

Issue 511

January 2022

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
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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: Toni Taylor and John Griffin

Editorial support: James Taylor, Caroline Campbell, 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 February 2022 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th January deadline**.

For all items of news, articles or correspondence, please e-mail

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

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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 or pop a note through the door at 57 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford (Old Gardener's Arms), or speak to any of the team (see front cover).

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!



1st Crowmarsh Gifford Scout Group

Preparing young people with skills for life

Covid has made it a difficult year for our local Scout Group – we offered Zoom sessions in lockdown and safe scouting when we were able to return to face-to-face meetings. Whilst we lost some members during lockdowns, we have begun to grow again.

Our Group has supported 3rd Wallingford with leaders and programme help since Easter and have now welcomed Scouting members, Leaders and Committee members from 3rd Wallingford Group to join with us each week at Crowmarsh village hall. With those who have joined from 3rd Wallingford we now have 20 Beavers and 32 Cubs in very active Sections, along with our existing Scout section and five Committee members.

With our newly enhanced Group poised to face the new year, we are ready to face the new challenges and opportunities of 2022. We were pleased to receive a donation from the Wallingford Bridge Charity as well as the

wonderful news that the Lodge of Instruction of St Hilda Lodge (one of Wallingford's men's and women's Masonic bodies) had also donated to support Group activities. Some of the money will be spent on enabling 50 Beavers and Cubs and their families, to watch the fabulous on-line production of Peter Duncan's *Cinderella*. Up until 16th January they can set this up on Zoom for all to see at the same time in their own homes – a wonderful Christmas treat and a helpful recompense after a year of disruption of scouting activities. It has been a financially challenging year and these funds will enable us to provide activities for our young people.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and hope that we can continue to serve our community with our litter picks, Christmas post, support of the Santa Sleigh, poppy sales and next year engaging in the community celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are all looking forward to 2022 with the opportunity to revive exciting 'post Covid' scouting activities for members of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts Sections and to welcome new young people who have not yet experienced the delights that the Scout movement offers.

The Group will also welcome those interested in becoming leaders or helpers of its scouting sections and in joining its Executive Committee. In addition, the Group has a growing body of 'Friends of Crowmarsh Scouts' and welcomes all who would like to donate £10 a year to support the Group, receive information about its activities and, perhaps, be willing to help raise funds.

A very Happy New Year to all from our Scouting Members, Leaders, Executive Committee and Friends.

Stay safe!

John Grosse

Executive Committee Member

johnfgrosse@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



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
Blog: revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford

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

Sunday 2nd	11am	Epiphany Family Service
Saturday 8th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 9th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 16th	10am	Team Confirmation Service at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford
Sunday 23rd	11am	Family Communion
Sunday 30th	11am	Parish Communion

Morning Prayer every Friday at 9am, Evening Prayer every Sunday at 4pm

Full details at www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar

Livestreamed services can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe

The Vicar writes...

I wish you a very happy New Year, and if you are reading this before the 12th night, also a very Happy Christmas to you and yours!

Our celebrations of the great festival of Christmas do not end with indigestion and the Queen's Speech, or even the Boxing Day football fixtures and holiday ads on the TV, but we continue to dwell on the Good News that God chose to come to us in human form, to share the troubles of this life and to show us, not just a better way of living, but a whole new life. Indeed, for Christians the extended festival includes the Epiphany season as Christ is first revealed to the wise men and ends with his recognition by elderly prophets at his presentation at the temple when the gift offering is made for a first-born son. Filling this Epiphany sandwich, we hear about his baptism and the beginning of his ministry with his first miracle of water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Epiphany is the time when we celebrate God being made "manifest". In my former career in logistics, a shipping manifest said exactly what is contained in a delivery. When the baby Jesus was delivered in Bethlehem, he came with a manifest and a manifesto and that's why our Christmas season continues throughout January, as we try to understand exactly what has been made manifest and why. We can only know God because he reveals himself to us, otherwise we all invent a God of our own imagination. When people say to me "I don't believe in God", then this is normally what they mean: that the God of their childhood imagination was found to be inadequate and not worthy of worship. In which case, I invite everyone to join us as we discover the true God, as he chooses to reveal himself to us.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Past Times

from David Beasley

The unsuccessful hunting of hares by the Berkshire Hounds

On the 12th December 1868, the Berkshire Hounds met at Mongewell Park, the residence of George Brettle, to hunt hares. Mr Brettle showed his usual hospitality and provided an excellent luncheon.

A hare was found near Mongewell House and ran with great spirit over the hills to Oakley Wood, where the hounds were unable to follow, and so escaped. A second hare was found near Mongewell Plantation. She ran through Ipsden where she turned and made for Newnham Murren, crossed Charles Hedges' land, then on to Mongewell Park, swimming across the lake, she then entered the bailiff's house. The Master of the hounds caught her and set her free.

A third hare was then found, she ran straight for the plantation and then on to North and South Stoke, over the hill to the White House at Ipsden, then towards Woodcote, disappearing into Oak's Wood, where the hounds were unable to follow. This run lasted some forty minutes and covered an estimated seven miles. The Master of the hounds said it was the best sport he had in years and the hares deserved to escape.

The absolute terror these hares must have experienced was awful, and although these three hares escaped, they usually didn't and their end doesn't bear thinking about. Thank goodness it is now banned.

Cholsey Repair Café

The next Cholsey Repair Café is scheduled for Saturday 15th January and will run from 11.00 to 13.45 at the Cholsey Pavilion in Station Road, Cholsey.

We can usually fix around 75% of items brought to us, ranging from bicycles to blunt knives, table lamps to toys, cracked china to computers.

Basic anti-Covid precautions are in place but please be on your guard. Latest information is posted at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com.

You can email repaircafe@cholsey.com but please note that we can't judge a repair task until we see it.

Henley and District Stamp Club

How time flies by, and we send our best wishes for a good (better) New Year to all our readers. This is the time when everyone thinks about doing something new or different. Why not give a new hobby a go? Come and see what can be done with a stamp or postcard collection. Both can cover any subject and can increase your knowledge of subjects such as art, history, geography, science, ...

12th January – Chairman's evening – commemorative and greetings letter sheets of Argentina

26th January – The 4 Ps – Perfins, Perforations, Proofs and Paper, members' displays

23rd February – the auction viewing for our increasingly popular auction being held on 9th March. Visitors welcome. The catalogue will be on our website in late January.

If you are interested in any of these subjects, but not necessarily into 'Stamps' you are welcome to visit us. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Visitors and new members are welcome. For further details phone 681739 or see our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

***Please see the parish website for the latest on many local matters:
www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk***

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Pop in or call for your 2022 Calendar!

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What's on at the Corn Exchange

Pantomime — Sleeping Beauty

From 14th to 29th January

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!

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

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

Winter Recitals Wallingford

Back after a year's absence

Sparkling pianist Anita D'Attellis returns in January with a new series of chamber concerts performing with her friends.

On Saturday 15th January Anita has hand-picked from her pupils some talented, award-winning soloists as well as amazing musicians from Queen Anne's School. Catch them while they're young!

Then on 29th January Anita is joined by Marion Given (violin) and Bryony Moody ('cello) for a recital by female composers.

Titled 'Trio Appassionata', the headline work is a première by Libby Croad, along with pieces by Clara Schumann, Rebecca Clarke and Lili Boulanger — well worth your attention!

Both concerts are at St Mary-le-More Church in Wallingford with a 7.30 pm start. Tickets are £14 and we encourage you to book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/wrw22. COVID-19 guidance will be observed.

Proceeds will be shared between Sue Ryder and St Mary's.

For more programme details go to www.anitapiano.com/wrw22, or call Roger Morgan on 01491 837494 if you get stuck.

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 by 15 January for an infant or primary school place starting in September 2022.

You can apply online but there are alternatives if you cannot do that. If you make your application by the deadline of 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.

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 to learn more about the club and find out how to get involved.

Anne Lusby

Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline

At the Anne Robson Trust we believe that everyone deserves support and having somewhere to turn to if they or a loved one is dying. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Our free national helpline is confidential – 0808 801 0688. Lines are open Monday to Friday (12 – 6pm). If you, or someone close to you is dying, we are here for you.

Our volunteers are here for you to offer vital confidential support, a listening ear and a lifeline when you may need someone to talk to. We are also here if you want to start having conversations with your loved ones about your wishes but might not know where to start.

Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk to find out more.



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 at 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 oxfamshopf3733@oxfam.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Madeleine, Mandy, Fabi and the team

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford village hall on Thursday 9th December.

Present

Cllrs John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Fleur Stevenson and David Rowley and Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Sue Rance (Clerk).

Following advice from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in the light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to delegate authority to enable the clerk to make decisions on behalf of the council in case it cannot meet in person.

Items from the previous meeting

Grundons have delivered daffodil bulbs. Cllr Johnson suggested planting some at the Emery Owen allotments.

Finance

The council agreed the precept (the parish share of the council tax) for 2022-23 should be £42,553. This will keep the amount each resident pays at the current level, but is up £2,948 on last year because of new housing in the parish.

The council agreed its budget for 2022-23, based on income of £142,298 and expenditure of £147,190, resulting in a small deficit at year end of £4,892, which can be covered by reserves.

Payments this month included £300 towards tree planting on the riverside meadows, £100 deposit for the ceilidh band at the Big Jubilee Lunch next June, the final £416.97 payment to Eibe on the playground and £1,380 for grass cutting in October.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P21/S3932/HH 1 Winterbrook Wallingford OX10 9DX New carport and modifications to front entrance gates. Planning permission (not in our parish)

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 with roof lights and a lower storey for the two semi-detached houses. Siting and other aspects appear the same as the approved plans. Planning permission (since the meeting)

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. Planning permission (granted since the meeting)

Withdrawn

P20/S0545/FUL The Woodyard Constitution Hill Mongewell. Construction of a single detached dwelling that will re-use the existing building as an ancillary garage/ outbuilding; amenity space provision and associated works. (As amended 21 September and 7 October 2020). (The parish council objected to this application.)

Consultations

P21/S4814/LB 47 The Street Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EA, Replacement of attic bedroom window. Recommended approval but ensure that the new timber-framed unit is double-glazed (option 1).

P21/S4665/FUL Sheringham House Crowmarsh Hill Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG Removal of existing dwelling and garage. Erection of three detached four bedroomed two storey dwellings. Recommended refusal: (1) demolition of such a recently-built house would

be wasteful of materials and the embodied energy in its construction; (2) cramped development for three houses; (3) this is not a suitable site for more dwellings so close to the A4074 road and the Crowmarsh roundabout, where heavy and accelerating traffic produces significant noise and pollution.

P21/S5054/LDP Land to the east of Reading Road Cholsey OX10 9HG Repairs to 15.5m of the river bank, comprising woven willow spiling, backfilled soil and turf (subsequently withdrawn).

P21/S3778/HH Summerlea Cottage Pocock Lane North Stoke OX10 6ET Erection of a bespoke traditional (aluminium frame) $\frac{3}{4}$ span greenhouse against the side of dwelling. Recommended approval.

Major development

Since the parish council meeting, the District Council's planning committee unanimously approved the Newnham Manor (P16/S3852/FUL) hybrid planning application for 100 new residential dwellings, with new access road off the A4074 and toucan light-controlled crossing, public open space, pedestrian and cycle connectivity and provision of land for the primary school. The design and layout of this application had been greatly improved by consultation with the Chilterns Conservation Board, Oxfordshire Highways and others. The parish council expects to take on ownership and management of the public open space on this development and to receive a lump sum towards the cost.

Environment and recreation

A Sustainability and Climate Change Policy that had been circulated to councillors was discussed and approved and will be posted on the website.

The council agreed to declare a climate and ecological emergency in recognition of the clear evidence that climate and ecological change represent a threat to the life opportunities and well-being of future generations and need to be addressed at all levels of government.

We recognise that addressing the challenges of climate change will result in many benefits in terms of health, wellbeing and community resilience and so all our future actions and decisions will take account of the need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and reach net-zero carbon.

The Council supports Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council

in their commitments to net-zero carbon, and agreed to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill in parliament, to commit national government too.

Tenders for the pavilion improvements project are due in on 10th December. A contribution from the Parish Council of up to 50% of the costs (£75,000) was approved in a total budget of up to £150,000. It was agreed to apply for a SODC capital grant, which had to be done by 17th December. The Finance Officer and the Clerk are authorised to sign the grant documents and to submit the application. We will also apply in the New Year to the FCC Community Action Fund (previously WREN).

Traffic and transport

A meeting to discuss road safety and noise from motorbikes will be held at Benson on 16th December with the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber, John Howell MP, and representatives of several parish councils affected by this (see update on the next page).

Next meeting

The council does not meet in January, so the next meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 3 February 2022, starting at 7.30pm. Please contact the parish clerk if you would like to attend.

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. We do not presently have anyone on the council who lives in Mongewell.

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

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, email johngriffin@phonecoop.coop

Welcome to all our new residents

We warmly welcome everyone who has moved into Crowmarsh Gifford, Mongewell or North Stoke recently, including occupants of the new Cala and Bloor homes as these new residential estates develop.

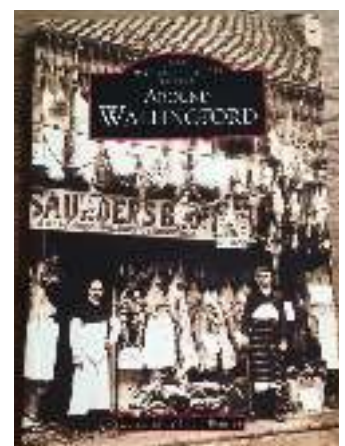
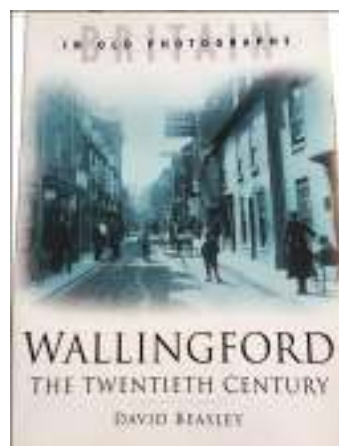
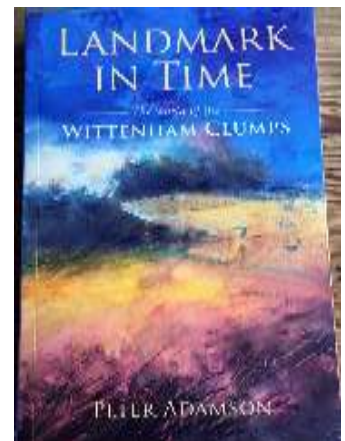
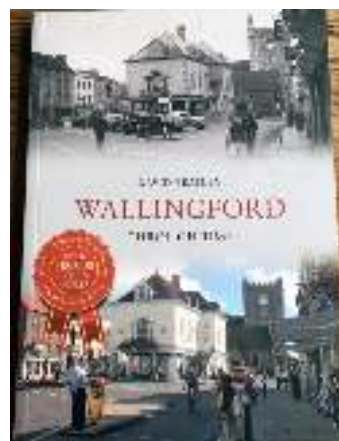
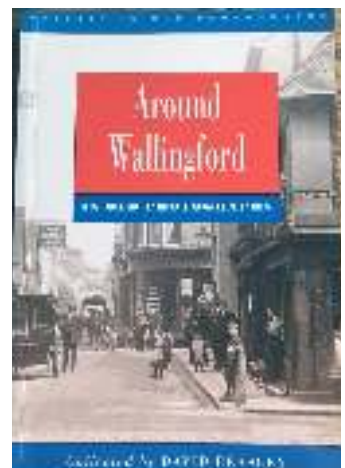
We hope you will be very happy here and quickly become part of the Crowmarsh community and join local groups and activities.

If any of you would like to help with the monthly distribution of the Crowmarsh News in your local street or neighbourhood, please contact Frank Sadler or the editorial team — see the front page.

Local history books

Are you new to Crowmarsh or just interested in local history?

Here is a selection of books — many by local authors — that might interest you. They might not all still be in print, but you could enquire at the library, or ask the Wallingford Bookshop, who have a good selection and can usually order any book for you in a day or two.



Parish council update

Representatives from Benson, Shillingford and Warborough, Nuffield and Crowmarsh Parish Councils attended a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mathew Barber, on 16th December, facilitated by our MP John Howell, to discuss what can be done about the noise and danger caused by motorcycles and cars travelling at excess speeds along the main A4074 and A4130 roads.

There was a strong consensus about the nature of the problem and the need to do something about it. Various ideas are being trialled in adjoining counties, including noise cameras and average speed cameras. Installing an average speed camera system between Nuffield and the Crowmarsh roundabout could cost in excess of £120K.

Mr Barber cannot direct the operational priorities of Thames Valley Police, but he did undertake to ask the Roads Policing team to try a series of operations to target offenders at weekends and evenings when the problem is at its worst. This would be most effective later this year when better weather will exacerbate the problem. Another meeting will be arranged to follow this up.

CTC Wallingford cycle rides

Please see below for details of Cycling UK bike rides from Wallingford next month. Please pre-register for these rides and observe the COVID-19 precautions.

Thursday 6th January 1:00pm, 20-something mile road ride — Steve Thornton leading.

Thursday 13th January 1:00pm, 20-something mile road ride — John Skevington leading.

Sunday 16th January 9:00am, 30 mile road ride — Patrick Hardiman leading, through Nuffield, Nettlebed and Bix to a café stop in Henley, back via the Assendons and Cookley Green.

Thursday 20th January 1:00pm, 20-something mile road ride — John Skevington leading.

Thursday 27th January 1:00pm, 20-something mile road ride — John Skevington leading.

All rides will depart from Wallingford Market Place and will include a refreshment stop.

For details see www.ctcwallingford.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/wallingfordctc (log in required).

If you have questions about any of the above or other aspects of CTC Wallingford please email us at info@ctcwallingford.org.uk

We hope to see you on a ride soon. Happy cycling!

CTC Wallingford (part of Cycling UK)



Citizens Advice information on vanishing energy suppliers

Many people have had the disconcerting experience of seeing their energy supplier break up and go out of business during the recent energy price fluctuations. If you are affected, remember these key facts: first of all, the gas or electricity supply itself won't be interrupted, so don't be concerned about that, and secondly, Ofgem, the industry regulator, will automatically move you to a new supplier. This usually takes a few weeks. Wait for your new supplier to contact you. They will explain what will happen with your new account. But do contact the new supplier yourself if you haven't heard from them within two weeks. You can check on www.citizensadvice.org.uk ("check who's taken over your energy supply") if you're not sure who your new supplier is.

While you're waiting to hear from the new supplier, it's a good idea to take meter readings (and a photo of the readings) and make a note of your account balance too. Keep any old bills you have, as these can help prove your payment history, credit balance or debt. If you aren't happy with your new supplier or tariff, you can switch suppliers. Look at "switch energy supplier" on our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk or ring the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Many people are seeing their energy bills increase significantly. If you are worried about being able to meet these higher energy payments, please contact Citizens Advice on our Adviceline number 0808 278 7907.

John Howell MP writes...

As this year draws to a close and we look to a new year it is inevitable that we both reflect on the old and look to the new. As we do the latter I wonder if you would take a proverbial 'glass half full or half empty' view for 2022? Our viewpoint impacts on the way in which we approach things as we try to move on in the coming year. Personally, I take a 'glass half full' view and look to the new year with bags of optimism. I wish everyone the very best for the coming year, especially good health.

We have made enormous positive strides this year in dealing with a very difficult time and I thank all those who have looked after us both within the health service and outside of it. People in many different walks of life have risen to the challenge and done a sterling job. I also pay tribute too to those who have put up with so much horrendous messaging and intimidation when most have done nothing more than try their best to do their job.

In the course of 2021 some events have really stood out for me. Remembrance Day in both Henley and Thame were well attended and very special events. Although the primary focus is always to remember the sacrifice of those who have died in wars to defend our freedoms, it was difficult not to also remember those we have lost in the last two years. I expect the experience was similar right across the constituency. It was also a sad year as we said goodbye to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and remembered his service and his dedication to the Queen and the country.

As we look forward to 2022 I have some firm hopes and wishes in mind. First, I hope we learn to deal with COVID-19 in an even better and smarter way as we continue on the journey from pandemic to endemic. There will be other variants for sure and let us hope we continue to deal with them successfully.

Second, I hope that we can show real progress in dealing with climate change and that we do so in a way that enhances our joy of living. It is great to see so many community action groups being set up across the constituency and beyond. People coming together to work to tackle climate change, all doing what we can.

Third, I hope that we can learn to live with each other in a better way. It is no bad thing that people feel strongly on certain issues, but it is sad when the strength of feelings held lead to actions that adversely impact on others. This may seem a tall order, but I would like to see mutual trust and respect restored right across society and that we recognise the impact that the absence of this has caused for many.

Parliament will go into recess for the Christmas period and will return early in the New Year. No doubt there will be some challenging issues to debate with strongly felt views. I am always interested to know the views of constituents even if we agree to differ. If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way if you have access to that. My email address is howelljm@parliament.uk.

Alternatively you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website www.johnhowellmp.com which is regularly updated. Further details of the work of Parliament is available at www.parliament.uk.

My best wishes to you all for 2022.

John Howell

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WHAT'S ON — JANUARY 2022

Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45 – 22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Online on Zoom (see p.9)
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
Most Thursdays	13.00 start	Cycling UK rides — see p.13 or www.ctcwallingford.org.uk	Meet in Wallingford Market Place

This month

Wednesday 5th	14.00	U3A: Martin Holmes talks on "David Cameron"	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 6th	13.00	CTC 20-something mile cycle ride	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Saturday 8th	10.30 – 12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Wednesday 12th	20.00	TWHAS talk: Peasant perceptions of landscape, Ewelme Hundred	By Zoom – see www.twhas.org.uk
Saturday 15th	11.00 – 13.45	Cholsey Repair Café	Cholsey Pavilion in Station Road
Saturday 15th	19.30	Winter recitals: young musicians from Queen Anne's School	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Sunday 16th	09.00	CTC 30 mile cycle ride	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Thursday 20th	13.00	CTC 20-something mile cycle ride	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Thursday 27th	13.00	CTC 20-something mile cycle ride	Meet in Wallingford Market Place
Saturday 29th	19.30	Winter recitals: pieces by female composers for violin, cello & piano	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford

February

Wednesday 2nd	14.00	U3A: The history of the TV quiz show	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 3rd	19.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

For details of walks with Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers, please see www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford