

Issue 486

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 distributed to over 700 households in Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell.

Our rates for a one-eighth-page display advertisement

(nominal 9cm wide x 7cm tall) are:

1 month — £8.50

3 months — £25.00

6 months — £45.00

Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

March 2019

The Crowmarsh News team

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

Editorial and Layout: Amanda Maher and Kirsty Dawson

Editorial support: James and Toni Taylor, 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 2019 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 or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.



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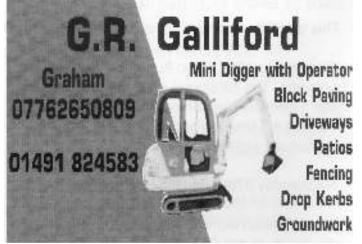








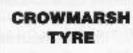




DANCE FITNESS CLASS Tuesdays Crowmarsh Village Hall 9.45-10.45am (60+) 11-12noon 7.30-8.30pm

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Crowmarsh Playground and Outdoor Gym - Grand Opening date

Please save the date – we are hoping that **Sunday April 7th** will be the Grand Opening of the New Playground and Outside Gym area in Crowmarsh (with a reserve date of Sunday 14th if we have poor weather on the 7th). This will be a great chance to come together and celebrate as a community. If you are a local business or charity and would like to get involved, please contact the parish council. More details of the event to follow in April's edition of Crowmarsh News.

For updates and progress photographs please see Crowmarsh Parish Council web site - crowmarshgifford.org.uk.

Please note that until the contractors fencing is removed the area is out of bounds for those not involved with the construction, and the play and gym equipment is not to be used. Until safety checks are carried out and equipment signed off, the playground and gym are not deemed fit for purpose. Anyone found using the equipment before this time will be asked to leave. The police may be involved, and any injuries/damage will be the responsibility of the user and their parents/ guardian.

This final phase of the project will also provide time to establish new grass around the equipment.

Michelle Reynolds (on behalf of the Crowmarsh Parish Council)

Crowmarsh Village Hall Extension

The Village Hall Committee have obtained full planning permission and associated requirements to build an extension measuring 9.5 by 6 metres (30 x 20 ft) internally. The new room would be used to hold meetings or small functions. There is a copy of the plan on

display in the village hall or see the planning consent P18/S 1273/FUL on the SODC website.

We are now able to obtain detailed quotes for the cost of building the extension. Early indications are that it will cost in excess of £100K.

Clearly a considerable amount of money needs to be raised if we are to realise our ambition. We will need to apply for grants from The Lottery Fund and SODC. There may be some funding available because of the new houses scheduled to be built in the village. It is vitally important that we, as a village community, show our commitment to the project by seeking to raise the maximum amount of money ourselves.

The committee would like to invite any people with expertise in fund raising for similar projects to offer any advice or assistance that they think would be helpful. Ideas such as 'Buy a Brick' have already been suggested. If you would like to help with the project in any way, please contact one of the committee members listed below:

Mrs Penny Hannigan, Mrs Jan Pratt, Mrs Sue Rance, Mrs Anne Robins, Mrs Liz Ryall, Mr Stephen Sherbourne, Mr Chris Strange, Mrs Siobhan Wilson.

Stephen Sherbourne (Chair, Village Hall Committee)

Short Mat Bowls takes place at the Pavilion on Tuesdays at 2pm and on Thursdays at 2pm. For more information, please call Don on 202543

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

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

News from our District Councillor

South Oxfordshire Best Place to Live!

I am delighted that we have been recognised as the top place to live in the South East and 6th best in the country following the Halifax's 2019 Quality of Life survey. We pride ourselves on helping to support our residents to have a good quality of life and this result shows South Oxfordshire is a good place to live.

OVO Energy Women's Tour

I am supporting an idea to bring The Women's Cycling Tour of Britain to our area. If successful a stage of the tour could wind its way through our district later this year and I am trying to make this happen. The top female cyclists in the world will be here including several World and Olympic champions. This will be a massive event and is currently viewed by 350,000 people on TV and 75,000 people en-route on a daily basis. I will give a further update soon on this exciting idea and the benefits it could bring to our district.

Local Plan

We will be submitting our Local Plan soon to a government inspector following a great deal of consultation and the recent 'drop in' events. Once approved it will stop unwanted speculative development in South Oxfordshire and will give parish Neighbourhood Plans even more strength. Our plan is not just about housing, although it will bring much needed affordable homes and key worker housing. It's about providing improved local infrastructure including the edge road for Benson that I have long campaigned for, creating jobs, new retail units, educational facilities, more green spaces and an enhanced cleaner environment for everyone that lives and works in South Oxfordshire making the district fit for the 21st Century.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Thames Valley Police have been made aware of young people behaving anti-socially in Benson and Cholsey. Parents do you know

where your children are? Please ensure they are not out ruining other people's evenings.

Parking

Illegal parking doesn't just cause issues for buses and residents but for emergency services responding to life-threatening calls. We are looking at bringing parking enforcement down to a local level away from the police in our market towns and villages. This will mean we can deal directly with unacceptable, selfish, illegal parking.

Food outlets

We have 2500 food-based businesses in South Oxfordshire and working with them we have achieved very high levels of hygiene compliance (96% in 2018).

If you have a matter and you feel I may be able to help please contact me, Cllr Felix Bloomfield at felix.bloomfield@southandvale.gov.uk

Crowmarsh Pre-School Quiz Time!

Crowmarsh Pre-School are holding a fundraising quiz on Saturday 27th April at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Knowledge of CBeebies is not a prerequisite for attending! This is a general knowledge quiz, and all are welcome. Teams can be a maximum of 8 members. No team? - no problem! There'll be plenty of teams to join in on the night.

There will be a cash bar selling wine, lager and soft drinks, and we will have a raffle and a silent auction.

Tickets are £10 (including food) and are available by emailing crowmarshpreschoolquiznight@gmail.com or collection from Crowmarsh pre-school.

Anne Churchill Crowmarsh Pre-School Committee



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Live Better. Live Well Oxfordshire

Looking for information about support services and activities in Oxfordshire? Then Oxfordshire County Council's Live Well Oxfordshire directory is the place to start your search - the easy to search online directory brings together over 2000 services and activities.

From care services to helping people stay independent, transport services to help people get out and about, and new hobbies for people to enjoy to local carer groups. You'll find useful information and advice on a range of subjects – all aimed at giving you greater choice and control over the support and services you or a loved one need. Find the Live Well directory at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/livewell.

Save Money on Energy Bills! - Citizens Advice Tips

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is encouraging people to analyse their home energy spending and take steps to cut down on fuel wastage. The charity has these tips:

- Check your bills carefully and make sure you're on the cheapest tariff, think about switching to a new supplier, for an energy prices comparison tool, go to energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact us to discuss your options.
- ♦ Make your home energy-efficient. Insulate

- lofts and walls, double-glaze your windows and use thick curtains to keep heat in. Get your boiler serviced annually. Grants are available to help with insulation: call the Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300 123 1234, Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm.
- Your central heating thermostat and your timer (or programmer) are your good friends and allies when it comes to saving money. A thermostat temperature of 20 degrees is adequate for most homes.
- Try an online Home Energy Check at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/ tools-calculators
- For those who qualify, various grants and discounts are available to help with bills: the Warm Home Discount www.gov.uk/ the-warm-home-discount-scheme and the Winter Fuel Payment www.gov.uk/winterfuel-payment
- Sign on to the Priority Services Register if you're of pensionable age, disabled or chronically sick. The scheme gets you extra energy services free of charge.

For more help and support, contact Citizens Advice in person or on Adviceline (03 444 111444). For locations of offices and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale



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Past Times: George Brettle's Funeral

from David Beasley

George Henry Brettle of Mongewell House, died at his residence in Victoria Street, Westminster on Wednesday the 30th of January 1872 at the age of 52. His body was brought by rail from London to Moulsford Railway Station on the following Saturday where it was conveyed by horse drawn hearse to Mongewell. As it passed through Wallingford the shops on the route closed, and the bells of St. Leonard's, St. Mary's and St. Peter's tolled to show respect to a man who had done so much for the town.

On the next Wednesday, his funeral took place, the Wallingford shops again closed for an hour and the bells of the three churches were tolled. The funeral procession left Mongewell House at 1pm for Mongewell Church. The coffin was proceeded by a deputation from the Free Library Committee, Messrs. Hawkins and Oldham (vice-presidents) and Messrs, R. Atkinson and C. Steer, He had given a large sum of money towards the building of the Free Library. His coffin was borne by six pall bearers and followed family and friends. The grounds were full of people hoping to attend the funeral but only a small number were able to gain admittance. The formal part of the service was read by the Revd. T. Darell, and at the grave by the Revd. Mr. Hutt. The coffin was interred next to his brother Edward in the family vault. In the evening a muffled peal was rung by St. Mary's Church.

George Brettle was a director of a hosiery business started by his father George senior, in Belper. George senior was originally a partner in a firm known as Ward Brettle and Ward, but on the death of Mr. William Ward senior in 1833, George's father started his own hosiery business, which opened in June 1835.

George senior died just four months later in

October 1835, and the business was left in trust until the youngest of his three sons reached the age of 21. In 1856 his son, Alfred Brettle died, Edward followed in 1867, this left George Henry as sole partner, until his death in 1872. His wife Helen became the major partner and she remarried in 1873. The business continued and today you can still purchase Brettle hosiery in Belper. As well as giving money towards the construction of the Free Library in 1871, in 1868 he donated a large sum to the Wallingford School Fund and was the largest contributor to the Coal Fund. He was a considerable benefactor to Wallingford in the short time he lived at Mongewell.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the people who came to the 'Women at War' photographic Exhibition at the Village Hall on Saturday the 2nd February. I was particularly impressed by how long some people stayed looking at the photos - or was it my wife's tea and coffee? We made £50 profit and this will be passed on to North Village Hall Fund. It is my intention to put on another exhibition about old Crowmarsh in the autumn, so watch out for the date of the next exhibition.

Victorian North Stoke & Surrounding Villages Talk - David Beasley

Friday 15th March 7.30 pm at North Stoke Village Hall. Admission at the door £10 (Under 14 - £5, includes a glass of wine, cheese and nibbles. Wine, soft drinks and a raffle.

Litter clearance – Crowmarsh spring clean

On Saturday 16th March please join in the Village clean-up and help to pick up litter around Crowmarsh Gifford. This year the Parish Council are working together with Wallingford 1155 charity who are organising the litter pick in the town at the same time. Volunteers please meet at the end of Thames Mead at 10am, equipment will be provided but please wear stout footwear and warm clothes supervised children welcome.

Wallingford U3A

Our members were dismayed and saddened at the news of the death of our greatly respected chairman, Jim Fish. He gave so much to the organisation. Our thoughts and sympathy remain with his wife and the family.

Our speaker at our next meeting in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm on 6th March will be Dr. Graham Twemlow, on "Great British Poster Artists: The Golden Age of Posters in Britain."

For more information please visit our website: u3asites.org.uk/Wallingford, or phone Jill on 835994.

Fundraising Events

I am a local Crowmarsh student that went to Crowmarsh Primary and I am now in my final year at Wallingford School Sixth Form. I am fundraising for Project Trust - a Scottish charity that supports education across the world.

Over the next few months I am organising two fundraising events - a Quiz Night at Crowmarsh School and a Ceilidh (Scottish dancing - lots of twirling and fun) at the Great Hall in Cholsey. Raising these funds means I can volunteer for a year with this charity to teach English to young children in Myanmar. I hope you can come to my events.

If you would like to offer a donation, please donate via my JustGiving page - uk.virginmoneygiving.com/EleanorJohns2.

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

call Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or email cvhbookings@gmail.com

To book North Stoke Village Hall

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





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Henley and District Philatelic Society

Our increasingly popular Auction takes place on March 13th at 7.45pm and it includes interesting and unusual material. We welcome visitors to take part. If you missed the viewing evening the catalogue can be seen on our website and internet bids must be in by midday on the 13th but preferably earlier.

March 27th – Ian Hill will visit the club with his display on 'Aspects of South Africa', an interesting and sometimes humorous display which we are privileged to see.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month 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.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Our club meets every Thursday evening in Crowmarsh Pavilion at 7.30pm for 8pm and is always pleased to welcome visitors.

On Thursday 7th March, Damon Guy will give a presentation on 'Abstracts, Patterns and Art in your Eyes'. On the 14th there will be a Club Print Competition on the theme of 'Urban Shapes'. This will be followed on the 21st with a Digital Projected Image Competition on the same theme. On the 28th the club will be hosting an inter club competition known as the Six Way Battle, competing against 5 other clubs from the local area with both prints and digital images. Please note the venue for this evening will be Benson Village Hall. Competitions provide an excellent opportunity to see club members work and hear the comments of an independent judge. In January the club enjoyed success in an inaugural "Battle" with Whitchurch Hill Camera Club, winning by a comfortable margin.

Visitors are most welcome to all club meetings.

More information can be found on the club website www.wallingfordphoto.club.

Michael Parrott

Benson Choral Society -Elgar's Kingdom

Benson Choral Society with the Elgar Orchestra and conductor Chris Walker have a strong affinity with Elgar's great oratorios which promises a convincing performance of this powerful work! They are joined by a fine band of soloists to perform at 7.30pm on Saturday 30th March.

Please note particularly the venue this time is The Oratory School in Woodcote, which itself has Elgar connections through its founder John Henry Newman.

Tickets are £18 or £15 (reserved) or £12 (unreserved) available online at www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk or phone Stephanie on 01865 407395.



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St Mary Magdalene's Church **Crowmarsh Gifford**

Team Vicar: The Revd Kevin Beer

34 Thames Mead

Tel: 01491 599873

Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EY

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

| Services for Ma | rch | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Sunday 3rd | 11am | Family Service | |
| Wednesday 6th | 8pm | Ash Wednesday Team Communion, St Leonard's Church, Wallingford | |
| Saturday 9th | 10am | Crowmarsh Community Café, Village Hall | |
| Sunday 10th | 11am | Parish Communion | |
| Sunday 17th | 11am | Parish Communion | |
| Sunday 24th | 11am | Family Communion | |
| Sunday 31st | 11am | Mothering Sunday Service | |
| Morning Drayer | overy Eridey et Oem | Evening Prover every Sunday at Ann | |

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

"Thank You!"

To those who committed to regular giving for the church – your support via the Parish Giving Scheme is much appreciated.

The church's role as a village asset serves the whole community: through our worship; Christenings, Weddings and Funerals; the Community Café; our involvement with the village's CofE primary school; and wider ecumenical initiatives such as the Food Bank and Street Pastors. With that in mind, March brings another opportunity to get involved...

The church's AGM (called the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)) will be held in April. To attend and vote at the APCM members must register on the church's Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll shows the membership of the church and is open to:

baptised adults (16 years)

who live in the parish (or have worshipped here regularly for at least 6 months) and are committed to being part of the life of the local Church of England congregation.

This year our Electoral Roll will be completely renewed. If you are interested in joining, application forms can be picked up at the church.

So why join? Enrolment is a way of saying...."I belong". For us it is an act of commitment to St Mary Magdalene's Church and the church as a whole. It opens the way for a greater involvement in the life of the church at parish, deanery, diocesan and national levels.

You are most welcome to join us or try us out first at one of the services listed above.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Benson Garden Club

As anticipated, tickets are proving to be in great demand for TV gardening celebrity Joe Swift's eagerly anticipated visit, on Thursday 4th April, when he will be talking to us about his Approach to Garden Design. They are however still available and may be purchased (for £10) from Wallingford Information Centre, Derry's Den and Revival in Benson, and Chalgrove Post Office.

In the meantime, everything will be coming up roses at our meeting on 7th March, when our speaker will be rose expert and current secretary of the National Rose Society, Ray Martin. Ray has been growing roses in his garden and on his allotment in Suffolk since 1974 and will, we are told, be telling us everything we ever wanted to know about this beautiful flower. So do come along for what promises to be a colourful evening. Visitors most welcome as always.

Both meetings start at 7.45pm in Benson Parish Hall (OX10 6LZ). For further information email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com.

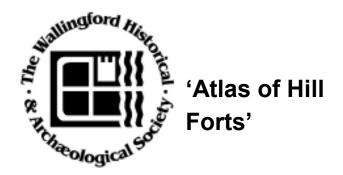
Sue Ryder Sale Dates

The next Sales of Donated Goods are on Saturdays 16th March and 6th April, from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

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

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

Phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or email chrisstrange47@gmail.com



Professor Gary Lock will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about the 'Atlas of Hill Forts' project.

For the first time the locations and details of all ancient hillforts in Britain and Ireland have been mapped and made available on a website. Ranging from well-preserved forts to those where only crop marks are left, information on 4147 sites is accessible to the public so they can discover details of the ancient sites they see in the countryside. As well as the research teams, members of the public and societies - 'citizen scientists' - collected data about the hillforts they visited, identifying and recording the characteristics of forts. which was then incorporated into the database by the team. Despite the name given to these monuments, not all hillforts are on hills, and not all were forts in the military sense. So, what have we learnt about these intriguing and often majestic Iron Age monuments? Gary Lock, co-director of this award-winning project will guide us through the results.

Our speaker is Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University of Oxford. Gary has spoken to TWHAS previously, about his 'Hillforts of the Ridgeway' project, looking at the White Horse at Uffington and Alfred's Castle.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 13th March 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan www.twhas.org.uk



A New Building and New Exhibition

This winter's frantic activity has now finished, and Wallingford Museum has a new timber Collections and Archaeology building, this frees up space within Flint House to create better accessibility with a new toilet for public use including disabled facilities, and the remodelling of working/storage areas to provide more flexibility for exhibitions and lecture room facilities. We are grateful for the support from Wallingford Town Council which owns the property and the EU funded LEADER grant which has funded much of the work. We very much hope that the new facilities will be appreciated by visitors of all ages and that you will be able to visit us to see them in the coming months.

Our special exhibition for 2019 is entitled: 'Once upon a time...' - the changing face of Wallingford.

This exhibition is about how we connect with times past by exploring Wallingford's history and archaeology. Wherever we live, the familiar surroundings of our houses, our streets and our town, can remind us of the people that came before us, their work and their lives shaping our present and our future. In this engaging journey of discovery throughout the museum, you'll be invited to share any local knowledge you may have and to reminisce about your own history. Old and young alike can enjoy 'hands on' activities, discovering the secrets of garden archaeology and tracing the passage of time through photographs and objects, all of which reflect the changing face of Wallingford.

The 'Family Friendly' exhibition will run throughout the museum, with a guide sheet and new 'hands on' experiences for children. In addition we have other exhibitions for 2019 including: 'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story'; 'The Wallingford Story'; 'At home with the Queen of Crime - Agatha Christie'; and the 'Midsomer Murders' display.

Our 2019 season opens on 1st March and runs until 30th November and the regular Saturday Town History walks begin on the 6th April. The admission charge remains at £5 per adult - this ticket gives unlimited access to the Museum for the whole season. Accompanied children are free.

Castle History walk

By popular demand on Saturday 30th March, an historic guided walk around Wallingford Castle has been arranged, which will be 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 discounted season ticket to the Museum (£10 combined). No need to book in advance. So, why not immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history for the day!

Judy Dewey 651127

Special Events for 2019

'Poos from the Past' workshops - 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th April

A Night at the Museum - 17th May and 25th October

Family Archaeology Day - 27th July Surprise event - 17th August Agatha Christie Weekend- 6th-8th Sept

For more information and tickets please visit the website. Lots of fascinating things to see and enjoy!

Steve Capel-Davies www.wallingfordmuseum.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 7th February

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, David Rowley, Andrew Johnson, Stuart Soames, Denise Hall, Fleur Stevenson and Patricia Millar, Sue Rance (Clerk) and Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and District Councillor Sue Cooper.

Apologies were received from Councillors Jones, Ryall and Topliss.

Matters from the previous meeting

The overgrown shrubs on the corner of the Portway and Cox's Lane have been pruned by the County Council. The replacement copper beech tree in Jethro Tull Gardens has been well watered: it must not be allowed to dry out. Cllr Sherbourne was thanked for his work on this project.

The seven replacement noticeboards have been delivered. It was agreed to accept Arrow Fencing's quote of £675 + VAT for installation

Finance

Payments made in November were approved including £6,830.70 to Greenbarnes for new noticeboards, payments to Scofell for work at the nature area and payments to Eibe for work and equipment on the new playground.

The financial summary to the end of December showed increased costs compared with last year, including £108,000 on the new playground. District Cllr Sue Cooper will chase up the late first instalment of the SODC grant for the playground. A payment is also expected from WREN in a few days.

It was agreed to donate £250 to the Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens' Advice and £150 to Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire.

The Finance Officer reported that the Berinsfield Community Business has lost the

SOHA contract and is ceasing to trade, but a sub-contractor is willing to continue with the Parish Council work this year and it was agreed to continue with them, subject to the required level of public liability insurance cover.

It was agreed to repair the kitchen shutter at a cost of £399 + VAT, the lowest quote.

Three quotes had been received for pressure washing the hard courts and the lowest quote of £450 with no VAT was accepted.

The Finance Officer reported that the Lloyds Bank account can now be used to make payments by bank transfer. Two signatories need to log in to approve online payments and the Finance Officer can view the account online. The Finance Officer will check with OALC that this arrangement is acceptable for Parish Councils.

District Councillor's report

Cllr Sue Cooper reported that there will be a slight increase in the District Council's council tax levy.

Consultation is taking place on the growth deal with central government to build 100,000 additional houses between 2011 and 2031 in exchange for money to be advanced for infrastructure, which would be recouped from developers in due course. The 'Oxfordshire Plan' consultation ends on 20th March.

The proposed development at the Newnham Manor site, which includes a pedestrian crossing of the A4074 Portway, should go back to the Planning Committee soon. SODC's Ben Coleman has offered to meet with the Parish Council to discuss plans for rebuilding the SODC offices. The Parish Council would like to see flexible buildings that could be used for community purposes out of hours. It would also be useful to be able to use car parking facilities for community events. Traffic speed controls will be needed in

Benson Lane when the new offices and the Bloor housing development are both built.

Planning

Decisions by SODC:

P18/S3694/HH (Householder) and P18/S3695/LB (Listed Building): Internal alterations to existing bathrooms, provision of new attic level WC, alterations to modern window casements, new external soil pipes and conservation roof light, enlarging window opening to rear elevation. Brook House, The Street, North Stoke, OX10 6BL: PERMISSION GRANTED.

P18/S3850/HH: Single-storey rear extension and associated internal alterations (as amended by plan PL100A showing the removal of the external boiler unit only). 8 Carmel Terrace, Mongewell, OX10 8BX: PERMISSION GRANTED.

P18/S4045/FUL: Detached 2-bed dwelling with integral double garage. Resubmission of P18/S1866/FUL. Land adjacent to The Old Coach House, The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EH: PERMISSION GRANTED.

Parish Council responses to SODC:

P18/S4138/RM: Reserved matters application for the erection of 150 dwellings to include appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, pursuant to outline permission P16/S3608/O, appeal reference APP/Q3115/W/17/3186858. Land off Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED: NO OBJECTIONS, but the following comments need to be taken into account:

- The layout of the site is not suited to integration and permeability with the whole village and could be seen to encourage the use of motor vehicles: Benson Lane is already congested at peak hours and has sub-standard junctions at each end, and speeding is also a problem here.
- The sustainable drainage system could cause flooding offsite, affecting the existing homes in Benson Lane and The Street.

P18/S4209/HH: Two-storey rear extension to form a ground floor family room and additional

bedroom at first floor. Infill extension to form downstairs WC with window. 3 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EU: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P19/S0022/FUL (Full Application): Construction of a steel portal framed building to be used as a grain store. Lonesome Farm, OX10 6PS: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

Application withdrawn

P18/S4026/N4C: Change of use from agriculture to B8 storage and distribution for Barn A (Hay Barn) and Barn B (Grain Barn). Blenheim Farm Barns, Icknield Way, OX10 6PR.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair of Planning and Dr Robins have met with SODC's Ricardo Rios and Cheryl Soppet to discuss the Statutory Environmental Assessment (SEA) as it applies to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Local Plan

The Chair of Planning will submit the Council's response to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. The Parish Council agreed to support Culham Parish Council's petition objecting to the proposal for major housing development at Culham in the Oxford Green Belt.

Environment & recreation ground committee

It was agreed to hold a litter pick in Crowmarsh on Saturday 16th March, on the same day as the one in Wallingford. This will be advertised to seek volunteers to help.

Update on playground project

Good progress is being made on building the new playground. Landscape planting will be done by Green and Tidy. Improvements to the path surface will provide better disabled access and improved surfacing around the roundabouts has also been recommended. After discussion an additional contingency of £10,000 was agreed to cover possible small cost increases, subject to ratification. The Parish Council has the resources to cover this additional expenditure if needed.

It is proposed that the official opening will take place on Sunday 7th April at 1pm subject to agreement with SODC, with a reserve date of Sunday 14th April. A vote of thanks was made to Councillors Johnson and Rowley for all their work on this project.

The next Environment and Recreation Management Committee meeting will discuss car park access and changes to the pavilion front door lock as well as hirings.

Traffic and transport

Cllr Hall had researched solar-powered radar speed signs to be sited on the A4074 and The Street in Crowmarsh Gifford. Cllr Sherbourne offered to research the alternative of hardwired electric signs.

The next Parish Transport Representatives' meeting would be on 20th February.

Strategic priorities

The proposed pedestrian crossing at Portway on the A4074 remains at the top of the council's strategic priorities list. Oxfordshire County Council has agreed to a crossing here but not to pay for it.

Outside bodies

Cllr Johnson reported that the Emery Owen Trust had received a complaint about tree pruning next to the allotments. This work had been carried out in response to a request from neighbours.

Cllr Sherbourne reported that Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall Committee was planning an extension to the village hall. An article will be published in Crowmarsh News inviting volunteers to join a fundraising committee.

Correspondence

- Neighbourhood Policing newsletter.
- Notice of the Annual Flooding Forum in London on 2nd April.
- Wallingford Rowing Club has events planned for Saturday 28th September and Sunday 1st December.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th

March at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Elections for parish and district councils are to be held on Thursday 2nd May.

What's On: Wallingford Corn Exchange

Cinema

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm and tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated. Please visit www.cornexchange.org.uk for further updates on screenings.

2nd & 3rd March 7:30pm Vice (15)

4th & 5th March 7:30pm A Private War (15)

6th & 7th March 7:30pm All is True (12A)

8th &10th March 7:30pm Green Book (12A)

12th March 7:30pm The Favourite (15)

13th & 14th March 7:30pm Instant Family (12A)

15th March 7:30pm The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part (PG)

22nd & 23rd & 24th March 7:30pm On the Basis of Sex (12A)

25th March 7:30pm Disobedience (15)

Live Shows

Friday 1st March 8pm Comedy Night - A double bill from impressionist Josh Berry and comedian Tom Lucy. Tickets £12.

Saturday 9th March 8pm Big Band - Blake's Heaven Big Band Theory 'Evolution', a 17-piece Big Band ensemble playing funk, jazz, swing and pop. Tickets £15.

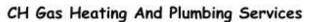
Saturday 30th March 8pm Dietrich: Natural Duty - An intoxicating one-(wo)man show revealing the life of a legend. Tickets £12.

Dead Funny— 10th-13th April Sinodun Players present the comic play by

Terry Johnson. When the members of the Dead Funny Society learn that Benny Hill has died, they decide to honour him with a memorial get together. Set in 1990s London, an hilarious and poignant comedy about morality and marriage. Warning: Over 15s only - scenes of a sexual nature and some strong language.

Tickets: Adults £12





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WHAT'S ON — March 2019

| 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 or Market Place, 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 | Different times | Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford | Different places | |
| Every Sunday | 11.00 onwards | Parish Communion. Family service on the first Sunday of the month | St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh | |
| This month | | | | |
| Sunday 3rd Mar | 13.30 onwards | CTC 25 mile cycle ride | Meet Town Square | |
| Wednesday 6th Mar | 14.00 onwards | U3A: Great British Poster Artists | Crowmarsh Village Hall | |
| Thursday 7th Mar | 19.30 onwards | Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting | Crowmarsh Village Hall | |
| Saturday 9th Mar | 10.00-12.00 | Crowmarsh Community Café | Crowmarsh Village Hall | |
| Wednesday 13th Mar | 19.45 onwards | Henley Philatelic: Auction | Bix Village Hall | |
| Wednesday 13th Mar | 19.45 onwards | TWHAS: Atlas of Hill Forts | St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford | |
| Friday 15th Mar | 19.30 onwards | Local History Talk: Victorian North Stoke and Surrounding areas | North Stoke Village Hall | |
| Saturday 16th Mar | 10.00 | Crowmarsh Spring Clean - Litter Clearance | End of Thames Mead | |
| Saturday 16th Mar | 10.30 onwards | Sue Ryder Sale | Nettlebed | |
| Sunday 17th Mar | 13.30 onwards | CTC 30 mile road ride | Meet Wallingford Market Place | |
| Wednesday 27th Mar | 19.45 onwards | Henley Philatelic: Aspects of South Africa | Bix Village Hall | |
| Saturday 30th Mar | 14.30 onwards | Historic Guided Walk, Wallingford Castle | Meet at Wallingford Museum | |
| Saturday 30th Mar | 19.30 | Benson Choral Society: Elgar's Kingdom | The Oratory School, Woodcote | |
| April | | | | |
| Saturday 6th April | 10.30 onwards | Sue Ryder Sale | Nettlebed | |
| Sunday 7th April | 13.00 | Crowmarsh Playground and Outdoor Gym: Grand Opening | Crowmarsh Recreation Ground | |