

**Issue 503**

**May 2021**

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 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 — £8.50  
3 months — £25.00  
6 months — £45.00

### **Leaflet distribution**

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30 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:* Amanda Maher and Rachel Wakefield

*Editorial support:* James and Toni Taylor, John Griffin, Revd Kevin Beer and Caroline Campbell

*Advertising:* Pat Shields

*Distribution:* Frank Sadler and team

## **Next month's issue**

All new advertisements and all copy for the June 2021 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our **20th May 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 Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

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## WELCOME BACK

**We are delighted to return to a printed issue of the Crowmarsh News this month.**

Thank you readers and advertisers alike, for your forbearance. We switched to an online edition, because we did not feel that we could ask our distributors to carry out doorstep deliveries during the lockdown that was imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

That pandemic is far from history yet, but with the lockdown easing we continue with our printed edition. We are especially grateful to our distributors, who have agreed to resume normal deliveries.

## Wallingford Country Market Re-Opens

**Fridays (9.30 am - 12 noon)  
St. Mary-le-More Church**

After a very disruptive 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation, we are pleased to announce that we will be re-opening in a small way on the pathway in front of St. Mary-le-More Church, situated in the Market Place, until the church itself re-opens soon.



If wet, Bakery and Crafts will transfer to Centre 70, Kinecroft, Goldsmith Lane, just a short walk from the church. Plants will remain at the church.

### On Sale:

- Spring/early summer Bedding and Herbaceous Plants
- Fresh Home Baking, including Savouries, Preserves
- Crafts, Local Honey and Eggs.

Orders can be taken for most items we sell. Please phone Alison **681596** (Bakery/ Preserves), Sandra **836527** (Plants) or Barbara (Craft items) **835117** if you would like to order items for collection on an arranged Friday.

We have missed you and look forward to welcoming old customers back and hope that many new customers will discover us, (you may be surprised at what you will find).

## The Queens Head ... our Garden is Open

**It has been great to see many of you now that we are able to serve food and drinks outside in our garden – which sports our new covered areas – and we should be able to open the doors to the pub again on Monday 17th May to show off our new colour scheme.**

We recommend that you book using our online system as space is limited ... you can book two-hour slots. To book a table, use 'Book a table' [www.simpleerb.com/9861/queens-head-at-crowmarsh](http://www.simpleerb.com/9861/queens-head-at-crowmarsh).

Alternatively, message us via Facebook or call us on **839857** during our food service times see [www.queensheadcrowmarsh.co.uk](http://www.queensheadcrowmarsh.co.uk).

You can also use the same system to book a collection time for one of our popular 'pub at home' takeaways ... just put your order in the comments box.

And we can once again offer takeaway real ales.

So why not treat yourselves to a fantastic pub roast on Sundays or take advantage of our burger offer on Thursday evenings ... any 2 burgers for £14!

Our menus are available online and on our Facebook page.

Looking forward to catching up.

*Stuart and Natasha*



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## Useful telephone numbers

### Crime Stoppers

0800 555 111

### NHS Emergency Only

999

### Police non-emergency number

101

### NHS Non-emergency

111

## Local elections on 6th May

Local elections for Oxfordshire County Councillors and a Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley will take place on 6th May. Polling stations will be open between the hours 7am and 10pm.

### Oxfordshire County Councillor candidates:

- BLOOMFIELD, Felix Peter, Conservative Party
- HANNIGAN, Sean Michael, Labour Party
- KEATS-ROHAN, Katherine Stephanie Benedicta, Liberal Democrat Party
- POMLETT, Maryse Therese, Social Democrat Party

### Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) candidates:

- Matthew Barber, Conservative Party
- Laetisia Carter, Labour Party
- John Howson, Liberal Democrat Party
- Alan Robinson, Independent

You can view PCC candidate election statements at [www.choosemypcc.org.uk/area/thames-valley](http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk/area/thames-valley)

## Henley & District Stamp Club

We continue with our Zoom meetings and it is great to have people returning to us that have not been able to attend ordinary meetings as they live out of the area or were busy on Wednesdays.

We start with Monday 10th May at 7.30pm, when we are very fortunate to have guest Zoom speaker, Dr Jean Alexander RPSL, who will give a display on 'Modern GB Stamp Designers'.

Dr Jean was a member of the Stamp Advisory Committee, so has a great insight into how designers work with the Royal Mail and this, I know, will be an interesting, illustrated talk.

On Monday 24th May at 7.30pm members will give short displays on the '(smaller) Islands of the Pacific Ocean'. Any philatelic item, including postcards may be used. Visitors are welcome. Call **681739** or see our website: [www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk).



John Holmes with his film star animals

## Past Times

In the 1960s near Blenheim Farm in Crowmarsh parish, was a bungalow and grounds known as Formakin Training School. It was an animal training centre and was run by Mr. John Holmes and his wife. His animals appeared on the stage, in films and television, and even on the radio.

Mr. Holmes bred and showed corgis. He also wrote several books on dog training claiming that training dogs was easy, but the owners were always more difficult.

His animals also starred in films. He had a black cat who earned him over £700. A female spaniel named Flush earned him over £3,000 appearing in films such as *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* in 1934. A Pekinese cat called Mandy appeared in a film called *Kill or Cure* in 1962, while a pair of pet badgers, which John kept in his living room, appeared with Anthony Newley.

## Petanque Wallingford

Petanque Wallingford is holding come and try sessions at 11am on Tuesday 11th May and Sunday 16th May at the Wallingford Sports Park on Hithercroft Road.

Petanque is one of the most inclusive sports. It can be played by practically everyone, all ages, whole families, people with reduced agility and even some disabled. In the current situation, petanque is recognised as a socially distanced organised sport and we have all the necessary protocols in place for outdoor activity. We can provide the introduction and boules so if you are interested in playing recreationally or competitively come and join us.

Further information can be found on the Club website [www.petwal.co.uk](http://www.petwal.co.uk) or by contacting [petanquewallingford@gmail.com](mailto:petanquewallingford@gmail.com).

## Parish WhatsApp Groups

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Bellamy Way, Stephens Field and The Street      | North Stoke                 |
| Crowmarsh Hill                                  | Park View                   |
| Home Farm                                       | Robert Sparrow Gardens      |
| Jethro Tull Gardens                             | Winter's Field              |
| Lane End and immediate neighbours in The Street | <b>Facebook groups</b>      |
| Mongewell                                       | Crowmarsh Parish Council    |
| Murren Croft                                    | Crowmarsh Gifford Community |
| Newnham Green, numbers 20A to 52                | Crowmarsh COVID-19 Response |



MEET - DRINK - EAT

**Opening hours**  
**April - September**

Monday 8am - 6pm  
Tuesday - Sunday 8am - 10pm

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## Wallingford Museum

**Wallingford Museum is now actively planning for new openings and activities.**

All planning is subject to government guidelines for Covid-19 prevention, please check the web site for confirmation [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)

### Museum Bookshop

The good news is that the bookshop is open. We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We are open every Friday from 10.30am to 3pm, and every Saturday from 10.30am to 1pm. It's free to browse.

### Town and Castle Guided Tours

Wallingford Museum's experienced team are ready to take bookings for historical tours of the town or castle - with social distancing in place throughout and any other necessary precautions. Please read the essential guidance on the web site before booking.

### To Book a tour

- All bookings are via email: [pburton6@talktalk.net](mailto:pburton6@talktalk.net) or via the website: [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk).
- Request a day and time to suit you and we will do our best to arrange it.
- Request either a Town or a Castle walk.
- You will be contacted by email to confirm or adjust arrangements.

### Tour Arrangements

- Tours will meet beneath the Town Hall in Wallingford Market Place.

- You will be in a group of no more than six people (incl. guide) on any tour.
- Cost is £10 per head, for a tour lasting between 90 and 120 mins.

Payment must be made in cash on the day.

- Exact money must be handed to the guide in an open envelope on which you have written a name and phone number for each participant, to allow compliance for Track and Trace. We shall look forward to hearing from you.

### Museum Opening

We anticipate that the new scale model of Wallingford Castle will be on view in the museum from June.

In the meantime, we invite you to browse the new Wallingford Museum web site:

[www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk) to discover more about the model and the castle by checking out our video clips, some filmed on the site of Wallingford Castle.

For general Museum enquiries you can phone the curator on **835065**.

## Free Covid-19 Testing kits

**To help reduce Covid-19 risks to everyone at school, their families and contacts, the Parish Council would like to highlight and encourage, parents and others in households of school children to use the free twice-weekly home testing kits for those without symptoms.**

Home test kits can be delivered to your door, so you can test yourself and your family without leaving your home. You can also get the lateral flow test kits from pharmacies - which would be quicker.

It is understood that 1 in 3 people do not have any symptoms but can still pass it on.

### To order home test kits online

You can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests for home delivery. Your tests should arrive within 2 days. For more information go to [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).

Do not use a rapid lateral flow test if you have coronavirus symptoms, get a PCR test and self-isolate.



## Help with long-term Covid

Over a million people in the UK are suffering from Long Covid, the accepted term for Coronavirus that lasts more than four weeks.

And, sad to say, more than 70,000 people in this country have had Covid symptoms - fatigue, breathlessness, numbness, pain or partial hearing loss - for over a year.

If you are one of those affected, you should know that PIP (personal independence payments) may be available. PIP is financial support for those who have an illness, disability or mental health condition, making it hard for them to do everyday tasks or get around. Income, savings and employment status don't affect your PIP eligibility, and PIP can supplement any other benefits you might be receiving.



For help with applying for PIP, contact Citizens Advice Adviceline on **0808 278 7907** (for Oxfordshire South and Vale). There is more information about PIP at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/PIP/>



## The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

### Zoom talks coming up for our members

#### Wednesday 12th May

Richard Oram: update on local archaeology

#### Wednesday 9th June

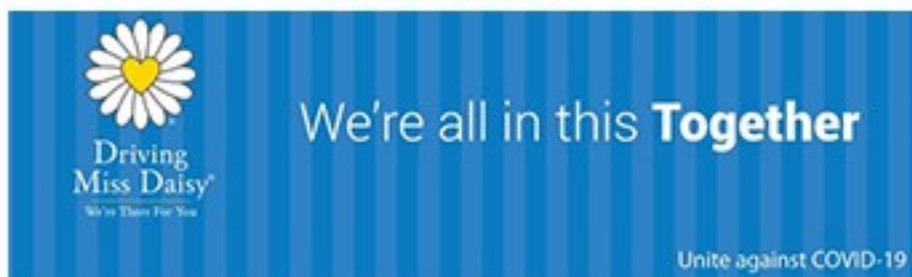
Elizabeth Popescu: 'Excavation of the cemetery of St Augustine's, Stoke Quay, Ipswich.'

Featured in recent *Current Archaeology* magazine.

Please see the web site for further details: [www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)



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## PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

**Parents And Children Together (PACT) wants people to commit to exercising for 31 days for its Move Every Day in May challenge.**

Participants can complete the 31-day challenge with a mix and match daily activity, at a time that suits them and either individually or as a group.

In last year's challenge, a participant hula-hooped their way through May and one family used a mixture of online fitness programmes and walking to enjoy the springtime.

One of last year's participants said it was a "Thoroughly enjoyable challenge for a great cause."

All proceeds will be used to help to build and strengthen families through PACT's adoption and adoption support services and its vital community projects Alana House and Bounce Back 4 Kids.

Last year PACT found permanent and loving families for 84 children waiting for adoption while Alana House community project worked with approximately 169 women with multiple disadvantages.

The Bounce Back 4 Kids programme supported 48 children aged five to 11 who have been affected by domestic abuse.

To register for Move Every Day in May costs £15 but participants may choose to raise sponsorship from friends and family.

Children can take part for free along with a registered adult and only pay for a lovely medal (£2.50). All participants will receive a certificate and medal.

Visit [www.pactcharity.enthuse.com/cf/move-every-day-in-may](http://www.pactcharity.enthuse.com/cf/move-every-day-in-may).

If you would like more information please email [fundraising@pactcharity.org](mailto:fundraising@pactcharity.org) or by calling 0118 402 1696.

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Gifford, Wallingford, OX10 8EY  
Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)  
Email: [teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk](mailto:teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk)  
Blog: [revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk](http://revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk)

## St Mary Magdalene's Church Crowmarsh Gifford

### May Services (at St Mary Magdalene unless otherwise stated)

- 2nd May** 11am Family Service  
**8th May** 11am Crowmarsh Community Café (on \*Zoom)  
**9th May** 11am Parish Communion (+Livestream)  
**13th May** 7.30pm Ascension Day Service at St Agatha's, Brightwell (+ Livestream)  
**16th May** 11am Parish Communion  
**23rd May** 11am Pentecost Festival Communion (+ Livestream)  
4pm Evening Service at Newnham Murren  
**30th May** 11am Family Communion  
Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am on Zoom  
Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 4pm on Zoom  
+ Livestream Services on [www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe](https://www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe)  
\* Zoom Services in Meeting ID: **687 610 8967** / Passcode: **422377**  
Full details at [www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar](http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar)

**A belated Happy Easter everyone! The month of May is one of the most joyful seasons in the church as we continue to celebrate Easter for 40 days including Ascension Day on Thursday 13th May when we join the Wallingford Churches Team at St Agatha's, Brightwell for a special evening celebration Eucharist at 7.30pm.**

We then wait 10 days to bring us to the festival named Pentecost on 23rd May (Whit Sunday) we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. We will have our first evening service at St Mary's Newnham Murren to celebrate, please contact me to reserve a place.

Easter is the season of new beginnings, of new life out of death, of hope out of despair. This seems especially appropriate as we come out of lockdown and look forward to regaining our freedom again. It will also feel that way to many of our local businesses that have weathered the storm and survived to trade again. Many have suffered during this past year and we will no doubt be dealing with the fallout for many months to come. There is always hope for better times ahead.

Our worldly hopes are based on the evidence that vaccines can continue to develop in response to new strains of the virus. Our heavenly hopes are based upon the evidence of an empty tomb 2,000 years ago and dejected disciples transformed by seeing their executed leader alive again, giving them courage.

Along with the Churches Together in the Wallingford Area, we will be praying "Thy Kingdom Come" between Ascension and Pentecost, so people know this hope for themselves. Everyone is welcome, so do come and join us on site or online.

*Blessings, Rev Kev*

# Parish Council notes

**Crowmarsh Parish Council met on-line on Wednesday 21 April.**

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, email:

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

**Website:** <http://>

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

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

## Allotments

A revised tenancy agreement for the parish council's Botany allotments will be sent to tenants with the invoices for the coming year: there are two names on the waiting list. It was noted that there are six people on the waiting list for the Emery Owen allotments.

## District Council Report

South Oxfordshire is second in the table of "top recyclers" across the country, with 64% of household waste being sent for recycling.

SODC is able to support community litter picking again: see [www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/neighbourhood-services/littering-fly-tipping-and-dumping-waste/community-litter-picking-how-we-can-help](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/neighbourhood-services/littering-fly-tipping-and-dumping-waste/community-litter-picking-how-we-can-help).

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse have agreed to develop a joint Local Plan through to about 2040/41, which would mean significant cost savings and makes sense in working together on issues such as the development of Didcot, affordable housing and environmental policies.

Wallingford Medical Centre has advised that they are not interested in moving to the former SODC office site. The parish council will continue to be consulted on uses of this site.

## Planning

### Decisions by SODC

**P20/S3849/HH** 84 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford. First floor extension on top of ground floor utility room to increase size of bathroom (amended to provide a pitched roof) – Planning Permission.

### Consultations

**P21/S1073/FUL** The Gates, Carmel College, The Ridgeway, A4074. Retention of northern set of gate posts and walls as constructed. The parish council endorsed the conservation officer's view on the brickwork, but otherwise had no strong views.

**P21/S1045/HH** Watersview House, Mongewell Park. Outdoor Swimming Pool. Recommend approval.

**P21/S0526/HH** 7 Meadow Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BH. Replacement of 'ranch style' boundary fence between the property and the highway with a 1.9m high close-board fence to improve sound insulation from the highway and privacy. No objection, subject to protection of trees.

### Discharge of conditions

**P21/S1005/DIS** The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BE.

Discharge of conditions 9, 15, 16, 17, 19 & 25 on P20/S1589/FUL. Condition 17 relates to the highway works to connect to the footway along Wallingford Road and does not include a crossing, merely dropped kerbs. As one of the benefits we expected from this development was a pedestrian crossing, the parish council agreed to lodge a strong objection and copy it to Oxfordshire Highways Officer Lee Turner and County Councillor Mark Gray.

### Neighbourhood plan

The neighbourhood plan is under examination by Andrew Ashcroft, who also examined the Wallingford and Benson plans. He has visited the parish and raised a number of questions, most of which have been answered by making modifications to the text.

The one outstanding question relates to Historic England's concern about the impact of the employment land allocation on the listed buildings at Howbery Park.

This will be addressed by commissioning an expert on listed buildings to write a report: the cost will come out of the remaining grant money from SODC.



## Finance

A donation of £660 was agreed towards grass cutting at North Stoke Church. Expenditure included £684 for grass cutting at Newnham Murren churchyard,

£1,020 for structural design relating to improvements to the pavilion, £235.20 for replacement basin taps at the pavilion and £148.80 for financial software.

## Environment and recreation

With government restrictions easing, outdoor sport is permitted and the outdoor gym has reopened. The play area remains very popular. It was agreed to continue using the same contractor to cut the grass in the nature area under a management programme to increase biodiversity.

The Landscape Group has started grass cutting around the parish although a resident has reported one area that has been missed.

Progress is still needed on the plan for surface improvements in Watery Lane, which is a bridleway link to the Ridgeway Path.

Electrical contractors have removed the uneven paving slabs between Mongewell and the A4130 Nosworthy Way underpass and would resurface the path here. There was concern that someone had felled several mature trees and cleared vegetation on land near the underpass.

## Traffic and transport

Cllr Johnson expressed concern that speeding motorcycles are a problem again during fine weather and asked that police attend to monitor the situation on Portway.

Bix and Assendon Parish Council had asked Oxfordshire Highways for traffic calming measures to address this and the Clerk will ask what progress has been made. Training for communities on speed cameras is to be introduced. The Clerk will order stickers to promote the '20s plenty for Oxfordshire' campaign.

Oxfordshire Highways Officer Lee Turner will be asked to visit to discuss crossings in The Street, Benson Lane and in North Stoke and implementing parking restrictions at Stephens Field.

Parish Transport Representative Amanda Griffin has responded to the consultation on

Oxfordshire's vision for their next Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

## Chilterns Conservation Board

There is a vacancy for a parish council representative to be elected to the Chilterns Conservation Board. There are three candidates and the parish council has one vote. After discussion it was agreed to vote for Sue Rowland from Rotherfield Peppard (who was subsequently elected).

## Virtual Meetings

Permission to hold council meetings online will end at midnight on Thursday 6th May and central government has refused to extend this, despite requests from NALC and other bodies. In response to the COVID-19 situation, with reference to the government's "roadmap" for easing lockdown, it was agreed that it is not yet safe to hold a physical public meeting indoors.

The council therefore resolved to give the Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman delegated authority to make decisions that cannot reasonably be deferred on behalf of the council, after consulting all councillors by email.

Any decisions made under this delegation will be recorded and published. The delegated authority will end when the first face-to face meeting of the parish council is held, which might not be until July.

## Next Meetings

The Annual Parish Council Meeting to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman has to be held in May, so there will be a brief online meeting on 4th May for that purpose. Indoor meetings will resume when it is possible to do so safely with members of the public present.



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# SODC Councillors' Annual Report

This past year has been a time when local communities have pulled together and when the value provided by government at all levels has been revealed. Never before have local authorities worked together so extensively to support our residents and our local businesses, ensuring that local knowledge and experience supports the implementation of national support schemes in an efficient and effective way. During the past year, SODC staff have risen to the challenge, not only coping with their own family situations (home-working and home-schooling like everyone else) but adding new activities to their day-to-day responsibilities, such as processing small business grants and making thousands of phone calls to vulnerable individuals in our district.

Despite the challenges of Covid, the Council has continued to push ahead with its progressive agenda, adopting a new Corporate Plan and starting work on many new projects in line with these priorities. To see the plan, go to [www.southoxon.gov.uk/corporateplan](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/corporateplan).

Our Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee is developing an ambitious agenda to show leadership in the restoration of nature and the reduction of carbon emissions. We have begun work on projects to build new affordable council-owned homes and to regenerate areas of deprivation, as well as supporting the health and well-being of our communities. And of course, we have continued to operate "business as usual", maintaining our high recycling rates and processing many hundreds of planning applications.

The full annual report is too long to publish here, but it can be read in full on the Crowmarsh Parish Council website [crowmarshgifford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Annual-Report-from-our-District-Councillor.pdf](http://crowmarshgifford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Annual-Report-from-our-District-Councillor.pdf).

As ever, if you have any questions or want to raise an issue, please email:  
 Cllr Andrea Powell  
[Andrea.Powell@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.Powell@southoxon.gov.uk)  
 Cllr Sue Cooper  
[Sue.Cooper@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Sue.Cooper@southoxon.gov.uk)

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**Benson Garden Club's next Zoom talk on Thursday 6th May, 'Everything Fuchsia', will be given by Kristopher Harper (7.30pm connect for 7.45pm start). See page 8 for details.**



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