



Crowmarsh News

Issue 474

March 2018

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

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

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

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

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

Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £25.00 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News Team

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

Editorial and Layout: James and Toni Taylor, Amanda Maher and Kirsty Dawson

Editorial support: John Griffin and Revd 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 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

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

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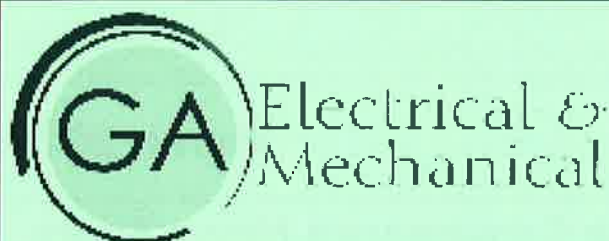


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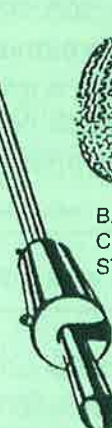
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Planning Appeal Hearing Land East of Benson Lane

Bloor Homes/Hallam Land Management has appealed against the SODC decision to reject its application to build 150 houses on land east of Benson Lane. The Appeal Hearing will be held at the Fountain Building in Howbery Park and will start on Tuesday 27 March at 10am. The Hearing will continue into the following week with a break for the Easter weekend. It is scheduled to last six days.

Allowing building to commence on such a large space behind Benson Lane and The Street has the potential to become a development that could later expand to more than 700 new homes. This would be an estate that would be separate from the rest of the village and would straddle the Marsh Lane byway. Many of us believe that such a radical addition to Crowmarsh Gifford would threaten the sustainability of the village. It would also destroy our rural setting and completely change the character of Crowmarsh Gifford from a rural village into a part of Greater Wallingford.

Both Crowmarsh Parish Council and the Crowmarsh Residents' Action Group have full representation at the Appeal. They will each be represented at the Hearing by Advocates, who will have the same standing as the Barristers that represent the Local Authority and the Appellant. We believe we have a strong case.

We encourage all parishioners who have an opinion on this application, to speak at the Hearing. To do this you need to be present on the first morning to register your interest as a speaker. The Inspector will then inform you when the public presentations will be heard. The more of you that do this the better our case will be. You may be passionate about our protected species in the field, the owls, bats, adders and stag beetles, or protective of high grade agricultural land, your concern might be our rickety sewage system, or it could be access to schools for your children, or perhaps competition to get an appointment with your GP or dentist... Whatever it is, please tell the

Inspector at the Hearing.

The most important thing of all is that the village shows a presence and solidarity behind rejecting the proposed housing development. You may not be able to attend all six days and we do not expect you to do this, but it would be excellent if as many of you as possible could turn out on the first morning and make your feelings known. After that, please attend the Hearing as and when you can – there is an excellent café next door to the Fountain Building, so it is an excuse for a bit of socialising as well.

We can win this fight and we shall. The 100 new houses recently approved by South Oxfordshire District Council at Newnham Manor is enough for the village to absorb in one go; there are another 266 new homes already approved elsewhere in the Parish. No more please for the moment. Your Parish and your village need your voice and support at the Appeal Hearing.

Local Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group responsible for developing your Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan is hosting meetings at Crowmarsh Gifford School on Tuesday 13th March and North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 15th March, both starting at 7.30pm. The purpose of the meetings is to explain what has been achieved so far and to put the preliminary findings to you for discussion and informal consultation; see the flyer distributed with this edition of Crowmarsh News. The evenings will start with a presentation to bring everybody up to speed followed by discussion, questions and answers, comments and, hopefully, some criticism. Wine and nibbles will be available to help promote the discussion! Please come and talk to us.

**Please make use of the Parish
Council website for news and
updates of local affairs**

www.crowmarshgifford.org

Join the Adventure!

Is making the world a better place important to you?

Do you want to have fun and be part of a local community group that makes a difference?

Crowmarsh Gifford Scout Group needs someone like you to help us provide fun, adventure and community involvement to our 50 Cubs, Beavers and Scouts aged between 6 and 14 years old. We meet weekly at Crowmarsh Village Hall and North Stoke Village Hall.

We need more volunteers to help us with tasks ranging from leading to executive members. You don't have to know about knots, woggles and campfire songs. We need help with our web site, administrators, a secretary, event organisers and fundraisers – we always need people to help! Whatever time you feel you can give us we will gratefully accept and find you a role you enjoy. In return we promise you support, guidance and the wonderful feeling that you are making a difference for future generations. Last year a study revealed that young people involved in Scouting were 15% less likely to suffer from depression and anxiety as adults.

Please don't hesitate - If you can give us an hour a week, two hours a month, 1 day a year or just want to come along to our fundraising events please get in touch to find out more.

We will be at the Community Café on 10th March at Crowmarsh Village Hall, 10am-12 noon or send an email to Ross Edmonds chair@crowmarshgiffordscoutgroup.org.

Come! Join the Adventure! Be part of something that changes lives!

Volunteers needed for traffic counting

The Neighbourhood Plan team needs to do a traffic survey. Can you spare an hour and a half to record vehicles in the centre of the village?

Probable date is Wednesday 7th March, we need two volunteers to sit outside the Queen's Head pub during times between 8am - 9.30am, a half an hour session at lunchtime and 4pm - 5.30pm in the evening. You will be given a clicker to help count traffic travelling to and from Wallingford and either turning at Benson Lane or going straight to the ring road. If you can help at all, please contact Nick Robins at nicks.robins@gmail.com or call 839115.

Concert at St Mary Magdalene

Fly away with The Night Herons accompanied by a glass of a capella Shiraz for an evening of swing, jazz and popular songs. These two local groups will entertain you in aid of church funds on Friday 16th March at St Mary Magdalene Church. Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start. Tickets are £10, including a glass of wine or similar. For tickets, contact Sarah Nesbitt: 07770 930756 or sjn62@icloud.com.

Litter clearance – Crowmarsh spring clean

On Saturday 3rd March please join in the nationwide clean-up and help to pick up litter around Crowmarsh Gifford.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the end of Thames Mead at 10am, equipment will be provided but please wear stout footwear and warm clothes. In case there is more litter than we can collect, we will provisionally have a follow-up event two weeks later, on Saturday 17th March, same place, same time. Look out for posters.

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The dates for the next Sales of Donated Goods are: Saturdays 17th March and 7th & 28th 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 needed to select and allocate donated goods and to assist with Sales.

For further details call: 641384 ext 246
Sue Ryder, Nettlebed Hospice, Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

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

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Past Times

The Elm Tree Murder from David Beasley

Sunday 3rd March 1946 was a cold, grey day with the threat of snow in the air. Florence Honey did her usual Sunday morning job making sure St Mary's Church, Crowmarsh was clean and tidy ready for morning service. After attending the service, Miss Honey returned home and cooked Sunday dinner for herself and her sister Elise, who had recently moved in with her due to ill health. After the meal, they listened to Tommy Hanley on the radio until tea time.

After tea Miss Honey left her home in the Street, Crowmarsh to visit her friend Mrs Harriet Lay at 3 Compton Terrace, Wallingford, who was bed ridden, something she did 3 or 4 times a week. It must have been a nervous walk for the 60-year-old spinster, for there were many British and Polish soldiers from the transit camp at Howbery Park in Crowmarsh and Wallingford drinking in the pubs, and roaming the streets causing a considerable disturbance in the town.

She stayed with Mrs Lay until after the epilogue on the radio, when she left to walk the mile home. Near Leonard Shepherd's Grocery shop (formerly Launderama but has now been converted into two flats) she passed Thomas Beesley, who was returning from visiting a friend in Crowmarsh. Just as she left Wallingford Bridge, someone stopped and dragged her into Wilder's yard, where she was attacked.

At about 6.30am on Monday, Walter Green a lorry driver of 14 Wood Street, Wallingford, was walking to Crowmarsh where he garaged his lorry. As he passed Wilder's yard he saw in the field opposite the body of Miss Honey, she had been assaulted under the elm tree in Wilder's Yard, her body was then dragged across the road to the field. Robbery was not thought to be the motive as her unopened brown handbag was lying nearby. He immediately informed the police.

Oxfordshire's Chief Constable Lt. Col H. Rutherford informed Scotland Yard, it was normal then for Scotland Yard to be called in to assist rural police forces. Chief Inspector Fabian (a TV series was made of his career in the 1950's, starring Bruce Seaton as Fabian) and Detective Sergeant Willis were given the case. To protect the crime scene from the snow, which had been falling for some time, a tarpaulin tent was erected over the body. The local police awaited the arrival of Chief Inspector Fabian and the Home Office Pathologist Professor J.M. Webster, both arriving by late afternoon.

Meanwhile P.C. Peachy the Crowmarsh "Bobbie", spent several hours outside a house at the bottom of Crowmarsh Hill, keeping watch on a family who were new to Crowmarsh. He was ordered away by an irate Inspector Day of Thame, who was assisting in the inquires, because he knew the family. British and Polish soldiers at the Transit Camp in Howbery Park were confined to the camp; and the perimeter of the camp was patrolled by Military Police.

Elsie Honey made a statement to the police that she wasn't concerned when her sister didn't return home that night, she assumed Mrs Lay's condition had worsened and Florence had stayed the night.

In the evening Professor Webster performed a preliminary examination. The post-mortem was performed in Royal Berks Hospital, Reading on Tuesday and revealed she had been physically and sexually assaulted and had died from shock.

A Polish soldier from the transit camp spent all day with the police helping them with their inquiries and was later released. An examination of footprints found at the murder scene revealed that they were of a rubber soled shoe and were not Army issue boots. The ban on British and Polish soldiers leaving the Transit camp was lifted at 5pm.

The inquest was opened at the British Legion Hall, Crowmarsh, (formerly the village school, where Miss Honey was once a pupil). Evidence of identification was given by Horace Honey, Miss Honey's brother, then the inquest was adjourned until the 5th April to allow the police to make further inquiries.

The Coroner, Mr Arthur Lett, paid a tribute to Miss Honey saying that 'she was a most lovable person, who was full of charity for others, and that it was a tragedy that she should die this way'. After the inquest, Horace Honey appealed to the press to spare the feelings of the relatives, as many of their statements were inaccurate and in bad taste. Miss Honey was buried in Newnham Murren Churchyard on Wednesday afternoon.

On Friday 8th March inquiries moved to R.A.F. Benson where several airmen were interviewed. The inquest was re-opened at Henley Town Hall on the 5th April and further adjourned until 3rd May.

The re-commencement of the inquest at Henley Town Hall was attended by the Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Inspector Fabian. The Coroner, Mr A. Lett, started by outlining the

evidence and stated that he would not call any evidence from the police. Evidence was given by Horace Honey, Walter Green, Elsie Honey, Richard Ferguson and Thomas Beesley. Professor Webster's report was read to the jury, by the Coroner. The jury brought in a verdict of "Murder by a male person unknown" the words "male person" was included because Miss Honey had been sexually assaulted. The inquiries continued but got no further forward, in fact there was talk of a "wall of silence" at the Transit Camp.

Chief Inspector Fabian was taken off the case. As the investigation dragged on, the Scotland Yard officers returned to London, and the local police were moved to other local cases. The case was never officially closed, and Miss Honey's murderer has never been found. Local people still think the murderer came from the Transit Camp at Howbery Park.

Benson Choral Society's Spring Concert

Benson Choral Society will perform a programme by Brahms with the main work the well-known German Requiem, his greatest and longest choral work, setting words from Martin Luther's translation of the bible, rather than the Latin requiem. If German isn't your language, fear not – a full translation will be in the programme! Conductor Christopher Walker, Soprano Aoife Miskelly, Baritone Johnny Herford.

The concert is on Saturday 24th March at 7.30pm in Dorchester Abbey. Tickets are £18 and £15 (reserved) or £12 (unreserved) from tickets.bensonchoral@gmail.com or telephone Stephanie 01865 407395 (Evenings). For full details visit our website www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk.

Sustainable Wallingford Film at Corn Exchange

The Corn Exchange and Sustainable Wallingford unite to bring you the film "Tomorrow", an award-winning documentary to brighten the darkest, gloomiest days.

An uplifting feel-good story, showing solutions to the ecological, economic and social position we currently find ourselves in.

The film is on for one night only at 7.00pm on Wed 14th March, followed by discussion and how to get involved in changing our Tomorrow, so get your ticket soon to avoid disappointment.

Book your ticket at the reduced price of £6.00 at the Corn Exchange ticket office, by phone on 825000 or on the website: www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Henley and District Philatelic Society

Calling all Stamp Collectors! Henley's renowned Auction takes place on 14th March and the catalogue may be viewed on our website. There are photos of some of the Lots too. Bidding can be done on line, although attendance at the Auction is recommended. Bids must be in by midday on 14th March. T & C's are in the Catalogue.

14th March Open Auction – Visitors welcome please note the Auction will start at 7.30pm.

28th March Two members will give displays on 'GB used Abroad' and 'Early GB'

Hope to see you at Bix Village Hall at 7.45pm. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning 681739 or on our website: - www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Spring into action!

Now that spring has sprung, it's time to get out on your bike again. Pump up your tyres, oil your chain, check your brakes, then come out for a spin with CTC Wallingford (part of Cycling UK). If you're not a mechanic at heart, ask the friendly crew at Rides on Air to check out your bike for you.

We run relaxed rides on the first Sunday of each month, so why not join us on the 1st April or the 6th May?

You don't need to be a member to take part, under 13s must be accompanied by an adult. Those aged from 13 to 17 can come independently, but must bring a completed parental consent form, available from me.

Check out our rides planned for March in the What's On section on the back page.

For more information, contact Alison Smart alisonjsmart@gmail.com or 07549 528529.

To book North Stoke Village Hall

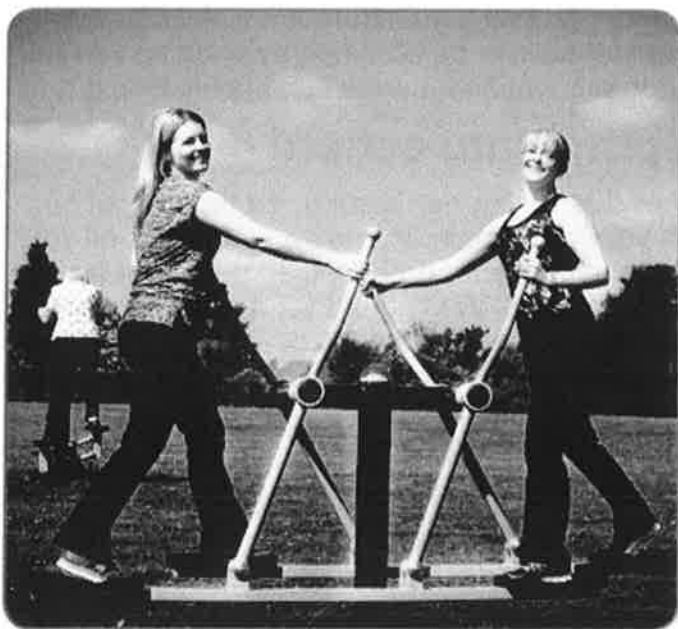
Contact Nikki Arnfield (839736, narnfield@yahoo.co.uk) or Stuart Soames (836058, sjwsoames@btinternet.com)

Crowmarsh Playground and Gym Update

We are pleased to report we have planning approval for the play area upgrade and addition of a gym area.

If you missed seeing the plans, they are on the Parish Council web site www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk under Facilities/ Crowmarsh Playground Proposal. Some of the plans have been on display at Crowmarsh Primary School and the February Coffee morning at Crowmarsh Village Hall. They will be on display at the next Coffee morning on Saturday 10th March between 10.00-12.00.

The design has considered requests for equipment made in our previous survey in spring last year, which had 215 people supporting the principle of a new improved playground and 126 supporting the gym.



The Parish Council is now seeking external funding for this project, through grant applications.

To help secure external funding we would like to provide further evidence to potential funders that local people support the proposed design and equipment. This means we need you to write letters or e-mails to The Parish Council supporting the proposed playground and gym, specifically referring to the design features and which aspects will be most beneficial to you and your family. Please include your name. Where applicable please include comments/quotes from the children (noting their ages) who would benefit from these improvements.

Letters can be sent into school addressed to

Michelle Reynolds or e-mailed to michelle.a.reynolds@hotmail.com before the end of the first week in April. Your responses will be submitted as part of our grant applications.

Expressing your personal support could make the difference in securing the necessary funds for this great project to be realised.

Crowmarsh Parish Council

Wallingford Rowing Club

Wallingford Rowing Club would like to inform local residents of two events they are running this year:

Wallingford Long Distance Sculls Saturday 29th September 2018

Wallingford Winter Head of the River Sunday 24th November 2018

They will be using the Riverside car park for trailer parking and plan to use the old SODC site as well as Howbery Park for competitor parking. Wallingford Rowing Club hopes that these dates do not clash with any local football fixtures or events.

Wallingford Flower Club

A floral demonstration "Out of Africa" by Vijay Bhatia will be presented by Wallingford Flower Club on Wednesday 14th March, 7pm for 7.45pm at Crowmarsh Village Hall. There will be coffee, a raffle and a sales table. Visitors welcome, £5 each. For further information please contact Fay Crabbe on 834303.

Hedgehogs on the Edge

The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2018, published jointly by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), is the only comprehensive review of the status of Britain's hedgehogs. This new report shows that hedgehogs in rural areas are in severe decline, with their numbers plummeting by half since the Millennium. Visit www.hedgehogstreet.org to become a Hedgehog Champion and find simple advice on making your garden and neighbourhood more hedgehog-friendly. You can pledge to make a small hole – no bigger than a CD case – in your garden fence, wall and other barriers so that hedgehogs can access different gardens in their search for food, shelter and mates.

Log your 'hog sightings – dead or alive – on The BIG Hedgehog Map on www.hedgehogstreet.org

Wallingford U3A

At our February meeting Ian Keeble gave us a fascinating and funny introduction to James Gillray, perhaps the greatest political cartoonist of all time. Gillray was born in London in 1786 and began publishing in 1792. We were treated to a number of his cartoons. Ian sketched in the stories behind them, explaining quickly the significance of the people ridiculed. Gillray satirised High Society, in which, in London then, everyone would know everyone. His prints were expensive but eagerly awaited and passed about. He was rude, vulgar and vicious; he could be bawdy, ribald and obscene. Some of his personal attacks might not be publishable today. Indeed, the Prince of Wales bought up all the copies of one print run and paid to have the plate destroyed.

For years Gillray lived with a Mrs. Humphreys, also a print maker, above her shop. In 1810 his sight began to fail and he stopped working. He began to drink heavily, and some people said he became insane. Mrs. Humphreys looked after him until he died in 1815.

This was a hugely enjoyable talk about a ground breaking political satirist. We really hope that Ian Keeble will come to speak to us again.

Coming Up:

Wednesday 7th Our talk is "Maggie's Oxford." Support for children and families dealing with cancer.

The next "Local Churches of Interest" will be Moulsoford Church at 11am on the 15th, followed by a light lunch at The Bull at Streatley. For details, and to book lunch, phone Hermione on 01865 858 024.

Our 5-day holiday in Norfolk from 21st June is still booking. For details and itinerary please contact Jim on 07860 398069.

For more information about our activities and interest groups please visit our website: Google: U3A Wallingford. If you would rather speak to someone then please phone Jill on 01491 835 994.

Our meetings are held at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome for the talk, tea and biscuits and a chance to meet and talk to people. Come and join us.

Pictures, logos and ads for Crowmarsh News are best in .jpg. or pdf format

Science Exchange Wallingford

Science Exchange Wallingford's next meeting is titled Sex Hormones in the Water, by Andrew Johnson from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. The meeting is on Tuesday 6th March at 7.30pm in Wallingford School Library, St George's Road, Wallingford.

Back in the 1990s it was noticed that male fish living in proximity to sewage effluent in our rivers were showing signs of changing sex. These male fish were developing female characteristics such as the presence of eggs in the testes. This phenomenon was most closely associated with the escape of human excreted estrogens, both natural and synthetic, from sewage treatment plants. At the same time, concerns over human health developed with the concept of the 'testicular dysgenesis syndrome' being raised which included issues like declining sperm counts. The talk will discuss how these topics developed and where we are now.

Andrew Johnson is an environmental scientist employed as a Principal Scientific Officer at the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Crowmarsh Gifford. In addition, he is a Visiting Professor at Brunel and Kyoto Universities. He is also a member of the Defra Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee

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. (<http://www.cafescientifique.org/>).

March Earth Trust Events

There are lots of exciting events coming up 2018, including some that are exclusively for Earth Trust Friends – find out more about becoming a Friend at www.earthtrust.org.uk/joinus

Lambing Weekends—Saturday 17th-Sunday 18th and Saturday 24th-Sunday 25th March, 10am-4pm. Earth Trust is throwing open the gates to our working farm at our annual fundraising festival!

All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, unless otherwise stated. More information can be found on our website www.earthtrust.org.uk.

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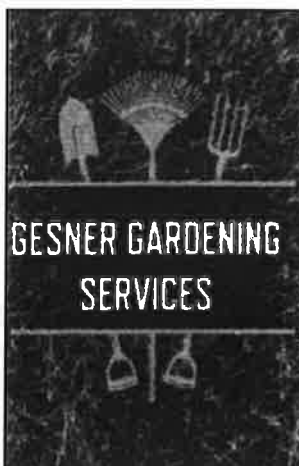
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Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services for March

Sunday 4th	11am	Family Service
Saturday 10th	10am-noon	Community Café at the Village Hall (Posy Party)
Sunday 11th	11am	Mothering Sunday Parish Communion
Friday 16th	7pm for 7.30pm	Acoustic Concert
Sunday 18th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 25th	10.15am	Palm Sunday Procession from St Agatha's, Brightwell (no 11am service at St Mary Magdalene)
Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th	8pm	Compline Services
Tuesday 29th	1.30pm	School Easter Service
Friday 30th	11am	Good Friday Churches Together Service in Wallingford Market Square
Saturday 31st	8pm	Easter Eve Vigil Service
Sunday 1st April	11am	Easter Festival Communion Service

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am, Evening Prayer - every Sunday at 4pm

Full details at www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar

Easter is the major festival for Christians and falls early this year on the 1st April, so we have the climax of Lent and Passiontide in March resulting in a few changes to our normal service pattern. I hope you will be able to join us in my "other parish" of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell on Palm Sunday where we will be accompanied by a donkey on our procession from St Agatha's, Brightwell to St James', Sotwell. There will be hymn stops along the way, and a dramatized reading at the end of the story of Christ's passion – how he suffered and bore the sins of the world on the cross so that we might be forgiven. We then have a service for every day during Holy Week, so I hope you will be able join us on this spiritual journey.

Before that is Mothering Sunday – this means that we will hold our "Posy Party" at the

Community Café. Children and families (especially fathers!) will be particularly welcome as we have a relaxed and fun 'production line' putting together the posies to be handed out the next day. Donations of flowers and greenery will be much appreciated (in addition to the usual cakes which have been getting rave reviews on social media!). Traditionally, Mothering Sunday was a special occasion because workers were allowed a weekend off to return to their birthplace and their mother church where they were baptised. The church celebration is of mothering in its widest sense rather than the more American-style "Mother's Day", so hopefully we will make enough for everyone to receive a lovingly-made posy!

Blessings,
Revd Kev

Charles Crichton

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Benson Garden Club

At our next meeting Derry Watkins will be taking as her topic 'Unusual and Long-Blooming Garden Plants'. Derry, an American plantswoman who has lived in Britain for most of her life, runs the Special Plants Nursery near Bath, which she has developed based on plants she has discovered on her travels around the world.

We meet at 7.45pm on 5th April at Benson Parish Hall and are always delighted to welcome visitors, or indeed new members.

Craft Fair at Benson Parish Hall

Saturday 17th March sees the return of our Craft Fair and Market at Benson Parish Hall from 10am - 2pm. Lots of stalls old and new. Bread, pies, cakes, knitted goods. Wooden items, cards to name but a few. Also, why not stop in our café for a cuppa and light snacks. Bacon butties, soup, toasties etc.

FREE ENTRY For further info and to book a stall, please call Sue on 07782187866 or email susan.woodley@ntlworld.com.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club is a friendly and welcoming club for photographers of all levels. Members meet every Thursday evening at 7.30pm for 8pm in Crowmarsh Pavilion.

The March programme starts on the 1st with an inter-club competition against Abingdon Camera Club. On the 8th Ian Francis will be presenting images of Africa. Then the 15th and 22nd will be club competition nights when members images will be judged by an independent judge. Competition evenings represent an excellent opportunity to view members work and hear the comments of an outside judge.

Finally, the 29th will be a members' evening covering various aspects of photography. Please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club

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

Call Emma Freeman on 829762, or e-mail freemane@wallingfordschool.com



Wallingford Museum

Castle History walk

On Saturday 31st March, an historic guided walk around Wallingford Castle has been arranged, led by Judy Dewey (local historian and Museum curator). The walk will start at the Museum at 2.30pm and last about 2 hours, (unsuitable for dogs!). There is a charge of £6 for this guided walk, but you could combine it with a season ticket to the Museum, and view 'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story'.

So, why not immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history for the day!

New Treasures with Tales Exhibition

There's been a great response to the public appeal for the loan of 'Treasures with Tales' for the new 2018 exhibition opening on 1st March at Wallingford Museum.

We are delighted to have had a wide variety of fascinating objects brought in, each with its own special significance. Follow the 'Treasures Trail' and discover these things throughout the museum. The treasures are woven in amongst our other exhibitions which include the story of Wallingford's Saxon origins, its great Royal castle, the town's links with Agatha Christie, and updates on the recent archaeology uncovered by new developments around the town. For prices and opening times visit: www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Judy Dewey



'Putting Wallingford on the map: from Gough to Google'

John Leighfield will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about the development of mapping. This talk will be heavily illustrated with pictures of all the key maps that show Wallingford from 1574 onwards. It will cover mapping from prehistoric times up to the transformation in mapping brought about by the technological revolution of the late-20th and the 21st centuries.

The talk will be accompanied by a display of a number of the key maps that have been discussed, and by an illustrated handout. John Leighfield was educated at Exeter College Oxford, and his career has been in IT from the pioneering days of 1962 onwards. John has been collecting maps since 1966 and regularly lectures on the topic.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 14th March 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. www.twhas.org.uk

Katharine Keats-Rohan

Guided Town Walks

Guided Historic Town Walks on Saturday mornings will recommence on 31st March, starting from the Town Hall at 11.00am. Walks last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head, money which will be donated to support Wallingford Museum. These are general walks covering the rich history of Wallingford, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and 'Midsomer Murders'. They will appeal to residents and visitors alike. If you'd like to organise a Town Walk like this for your group / society / school at a different time, then please contact Philip Burton on 836200 or pburton6@talktalk.net

Alternatively, more specialist history walks can be offered by arrangement tailored to your group's interests. Contact Judy Dewey on 651127 or judy@piepowder.co.uk

Philip Burton

The Corn Exchange

The Corn Exchange is now fully back in action and we have some exciting events on in March.

CINEMA

We are showing all the big new releases including; Early Man, The Mercy and The Shape of Water. Visit our website for full listings and bookings. All performances start at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise. Tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under15.

LIVE

Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th at 7:30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2:30pm - SHOWTIME. Tickets £15 Adults and £12 for under 14. An evening of songs from popular Musical Shows, including Les Miserables and Miss Saigon. Co-production of Crescendo and The Corn Exchange. (www.cornexchange.org.uk).

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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 1st February

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Andrew Johnson, Stuart Soames, Nigel Hannigan, David Rowley, Denise Hall, and Stephen Sherbourne; Sue Rance (Clerk) and Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer).

Apologies for absence from Councillors Francesca Jones, David Mannering, Fleur Stevenson, Elizabeth Ryall and David Topliss. No district or county councillors attended.

Finance

The financial summary for the year to 31st January 2018 showed total receipts of £54,000, compared with £55,000 last year. Total payments were £40,000, compared with £53,000 last year. Last year's expenditure was higher because of payment for the basketball court, bus stop and computers for use by the clerk and finance officer. A VAT repayment of £837.73 has been received. SODC has acknowledged receipt of the precept application forms. The parish element of the council tax is not due to increase.

Grass cutting expenditure is split into different areas of the parish (Crowmarsh Gifford recreation ground, North Stoke recreation ground, road verges and open spaces). Berinsfield Community Business is willing to hold the current prices for the next 2-3 years, Mr Strange is happy with this company's performance and we plan to continue to use them for the next season's grass cutting. Detailed arrangements will be reviewed at the 1st March meeting.

Two years' accounts will be presented to support the playground grant applications. The list of strategic priorities will be circulated again to councillors for review at a future meeting.

The council reviewed its financial risk assessment, financial regulations and publications scheme and approved them with only minor amendments. Our publications scheme will need to be reviewed again in the light of the

General Data Protection Regulations. The Clerk will obtain a model privacy policy which is also needed under these regulations.

Chairman's report

Cllr Griffin reported that Crowmarsh News is now running well as an independent concern, thanks to the editorial team and other volunteers. Funds have built up gradually and a laptop and software have now been purchased to provide a dedicated system that can be used by any member of the editorial team. A county-wide network for community magazine teams has been set up by Community First Oxon to cover topics such as insurance, recruiting volunteers and printing: two of the Crowmarsh News team attended its inaugural meeting.

Planning

Decisions: The Council noted these decisions by SODC:

P17/S3996/HH (Householder): Single-storey rear and side extensions at 78 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ER.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S4047/FUL (Full Application): To replace and increase the size and play amenity value of the recreation ground play area and provide an external gym. Crowmarsh Gifford Recreation Ground, Bellamy Way, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8FN.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S4145/PDH (Permitted Development): Proposed conservatory: depth: 4m, overall height: 3.35m, height to eaves: 2.25m. 2 The Limes, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8HF.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S4253/LB (Listed Building): Install multi-fuel stove (log burner) into existing large open fireplace and run a high grade (904) stainless steel flexible liner through chimney. Replace existing anti-bird cowl on chimney pot for new stainless steel one. 19C Foundry Cottage, The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EA.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S3807/HH (Householder): Conservatory

replacement. 35 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BL.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P17/S4422/HH (Householder): Fit garage door to garage port. 1B The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EA.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

Applications: The Council agreed its response to SODC on the following applications:

P17/S4422/HH (Householder): Fit garage door to garage port. 1B The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EA.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P17/S4329/FUL (Full Application): Proposed extension to existing building to increase parts storage. Lister Wilder, The Park, Port Way, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8FG.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

SODC Planning Committee Meeting

Cllr Hannigan reported on the SODC Planning Committee meeting on 16th January where he spoke against planning application P16/S3852/FUL for the erection of 100 new residential dwellings including new access road off the A4074, public open space and the provision of school land at Newnham Manor OX10 8ED. The application was approved by the committee on a vote of 7-2.

Planning appeal at Benson Lane site – ref: APP/Q3115/W/17/3186858

P16/S3608/O: Outline planning application for up to 150 dwellings with access, public open space, landscaping and amenity areas on land east of Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED. The Public Inquiry into this application will start at 10 am on Tuesday 27th March at the Fountain Conference Centre, Howbery Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BA and is expected to last for 6 working days. The Chair of Planning had submitted the Parish Council's Pre-Inquiry Statement.

Neighbourhood Plan

Dr Nick Robins reported on progress with the Crowmarsh Neighbourhood Plan. The data gathering is mostly complete. Policies have been drafted and six of them are now on the parish website:
<http://crowmarshgifford.org.uk/2017/04/15/local-community-plan/>

- Environment – safeguarding.
- Crowmarsh Gifford housing development.
- Type of housing.
- North Stoke and Mongewell – local plan policy for small rural villages.
- Development needs – education, medical and recreational facilities keeping pace with housing.
- SODC site – help to reintegrate into the community.

The seventh policy will be the Strategic Environmental Assessment report from SODC.

The housing needs assessment has arrived at the number of new houses that Crowmarsh Gifford will need as 110, the figure in the emerging SODC local plan.

The landscape survey has considered nine sites in terms of landscape value, habitat and heritage. The site assessment report has considered each site in terms of its suitability for new housing. Two sites were looked at for employment use. A letter had been received from a company interested in providing retirement homes in the area.

A Parish Transport Survey is to be carried out in Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke and it is hoped to recruit volunteers for this – please get in touch if you are interested in helping with this or any aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The next step will be to consult the parish: village meetings will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford School and North Stoke Village Hall including a Powerpoint presentation on progress so far. Printed copies of the reports will be available at various sites in the parish as well as on the website.

Environment & recreation ground

The Environment and Recreation Ground Management Committee met on 22nd January. Three quotes have been obtained for electrical testing of fixed wiring. The quote of £540 from G A Electrical will be accepted.

Some of the chairs need replacing. The Photographic Club has requested additional chairs and offered to pay half of the cost. We agreed to purchase better quality chairs at £900 for 30, as long as they are stackable.

It was agreed to rebuild the brick wall at the rear of the Pavilion incorporating a steel rein-

forced safety barrier (£2,500).

Update on playground project

The following project stages were approved:

- Application to SODC for 50% of the capital project cost, deadline 26th April.
- Application to WREN for £100K by 13th June.
- Application to local businesses for donations.
- Apply for letters of support from the community.

Cllr Johnson has been given authority to authorise the Parish Council applications to SODC and WREN as agreed.

The Parish Council agreed to fund 10.75% (£10,750) as a third-party donor (required for the WREN application), and will pay for future inspections, insurance and maintenance of the playground. The Council will also pay for signs at the car park directing drivers to other parking areas if the recreation ground car park is full and requesting them not to park on the road. There will be improved pedestrian access with signs between SODC's splash play area and the new playground, and access to toilets and baby changing facilities in the pavilion.

Cllr Rowley had drawn up a provisional project programme. We will apply to SODC for a grant by 26th April and then apply to WREN by 13th June. SODC will announce their decision by 30th June giving time to then amend the WREN application financial model. The decision by WREN is due by 5th September. If successful, installation could start by December and the new facilities could be open by Easter next year.

Traffic and transport

Cllr Jones will attend a Parish Transport Representatives' meeting in February. Cllr Hall had asked the police for information on the traffic at Portway.

Reports from outside bodies

Cllr Sherbourne reported that a meeting will be held on Saturday 10th February to consider the feasibility study for an extension to Crowmarsh Gifford village hall. The next step will be to

apply for planning permission.

Cllr Soames reported that the interior of North Stoke Village Hall has been completely re-painted, with financial support from the Parish Council.

Dates of next meetings

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st March at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The following meeting will be brought forward from April to Thursday 29th March.



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WHAT'S ON—MARCH 2018

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-le-More Church, Wallingford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Various Days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	See- http://www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family Service first Sunday of month	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh

This month

Thursday 1st March	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 3rd March	10.00 onwards	GB Spring Clean-Litter collection	Meet at the end of Thames Mead by the bus stop
Sunday 4th March	13.30 onwards	CTC 22-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Tuesday 6th March	19.30 onwards	Café Scientifique: Sex hormones in water	Wallingford School Library
Friday 9th March	10.00 onwards	CTC 45-mile road ride	Meet Rides on Air cafe
Saturday 10th March	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café (with posy making)	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Tuesday 13th March	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan	Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School
Wednesday 14th March	20.00 onwards	TWHAS talk: Putting Wallingford on the Map	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Wednesday 14th March	19.30 onwards	Henley Philatelic: Open auction	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 15th March	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan	North Stoke Village Hall
Friday 16th March	19.30 (doors open 19.00)	Acoustic Concert	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
Saturday 17th March	10.30 onwards	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 18th March	13.30 onwards	CTC 30-something-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Saturday 24th March	19.30 onwards	Benson Choral Society Spring Concert	Dorchester Abbey
Wednesday 28th March	19.30 onwards	Henley Philatelic Members evening	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 29th March	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School
Saturday 31st March	14.30-16.30	Wallingford Castle History Walk	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 31st March-Monday 2nd April	All day	Easter Weekend trains	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway