



Online edition No. 5

September 2020

From the Editorial Team

Although the lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease, we have decided to suspend normal publication of the *Crowmarsh News* for a fifth month. Some of our regular advertisers are open for business again, and we have listed these along with useful details of village support groups. As before, we are asking for readers to be kind enough to print off a copy of this issue for neighbours who do not have access to the internet.

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

E-mail: Crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

Your *Crowmarsh News* needs you!

Thinking about Volunteering?

Crowmarsh News is produced every month by a group of volunteers from the parish, and we are looking for more volunteers to join our team. We need people with editing and page layout experience. If you think you can help us, or would like more information, please send us an email to crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com.

Sir Winston Churchill said "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". Everyday, millions of volunteers make a difference by giving their time and skills to organisations, like Crowmarsh News, that otherwise are unable to afford them.

Please help if you can.

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency number 101

Parish support contacts

Here are some details of various groups you can join in the villages. If you want to join your local group but don't know how to make contact with them, please contact the *Crowmarsh News* and we will put you in touch.

WhatsApp groups

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

Crowmarsh Hill (numbers 164 to 206)

Home Farm

Jethro Tull Gardens

Lane End and immediate neighbours in The Street

Mongewell

Murren Croft

Newnham Green, numbers 20A to 52

North Stoke

Park View

Robert Sparrow Gardens

Winter's Field

Facebook groups

Crowmarsh Parish Council

Crowmarsh Gifford Community

Crowmarsh COVID-19 Response

Bus Timetable Changes

From Tuesday 1st September 2020, changes will be made to your River Rapids X38/X39/X40/NX40, Connector X2, Connector X32/X33/33, 11, 41, 45, 136 and school services. We will also be introducing a new service 20. Find out more on the Thames Travel website www.thames-travel.co.uk/news/services-changes-august-2020/ and Facebook page www.facebook.com/ThamesTravel/.

Corn Exchange news

The Corn Exchange theatre in Wallingford is hoping to reopen the cinema on Saturday 26th September, subject to the government guidelines in place at the time. On this night we will be showing a free film as a welcome gesture to our loyal patrons. Please check our website www.cornexchange.org.uk for further details, booking information and safety guidelines in place.

We cannot contemplate opening for theatre and other live shows at the moment as this is still not allowed but we will be working hard to ensure that this is done as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Organise fuel bills & suppliers before winter - Citizens Advice tip

Citizens Advice has advisers who can help you sign up with a new fuel or electricity company, or switch to a better tariff. There's no charge for our time and we're impartial. We offer one-on-one sessions (by telephone at present) and we'll take a close look at your individual situation.

We can help you understand energy bills and tariffs, support you if you want to switch and calculate the savings you might make. If you've fallen behind on bill payments, we can advise you on ways to reduce your debt by budgeting or trying a new payment scheme, for example. We can also tell you about energy efficiency measures around the house, like installing LED light bulbs. Grants may be available to pay for thermal insulation.

We can check your benefit entitlements and help you to claim them if you're eligible, and if you have any complaints against your current supplier, we can help you resolve them.

You can find the relevant information on our website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/energy or phone our Adviceline on 0300 330 9042.

A mystery solved... Tom Jewitt 1908-1940



Our WW2 memorial in the church lychgate includes the name “T Jowett”, but no military records could be found for the name. In November last year, the Oxfordshire Home Guard Living History Group contacted us to say that a Crowmarsh resident, Jim Harvey, had contacted them about Tom Jowett who served with the Crowmarsh Gifford Platoon Home Guard and was killed while on duty.

Jim recalled that Tom came from Durham and worked with his father, William Harvey, at Turners Court. Tom, nick name “Mokey”, was unmarried and he and William were the best of friends; Tom would be around the house most days for his tea. Both men joined the Local Defence Volunteers when the call went out in mid-May 1940. Using this information, Tom was found in the 1939 census, as Tom Jewitt, born on 26th July 1908, living with the Harvey family in The Street, Crowmarsh. His occupation was an iron moulder, so he would have worked at the Wilder’s foundry next door to the church.

On Saturday 1st June 1940, William and Tom were sat down to tea when there was a knock at the door, men from Wallingford Home

Guard came to see William as he was on the Crowmarsh duty list for that night. There was an alert after reports that saboteurs were trying to disrupt the main line to Reading, possibly with explosives, and they needed every available man to check the railway line. Both men volunteered but Tom insisted that William stay at home with his sick wife and small children. Tom asked to go in William’s place, and reluctantly, William agreed.

Tom and his section were ordered to Cholsey to help with the patrol from Cholsey Station to Moulsoford railway bridge, and on to South Stoke. While en route the patrol avoided an express train that was due through, but unbeknown to them there was another train due along the line. Tom was alone on Moulsoford railway bridge when he was hit by that train and killed.

Tom would have been one of the very first members of the Local Defence Volunteer to lose his life on this first patrol. The coroner recommended that more instruction be given before volunteers went on railways again.

Jim’s father was devastated and always blamed himself for Tom’s death. Tom was thought to have been sent home to Durham for burial, but with the correct spelling, we found a burial record for him in the churchyard at Newnham with the entry “killed on Moulsoford railway bridge doing Home Guard duty”. Using the date as a guide to the approximate area of the churchyard being used for burials at that time, the Home Guard uncovered his grave at the far side under the ivy near the fence, a plot surrounded by an inscribed kerbing, also verifying that he “died on active service”.

All this evidence and the inquest records have been submitted to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and we hope to have him properly recognised as an official war grave with a headstone.



On Sunday 26th July, we were joined at the St Mary Magdalene Lychgate Memorial by a dozen members of the Oxfordshire Home Guard to remember Tom, on what would have been his 112th birthday. His family were represented by his great niece who placed the wreath.

The Home Guard members raised the £300 needed to correct the lead lettering of his name on the war memorial. We hope to have a larger commemoration once social distancing rules are relaxed, and the memorials are ready.

Revd Kevin Beer

Past Times

Wallingford's New Water Works

Wallingford's new water works was opened on the 2nd May 1885. A few years earlier the Local Government Board sent an inspector to Wallingford to inspect the drainage and the water supply to the town. He reported that the water was very bad, and the drainage was defective. The Local Board urged the Town Council to take steps at once to secure a proper supply of pure water and to repair the defective drainage. After spending some considerable time investigating, a site was found near the Railway Station (on the corner of Station Road and Charter Way).

The land belonged to Mr Edward Toovey-Wells, who promptly sold it to the Corporation. Messrs Grand and Sutcliffe sank a tube-well 55 feet down. The building of the water tower was contracted to Messrs Brasher and Son of Wallingford. The water tower was 46 feet high, and the tank in the tower held 15,000 gallons (150,000 litres) of water. The water mains were laid by Mr W. H. Gould, there were 6,000 yards (60,000 metres) of pipework laid around Wallingford town. All principle streets were given stand posts or drinking fountains. Mr Hawkins paid for a drinking fountain in the Market Place, and Mr Champion paid for one in St. Leonard's Square.

On the day of the opening the Mayor (Mr Sidney Payne) and the Corporation paraded from the Town Hall to the water works, where the Town Clerk and the Mayor both gave short speeches. After the speeches, the Mayor invited the members of the Corporation and the contractor to his residence, in St. John's Road, where a large luncheon was served.

The St. Leonard's Square fountain was severely damaged during World War II when an army truck crashed into it. The fountain could not be repaired and was subsequently removed.

David Beasley

Church News

Our church life has returned to what will be a “new normal”. Our regular Sunday services are back at 11am, with a physically gathered congregation, whilst others join us on our Livestream video on the Wallingford CofE Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe), or on our website www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk. The livestream will come either from the 9.30am service from Brightwell or the 11am service from St Mary Magdalene’s.

For those coming to church, we need to wear a face mask and only sit in the alternate pews to maintain the necessary social distance. The congregation are not yet permitted to sing, but quietly humming seems to work for some people and, surprisingly, allows a deeper concentration on the meaning of the lyrics. Despite our close fellowship, there can be no shaking hands or hugging when sharing the peace which still feels weird! Hand sanitiser is to be used on entry and when leaving and conversations after the service are encouraged outside the building. All this may seem quite onerous but is necessary as an expression of love for our neighbour until the health threat is lifted.

After just one month, we have adapted remarkably quickly and are able to focus on worshipping God who raises our perspective above such things to his eternal presence with us, bringing renewed hope, peace, identity and purpose. Join us either in church or online... *“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”* (Psalm 34:8)

Blessings, Rev Kev

September Church Events at St Mary Magdalene’s:

Sunday 6th Sept 11am **“Back to School” Family Service**

Saturday 12th Sept 11am Crowmarsh Virtual Community Café (on Zoom)

Sunday 13th Sept 11am Parish Communion (Education Sunday)

Sunday 20th Sept 11am Parish Communion (Battle of Britain Sunday)

Sunday 27th Sept 11am Family Communion

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer - every Sunday at 6pm

Vicarage, 34 Thamesmead, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EY

Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)

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.

In September, we have our AGM on the 3rd, before our Welcome Evening for the new season on the 10th. On the 17th we have a talk from Colin Harrison on “Creative Flower Photography”. We plan to run a critique evening on the 24th. Looking slightly further ahead, on 1st October we will have a talk by Rosemary Wilman called “The Way I See It”.

Please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club to learn more about the club and find out how to get involved.

Emily Dunn

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on-line on Thursday 6th August.

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chairman), Stephen Sherbourne, David Rowley, Ken McCrea, Fleur Stevenson, David Topliss, Andrew Johnson and Julian Park, District Cllrs Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell, Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). Apologies were received from Cllrs Stuart Soames and Liz Ryall.

There are two vacancies for parish councillors. Residents of North Stoke or Mongewell are especially welcome to apply. Please contact the parish clerk if you might be interested in joining the parish council.

Finance

Payments agreed included £832.27 paid to SODC for dog bin emptying for this quarter. These charges for dog waste collection have suddenly increased by 400% since the subsidy has been removed. This will be discussed at the September meeting and the Finance Officer will research alternative contractors. £1,106.15 was paid for six hand sanitisers at the playground, £1,000 of which will be funded from County Councillor Gray's priority fund.

Planning permission granted by SODC

P20/S0465/HH 1 Newnham Farm Cottages, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW. Two storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear - amended 15 June 2020 changing the design of the side extension.

P20/S1744/HH 4 Whitehouse Road, North Stoke OX10 6BA. Demolition of conservatory. Two storey side and single storey rear extensions. As amended on 1 July 2020.

P20/S1755/HH 15A Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BD Erection of garden shed.

P20/S0826/FUL Blenheim Farm, Icknield Way OX10 6PR Demolition of existing buildings on site and erection of new dwelling, new B8 storage building and 2 holiday lets.

P19/S4673/FUL New house on the garage site adjacent to plot 5 Mongewell Park, Mongewell OX10 8DA. The chairman and a neighbour spoke at the Planning Committee on 5 August outlining our objections but the committee granted planning permission unanimously.

Consultation on applications

P20/S2455/FUL 27 Benson Lane Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED
Detached dwelling (amended scheme to planning approval number P18/S2866/FUL) NO
OBJECTION

P20/S2348/HH 6 Wallingford Road North Stoke OX10 6BD
Demolition of existing garage wing, Side extension, Entrance gable and revised dormers – a 'cut-down' version of planning approval P17/S2848/HH. NO STRONG VIEWS

Further information has been received from the County Council about a scheme for gravel extraction and a marina on the Thames opposite Carmel College, which the Parish Council has previously objected to.

District Council report

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working patterns has caused the District Council to review its decision to rebuild the council offices in Crowmarsh. With a lot of home working expected in future, it is likely that an office building for 400 staff will not be good value for money, so SODC is looking at all options again, including a smaller building in a number of possible locations. Concerns were raised about inadequate litter management at the riverside and there was disappointment that the pool and splash park will not be opened this season. People should be taking their litter home when the bins are full, but this is not happening and more frequent collections are needed especially in hot weather. The District Council's contractor was asked to cut the grass in the swimming pool area even if it is not opening.

Environment and recreation

The playground and outdoor gym have reopened with new signage, hand sanitisers and a one-way system. It was agreed to trial Zoono Biomisting to sanitise all the equipment at approximately 25-day intervals, starting on 11th August. Two pieces of play equipment have been cordoned off for safety reasons and are not to be used. It was agreed to dedicate 9am to 10am each day for shielding and vulnerable families. Signs will be put up to explain this. The playground will open to the general public at 10am.

A planning application has been submitted for the improvements to the pavilion.

The bench on the grass verge outside the village hall has collapsed and a replacement will be ordered from Arrow Fencing to match the one outside The Bell.

The new tree at Jethro Tull Gardens is suffering from water stress and needs a good soak. Residents will be encouraged to assist with watering. New larger planters will be ordered to replace those stolen or broken, plus one for the grass verge further up The Street.

It was decided not to organise a litter picking event in September in view of the uncertain risk to participants

Traffic and transport

The County Council is erecting two bus shelters near the CABI site and the CALA Homes development. We have asked for these to have real-time information displays.

Review of strategic priorities

Cllr Sherbourne is seeking quotes for a survey for a pedestrian crossing in The Street. A crossing in Benson Lane will be considered when the situation is clear about the SODC site. A toucan crossing at the A4074 Portway is part of the planning application for Newnham Manor.

Surface improvements are needed in Watery Lane, which is a strategic route from Wallingford to the Ridgeway, Mongewell and the new CABI development. Cllrs Park and Griffin will pursue this project.

Future meetings

The next meeting will take place on-line on Thursday 3rd September, starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend council meetings. For details, please contact the clerk Sue Rance (e-mail crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com).

Advertisers

These *Crowmarsh News* advertisers have confirmed to us that they are open for business:

Name & services	Contact details	Website
Arbocare Tree Services	07778 811136 or 01235 813619	Arborcare.co.uk
Clean Machine	01491 825600	Machinesthatclean.com
Crowmarsh Tyre	01491 834088	
GA Electrical	reception@groupga.co.uk 01491 835875	
Garden Machinery repairs and servicing	Call Jon 07766 755652 anytime	
Howard Chadwick Funeral Service	office@chadwickfuneralservice.co.uk 01491 825222	
Howbery Park	01491 822495	howberypark.com
Joss Coulton Plumbing	info@coultonplumbing.co.uk 01491 824486	coultonplumbing.co.uk
Me My Spade and I garden and grounds maintenance	07899 868183	memyspadeandi.com
Puppy Classes	info@sohelpmedog.co.uk 07788 174506	sohelpmedog.co.uk
Purely Plants	01491 833831	purelyplants.co.uk
Roy Windebank	roysworkshop@gmail.com 01491 652345	roywindebank.co.uk
RefreshPro	info@refreshpro.co.uk 07772 416465	refreshpro.co.uk
Scott Gesner gardener	gesnergardening@yahoo.co.uk 07818 244787	gesnergardening.co.uk
SH Decor	enquiries@shdecor.co.uk 01865 400208	shdecor.co.uk
South Oxfordshire Wellness	jo@sowellness.co.uk 07775 943574	sowellness.co.uk
The Landscape Group Oxford	lee@tlgo.co.uk 01865 341750	tlgo.co.uk
Warmingham	01491 874144	warmingham.com
WEPS	sales@weps.org.uk 01491 827825	