

Issue 476

May 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.

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—£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, John Griffin

Editorial support: Amanda Maher, Kirsty Dawson 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 June 2018 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our **20th May 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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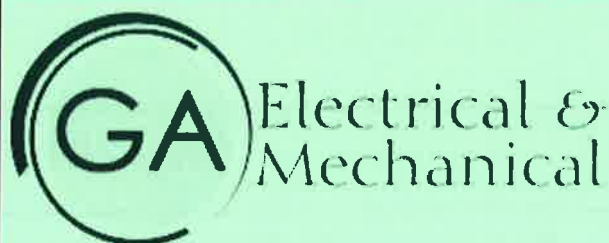


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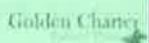
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Crowmarsh Pre-School News Water Vole Survey

Now the warmer weather is here (at least at the time of writing!) the children are enjoying spending lots of time outside. They are learning how to keep safe in the sun with a "Slip, Slop, Slap" – **slip** on a t-shirt, **slop** on some sun cream and **slap** on a hat!

We are busy fundraising to buy a new, much larger sandpit for our garden – one that can be enjoyed in all weathers! As we share our garden with the children from Class R, our current sandpit is far too small. As part of our fundraising, we will be running the bar at the Crowmarsh School Summer Fete on Sunday 20th May. Please do pop along and have a drink with us – all profits will go towards our sandpit.

Finally, as discussed in our previous article, we are now busy improving our Forest School site on the Owen and Emery Allotments. We have a long wish list of natural objects including straw, wood chippings, bark, bird seed, wood, clay, stones, sawdust and conkers. Please contact us on 526118 if you have any of these to spare. All donations gratefully received!

Best wishes from all the team at Crowmarsh Pre-School.

Flower Festival at St Mary Magdalene's Church

Our Flower Festival this year will be looking back to the ending of the Great World War in 1918. The theme will be 'Paths of Peace'.

The dates for your diary is Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June 2018 from 10am – 5.00pm.

Refreshments will be available and of course we will have our Grand Raffle.

If anyone would like to contribute to our Festival either by making a floral display or sponsoring a display, please call me on 836076.

Margaret Foster
Churchwarden

People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is calling on all wildlife enthusiasts to help monitor signs of the UK's disappearing water voles this Spring as part of its annual National Water Vole Monitoring Programme.

Affectionately portrayed as Ratty in childhood favourite book *The Wind in the Willows*, water voles were once a common sight along our riverbanks and waterways. However, over the last century they have experienced the most severe decline of any wild mammal in the UK as they face threats from invasive American mink, habitat loss, agricultural intensification and river pollution.

In response to this dramatic decline, PTES launched the National Water Vole Monitoring Programme (NWVMP) in 2015, appealing to members of the public to help look for signs and sightings of water voles. The annual survey started on 15 April 2018 and runs until 15 June.

Emily Thomas, Key Species Monitoring and Data Officer at PTES explains: "Volunteers are crucial to helping us collect robust data about the state of our water voles across the UK. We use the data gathered to monitor population trends year on year, which in turn help guide our conservation efforts and inform us where action is needed most."

Over 200 volunteers have taken part in the NWVMP since 2015, and last year volunteers collected data from 222 sites across England, Scotland and Wales, of which 82 had water vole signs present (48% of sites surveyed).

Volunteers are asked to survey one of the nearly 900 pre-selected sites across the UK, recording all sightings and signs of water voles along a 500m length of riverbank once during the two-month period. No prior experience is required, but volunteers will need to learn how to identify water vole field signs. Clear instructions on how to do your survey and a field signs ID guide, will be provided.

To find out more and to take part in the National Water Vole Monitoring Programme, visit: www.ptes.org/watervoles.

Past Times:

A workhouse money hoarder

from David Beasley

Wallingford's Workhouse has had many characters within its walls over the years, like Jimmy White, who was found sleeping under Wallingford Bridge with his wife and four children. Even though his wife and children left the Workhouse, Jimmy never did.

Another character was Shadrack Savage, born in January 1851 in Dorchester. His parents were Mary and Robert Savage: Robert worked as a general labourer in Dorchester. In June 1853 Shadrack's sister, Mary Emma, was born, but in 1856 tragedy struck: in April his mother died soon followed by his father in June. As no-one could be found to care for Shadrack and Mary they were admitted to Wallingford's Workhouse. In 1856 Shadrack's sister, Mary, also died.

Shadrack was to spend the rest of his life in the Workhouse: at the time of his death, in December 1901, he had been an inmate for 45 years. As an adult he worked as a messenger, running errands into Wallingford.

He was very careful with any money he earned: the money given to him would only be farthings, halfpennies or pennies. All this money he kept in the lining of one trouser leg, and over the years this accumulation began to weigh a considerable amount, causing him to lean to one side and walk with a limp.

The reason for his limp was only discovered when, in 1898, he was taken ill and his trousers were removed by the Workhouse nurse. Their considerable weight caused the trousers to be examined and the money was discovered. The money weighed some 14lbs (nearly 7kilos).

There is no record of what happened to the money, but it was noticed that Shadrack later walked without a limp and upright.

In his last few years he suffered with poor health and died of tuberculosis on 30th December 1901 aged 50, having moved into the Workhouse when he was just five.

Open gardens in North Stoke

If you are looking to spend an enjoyable afternoon in a pretty Thames-side village, then come and join us in North Stoke on Sunday 17th June between 2 and 6 pm, when twelve residents have kindly offered to open their gardens (including some new additions).

All the gardens are close together: three are particularly large with river and lake frontages, while others are small and interesting with individual delights to discover. Visitors in previous years have commented: "Fairy-tale beauty, stunning gardens, beautiful English gardens, a splendid afternoon with a superb cream tea!"

There will be an opportunity to meet the garden owners, to ask questions about plants, wildlife and the village, before relaxing with afternoon tea or a strawberry cream tea in the Village Hall. There will be home-made cakes and plant sales in conjunction with a local nursery.

The starting point will be the Village Hall (OX10 6BL) where tickets can be bought for £5 per adult (children free) – sorry no dogs! Group bookings can be arranged in advance: contact Judith.Soames@btinternet.com .

Special parking arrangements have been made for the day. All proceeds are for the Village Hall towards our proposal to install an accessible toilet for the less able, with a parent and child facility.

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The dates for the next sales of donated goods are Saturdays 19th May and 9th & 30th June – 10.30am to 12.30pm

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on weekdays between 9am and 4.30pm. We regret we are unable to accept goods on Sale day or the day before.

Volunteers are needed to select and allocate donated goods and to assist with Sales.

For further details call: 641384 extension 246 – Sue Ryder, Nettlebed Hospice, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 5DF.



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Henley and District Philatelic Society

May includes the club Annual General Meeting on 9th and, to make it more of an evening, members will be showing up to five favourite pages from their collections, so there will be a lot of variety on display.

On 23rd May (the President's Evening) our President has invited a guest speaker, Andy Donaldson, to give a display on 'Underprints': it promises to be a very interesting evening.

Hope to see you at Bix Village Hall at 7.45pm. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by telephoning 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 first.

We run relaxed rides on the first Sunday of each month, so why not join us on 6th May or 3rd June?

You don't need to be a Cycling UK member to take part, but 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 May in the What's On section on the back page.

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

Short Mat Bowls

takes place at the Pavilion on Tuesdays at 7pm and on Thursdays at 2pm. For more information, please call 837518

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

call Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or email cvhbookings@gmail.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 final meetings of the 2017-18 season will be this month. On 3rd May Leo Rich will give a presentation entitled "The Idle Rich Rambles On".

On 10th May the End of Season competitions will be held when the best colour print, best monochrome print and best digital image will be awarded.

The final meeting will be held on the 17th and this will be the club's Annual General Meeting.

We then break up for the summer recess and the new season will start in mid-September. In the meantime, the club will hold its annual exhibition on 1st September in St Mary's Church Hall.

The club has had a very successful season and would like to thank all the members and visitors for their support and looks forward to meeting up with everyone again in September.

For more information visit the club's website www.wallingfordphoto.club.

Michael Parrott

Benson Garden Club Plant Sale, Saturday 2nd June

Benson Garden Club will be holding their Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 2nd June from 9am until 12 noon, outside 6 College Farm, off Benson High Street.

There's always room for something new in the flower border or on the vegetable patch, so please tell your family and friends to come along, bring a bag and bag a bargain!

Refreshments in the form of tea, coffee and cake will be served in the garden, and we hope to have a cake stall too.

A share of the proceeds will be donated to the Millstream Day Centre.

Linda Parkin

Oxford to Cambridge growth corridor and expressway – How can we get our voices heard?

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is asking for public consultation on the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has backed the National Infrastructure Commission's concept of an Oxford to Cambridge 'Growth Corridor' of a million new houses, of which 300,000 would be in Oxfordshire.

That would be equivalent to six new cities the size of Oxford, or to put it another way would more than double our present housing stock and population by 2050.

Part of the scheme is a new Expressway road from Oxford to Cambridge to "facilitate" the development.

At the moment this transformative change is being proposed without any public consultation. CPRE Oxfordshire is demanding a full statutory public consultation followed by a Public Inquiry, at which the clear environmental and social costs of the Growth Corridor can be weighed against the potential economic benefits envisaged. This would also mean the need for and routing of any Oxfordshire Expressway would at least be decided in an open and transparent manner.

CPRE Oxfordshire is asking local residents to join its call for a Public Inquiry by contacting local councillors, MPs and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Find out more at www.cpreoxon.org.uk

[Facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire)

This article expresses the views of the local CPRE rather than the Crowmarsh News team.

School summer fête

For the third year, Crowmarsh Gifford School PTA are hosting their summer fête on Sunday 20th May, 9.30am - 1.30pm on the school field. The fête is supporting the Thames Run.

As usual, there will be loads of activities and refreshments on offer, from stalls and pony rides to tea and cakes, music, singing and maypole dancing!

This community and family event is organised by the PTA to raise funds to help the school and children with additional education and life opportunities.

There will be parking available in the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) car park on Benson Lane. The school is a short walk away.



District Council by-election

Following the resignation of one of our local district councillors, Richard Pullen, there will be a by-election for the Benson and Crowmarsh ward of South Oxfordshire District Council on Thursday 7th June.

Crowmarsh Community Café

The Community Café is proving a really popular addition to the village's social calendar, with around 60 people of all ages joining us last month for tea, coffee, cake, etc. However, the main reason for the café is for relaxed social interaction and conversation with our friends and neighbours.

There is no charge for entry, nor for the food and drink as the church offers this as a service to the community. However, donations are welcome and any surplus will be invested in local projects, such as a church toilet, new play equipment and the village hall.

The Café is usually held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, with the exception of May which will be on 5th May (the Bank Holiday Weekend). We hope to see you there.



Crowmarsh Deep Clean

South Oxfordshire District Council will be coming to Crowmarsh Gifford for four days from 29 May to 1 June. We will be litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds/moss on pavements.

We will not spray weeds, cut grass or vegetation or remove weeds and moss that is on roads and we only clear land to which the public is permitted access and that is under the direct control of the District Council.

If you have any queries or if you wish to point out areas that need attention, please contact Rebecca Jupp, Waste Business Support Assistant at SODC on 01235 422146.

Citizens Advice

Q: "I've heard a lot about people having problems with Universal Credit and don't know if or when I will have to apply. How can I find out?"

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Citizens Advice is aware that some people will struggle with the new system which came live in Oxfordshire South & Vale in early October last year. Our specially trained advisers can talk you through the rules and how to apply. If you have access to a computer, you can type "Universal Credit" into the search box on our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

If you'd like to speak to someone about this or anything else, call Adviceline on 03444 111444 or drop in to your local Citizens Advice.

Locations and opening hours of Citizens Advice offices in Oxfordshire South and Vale can be found at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/.

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Wallingford U3A

At our April meeting the inimitable Ken Fitt sang, played and talked us through the life and music of Nat King Cole. As ever it was a tour de force. Nathaniel Cole was born in Mississippi in 1919, one of 13 children of whom 5 survived to adult life. When he was four the family moved to Chicago to escape the crippling racial suppression of the Deep South.

Musically gifted, at ten he was playing for the hymns at his father's church. He was entranced by jazz. At eighteen he founded his own trio of bass, piano and guitar. He had also married Nadine. He began writing his own songs, and it was while he was giving a performance of "Sweet Lorraine" that a friend 'crowned' him with a paper crown and he became 'Nat King Cole'.

He was noticed early and was engaged by Capital Records. But by 1946 he had met Maria Ellington, for whom he left Nadine. She became the major influence in his life. All he had really wanted was to be a jazz pianist, but, fiercely ambitious, she insisted that he become a singer. Maybe she was prescient. Maybe we should be grateful. Nat earned huge amounts of money but paying steep alimony to Nadine and getting into a mess with the tax authorities meant that life was not always easy. He toured abroad and mixed with the rich and famous, but Maria controlled his life and lifestyle. She became a millionairess. Nat King Cole died in 1965 aged 44. His songs do not fade: "Nature Boy", "Mona Lisa", "Walking My Baby Back Home", "When I fall in Love", "Rambling Rose", the list goes on, "Unforgettable". Unforgettable! Thanks, Ken.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome for the talk, tea and a chat afterwards. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd May when Christopher Baines will speak on "Paul Nash and the Wittenham Clumps".

We are a small U3A but have another nine Interest Groups. For more information please visit our website www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford or phone Jill on 835994 or Hermione on 01865 858024.

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

Outings coming up:

May 16th: Isabella Plantation at Richmond Park and Osterley House (£22 including coach)

June 15th: Boat Trip from Runnymede to Windsor and back to Maidenhead.

Lunch Group: Sunday 15th April at the Coach and Horses in Chiselhampton. For details phone Margaret on 01865 340850.

Local Churches of Interest: South Stoke Church on Thursday 10th May. Guided visit then pub lunch or snack. For details phone Hermione on 01865 858024.

Science Exchange Wallingford

Our next meeting, presented by Andrew Charlton Perez and Graeme Marlton of the University of Reading, is called *Hidden Sounds: How they could help predict the weather*. It starts at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th May in Wallingford School Library, St George's Road, Wallingford.

Imperceptible to humans without specialist recording equipment, low-frequency sound waves are present throughout the atmosphere. Where do these waves come from? How are they linked to nuclear non-proliferation, and why in the future might we use them to improve our long-range weather forecasts? Not only will you learn all about these hidden sounds, but by coming along to Science Exchange Wallingford you might also get to hear them!

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. For more information visit www.cafescientifique.org.

To book North Stoke Village Hall

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



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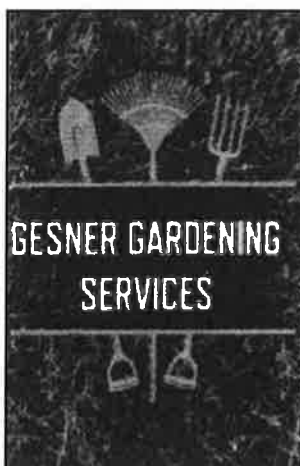
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34 Thames Mead

Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EY

Tel: 01491 599873

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services for May

Saturday 5th	10am-noon	Community Café at the Village Hall (Note this is 1 week earlier than usual)
Sunday 6th	11am	Family Service with Baptism
	3pm	Rogation (Team Service), Highland Farm, Brightwell
Thursday 10th	8pm	Ascension Day (Team Service) at St James' Sotwell
Sunday 13th	11am	Parish Communion
	4pm	Evening Prayer at St Mary's, Newnham Murren
Thursday 17th	7.30pm	Churches Together AGM at St Mary's, Cholsey
Sunday 20th	11am	Pentecost Festival Communion
Sunday 27th	11am	Family Communion

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am, Evening Prayer - every Sunday at 6pm (except 13th)

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

Hoorah! Summer has finally arrived and we avoided major flooding from what must have been some of the most prolonged "April showers" on record. This has hindered the farming year considerably with the delayed planting of spring crops and so it is especially appropriate that we mark Rogation Sunday with prayers for all our local farmers and with a blessing for the seeds they have planted. Therefore, we join the Wallingford Team at Highlands Farm in Brightwell for a special, family-friendly service, hopefully with good weather to tour the farm with prayers at appropriate points.

Also, our Evening Prayer Service on 13th May will have a more rural feel as we move to the church at Newnham Murren (at the earlier time of 4pm), where there will be the usual joyful singing of hymns.

Ascension and Pentecost fall in May, following Easter by 40 days and 50 days respectively (hence where Pentecost gets its name).

Ascension is celebrated much more widely in other Christian countries and we will not let it

pass this year without a suitable festival within the Wallingford Team, so please do join us at the lovely little church of St James' in Sotwell for a Team Communion.

The other summer event that we are looking forward to is our Annual Flower Festival on the weekend of 9th-10th June. This year, to mark the centenary of the end of WW1, all the flower arrangements will follow this theme, expressing ideas of peace, sacrifice and armistice. This will close on Sunday 10th June with a special "Songs of Praise" at 6pm.

Note that we will not be having stalls outside the Flower Festival this year, but instead these will be held over for an Autumn Fair on the afternoon of Saturday 15th September in the Village Hall. We anticipate that this will be a major village event, with a special dog show, bar, BBQ and music in addition to all the usual stalls, tombola, raffle, etc so please put that date in your diary.

Blessings,

Revd Kev

The Corn Exchange

CINEMA

Full listings on the Corn Exchange website. All regular performances normally start at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise. Tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated.

LIVE

Friday 4th May, 8pm, *Croft & Pearce Are Not Themselves*: Hannah Croft and Fiona Pearce return for an evening of sketch comedy: all tickets £12

Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th May, 7.45pm, Sinodun Players' production of Tom Stoppard's play, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*. All tickets £10

COMING SOON

Open Day, June 2nd

So you always wanted to know about the Corn Exchange but were always afraid to ask! Here's your chance to look behind the scenes, talk to people who volunteer, perhaps volunteer yourselves! The theatre will be open from 10am to 4pm and there will be people scattered about the building ready to tell you what goes on and how it works. We'll show you the new renovations and let you see some of the heritage now exposed. You can see how our plays are produced and much more. There will be some interactive workshops which you can join in with or perhaps just watch. Come and see this fabulous theatre and enjoy a cup of coffee, cake and ice cream. No booking required, just turn up. It's free entry of course!

Corn Exchange Drama Festival

10th to 15th June. Every night at 7.30pm

This is the last of the local drama festivals and features companies from all over the county and beyond.

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

Music at St Peter's Church, Wallingford

We're off! Our 2018 season of nine concerts kicks off on 12th May, and we have a brilliant headline act to start. The Sacconi String Quartet have been coming here for years, but now they are really famous – and still they come! Moreover they bring with them Robert Plane (clarinet) and Alec Frank-Gemmill (horn) so they can do a Mozart Horn Quintet, the Brahms Clarinet Quintet, and all playing together, the John Ireland Sextet.

Just a week later on 19th May, young virtuoso violinist Emmanuel Bach plays the classic JS Bach Sonata No. 2 for solo violin, and is joined by pianist Kumi Matsuo for sonatas by Prokofiev and Franck.

You can buy tickets at the door or online: go to www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk. Tickets bought this way cost £15. Or you can buy in person in advance from Just Trading, 17 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, or by post – that will cost £13 per ticket.

Pick up a brochure for full details from Wallingford Library or the Town information Centre, or call Laurence on 01865 343336, who will send you one, or visit our website. Think about a season ticket for the series for just £80.

All our concerts start at 8pm at St Peter's Church, Thames Street, Wallingford – these first two concerts will be very popular so get there in good time: seats are unreserved!

Roger Morgan for Music at St Peter's

Annual meeting of electors

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford CE Primary School on **Monday 14th May**, starting at 7.30pm.

This is not a parish council meeting, but an open meeting held every year for anyone to bring up any matters of interest or concern for discussion. Our parish, district and county councillors will report back to the community and residents can raise any issues, so please come if you can. There will be refreshments.



Wallingford Museum

A Night at the Museum

Wallingford Museum will have a special one-off evening opening at half price (Adults £2.50, children free as usual), on Friday 18th May (6pm to 9pm) offering a chance to see our current exhibitions and also take a look 'behind the scenes' at a time when we are usually closed. You can also find out more about how the museum is run and what opportunities there are to join the team of volunteers!

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Stu Darby

Wallingford Guided Town Walks

Guided Historic Town Walks have begun again on Saturday mornings, starting from the Town Hall at 11am. Walks last 1-2 hours and cost £5 per head, which will be used 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



Archaeology at Winterbrook

Carl Champness (of Oxford Archaeology) will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) on Wednesday 9th May, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford about the 'Excavations of a multi-period site with

Prehistoric and Early Saxon settlement in Winterbrook, Wallingford'.

The talk will discuss the preliminary results and finds from excavations undertaken over summer 2017 at Winterbrook, Wallingford. The work was undertaken as part of a proposed 2ha housing development that produced a series of settlement enclosures, round houses and burial remains.

An unexpected discovery of ten burials was also made during the excavation, along the length of a boundary ditch, which shared a similar alignment to a Bronze Age / early Iron Age enclosure.

Some of the burials were poorly preserved, but the better preserved ones indicated an unusual range of burial positions including crouched, prone and on their sides. The lack of grave goods, the location, the nature and position of the burials, may indicate deviant or execution burials.

The settlement appears to form part of a much larger prehistoric settlement that continued to the west for some distance and headed towards Slade End Farm. Iron Age activity was previously considered sparse within Wallingford, until the results of this and the nearby excavation at Slade End Farm become more widely known.

Carl Champness joined Oxford Archaeology in 2004. He has worked on many large infrastructure projects, including High Speed 1, Framework Archaeology, M25, Crossrail and Thameslink. Carl has also been lead geo-archaeologist for several nationally important early prehistoric wetland sites in London, Carlisle and East Sussex, and he actively promotes archaeological outreach through public talks, articles and open days.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk

Katharine Keats-Rohan

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

www.crowmarshgifford.org

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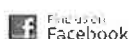
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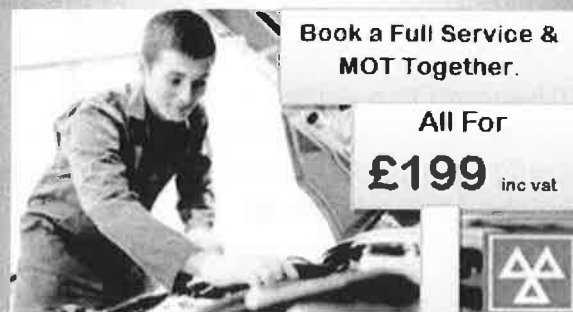
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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

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 29th March

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

County Councillor Mark Gray attended some of the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Mannering, Fleur Stevenson and David Topliss.

Matters arising from the 1st March meeting

Cllr Soames has discussed the culvert at North Stoke with County Councillor Gray and will arrange to meet with him.

Information has now been received about the new General Data Protection Regulation and will be circulated to councillors before the next meeting.

The Chairman has written to the District Council about possible community facilities that could be provided when the SODC offices on Benson Lane are rebuilt.

Finance

A schedule of payments was presented and agreed, including subscriptions of £70 to Community First Oxfordshire and £42 to Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association.

Invoices for allotment rents will be sent out soon: the annual rent for a full-size plot for the coming year will be £15, as agreed in 2017.

The Finance Officer will try to find out why the £10,000 grant from SODC for our Neighbourhood Plan has still not been paid.

It was agreed to allocate £19,250 from the council's funds for the playground project in addition to the £10,750 fee required to support

the WREN grant, if awarded. An application will be made to SODC for 50% of the cost of the project: the closing date is 26th April. Cllrs Johnson and Rowley and Mrs Michelle Reynolds had attended a Capital Grants Workshop on 8th March.

Planning

Decisions: The Council noted two decisions by SODC:

P18/S0406/LDP (Lawful Development): Formation of habitable room in roof space with side and rear dormers. 78 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ER: PERMISSION GRANTED.

P18/S0526/D: Demolition of fire damaged office building. South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8AX: PERMISSION GRANTED.

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

P18/0827O (Outline): Outline planning application for up to 150 dwellings together with associated access, public open space, landscaping and amenity areas. Land to the east of Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED. RECOMMEND REFUSAL.

Application withdrawn

P18/S0179/FUL: Demolish existing barn and erect three new terraced dwellings with parking. The New Barn, Mongewell Park Farm, Wallingford Road, Mongewell (in the parish of Crowmarsh), OX10 8BS. This application has been withdrawn by the applicants and no further action will be taken on it.

Appeal under Section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act, ref: APP/Q3115/W/17/3186858

P16/S3608/O (Outline): Outline planning application for up to 150 dwellings together with associated access, public open space, landscaping and amenity areas. Land to the

east of Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED. Cllr Hannigan gave a brief account of the proceedings of the public inquiry which had taken place over the last three days at Howbery Park: a vote of thanks was made to him for all his work on the appeal.

Neighbourhood Plan

Two events have been held to update the public on the Neighbourhood Plan. The first at Crowmarsh Gifford School on 13th March was well attended and Rona Knott, our SODC Liaison Officer, was also there. A smaller event was held in North Stoke on 15th March. All policies and documentation are now available on the website, www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk. Contact Nick Robins: nicks.robins@gmail.com.

County Councillor's report

County Councillor Gray had attended the planning appeal inquiry for the site on Benson Lane but had not been permitted to speak. He will make a written submission to the inspector about the housing land supply following the recent Growth Deal agreed by all the Oxfordshire councils. The first infrastructure projects to receive funding under this Growth Deal will include new roads at Didcot but no other funding in the south of the county.

The emerging SODC local plan has been suspended and John Cotton has resigned as leader of the District Council.

Councillor Gray has booked an automatic traffic speed survey to be sited near the entrance to Newnham Manor in The Street and another on Benson Lane opposite the Village Hall.

One of the telephone cabinets in Crowmarsh Gifford has been upgraded to superfast broadband.

Secondary school places have now been allocated and 90% of applicants have been given their first choice.

Environment & recreation ground committee

An electrical check is to be carried out on the wiring at the pavilion. A contractor has been found to replace the damaged wall at the pavilion. Two quotes have been received to supply and fit a smart lock at the pavilion to

allow controlled access to the toilets for recreation ground users. It was agreed to accept the lower quote of £1010.

Update on playground project

Cllr Rowley reported on the exhibitions held at the school for over six weeks and at the Community Café on Saturday 10th March. Letters and messages of support have been received from 140 children and 30 adults.

Advice has been taken on suitable gym equipment and quotes are now being obtained. Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association has provided excellent feedback which will help in the grant submissions. Cllr Johnson is working on the Capital Grant application form and has drafted a project management plan. Cllr Hall has asked for donations from local businesses.

Replacement noticeboards

Cllr Hall and Cllr Jones are obtaining estimates to provide and install new noticeboards, including a half-glazed noticeboard at North Stoke Village Hall, and for installation from Arrow Fencing and another contractor.

Traffic and transport committee

Councillor Jones reported that Benson Parish Council will meet on 24th April and discuss Howbery Park's request for a pedestrian crossing and bus shelter on the A4074 near the north end of Benson Lane for employees who use the bus layby. Howbery Park has done a survey of employees who use the bus stop; Cllr Griffin will investigate the level of use at the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

Review of strategic priorities

The list of strategic priorities had been re-circulated. This had last been updated in January 2017 and needs review in the light of planning decisions and other changes. Cllrs Sherbourne and Ryall will meet to review the top five strategic priorities. Cllr Sherbourne recommended having a professional design drawn up for a pedestrian crossing in The Street in Crowmarsh, which had been costed a few years ago.

Correspondence

Details were received about the Evolis speed camera (passed to Cllr Hall for investigation).

A letter from the Chilterns Conservation Board outlined their 'Beacons of the Past' project to survey hill forts in the Chilterns using LIDAR.

Cllr Soames had met a representative of the Springs Golf Club who were considering new development plans.

Reports from reps on outside bodies

North Stoke Village Hall

Cllr Soames reported that North Stoke Village Hall is not registered with the land registry, which would have to be done by the Parish Council, following a valuation. Community First Oxfordshire might be able to give advice on how the valuation and registration may be carried out.

Agrivert Liaison Group

Cllrs Griffin and Sherbourne attended the annual liaison meeting with Agrivert, who operate the composting and anaerobic digestion plant opposite the north end of Benson Lane. Agrivert are expecting to apply to build two more digesters to add to the existing five and will consult on this if they decide to proceed. Cllr Sherbourne suggested asking Agrivert to sponsor one or more of the new noticeboards.

River Users Group 3 (RUG3)

RUG3 brings together parish councils, the Environment Agency and those with an interest in the River Thames between Sandford and Cleeve locks. The minutes of the recent meeting attended by Cllr Mannering had been circulated. One of the subjects discussed was the proposal for a marina adjoining the Wallingford bypass bridge, which would first require a gravel extraction application.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 3rd May** at North Stoke Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. At this meeting there will be an election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for

the coming year. All are welcome: all parish council meetings are open to the public.

It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting at Crowmarsh Gifford CE Primary School on **Monday 14th May**, starting at 7.30pm. This is a chance for parish, district and county councillors to report back to the community and for residents to raise any issues, so please come if you can.

Litter clearance – Spring clean in Crowmarsh Gifford

Thanks to all the residents who turned out on Saturday 21st April to help pick up litter around Crowmarsh Gifford.

It was much more spring-like than it was on the original date in March (when there was still snow on the ground!).

We collected five full sacks of litter and one mainly of leaves. Special thanks to Francesca and Denise (who also cleaned the bench) for the clean bus shelters too.



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WHAT'S ON—MAY 2018

Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	9.30-12.00	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 first Sunday of month	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh

This month

Thursday 3 rd May	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 5 th May	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Sunday 6 th May	13.30 onwards	CTC 23-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 6 th & Monday 7 th May	All day	May Bank Holiday Trains	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Tuesday 8 th May	19.30 onwards	Café Scientifique: Hearing Hidden Sounds: How they help us predict the weather	Wallingford School Library, St Georges Road
Wednesday 9 th May	19.30 onwards	Henley Philatelic: AGM and members displays	Bix Village Hall
Wednesday 9 th May	19.45 onwards	Excavations in Winterbrook, Wallingford	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Saturday 12 th May	20.00 onwards	Concert: Sacconi String Quartet	St Peters Church, Wallingford
Saturday 12 th May	14.00 onwards	Brake Van rides and open day	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 13 th May	All day	Wallingford Car Rally	Kinecroft and elsewhere
Friday 18 th May	18.00 till 21.00	A Night at the Museum	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 19 th May	10.30 onwards	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 20 th May	Morning	Wallingford Thames Run	See Thamesrun.co.uk
Sunday 20 th May	13.30 onwards	CTC 30-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 23 rd	19.30 onwards	Henley Philatelic: Presidents evening	Bix Village Hall

Next month

Saturday 2 nd June	9.00-12.00	Benson Garden Club Annual Plant Sale	6 College Farm, Benson
Thursday 7 th June	7.00-22.00	District Council By-Election	Crowmarsh & North Stoke Village Halls

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