

Issue 516

June 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 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).

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

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and the team

Next month's issue

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

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

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

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The Big Jubilee Lunch — a Crowmarsh community celebration, Sunday 5th June 2022



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

The lunch event starts at 12.30pm and the main entertainment will continue up to 4.30pm.

There will be the Peter Gill swing 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 jubilee cake and flower competitions for children and adults: see page 4.

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 Charles Beach Funfair Rides Swing boats and Bouncy castle, and patio type games. There will be no parking areas either side of the entrance for safety reasons. Please do not park there from the

Saturday evening, to allow for traffic cones to be put out on the Sunday morning.

If you intend coming, please email Sue Rance on crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com or drop a note into 2 Home Farm. Please also let Sue know if you can help put up and take down marquees or put up decorations, table, chairs etc. on 4th and 5th. If you can help, we will be starting at 10am on Saturday 4th.

In the evening there will be a Barn Dance with the group Malobo. This will be a ticketed event on a first come first served basis, due to a limit on numbers in the hall. See page 4.

Do come along and help to make this a truly special local occasion.



Big Jubilee Lunch competitions

The 'Big Jubilee Lunch' will soon be on us (see page 3), and here are the details for applying to enter the competitions.

Below you will find an entry form which you will need to complete and bring with you when you submit your Posy / Flower Arrangement / Celebration Cake.

Please put a tick against the appropriate group and add your name at the bottom.

Please bring your entry to the Village Hall on Saturday 4th June between 2 and 4pm, so that the entries can be judged in good time before the Village Hall opens for the 'Big Lunch' on Sunday lunchtime.

Please take your entry home with you at the end of the afternoon.

Big Jubilee Lunch Flower & Cake Competitions		
A Posy Fit for a Queen		
Under 10		
11 – 16		
Table Top Floral Arrangement 'Afternoon Tea'		
Over 17		
Celebration Jubilee Cake		
Under 10		
11 -16		
Over 17		
Name:		

Jubilee Barn Dance

Sunday 5th June

Bookings are now open for the Jubilee Barn Dance at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall.

This is a ticketed event and numbers will be limited to 75.

Band: Melobo www.melobo.co.uk

7.30pm Barn Dance Part One

8.45pm Break

9.15pm Barn Dance Part Two

10.15pm Finish

A bar is being provided by the Queens Head staff. Ticket costs: £8 per adult, £5 per child (age 14 and below). Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come and paid basis. To book, please email Sue Rance at crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com to let her know how many adults and how many children's tickets you would like. Sue will then send you the Parish Council bank details. If you prefer you can also phone 839170 or drop a note into 2 Home Farm.

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*.



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

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

Sunday 5th	11am	Pentecost/Jubilee Family Service
Saturday 11th	10.30am-12.30pm	Crowmarsh Community Café at the village hall
Sunday 12th	11am	Parish Communion (Trinity Sunday)
Sunday 19th	9.30am	Family Communion at St Agatha's, Brightwell
Sunday 26th	11am	Family Communion

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm

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

The Vicar writes ...

We have a double reason to celebrate at our Family Service this month as Pentecost falls on the Jubilee weekend.

Look on any coin any you will find the Queen's Head and also some initials "DG REG FD": this is shortened from 'Dei Gratia Regina' which is Latin for 'By the Grace of God, Queen'. But for us in the church, the second part is equally important: the FD or "FID DEF" stands for 'Fidei Defensor' which is also a Latin phrase and means 'Defender of the Faith', which reflects the Queen's position as Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Even if you can't come to church, I invite you to take a coin in your hand and to take a moment to reflect on her reign over these past 70 years and her powerful witness. As she said in one of her many Christmas messages: "For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none."

Then we have the "golden anniversary" of Pentecost (meaning 'fiftieth' or fifty days of celebration), which has its roots in the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which was completed on the fiftieth day after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter, God sends his Holy Spirit to empower the Church to perform the mission which the risen Christ has shared with us: sharing the good news in all languages. Pentecost celebrates both the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church. It was originally the crown and completion of the Easter season. The time of Pentecost became a regular occasion for baptism in early Christian centuries, and the services of Pentecost also reflect this baptismal theme. Christ's disciples are born again of water and the spirit.

For anyone wishing to know more about baptism and confirmation, from 15th June we will be hosting introductory sessions on Wednesday evenings (6.45pm -7.45pm at St Mary's church in Wallingford). All are welcome to attend and to ask questions, so contact me if you would like to know more.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Wallingford Museum News



Wallingford Museum is planning some really exciting events to offer our visitors through the summer months. The museum is in Flint House in the High Street, next to Wallingford Library, opposite the Kine Croft.

Here's a taster of what's to come:

As usual the Museum will join in the National Festival of Archaeology, organised by the Council for British Archaeology, with a family hands-on archaeology day.

This will be followed in August with a Big Art Day, the Agatha Christie weekend in early September and later that month the Oxford Geology Trust will be offering Fabulous Fossils at the Museum. Keep an eye open on the website (www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk) and social media for updates

Wallingford's guided historic town walks are rolling again, every Saturday morning at 11.00am, until 24 September. There is no advance booking, so just meet the guide under the Town Hall in Wallingford Market Place at 11.00am 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

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 - it's free to browse!

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

Wednesday 8 June

Gabor Thomas will talk about 'The Marlow warlord and the rediscovered church at Cookham: a review of early medieval archaeology of the Middle Thames'

Wednesday 13 July

Janice Kinory will talk about 'Oxford past and present - images from the Historic Environment Image Resource (HEIR) project'

TWHAS Meetings are at 7.45pm for 8.00pm in St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors are very welcome (£4). We are continuing to broadcast our talks by Zoom and a link will be available for members in the monthly newsletter 'TWHAS Now'. To join come to a meeting or fill in the form on the website www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html

Citizens Advice



In March the Office for National Statistics reported that approximately 1.7 million people in the UK were experiencing self-reported long Covid. Over half of these had symptoms such as fatigue, loss of sense of smell and difficulty breathing, for at least a year. This can have a far-reaching impact. There is ongoing research into long Covid as so much is still unknown, and new groups are forming to provide information and mutual support.

In the short term, if you are employed and ill, sick pay may be available. See the information at www.citizensadvice.org.uk if you think you are not receiving the correct amount. If your income has dropped, an online benefit calculator will show whether you may be entitled to additional financial help, such as Universal Credit, Council Tax Reduction and Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Details of how to claim benefits, including contact numbers, are on our website. An unexpected drop in income means that debts can quickly mount up and it is better to take action to manage the situation sooner rather

than later. You can talk to an adviser on our debt helpline: 0800 240 4420. There is also a link to webchat in the debt section of our website. If you are being dismissed from work due to long-term illness, there is also advice on our website, or you can speak to an adviser by phoning Adviceline: 0808 278 7907.

Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's May talk, "Propagation and Planting Techniques" at Purely Plants was given by Andy Ledbury. Beginning with sowing seeds, Andy gave us a practical demonstration on how to do it right. First, you should always break up the compost as there are likely to be lumps. Then fill the tray two thirds full, smooth the compost flat, water it with a rose on the watering can and leave for 20 minutes to soak.

You are then ready to sow your seeds and cover with a vermiculite layer of the correct depth. The next part seems quite tricky because for germination you need a constant temperature – too cold and it prohibits germination or causes "damping off". You then have to wait for your first pair of "true" leaves, before you plant on.

When you transplant your seedlings, Andy explained that it is useful to cover them with fleece initially, to reduce the shock of the roots being suddenly exposed to the air. You get a healthier plant if you plant on in stages, so leave 2 to 4 weeks before potting on again.

Andy's talk provided a wealth of practical information and tips. I particularly took note of Andy's instruction that you should never firm the compost down – roots need air, so keeping air cavities in the soil structure are important. And there I was thinking I was tucking in my plants nice and snug!

We have now finished our series of speakers for the year and will re-start in October, with our first talk to be given by Nick Bailey, the TV gardening presenter and garden designer.

From June to September, it's the Club's season for being out and about visiting gardens: details are on our website bensongardeningclub.weebly.com with information about the club and how to join, or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com.

Henley and District Stamp Club

June is the last month of our philatelic year and also time for Swinpex on Saturday June 11th at Swindon. Swinpex is an excellent stamp fete with a great many dealers and Swindon Philatelic Society runs competitions.

Our penultimate meeting for this season is on Wednesday June 8th: 'Umbrellas and Parasols'. Mike Blackman from Kent will give a display illustrated not only with unusual philatelic material but also with some fascinating real ones. On Wednesday June 22nd we hope to have a guest speaker, details to be confirmed.

Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Visitors and new members are welcome. For details phone 01491 681739 or see our website www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Ewelme Watercress Painters

The Ewelme Watercress Painters will be playing their part in the Festival of Ewelme over the Jubilee weekend. There will be an exhibition on the theme 'What Ewelme means to me,' depicting aspects of this historic village, as well as other paintings and arts and crafts by Ewelme villagers.

Also featured will be their huge composite of David Hockney's Spring Tunnel consisting of 12 x A3 parts of this painting in different media. This started as an idea in 2019, when members brought along copies of paintings which they each felt a passion for and a vote was held. The winner turned out to be one of David Hockney's depictions of the Yorkshire Wolds – the joyful Spring Tunnel celebrating Spring in all its glory. Hockney completed large canvasses of the same scene in winter, spring, summer and autumn and each was shown at his exhibition 'A Bigger Picture' at the Royal Academy in 2012.

The exhibition will be held in St Mary's church, Ewelme on Friday, Saturday, Sunday 3, 4 and 5 June from 10am to 4pm We look forward to welcoming you over what we hope will be a glorious and memorable weekend.

Crowmarsh Gifford Church of England Primary School

From the Headteacher

I am writing to you to let you know that from September, after eight years, I will be moving on to a new school and an exciting challenge as Executive Headteacher of a school in West Berkshire.

The joy and fulfilment that I have felt while being head at Crowmarsh cannot be expressed in words. I have loved every minute, even with all the challenges, a global pandemic, and the ups and downs – being headteacher is still the very best job in the world.

The support that I have received from the community will be difficult to match: I have truly felt a part of something much bigger and I cannot thank everyone enough for all you have done to make me feel so at home.

Your letters of support and encouragement have meant the world to me. I hope that the children of Crowmarsh continue to bring you a smile and you have ample opportunity to be a part of the school.

I know that Crowmarsh will continue to thrive – the team of staff make the magic happen every day for our children and our governing body continue to help drive the school forwards.

Crowmarsh School is an incredible place and has become my home. I will be taking with me many treasured memories and thank each and every one of you for the welcome you have always given me.

Flora Cooper, Headteacher

Changes to early years foundation stage provision at Crowmarsh

Many of you will have sent your children to Crowmarsh Pre-School over the years. Many of you reading this will have attended the Pre-School yourselves!

For all those new to the area, or for whom Pre-School days are a distant memory, you will be interested to know that, since September 2021, the Pre-School has been part of Crowmarsh Primary School.

This decision was taken both to help us secure the future of the Pre-School, and so that we can continue to offer our community

accessible, high quality early years provision for children from two to five years, which in turn supports the smooth transition from Pre-School to Reception and beyond.

Over the recent months, the Pre-School and Reception classes have worked in ever-closer partnership. This has enabled us to share ideas, resources and best practice and to become a cohesive early years team, offering the best possible start to our children's education.

As a whole team, we have recently begun to develop our early years curriculum, tailored to meet the needs of our children during their time in Early Years Foundation Stage. So, exciting times are ahead!

Zara Zimmerman and Annie Goss

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at North Stoke village hall on Thursday 5 May following a site visit to the North Stoke recreation ground.

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Stuart Soames, Julian Park, Liz Ryall, David Rowley, Fleur Stevenson, Julia Streete, Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer), District Councillor Andrea Powell and two members of the public. Apologies for absence: Councillors Anderson and Topliss, Parish Clerk Sue Rance and County Councillor Bloomfield.

Cllr Griffin was elected as Chair and Cllr Sherbourne as Vice-Chair for 2022-2023. Members of the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee and the Traffic and Transport Committee were re-elected.

Matters arising from the April meeting

Grass cutting arrangements are in place, with Chris Strange contracted to mow the recreation ground and The Landscape Group the verges and open spaces, but Newnham Murren churchyard had not yet been cut: Cottrells were asked to start this immediately.

The Clerk has contacted Greene King about their plans to refurbish and re-open The Bell and a reply is awaited. A new flagpole is being erected at the Pavilion. Geraniums are on order for the flower tubs at the Queen's Head roundabout and in The Street.

The Clerk has contacted County Councillor Bloomfield about reinstating the gate at the end of Old Reading Road. The gate and

adjacent fence were erected in the 1980s when the road was closed: the land is thought to be still owned by Oxfordshire Highways.

Finance

The council agreed a grant of £660 to North Stoke Parochial Church Council for grass cutting at North Stoke church and pound and up to £100 towards the Mongewell Jubilee party, on receipt of invoices.

The internal audit report 2021-22 was reviewed. There were no concerns about any of the internal control objectives. The annual governance statement 2021/22 and the accounting statements for the annual return (certified by the RFO) were completed and approved. The accounts and audit statement will be available for public inspection from 6th June to 15th July, and notices will be posted.

Payments agreed included £1062 for 300 jubilee mugs, £166.39 for monthly dog bin emptying, £180 for repairs to the smoke and fire alarm in the pavilion and £114 for installing the new flagpole.

The Finance Officer reported that all allotment invoices had been paid. The council registered a vote of thanks to Yvonne Peet for her work in completing the audit.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P22/S0925/LB Brook House The Street North Stoke OX10 6BL Conversion of 19th century plant room into bootroom, including creation of new doorway and new window. Listed Building Consent

P22/S0866/HH Brook House The Street North Stoke OX10 6BL Conversion of 19th century plant room into bootroom, including creation of new doorway and new window. Planning Permission

P22/S0688/LB 79 The Street Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF (The Bell) New entrance archway, single storey rear extension, internal alterations & external redecorations. Listed Building Consent

P22/S0687/FUL 79 The Street Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF (The Bell) New entrance archway/new path, single storey rear extension, extended smoking shelter, new jumbrella, internal alterations & external redecorations. Planning Permission

P22/S0506/HH 20 Park View Crowmarsh

Gifford OX10 8BL Proposed single and two storey rear extension. Planning Permission

P22/S0283/A Bloor Homes construction access off A4074, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED Proposed signage. Consent to display advertisement.

Consultation

P22/S1461/HH Whitebanks, Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG New detached garage. Main house: ground, first and second floor rear extension, ground, first and second floor side extension. New second floor flat roof extension to main house. New stone cladding and new full height glazing to main house.

In view of the size of the proposed extension and the lack of information, such as a design statement to justify the substantially changed appearance, it was agreed that we should ask our district councillors to consider calling it in to committee for decision if it is recommended for approval.

District Council report

The District Councillor reported on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme: 550 Ukrainian refugees are now living in the district in more than 200 households.

Proposals for the former SODC office site in Benson Lane are still being drawn up and the Parish Council will be kept informed and consulted.

The District Councillors' report had been circulated. The council has a policy of no-mow May to allow wildflowers to grow and support pollinating insects.

County Council report

The marking of double yellow lines in Stephens Field had just begun. A donation of £1000 from the County Councillor's fund will support Crowmarsh School's Forest School project. Highway matters remain a high public priority.

Review of strategic priorities

North Stoke recreation ground was added to the list of priorities for infrastructure spending, which also includes pavilion improvements, pedestrian crossings, improvements to the surface of Watery Lane and tree planting. It was noted that the first tranche of community infrastructure (CIL) money received from developers has to be spent by 2024.

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Environment and recreation

The parish council received an update on the pavilion improvement project. The grant of £73,016 from SODC had been confirmed and an additional grant application has been submitted to FCC. An asbestos test will be carried out at the pavilion before building work starts, expected to be in June.

Following a site visit it was agreed that North Stoke recreation ground needs immediate action to maintain this facility for public use. Local residents will be consulted but the decision is the council's as trustee of this open space. Cllrs Stevenson and Streete will prepare an online survey as well as a written form for North Stoke and Mongewell. Cllr Stevenson will investigate rabbit control, which is a statutory requirement.

Thames Water sewerage work at Newnham Farm is planned to be completed by October.

Traffic and transport

The council has applied to OCC for 20mph zones in residential streets in the parish and will gauge public support (see below). A member of the public expressed his interest in pedestrian safety and introducing 'living streets' (www.livingstreets.org.uk).

Noise nuisance from motorcycles continues. A speed and noise survey is required to take the matter further and the Clerk has sent a further reminder to OCC Highways about the speed surveys requested on the A4074 (Portway) but no response has been received. We will write again to John Howell MP and to the police and crime commissioner.

Next meeting

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 with reports from the police, county and district councilors and Thames Water.

The next parish council meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 9th June, starting at 7.30pm. There is still one vacant seat 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

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

20mph in the villages

Oxfordshire County Council is making it easier for towns and villages to change 30mph streets to 20mph in order to make streets safer, encourage residents to walk or cycle and to reduce noise and pollution.

The centre of Wallingford now has a 20mph limit and the parish council has applied to OCC for 20mph in the residential streets in Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell.

Please let the parish council know if you support this initiative using the online survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VRDQLY5 or by email/letter to the parish clerk.

Chiltern Chase on 12 June supporting Sue Ryder

Now in its 16th year, the much-loved Chiltern Chase has raised a staggering £106,000 for a number of charities, organisations and causes. And for the next two years the race organisers will be supporting Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire.

The event, which is now open for online entry, was created in 2006 by a group of runners who regularly met to run for leisure through Ewelme. The organisers hope lots of people will support this year's event by signing up at www.chilternchase.org.uk.

The runners have supported around ten different charities along the way including the John Radcliffe special care baby unit, Air Ambulance, Mind and now the local Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub.

The Chiltern Chase regularly attracts around 500 runners to take on scenic 5km, 10km or 15km routes through the stunning Chilterns. Organisers changed the route two years ago to make it less hilly and feedback from runners is that they really enjoy the scenic off-road course and ridgeway.

The event is open to anyone aged 16 or over, or younger if accompanied by a parent. There's a car park, easy access to the start line and delicious refreshments and cake.

To sign up visit www.chilternchase.org.uk. For more information on the Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub visit www.sueryder.org/southox.

Past times

David Beasley has just returned home from hospital – we wish him a speedy recovery – so he has not been able to write his popular “Past times” article this month. Instead he has sent us some pictures from his historical collection.

This is inside the Wilder iron foundry, which manufactured



cast iron goods such as drain covers on the site next to the church (now Jethro Tull Gardens)

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 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk



www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice

Apogee Fitness and Yoga

Liza's Yoga

Chair Yoga & Lunctime Flow

- **Chair Yoga:** a series of gentle exercises seated and standing with the aid of a chair. Chair yoga is ideal if you want to increase your mobility, balance, strength and flexibility slowly and gently. This is a perfect option if you have not exercised for a while and are regaining your confidence.
- **Lunctime slow flow:** a yoga class which gives you time to move mindfully into and out of asanas (postures). An ideal class for beginners, those who have not practised for a while or those who prefer a slower flow Vinyasa practice.
- **Where:** Benson Youth Hall OX10 6LX
- **Class length:** 45 mins
- **When:** Thursdays Chair Yoga 12 noon Lunctime Slow Flow 1pm
- **Next 4 week course start 12th June**
- **Cost:** £20 for 4 week course
- **Places are limited so early booking recommended**

For more information and to book please contact Liza on liza@apogeefitnessandcycling.co.uk or call 01865 810259

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

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, giving their name, address and age.

Wallingford Country Market

Our Annual 'Outside Market' coincides this year with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Saturday 4th June and will be in the Market Place between 9am and 12.30pm, replacing our usual Friday market on 3rd June. There will be competitively priced home-grown plants for bedding, baskets and borders as well as delicious home-baked items, preserves, local honey and (weather permitting) crafts. Orders can be taken for most items.

We are always looking for new producers. If you enjoy baking, gardening or making craft items do come and join us – it is not necessary to turn up every week. Please phone Alison: 681596 or Sandra: 836527 for further information or visit the market one Friday morning in St Mary-le-More Church between 9.30am and 12noon.

What's On at The Corn Exchange in June 2022

All events now have full seating, in line with practice elsewhere. We still ask patrons to sanitise their hands and wear a face covering 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. We're grateful for patrons for their observation of all the Covid rules that we have implemented in the theatre. Please look out for new updates for the programme on the website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Cinema

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

Sunday 29th May to Thursday 2nd June, 7:30pm **Downton Abbey: A New Era** (PG) plus matinee at 2.30pm on Wednesday 1st June

Friday 3rd June, 2:30pm and 7:30pm **Elizabeth – A Portrait in Parts** (U)

Sunday 5th and Monday 6th June, 7:30pm **Benediction** (12A)

Wednesday 8th June, 7:30pm **Compartment No. 6** (15)

Friday 10th June to Thursday, 16th June, 7:30pm **Top Gun: Maverick** (12A)

Friday 17th June, 7:30 pm **Lancaster** (PG)

Live on stage

Saturday, 4th June, 7:45pm **Pulse** (Pink Floyd tribute band) All tickets £19

PULSE specialise in playing the music of the legendary Pink Floyd. They comprise seven experienced musicians who have been playing the music of Pink Floyd for a number of years. Reviews have described how they are not only musically brilliant but also how they get the sound of Pink Floyd absolutely nailed.

Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th June **Shakespeare Shakeup** presented by Encore Youth Tickets £6 (adults), £4 (under 18s)

Shakespeare like you've never experienced before. Come and join us as we journey through forests, islands and royal households across five of Shakespeare's plays. This is a colourful romp exploring abridged versions of Macbeth, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, The Taming of the Shrew and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Live screening

Tuesday, 7th June, 7pm **Swan Lake** Royal Ballet live recording from Covent Garden Tickets £15 (£12.50 seniors, £10 under-18s)

The Royal Ballet's sumptuous production of Swan Lake returns to the Royal Opera House stage after its 2020 revival was interrupted by the pandemic's closure of theatres. The reimagining of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov's towering masterpiece by Liam Scarlett is testament to the late choreographer's abiding love of classicism and innate musicality, which shines through the production. With its sublime score by Tchaikovsky and glittering designs by John Macfarlane, an irresistible

mix of spectacle, mystery and passion infuses this audience favourite, one of the best-loved works in the 19th-century classical ballet canon.

Thursday, 9th June, 7pm NT Live Screening of **Straight Line Crazy by David Hare** from the Bridge Theatre, London Tickets £15 (adults). £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Straight Line Crazy is a new play by David Hare, directed by Nicholas Hytner and starring Ralph Fiennes, giving a blazing account of Robert Moses, a New York master manipulator who exposed the weakness of democracy in the face of charismatic conviction. For 40 uninterrupted years, Robert Moses was the most powerful man in New York. Though never elected to office, he manipulated those who were, through a mix of guile, charm and intimidation. Motivated at first by determination to improve the lives of New York City's workers, he created new parks, new bridges and 627 miles of expressway to connect the people to the great outdoors. But in the 1950s, groups of citizens at grass roots began to organise against his schemes and against the motor car, campaigning for a very different idea of what a city was and what it should be.

Coming soon

Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th July
Sinodun Players present **Bedroom Farce** by Alan Ayckbourn.

Bedroom Farce is a comedy that contains a melée of events involving certain philandering characters, all occurring within similar moments of one another. Alan Ayckbourn's clever use of time and space makes this a very intricate and sophisticated comedy, while also portraying the deterioration and rebuilding of relationships among young couples.

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 wites...

On 10th May we had the State Opening of Parliament. This is a formal occasion which marks the start of the parliamentary year. It is a ceremonial event at which the 'Queen's Speech' is read from the throne in the House of Lords. The Speech is written by the Government and contains an outline of its policies and proposed legislation for the forthcoming parliamentary session, so it is effectively the agenda for the year.

All new legislation coming before parliament is, of course, important and different Bills will be more or less important to different people. I am particularly pleased to see the new Planning Bill in the list which it was said in the Queen's Speech, will give residents more involvement in local development. I know that there are a number of concerns over the current planning legislation that are widely shared, and I will be looking to see the impact of proposed change.

The Health and Social Care Bill is also good to see. The need for better integration between health and social care is well documented and the experience of many constituents bears out the need. For our younger people I am pleased to see that there will be some reform to education, especially in further and higher education. This will bring greater flexibility into further education making it more readily available for everyone.

I know from correspondence that many will be pleased to see the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill in the list. These are just a few from the long list of Bills, 38 in total, coming forward. I know that many people will have views on the different pieces of legislation, and I look forward to sharing thoughts going forward.

I am sure there are many people who, like me are looking forward to the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Whatever your view of monarchy there is no doubt that the Queen has served our country, and the Commonwealth nations, in an exemplary way over her long reign, and it is good to have reason to celebrate together.

I am also sure that there are many people who share my concern over the Queen's health. Her Majesty is, of course, a good age but let us hope, and where we are able pray, for her health so that she can truly celebrate her life of dedication and service. Whatever you are

planning in your community, I send you my best wishes for a good celebration. I would also like to thank all those in our communities who work hard on behalf of everyone else – those who serve on parish councils, those who run the many voluntary and charitable organisations and those who on their own, perhaps behind the scenes, support other people. It is all of this work that makes a community, and it is good to read about it month by month in local publications.

On the world stage the war in Ukraine sadly continues and it is a worry as to what Russia will do next. You may have seen that I was sanctioned by Russia. As you may have seen in the media Ukraine is thankful for the support that we have been giving. Here the response to support Ukrainians has been great whether seeking to offer refuge to people or help in many other ways. After some initial teething problems the visa processing is settling down and over three-quarters of visas have now been granted. In some cases there have been complications due to a variety of reasons and my team has been very active in helping to assist where possible. There are some problems in rural areas where plans have fallen through as most of the people seeking refuge are from Ukrainian cities and would prefer to be in a city or town. I have also been told that many are applying for visas as a back up but for now prefer to stay in the region, which is quite understandable.

We have an interesting schedule ahead of us in Parliament. 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 address is 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 can take a couple of weeks 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. Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk.

News from Howbery Park

Hedgehogs form spine of biodiversity scheme

We are thrilled to be focusing on making our grounds hedgehog friendly this year, as our third year working on the Nurture Biodiversity Scheme. We've got to work already, installing six new houses for hedgehogs, built for us by the Men's Shed charity plus another built by head gardener Ben on site. We've also put British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) stickers on our strimmers to remind the gardeners to check for hedgehogs before using them – as strimmers are often to blame for hedgehog injuries. We'll also be checking to ensure that they have a plentiful food supply in the park and safe corridors to travel through it. Our initiatives will be working towards criteria set out by Nurture Landscapes and the BHPS.



“Hedgehogs need support as their numbers have been dwindling over the years,” Nurture’s Biodiversity Manager Simon Blackley explained. “Their numbers dropped by about 70 per cent from the 1970s to the 1990s, and a further half of the population of native hedgehogs were lost from the British countryside over the last two decades. There are thought to be various reasons for their decline over the last decades: the removal of hedges from fields, a drop in the number of insects that they eat, and the combined use of pesticides, fertilizers and fungicides. Plastic litter is harmful to them too.”

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!

Wallingford Handbell Ringers

Wallingford Handbell Ringers are back now enjoying making music on handbells. We would welcome people who would like to try this way of making music that is greatly enjoyed by audiences, not just at Christmas.

We are ably led by Gay and Alan, the couple who charmed the nation by playing Titanic on Britain's Got Talent a while ago. Ringing a bell is not difficult and opens the world of all kinds of music: folk, popular, classical, hymns, international and, naturally, Christmas.

Do come along and have a ring - we are sure you will be captivated by the sound of the bells! We would be delighted to see you at 4pm on Tuesdays in Cholsey. We continue to take anti-Covid precautions. If you are interested email Gay and Alan at aeolianchimer@googlemail.com or call them on 07964 615428 (pm is best) or see the website wallingfordringers.wordpress.com.

The Body Unlocked: photo exhibition of NHS research

A photography exhibition showcasing groundbreaking NHS medical research taking place in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire has been at Oxfordshire County Library in Oxford (until 1 June). 'The Body Unlocked: How Research is Changing Lives' features 11 life-sized images of people who have taken part in studies, researchers at work and microscopic images of cells and bacteria.

The exhibition was produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to encourage people to take part in studies in the NHS, public health and social care. Research studies are an integral part of improving treatments in the NHS and would not be possible without the involvement of ordinary people.

Visit thebodyunlocked.info for more information. Venues interested in hosting the exhibition for free can contact comms.crnthamesvalley@nihr.ac.uk or call 01865 227252. Patients are also encouraged to ask their doctor or health professional about research opportunities and view trials seeking volunteers at bepartofresearch.uk. For more information contact Jessica Woods.07469 375638, jessica.woods@nihr.ac.uk.

Children and military lives exhibition at Woodstock

An exhibition running from 2 June to 24 November 2022 at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, tells the stories of children of serving British Armed Forces personnel and their experiences of living life in the military community, and also tells the stories of children who become victims of war, experiencing the effects of military conflict from Second World War evacuees to today's refugees and asylum seekers.

To mark the Jubilee, SOFO Museum will highlight the Queen's own 'military childhood' and her Second World War service in the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) with a timeline of the nation's toys and books.

See the website <https://www.sofo.org.uk/>

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WHAT'S ON — JUNE 2022

Regular events and meetings

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	www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford
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	www.ctcwallingford.org.uk

This month

Wednesday 1st	14.00 onwards	U3A: Wonderful Wales	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th	All day	Jubilee Bank Holiday Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Saturday 4th	14.00—16.00	Receipt of competition entries	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Sunday 5th	12.30-16.30	The Big Jubilee Lunch 2022	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Sunday 5th	19.30—22.15	Jubilee Barn Dance	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Wednesday 8th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: A review of early medieval archaeology of the middle Thames	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Thursday 9th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 11th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Sunday 12th	10.00 onwards	Chiltern Chase — 5,10 or 15k run	Ewelme nr Wallingford www.chilternchase.org.uk
Saturday 18th	19.00 onwards	Pie and Mash Train	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Sunday 19th	All day	Fathers Day cream teas	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Thursday 26th	19.00 onwards	Annual Parish Meeting	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Monday 27th	19.00—21.00	Music: The Harp four Seasons	Dorchester Abbey See Dorchester-abbey.org

July

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 Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 7th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall