

# Crowmarsh News

Issue 448

January 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  
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### 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 February issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our 20th January 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

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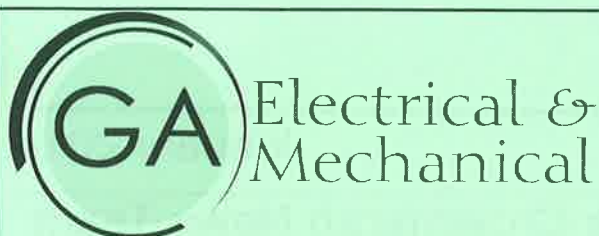


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## Crowmarsh Tigers' success

Congratulations to Crowmarsh Tigers (under 10 boys) who won the B League football final. It was a fantastic nail biting game against Bullingdon at Bullingdon's home ground. Bullingdon had been unbeaten up until this game and Crowmarsh went on to win 2-1. It was a well-deserved result for Crowmarsh.

## Village Hall Christmas Party

The Christmas Party for the children of the village which was held in the Village Hall in December was a great success. The Village Hall Committee hope to make it an annual event.

If you are interested in joining the Village Hall Committee please contact the Crowmarsh News ([crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com)) and we will put you in touch.

## Corn Exchange, Panto

***Rapunzel* runs from Friday 15th to Saturday 30th January**

Come and let your hair down at Sinodun Players' spectacular panto. Young and old will be captivated by this traditional tale of how a handsome prince rescues his beloved from her lofty prison cell by climbing up her long hair to reach her.

Among those out to help – and sometimes

hinder – will be witches, a dancing robin, silly gnomes, ghosts, courtiers, pretty fairies and Dame Mathilda, the theatre cleaner. Loads of audience participation and awesome special effects.

Times: 7.30pm with a 2.30 Saturday matinee (no performances Sundays or Mondays).  
Tickets: £10 (Tues-Thurs), £12 (Fri & Sat), children £6.

### Short Mat Bowls

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

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## A Victorian Christmas

We have become accustomed to the Christmas tree, and the street lighting and the shops with their bright window decorations in Wallingford Market Place.

But in 1857 it was somewhat different; there would have been no Christmas tree. A Christmas tree was first shown in the *London Illustrated News* in 1848, depicting a drawing of Queen Victoria and her family around a decorated tree.

In the same year Tom Smith invented a new way to sell his sweets at Christmas by wrapping them in coloured paper, which would snap apart. Later, gifts and hats were added which increased the sale of his crackers considerably.

It was in 1843 that Henry Cole commissioned an artist to design a card for Christmas. The illustration showed a group of people around a dinner table and a Christmas message. It sold for one shilling (5p), which was very expensive for the average working class Victorian in 1843. However the sentiment caught on, so children were encouraged to make their own.

Colour printing technology quickly became more advanced and so the cost of Christmas cards was considerably reduced. This, together with the introduction of the halfpenny postage rate, meant the sending of cards became very popular by the 1880s. Between 11 and 12 million cards were sent each year.

Many of our favourite Christmas Carols were composed in early Victorian times, such as "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" in 1843 and "Once in Royal David's City" in 1848, while "Away in a Manger" wasn't written until 1887.

In Wallingford the biggest display at Christmas time was the Meat Show, in the town's butchers' shops. The meat was hung from the windows and the walls of each shop (there was no worry about Health and Safety). There were eight butchers in Wallingford in 1857 and each had a display of meat.

Mr Bennett, of Fish Street (now St Mary's Street) displayed a Hereford ox, four Scottish oxen, two calves, fed by Mr Newton of Crowmarsh, and four sheep also fed by Mr Newton. Mr Lovelock of the Market Place also displayed oxen and sheep. Mr Lester, of St Peter's Street, had a very large display of calves and sheep. Mr Munt, of the High Street, displayed two oxen, six sheep and two pigs. And Mr Francis, of Fish Street, had a display of game, turkeys and geese. All these animals were bred by local farmers.

In keeping with many of the neighbouring towns, Wallingford agreed to close its shops on the day following Christmas (Boxing Day) to allow their employees to visit their friends and relations. The grocers, however, remained open because they thought closing would inconvenience their customers from the villages.

## Portcullis Tennis Club

At Portcullis Tennis Club we want to ensure everyone can get the opportunity to play tennis. We are therefore offering any new or returning players signing up to weekly group coaching the following:

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The club runs weekly after-school coaching sessions for 5-18 year olds of all abilities.

Coaching is available throughout the week and on Saturday mornings. More information about the club and our coaching timetable can be found on our website at: <http://www.portcullis-tennis.net/> Spaces are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Portcullis Tennis Club is a great place to play tennis in Wallingford, with 5 courts, over 250 members and thriving junior, adult and match sections.

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## Crowmarsh Pre-school

Last month the children were busy getting into the Christmas spirit with a beautiful nativity, lots of arts and crafts and a wonderful Christmas party with even a visit from Santa himself. We welcomed our new supervisor, Kelly, to the team and she is enjoying getting to know the children.

The children are also enjoying using lots of new art supplies which we have been able to buy for the pre-school thanks to all our fundraising efforts and your generous donations. As a charity, the children's fees only cover the cost of staff and rent, so we are very grateful for all your donations which allow us to buy resources and equipment.

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

We offer two sessions a day during term time. Morning session 8.45/9am-12pm and an afternoon session 12-3pm. Lunch club is 12-1pm and may be added on to the morning session.

To find out more information about the pre-school please call our Manager, Dilys Beaumont, for a chat on 07951599623 or e-mail Vikki at [admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk](mailto:admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk)

The children and staff at Crowmarsh Pre-School would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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## Agatha Christie – 40 Years On

12 January 2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the death of Dame Agatha Christie at Winterbrook House. This Georgian residence, then in the Cholsey parish, had been her home, with husband Sir Max Mallowan, since 1934.

Her death was of world-wide interest, but her funeral in Cholsey Church on a bleak, cold, winter's day was a quiet family and friends affair – apart from the score of Press. Today, her grave is visited by hundreds each year, and tourists pause outside Winterbrook House to take pictures.

The next Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend, 9-11 September 2016, will commemorate the 40th anniversary of her death in style, but on 12 January, there will be just a very simple wreath-laying ceremony at the graveside in Cholsey Churchyard at 10.30am.

If you have local information about Agatha Christie or would like to help with the Weekend in September, then please phone 651127.

## Local talent!

From Thursday 28 January to Tuesday 2 February, there will be an exhibition of Paintings, Drawings and Boxes by Crowmarsh based artists Andrea Brailsford and Mike MacGregor with invited artists from Style Acre.

The exhibition will be held in the Old Fire Station Gallery, Henley-on-Thames, from 10am to 4pm. There will be an open view on Saturday 30 January from 12pm-2pm.

## Sports Facilities for Hire

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## St Mary Magdalene's Church Crowmarsh Gifford

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Tel. 01491 202188

Churchwardens:  
Margaret Foster, tel: 836076  
Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

### Services for January

Sunday 3rd	Epiphany	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 10th	Baptism of Christ	11am	All Age Worship
Sunday 17th	Epiphany .2.	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 24th	Epiphany .3.	11am	All Age Communion
Sunday 31st	Candlemas	11am	Parish Communion

### A Happy New Year to You All

It is so hard to get back into the humdrum of everyday living after the Christmas holiday, and all the hype leading up to it, but it is good to get back to reality, put away the Christmas Tree for another year, and get out and do some exercise to help remove the Christmas excesses.

A New Year, and I expect you have all made your New Year Promises, and I wonder how many you have already unwittingly broken – I know, it is so easy to do. Promises are made with all the best of intentions, but they are so hard to carry through for any length of time, usually because we are a little too ambitious in our intentions, perhaps less is more?

We in the Church will be making our New Year Resolutions at our next PCC Meeting – mainly to do with the fact that we now have a new Team Vicar. The announcement was made in Church on Sunday 13th December, his name is Reverend Kevin Beer, he is married, has two grown up children, and he will be joining

the Team around Easter, we cannot at this time be more specific. So that news really cheered everyone in time for Christmas.

We are now in the season of Epiphany, a time of discovery – as when the Magi found Jesus; their long search had been successful, and the manifestation of the Christ Child to them, sent them on their way rejoicing.

Planning is at the forefront of the Church Agenda for this month – what we shall be doing in the coming months, and how we shall manage our plans. It is an exciting time, and if you would like to be part of that planning, or have some really good ideas for the spread of help and support through church activities, then please do come along, we can use you.

Have a Happy and fruitful year, I will keep you all informed about the progress of our plans.

From all at St Mary Magdalene's

**Margaret Foster**  
Churchwarden

## Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The dates for the next Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 9th and 30th January, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm. We regret 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.

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# District Councillor's Report

## Planning

The big news for the last month is the announcement that the two decisions granting the appeals by Taylor Wimpey and Cemex against our refusing planning permission at Chinnor are going to be challenged by the Council in the High Court. Our appeals will be heard in May 2016. We are taking this action as we do not believe that the Inspector who heard the original appeals has taken into account the impact of these developments on the community.

Our strategy in the Local Plan has been to concentrate the bulk of development in the Didcot area to provide homes for the people who will be employed in the Industrial Parks and the two Science and Enterprise Parks announced just this month. This approach was endorsed by one of Her Majesty's Planning Inspectors in 2012 and it makes no sense to overturn this now as that will mean more traffic across the District's already overloaded road infrastructure bringing workers to the jobs.

In a worst case scenario, these three initiatives could even fail because the new homes built away from Didcot do not attract the people who will work at the Industrial and Science and Enterprise Parks.

We know that this is probably the first skirmish in a long, hard battle, but we will fight to defend our strategy, and we are also ramping up support for Parishes that are working on Neighbourhood Plans and encouraging those that either don't have a plan or haven't started on one yet to develop one. This is by far the best way for our communities to have a say in the way that they develop, both in terms of housing and in the provision of other amenities.

Not everything 'planning' is a battle. At the November Planning Committee, Wheatley Parish Council, in concert with Taylor Wimpey and a local Residents' Association, presented an Application for a development of 51 homes, of which 75% are affordable or Social Housing, giving a 'win-win' result. This will probably be a model that will be seen more

and more in the future, as the impact of Neighbourhood Planning grows.

## Constitution Review

A Panel of Councillors, including members of our Partner Council, Vale Of The White Horse, are presently working on up-dating our Constitutions. The objective here is to bring the two Councils' Constitutions up to date, to make them easier for everyone to understand and to streamline our processes where ever possible.

The Scope of this piece of work covers all of the District Council's activities, focusing on planning, environmental health, waste services, housing and benefits, leisure sports and art and local democracy, to name a few.

## Policing

As well as working to keep members of our public safe through our work on Environmental Health and maintaining hygiene standards at restaurants, pubs and take-away establishments for example, we are also working to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour through our network of CCTV in the larger communities, and by working with our colleagues at the County Council and with Thames Valley Police.

We are working with Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld to get the best value for money possible whilst maintaining and improving standards. During his first term, Mr Stansfeld has moved Thames Valley Police from the bottom of the League to the top three according to HM Inspector of Constabularies.

## Waste and Recycling

We are pleased to have again been recognised for our work in waste collection and recycling, topping the league table with our colleagues in the Vale. SODC is top, recycling 67.3 per cent, with the Vale just below in second place with 65.6 per cent. Our recently introduced service collecting textiles and small electrical items is going well, and all of these initiatives help towards greater efficiency, greater environmental protection and getting value for money for the tax payer.

## **The New Corporate Strategy and Value for Money**

We are also well on our way in developing the new Corporate Strategy, which, when it is introduced in 2016, will realign the way that we work as a corporate body, improving the way we do things, our efficiency and ultimately getting the best deal we can for our tax payers.

## **Simplifying Grant Procedures and More Money**

One of the things we are looking at is the way that grants are handled. We have already made changes to this process to make it easier to apply for grants and obtain the funds to support community projects. We are looking to increase the budget available, so individual communities can benefit from these real funding opportunities.

For help or advice with any District matter, please contact [felixbloomfield@hotmail.com](mailto:felixbloomfield@hotmail.com).

## **Wallingford Gardening Club Trees: a camera's perspective**

At the January meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Richard Roslyn will talk about 'Trees: a camera's perspective'.

Richard is Head Gardener at Blewbury Manor. He has been working there for 22 years, and during that time has seen some great changes, such that the gardens have developed into something quite wonderful. Richard's talk will describe the aesthetic beauty of trees, both native and exotic, and the role they play in our gardens.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th January.

Visitors are very welcome, for a £2; admission fee.

Advance notice of future talks:  
11th February: The Principles of Garden Design (Duncan Grosart)

**Isabelle Darby**  
**836867**

## **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 at Crowmarsh Gifford on Thursday 10th December 2015**

*Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Francesca Jones, Stephen Sherbourne, Fleur Stevenson, Ann Sharp, David Mannering and Stuart Soames; Sue Rance (Clerk), Melanie Malcolm (Finance Officer) and a member of the public.*

*Apologies: from Councillors Andrew Johnson, Mo Fillmore and Andrew Hermesen.*

### **Matters arising from previous meeting**

Grass cutting: thanks to Cllr Sherbourne for cutting the Crowmarsh Hill end of the footpath to Park View and planting some bulbs there. This must be included in the contract for next year.

Waste regulations: new regulations allow dog waste to be deposited in litter bins – all goes for incineration. Consideration will be given to whether we now need all the existing dog bins where there is a litter bin nearby. SODC will not authorise any more dog bins. The Finance Officer will check on the duration of the contract with SODC.

Former SODC offices: the Clerk has been in contact with SODC about air monitoring and pest control at this site.

Remedial work to the ash tree at Jethro Tull Gardens was approved, to be done by Mr Cottrell. The work on the tree at the front of Howbery Farm has been done and further tree work will be included in the budget for next year.



## **Finance**

Payments were approved and the income and expenditure noted. There are now 18 allotment plots and we pay £1 each for affiliation to the Allotments and Gardens Council, as well as public liability insurance for allotment holders (premium £75.70). Income from the allotments this year was about £150.

A new pump has been fitted at the pavilion at a cost of £407.76. It was noted that the recreation ground/pavilion accounts are almost breaking even this year, but that these facilities are supported from the parish budget as a major service to residents.

### **Budget for 2016-17**

Possibilities for future projects had been discussed at an informal meeting on 30th November, after which Cllr Johnson circulated a list of possible capital projects for councillors to rank and comment on. They will be discussed at the February meeting.

The draft budget allowed an inflationary increase of 3% for general costs, based on experience. £500 has been budgeted for possible extra costs resulting from County Council delegation of services and a further £500 as a possible donation to a volunteer drivers scheme to replace the Dial-a-Ride service, which will no longer be funded by the County Council.

A precept of £38,201 was proposed and agreed: this is the money the Parish Council receives from SODC as our share of the Council Tax. It represents a small increase to allow for the loss of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) grant which SODC is withholding from next year. The Parish Council's income will then remain the same as in 2015-16. This will increase the council tax for a Band D property by £1 per annum.

After discussion the budget was approved and the Finance Officer thanked.

### **Grants and donations**

A grant of £100 was agreed to South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance (SOFEA). This local charity redistributes

surplus food from supermarkets and provides work and training for young unemployed people.

A grant of £100 was agreed to Oxfordshire Befriending for Life (OxBEL), a local community service run by the charity Age UK Oxfordshire, supporting adults who are living with a terminal illness.

### **Other finance matters**

An unrecoverable debt of £45 has been written off. A decision was made not to opt out of having an external auditor appointed by the government. It was thought unlikely that we could make more cost-effective arrangements for the annual audit.

### **County Councillor's report**

County Councillor Gray reported that proposed closures of household waste and recycling centres have been deferred to 2017. Opening hours may be reduced at some sites.

Further cuts in council services are expected when the County Council sets its budget in February. Research is being done into the financial impact on local government services of the introduction of the "living wage". Following the County Council budget meeting, more information will be available on the future of transport services including the 134 bus service through Crowmarsh and North Stoke, which has around 100 passengers per day. Meetings are to be held between bus providers and Parish Councils.

Cllr Jones reported that the emergency plan is due for review. Cllr Gray will look into why no update had been received from the County Council.

### **Planning**

It was noted that Lister Wilder have planted trees on their site.

#### *Decisions by SODC:*

P15/S3211/HH (Householder): Single storey side and rear extension. 14 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED:  
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P15/S3221/HH: Double and single storey rear extensions. Replacement glazing. Provision of PV panels to rear roof slope of house and roof slope to new rear extension. Demolition of out-buildings (as amended to reduce the depth of the two and single storey extensions). 24 Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BB: PERMISSION GRANTED.

P15/S3350/HH: Garsons Cottage, Pocock Lane, North Stoke, OX10 6BG: PERMISSION GRANTED.

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

P15/S3751/HH: Two-storey rear extensions, and conversion of space over garage to study, and additional roof openings. 2 Jethro Tull Gardens, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8DS. RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P15/S3764/FUL: Removal of condition 15 on application P10/W1752 (demolition of existing dwellings and associated ancillary buildings. Construction of five detached replacement dwellings. Creation of three new vehicle and one new pedestrian gates through existing boundary wall.) Willow Lake, Mongewell Park, Mongewell, OX10 8DA. NO STRONG VIEWS.

P14/S2860/O (Outline) Amendment No. 2, dated 26th November 2015: Residential development comprising 555 dwellings, a one form entry primary school, associated landscaping and open spaces, construction of a new access onto the A4130 Calvin Thomas Way/Bosley Way, construction of a public transport link/emergency access onto Wantage Road and other supporting infrastructure works and facilities. Land to the west of Wallingford (Site B), Wallingford. NO STRONG VIEWS.

P15/S4085/HH: Double and single storey extensions. 12 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EU. RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

#### **Change of property name**

The property formerly known as Jalna has been renamed Sunnyside, Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, OX10 8EN.

#### **Traffic and transport matters**

A resident reported problems with inappropriate parking in Thames Mead. This became a serious issue during the recent Head of the River Race, when the road became so congested that it would have been impassable for emergency vehicles. H. Chadwick Funeral Directors had also reported obstructions and parking problems all along Benson Lane during the Head of the River event and had a reply from the race organisers. In future, organisers of any major event should be expected to advise the Parish Council in advance to discuss parking arrangements.

Double yellow lines or possibly bollards at the junction of Thames Mead with The Street were suggested. Cllr Gray felt that bollards could constitute a hazard for some pedestrians. Double yellow lines need formal consultation, which is costly; white lines are easier to obtain but less enforceable. It was agreed to refer these matters to the Traffic and Transport Committee for further investigation and arrange a meeting between the Parish Council, County Council and police.

#### **Recreation Ground & Environment Committee**

Any necessary action regarding the willow trees at the nature area will be considered at the next committee meeting which will be held in late January or early February.

#### **Next meeting**

The council does not meet in January. The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 4th February at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. All welcome. Please let John Griffin (contact details above) know of anything the parish council might be able to help with or if you are interesting in filling the remaining vacancy as a councillor.

#### **Local Stroke Club**

Wallingford and District Stroke Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Please contact Norman Goodall on 01235 834503 or Jenny Tatman on 01491 839499.

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## WHAT'S ON – JANUARY 2016

### Regular events and meetings

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

Sunday 3rd	13.30	CTC 21-mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Friday 8th	19.45	TWHAS talk: The White Tower under the Normans	Methodist Church Centre, St Leonard's Square
Saturday 9th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Tuesday 12th	10.30	Wreath Laying: 40th Anniversary of Agatha Christie's death	Cholsey Church Graveyard
Wednesday 13th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: Chairman's evening	Bix Village Hall
Sunday 17th	13.30	CTC 30-something mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Wednesday 27th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: Members' evening	Bix Village Hall
Saturday 30th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 30th	09.45	Sustainable Wallingford Swapshop	Regal Centre

**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).