



Issue 498

March 2020

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.

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, Doug German and 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 next 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

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A Crowmarsh play area Odyssey

I took over from John Bellamy as chair of the environment and recreation committee of the Parish Council in 2012. Our committee focused on getting the pavilion shipshape and reducing its running costs. We added solar panels, more insulation, an efficient boiler, low energy lighting, new carpets and chairs. Then Stuart Soames asked, 'have you noticed our dilapidated play area and how much we are paying to maintain it?' On a wet lunchtime in March 2017 I went to review our maligned play area. Two things hit me: firstly, the wood was disintegrating and, secondly, I was the chair of the recreation committee!

I knew the Parish Council did not have enough funds to purchase a first class play area. However, there were grants that could be applied for, so this was not a hopeless situation. It was clear we needed a demonstration of community support. With the help of our local shop, the school (thanks Mrs Barton) and the Crowmarsh website (thanks Fleur) we soon received a handsome response of enthusiasm for a new play area (and outdoor gym) from young and old residents. I pulled all this information into a series of graphs. At this point my efforts became supercharged thanks to the energy and determination of fellow councillor David Rowley and Michelle Reynolds (a school parent) and further support from the school and the Crowmarsh community café. David encouraged us to think big because applying for a large amount of money was usually no more onerous than applying for a

small amount! We were wowed by the design from Ebie using ideas from David's research, and this entailed a planning application which David successfully saw through with his ingenious flood alleviation plan. David had been impressed by the Abingdon play area done by Ebie but thought of many ways we could do even better!

In January 2018 David and I started the online application for our grant money. I would arrive at work an hour early every day to focus on the application. Our major applications to SODC and the WREN (Landfill tax fund) came to over 200 pages each, including a minimum of 40 separate attachments. These included everything from our constitution, to bank statements, site safety reports to management structure, community support analysis to detailed publicity plans! Together with Parish Council funds, a grant from Fields in Trust/ Active spaces and donations from local people and businesses we knew it was possible to reach our target of just over £200k. David presented our proposal to the SODC grant committee and we expected to get 75% of the grants we asked for. However, we were delighted to learn we had succeeded in getting 100%. We were complemented on the diversity of the vision, going from tunnels for toddlers to outdoor gym for older residents. But if I had thought that I could now sit back and enjoy the construction I was shortly to be disabused of that notion! More documents were needed, and the Parish Council would be paid in arrears based on satisfactory reports, photographs, invoices and publicity activities. Nevertheless, Ebie started in January 2019 and their work

was managed by Michelle O'Donnell of Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and assisted by Chris Strange our Caretaker and David. Although the Parish Council was swiftly running out of money it was exciting to see the construction happening. I loved seeing children pressing their faces against our security fences as the play area took shape!

Finally, the great day of the opening arrived, and we could breathe a temporary sigh of relief. The problems of parking and toilets for a popular play area became part of our 'rewards for success'. However, the true reward for everyone involved in the project remains the happy sounds that emanate from the play area daily, together with the contented faces of parents. If I feel a bit down from a heavy day at work, I cycle home via the path alongside the play area and invariably arrive home with a smile on my face!

Andrew Johnson

Crowmarsh Pre-School Quiz Night

We are delighted to be hosting a Quiz Night on Saturday 28th March at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall at 7pm. Tickets will be £10 per person (including admission and food). We will run a silent auction throughout the evening.

Please put the date in your diary and start to get your teams together (a maximum of 8 people per team). Last year's quiz was a huge success – let's make this one another night to remember!

Sue Ryder sales of goods

The last two Sales of Donated Goods are on Saturdays 7th March and 28th March, 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.

Toc H - nearly new clothes swap

The Toc H movement started in 1919 and it grew to a national and international movement which acts on the principles of Friendship, Service, Fair-mindedness and Reconciliation.

Membership is open to all those who agree to those principles and try to live their lives by them.

A Toc H Group is being started in Crowmarsh and our first action is to have a nearly new clothes swap which will take place at the April Community café on Saturday 11th April. Please bring unwanted or outgrown nearly new clothes and swap them. There will also be information on the new Toc H group and its plans. To learn more go to our website at www.toch-uk.org.uk.

Recycling centres - temporary closures for deep clean

During March and April, your Household Waste Recycling Centre will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance.

Closing dates:

- Oakley Wood (Wallingford) - Tuesday 31st March & Wednesday 1st April
- Redbridge (Oxford) - Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th March

Full details can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure including details of your nearest site during closures. Thank you in advance for your patience. For those residents with van or trailer permits, please note these can be used at any of our centres.



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Wallingford Museum in 2020

Wallingford Museum re-opens on 3rd March with two new special exhibitions, and many family-friendly events.

'Plague, Pus and Pills' is our main exhibition. It traces the history of Wallingford's hospitals from medieval times to the present day. Its portrayal of the challenges of dealing with leprosy, smallpox, as well as more common illness, brings the past vividly to light. Don't be squeamish – come and explore our fascinating exhibition and find out just how lucky we are to live in the 21st century!

Our second exhibition of 'Willis family of Wallingford - artists and artisans' brings to life the work of a local family. The Willis family came to Wallingford from Hagbourne in the early 19th century living and working in what is now The Dolphin public house. An industrious Quaker family, all of their six sons had artisan or professional careers. This exhibition spotlights the careers of George an artist, and William whose main business was engraving and inventing ways to fix early photographs.

Our first family-friendly event will be 'Can You Face It' during the school Easter holidays. Create your own facial reconstruction at one of our workshops being held on 7th, 9th, 14th and 16th April. We have the 'skulls', play dough and know how! Children FREE with adults (£5 season ticket). Early online booking advised at: www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Stu Darby

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Please use the parish website for news and updates about local matters
<http://crowmarshgifford.org.uk>

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



TWHAS Talk



Tim Allen's (Oxford Archaeology) topic will be 'New light on Wallingford's southern suburb: excavations at the former Police Station, Reading Road'. Excavations in advance of redevelopment have revealed a settlement of the late Saxon and Norman periods outside the south gate of the defended burh. Pit clusters and ditches suggest a series of plots alongside the road leading out of the burh, and several half-celled buildings were found, two of which were particularly well-preserved. Finds indicate domestic settlement, and that the inhabitants were involved in several cottage industries, the most important being textile processing. The evidence will be discussed to see what it adds to the recently published 'Burh to Borough' project, and in the context of excavations of similar sites at Oxford and Winchester.

Oxford Archaeology's Tim Allen is well known to TWHAS and we were delighted that he was the archaeologist for this site.

This talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be held on Wednesday 11th March, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan
www.twhas.org.uk

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

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

NHS telephone numbers

Emergency number 999

NHS non-emergency number 111

South & Vale District Councils' new HQ



On Saturday 14th March Councillor Andrea Powell will be hosting an exhibition at the Community café in Crowmarsh Village Hall with the design concepts for the South and Vale district councils' new HQ on display. Last year South Oxfordshire District Council asked its Crowmarsh neighbours and the wider community for our thoughts about what kind of building we would like to see on their former site. Our feedback, alongside that of staff and councillors, has been used to help create the design for this new building.

Sustainability is at the heart of this exciting project and Andrea will be available to talk more about how this has been incorporated as well as other aspects of the design.

- ♦ **Location:** Community Café, Crowmarsh Village Hall,
- ♦ **Date:** Saturday 14th March
- ♦ **Time:** 10.30am – 12.30pm

Past Times

During the week beginning the 1st of September 1798 a subscription was started in Wallingford to raise funds for the widows and children of sailors killed in the Battle of the Nile, one of Nelson's greatest victories. The battle between the French and British fleets over trade routes, was fought just one month earlier in Abu Qir bay in the Mediterranean near Alexandria in Egypt.

The sum raised was £61-8s-6d, of which a third was raised by the inhabitants of Crowmarsh. The money was sent to Lloyd's Coffee House in London, by John Hedges, the Town Clerk of Wallingford.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who sent me Get Well Cards and their best wishes for a speedy recovery. You don't know what a difference those wishes made - thank you all very much.

David Beasley

Get your waste to the right place

A new and magical hero is in town to kill the confusion around recycling. The Waste Wizard is a new online tool that's here to provide a magical solution to help Oxfordshire residents in their quest to solve the riddle of household waste and defeat General Waste.

Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated, recycled, if it needs to go into a specific bin or can be disposed of at a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Go to: oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard

Litter blitz, Saturday 14th March

Crowmarsh parish councillors and residents will be joining with Wallingford's 1155 charity on Saturday 14th March, ahead of the nationwide Great British Spring Clean, to clear our streets, roads, paths and hedgerows of litter to make the village look clean and tidy.

Please join in this community activity if you can. Look out for final details on posters, but volunteers are expected to meet at the end of Thames Mead by the Horse Chestnut tree, or by the Queens Head, at around 10am. Some equipment will be provided but please wear robust footwear and warm clothes.

Accompanied children welcome.

Wallingford U3A

Jack Telling, our February speaker, enthusiastically reminded us that for a hundred years canals provided the fastest and most efficient form of transport, for people and freight, in the UK. Canals brought coal to static steam engines in mines and mills, powering the Industrial Revolution. But the railways killed the canals, and one by one canals were abandoned and left to rot. By the mid 20th Century rural canals had become marshy havens and urban canals septic dumping grounds for refuse and dead cats.

In the 1970s, people began to consider what canals might offer for leisure, education and the environment. Jack became enthralled by the possibilities, and he held us spellbound with the story of his family's involvement in the on-going restoration of the Thames and Severn canal. This wonderful canal was opened in 1779 linking the two Rivers to the 2,500 miles of waterways in the Midlands and the North. It was abandoned to dereliction in 1954.

Twenty years later a great restoration project began. Jack became treasurer and explained the costs were, and still are, staggering. Volunteers have raised millions of pounds for the project. Volunteer skilled tradesmen have taught volunteers hosts of skills. The Prince of Wales and Princess Anne have supported the project.

From the West the reconstruction has reached Lechlade. Jack hopes to see it completed, a year ahead of schedule, in 2039, the year he will be 100! Thanks, Jack, and good luck.

Our speaker on 4th March will be George Verdon on "The World of Hot Air Balloons".

On 24th March we are going to the Churchill War Rooms in London. For details contact Hermione on 01865 858 024.

There are still a few tickets available for the lunch and matinee at Sonning Theatre on Saturday, 27th June.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome. Our programme for 2020/2021 will be

available at the March meeting. For more information about what we do please visit our website: u3awebsites.org.uk/Wallingford or phone Jill on 835 944

Benson Garden Club

There's still time (just!) to buy your ticket for horticulturalist and television gardening presenter Frances Tophill's talk, 'Right Plant, Right Place', on Thursday, 5th March: just £10 from Derry's Den and Maison White in Benson, Wallingford Information Centre and Posies Florist in Chalgrove, or by emailing bensongardeningclub@gmail.com. It promises to be a very popular evening, so don't delay!

Our last indoor meeting, before we embark on our programme of summer visits, will be on 2nd April, if you're partial to a spot of nostalgia and enjoy some audience participation, do come along and join David Holmes 'Raking up the Past'. David will be bringing a selection of antique garden implements and inviting us to guess what they have been used for, before telling us the stories behind them.

We meet at Benson Parish Hall, with doors opening at 7pm for a 7.45pm start. Further information about the club can be found on our website: bensongardeningclub.weebly.com.

Benson Choral Concert

Vaughan Williams' epic Sea Symphony is a landmark in British choral music of the early 20th century. It is not often performed because of its huge scale, so please join us, along with the Elgar Orchestra and soloists Lorena Paz Nieto and Stephen Gadd, all under the skilful baton of our guest conductor Richard Laing.

And you get a big bonus when our accompanist, Anita D'Attellis, takes centre stage to play Grieg's Piano Concerto.

The concert will be in Dorchester Abbey at 7.30pm on Saturday 14th March. Tickets are £18 or £15 (reserved) or £12 (unreserved) online at www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk or call 01865 407395.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club allows people of all ages and levels of experience to meet like-minded individuals and learn how to improve their photography through conversations with other members, presentations by visiting speakers, practical evenings and regular competitions. The club meets every Thursday at 7.30pm for an 8pm start (7.45pm start on competition evenings) at Crowmarsh Pavilion.

In March we will have a two-part talk by Brian Worley on the topics of "Live Shoot with a Single Light" and "Compacts" on the 5th. Then on the 12th there will be a competition on the subject of "Reflections". The 19th will be a practical evening and on the 26th we will have our annual "battle" competition against Whitchurch Hill Camera Club.

See www.wallingfordphoto.club for more information and come along to a meeting – visitors are always welcome!

Emily Dunn

Play Pétanque - a sport for all

Active sport is good for everyone, and Pétanque is one sport that people of all ages and abilities can play. We have a club in Wallingford called Pétanque Wallingford (the only club in Oxfordshire) and the purpose-built floodlit Boulodrome is in Wallingford Sports Park, in Hithercroft Road. We are open 12 months of the year and meet 5 times a week. We are part of the Thames Valley Region and play with clubs both in our region and other regions in the country.

Come along to the Boulodrome on Sunday 29th March at 10.45 or Tuesday 31st March at 9.45 for free tasters. Then from Wednesday April 8th the club will be offering a course (£10) for 3 successive Wednesdays for new players to learn how to play (with qualified coaching). It's a great way to meet new people, make friends and get some fresh air into the bargain.

To register for the free taster or the course visit our website www.petwal.co.uk and click on 'New to the Game?'. No need to bring boules. Newcomers are welcome to join the club which has a regular programme of activities, covering social games and competitions.

Sustainable Living Fair

Are you looking for ways to decrease your carbon footprint/live more sustainably/use less single-use plastic? Are your children or grandchildren asking you what you are doing about climate change?

Come and share ideas about how to reduce our impact on the environment and what we can do to persuade government and business to react faster to the developing climate and environmental emergency. Find out more about green finance, tree planting, repair and repurposing, car sharing, growing your own food and many other ways of making your life more sustainable.

Talks include "My Upcycled Life", "Saving our Bees", "the Joys of Being an Ex-Car Owner" "the Power of Solar" and Timi from "Ribizli" will be demonstrating vegan recipes from 3.30pm.

We shall be setting up from 1.00pm, so, if you would like to join us for a Bring-and-Share lunch, just bring a contribution.

Saturday 7th March 2 -4.30pm at St Mary-le-More Church, Market Place, Wallingford.

Contact us as at slfwallingford@yahoo.com.

CTC Wallingford

There will be two rides in March on the 1st and 15th, departing from Wallingford Market Place.

Further details are available on our website (www.ctcwallingford.org.uk) and Facebook page (log in required, www.facebook.com/groups/wallingfordctc).

If you have questions about any of the above or other aspects of CTC Wallingford please email us - info@ctcwallingford.org.uk

We hope to see you on a ride soon. Happy cycling!



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marketing marketing area across Berkshire & Oxfordshire, in 2018 we were successful in securing the UK's leading property portal, awarded for another consecutive year making this Warmingham & Co had successfully agreed once again to be the property portal of choice for the region. This is a testament to our commitment to our clients and our reputation for excellence in the industry. We are proud to be a member of the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) and the National Association of Property Management (NAPM).

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Team Vicar: The Revd Kevin Beer

34 Thames Mead

Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EY

Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services for March

Sunday 1st	11am	Family Service (St David's Day)
Sunday 8th	11am	Parish Communion
Saturday 14th	10.30am– 12.30pm	Crowmarsh Community Café, Village Hall
Sunday 15th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 22nd	11am	Mothering Sunday Family Communion
Sunday 29th	11am	Parish Communion

Morning Prayer every Friday at 9am Evening Prayer every Sunday at 4pm (6pm in BST)

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

March brings us Springtime and daffodils, reminding us to celebrate St David's Day on the 1st of the month at our Family Service, which will feature some great Welsh hymns! We also use daffodils in our Mothering Sunday posies.

Traditionally, Mothering Sunday (22nd March) was a special occasion because workers were allowed time off to return to the place of their upbringing - their mother church, where they were baptised and to the community which raised them. Remember the African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child". This is true also for us in Crowmarsh, with our Pre-School, Primary School, Cubs, Scouts, and Football Club leading the way. Thus, 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.

One of the earliest talks that I remember in church was from a scientist who was also a Christian and saw no conflict between his work and his faith. As his illustration he used a simple daffodil and explained that the daffodil

stem is of great interest to scientists and engineers because of its ability to survive strong winds. Its special structure: the twisted, helical shape and an elliptical cross section, has been found to reduce drag and eliminate side-force fluctuations which have brought disaster to man-made constructions such as chimneys and bridges. The daffodil's "vortex-shedding" ability has inspired sports aerodynamicists too, influencing designs of golf club shafts and motor-racing suspension struts.

I hope such things will be of interest to dads, children and mums at our "Posy Party" on Saturday 21st March from 2.30pm in church, where we will prepare bunches of flowers for all the mother figures in our lives, so please join us, and bring some flowers or greenery.

Blessings, Rev Kev

**Pictures, logos and display ads for the
Crowmarsh News.....**

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Henley & District Philatelic Club

If you enjoy doing research of any kind why not give philately a go? Stamps, Covers (envelopes), Airmails and Postcards all come under its umbrella. There are so many subjects that can be covered and you can do as much or as little research as you want.

- March 11th: Henley's popular Auction, non-members welcome. There is a coffee interval and time for a chat with members and visiting bidders.
- March 25th: Members from Thatcham Philatelic Society visit Henley to give displays.

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

British Modern Military History Society (BMMHS)

The BMMHS was formed about a year ago and we hold monthly talks on military history of the last 200 years. Our talks are given by historians, writers, academics and former military personnel and to date have covered topics from Nelson's time through the two World Wars to the Cold war and the Falklands conflict.

Our next two events are:

- Wednesday 11th March Speaker: Bill Pyke (historian), Sir John Slessor – Unsung Cold War Strategist, architect of British Airborne Nuclear Deterrence.
- Wednesday 8th April Speaker: Gary Sheffield (Prof. War Studies) Amateur Soldiering tradition in Britain and the Empire 1899-1945.

We have close links with the Royal British Legion and contribute to a military charity from the proceeds of each talk. If you are

interested do join us, you can be assured of a warm welcome and an interesting and informative time.

Venue: Main Hall, Woodcote Village Hall, Reading Road, Woodcote, RG8 0QY.

Start time: 7.30pm doors open at 7pm.

Ticket price: £8 per talk, cash only payable on the door (includes light snacks, refreshments, and parking).

To book a place for a talk and to avoid disappointment, please contact us by email on info@bmmhs.org and we will confirm availability. For more information visit our website at www.bmmhs.org or sign up to our Facebook page.

Citizens Advice Wallingford

Outreach Drop-in services: *Wallingford Baptist Church* Tuesday 10am-1pm & 1.30pm-4pm and *96 Wilding Road* Friday 10am-1pm. For more details visit www.caox.org.uk or call 0300 3309 042.

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Venue: Cholsey Scout Hall (behind the Red Lion Pub)

Dates and Times: Please contact Emma for start dates and costs



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What's on at Wallingford Corn Exchange

Cinema

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm and tickets are £8 for Adults and £5 for under-15s unless otherwise stated. See www.cornexchange.org.uk for further updates or call the box office on 01491 825000 (open in the evening from 7 - 8pm and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays and Saturdays).

- Sunday 1st March 7:30pm *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood* (PG)
- Monday 2nd March 7:30pm *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood* (PG)
- Wednesday 4th March 7:30pm *Little Women* (PG)
- Thursday 19th March 7:30pm *Parasite* (15)

Live screenings

Tuesday 3rd March 7:30pm, *Riverdance* 25th Anniversary.

Recorded live from Dublin. Tickets £12.50 (adults), £10 (seniors and under 18s)

Live shows

Tuesday 10th March to Saturday 14th March 7:30pm with a matinee on Saturday 2:30pm. *Guys and Dolls*, a joint production by the Corn Exchange and Crescendo Music. Tickets £19 and £17 (adults), £17 and £15 (under 16s)

Coming soon

- Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th April, 7:45pm: A Sinodun Players production of Agatha Christie's play, *A Daughter's A Daughter*. Tickets £12 (adults) £8 (under 15s)
- Wednesday 29th April 7:15pm Royal Ballet: *Swan Lake*, Recorded live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Full details: <http://www.cornexchange.org.uk>

A Daughter's A Daughter by Agatha Christie

Sinodun Players present Agatha Christie's intense family drama, written in 1956 under the pen name Mary Westmacott, a play that gave her freedom to experiment without the attention and expectation from her mystery writer fame. It allowed Christie to explore relationships and families in a personal way, often using characters and plot points from her life.

The play explores what happens when Anne Prentice, a widow, and Sarah her grown-up daughter, face the prospect of Anne wanting to remarry. The ensuing conflict and its resolution highlight the limited choices an ordinary middle class woman had for the pursuit of happiness, and how one poor decision could affect one's life forever.

Showing at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford on the 1st - 4th April. Tickets: £12 from Corn Exchange box office 825000 or from the website: www.cornexchange.org.uk.



Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency number 101

Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EX

tel. 838523, email johngriffin@phonecoop.coop

Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, email crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php>

Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 6th February 2020

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, David Rowley, Ken McCrea, Liz Ryall, Andrew Johnson, Fleur Stevenson, Sue Rance (Clerk), Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer). SODC Cllr Andrea Powell, OCC Cllr Mark Gray and one member of the public for part of the meeting.

Apologies were received from Jon Grove, Gaynor Hopkins, Julian Park and David Topliss.

Finance

Payments approved included £1098 for grass cutting and landscape management at Newnham Murren churchyard in 2019.

Payments in January came to £2292; receipts including VAT were £2762. County Cllr Gray was thanked for his grant of £1000 towards the new speed indication device.

We agreed to continue with the current grass

cutting contractor, who had done a good job and will maintain the price, but it was noted that the play area at Robert Sparrow Gardens was not cut at all last year. The charges for cutting the North Stoke recreation ground will be reduced this year.

A grant request from Citizens Advice Bureau will be discussed at the next meeting. CAB reported that 49 Crowmarsh Gifford residents had received advice in 2018/19 at a cost of £1764.

We discussed detailed proposals from the Environment and Recreation Committee and the council authorised spending up to £10,000 to have plans drawn for new accessible toilets and other improvements to the pavilion, retaining two full changing rooms and re-organised changing facilities for match officials. The plans would include:

- ♦ Dividing changing room 3 to create two new toilets with external access (one for disabled and baby change) and extending the external ramp landing.



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- ♦ Converting changing room 4 into a meeting room.
- ♦ Extending the kitchen into part of changing room 1 and moving the existing showers into the adjoining storeroom.
- ♦ Replacing internal doors to meet disability access requirements.

County Councillor's report

The County Council budget will be agreed in the next week. An extra £30 million is planned for social services, plus more money for schools from new housing developments and £30 million for roads in the coming year, with more for road safety over the next ten years. The Council Tax for the County Council will increase by 3% this year, following government permission to add 1% for social services over the cap of 2%.

Cllr Gray will follow up the lack of action by the County Council officers on parking restrictions at Stephens Field and the Riverside Park access. He will contact Oxfordshire Highways about lane markings at the Mongewell roundabout. He reported that Jewson's delivery drivers are expected to park at the layby near Fairmile in Cholsey if they are ahead of their appointed delivery time.

District Councillors' report

The District Councillors' report included the unresolved situation on the Local Plan, the proposed council budget, an exhibition of designs for a new council headquarters building in Crowmarsh, action on fly-tipping and anti-idling, and reduced funding for neighbourhood planning groups.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P19/S4084/HH 45 Thames Mead Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8HA

Demolition of conservatory, replacement extension, partial garage conversion.

PLANNING PERMISSION

Consultation on applications

P19/S4434/HH Maple Croft Mongewell OX10 8BP Proposed garden building. Variation to

internal arrangement, window, door and materials. NO OBJECTION

P19/S4548/LB The Mill House The Street North Stoke OX10 6BL

Retention of consent for internal works to Grade II Listed Building including general refurbishment. NO OBJECTION

P19/S4659/HH 10 Wallingford Road North Stoke Wallingford OX10 6BB (Jon Grove's property) Ground and first-floor side extension and ground floor rear extension. NO OBJECTION

P19/S4673/FUL New lodge house adjacent to plot 5 Mongewell Park Mongewell OX10 8DA. RECOMMEND REFUSAL – too large a house on a cramped plot, projecting forward of the historic wall, with inadequate space for parking on site.

P20/S0267/FUL 'The Sycamores' - Land east of 206 Crowmarsh Hill Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG Erection of five dwellings and associated works. NO OBJECTION to the 5 energy-efficient houses, but concerned about damage to trees already inflicted. Cllr Ken McCrea declared an interest and took no part in the decision.

P20/S0296/RM Benson Lane Wallingford OX10 8ED

Reserved matters application for the erection of 150 dwellings pursuant to outline permission P18/S0827/O. [Duplicate application] Concern about poor integration with the village, traffic generation on Benson Lane and potential for flooding offsite (repeat of response to P18/S4138/RM).

P16/S3852/FUL Land south of Newnham Manor, Crowmarsh Gifford. Erection of 100 new residential dwellings including new access road off the A4074, public open space (full application) and provision of school land (outline). Amendments on 26th November, 18th December & 14th January. SUPPORT (by a majority vote): This is a well-designed housing scheme on a site that fits neatly within the village. Part of this site (the previously-developed land) was the favoured site for

housing in successive public exhibitions and surveys. Although partly in the AONB, this now has the support of the Chilterns Conservation Board. Traffic access is directly onto the main road network, rather than via village roads. The development provides a safe pedestrian and cycle Toucan crossing of the A4074 road that divides the village, reducing current car journeys to take children to school. Land will be given to the primary school for off-site parking and outdoor facilities, improving safety on Old Reading Road. Developer contributions should be sought towards construction of these facilities. This application will be resubmitted to SODC's planning committee in the coming months and the parish council and residents will have the opportunity to speak.

Neighbourhood plan

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report is now approved for publication on the web and the SEA assessing and reporting stages (scoping, reporting, drafting the plan) are clearer. The SEA Draft Report for Consultation can go live soon and we hope to go out to consultation in March after the documentation has been signed off by SODC and published on the parish website, although we still await comments from SODC, promised before Christmas, on the actual neighbourhood plan. Local exhibitions should be advertised for early April: the consultants O'Neill Homer have already prepared exhibition material for us.

Other planning matters

The following names were submitted for streets on the Benson Lane development (from 23 suggestions): French Gardens (reflecting the former French gardens across the road, where the council offices were built), Giffard (historical landowner), Willis (recent head of Wallingford School), Cromwell (whose soldiers were stationed here during the Civil War), Rush (one of the names on the village war memorial), McCulloch (founding director of the Institute of Hydrology), Little Hitchen (old field name) and Marshfield (field adjoining Marsh Lane).

Strategic priorities

A local resident expressed concern about the delay in providing a crossing at the A4074 Portway. The Parish Council have previously had drawings and some costings done and it remains our highest priority, but are awaiting a decision on the proposed Newnham Manor housing development which includes a Toucan crossing funded by the development. If the development does not go ahead, the council will look into other possible sources of funding with help from our County Councillor.

Cllr Soames felt that erecting white gates alongside the B4009 at North Stoke would not slow the traffic and that some form of physical feature such as a chicane would be necessary. Consideration will be given to providing speed indication devices (SIDs) and Cllr Ryall will investigate traffic calming installed at South Stoke.

Environment and recreation ground committee

The committee met on 20th January. Proposals for toilets and improvements to the pavilion are reported under finance above. Funding is anticipated from SODC for tree planting: ideas for locations and types of new trees are welcome. Discussions will be held with the Wallingford Wildlife Group and Earth Trust.

Traffic and transport

On 13th January a minibus had reversed into and destroyed a memorial bench outside the Bell. The Clerk will write to request compensation, estimated at £1000.

Other matters

Arrangements are in hand for the future management of Crowmarsh Village Stores when the current lease expires. The council agreed to apply to SODC to register the shop as an asset of community value to protect it in the long term.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 5th March, at 7.30pm. All welcome.

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WHAT'S ON — MARCH 2020

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
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Every Saturday	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion (Family service first Sunday of the month)	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
Various days	Different times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford	Different places

This month

Sunday 1st	09.30 onwards	CTC 26-mile cycle ride	Wallingford Market Place
Tuesday 3rd	14.00-17.00	Museum reopens	Flint House, Wallingford
Wednesday 4th	14.00 onwards	U3A: A World of Hot Air Balloons	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 5th	19.00 for 19.45	Benson Garden Club-Frances Tophill: Right plant, Right Place	Benson Parish Hall
Saturday 7th	10.30 onwards	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 7th	14.00-16.30	Sustainable Living Fair	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Wednesday 11th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: New Light on Wallingford's Southern Suburb	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Wednesday 11th	19.45 onwards	Henley Philatelic: Auction, open to public	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 14th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café : exhibiting design concepts of new SODC HQ building	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 14th	10.00 onwards	Crowmarsh Litter Pick	Thames Mead, Crowmarsh
Saturday 14th	19.30 onwards	Benson Choral Concert: Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony	Dorchester Abbey
Sunday 15th	09.30 onwards	CTC 33-mile cycle ride	Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 25th	19.45 onwards	Henley Philatelic: Thatcham Philatelic Society visit	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 28th	10.30 onwards	(The last) Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 28th	19.00 onwards	Crowmarsh Pre-School Quiz Night	Crowmarsh Village Hall

April

Wednesday 1st	14.00 onwards	U3A: Wheelpower-Transforming lives through the ages	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 2nd	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Sunday 5th	09.30 onwards	CTC 20-mile cycle ride	Wallingford Market Place

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