

**Issue 510**

**December 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
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#### **Leaflet distribution**

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30 for one month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (780 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 — more help welcome!

*Editorial and Layout:* Caroline Campbell and John Griffin

*Editorial support:* James and Toni Taylor, Revd Kevin Beer, Julian Park

*Advertising:* Pat Shields

*Distribution:* Frank Sadler and team

### **Next month's issue**

All new advertisements and all copy for the January 2022 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th December 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

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

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# News from Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School: Year 6 goes green

With COP 26 being in the news recently, everyone is becoming more aware of the impacts of climate change. This is just as true for everyone at Crowmarsh Primary School. We are realising that there is more that we can do to help as part of the community. As Year 6, we have been taking the lead in making the whole school more aware about the climate change crisis.

One of the main things we have been doing is researching climate change to understand more about the causes, but most importantly what we can do to make a positive impact. As part of this, we have set up a group known as the, 'Climate Organisation Of Kids In English Schools' (Cookies!). Our job is to influence the school to make each class more eco-friendly. We hope that this will then have an impact on their families at home, causing a butterfly effect throughout the local area.

*Some of the solutions we have been looking at include the following:*

## **Recycled paper**

This is important because it can reduce the amount of trees being cut down and actually, is more energy efficient than creating paper from new sources. So we have learnt how to create our own recycled paper, which we will introduce to the other classes.

## **Christmas jumper swap**

This is important for numerous reasons. First of all, throwing away clothes creates rubbish which biodegrades releasing greenhouse gases. Secondly, buying new clothes involves transport which releases even more greenhouse gases and pollutes the air. For these reasons, we are going to organise a jumper swap where families bring in their old Christmas jumpers that no longer fit them, for other people to wear. Of course, we will be extra cautious to take protective measures due to COVID-19.

## **Tree planting**

We are researching the most cost-effective way to plant trees, which will help reduce the

amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We have found that at this time of year, plants are sold more cheaply as 'bare root stock'. We have trees on order from the Woodland Trust which we will plant around the school grounds.

So, we hope you have gathered some useful information about the kind of things that we are doing to help, that you could do at home. The next time we write, we hope to tell you about the positive impacts that we have created, and give you more ideas to try. Even though these might seem like very small steps, we have learnt that "large walls are made of small bricks".

So what ideas do you have to help us in the battle against climate change?

Isla, Olivia and Evie — Year 6

## **Can you help to produce the Crowmarsh News?**

If you would like to get involved to help produce or deliver the *Crowmarsh News*, please email [crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com) or pop a note through the door at 57 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford (Old Gardener's Arms).

We are always looking for additional help so that we can spread the monthly tasks of production (editorial and layout) and door-to-door distribution as evenly as possible.

You don't need years of experience to help out, just enthusiasm and the ability to devote a few hours every few months to what we hope will become your favourite village newsletter!

### **To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall for birthday parties and events**

Call Chris Strange on 07711 904252  
or email [cvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhbookings@gmail.com)

### **To book the pavilion or hardcourt on the Recreation ground in Crowmarsh Gifford**

Phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or  
email [chrisstrange47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisstrange47@gmail.com)



**Team Vicar: The Revd Kevin Beer**  
The Vicarage, 34 Thames Mead,  
Crowmarsh Gifford 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

**December services** (at St Mary Magdalene's unless otherwise stated):

Sunday 5th	11am	Family Service at St Mary Magdalene's
Saturday 11th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 12th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 19th	11am	Parish Communion
	4pm	Carol Service
	5.30pm & 7pm	Churches Together "Drive In" Carol Services in Lidl's carpark (book at <a href="http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drive-in-carol-services-tickets-216196147497">www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drive-in-carol-services-tickets-216196147497</a> )
Friday 24th	3pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service
Saturday 25th	11am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 26th	11am	Boxing Day / St Stephen's Day service
Sunday 2 Jan	11am	Epiphany Family Service

Morning Prayer every Friday at 9am, Evening Prayer every Sunday at 6pm

Full details at [www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar](http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar)

Livestreamed services can be found on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe](http://www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe)

There will not be a Midnight Communion in Crowmarsh on Christmas Eve, but the vicar will be taking one at St James's Sotwell at 11.30pm.



## The Vicar writes...

Last year we experienced a Christmas like no other as many families were forced to celebrate separately with only Zoom to share the festivities. Thanks to the vaccine rollout and availability of testing, this year we hope to see our loved ones in the flesh in a far more relaxed and intimate manner. This itself is a metaphor for Christmas.

When God came to Earth in the flesh as a human, our relationship with Him changed forever. No longer was God remote and only speaking through certain angels and prophets who had all the right passwords and a reliable connection. The stable in Bethlehem opened access to all, from the poorest shepherds to the wise magi. Now humanity meets our maker face to face. God incarnate literally means "in the flesh". Jesus shows us exactly what God is like - he said "*Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father*" (John 14:9). And through his teaching and example, he shows us the way to live.

If you think God's way is a strict set of rules that are impossible to follow, think again. Jesus says: "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*" (Matthew 11:28-30). Instead, God welcomes us into an intimate relationship, as we share with our closest family. We are invited to sit at his table for a banquet in heaven. As with any invitation, there is an RSVP. So how will you respond?

Opportunities to worship will be as our usual format, but we advise all who attend to wrap up warm due to increased ventilation requirements and to wear a mask if possible as there will be singing. May God bless you and your family this Christmas.

**Rev Kev**

## Christmas in North Stoke

Sunday 5th December 2.00-4.00pm  
Xmas Fair – Village Hall

Sunday 19th December 4.00pm  
Nine lessons and carols in the Church

Sunday 19th December 5.00pm  
Xmas drinks reception – Village Hall

Monday 20th December from 6.30pm onwards  
Look out for carol singers in the village!  
Donations are welcome for the Church

Saturday 25th December 10.00am Christmas  
Day church service in North Stoke Church

## Buy local with free parking in the run up to Christmas

Shoppers in South Oxfordshire are being given a helping hand to buy local this Christmas.

Those who are unable to get to local businesses by walking, cycling or public transport can take advantage of free parking in district council car parks.

The annual free parking is provided by South Oxfordshire District Council in their car parks to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents, which is even more important this year following the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The free parking days also mean that you don't have to pay to park to catch up with friends and family in pubs, cafés and restaurants during the festive period.

Drivers will be able to park for free in Wallingford on **Thursdays 9, 16 and 23 December** and there's no need to display a ticket, although maximum stay times will still apply in some car parks. For full details and to see the free parking days in other towns, please visit [southoxon.gov.uk/parking](https://southoxon.gov.uk/parking)

Cllr Sue Cooper, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "We have a great selection of independent shops offering very different and original gifts which would make the perfect Christmas present, and by buying local you will also be supporting your own community. We already offer an hour's free parking in most of our car parks, but free Christmas parking days will give people more time to explore locally

without having to pay any extra. I would always urge people to walk, cycle or use public transport where possible, but I know that may not always be possible for those picking up larger presents or those who live further away in rural areas."

## Christmas shopping day

Sunday 5th December is Wallingford's Christmas shopping day, with its many independent shops open from 11 to 3.

Enjoy the opportunity to stroll around the town centre and visit these shops on a Sunday, several of which will be offering refreshments.

This year will be slightly different as the town centre will not have a road closure, but many stalls will be on the Market Place selling lots of Christmas goodies.

## Past Times

*from David Beasley*

### Fire at Charles Clare's workshop

The Clares were a fifth generation family of wheelwrights living in Crowmarsh.

The family moved into a house in The Street next to Home Farm (where Chris O'Donnell lives today) in the 1750s.

In 1859 the business was run by Charles Clare. On 3rd August 1859 at about 8 o'clock a fire broke out in the workshop situated at the back of the premises.

The fire spread at an alarming rate. It was right next to Home Farm, which had several ricks in the farmyard. There were also a number of thatched cottages nearby.

However, the alarm was quickly raised and thanks to the prompt action of the villagers the fire was confined to the workshop, which was totally destroyed, along with its contents.

The contents of the Clares' house were removed in order to save them from the fire, but unfortunately they were damaged by the process of removal. In fact removing the house contents proved to be unnecessary, as the house was not damaged by the fire. Mr Clare was only partially insured so the fire was a serious financial loss to him.

Charles Clare then moved his business to the premises now occupied by Colliers, which may have been because of the damage caused by the fire.

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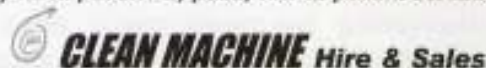
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# What's on at the Corn Exchange

## Cinema

Performances start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Tickets are £8 for Adults and £5 for under-15s unless otherwise stated.

We have decided to have full seating for all events from the end of November. This is in line with practices and guidelines elsewhere. We are asking patrons to still sanitise their hands, and wear a face covering especially when moving around the building. We'll continue to fog all public areas after each performance. We're grateful to patrons for their observation of all the Covid rules that we have implemented in the theatre. Please look out for new updates for the programme on the website [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk).

Wednesday 1st 7:30pm Anything Goes

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd 7:30pm

The Power of the Dog (15)

Saturday 4th 10:30am & 2:30pm  
Ron's Gone Wrong (PG)

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th 7:30pm  
The Power of the Dog (15)

Monday 6th Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th ,  
7:30pm Dune (12A)

Friday 10th, Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th  
7:30pm Spencer (12A)

Friday 17th, Sunday 19th, Monday 20th,  
Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd 7:30pm  
House of Gucci (15)

## Live screenings

Thursday 9th December, 7:15pm

**The Nutcracker** from the Royal Opera House

A live streaming from the Royal Opera House to launch its new international Cinema Season after 16 months of closure, with Peter Wright's spectacular production of The Nutcracker. A festive favourite for the whole family, it was created for The Royal Ballet in 1984, and has delighted audiences ever since. Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Wednesday 15th December, 7:15pm

**Puccini's Tosca**, sung in Italian with English surtitles, from the Royal Opera House

Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

## Live music

Saturday 18th December, 7:30pm  
Punchbowl from the Sinodun Players, with music from the Outriders and other local talent. Come and start Christmas with some good fun. Tickets £10 (adults), £5 (under 16s)

## Coming soon – pantomime

From 14th to 29th January

**Sleeping Beauty** from the Sinodun Players

Twelve evening performances (Tuesday to Friday at 7:30pm and Saturdays at 6:30pm) and three Saturday matinees at 2pm.

After a year's absence, the Sinodun Players are roaring back with their seasonal humorous retelling of Charles Perrault's classic French fairy tale. This time-travelling version, written by Wallingford-based Pete Orton and Barbara Wood, will transport you to a land not so far away in an extravagant stage show encompassing a time lord, a cheeky cat, a bunch of hippy festival goers and a script for all the family!

Tickets £12 (Tuesday to Thursday), £15 (Friday, Saturday), £8 for under-16s

## Is it time to apply to primary or infant school?

Parents or carers of children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 (inclusive) need to apply now for an infant or primary school place starting in September 2022.

From 2 November 2021, you can apply online for an infant or primary school place. The deadline for receipt of infant or primary school applications is 15 January 2022. There are alternatives if you cannot apply online.

If you make your application by 15 January 2022, the county council will notify you of the outcome on 19 April 2022.

Full details are on the county council website: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications/make-application>

## Wallingford Photographic Club

The Club meets via Zoom every Thursday evening starting at 7.30 pm, with Zoom access from 7.15pm. We are hoping in the near future to combine the Zoom meetings with actual meetings at Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion. Please check the website for when these face-to-face meetings actually start.

In the run up to Christmas, the following meetings promise to be fascinating:

### **3rd December – South West USA – an alternative Grand Circle**

Bernard Novell will talk about his three-week tour of the canyons of the south-west USA, including a 2,500-mile drive from San Francisco, California to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Six states, eight National Parks, the geology, a scenic flight and a dawn balloon ride, captured by camera over some of the most stunning scenery on our planet.

### **10th December – Members online competition: “Autumn” theme**

For the December competition we will be repeating the highly successful experiment from last season, where members submit up to two images (colour or monochrome) and members can then vote for each image via their phone or computer.

**17th December – Christmas Social** planned to be via Zoom.

And a tempting taster for the new year...

### **7th January – Members Practical Evening - 8 x10**

Eight members will give presentations for ten minutes each on a wide variety of topics:

- Photo collages and composites
- My workshop year
- Woodland
- The way I saw 2020
- Before and after...,
- What lies beneath
- Forde Abbey
- Lockdown travel.

Please visit [www.wallingfordphoto.club](http://www.wallingfordphoto.club) to learn more about the club and find out how to get involved.

Anne Lusby

## Benson garden club

For Benson Garden Club's November talk, we were treated to RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold medal winner Martin Cook.

Martin shared with us how he created his three Chelsea gardens, from forming the initial creative idea, to developing the brief and then building the actual garden. His first attempt won a Silver Gilt with “A Literary Garden”. Designed as a retreat for a poet, this garden incorporated Martin's expertise as a specialist letter carver, with hand-carved garden art an intrinsic feature of the design. The hand-carved lettering and accompanying planting (by Bonnie Davies) were exquisite, but Martin also spoke of the practicalities of building a garden at Chelsea, with the wry comment that water *will* leak if you introduce a water feature.

Martin's next entry, “The Mindfulness Garden,” was designed to encourage us to focus even when surrounded by external chaos. He collaborated with Gary Breeze for both this and his third garden, with both gardens achieving a coveted RHS Gold medal. A riot of colour, Jackson Pollock style, provided by 6,000 plants, represented the chaos. But in the midst of this mass of distracting colour, you were led to focus upon Martin's hand-carved slate roundel, “Listen to your quiet mind,” placed at the end of a long steel tube. Martin's ability to bring to life the journey from a bare patch of earth to a Chelsea garden in all its glory allowed us to feel almost as if we had been there.

Martin's third garden, “The Antithesis of Sarcophagi,” was ground-breaking for Chelsea, because when you approached it, there was no visible planting. Instead, it appeared as if some terrible catastrophe had occurred. There was a huge block of granite sitting on ash surrounded by charred wood. There was strange, undecipherable lettering on one face of the block, (Martin's beautiful hand-carved lettering was once again a feature of the overall design). However, there was life inside the tomb (hence the title), showing how nature will re-generate despite the destructive impact of civilisation. You could only view the re-generation by looking through tiny holes, with clever mirrors inside the block appearing to reveal a woodland without boundaries (four foxgloves appeared to be an endless swathe). Once again, the practical hurdles that have to be overcome to

create a Chelsea garden, which here included positioning a 44 ton granite cube, were incredible. And the end result was so staggeringly beautiful and thought-provoking.

Further information about the club and how to join as a member can be found on our website <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or email [bensongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:bensongardeningclub@gmail.com)

Liz Harrison

## CPRE Oxfordshire flooding and pollution report

### Results of a survey of Oxfordshire's Town and Parish Councils, 2021

Campaign to Protect Rural England Oxfordshire works to improve, protect and preserve the landscape of Oxfordshire and its towns and villages for the benefit of everyone. Findings of this survey show that at least 17% of towns and parishes in Oxfordshire experience flooding problems and at least 20% experience issues with sewage / sewerage infrastructure.

CPRE Oxfordshire wants to see:

- Thames Water setting out clear measures to address the issues raised in this report, including targets and investment commitments.
- Local MPs supporting the Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill and the Environment Bill, to ensure water companies are legally bound to stop discharging raw sewage into the ocean and rivers.
- Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to ensure all new developments demonstrate that their associated infrastructure will either maintain or improve water quality, will not add to the risk of flooding, and will be in place before the site is occupied.
- The River Thames to achieve Bathing Water designation.

CPRE Oxfordshire has produced an interactive map highlighting where the issues are. You can view the map and download the report from our website: [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk).

You can let CPRE know what flooding and/or sewage issues your neighbourhood is facing by emailing [campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk). Please also let your parish council know.

## Oxfam shop needs more volunteers

The Oxfam clothing and homewares shop in Wallingford High Street is looking for more volunteers to join their friendly team. At Oxfam, whatever your skills or interests, there's something for everyone to do ...

The winter months can be long and lonely so if you have some spare time you can meet new people, make friends, and most importantly help us raise vital funds for those living in poverty.

We have a range of roles and like to give volunteers an opportunity to try different things before they find something that suits them. You might become a shop cashier, sorter and pricer, or you might become an online lister, social media volunteer, admin support volunteer or even a lead volunteer.

No previous experience is needed. When you apply, we will ask you to come in for an initial chat to get an idea of what you'd like to do in the shop. You can meet the rest of the volunteer team and get involved with whatever area of the shop takes your interest.

Volunteering at Oxfam is the perfect way to gain new skills, add to your CV, take on a new challenge or just have fun!

At Oxfam, we are committed to diversity and gender equality and encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply. You can apply online <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/shops/oxfam-shop-wallingford/> or pop in for a chat and pick up a volunteer application form.

Call 01491 834179 or email us on [oxfamshop3733@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:oxfamshop3733@oxfam.org.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Madeleine, Mandy, Fabi and the team

### Useful telephone numbers

<b>Emergency only</b>	999
<b>Crime Stoppers</b>	0800 555 111
<b>Police non-emergency number</b>	101
<b>NHS non-emergency number</b>	111

# Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford village hall on Thursday 4 November.

## Present

Cllrs John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Fleur Stevenson, Stuart Soames and David Rowley and Sue Rance (Clerk).

## Items from the previous meeting

It was agreed that a 20mph limit on residential roads in Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke would improve safety and should be pursued with Oxfordshire County Council.

Cllr Sherbourne confirmed that Grundons will donate a sack of native daffodil bulbs this year.

## County Council matters

There was no report from County Councillor Bloomfield. Cllr Griffin met online with OCC cabinet members, senior officers and other parish councils to discuss how OCC's strategic plans may affect communities like ours. We hope to have more such meetings.

## District Council matters

The brown bin garden waste collection service is back to normal and everyone using this service has had their subscription period extended by three months to compensate for the lack of collections over the summer.

South Oxfordshire District Council is launching a new round of its Capital Grant Scheme with grants of up to £75,000 available for local voluntary and community organisations and parish councils. This grant can fund up to 50 per cent of the total cost of capital projects. Applicants will need to show how their project will contribute to at least one of the council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 priorities, such as 'protect and restore our natural world', 'action on the climate emergency' or 'improved economic and community well-being'.

Next April there will be minor changes to how parking is enforced in District Council car parks, including how people can appeal against a parking fine, and there will be two levels of fine. Look out for public notices explaining this.

The District Council agreed a series of motions aimed at boosting efforts to address the climate emergency, to protect and enhance the natural environment and increase biodiversity. These motions all highlight the need for

government to take action to remove unnecessary barriers to measures to tackle the climate emergency at a local level, which will be vital if the UK is to lead by example in the fight against climate change.

## Planning

### Consultation responses

[P21/S4223/FUL](#) 'The Sycamores' Land east of 206 Crowmarsh Hill Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG. Alterations to extant planning permission P20/S0267/FUL (Erection of five dwellings and associated works). The new proposals include habitable rooms in the roof spaces and a lower storey for the two semi-detached houses. Siting and other aspects appear the same as the approved plans. Recommend approval as long as other aspects such as environmental footprint and landscape treatment remain unchanged.

[P21/S4578/HH](#) 54 Park View Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BN First floor rear extension over existing. Two storey extension to rear and side. Single storey rear extension. Single storey side extension. Recommend approval subject to any views from neighbours.

### Major developments

*Carmel College, Mongewell (P11/W2357)* Redevelopment to provide 166 residential dwellings (C3), refurbishment of Grade II and Grade II\* listed buildings including provision of a restaurant, community cafe and swimming pool and retention of boating facilities and associated landscaping, access and parking arrangements. This development was approved in 2016 and is now going ahead.

*Newnham Manor (P16/S3852/FUL)* Hybrid planning application for 100 new residential dwellings including new access road off the A4074 (including a new layout with a light-controlled crossing) and public open space (full application) plus the provision of school land (outline application). An amendment has been received including a new energy statement based on air source heat pumps. This application is expected to go back to be considered by SODC's planning committee on 15 December 2021.

## Finance

A donation of £100 was agreed to Cleanslate, a charity supporting victims of abuse in Oxfordshire. Donations of £100 each were agreed to the British Legion poppy appeals for Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke.

Payments in October included £549.99 for a

new laptop for the Finance Officer, £450 for pressure washing the tennis courts and £1,722.24 for dog bin emptying for three months. Charges for dog bin emptying have risen sharply and the Environment and Recreation Ground Management Committee will consider ways to manage this.

### Environment and recreation

The committee met on 2 November. The car park barrier, CCTV and new energy-efficient floodlighting for the hard courts have been installed. A service agreement with Crowmarsh Youth Football Club could benefit them and the parish council: they can receive charity funding to maintain the pitches. Fees for the pavilion will be increased in January in line with those agreed for the village hall.

Plans are being considered to re-wild part of the west side of the recreation ground and plant more trees. A meeting will be held on 4 December with neighbouring parishes about plans to plant many more trees as part of the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy project. Tree planting on the riverside meadows, delayed from last year, is planned for 11 December – volunteers should contact the chairman or the Earth Trust.

Details were discussed of the proposed community lunch on Sunday 5 June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will involve many village organisations. Please contact the parish clerk if you might be interested in helping to plan this event.

### Traffic and transport

Cllr Sherbourne has drafted a letter of complaint to the police about the lack of action on noise from motorbikes. A meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner is being arranged.

Speed checks in North Stoke have not been carried out since 2011 and the Clerk has requested that these be re-instated following the recent speed survey, the results of which have been sent to the police. A Mongewell resident reported speeds of up to 80mph in the 50mph zone along the B4009.

A speed survey will be carried out near The Bell before the pedestrian crossing there can go ahead. The speed survey near the church showed speeds were too high for a zebra crossing to be considered. Parking restrictions at Stephens Field have been agreed and will be actioned by Oxfordshire Highways.

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 9 December 2021, starting at 7.30pm. Please contact the parish clerk if you would like to attend. The council does not usually meet in January.

### Vacancies

The parish council still has two vacancies. If you might be interested in joining the council or just want to know more about what we do, please contact the parish clerk or any councillor.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EL, email [crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com).

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, email [johngriffin@phoncoop.coop](mailto:johngriffin@phoncoop.coop)



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**Please use the parish website for the latest on many local matters:**  
**[www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk](http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk)**

## John Howell MP writes...

Last month I said that during the parliamentary recess I would be meeting with representatives from a number of parish councils across the constituency. This proved to be a helpful use of time and whilst there were several individual local concerns there were also some key themes emerging around transport, policing, health services and planning.

With policing there were several issues around visibility of a police officer and in several parishes it was felt that higher profile could be a helpful deterrent where there are local concerns over such issues as drugs trading. There are also several parishes in the middle of the constituency affected by leisure motorbikes with issues of speed and noise. I have met the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise these concerns and he has committed to meet with those parishes concerned with the motorbike issues and to look into the other policing issues on our behalf.

There have been a number of concerns raised with me over local health services, particularly access to GPs which have also been picked up in the media. In response to these concerns I have recently met with some of our local doctors which proved very interesting. It is true that the pandemic has created a backlog at primary care level as well as in our hospitals. However there are ways of working in health that have been slowly changing prior to the pandemic which have been accelerated, perhaps too quickly, as a result of pandemic.

Last but by no means least there are concerns about planning and development. ... Neighbourhood Planning can help, but I would like to see it being given more prominence in the process. Along with many others I am waiting with interest to see what the long-awaited planning reforms bring forward.

If there is an issue that concerns you please do let me know. You can email me at [howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk) or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

*[Please see John Howell's website [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com) for further details of his work as this report has had to be abridged.]*

## Soldiers of Oxford Museum

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock has identified an unknown Oxfordshire officer killed during the First World War in 1917 as Osmond Bartle Wordsworth, a descendant of the poet William Wordsworth. Remains of an unidentified officer of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were first discovered in Northern France in 2013 and reburied in 2015. Museum Volunteers were able to narrow down probable identities to three different officers and DNA testing has now identified him. Read more on the museum's website [www.sofo.org.uk/wordsworththemissingofficer](http://www.sofo.org.uk/wordsworththemissingofficer)

*Skippers War* is a short film streaming at 7pm on Tuesday 7th December 2021, followed by a live Q&A, telling the First World War stories of students of the Dragon School, Oxford. The stream link is: <https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/skipperswar/>

## Christmas wishes from John Howell MP

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

I am sure that we all hope it will be a happier and easier one than this year has been. I know that for some, the pandemic and bereavement have left life forever changed. No words can ease that and I offer my deepest sympathies to all of you who face such loss. For others, the struggles have been different with livelihoods and mental health challenged. I cannot list all of the difficulties that people have faced but for all I do sincerely hope that the peace of the Christmas season may bring some comfort.

Whilst next year will bring its own concerns, I am optimistic that the tide is turning. May I take this opportunity to pass on my heartfelt thanks to all who have worked in these times to ease the problems of others - those in our health services and many beyond in our communities who have worked supporting others. Thank you all. Whatever your beliefs, may I wish you the peace and joy of the season.

John Howell

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## WHAT'S ON — DECEMBER 2021

### Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45–22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Online on Zoom
Every Friday	09.30–12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary-le-More Church
Every Saturday	10.00–12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70, Wallingford
Most Saturdays	10.00–12.00	Local Producers' Market	Centre 70, Wallingford
Every Sunday	11.00	Parish Communion (Family service on the first Sunday of the month)	St Mary Magdalene Church, Crowmarsh
Thursdays	13.00 start	Cycling UK rides — see <a href="http://www.ctcwallingford.org.uk">www.ctcwallingford.org.uk</a>	Meet in Wallingford Market Place

### This month

Wednesday 1st	14.00	U3A: Christmas party	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Sunday 5th	11.00–15.00	Wallingford Christmas Sunday Shopping	Wallingford town centre
Sunday 5th	14.00–16.00	North Stoke Xmas Fair	North Stoke Village Hall
Sunday 5th	11.30	Santa dash	Starting from Wallingford School
Thursday 9th	19.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 11th	10.30–12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 11th	18.45 for 19.30	Art Themen and Fleur Stevenson live jazz (see p.2)	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 11th	19.00	Orchestra of St John's Britten A Ceremony of Carols	Dorchester Abbey
Sunday 19th	16.00	Carol Service	St Mary Magdalene Church Crowmarsh
Sunday 19th	16.00	Nine lessons and carols	St Mary's Church, North Stoke
Sunday 19th	17.00 & 19.00	Churches Together "Drive In" Carol Services (see p.4)	Lidl supermarket carpark, Hithercroft
Friday 24th	15.00 -16.00	Christmas Eve Crib Service	St Mary Magdalene Church Crowmarsh
Friday 24th	23.30	Midnight Communion Service	St James's Church, Sotwell
Saturday 25th	11.00–12.00	Family Festival Communion for Christmas Day	St Mary Magdalene Church Crowmarsh
Saturday 25th	10.00–11.00	Christmas Day Service	St Mary's Church, North Stoke

### January 2022

Wednesday 5th	14.00	U3A: Martin Holmes talks on "David Cameron"	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
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For details of walks with Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers, please see [www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford)