



**Online edition no3**

**July 2020**

**From the Editorial Team**

As the lockdown restrictions continue, although with some easement, we have decided to suspend normal publication of the *Crowmarsh News* for a third month. Some of our regular advertisers are now open for business, and we have listed these along with useful details of village support groups. As we did last month, we are asking for readers to be kind enough to print off a copy of this issue for neighbours who do not have access to the internet.

We sincerely hope to return to normal publication in the near future. In the mean time, we hope you will all keep well and stay safe.

E-mail: [Crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com](mailto:Crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com)

**Crowmarsh Stores is Open!**

The village shop in Crowmarsh has reopened after closing at the beginning of the lockdown period.

Opening times are

Monday to Friday 7.30am – 6.00pm

Saturday 8.00am – 6.00pm

Sundays 8.00am – 12 noon

Please help by respecting the shop's attempt to maintain social distancing rules by limiting the number of customers in the shop to two at any one time.

**Useful telephone numbers**

**Crime Stoppers** 0800 555 111

**Police non-emergency number** 101

## Advice from the Parish Council during the Covid-19 lockdown

As we begin to get out and about more, social distancing could be harder to achieve, but it is still necessary to stop the spread of the coronavirus. The county council is working with towns and parishes to make more space for walking and cycling to enable safe distancing.

OCC have updated their guide to using footpaths and other rights of way safely. For more information see <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/countryside-walks-rides/AccessToPublicWaysCoronavirus.pdf>

Cycling on the pavement over Wallingford Bridge is illegal and antisocial. It makes social distancing difficult. Do not cycle on the pavement: use the road. If you feel unable to cycle on the road, push your bike across the bridge and keep a safe distance at all times.

## Recycling Centres Open

Oxfordshire County Council re-opened Household Waste Recycling Centres on 18th May, for essential use. This means waste that cannot be stored at home or would cause harm to health if stored.

There are new site rules to ensure social distancing and the safety of residents and site staff. Opening hours are reduced to 8am – 4pm to allow for cleaning. There are limits on the number and size of vehicles allowed in and only contactless payments are accepted.

Queues are likely, so if your waste can be disposed of legally and responsibly in another way, such as weekly kerbside collections or district council collection services, please use that service instead.

Full information about the changes to recycling centre rules can be found on the website - [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastereopenquestions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastereopenquestions)

## Corn Exchange Award

Congratulations to The Corn Exchange in Wallingford and the Sinodun Players, resident company and owner of the theatre, on the granting of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest possible honour for voluntary groups in the UK.

The Players transformed the Corn Exchange from a derelict building into a "cornerstone of the community". It has been showing plays and films to residents of Wallingford and the surrounding area for more than 40 years.

## Exercise & Raise Money for The Sinodun Players

Carol Pedrick – long term member of the Sinodun Players, ex professional dancer and qualified fitness instructor – will be teaching "exercise to music" classes every Monday to raise money for the Sinodun Players' charity.

The classes are on line using ZOOM and can be done in the comfort of your own home. Only enough room to swing your arms, kick your legs and take a couple of steps in each direction is needed. Pay what you can afford: £2, £4 or £6 per session. All proceeds will go to the Sinodun Players' charity.

### 9.30 – 10.30: Suitable for 50+

A complete workout with dance moves and body conditioning

### 11.00 – 12.00: Suitable for 60+

A class to improve movement, mobility and flexibility. Chairs are used for balance.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Carol: [carolpedrick@hotmail.com](mailto:carolpedrick@hotmail.com)

## Crowmarsh News needs you!

When we return to the long-awaited New Normal, *Crowmarsh News* will need additional volunteers. We need someone who can edit copy, and someone who can handle layouts (we use Microsoft Publisher). If that's you, please contact James and Toni on 201580.

## Village Support Contacts

Here are some details of various village groups you can join. If you want to join a group but don't know how to make contact with them, please contact the *Crowmarsh News* and we 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

**Thames Salon** will give a free haircut to NHS Staff on Tuesdays 7.30pm-9.30pm for 4 weeks once they re-open.



## Citizens Advice

**We are still here to help.**

We are no longer able to offer face to face appointments from our Advice Centres, but you will be able to talk to our advisers on the telephone.

Advice Line: 0300 330 9042  
Monday to Friday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

For general advice please visit our website [Citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

### Use new fast-track reporting for suspicious emails

Scam emails are becoming so smooth and sophisticated that even computer experts can be deceived by them, and the rest of us are in constant danger of being taken for a ride.

There is no need to feel isolated with the problem, though. If you are suspicious of an email or simply unsure, don't open the email and don't click on any of its links, but forward it right away to a new, dedicated reporting service which is very quick and convenient: forward the email to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) will investigate it.

### We need volunteer advisors and IT support

Last year our 150 volunteers advised over 11,000 people. We helped three quarters resolve their debt, benefits, employment and housing problems.

We now need more advisers to help us during and after the Covid-19 crisis and IT volunteers to help sort out our IT problems.

Ideally, we are looking for volunteers to commit to eight hours per week over one or two days. But we can be flexible.

If you are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role, please contact us at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer)

### New Trustees Needed

Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens' Advice is looking for two new Trustees to join its Board and oversee data protection and GDPR, IT strategy and fund raising. Ideally, Trustees would live in the Vale of the White Horse district.

For more information, please contact Jon Bright, the Director, by e-mail at [jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk](mailto:jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk)

## **Past Times**

## **The Sale of the Mongewell Estate**

At the end of August 1918, just as the First World War was drawing to a close, the outlying portions of the Mongewell Park Estate were auctioned off by Messrs Simmons and Sons at Wallingford Town Hall. There was a very large attendance at the sale and the bidding was so keen that all the lots, with one exception, were sold very quickly for high prices. The mansion and park had been sold previously by private treaty to Mr Gould, an American millionaire, with the intention of converting it into a hospital for wounded officers. The first lot, Newnham Farm, which had river frontage, sold for £5300 to Mr Flack. Lot 2 comprising of Dorrell's Farm and Bennett's Barn with an interesting Elizabethan house, sold for £500; Mr Molloy purchased the lot for Mr Gould. Sheepcote Farm was Lot 3, consisting of some 207 acres, and Mr H Wigley was the successful bidder, at £3000. Lot 4 was 52 acres of arable land between Newnham Farm and Sheepcote and was purchased by Mr John Edwards. Woodhouse Farm was the fifth Lot and the bidding was very fierce, Mr Williams being the successful bidder for a price of £9300. This lot included the six cottages known as Forest Row. Mongewell House was used as an officers' hospital until January 1920, when it was closed at very short notice. All the patients were moved to a hospital in Brighton within a week and the house was converted back into private use. Mr Gould lived here until 1939 when he and his English wife returned to America.

*David Beasley*

## **Crowmarsh Pre-School**

The last few months have been like no others and we could not have envisaged that our summer term would be so different when we started the new school year last September!

Pre-School has been closed since the end of March and we have had to find new ways to support our children and families. These include Zoom sessions, sharing stories on Facebook and sending out lots of ideas for activities to try at home and information about sources of support. We are so lucky to have our online learning journal Tapestry. This enables parents to share news of what their children have been doing so we can keep up to date with the children's progress and support them in helping children to achieve their next steps.

Sadly, we will not be enjoying our traditional summer activities such as Sports Day and our Leavers' picnic. However, we are so lucky in that most of our children will be going on to Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School, so we will see them again when the new school year starts. It is always so special to see them in their new school uniforms and shiny shoes – something to look forward to!

We are also really looking forward to welcoming our returning children and to meeting our new children in September.

If you are interested in a space for your child from September onwards, please do get in touch as there are still a few places. We can't show you round in person at the moment, but please go to our website for a virtual tour - <http://crowmarshpre-school.org.uk/>

Registration forms are available by emailing: [admin@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk](mailto:admin@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk)

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with us – we would love to hear from you! You can call us on 07568 370048 or email us at: [manager@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk](mailto:manager@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk)

We wish you all a happy summer and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

**Your Pre-School Team**

# Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on-line on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**Present:** Cllrs John Griffin (Chairman), Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, Ken McCrea, Fleur Stevenson, David Rowley, Andrew Johnson, Julian Park and Liz Ryall, District Cllrs Andrea Powell and Sue Cooper, County Councillor Mark Gray, Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer), Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk) and one member of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr David Topliss.

The council is getting used to meeting on Zoom. James Penney, a local resident, joined us to speak in favour of the revised planning application at The Springs in North Stoke.

There is a casual vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Jon Grove. Please contact the parish clerk if you might be interested in joining the parish council. Residents of North Stoke or Mongewell are especially welcome to apply.

## District and County Council reports

SODC's Community Hub has been extremely active in supporting vulnerable residents over the past couple of months, but activity levels have now started to reduce.

Car parking charges were due to be re-introduced in SODC-owned car parks from 8<sup>th</sup> June as some shops and other facilities reopen.

SODC's first virtual planning meeting took place on 28 May. The recording is at <https://youtu.be/LMa7H8Lyr7c>

The County Council has funding for Active Travel to make pavements and cycle routes clear and wide enough to be used safely following lockdown. Visit [www.widenmypath.com](http://www.widenmypath.com) to submit a suggestion for improvements.

## Finance

A donation of £200 to the Marie Curie Emergency Appeal was agreed.

The approved accounts may be inspected between Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020. A summary of the accounts will be posted on noticeboards and the website.

## Planning consultations

P20/S1589/FUL The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BE

Re-submission of application P19/S1536/FUL including part-demolition of the more recent former hotel building, a replacement green keeper maintenance building, extension to the clubhouse and 33 holiday/hotel lodges. NO OBJECTION subject to retention of the original hotel building and significant measures to compensate for additional traffic through North Stoke, to include a pedestrian crossing and other traffic calming and one or more speed indication devices.

P20/S0465/HH 1 Newnham Farm Cottages, Old Reading Road, OX10 8BW

Two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension. NO STRONG VIEWS but comments about the height, bulk and design of the side extension as viewed from the public bridleway.

P20/S1878/CHR CALA Homes site, CABI, Nosworthy Way, Mongewell OX10 8DE

Extension of operational hours between 06:30 and 19:00 for at least 6 months. No OBJECTION.

### **Strategic priorities**

Money from the Community Infrastructure Levy will allow the council to proceed with some infrastructure improvements. The pedestrian and cycle crossing of the A4074 Portway is included in the planning application for development on the Newnham Manor site. Cllr Sherbourne will contact Peter Brett Associates to draw up a design for a pedestrian crossing in The Street near to the Bell pub and will discuss this with OCC Highways. A crossing in Benson Lane should be funded as part of the SODC office development.

### **Environment and recreation**

A design for improvements to the pavilion facilities has been drawn up by Carrolls.

The playground, outdoor gym, pavilion, hard court and car park remain closed because of the coronavirus pandemic. The open spaces at Crowmarsh Gifford recreation ground and North Stoke Village Green are being well used for exercise following government rules.

Cllr Sherbourne reported that three flower tubs have been stolen from the Queen's Head roundabout.

### **Traffic and transport**

The Chairman will meet the County Council officer Ralph Green on site to discuss the Parish Council's request for two bus shelters near the CABI site.

### **Correspondence**

A North Stoke resident reported excessive activity on their private land by the river. Signs will be posted to remind people not to picnic or leave rubbish.

A petition with 17 signatures was received from an allotment holder, requesting a lockable tap at Botany Allotments. It was agreed that Cllr Sherbourne will liaise with the petitioner and arrange for a plumber to fit a tap and repair a leak in the water supply.

### **Future meetings**

The next meeting will take place on-line on Thursday 2nd July starting at 7.30pm. For details, please contact the clerk, Sue Rance (e-mail [crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com)).

## Advertisers

These regular *Crowmarsh News* advertisers have confirmed to us that they are now open.

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	
GA Electrical	reception@grouppga.co.uk 01491 835875	
Garden Machinery repairs	Jon, 07766 755652	
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
Puppy Classes	info@sohelpmedog.co.uk 07788 174506	sohelpmedog.co.uk
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
South Oxfordshire Wellness	jo@sowellness.co.uk 07775 943574	sowellness.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	

## Church News

We continue to worship as the Wallingford Church of England Team by joining a “Worship at Home” service at 10am each Sunday morning on YouTube, followed by a Post-Worship Coffee on Zoom at 10.45am.

The easiest way to access this is via our Weekly Notices email - all are welcome to subscribe using the simple form at [www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/notices/](http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/notices/) but the link for each service will also be included in our calendar at [www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar/](http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar/) - just click on “Worship from Home” to show the details and copy the YouTube address into your browser.

We are also conducting funerals outside of our church buildings, either as burials at Newnham Murren or at one of our nearby crematoria. I am pleased to say that the strict limitation on the number of mourners is gradually being relaxed and that it is possible for others who may be shielding to join via the internet.

**Blessings, Rev Kev**

## Neighbourhood Plan

The Consultation phase of the Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan began on 26 June and your comments are now required. The Pre-submission version of the Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the supporting evidence reports – Appendices 1 through 5 of the Plan, the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (Appendix 6c) and the posters that were intended for public meetings are available as pdf files on the Parish Council web site.

Hard copies of the Plan are available from Crowmarsh Stores – please take these for neighbours who do not have access to the web. Opportunities to talk about the Plan will be made available in August in the grounds of the two village halls – dates to be announced soon.

Please return any comments you would like to make by Friday 21st August, at the latest - by email to the Parish Clerk at [crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com) or by hard copy via the Pavilion letter box at Crowmarsh Rec. The Parish Council is particularly keen to hear comments that will strengthen the Plan.

Please note that all responses will be catalogued and may be published in the Consultation Statement. The Consultation Statement will also provide details of consequent changes to the Plan as the outcome of the Consultation process.

## Wallingford Vehicle Rally & Parade

The event planned for August 2020 has now had to be cancelled. However, all tickets purchased for the 2020 event are valid for the 2021 event which will be held on Sunday 9th May. If you prefer, you can request a refund by following the link on your ticket confirmation. If we don't hear from you, we will simply send you information and wrist bands next April.

We are currently in negotiations to hold a short driving tour around the area on Sunday 2nd August for all those who purchased any ticket for this year's event. We are currently working on a route that won't cause disruption to the usual traffic and will contact everyone via email very soon with details. It will be free of charge, all we would ask is that you make a small donation in the collection buckets on the day or via the crowd funder link we will be setting up nearer the time. These donations will go to our usual local charitable causes, who are struggling for funding during these trying times.

## From the Queens Head in Crowmarsh

The last few months have been a challenging time for everyone and the hospitality and pub industry has faced significant difficulties.

Natasha and I would like to thank those of you within the local community who have supported us by using our takeaway service, which we will be maintaining, as well as for the many supportive conversations that we have had.

We are enthusiastic about seeing many of you over the coming weeks and look forward to welcoming you to the 'COVID safe' environment that we have created in which to safely socialise with your family and friends.

We have put procedures in place to ensure the safety of our customers and our team while maintaining the welcoming and friendly atmosphere that many of you have enjoyed during our time here.

Our opening hours may vary slightly as will our offer, both in terms of available drinks and our menu, as our industry comes to terms with the impact of coronavirus, but we will do our very best to ensure that the 'new normal' is as safe as possible for everyone without compromising the special place that the pub holds within the village. We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Stuart & Natasha**