

Crowmarsh News

Issue 468

September 2017

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.

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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, Amanda Maher,
Edwina Johnson

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

or deliver to the Editor at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

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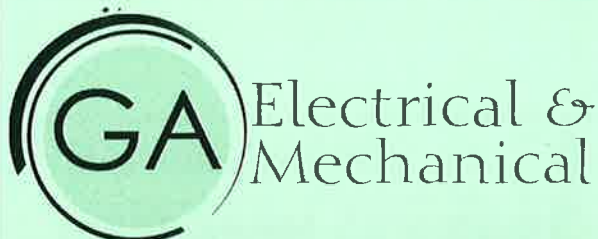


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Neighbourhood Plan exhibitions

The Steering Group will be hosting a public exhibition about the Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan on Saturday 23rd September at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall and Saturday 30th September at North Stoke Village Hall, between 10am and 4pm.

Please come and learn about the Neighbourhood Plan process and share your ideas. What is your vision for Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke in 2031? We need your input now – contact Nick Robins (email nicks.robins@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at one of the two exhibitions.

Wallingford Concert

On Saturday 28th October at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Wallingford, there will be a concert given by the French Horn Quartet "Cortet". The players are all students at the Birmingham Conservatoire. The programme will be a mixture of classical and lighter numbers, including works by Gershwin, Koetsier and Tcherpnin.

One of the musicians, Rebecca Holman, is no stranger to Wallingford. She lived here with her parents Lis and Andy Holman, both professional musicians, until the family moved to Bahrain when she was 10, about 11 years ago. She was a member of the Wallingford Children's Choir for many years and Lis accompanied the Wallingford Singers.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to hear these incredibly talented young musicians, find out about life at the Conservatoire and support a former local girl!

No tickets are required for the concert. It will last about an hour and be followed by light refreshments and the chance to meet the performers. There will be a retiring collection in aid of SeeSaw Child Bereavement Charity.

For more information please contact the concert organiser, Sue Huntingford-Ledger on 07770 362571.

Wallingford Flower Club

Our October meeting on Wednesday 11th October will feature a Flower Demonstration, "Hollywood to Bollywood" by Annette Parshotam.

The meeting will take place at Crowmarsh Village Hall, when doors will open at 7pm for 7.45pm. All visitors will be welcome; admission is £5 per person.

For further information, please contact Fay Crabbe, on 834303.

Ten Green Flags for Wallingford Castle Meadows

Wallingford Castle Meadows, managed by environmental learning charity Earth Trust on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council, has been awarded a Green Flag for an incredible tenth year running and has received Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the fourth consecutive year.

Sites compete annually to be among the best greenspaces in the country and need to demonstrate year-on-year improvement in order to retain the award. Wallingford Castle Meadows is one of 1,797 sites to receive the Green Flag in 2017. The Green Heritage Site Accreditation, sponsored by English Heritage, recognises achievements in managing sites with local or national historic importance.

Wallingford Castle Meadows is 16 hectares of hay meadow and floodplain on the banks of the River Thames, and contains the remains of one of the greatest medieval castles in England. As well as being historically significant, it's also an important site for wildlife, home to birds, bats, bluebells and more, and is a wonderful place for local residents to have on their doorstep.

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
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Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club are hosting a talk by Graham Gough entitled "Late Perennials and Grasses at Marchants" on Thursday 5th October at Benson Parish Hall.

Graham is a nurseryman and owner of Marchants Hardy Plants Nursery in Sussex. Please arrive from 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. All are welcome.

Wallingford Gardening Club

Wallingford Gardening Club's summer garden programme concludes with a visit to Upper Chalford Farm, near Chinnor.

This is a Jacobean farmhouse garden surrounded by fields, old roses, shrubs and perennials. There are unusual trees - an ancient black pine, and a Caucasian wingnut tree. Hidden gardens reveal different plantings and peaceful places to sit. Spring fed ponds and stream with damp planted banks lead to reclaimed woodland with treehouse, bog garden and wild flower meadow. Other features include topiary, wildlife ponds, conservatory sundials and donkeys.

This visit will be held at Upper Chalford Farm, between Sydenham and Postcombe, Chinnor OX39 4NH, at 6pm on Thursday 7th September, and will cost £5 per person.

Just turn up – visitors will be very welcome.

Isabelle Darby
836867

Quiz'n'chips at St Mary Magdalene

Our autumn Quiz'n'Chips night will be Friday 13th October. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be more information in next month's *Crowmarsh News*, but do put the date in your diary and start swotting.

Entry forms will be available in due course; meanwhile contact Sarah Nesbitt with any queries at sjn62@icloud.com or on 07770 930756.

Seasonal Flu Vaccinations

Wallingford Medical Practice is beginning its seasonal flu vaccination programme. The first session will be on Saturday 23rd September; more dates will be announced later. Please see www.wallingfordmedicalpractice.co.uk for more information.

Those eligible are people aged over 65 on 31 March 2018, children aged between six months and two years, and others with certain serious medical conditions. To book your vaccination, please call 835577 Monday to Friday, after 10.30hrs.

Science Exchange Wallingford

Penguin Watch: How You Can Make a Difference to Penguin Survival

A talk by Dr Tom Hart, from the Department of Zoology at the University of Oxford.

The Polar regions are well known as harsh environments, but as a result they are often data deficient for key animals like penguins, which are threatened by climate change and fishing.

Dr Hart will talk about his research with penguins and other marine predators, in particular the network of cameras he has set up around the Antarctic and, more recently, in the Arctic. He will describe the innovative solutions that he and his team have developed to monitor animals remotely. And he will explain how you can join in with this essential research via Penguin Watch.

Science Exchange Wallingford's next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th September in Wallingford School Library, St George's Road, Wallingford. Meetings are very informal. Speakers talk for about half an hour, then we break for refreshments and return for a lively question and answer session.

We are grateful that the support of local company Triaster, Wallingford School and the generosity of our speakers ensures that each event is free to attend. We are also privileged to be a Café Scientifique. (www.cafescientifique.org/).



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A tragic nap on Wallingford Bridge

The summer of 1869 was particularly fine, and Tuesday 21st July was another fine hot day. Benjamin Scudds a labourer, who lived in Victoria Passage, (a short lane at right angles off the High Street near today's health club), had spent most of the morning drinking in several of Wallingford's public houses, finishing up at the Town Arms.

On leaving the Town Arms, he began to feel very sleepy. He could have gone to the meadows either side of the bridge or slept under one of the arches, but sleeping on the parapet of the bridge seemed to him to be the best and most comfortable option, and, unbelievably he went to sleep there.

Unfortunately he rolled over, and fell off the parapet, into the mud 17 feet below. Because of the dry summer, the river level was particularly low, so there was no water to break his

fall. One of Miss Morrell's servants at Bridge House saw him fall and raised the alarm.

He was recovered from the mud and taken home, but as he complained of severe pains in the chest and stomach, medical assistance was sought. The internal injuries he sustained in falling 17 feet were so severe that he passed away in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Benjamin Scudds was born to Richard and Hannah Scudds in Newnham Murren on 17th June 1832. He married Sarah Hunt on Christmas Day at St Mary's Church, Crowmarsh, and their only child Eliza was baptised at St Mary's on 29th March 1857. His burial service was held in St Mary's, Newnham Murren, and he was buried in the churchyard there. His father Richard died in 1876 and was buried beside him.



Regular Town Walks in 2017 - last chance!

You can join a Guided Historic Town Walk on any Saturday morning until the end of September, starting from the Town Hall at 11am.

Walks last between one and two hours, and cost £5 per head, and of course all proceeds will be donated to support Wallingford 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.

There's no need to book, just turn up at the Town Hall at 11am on any Saturday until 30th September.

Philip Burton

News from the Corn Exchange

Work has now begun to replace the leaking glass roof of Wallingford's historic Corn Exchange but more cash is still needed to provide additional facilities and to refurbish the theatre.

Volunteer fundraisers have already achieved their original £500,000 target, thanks in part to a major £170,000 cash boost from South Oxfordshire District Council's community grants committee.

However, while enough funds and pledges are available for immediate needs, which include a new roof, new heating and ventilation, a further £100-150,000 is still required to bring the theatre up to its planned high specification.

Since the Roof Appeal was launched in January, a team of enthusiastic volunteers have worked tirelessly to raise the cash. Grant applications have been sent to numerous charities and trusts, many of which have resulted in substantial donations. Events, such

as a barn dance, quiz evening, garden party and a Marathon Show have steadily boosted the amount, helped too by bucket collections after cinema screenings and Sinodun Players' live shows. Members of the public have donated via the online JustGiving site or by placing donations in the foyer collection box when passing the building. Wallingford Brownies, big fans of Corn Exchange pantos, donated £126.

Although the Corn Exchange is closed until the autumn, the foyer is open for coffee and cakes every Friday and Saturday between 10am and 2pm. You can see how work is progressing through a viewing panel on the stairs.

Meanwhile, films are being screened at the Great Hall in Cholsey Meadows as part of a collaboration with the Cholsey Development Trust.

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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Agatha Christie Weekend

The theme may be murder, but the emphasis is on enjoyment!

The fourth Agatha Christie Weekend will be held throughout Wallingford and Cholsey from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September. This is an event which is growing each year and attracts tourists from afar as well as being of interest to local residents.

This year's Agatha Christie Weekend features:

- two celebrity talks
- two Agatha Christie Trail guided walks
- two exhibitions
- town walks
- vintage and cream teas
- heritage train rides
- and much more

In particular, local residents might be interested in a talk on Friday 8th September at Wallingford Masonic Hall at 8pm: 'The Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie' by John Curran, celebrated Agatha Christie specialist. Tickets £12. Bar available.

John Curran is a popular speaker with a vast knowledge of Agatha Christie's life and work. He is the author of award-winning books: *Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks* and *Agatha Christie's Murder in the Making*. He will include plenty of references to her local connections.

The Masonic Hall has a Christie connection in that it was used for many years by the Sinodun Players for their performances. Agatha was their President from 1951 until her death in 1976 and she attended a large number of their productions in the Masonic Hall – loving Pantomime in particular!

A number of her original letters are on display in Wallingford Museum that she wrote to the Chairman of the Players (who usually played the Pantomime Dame), thanking him for her reserved seats and commenting on the

performances, or apologising for being unable to attend. These have some poignant reflections on her health in her later years and one lovely comment 'as one Dame to another' shortly after she received her Honour!

Tickets are available from Wallingford Museum, Wallingford Information Centre, or online at: www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Pick up a leaflet for all the weekend's intrigue from Wallingford Museum or Wallingford Information Centre, or view full details at: www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



A history of Pettits of Wallingford

At the Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society (TWHAS) September talk, Rachel Pettit-Smith will present "A history of Pettits of Wallingford".

Rachel's talk will give a history of Wallingford's department store, and a little about the family who ran it from its beginning in 1856 to the present day. The business was started by two brothers and changed and expanded through the years as it passed to later generations of the same family until 1987, when it was taken over by another local family.

Over time it has sold a large range of merchandise and undergone several transformations while continuing to serve the people of Wallingford and the surrounding area.

This talk is very timely as it also complements this year's 'Pettits: past to present' exhibition at Wallingford Museum.

The talk will be held on Wednesday 13th September, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twahas.org.uk

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

Wallingford U3A

Our August speaker, Tony King, went back to 'The Way It Was' growing up in the 40s and 50s. The talk was meticulously researched and illustrated. Older members of the audience remembered the surrendering of railings and saucepans as part of the War Effort; everyone could sacrifice something. They did not know then that the whole lot was just dumped in the sea.

Food shortages made rationing essential to prevent starvation in the cities. The Ministry of Food broadcast food education and recipes. How many ways can you cook a turnip? How many slices should you get from one cucumber? These were the 'Utility Years', simplicity of design, and no frills on knickers. But children's health improved. Cleanliness improved. In 1940 only about 40% of the population had bathrooms. The massive house building programme after 1945 improved that.

Peace in 1945, then the horrific winter of 1947 brought the country to a standstill, and smog killed thousands. But things cheered up. In 1949 the blackout ended. In 1951 the Festival of Britain showcased technical changes that the War had accelerated, including 'White Goods' which allowed people more free time. Families began to go on holiday. The world as we now know it began to emerge. Many in the audience had their own memories which they swapped happily later, over tea.

Wallingford U3A meets at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Come and join us. Below is a taster of of future programme – and the next Sunday Lunch date is 24th September.

Speakers:

6th September: Dr Martin Holmes on 'Tony Blair ... A Reputation Revised'

Dr Holmes is one of our most popular speakers; brilliant, knowledgeable and always entertaining. It could be that Tony Blair is one of the least popular of contemporary politicians, although there may be one or two waiting in the wings. It will be fascinating to hear what Dr Holmes has to say.

4th October: George Vardon, 'Whiskey Galore'

Outing:

Thursday 14th September, Eltham Palace, birthplace of Henry VIII. It combines a Medieval Palace and an Art Deco mansion. For more information, phone Eileen on 825156.

To find out more about us, please Google U3A, Wallingford; or phone Hermione on 01865 858024, or Jill on 835994. Visitors are always welcome.

Hedgehog Census

The UK's housing crisis is often high on the news agenda, but since the middle of August, a more rustic type of accommodation, home to the UK's smaller, spikier residents, has been taking the spotlight.

On 15th August the first ever national Hedgehog Housing Census was launched by Hedgehog Street, a nationwide campaign set up by wildlife charities the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), to help combat the ongoing decline in native hedgehog population numbers. This survey is in partnership with the University of Reading and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

Between mid-August and 31st October, the Hedgehog Housing Census will dig a little deeper into the world of hedgehogs, and aims to answer several questions about how they live and in particular, their use of artificial hedgehog houses, which, until now, have not been studied, despite thousands of people having one in their garden.

The information will be gathered via an online survey, and the data then analysed by scientists at the University of Reading. The results will help the Hedgehog Street team find out what the best type of hedgehog house is and how they can be used to support the conservation of these animals, enabling wildlife enthusiasts across the UK to further help their spiky garden residents.

To take part in the Hedgehog Housing Census, or for more information about hedgehogs, visit: www.hedgehogstreet.org/housingcensus

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Fair Mile Revisited!

A retrospective, in words and pictures, on one of the last Victorian Pauper Lunatic Asylums Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd October, 10am to 4.30pm, admission £2.

Cholsey 1000 Plus and Cholsey Community Development Trust are excited to have the opportunity to present a major exhibition portraying Fair Mile's past, to be held in the former Recreation Hall — now known as the Great Hall — at the heart of the old hospital.

Curated by Ian Wheeler, whose strong family and personal ties with the institution led to his book *Fair Mile Hospital: a Victorian Asylum*, published in 2015, the exhibition will chart the origins of the county asylum system, examine its *raison d'être* and provide fact and reassurance in subject areas that are all too often prone to prejudice and misunderstanding.

Hundreds of archive photographs survived Fair Mile's closure in 2003 and these have been augmented by contributions from local residents and former staff members. The exhibition will include a fascinating photo-essay on the period when Fair Mile lay derelict and dilapidated, and the huge task of updating its Victorian buildings as new homes.

Ian Wheeler will lead an informative guided walk around the old asylum each day and will be on hand to sign copies of his fact-filled history of the mental hospital that was very much a part of Cholsey's everyday life.

Bridge is A Social Pastime

From time to time people express surprise when I admit that I do not play Bridge Online. This is a sign of the times, when many people seem to think that using the Internet is the default choice for everything from shopping to games.

I think that some things lose an important dimension when you only do them online. I still prefer to do my weekly grocery shopping in person because I like to see what I am buying, making decisions based on unit costs and use-by dates. There is also the benefit of running into acquaintances and exchanging cheerful greetings.

Similarly I prefer to play my Bridge face-to-face. Playing online is fine if you want to practise, focus entirely on technique or play at unsocial hours. It is also great for those who have to stay home to look after the children, nurse a sick relative or friend or for some other reason. However, doing so means that you do not get out to meet old friends and make new ones. You lose the essential social aspect of the game which is part of the reward for playing.

I know there are many other people who value this aspect of Bridge playing because over the last few years the numbers playing at my local club (Wallingford Bridge Club) have steadily increased. This benefits not only those actually playing but also the local community. If you go past Roke and Berrick Salome Village Hall you will see that the walls and windows have been completely refurbished over the last six months. This, along with the earlier improvements to the car park and replacing the roof, was made possible by the growth of Wallingford Bridge Club that has provided the finance to do the work. Of course it provides a greatly improved environment for playing Bridge, but it also results in a much better village hall for the local community.

Wallingford Bridge Club is in the minority of Bridge clubs that have continued to expand over the last decade. This is in no small part due to the excellent social atmosphere in the club along with a diverse range of playing opportunities from purely social on Tuesday afternoons to participation in highly competitive inter-club competitions. It does not matter if you are a highly competitive player with ambitions to become a Life Master or someone who simply wants a couple of hours of relaxed mental activity; you will find sessions to suit you.

Much has changed in the game of Bridge since I learnt almost 65 years ago but one thing has remained constant. It is a game of friendly rivalry where the young can compete with those of their parents' or grandparents' generations.

Every year Wallingford Bridge Courses welcomes both those who want to learn from scratch and those who want to renew their interest in a game that pressures of work and

family had caused them to put to one side. If you already play but are not a member of Wallingford Bridge Club, why not consider joining one of the fastest growing communities (this year participation is over 20% up on last year) in Oxfordshire and neighbouring areas?

You can find out more online (www.bridgewebs.com/wallingford/), by email (Judi.kemp5@gmail.com or francis.glassborow@merton.oxon.org), or by telephone: Judi on 873871 or Francis on 07492565606.

Langtree Sinfonia

Do you play, or have you played, an orchestral instrument? Have you got some free time?

Langtree Sinfonia is a friendly, non-auditioning, local orchestra meeting on Wednesday evenings in Langtree School, Woodcote, whose aims are to provide an entertaining and encouraging atmosphere in which to play classical music. We give two concerts a year, in Dorchester Abbey and St Mary's in Wallingford and provide additional opportunities to enjoy music making with an annual workshop, together with a patrons' evening of music and socialising.

The orchestra began as a music class in adult education in 1971 and went on to establish itself as an independent orchestra to further its development. When the orchestra celebrated its 40th anniversary, it combined with local choirs to perform Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, a work which combined vocal and instrumental soloists with the orchestra. Other works included Brahms' Academic Festival overture and Dvorak's 6th Symphony.

The orchestra has played works such as Schubert's 3rd Symphony, Dvorak's 3rd Symphony, Beethoven's Violin Concerto and Weber's First Clarinet Concerto. Our repertoire has always to appeal to our audience, of course, but also takes in the unusual, such as the Symphony No. 1 by Sergei Bortkiewicz and the contemporary, such as 'Enigma' by Clive Pearce. Pride of place for many, though, is probably the complete Beethoven Symphony cycle completed some years ago.

Much can be learnt from our conductor, Paul

Cox, who is currently Professor of Strings at Southampton University. As a cellist, Paul has given numerous recital and concerto performances and has played the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany. Paul's belief in young musicians is exemplified by his chairmanship of the Eureka Foundation, which exists to further excellence in young string players.

The orchestra has even travelled abroad, with three trips to Goring's twin town, Belleme, in Northern France. This happened most recently in 2003 and the orchestra received a rapturous response to their concert of Beethoven and Poulenc.

We always welcome new members so anyone interested can contact our membership secretary, Nick Kiff, on 833515 (nick.kiff@tesco.net)

For more information please refer to our website: www.langtreesinfonia.co.uk

An Orchestra in Didcot

Did you know that there is a local rehearsal orchestra which meets in Didcot every Monday night (with the exception of Bank Holidays and the month of August)? Rehearsals are from 7.15 to 9.15 at the Northbourne Centre, in Church Street.

We are enthusiastic amateur musicians who may have stopped playing for a while (eg for family or work reasons) and who just wish to play for the joy of it. We come from a wide area locally, and this term we have enjoyed playing through Brahms 3rd and Dvorak 7th symphonies, some Butterworth, Chabrier, Wagner's Siegfried Idyll and much more.

If you are a musician who has not played in ensemble for some time - don't be shy - dust off your musical instrument and come and join us. We will be especially glad to welcome trumpets, trombones, violas and other strings, and woodwind. No audition required - just come and have a go!

Subscription is only £2 per evening so you have very little to lose! I travel from Crowmarsh most weeks. Do call to learn more.

Elaine Cresswell (824507)



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 September

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am

Sunday 3rd	Trinity 12	11am 6pm	Parish Communion Evening Prayer
Sunday 10th	Trinity 13	11am 4pm	Family Service (without Communion) Evening Service at Newnham Murren
Sunday 17th	Trinity 14	11am 6pm	Parish Communion Evening Prayer
	(Sunday 17th is also Battle of Britain Day)		
Sunday 24th	Trinity 15	9.30am 6pm	Family Communion Evening Prayer

We celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday 1st October with a Family Service. Our Harvest offerings will be donated to the Wallingford Foodbank.

I hope you have been able to have a summer break and a time for rest, relaxation and fun – what we call “recreation” comes from “RE-Creation”, i.e. not just refreshment but a real sense of renewal, making us ready to start again.

Our lives have lots of beginnings and endings and for many people, particularly the young and their parents and teachers, September is the beginning of a new academic year, new school or college or new job.

This can be a time of joyful anticipation and excitement and also of anxiety, but we have the assurance of God, the God of new beginnings, that He is with us in and through everything and will give us enough strength to cope with whatever comes our way, and He is also the first to rejoice with us wanting us to enjoy life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

September is also the month when we look forward to our Harvest celebrations, gathering in the crops after a hard year's work and thanking God for all his wonderful and

bounteous gifts and goodness to us. We give thanks for our local farmers and also remember those people around the world who produce so much of what we find on our supermarket shelves; but we also think of those whose crops have failed through drought or flooding, not least as we take our share of the responsibility for global climate change.

Closer to home, even in relatively affluent Oxfordshire, there are pockets of real poverty; the Wallingford Foodbank is busier than ever and for many life is just one long continuous struggle with income failing to keep up with price rises. Jesus calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves, so it's up to us to help where we can those less well-off than we are, and also not to waste our precious resources.

Apparently (I've not counted), Jesus says 365 times in the Gospels “do not be afraid” – that's one for each day.

So whether you are at an ending or a beginning, may you know that God, the Alpha and Omega, is journeying alongside you and ever drawing you closer to him.

Blessings,
Kevin

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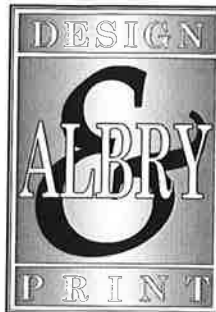
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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523,
email: johngriffin@phonecoop.coop
Parish Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford
Website: <http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php>

Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 3rd August 2017

Present: Councillors Nigel Hannigan (Chair), Denise Hall, Stuart Soames, David Rowley, Francesca Jones and David Topliss; Sue Rance (Clerk), Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer)

Apologies for absence from Cllrs John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Fleur Stevenson and David Mannering

Matters Arising from the Meeting on 6th July 2017

The Clerk has emailed the Town Council about overhanging trees at Wallingford Bridge and a response is awaited. Cllr Griffin will contact the resident of Howbery Farm to discuss the fence.

The A4074 traffic survey has been postponed until September, because a survey done during the school holidays would not reflect the normal situation.

Strategic priorities: Cllr Sherbourne is drafting a letter to be circulated to other parish councils (Wallingford, Brightwell cum Sotwell, Benson and Cholsey) to arrange a meeting to discuss collaboration on leisure and other facilities.

There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor: the Clerk has posted the notice of a casual vacancy on the noticeboards. If no election is called for, the Parish Council can co-opt someone.

On 23rd September there will be a Neighbourhood Plan public exhibition in Crowmarsh Gifford and another one a week later in North Stoke. The Clerk reported that there are 709 households in Crowmarsh Parish: of these, 75 are in North Stoke.

The charges for hiring the pavilion and

recreation ground have been posted on the community website.

Grass Cutting: Berinsfield Community Business have had problems accessing the play area at Robert Sparrow Gardens in order to cut the grass. The Finance Officer is in touch with the contractor to resolve some issues about invoicing for the verges and the two recreation grounds.

Ash Tree at Jethro Tull Gardens: Quotes are to be obtained for felling the ash tree. It has been agreed to replace the tree with three trees on the edge of the green area.

Some complaints were received about the Wallingford Festival of Cycling event relating to the length of time that the roads were closed and inappropriate positioning of signage. The Parish Council has passed these on and has received an acknowledgment.

Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity and Emery Owen Trust: The Clerk reported that the term of office of each of these charities is four years. Cllr Sherbourne has expressed interest in becoming a trustee of the Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity and this will be discussed at the September meeting.

Finance

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 have been available for public inspection and have now been sent to the external auditor. There was one query about the increase in the value of the asset list, which now includes two new laptops, the new basketball area and the bus shelter in Benson Lane.

A schedule of payments made since the last meeting was agreed. Herbicide treatment has been carried out at the nature area. A vote of thanks was made to Cllr Sherbourne, who was thanked for planting geraniums in the flower tubs at the roundabout, and to Cllr Soames for planting in North Stoke.

The financial report for the first quarter, to 30th June, showed the accounts status is similar to the first quarter of last year. The Finance Officer has started to show income separately for the pavilion and the recreation ground, which will enable better analysis of the figures.

The Finance Officer reported that there are three outstanding invoices for allotment rent. There are about twenty plots let at the Botany Allotments. It was suggested that an allotments association could be started.

There had been requests for grants and donations from Soldiers of Oxfordshire for the museum in Woodstock and from Guideposts, an organisation established in 1972 to support disadvantaged people in the local community. The Clerk will make further enquiries and decisions will be made at the next meeting.

Planning

Decisions: The Council noted the following decisions from SODC:

P17/S0915/HH (Householder): Proposed single storey rear and side extension following demolition of existing conservatory addition. 52 Newnham Green, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EP.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

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

P16/S3852/FUL (Full Application): Hybrid application for the erection of 100 new residential dwellings including new access road off the A4074, public open space (full application) and the provision of school land (outline application), as amended 12th June 2017 and clarified by advice note 14th July 2017. Land at Newnham Manor, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED.
RECOMMEND REFUSAL as original application.

P17/S2309/FUL: Detached dwelling. 27 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED.
RECOMMEND REFUSAL for the following reason:

The size and position of the proposed development is significant for a relatively small

parcel of land. The scale, bulk and design of the proposed dwelling is out of character for the area and is considered to be over-development of the site.

P17/S2363/FUL: Proposed garage conversion. Change existing garage into a ground floor, one bedroom annexe, Sycamore House, 12 Lane End, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8DG.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

Neighbourhood Plan

An exhibition about the Neighbourhood Plan will be hosted by the Steering Group on Saturday 23rd September in Crowmarsh Village Hall and on Saturday 30th September at North Stoke Village Hall between 10am and 4pm.

Chairman's report

The Chairman reported on a request from Sonning Common, one of the 12 "larger villages" defined in the SODC plan, to liaise with other larger villages on the question of housing development. Crowmarsh Gifford is classed as a larger village due to the business park in the parish and its proximity to Wallingford. Nettlebed is classed as a larger village because it is the biggest community between Wallingford and Henley.

John Howell MP has offered to meet with the local plan group about neighbourhood planning and it was agreed to take up his offer.

Reports of committees

Environment and recreation

Requests have been made for directional signs indicating the new access route to the recreation ground, although the old access is still open. It was noted that 'Residents Only' signs which have been erected on the footpath at Bellamy Way leading to the recreation ground are not enforceable. There is also a right of way off The Street through to the recreation ground, where a gate has been installed.

Play area action group

Cllr Rowley reported that two more quotes

have been received and two more are expected. Not all the quotes are comparable at this stage. Further comments are welcomed on the proposed new play area, which is shown on the community website.

Traffic and transport

The size and number of lorries delivering to Jewsons are still causing concern, creating congestion and parking on the pavement, particularly during the morning rush hour. Deliveries before 10am are supposed to be booked in with Jewsons to avoid this problem. Cllr Jones will make an appointment to discuss this issue with Jewsons.

Community safety

Cllr Jones reported on a Community Resilience scheme launched by Southern Electric: councils may apply for 'hydro snakes' at a cost of £1762 for half a pallet to use in floods as an alternative to sandbags. SODC no longer provides sandbags.

Other business

- Cllr Jones reported that the notice board at Robert Sparrow Gardens has collapsed. Most of our noticeboards are in need of replacement and this will be discussed at the September meeting.
- Cllr Hall reported that the proposed Newnham Manor housing development includes re-routing the A4074 Portway near the Crowmarsh roundabout, removing six metres of grass verge on the Robert Sparrow Gardens side of the road.
- Cllrs Jones and Hannigan will investigate acquiring display boards that the Parish Council could use for neighbourhood plan exhibitions.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th September 2017 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Short Mat Bowls

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

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The next Sales of Donated Goods are on Saturdays 2nd and 23rd September. They 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. Please call 01491 641384 ext 246 for further information or details.

To book North Stoke Village Hall

contact Nikki Arnfeld (839736, or
narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk)
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WHAT'S ON – SEPTEMBER 2017

Regular events and meetings

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

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

This month

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd	All day	Bunkfest	Kinecroft and throughout Wallingford
Saturday 2nd	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd	All day	Singing Bunkfest Trains	Cholsey and W'ford Railway
Sunday 3rd	13.30	CTC 30-something mile road ride	Meet W'ford Market Place
Wednesday 6th	14.00	U3A: Tony Blair, a reputation revised	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 7th	19.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Friday 8th	20.00	Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie, by John Curran	Wallingford Masonic Hall
Saturday 9th	19.45	Primrose Piano Quartet	St Peter's Church
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th	All day	Agatha Christie weekend	Cholsey and W'ford Railway
Wednesday 13th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: TBA	Bix Village Hall
Wednesday 13th	19.45	TWHAS talk: A history of Pettits in Wallingford	St Mary's Church, Wallingford
Saturday 16th	Evening	Fish and chip supper on the railway	Cholsey and W'ford Railway
Sunday 17th	13.30	CTC 35-mile Midsomer Murders road ride	Meet W'ford Market Place
Wednesday 20th	19.30	Henley Philatelic : TBA	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 23rd	10.00 - 16.00	Crowmarsh Neighbourhood Plan exhibition	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 23rd	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Tuesday 26th	19.30	Science Exchange: Penguin Watch, with Dr Tom Hart	Wallingford School Library
Saturday 30th	10.00 - 16.00	Crowmarsh Neighbourhood Plan exhibition	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 30th	19.45	Concert: Thames Consort	St Peter's Church
Saturday 30th	09.45 – 11.00	Sustainable Wallingford Swapshop	Regal Centre, Wallingford
Saturday 30th	All day	Wallingford Long Distance Sculls	Riverside