

Issue 514

April 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.

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The *Crowmarsh News* is distributed to over 800 households in Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell.

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

- 1 month — £8.50
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Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30 for one month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (815 copies please).

The Crowmarsh News team

The *Crowmarsh News* is run by the Crowmarsh News Association, a group of local volunteers — more help welcome!

Editorial and Layout: Caroline Campbell and John Griffin

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

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and the team

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the May 2022 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th April 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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Can you help us produce the Crowmarsh News?

The small (and friendly!) team that produces your *Crowmarsh News* every month is keen to have some more members to share the work of editing, compiling and delivering the magazine. Both new and longer-standing residents will be very welcome to join us.

If you would like to get involved or just find out more about how we operate, 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 member of the team (see front cover).

If you can help with distributing the *Crowmarsh News* in your local street or neighbourhood, particularly the new developments, please email crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com or contact Frank Sadler, who coordinates the deliverers.

You don't need lots of experience to help, just to be enthusiastic and willing to spend a few hours every few months on what we hope is or will become your favourite village newsletter!

The Big Jubilee Lunch competitions

To make the Big Lunch at the Village Hall on 5th June an even more special event (see page 5) there are flower competitions and baking competitions. So those of you who would like to demonstrate your skills, now is the time to shine.

Flower arrangements in three classes

For the two children's classes - Under 11s and 11 to 16s - the title of the Flower arrangement will be '**A Posy fit for a Queen**'.

For the over 17s class, the competition is for a small table arrangement for '**Afternoon Tea**'.

Celebration Jubilee Cake

Three classes: under 11s, 11 to 16s and 17 and over.

More details will be published nearer the day, so start to plan your entry!

Margaret Foster

Welcome to new residents

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

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

If 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.

Alongside WhatsApp and Facebook neighbourhood groups, do use the pages of *Crowmarsh News* to make contact with your new neighbours. We are keen to see a wider range of articles and news from across the community: it is your *Crowmarsh News*.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club continues into spring with a programme of events and talks on Thursdays at 7.30pm. We are returning to Crowmarsh Pavilion soon, but meetings are mostly held online at the moment.

On 7th April we have a club competition on travel and portfolios (online), and on 14th a members' evening where we'll be going out to take photos in Wallingford - guests welcome though!

We then travel (online of course) to Asia with Chris Hilton on 21st ("Time Travel in South East Asia"). On 28th Jane Goodall shows us "The Beautiful Light", her fleeting moments of landscape, nature and people – also via Zoom.

In May we have our end of season competition and AGM. We are looking forward to regularly meeting in person again in Crowmarsh in September.

Please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club to find out more, or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Past Times *from David Beasley*

Some of the inheritance of Winter's Field, Crowmarsh Gifford

In 1920, Crowmarsh District Council approved ten cottages in Benson Lane. Today they are known as Winter's Field. Four of these cottages are in Benson Lane (21-27) and the other six in Winter's Field itself. Cottages of the same design were built in North Stoke, Benson, Nettlebed and Woodcote.

Number 27 was at first occupied by a New Zealander and his English wife, but they stayed only a short time. Henry Varney and his wife Sarah moved in during 1921 and they lived there until their deaths. They were followed by their daughter Beryl, who had married Charles Tame in 1945. Beryl lived there until her death in 2017.

Next door at number 25 was Mrs Alice Broughton, a retired cook at Whitecross in Cholsey. She lived there with her lifelong friend Nellie who had been in service with her. They both lived here until their deaths, Alice at 98 and Nellie at 96.

Behind the house at 27 Benson Lane was 14 Winters Field. The Ayres family lived there for a few years. George Henry Brown moved in with his wife Eleanor and their son Ernest, who carved the date 1940 in the brickwork of his house.

Number 13 was occupied by Walter Wallin, a blacksmith, and his wife Julia and son Stanley. When foundations were dug for an extension, a large brick-lined room was found buried there: was it an old air-raid shelter?

Number 7 was occupied by William Baker and his wife Mercy. Sidney Frewin, a blacksmith striker, and his wife Rachel lived in number 8.

Walter Shears, a farm labourer, lived in number 2 with his wife Lily, and William Walter Shepherd, a special constable, and his wife Daisy lived in number 1.

Back to Benson Lane, in number 23 lived William George Stayte and his wife Violet. Next door in number 21 lived Josiah Muggleton and his wife Beatrice.

When Ann and I moved in to 14 Winter's Field we were the youngest family there — now we are the oldest.



New cottages on Benson Lane, 1924

The Big Jubilee Lunch 2022

A Crowmarsh community celebration, Sunday 5th June



Here are updated proposals for the Big Jubilee Lunch at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Sunday 5th June:

The lunch event starts at 12.30 and the main entertainment will continue up to 16.30.

There will be a jazz band and various stalls with items for sale, for the benefit of local organisations:

Barbecue - Cubs and Beavers

Bar - Church

Cakes and hot/cold drinks - Church

Ice cream and lollies - School PTA

Bouncy castle - School PTA

There are to be jubilee cake and flower competitions for children and adults.

Please bring along a picnic and blanket/chairs. Some marquees, tables and chairs will be provided for inclement weather.

The car park will be closed and used for entertainment, including bouncy castles, swing boats and large patio type games. If you have any large-scale games such as Jenga, or 4-in-a-row that you would be willing to lend for the event, please tell Sue Rance (see below).

As we have no idea of how many will attend, it would be helpful if you could let Sue Rance know if you hope to come, to give us an idea of numbers, and also let Sue know later if this changes and she can pass on any updates about the event.

Please also let Sue know if you will be able to help put up and take down marquees or set up tables, chairs etc. on 4th and 5th June.

In the evening there will be a barn dance. A band with a caller has been booked. This will be a ticketed event on a first come first served basis because of the limit on numbers in the hall. Please note all those that have emailed Sue Rance to say they will be attending the lunch will be sent details and prices first: bookings cannot be made until then.

We really hope you will come and take part in this local event, to help make it a special occasion. Please note it in your diary and let Sue Rance know if you hope to attend. Email crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com or drop a note into 2 Home Farm.

Updates are on the Crowmarsh village website: <https://crowmarshgifford.org.uk/the-big-jubilee-lunch-2022/> and the Parish Council FaceBook page, go to FaceBook and search for Crowmarsh Parish Council.





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

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

- Passion Sunday 3rd 11am Family Service with Baptism
- Saturday 9th 10.30-12.30 Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
- Palm Sunday 10th 11am We join the congregations of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell for the procession leaving St James' Sotwell at 10am to St Agatha's Brightwell, where we will hear a dramatised reading of the story of the Passion of Christ
- Holy Week Monday 11th to Wednesday 13th 8pm A short reflective service of Compline
- Maundy Thursday 14th 7pm We have been invited to join the Brightwell congregations for a shared supper, a sit-down meal during which we recall Jesus's "Last Supper" with his disciples
- Good Friday 15th We join the Churches Together in the Wallingford Market Place for our united act of worship (gather ready for 11am start).
- Holy Saturday / Easter Eve 16th 8pm Easter Vigil Service beginning with lighting the Easter Fire at sundown, followed by meditative readings and prayers and a renewal of baptismal vows as we anticipate Easter
- Easter Sunday 17th 10am Family Festival Communion service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children
- Sunday 24th 11am Family Communion followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which includes all the financial and other reports for 2021
- Morning Prayer every Friday at 9am, Evening Prayer every Sunday at 6pm
- Full details at www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar
- Livestreamed services can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wallingfordcofe

The Vicar writes...

A number of people naturally turn to the church to lead when they see people in great distress and need. Our initial response is to pray for peace and an end to the suffering for Ukraine and its people, and also for Russians that they may know freedom and justice too. The most practical thing we can do from here is to donate money via the DEC appeal, which we do through Christian Aid or Tear Fund, who work with their partner churches already on the ground where help is needed most. Of course, there are many other humanitarian collections organised locally to meet specific medical and sanitary needs and we naturally support them where we can too, especially where such things can be efficiently transported.

For the longer term, we have contacts who are co-ordinating efforts to find accommodation for refugees and to match them with those offering their homes here under the government scheme. I can refer people to these more personal networks if you would like to contact me, but the Oxford Diocese is active on a larger scale, see: www.oxford.anglican.org/news/hundreds-across-the-diocese-offer-support-and-homes-to-ukrainian-refugees.php

Whilst we have the opportunity to pray in all our worship services, the end of Lent moving into Holy Week and Easter is a special time to celebrate the hope that we have in Christ who has conquered death for us so that we may share and work for his Kingdom of love, peace and justice. You are most welcome to join us at any of our services.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford village hall on Thursday 3rd March.

We welcome a new parish councillor, Jay Anderson from Newnham Green, who was co-opted at the start of our meeting. We accepted Robin Smith's resignation and thanked him for his service. There is still one vacancy on the council: if you are interested, please contact the parish clerk or speak to any councillor.

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Jay Anderson, Stuart Soames, Julian Park, Liz Ryall and David Rowley and Sue Rance (Parish Clerk). District Councillors Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting, and also Amanda Griffin (Parish Transport Rep). There were apologies from Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Cllrs Stevenson, Streete and Topliss.

Finance

The council agreed payments including £230.99 for supplies for the recreation ground, £429 to Lawncare Garden Machinery for a strimmer, £798.00 for seven cuts to the grass at Newnham Murren churchyard in 2021, £104.27 for refuse collection at the pavilion, £691.20 for pavilion drainage pump maintenance and £318.90 for excavator and labour required to clear an additional allotment plot.

The council have received a grant of £957.19 from the district councillors' fund for tree planting at the nature area.

The council's list of fixed assets, total value £18,119.99, was agreed. The financial risk assessment was reviewed and approved without amendment. Annual allotment fees will be increased from 1 April to £20 for a plot, £10 for a half plot.

The dog bin emptying service is no longer subsidised by SODC and a new contract will be signed with the Shield Group, who charge £2.00 per bin and already have contracts for other local parish councils.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P21/S5196/FUL New Barn, Constitution Hill,

Mongewell OX10 8BS. Variation of conditions on planning application P20/S1342/FUL. Demolition of building. New dwelling with garden and laid out parking area and improved entrance. Amendments to approved scheme. Planning permission.

Consultations

P22/S0506/HH 20 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BL Proposed single and two storey rear extension. Recommend approval.

P22/S0687/FUL and P22/S0688/LB 79 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF New entrance archway/new path, single storey rear extension, extended smoking shelter, new jumbrella, internal alterations & external redecorations. Recommend approval. These applications are a welcome sign that The Bell is to be refurbished prior to reopening, possibly later this year.

P22/S0399/HH North Stoke Farm House, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL First floor rear extension including alterations to front door and first floor front window. Recommend approval.

P22/S0283/A Bloor development, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Proposed signage at the construction access off A4074. No strong views.

P22/S0234/HH Archgate, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL Construction of a new timber barn garage with an electrical charging point, integral log store, ground floor outside covered dining area and a first-floor gym space in part of the attic without restricted headroom. No objection.

P21/S5379/FUL Land to the east of Reading Road, Cholsey OX10 9HG (part retrospective). Repairs to 15.5m of the river bank, comprising woven willow spiling, backfilled soil and turf (In Cholsey parish). No objection.

P22/S0306/LB 1 Church Cottages, Church Lane, North Stoke OX10 6BH. Repair/replace the porch roof and bread oven roof. No objection, subject to conservation department's views.

County Council report

County Councillor Felix Bloomfield would support an application from Crowmarsh Parish Council to have 30mph speed limits on

residential streets in Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke.

A County Council officers meeting will be held to discuss some objections to the introduction of double yellow lines in Stephens Field and Bellamy Way.

Cllr Bloomfield asked to be kept informed of any correspondence on the topic of motorcycle noise nuisance.

District Council report

The District Councillors reported on the budget for 2022/23 as well as council tax energy rebates and discretionary funding to support vulnerable people.

The budget includes additional investment of £500k for priority projects that were delayed by the pandemic, with an extra £200k to deliver the Climate Action Plan and more funds for improving our natural and built environment.

A list of projects that will use the SODC portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy from developers will ensure that these funds are used wherever possible for major projects, reducing demand on the Council's reserves. The projects will include leisure centres, the Riverside pool, campsite and other facilities near us, as well as tree planting projects and the purchase of housing for social rent.

Consultations on housing developments have been launched. All open consultations are on the SODC website at www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/about-the-council/get-in-touch/consultations/live-consultations.

There is still no news from SODC about the future of their former office site in Benson Lane. District councillors are aware that we expect the needs of the local community to be taken into account and will ensure that the PC is consulted on any plans that come forward.

Environment and recreation

Cllr Rowley and the Clerk were thanked for their work on the grant application to SODC for improvements to the pavilion, which had scored 28 out of a possible 30 points and is very likely to receive funding. A grant application has also been submitted to FCC (formerly WREN) but the outcome will not be known until late June or early July. Design

modifications to the ramp and the servery are required for accessibility.

A meeting had been held with one of the preferred contractors for the project. An update on the project will be circulated to councillors ahead of the April council meeting. Work on site will not begin until after the Jubilee weekend.

An online meeting had been arranged on 7th March to explain the arrangements for the Crowfest event on 5th June and to answer questions and concerns from local residents.

Three quotes had been received for removal of cherry tree roots and repairs to the hard-court surface. The lowest, from Sports Courts for £4,995, was accepted, subject to checking details.

The Big Jubilee Lunch will take place on 5th June at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall. Posters will be displayed, and an article has been included in Crowmarsh News and on the website. The event is being organised on behalf of the parish council and those planning to attend and/or help are asked to tell the Clerk. See the article on page 5.

Cllr Soames reported that North Stoke Village Hall Committee is planning a street party, barbecue and tree-planting to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council would be open to funding requests.

Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall Committee has planted a Japanese rowan tree at the hall to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Wallingford Gardening Club, which closed at the end of 2021, has also planted a flowering cherry tree at the hall.

North Stoke Village Hall Committee will plant an oak tree on the edge of the recreation ground in North Stoke. Suggestions are welcome for additional trees to mark the Jubilee on suitable land in the parish.

Traffic and transport

Parish Transport Representative Amanda Griffin has responded to the consultation on Oxfordshire's local transport and connectivity plan. There is a plan to electrify the railway line between Oxford and Didcot, sections on cycle routes and increasing safe active travel options, as well as charging points for electric

cars, but rural areas are largely neglected.

Government funding to bus services has been extended to October following a lobbying campaign. Buses are still running with low passenger numbers following the pandemic and with more people working from home.

The County Council is applying for funding for more bus stops to carry real-time information, and for introducing electric buses.

A new community transport initiative has been set up in Eynsham, but it was noted that younger drivers need to do a minibus test as driving licences no longer cover that category of vehicle.

There is a possibility that the distance requirement to qualify for free school bus transport may be reduced, which would potentially help families in North Stoke.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 7th April, starting at 7.30pm. Please contact the parish clerk if you would like to attend.

The Annual Parish Meeting, the opportunity for all electors to hear reports and raise any issues or questions, will be held at the Pavilion on Thursday 26th May at 7pm – more details next month.

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

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

Benson Garden Club

In March, Nick Hamilton, the writer, author and radio broadcaster from Barnsdale Gardens, spoke about “Growing vegetables all year round”. When deciding which crops to grow, Nick reminded us that things that taste better fresh and to consider vegetables that are expensive to buy (for example, aubergines and lemongrass). Nick described his crop rotation plan and stunned us by how long soil-borne pests and diseases can remain in the soil. Having started with what to grow, Nick finished by giving advice on how to store your harvest. By the end of the talk, we had plenty

of practical advice to get the most from our growing space, even without a greenhouse.

In April we have Pip Smith, a Landscape Architect with over 13 years’ experience as a professional horticulturist. He will give a talk on “Perfect Pots and Containers” on 7th April in the refurbished Benson parish hall. Doors open at 7pm for 7.45pm start, £2 for members, £5 for visitors, no need to book.

Further information about the club and how to join can be found on our website <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

Liz Harrison

Wallingford Museum News



We are delighted that the Museum has been open since 1st March.

Please check the web site www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk for opening times.

The Museum still has a few vacancies for volunteer custodians (everyone at the Museum is a volunteer!). Custodians work in pairs for one session every four weeks. Sessions are Tuesday to Saturday afternoons and Saturday mornings. If you'd be interested in sharing the history of Wallingford in this way, please email jenacarpenter@hotmail.co.uk. We are also interested in finding a volunteer coordinator to organise our custodian rota. Again, please chat to Jenny about this.

This year's exhibition, "Caring for the sick - a history of Wallingford's hospitals" was devised well before the pandemic. It traces the fascinating history of Wallingford's hospitals from medieval times to the present day.

As explained in last month's Crowmarsh News, Wallingford Museum has proudly received a painting by George Dunlop Leslie on behalf of the nation, and our amazing new model of Wallingford castle as it might have been in the mid-14th Century is also on display.

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visit: sue Ryder.org/careersinpalliative | email: recruitment@sue Ryder.org

Sue Ryder is a charity registered in England and Wales (1952076) and in Scotland (SC039578) | Ref. No. 07412 | © Sue Ryder March 2022.



The bookshop has an excellent selection of second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices - it's free to browse!

The Museum will be running Easter holiday workshops for families. Please see www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk for details.

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

Wednesday 13th April: Marie-Louise Kerr: 'Oxfordshire on Canvas'

Marie-Louise's presentation is a visual tour of Oxfordshire, which looks at how artists, both national and local, have captured our beautiful area and been influenced by it.

Some of the artists included are:

- George Dunlop Leslie (who lived and painted in Wallingford)
- Paul Nash (who created many works featuring The Wittenham Clumps)
- John Piper (whose works are celebrated at the River & Rowing Museum)

Wednesday 11th May:

Melanie King: 'Can onions cure earache? Medical Advice in the 18th Century.'

For details of meetings and membership, see the website www.twhas.org.uk.

Henley and District Stamp Club

By the time you read this article, our popular Annual Auction will have taken place with hopefully happy visiting and on-line bidders from near and far.

April 13th Postcard Evening, when members will give displays of their postcard collections,

April 27th Guest speaker to be confirmed

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th week of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Visitors and new members are welcome.

Further details can be obtained by phoning 01491 681739 or on our website

www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk.

Petanque Wallingford



Petanque Wallingford are holding come and try sessions on Tuesday 5th April and Sunday 10th April at 11.00am at Wallingford Sports Park, Hithercroft Road, OX10 9RB.

The Club was formed in 2010 and has a thriving membership of enthusiastic players. Petanque is one of the most inclusive sports. It can be played on equal terms by practically everyone, all ages, whole families, people with reduced agility and even some disabled. We can provide the introduction and boules.

So, if you are interested in playing, either recreationally or competitively, come and join us. Further information can be found on the Club website www.petwal.co.uk or by contacting petanquewallingford@gmail.com

News from Sue Ryder

Sue Ryder, which runs the Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub in South Oxfordshire, is asking local communities to come together to organise a Platinum Jubilee celebration and raise funds for local people needing their expert and compassionate care.

The charity is looking for people like Sophie and her mother Lee-Ann, who have galvanised their local community to organise a BBQ 'Jubilee Jolly' during The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend, 2nd – 5th June.

Envisioned and organised by 13-year-old Sophie, her whole street will be coming together to celebrate, connect, and donate to Sue Ryder on Sunday 5th June.

After hearing of Sophie's plans, Sue Ryder is inviting residents across Oxfordshire to host fundraising street parties with their local community during the Platinum Jubilee weekend. The Queen is a Sue Ryder patron.

Email the Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire fundraising team at southoxfordshire.fundraising@sueryder.org or call 01491 522818 for help with your fundraising party ideas.



Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire operates from Battle Barns in Preston Crowmarsh to provide expert palliative care and support for people who are living with life-limiting conditions, as well as supporting their families.

The hub's team of Sue Ryder Nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, family support and befrienders provide a Hospice at Home service, day service and care coordination and advice line.

About Sue Ryder

Sue Ryder supports people through the most difficult times of their lives. Whether that's a terminal illness, the loss of a loved one or a neurological condition – we're there when it matters. For over 65 years our doctors, nurses and carers have given people the compassion and expert care they need to help them live the best life they possibly can.

In order to continue to provide and develop our services and expert care we rely mainly on income from our charity shops, fundraising and donations from members of the public.

For more information see www.sueryder.org.

Mill Stream surgery, Benson

Mill Stream surgery are no longer able to take repeat prescription requests over the phone. Ways to order a prescription include the NHS app, which can be downloaded onto Apple and android phones, email to the practice on admin.millstream@nhs.net with your name, date of birth or NHS number, medication request and whether you would like to collect your prescription from the surgery or to which pharmacy you want it sent, or speak with your preferred pharmacy, who may be able to handle the request for you, or use a pharmacy delivery service (e.g. Lloyds Direct, Pharmacy 2 U or Echo) or drop your prescription into the letterbox or box in the entrance to the surgery.

Please see www.millstreamurgery.nhs.uk

John Howell MP writes...

As I write, the most dominant issue is the dreadful situation unfolding in Ukraine. I have added my voice to the many who condemn Russia unequivocally for the action that it has taken and continues to take. Our government has joined others in imposing sanctions against Russia and through my own work as Leader of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe, I have helped in getting Russia suspended from the Council. The Council of Europe, which has a remit for displaced people in Europe, is best placed to assist.

Perhaps foremost in people's minds is the humanitarian situation that arises from the hostile action, and the effect on the lives of innocent people has stirred them to offer support in whatever way that they can. Most refugees want to stay close to Ukraine. I have volunteered to work with the Home Secretary to liaise with countries neighbouring Ukraine to provide aid and assistance. What is most needed is money. The Government has given £220 million in aid within the region and a further £175 million to bolster the Ukrainian economy, reduce Ukraine's reliance on Russian gas imports and to mitigate other financial pressures created by the invasion. Although I know that some people want to send goods, I would encourage financial support first and foremost. There are complexities in sending goods and much does not get to where it is most needed. Recognised aid organisations have mechanisms to get things to where they are most needed and have staff who can be deployed to assist. Financial donations support their work and allow flexibility to meet changing needs as circumstances change. Many people crossing into neighbouring countries are going to stay with family and friends and need financial assistance rather than material aid.

More formally, the Home Office has set up a series of measures to support people in the region. Details can be found on the Gov.UK website. The Home Office has also set up a customer hub in Parliament for MPs and their staff to raise concerns in relation to Ukrainian issues such as access to the UK. If anyone would like to raise an individual case, please email me with details at the address below.

This is a continually evolving situation and I will do my best to keep my website updated with new information as it becomes available.

While this terrible situation unfolds, parliament continues with its programme of business. If there is an issue that concerns you, please email john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you want to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please look at my website www.johnhowellmp.com.

John Howell MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Local artists' exhibition

Local artists will be running a major art exhibition in Cholsey in May.

Wallingford and District Art Club (WADAC) club members are exhibiting as part of Oxfordshire Art Weeks from 13-15 May (10.00am - 5.00pm, except Friday 13th, 1.00pm-5.00pm) at venue 243 - The Great Hall at Cholsey Meadows. The venue is fabulous, being both light and airy, with ample parking and disabled access. Alongside the artworks, the Treehouse School will offer a range of hot drinks and homemade cakes for sale.

View over 60 works, using all painting media plus textiles and jewellery, created by more than 25 WADAC members, from commercial artists to skilled amateurs.

Ranging from abstract to realist, the artwork on display will reflect the style and preference of each individual artist. The choice of media varies, including acrylics, ink, oils, watercolour, mixed media. So, whether you like still life or landscape, animals or florals, there should be plenty here to delight any visitor.

In addition, we will exhibit exquisite crafts in the form of textile gifts, painted silk and jewellery in silver and other metals.

We are also holding free art workshops on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May, run by Cholsey artist Jo Wilson of "Art for All", so people can experience different techniques and mediums and have some fun!

A few of our WADAC artists:

Carole Kettle paints evocative landscapes and street scenes to capture people at play or rest.

Geoff Johnson's flowers, landscapes and the changing seasons are all portrayed in vivid colour and great depth.

Gavin Peacock works in oils, acrylics and virtual reality, typically demonstrating strong compositions, depth, tonal contrasts and plays with light. Think atmospheric.

Janet Roberts produces beautiful crafts - jewellery and artworks, bags made from upcycled fabrics, and hand painted silk scarves.

Rebekah Robinson recreates dogs in oils, coloured pencils, pastels and 3D needle-felting.

Pam Sandhu-Dickens enjoys creating loose, atmospheric paintings in watercolour and bold, expressive paintings in vibrant acrylics.

Doreen Smith has recently been experimenting with wax/oil to obtain texture. She paints landscapes, animals and still life.

Mark Wood is a well-known Wallingford artist, painting delightful, gentle watercolours of landmark local scenes.

The exhibition is made possible by generous support from the Cholsey Community Development Trust (owners of The Great Hall), Champions of Wallingford, Art for All, and Care Dry Cleaners, Wallingford.

See the Art Weeks website for more information: www.artweeks.org/v/wallingford-district-art-club

WADAC has been encouraging artists in and around Wallingford since 1979. The club meets every Tuesday evening at Centre 70 and hosts two separate tutored sessions every Tuesday. Visit www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk

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

Useful telephone numbers

Emergency only 999
Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number 101
NHS non-emergency number 111

Be there when it matters — more from Sue Ryder

Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub is recruiting nursing staff (see advert on page 12). Here one of their staff shares her story in the hope of inspiring others to find out more about a nursing career with Sue Ryder.

“It’s a privilege to care for someone at the end of their life. I can’t imagine doing anything else.”

Vicki Hall is a Nursing Assistant at Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire, based near Wallingford. She provides expert and compassionate Hospice at Home care to people living with life-limiting conditions in the community.

“It’s a privilege to care for someone at the end of their life”, shares Vicki. “Especially when you are working out in the community, as you are stepping into their environment and you can get a real sense of who they are; something that is not always possible in a clinical setting.

“We meet people when they are going through a very difficult time, but with our specialist knowledge and experience we are able to support them to live the best lives they possibly can. Everybody is on a different journey, but we are here to support them and their loved ones every step of the way.”

As a Nursing Assistant, Vicki visits patients across South Oxfordshire to help manage their symptoms, ensure they are comfortable and provide assistance with personal care. On an average day she will visit 6 to 8 patients. She says that the most rewarding part of her job is ensuring that the end of someone’s life is peaceful and dignified.

Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire is looking for Nursing Assistants to join its expert team. Working at Sue Ryder you’re given the time to care and you’ll be part of a multidisciplinary team working in a highly rewarding area of nursing.

To find out more about current vacancies, please email recruitment@sueryder.org or visit sueryder.org/palliativecareers

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Professor Anthony Glees and Patrick Marnham are giving an expert talk online about Agent Sonya, a Soviet spy in Oxfordshire, from 7pm, Tuesday 29th March, available at www.sof.org.uk/whats-on/agentsonya.

An online talk and Q&A from 7pm on Thursday 14th April marks the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on 15th April 1945. Oxfordshire Yeomanry soldier Arthur Tyler met Polish Holocaust survivor Naomi Kaplan at the liberation of the camp, changing both their lives: www.sof.org.uk/whats-on/lettersfromliberation/

If you visit the museum in Woodstock this month, the exhibition “Your Mission Starts Here: Spy Oxfordshire” runs until 24 April 2022, featuring objects from the James Bond films. See www.sof.org.uk

Dorchester Festival

This year’s Dorchester-on-Thames Festival, based in and around the stunning location of Dorchester Abbey, runs from Friday 29th April to Sunday 8th May and raises money for the Abbey and local charities.

It starts with a scarecrow trail and concludes with a concert by the King’s Singers. In between there will be a programme with something for everyone, from duck racing and lego to art and classical music. See the details at dorchesterfestival.com/

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall for birthday parties and events

Call Chris Strange on 07711 904252 or email cvhbookings@gmail.com

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

Phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or email chrisstrange47@gmail.com



LIVE JAZZ 

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Sat 11th June: Liane Carroll
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Music for Ukraine

Saturday 2nd April, 11am - 3.30pm under Wallingford Town Hall

Crowmarsh Jazz presents music from local musicians and bands, including Rory Evans, Band of Hope, the Stanley Moon Trio, and the Fleur Stevenson Quartet. Donations welcome in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. DEC represents 15 leading charities who are all involved in supplying goods and services to those affected.

Jazz for Ukraine

Saturday 9th April, 7.30pm, Corn Exchange, Wallingford

Maff Potts and Fleur Stevenson from Crowmarsh Jazz present an all-star line up of jazz musicians and singers including Art Themen, Clark Tracey, Dave Newton, Ben Cummings, Vimala Rowe and Ukrainian-born jazz harpist Alina Bzhezhska. They will be performing on Saturday evening 9th April and the Corn Exchange is putting this event on free of charge so that all the ticket revenue will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to support the Ukraine humanitarian appeal.

Tickets, available through the Corn Exchange Box Office www.cornexchange.org.uk, are £15 each – of course you can supplement that if you wish. So please come along, enjoy a feast of jazz and help those people who have suffered from bombing, may have lost loved ones and been made homeless.

Concerts@Cholsey

Magpie Lane gave a splendid start to our 2022 series on 12th March and expectations are high for the long-delayed appearance at the Cholsey Pavilion of Rag Mama Rag on Saturday 14th May. Deborah and Ashley Dow will be on tour from France to deliver a toe-tapping evening of American-style folksy, bluesy country music featuring steel and slide guitars, superb harmonica work and masterful dexterity on washboard and spoons. I shall bring my washboards to bathe in the radiance!

Requests for tickets began arriving before Christmas and this duo has a strong UK following, so book as early as you can. Tickets at just £10 are available from 01491 652295 or concerts@cholsey.com. Doors will open at 7.00 for 7.45 pm and our reasonably priced real-ale bar will be open throughout the evening.

Read more about Rag Mama Rag's popularity by checking <https://rag-mama-rag.com/press/>. We look forward to the pleasure of your company.

For up-to-date news of Concerts@Cholsey and other local live music, send an email and ask to be added to our emailing list.
Ian Wheeler

Wallingford Country Market

Open each Friday morning in St Mary-le-More Church (behind the Town Hall), between 9.30am and 12 noon.

Our Easter Market will be held on Maundy Thursday, 14th April, instead of Good Friday. Orders can be placed for most items we sell, including Easter cakes and other baked goods. Please place orders for Simnel Cakes a little in advance. Also on sale are hand-crafted items, including a variety of unusual bags and small gifts. Colourful pots of spring bulbs, primroses and polyanthus on the gardening table will give way to the ever popular plants for bedding, baskets and borders during May and June. A lot of what we sell changes with the seasons – you never know what you may find!

New producers for baking and plant stalls in particular would be very welcome. For further information please contact Alison Broadbridge (681596), Sandra Halstead (836527), or come and visit us one Friday morning.

What's on at the Corn Exchange in April

Cinema

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

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

All events now have full seating. This is in line with the practices and guidelines elsewhere. We are asking patrons to still sanitise their hands, and also wear a face covering when inside the building. We'll continue to fog all public areas after each performance. We have recently installed new air filters as a safety precaution. We're grateful for patrons for their observation of all the Covid rules that we have implemented in the theatre. Please look out for updates for the programme on the website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Sunday 3rd to Thursday 7th April, 7.30pm
Cyrano (12A)

Friday 8th to Tuesday 12th April, 7.30pm
The Phantom of the Opera (PG)

On Friday 29th April, the new Downton Abbey film will be screened for the first time at the Corn Exchange. There will be further dates. The film includes a host of stars including Tuppence Middleton, Hugh Dancy and many more. Booking online very soon.

Live screenings

Wednesday 13th April, 6:45pm *La Traviata* (relayed live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden)

Richard Eyre's time-honoured production of Verdi's most popular opera. The beautiful score contains some of Verdi's most inspired arias and duets, including Violetta's joyous 'Sempre libera', and her poignant and passionate encounters with Alfredo and Germont. The superficial glamour of 19th-century Paris contrasts with scenes of great intimacy, culminating in the memorable, heart-breaking final act.

Thursday 21st April, 7pm NT Live: *Henry V* (filmed live at the Donmar Warehouse)

Kit Harington (Game of Thrones) plays the title role in Shakespeare's thrilling study of nationalism, war and the psychology of power. Fresh to the throne, King Henry V launches

England into a bloody war with France. When his campaign encounters resistance, this inexperienced new ruler must prove he is fit to guide a country into war. This exciting modern production directed by Max Webster (*Life of Pi*), explores what it means to be English and our relationship to Europe, asking: do we ever get the leaders we deserve?

Sunday 24th April, 2:30pm Northern Ballet: *Merlin*

Discover how the world's most famous sorcerer mastered his magic to unite a warring kingdom. Inspired by the story of the mythical wizard, Northern Ballet's *Merlin* will take you on a sweeping epic adventure of heartbreak, hope and more than a little magic. Choreographed by Olivier Award-winning Drew McOnie (Broadway's *King Kong* and *Baz Luhrmann's Strictly Ballroom*): expect an enchanting spectacle.

Tickets for all these live screenings are £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Live on stage

29th March to 2nd April: *The Constant Wife* by W Somerset Maugham, directed by Chris Harris. A Sinodun Players production

Set in the late 1920s at the height of Art Deco culture and the flourishing progress of feminism, Maugham's frank and fizzing comedy sparkles with Coward-like wit and crackles with arguments about marriage and infidelity: are the sexes programmed at birth or not? Is sauce for the goose really sauce for the gander? One of Maugham's most captivating creations, the play is as fresh and relevant today as it was in 1926. It holds up a mirror to the audience: how much have our social attitudes really changed, nearly 100 years on, from those of the late 1920s?

Tickets £9 (first night), £12 (all other nights)

Saturday 23rd April, 7:45pm: *The Bootleg Shadows*

For anyone who loves the sounds of the 60's – and enjoys a few laughs on the way – *Bootleg Shadows* perform a unique tribute, that has audiences humming the tunes and doing the *Shadows* famous 'walk' long after they have left the theatre. All tickets £15

Full details are on the Corn Exchange website: www.cornexchange.org.uk or call the box office on 825000.

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WHAT'S ON — APRIL 2022

Regular events and meetings

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

This month

Saturday 2nd	11.00-15.30	Music for Ukraine	Undercroft, Wallingford Town Hall
Wednesday 6th	14.00 onwards	U3A: The arrival of the railways in Reading	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Wednesday 6th	19.00 to 21.15	Music: In Springtime see dorchester-abbey.org	Dorchester Abbey
Thursday 7th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 9th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 9th	19.30 onwards	Jazz for Ukraine	Corn Exchange, Wallingford
Tuesday 12th and 19th	14.30 to 15.30	Family workshops: Knights' helmets — wallingfordmuseum.org	Wallingford Museum
Wednesday 13th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Oxfordshire on canvas	St Mary-le-More, Wallingford
Thursday 14th and 21st	14.30 to 15.30	Family workshops: Let's face It! see wallingfordmuseum.org	Wallingford Museum
Sunday 17th	11.00-12.00	Easter Sunday Parish Communion	St Mary Magdalene, Crowmarsh
Sunday 17th and Monday 18th	All day	Easter Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway

May

Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd	All day	Bank Holiday Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Wednesday 4th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Variety is the spice ... of working?	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 5th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Sunday 8th	All day	Wallingford Vehicle Rally — see wallingfordcarrally.org	Wallingford town centre and Kinecroft
Thursday 26th	19.00 onwards	Annual Parish Meeting	Crowmarsh Pavilion

June

Sunday 5th	12.30 -16.30	The Big Jubilee Lunch - see p.5	Crowmarsh Village Hall
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Details of walks with Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers are at www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford