

Crowmarsh News

Issue 508

October 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 currently distributed to over 700 households in Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell.

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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 (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.

Editorial and Layout: James and Toni Taylor

Editorial support: John Griffin, Amanda Maher, Caroline Campbell, 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 November issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our **20th October 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.

Please make use of the
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for news and updates of
local affairs

<http://crowmarshgifford.org.uk>



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The Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2035

From the Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

A big thank you to all who voted in the referendum on Thursday 2nd September and overwhelmingly supported the Crowmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

96.6% voted in favour: 374 yes, 13 no. The turnout was 28.3%.

Garden Bins

SODC's garden waste collections are now re-starting after SODC and Biffa agreed a temporary arrangement.

Garden bins will be emptied every four weeks but you can put out twice as much garden waste as normal. The extra waste should be in a cardboard box, old compost or bin bag.

Customers' brown bins will be emptied on the same day of the week as normal. Collections in North Stoke start on Thursday 7th October and in Crowmarsh Gifford on Tuesday 19th October.

To make up for the disruption to the service the council will be extending customers' current subscription to the service by three months – they will do this by delaying the collection of the customers' next Direct Debit payments by three months.

Any residents who do not wish to renew their current subscription will continue to receive garden waste collections for three months after the subscription was originally due to end.

SODC are sending out letters and emails to their garden waste customers explaining the situation in more detail, along with a copy of the temporary timetable.

This temporary arrangement will be reviewed at the end of October to see if it is possible to resume normal service.

Full details can be found at: southoxon.gov.uk/gardenwastecollection-changes along with a more detailed version of the timetable.

Food waste collections will continue to take place weekly, and recycling and rubbish collections will continue to take place fortnightly as normal.

Can you help to produce or deliver the Crowmarsh News?

If you would like to get involved in some way with the *Crowmarsh News*, please get in touch with us by e-mail at crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com or pop a note through the door at 57 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford (The Old Gardener's Arms).

We are always looking for additional help so that we can spread the loads 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 once in a while to what we hope will become your favourite village newsletter!

In particular, we would like to hear from people in the new houses in Crowmarsh who might be able to help with doorstep deliveries in their own areas.

Anne Robson Trust Helpline

If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

The Anne Robson Trust has launched a Helpline to provide support to anyone who is struggling to cope with a terminal diagnosis or the imminent death of someone they care about.

Our telephone helpline is manned by specially trained volunteers to support people across the UK. The number is **0808 801 0688**.

Lines are open from **Monday to Friday, 12-6pm**, and calls are completely free and confidential from all UK landlines and mobiles.

Past Times

David Beasley hopes to resume his popular *Past Times* feature for the *Crowmarsh News* next month.

He has been unwell recently but aims to be back in action as soon as possible. We send him our best wishes.

The Big Jubilee Lunch Crowmarsh, Sunday 5th June 2022

As part of the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we are hoping to have a Big Jubilee Lunch for Crowmarsh parishioners at Crowmarsh Village Hall. This is part of a nationwide initiative.

This will be at the end of an extended bank holiday from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.

Please note this in your diaries.

If you would be willing to help with the event organisation please e-mail Sue Rance at crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

If you have or know of anyone with a marquee that might be available for this, please let Sue know.

The Queen will be the first British monarch to celebrate seventy years of service, since she came to the throne in 1952.

Cholsey Repair Café

Cholsey Repair Café is back in action and the next session will be at the Cholsey Pavilion between 11.00 and 13.45 on Saturday 20th November.

Many types of repair can be considered and volunteers aim to teach their fixing skills to customers. Textiles and bicycles, cracked china, electrical faults, computers, blunt gardening tools, broken toys and many other household items can often be repaired for cost of parts and a donation towards operating costs. Basic Covid precautions will be in place. See www.cholseyrepaircafe.com for our house rules and more information.

The Chiltern Society Doing what comes naturally

We can all find strength and comfort in the stunning countryside that makes the Chilterns – the 650 square miles of iconic rolling hills stretching from Hitchin in Hertfordshire to Goring-on-Thames in Oxfordshire - so special. From ancient woodlands to glades of wild flowers, to sparkling chalk streams, there are huge health and wellbeing benefits to visiting wild places.

This growing connection with nature – both its benefits and the additional pressure it can bring - is not lost on the Chiltern Society, a charity which has been on a 60-year mission to campaign for, promote and conserve this remarkable landscape. The charity manages 12 reserves and has an army of over 500 volunteers who work with partners to maintain, improve and save green spaces, footpaths and heritage sites across the Chilterns.

“Covid-19 has changed the way we work, travel and spend our free time,” says Tom Beeston, Chief Officer at the Chiltern Society, “We believe there is a chance to put nature at the centre of our ‘new normal’. It is possible to tackle the risks facing the Chilterns, while bringing growing urban and rural communities closer to nature.”

As a charity, the Chiltern Society relies on the generosity of its members and dedication of its volunteers to protect the landscape for future generations. If you want to get involved with the Chiltern Society's work or become a member to ensure it can continue tackling the evolving challenges to nature now and in the future, visit chilternsociety.org.uk





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From John Howell, MP

It is just over 10 years since I started to write a monthly newsletter to parishes. Out of curiosity over the summer I looked back at some of the early issues. For a few months I ran a little mini-series at the end of my newsletters seeking to answer questions that were frequently asked about the work of an MP and the workings of parliament. Such questions are still regularly asked as people take a new or different interest in politics and so I thought it might be worth revisiting some of the questions in the coming months.

An overarching question asked of many MPs by people of all ages, and one frequently asked on school visits, is what does an MP do?

There is no job description, and each MP has to work out the best way to pursue the role for themselves. Indeed an MP may change the way in which they work over the years as issues and needs change.

The last 18 months have forced some changes in working patterns and some forced changes have proved to be for the better. For example, I intend to continue doing my advice surgeries virtually as this has proved to be very popular. With the geographical size of the constituency, people often had to travel long distances for a relatively short meeting. The ease of access which virtual meetings has offered has been welcomed. They reduce the need for travel and can save constituents a considerable amount of time. Working this way can also enable me to reduce the waiting time for an appointment.

The main task for an MP is to consider and propose new laws as well as raise issues relating to the constituency or constituents. This is not always easy as contentious and divisive issues are often debated with several differing views. These tend to be the issues that the media is quick to pick on. For my part I think it is important to listen to different views and to weigh up arguments. I am happy to have robust but polite debate, but an MP is not a delegate and in the end, as with the rest of my colleagues, I have to make my own judgement on how I respond on any particular issue. With a Party-political system it will be no

surprise that an MP on the whole supports the Party on whose manifesto they stood for election.

For the most part an MP's time is divided between working in Parliament, representing parliament elsewhere (as I do at the Council of Europe), and working in their constituency. When Parliament is sitting, MPs are generally expected to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday and so time in the constituency is limited. Outside of sitting weeks there is more time for constituency meetings and visits. I am looking forward to the forthcoming recess when I will be meeting in person representatives from several of the 85 Parish Councils and Parish Meetings across the constituency. Something that has not been possible for some time now.

When in Westminster, every day brings competing demands on an MP's time. Days can include time spent scrutinising legislation, attending debates, ministerial question sessions, committees, briefings and other meetings, and also responding to correspondence. There is also a hierarchy of demand in that the business of the House must come first and when asked to sit on a Bill Committee to scrutinise the detail of a particular Bill this is expected to take precedence over other things. These competing demands mean that it is not always possible to attend a particular debate or drop-in session that someone may ask me to attend, although I do try to fit in as much as I can each week.

It is often thought that an MP sits at the top of a hierarchy of Government and has power to direct local councils. This is not the case.

Although local councils are required to conform with central government policy, within this they are fully autonomous, and MPs do not have any jurisdiction over local council decisions. Thus the primary focus of questions that MPs raise will be relating to Parliament and the work of Government departments such as the NHS, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Department of Work and Pensions. These questions may arise from an MP's own concerns or may be on behalf of constituents. Questions can be formal written or oral questions; however, I have found that it is often better to discuss issues privately with

Ministers. With local issues MPs can write to councils on behalf of a constituent, and this is something that I often do. However, there are locally elected representatives to these councils who should really be the first point of contact for council issues. I will write more about this in a later newsletter.

If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email, you can still write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. To find out more about my work please do visit my website which is regularly updated on key issues. www.john-howell.org.uk.

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

call Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or e-mail cvhbookings@gmail.com.

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

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

To book North Stoke Village Hall

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Henley adviser Amanda says: "I am proud to volunteer with Citizens Advice because they offer crucial support to those that need it most, and my colleagues, both volunteers and employees, make volunteering a pleasure."

If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years or more and are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role in your local community, please contact us at: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/

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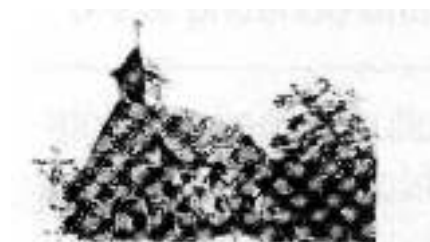
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October Services and Events

Sunday 3rd	11am	Harvest Festival Family Service
Saturday 9th	10.30am-12.30pm	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 10th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 17th	11am	Parish Communion
Saturday 23rd	2.30pm	Memorial Service for Derek Nightingale at St Agatha's, Brightwell
Sunday 24th	11am	Family Communion
Sunday 31st	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 7th Nov	6pm	All Souls' Memorial Service

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm (switching to 4pm when clocks change)

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

The Vicar writes... A Time for Action?

There has been enough talk about climate change for everyone to realise that it is bad for us and our planet, and a potential disaster for our grandchildren. We cannot continue with our existing consumer lifestyles and assume that economies will continue to grow at the expense of our planet's limited resources - this is simply not sustainable. Change is needed and COP26 is critical.

Whether you agree with the direct methods taken by "Insulate Britain" in blocking the M25 or not (personally I don't), we cannot just keep kicking the ball down the road, as demonstrated by our fragile gas supplies and being held to ransom by Putin's Russian pipelines.

Ironically, the pandemic has demonstrated that international air travel and package holidays are not essential and that we can live without them. Perhaps our greatest strength as humans is our ability to adapt, although sadly this is not an option for the many species that are becoming extinct as their natural habitats are lost, whether forest or coral reef.

As I write this, there are fears that meat may be missing from our supermarket shelves due to a shortage of CO2 used during packaging

and we may be forced to move to a more vegetarian (or "flexitarian") diet. Although the CO2 released as we open a meat wrapper is minuscule compared to the loss of rainforest for producing soya for chicken feed and grazing for cattle, even a small change to our diet will make an enormous difference - check out the www.meatfreemondays.com website to see more.

Back in March last year, I blogged about my own experience of trying to switch to an electric vehicle (see <http://revkevbeer.blogspot.com/2020/03/practical-green-motoring.html>). In this and many other areas, compromises are needed, so a hybrid solution is perhaps the best solution. But the main thing in this Harvest month, is that we learn to appreciate God's bountiful provision for us with a spirit of gratitude rather than exploitation.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number 101

Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club enjoyed some excellent garden visits over the summer. Our first was to The Grange in Chalgrove, with its impressive range of different planting areas to admire, including woodland paths, landscaped water features and herbaceous borders. We then visited two gardens in Boars Hill, truly delightful gardens with an extensive range of plants for colour for every season and wonderful planting. Our summer programme closed with a visit to Lime Close, where we were treated to plenty of rare trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants and given an insight into how the owner has grown and developed their lovely garden. In between, we also managed to fit in our annual Garden Club Social, which this year was kindly hosted by Wendy Robertson in her beautiful garden at Greyhound House in Ewelme (which along with the other gardens mentioned here is open for visits under the National Garden Scheme).

Now that our season for garden visits is over, we can look forward to our speaker programme which runs from October to May. For our talk on Thursday 7th October, 'Pests and Diseases', we welcome back Ray Broughton (7.30pm for 7.45pm start). We hope to have the talk in Benson, rather than a Zoom meeting, but please check our website for confirmation details. Members will be invited to share a problem leaf or cutting for Ray's inspection under his microscope (connected to a computer so that the audience can see it as well) and receive his diagnosis along with some treatment suggestions.


We have a fantastic programme lined up for our members over the coming months and hope to encourage new members to join as well. After Ray Broughton's talk in October, we have Nick Hamilton, a writer, author and radio broadcaster from Barnsdale Gardens speaking about "Putting Your Garden to Bed for Winter". As always, we welcome visitors to individual events as well. Further information about the club and how to join as a member can be found on our website <https://bensongardening-club.weebly.com> or please feel free to email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com


Liz Harrison

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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 at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 9th September.

Present

Cllrs John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, David Rowley, Stuart Soames, Robin Smith, Julian Park, District Cllr Sue Cooper, Clerk Sue Rance and Finance Officer Yvonne Peet.

Matters brought forward

Horse chestnut tree: It was agreed to accept the lowest of four quotes and to select Bowards to carry out surgery on the tree at the end of Thames Mead.

Noise from motorcycles: Copies of the letter to the Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, will be emailed to District and County Councillors, John Howell MP and local parish council clerks.

A traffic speed survey is in place close to the crossroads in North Stoke and we have asked for another near The Springs. Another is in The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, in connection with proposed pedestrian crossings.

Following the parish council's letter to Greene King about the future of The Bell, it was reported that they intend to refurbish the pub and reopen during 2022.

A site meeting was planned for 16th September to look at how to improve Watery Lane, which provides an off-road link between Wallingford and the Ridgeway National Trail.

District council report

SODC is working to support vulnerable residents (those who were advised to shield in the early days of the pandemic) as part of the county-wide "Move Together" campaign, designed to support Oxfordshire residents most affected by COVID-19 to move more and protect their health and wellbeing. Find out

more at www.getoxfordshireactive.org/move-together.

Garden waste (brown bin) collections remain suspended because of the national shortage of HGV drivers: please see the article on page 3 or visit the SODC website for the latest position.

Consultations from SODC, OCC and national government can be found at www.southoxon.gov.uk/consultations by clicking on "live consultations". These currently include the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – deadline 8th October – and the OxCam Arc – deadline 12th October.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P21/S2302/A The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BE. Advertisement consent granted for two new main entrance signs and new brick walling.

P21/S2951/FUL Stallion Cottage, Mongewell Park Farm OX10 8DY. Change of use to allow extension of Stallion Cottage (ancillary residential) into adjoining existing building and related alterations. Planning permission.

P21/S2654/LDP 29 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Erection of 1.1m high balustrade and use of part of roof area as for incidental purposes. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development.

Consultations

P21/S3336/FUL 74 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ER. New dwelling in the rear of the property. Recommended refusal unless a number of issues can be addressed, including overlooking from first floor windows of private gardens at 8 and 9 Newnham Green, inadequate parking provision and loss of rear parking for

74 The Street, and impact on mature trees. A 2-storey house would be obtrusive (all the nearby backland developments are bungalows), the access road is a walking route to school, and a 2-storey building may impact on the setting of the Queen's Head (listed building).

P21/S3534/HH 5 Carmel Terrace, Mongewell OX10 8BX.

Two-storey side extension to dwelling. Window alterations to the Eastern elevation. Resubmission of P20/S3059/HH. Recommended approval.

P21/S3395/HH Archgate, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL.

Removal of three existing 1960s windows and make good reveals. Remove a bay window and block in with brickwork and stonewalling to match the adjacent farm buildings. Replace the three windows with newly painted hardwood frames. Infill one brick recess with local flint stonewalling to match the adjacent farm buildings and the bay window infill above. Recommended approval, subject to hand-built flint walling (permission now granted).

P21/S3465/HH Old School House, Constitution Hill, Mongewell OX10 8BS.

Enlargement to existing dwellinghouse and annexe; creation of outdoor swimming pool and erection of new garden store. No objection.

P21/S3392/HH Rose Cottage, 65 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF.

Erection of a carport (not adjoining the property). Recommended refusal because of the visual impact on The Street.

Neighbourhood plan

The referendum was held on Thursday 2nd September and 96.6% voted in favour: 374 yes, 13 no. The turnout was 28.3%. Thanks were expressed to Nick Robins and the team for this success and also to all who voted.

Finance

Payments made included salaries and expenses, annual inspection of the play area, grass cutting in July and August and replacement of the pavilion sewage pump.

Environment and recreation

CCTV is to be installed at the pavilion in September. The draft CCTV policy was accepted, to be revised for adoption at the October meeting.

It was agreed not to continue further Zoono treatments after 20th October. Three quotes have been received for replacement lighting on the hard court and GA's quote of £3550 was accepted.

The parish council is inviting people to come forward to help run a jubilee lunch (proposed for Sunday 5th June 2022) to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please see the article on page 4 and contact the clerk if you would like to be involved.

We also hope to participate in tree planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, and the chairman attended a preliminary meeting with Wallingford Town Council and others about this project. We also hope to plant trees on the riverside meadows, plus one on the recreation ground in memory of a local resident.

Traffic and transport

Verges on the B4009 at North Stoke are being damaged by large agricultural vehicles and it was decided to write to the contractor.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 7th October, starting at 7.30pm. Please contact the parish clerk (email crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

The parish council has two vacancies and we would welcome expressions of interest to join us: please contact the parish clerk.

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.

How well do you really know Crowmarsh?

Old postcards of Crowmarsh can be quite fascinating, and in the absence of David Beasley's *Past Times* this month, we thought we would show one that dates from the early

years of the 20th century. Many of the buildings in this picture are still recognisable today, but they have changed. Can you work out where the photographer was standing?



Who remembers Bowden & Sons?

Anyone who has ever written anything for publication will know how annoying it is to discover some new vital fact while the material is going through the printing process. In the case of a book, published in this country but printed in China, the opportunity to make a correction before publication date falls to zero.

Exactly this happened to me recently. I had written a book about coachwork on Rolls-Royce cars in the 1920s and 1930s, and one of the coachbuilders about whom I needed to make comments was Bowden & Sons of Wallingford.

Easier said than done! After some pretty exhaustive enquiries, I ended up writing that "there is no hard information about Bowden & Sons." I had found nothing – not even an indication of where in Wallingford their works might have been.

Once the page layouts were safely shipped off

to China, the inevitable happened. I turned up a reference to a Bowden & Sons who used to occupy the site that now belongs to Colliers, just at the foot of Wallingford Bridge on the Crowmarsh side.

This is highly unlikely to be a coincidence. Though it's too late for the book (which will be published in a month or so), I would nevertheless love to know who Bowden & Sons were and what their main business was. I'm sure they were not primarily coachbuilders; maybe they were a carpentry and joinery business?

For what it's worth, they built just two bodies for Rolls-Royce chassis. One was a Tourer on a 1924 Twenty model, and the other was a Saloon, completed in 1931 on a 20/25 model. Both were built for the same customer, who was a resident of Ipsden and was the son of the famous Victorian Irish songwriter James Lynam Molloy.

If you have any information, please do get in touch via the *Crowmarsh News*.

James Taylor (Editor)

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WHAT'S ON – OCTOBER 2021

Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	09.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary's, W'ford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary's, W'ford
Every Sunday	11.00	Parish Communion; Family service first Sunday of month	Crowmarsh Church

This month

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd	All day	Wallingford at War	Cholsey & Wallingford Railway
Wednesday 6th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Curiosities of the Chilterns	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 7th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 9th	10.00-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 9th	19.00 onwards	Music: Stanford and Lizst	Dorchester Abbey
Wednesday 13th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Life and Times of Benjamin Disraeli	St Mary le More Wallingford
Saturday 16th	20.00 onwards	Music: Sacconi Quartet	St Mary le More, Wallingford
Sunday 31st	All day	Halloween Special	Cholsey & Wallingford Railway

November

Wednesday 3rd	14.00 onwards	U3A: The Music of Jimmy van Heusen	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 4th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall

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