



# Crowmarsh News

Issue 456

September 2016

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 – £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

*Editorial support:* 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 October issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our 20th September 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 Editor at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

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

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

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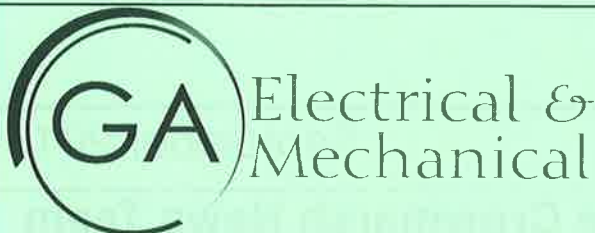


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# The Oxfordshire Comet goes into orbit

Oxfordshire County Council has launched a new bookable transport service, called the Oxfordshire Comet. It has been created to allow people without suitable access to public transport to make the journeys they want.

The new service operates as a membership scheme that individuals and groups will need to register with before making their first journey.

The Oxfordshire Comet uses vehicles that normally take children to school and adults to day care centres. Because we already own these vehicles, we only have to cover running costs, meaning we can keep costs down for passengers.

It can be booked for any type of trip – to meet friends in town, travel across the county, attend an appointment or pop to the shops. It's been designed so that it is easy to book, with a pre-paid account that can be set up on the phone.

The service is for Oxfordshire residents who don't have access to suitable public transport. It is also open to wheelchair users or those with mobility issues. The service can be booked by individuals, groups, schools, organisations and local communities.

The Oxfordshire Comet can do one-off journeys, regular and group trips. The Comet can also run regular community routes in areas where local people may not have suitable access to public transport. We are already in discussions with a number of parish councils and other groups over the setting up of such routes. A fund of £200,000 has been set aside that parish councils and other organisations can apply for to trial the Comet service for an initial period.

The 16-seater Comet vehicles are fully wheelchair and pushchair accessible.

For more information, please visit: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/comet) or contact Rob Savage [Robert.Savage@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Savage@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Advertisement

### Wanted: Part-Time Finance Officer to Crowmarsh Parish Council

[www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk](http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk)

This is a part-time book-keeping position, with responsibility for maintaining the council's accounts, dealing with payments and receipts, preparing reports for the monthly council meetings and the annual audit, giving guidance to councillors and making basic VAT and PAYE returns.

Crowmarsh Parish Council is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified person to be responsible for the financial aspects of the council. The successful candidate should have:

- a. Relevant previous experience of local government finance;
- b. Excellent communication and IT skills;
- c. Experience in managing budgets and accounts;
- d. A willingness to pursue on-going training opportunities;
- e. The ability to work successfully with our councillors, residents, Local Authority departments and contractors.

The role occupies about four hours a week with an occasional busier period, working mainly from home. Attendance at council meetings, usually on the first Thursday evening of each month, is also required. Candidates would need their own internet access and computer. The current salary is £3675 per annum.

A full job description is available from the Parish Clerk, Sue Rance (email [susan-rance@btinternet.com](mailto:susan-rance@btinternet.com), tel 01491 839170).

Candidates should apply by letter and CV to Sue Rance by email or post (2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, OX10 8EL).

The timescale is tight, so please apply as soon as possible. We would like to make an appointment during September to give an opportunity for training to be given by the current post-holder (who is moving away).

## Crowmarsh Pre-school

Pre-school will start up again in the new school year on Monday 5th September when we look forward to welcoming our new starters as they settle in over the first few weeks of term.

Crowmarsh Pre-school has a strong emphasis on learning through play. We are open to all children between the ages of 2 and 5 years and provide the perfect (and FUN) preparation for children getting ready to start school.

We offer two sessions a day during term time. The morning session runs from 8.45 or 9am to 12pm, and the afternoon session from 12 noon to 3pm. Lunch club is from 12 to 1pm and may be added on to the morning session.

To find out more information about the pre-school, have a look at our website ([www.crowmarshpre-school.org.uk/](http://www.crowmarshpre-school.org.uk/)), call our Manager, Dilys Beaumont, for a chat on 07951 599 623, or e-mail Vikki at [admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk](mailto:admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk)

## Golden Strolling Oldies

No Lottery money needed – just you – for a gentle stroll around the park where there are plenty of benches. Dogs welcome. Inspired by the Olympic Games.

Let us get together and win our own medals by keeping active as Golden Strolling Oldies. First meeting to be held at Crowmarsh Recreation Ground Car Park on Monday 3rd October, at 10.30am.

**Eve Hunt**  
**4 Newnham Green**  
**Crowmarsh Gifford**

## Bunkfest Road Closures

On Saturday 3rd September from 7am to 7pm due to the Bunkfest there will be road closures in the centre of Wallingford, as follows:

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

St Mary's Street will be closed from the Market Place to St Leonard's Square.

## Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers

### Walks for September

#### Tuesday 6th

**10:00 SU508949 Moderate 6.5 miles**

Meet at Culham Lock for a circular walk beside River Thames, skirting Abingdon.

Contact Sue White, 834370 or 07814 165940.

#### Sunday 11th

**14:00 SU526882 Moderate 6 miles**

Meet at East Hagbourne at Upper Cross near the church. This is a monthly village ramble that varies from 5 to 7 miles.

Contact Paul Chambers, 01235 816365.

#### Sunday 18th

**10:30 SU668874 Moderate 8 miles**

Meet at the church at Nuffield for a circular walk via Nettlebed and Park Corner. Bring packed lunch. Registered Assistance Dogs only.

Contact Kate Hart, 838689 or 07966 756770.

## Inner Wheel Club of Sinodun

Sadly, this is the last article I will write about the activities of Sinodun Inner Wheel Club. After 34 years, due to health and other age-related issues, the Club has finally closed.

We have never had a large membership, but what we lacked in size we have made up for in enthusiasm and energy. Over the years we have raised many thousands of pounds for a wide variety of charities, not only local but also national and international. We have given hours of service in the community when we have identified a need for our help and have on occasions collected used clothes, drinking mugs and over 400 used bras!

We have enjoyed it all and would like to thank everyone reading this who supported our efforts in any way whatsoever. We could not have done it without you.

With many thanks,

**Eira E Hoare**  
**Last President**  
**Inner Wheel Club of Sinodun**



## Henley and District Philatelic Society

After an enjoyable 50th Anniversary celebration in June and annual supper, members will be pleased to get back to displaying pages from their collections and to meeting the speakers visiting Henley during the coming year. If you enjoy collecting stamps, or would like to know more, come and meet us; guests have been amazed at the many topics and wide scope of this great hobby!

14th September – Latest Acquisitions – up to nine pages of new material, per member.

28th September – David Frome from Barnet PS with his display on 'The Olympics'.

Meetings are held 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 from our website: [www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk)



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## Incident at Wallingford Toll

The 25th August 1869 was a fine day and George Hearmon the Toll Keeper, at Wallingford Bridge Toll House (where the stone seats are today on Wallingford Bridge) was on duty that afternoon.

The Reverend George Day, Rector of Brightwell Baldwin, riding with his son in a dogcart, approached the Toll House from the Crowmarsh side of the bridge. He found that Hearmon's cart was blocking part of the road; he claimed later in court that the wheel on Hearmon's cart touched his pony's nose and made the pony back off a pace.

This evidently angered the Revd Day so much that when asked to pay the 1d (1/2p) toll he refused and getting out of his cart, struck Hearmon in the face. Retribution was swift and Hearmon knocked the angry Reverend down,

at which point Day's son joined in. Hearmon stood his ground, knocking Day down a second time. There were a number of witnesses who separated the two pugilists.

Mr Hearmon summoned the Revd Day for assault. Five witnesses appeared, all giving evidence that Day struck Hearmon first, but that Hearmon was aggressive when asking for the toll to be paid.

Henry Hawkins, the Chairman of the Bench said it gave a bad impression when Clergyman were seen brawling in the streets, and he would impose a fine of 2s 6d (12½p) with £1 15s (£1.75) costs.

It's interesting to note that Revd Day was the fourth person Hearmon had taken to Court for evading the toll or assault.

## Back where they belong

On 6th August, a simple ceremony of re-interment was held in a field at Coldharbour Farm. It was where, in November 1993, farmer Jack Edwards informed Wallingford Museum staff that a lead coffin with human bones had been found in one of his fields. The coffin was identified as Roman and the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society excavated the grave and recovered and recorded the burial.

Excavations on the site then took place in subsequent years and a total of 25 burials were identified, some of which had been ploughed out and damaged. The burials were aligned roughly north-south and a few grave

goods were found, including a fine bone comb, coins and a complete pot. The coin evidence showed they were late 4th century burials. They could have been a family group, perhaps from a high status farmstead – which has yet to be found.

Now the bones have been returned to lie in peace. In keeping with Roman funeral practice, a short eulogy was given and the deceased were offered a libation of wine, salt and olive oil before being carefully covered up.

The Society wishes to record its thanks to the Edwards family for their help and interest. Some of the Roman items found at Coldharbour can now be seen at Wallingford Museum.

### Short Mat Bowls

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

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

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

## Charleston for CF

On Saturday 24th September at 7.30pm I am holding 'Charleston for CF' at Crowmarsh Village Hall and once again all money will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust (my 2 year-old daughter has CF). Come and enjoy a fantastic evening of pampering and dancing!

Be pampered by the beauticians and hair stylist, buy beautiful jewellery and gifts, have your photo taken by our fantastic photographer and have fun learning some simple Charleston steps and then take to the dance floor to practise your new moves.

There will also be a raffle with lots of brilliant prizes to win. Entry is £6 and includes a free glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles. Guests are invited to bring a bottle – glasses and corkscrews will be provided. For more details, to buy tickets or donate a raffle prize, please contact [zoebagley@gmail.com](mailto:zoebagley@gmail.com)  
<https://charleston4cf.wordpress.com>

Many thanks,  
**Zoe Bagley**

## Rag Craft

The health benefits of creative crafts are long documented, and reusing what you no longer need can only add to the satisfaction.

Alison Garnett and Helen Winthorpe Kendrick are offering the chance to do your bit to make useful and beautiful things out of your old clothes and household linens. From crochet bags to plaited rugs, no prior experience is needed, with all the help on hand for an enjoyable and satisfying day.

The workshop in Didcot's All Saints Hall is on Saturday 29th October, 10am-4pm, costing £50. To book, email [helen@visionsinthread.com](mailto:helen@visionsinthread.com) or phone 836148.

## Wallingford Wedding Fayre

The Wallingford Wedding Fayre will be held on 25th September. Showcasing the very best local wedding suppliers and the Town Hall as a wedding venue, the Fayre will be taking place at the Town Hall from 11am to 3pm.



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## **Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend**

**throughout Wallingford and Cholsey,  
Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September**

This year's Agatha Christie Weekend has something for everyone! Guided walks, plays, talk, exhibitions, heritage transport and .... cream teas! Further details, and how to book, can be viewed at:  
[www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)

### *Main events summary:*

'An Afternoon with Agatha Christie's Grandson': Mathew Prichard in conversation with Judy Dewey. 3.30-5pm on Saturday at Wallingford Corn Exchange, £10.

'Who Killed the Vicar?'- an interactive murder mystery play by Chris Martin, performed by the Cholsey Dramatic Society. Friday 9th at 7.45pm at Wallingford Corn Exchange, £10. Saturday 10th at 7.45pm at the Cholsey Great Hall, £10.

Two different Agatha Christie Exhibitions (with new material) on Saturday and Sunday: at both Cholsey Old School, Church Road, 11am to 4pm, and at Wallingford Museum, 10.30am to 5pm. Entrance to each £2.50 (if not on Guided Walk).

Agatha Christie Trail Guided Walks: from Wallingford Museum to Cholsey at 10am on Saturday and Sunday, including return by Heritage Bus on Saturday or Heritage Train on Sunday. £10 ticket (turn up on the day) also includes both exhibitions. Sandwich lunch available in Cholsey.

Cream Teas at Cholsey Pavilion: Sunday 2pm to 4.30pm, courtesy of Cholsey WI, Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot may drop in!

St Mary's Church, Cholsey: the 10th Century

Church and churchyard, resting place of Agatha Christie, will be open 11am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Red Routemaster Heritage Bus Rides: the bus will be travelling to and from Cholsey and Wallingford throughout Saturday. £3.50 adults, each way (if not on Guided Walk).

Heritage Train Rides: trains will be running to and from Cholsey and Wallingford throughout Sunday. £3.50 adults, each way (if not on Guided Walk).

Full details, and how to book, can be viewed at [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)



## **Surviving the Death Railway – the Missing Story**

Hilary Custance Green's talk to the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will use memoirs, letters and images, to tell the story of a POW, Barry, on the Thailand-Burma Railway in WWII, and his wife, Phyllis, in Britain.

During the three and a half years of silence Phyllis corresponded with the relatives of the 68 men under Barry's command. This is a personal story of a man and wife set 6000 miles apart, told through an amazing collection of letters from (mostly) women, from all walks of life, none of whom had news of their men-folk for three and a half years.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 14th September, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. For more details, visit [www.twahas.org.uk](http://www.twahas.org.uk).

## **Wallingford Flower Club**

On Wednesday 14th September at 7.30pm, Sarah Motley will demonstrate "The Sun always follows the Rain" at Crowmarsh Village Hall, Benson Lane. All are welcome; visitors £4, membership £22. For further information, call 834303.



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# Performanze Dance School 10th Anniversary



Performanze dance school is celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2017. In its early years classes were held in church halls, then in 2014 the main studio, located in Watlington, opened and upgraded to a bigger site in 2015, maintaining satellite classes in neighbouring villages.

Set in the rural village locations of Watlington, Chalgrove and Crowmarsh Gifford, classes attract local budding young and mature dancers alike. Over the last ten years, Performanze has flourished; consisting of some wonderful children and their parents, and open to new starters who are always made very welcome. The ethos of Performanze is to provide something for everyone.

Performanze offers an amazing range of dance from 'Mummy and Me' classes aimed at little ones and their mums, regular dance classes for examinations, fun classes for those looking for exercise and to make new friends, to 'Elite Squad', for those wishing to train further and perform. Each child is supported at their particular level and helped to achieve their own personal goals through creativity, co-ordination and building of self-confidence.

Achievements include:

- Dancing at Disneyland Paris
- A CD of Christmas hits
- the creation of a school DVD
- Dancing at a number of theatres, which have included Sadler's Wells, Her Majesty's Theatre, Oxford New Theatre and Aylesbury Waterside Theatre
- Backing dance for Foxes at Wembley Stadium

- Dance at the inaugural football game of West Ham at its new stadium, the Olympic Stadium
- Participation in the O2 Indigo performance
- A number of students have performed with the English Youth Ballet and have been invited to dance with Ryan Jenkins' ID dance company London
- Students progressing to Performing Art colleges.

Top this off with 100% success rate in examinations for the last ten years too, and it is so easy to see why we are proud of our dancers and dance school, Performanze!

This year further amazing events are being planned including 45 young local dancers performing at the Royal Albert Hall!

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We would like to express our thanks to our students, whose dedication and determination has allowed them to achieve so much already and many more successes in the future. Also to parents and families for their help with travel, fundraising and their support over the years not only to their children but also to the school as a whole. To our communities in which we run classes, those who upkeep the village halls and those who make Oxfordshire such a wonderful and beautiful place to be.

We have had an absolute blast over the last ten years and are looking forward to the next ten years.

If you would like to join us and be a part of our next adventures, please ping us an email to [performanze@live.co.uk](mailto:performanze@live.co.uk) or call Rosie on 07745099472.

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Tuesday 15 November 7.30

OSJ with Francesca Saracino soprano *Mahler and Mendelssohn*

Sunday 18 December 7.30

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

Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076

Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

### Services for September

Sunday 4th	Trinity 15	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 11th	Trinity 16	11am	Family Service
Sunday 18th	Trinity 17	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 25th	Trinity 18	11am	Family Communion

We will celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday 2nd October.

Good news – your Parish Church is now open again every day. Everyone is welcome to pop in and have a look around this ancient building with its original Norman features, characterised by the round arches.

It can be rather dark inside, and we are hoping to provide automated lighting soon – in the meantime, if you do need to turn the lights on then please do remember to turn them off again when you leave.

The church was originally closed because of petty vandalism, but the best way of preventing this is to have a steady stream of visitors, so please do help us keep an eye on the building and report anything remotely suspicious.

Whilst the building is of historical interest, we hope that you will also find it to be an oasis of peace and calm in which to stop, reflect and pray. Knowing that generations of villagers have worshipped here for over 800 years brings a certain sacredness to the space where we can turn our minds to things eternal, putting our immediate worries and concerns into perspective as we turn to God.

In Celtic spirituality, there is a concept of a “thin place” where heaven and earth come

close together and the line between them blurred so that our Creator God can be sensed in his creation.

Such “thin places” are not limited to mountain tops, the Holy Land or other far-off destinations at the end of a pilgrimage – indeed, the message proclaimed by Jesus and his followers is that “the Kingdom of God is close at hand”. In his teaching on prayer Jesus encouraged us, saying “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). Well, for those who were knocking, the church door has been opened!

If you would like to join with others in more formal times of prayer, we have recently begun to say the traditional short service of Evening Prayer every Sunday at 6.30pm. This is in addition to the modern version of Morning Prayer which we use every Friday at 9am. Alternatively, if you are unable to join us but would like to share your prayers, then we have a book on the table near the church door in which you are welcome to leave a prayer request. We will light a candle for those mentioned as we pray for them at our main 11am Sunday service.

**Rev'd Kevin Beer**

### Useful telephone numbers

**Crime Stoppers** 0800 555 111 **Police non-emergency number** 101



# District Councillor's Report

## **Birthday celebrations for our Queen's 90th year**

We offered our Town and Parish councils a grant towards any community events they were holding to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. 71 out of 86 parish and town councils in our District took us up on the offer and we distributed over £50,000 towards these events. If you took advantage of this, I hope that you and your community had a really great time!

## **Planning Matters**

We have been working with our Planning Officers to produce a simple guide on how members of the public should reply to Planning Permission Consultations. We are hoping that this will help people respond, and improve their understanding of what does and does not constitute a Material Planning Consideration. The guide can be obtained from our Planning Team.

## **July Town and Parish Forum**

We held our Town and Parish forum in July. Events like this help us to stay in touch with town and parish councils and keep them up to date with the work we're doing. At the July event we provided updates on our bid for district-based unitary councils and progress on our local plans. We also took the chance to talk to councils about our new corporate plan.

These events are an important opportunity for dialogue and in future, we aim to hold two of them each year, instead of just the one.

## **Golf club lands in the rough**

Following the destruction of 29 protected pine trees in the North Stoke conservation area we successfully prosecuted Thames Valley Golf Limited, owners of the Springs Hotel and Golf Club. The company was fined £8,000 and ordered to pay over £1,500 costs.

If you believe that there have been violations, please let the Enforcement Team know so that they can investigate and take appropriate action.

## **Five Councils update - Changes from 1st August**

The first of our services to be handed over to Capita and VINCI on 1st August has been completed. The only exception to this is that we're going to put back the launch of the new system for people to pay for their car parking by phone by a month, until 1st September. A benefit of doing this is that it gives us a bit more time to let people know the change is taking place, but in the meantime people can continue to use the existing RingGo system as normal.

## **Devolution/unitary councils update**

We need to understand how the recent changes in the government may affect our proposals for devolution and local government reorganisation. Following discussions with civil servants, we've now had a very clear message from central government that devolution proposals should have broad support across all tiers of local government in the area they would cover. We don't currently have this in Oxfordshire so we've collectively agreed to again explore whether we can reach a set of proposals we can all sign up to.

This is likely to take a little while so don't expect anything to happen publicly for a couple of months. We've postponed publication of the PWC and Grant Thornton studies, and plans for consultation are now on hold.

## **Cutting down on council tax fraud**

Last year our fraud investigators helped to prevent more than £410,000 in council tax discounts from being fraudulently claimed across the South and Vale Districts, and they also recovered more than £160,000 that had already been paid out to illegal claims. If you have concerns that someone may be carrying out a fraud, please do report it so we can look into it. It's your money that they are claiming!

## **New grants scheme**

We've launched a new revenue grants scheme - any non-profit organisation can apply, like a charity or local village committee. The grants are from £10,000 to £100,000 over four years and can be used on revenue

spending – so things like rent and rates, salary costs, and marketing and publicity.

We're launching these grants to help us meet our new corporate objectives, including investing in the district's future and building thriving communities. Applications are open until 15th September this year. Contact the grants team on 01235 422405.

If you have a District related issue that you think I may be able to help with, please get in touch.

**Cllr Felix Bloomfield**



## **Garden Visit on 8 September**

Wallingford Gardening Club's summer garden programme concludes with a visit to Cedar Lodge, Dyson's Wood, Kidmore End. Our host, Richard Bisgrove, will give us a guided tour of his garden.

Richard is a landscape designer, adviser, author and academic. In 1972 he redesigned the garden at Trinity College, Cambridge. At present he is a member of staff at the University of Reading.

His main interests are in the restoration and management of historic gardens and garden history, especially 19th and early-20th century. Richard is also interested in the work of Gertrude Jekyll, William Robinson and planting design.

The cost of the visit will be £4, which will include tea and biscuits.

This visit will be held at Cedar Lodge, Dysons Wood, Kidmore End, RG4 9EY at 5.30pm (note: earlier than our usual time!) on Thursday 8th September. Visitors will be very welcome.

**Isabelle Darby**  
**836867**

## **Wallingford U3A**

Our 30th Anniversary Celebratory party went with a swing. Ken Fitt's "Entertainment" was all we could have hoped for and expected. He provided live music, plus politics, history and humour covering the years since 1986 in one fascinating kaleidoscope. The food and company were good too.

And now our activities are looking to settle into autumn style. We offer lots of variety: about 16 people join the monthly Sunday lunch club. We meet at a variety of local pubs and golf clubs. It's a bit like family lunch, with no washing up afterwards.

The various interest groups are thriving. We are planning next year's holiday. We will be visiting Kenilworth on 15th September, Sonning Theatre and the Museum of London in October.

Our September speaker is Dr Martin Holmes. An Oxford historian, Dr Holmes has visited us before and we are delighted to welcome him back. He has already brought us his knowledge about and insights into a number of relatively recent politicians. On 7th September he will speak on Edward Heath. We know it will be spellbinding.

Our Meetings are held at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome. After the talk there is tea, and a chance to meet people and make new friends. For more information about what we do, please visit our website: Google u3awallingford. Or you can phone Hermione on 01865 858024, or Jill on 835994.

**Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall is ideal for children's parties** and can be booked for £10.00 per hour (minimum 2 hours).

Please note that bouncy castles or other inflatables cannot be used inside the Hall, and that evening bookings from 7.00pm are subject to the full rate.

To book the Hall, call Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or e-mail [cvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhbookings@gmail.com).

# Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523,  
email: [johngriffin@phonecoop.coop](mailto: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 11th August 2016

*Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Francesca Jones, David Manner-  
ing, and Ann Sharp; Sue Rance (Clerk) and  
Mel Malcolm (Finance Officer)*

*Apologies were received from Councillors  
Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames, Andrew  
Hermesen, Fleur Stevenson, Andrew Johnson  
and County Councillor Mark Gray.*

Sadly, Mel Malcolm is leaving the area in September so we need to recruit a new Finance Officer. We thanked Mel for her excellent work managing the parish council accounts and advising councillors on finance matters.

### Matters from previous meeting

Grass Cutting Contract: Cllr Sharp has contacted Scofell about problems with the grass cutting contract and ordered additional cuts in some areas where it was particularly poor. The grass cutting arrangements are now working although standards are not as high as desirable everywhere. This has been a difficult year due to starting late and wet weather in June. Consideration will be given to going out to tender early next year, possibly using more than one contractor for the different areas that require different machinery. A sub-committee will be convened to negotiate this.

Cllr Sharp will obtain a quote for cutting the hedge at Home Farm. Roadside vegetation at Crowmarsh roundabout also needs cutting.

The County Council has approved the employment of a school crossing patrol officer at the corner of Old Reading Road and The Street. This is being funded by the Churchill Lollipoppers' campaign.

### Finance

July payments were agreed. The Finance Officer reported that grass cutting invoices are now correct. Arrow Fencing have done some repairs at the recreation ground. It was agreed to continue with the contract for emptying dog bins, although no new bins will now be provided as litter bins can now be used because all of it goes for incineration. Lids with bins are preferable and litter bins can get over-full. Dog owners are reminded to pick up after your dog and not to leave bags on trees and fences.

Proposed bus shelter in Benson Lane: a quote of £1050 has been received from Arrow Fencing to erect a bus shelter opposite the village hall and it was agreed to proceed with this.

### Planning

#### *Neighbourhood planning*

There was an inconclusive discussion about neighbourhood development planning and this matter will be considered at the next meeting.

A neighbourhood development plan is written by local people, 'made' or adopted by the district council and becomes part of the development plan that helps to decide planning applications. SODC strongly supports neighbourhood planning to help local people to shape the way their communities grow and develop into the future.

However, parish councillors were not convinced that it would help Crowmarsh; many felt it would require a lot of volunteer effort and the experience of neighbouring parishes has been mixed. There is information at the SODC website [www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans).

Please contact the parish council chairman if

you have views on this.

#### *SODC decision:*

P16/S1250/HH (Householder) and P16/S1251/LB (Listed Building): Extension and refurbishment of the stable block. Chaise House, 67 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EF.

PERMISSION GRANTED.

#### *Parish Council responses to SODC:*

P16/S2200/HH: Single-storey rear extension. 8 Jethro Tull Gardens, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8DS.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P16/S2357/HH: Loft conversion with Velux roof windows to both side elevations. 15 Jethro Tull Gardens, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8DS. RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P16/S2454/FUL: Sub-division of existing residential curtilage and erection of a detached two-storey dwelling house. Provision of new rear vehicular access for existing dwelling off Winters Field. 27 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P16/S2500/LB: To remove all existing ceilings upstairs, insulate between rafters with 50mm celotex insulation, counter batten all areas and apply tri-iso multi layer foil insulation, counter batten again and re-board complete area with 12.5mm plasterboard and apply plaster finish. 1 Church Cottages, Church Lane, North Stoke OX10 6BH.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P16/S2610/HH: Two-storey extension. Mere Cottage, Mongewell Park OX10 8DA.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P16/S2659/HH: Loft conversion. 35 Howbery Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8NR.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

#### *Tree Preservation Order*

South Oxfordshire District Council confirmed Tree Preservation Order 16S04 on 28th July 2016 for 113 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EF.

## **Environment and Recreation Ground**

Basketball practice facilities: Cllr Johnson had circulated a proposal to accept a quote for the provision of a 7m x 7m basketball practice facility at a cost of £5243, the lowest of three quotes. After discussion it was agreed to proceed with this work. It was agreed to apply for a grant from South Oxfordshire District Council towards this. A further application could be made for grant funding if we decide to refurbish the children's play area.

Cllr Mannering has posted notices about booking the hard court and will advertise this facility in *Crowmarsh News*.

## **Traffic and Transport**

Peter Brett Associates had reported on their survey and initial design for a proposed pedestrian crossing of the A4074 Portway.

Notes on the recent Parish Transport Representatives' meeting have been circulated. These county-wide meetings will continue for the time being but the County Council is no longer providing resources. Grants may be obtained to provide home to college transport for outlying villages.

Thames Travel has issued a leaflet on all changes to bus services. The buses from Cholsey to RAF Benson (136) and Wallingford to Henley (139) now come through Crowmarsh Gifford. Full details are at [www.thames-travel.co.uk](http://www.thames-travel.co.uk).

It is now possible to book County Council minibuses (with drivers) for use during the day when they are not required for school transport. Cllr Jones will advertise this in *Crowmarsh News*.

## **Next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 8th September at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

There are now two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you think you might like to join the Parish Council please talk to the chairman, the

parish clerk or any councillor. It would be particularly useful to have another member from North Stoke or Mongewell.



## **Walking Football for the over 50s**

Go Active Gold is looking to start Walking Football in Crowmarsh Gifford. Walking Football is a slower version of the beautiful game and it is ideal for anyone who would like to get or stay active whilst enjoying the social aspect.

**Start Date:** Monday 19th September  
**Time:** 11am to 12pm  
**Venue:** Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion  
**Price:** £2  
**Benefits:** Older people who play have seen many health benefits: lower heart rate and blood pressure, less fat and more muscle, and better mobility.

**Conor Grogan**  
**Go Active Gold Activator,**  
**South Oxfordshire District Council**  
**07717 326660**  
**Conor.Grogan@southandvale.gov.uk**  
**Facebook/GoActiveSouthOxfordshire**  
**[www.getoxfordshireactive.org/go-active-gold](http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/go-active-gold)**

## **Sue Ryder – Sale Dates**

The date for the next Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 17th September, 8th and 29th October. The sales will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm, but we are unable to accept goods on Sale Day or the day before.

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

The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF.

For further details of these sales, please call 01491 641384 ext 246.

## **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.

## **Wallingford Country Market**

Regal Centre, every Friday 8.30 – 12 noon  
(please note later closing time)

*Friday 23rd September* – 'Harvest Home – featuring a Jam Jamboree'

*Friday 30th September* – the Market will be supporting the 'MacMillan Coffee Morning'- all takings to this worthy charity.

Our usual home-baked, home-grown and home-crafted items on sale, as well as local honey, preserves and eggs.

Enquiries to our Market Manager (tel: 01865 890649) or, why not pop in one Friday morning?

## **Oxfordshire Wheels 2 Work**

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SATURDAY	8.00 am - 6.00 pm

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## WHAT'S ON – SEPTEMBER 2016

### Regular events and meetings

1st & 3rd Mon	19.00	Knitting Circle	Queen's Head, Crowmarsh
Every Tuesday	19.00-21.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
2nd & 4th Weds	Evenings	Crowmarsh Ladies	Telephone 201756
Every Thursday	14.00-16.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	08.30-11.15	Wallingford Country Market	Regal Centre
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Regal Centre

### This month

Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th	All day	Bunkfest	Various locations in Wallingford
Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th	All day	Bunkfest specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 4th	13.30	CTC 20-something mile road ride	Meet at Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 7th	14.00	U3A: Martin Holmes talks on "Edward Heath"	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 8th	19.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Friday 9th to Sunday 11th	Various	Celebrating Agatha Christie weekend	Various locations (contact Wallingford Museum for details)
Saturday 10th	20.00	Music at St Peter's: The Villiers String Quartet	St Peter's Church
Sunday 11th	All day	Agatha Christie Day	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Wednesday 14th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: Latest Acquisitions	Bix Village Hall
Wednesday 14th	19.45	TWHAS: Surviving the death railway- the missing story	St Mary's Church, Wallingford
Saturday 17th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 24th	All day	Wallingford Long Distance Sculls	River Thames
Wednesday 28th	19.45	Henley Philatelic: The Olympics	Bix Village Hall