



# Crowmarsh News

Issue 438

March 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.

## ADVERTISING RATES

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  
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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

*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 April issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our 20th March 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

[crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com)

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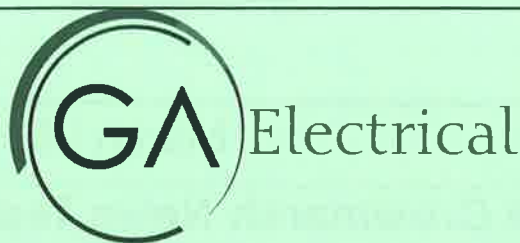


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## District Council offices

The Parish Council has had a letter from John Cotton, leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, thanking us for our support following the fire and promising to keep us informed of their plans for the site of the offices on Benson Lane.

It is heartening to see both SODC and Chadwick's funeral service getting back to business again after the catastrophe that hit them so badly in January.

At the moment they are trying to find a temporary office home, probably at Milton Park, west of Didcot. After that they will have to decide whether to rebuild the offices or find another site, which we hope will be in Crowmarsh Gifford (SODC has been based here for over 30 years), but might be elsewhere.

## Local Plan exhibition – have your say on housing sites

### Consultation event in the Pavilion on Saturday 14th March

SODC is consulting on details of the revised Local Plan to run until 2031. As part of this consultation there will be another exhibition of proposed housing sites in Crowmarsh Gifford.

Parish councillors will be there as well as the SODC planning policy team, so do come along to the Pavilion on 14th March to see what is proposed, ask questions and express your views on the proposals.

The exhibition will be open from 10am to 3pm. You can see the full Local Plan consultation at libraries or online at [www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan). This consultation runs until Thursday 2nd April.

## Advance warning – 7th May is election day

As well as the General Election on Thursday 7th May, we will also have elections for South Oxfordshire District Council and Crowmarsh Parish Council (which includes Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell). Voter

registration has changed, so there is extra publicity about how to make sure you are registered to vote in all three elections. The parish council has 9 seats for Crowmarsh Gifford and 3 for North Stoke and Mongewell: all 12 are up for election in May. If you might be interested in becoming a parish councillor, or just want to find out what is involved, please talk to me or any current councillor.

### John Griffin

29 Thames Mead, tel 838523, email [johngriffin@phonecoop.coop](mailto:johngriffin@phonecoop.coop)

## The Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade

The Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade returns on Sunday 10th May. This relaxed, friendly and very informal event is organised by a small group of volunteers who have made this show one of the "must see" events on the Wallingford calendar and have been raising money and awareness for local charities for the past 11 years.

The principal charity will once again be Footsteps, who are based just up the road in Dorchester and provide much needed intensive rehabilitation programmes for children and young adults with neurological disorders.

Pre-registration is in full flow and we will no doubt be full very soon (we received 120 registrations in the first week alone!). However even if we are full, you can still take part in the parade on the day.

More details on the car rally website [www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk), or drop us an email at [info@wallingfordcarrally.org.uk](mailto:info@wallingfordcarrally.org.uk).

### Seen at the 2014 Rally....



## Crowmarsh Pre-School

The children have had a busy term! They have been celebrating Italian Carnival by making carnival masks and biscuits. They even got the chance to taste Italian sweets made by one of our mummies. Next term we are looking forward to celebrating St David's Day and St Patrick's Day.

The children have also enjoyed learning how to sing songs in French. They were taught 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' which was displayed pictorially in the class room. This term they will be learning a song about colours in French.

The pre-school will also be participating in World Book Day on the 5th March and dressing up as their favourite book characters to help raise money for books for children in Africa.

The pre-school is collecting 'Active kids' vouchers from Sainsbury's and would welcome any donations of these.

As the demand for the pre-school is continuing to grow we have now started a waiting list. If you have a child who 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, for a chat on 07951 599623, or e-mail Vikki at [admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk](mailto:admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk)

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## Medical Detection Dogs save lives?

The charity Medical Detection Dogs is training dogs in the detection by scent of human diseases and life-threatening health conditions.

The Cancer Detection Dogs work on clinical trials with universities and health professionals in the early detection of cancer, and the results are published in scientific journals. For example, our dogs are over 90% accurate in the early detection of prostate cancer.

The Medical Alert assistance dogs partner clients with life-threatening health conditions, acting as "early warning systems"; for example alerting before a hypoglycaemic attack causes collapse in a brittle Type 1 Diabetic person.

We are a small group of volunteers, the Oxon and Cotswold support group, supporting the charity by giving talks and running local fundraising events and street collections. We are looking for help with our fundraising. We need:

- Volunteers to help with street collections and events
- Offers to run an event, eg coffee morning or sale
- Good quality second-hand clothes
- Good quality bric-a-brac
- Old jewellery, used stamps, used printer cartridges
- New ideas for fundraising

If you would like to join our group (mainly based in West Oxon), or volunteer for even one event a year, please contact: Heather Shute 01993 831909 or [oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk](mailto:oxon.supportgrp@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)

Also, if you would like a speaker to come to your local group, please contact us. The charity's website is: [www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk](http://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)



## Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next dates for the Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 14th March and 4th April – 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm. We regret 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, phone 641070.

## Dust off that bicycle .....

Have you thought about joining an organised cycle ride, but felt worried that it would be too far or too fast? If so, why not try one of CTC Wallingford's relaxed rides?

We meet at 1:30pm on the first Sunday of the month in Wallingford Market Place and cycle a gentle 20 to 25 miles, with a café stop for refreshments. We get back to Wallingford by 5pm.

For more experienced cyclists, we offer a faster ride (same time, same place) on the third Sunday of each month.

You don't need to be a CTC member to join our rides: come and try out up to three rides with us before you join.

For more information, contact Patrick Hardiman at: [info@ctcwallingford.org.uk](mailto:info@ctcwallingford.org.uk) or on 835939.

**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.



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# Past Times

from David Beasley

## Carmel College



**Mongewell Park House,  
the home of Carmel  
College, pictured in its  
heyday.**

At the end of the Second World War, the RAF moved out of Mongewell Park house. It was then used as a Medical Rehabilitation Unit (MRU) until 1947 when the unit closed. At this time, most of the military Nissen huts and other buildings that were scattered in the grounds were removed.

In 1948 Kopul Rosen (1913-1962) and his wife Bella founded the Jewish boarding school of Carmel College. Rosen remained Headmaster until his untimely death in 1962 from leukaemia. Although a Jewish School, it also had a small number of day pupils who were not Jewish. The age range for pupils was 11 to 18.

In the 1960s a girls' school was built about a mile from the main site, but was never used for its intended purpose. It was later converted into a junior school for children up to the age of 13; they then moved to the main school. In 1968 girls were admitted into the main school, starting in the sixth form.

The school was divided into five boarding houses named Mansion (1st, 2nd and 3rd year male), Ridgeway (4th and 5th year male), Sherman (L6 and U6 male), Newnham (5th year female) and River Court (L6 and U6 female). These were the final names of the boarding houses, which had been changed several times throughout the school's life.

After Rosen's death in 1962, David Stamler

became headmaster until 1971. He was followed by Rosen's eldest son, Jeremy (1971-84), and Philip Skelker was then head until the school closed in June 1997.

In 1990 Carmel College topped a list of the 20 most expensive boarding schools. Its fees were £30,000 per year. It closed in 1997, mainly owing to diminishing numbers and financial problems brought on by the termination of the government assisted places by the Labour government.

The boathouse was designed by Sir Basil Spence and is Grade II listed; the concrete synagogue, dining hall and the amphitheatre were designed by local architect, Thomas Hancock, and are also Grade II listed.

The Mansion House was used by Agatha Christie as a basis for the mansion in her 1952 play *The Mousetrap*. In 2011, a short scene from *The Iron Lady* was also filmed within the Synagogue of Carmel College.

The grounds were sold to property developers for an undisclosed sum, but the sale was overturned by the Charity Commission following pressure from parents and former pupils who claimed the land was undersold.

What of the future? The site is now owned by Comer Developments, and they intend to build a number of houses for the upper end of the market.

# The Thames Run

The 2015 Wallingford 10k Thames Run will be run mainly on roads and paths, around Wallingford and Crowmarsh. The Thames Run is an established and increasingly popular event which attracts over 500 runners. This year, it will start and finish at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School.

We are very excited to announce that we are going to be offering a 5k race as well this year. We hope this will attract those people who are new to running or who just wish to run a slightly shorter distance.

This year, the Wallingford 10k Thames Run is raising funds for the local charity, Style Acre, and for Crowmarsh Gifford Parent and Teacher Association. The 2015 Thames Run will take place on Sunday 24th May, starting at 10am.

To enter, please visit [www.runnersworld.co.uk](http://www.runnersworld.co.uk) or for more details on volunteering, the course route and local information please visit [www.thamesrun.co.uk](http://www.thamesrun.co.uk).

For press enquiries, trade stand, sponsorship opportunities or to volunteer to help please contact: [racesecretary@thamesrun.co.uk](mailto:racesecretary@thamesrun.co.uk)

## Jewel Training charity fundraising

Jewel Training are entering the Thames Path Challenge in September to raise money for the Epilepsy Society. Jewel Training is based on Howbery Park, and the staff all live in Crowmarsh and the surrounding area. "Team Jewel" will be walking 25km along the Thames Path, from Cookham to Henley on Sunday 13th September. Each Team member has to raise at least £175 in sponsorship for our chosen charity.

To help us on our way, we will be taking part in the international epilepsy awareness "Purple Day" on 26th March. We will have a stall in the Howbery Park Manor House near the restaurant where you can come along and take part in our "guess the weight of the cake" and "guess how many sweets in the jar" competitions. Please come and see us there between 12 and 2pm.

Jewel Training wanted to choose a charity to support and Julie Johns, Director, was looking for something that the Jewel team could do together. Julie says, "I discussed with my team which charity we could support and how, and Toni Taylor, my Operations Manager, suggested the Epilepsy Society."

Toni says, "My brother, Martin, suffered with epilepsy from the age of two, until his death when he was only 29. He experienced grand mal (or generalised tonic-clonic) seizures, which were not only debilitating for him, but very distressing to witness for our family as well. He spent a lot of time in hospital and attended regular hospital out-patient appointments, as well as being treated on a variety of drugs, throughout his life. I was often amazed at his ability just to stand up, considering the number of Mogadon, Diazepam, Triazepan and other drugs that he had to take each day.

"This meant that he missed a lot of school; he wasn't allowed to learn to drive; he never had a job. He died "status epilepticus" (a seizure which could not be stopped) just over 10 years ago, but epilepsy had taken his life a long time before that. If by walking 25km on the Thames Path, I can help to prevent just one family experiencing what we did, then it will be worth the blisters!"

Full details of how you can sponsor us is on our website – [www.jewel-training.co.uk](http://www.jewel-training.co.uk) – as well as the link to our Just Giving donations page. If everyone who is reading this just donated £1, we would be well on our way to achieving our fundraising goal. Thank you!

## Day Centre – help wanted

Could anyone reading this run a Book Club at the Wallingford Day Centre? Do you have any sort of musical skills you could share? Can you sit and listen with a sympathetic ear? What about painting or craft skills? The Day Centre is now open on a Saturday. Could you provide transport for clients who would like to attend on a Saturday? Any of these would help the wonderful staff at the Centre and enrich the lives of the clients who go there.

If you feel you can help in any way, please contact Kerry on 836467. She would love to hear from you.



## **Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed**

Wallingford Museum enjoyed record numbers in 2014 but is now looking forward to its 2015 season, which will bring a wonderful new special exhibition - '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 one of the greatest royal strongholds of Medieval England.

This new research shows Wallingford Castle's importance as the third great stronghold of the Thames Valley - Tower of London, Windsor and Wallingford - wonderful new details of the life of the castle, its buildings, people and activities. It will bring to life the amazing details discovered in newly translated documents, revealing the daily life and the layout of the Castle.

This exhibition will complement a weekend of 'living history' on 27-28 June, when the English Civil War Society and Town Council have organised a 'Civil War re-enactment' at the Castle.

Alongside, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta there will be an additional display 'Magna Carta and All That!' highlighting Wallingford's role in the events of 1215, and why it is one of only four towns mentioned in Magna Carta. King John was at Wallingford Castle on several occasions during his falling out with the barons which led to Magna Carta.

There will be special events during this year including guided History Walks (11 April), a Night at the Museum (15 May), Family Archaeology Day (18 July), a Medieval Day (15 Aug) and an Agatha Christie weekend (18-20 Sept), culminating in a major history conference about Wallingford Castle in October. During the afternoon of Sunday 14 June, St Mary's Church bells will ring a special peal as part of the national commemoration of Magna Carta.

The Museum is open for its 2015 season from Tuesday 3 March as follows:  
Tuesdays - Fridays 2pm - 5pm  
Saturdays 10.30am - 5pm  
Sundays (June - August only) & Bank Holidays 2pm - 5pm  
[www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)



## **Children and War**

### **Children's experiences of World War II in Oxfordshire**

March's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Liz Wooley. She will present 'Children and War - children's experiences of WWII in Oxfordshire'.

Oxfordshire escaped major bombing during World War II but the county's inhabitants were, nonetheless, heavily affected by the War. Preparations for possible attack and invasion altered the familiar landscape and everyday life in towns and villages was disrupted. Thousands of evacuees found refuge here and became part of residents' homes and schools.

Liz's talk looks at how the lives of Oxfordshire children – both those born in the county and those evacuated here – were affected by World War II. It is likely to prompt older listeners to recall and share their own wartime experiences, whether from Oxfordshire or elsewhere. The talk is presented in association with the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust, whose major 2011-13 exhibition, Children and War, examined war-time evacuation, boy soldiers, war toys and commemoration, from the Boer War to the present day.

This talk will be held on Friday 13th March, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.  
[www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)

#### **To book Crowmarsh Village Hall...**

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# **Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers**

## **Walks for March**

**Sunday 8th**

**13:30 SU526882    Moderate    7 miles**

Meet at East Hagbourne at Upper Cross, near the church. This is a monthly village ramble that varies from 5 to 9 miles at a quick pace. Contact Paul Chambers, 01235 816365.

**Sunday 15th**

**10:00 SU679841    Moderate    7.5 miles**

Meet at Stoke Row at the Maharajah's Well. Walk via Nuffield and Ipsden Heath. Registered Assistance Dogs only. Contact Kate Hart, 838689 or 07966 756770.

**Tuesday 24th**

**10:30 SU458850    Moderate    6 miles**

Meet at East Hendred Down car park. This is a Downs walk. Dogs allowed. Contact Sue White, 834370 or 07814 165940.

**Tuesday 31st**

**10:00 SU696901    Moderate    6.5 miles**

Meet at Cookley Green, behind bus shelter. Walk over Swyncombe Downs, Ewelme Downs and Ewelme Park. Dogs on short leads please. Contact Richard Birch, 07719 692355.

## **Water Futures for Oxfordshire**

**Organised by South Oxfordshire  
Sustainability (SOS), at Cholsey  
Pavilion, 7pm, 20th March**

We live in a seriously water-stressed area, one where climate change is exposing us more frequently to extreme weather events which continue to raise the risk of flooding and severe drought. In addition, there are proposals to radically increase the number of houses in the county, but will the water resources be sufficient now and in the future to meet the rising demand from the burgeoning population? More houses could mean changes

to the pattern of runoff due to the increase in hard surfaces, so enhancing flooding. Regulations and legislation are imposing additional restrictions on the use of water resources.

The first speaker, Richard Harding (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology), will enlarge on the water resources problems facing the county, discussing the current pattern of climate and what climate scenarios show the future holds. The Core Strategy and SMHA targets for housing would be considered and what land use changes the new houses might result in which would impact flood generation. The consequences of legislation could be touched upon.

The second speaker, Graham Scholey (Environment Agency) will discuss Agency actions and plans to deal with the current concern over flooding. Then the discussion would turn to the impact of future more extreme patterns of climate on the physical, chemical and biological responsibilities of the Agency to combat them. The effects of legislation could be mentioned.

The third speaker, Steve Tuck, (Thames Water) will outline Thames Water's present responsibilities – the population served in terms of water supply and waste water together with the regulatory pressures coming from the EA and OFWAT. The speaker may then take a glimpse into the future and outline how Thames Water is planning to cope with a more febrile climate, an increasing demand for water and a larger volume of waste water. The impact of legislation and regulations would be considered.

The meeting would be a contribution to the UK celebrations of World Water Day on 22nd March.

## **Stoke Row Covered Market**

Stoke Row Covered Market is held in Stoke Row Village Hall, on the third Saturday of every month from 10am to 2pm. The next one will be on 21st March.

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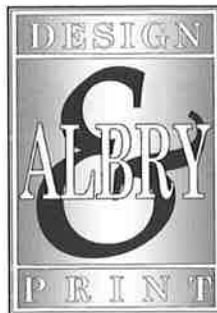
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tel: 837626  
email: jgoulston@btinternet.com  
Churchwardens:  
Sarah Nesbitt, tel: 825903  
Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

### Services for March

Sunday 1st	Second Sunday of Lent	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 8th	Third Sunday of Lent	11am	All Age Worship
Sunday 15th	Fourth Sunday of Lent		
	Mothering Sunday	11am	Mothering Sunday Communion
Sunday 22nd	Fifth Sunday of Lent	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 29th	Palm Sunday	11am	All Age Communion

"Doing Lent" requires a bit of courage and not a little foolishness in the eyes of the world these days. It is a chance to carve out a little space in all our busy-ness to pay attention to our often unruly inner lives.

It is a little bit deeper than just giving something up and more about clearing, making room in our crowded lives so we can begin to hear some of the resonances and dissonances our modern world throws up for us. That may be things like our unsustainable exploitation of nature, our addiction to buying stuff, our cruelty to others, or it may be more about confronting some of our own inner demons and putting them where we can see them, where they have less hold over us.

Creating space for such a 'soul journey' might require a fast from our addiction to sound and other media. We might be brave enough to turn the radio, TV, or computer off long enough to bring to light the important things. And it's worth whispering a prayer too. One of the shortest and most effective prayers in the Christian canon, going back to the ancient Syriac church, is "Lord Jesus Christ, have

mercy on me, a sinner".

I love the word "mercy" – it sounds like its meaning, and it always reminds me of a track on Peter Gabriel's *So* album – "Mercy Street". In fact that's not bad Lent music if you find too much quiet a bit difficult.

And because we don't get together enough; you are warmly invited to Mothering Sunday on 15th March, and to our Quiz 'n Chips on Friday 20th March. Entry forms are available from me or the Village Shop. Once you've worked out who is on your team, please return the forms to Tim Allen at 84 The Street (thank you, Tim).

Wishing you a thoughtful Lent filled with much mercy and peace,

**Jeremy**

PS With *Wolf Hall* doing the rounds, and Prince Charles never quite out of the news, we decided the theme for our Summer Fete and Flower Festival this year (13th, 14th June) is "Kings and Queens".

### Quiz'n'Chips

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## All about Style Acre

Style Acre is a Wallingford based charity, providing supported living and day opportunities for people with learning disabilities throughout Oxfordshire.

At Style Acre's heart is the commitment to helping people with learning disabilities make their own choices about the lives they want to lead and respecting them as individuals. The charity works in partnership with individuals and their families to achieve this.

This year, Style Acre is celebrating 20 years, although the charity's story really began 30 years ago in 1985, when a house called Style Acre in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell was bought to provide residential care for 19 people with learning disability.

Ten years later in 1995, the owners wanted to retire and families of people supported bought the home, creating Style Acre, the charity.

During this time, Style Acre was an early pioneer of 'person-centred' services, where people were enabled to make their own decisions about their lives as much as possible, at a time where the objective for many providers was to provide a safe and caring environment, but one where people had little choice or control over their lives.

As Style Acre's person-centred approach evolved, it was felt that the people should live in their community, rather than in a home and, with the right support, could learn skills to live more independently. So, in 2004, Style Acre sold the home in Brightwell and bought a number of ordinary houses in local towns and villages, enabling the people it supported to live with their friends. In 2004, Style Acre supported 20 people; today, dedicated carers support 70 people in 30 houses, enabling and facilitating the lives of those they support in dynamic and varied ways.

Style Acre ensured those it supported could participate in a range of activities by providing a day service. Now, Style Acre's 'day opportunities' supports over 120 people at two centres in Wallingford and Didcot. They support people with a full range of learning disability – from

those needing 1:1 support and with complex needs, to people who can live independently. Both offer recreational and social opportunities, teach a wide range of skills such as 'Independent Living', and help people find volunteer work opportunities and community involvement. This year, responding to requests from families and professionals in north Oxfordshire, Style Acre will open a new service for people with mild to moderate learning disabilities in Banbury, providing supported living flats in the floors above the building.

Along with a charity shop in Wallingford, Style Acre opened a Tea Room in Blewbury in 2011 and in 2014, a market garden in Wantage, providing work experience for the people it supports.

The charity has also developed an award-winning project, 'Technology for Independence', ensuring people have access to technologies that will enhance their lives and increase their independence.

Style Acre has an excellent reputation within the learning disability community and Social Services; it is forward-looking and committed to developing new services where there is a need. Never complacent, Style Acre is continually looking for ways to improve the lives of the people it supports. People with learning disabilities and their families choose Style Acre, because it goes that extra mile, striving to enable people to reach their full potential.

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## Style Acre

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Style Acre is a charity based in Oxfordshire which enhances the lives of people with learning disabilities. Our Tea Room at Savages in Blewbury provides work experience and paid work for people with learning disabilities. We are looking for someone who can give 4 hours per week to volunteer as a member of our team at our Tea Room (days and times can be flexible to suit individual). It will involve supporting people with learning disabilities, using our till, making coffees, serving customers and some kitchen duties.

If you are interested in volunteering with us then please contact Tracey Collins on 01491 82759 or visit our website [www.styleacre.org.uk](http://www.styleacre.org.uk) and go to our 'Get Involved' section. Here you can download the application form.



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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 Parish Council Meeting held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 5th February 2015

*Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, Faye Cheeseman, Francesca Jones, Andrew Johnson and Fleur Stevenson, plus Melanie Malcolm (Finance Officer) and Susan Rance (Clerk).*

*Apologies: from Councillors Anne Lowes, Stephen Brown, County Councillor Mark Gray and District Councillor Kristina Crabbe.*

## Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

Three trees have been planted in Jethro Tull Gardens.

Councillors have been deeply shocked by the fire at SODC and Chadwicks and the clerk will write to the Chadwick family.

## Finance

Payments of £726 and £1014 have been made to Arrow Fencing for new posts at the Recreation Ground and for work on the play area which was recommended by ROSPA in their safety inspection.

The accounts to 31st January were presented. Income from the pavilion had increased by £400. Income from the solar panels is now received every six months (previously quarterly). The Finance Officer will research the breakdown of administration costs for the next meeting.

The Council reviewed our annual internal audit and internal accounting controls and agreed that these are effective systems. There have been no changes in accounting controls since last year. Cheques are not being spot checked against invoices at present, but it was agreed to introduce a new system (as used at

Cholsey) when the new accounting system has been introduced. The Finance Officer will obtain two quotes for the audit.

The pensions' regulator has told us that the council needs to start considering workplace pensions. The council is not obliged to provide a pension in view of the small number of hours worked by the staff and the amount paid, but we agreed to write formally to our three staff members to ask if they wish to have a pension.

A procedure for backing up Parish Council Data was agreed, to be used by the Clerk and the Finance Officer.

## Review of allotment holders

The allotment holders' list has been updated. There are currently no vacant plots and no waiting list. One unused derelict plot has been partly cleared but still has tree stumps on it, which could be removed if the plot is needed. The Council agreed to renew our membership of the Allotments and Gardens Society, which provides us with insurance cover.

## Grants and donations

A donation of £50 was agreed to Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire and a donation of £100 to the Wallingford Volunteer Centre.

## Planning

It was noted with regret that SODC's Planning Department offices had been totally destroyed in the recent fire: they are making valiant efforts to get back to normal working.

## SODC decisions:

P14/S3333/HH (Householder): Front porch extension and additional side window opening for new cloakroom. 31 Robert Sparrow Gardens, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8DQ: PERMISSION GRANTED.

P14/S3544/HH: Hard standing area. Mulberry Cottage, 69 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EF:  
PERMISSION GRANTED.

*Parish Council responses to SODC were agreed as follows:*

P14/S3055/HH: Amended details. Remove existing rear extension and replace with new timber framed extension with increased footprint, (as amplified by Shadowing Report accompanying e-mail from agent received 20th December 2014). Church Cottages, Church Lane, North Stoke, OX10 6BH:  
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P14/S4073/HH: Part-retrospective application for extensions to accommodate enlarged kitchen/dining area, home office and studio, (amendments to approved application P14/S1177/HH), 39 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EY:  
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P15/S0059/HH: Three-storey rear extension with third storey in roof space. 10 Jethro Tull Gardens, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8DS:  
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

#### *Planning correspondence*

The District Council planning committee will consider these applications at a meeting on 11th February 2015 in the Fountain Conference Centre, HR Wallingford, Howbery Park: P14/S3055/HH and P14/S3056/LB, Church Cottages, Church Lane, North Stoke, OX10 6BH, proposed removal of existing rear extension and replacement with new timber framed extension with increased footprint, (as amended altering the roof material).

#### **Environment and Recreation Ground Committee**

Plans to turn two unused changing rooms at the pavilion into meeting space were discussed.

There might be different ways to improve the facilities but the cost will need to be assessed against the possible benefits. A site visit will be held before making any decision.

#### **Traffic and Transport Committee**

Cllr Jones had circulated notes on the Parish Transport Representatives' meeting held on 16th January. Details of the county council's budget cuts will be finalised on 17th February. Local public transport tendering is now in process and will be presented to the Cabinet on 19th March. There are likely to be some cuts in rural bus routes. New school pupils will have to go to their catchment school to qualify for school transport subsidy.

Age UK is recruiting volunteer drivers as over 6000 people are no longer eligible for ambulance type transport to hospital appointments.

#### **Traffic calming on Portway A4074**

Local people have reported again that there is a serious problem for traffic emerging from Cox's Lane. There is no doubt that speeding is a problem here on the main road and it is wide which encourages traffic to travel faster.

Cllr Sherbourne has been liaising with OCC on possible traffic calming options. A digital speed camera facing in both directions would cost around £40k but it is important that the police would provide the necessary support for such a system. Cllr Sherbourne will liaise with County Councillor Gray, the police and OCC Highways to ascertain whether a camera is an option and carry out a feasibility study.

#### **District Councillor's report**

District Cllr Crabbe had submitted a written report on the current thinking about future plans for the SODC offices. The insurance assessor's findings are awaited and a decision about whether to rebuild or redevelop the site will be made in the light of this. Meanwhile the District Council is looking at interim accommodation options in Milton Park and Abingdon.

#### **Representatives on outside bodies**

The Parish Council agreed to nominate Mr John Bellamy as a trustee of the Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity for a further four-year term.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held

at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 5th March, starting at 7.30pm. A date for the Annual Parish Meeting will be considered at that meeting.

## In your attic?

Climb up to your attic or have a look in your garage or shed, you never know what you might find! Local children's charity, Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, is holding an antiques charity valuation event where people can come along with their treasures to be valued, with all proceeds going to the charity. If the item is too big or not accessible, please bring along a photo and the valuers can take a look.

The cost is £5.00 for two items and then £1.50 for each subsequent item. The event will take place in Benson Parish Hall, on Thursday 26th March between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

For more information, contact Home-Start on 01235 511152.

## Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

CPRE Oxfordshire and ROAR – the Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally – are petitioning Secretary of State Eric Pickles and local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire from unsustainable development.

We believe current planning rules are unfairly penalising particular villages and greenfield sites, a situation which is likely to get worse with the proposed 40% increase in housing in Oxfordshire by 2031. While many would welcome more affordable housing for local people, developers are frequently bringing forward large and inappropriate developments that threaten to swamp existing communities and infrastructure. Unless we stand together, the rural nature and beautiful countryside of Oxfordshire will be at risk.

By signing our e-petition you can help us to persuade our local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire. Please add your signature and make your voice heard!

For more information go to: <http://www.cpre-oxon.org.uk/>

## Wallingford & District Art Club in March

Wallingford and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm at Centre 70 in Goldsmiths Lane. On 17th March, artist Max Hale will demonstrate palette knife painting with acrylics.

You are most welcome to join us for what is always an entertaining and interesting evening (visitors £5, members free). And why not come along to a FREE taster session at one of the untutored painting evenings we have on all other Tuesdays? Just bring your own materials and ideas. Or simply come to have a look round and a friendly chat.

Do call or e-mail me if you would like more information on this or on the other exciting demonstrations we shall be having each month.

**Stephanie Toole**

825042 or [toole.stephanie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:toole.stephanie@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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  
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THURSDAY	8.30 am - 9.00 pm
FRIDAY	8.30 am - 9.00 pm
SATURDAY	8.00 am - 6.00 pm

[www.thamessalon.com](http://www.thamessalon.com)

## WHAT'S ON – MARCH 2015

### Regular events & meetings

Every Tuesday	19.00-21.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
3rd Tuesday	14.00-15.30	Age UK: Line dancing (over 50s)	Village Hall
2nd and 4th Weds	Evenings	Crowmarsh Ladies	Telephone 201756
Every Thursday	14.00-16.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	8.30-11.15	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

Sunday 1st	13.30	CTC 24 mile cycle road ride through Chilterns	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Thursday 5th	19.30	Parish Council	Village Hall
Sunday 8th	13.30	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	East Hagbourne Village Walk
Wednesday 11th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Auction	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 12th	19.30	Wallingford Gardening Club: Honey Bee talk	Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford
Friday 13th	19.45	TWHAS: Children's experiences of World War II	Wallingford Town Hall
Saturday 14th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 14th	10.00-15.00	Local Plan Exhibition	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Sunday 15th	13.30	CTC 34 mile cycle road ride: Chalgrove, etc	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 15th	All day	Mothers' Day Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 15th	10.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Stoke Row Circular Walk
Tuesday 17th	19.00 for 19.30	Science Exchange Wallingford: The Beauty of Networks, with Professor Mason Porter	Wallingford School Library
Wednesday 18th	14.00	U3A: Mike Hurst presents Music for Oldies	Village Hall
Saturday 21st	10.00-14.00	Stoke Row Covered Market	Stoke Row Village Hall
Tuesday 24th	10.30	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	East Hendred Downs Walk
Wednesday 25th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: President's evening	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 26th	10.30-12.30	Home-Start antiques valuation event	Benson Parish Hall
Tuesday 31st	10.00	Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers	Cookley Green Circular Walk
Tuesday 31st	14.00	Age UK: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (film); over 50s free	Corn Exchange