

# Crowmarsh News

Issue 450

March 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 April issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our 20th March 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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## **The 134 Bus Service**

### **Temporary continuation**

The Oxfordshire County Council decided at their meeting on 16th February to terminate all bus subsidy arrangements in Oxfordshire. This will remove the current subsidy paid to Go Ride to run the regular 134 service, the subsidy being due to terminate on 31st March. Go Ride had worked hard to prepare for a reduced 134 Service, with some fare increases, to ensure the continuation of an economically viable service from 1st April.

However there has been some improvement in the short notice of this implementation. Dave Harrison, Managing Director of Go Ride, announced:

"Go Ride CIC were formally notified on Tuesday 23rd February that Oxfordshire County Council have decided to extend the existing contract for service 134 until Wednesday 20th July. This is also the date for which notice has been given for the other remaining contracts held by the company."

The Council's offer of a contract extension will be accepted by Go Ride CIC. Therefore, the proposed changes to the timetable have been postponed and the current level of service will be maintained until the above date. It is now expected that the reduced commercial service will commence on Thursday 21st July.

We apologise for the recent spate of conflicting information, but we hope everyone can agree that this is good news at least in the short term."

The new timetable and fare structure will be reported in *Crowmarsh News* and will be on bus timetable notices.

Our thanks go to Roy McMillan of South Stoke who has been communicating with Go Ride on behalf of all the affected Parishes.

**Francesca Jones**  
**Crowmarsh PC Rep**

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

## **Litter Blitz – Clean for the Queen**

Crowmarsh Parish Council is organising a Litterblitz in Crowmarsh Gifford. This is part of a nationwide "Clean for the Queen" campaign but we had already planned to tackle the build-up of litter in our village. Some of this is take-away packaging thrown out of cars; all of it is antisocial and unnecessary.

Date Saturday 5th March, start time 10am – meet at The Street end of Thames Mead by the horse chestnut tree. SODC will provide equipment. For safety reasons, the litter picking will only be done along the village streets, not the main A4074 road.

Volunteers are welcome. Children must be supervised by a responsible adult. If needed there will be a follow-up on Sunday 20th March at 2pm.

## **Quiz'n'Chips - Friday 11th March**

St Mary Magdalene are holding their spring Quiz'n'Chips in the church on Friday 11th March. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30 start and there will be a licensed bar.

Entry forms are available from the church and from Crowmarsh Village Stores and need to be returned by Sunday 6th March please (Mothering Sunday). Tickets are £10 with food, £7.50 without food.

Ideally teams are 6-8 people, but if you don't have a team, we will find you some friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Sarah Nesbitt**  
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**To book the Pavilion or  
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## Crowmarsh Gifford School

I can't believe we are already approaching Easter. There is so much happening in school over the next month.

This term we are focusing on 'being leaders and not followers'. This incorporates so many aspects of what we do in school. It is about teaching children to stand up for what is right, to take a challenge in the classroom showing bravery and fortitude, learning from mistakes and being proud of them and encouraging others to truly be the best they can be.

Being a leader is about being 'unique', which we all are, but having enough resilience to always stand apart from the crowd while having integrity and always doing what is right, even though it may be the more difficult thing to do.

In our school we have many children who take on leadership positions such as School Council, Eco Council, Librarians, Playground Leaders, Sport Leaders, House Leaders and Learning Detectives to name a few. Children have to fill in applications and then stand up in their classes and convince their classmates that they are the right candidate. We talk a great deal about leadership in school and think it is vitally important that every child understands the qualities of leadership and the fact that they can all be a leader themselves.

What do you think are the qualities of a leader?

Near the end of the month we will be having our annual Easter services at St Mary Magdalene and hope that you are able to join us. Until then, we wish you and your families a very blessed Easter season.

Kindest Regards,

**Mrs Flora Barton**  
**Headteacher**

### Useful telephone numbers

**Crime Stoppers** 0800 555 111

**Police non-emergency number** 101

## Crowmarsh Pre-school

This term we are thinking about significant people in our lives - in particular our mummies, and appreciating our special relationships with them. The children are very busy making their own tokens of appreciation. Later in the term we will be looking out for signs of Spring, and to coincide with all the new growth we hope to see, our colour of the term is Green.

This term we are celebrating St David's Day on 1st March, and St. Patrick's Day on 17th March. The children will be receiving Book Tokens to spend on new books, and have the opportunity to dress up as a favourite book character in recognition of World Book Day. Finally, this short but busy term culminates in an Easter Egg Hunt around our lovely garden.

Our next Open Morning is on Tuesday 1st March. Please come along to visit us between 9.30 and 10.30 to see just how much fun we have at Crowmarsh Pre-School!

We would like to announce that our hugely successful Village Quiz will be running again on 14th May. Our wonderful fundraising committee will be on the hunt for donations of prizes for our Auction and Raffle. If you or a local business would like to donate a prize, please contact Dilys (see details below).

As we are 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.

Our Outstanding 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)

## Staff needed for the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

On Thursday 5th May, elections are taking place across the country to elect new police and crime commissioners.

In order to ensure things run smoothly, SODC needs to fill a number of paid roles with enthusiastic and reliable people. For election day, the Council is aiming to recruit Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks, and Verification Staff, and for 6th May a number of Count Staff. All these positions are paid (but of course for one day only).

Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks must be able to get to their designated polling station by 6.15am on 5th May and stay until after polls close at 10pm. Count Staff must be able to get to the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre on 6th May (times approximately 9am to 4pm).

Anyone interested in applying for these roles should email an application form (available on the SODC website) to [electionstaff@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:electionstaff@southandvale.gov.uk). There is further information available for all roles on our website at [www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/elections/working-elections](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/elections/working-elections)

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## A Victorian Murder Enquiry in Crowmarsh

In 1856, William and Susannah Clarke lived at the "The Cottage" public house, located at Beggar's Bush Hill, Benson. Beggar's Bush Hill is on the road from Benson Airfield and the Swyncombe/Crowmarsh crossroads. William was described as quiet, plainly dressed, and middle aged (32). Susannah was his second wife and was much younger than him; their relationship was a stormy one.

Clarke walked with his wife along the path that ran past Crowmarsh Church and the grounds of Howbery Park to the main gate and arrived there at 2.30 on the morning of 27th December. George Wakefield, who lived in the Lodge House at Howbery (in 1856 the Lodge was inside the gates), said that Susannah Clarke seemed to be close to collapse.

George opened the gates to allow them in, but when he went to assist Clarke he realised that Susannah was in fact dead. The body was taken into the Lodge and George Wakefield ran to Wallingford to get a doctor and also to inform Susannah's mother.

Dr Buswell, surgeon assistant to Dr Barrett, of Wallingford, arrived at the Howbery Lodge at about 4am. There he certified that Susannah Clarke was dead. He also noted that there were a number of bruises to her face and body.

The inquest was held at The Bell, Crowmarsh on the following Monday. Dr Buswell, who conducted the post-mortem on Monday morning, gave evidence that he discovered that there had been considerable bleeding on the brain and between the scalp and the skull. He reported this could have been caused by violence or natural causes. He did not think a boot or a stick would have caused that type of injury.

James Saunders, the deceased's step-father, in giving evidence said he and his wife went into Wallingford with William and Susannah in the morning, where they went to the Green Tree and drank several glasses of gin and cloves. They then went to the Town Arms and drank four or five gin and peppermints. At 10

o'clock in the evening they parted with William and his daughter who were crossing the bridge on their way home. Susannah was very drunk.

William and Susannah were seen by Crowmarsh Church at about 10.30 by Sarah Godfrey as she crossed the road from the Church. She stated that Susannah was lying on the ground and that William was trying to get her to stand up. William Lovegrove stated that when he passed the Church Saunders was in the Churchyard.

Richard Smith, Crowmarsh's policeman, gave evidence that on Sunday he followed a track from the churchyard to the gate at Howbery, possibly caused by a body being dragged along so its heels or toes scuffed a furrow in the path.

When all the evidence was heard, William Clarke was arrested and charged with manslaughter. Bail of a £100 was set, Clarke paid half and there were two sureties of £25 each, so he was allowed to go home.

The trial was held in March in Oxford. The evidence was a repeat of the inquest, except that two experts both gave evidence to the effect that the blow to the head could have been caused by a fall, which was thought most likely.

At this point the Judge stopped the trial. He told the Jury that it was very likely that Clarke's wife died from a fall and there was no evidence to show that Clarke had caused her death by any violence. It was therefore quite impossible for the jury to come to a conclusion that the death of Mrs Clarke was caused by any violence by Clarke.

The Jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged a free man.

### Short Mat Bowls

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

## Cranford House School

With 85 years of experience, an 'Excellent' inspection rating and second place nationally in The Times Parent Power tables under our belt, there's never been a better time for your child to join Cranford House.

Our Junior School will become fully co-educational from September 2016, admitting boys and girls from the ages of 3-11. The chance to enjoy a Cranford education is now open to more children than ever. We currently have limited Rising-3 spaces in our beautiful Nursery, with its masses of outside space to explore, swimming lessons, Forest School and host of exciting activities delivered by specialist staff. Rated 'Outstanding' in every category at our most recent inspection, we believe it provides quite simply the best pre-school experience around.

We offer a seamless transition into our Reception class, where places are now also limited. As well as small class sizes which guarantee individual attention, boys and girls have access to imaginative teaching, superb facilities and a brilliantly-designed outdoor area which ensures play and learning go hand in hand.

To see what makes us so successful for yourself, please join us during our upcoming Open Week and see our happy school at work and play for yourselves. Either book a tour or just drop in between 7th and 11th March, 9.30am to 3pm. We look forward to welcoming you.

### Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The date for the next Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 12th March and 2nd April. 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.



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## History walks and Museum tours in 2016

During 2016 there will be opportunities to join one of the popular history walks led by Judy Dewey and Wallingford Museum volunteers.

On Saturday 2nd April there will be a walk around the Castle earthworks in the morning, followed by a Town history walk in the afternoon. So a full day to absorb Wallingford's history, and a super opportunity to visit the Museum's latest exhibitions between your exercise! Put the date in your diary now!

Separately arranged group visits to the Museum or history walks (or combined) are proving increasingly popular. They can be specially tailored to your group's requirements.....out of hours, introductory talk, etc. If your group / society / school would like to book for 2016, then please phone Judy Dewey as soon as possible, on 651127.

Look out too for special events this year. As well as the Town and Castle history walks, there will be A Night at the Museum (13th May – for children, and 28th October), Family Archaeology Day (23rd July), a William the Conqueror event (20th August), BunkFest offers, and the Agatha Christie Weekend (9th-11th September).

There are two new special exhibitions at the Museum this year. '1066: William Comes to Wallingford' describing how William the Conqueror came to Wallingford after the Battle of Hastings to cross the River Thames with his army! But why did he choose Wallingford? And '300 Years of Cartoons!' a spectacular private collection, featuring about one hundred cartoons of all kinds.

And if you come early in the season, your £5 entry ticket will give you terrific value, as you'll be able to return as many times as you like for no extra cost. The Museum is open from 1st March. Children under 16 are free, when accompanied by an adult. Please visit [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk) for more.



## The history of cartoons in British arts and politics

Environmentalist, historian, gardener, and avid collector Steve Head, from Cholsey, returns to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) with a further talk. He is an entertaining speaker, and the timing of this talk is most apt to coincide with the opening of the special exhibition at the Museum - '300 Years of Cartoons!'

Steve will be giving a special talk on the history of cartoons in British arts and politics. He will trace the evolution of cartoons from their medieval origins, through the great Golden Age in the eighteenth century, when cartoons were a major political force, on to the eras of *Punch*, *Private Eye* and now *Viz* magazine. The talk is designed to complement the exhibition of Steve's own collection which will be on show at the Wallingford Museum during 2016.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 9th March, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Please note that TWHAS talks will now be held on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. Our website is [www.twahas.org.uk](http://www.twahas.org.uk)

## Gardening Club talk

On 10th March, Paul Patton will talk to the Wallingford Gardening Club about 'A Diet Plan for Plants'. It's at the Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm; visitors £2.

### To book North Stoke Village Hall

contact Nikki Arnfeld  
– 839736, 07969 788766, or  
[narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk)  
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# House burglaries and home security

We have unfortunately seen an increase in dwelling burglaries on our area in recent weeks. House breaks are normally very rare in this area so I do not want to alarm you, but to make you aware of simple steps you can take to protect your property. Remember: burglars don't need brains, just an opportunity.

## *Doors and Windows*

Ensure you have good window locks and use them. Make sure you deadlock the doors and that your doors are fitted with good locks. Get into the habit of double checking doors and window locks before going to bed.

## *Timer Lights*

Use timer switches on lights and radios when you are not at home. Burglars will think twice if they think somebody might be home.

## *Alarms*

Burglar alarms are a really good deterrent to the opportunist burglar.

## *Garden Gates and Fences*

Ensure garden gates are locked and that you cannot reach over and unlock the gate. Consider fitting Prikka Strip (plastic spikes) on top of tall gates and fences. Flimsy trellis is good as it breaks easily and burglars do not like this as there is a risk of cutting themselves and leaving DNA behind. Prickly plants also act as a deterrent. Also please do not leave any tools or items in the garden that could be used to break windows or force entry to your property.

## *Garages and Sheds*

Ensure you have a solid garage door and keep it locked. Consider upgrading the locks on your garage door. Ensure sheds are locked with a high quality padlock and that the clasps are fitted with non-return screws. Consider fitting a shed alarm which can be purchased for approximately £20.00.

## *Crime Prevention Surveys*

Local Police Community Support Officers can attend your address and carry out a survey for free. To arrange this, please email [sue.harris@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sue.harris@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

If you look at the Thames Valley Police website ([www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)), you can find a section entitled Crime Reduction which offers really good advice on home security.

## *Looking Out for Suspicious Activity*

If you see someone in your street who you think is acting suspiciously, try to get a good description of them and a registration number and description of any vehicle they are using. Don't hesitate to phone us either on 999 if you think a crime is being committed, or 101 (non emergency number), and we can stop check them and find out what they are doing. Remember your instincts are normally right. If something does not feel or look right, it probably isn't.

## **Thames Valley Police**

## **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 Jenny Tatman on 01491 839499 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

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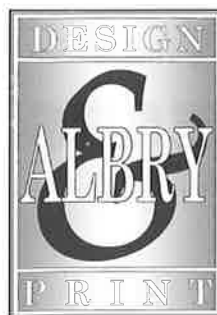
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22 Castle Street, Wallingford  
Email: david.rice@ntlworld.com  
Tel. 01491 202188

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

### Services for March

|                |                    |        |  |
|----------------|--------------------|--------|--|
| Sunday 6th     | Lent .4.           | 11am   | All Age Worship<br>Mothering Sunday              |
| Sunday 13th    | Passiontide Begins | 11am   | All Age Worship                                  |
| Sunday 20th    | Palm Sunday        | 11am   | Parish Communion<br>Holy Week                    |
| Monday 21st    |                    | 8pm    | Service of Compline                              |
| Tuesday 22nd   |                    | 8pm    | Service of Compline                              |
| Wednesday 23rd |                    | 8pm    | Service of Compline                              |
| Sunday 27th    | Easter Day         | 6.30am | Sunrise Service and Renewal of<br>Baptismal Vows |
|                |                    | 11am   | Easter Communion                                 |

With spring flowers appearing so early this year, it may be difficult to get some seasonal flowers for that special day at the start of the month – Mothering Sunday. I am sure we shall all manage to get around the problem and on the day be able to say a heartfelt thank you to our Mothers for all they do for us throughout the year. At church we shall be having our special service to say 'thank you' to all our Mums, and will be handing out a flower to all ladies present to demonstrate our thanks.

The following week we have Passion Sunday, then on to Palm Sunday, when everyone on that day so long ago was in a party mood, cheering and shouting Hosannas – but at the end of that week, some of those people were shouting a very different chant – “crucify, crucify” they shouted. Why did they shout that, to a man who never did them any harm, only good? I suppose it was the same then as it is now: one bad person starts the ripple effect, and the resulting anger, as we know, is often reported in the media.

Then comes Easter Day, when we celebrate the rising of Jesus, and his subsequent messages that we should love one another and spread this 'Good News' around the world.

We have during Holy Week, the usual services

of Compline, which are simple acts of worship that last only 30 minutes. We should be glad to see you at any of these services, and particularly for our Easter Day Service.

Now for the adverts – we shall be holding our spring Quiz and Chips on Friday 11th March doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The bar will be open as usual, so come early to grab the best tables. Application forms can be found in the Village Store, so do come and join us for a fun evening.

I have some good news to impart to everyone. We now have the date when our Team Vicar will be joining us, and that date is 27th April. We shall be holding the Licensing Service at St Mary's in Wallingford at 7.30pm. As you might imagine, we are all looking forward to the arrival of Rev'd Kevin Beer and his family, and we hope that he will be very happy working within the Wallingford Team Ministry.

It is an exciting time, and if you would like to join with us in planning the future of our church here, 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!

**Margaret Foster**  
Churchwarden



# District Councillor's Report

## Council Tax Good News

Here at SODC Officers and Members have been working to get the maximum value for money and we are now in a position to honour our election pledge not to raise our element of the Council Tax. So, for 2016/17, this will remain at the same level as the current year.

## Policing

We continue to work with Police and Crime Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld, to get the best value for money possible whilst maintaining and improving standards. Following the Home Office's change in its funding proposals, as announced by the Chancellor in the Autumn Statement, the Budget proposals for the coming year have been revised and are now in the scrutiny process.

For Thames Valley policing, one area of significant concern is the growth in cybercrime. Whilst this is a national issue, we all need to be vigilant, and an initiative has been launched which will help our residents. We urge all Councils and the public to be aware of the Cyber Crime Awareness initiative and to visit Cyber STREETWISE at [www.cyberstreetwise.com/](http://www.cyberstreetwise.com/) and we ask you to do everything you can to spread the work.

## Grants

The next window for grants opens in February. It runs from 1st February to 1st April 2016 for decisions by 10 July 2016. We have made changes to this process to make it easier to apply for Grants and obtain the funds to support projects; we hope that our communities will make full use of the opportunity this presents. The Working Group has met to determine the way we will handle the funds available following the withdrawal of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and an announcement on this will be made in the near future.

## The Council's Home

As the anniversary of the fire at Crowmarsh passed, there was a great deal of speculation

in the press about the location of our new, permanent home. Work on this continues and for the time being, all we can say is that it is very unlikely that we will be returning to the old site. On the basis of progress to date we expect an announcement during May or June this year.

## Planning

We've just set up a new register for people interested in building their own property. This will help us get an idea of how much local interest there is in self-build, which will help us write our planning policies. Whilst we're not currently aware of any plots of land that are available for self-build, the register will help us match people up with suitable plots of land should they become available in the future. This can be found on our web site; you just need to search for 'Custom Build Register'.

The planning inspector has approved our Community Infrastructure Levy schedule subject to a few minor amendments and this will go to cabinet early this year.

Work continues apace across our District on Neighbourhood Planning with more communities starting work on a plan, and we will continue to provide the best support that we can with this piece of work.

## Didcot Garden Town

Didcot and the surrounding areas are set to get major infrastructure funding to help with the delivery of 15,000 new homes and 10,000 new high-tech jobs in both our District and the Vale.

Housing and Planning minister, Brandon Lewis MP visited the town to announce that our joint bid for Garden Town status for Didcot was successful; this will pave the way for improvements like a northern perimeter road for the town and the 'Science Bridge' over the railway line into Milton Park, as well as improvements to existing areas of Didcot.

## Armed Forces Covenant

We have a significant military presence in our District, not only with RAF Benson, but also with Services Family Accommodation in Didcot

for Dalton Barracks in Abingdon, and residents from St David's and St George's Barracks across the border at Bicester, and RAF Halton and Air Command (formerly Strike Command) in Buckinghamshire. Whilst I was Chairman of the Council I signed the Armed Forces Covenant at a ceremony in County Hall on behalf of The Council a few years ago and we

have commenced work on a 'refresh' to our approach to meeting this commitment.

If you would like help or advice on any District matter, please do get in touch.

**Felix Bloomfield**

## **Best of Wallingford**

### **Charity Fashion Show & Pamper Fair**



OXFAM In aid of Oxfam and Wallingford Young People for Kenya.



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**7.30 – 10pm in Wallingford School Hall**

Doors open: 7pm

Catwalk: 8pm

Pamper fair: 7:30pm – 10pm

Includes a night of live entertainment, a catwalk, luxury raffle prizes, a complimentary drink, local stalls to buy unique items from, hair and beauty artists, and an opportunity to buy quality clothing (new & old) including evening/prom dresses and suits.

Tickets in advance £8 for adults, £6 for students.

Contact Julie or Eleanor on [jewel500@btinternet.com](mailto:jewel500@btinternet.com) or call 01491 825758

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## **Charity Fashion Show**

A Charity Fashion Show and Pamper Fair on 22 April (see advert above) will be run in aid of Oxfam and Wallingford Young People Kenya. These are students from Wallingford School who are fundraising to go to work with orphaned children in Kenya in October.

They will be working with the Nasio Trust, which empowers communities in western Kenya to break the cycle of poverty by providing education, improving health and developing commerce. For more information, please visit [www.thenasiotrust.org](http://www.thenasiotrust.org)

The Fashion show is for anyone from 14 years. It is a sophisticated evening of fashion

and pampering. There will be clothes modelled and available to buy from Oxfam (designer and high street), Vintage Vogue and Variety of Vintage. There will be local stall holders selling their gifts and we will have a Pampering Fair where you can have make up, hair, colour analysis or even acupuncture on the night. There will be luxury raffles and alcohol for sale during the evening. We will have live entertainment and two catwalks – day and evening wear. The models are students and teachers of the school.

The tickets are £8 for adults and £6 for students in advance. Included in the ticket price is a Bucks Fizz or orange juice. To get a ticket please call Julie or Eleanor on 825758 or email: [jewel500@btinternet.com](mailto:jewel500@btinternet.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 4th February 2016

*Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Francesca Jones, Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Hermsen, Ann Sharp, David Mannering, Andrew Johnson, Mo Fillmore, Fleur Stevenson and Stuart Soames; Sue Rance (Clerk), Melanie Malcolm (Finance Officer); County Councillor Mark Gray (part of the meeting).*

Cllrs Soames, Sherbourne, Hannigan and Griffin will review the grass-cutting contract, agree the specification and seek quotes for the coming season.

A grant of £100 was made to Enrych Oxfordshire (formerly Ryder Cheshire Volunteers). This local charity supports adults with physical disabilities, enabling them to access a variety of activities by providing each with a dedicated volunteer.

### County Councillor's report

County Councillor Gray reported on Section 106 developer contributions available for improved access facilities near to the Wilder site and bus stop improvements, which might help with the northbound bus stop in North Stoke (see Traffic & Transport below). The Chairman reported that Arrow Fencing has quoted £1050 + VAT for a wooden bus shelter in Benson Lane, plus the cost of painting. It was agreed to research the possibility of funding this from S.106 money.

The County Council is inviting bids from local councils to take responsibility for certain areas of work under the 'Oxfordshire Together' scheme. The Parish Council already receives a grant for grass cutting in the parish but could apply for more if the area of work is extended. Other areas could include road sign cleaning, footpath maintenance, serving letters on residents whose hedges are overgrowing the pavement, but not maintenance of roundabouts. Cllr Gray suggested a renewed effort to recruit a crossing patrol officer, possibly with enhanced pay. If anyone is interested, please contact the parish clerk or chairman.

Oxfordshire County Council will set a budget on 16th February. Children's Centres and Day Centres are at risk of cuts as well as libraries. Cllr Gray reported that, even if council tax were to be increased by 10%, there would still be a need for substantial budget cuts.

Cllr Gray attended a meeting to discuss the

### Matters arising from previous meeting

The council had contacted the police about inappropriate parking and this will be followed up by contacting the vehicle owners.

An updated emergency plan is due with changes reflecting that sandbags and accommodation can no longer be provided at the SODC offices in Benson Lane.

A letter from a resident about air quality had been circulated with the minutes. As part of the Wallingford Air Quality Management Area there are a few diffusion tubes in Crowmarsh. See <https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/> for the data on air quality for the area either side of Wallingford Bridge. Consultation on SODC's plans is at [www.southoxon.gov.uk/lowemis-sions](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/lowemis-sions) – please take part by 25th March.

### Finance

The accounts at 31st December showed £51,000 in the current account, £91,000 in reserves and £2,849 in the Unity Trust account. Operating costs (including expenditure on the recreation ground and pavilion) were below the budget. More details will be available in April after the end of the financial year. The Council intends to earmark funds for specific projects and Cllr Johnson is collating members' responses so a decision can be made on priorities.

future of the 134 minibus service between Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford, North and South Stoke and Goring: 900 journeys per annum are made by Crowmarsh residents. In the short term, the hourly service is to continue between 8am and 4pm – between 9 and 3 on Saturdays (see article from the operators GoRide).

A satellite subsidy of £350 per annum is available for households in areas where better broadband is not available. This is a government grant and residents need to apply individually to Oxfordshire County Council.

## **Planning**

### *SODC decisions:*

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

P15/S3764/FUL: Removal of condition 15 of application P10/W1752 (demolition of existing dwellings and associated ancillary buildings. Construction of five detached replacement dwellings. Creation of three new vehicle gates and one new pedestrian gate through existing boundary wall.) Willow Lake, Mongewell Park, OX10 8DA.  
PERMISSION GRANTED.

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

### *Parish Council responses to SODC:*

P15/S4207/HH: First floor loft room extension and single storey kitchen extension to front elevation. As amended by revised plans showing a reduction in scale. Withy Windle, Cook Lane, North Stoke, OX10 6BG.  
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P16/S0216/FUL & P16/S0217/LB (Listed Building): Change of use from domestic dwelling to office. General refurbishment to interior. The Lodge, Howbery Park, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BD.

(Cllr Stevenson declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.)  
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

## **Telecommunications cabinet in North Stoke**

BT Openreach plans to install a new telecommunications cabinet outside No. 7, Wallingford Road, to expand broadband accessibility in North Stoke.

## **Planning Application P15/S3387 – developer contributions**

The case officer dealing with planning application P15/S3387 (new headquarters for CABI, plus 91 dwelling houses) has asked the Council to comment on S.106 contributions (the money from developers for community facilities). There would be a contribution of £90,798.34 for “Community”: this should go towards highway safety improvements such as a safe crossing of the Portway. There would be £20,319.82 for play equipment and £27,744.37 for maintenance: this should go to replacing and extending play provisions at the recreation ground.

These discussions do not mean there is any change in the parish council’s position: we remain opposed to this planning application, for all the reasons set out last month.

## **Recreation Ground & Environment Committee**

Cllr Mannering has joined the Recreation Ground committee. Charges have been increased for adult football teams. Plans are in hand to develop a basketball area. The children’s play area could be improved with the provision of a safety surface instead of bark chippings. The play area is inspected annually by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

On 15th February, Scofell will begin planting extra trees in the nature area. Crosscut will carry out work on willow trees near the river at a cost of £520. It is hoped to improve the lighting in the car park. The floodlight is now on a timer and plans are in hand to replace the pavilion’s fluorescent lighting with much more efficient LEDs.

## **Traffic and transport committee**

A meeting has been held with the police and county councilor about speeding traffic and safe crossing arrangements on the A4074 Portway. Mr Kirkwood of the County Council's road safety team has visited the site since and his report is awaited. The hope is to install a pedestrian crossing controlled by traffic lights, with additional road safety features such as white gates at the entrance to the village, larger speed-indicator signs and if possible more frequent police speed traps.

Cllr Soames reported that the northbound bus shelter in North Stoke is dangerous and needs attention: the access is very muddy and poses a danger to users. Arrow Fencing will be asked to suggest a way to improve the situation quickly. Ideally this bus stop should be re-sited opposite the southbound stop.

## **Queen's birthday celebrations**

Celebrations of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday are being planned for the weekend of 11-12 June. Look out for details of local events in Crowmarsh Gifford, Mongewell and North Stoke.

## **Litter blitz**

The parish council is organising a litter blitz in Crowmarsh Gifford. For safety reasons, the picking would only be done along the village streets, not the main A4074. Proposed dates are Saturday morning 5th March (part of a national "Clean for the Queen" initiative) and Sunday afternoon 20th March. Volunteers are very welcome and SODC will provide equipment – see notice for details. We hope Cubs and Beavers and possibly the school may be able to help.

## **Street cleaning**

Although some street cleaning has been carried out near the bridge, much more is needed, especially in the layby opposite St Mary Magdalene Church and in Cox's Lane and Meadow Lane. Cllr Griffin will contact Biffa again and will ask for the Parish Council to be notified in advance of any cleaning so that residents can be given time to move their vehicles.

## **Report from outside bodies**

Cllr Sherbourne, our rep on Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall Committee, reported that the children's Christmas party was a great success. It is planned to make this an annual event.

## **District Councillor's report**

Please see the District Councillor's report on pages 14 and 15.

## **Next meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 3rd March at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm: all welcome. A date for the Annual Parish Meeting will be agreed at the March meeting.

## **Wallingford Photographic Club**

Wallingford Photographic Club meets on Thursday evenings at Crowmarsh Pavilion. Visitors and new members are always welcome. If there is something which interests you in our programme, why not come along as a visitor and find out more? Full details are on the club website, [www.wallingfordphoto.club](http://www.wallingfordphoto.club)

Our March programme is as follows:

3rd: Abingdon Battle and Members' Evening  
17th: Print competition, no set subject.

Judge: Damon Marlow

24th: Digital competition, no set subject.

Judge: Roger McCallum

31st: Landscapes/Streets. Speakers: Bernard Novell and Carole Sergeant

**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).



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| WEDNESDAY | Closed            |
| THURSDAY  | 8.30 am - 9.00 pm |
| FRIDAY    | 8.30 am - 9.00 pm |
| SATURDAY  | 8.00 am - 6.00 pm |

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## WHAT'S ON – MARCH 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

|                              |         |   |                                     |
|------------------------------|---------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 2nd                | 14.00   | U3A: Dr Mason on "talking to children"            | Crowmarsh Village Hall              |
| Thursday 3rd                 | 19.30   | Parish Council Meeting                            | Crowmarsh Village Hall              |
| Saturday 5th                 | 10.00   | Crowmarsh litter blitz                            | Meet Thames Mead, by horse chestnut |
| Sunday 6th                   | 13.30   | CTC 26-mile road ride                             | Meet Wallingford Market Place       |
| Sunday 6th                   | All day | Mothering Sunday Specials                         | Cholsey and Wallingford Railway     |
| Wednesday 9th                | 19.30   | Henley Philatelic: Auction                        | Bix Village Hall                    |
| Wednesday 9th                | 19.30   | Wallingford Annual Meeting of Electors [open]     | Wallingford Town Hall               |
| Wednesday 9th                | 19.45   | TWHAS talk: The history of cartoons               | St Mary's Church, Wallingford       |
| Friday 11th                  | 19.00   | Quiz and chips in the church                      | St Mary Magdalene Church, Crowmarsh |
| Saturday 12th                | 10.30   | Sue Ryder Sale                                    | Nettlebed                           |
| Saturday 19th                | 19.30   | Benson Choral Society concert: Bach B-minor Mass  | Dorchester Abbey                    |
| Sunday 20th                  | 13.30   | CTC 32-mile road ride                             | Meet Wallingford Market Place       |
| Sunday 20th                  | 14.00   | Crowmarsh litter blitz                            | Meet Thames Mead, by horse chestnut |
| Wednesday 23rd               | 19.30   | Henley Philatelic : An evening with Dave and Alan | Bix Village Hall                    |
| Saturday 26th to Monday 28th | All day | Easter Train Specials                             | Cholsey and Wallingford Railway     |