

Crowmarsh News

Issue 488

May 2019

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

1 month – £8.50
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Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30.00 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies, please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News Team

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

Editorial and Layout: James and Toni Taylor

Editorial support: John Griffin, Kirsty Dawson, Amanda Maher, Rev 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 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

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- adjust your speed and make sure you have time to react to the unexpected
- make sure everyone is wearing their seatbelt before you set off
- get a taxi, the bus or be the designated driver on a night out
- make sure you're safe to drive the morning after, you could still be over the drink drive limit, even if you feel fine

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service have put together top tips to help you avoid the fatal four, and have created a handy 'don't get caught out the morning after' guide 365alive.co.uk/fatalfour.



Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency number 101

Changes at Agrivert

Agrivert, the company which operates the large green digesters opposite the turn to Preston Crowmarsh have had a change of ownership. At the end of November they were taken over by Severn Trent Green Power, and the site will be rebranding imminently. Whilst the former directors of Agrivert are no longer employed by the company, all other personnel will continue in their respective roles and the site will continue to operate in the same manner.

The site treats household food waste to produce 2.4 megawatts of electricity, and operates at 97.4% efficiency making it one of the most efficient of its type in the country. Household garden waste will also continue to be treated at the compost site which is located behind the digesters.

If you would like to find out more about what happens to your food waste, please contact South Oxfordshire District Council, who organise tours on behalf of the local community. Either email them on Waste.team@southoxfordshire.gov.uk, or call 01235 422146.

Wallingford Road Closures

On Sunday 19th May, from 10.30 to 11.30am, during the Mayor's Sunday Service and Parade, the following roads in the town centre will be closed:

St Martin's Street, from the High Street to St Leonard's Square, and,

St Mary's Street, from St Leonard's Square, through the Market Place to St Martin's Street.

Oakley Wood Tip Closures

The Oakley Wood tip will be closed on 23rd and 24th May to enable Oxfordshire County Council to carry out a deep clean and some essential maintenance.

Residents are encouraged to use other OCC tips on these two days or to wait until the site re-opens. For the locations of other tips, please see <http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Crowmarsh Playground and Gym NOW OPEN!

On Sunday 7th April Crowmarsh Parish Council was happy to celebrate the opening of the Updated Playground and New Outdoor Gym area. With SODC Chairman Lorraine Hillier performing the ceremony, the children were more than delighted once the playground was opened!

The £250,000 project, led by Andrew Johnson and David Rowley, and assisted by members of the Parish Council and Michelle Reynolds was 2 years in the making. Buoyed by community support, the project won significant grants, notably from SODC and WREN's FCC Community Action Fund. Sunday's opening was a memorable community event, with food and drink stalls, musical entertainment and gym guidance on the new equipment. Many thanks to: Roke and Benson Brass Band, Scouts, Pre-school, Crowmarsh Primary PTA and Lifestyles Gym who helped make this event a huge success.

Photographs from the day were taken by Eibe (a link to their photos can be found at www.Crowmarshgifford.org.uk) and Christian from More Than Images (see their Facebook page).

We look forward to this new space continuing to be a hub for the community.

Michelle Reynolds
(on behalf of Crowmarsh Parish Council)

(Letter to the Editor)

I am writing regarding the new Crowmarsh Playground and Outdoor Gym. The swarms of children enjoying themselves in the playground during the Grand Opening showed how much this facility will be appreciated by the local community. It is an exceptional achievement for a village the size of Crowmarsh and should provide a valuable centre for community events for years to come.

With many thanks for the dedication and attention to detail of Councillors David Rowley and Andrew Johnson and their team, with the support of the Parish Council, who brought this project to fruition.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Lawson
Newnham Green



Appreciative users and...

... an appreciative crowd on opening day



Picture by courtesy of More Than Images



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A Children's Pageant at Crowmarsh

On the evening of Wednesday 21st June 1910, a large gathering assembled on the lawn of Rose Villa, Crowmarsh, to see a performance given by the local branch of the "Young Helpers' League". Permission to use the lawn had been given by Mr and Mrs Newton.

The theme for the performance was "A Pageant of Planets", which, it was explained, was a slight representation of the solar system. It was written and arranged by Mrs Dawson-Clark of Abingdon. The children had been rehearsed in their various parts by the Mayoress of Wallingford, Mrs S L Hawkins, and Miss Stewart-Dyer.

Each child represented one of the planets, the moon and Hailey's Comet. The costumes were thought to be very pretty and the overall colouring very effective. Each planet introduced itself with a few explanatory verses, then took its place on the lawn that had

already been made out with circles that represented their orbits. Despite having to speak their words in the open air the children could be plainly heard. E Cottle's performance as Hailey's Comet was thought to be very moving and the audience - despite a collision with Mars - requested an encore of his part. Many of the audience enjoyed the pageant but thought it was very short.

The performers were as follows:

Mercury	Ruby Honeybone
Venus	Ruby Leach
Earth	Eleanor Dyer
Moon	F Cottle
Hailey's Comet	E Cottle
Mars	Ruth Harding
Jupiter	Daisy Honeybone
Saturn	Margery Taylor

It's hard to imagine large crowds attending a pageant of this type today, but they were simpler times in 1910.



Museums at Night

A Night at the Museum

Wallingford Museum will have a special one-off evening opening at half price (Adults £2.50, accompanied children free as usual) on Friday 17th 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!

Wallingford Town Walks

Wallingford's popular Guided Historic Town Walks, held on every Saturday morning starting from the Town Hall at 11am, are now in full flow. The Walks are led by knowledgeable

volunteers from Wallingford Museum, last 1-2 hours and cost £5 per head, money which will be donated to support the Museum.

These are general walks covering the rich history of our town, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and 'Midsomer Murders'. They will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Maybe you would like a special Walk for your Group or business at lunchtime or early evening? If this is of interest, please contact Philip Burton on 836200 or email pburton6@talktalk.net

Once Upon a Time ... the changing face of Wallingford

This year at Wallingford Museum there is a special 'Once upon a time the changing face of Wallingford' exhibition 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 all 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.

This 'Family Friendly' exhibition will run throughout the museum, with a sheet to guide people round with a number of 'hands on' things for children.

Judy Dewey

Curator - Wallingford Museum

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Bluestones and white bones: the origins of the people buried at Stonehenge

On Wednesday 8th May, Prof Rick Schulting will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about 'Bluestones and white bones: the origins of the people buried at Stonehenge.'

Stonehenge has long inspired the imagination. Much work has been done on understanding (or speculating on) how the stones themselves were moved, whence they came, and what the monument meant to its creators. Far less attention has been paid to those creators themselves.

The cremated remains of more than 50 individuals were placed in the Aubrey Holes at Stonehenge, making it one of the largest Late Neolithic (ca. 3000-2500 BC) cemeteries known in Britain. The Aubrey Holes were excavated by Colonel Hawley in 1919-1926, who, unusually for the time, had the foresight to rebury the cremations on site, albeit commingled in a single pit. Nevertheless, bones of at least 25 separate individuals could

still be identified. These were recently used for radiocarbon dating, and a small fragment of what was left over from that process was used for strontium isotope analysis. This is a method that provides insights into where people lived, following the adage that 'you are where you ate'.

Rick Schulting of Oxford's School of Archaeology will present the intriguing results of the strontium isotope analysis of the remains, which suggested there were strong connections between west Wales and Wessex, extending beyond the transportation of stones, to the movement of people, from a project that was recently nominated for Current Archaeology's 2018 Research Project of the Year.

This talk will be held at St Mary's Church, Wallingford, 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan

www.twhas.org.uk

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

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

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

<http://crowmarshgifford.org.uk>

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

phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or e-mail chrisstrange47@gmail.com



Interested in Playing Cricket?

Come and join us at Ipsden Cricket Club – the closest cricket club to Crowmarsh (only 2 miles away).

We are small cricket club that plays on a delightful ground in Ipsden which has far reaching views over Oxfordshire. We play mainly friendly matches on Sundays only (typically 35 overs per side) against other local villages and towns as well as some nomadic teams, as they love visiting our unique ground, but we do also play in the South Oxfordshire Friendly Cup along with seven other teams.

Whether you are a current player, or you haven't played cricket for some time and this has stirred some interest, then go to our website (www.ipsdencc.co.uk) where you can learn more about the club.

If you interested in playing, or indeed just want to watch a match and enjoy the sunshine, please get in touch with the Captain, Dave Wood, on 07952 114535 or via email at dave.wood730@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

To book North Stoke Village Hall

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

CTC Rides

Upcoming cycle rides are listed below. All rides depart from Wallingford Market Place and include a refreshment stop.

- Sunday 5th May 1:30pm
29-mile road ride - Patrick Hardiman leading, probably a good chance of seeing lots of blue-bells. Beginning uphill to Ipsden and Checkendon, then through some flatter sections of woodland to refreshments at the Herb Farm Café in Sonning Common. Returning via Stoke Row, Nuffield and Cookley Green.
- Sunday 19th May 1:30pm
30-something mile road ride - leader and route tbc.

Benson Garden Club – Annual Plant Sale

Benson Garden Club will be holding their Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 1st June, at College Farm, High Street, Benson between 9am and 12 noon.

With a wide range of flowering and vegetable plants on offer, there will be plenty to tempt you, and you can then relax in the garden and enjoy a reviving cup of tea or coffee (plus cake, of course!).

So make a note in your diary, tell your friends and come in good time to bag a bargain. A contribution from this year's proceeds will be made to Benson School Garden Club and Benson Library.

Wallingford Photographic Club

May will see the close of the 2018/19 season for Wallingford Photographic Club. On Thursday 2nd May, Mark and Judy Buckley-Sharp will give a presentation on their travels in Turkey. This will be followed on 9th May by the end of season competitions when the colour print, monochrome print and digital image of the year will be chosen by independent assessor Philip Joyce.

The final meeting before the summer break

will be the club's AGM on the 16th May.

The club has enjoyed another successful season with a varied programme of speakers, competitions and members' evenings. During the season the club took part in three inter-club competitions, two of which it won, and in the other it came third out of six clubs which was a little disappointing although the club did win the print section of that competition.

The club will reconvene for the new season in mid-September with a fresh programme, with a number of high quality speakers already booked. Watch this space! Before that, the club will hold its annual exhibition in St Mary's Church Hall, Wallingford on 31st August, which is the Saturday of the Bunkfest weekend. Around 100 prints will be on view, showcasing the work of club members, and tea, coffee and home made cakes will be available for a small charge. Entry to the exhibition is free.

In 2020 the club will celebrate its 60th anniversary and a number of special events are being planned.

Full information about the club can found on the website www.wallingfordphoto.club

Michael Parrott

Henley and District Philatelic Society

There is a change in our original programme this month and a new display theme – 'Autobiographical Displays', put off by the weather in January – will be shown at our first meeting in May. Do come along and see what can be done with stamps and postcards to tell a story.

8th - Members' autobiographical displays – up to nine pages

22nd – AGM and displays on 'My other collection' (not necessarily philatelic).

Meetings are held on the second and fourth 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



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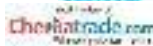
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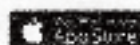
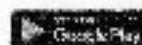
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St Mary Magdalene's Church Crowmarsh Gifford

Team Vicar: The Rev'd 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 May

Sunday 5th	11am	Family Service
Saturday 11th	10am-Noon	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 12th	11am	Parish Communion
	4pm	Evening Service at Newnham Murren
Sunday 19th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 26th	11am	Family Communion
	4pm	Rogation Service at Highlands Farm, Brightwell
Thursday 30th	7.30pm	Ascension Day Festival Communion

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

A belated Happy Easter everyone! May is one of the most joyful seasons in the church as we continue to celebrate Easter for 40 days until Ascension Day on Thursday 30th May when we welcome the rest of our Wallingford Churches Team to a special evening celebration Eucharist. We then enter a 10 day wait to bring us to 50 days, giving the festival named Pentecost (or Whit Sunday) when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

Easter is the season of new beginnings, of new life out of death, of hope out of despair. May 12th-19th is also the time for Christian Week: one of their slogans is "We believe in life before death" - this applies especially for the poorest in the world who are most affected by climate change.

Having watched the BBC programme "Climate Change – The Facts", presented by Sir David

Attenborough, I am sympathetic to the message of the "Extinction Rebellion" protesters (if not their methods) and hope that our politicians act whilst there is still time left to retain some of the richness of the biodiversity of this beautiful planet.

Sometimes it takes a youngster like Greta Thunberg to help us see the urgent need for action that will have an impact for generations rather than the five-year term of any particular government. Just making resolutions and commitments for future targets without immediate action to make them achievable is no longer acceptable.

I hope Easter will help us consider the bigger picture, with the hope of life for eternity both on this planet as well as in the heavenly realm.

**Blessings,
Rev Kev**

Short Mat Bowls

takes place at the Pavilion on
Tuesdays at 2pm and on Thursdays
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please call 202543.

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

...are best in .jpg or .pdf format.

Wallingford U3A

A message must have got about that our April speaker, HH David Eccles QC, was worth hearing because he played to a packed house. And he was, indeed, brilliant: deadly serious yet very funny, and provocative; he challenged us to think about some of the contradictions that judges have to resolve as part of “A Judge’s Life”.

He emphasised the absolute necessity of the Independence of the Judiciary, a principle established by Magna Carta in 1215, although he did point out that a judge now has to accept the verdict of a jury even if he thinks that it is mistaken. He sketched the Court hierarchy: District Court, Circuit Court, High Court - all answerable to the Court of Appeal. Judges, appointed now by the Judicial Appointments Committee, with Royal Warrant, and not “employed” either by the Crown or by the Ministry of Justice. They “hold office”.

So the EU recently decided that Judges are “Workers” and are therefore legally entitled to receive a pension! Judges must retire at 70, which is interesting, because jurors can go on until 75. Judges are important figures in Public Life. They have to do their homework, preparing for trials, drafting papers, directing juries, summing up. They are not politicians, they are highly-qualified expert lawyers.

They are certainly not “enemies of the people”, as one newspaper’s disgraceful front page recently suggested. It is shocking that in our increasingly spiteful times judges now need security protection in, and sometimes out of, Court.

HH David Eccles gave us a wonderfully entertaining and interesting afternoon. We are grateful that he found time to come to speak to us, and hope he might come again.

Wallingford U3A has an outing planned to Highgrove (21st May). There is already a waiting list for this one. Our outing in June will be to Petworth House. For more information please phone Hermione. Meanwhile, at our monthly meeting on May 1st, Ian Keable will look at “The History of Cartoons from William Hogarth to Private Eye”.

U3A meetings are held at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome for the talk, which is followed by tea, biscuits and general conviviality.

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

Can you complete a Marathon in May for PACT?

26.2 miles in 31 days – Your Challenge, Your Way!

Adoption charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) is asking people to complete a marathon in a month in support of its work. Marathon in May challenges you to complete 26.2 miles over the 31 days in May. You can run, walk, cycle or swim the miles and can cover the distance either individually or together as a family or group of colleagues or friends.

All the proceeds will be used to help PACT’s work building and strengthening families. The charity supports families across the south east and beyond through adoption, award-winning therapeutic support and community projects. PACT was named Charity of the Year at the Pride of Reading awards 2018.

It costs £14 per adult to register, which includes a medal and a chart to track your progress. Children taking part alongside a registered adult can take part for free but extra medals can be ordered for £2.50.

Participants can also choose to further support PACT’s work by getting sponsored to complete a Marathon in May and anyone who raises over £50 will receive an exclusive goody bag.

The deadline for people to register is Wednesday 8th May. To find out more and to register, see www.pactcharity.org/marathon-in-may.

If you would like more information or have any questions please contact our Fundraising Team by emailing fundraising@pactcharity.org or calling 0118 402 1696.



Help boost for Universal Credit claimants

Citizens Advice has designed a new service to help you and speed things up if you are claiming Universal Credit for the first time but having problems with the application. The "Help to Claim" service became available in England from 1 April 2019 over the telephone, face to face, and online through "webchat" and Internet content.

We can advise on your eligibility, set up an email address or Universal Credit account, fill in the initial application form, get access to a computer, or arrange advance payments. We can also help you by ensuring that the right evidence is submitted with your form. And if you only need minimal help with your application, Citizens Advice can provide tips if you get stuck. As part of its normal service, Citizens Advice also supports people who are already receiving Universal Credit.

The national Freephone number for Help to Claim is 0800 144 8444. Telephone and webchat services are available from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

For any other issues you might need help with, please telephone the Citizens Advice Advice-line on 03 444 111 444. Come and see us in person if you prefer. For locations of offices and opening hours, please see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

What does your local MP actually do?

Local MP John Howell has received a number of enquiries about the role of an MP in the wake of the unusual happenings recently in Parliament. So to address this, he will be writing about aspects of the job in his regular Newsletter over the next few months.

You can get a copy by sending an e-mail to john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com.



She Stoops to Conquer

Sinodun Players present Oliver Goldsmith's comic masterpiece

Love, intrigue, mischief and misunderstanding fill the stage in the Sinodun Players' production of the popular 18th century romp, *She Stoops to Conquer* by Oliver Goldsmith. Originally entitled *Mistakes of the Night*, events unfold over the course of a single night in the company of wonderfully comic characters whose exuberant and confused journey leads to a triumphant conclusion.

It's at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford, from 29th May to 1st June. Tickets cost £12 and can be obtained from the Corn Exchange box office (telephone 825000) or from the web: www.cornexchange.org.uk/whats-on/she-stoops-to-conquer

Other Corn Exchange events

The Corn Exchange in Wallingford has a regular programme of screenings and "live" shows.

Please visit the website, www.cornexchange.org.uk to discover our full listings.

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 4th April 2019

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, David Rowley, Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Francesca Jones, Stuart Soames, Liz Ryall, Fleur Stevenson and David Topliss, Sue Rance (Clerk) and Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer), County Councillor Mark Gray and District Councillor Sue Cooper.

Apologies were received from Councillor Denise Hall. It was noted with regret that Councillor Patricia Millar had resigned.

Highway matters

The meeting began with a discussion of the proposed Toucan crossing at Portway, with County Highways officers Ian Marshall and Jason Sherwood. This crossing of the A4074, although bound up with the proposed housing development at Newnham Manor, had been a priority for the Parish Council for many years and there is a lot of support for it in the community. It was resolved that the Parish Council will submit another formal request to OCC for the crossing.

The officers confirmed that the County Highways are in favour of the Toucan crossing here in principle, whether or not it is funded by the Newnham Manor development. It was noted that the twin crossings are positioned in order to allow sufficient distance for deceleration and to provide a bus stop. OCC have liaised with SODC planning officers who are happy with the proposals as submitted with the planning application (Revision D, dated 25.09.18). The Section 106 legal agreement being drawn up with the developers also includes the plans for the crossing.

Of the Section 106 developer funds for the Newnham Manor development, should it go ahead, £100,000 will be earmarked for transport services, £17,192 for transport

infrastructure, e.g. new bus stops, real time bus information, £5,000 to extend the 30mph limit on the A4074 and £1,240 for a green travel plan to encourage residents to use environmentally friendly travel wherever possible.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

SODC had accepted four of the Parish Council's suggestions for street names at the CABI development: Elizabeth Road, Halifax Road, Hasthorpe Road and Shuttleworth Close.

Finance

Payments made in March were approved. The new grass cutting contractor, Landscape Group, Oxford, have done the first cut at the recreation ground.

The meeting reviewed and approved the council's Financial Risk Assessment (with one minor amendment), Financial Regulations (with two minor amendments) and Publications Scheme (without amendment).

It was agreed to give North Stoke Parochial Church Council a grant of £660 for grass cutting at North Stoke Churchyard and the Pound.

The Finance Officer had reviewed the asset list with Mr Strange and taken off small items valued at less than £100.

Allotment invoices are being delivered in April. There have been two enquiries about the vacant plots. District Councillor Cooper suggested that people sentenced to community service might be available to clear overgrown allotments for cultivation.

District Councillor's report

A vote of thanks was made to District Cllr Cooper for having the roadway cleaned on Wallingford Bridge. Cllr Cooper reported that

the planning policy team has summarised the many public comments made on the Local Plan 2050 to be sent to the inspector.

The approach road to Oakley Wood recycling centre has attracted a lot of fly tipping, including tyres: the waste team has been alerted. Cllr Ryall reported that there have been many incidents of fly tipping on local farmland. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Grundon Liaison Group. Fly-tipping could perhaps be reduced if more tyres were easily recycled to be used for road building.

County Councillor's report

Cllr Mark Gray reported that £2 million of growth fund money has been awarded for the Didcot Garden Town project. It is proposed to widen the link road from Didcot to the A34 interchange, provide two additional bridges over the Thames and a bypass for Clifton Hampden. The chairman requested improvements to the foot/cycle link path between Didcot and South Moreton where the surface is broken and no longer suitable for cycling.

A strategy to support older people is being developed by a number of agencies.

The OVO Energy Women's Tour – an elite international cycling road race – will be coming through our parish on Wednesday 12 June. In collaboration with the District Councils, 'blue badge' fraud is being investigated.

County Councillors have voted on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway: all councillors opposed the scheme and asked for proper consultation on the principle of building this road. The climate change emergency motion was also unanimously supported by councillors.

Cllr Johnson and Cllr Gray will attend a site meeting at Stephens Field with county and district council officers on Friday 12th April to look at parking problems, signage and access to the Riverside Park and the recreation ground.

Cllr Topliss reported that one of the steps down to the riverside from Wallingford Bridge has been damaged for a long time and is in

need of repair.

Planning

There were no decisions from SODC affecting our parish.

Responses to SODC on applications:

P19/S0702/FUL: Conversion of outbuilding to dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. Oakridge, Nuffield Lane OX10 6QQ: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P19/S0869/HH: Proposed ground floor front extension and porch. 9 Meadow Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BH: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

Neighbourhood Plan

The meeting of the Steering Group has been delayed because SODC has not signed off the Statutory Environmental Assessment (SEA): this has seriously affected the likely delivery date of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Environment & recreation ground

Update on playground and gym project

The Play Inspection Company had approved the playground for its official opening. The safety fencing would stay in place until the opening at no cost. No quote had yet been received for grass cutting at the playground. Where grass seeding has been done by the zip wires it has not yet begun to grow, so those areas will be fenced off and signs put in place.

Arrangements were in place for the opening and a vote of thanks was made to Cllrs Johnson and Rowley and all who have helped with the project, including Mrs Michelle Reynolds for all the publicity.

Traffic and transport

Cllr Jones is unable to continue as Parish Transport Rep, even though it was noted that this does not have to be done by a parish councillor.

Refresh Pro will send a quote for cleaning the wooden bus shelters. They will need to clean

each whole shelter and then seal the wood. Following the litter collection in March, it was agreed to ask Howbery Park Estates to supply a cigarette bin at the bus shelter on Benson Lane outside Howbery Park.

There have been complaints about inappropriate car parking on the grass verge at Home Farm and in the bus shelter opposite. This causes an obstruction and will be reported to the neighbourhood policing team.

Other matters

Cllr Sherbourne reported that Slade Legal is being consulted about the change of trustees for Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall. Fundraising is being planned for the extension.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 9th May at North Stoke Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

The Annual Parish Meeting for all electors will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School on Thursday 16th May at 7.00 for 7.30pm. It was agreed to invite the Area Commander based at Abingdon Police Station as well as the police community support workers. The Chairman will invite a representative from RAF Benson, where 32 (The Royal Squadron), formerly The Queen's Flight, will be returning for about seven months while the runway at RAF Northolt is repaired.

Local elections

Elections for district councillors are to be held on Thursday 2nd May.

There will be no elections for parish councillors here because there were not enough nominations. The eight councillors who are re-appointed without an election are John Griffin, Andrew Johnson, David Rowley, Elizabeth Ryall, Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, Fleur Stevenson and David Topliss.

This leaves four vacancies, which may be filled by co-option after the May meeting. The Parish Council will be looking for four new

members, so please think about whether you could join us. We are all volunteers and meet one Thursday evening each month to decide on local matters and try to support and improve our community. It would be good to have more representation from Mongewell and North Stoke. If you want to know more, please contact the clerk or the chairman or come along to the Annual Meeting on 16th May at the school and talk to us there.

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next Sales of Donated Goods are on Saturdays 18th May and 8th June, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm, but we cannot accept goods on Sale day or the day before. The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at Nettlebed, near Henley, RG9 5DF. Please call 01491 641384 ext 246 for further information.

Wallingford and District Stroke Club

Wallingford and District Stroke Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall for activities and companionship, tea and cake. In the summer months we arrange outings, both locally and further afield, using the Wallingford Coach with its accessible platform.

We'd love to welcome more members (fees are very reasonable at £2 per month). If you, or someone you know, would like to join us – or just give us a try – please contact Norman Goodall on 01235 834503 or Nigel Hessey on 01491 651114 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

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

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

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WHAT'S ON – MAY 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's, W'ford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary's, W'ford
Every Sunday	11.00	Parish Communion; Family service first Sunday of month	Crowmarsh Church

This month

Wednesday 1st	14.00	U3A: History of Cartoons	Village Hall
Thursday 2nd	07.00 – 22.00	District Council Elections	Crowmarsh & North Stoke Village Halls
Sunday 5th	13.30	CTC 25-mile cycle ride	Meet Town Square
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th	All Day	Teddy Bear Specials	Cholsey & Wallingford Railway
Wednesday 8th	19.45	TWHAS: Stonehenge, Bluestone and White Bones	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Wednesday 8th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Autobiographical Displays	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 9th	19.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 11th	09.00	Wallingford Garden Club Plant Sale	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Saturday 11th	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Village Hall
Sunday 12th	10.30- 17.30	Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade	Kinecroft, Wallingford
Thursday 16th	19.00 for 19.30	Annual Parish Meeting	Crowmarsh School
Friday 17th	18.00-21.00	Night at the Museum	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 18th	10.30-12.30	Sue Ryder sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 19th	10.00	Wallingford Thames Run	Start at Crowmarsh School
Sunday 19th	13.30	CTC 32-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 22nd	19.45	Henley Philatelic: AGM and "my other collection"	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th May	All Day	Irish and Guinness Weekend	Cholsey & Wallingford Railway

For details of walks with Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers, please see
www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford