

Crowmarsh News

Issue 496

January 2020

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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

Leaflet distribution

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

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News Team

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

Editorial and Layout: James and Toni Taylor

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

What's On listings: Julian Park

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and Team

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the 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 Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

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The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

Mrs K who lived in Cherwell District Council, who had a cardiovascular disease had her ageing heating system assessed as causing a danger to her health. The draughty doors and windows with rotten wooden frames were doing little to keep out the cold weather, making house freezing cold. She accepted a referral to an organisation who helped with getting her heating system replaced along with new windows and doors. She says of the work done "I feel much warmer and happy to have a heating system that works and is safe".

For more information or to make a referral visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs

Temporary footpath closures in Crowmarsh

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

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number 101

General Election

Results in our constituency, Henley:

John Howell (Conservative) 32,189
Laura Coyle (Liberal Democrat) 18,136
Zaid Marham (Labour) 5,698
Jo Robb (Green) 2,736

Crowmarsh Pre-School

Happy New Year from everyone at Crowmarsh Pre-School!

2019 was a very busy year for us and 2020 looks set to be just the same! Our focus will be on continuing to develop our outdoor area, in partnership with the school. As always, we would love to involve local community members, so please get in touch with us if you have any gardening or building experience and a few hours to spare!

2020 will also be an exciting year for us as we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary. The staff and committee believe it is a privilege to be involved with such a well-established Pre-School. We are very much looking forward to celebrating 50 fantastic years with our local community. Look out for further details later this year...!

Finally, a reminder to contact us as soon as possible if you live in Crowmarsh and are looking for a Pre-School place for your child. Our places fill up quickly, so please get in touch with us sooner rather than later! You can contact us via email on admin@crowmarsh-pre-school.org.uk

Best wishes from all the team.

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

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

The SODC Offices at Crowmarsh

The 15th January 2020 is the fifth anniversary of the burning down of the SODC offices, which I'm sure we all remember. I was woken up at about 3.40am by the blue lights flashing through my bedroom windows that looked towards Benson Lane, and from the window looking towards the SODC offices there was an orange glow coming through the curtains.

I woke my wife, Ann, who had somehow managed to sleep through the sound of sirens and flashing lights and we watched the Fire Brigade remove planks from the boundary fence near our house, to gain access to the hydrant in Winter's Field as they were unable to find one on the SODC site.

I decided to dress and with my camera I wandered around the grounds taking photographs of the Fire Brigade in action. When I walked down the lane to the recreation ground, I sensed I was being followed by what I thought was a squirrel walking along the fence on one side of the lane. On looking up I was somewhat surprised to see it was a chicken walking along the top of fence to the end of the lane with me, where he very obligingly stopped and allowed me to take a photograph.

It was very lucky the high winds that night were blowing to the north, driving the flames



and smoke away from Crowmarsh. If they had been blowing in the opposite direction, the risk of the fire spreading to houses nearby would have been high. By eight o'clock the fire spread along the whole of upper floor in the north wing. The funeral parlour next door was also set alight and a thatched cottage at Roke was badly damaged by fire.

The fire brigade slowly brought the fire under control although they were there all day damping down. Incredibly many residents of Benson Lane slept through the whole incident. The next day a fire broke out in the roof of the south wing but was brought quickly under control.

Andrew Main was arrested and charged with starting all three fires but was found to be mentally unfit to stand trial and was sectioned under the Mental Health Act. Since 2015 the building has been demolished and we now wait for the return of SODC to the site, maybe.





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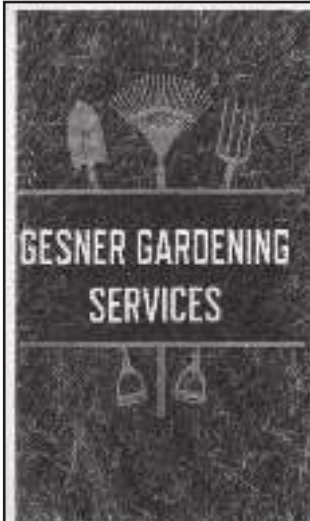
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Consultation on Parish Council strategic priorities

Three years ago the Parish Council carried out a residents' survey focusing on housing and infrastructure facilities. We have achieved some of the things you asked for, including a new play-ground, outdoor gym and basketball half-court, three traffic speed indicators and defibrillators at key locations. The major projects we still have on our strategic priorities list (the examples below are in no particular order) include some that depend on other authorities such as the County Council, some that will be funded or provided by housing developments, and some that the Parish Council will lead on.

Please tell us your top priorities in this list and add any other community facilities or improvements you want to see in the parish.

Project	Highest priority	Lowest priority
Crossing on the A4074 Portway		
Crossing in The Street near the school		
Traffic calming on B4009 in North Stoke		
Better toilet provision at the pavilion		
More usage of the recreating ground		
Better cycle routes and footpath links		
Community tree planting in the parish		

Please feel free to add any other comments.

Please indicate where you live: Crowmarsh Gifford / Mongewell / North Stoke / Other

If you can, please respond to the survey on the parish website:

(<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NSDQY2V>)

or by email to: crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com,

or if you prefer you can send your written response to:

2 Home Farm, 29 Thames Mead or 4 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford, or

7 Wallingford Road, North Stoke.

Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall is ideal for children's parties ...

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

You can hire

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

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



Opportunities at Wallingford Museum

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

The award is to TWHAS for 'Engaging the community with local history through research, archaeology, publications and its museum.'

The Museum is now closed for its annual refresh but will re-open on 3rd March with a brand new local exhibition 'Plague, Pus and Pills - the history of Wallingford's hospitals', which will trace the story of caring for the sick from medieval times to the present day'.

In addition, there will be special events during the year - watch out for the Easter workshops 'Can You FACE It ?' (which will appeal to ages 7 to 99!). With an introduction to forensic science and plenty of imagination you too can make your own facial reconstruction, complete with eyes, eyebrows, nose, lips, hair and ears.

With such a busy year ahead, we are always keen to hear from anyone interested in volunteering, whether to be a custodian, assist with the archive, delve into research, assist at events, or be a walk guide etc.

If you would like to know more please contact Jenny Carpenter 826734, jenacarpenter@hotmail.co.uk

Stu Darby
www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Museum Bookshop

As usual, Wallingford Museum is closed for its winter break. In the meantime, book-lovers and present-seekers can still make a point of visiting Wallingford Museum's bookstall. We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We'll be open through January

and February - every Friday from 10.30 to 3.00, and every Saturday from 10.30 to 1.00.

We look forward to seeing you - it's free to browse!

Isabella Darby



Oxford's Penicillin - a TWHAS talk

Think penicillin is just thanks to Fleming?
Think again!

When Alexander Fleming was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1945, he shared it with Howard Florey and Ernst Chain. Why? Because while Fleming first observed and named penicillin, it was Florey, Chain and a group of scientists working in Oxford who developed it into a viable drug. In this talk our 'Curator Without Museum' will tell the story of the life saving work carried out in the Dunn School, the wartime struggles the scientists faced and the experiences of the first patients to be treated with penicillin.

Our speaker, Marie-Louise Kerr has over 15 years' experience of working in the heritage sector, including 10 years as a curator looking after museum collections and developing exhibitions. She has cared for a wide variety of collections such as regimental, textile, social history, archaeology and the history of science.

Every object holds a story, and the love of discovering this information and sharing it with others is what drives a curator. Researching artefacts is the area of museum work that Marie-Louise enjoys the most and is one of the reasons she decided to follow this career.

This talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be held on Wednesday 8th January, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.
Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan
www.twhas.org.uk

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Team Vicar: The Rev'd Kevin Beer
34 Thames Mead
Crowmarsh Gifford. OX10 8EY
Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Churchwardens:
Margaret Foster, tel: 836076
Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services and Events for January

Sunday 5th	11am	Epiphany Family Service
Sunday 12th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 19th	10am	Team Confirmation Service at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford
Sunday 26th	11am	Family Communion

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am
Evening Prayer - every Sunday at 4pm
Full details at www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar

At the turn of the year, we all tend to find ourselves looking back at the more significant moments in the past twelve months: the good things and successes along with regrets and opportunities missed. It is a good time to stop and ask some of the bigger questions of life – the 'whys, whats and 'what ifs'.

But it's also a time to look forward. This is a 'gateway' time of year, a time to stand on the threshold of new beginnings and new opportunities, and that can take quite a bit of courage, especially when we have worries about what that new year holds in store, be that financially, physically or emotionally. Many of you will know this quote from Minnie Louise Haskins' *The Desert*, as it is often quoted by royalty:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

*And he replied; 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.
That will be better to you than light, and safer than a known way.'*

We can look to the future with confidence because God stands with us on this threshold. Jesus isn't just a baby in a manger, put away

with our Christmas decorations as we move on into January. Rather, the enduring hope of the Christmas story is the message that Jesus travels this way with us each and every day of each and every year. As John's gospel says 'the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world'. His light can dispel our fears and worries for the future, help us to put behind us the regrets from the past year, and it invites us to travel on a daily journey with him into the new one.

I encourage you to hold on to the hope and message of Christmas throughout the coming month. If you can, put aside a little time to pick up your Bible and read again the first fourteen verses of John's gospel. They are full of hope and promise, words that can help us to put our hand into the hand of God and to step confidently out into the New Year knowing that whatever it brings, Christ is by our side to be our light and to bring us his love and peace in our lives.

With love and prayers for a new year filled with hope and the knowledge of Christ's presence with us as we travel onward.

Rev Kev

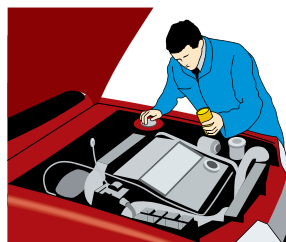
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Pop in or call for your 2020 Calendar!

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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>

Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 5th December 2019

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

Apologies were received from Councillor David Topliss and from our County and District Councillors.

Matters from the previous meeting

Daffodil bulbs donated by Grundons have been planted at the pavilion and village hall, Cox's Lane and Robert Sparrow Gardens and other places around the parish.

Quotes are in hand to clear overgrown vegetation at Cox's Lane and Robert Sparrow Gardens and this work should take place soon.

Finance

Payments made since the last meeting were approved. The draft budget for the year 2020-21 was discussed and approved with some minor changes. It was agreed not to increase the precept (our share of the Council Tax), which will remain at £38,201 for another year.

District Councillor's report

The District Councillor's report had been circulated.

Key points were that the District Council Local Plan remains "frozen" while the holding order from the Secretary of State remains in place; most small grant funds have been allocated for this year; a workshop on affordable housing is planned for the end of January; work has begun on the design specification for the new council offices in Benson Lane; the Climate

Emergency Advisory Committee has recommended goals for the council to achieve carbon neutrality, and the Council is looking into decriminalising parking offences and taking control of enforcement, so they would receive income from parking fines and have control over all parking restrictions in our towns and villages.

Review of strategic priorities

Cllr Stevenson circulated the results of the survey so far. It was agreed to keep the survey open and to advertise it in the January *Crowmarsh News* (see page 3). More responses are welcomed to help the parish council update our strategic objectives in 2020.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P19/S3124/DIS 69 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EF
Discharge of condition 3 - Tree Protection to application P19/S2254/HH. Single storey glazed extension.
DETAILS AGREED.

P19/S2889/HH 17 Robert Sparrow Gardens, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8DQ
Single storey conservatory to rear elevation.
PLANNING PERMISSION.

Consultation on applications

P19/S4107/HH 1 Winterbrook, Wallingford OX10 9DX (across the River Thames)
Demolition of one existing garage building and existing single storey rear extension and construction of new single storey rear extension, construction of replacement garage and cladding of existing garden store building.
Amendment 11 November 2019.
NO STRONG VIEWS as it does not affect our parish.

P19/S4084/HH 45 Thames Mead Crowmarsh

Gifford OX10 8HA

Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and replacement extension. Proposed partial garage conversion (additional parking plan drawing no. 2129.G4.V1 received 21 November 2019).

NO OBJECTION

[Stephen Sherbourne declared an interest in the planning application P19/S4084/HH and took no part in the decision]

Discharge of conditions (to note)

P19/S4370/DIS 27 Benson Lane Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED

Discharge of condition 3 (materials) of application P18/S2866/FUL Detached dwelling (amended scheme to planning approval number P16/S2454/FUL)

Neighbourhood plan

The pre-submission version of the Crowmarsh parish neighbourhood plan had been circulated by Mr Nigel Hannigan and Mr Nick Robins, who attended the meeting. They have spent a long time developing the plan (which looks forward 15 years to 2034) and consulting interested parties including the District Council.

The plan provides for a higher level of housing development than is required under the SODC local plan. When the plan is made it will enable the parish council to receive 25% of community infrastructure levy (CIL) from developments and will defend us against future speculative development.

After discussion it was agreed to adopt the pre-submission plan to go forward for consultation. However, a subsequent response from the District Council means that consultation on the plan will not begin until further work has been done on the strategic environmental assessment that accompanies it.

Environment and Recreation Ground Committee

Architects have been invited to visit the pavilion to draw up plans for modifications including toilets.

The next meeting of the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee will be held on

Monday 20th January 2020.

Funding may be available from SODC for tree planting, and ideas for locations and types of new trees will be welcomed.

Traffic and Transport

The speed indicator display in The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, is not always displaying the message below the speed figure: the battery will be checked. We will continue to monitor all these devices and may consider new or alternative locations in future.

Cllr Ryall reported that a lorry had broken down across The Street opposite the entrance to Jewsons and the road had to be closed by the police.

Cllr Soames expressed concern about a planned four-day closure of the B4009 road in February 2020 to connect two new houses in North Stoke to the water supply. The Clerk will make enquiries about this and involve County Councillor Gray, with particular reference to the effect on bus routes and the school bus.

Cllr Grove suggested installing white gateway markers at the entrances to North Stoke village on the B4009. Cllr McCrea reported that this was being done on the main road through Ipsden parish at a cost of £10,000. County Councillor Gray will be asked about this.

Accessibility of our website

Cllr Grove has taken advice from Christine Lalley of OALC about how to ensure our website is accessible to visually impaired people and those with other disabilities.

There is an online training course available at a cost of £95 + VAT. It was agreed to fund this course if Cllr Grove or another member can take part.

Next meeting

There is no meeting in January, so the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 6th February, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next Sales of Donated Goods will be held on Saturdays 11th and 25th January from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

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

Wallingford and District Stroke Club

Wallingford and District Stroke Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall for activities and companionship, tea and cake. In the summer months we arrange outings, both locally and further afield, using the Wallingford Coach with its accessible platform.

We'd love to welcome more members (fees are very reasonable at £2 per month). If you, or someone you know, would like to join us – or just give us a try – please contact Norman Goodall on 01235 834503 or Nigel Hessey on 01491 651114 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

Cholsey Repair Café

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

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

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

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Dates and Times: Please contact Emma for start dates and costs



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Concerts@Cholsey

On Saturday 1st February, Concerts@Cholsey presents the new line-up of folk band Crows.

New recruit Dave Bordeway has joined the ever-popular Mick Ryan, Pete Harris and Paul Downes, continuing a tradition of fine vocal harmonies and powerful instrumental arrangements.

The doors of the Cholsey Pavilion open at 7pm for 7.45 start and there will be a real-ale bar and support act. For advance tickets at £10, email concerts@cholsey.com or phone 652295 or 651350: unsold tickets at the door priced £12

To book North Stoke Village Hall

contact Nikki Arnfeld
(839736, narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk) or
Stuart Soames
(836058,
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WHAT'S ON – JANUARY 2020

Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	09.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary's, W'ford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary's, W'ford
Every Sunday	11.00	Parish Communion; Family service first Sunday of month	Crowmarsh Church

This month

Wednesday 1st	13.30	CTC 22-mile cycle ride	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 5th	09.30	CTC 22-mile cycle ride	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 8th	14.00	U3A: Lecture, The Mitfords in the Cotswolds	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Wednesday 8th	19.45	TWHAS: Oxford's Penicillin	St Mary-le-More, Wallingford
Wednesday 8th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Evening of Postcards	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 11th	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 11th	10.30-12.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 19th	09.30	CTC 36-mile road ride	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 22nd	19.45	Henley Philatelic: The Antipodes	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 25th	10.30-12.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed

February

Thursday 6th	19.30	Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
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Please note that the Parish Council does not meet in January.

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

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

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