomed Julia Skinner, retired head-teacher and founder of the 100 Word Challenge, who modelled to teachers and children the power of blogging and how to further create exceptional writers using computers to create a purpose for writing. Hopefully soon you can see some of our work up on our website, so do keep an eye out.

Children also enjoyed a performance of Dick Whittington by M&M productions, laughing, dancing and singing the whole way through. So already, lots of exciting things are happening and we are only at the end of the first month!

We are looking forward to seeing what 2016 brings us and as always hope to be able to welcome you into our school soon.

Until next time...

Mrs Barton
Headteacher

Crowmarsh Pre-School

This term the pre-school is thinking about Winter, Blue, Water and Chinese New Year and we are looking forward to making pancakes and the possibility of a Pancake Race on Shrove Tuesday.

The children are also excited to welcome our newest member of staff: Becks, who will be responsible for the Blue group.

We would also like to announce that our hugely successful Village quiz will be returning in May. Our wonderful fundraising committee will be on the hunt for donations of prizes for our auction and raffle. If you or a local business would like to donate a prize, please contact Dilys on the contact details below. As we are a charity, the children's fees only cover the cost of staff and rent, so we are very grateful for all your donations which allow us to buy resources and equipment.

Crowmarsh Pre-school 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. The morning session runs from 8.45 or 9am to 12pm and the afternoon session from 12 to 3pm. Lunch club is from 12 to 1pm and may be added on to the morning session.

To find out more information 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

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

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



Wallingford Gardening Club

Principles of Garden Design

At the February meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Duncan Grosart will talk about 'Principles of Garden Design'.

Duncan trained at the Pershore College of Horticulture and has been teaching and judging landscape design for the past 35 years.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th February.

Visitors very welcome, £2.

Isabelle Darby, 836867

Pictures and logos for the Crowmarsh News...

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

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The Life of James White

There have been many characters living in Wallingford over the years. One of the most notable was James or Jimmy White, who spent much of his adult life living in Wallingford Workhouse or in prison. Between the years of 1863 and 1893, he was arrested no fewer than 69 times, usually for assault fuelled by drink. During this thirty-year brush with the law there were some years when he was only arrested once or twice. This was because for most of that year he was serving a prison sentence!

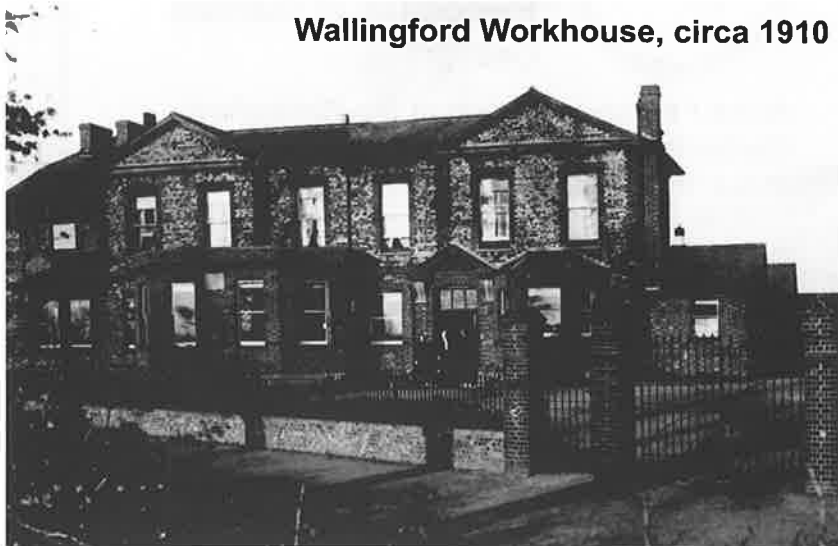
Jimmy was born in 1838, the second son of William and Hannah from Witney. He had little education. At the age of nine he started work, helping his father selling earthenware. In 1859 Jimmy met Susan Rusher from Eynsham. Susan's brother was James Rusher, who later moved to Wallingford and opened a china shop on the corner of St Martin's Street and the High Street (the shop has since been demolished).

Their relationship blossomed and they married in 1860. They moved to Wallingford soon afterwards, living in Wood Street, and Jimmy worked for brother-in-law James selling earthenware. Their first child, Sarah, was born in 1864. Six more children followed, the last being born in 1876.

In 1863 Jimmy was arrested twice for assault, once for assaulting a police officer from Cholsey. By 1867 he had served several sentences for assault or being found drunk.

James Rusher, after showing considerable tolerance, sacked Jimmy. It wasn't long before he and his family were evicted from their Wood Street house. Four times in 1886 he was arrested for sleeping in the open air, twice under a wall in Wallingford Cemetery, once in the Kine Croft and finally in October, under an arch of Wallingford Bridge, with his wife and six children. As he had no visible means of support the family were accepted into the Workhouse. At Christmas time he applied for permission to have a day out from the

Wallingford Workhouse, circa 1910



Workhouse, but this was refused.

He applied again in 1887. As it was Queen Victoria's Jubilee year and due to his good conduct he was allowed a day out this time. He repaid the Guardians' trust in him by arriving back at the Workhouse during the Sunday Church service wearing only his under clothes, barefoot and drunk. He had sold his boots and clothes, the property of the Workhouse, to buy more drink. Another prison sentence followed. When he was released he returned to the Workhouse, before absconding and being arrested for fighting in the Market Place.

Jimmy and Susan's eldest son, George, had left the Workhouse having found employment and lodgings. In 1887 he applied to take one of his brothers out of the Workhouse. The application was refused because it had not been made in a satisfactory manner.

Sadly in July 1897, Susan died in the County Asylum, Cholsey, aged 57 years. Jimmy's life continued in the same manner until 1915, when on the 2nd December (which would have been his 55th Wedding Anniversary) he died, aged 77 years. In the following year a memoriam to Jimmy was published in the *Berks and Oxon Advertiser* from his son Arthur on behalf of his brothers and sisters. It also appeared in 1917 and 1918. So despite all that had occurred during their childhood, his children still had fond memories of him. Perhaps that's all you can ask....

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New 'specials' for 2016!

It is 950 years since the last time England was successfully invaded by a foreign army. Most of us know there was a great battle in 1066 at Hastings where the English (Saxon) King Harold was killed by an arrow in his eye (probably) and some may even know that William the Conqueror came to Wallingford after the battle to cross the River Thames with his army!

But why did he choose Wallingford? What was happening here at the time to make him come? What effect did it all have on the people living here? There is certainly an intriguing story to tell and in Wallingford Museum's new exhibition – '1066: William Comes to Wallingford' – all will be revealed. "All" will be based on the very latest research and evidence. This is an exhibition that is definitely not to be missed!

You'll also be able to see some of the latest discoveries from our recent archaeology, including the smallest medieval chess piece ever found in England - a beautiful little object made of antler, discovered behind the Museum in the dig last summer.

But this is not all...!

There's also a brand new special exhibition presenting '300 Years of Cartoons!' This spectacular private collection has been brought together by Dr Steve Head to show wonderful examples of the development of the use of cartoons in the last three centuries. Featuring about a hundred cartoons of all kinds, the exhibition allows you simply to look at the cartoons and enjoy them for themselves, or to take time to read a little about each one and learn a great deal - a very special experience.

And if you come early in the season, your £5 entry ticket will give you terrific value, as you'll be able to return as many times as you like for no extra cost. The Museum will be open from

1st March. Children under 16 get in free, and there's lots for the family to enjoy throughout the rest of the Museum too.

Look out for special events this year, including Town and Castle history walks (2nd April), A Night at the Museum (13th May and 28th October), Family Archaeology Day (23rd July), a William the Conqueror event (20th August), BunkFest offers, and the Agatha Christie Weekend (9th-11th September).

Full details of all these events are available on our web site, www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Thames Crossings - Ferries, Fords and Bridges

February's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Steve Capel-Davies. He will present 'Thames Crossings - Ferries, Fords and Bridges'.

Steve has had an extensive career involving rivers, and will draw on his personal experiences and knowledge of the River Thames.

The River Thames has been very important as a key route for trade but it has also been a major barrier to those wanting to cross it! This talk on Ferries, Fords and Bridges will look at how these have evolved over the years. It will include local examples, such as at Wallingford where the bridge has at times had drawbridges installed, been destroyed by a flood, rebuilt and widened.

The talk will be preceded by a short (as usual!) AGM.

This talk will be held on Friday 12th February, 8pm at the Methodist Church Centre, St Leonard's Square, Wallingford. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

For more information about the Society, please visit our web site, www.twhas.org.uk

National Learn to Play Day

Free workshop on handbell ringing!

Have you ever thought of making music with handbells? It is fun and rewarding. As part of National Learn to Play Day (www.learntoplay-day.com), organised by Music for All, Gay and Alan (who appeared on Britain's Got Talent) are offering a free workshop on handbell ringing on Saturday 12th March.

The workshop is suitable for everyone and no experience of music or bells is required. It will take place at the Bullcroft Recreation Rooms, opposite Waitrose in Wallingford, starting at 11am.

For further details, contact gay.cooper@hrgb.org.uk or 07964 615428 or tweet @Gay_and_Alان.

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The dates for the next Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 20th February and 12th March, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm. We regret we are unable to 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.

For further details of these sales, please call 01491 641384 ext 246.

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Team Rector: Rev'd David Rice
22 Castle Street, Wallingford
Email: david.rice@ntlworld.com
Tel. 01491 202188

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

Services for February

Sunday 7th	Next Before Lent	11am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 10th	Ash Wednesday	8pm	Imposition of Ashes
			St. Leonard's Church, Wallingford
Sunday 14th	Lent .1.	11am	All Age Worship
Sunday 21st	Lent .2.	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 28th	Lent .3.	11am	All Age Communion

We have it seems missed out on most of the snow and ice which is customary at this time of year; and we are hearing all sorts of reasons why this has happened, but of course we still have time for the little slippery bits of snow and ice to arrive unexpectedly, perhaps in June?

We have been very fortunate indeed to have not had all the misery of the flooding which has happened in the north of the country, and our hearts go out to those people who have suffered more than once in recent times.

Although we put our plans in place, it is obvious that nature can and does confound them. We are making plans for the forthcoming year, and in particular for the arrival of our new Team Vicar, Kevin. We still do not have a definite date for his arrival, although we do expect him to arrive in April; hopefully I can give more positive news next month.

We have also started to make plans for our big Flower Festival and Fete this year, and we happen to share our weekend the 11th & 12th of June with the Queen's celebration of her 90th Birthday. So look out for details of this in future editions of the *Crowmarsh News*.

Lent comes early this year and starts on Ash Wednesday 10th February, when we have the service of the Imposition of Ashes, this year

held in St Leonard's Church in Wallingford. This is a simple service, when we declare our allegiance to Jesus, by having our foreheads marked with a cross, made from the ash of burnt palm crosses from the previous year. Do come along to St Leonard's, to either join in or just observe what happens during this service. You will be most welcome.

Our church is open every Sunday for all our usual Services. Please see the list at the head of this column for details. We have enjoyed having different Leaders during this Vacancy, and it has given us all time to evaluate and appreciate how fortunate we are to have this ancient church to worship in, and to have the promise of a new leader joining us very soon.

It is an exciting time, and if you would like to join with us in planning the future of our church here, or have some really good ideas for the spread of help and support through church activities, then please do come along. We can use you!

Margaret Foster Churchwarden

Our church in Crowmarsh Gifford has existed since at least 1140 when it was used as a fortified post by King Stephen in his wars with Matilda, who held Wallingford Castle. During the Civil War it was used by Cromwell's men to shelter from the Royalists.

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PACT receives over £7000 from charity partnership

A charity partnership with accountancy firm Grant Thornton has resulted in a donation to PACT of £7279.08. Staff at Grant Thornton ran various fundraising events throughout the year including sweepstakes, a Christmas jumper day and a world record charity row.

PACT Chief Executive Jan Fishwick said: "We have really enjoyed our partnership with Grant Thornton for the last 18 months and would like to sincerely thank all of their staff for choosing us and for taking part in a whole host of different fundraising activities for PACT. Their efforts will directly benefit many adopted children and their families who need therapeutic support to address painful past experiences and move forward to a happy life together."

Tash Pettiford-White, Executive Assistant at Grant Thornton's Thames Valley Office said: "We really enjoyed our partnership with PACT. It was definitely a two-way thing. They supported us with lots of ideas and encouragement and made it easy for us to come up with ways to fundraise."

"Our teams were happy to get involved and collaborate in fun fundraising activities. I'd definitely encourage other companies to enter into a charity partnership with PACT – it was a brilliant experience!"

Pictured receiving the cheque (left to right) are Jackie Reeves, PACT Adopter Champion, Emma Owen, PACT's Head of Fundraising and Marketing and Jim Rogers, Practice Leader, Thames Valley, Grant Thornton UK LLP.

If you're interested in raising some money for PACT at your workplace, at a one off event or through a charity of the year partnership please contact Laura Senior, Fundraising Manager at PACT (laura.senior@pactcharity.org).

PACT stands for Parents And Children Together and is a registered charity with a focus on adoption. It operates across London and the south. You can find out more about it and what it does from its web site, www.pactcharity.org

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Crowmarsh Parish Council

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>

As usual, there was no Parish Council meeting in January. The next one will be on 4 February in Crowmarsh Village Hall and we will report on it in the March *Crowmarsh News*.

Henley Philatelic Society

If you are thinking of taking up, or returning to a hobby, how about trying Philately? 10th February is a good opportunity to see the many facets of this pastime and to have a chat about it. Do come and visit us.

10th February – Annual Competitions: either nine or sixteen pages and all classes may be entered – stamps, postal history, aero-philately, Thematics, Social or Open class and Postcards.

24th February – Auction Viewing, for our very popular Open Auction on 9th March, non-members are welcome. Or you can see the catalogue online, where you may also bid! Over 600 Lots.

Meetings are usually held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.45pm from September to June inclusive. Visitors and new members are welcome. Details from 681739 or on our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club meets on Thursday evenings at Crowmarsh Pavilion. The club is always pleased to welcome visitors (£3 for the evening) and new members, from beginners to advanced photographers. If there is something which interests you in the club programme, why not come along as a visitor and find out more about the club. Full details can be found on the club website: www.wallingfordphoto.club

Did you know?

- The wide main street in Crowmarsh once held an annual fair.
- The Queen's Head public house is thought to be one of the oldest in Oxfordshire.
- Jethro Tull invented his revolutionary Seed Drill here; the house still stands in The Street, marked by a blue plaque.
- St Mary Magdalene's Church in Crowmarsh still bears the marks of cannon balls fired from Wallingford Castle during the Civil War.
- The house that now forms part of Jewson's yard was built around 1775.

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 Jenny Tatman on 01491 839499 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall is ideal for children's parties and can be booked for £10.00 per hour (minimum 2 hours).

Please note that bouncy castles or other inflatables cannot be used inside the Hall, and that evening bookings from 7.00pm are subject to the full rate.

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

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WHAT'S ON – FEBRUARY 2016

Regular events and meetings

1st & 3rd Mon	19.00	Knitting Circle	Queen's Head, Crowmarsh
Every Tuesday	19.00-21.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
2nd & 4th Weds	Evenings	Crowmarsh Ladies	Telephone 201756
Every Thursday	14.00-16.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	08.30-11.15	Wallingford Country Market	Regal Centre Centre 70
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Regal Centre, Wallingford

This month

Thursday 4th	19.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Sunday 7th	13.30	CTC 20-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Tuesday 9th	10.00	Didcot Ramblers: circular Chilterns Walk	Meet at the Old Kiln, Nettlebed
Wednesday 10th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: Competition evening	Bix Village Hall
Friday 12th	19.45	TWHAS talk: Thames Crossings	Methodist Church Centre, St Leonard's Square
Sunday 14th	13.30	Didcot Ramblers: East Hagbourne village walk	Meet at Upper Cross, near the church
Friday 19th	10.00	Didcot Ramblers: circular Chilterns Walk	Meet at Bix church
Friday 19th	19.30-21.45	Charity '80s disco	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 20th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 21st	13.30	CTC 32-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 24th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: Auction viewing	Bix Village Hall