

Crowmarsh News

Issue 504

The *Crowmarsh News* is a self-funded publication, and we regret that we are unable to accept unpaid advertising, even from local businesses and societies.

We welcome material for inclusion but do not necessarily endorse the views of contributors. We reserve the right to refuse material or to shorten contributions as may be appropriate. Editorial decisions are final.

ADVERTISING RATES

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

Our rates for a one-eighth page display advertisement (nominal 9cm wide x 7cm tall) are:

> 1 month – £8.50 3 months – £25.00 6 months – £45.00

Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30.00 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies, please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

June 2021

The Crowmarsh News Team

The *Crowmarsh News* is run by the Crowmarsh News Association, a group of local volunteers.

Editorial and Layout: James and Toni Taylor

Editorial support: John Griffin, Amanda Maher, Caroline Campbell, Rachel Wakefield, Rev Kevin Beer

What's On listings: Julian Park

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and Team

Next month's issue

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

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

Printing by Albry Design & Print, Unit 2, Rockfort Estate, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford OX10 9DA.



Welcome to new residents

The Crowmarsh News team and the Parish Council would like to welcome everyone who has moved into Crowmarsh Gifford, Mongewell or North Stoke over the past year or more, including those moving into our new housing developments, as well as those coming to work in our parish.

We hope you will enjoy living or working in this lovely area bordering the River Thames and the Chiltern Hills and close to the facilities of Wallingford. We encourage you to get involved in the life of the community (some of it reflected in the pages of *Crowmarsh News*) and to use the services of our advertisers.

There is more information on the website https://crowmarshgifford.org.uk, including details of the neighbourhood plan, parish council, local businesses and community organisations.

... and the *Crowmarsh News* needs you!

The Crowmarsh News team is looking for an additional member who is familiar with Microsoft Publisher and would be able to devote a few hours once every few months to design our pages.

As you will see from the front cover, we are a small team. Our system is to rotate duties on a monthly basis so that no one individual becomes overburdened.

So if becoming involved with this vital community link sounds like something of interest to you, you can find out more by sending an e-mail to

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers0800 555 111Police non-emergency number101

Parish Council vacancies

The parish council has two vacancies and would welcome expressions of interest, particularly from Mongewell and North Stoke.

For further information, please contact the parish clerk; details on page 10.

T Party in Little Stoke

Come to a T Party in aid of North Stoke Church and the Treloar Trust, a school for disabled children from kindergarten to university.

To be held on 1st July, 2-5pm, at the Coaching Barn, Little Stoke, OX10 6AX. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a slice of cake and a walk around the lovely gardens of Green and Gorgeous.

Tickets at the door, $\pounds 5$ for adults and $\pounds 2.50$ for children.

What's on...

Regular readers will notice that our usual *What's On* feature is missing from the back page of this issue.

During the long period of lockdown, there were of course almost no events being held. As we had moved to an online issue of the *Crowmarsh News* that also used a rather different format, we decided to discontinue the feature for the duration.

We hope to bring it back with the July issue, but of course we are heavily dependent on event organisers feeding the necessary information to us.

If that's you, our contact details are on the front page!

Please make use of the Parish Council web site for news and updates of local affairs http://.crowmarshgifford.org.uk

Past Times

James Gutteridge

When James Gutteridge died at his daughter's home in Winchester, he had reached the grand old age of 87 years.

He was born in Crowmarsh in 1843 to James and Elizabeth Gutteridge. He began his working life in service to Sir John Reade of Ipsden. Because of his mother's poor health, he lived with her at Mongewell School at the time of the first Mr Fraser, later moving to Crowmarsh where he carried on the business of photographer.

He married the second daughter of Mr William Phillips and produced two daughters, Edith, born 1883 and Annie, born 1888. He discharged the duties of Clerk of the Parish Council and Rate Collector. James Gutteridge was a staunch churchman and a teetotaller. The cause of Temperance found in him a strong supporter, and the building of the Temperance Hall in Wallingford was largely due to his efforts. He was a strong supporter of the Band of Hope in Wallingford.

There were many in Wallingford and Crowmarsh who would have remembered his magic lantern slide shows. He also ran a Drum and Fife Band using mainly children from the area. In 1912 he applied for a licence to use the Temperance Hall for cinematography shows.

Later as he grew older he became quite frail and he moved away from Crowmarsh to Winchester, to live the rest of his life with his two daughters.

Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's May Zoom talk, 'Everything Fuchsia', was given by Kristopher Harper. Beginning with the geographical origins of fuchsias (many species are native to South America) and their "discovery", in 1703 by Charles Plumier, Kristopher then guided us through the history of their hybridisation. It wasn't until the Victorian era that they became globally popular, and between the 1830s and early 1900s there was a significant growth in the number of commercially available hybrids.

One of the early fuchsia hybridisers was James Lye who introduced more than 100 fuchsia cultivars, of which 33 have survived to the present day. The average time to bring a fuchsia hybrid to market was around five years and we were shown beautiful illustrations from commercial catalogues from the Victorian period, demonstrating the vast array of different characteristics of both flowers and foliage that were becoming available. Kristopher has established the James Lye Fuchsia Collection, to preserve, research and archive Lye's legacy; in 2012 this was recognised as a National Plant Collection.

Kristopher then shared with us some flowers picked from his greenhouse that day (much to

our envy) – exquisite blooms, which naturally led to questions on how best to grow fuchsias. For Oxfordshire, we were advised to grow hardy fuchsias close to a house wall, where they will benefit from a warmer microclimate, and to avoid waterlogging at all costs. For these fuchsias, grown outside but not in containers, we were advised to prune them back in spring "quite hard" once growth had started and to give them a light mulch in the autumn.

In line with our usual annual programme, we have now finished our series of speakers for the year. While we have been unable to meet up, we've had a fantastic range of Zoom talks. We will re-start our talks in October. From June to September, it's the Club's season for being out and about visiting gardens, and details are available on our website, https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com. Further information about the club and how to join as a member can also be found there, or please feel free to email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com.

I will sign off for now and be back in September to give details of our next series of speakers. In the meantime, Benson Garden Club hopes that you have an enjoyable summer of both working and relaxing in your garden.

You can hire

the Dance Studio, Sports Hall or the Astroturf at Wallingford School.

Call Wilson Chong on 829762, or e-mail Leisure-centre@wallingfordschool.com

(Subject to Covid restrictions)



FOR ALL YOUR PROPERTY NEEDS, CONTACT THE LOCAL EXPERTS TODAY

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5



Open soon!

Wallingford Museum is now looking forward to opening on Tuesday 22nd June. We plan to open the ground floor only, in the first instance, where 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 x 1.6m) of Wallingford's royal castle as it may have been in the mid-14th century.

This amazing collaboration has drawn on 15 years of research, unravelling the castle's history, using archaeology, geophysical surveys, LiDAR, maps, and the transcription, translation and analysis of many documentary records. The culmination of all this research is this magnificent model of the castle at the height of its power.

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

Museum admission will be free, until we are ully open; donations welcome.

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

Museum Bookshop

The Museum bookshop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from now until the 22nd June, from then the bookshop hours will mirror those of the museum.

We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We'll be open from then every Friday from 10.30 to 3pm, and every Saturday from 10.30 to 1pm.

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

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

• You will be in a group of no more than six people (including Guide) on any tour.

• Cost is £10 per head, for a tour lasting between 90-120 minutes.

• Payment must be made in cash on the day.

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

For General Museum enquiries please contact the curator on 651127.

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

Pictures, logos and display ads for the *Crowmarsh News*...

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



Zoom talks

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society is running Zoom talks for members.

Wednesday 9th June

Elizabeth Popescu on the 'Excavation of the cemetery of St Augustine's, Stoke Quay, Ipswich' (Featured in a recent issue of *Current*

Archaeology magazine.

Wednesday 14th July Steve Capel-Davies, on 'The River Thames -How it Shaped our Region'.

Please see the web site for further details: https://www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html

The Corn Exchange

Cinema

The good news is that the Corn Exchange opened again on 17th May.

There are a number of films listed already and we will be adding more in the next few weeks. Please look on www.cornexchange.org.uk for further programme updates.

Current highlights for June include:

Tuesday 1st: *Undergods* (15) Wednesday 2nd: *My New York Year* (12A) Friday 11th: *Fargo* (18) Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday, 27th: *The Father* (12A) Monday 28th: *After Love* (12A) Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th June and Thursday 1st July: *Cruella* (12A)

and for July: Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th July: In the Heights

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise.

Tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

Live Theatre

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 for adults and £5 for the under 14s.

New look Manor Café at Howbery now open

The refurbished Manor Café at Howbery Business Park has opened its indoor and outdoor seating areas to members of the public again. The café is also offering a takeaway service with collection from the service counter which has been moved to a spacious spot in the redecorated café.

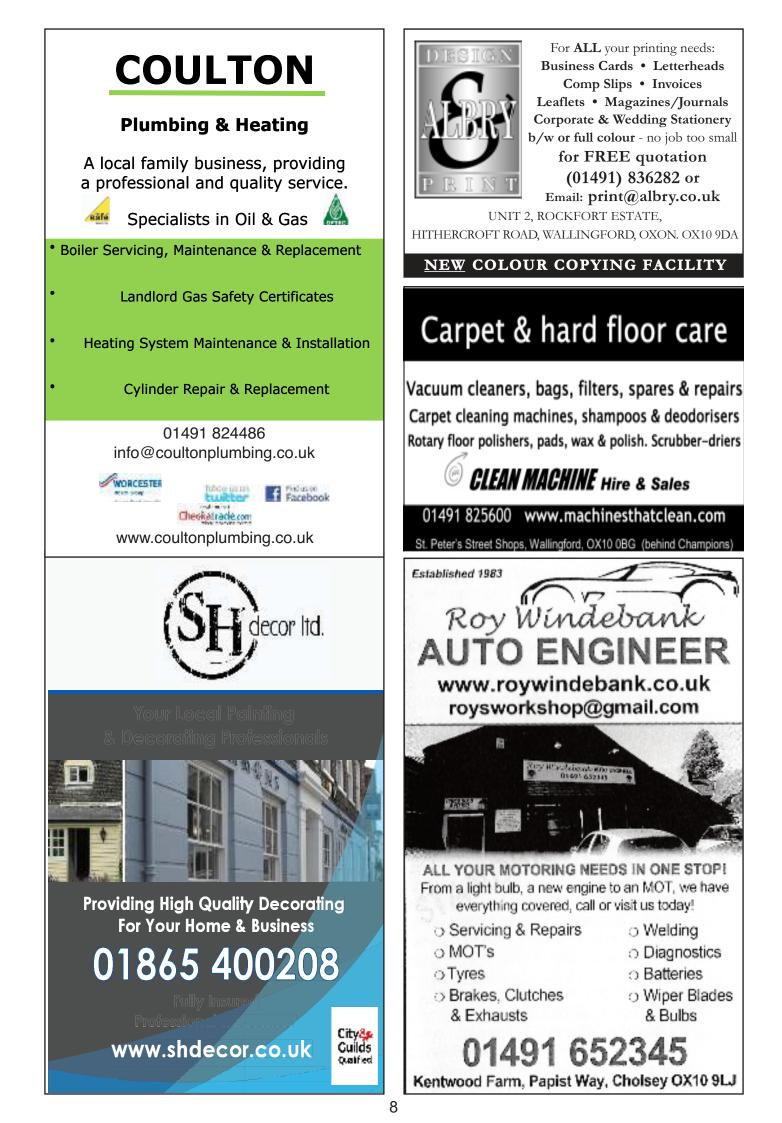
The café has changed its menu to reflect the new style of service, and is currently offering breakfast baps, hot and cold lunch options, drinks, confectionery and homemade cakes. Orders can be placed in advance through the online ordering system - https://manorcafeathowbery.touchtakeaway.net/menu - or at the service counter (card payment only).

Howbery Operations Manager Mark Baxter said: "We're delighted to be able to welcome everyone again to our café. We are very lucky to have such a large terrace with plenty of space for people to spread out across our outside eating area.

"The Manor Café will of course be complying with the government's Covid-19 guidelines and we ask customers to observe these at all times."

The café – which is open from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday – is located inside the grade II listed Manor House at the heart of the site. Visitors are welcome to have a stroll around the beautiful grounds with their rich wildlife.

You can find more information at www.howberypark.com.







Team Vicar: The Rev'd Kevin Beer 34 Thames Mead Crowmarsh Gifford. OX10 8EY Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday) Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk

St Mary Magdalene's Church **Crowmarsh Gifford**

June Services

Sunday 6th	۱
Saturday 1	2th
Sunday 13	th
Sunday 20	th
Sunday 27	th

11am 11am 11am 11am

Family Service (+ Livestreamed) 10.30am-12.30pm Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall Parish Communion Parish Communion (+ Livestreamed) Family Communion

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am (and on Zoom) Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm (and on Zoom)

Full details at www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar Livestreamed services can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe

As each step out of the lockdown is taken, we celebrate the return of our freedom. However, we may feel like a domesticated creature being released into the wild and find this journey to be quite challenging, wanting to take very cautious steps out into our new environment.

After 15 months of regarding everyone as a potential threat to our health, feelings of agoraphobia may be more prevalent. We may need to encourage those who are struggling to regain their confidence whilst respecting that each person will move at their own speed. For example, even though we are legally allowed to hug again, it is now up to each individual to use their own judgement and common sense to balance the benefits against the risks.

So, feel free to hug your nearest and dearest who have been taking all the precautions for months and are now fully-vaccinated, but we may have to wait many more months before we see a repeat of the scenes at the end of the film "Love Actually" where hugs are shared with people coming through the Arrivals gate at Heathrow.

And what about our spiritual freedom? This is freely offered to all who are carrying the burdens of this life, but many people refuse to let go of these burdens as they have been

falsely intertwined with their identity and purpose. We are so much more than our job or profession, property and possessions, status, successes and failures, ailments or regrets. Our true eternal identity is as a beloved child of God, already intimately known and loved by our creator. In describing his own understanding of his identity and purpose, Jesus quoted from the Old Testament book of Isaiah:

"He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4:18-19)

As we reset our lives after lockdown and rediscover our freedoms, why not also take this opportunity to evaluate your priorities in life is there something you need to offload to God to experience his release, his recovery, his freedom and his favour? Jesus says: "...if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Blessings, Rev Kev

P.S. Hope to see you at our Crowmarsh Community Café starting again at the Village Hall on Saturday 12th June, 10.30-12.30pm, with some fund-raising stalls.



01491 824470 | info@hb-pm.co.uk

<section-header>

Manor Café at Howbery Open: 9am-4pm, Mon-Fri

Howbery

MANOR CAFÉ



- Hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes: all day
- Ø Breakfast: 9.00am -10.30am
- Paninis, baguettes and baps: 11.00am - 2.00pm
- Hot and cold lunch options: 14 00 mm
 - 11.30am 1.30pm

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Sinodun Players *The Wind in the Willows*

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame (adapted into a one-act play by Marilyn Johnstone) is one of the all-time great animal stories and a true classic of children's literature. It introduces us to the hesitant but curious Mole, the brave and kind Rat, the wise old Badger and – of course – the irrepressible Toad.

Join them on a boat trip down the tranquil River Thames to Toad Hall, travel with them along the delightful country lanes in a canarycoloured gypsy caravan, then accompany Mole into the Wild Wood which seems to him such a terrifying place, inhabited by sinister weasels, ferrets and stoats.

Gasp as these villainous Wild-Wooders capture Toad Hall, when poor old Toad - due to his impetuous nature and fascination for fast cars (especially other people's) - is sentenced to twenty years in a dark, dingy dungeon.

Will he escape and find his way home? And can his friends help him to save Toad Hall?

Come and see this lovely show and you'll find out!

Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th July at 7.45pm and Saturday matinee at 3pm.

Ticket prices: Adults £8.00; Children under 14, £5.00.

New and Improved Carers Service in Oxfordshire

Carers Oxfordshire, the service for all unpaid adult carers in Oxfordshire, is excited to announce major improvements as the contract is renewed.

Action for Carers and Rethink Mental Illness have once again won the contract to deliver the Carers Oxfordshire service from Health and Social Care. They will be continuing to provide all the same excellent support that local carers have come to expect from Carers Oxfordshire along with some crucial improvements to the service. "It used to be that people would have to go to the council to continue the process of accessing the support that they were entitled to after being referred to us," says Kay Francis, Head of Service for Carers Oxfordshire. "Carers told me they were often disheartened and that it was clunky and time consuming for carers, who already have so much on their plate.

"But I'm pleased to announce that from April 1st Carers Oxfordshire now have the responsibility for the entire support process, meaning that we will be able to provide a more personalised service, focused on support that's right for the carer. We know that this will result in real tangible improvement for carers looking for the support they need."

Another key change is that Carers Oxfordshire is now able to give support to parent carers, those who are aged 18 and over and care for a disabled child. And the service can now offer their bespoke and award-winning training package, A Carers Journey, which gives all carers that practical help when they need it.

Preventing Gaps in Support

"As we slowly ease out of lockdown, there is a lot of apprehension from carers, many of whom are caring for people on the clinically extremely vulnerable list," says Kay Francis. "And it is scary, especially when there is so much uncertainty around dates, new strains and just what this 'new normal' will look like. But by continuing to deliver the service we have ensured that there won't be any gaps in support for carers at this difficult time.

"We also want to reassure carers that we understand their apprehension, but we are here to support them every step of the way for as long as they need us."

For over ten years, carers have been reaching out to Carers Oxfordshire for advice, information and for a reliable partner on their caring journey.

"A key feature of our service that I am particularly proud of is, that many of our staff have been carers or are currently carers themselves, meaning they understand the highs and lows of caring," says Kay Francis. "They know that caring can be stressful and lonely while also being incredibly fulfilling and life affirming. Many of our carers say to us, 'I wouldn't have it any other way, I just need that bit more support' and that is why we exist."

Who are Carers Oxfordshire?

Carers Oxfordshire is a free service for all unpaid adult carers in Oxfordshire. Their goals are to:

• Help people recognise their role as a vitally important carer so that they can access the support they are entitled to.

• Make the caring journey easier by enabling carers to navigate what can be a confusing system.

• Work with carers to help them find ways to care for themselves as they care for someone else.

• Encourage and champion all carers in their caring role.

To find out more call the Carers Oxfordshire team on 01235 424715 or email: carersinfo@carersoxfordshire.org.uk.

Wallingford and District Stroke Club

In the circumstances of the current pandemic, please contact us first to check on meeting plans. Call Norman Goodall on 01235 834503 or Nigel Hessey on 01491 651114 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

CTC Wallingford Rides

We're delighted to announce that we restarted group rides at the end of May. For the time being there will be some changes, including:

- A limit of six riders (including the leader), with pre-registration required
 Ride dates and times will be ad hoc, and will be listed on the website
- Refreshment stops may be self-catered

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

Please don't join our rides if you're feeling un-

well, or are unsure of your Covid status.

Ride details are available on our website (http://www.ctcwallingford.org.uk) and Facebook page (log in required, https://www.facebook.com/groups/wallingfordctc).

Whether riding individually or in a group, please also check the latest advice from Cycling UK.

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

We hope to see you on a ride soon.

Share your life, change a life

Could you give someone the opportunity to live the fullest life they can live? Help them grow in confidence? Encourage them to become more independent and do things they never thought they would be able to do?

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. The opportunity to share a family's life, as part of their household, gives them a valuable alternative to staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers.

Becoming a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council will make a big difference to someone's life. If you love people, and are looking for something that is rewarding, paid and home-based - share your life, change a life, please visit

oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers.

From our local MP

During lockdown and under COVID restrictions I have very much missed being able to meet people within the constituency. Once all restrictions are lifted, I will be looking to schedule visits and meetings. I also plan to continue virtual surgeries. This has been one very positive thing that has emerged from lockdown.

If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters, and briefings on specific issues, please visit my website www.johnhowell.org.uk and subscribe at the link on the home page.

Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523, email: johngriffin@phonecoop.coop Parish Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford Website: http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on-line on Thursday 29 April and Tuesday 4 May.

Present

(29 April) Cllrs John Griffin (Chair), Liz Ryall, Ken McCrea, Stephen Sherbourne, Julian Park, Stuart Soames and David Rowley, District Cllrs Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell and two members of the pubic;
(4 May) Cllrs John Griffin, Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Stuart Soames, Julian Park, David Topliss, David Rowley, Fleur Stevenson and Liz Ryall.

It was noted with regret that Cllr Ken McCrea had decided to resign from the council. Cllr Griffin thanked him for all his work for the community.

Appointments

John Griffin was re-elected as chair and Stephen Sherbourne as vice-chair for the coming year. Cllr Sherbourne was re-appointed as a trustee of the Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity.

Cllrs Johnson, Rowley and Park, Mr Chris Strange and Mrs Linda Parker were re-elected to the Environment and Recreation Ground committee. The next committee meeting would be held online on Monday 24 May.

Public attendance

Two members of the public attended the 29 April meeting: one proposed a wildlife-friendly management regime in Howbery Farm and the other reported on actions to tackle the noise nuisance from motorcycles in the summer months.

Proposal to create wildflower meadows

A resident suggested potential sites for wildflower meadows that could be maintained by residents, which would mean modifying the grass cutting regime of our contractors. This could start with the green area under the walnut tree at Howbery Farm. Councillors were supportive and suggested working with the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee and consulting neighbours about the project. There are other sites in the parish that could be managed as wildflower areas.

Noise from speeding motorcycles

A resident has reported the excessive level of noise from motorbikes on the A4074 and Portway to the police on several occasions. The motorcyclists meet at the H Café at Berinsfield, whose website requests all patrons to show consideration for others. Other parish councils along the A4074 and the A4130 to Henley are monitoring the situation. Data shows that this anti-social behaviour is mostly caused by excessive acceleration when the bikes leave the 30mph limit. It was agreed to take this up with the new Police and Crime Commissioner and also to work on a joint approach with the other parish councils.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P21/S0526/HH 7 Meadow Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BH Replacement of 'ranch style' boundary fence between the property and the highway with a 1.9m high close-board fence to improve sound insulation from the highway and privacy.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.

P20/S4746/HH Mere Cottage, Mongewell OX10 8DA.

Erection of a workshop/hobby room. PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.

Consultation responses

P21/S1550/FUL HR Wallingford Ltd, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BA. Erection of a single-storey visitor & training centre building. NO STRONG VIEWS.

P21/S1677/FUL Triangular portion of land off Nosworthy Way, south of the Cala Homes

Carmel Meadows development. Proposed 4bedroom family dwelling.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL: cramped form of development in an unsustainable location in the Chilterns AONB; dangerous access directly off busy A-road; destruction of trees and natural habitat; impact on the setting of Grim's Ditch ancient monument. The nearby Carmel Meadows development was refused by SODC and only allowed on appeal as enabling development on a 'brownfield' site to support the CABI HQ: such arguments do not apply to this application.

Neighbourhood plan

An expert on listed buildings has submitted a report about the impact of the small employment land allocation on the listed buildings at Howbery Park, which will be considered by Historic England and the external examiner. We hope that a referendum on the neighbourhood plan can then be held.

Finance

A donation of £150 was agreed to Enrych Oxfordshire, which supports personal assistants and volunteers to empower adults living with a disability to live the most active and independent lives possible.

The annual governance statement 2020/21 was reviewed and completed. We agreed the accounting statements for the annual return 2020/21 and the files will now be sent to the internal auditor.

Environment and recreation

The Environment and Recreation Ground Committee is discussing the specification for the pavilion improvements before going out to tender. Three quotes have been received for installing a carpark height restriction barrier. Sports Courts UK will inspect the hard court where there is a problem with tree roots.

Footballers are now starting to use the field and cricket will be starting soon. The playground has been well used and some of the equipment and grass areas need attention.

Parents are reminded that there should be a maximum of 30 children at any one time and

to note the need for social distancing. Please do not park in Bellamy Way.

Traffic and transport

Motorbike scrambling on the Ridgeway has been noted and will be monitored. Incidents of hare coursing and threatening behaviour have been reported to the police.

Cllr Ryall reported that delivery vehicles have attempted to use the private road leading to Newnham Farm in order to reach CABI and Cala Homes. She will post a notice at the end of the road.

It was agreed to consult the new County Councillor about proposed pedestrian crossings and parking restrictions and to arrange a visit from Highways Officers to discuss these.

Strategic priorities

Newnham Murren Churchyard will reach its full capacity in the next 5 - 10 years. It will be necessary to find an additional piece of land or preferably to extend the current burial ground.

A request has been made for a defibrillator to be installed in Mongewell and a suitable site will need to be found. The defibrillator will need to be maintained and batteries and pads will require changing periodically.

The Environment and Recreation Ground Management Committee was asked to consider ways to move towards carbon neutrality, such as a renewable energy tariff when the contract expires in June, and provision of heat pumps instead of the gas boiler.

Emergency planning

Cllr Ryall was thanked for updating and submitting the parish emergency plan. Councillors can contact her or the clerk if they require a copy.

Next meeting

There will be no parish council meeting in June. A small group was asked to plan a face-to-face meeting in July, which is planned to be at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 1 July, starting at 7.30pm, to comply with government regulations at the time. Please check for updates on notice boards and the website.



www.thamessalon.com