



Crowmarsh News

Online edition No. 7

February 2021

From the Editorial Team

We wish you all well. We are asking for readers to be kind enough to print off a copy of this issue of *Crowmarsh News* for neighbours who do not have access to the internet.

Regular advertisers will know that we will be carrying advertisements as normal when we return to a printed edition. In the meantime, stay safe.

E-mail: Crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice

Looking for a Treasurer and a Trustee to join the Board

We are a local charity providing the Citizens Advice service in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. We advise 12,000 people each year and help four in every five to resolve their problems. We are members of National Citizens Advice. Our funding comes from District, Town and Parish Councils and local charities.

- **Treasurer** with a relevant financial qualification or experience.
- **Trustee** to contribute to the work of the Board. Each Trustee oversees a particular aspect of the charity's work.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community so that we have a diverse board that reflects our clients and communities.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact Jane Richardson (Chair) jane.richardson@osavcab.org.uk or Jon Bright (Chief Officer) jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111	NHS Emergency Only	999
Police non-emergency number	101	NHS Non-emergency	111

Parish support contacts

There are various groups you can join in the villages. If you don't know how to make contact with your local group, the *Crowmarsh News* will put you in touch.

WhatsApp groups

- Bellamy Way, Stephens Field and The Street (from the bridge to Colliers)
- Crowmarsh Hill (numbers 164 to 206)
- Home Farm
- Jethro Tull Gardens
- Lane End and immediate neighbours in The Street
- Mongewell
- Murren Croft
- Newnham Green, numbers 20A to 52
- North Stoke
- Park View
- Robert Sparrow Gardens
- Winter's Field
- **Facebook groups**
- Crowmarsh Parish Council
- Crowmarsh Gifford Community
- Crowmarsh COVID-19 Response

Covid-19 vaccination programme

The nationwide programme will take several months to vaccinate the whole population. The key messages to all local residents are:

- The vaccination programme is being phased in across the county following the national guidance on prioritising patients.
- Please do not contact your GP or another NHS service to seek a vaccine –please wait until the NHS contacts you.
- When the NHS does contact you, please be ready and attend your booked appointments.
- Please continue to follow all the public health guidance to control the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives.

Corn Exchange news

Planning Appeal for flats next to the Corn Exchange turned down.

We are pleased to tell you that the Planning Inspector has refused the planning appeal by A.C. Lester for building residential units on the land behind Lloyds Bank and abutting the Corn Exchange.

The Inspector recognised the importance of the venue to the local community for its social and economic benefits. This gives us an assurance for the immediate future.

This legal battle has cost us £83,000 in professional fees. As the Corn Exchange has been forced to remain closed for much of 2020, fighting this appeal couldn't have come at a worse time.

We are extremely grateful to South Oxfordshire District Council for their support. They worked closely with us during the whole appeal process.

We are confident that they will continue to support us in the future to ensure that our venue remains fully protected.

This situation has shown us how much the Corn Exchange is valued by everyone who uses it.

We would like to thank our members, volunteers and supporters for their active support throughout this process: the emails and letters objecting to the development have been vital and heart-warming.

We can't wait to welcome you all back to our wonderful theatre.

For further information please contact:
John Evans, Marketing Director,
Corn Exchange Wallingford
email:
marketingdirector@cornexchange.org.uk

Past Times

A Call To Duty


Edmund Edward Gough Norris was the second son of Henry and Jane Norris, he had one brother, called Stanley and six sisters.

He learnt shoe making from his father. He had repaired boots and shoes in Crowmarsh from before the First World War.



His shop can be seen in the centre of the above picture. He married Ada Mary Woodley at St. Mary's Church, Newnham Murren, on the 1st February 1897. Lilian was their only child, born in 1900.

He served for over 28 years in the Wallingford Militia and later the Territorial Force (which changed its name to the Territorial Army after the First World War).



E. NORRIS, - Boot & Shoe Maker,
CROWMARSH,

BEGS to state that while he is from home with his Battalion on his Country's service, his business will be carried on as usual by experienced workmen, and he earnestly asks for continuance of his esteemed customers' patronage.

During the First World War, he was also the recruiting officer for the district. As can be seen in the advert above when conscription was introduced in 1916, he was called up.

On the 4th May 1936 Edmund Edward Gough Norris died, aged 65 years. At his funeral, a Royal Berks bugler played the "Last Post" and his coffin was carried by six Non-Commissioned Officers of the Regiment.

He was laid to rest in St. Mary's Churchyard at Newnham Murren. His widow Ada died in November 1954 and was laid beside him.

David Beasley

Benson Garden Club

January's Benson Garden Club Zoom talk, "New Tricks for Old Gardeners?" given by Katherine Crouch, proved to be an inspiring and practical talk to keep us all gardening whatever the challenges that face us.

Our next Zoom talk is on **Thursday 4th February 2021** and will be given by Geoff Hodge (7.30pm connect for a 7.45pm start).

Entitled, "Gardening in Dry and Drought Conditions – Drought-resisting Plants", this talk will help us prepare for this summer and beyond.

With weather conditions changing with warmer, drier summers, it may make sense to rely more on drought-resisting plants. Geoff is a freelance gardening and horticultural writer, editor and radio and TV broadcaster.

We have a fantastic programme lined up for our members over the coming months and hope to encourage new members.

As always, we welcome visitors – please let us know if you would like to join an event and arrange an online payment of £3, two days beforehand (we will send you log-in details for the meeting).

Further information and the visitor's form is on our website: <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com/visitors-membership.html> or please feel free to email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

From the District Council

We sincerely hope that you were able to enjoy a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year break, and we look forward to more positive and productive twelve months.

We would like to thank all those on the Parish Council and within the local community who have provided support, advice and a friendly chat to those who have felt more vulnerable over the past year. The community support and spirit shown across the District has been remarkable.

District Councillor grants

There is now less than one month left to apply for a Councillor Grant, and we have both already allocated some of the funds from our total pot of £5k each.

Application forms and guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/community-support/grants/councillor-community-grants/>

Support for residents during lockdown

Our Community Hub continues to be available to help people access support and essentials during the lockdown if they have nobody else to turn to. If anybody thinks they will need support, get in touch by: an online form at [southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub) email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk call 01235 422600.

Housing Needs offer support during the pandemic - if someone is at risk of being made homeless or sleeping rough - visit [southoxon.gov.uk/housing](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/housing).

Support is also available to residents who are experiencing financial difficulties – to find out more visit [southoxon.gov.uk/benefits](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/benefits).

Cllr Andrea Powell
Andrea.Powell@southoxon.gov.uk
Cllr Sue Cooper
Sue.Cooper@southoxon.gov.uk

Henley & District Stamp Club

New Year, New Lockdown - so New Hobby, why not start or return to Stamp and Postcard collecting? Shops shut, and no stamp fairs? There is a lot of help available from websites, for example, the Association of British Philately (ABPS) which has links to local (Henley) and National Society's websites. Also, eBay is a great source of material.

Come to one of our Zoom meetings and see some displays and talk to other enthusiasts, all of whom have different topics they collect and are happy to help beginners and returnees and it is *Fun, Interesting and Entertaining!*

If you would like to know more, please phone **681739** or see our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk. We look forward to meeting you.

Wallingford Photographic Club

We continue to meet virtually, and are offering a full programme of speakers, competitions, and other events to help you improve your photography and meet like-minded people.

The club meets via Zoom every Thursday. Evenings starting at 7.30pm and runs until around 9.30pm, with Zoom access from 7.15pm.

Our programme for February will include a "You Are The Judge" evening on the 11th February: It will be a chance for members to critique each other's photos and learn more about how photography competitions are judged.

On the 25th February, Sue Morris will give a talk called "Waiting for the Herds (Tanzania)".

Please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club to learn more about the club and find out how to get involved.

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on-line on Thursday 14 January.

Present: Cllrs John Griffin, Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, David Rowley, Ken McCrea, Robin Smith, Stuart Soames, Fleur Stevenson, David Topliss, Liz Ryall and Julian Park, Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). District Cllrs Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting.

District council office site

The responses from residents to the survey about the possible use of the former South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) site on Benson Lane have been analysed and shared with Parish and District Councillors. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Fleur Stevenson for running the survey and collating the results, which are summarised on the Crowmarsh Parish website

www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk

There were 183 responses and the most popular uses of the site were:

- Sport/leisure – 75.14%
- Health/medical – 49.15%
- Entertainment/culture – 34.46%
- Education/school – 33.9%.

What residents did not want the site used for included:

- General housing – 86.44%
- Affordable housing – 70.62%
- Care home/ retirement homes – 49.15%
- Employment/offices – 32.2%

District Cllr Powell advised that a firm of property consultants is expected to report on possible uses of the site in the next four to six weeks, after which local discussions will begin with Crowmarsh and Benson Parish Councils and Wallingford Town Council and other interested parties.

A new school was not on the list of options given to the consultants, but there was a possibility of a medical centre. The site could accommodate more than one use. Although the District Council does need to consider the financial return, that is not their only strategic aim and community needs will be given a high priority.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P20/S4178/FUL The Old Walled Garden, Mongewell OX10 8DA. One-for-one replacement dwelling. Planning permission granted.

Consultations

P20/S4746/HH Mere Cottage, Mongewell OX10 8DA Erection of a proposed workshop/hobby room. No objection.

P20/S4695/HH 55B The Street Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EA Insertion of a new window to match existing. There was concern about creating a new opening in the flint wall, but it was agreed to make no objection, subject to matching materials.

P16/S3852/FUL There will be further consultation on amendments to the major application for 100 houses at Newnham Manor, which is now expected to come to the SODC planning committee in March.

Neighbourhood plan

The Crowmarsh neighbourhood plan has now been accepted by SODC for the next stage, the Regulation 16 consultation. This will continue now and finish on 9 March. Posters will be displayed around the parish and SODC will produce a few printed copies of the documents for those with no internet access who need to view a paper copy.

If you know anyone who might be interested in this consultation but who is shielding or has no internet access, we would appreciate your help in telling them about it. Please ask them to call us on **01235 422425** or you can email haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk.

The plan documents are at <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/neighbourhood-plans/emerging-neighbourhood-plans/crowmarsh-neighbourhood-plan/>.

You can comment using an online form or by emailing planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk or writing to **Planning Policy, South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB**.

Other planning matters

A meeting was held between residents, Bloor Homes and the County and Parish councils to discuss the highway works in Benson Lane. It was agreed that no further work will be carried out at present. Bloor has offered to contribute towards a more suitable crossing once a suitable site and details had been consulted on.

Finance

Payments approved included salaries, refuse collection and the regular biomisting of the playground with Zoono. Other payments include £464.00, as 50 per cent of the cost, for new shutters at The Pavilion; £122.11 to SSE for electricity at The Pavilion and £78.03 for water supply at the allotments.

Environment and recreation

The playground remains open, but the gym equipment is closed in accordance with government regulations. The District Council's advice is that children's playgrounds should be kept open, with notices reminding residents of the need for social distancing and hand washing or sanitising. Notices have been posted and are changed whenever required. Biomisting of the play equipment is continuing.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will take place online on **Thursday 4th February**, starting at 7.30pm. Please contact the clerk if you wish to join the meeting. We expect to meet online until June.

The parish council still has one vacancy and would welcome expressions of interest: please contact the parish clerk.

Contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs Sue Rance, at 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EL, or by e-mail at crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

The Vicar writes...

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

"Hi, how are you doing?" What would be your honest answer? Even if we have an habitual response of "Alright/Fine, thanks", we may be wanting to add "...under the circumstances". Others may prefer to just let out a cathartic scream! I think we're all struggling a bit with Lockdown #3 through these darker winter months. These are tough times and it is natural to feel unsettled and missing our family and friends who live in other households. Even if we can phone or video-call them, sometimes what we need most is a hug.

Workwise, we are affected in different ways. Some businesses are on hold with employees furloughed or made redundant, causing financial concerns, frustration and the boredom of daytime TV or an unhealthy addiction to 24 hour news. Others have been working flat out without a decent break and are suffering exhaustion, not least those in the NHS and other key workers. Home-schooling is also placing huge demands on families and teachers alike. "Zoom-fatigue" must surely now be a recognised condition. Even in our social lives, voluntary organisations, societies and clubs will have required ever-changing risk assessments and the challenges of trying to meet online instead.

Well, hang on in there folks! Although the lockdown may continue for several more weeks yet, it will come to an end. What we need most now is perseverance, patience, tolerance and hope. We may feel that our own resources are low or that we're already running on empty. But the good news is that help is available, if we are humble enough to ask. God knows our needs and offers his Holy Spirit who is described by Jesus as our "helper" and our "comforter" or "strengtheners". St Paul says *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"* (**Galatians 5:22-23**). Of course, it is better to ask for these before nearing the end of our tether, but it is never too late!

All are welcome to join us online for any of our services below, or give me a call if you would like more personal prayer or indeed, practical support through the Crowmarsh COVID-19 Response network of neighbourhood volunteers www.facebook.com/groups/crowmarshresponse.

Blessings, Rev Kev

February Services

Livestreamed Services on www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe

Zoom Services in Meeting ID: **687 610 8967** / Passcode: **422377**

7th February 11am Family Service (on Zoom)

13th February 11am Crowmarsh Community Café (on Zoom)

14th February 11am Parish Communion (from St Mary Magdalene's, Crowmarsh)

17th February 11am Ash Wednesday Communion (from St Mary Magdalene's, Crowmarsh)

21st February 9.30am Parish Communion (from St Agatha's, Brightwell)

28th February 11am Family Communion (from St Mary Magdalene's, Crowmarsh)

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am on Zoom

Evening Prayer - every Sunday at 4pm On Zoom

Full details at www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

The Vicarage, 34 Thamesmead, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, OX10 8EY

Tel: **01491 599873** (day off Monday) My Blog: revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk

From John Howell MP

When I wrote in December, for publication in January, I was optimistic for this new year and now in January, despite this current lockdown, I do remain so. Having said that I fully appreciate the difficulties of yet another tightening of restrictions, I know that some people are very worried and others very frustrated, but it is essential. What does sadden me is the lack of understanding by some as to why this is so necessary. I have received emails from people seeking my support for their own justification to push the boundaries of restrictions to allow particular activities. Such requests go completely against the spirit of the restrictions and each of us has to be able to justify any activity outside of our own homes for ourselves should they be required to do so. We simply have to reduce unnecessary face to face communications as far as possible.

However I do remain optimistic as we see more vaccines approved and the pace of the rollout stepped up. The priorities for vaccination remain to protect the vulnerable, reduce deaths and reduce pressure on the NHS. In conversation with the Chief Executive of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, which is heavily involved in the rollout, I have been reassured that we are on track to meet the Government schedule. At the start of the rollout it took time to get different locations set up and more will be operational by the time this newsletter is published. There is plenty of supply of the vaccine and it is being used as it becomes available. The Government is, of course, concerned to make sure that distribution is evenly spread across the county so that vulnerable people nationwide are protected.

Some very generous people have asked me if they can bypass their vaccination to allow some other person to receive it. The spirit of this is much appreciated but in truth we need everyone who is in the categories set to take the vaccine for the reason set out above. In contrast to this generosity I have also had reports from GP surgeries of people verbally abusing staff as they have been wanted higher priority for themselves. I too have received calls along the same lines. I am sure that most of us will be relieved when we personally have the protection of the vaccine, but we have to be patient and we have to look at the collective good. Our turn will come and in the meantime we must all continue to follow measures to protect one another whether we have been vaccinated or not. It takes time to build immunity after receiving the vaccine and those who have been vaccinated must remember that others have not yet had the benefit. Hands, space, face will remain the mantra for some time yet. There is no place for selfishness in this, only by working together and showing mutual respect will we be able to get back to a way of life that we would prefer.

In this current lockdown Parliament continues to run as best it can with remote working. The Speaker has strongly encouraged MPs not to travel into London unless absolutely necessary and has limited further the number of MPs who can be in the Chamber at any one time. However, this does not mean we are simply twiddling our thumbs; far from it. Many changes have been made to enable MPs to carry on with important business. My staff team continue to work remotely and together we are doing our best to respond to the heavy workload we are experiencing particularly at present.

Council of Europe

I am delighted and honoured to have been asked by the Prime Minister to become Leader of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is a non-EU organisation of which we remain as members beyond Brexit. My delegation is cross-party and represents the UK at the Council in a number of ways including dealing with climate change and other important issues. The Council of Europe was founded in 1949, in the wake of the Second world War to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. It has 47 member states and remains an important link with our European neighbours. The Parliamentary Assembly is made up of parliamentary representatives from the member states and has to reflect the political balance of the country.

Email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. Write: **House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA** or **PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD**. Website: www.johnhowell.org.uk

Advertisers

These *Crowmarsh News* advertisers have confirmed to us that they are open for business:

Name & services	Contact details	Website
Arbocare Tree Services	07778 811136 or 01235 813619	Arborcare.co.uk
Clean Machine	01491 825600	Machinesthatclean.com
Crowmarsh Tyre	01491 834088	
Feet First	21 St Mary's Street, Wallingford 01491 825224	
GA Electrical	reception@groupga.co.uk 01491 835875	
Howard Chadwick Funeral Service	office@chadwickfuneralservice.co.uk 01491 825222	
Howbery Park	01491 822495	howberypark.com
Joss Coulton Plumbing	info@coultonplumbing.co.uk 01491 824486	coultonplumbing.co.uk
Me My Spade and I garden and grounds maintenance	07899 868183	memyspadeandi.com
Roy Windebank	roysworkshop@gmail.com 01491 652345	roywindebank.co.uk
RefreshPro	info@refreshpro.co.uk 07772 416465	refreshpro.co.uk
Scott Gesner gardener	gesnergardening@yahoo.co.uk 07818 244787	gesnergardening.co.uk
SH Decor	enquiries@shdecor.co.uk 01865 400208	shdecor.co.uk
The Landscape Group Oxford	lee@tlgo.co.uk 01865 341750	tlgo.co.uk
Warmingham	01491 874144	warmingham.com
WEPS	sales@weps.org.uk 01491 827825	

Your *Crowmarsh News* needs you!

Crowmarsh News is produced every month by a group of volunteers from the parish, and we are delighted to welcome the most recent new members to our team. However, we would still like to recruit an additional volunteer who has experience of using Microsoft Publisher, which is the software we use to produce the page layouts for both the printed and the online editions. If you think you can help us, or would like more information, please send us an email to crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com.