

**Issue 517**

**July 2022**

## **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:* Jane Thrift and Toni Taylor,

*Editorial support:* Julian Park, James Taylor, Caroline Campbell, John Griffin and Revd Kevin Beer

*Advertising:* Pat Shields

*Distribution:* Frank Sadler and the team

## **ADVERTISING RATES**

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  
3 months — £25.00  
6 months — £45.00

### **Leaflet distribution**

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

# **Crowmarsh News**

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

## **Useful telephone numbers**

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

## **Next month's issue**

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

For all items of news, articles or correspondence, please e-mail

[crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com)

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

[crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com)

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

# Platinum Jubilee

In Crowmarsh Gifford .....



## Competition Winners

Congratulations to all the Crowmarsh Jubilee Competitions winners!

### Cakes

Under 10s	1st Place	Oscar Brewer
	2nd Place	Jasper Shackell
11-16s	1st Place	James Rowley
Over 17s	1st Place	Sarah Streets

### Posy Fit for a Queen

Under 10s	1st Place	Jasper Shackell
11-16s	1st Place	Freddie Shackell

### Afternoon Tea Table Arrangement

Over 17s	1st Place	Beryl Grey
	2nd Place	Nicola Shackell

# Celebrations!

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01491 824470 | [info@hb-pm.co.uk](mailto:info@hb-pm.co.uk)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

## Ipsden Music at the Barn

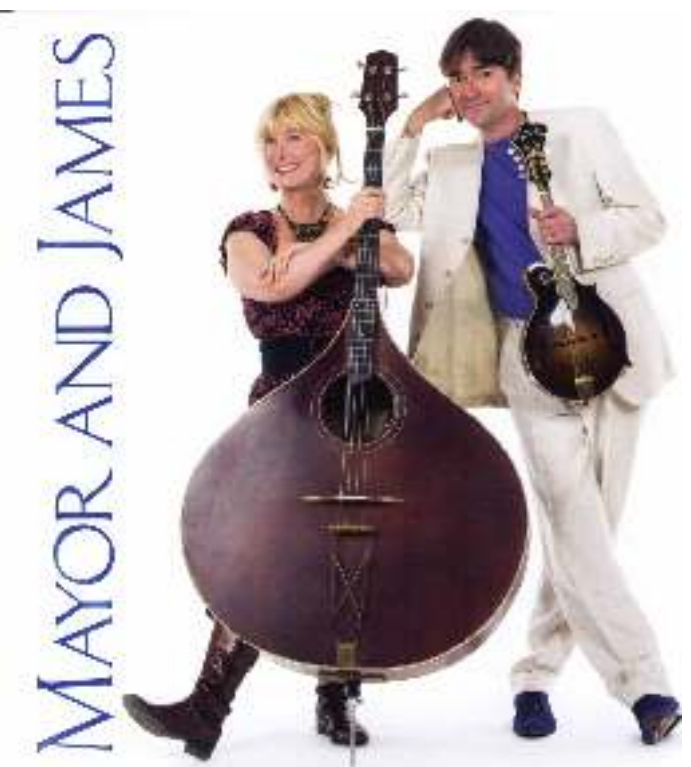
The annual Ipsden Music at the Barn event will be held on Saturday 9th July at Long Barn, Ipsden, OX10 6AG, 6.30pm. We are very grateful to Nick and Kate Miller for generously allowing their beautiful old barn (the longest Tithe barn in the South of England!) for another of the very successful and enjoyable evenings of live music from local performers. There'll be jazz, swing, rock'n'roll ...informal and fun!

Everyone's welcome - bring a picnic, a bottle, chairs, rugs and tables ... and your friends and family. But please, no BBQs. Gates will be open from 6.30pm, and there's plenty of free parking too. The tickets are only £7, children under 16 are free.

All the proceeds are for the ongoing maintenance of our lovely 12th Century church St Mary's in Ipsden. More information from me, [heatherl2410@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherl2410@hotmail.com) or [dilys.beaumont@gmail.com](mailto:dilys.beaumont@gmail.com)

## Concerts@Cholsey

After two sell-out events, join us again at the Cholsey Pavilion for a relaxed and uplifting evening on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July, when Simon Mayor and Hilary James will delight you, our discerning audience, with a mixture of folk, blues, swing and classical showstoppers. Simon is one of this country's finest exponents of the mandolin, occasionally demonstrating Grappelli-like dexterity on the violin, while Hilary makes light work of many musical styles with her crystal-clear voice, as well as playing a mean mando-bass and guitar. Don't miss them; in fact, you should book early.



Doors open at 7pm for 7.45 start and there is a well-stocked real-ale bar. Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 at the door and are now on sale from [concerts@cholsey.com](mailto:concerts@cholsey.com), or phone 652295 for personal service. You can also ask to be added to the Concerts@Cholsey emailing list, which will send you news of future Cholsey concerts and many other live musical events within easy reach

**Please see the parish website for the latest on many local matters:  
[www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk](http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk)**



**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](mailto:teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk)  
Blog: [revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk](http://revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk)

## St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford

### St Mary Magdalene

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

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 11am Family Service with Baptisms

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12.30pm Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 11am Parish Communion

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 11am Parish Communion (guest preacher: Revd Jen Brown)

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 11am Patronal Festival Family Communion

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 11am Parish Communion

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm

Full details at [www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar](http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar)

### The Vicar writes ...

July brings our Patronal Festival, which we celebrate this year on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July, this being nearest to the Feast Day of Saint St Mary Magdalene which falls on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. As well as celebrating our patron saint, we celebrate our life together as a church family in our worship and witness. Mary Magdalene has many mistaken traditions associated with her, but what is certain from the four gospels is that she was one of the women who witnessed both Jesus' death on the cross and also his resurrection from the dead. She told this good news to Jesus' disciples and so became known as "the apostle to the apostles". I hope that our church is known for continuing this joyful spreading of the Gospel almost two millennia on.

One way we do this is by Christening babies and infants into our community of faith and confirming adults in these same baptismal promises. This month we welcome Percy and Elizabeth who will be baptised at the Family Service, and we continue to host adults exploring the Christian faith to St Mary's in Wallingford at 6.45pm on Wednesday evenings throughout July, with the option of confirmation when the Bishop next visits (provisionally set for the last Sunday in August). It is not too late to join.

One popular objection to faith is that science has made it obsolete – personally I think that they answer fundamentally different questions, i.e. Science's "How?" as opposed to Faith's "Why?" and we need the best answers for both. But don't take my word for it because we are privileged to welcome the Revd Jen Brown as our guest preacher on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Jen has experience as a Science Missioner in our area, having studied the relationship between science and faith which she combines in her own life. Come and hear some of her answers to those who might think that science disproves faith.

Blessings, Rev Kev



## Wallingford Museum News

Wallingford Museum is planning some really exciting activities and events to offer our visitors through the summer months. On Saturday 23rd July the Museum will join in with the National Festival of Archaeology, with a family archaeology drop-in between 11am and 4pm. Bring along your own finds, meet our experts and get hands-on with archaeology. No need to book.

We are going to offer the Arts Award Discover at Wallingford Museum, starting in the summer holiday. Arts Award is both a certificate and an award. Taking part is creative and fun and a great way to find out about Wallingford Museum and our local history and archaeology. To achieve an Arts Award Discover, children collect evidence in an Individual arts log of their experiences. Along the way they will find different types of arts in Wallingford Museum, take part in museum arts activities, research local artists and makers and share their discoveries. Our Big Art day on Saturday 20th August will be part of the programme but also open to everyone. More information can be found on our web site.

BunkFest 2nd – 4th September - museum extended opening hours  
Tuesday 30th August - Friday 2nd September 2pm-5pm  
Saturday 3rd September and Sunday 4th September 10.30am- 4pm  
Special FREE BunkFest Castle History walk Friday 2nd September - meet at the museum 4pm. Not suitable for dogs. Donations welcome  
Special FREE BunkFest - gentle guided walk around our lovely historic town - Sunday 4th September - meet at the museum 11am. Donations welcome

Our popular Agatha Christie weekend will take place 9th to 11th September.

We are now taking bookings on the web site for Fabulous Fossils, which is being offered at the Museum on Saturday 24 September by the Oxford Geology Trust. Get your FREE event tickets soon for the budding palaeontologists in your family. Booking Essential.

Wallingford's Guided Historic Town Walks are rolling again, every Saturday morning at 11am, until 24 September. There is no advance booking, so just meet the guide under the Town Hall in Wallingford Market Place at 11am any Saturday. The round tour takes approximately an hour and a half.

The cost is £10 per person (cash only please) which includes an open season ticket to Wallingford Museum for 2022. All walk proceeds help to support this splendid volunteer-run museum.

Each walk is led by an expert guide from The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society, exploring the backstreets and bringing to life the history of the town and its buildings from Saxon times to the present day.

To request special group tours and find out about all museum events, please visit [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk) Museum Bookshop

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

## The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

Wednesday 13th July  
Janice Kinory: 'Oxford Past and Present - Images from the Historic Environment Image Resource (HEIR) Project'

<https://www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html>

Sue Wright  
Wallingford Museum

# News from Howbery Park

## Fire crews train in HR Wallingford facilities

HR Wallingford welcomed Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service to Howbery Park to host its water rescue training.

The firefighters spent a week in one of our basins, which are more usually used for global engineering projects. We generated waves to simulate flooding and open water conditions.

The service has previously used a number of open natural water courses such as lakes and rivers to train their crews in a wide range of environments that they are likely to encounter on emergency calls. However, with the increased risk of flooding in urban environments, the use of our facilities meant that conditions could be replicated to the service's specifications in order safely to carry out the training in a single location with a clean water source.

Their training covered two broad categories. The first was rescuing people or animals who have got into difficulty in water. The second was firefighter safety in and around water, teaching crews what to do in the event they fall in at an incident and need to rescue themselves.

One of the exercises carried out in the basin was to maroon a vehicle in the water and place a 'casualty' in it, who was then rescued by the crews. This simulated people being caught in a flash flood, a situation where it is extremely difficult to anticipate the depth and flow of flood water.





## Past Times

David Beasley has sent the *Crowmarsh News* these local photographs taken in Crowmarsh Gifford in the early years of the twentieth century. They demonstrate how we used to celebrate coronations in 1903 and 1911!

They make a fascinating comparison with the images sent to us from the recent Platinum Jubilee festivities in Crowmarsh, North Stoke and Mongewell villages which can be seen on p2/3.



## Welcome to new residents

A warm welcome if you have moved into Crowmarsh Gifford, Mongewell or North Stoke recently, including all who have moved into homes on the new residential estates as they grow and become part of our community.

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

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*.

## Library books to your door

If you or someone you know are finding it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service can help.

Run by Oxfordshire County Council, the Home Library Service is completely free and delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county. Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them.

The service is open to people who struggle to physically visit a library. It's also available short-term after illness or hospitalisation, and to people with caring responsibilities.

To register simply call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk) [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice)



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## Platinum Jubilee Mugs

The Parish Council would like to offer a commemorative Platinum Jubilee mug to each child in the parish of primary school age or younger. If you have a child who is not at Crowmarsh Primary School and would like them to receive a mug, please email [crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com), giving their name, address and age.

## To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall for birthday parties and events

Call Chris Strange on 07711 904252 or email: [cvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhbookings@gmail.com)

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

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## Soiree

Soiree is delighted to announce that we have won the coveted Muddy Stiletto award for Best Bar in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire 2022!

Less than a year since opening our doors Soiree has been crowned Best Bar and goes onto the national finals, with a chance of winning The Best Bar in the UK.

The Muddy Stiletto Awards 2022 romped to a close last week, the culmination of six weeks of cheer-leading, sharing the love and voting for the most brilliant local businesses across 28 Muddy counties. This year, an astonishing 75,000 businesses were nominated and 765,000 votes were cast making this a record year for the award and making Soiree's win doubly special.

Soiree is at 45 St Marys Street, in the heart of Wallingford town centre and has led the way in the redevelopment of that end of town. Soiree opened in October 2021 after a 2 year planning process and has since served over 12,000 drinks to the people of Wallingford and the surrounding areas.

We've introduced innovative promotions to continue to be affordable throughout the cost of living crisis, keeping the menu fresh and innovative, ensured our staff are friendly and knowledgeable and all round delivered on their promise of being a fantastically relaxing evening destination.

Our General Manager, Stephanie Linaker, thanks everyone who voted for us and says that we are still in shock to have won this amazing award.

Soiree has some big advances on the horizon with another four beer taps being added, Additional Food offering starting in July and an exciting new announcement in August.

Soiree will continue to listen to its guests and build on this amazing success.

## Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford village hall on Thursday 9th June. Present were Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Julian Park, Liz Ryall, Fleur Stevenson, Jay Anderson, Julia Streete, David Rowley and David Topliss, and Parish Clerk Sue Rance. District Councillor Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Cllr Stuart Soames, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet, District Cllr Cooper and County Cllr Bloomfield.

### Matters arising from the May meeting

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Rowley for organising the Big Jubilee Lunch event on 5th June, and to Cllr Streete and the Clerk for their help. Jubilee mugs have been distributed to children in the parish and all those attending the primary school. Please let the parish clerk know if any children under 12 have not yet received one.

### Finance

The council agreed a grant of £250 to Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire.

FCC has agreed to pay £67,238.74 towards the pavilion improvements, subject to meeting the necessary conditions. This was the full amount the parish council applied for. Thanks go to David Rowley and Sue Rance for their work on the application.

Payments agreed included £320 for games at the jubilee lunch, £650 for the barn dance band, £350 for the jazz band and just over £500 for other expenses. The Cubs and

Beavers will retain the £235.80 raised by them at the event. Other payments included salaries and expenses, £166.39 for dog bin emptying, £297.34 for lawnmower service, £300 for audit fees, £280.80 for geraniums for flower tubs in Crowmarsh Gifford, £1165.50 to Scofell for grass cutting and nettle spraying in the nature area.

## **Planning**

### ***Decisions by SODC***

P22/S1461/HH Whitebanks, Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG. Ground, first and second floor rear and side extensions to the main house, new second floor flat roof extension to main house, stone cladding to main house, full height glazing to main house, plus new detached garage. Refusal of Planning Permission

P21/S3961/CM Land at White Cross Farm, Wallingford (County minerals application) Extraction and processing of sand and gravel including the construction of new site access roads, landscaping and screening bunds, minerals washing plant and other associated infrastructure with restoration to agriculture and nature conservation areas, using inert fill. Refusal recommendation (decision to be made by the County Council)

P21/S1677/FUL Triangular portion of land south of CALA Homes' Carmel Meadows development adjoining the A4130. Proposed new 4-bedroom dwelling. Withdrawn

P22/S0930/HH Lalique Mongewell OX10 8BP Two-storey rear extension, thermal upgrade, replacement windows and new entrance canopy. Alterations to existing extension. Planning Permission.

### ***Consultation***

P22/S1705/FUL Former Council Offices, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EE. Change of use of land for a grounds maintenance depot consisting of the siting of 5 shipping containers for storage, provision of a welfare unit, fuel storage and skip area. The application site is just part of the car park and described as a temporary storage compound. Recommend temporary approval for a maximum of 3 years.

### ***Public open space on the Newnham Manor development***

The parish council wishes to take on the management of all the public open space at the Newnham Manor development for the benefit of the community and to ask for a commuted sum towards its maintenance as part of the

legal agreement with the developers. The chairman will contact the planning officer to negotiate an amount.

### **District Council report**

A new round of Councillor grants is now open: each District Councillor has £5000 this year and grants will be awarded in two tranches.

Water quality status is to be applied for at 'Wallingford Beach' just by the bridge as part of the District Council's bathing water project. This will involve recruiting volunteers to take regular measurements. Cllr Ryall reported on safety issues here that were also discussed in the River Users Group.

### **County Council report**

The marking of double yellow lines in Stephens Field is complete. The closure of the old access road to the Riverside Park will now be referred to SODC and OCC for action.

### **Code of conduct**

A new model code of conduct for all councillors had been received. It was agreed to adopt this as the parish council's code of conduct. There is an emphasis on respect and courtesy and it aims to increase public confidence in local government.

### **Environment and recreation**

The parish council received an update on the pavilion improvement project and the successful grant applications. The building work is due to start in June and arrangements for monitoring the work will be discussed by the committee.

### **Traffic and transport**

A letter about motorcycle nuisance has been sent to John Howell MP and copied to Thames Valley Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner as well as neighbouring parish councils and others. It was agreed to ask for a speed survey to be carried out on the A4130 Henley road as well as the other locations already asked for. The parish council will ask Lee Turner of County Highways to attend a site visit with our County Councillor to discuss a number of highway issues.

Cllr Sherbourne will circulate a list of issues to councillors for approval before it goes to the County Council.

### **Feedback from the Annual Parish Meeting**

Matters raised by the public at the annual meeting at the Pavilion on Thursday 26th May were considered and will be taken forward by the parish, county and district councils. Thames Water representatives were questioned extensively and several outstanding issues will need to be addressed further.

### **Next meeting**

The next parish council meeting will be held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 7th July, starting at 7.30pm. Please let the parish clerk and chairman know if you would like to attend.

There is still a vacancy on the council: if you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk or speak to any councillor.

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

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead  
Email: [johngriffin@phonecoop.coop](mailto:johngriffin@phonecoop.coop)

## **Sue Ryder seeks sponsors for Starlight Hike**

**Healthcare charity Sue Ryder is searching for local businesses and organisations to sponsor its inaugural Sue Ryder Starlight Hike Thames Valley fundraising event this October.**

The 5k walk under the stars, which will take place in the beautiful grounds of Pangbourne College on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, promises to be a special evening of celebration and reflection. And it is hoped that hundreds of individuals, families and friends from the local community will get together to remember and celebrate the memory of loved ones, raise funds

and help Sue Ryder create a future where everyone has access to care and support at the end of their life.

Last year Sue Ryder provided over 830,000 hours of care to thousands of families across the country, including from its Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading and Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire.

Securing sponsorship for Sue Ryder Starlight Hike Thames Valley is shaping up to be a fantastic evening of celebration under the stars and we are searching for big-hearted local businesses who would like to get involved by sponsoring this new and exciting event. On average, the Government provides only one third of the funding needed for palliative care services across the UK and so Sue Ryder must rely on fundraising activities, voluntary donations and generosity of its supporters to cover the remaining costs.

Having sponsors for Sue Ryder Starlight Hike Thames Valley will make a real difference and help Sue Ryder to continue to be there when it matters. Starlight Hike is an incredibly special and engaging event where people sporting fancy dress, flashing headwear, glow sticks and neon face paint all come together to light up the dark autumn night. It provides a fantastic sponsorship opportunity and will be a brilliant way for a sponsor to engage with hundreds of people from across Berkshire and South Oxfordshire. We would love for anyone who can help us to get in touch.

Sue Ryder's fundraising team in Thames Valley are based at Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading and Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire in Wallingford. They are offering local companies a range of sponsorship options to support Sue Ryder Starlight Hike Thames Valley and this includes a variety of benefits in return such as a number of free entries for employees, mentions on social media and a promotional stand at the event.

For more detailed information about sponsorship and the event, contact the fundraising team on:

[thamesvalley.fundraising@sueryder.org](mailto:thamesvalley.fundraising@sueryder.org) or call 0118 9550433.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Study

A new study on different options for a third dose COVID-19 booster vaccination in young people aged 12 to 15 has begun recruiting at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford. The University of Oxford-led Com-COV 3 study, supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), aims to recruit 380 volunteers across nine UK sites.

All will have received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, at least three months before joining. Researchers will deliver a third dose as part of the study. Participants will be randomly allocated to receive a full dose of the Novavax vaccine or a full, one-third or child dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. A control group will receive a meningitis vaccine followed by a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine later in the study.

Participants will not know which vaccine they receive until three months later. Researchers will analyse the immune system responses and any side effects to these new vaccine combinations. They will also examine if a one-third adult dose is as good as a full child dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The study investigators anticipate reporting initial results in 2022. The UK's regulatory body, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), rigorously assess the safety and efficacy of any new vaccine before considering market authorisation and subsequent rollout to patients.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) provides expert guidance to UK health departments on vaccination, which takes into account a range of evidence, including data from trials undertaken to understand the immunological impact of booster vaccinations.

Those interested can register via [comcovstudy.org.uk](http://comcovstudy.org.uk)

## Citizens Advice



### Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice Needs Volunteers

Are you looking for a new challenge and want to give something back to your community? Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice is looking for volunteers to work in our friendly offices in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley or Thame.

We give people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are and whatever their problem. Last year, our 127 volunteers supported over 9,200 people. We were able to help four in five to resolve their problems. We are looking for:

**Advisers:** after comprehensive training you will be giving advice to clients in person or via the telephone or webchat. We give advice on a broad range of topics including debt management, benefits, employment, housing and relationship issues. You will need good IT skills and a desire to help people in your local community.

**Receptionists:** you will be meeting and greeting clients, inputting client data, sorting out the post and paperwork from clients, sending out reminder texts to clients and making and receiving phone calls.

**IT specialists:** to help to maintain our IT systems and support the service. Help staff and volunteers with day-to-day IT issues, for example with trouble logging on, connecting to Wi-Fi, and locating or accessing files. We also would welcome support to maintain our local Citizens Advice website.

**Training & HR Administrator:** to assist our Training & HR Manager we are looking for an experienced administrator to help produce training materials, organise training sessions, maintain training records and help with HR administration. You will ideally be used to using Microsoft Word and Powerpoint.

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week if possible, either mornings or afternoon or a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment.

If you would like to make a contribution to your



local community, gain new skills and meet new people, please check our website:  
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/>

Or if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles please email: [recruitment@osavcab.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@osavcab.org.uk) and one of our team will be in touch with you.



## **Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice – New Trustees Needed**

**Role:** Trustees

**Organisation:** Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice

**Location:** Head Office, Abbey House, Abingdon, OX14 3JD

We are looking for new Trustees to join our Board. As well as those with broad experience, we would particularly welcome applicants with skills in governance or with a legal background. We encourage applications from people of any age, background or identity and are committed to equality and diversity.

We are a local charity providing free, confidential and independent advice to help people in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse resolve their problems. The main issues people bring us concern benefits, debt, employment, housing, relationship and consumer problems. Following advice, four in five people are able to resolve their problem and we help most to find a way forward. We also use evidence to influence policies and practices that affect people's lives.

Our 118 volunteers and our 23 (mainly part-time) staff, advise over 9,000 people each year from four main advice centres. At present our advice centres are partially open and many of our staff and volunteers operate our Adviceline service from home.

We are members of National Citizens Advice, which means we have access to its services, resources and support and it sets and audits our advice standards. However, as an independent charity, we are responsible for running our own affairs and much of our funding comes from District, Town and Parish Councils and local charities.

Trustees are asked to attend six Board meetings a year, held in the evening at various locations. Each Trustee is encouraged to take an interest in a particular aspect of the charity's work.

### **What's in it for you?**

- make a positive impact for people in your local area by ensuring the local Citizens Advice is sustainable and serves the needs of the community
- meet people and build relationships with trustees, staff and other volunteers
- build on your governance, leadership and strategy skills
- increase your employability and we'll reimburse expenses too.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact Jane Richardson, the Chair, via [jane.richardson@osavcab.org.uk](mailto:jane.richardson@osavcab.org.uk) or email [recruitment@osavcab.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@osavcab.org.uk) for an application form.

## **Covid-19 Vaccines for Children aged 5-11**

All children aged 5-11 continue to be offered vaccination against Covid-19 vaccine and now is a good time to get your child vaccinated in time for the summer when cases might increase.

Two doses of the vaccine (at least 12 weeks apart) should give the child long-lasting protection against serious complications of infection and some protection from mild symptoms. To book an appointment, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination> or call 119.

The NHS wants to support you to make an informed choice with more information available on the NHS website.

If you do not know your child's NHS number you can get it:

- by checking your child's personal health record (the red book given to you when your child was born)
- by checking any NHS letters, prescriptions or test results you may have received for your child
- By going to the NHS website
- by asking your GP practice to help you

## John Howell MP writes...

When I wrote last month we were anticipating the Jubilee Weekend and the celebrations that were planned. Whilst the weather wasn't quite what we might have hoped, from what I hear celebrations around the constituency went well. The national celebrations were certainly a credit to all of the planning, and it was lovely to see the Her Majesty the Queen at her public appearances. I think tea with Paddington Bear was one of the favourite events and shows that even in her 90th decade Her Majesty still has a great sense of humour. The Jubilee weekend was a great opportunity for community events and a chance to get together after so much separation in recent times.

Sometimes it is good to do something different and in May I did something else that I have not done before - I joined thousands of other people across the country in the Big Plastic Count. It was an interesting exercise where you have to count the single use plastic you throw away over a 7-day period. Some of the time I was at home, at others I was in the office or away. Overall I was quite shocked at just how much single-use plastic I get through in the different settings. The office is pretty good with glass replacing plastic water bottles and corn-starch wrapping used for many documents that are sent to me. But I was quite taken aback at just how much single use plastic there still is for food products. Clearly some of this is avoidable and the exercise certainly raised the profile of the need for us to cut back further. The Government Resources and Waste Strategy set out plans to reduce, reuse and recycle and was a step in the right direction. A promising start on which we are now building.

For some people the half term break was an opportunity to get away and I know that many people have been caught up in the backlog of passport applications. During the pandemic, around five million people delayed applying for or renewing their passports which has led to huge demand now that international travel has opened up. My team has been helping as best we are able and where the need to travel cannot have been anticipated, or where the delay in an application being processed has been longer than the advertised time, we have been able to assist some people. The Home Office has been doing all that it can to increase output and it does seem that the situation is

beginning to ease. Staff have been working 7 days a week and additional staff have been recruited. I understand that between January and March 2022, over 90 per cent of cases were completed within six weeks. However if you are planning to travel and need to apply for or renew a passport please do so as soon as possible and do not rely on being able to get a fast-track appointment as these are like gold dust. The official guidance is still to allow up to 10 weeks to get a passport. There is little that my team can do with late applications.

Another thing to watch out for are the new barcoded postage stamps. Royal Mail has introduced these new stamps as part of their drive to improve operational efficiencies and security. If you have bought stamps recently you may have noticed the change with the addition of a barcode alongside the image of the Queen's head. If you have a stock of stamps you can still use them until the end of January 2023. If you cannot use your stock before then you can swap them for new ones. Full details are available on the Royal Mail website under the heading 'Reinventing stamps for the next generations.' The change only applies to the regular stamps with the profile of the Queen's head on and not the special stamps such as Christmas stamps.

In any month a wide range of issues are raised with me from things in the general media to specialist issues. With the help of my team I do my best to respond to all polite correspondence but sometimes it may take a while, especially if an issue needs research. If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way if you have access to that. My email address is [john.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.howell.mp@parliament.uk). Alternatively, you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD). Please note that correspondence sent through the post takes longer to reach me as it has to go through offsite security scanning before being delivered. 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](http://www.johnhowellmp.com). Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk).

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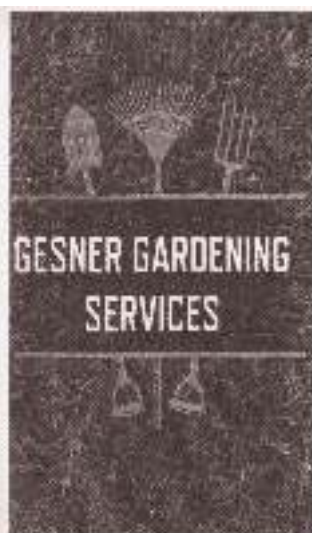
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## WHAT'S ON — JULY 2022

### Regular events and meetings

Every Thursday	19.45—22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	On-line
Every Friday	9.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70, Wallingford
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Centre 70 (in the Market Place on the first Saturday of the month)
Various days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	<a href="http://www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford">www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford</a>
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family service first Sunday of month. See page 5	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Various days	Differing times	CTC Wallingford cycle rides	<a href="http://www.ctcwallingford.org.uk">www.ctcwallingford.org.uk</a>

### This month

Saturday 2nd	All Day	Cheese and wine train	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Wednesday 6th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Jonathan Jones 'Stanley Holloway Monologues'	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 7th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 9th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Sunday 9th	20.00 onwards	Cello and Piano Concert	St Mary-le-More, Wallingftrod
Wednesday 13th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Oxford Past and Present	St Mary-le-More, Wallingftrod
Sunday 23rd	11.00—16.00	Family Archaeology Day	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 30th	20.00—22.00	Echea Quartet	St Mary-le-More, Wallingftrod
Monday 27th	19.00—21.00	Music: The Harp four Seasons	Dorchester Abbey See <a href="http://Dorchester-abbey.org">Dorchester-abbey.org</a>

### August

Wednesday 3rd	14.00 onwards	U3A: Wildlife on your Doorstep	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 4th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall