

Crowmarsh News

Issue 436

January 2015

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

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- 1 month – £7.50
- 3 months – £21.00
- 6 months – £39.00

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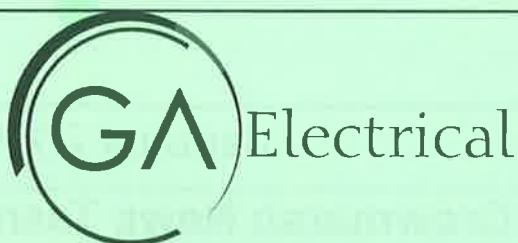


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Our picture shows David Beasley presenting Norman Goodall of the Wallingford Stroke Club with a cheque for £130, which was raised at the show on "Crowmarsh During the First World War" held at the Village Hall in October. David would like to thank Richard Lay, Andy Russell, and Beth Russell for their excellent readings and help.

Next year, David and team will be doing a show on "Crowmarsh During the Second World War" in aid of the Wallingford Stroke Club.

Butler, Fowler or Bisshopp?

Nuffield PCC still wish to contact descendants of the Butler, Fowler and Bisshopp families linked to the railed tomb in Nuffield churchyard.

Please contact the Churchwarden, Sue Woodley, on 07782 187866.

Highway problems in *your* street?

Problems with drainage, potholes or similar? You can report a wide range of local highway problems online through 'Fix my Street'. Visit the website at:

<http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Hare Coursing is still an issue

Thames Valley Police report that Hare Coursing remains a problem and have asked us once again to raise public awareness of the issue. With the introduction of the Hunting Act 2004 in February 2005, all forms of hare coursing are banned in the UK. Hares are in decline and their destruction is a concern. But with hare coursing there is also associated criminal damage - to fencing and hedging to gain access, and to the land with the indiscriminate use of vehicles. It is also not unusual for hare coursers to intimidate landowners and other users of the land, such as ramblers.

If you believe hare coursing is taking place, please call the police (on 999) from a safe location to report what you have seen and where you have seen it. Say how many people are involved and give a good description, if you can, and describe any vehicles you have seen. If possible, state how many dogs are involved. If the suspects leave, try to determine their direction of travel. But **DO NOT** approach the offenders yourself or put yourself at any risk.

Christmas 1918

December 1918 was the first month of peace after four years and four months of the most terrible warfare. It was a month of major events both nationally and locally. Spanish Flu was at its height, and more people died from Spanish Flu world-wide than died in the Great War.

One victim was Ernest Latter of Wallingford, who could be considered to be a local hero; he had fought right through the war with the Canadians, achieved the rank of Captain and was awarded the MC. During his next leave he was to be married, and on leaving the Army he and his bride were to emigrate to Yorkton in Canada where he was to become the Chief of Police. He died of Spanish Flu in Namur, Belgium on 5th December.

John Godden of Ewelme fought with the 7th Hussars in South Africa in the Matabele Expedition in 1896-97 and right through the Boer War. In 1904 he transferred to the Transvaal Town Police. In 1914 he tried to join his old regiment but was unsuccessful and joined the Royal Field Artillery instead. He fought at Ypres, but while fighting on the Somme he and his section were buried by a German shell.

Although he was dug out alive he never fully recovered from being buried and was declared unfit for service abroad. In late November he contracted influenza and died in Middlesbrough Military Hospital on 1st December. He is buried in Ewelme Cemetery.

Sergeant Robert Bruce Lindsey of Ipsden, died of Flu at St Pol in France on 20th December. For William Hockley of Moultsford, having lost a son in action in 1917, you would think the family had suffered enough, but on 1st November 1918 his grandson died of the flu, on 2nd November his eldest daughter died of the Flu, and on 11th November his eldest son died of the Flu. It is hard to imagine how Mr Hockley dealt with that amount of grief.

In the *Berks and Oxon Advertiser* on 6th December, it was announced that the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) was being relaxed.

This Act had given the Government control of lighting restrictions, trading hours, food prices, press reporting of the war and much more. White bread was becoming available again; tea was no longer rationed; eggs were cheaper and a certain amount of meat was available without coupons, but there was still a shortage of coal.

In mid-December there was the first sale of draught horses that had been requisitioned by the Army. Then on Saturday 14th December there was then a General Election. The counting of the vote was not held until 28th December, and this was the first time that women were able to vote, provided they were over 30. Also all men over 21 were able to vote for the first time. The Conservative coalition continued in Government with Lloyd George as Prime Minister.

Christmas Day at the Cottage Homes was as usual and the children visited the Workhouse to sing carols to the inmates. At 7.30 am they were served breakfast with all the inmates (whatever time were they singing carols in the infirmary?).

At noon they were given their Christmas dinner and, with relaxing wartime restrictions, there was plenty of beef and pork for all the children and the inmates of the Workhouse. After the dinner, the children received a visit from Santa Claus and each child received a gift. It's interesting to note that two old boys serving in the Army and Navy spent their Christmas at Cottage Homes. Most of the food and treats were given by the townspeople of Wallingford.

That first Christmas after the war must have one of great relief and rejoicing, but in many homes there were empty chairs at the Christmas table. It must have very hard to come to terms with this.

I started out to write a happy and cheerful story but I must have picked the wrong subject as it didn't turn out like that.

I'll try again in the new year.

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Crowmarsh Pre-School

This term the children have been getting in the Christmas spirit. Crowmarsh pre-School would like to thank Wallingford 1155 and the Village for their tremendous support of the Pre-School via Santa's Sleigh in December! £426 was raised which will go towards funding art projects, buying materials and subsidising our Forest Schools programme. Thank you for your continued support.

Santa also took some time out of his busy schedule to visit the children at their Christmas party. The children had a great time decorating biscuits, eating a feast of party food kindly supplied by the parents, and were delighted to receive a gift from Santa too. Thank you to all those who helped out and made it a special time for the children. As the demand for the pre-school is continuing to grow, we have now started a waiting list. If you have a child whom 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 information about the pre-school please call our Manager, Dilys Beaumont, on 07951 599623, or e-mail admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk



TWHAS Talk and Exhibition

January's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Judy Dewey. She will present "Wallingford and the Civil War (Part 2)". This talk takes up the story of Wallingford's inhabitants during the time of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth, the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 and the years to 1688, when James II finally abdicated and fled from England.

The talk will be held on Friday 9th January, 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome. For more information about TWHAS, please visit www.twhas.org.uk

Our exhibition, *PoW Sketchbook – a Story of Survival*, tells the story of Will Wilder from Crowmarsh, who spent the years from 1942 to 1945 as a Japanese Prisoner of War. His secret diary is available as a full colour book from Wallingford Museum and local bookshops or by post (£7 plus £1.50 p&p).



Calling all walkers or would-be walkers. Do you fancy a fundraising challenge in 2015? If so, come and join us for Walk With Me 2015, a fundraising 26 mile 'marathon' walk being held on Sunday 10th May.

We start and finish in the beautiful grounds of Moulsoford School, Moulsoford-on-Thames. The route winds through some stunning South Oxfordshire countryside, including the banks of the River Thames and a section of the historic Ridgeway. All that for just a suggested donation of £45.

Following the staggering fundraising efforts of our walkers who raised £110,000 in 2014, for the 2015 event we are once again donating to Action Against Cancer, a charity which supports pioneering cancer treatments and therapies which aim to make cancer a disease we die with and not from. Our web site and registration process launches this January, or for more information please contact: team@walkwithme2015.com.

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History walks and Museum tours in 2015

During 2015 there will be an opportunity to join one of the popular history walks led by Judy Dewey and Wallingford Museum volunteers.

On Saturday 11th April there will be a walk around the Castle earthworks in the morning, followed by a Town history walk in the afternoon. So a full day to absorb Wallingford's history, and a super opportunity to visit the Museum between your exercise!

2015 will bring a wonderful new exhibition called Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed. It will display for the first time the fantastic results of fresh historical and archaeological research into the life and importance of this great royal stronghold of Medieval England. It will bring to life the details discovered in newly translated documents, revealing the daily life and the layout of the castle.

Plus, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, there will be a display highlighting Wallingford's role in the events of 1215, and why it is one of only four towns mentioned in Magna Carta.

Separately arranged group visits to the Museum or history walks (or combined) are proving increasingly popular. They can be specially tailored to your group's requirements.....out of hours, introductory talk, etc. If your group / society / school would like to book for 2015, then please phone Judy Dewey as soon as possible, on 651127.

Whilst Wallingford Museum is closed for its winter break, the highly successful Museum bookshop, with its constantly changing stock of good second-hand books (all modestly priced), will remain open during January and February. The shop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 1pm. Do please continue to donate your second-hand books – and particularly those with an Agatha Christie connection!

Panto at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford, in January

January means panto time in Wallingford and, once again, Sinodun Players will transform the Corn Exchange into the magical world of fairy-tale, this time with the enchanting story of Beauty and the Beast.

This traditional panto is chock full of song, dance and general merriment and promises to be a rollercoaster ride of adventure and side-splitting laughter. The antics of comedy beauticians, Marcel and Monique, in particular, will have everyone in stitches.

Other fairytale characters include the beautiful heroine, Belle, and her selfish older sisters, Ermengarde and Esmeralda, who flounce around thinking they are the bees' knees.

Belle's dad is eccentric scientist Alphonse, lovable but too weak to stand up to his flighty daughters. Panto dame is French maid Madame Fifi who has a dozy son Jacques. Hunky Iothario Gustave is big in muscle but small in brain while Belladonna is a glamorous baddie enchantress.

But the truly jaw-dropping moment of this stupendous show will be the transformation of handsome Prince Danton into the ugly Beast before your very eyes!

It's on from 16th to 31st January at 7.30pm, with Saturday matinees at 2.30pm. There will be no performances Sunday or Monday. Tickets are £10/£12, children £6 from www.cornexchange.org.uk or box office (tel 825000), open 10am-2pm Fridays and Saturdays and 7-8pm each evening.

Henley Philatelic Society

Our January meetings are:

14th January – Members' evening on the "Islands of the Southern Hemisphere"
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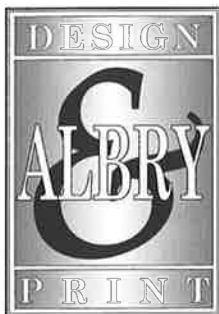
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Services for January

Sunday 4th	Epiphany	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 11th	Baptism of Christ	11am	All Age Worship
Sunday 18th	Second Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Baptism at Family Communion
Sunday 25th	Third Sunday of Epiphany	11am	All Age Communion

Dear All,

As I rush to get the last Christmas cards written, the last nativity play (hopefully) sorted out and the last present wrapped before 'the Season' rolls over me like a giant snowball, I must not let the magic pass me by entirely. I can remind myself that the wise men didn't show up until Epiphany, so we can stay with the message a bit longer!

I like the fact that any nativity includes a wide array of personalities and tribes. There were the cantankerous(?) shepherds, stuck out in the fields on the fringes of society, the learned magi who certainly came from left of field or even off the map, and the bemused Mary and Joseph – wondering what they'd done to deserve all this.

My favourites, though, are the angels; these mysterious beings who somehow make connections between the key characters and groups and tell them what's really important. I really like the angels I've received on Christmas cards this year; one is a sketch of a

youthful angel by Raphael, the other shows a whole flock(?) of angels by someone like Burne-Jones. In both cards the angels look distinctly kind.

When I baptise Gabriella, Zachary and Imogen on the 18th I'll pray that one of the key fruits of the Spirit, kindness, will make itself evident in their lives. I have a feeling that kindness will be a valuable commodity in the next year or so. The economy, the bottom line, the reduced profit margins, all remind us that kindness is not something that is easy to measure, but it is no less vital for all these things.

As you contemplate your New Year's resolution you could do a lot worse than resolve to be kinder as the year unfolds; not just to those you love but to strangers in need and, which is often the most difficult, to yourself too.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year, and a kind one,

Jeremy

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club meet on Thursday evenings at the Pavilion, Crowmarsh Gifford, usually from 8pm, or 7.45pm when it is a competition night. We welcome visitors for a small donation of £3 and if you would like to join in January we have a special offer of £20 for the remainder of the meetings through to May. Our programme is varied with guest speakers, practical evenings, visits and competitions. Our speaker on 8th January will be Sarah Howard, a very well-known landscape and travel photographer.

Further details of our programme can be found at <http://www.wallingfordphoto.club/>



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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523,
email: johnggriffin@phonecoop.coop
Parish Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford
Website: <http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php>

Notes of the Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 11th December 2014

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, Faye Cheeseman (part of meeting), Francesca Jones, Andrew Johnson, plus Melanie Malcolm (Finance Officer) and Susan Rance (Clerk) and County Councillor Mark Gray (for part of meeting)

Apologies: from Councillors Anne Lowes, Stephen Brown and Fleur Stevenson and District Councillor Kristina Crabbe

The meeting was preceded by a presentation about a proposed new planning application for development at the CABI site to include a new headquarters building and up to 150 houses, instead of the retirement complex that has out-line planning permission. An exhibition with further details will take place at CABI in January.

Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

Cllrs Griffin and Hannigan attended the Town and Parish Forum at SODC. Trees will be planted at Jethro Tull Gardens during the next week. Police updates are now being received. A response is awaited from Dave Baldwin (Monsons) about a possible flood compensation scheme for the new access road to Riverside Park.

Finance

The draft budget for 2015-16 was discussed and approved unanimously. This is a balanced budget with precept income of £36,500. The amount paid in Council Tax by each household is the same as this year. Council tax relief support grant received will reduce by 15% each year, but income continues from the electricity generated by the solar cells on the pavilion roof. The maintenance budget for the recreation ground is the same as last year.

There is money for some capital projects during the year. Maintenance costs include grass cutting, for which we now get less grant funding from OCC.

We agreed to provide computerised accounts software for use by the Finance Officer and three options were presented and discussed. After discussion, we selected the Rialtas Business Solution, which is used widely by Parish Councils and has a very good reporting facility and support network.

Payments from 6th November to 11th December were agreed including £337.50 for fitting cycle stands.

Tom Cottrell had carried out some work at the Botany allotments. There is one person waiting for a plot, which will be made available when the clearance work is complete.

Planning

SODC decisions:

P14/S2798/HH (Householder): 2-storey rear extension and single-storey rear extension to house and modifications to existing detached garage at Millstone Cottage, The Street, North Stoke:
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P14/S3092/HH (Householder): Demolition of lean-to garage and erection of a two-storey extension and a carport, plus replacement doors to free-standing outbuilding. Brook Cottage, The Street, North Stoke:
PERMISSION GRANTED.

Parish Council responses to SODC were agreed as follows:

P14/S3544/HH (Householder): Hard standing area. Mulberry Cottage, 69 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EF:
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P14/S3498/LB (Listed Building Consent):

Repair existing inglenook fireplace. The Mill House, The Street, North Stoke:
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P14/S3579/HH (Householder): Single storey timber garage to replace dilapidated shed and garage. 70 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford:
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

Environment and Recreation Ground Committee

Dog waste is still a problem at the recreation ground. Owners are reminded of their responsibility to clean up after their dog and use the red bins provided.

Trees and hedges have been cut back as necessary. Bark chippings have been laid along the footpath at the nature area and Chris Strange has planted bluebells, kindly donated by Grundon. Wallingford United are planning to replace the flood lights at their own expense.

The new heating system is running well in the Pavilion. Plans to turn two unused changing rooms into meeting space will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Traffic and Transport Committee

Cllr Francesca Jones put up posters up about the 134 bus service consultation: there is a petition to Oxfordshire County Council to support the hourly Goride community bus between Wallingford and Goring via Crowmarsh Gifford and North and South Stoke.

Cllr Jones reported that more items now need to be included in the emergency plan and these will be incorporated into the next revision in 2015.

Reports of representatives on outside bodies

Cllr Stuart Soames is now chairman of the North Stoke Village Hall committee and a request for funding for refurbishment may be submitted to the parish council in the spring.

Community Information Network: Cllr Faye Cheeseman will represent the parish council

on this new initiative and will liaise with County Councillor Gray.

Emery Owen Trust: Cllr Andrew Johnson reported that this charity (which owns the allotments between Thames Mead and The Street) is now receiving requests for funding from local organisations. A fence has been erected alongside the path through the Emery Owen allotments land.

County Councillor's report

Cllr Gray reported that the county council budget is likely to be further reduced over the next few years. 40% of the council's total income has been cut and care for the elderly has to take priority over other areas of work. Children's centres are likely to be subject to cuts but disadvantaged families will be prioritised. The funding for roads is unlikely to cover more than filling potholes. Major high-ways projects (such as those on the Oxford ring road) are funded by central government, not OCC.

Cllr Gray will liaise with Cllr Cheeseman about the Community Information Network initiative to support older people in the community. A support group has already started in Cholsey. There is also a call for volunteers to help run the home library service – see <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/home-library-service>.

A wide range of highway problems can be reported online using 'Fix my Street': see the website <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

District Councillor's report

District Cllr Crabbe had submitted a written report:

- The next stage of the local plan consultation is due in February.
- Cllr Crabbe has written to the National Planning Casework Unit to request that the Carmel site planning application be called in on the basis of guidelines on a number of issues, including flooding.
- Thames Water has been carrying out work to reline the sewer that runs through Winters Field.
- SOHA has applied for a repair and

renewal grant to protect the houses in Retreat Gardens from flooding.

- Flow surveys are being carried out to look at the capacity of the pumping station at Crowmarsh and the treatment plant at Benson.
- SODC's smokers' bin has been relocated further away from the children's play area.

The meeting was followed by a reception for Tim Owen, who served as our clerk and finance officer over 13 years. Councillors presented him with a picture in gratitude for his excellent work, good humour and helpful advice.

We do not meet in January, so the next Parish Council Meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 5th February, starting at 7.30pm. A very happy New Year to everyone in Crowmarsh Gifford, Mongewell and North Stoke!

Wallingford & District Stroke Club

We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month in Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, 2-4pm with tea. Subscription is £2 per month. We also organise other activities and outings.

For further details, or to discuss transport needs, please phone

Veronica Port - 652310 or
Jenny Tatman - 839499.

University Gardens of Oxford

Dr Stephen Head returns to the Wallingford Gardening Club on 8th January to tell us about the University Gardens of Oxford. He will describe a little of the history of the colleges, their gardens, and the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. The talk will also serve as an introduction to our planned visit to these gardens in the summer.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm. Visitors will be very welcome, as always, for an entry fee of £2.

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WHAT'S ON – JANUARY 2015

Regular events & meetings

Every Tuesday	19.00-21.30
2nd and 4th Weds	Evenings
Every Thursday	14.00-16.30
Every Thursday	19.45-22.00
Every Friday	8.30-11.15
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00
Most Saturdays	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

Thursday 1st	10.00
Thursday 8th	19.45

Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers
Wallingford Photographic Club:
Landscapes and Travel
TWHAS talk: Wallingford and the
Civil War

Ewelme

Friday 9th	19.45
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Crowmarsh Pavilion

Sunday 11th	13.30
Wednesday 14th	19.45

Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers
Henley Philatelic: Islands of the
Southern Hemisphere

Wallingford Town Hall
East Hagbourne

Wednesday 21st	14.00
Thursday 22nd	10.00
Saturday 31st	9.45- 11.30

U3A: Why and how we age
Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers
Sustainable Wallingford
Swapshop

Bix Village Hall
Village Hall
Streatley
Regal Centre

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

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

Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
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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

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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all our readers and
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