



Online edition no1

May 2020

From the Editorial Team

In the exceptional conditions obtaining at the moment as the country is locked down during the coronavirus pandemic, we have chosen to suspend normal publication of the *Crowmarsh News*. Many of our regular advertisers are not open for business, and we cannot ask our team of distributors to do their usual sterling work at a time when they should, like the rest of us, be staying at home. As a stopgap measure, we have prepared this online edition, which is necessarily very much shortened and provides mainly essential information. We are asking, through the various support groups in the village, for readers to be kind enough to print off a copy for neighbours who do not have access to the internet.

We sincerely hope to return to normal publication in the near future. In the mean time, we hope you will all keep well and stay safe.

Colour coded card system – a suggestion

An indicator system which has been used around the country involves coloured cards - red and green. They are displayed in the window to show either Green for "All OK" or Red for "I could do with some help".

An alternative suggested is to use Red for "I seriously need help", Yellow for "I could do with a bit of help" (ie it's not urgent) and Green for "All OK".

If you need help and can't easily contact someone directly, display something red (it doesn't have to be card!) prominently in a window – and for those out on their exercise walk, please look out for red items in windows and offer help if you can, or contact someone else who can help.

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number	101

Village Support Contacts

If you want to volunteer to support your neighbours who are self-isolating, if you need some support, or just want a source of information, please find contact details below for the various village groups you can join, and telephone numbers to call. If you want to join a group but don't know how to make contact with them, please contact the Crowmarsh News and we will put you in touch.

WhatsApp groups

Bellamy Way, Stephens Field and The Street (from the bridge to Colliers)

Crowmarsh Hill (numbers 164 to 206)

Home Farm

Jethro Tull Gardens

Lane End and immediate neighbours in The Street

Mongewell

Murren Croft

Newnham Green, numbers 20A to 52

North Stoke

Park View

Robert Sparrow Gardens

Winter's Field

Crowmarsh News

E-mail: Crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

Rev Kevin Beer

Tel: 599873

Facebook groups

Crowmarsh Parish Council

Crowmarsh Gifford Community

Crowmarsh COVID-19 Response

Local assistance

Benson Lane

Call 825222 in an emergency. The phone is answered 24/7— but please note that it is also the number for our local undertakers!

Advertisers

These regular *Crowmarsh News* advertisers have confirmed to us that they are still open.

Name & Services	Contact details	Website
Clean Machine Water softener salt supplies	01491 825600	Machinesthatclean.com
Howard Chadwick Funeral Service	office@chadwicksfuneralservice.co.uk 01491 825222	
Arbocare Tree Services	077 788 11 136 or 01235 813619	

Support from the District and County Councils

A new Community Support team has been established at SODC as part of the county-wide redeployment of staff to ensure support for the district's most vulnerable residents, while also maintaining normal services as much as possible during the current emergency as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. This new team is collating information about the large number of newly established support groups to ensure that there are no gaps in coverage and we don't duplicate effort.

Each district councillor has an advance of £2000 from their annual grant allowance to support these groups if necessary. Anyone needing funding for expenses should email Andrea Powell or Sue Cooper.

Oxfordshire help lines have been established as a first point of contact for anyone in need of help. There are TWO separate lines. Anyone identified as in the extremely vulnerable "shielded" category should call 01865 897820 or email shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Anyone else self-isolating and in need of support can check to find a volunteer group nearby at www.oxfordshireallin.org/local-support-groups or you can call 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk. These support lines are open 8.30am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sundays.

The SODC coronavirus information page is updated daily and remains the best first port of call for information on local services: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news-events/coronavirus-covid-19-information>.

Oxfordshire County Council recycling centres are closed.

The SODC Food and Safety team is responsible for enforcing business closures and using their Twitter account <https://twitter.com/eatsafeworksafe> to spread the word so businesses aren't tempted to open up against the government's Stay at Home rules.



Quizzes and Jigsaws

How well do you remember Wallingford?

Unfortunately, we have had to temporarily close the museum and postpone our events, walks, and TWHAS talks due to the coronavirus outbreak. We will re-open and re-schedule our events as soon as conditions permit.

Whilst Wallingford Museum is temporarily closed, we will continue to share the museum experience, town history locations, local history facts to engage with residents and future visitors. Our website will show a **quiz** each week, starting Mondays. Answers will appear on the website on Sunday evenings. These virtual quizzes should be solved by NOT going out-and-about, but by using internet searches, and Google Earth! In addition we have a selection of **jigsaws** to complete online. These show past and present scenes of Wallingford.

Look for the quizzes and jigsaws on the Museum website at: www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk
You may wish to comment or contribute via our Facebook page!
Hope you enjoy!

Stu Darby
www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Saturday 12th August 1888 was the official opening of St Leonard's Church House by Lady Wantage. The house was designed by Mr S Johns of Crowmarsh (who also designed the Temperance Hall in St Mary's Street) and built on land donated by Mr George Dunlop Leslie R.A. of Thames Street, Wallingford. Mr Leslie also paid the cost of the building, which was £500, the Church to pay him back when they could. The building is situated opposite the church and is now a private house. It contained two large rooms upstairs and two larger rooms on the ground floor, and a caretaker's cottage was attached on the right of the building.

The opening ceremony began with a church service, after a procession headed by the choir, the Rector Revd W C Sayer-Milward, the Rural Dean Sir J L Hoskyns and G C Wodehouse, followed by Lord and Lady Wantage, Mr G D Leslie, Mr John Kirby Hedges and Mr E Wells. A guard of honour was furnished by Wallingford (M) Company of the Royal Berkshire Volunteers, of which Lord Wantage was the colonel.

The building was used for Sunday Schools and other parish matters, during World War II it was used as classrooms for evacuees from Malmesbury School from London. In the 1950s and 60s a youth club met there on a Friday night, run by a Mrs Marshall, where I listened to the strident strains of Bill Haley and the Comets singing *Rock Around the Clock*. Happy Days!

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on-line for the first time on Thursday 2nd April 2020 with 8 of our 11 councillors taking part. Full notes of the meeting are on the village website.

Most matters from the previous meeting could not be progressed because of the coronavirus pandemic, but a memorial tree for Mr John Bellamy has been planted near the pavilion.

Finance

Payments since the last meeting amounted to £2,528.40. Internet banking is up and running with two out of three named parish councilors able to authorise expenditure online. Information will be sent to the internal auditor electronically. We will continue to pay all our staff as normal for the time being.

Environment and Recreation Ground Committee

The playground, outdoor gym, pavilion, hard court and car park are all closed. The Crowmarsh recreation ground and nature area and North Stoke Village Green remain open for daily exercise following government rules.

Planning

We will continue to comment online on any planning applications that come in, but the SODC planning committee is not meeting and large applications will be delayed. The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now on the website and some comments have already been posted.

Website

The Crowmarsh website and Facebook page have been very busy, and a new coronavirus page has links to support and guidance. There is also guidance from the County Council on using footpaths and bridleways safely.

Future council meetings

It was agreed to hold on-line meetings until further notice, but there will be no Annual Parish Meeting in May. The next meeting will take place on-line on Thursday 7th May starting at 7.30pm. For details, please contact the clerk by email

crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com