

Issue 505

July 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.

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The *Crowmarsh News* is distributed to over 700 households in Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell.

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- 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 a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (750 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: Caroline Campbell and John Griffin

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

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and team

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the August 2021 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our **20th July 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

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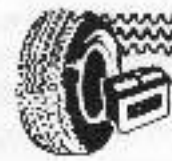
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Our Neighbourhood Plan

From the Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

There are two compelling reasons why we need a neighbourhood plan:

1. Crowmarsh Parish has recently been awarded a series of major housing developments that may yet threaten to overwhelm our infrastructure. The neighbourhood plan will help to safeguard us from further speculative planning proposals that aspire to yet more housing development on greenfield sites in the Parish. You have repeatedly told the Parish Council your concerns over further housing development in the area and so no new land is allocated for housing development in the plan. The plan strives to safeguard the countryside and especially the green spaces in and around Crowmarsh Gifford.
2. The neighbourhood plan will attract additional funds for projects within the parish. When developers build new houses, they need to pay Local Government a sum of money called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is used to help towards improving facilities to meet the increased burden on infrastructure that any new development might cause. The regulations state that any parish with an adopted neighbourhood plan shall receive 25% of the CIL revenues raised within the parish, while a parish without a neighbourhood plan will only receive 15% of the CIL, subject to a cap of £100 per existing dwelling.

Our neighbourhood plan is currently going through its final inspection stage and will be put to a referendum once it is finalised.

For full details of the Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents, see the SODC web page <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/neighbourhood-plans/emerging-neighbourhood-plans/crowmarsh-neighbourhood-plan/>

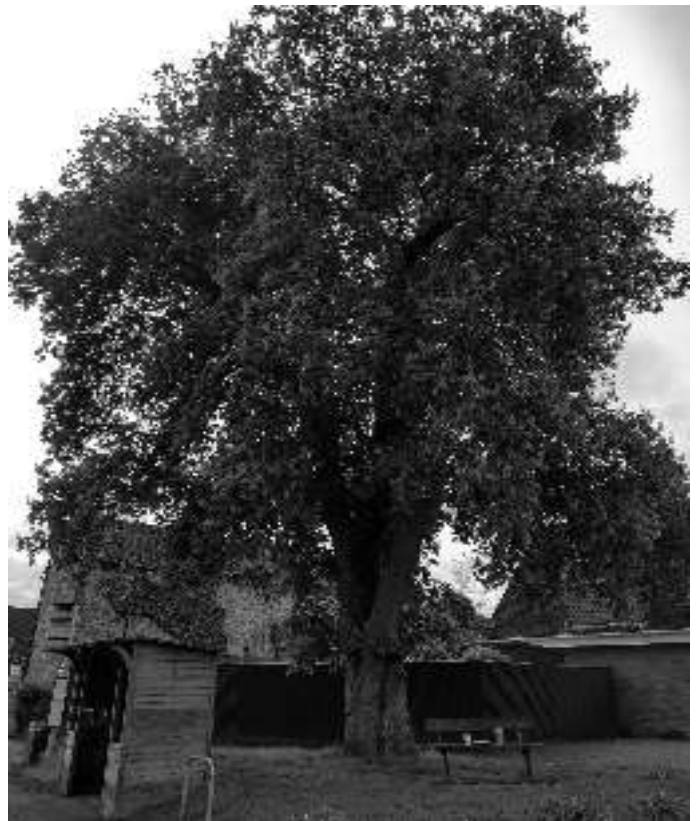
Parish Council notes

There was no parish council meeting in June. The next meeting will be at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 1 July, starting at 7.30pm, and will be held outside with social distancing to comply with government regulations.

The parish council has two vacancies and would welcome expressions of interest, particularly from Mongewell and North Stoke: please contact the parish clerk, Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, email: crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com.

Horse chestnut tree

The tree at the end of Thames Mead by the bus shelter, a well-loved part of the street scene, and a source of conkers in autumn, is causing serious concern. After a branch fell, the parish council commissioned an expert survey. The conclusions are that we have two options: to fell the tree and replace it, or to carry out major tree surgery to prolong its life.



The Parish Council would welcome views on which course to take. The report is available on request. Please contact the parish clerk, Sue Rance (see above) or the chairman, John Griffin, at johngriffin@phoncoop.coop.

Past Times *from David Beasley*

Palm Sunday in Crowmarsh

In April 1982, the Anglican Churches around Crowmarsh held what was becoming an annual procession on Palm Sunday, between Crowmarsh and Wallingford. That year over 150 people took part, with many more lining the route.

Richard Fanstone, a six-year-old boy from Crowmarsh, played the part of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem (in 1982, the donkey was named Annabel).

The procession started at St Mary Magdalene's church, led by the Revd Martin Gillham, Rector of Crowmarsh. It passed up The Street towards Wallingford, over the bridge, where the police were on duty controlling the traffic, and into the Market Place where the Revd Haigh Elches conducted a service. This revived a similar procession that had been held towards the end of the 19th century.



Palm Sunday 1982: Richard Fanstone & Annabel

Useful telephone numbers

Emergency only 999

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Non-emergency 111

Please use the parish website

www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php

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TWHAS Zoom talk

Wednesday
14 July

'The River Thames – How it shaped our region'

Steve Capel-Davies's talk will look at how the River Thames has influenced settlement in the region from the earliest times to the present. This will include considering the role of the river as a boundary / line of defence; crossing the boundary; the working river, including navigation trade and mills, followed by its use for leisure.

Steve Capel-Davies (our TWHAS Chairman) is a river engineer, with strong links to Wallingford Museum. He has been involved with The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society for more than 30 years. Steve has had a lifetime's involvement with the Thames, during which time he has developed a great interest in all aspects of its history.

Please see the Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society web site for further details: <https://www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html>

Sat 11 September  
Doors 6.15pm, Show 7.30pm

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Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)
Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Blog: revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene's Church Crowmarsh Gifford

July Services (at St Mary Magdalene unless otherwise stated):

Sunday 4th	11am	Family Pet Service – a Family Service with blessing of pets
Saturday 10th	10.30am – 12.30pm	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 11th	11am	Parish Communion (+Livestreamed)
Sunday 18th	11am	Patronal Festival Communion
Sunday 25th	11am	Family Communion (+ Livestreamed)

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am and on Zoom

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm and on Zoom

Livestream Services on www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe

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

The Vicar writes...

The Crowmarsh Community Café is open again at the Village Hall on Saturday 10th July, 10.30-12.30pm. This is a great way to meet new neighbours who have recently moved into the parish. Our Family Service on 4th July is our annual “Pet Service”, when we welcome families to bring their pets with them into church. We thank God for all the joy that they bring to us, and ask his blessing upon them and our relationships with them as part of his creation. Then towards the end of the month, we celebrate Mary Magdalene, in whose name our church is dedicated, with our Patronal Festival on Sunday 18th July.

An open appeal:

As well as the obvious impact on health and wellbeing, the pandemic will have a lasting impact on finances. The pandemic has hit many local businesses and organisations hard, and our church was not immune, losing over £10,000 of income in 2020. This has drastically depleted our reserves, with a similar picture for the past 6 months. To keep our church fully operational and available when needed for weddings, funerals, school and community services, I am openly appealing for more villagers to consider making a regular donation via the “Parish Giving Scheme”. This is a direct debit which you control, but crucially it allows the Gift Aid element to be received every month, which is a significant boost to our cash flow. More details can be found at www.parishgiving.org.uk and it is possible to join with a simple phone call to 0333 002 1271, quoting the appropriate PGS Parish Code for Crowmarsh which is 270627530. However, if you would prefer to make a one-off donation, online giving is now simple from any smart phone or internet-connected device using this QR code:

Donors are given the choice of giving with the benefit of Gift Aid or completely anonymously. A lasting difference can also be made to the work of the church through leaving a legacy. General information and advice is available at www.churchlegacy.org.uk and from the Church's Legacy and Wills Information Line on 08445 870875.

Blessings, Rev Kev





Wallingford Museum news

On 24th July 2021, join in with Wallingford Museum's Family Archaeology Day and be part of the UK's biggest celebration of archaeology. Come and meet our experts, bring along your special fossils and finds from gardens, allotments, fields and beaches. Plenty to do for all. Drop-in between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

We are delighted that the museum will be open for the season. Please check the website for opening times.

Our amazing new exhibit, the new Wallingford Castle model will be on display. Wallingford Museum's dedicated team of researchers have worked with architectural model maker, Ben Taggart, to create a 1:300 scale model (1.5m x1.6m) of Wallingford's royal castle as it may have been in the mid-14th century.

All planning is subject to government guidelines for Covid-19 prevention, so please check the web site for confirmation www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk.

Museum admission will be free until we are fully open, but donations are always welcome.

The museum will celebrate its official 40th birthday in September.

Museum Bookshop

We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We look forward to seeing you – it's free to browse!

Town and Castle guided tours

Wallingford Museum's experienced team are now taking bookings only 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, or via the website.

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.

Arrangements for tours

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

You will be in a group of no more than 6 people (including a 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 with Track and Trace. We look forward to hearing from you.

Museum website

In the meantime, we invite you to browse the new Wallingford Museum website <https://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 please contact the curator on 01491 651127.

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.....are best in .jpg or .pdf format

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What's on at the Corn Exchange

Cinema during July

All regular performances start at 7:30pm. Tickets are £8 for adults and £5 for under-15s unless otherwise stated.

At the moment we have a social distancing algorithm in place at the Box Office, and only groups of up to 6 from allowed groups can book seats together. The Box Office system automatically spaces out any new bookings. We will take this control off if the government rules change as planned. However, in the interests of safety for existing patrons who have booked seats with this spacing, we won't implement this change until the play in mid-July. We're grateful for patrons for their observation of all the Covid rules that we have implemented in the theatre.

Thursday 1st July Cruella (12A)

Friday 2nd July In the Heights

Saturday 3rd July In the Heights

Sunday 4th July In the Heights

Monday 5th July The Reason I Jump (12A)

Tuesday 6th July The Reason I Jump (12A)

Wednesday 7th The Filmmaker's House (12A)

Thursday 8th July The Filmmaker's House (12A)

Friday, 9th July Nashville (PG)

Young Audience Film Night

Sunday 18th July (film to be announced shortly). This is a new Corn Exchange initiative: a young film programmer's group in association with the British Film Institute to curate, select and market a film for 16- to 30-year-olds.

We will be showing their selection of films over the next few months, and hope that it will become a standard feature at the Corn Exchange. Anyone interested in joining the film programmer's group should email us on youngfilms@cornexchange.org.uk

Live theatre

Wind in the Willows

Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th July, 3pm (Saturday) and 7:45pm (all evenings)

Sinodun Players present *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame (adapted into a one-act play and directed by Marilyn Johnstone). One of the all-time great animal stories and a true classic of children's literature.

Tickets £8 (adults) and £5 (under 14s)

Spoken Word Poet, Jill Battson

Saturday 31st July, 3:30pm

Double JUNO Award nominee and spoken word artist, Jill Battson, presents an afternoon poetry reading. Heralded as "*one of the great voices in contemporary poetry*" and "*poetry's agent provocateur*" Jill will also participate in a Q&A with Adrian Brooks, Artistic Director of the Henge21 Festival. Tickets £7.50

Henge21 is a community art project, and local poets are invited to participate by creating poems that relate to the theme "Circle of Life".

On Sunday 1 August, 10am – 5pm, there is a day-long workshop at Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall, Queen Street, led by Jill Battson as resident poet. A morning visit to the site of the Dyke Hills for inspiration and an insight into the history of Dorchester at the museum will be followed by an afternoon of crafting and critiquing poems with publication on the Henge21 website. Tickets £25, Register at: jillbattson@gmail.com

A Daughter's a Daughter

Wednesday 22nd September to Saturday, 25th September, 7:45pm

Sinodun Players present *A Daughter's a Daughter*, directed by Lucy Pitman-Wallace. This is an intense family drama, published by Agatha Christie under the name Mary Westmacott. It bubbles with suppressed emotion and has the extra frisson of perhaps being inspired by Christie's difficult relationship with her own daughter, Rosalind.

Tickets £12 (adults) and £8 (under 16s)

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Arthur Smith is SYD

Friday 10th September, 7:45pm

Arthur Smith's show SYD follows a highly successful season at Soho Theatre and a sell-out and critical acclaimed run at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Packed with big gags, hilarious stories and poignant reflections about an ordinary man who lived through extraordinary times, Arthur, accompanied by the mellifluous Kirsty Newton tells the story of his own father. Tickets £15 (with some adult humour)

***Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas**

Saturday 20th November, 7:45pm

Performed solo by Guy Masterson, celebrating a day in the life of 'Llareggub' – a small seaside town somewhere in Wales – all 69 ebullient inhabitants in Dylan Thomas's timeless masterpiece are assiduously recreated in an amazing feat of memory and virtuosity. Complemented by a stunning original soundscape, it's bawdy and beautiful, sad and sensual and, through the music of language, leaves indelible, unforgettable images of humanity. All Tickets £15

This is Jess

Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th November, 2:30pm (Saturday) and 7:30pm (all evenings)

This is Jess is a new musical – with a twist. Billing itself as 'half gig, half musical theatre, and half stand-up comedy', (*Jess is better at geography than maths!*), the one-woman, two-act show follows a year in the life of local girl, Jess. But it isn't just any year. This is the year she meets Gino Corsetti, and a roller-coaster romance ensues. You're certain to fall in love with the hapless Jess (think Bridget Jones, without the celebrity glamour and fake snow!) and you'll leave the theatre singing any of the 16-plus strong numbers from this whimsical, uplifting and touching musical.

More details to follow.

Free Covid-19 testing kits

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

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

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

You can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests from www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests. Your tests should arrive within 2 days.

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

CTC Wallingford cycle rides

Please note continuing changes to the CTC Wallingford organised cycle rides:

- A limit of six riders (including the leader), with pre-registration required
- Ride dates and times will be ad hoc, listed on the website (www.ctcwallingford.org.uk) and Facebook page (log in required, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wallingfordctc>).

Refreshment stops may be self-catered, so please bring your own supplies in case plans change.

If you're planning to join a ride, please bring a face mask and hand sanitiser in addition to money for refreshments, tools, pump and spare inner tube.

Please don't join our rides if you're feeling unwell, or are unsure of your Covid status.

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

If you have questions please email info@ctcwallingford.org.uk. We hope to see you on a ride soon.

Happy cycling

CTC Wallingford (part of Cycling UK)

From our MP — John Howell writes ...

I know from mail received, that many of you were hoping to see all COVID restrictions removed this month and will be disappointed that the date has been pushed back to 19th July. In recent weeks there has been growing unease at lifting all restrictions on the proposed June date. The Delta variant is a serious concern and the advice from experts was that we should wait a little longer until the vaccine has been offered to all adults.

Whilst I am amongst those very much looking forward to all restrictions being removed, there is some sense in waiting just a little longer. Looking at the situation in Oxfordshire, while cases may have gone up 6-fold, the numbers of hospitalisations and deaths have not. This shows the importance of vaccination. There is also an inherent fairness that every adult should be offered the opportunity of vaccination before all restrictions are lifted.

We have to remember that when the Prime Minister announced the Roadmap to Recovery, the dates were the earliest at which each stage would be introduced and not finite dates. We must take the long view, get everyone vaccinated and do all we can to avoid restrictions having to be imposed again later in the year.

As we carefully and cautiously continue our journey out of lockdown, we must be mindful that the coronavirus outbreak continues to affect all of us, but especially unpaid carers, who have been supporting relatives, friends and loved ones who may be disabled, ill or elderly. Carers must be recognised for the difficulties they are experiencing, respected for all they are doing, and provided with information and support to keep themselves— and those around them – safe and well. Yet, a lack of awareness of carers and the physical and mental cost of caring persists. Throughout the pandemic we have worked to support all unpaid carers, including young carers, who have the added pressures of work, schooling and their own health and wellbeing issues to manage. This has included making carers a priority group

for Covid-19 testing and vaccination and asking local authorities to identify unpaid carers and support them. We have provided funding to the Carers Trust to support unpaid carers experiencing loneliness during the pandemic and to Carers UK's helplines, information and support services. Carers make an incredible contribution to the life of this country. Together, we must support their wellbeing, help them achieve their life goals and create more carer friendly communities – making caring more visible and valued. Supporting our carers supports us all – thank you.

If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, please email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email you can write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. Please be aware that remote working means that it is taking longer for mail to get through to me.

Printed and promoted by John Howell MP
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

From our Police and Crime Commissioner

I am honoured to have been elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the Thames Valley and have already started to implement my five point priorities from my Police and Criminal Justice Plan (see below).

Good policing is a passion of mine and I will dedicate myself to ensuring I do everything I can to hold Thames Valley Police to account, utilise funding where it's needed and when it's needed, and to be the voice of the public for policing in our counties.

As your new PCC, I will work constructively with the Government to deliver the resources, powers and protections that police officers need. I will also ensure that Thames Valley Police is properly equipped to address the concerns of the public, including the recruitment of police officers and PCSOs.

My plan is clear - to be tough on crime, ensuring safer communities across the Thames Valley. As well as stronger local

St Mary the Virgin North Stoke

Political and traditional ecclesiastical boundaries are not necessarily the same. The village of North Stoke is in the civil parish of Crowmarsh, but the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary the Virgin North Stoke is twinned with Ipsden and included within the Langtree Team of the Church of England. So we look west for material, and east for spiritual succour.

We would be delighted to welcome anyone, either to attend church services or just to inspect our 13th century church with its 14th century wall paintings.

Being possibly the only church through which the Ridgeway National Trail runs, we are delighted to welcome walkers throughout the year, and even better when they stay for a service.



Being in Crowmarsh (political) parish we are fortunate in having our grass cutting subsidised, and we are doubly fortunate in being adopted by Paula Martin, whose mother's ashes are buried in the churchyard. Paula, with her brother, Peter Krueger, have made tremendous efforts in clearing the ground, stones and walls that were overgrown with ivy. This has opened up considerable areas of the churchyard and uncovered lost gravestones.

During the pandemic we had to hold church services on Zoom, which enabled housebound members of our congregation to attend services. We therefore have a Zoom service on each second Sunday in the month. On all other Sundays there is a service in the church at 11.00. We would be delighted to see



policing, I want to ensure that both cyber crime and fraud are investigated effectively, through the investment in technology and resources.

The reaction to illegal encampments is also a key priority, ensuring a fair but firm policing response will aim to reduce their effect on communities.

Furthermore, I will be looking for Thames Valley Police to continue their good work around the fight on serious organised crime. Cracking down on the threat from "county-lines" drugs gangs will protect our children from abuse and exploitation by criminals.

During my first few weeks, I have been:

- Addressing the Thames Valley Police & Partnership Drugs Conference
- Meeting with key stakeholders including Community Safety Partnerships, HM Courts & Tribunals, and Neighbourhood Watch
- Supporting a number of campaigns, including 'Protect Your Pooch'
- Visiting Local Policing Areas to discuss current policing issues

I look forward to continuing my work with so many fantastic colleagues, partners and organisations across the Thames Valley and to represent you, the public, in policing.

Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

anyone who is interested at any of these services or on the Zoom Sunday service, which starts at 10.00 (ID 188 513 761).

Timothy Streatfeild

A new future for the Chilterns AONB

On 24 June 2021 Natural England published its ambitious new Landscape Designation Programme, part of broader Government plans aimed at delivering better outcomes for nature, landscapes and people.

As part of this programme, Natural England will explore a 'boundary extension' to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), taking into account an application made by the Chilterns Conservation Board in 2013 and proposals set out in the independent Landscapes Review (the "Glover Review"), commissioned by the Government.

Natural England has also announced plans to work with the Chilterns Conservation Board, local authorities and other stakeholders to consider new management and governance to support improved conservation, understanding and enjoyment of the Chilterns landscape.

The Chilterns AONB (which includes most of our parish outside the built-up village of Crowmarsh Gifford) extends north and west through Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and is home to many vibrant and growing communities.

An extension to the AONB would provide direct access to high-quality natural environments from urban areas such as Luton, Hemel Hempstead and Slough. Newly-designated protected land would give people living in these areas greater opportunities to access to the countryside, to benefit from the tranquillity it provides and to get away from the pressures of everyday life. It could also contribute to the Government's "30 by 30" target to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030.

This announcement is equally important for Chilterns' wildlife and habitats, with its globally rare chalk streams, wildflower-rich chalk

grassland and prehistoric settlements (including Bronze and Iron Age hillforts).

Dr Elaine King, Chief Executive Officer at the Chilterns Conservation Board, said: *"This is an exciting chapter in our history, which will help bring more people closer to nature and increase opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of this special landscape. We are also excited at the opportunity to explore new and innovative approaches by which we can tackle the impacts of climate change, reverse declines in nature, support our local businesses and improve people's wellbeing and access to our special landscapes. This is even more important as we all work to recover from the impacts of the Covid pandemic."*

The Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB) looks forward to working with Natural England, local authorities and others to help address the huge challenges facing the Chilterns landscape and improving its resilience for nature and people.

The proposal to redesignate the Chilterns AONB as a National Park continues to be an option supported by the CCB, but no decision will be made until the Government has considered fully and responded to the recommendations in the Landscapes Review, as this may have implications for what it means to be a National Park.

Nature-based citizen science

Do you stop to listen to birdsong or watch the behaviour of an insect? Spending time in nature is good, but research suggests the quality of the engagement is more important than the length of time taken.

Nature-based citizen science makes a valuable contribution to research, but it could also be beneficial to your wellbeing!

Read more in a blog post by Dr Michael Pocock from the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Crowmarsh Gifford. This reflects on nature-connectedness, a theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week in May.

Michael's blog is at <https://lnkd.in/dPacEQj>.

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