

**Issue 501**

**November 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
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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 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, 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 November deadline**.

For all items of news, articles or correspondence, please e-mail

[crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com)

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

[crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com)

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## Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

The museum has opened a major new exhibition called Spy Oxfordshire. The exhibition will shine a light on previously unknown but fascinating local connections to the intelligence world. Oxfordshire intelligence officers were at the heart of the British war effort during the Second World War: from the commandos that knew no fear and wreaked havoc behind enemy lines, to the codebreakers, analysts, and “connectors of the dots” who provided Prime Minister Winston Churchill with unprecedented insights into the Nazi war machine.

While the exhibition will show that intelligence has a lot more layers to it than what we see in spy fiction, there will be plenty to catch the eye of 007 fans eagerly awaiting the release of *No Time To Die*. Spy Oxfordshire will feature some iconic film props and replicas on loan to the museum, such as the Walther PPK used by Sean Connery in *Dr. No* and original concept drawings for the PPK/S handgun with dermal sensors - used by Daniel Craig in *Skyfall*.

Artefacts from fictional espionage sit alongside their real-world counterparts, as Spy Oxfordshire will also unveil a collection of rare WW2-era gadgetry, including everything from Special Operations Executive (SOE) lapel and sleeve daggers to dummy pieces of coal used to conceal explosives.

Visitors will be encouraged to think about how everyone, even today, has a stake in the intelligence business. It is part of our daily lives, whether we like it or not, from what we read in the newspapers and the security measures we undergo at the airport to the use that is made by governments and private corporations alike of our internet searches, social media and even shopping habits.

The exhibition will run until 17th December. Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum currently opens Wednesdays to Saturdays from 11am to 5pm, and Sundays from 2pm to 5pm.

You can find more details on their website, go to [www.sofo.org.uk](http://www.sofo.org.uk).

## Poppy Appeal

This year, due to the pandemic, Remembrance Day poppies will not be sold door to door in the parish by our local scouts. However, you can donate to the Royal British Legion and get your poppy in Crowmarsh Stores. The Royal British Legion has a range of pins, scarves and other poppy products in their online Poppy Shop go to [www.poppysshop.org.uk](http://www.poppysshop.org.uk). They also have a Poppy to display in your window, to donate and download go to [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk).



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We are recruiting locally and have full and part time **support worker** and **relief support worker** positions available in our South Oxfordshire and Berkshire service.

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# Survey on use of the former council office site

The District Councils have decided not to rebuild the council offices in Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working patterns means many staff are expected to work from home, so they will construct a smaller building on a site they own in Didcot.

This means that another use will need to be found for the empty site in Benson Lane. South Oxfordshire District Council wants to work with the Parish Council and the community to make the best possible use of this site and we want to know what local people think should happen on the site.

Please share your views with the Parish Council by filling in the online form here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZMBCPX>, or you can use the form below, please send to Crowmarsh Parish Clerk, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EL.

1. I would **LIKE** to see the council office site used for:  
(please select up to three options)

- Affordable housing
- Care home / retirement homes
- Education / school
- Employment / offices
- Entertainment / culture
- General housing
- Health / medical
- Sport / leisure facilities
- Any other ideas

2. I would **NOT** like to see the site used for:  
(please select up to three options)

- Affordable housing
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3. Any other comments about the use of the site



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

## NHS telephone numbers

Emergency number **999**

NHS non-emergency number **111**

Pictures, logos and display ads for the  
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## 1155 Wallingford Fireworks Display 2020

We know how much you all look forward to the Wallingford Fireworks Display every year, and over the past 5 years we have been able to donate over £75,000 to 38 local charities as a result of your generosity. 1155 has been monitoring the evolving government guidelines with regards the holding of events in public spaces recently.

We have had to take the inevitable decision to cancel the 2020 Wallingford Fireworks Display. While this may not come as a surprise to many of you, the impact that this will have on the charities that 1155 support will be considerable. Please continue to support those charities, either directly, or through a donation to 1155, go to [www.wallingford1155.co.uk](http://www.wallingford1155.co.uk), and thank you to those of you who have already donated. We will pass 100% of those donations onto the local charities that were otherwise relying on proceeds from the fireworks display.

For over 5 years Wallingford Fireworks has made its mark thanks to our very own Illusion Fireworks Ltd. The fireworks industry has been hit extremely hard by the pandemic so we would like to encourage families to continue the tradition of celebrating bonfire night at home this year and to support Illusion Fireworks. You may purchase incredible fireworks for gardens of all shapes and sizes from their 'Legendary Fireworks' shop in Ayres Yard. The shop will be opening on Monday 12th October every day from 11am to 6pm.

1155 and Illusion Fireworks will continue to make plans for 2021. We will be back with a bigger and better Wallingford Fireworks Display and bonfire! Thank you for your continued support through what has been a challenging period for all of us, and we look forward to welcoming you back to an 1155 event very soon.

We have an endless need for more amazing volunteers, please contact Mark at [markbrett@yahoo.com](mailto:markbrett@yahoo.com) should you wish to give something back and get involved in the running of 1155 events.

## Past Times

### *The Proposed Oxford and Great Western Junction Railway*

Wallingford's Branch line was opened in 1866 with the intention of carrying on across the Thames to Watlington, but this part of the line was never completed. As early as August 1842 Mr Stephenson, a railway engineer began to visit the area around Wallingford to conduct a preliminary survey of a proposed line that was to run from Oxford and form a junction with the Great Western Line near the Moulsoford Bridge.

This proposed route would avoid the expense of crossing the Thames, and the route would be able to bypass Mongewell and avoid Wallingford completely, there being no railway station at Wallingford at this time. There was much opposition to this route, many people thought a second option for the line would start from Moulsoford Station and would cross Cholsey Field (the route followed by today's line) and continue in a straight line to the west of the Workhouse, and then on to the River Thames crossing between Wittenham Wood and Shillingford Bridge. The route then crossed the Thames about a quarter of a mile from Dorchester and passed between the two Baldons, Chislehampton and Cowley before continuing to Oxford.

This was believed to be the best and cheapest route as it was expected there would be considerable opposition from the landowners at Mongewell, which could prove costly. It was intended the application would be presented to Parliament in November and if there was no opposition the line would be finished in twelve months. Luckily, the act was not passed, and Wallingford had to wait 24 years before the railway came to the town.

It is interesting to note that one proposal for the location of Wallingford Station was in the Market Place.

*David Beasley*

## Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club is back for the 2020–2021 season. All meetings are online at the moment but we are offering a full programme of speakers, competitions, and other events to help you improve your photography and meet like-minded people.

The club meets via Zoom every Thursday. Evenings start at 7.30pm and run until around 9.30pm, with Zoom access from 7.15pm.

Our programme for November is:

- 5th we plan to run a practical evening
- 12th is a speaker (still to be confirmed at the time of writing)
- 19th we will have our No Set Subject 2 competition
- 26th “A Personal Response” by Chris Palmer

Please visit [www.wallingfordphoto.club](http://www.wallingfordphoto.club) to learn more about the club and find out how to get involved.

*Emily Dunn*

## Benson Garden Club

Putting the programme together for Benson Garden Club this year has been something of a challenge. However, having just celebrated the club's 25th anniversary, we are determined to keep up with our usual programme of monthly speakers, even if it means using a different format. So we are going to use Zoom to hold virtual speaker meetings.

We have got a fantastic programme lined up for our members and hope to encourage new members to join from the comfort of their arm-chairs. The next talk, intriguingly titled "Permission to Poison", will be given on Zoom by Caroline Holmes on 5th November (7.30pm connect for 7.45pm start). Caroline has many tales to tell about well known plants that can be lethal! She helped design the poison garden at Alnwick Castle. We welcome visitors - if you want to join the event contact us up to two days beforehand and make an online payment of £5 (we will then send you log-in details for the meeting).

The visitor's form is on our website at [www.bensongardeningclub.weebly.com](http://www.bensongardeningclub.weebly.com) for you to fill and submit online. Further information about the club can be found on the website, or email [bensongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:bensongardeningclub@gmail.com)



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# What's on at The Corn Exchange

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise.

Tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

There are now some cinema bookings available and we will be adding more films after we have been able to ascertain the level of demand. Please check [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk) for further programme updates.

All the Covid-19 safety information is available on the website: [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk). Please take a moment to read this before you come to a performance.

We've changed the seating arrangements to try and accommodate all the safety regulations whilst being able to seat as many people as we can. Groups of up to six people can now sit together. Please observe all government regulations.

## Cinema

Sunday 1st November: 2:30pm *Love Sarah* (12A) Celia Imrie, Rupert Penry-Jones, Bill Paterson

Monday 2nd November: 7:30pm *Love Sarah* (12A)

Wednesday 4th November: 7:30pm *I am Greta* (12A), Documentary film

Friday 6th November: 7:30pm *The Secret Garden* (PG), The classic children's story

Saturday 7th November: 7:30pm *The Secret Garden* (PG)

Sunday 8th November: 2:30pm *The Secret Garden* (PG)

Monday 9th November: 7:30pm *La Heine* (15), French with subtitles, all tickets £5

Friday 13th November: 7:30pm *Saint Maud* (15)

Saturday 14th November: 7:30pm *Saint Maud* (15)

Monday 16th November: 7:30pm *Parasite* (15), a new version of the Oscar winning film.

## Live Screenings

Thursday November 19th: 7:30pm *Uncle Vanya* (12A), A filmed version of the play recorded at the Harold Pinter Theatre, starring Toby Jones and Richard Armitage. Adults (£12) Seniors and Under 18s (£10)

## Live Theatre

Saturday 12th December: 7:45pm *A Solo Christmas Carol* featuring Guy Masterson, "Scrooge's journey of redemption, The Perfect Christmas Treat." Tickets £15 (adults) and £10 (under16s)

## Special Feature: *The King's Speech* Oscar at the Corn Exchange

Ever wanted to see a real live Oscar? Well on Friday 27th November 2020 you can. The Producer of *The King's Speech*, Gareth Ellis-Unwin, is doing a Q&A at the Corn Exchange and he's going to bring along his Best Picture Oscar!

The film portrays King George VI's struggle with his speech impediment and highlights the work of Lionel Logue, an Australian speech and language therapist who helped him make his first wartime radio broadcast upon Britain's declaration of war on Germany in 1939.

The film won four Oscars, seven British Academy Awards and many others including Best Actor at the Golden Globe awards and Screen Actors Guild Awards, and the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival.

As our seats are limited because of the rules about social distancing, make sure you book your tickets quickly for this event, as it's bound to be a sell-out.

Gareth will be talking to Gloria Wright, Chair of the Sinodun Players, she will introduce Gareth before the film is shown, and the Q&A will start directly afterwards.

Friday 27th November: 7:30pm *The King's Speech* (12A), featuring a Q&A with Gareth Unwin, the Oscar winning producer, all tickets £10





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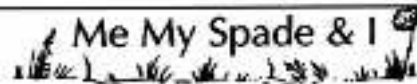
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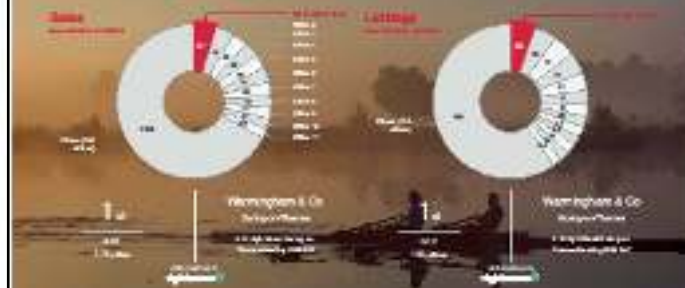
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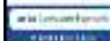


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Tel: 01491 599873

Email: [teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk](mailto:teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk)

Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

### Services for November

Sunday 1st	11am	All Saints Festival Family Service
Sunday 1st	6pm	All Souls Memorial Service
Sunday 8th	10.45am	Gather for Remembrance Sunday Service
Saturday 14th	10am-noon	Crowmarsh Virtual Community Café (on Zoom)
Sunday 15th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 22nd	11am	Family Communion (Christ the King)
Sunday 29th	11am	Advent Sunday Festival Communion

Morning Prayer every Friday at 9am Evening Prayer every Sunday at 4pm

Full details at [www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar](http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar)

The Vicar writes...

November is the month when we will dwell on the themes of remembrance, grief, mortality and the hope of resurrection, all of which will be more pertinent than ever during this pandemic. Alongside those named on our war memorials, we can also think of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in risking their lives to serve on the front line of the NHS, in our care homes and emergency services. This year may have changed our perspective on what we value most in life, in which case "2020 vision" will have a whole new meaning as we see our priorities in a new light.

We have our usual services in church. The Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service begins at the lychgate before going into church (space permitting). Although no uniformed organisations will parade, everyone is invited to attend observing strict social distancing. The week we remember those we have lost by name, at our All Souls' Memorial Service.

All these are held within the context of All Saints' Day (1st Nov), when we celebrate the new life for those who have gone before us in the faith of Christ and look forward to our eternal home in heaven where Jesus reigns in glory – celebrated with the festival of Christ the King (22nd Nov) marking the end of the church year.

*Blessings, Rev Kev*

## Crowmarsh Village Hall Reopens

Crowmarsh village hall is now open for bookings with completely refurbished toilets. A full risk assessment has been completed to ensure that all users are Covid secure. This means that you can safely book the hall for any function that complies with the relevant Covid restrictions. Unfortunately, that does not include parties at this time.

For more information please contact Chris Strange on 07711 904 252 or email: [cvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhbookings@gmail.com).

## Citizens Advice needs volunteer advisers

We can all face problems that are too stressful or complicated to sort out alone. Last year our 150 volunteers advised over 11,000 people. We helped three quarters resolve their debt, benefits, employment and housing problems.

We now need more advisers to help us during and after the Covid-19 crisis. Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame. Since March, 90 volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

You will join a friendly team, meet new people, develop your skills and make a real difference to people's lives. You'll need to have good listening and interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn and be confident with computers. Full training will be provided.

If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years, please contact us at: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/)

## Oxfordshire County Council - Street Tag

Street Tag is a new family-friendly game that rewards primary schools, families, individuals and communities for physical activities such as walking, running, and cycling.

Street Tag is turning streets and parks in Oxfordshire into a giant virtual playground. You can play to win rewards for your child's primary school, or as an individual or team of up to six people in Oxfordshire's community league.

Watch your total distance accumulate and see how far you climb up the local leaderboard. Get ready to push yourself and start your journey to a healthy lifestyle with Street Tag. For more info on how to play, head to [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/streettag](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/streettag)

## Crowmarsh playground opening times

Playground users: please note that 9am-10am every day is reserved for shielding and vulnerable families. These could be vulnerable children with a parent/guardian, or a shielding/vulnerable adult with children. The playground opens to everyone at 10am.

### Garden Machinery repair and servicing.

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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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# Crowmarsh Parish Council News

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

tel. 838523, email [johngriffin@phonecoop.coop](mailto:johngriffin@phonecoop.coop)

Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, email [crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com)

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

## Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held online on Thursday 1st October 2020

*Present:* Cllrs John Griffin, David Topliss, Stephen Sherbourne, David Rowley, Ken McCrea, Stuart Soames, Liz Ryall and Julian Park, County Cllr Mark Gray, Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). and one member of the public for part of the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fleur Stevenson and Andrew Johnson.

### Finance

Payments agreed included £882 paid to Arrow Fencing for installing a new bench outside the Village Hall and repairing the bus shelter roof in North Stoke. £4,185.09 was paid to Came and Co. for the parish council's annual insurance premium. A donation of £200 to the Wallingford Volunteer Centre was agreed.

### Planning

SODC has granted permission for P20/S2455/FUL 27 Benson Lane Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Detached dwelling (amended scheme to planning approval number P18/S2866/FUL)

The gate pillar at the entrance to Carmel College has now been repaired.

### Consultation on planning applications

P20/S2748/FUL Crowmarsh Pavillion, Bellamy Way, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8FN. Internal alterations, new window/door openings, extension of external walkway and paved areas. The Parish Council is the applicant.

P20/S0545/FUL New house at the Woodyard, Constitution Hill, Mongewell. As amended by drawings accompanying email from agent received 21 September 2020 and accompanying revised tree information and planning statement. OBJECT because Mongewell is an unsustainable location for new

housing with no services, the site lies outside the designated infill area in policy CRP1 of the pre-submission Crowmarsh Neighbourhood Plan, there will be a loss of woodland and biodiversity, and potential traffic danger of a new vehicle entrance at the bottom of Constitution Hill.

### District Councillors' report

SODC has launched a new website - <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk>.

To give people another chance to have their say on the Local Plan (but only on the inspector's main modifications), the Council is carrying out a six-week consultation which runs until Monday 2 November. The modifications relate mostly to building design and active travel plans. See [southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan).

SODC is now making adjustments to their 4-year strategy in response to the recent Corporate Plan consultation (932 responses and many thousands of comments). The theme which scored the highest in the eyes of the public was to "protect and restore our natural world", and anyone who watched David Attenborough's recent "Extinction" documentary would doubtless agree that this should be the top priority.

### County Councillor's report

County Councillor Gray emphasised the importance of sticking to the rules and guidance on social distancing as COVID-19 cases are rising again. The county council wishes to encourage walking and cycling and has re-marked some cycle lanes and bus stop parking areas, half funded from central government in the first tranche of Active Travel funding. Central government has decided to concentrate on towns and cities for the second tranche, so there will be no more money coming to South Oxfordshire at present.

## Environment and recreation

The playground and outdoor gym have had two Zoono biomisting sanitiser treatments to help to protect the local community. Other places have used this system, but please continue to use the sanitiser pumps, maintain distance and follow all current guidance.

Fresh Air Fitness has changed the bike in the outdoor gym. The roundabout needs remedial work and the base of the wooden train is to be repaired by Arrow Fencing in November.

The new planter in The Street has been damaged by a vehicle. Cllr Sherbourne has carried out interim repairs and it has been planted with pansies and spring bulbs and will be replaced in the spring with a half barrel. Another half barrel will be placed at the junction of The Street and Benson Lane, opposite the Queen's Head. Grundons have donated 50 native daffodil bulbs. Some will be planted on the corner of Lane End and The Street; ideas for other suitable locations are welcome.

Only one contractor has quoted for pruning the hedge at Home Farm, which will be done in late November.

## Traffic and transport

The council agreed to support Bix and Assendon Parish Council in asking the police to address the problem of speeding motorcyclists.

There is now an hourly Sunday service to Henley via Nuffield and Nettlebed (X38). Buses to Henley now run through Crowmarsh Gifford (not around the bypass). This means that X38 buses to both Henley and Oxford use the stop outside the church. Timetables at bus stops have been updated or see the website <https://www.thames-travel.co.uk/routes/x38x39x40>. Face coverings and distancing are required on all public transport.

Traffic using the vehicular access to Newnham Green off the Old Reading Road needs to take extreme care as this road is used by pedestrians, particularly children and parents at the beginning and end of the school day.

## Strategic priorities

The parish council's top three strategic priorities are:

- A toucan crossing on the A4074 Portway.
- A pedestrian crossing in The Street near The Bell.
- Improvements to the pavilion.

Other priorities being investigated or worked on include; improving the Watery Lane bridleway, speed indication and traffic management in North Stoke, possible crossing in Benson Lane, active travel (walking and cycling) and provision of electric vehicle charging points, and achieving a community use of the former council office site.

Glanville Associates have been commissioned to carry out a survey for a pedestrian crossing in The Street near The Bell.

## Future meetings

The next meeting will take place on-line on Thursday 5th November, starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend council meetings. For details, please contact the parish clerk by email [crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com)

If anyone is interested in joining the parish council, please contact the clerk.

**To book North Stoke Village Hall**  
Contact Nikki Arnfeld (839736, [narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk)) or  
Stuart Soames (836058, [sjwsoames@btinternet.com](mailto:sjwsoames@btinternet.com))

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