

# Crowmarsh News

Issue 466

July 2017

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:

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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, Amanda Maher, Edwina Johnson

*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 August issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our **15th July deadline**.

For all items of news, articles or correspondence, please e-mail

[crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com)

or deliver to the Editor at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

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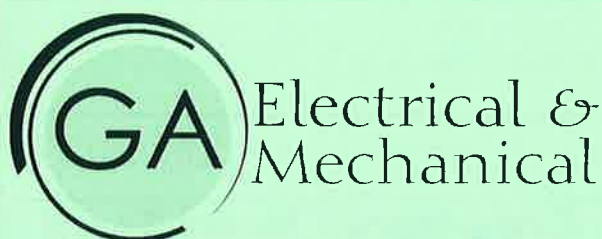


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## August issue of the Crowmarsh News

Please note that there will be a temporary change of deadline for the August issue of the *Crowmarsh News*.

The normal deadline for all editorial and advertising material is the 20th of the preceding month. However, in order to work around holidays, we are bringing the deadline for the **August issue** forward to **15th July**.

The usual contact details will apply; please see the front cover.

## Crowmarsh Community Litter-picking Event

Following the lovely weather recently, there is quite a lot of litter lying around our village. So if you would like to help tidy this up, please come to the Crowmarsh Gifford litter-picking event on Saturday 8th July.

We will meet under the horse-chestnut tree at the end of Thames Mead (more or less opposite the church), at 10.30am, to collect reflective jackets, gloves, litter-picks and bags. Once you start, you will be hooked! So please consider coming along.

It would help to have a rough idea of numbers in advance, so please ring or email me beforehand if you are interested. Otherwise, feel free to just come along on the day, as your help will make all the difference. Thank you!

Edwina Johnson  
tel: 832266  
email: [edwina.johnson@ntlworld.com](mailto:edwina.johnson@ntlworld.com)

## Garden Visits

Wallingford Gardening Club's summer garden programme begins with a visit to The Filberts in North Moreton on 13th July, followed shortly by a visit to Chalkhouse Green Farm on 3rd August.

Visitors are very welcome at both these events. More details are available from Isabelle Darby (tel 836867).

## Anyone for tennis?

With the glorious weather and Wimbledon upon us, it's time to dust off your racket and give tennis a go.

You can try out tennis for free at Portcullis Tennis Club, based at Wallingford Sports Park. Turn up and join in up to three free club sessions (Tuesdays/Thursdays 7-9pm or Wednesday/Saturday 10-noon), and sign up for membership before August 31 2017 and get £20 off your membership for the year\* (\*offer only applies to memberships for over 12 years old).

If you're unsure, we hold adults' rusty rackets coaching on Mondays and have a full junior coaching programme. Visit [www.portcullistennis.net/coaching](http://www.portcullistennis.net/coaching) for more details.

Closer to home, you can hire the Crowmarsh recreation ground tennis court – £4 per session or £30 per year. Call Chris on 07711 904252.

## CABI Development Plans – Public Inquiry

A public inquiry into the CABI plans for new housing development will begin on Tuesday 4th July at 10.00 at the Fountain Building, Howbery Park, Benson Lane and continue on Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th, Friday 7th July and the following week on Monday 10th and Wednesday 12th July. Please attend at the beginning if you can in order to show support for the parish and district council's opposition to development on this site.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

We would like to say how charming and delightful the Flower Festival in St Mary Magdalene Church Crowmarsh was over the weekend of 10th/11th June.

Well done, beautiful!

Yours sincerely  
**Mike and Christine Tolman**  
89 The Street, Crowmarsh

## Crowmarsh Gifford School

As some readers may already know, Mrs Monica Nixon has decided to move on from Crowmarsh School at the end of the summer term.

Mrs Nixon has been a class teacher here for eighteen years (since the turn of the century as she says) and we are all very sorry to see her go. Monica writes:

*After eighteen years of teaching at Crowmarsh School, I have decided to move on. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time teaching the children. I have worked with many inspirational colleagues and have received great support from parents.*

*I will remember with great fondness many enjoyable school visits, such as The Roman Baths in Bath and The Tower of London. I will never forget the fun I have had organising pirate treasure hunts and the enjoyment and fulfilment of preparing many Greek Feasts, in addition to baking Harvest bread and Christmas cakes every year. It has been a privilege and a joy to teach at Crowmarsh School, happy times I will remember forever.*

There must be many parents and former pupils who remember Mrs Nixon and we would like to invite anyone who would like to, to send a message and a donation towards a gift for her. Please email any messages to [office.3200@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3200@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk) or post them to the school at Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EN. We would also like to receive any photos you may have so we can make a book of memories to present her with.

We are planning to organise a social occasion to give Mrs Nixon a terrific send-off so please let us know if you are interested in coming along and we will send you the details in due course.

Any contributions should be sent to the school no later than Friday 7th July please.

**Mrs Barton**  
**Headteacher**

## Science Exchange Wallingford

**The Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance and its Relevance in the Environment: a talk by Dr Andrew Singer at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th July.**

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the clinical setting has received increasing coverage in the media in the past few years. However, emerging research shows that it is more than just the overuse of antibiotics which leads to AMR. The use of biocides and heavy metals contribute to the global problem of AMR and targeting antibiotic overuse alone will not solve it.

The talk will highlight the complexity of the drivers and pathways involved in the current global problem that is Antimicrobial Resistance.

Andrew Singer is a molecular microbial ecologist with expertise in pollution chemistry and water quality assessment and mitigation based at the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Crowmarsh Gifford.

Science Exchange Wallingford's meeting is at Wallingford School Library, St George's Road, Wallingford. Meetings are very informal. Speakers talk for about half an hour, then we break for refreshments and return for a lively question and answer session.

We are grateful that the support of local company Triaster, Wallingford School and the generosity of our speakers ensures that each event is free to attend. We are also privileged to be a Café Scientifique – [www.cafescientifique.org](http://www.cafescientifique.org).

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### Prize Fights around Wallingford

Prize fighting or bare-knuckle fighting had been banned in England from the mid-19th century. This was because of its association with heavy gambling and the brutality of the fights where eye gouging and wrestling were allowed. Very often if the man who won was not the favourite with crowds, rioting would follow.

Following the ban, promoters of the bare-knuckle fights held fights at secret locations in the country. The newly formed rural police forces would try their best to stop these fights, with limited success. These bare-knuckle fights would often last over 100 rounds, permanent injuries were common, and sometimes death. Buried at Hanslop, Buckinghamshire is Alex Mackey, a fighter who died from injuries he received in a fight in 1830. In 1867, the Marquess of Queensberry drew up his rules for boxing, which are the basis of the rules used in boxing today.

A fight was planned for July 1860 in a meadow near Wallingford Road Station which had become a favourite site to hold bare-knuckle fights, as this was the second one held here in two months. A special train from London arrived at Wallingford Road Station at five in the morning, bringing the two contestants, Crutchley and Goss, and their supporters and

a large number of gamblers.

Word soon got around and a large number of spectators came to witness the contest. Some of the Berkshire police were there, but as the fight was held in Oxfordshire, they were powerless to stop it, although they were able to watch the contest from the Berkshire bank. The fight lasted some 3 hours, 35 minutes; after 115 rounds, Goss was declared the winner, because Crutchley's eyes were so badly damaged he was unable to see clearly.

That October, another bare-knuckle fight was arranged in a field near Crowmarsh, but the Berkshire and Oxfordshire Police Forces were better organised this time. The fight was stopped before it began.

The managers then caught their hire train at Wallingford Road Station and proceeded towards Didcot with the police in hot pursuit. At Didcot they were able to change to the down line, returning to Wallingford Road Station, leaving the police stranded at Didcot.

But like an episode from a Keystone Cops movie, the police were able to commandeer an engine and returned to the Wallingford Road Station and they were able to stop the fight, which lasted half an hour.

### Style Acre Tearoom Summer Fete

Enjoy a lovely day at Savages Garden Centre in Blewbury on Sunday 23rd July at the Style Acre Tearoom Summer Fete. With something for all the family, it's an event not to be missed! The fete starts at 11am and finishes at 3pm.

Our Tea Room is a social enterprise which provides work opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. All the money raised from the fete will go back into our Tea Room so that we can continue to offer work opportunities.

More details from Chris at [cburrows@styleacre.org.uk](mailto:cburrows@styleacre.org.uk) or call 827593.

### Wallingford U3A

Our upcoming talks are:

5th July: Timothy Walker will speak about "Tenerife..... a botanical honeypot and evolutionary laboratory." A must for anyone who has been or intends to go to Tenerife.

2nd August: Tony King, "The Way it was... Growing up in the forties and fifties."

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome for the talk, and to meet and chat to members over tea and biscuits afterwards. Just drop in!

## St Mary Magdalene Church

### Crowmarsh Gifford

Following a very successful evening last October, we again have the pleasure of presenting

## *"Music for a Summer's Evening"*

A

### *Piano Recital*

by

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## St Mary Magdalene's Church Crowmarsh Gifford

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Tel: 01491 599873

Email: [teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk](mailto:teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk)  
Churchwardens:

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

### Services for July

Sunday 4th	Pentecost/Whitsun	11am	Festival Communion
Sunday 2nd	Trinity 3	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 9th	Trinity 4	11am	Pet Service for Families (and Animals!)
Sunday 16th	Trinity 5	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 23rd	Trinity 6	11am	Patronal Festival Family Communion
Sunday 30th	Trinity 7	11am	Parish Communion

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm

Thank you to everyone who supported our Flower Festival and Summer Fete last month which raised more than £1,300. Our next fundraising event will be on Friday 7th July at 7.30pm for which we welcome the return of Felicity Burrell and Glynne Stackhouse to entertain us with "Music for a Summer's Evening" on the piano. Along with our Quiz Nights, these events provide significant funds for the running of our church. Indeed, last year we had a deficit of over £6,000 and so clearly this is not a sustainable position for the future.

So, where do we go for help? Contrary to what many people believe, the church receives no income from the state. We rely entirely on our parishioners to fund our work and Christian witness, and for the maintenance of our Grade I listed church building. We apply for grants when we have major repairs and building works, but our normal running costs are around £34,000 each year, with around two-thirds of this coming through the giving of our congregation.

That still leaves a significant gap and so we're looking at ways of encouraging others who

appreciate the existence of the church in the village to help ensure our future presence, not only on Sundays but for the occasional services such as funerals and weddings. I am sure that we could raise the necessary funds by declaring "a state of emergency" and warning of the threat of closure, but that is certainly not yet the case – at least whilst we have the support of our wider Anglican team in Wallingford and especially Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Also, a one-off appeal would only be a temporary solution.

In the past, my predecessors have held annual "Gift Days"; another option might be to launch a "Friends of St Mary Magdalene" scheme, where parishioners pledge a monthly donation. Either option allows us to reclaim the Gift Aid of 25p for every £1 given by a taxpayer.

I would welcome your views, thoughts and suggestions and hopefully a group may be formed to lead any such initiatives.

With every blessing for the summer!

**Rev Kev**

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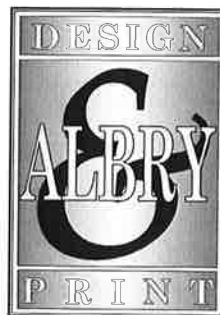
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## Family Archaeology Day

On Saturday 22nd July from 11am to 4pm Wallingford Museum has organised another exciting Family Archaeology Day.

There will be a small archaeological excavation in the Museum courtyard and you can learn about archaeology from the experts. You can take part in 'hands-on' work - pot-washing, sieving, and more. Then you can identify the sort of pottery that helps to date the finds from archaeology, and even try making your own pots for fun!

There'll be a display of things found in past years in the Museum courtyard, including pictures of the medieval fireplace found in 2016 and the rare medieval chess piece.

We have details of the recently found Roman villa site at Cholsey (excavated by Foundation Archaeology) and the archaeology happening under the old Waitrose site in St Martin's Street (excavated by Cotswold Archaeology).

Come and explore the delights of the Museum - find the Roman skeleton, the woolly mammoth bones, spearheads, daggers, stones from the lost Priory; handle the cannon ball, search the 'smelly-feely' drawers, and complete a quiz sheet - plenty to interest the whole family!

This year's special museum exhibitions include what Wallingford Castle looked like, 'Pettits: past to present' exhibition, and the 'Ways to Wallingford' exhibition looks at the development of transport in the town over the ages, including the importance of RAF Benson. We also have displays about 'At home with the Queen of Crime: Agatha Christie', and Midsomer Murders (Wallingford is Causton in the TV series).

There's plenty of family entertainment for this special archaeology day!

Entry is by Museum ticket at the door - £5 per adult (which gives unlimited entry until 30th

November) but accompanied children are FREE. Further details are available at [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk).



## The Water Gypsy: how a Thames fisher-girl became a Viscountess

At the Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society (TWHAS) July talk, Julie Thorne will present the story of a local 'Cinderella'.

This true story of a local Cinderella is about a humble Thames fisherman's daughter, who married a viscount in 1766 and went to live in the Vale of the White Horse. Naturally, such a dramatic leap up the social ladder presented her with considerable challenges. But when she was widowed tragically early, she found herself responsible for huge estates in Ireland, at a time of great hostility towards English landowners. How she dealt with this and ultimately triumphed makes a compelling and cracking story - and all true.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 12th July, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. Full details are available at [www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)

## Agatha Christie Weekend

This year's Agatha Christie Weekend from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September is looking to be bigger and better than ever before! Get the dates in your diary. This is a joint initiative by Wallingford Museum and Cholsey 1000 Plus.

The main events over the weekend will include celebrity talks, by Lucy Worsley and John Curran, Agatha Christie Trail walks, exhibitions, heritage train rides, and guided history walks.

If you would like to volunteer to help our weekend events, we would very much welcome you. It will be great fun, so why not contact Judy Dewey on 651127 to find out how you can get involved.

Full details at [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk).



# Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523,  
email: [johngriffin@phonecoop.coop](mailto: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 North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 1st June 2017

A meeting was held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 1st June 2017, but no decisions could be made since only 3 councillors were present. This meeting had to be rearranged from 8th June because of the General Election.

*Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Andrew Johnson and Denise Hall; Sue Rance (Clerk) and Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer).*

*Apologies for absence from Cllrs Francesca Jones, Nigel Hannigan, Ann Sharp, Fleur Stevenson, Stuart Soames, David Rowley, Stephen Sherbourne, David Mannering and David Topliss.*

### Finance

The annual accounts are being audited. The Finance Officer presented a list of payments to be made in June, which were later agreed with all councillors individually after the meeting.

### Annual meeting

The Chairman reported on the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 18th May. Six feedback sheets had been received from residents who attended the meeting.

### Neighbourhood Plan

A map of the Neighbourhood Plan area (which covers the whole parish) will soon be approved by SODC, and a baseline report is being prepared.

### Environment and Recreation Committee

It was hoped that the cubs and other organisations might help with a litter blitz, when a date has been set.

The committee had met on 22nd May. Chris Strange hopes to obtain a net for the basketball post. The company that installed the facilities has gone into receivership.

Some football teams are returning to use the recreation ground this autumn. Quotes are being obtained for LED lighting in the pavilion. Repairs to the wall at the disabled access ramp are being considered.

Eleven responses have been received to the consultation on a new play area. It was suggested that residents might be invited to contribute towards a particular feature of the play area. The next playground project meeting will be held on 14th June.

Information boards at the nature area are being considered, similar to those in the Castle Meadows. Another ecological survey is planned, to be completed by the autumn.

The grass at the Botany allotments play area has not yet been cut but the grass verge by Wallingford Bridge has been cut once. The recreation ground at North Stoke has been cut and is in good condition.

Fences at the play area adjoining Cox's Lane and at Howbery Farm had been repaired.

### Traffic and Transport Committee

Short-term road closures are planned in and around the parish for the national road cycle race to be held on 16th July.

## To book North Stoke Village Hall

contact Nikki Arnfeld (839736, 07969 788766, [narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk))  
or Stuart Soames  
(836058, or [sjwsoames@btinternet.com](mailto:sjwsoames@btinternet.com))

## Correspondence

Merchant Navy Day is on 3rd September and communities are asked to fly the Red Ensign, the British merchant navy flag. Details will be passed to the church and the school, where there are flagpoles.

## Reports from representatives on outside bodies

### *Emery Owen Trust*

Cllr Johnson reported that the terms of reference of the Emery and Owen Trust (which owns the allotments between the Street and Thames Mead) are to relieve hardship and need in the parish. There are five trustees, two of whom are appointed by the Parish Council. Cllr Johnson is a trustee and Mr John Bellamy is the other. The other trustees are Revd Kevin Beer (ex officio), Mrs Jan Pratt and Dr John Bromley.

Mr Bellamy wishes to step down after a long period of service during which the charity has developed and usage of the allotments has grown. The parish council will consider a replacement trustee at the next meeting.

### *Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity*

The Parish Council nominees on this charity are Mr John Bellamy, who wishes to step down after many years' service, and Mrs Julia Dixon. There are also representatives from Wallingford Town Council. This charity owns the land under Wallingford Bridge and their funds are used for the benefit of local people on either side of the river.

The Clerk will check on the term of office of trustees of these two charities.

### *Next meeting*

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th July 2017 at North Stoke Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

### **Short Mat Bowls**

takes place at the Pavilion on Tuesdays at 7pm and on Thursdays at 2pm. For more information, please call 837518.

## Corn Exchange – The show goes on!

Wallingford's Corn Exchange closed in June for major building works, but the show will still go on - at another venue in Cholsey.

The Corn Exchange is collaborating with the Cholsey Community Development Trust to show films throughout the summer at The Great Hall in Cholsey Meadows. The new venue is in the Grade II listed building of the former Fairmile Hospital,

Programme details are on [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk), where tickets can be booked. Tickets will also be available on the door before each performance.

## Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next Sales of Donated Goods are on Saturdays 1st and 22nd July. They will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm, but 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. Please call 01491 641384 ext 246 for further information or details.

## 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.

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## WHAT'S ON – JULY 2017

### Regular events and meetings

Every Friday	08.30-11.15	Wallingford Country Market	Regal Centre
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Regal Centre

### This month

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd	All day	Transport weekend	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Saturday 1st	19.30	Tenor and Piano	St Peter's Church
Saturday 1st	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 2nd	13.30	CTC 12-mile introductory road ride	Meet Wallingford Mkt Place
Tuesday 4th	10.00	CABI housing enquiry	Fountain Building, Howbery Park
Wednesday 5th	14.00	U3A: Timothy Walker talks about Tenerife	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 6th	19.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Friday 7th	19.30	Music for a Summer's Evening	Crowmarsh Church
Saturday 8th	10.30	Community litter picking	Meet at end of Thames Mead
Saturday 8th	Evening	Fish and Chip Special	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 9th	Afternoon	Cholsey Silver Band	Castle Gardens
Tuesday 11th	19.30	Science Exchange: The Challenge of Anti-Microbial Resistance	Wallingford School Library
Wednesday 12th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: Supper evening	Bix Village Hall
Wednesday 12th	19.45	TWHAS: The Water Gypsy	St Mary's Church, Wallingford
Saturday 15th	13.30	CTC 30-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Mkt Place
Saturday 15th	19.30	Violin and Piano	St Peter's Church
Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th	All day	Teddy Bear Weekend	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Saturday 16th	All Day	Cycling festival	Wallingford Town Centre
Saturday 22nd	11.00- 16.00	Family Archaeology Day	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 22nd	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 23rd	11.00-15.00	Style Acre Summer Fete	Savages Garden Centre, Blewbury
Saturday 29th	19.30	Gildas Quartet	St Peter's Church

For details of walks with Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers, please see  
[www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford)