

Issue 512

February 2022

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

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

- 1 month — £8.50
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Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30 for one month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (780 copies please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News team

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

Editorial and Layout: John Griffin

Editorial support: Toni and James Taylor, Caroline Campbell, Revd Kevin Beer, Julian Park

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and the team

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the March 2022 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th February 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.

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Can you help with the Crowmarsh News?

If you would like to get involved to help edit, produce or deliver the *Crowmarsh News*, please email crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com or pop a note through the door at 57 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford (Old Gardener's Arms), or speak to any of the team (see front cover).

We are always looking for additional help so that we can spread the monthly tasks of production (editorial and layout) and door-to-door distribution as evenly as possible.

If you would just 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.

You don't need years of experience to help, just enthusiasm and the ability to devote a few hours every few months to what we hope will become your favourite village newsletter!

Crowmarsh Parish Council

Crowmarsh Parish Council did not meet in January. We will meet on Thursday 3rd February at Crowmarsh Gifford village hall. Please contact the parish clerk if you would like to attend.

The parish council still has two vacancies. If you might be interested in joining us, or just want to know more about what we do, please contact the parish clerk or any councillor.

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

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

'Freedom' in Crowmarsh School

Hands up if you're fed up with COVID! In Crowmarsh School this month it has felt all-consuming, and it is becoming hard to remember what life in school was like without it. But that doesn't mean learning has stopped.

In Year 6, we have been studying many different subjects, but perhaps the most interesting would be RE, and the insight into civil rights movements that we have only just started learning about.

There are lots of protesters still today doing what they think is right, and most of them were inspired by civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King, Gandhi, the Suffragettes, and most recently, the M25 Protesters. Each of these protesters has something in common to do with how they acted during civil rights movements. This important feature is that they fought for the rights of other people. All of these protesters seemed prepared to make large sacrifices – not only sacrifices in their own lives, but sacrifices of their lives. They were all mentally strong and determined. Even in the face of terrible adversity, they kept on going.

We were particularly impressed with Martin Luther King and Gandhi, who were determined to protest through peaceful methods alone. Gandhi was a good example of this. There was one case in particular in which Gandhi was involved in a protest which at some stage became violent. Gandhi responded by saying that violence is not the answer. He called a halt to the protest and insisted that they find another more peaceful way.

Having looked at civil rights, we have now started to look at the issue of freedom in general.

We have just started studying this issue through songs because it is often expressed this way. We have been experiencing the songs, then studying the lyrics to find the meaning behind them. So far we have looked at 'Butterfly' by Corrine Bailey-Rai, and 'Change Gonna Come' by Sam Cooke. These have given us an insight into the issues of the different types of freedom.

All in all, after looking at this subject for roughly a week, we have learned so much more about our civilization and its deep roots, as well as studying the different religions of the old times.

Sammy and Olivia, Year 6



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

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

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|--|
| Sunday 6th | 11am | Family Service |
| Saturday 12th | 10.30-12.30 | Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall |
| Sunday 13th | 11am | Parish Communion |
| Sunday 20th | 10am | Parish Communion |
| Sunday 27th | 11am | Family Communion |

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

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

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

The Vicar writes...

There are glimmers of hope that the pandemic may finally be receding, at least in our country, due to the positive effects of the vaccines making the virus relatively harmless and the increasing herd immunity among the surviving "anti-vaxers". We will soon emerge into our new normal, whatever that may be. Whether we do so with hope or fear is up to us. Although our experience may be nowhere near as bad as that of a holocaust survivor, a resolution was made by Viktor Frankl in the midst of the concentration camp, to choose life and joy each day: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

I've spoken to some people who are angry with God for allowing the pandemic to happen. I've heard others say that it is his creation's way of fighting back against humanity for our abuse and exploitation of the natural world, citing the reductions in air travel and the increasing energy costs which force us to reduce our consumption, even for those who haven't ever thought about their carbon footprint. Personally, I think this may be stretching theology too far. All I know is that God chose to share our human life with all its joy and pain, so that we can share his eternal life where "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev 21:4).

There are many parallels in nature that could be used as metaphors, and I wonder what Jesus would say as a parable for our times. Perhaps he would encourage us to awake from our extended hibernation to engage fully with the world around us, with a renewed appreciation for the basics of health, family and friends. After so much working from home, few will want to return to the daily commute of 2019. We may have a new appreciation for the local, with home-working and care for the environment on our doorstep. Jesus might suggest that you notice the spring bulbs arising from the warming earth, reminding us that we too can bloom where we are planted, to bring joy and gladness to those who see us. This spring we will be hosting a small group for anyone who would like to explore the Christian faith and what it says about how to live life in all its fullness. Please contact me if you're interested.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Past Times

from David Beasley

The blizzard of 1916

This blizzard hit the south of England on Monday 27th March 1916 and lasted for two days: it was thought to have been the worst since 1881.

The storm started about midday on Monday with heavy rain and snow. On Tuesday the wind became gale force and lasted the whole day, preventing people leaving their homes: all work in the open was stopped completely, most shops didn't open and the few that did did little business. All the roads in Wallingford were blocked and there was no traffic on the roads whatever. Because of the war, food shortages were being to bite, the blizzard prevented the housewife from going out to buy food and of course there was no refrigeration in the average home, so they had to shop from day to day. It must have been very hard to put a meal on the table.

The Thames, which had been in flood the week before, had started to recede by Sunday, but with the heavy rain and snow on Monday and Tuesday the river rose again above the high level of the week before.

The path from Newnham Farm to Mongewell was under some two feet of water and the Hundred Acres field was under so much water it resembled a lake. Cemetery Lane was in places under 30 inches of water.

As most people kept indoors there was no loss of life and very few injuries, but considerable loss of trees, which was worse because the ground was waterlogged. In the Castle grounds over 30 trees were uprooted, with one tree falling on a cattle shed. Another tree fell onto the summer house on the summit of the castle keep and completely demolished it. The two famous pine trees in the castle grounds from Australia were both blown down.

Howbery Park lost 24 trees and Mongewell Park a similar number. (The sight of these large trees, many elm, being blown over and uprooted I witnessed in the 1987 storm at Howbery Park when 54 trees were lost in only a few hours.) Mr Dore at Cold Harbour Farm lost a valuable cedar that had adorned the front lawn since the house was built.

The blizzard had come down from the north but was much stronger in the south. Clearing the large number of trees that blocked the roads was greatly assisted by the troops that were camped and billeted in the district, but those in tents had many of them blown down in the Tuesday gale.

Henley and District Stamp Club

This month I would like to dispel one of the myths that I gather surrounds stamp club meetings, i.e. that everyone sits round looking at each other's albums. Nothing is further from the truth. There is a speaker who 'gives a display': this is a story illustrated by philatelic material. The speaker will have researched their subject, probably for many years. Their pages go into the club 'frames' up to 72 x A4 each half for people to look at during the coffee break. They are interesting and entertaining.

If you have an interest in stamps or postcards, or the particular subject, do come and see for yourself. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm.

9th February — please see website for details

23rd February – the auction viewing for our increasingly popular auction being held on 9th March. Visitors are welcome on both dates and the catalogue will be on the website.

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

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

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Cholsey repair café

The next repair café will be held at the Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 19th March, from 11.00 to 13.45. All manner of repairs can be considered, including electrical testing and sharpening garden tools: if we cannot fix it we will advise on alternative options.

The service is free but donations towards running costs are appreciated. Sessions are on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months. Latest information is posted at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com, or call 01491 652295 or email repaircafe@cholsey.com.

Folk concert at Cholsey

Concerts@Cholsey is pleased to announce a concert by popular five-piece folk band Magpie Lane, at the Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 12th March. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.45 start. Tickets are £10 from 01491 652295 or concerts@cholsey.com

There will be a moderately priced real ale bar and support act. Anti-Covid measures will be in place, including spaced seating.

Send an email request if you would like to receive updates on the Concerts@Cholsey series and other local, live music.

What's on at the Corn Exchange

All events now have full seating, in line with practices and guidelines elsewhere. We are grateful to patrons for observing all the COVID-19 rules that we have implemented in the theatre. We are still asking everyone to sanitise their hands, and a face covering is mandatory when inside the building. We'll continue to fog all public areas after each performance and we have recently installed new air filters as a safety precaution. Please look out for updates to the programme on the website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Cinema

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

Sunday 30th January to Tuesday 1st February
West Side Story

Thursday 3rd February Mothering Sunday (15)

Friday 4th February Easy Virtue (PG)

Saturday 5th February The 355 (12A)

Sunday 6th & Monday 7th February
The King's Man (15)

Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th February
The Electrical Life of Louis Wain (12A)

Friday 11th & Saturday 12th February
Liquorice Pizza

Sunday 13th February Jules et Jim (12A)

Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th February
Boiling Point (15)

Friday 18th February Titane (18)

Sunday 20th February to Tuesday 22nd
February Nightmare Alley (15)

Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th February
Parallel Mothers (15)

Friday 25th & Saturday 26th February
Belfast (12A)

Live screenings

Wednesday 2nd February, 7:30pm
Bill Murray's New Worlds, All tickets £10

The final show in Bill Murray's tour, filmed at the Acropolis in Athens. This quirky performance of prose, song, dance and exquisite music was described by the Guardian as "curious and uniquely pointless". A must for Bill Murray's many fans.

Thursday 10th February, 7pm
NT Live: **Leopoldstadt**, Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Tom Stoppard's Leopoldstadt is a passionate drama of love, family and endurance and won an Olivier Award.

Monday 14th February, 7:15pm
The Royal Ballet: **Romeo and Juliet**, recorded live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (special screening on Valentine's Day), Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Thursday 17th February, 7pm
NT Live: **The Book of Dust – La Belle Sauvage** by Philip Pullman, adapted by Bryony Lavery, directed by Nicholas Hytner, live broadcast from The Bridge Theatre, London. Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Live on stage

Saturday 19th February, 3pm
Didn't I use to be Simon Williams?

Tickets £10 (talk only), £20 (premium tickets to include tea afterwards with Simon)

Simon Williams, actor in Upstairs Downstairs, The Archers and much more, will be sharing his motley bag of memories and anecdotes with you, chatting about the fun times and the down times. He may get wistful about the changing world we live in and dish some dirt along the way. Plus, he'll be taking questions, no matter how awkward!

A percentage of the ticket revenue will be donated to The Ways and Means Trust whose objective is to bring wider understanding of disability to everyone.

Coming soon

From 9th to 12th March **Showtime 2**

Featuring the very best of what modern musical theatre has to offer, Showtime 2 includes music from shows like Mary Poppins, Miss Saigon, Cats, Les Misérables and more.

Don't miss this chance to see the best of local singing talent alongside musical direction and expertise from London's glittering West End. Tickets £16 (adults), £14 (under 18s).

Wallingford Photographic Club

Are you interested in learning more about photography or getting creative with your smartphone or camera?

Come along to Wallingford Photographic Club in 2022: we are an informal and inclusive group of photographers with a weekly programme of talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions. It's not all about the kit — you'll learn so much from the speakers and members, and the feedback on any photos you choose to present, if you're keen to have a go: composition, use of light, camera settings and more.

We are meeting online still, but we are offering a full programme. Coming up on 10th February we have a talk from Roger Hance on switching camera type to invigorate his photography, followed by a club competition (themed 'Street' photography) on 17th, and Chris Palmer joins us on 24th to talk about relating his emotional response to the landscape.

The club meets via Zoom every Thursday from 7.30pm until around 9.30pm. Please visit www.wallingfordphoto.club to find out more, or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Benson Garden Club

On Thursday 6th January, Benson Garden Club held its AGM on Zoom. The Chair's report provided an encouraging summary of how the club had managed to keep going through these difficult, changeable and very unpredictable times. In particular, we managed to organise a full programme of events using Zoom for talks and, by adhering to various Covid restrictions, several garden visits. At the meeting, we also heard about some initiatives planned for 2022 (for members only), including a seed bank and a "Flower of the month" competition.

After the AGM, Sarah Layton gave a talk on "The ways in which your garden can support your well-being and mental health" and this proved very thought-provoking. Sarah is a garden designer and trained psychotherapist, and a keen advocate for mindfulness and well-being. She encouraged us to think about what

makes our hearts sing and feel joyful about our own gardens, and this started with an invitation to take part in a visualisation exercise. Sarah then discussed how to design well-being into our gardens, which included tickling your senses, creating moments and encouraging wildlife. From using sound in your garden deliberately, such as having plants that rustle in the breeze, or including plants with texture for touch (e.g. *Stachys byzantina*), to thinking about scent (Italian jasmine was seen as a good choice for evening scent) and taste (having herbs by the back door was recommended), Sarah shared her ideas and invited contributions from the audience. She reminded us that creating opportunities for enabling well-being moments in our gardens was an important design feature, such as a perch to face East to catch the morning sun with a coffee. Finally, encouraging wildlife into our gardens adds another magical dimension, bringing joy to us, as well as looking after nature. All in all, it was an uplifting talk about how our gardens support us, and how we can introduce new design ideas to enhance our well-being.

Our next meeting on Thursday 3rd February will have Ben Pope as our speaker on "Cut flowers". Ben is a Head Gardener for a private garden, and a lecturer and author. He has recently gained the RHS Master of Horticulture and is a member of the RHS Herbaceous Committee. We expect to be at our temporary venue, the Mill Stream Day Centre in Benson, 7.30pm for 7.45 pm start, and also plan to make the event available on Zoom. However, please check our website nearer the time to confirm the arrangements.

On Thursday 3rd March we are very fortunate to have Nick Hamilton from Barnsdale Gardens, a writer, author and radio broadcaster, speaking about "Growing vegetables all year round". This is likely to attract much interest as Nick is a very well-known speaker. For details about this meeting please refer to our website.

For information about the club and how to join as a member, see our website <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

Liz Harrison

Citizens Advice needs volunteer advisers



There comes a time for all of us when we face problems that are too stressful or complicated to sort out alone.

Last year (one of the most difficult years) our 90 advisers advised 9,000 clients on more than 20,000 problems. We helped four in five resolve their difficulties with debt, benefits, employment and housing. Many of these issues were linked to the COVID-19 crisis.

We now need more advisers as we move into the pandemic recovery phase. Can you join the Citizens Advice team?

What will you get out of it? You will join a friendly team, meet new people, develop your skills and make a real difference to people's lives.

Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame, with outreach to Wallingford and the areas around. Since March 2020 our volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

You'll need to have good listening and interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn and be confident with computers. Full training will be provided.

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."

We are committed to equality and diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

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 Citizens Advice at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/

Wallingford Community Hospital League of Friends



Volunteer group raises funds for new relatives' room at Wallingford Hospital

The Wallingford Hospital League of Friends has funded a new relatives' room at Wallingford Hospital to support families of patients with terminal illnesses. The hospital now provides two end-of-life care beds and the relatives' room offers a private and much-needed space for family members to spend time when they need quiet time or respite.

Thanks to the League of Friends, the relatives' room will be furnished with a sofa bed, reclining chairs, a television and refreshments. They have also teamed up with a local school who will be providing artwork for the walls.

In the coming months, the League of Friends plans to upgrade the relatives' room further, as well as to transform the hospital's courtyard into a sensory garden, so that patients and their families can spend time outside in a pleasant and calming environment.

The League of Friends is a group of volunteers that raises money to support the hospital and patients. Last year the group provided stethoscopes to therapists; they have also agreed to support the artist-in-residence programme to keep it going into the next financial year.

A senior member of staff said "The mood of the whole ward changes when the artists are here, people gather and take part. it brings pleasure and joy to everyone!"

The League is currently looking for volunteers from various backgrounds to further their work, and is keen to hear from people with fundraising and marketing experience.

If you would like to find out more about joining the League of Friends, or would like to make a donation to support upcoming projects, please visit www.wallingfordleagueoffriends.org or email us at [wchlof@gmail](mailto:wchlof@gmail.com)

Pamela Johnstone

Churchill in Oxfordshire

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum is streaming an online talk *Churchill in Oxfordshire*, the latest in the museum's series of popular online talks, at 7pm on Tuesday 1st February 2022, followed by a live question and answer session

The talk will feature historians David Lough and Ashley Jackson in conversation about the life of Winston Churchill, covering his life and work from his Oxfordshire beginnings at Blenheim to his burial in nearby Bladon.

The live event will be free to view on the SOFO Museum website, with no registration required, but we welcome donations to support the museum.

Winston Churchill, while fixed in many people's minds as a national, and indeed a world, figure, had many ties to the county of Oxfordshire. Churchill's life story started and ended in the county and he naturally occupies a prominent place at the SOFO Museum in Woodstock.

Watch this online talk to find out how big a part Churchill's Oxfordshire background and military career played in his political career and decision making.

David Lough and Professor Ashley Jackson, two acclaimed Churchill authors, will be in conversation about all aspects of his life, from his soldiering in the Oxfordshire Yeomanry (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars), to his family relationships and the difficult inter-War years. In this talk, the humanity of this remarkable and enduring figure shines through.

David Lough is the author of the critically acclaimed *No More Champagne: Churchill and his Money* as well as *Darling Winston: Forty years of letters between Churchill and his mother*, and is a winner of the International Churchill Society's Somervell Award 2016. David will draw on his in-depth knowledge of this personal correspondence, and renowned insight into the famous figure's finances.

Ashley Jackson is Professor of Imperial and Military History at King's College London, with many published works on various aspects of British imperial history, focusing on the Empire

during times of war, as well as having written his own book, *Churchill*, covering Winston's life from his Woodstock origins.

A live question and answer session will allow viewers to pose their own questions to the two Churchill historians. The event will be available to view both live and in a 'catch up' version free from the SOFO Museum website, but donations will be encouraged to support the work of the museum.



Stream link: <https://www.sofomuseum.org.uk/whats-on/wsconlinetalk/>

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

John Howell MP writes...

A new year, but many of the same issues roll around. My inbox continues to be dominated with issues around COVID-19 and, as always, some opposing views on how we continue to deal with the situation.

As schools have returned some have expressed concern at the risk of greater exposure and there is concern too over health issues other than COVID where people are seeking, often long awaited, treatment.

However the balance of views being expressed is increasingly towards a sense that we need to learn to live with the COVID virus and move from pandemic to endemic. This is my view too. The Coronavirus Act 2020, which came into effect on 25th March 2020, has a two-year time limit. This can be extended by Parliament but, as it stands at the moment, I think it unlikely that the Government will seek the support of Parliament to do so.

Looking to the year that lies ahead, I hope that the plans to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be able to go ahead as planned for the central weekend of celebration in June. It would be good to be able to have this national celebration as a time for communities to come together once again. Details of the programme, which is a year-long celebration are available online at <https://www.royal.uk/platinumjubilee>. I would be interested to know what plans communities across the constituency have.

Thinking about communities I am pleased that the Charities Bill has now been introduced to the Commons. It has long been acknowledged that charity legislation can be complicated and unduly burdensome which can hinder charitable activities in some respects.

I know that this has been a concern for many in this constituency and beyond. In response to a report from the Law Commission, which has been supported in the charity sector, this Bill was introduced in the Lords and has been through the full process in that House. It was introduced to the Commons on 11th January and will receive its second reading later this month.

Another important piece of work launched at the start of this year is a consultation on proposals to help developments achieve Biodiversity Net Gain. This would put protecting and enhancing the environment at the heart of housing and infrastructure developments. I know that many in the constituency will be interested in this.

£4million has also been earmarked to help Local Planning Authorities prepare for Biodiversity Net Gains by helping to restore wildlife, plans and landscapes after building work has taken place. The consultation which is asking interested parties on the details of how biodiversity net gain should be delivered can be found online at the Government Consultation webpage. www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-biodiversity-net-gain-regulations-and-implementation

Whilst on the subject of the environment I would like to assure those who question that I did not vote to allow water companies to pump sewage into our rivers. I actually voted in favour of a package of measures to reduce harms from storm overflows. Please see my website for further comment.

As the year progresses there will continue to be challenging issues to debate with strongly held views on all sides. I am always interested to know the views of constituents even if we agree to differ.

If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way in you have access to that. My email address is howelljm@parliament.uk.

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

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

John Howell

John Jones

There will be a memorial service for John Jones (who died unexpectedly on Christmas Day at the John Radcliffe Hospital) at the Wallingford Corn Exchange Theatre on 20th February 2022 at 3.00pm.

Crowmarsh friends and neighbours are welcome. Seats may be reserved on the Corn Exchange's usual bookings website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Francesca and Philippa Jones

Tree planting

One of the parish council's priorities is planting more trees in appropriate places in the parish, as well as increasing biodiversity generally.

We are participating in the Queen's Green Canopy scheme (queensgreencanopy.org) to plant trees to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The Oxfordshire Treescape Project (www.oxtrees.uk) has developed a countywide map of land types and uses to determine the right places to plant trees.

They have prepared a parish map for us, and there is guidance on the right species to plant in different locations. Of course planting is only the start and new trees need to be looked after until they become established, and for a long time after that. Oxfordshire Treescape will also prepare a free map and report to help any landowner to plan tree planting: please email them at info@growgreencarbon.org.

You might have noticed that the Earth Trust and volunteers have planted trees on the



Riverside Meadows, designated as green open space in our neighbourhood plan. They include limes, alders and black poplars (to replace those lost over the years). The trees along the river bank are protected with tree guards as this field is used for grazing.

The parish council have also planted some saplings donated by a local resident in the nature area and other parts of the parish. If you have any suitable sites for new trees in your garden or other land, please let us know.

Earth Trust volunteers have also carried out a stretch of traditional hedge laying, a long-term project that will continue in future years.

Oxfordshire's next local transport plan

Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) is the county's long-term county-wide transport strategy. It outlines the vision for transport in the county and the policies needed to deliver it, including public transport, road and rail, walking and cycling. The plan will determine how the county council manages transport and what types of schemes will be implemented.

Public consultation on the LTCP runs until 16th March 2022. For the documents and the online survey see letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp. The county council would like to hear your feedback on any aspect of the plan.

There will be an online webinar to introduce the LTCP and help you respond to the consultation. At the webinar you will have the opportunity to hear from the cabinet member for Travel & Development Strategy and take part in a question and answer session.

The webinar is on Monday 7th February from 7pm to 8:15pm, run using MS Teams. If you would like to attend, please book by completing the form on the LTCP consultation webpage <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp>. Joining instructions for the meeting and a confirmed agenda will be sent out at least a day before the session takes place.

If you have any questions, please contact the county council at LTCP5@oxfordshire.gov.uk.



LIVE JAZZ



Sat 12th March: Moscow Drug Club

Transcendent troubadours of Gypsy and Latin Swing

Sat 7th May: A tribute to the Gerry Mulligan/Chet Baker Quartet

Featuring Ben Cummings and Amy Roberts



Crowmarsh Village Hall Doors 6.45pm, Show 7.30pm

Tickets (£15) & info: www.crowmarshjazz.co.uk

Following COVID guidelines. Bar provided by The Quocas

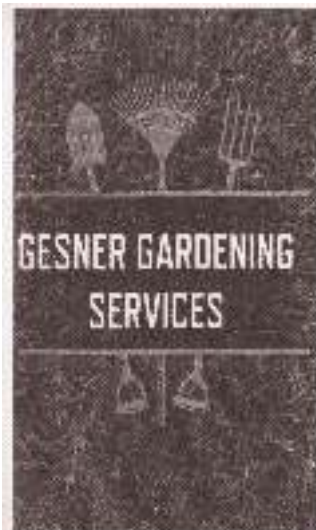
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WHAT'S ON — FEBRUARY 2022

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

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Tuesday 1st | 19.00 | Churchill in Oxfordshire | Online talk – see p.12 |
| Wednesday 2nd | 14.00 | U3A: History of the TV quiz show | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall |
| Thursday 3rd | 19.30 | Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall |
| Thursday 3rd | 19.30 for 19.45 | Benson Garden Club: Cut flowers – talk by Ben Pope – see p.10 | Mill Stream Day Centre, Benson |
| Thursday 3rd | 13.00 start | CTC 20-something-mile cycle ride | Meet in Wallingford Market Place |
| Saturday 5th | 19.00 – 21.00 | Bucolic Britain: Brahms and Elgar | Dorchester Abbey |
| Monday 7th | 19.00 – 20.15 | Webinar on OCC's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan | Online (MS Teams) – see p.14 |
| Wednesday 9th | 19.45 for 20.00 | TWHAS: Lincoln Castle revealed | Online by Zoom |
| Saturday 12th | 10.30 – 12.30 | Crowmarsh Community Café | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall |
| Sunday 13th | 13.00 start | CTC 23-mile cycle ride | Meet in Wallingford Market Place |
| Sunday 20th | 15.00 | Memorial service for John Jones | Corn Exchange Theatre, Wallingford – see p.14 |
| Wednesday 23rd | 19.30 onwards | Henley Philatelic: Auction viewing | Bix Village Hall |

March

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Thursday 3rd | 19.30 | Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall |
| Saturday 12th | 18.45 for 19.30 | Live jazz: Moscow Drug Club, gypsy and Latin swing – see p.15 | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall |
| Saturday 12th | 19.00 for 19.45 | Cholsey folk concert: Magpie Lane | Cholsey Pavilion – see p.8 |
| Saturday 19th | 11.00 – 13.35 | Cholsey repair café | Cholsey Pavilion – see p.8 |

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