

Issue 515

May 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: Toni Taylor and Jane Thrift

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

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and the team

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the June 2022 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th May 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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Jubilee Barn Dance

Sunday 5th June

Bookings are now open for the Jubilee Barn Dance!

Venue: Crowmarsh Village Hall

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

Band: Melobo www.melobo.co.uk

Times:

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 and 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.



Platinum Jubilee Mugs

The Parish Council would like to offer a commemorative Platinum Jubilee mug to every child in the parish of primary school age or younger. If your child is not at Crowmarsh Primary School, please supply their name, address and age to the Parish Clerk (crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com).

Big Jubilee Lunch Competitions

The 'Big Jubilee Lunch' will soon be on us, and as promised 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 then 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.

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

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

The Big Jubilee Lunch 2022

A Crowmarsh community celebration, Sunday 5th June



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

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

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

Barbecue - Cubs and Beavers

Bar - Church

Cakes and hot/cold drinks - Church

Ice cream and lollies - School PTA

Bouncy castle - School PTA

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

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

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

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

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

In the evening there will be a barn dance, details on page 3. This will be a ticketed event on a first come first served basis because of the limit on numbers in the hall.

Please note all those that have emailed Sue Rance to say they will be attending the lunch will be sent details and prices first: bookings cannot be made until then.

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

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

Mongewell and North Stoke are also planning Jubilee events.



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!

Welcome to new residents

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

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

If you would like to help with the monthly distribution of the *Crowmarsh News* in your local street or neighbourhood, please contact Frank Sadler or the editorial team — see the front page.

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

Concerts@Cholsey

This will be the second of our 2022 'Post-Covid' series, following a brilliant evening in March with Magpie Lane. Although quite different, even dyed-in-the-wool British trad folkies will enjoy our next presentation. Join us at The Cholsey Pavilion on 14th May to hear RAG MAMA RAG. Expect a lighthearted evening of toe-tapping, bluesy, folksy, American-style country music (but *not Country & Western*). *Ashley and Deborah Dow are normally resident in France but are on their annual tour of these isles. Our concert will be among the last chances this year to one of Europe's finest country blues acts.*

Ashley is master of acoustic, steel and slide guitars, while Deborah delivers sensational 'blues harp' lines and gives a masterclass on washboard and spoons. Classy vocals? Of course!

RAG MAMA RAG have a strong UK following and attract first-class reviews.

Concerts@Cholsey offers great value for money, a friendly atmosphere, free parking, level access and a reasonably priced real-ale (and real cider) bar including the excellent Amwell Springs beers. Booking is still a personal process, we accept cash, cheque and BACS but may soon offer contactless card payment.

Call 652295 or email concerts@cholsey.com and we look forward to the pleasure of your company.

Wallingford Photographic Club

As the season comes to a close, and the members break for summer, Wallingford Photographic Club closes the 2021-22 programme with an end of season image competition, followed by our Annual General Meeting. Then we're excited about meeting regularly in person again at Crowmarsh Pavilion from September for a more interactive and sociable season, in person. We look forward to announcing our plans and programme for Autumn. We are also pleased to announce that we will be holding an exhibition in Wallingford on 2nd and 3rd September: Bunkfest weekend! Watch this space...



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

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

Sunday 1st	11am	Family Service
Sunday 8th	11am	Parish Communion
	4pm	Evening Service at Newnham Murren
Saturday 14th	10.30am-12.30pm	Crowmarsh Community Café at the church
Sunday 15th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 22nd	11am	Family Communion
Thursday 26th	7.30pm	Ascension Day Festival Communion at St Agatha's, Brightwell

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm

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

The Vicar writes...

A belated Happy Easter everyone! May is one of the most joyful seasons in the church as we continue to celebrate Easter for 40 days until Ascension Day on Thursday 26th May when we join the other congregations of our Wallingford Team at a special evening celebration Eucharist at St Agatha's, Brightwell. We then enter a 10 day wait to bring us to 50 days, giving the festival named Pentecost (or Whit Sunday) we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

One of the most frequent questions we are asked as Street Pastors by younger people out drinking in Wallingford is whether we believe in "all that stuff about Jesus". Well, I obviously do otherwise my career path would have been a very strange choice! So, to those that just think it is a nice story, I ask you to consider these questions:

Do you believe there was a real man called Julius Caesar? How do you know? What evidence is there from near the time of his life and death?

How much more evidence is there about the other man with the initials "JC" who lived at a similar time? Clue: as well as the testimonies of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the man Jesus is recorded in both Roman and Jewish histories.

If Jesus was just a man who died, why did his disciples not just give up, go home and stay quiet? For clues, read Acts of the Apostles!

My conclusion is that Jesus was not just a good teacher who performed miraculous healings, but was actually the Son of God who overcame human mortality, and his resurrection changes everything. It is not wishful thinking or a made up story but the truth that makes sense of our existence: we are here because God created us and loves us so much that he came in human form so that we can share his eternal life. If you have an open mind and would like to explore further, I invite you to come and see. But I should also warn you: it can change your life!

Blessings, Rev Kev

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford village hall on Thursday 7th April.

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson (part of meeting), Jay Anderson, Stuart Soames, Julian Park, David Topliss and David Rowley, and Mrs Sue Rance (Parish Clerk). District Councillors Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Councillors Stevenson, Ryall and Streete.

Finance

The parish council has accepted the quote from The Landscape Group for cutting the grass verges and other areas in Crowmarsh Gifford and the recreation ground at North Stoke. Crowmarsh Gifford recreation ground is now maintained in-house by our groundsman Chris Strange. The contract with SODC for emptying dog bins has been terminated and a new contract signed with the Shield Group, who charge £2.00 per bin. They will collect the waste every Tuesday.

The council gave a grant of £300 to Riverside Counselling Service for their work to support the mental health and wellbeing of adults and young people from South Oxfordshire, including residents of Crowmarsh.

We agreed payments including £1950 to Simpson Architecture for work on the pavilion project, £148.32 for Jubilee lunch posters, £480 to Suggs Security for repairs to the pavilion fire alarm, £1,148.63 to Scofell for supplying and planting 15 trees at the nature area (for which a grant of £957.19 was received from the district councillors' fund).

The financial regulations were amended to raise the tender threshold in line with national regulations. The publications scheme was approved without amendment.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P22/S0399/HH: North Stoke Farmhouse, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL
First floor rear extension including alterations to front door and first floor front window.
Planning permission.

P22/S0234/HH: Archgate, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL
Construction of a new timber barn garage with an electrical charging

point, integral log store, ground floor outside covered dining area and a first-floor gym space in part of the attic without restricted headroom. Planning permission.

P22/S0306/LB: 1 Church Cottages, Church Lane, North Stoke OX10 6BH
Repair/replace the porch roof and bread oven roof. Listed building consent.

Consultations

P22/S0930/HH: Lalique, Mongewell OX10 8BP
Two-storey rear extension, thermal upgrade, replacement windows and new entrance canopy. Alterations to existing extension. No objection.

P22/S1045/FUL: UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Maclean Building, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BB. A number of locations are proposed for installation of a ground mounted solar array, maximum area of 580m² in any location. Recommend approval. (Cllrs Griffin and Johnson declared an interest as employees of UKCEH.)

P22/S0925/LB & P22/S0866/HH: Brook House, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL
Conversion of 19th century plant room into boot room, including creation of new doorway and new window. No objection.

P22/S0958/HH: The Grebe, 13 Chalmore Gardens, Wallingford. First floor extension, replacement porch, wood-burning stove flue and other work. No strong views – no effect on our parish.

MW.0115/21 (County Council): Application for planning permission to extract and process sand and gravel at land at White Cross Farm, Wallingford. The parish council objected to mineral working on this site on the edge of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, close to the former Carmel College listed buildings and St John's church. It would have a harmful impact on the River Thames and the Thames Path and prevent biodiversity recovery in the Wallingford to Goring Conservation Target Area.

District Council report

The District Councillors reported on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

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

Biffa is trialing an electric refuse collection vehicle. The current waste and recycling collection contract has two more years to run.

Environment and recreation

The parish council received an update on the pavilion improvement project and agreed to go ahead with the selected contractors. Materials should be delivered on site immediately after the Jubilee weekend and the project duration is estimated at 20 weeks. This will be partly funded by grants and partly by the Parish Council out of the Community Infrastructure Levy. Access to the toilets from the playground will be maintained during the works.

The Big Jubilee Lunch will take place on 5th June at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall. Posters are on display and further information is in Crowmarsh News and on the website. If you plan to attend or can offer help, please contact the Parish Clerk soon.

Traffic and transport

Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner, has announced a Road Safety Summit in May. Cllr Sherbourne plans to attend to discuss speeding and other concerns including motorcycle noise.

The Clerk has sent a reminder to OCC Highways about the requested speed surveys at the A4074 (Portway).

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 5th May, starting at 7.30pm. Please let the parish clerk and chairman know if you would like to attend.

The Annual Parish Meeting, the opportunity for all electors to hear reports and raise any issues or questions, will be held at the Pavilion on Thursday 26th May at 7pm, representatives of the police, county and district councilors and Thames Water will be invited.

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

The Wallingford Book Shop Book Review

The Perfect Golden Circle - Benjamin Myers

Next month there is a special bank holiday weekend to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the good folk of Wallingford will be celebrating with picnics in the castle gardens and a flotilla along the Thames. The shop will, without doubt, be awash with bunting and our team of booksellers will be powered as always by tea and biscuits whilst giving you Jubilee themed recommendations (*Peppa's Royal Party anyone?*).

Our book of this month remembers a rather more sombre anniversary. Forty years ago on 28th - 29th May 1982, The Battle of Goose Green marked a turning point for The Falklands War. Benjamin Myer's *The Perfect Golden Circle*, is set in 1989, and touches deftly on the war through the discourse of its two main protagonists, Calvert and Redbone, whilst they design and create elaborate crop circles to baffle and bemuse the British public and press. *t's a gem!*

The Perfect Golden Circle will published in hardback by Bloomsbury on 12th May and will be £16.99.

Seed - Caryl Lewis

Seed is an uplifting read full of heart, and is perfect for 8-12 year olds who enjoy reading Lisa Thompson, Jenny Pearson and Stewart Foster. Marty doesn't have many possessions as his mum and grandpa don't have much money. His mum can't leave their home and feels happiest when she's surrounded by 'her things', which include broken radiators, old newspapers and used pie tins. His grandpa has big dreams but rarely realises them. So, when grandpa gives Marty a solitary seed for his birthday, Marty swallows any disappointment and plays along. But this is no ordinary seed, and soon Marty, Grandpa and Marty's best friend Gracie are embarking on the adventure of a lifetime. With a little hope and a lot of imagination, maybe wishes really can come true!

Seed will be published by Macmillan in paperback at £7.99 on 12th May.

Local artists to run a major art exhibition at The Great Hall Cholsey



Wallingford and District Art Club (WADAC) club members are exhibiting as part of Oxfordshire Art Weeks from 13th-15th May, 10am-5pm, (except Friday 13th 1pm-5pm at venue 243) at the fabulous, light, and airy The Great Hall at Cholsey Meadows. View over 60 works using all media plus textiles and jewellery, created by over 25 WADAC club members - from commercial artists to skilled amateurs.

We are also holding free art workshops on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th from 10-11.30am, run by Cholsey artist Jo Wilson of "Art for All". They cover learning from the Masters: an oil paint on canvas workshop looking at reproducing small sections of paintings by Monet. These workshop are aimed at people of any level of ability, complete beginners welcome. The workshops are free but there are only six places available in each workshop, book early to avoid disappointment. To book email:

info@jo-wilson.co.uk

For more information: www.artweeks.org/v/wallingford-district-art-club

Henley and District Stamp Club

Time is flying by, Spring has arrived in all its glory, and our meetings continue at Bix.

Wednesday 11th May: Barry Stagg will give a display on King Edward VIII

Wednesday 25th May: AGM and members displays telling a story in one page

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning 681739 or on our website:

www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

The Wallingford Flower Club 1970 – 2021

At the end of December 2021 the Committee of Wallingford Flower Club reluctantly decided the time had come to close the Flower Club. It was no longer viable for the Committee to continue without the input of a younger membership.

The Club was originally formed in 1970 by a group of ladies in Wallingford and has enhanced the life of the Community for over 50 years both in Wallingford and the surrounding Villages. Our ladies have arranged flowers at Wallingford Hospital, Church Flowers, Flower Festivals, Rush Court Nursing Home, The Falklands Chapel at Basildon Park, local Weddings and many other venues. We have also in the past held an annual Plant and Pot Sales in Wallingford Market Place, Open Evenings in the Corn Exchange Theatre and engaged some of the top Flower Arranging Demonstrators from the National Association of Flower Arrangers to show their skills.

In the early 2000s the Club changed its venue for monthly meetings to Crowmarsh Village Hall. We have therefore decided to plant a tree in the grounds of Crowmarsh Village Hall in recognition of the Club and its 50 year history.



The tree planted was a Weeping Cherry (*Prunus Kiku-Shidare-Zakura*) and can be found by the entrance to the Hall. Its pink blossom is very attractive in April/May. In 1973 the then ladies of Wallingford Flower Club planted a Swedish White Beam (*Sorbus*) tree in the Kine Croft opposite the Cross Keys. This tree still survives today, recognizable by its white trunk. The tree was planted in the then drive to plant trees in the "Plant a Tree in 73" Campaign to replace trees lost at that time due to the Dutch Elm Tree disease.

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palliative,
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support

John Howell MP writes...

As nature springs into life, and the weather gets a little warmer we are reminded again that we live in a beautiful part of the country.

Sometimes it is when we stop to appreciate our own environment that we can get a feel for the importance of looking after it. When world issues swamp us appreciating what we have locally and playing our small part in caring for it can be very helpful. The uniqueness of one of our landscape features, chalk streams, has been powerfully captured in a recent film made by Nicola Schafer, a resident of Watlington, in her documentary 'The Chalgrove Brook'.

Working with local people the film tells the story of the brook and the importance of preserving it. It is an interesting, informative and well-made film which is well worth watching. You can view it online at www.thechalgrovebrook.uk.

Issues around the environment and climate change are never far from our minds. The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has just been published, sets out the stark consequences climate change is having on our planet and again reminds us of the need for decisive international action. There is always more that we can do, and we should take heart that everything and anything that we do is worth it. When the recent report was published the IPCC Chair said "I am encouraged by climate action being taken in many countries. There are policies, regulations and market instruments that are proving effective."

In this context it is good news that the Government has recently put substantial funding towards buses and that Oxfordshire has benefited. Firstly we had the news of £200 million funding to deliver almost 1,000 new green buses across the country. This is part of the ZEBRA (Zero Emission Buses Regional Area) scheme and Oxfordshire will receive a share of the new funding to deliver 159 new electric or hydrogen powered buses. Secondly Oxfordshire is to receive £12.7 million of new funding to deliver vital improvements to local bus networks. This is part of the Government's £1.2 billion bus transformation programme. I have lobbied the Government for us to have a share of these funds locally and am therefore delighted at this news.

There is no doubt that that we need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and we need to do so in a way that is manageable and financially affordable. As the IPCC report also high

lights progress is uneven with the largest gaps among lower income populations. Whilst recognising this as a global concern the same can also be true within country. In the short to medium term we will continue to need oil and gas supplies. The recent actions of activists from groups such as Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion blocking access to oil terminals and thus creating fuel shortages at the pumps is not helpful. Action that disrupts the lives and livelihoods of people in already difficult times can have a negative impact rather than encouraging people.

The invasion of Ukraine has added to the volatility of wholesale gas prices across the world and also raised concerns about food security. This is something that I discussed recently when I met with local farmers. It was interesting to learn their views on striking a balance between rewilding and retaining sufficient land for food production. If the balance is wrong it could lead to increasing our dependence on imports which add to negative overall environmental impacts.

When considering the impact of policy decisions and environmental tax measures the Government has to balance a diverse range of concerns. I know that there are a wide variety of views on what we should do first and there will always be robust debate. We have to take people with us and make it as easy and as cost effective as possible to encourage change.

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 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.

Benson Garden Club Liz Harrison



For Benson Garden Club's April talk, we were treated to Pip Smith giving advice on "Perfect Pots and Containers". Pip is a Landscape Architect with many years' experience working as a professional

horticulturist, but in our talk he focused on what striking gardening displays you can achieve in the smallest of areas. After extolling the virtues of container gardening he focused on the merits of various types of pots. For example, terracotta pots are porous so excellent for succulents. Pip also reminded us of the importance of good drainage, so to always consider suitability before making a purchase. For very big pots he recommended filling half with polystyrene to save on the cost of compost (unless planting a large plant).

Having covered the practicalities of container gardening including which soil to use and how to feed, Pip shared with us an array of container gardening displays to illustrate good design. Grouping pots together for dramatic effect; selecting different shapes, textures and height for interesting visual displays; using containers for statement plants in the border; and the choice of colour to create different effects were some of the ideas he covered. Pip closed his talk by reminding us to consider both pot and location, to choose plants carefully, to remember to feed, and to be bold and brave!

Chosen by Pip, our "Flower of the Month" competition was won by Teresa McTeague with her gorgeous purple hyacinth.

Our next event on Thursday 5th May is a members' visit to Purely Plants nursery to learn about propagation and transplanting techniques. Then on Saturday 14th May we have our annual plant sale at Bob's Corner, High Street, Benson from 9am to midday. This sale is always very popular and there will be a wide selection of plants available – and advice on how to grow them.

Further information about this thriving club, which has been running for over 25 years, and how to join as a member can be found on our website

<https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or please feel free to email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

News from Howbery Park Birds boxed off at Howbery

In recognition of completing a year of initiatives to support birds on the park, Nurture Landscapes presented us with a second inscription – the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) – on our Biodiversity Award. Over the last 12 months, we have installed four bird feeding stations, monitoring stations, three tawny owl boxes and other new boxes for songbirds.



We also participated in last year's Big Garden Birdwatch and surveyed the plants and trees in our grounds to check there are plentiful berries and grains for birds to feed on. By completing these initiatives we met criteria set out by Nurture Landscapes and the BTO. The second inscription on the award, which has six petals, joins that of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust logo, which we earned the previous year for our work championing bees.

Nurture's Biodiversity Manager Simon Blackley said: "The year-by-year approach is giving real structure to Howbery's biodiversity work, and encourages everyone to think

about the needs of one particular area of conservation for a year. I'm particularly encouraged to see the bird feeders next to the café's terrace, allowing people inside and out to observe the birds. This meets one of the aims of the scheme – to raise public awareness." The focus year is just the starting point for ongoing work – we won't suddenly stop supporting them. This year we are planning to add more bird boxes and the Nurture Landscapes team will continue to monitor them. Already this year, they have spotted an owl on top of one of our new owl boxes. Plus we took part again in the Big Garden Birdwatch

Cholsey Repair Café

Cholsey Repair Café's next event will be at the Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 21st May, opening from 11.00 to 1.45pm and offers help and advice on repairs to many kinds of domestic items (instead of throwing them away), a sharpening service and electrical safety testing. Repair help is free but donations towards the cost of hall hire are appreciated. The repair cafe runs regularly on the third Saturday of odd-numbered months and coincides with the Cholsey Community Café, where you can get tea, coffee and tasty cakes.

More helpful information can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com.

Experimental Wildflower Meadow

Under the walnut tree in Howbery Farm the grass is being left to grow to its natural height. The wild flowers that will also grow will provide nectar for pollinating insects and support our declining wildlife.

Native wild plants and seeds will be added where needed through the season and long dormant species may regrow. All will be cut back in August, when the seeds have fallen, and the grass then cut as usual until winter. If successful this could be repeated each year and extended to other sites around the village if desired.

Supported by Crowmarsh Parish Council
Enquiries and feedback
to: crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

Councils to let wildflowers bloom during No Mow May

Wildflowers could bloom in more public areas next month after South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils pledged their support for No Mow May.

The two councils already designate wildflower meadows which they only cut two to three times a year but this year they will trial leaving several additional areas of land uncut for No Mow May, a national campaign which encourages people to not mow gardens and public areas during May.

The campaign aims to get people to let grass grow long to help boost biodiversity and provide a feast of wildflower nectar for bees. Not cutting lawns for a month encourages more flowers to grow and May is the point at which grass starts growing at its fastest rate.

At the end of the month, people are asked to take part in Every Flower Counts (<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/>), a survey which will help to reveal how many bees the UK's lawns can feed and the councils will also review how the trial has impacted each area.

Cllr Sue Cooper, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery at South Oxfordshire District Council, said "No Mow May is a great reminder that by making small and simple changes you can make a real positive difference to our environment.

Cllr Andrew Crawford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "It's really important that we do what we can to boost our biodiversity on our public land so I'm really pleased we are supporting No Mow May. It's a great campaign and requires no effort to get involved – if you have a garden please join in and see if new plants and wildlife start to appear outside your home.

For more information about how the councils carry out grass cutting in their districts visitsouthoxon.gov.uk/NoMowMay (<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/NoMowMay>) or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/NoMowMay (<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/NoMowMay>)

For more information about No Mow May, visit the Plantlife website (<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/no-mow-may>).

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

Useful telephone numbers

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



Wallingford Museum News

Wallingford Museum is experimenting in new forms of interpretation namely podcasts and YouTube films.

Our first YouTube film is of Judy Dewey, Curator of Wallingford Museum describing how the castle model fits within the present day town.



The Museum's latest acquisition, GD Leslie's painting 'A Thameside Conversation' is the subject of an Anthony Wilder podcast. If you listen to the podcast at home, we hope you will be inspired to come to the museum to see this superb painting for yourself.

GD Leslie (1835-1921) was a well-known Victorian artist who lived in Wallingford at Riverside in Thames Street between 1884 and 1891. He was an ardent lover of nature, and particularly of the River Thames and this painting depicts a scene on the riverside, probably at Pangbourne. It was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1864.

The good news is that Wallingford's Guided Historic Town Walks have started again, every Saturday morning at 11am from 16th April until 24th 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

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 11th May

Melanie King: 'Can onions cure earache? Medical advice in the 18th century.'

Wednesday 8th June

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

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

Sue Wright
Wallingford Museum

Chiltern Chase supporting Sue Ryder

Community-organised charity run is back for 2022 on Sunday 12th June, and is announcing a new charity partner.

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.

After two of the group had children receiving special care from the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford they decided to pull together, create

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

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Sat 7th May: A tribute to the Gerry Mulligan/Chet Baker Quartet
Featuring Ben Cummings and Amy Roberts 

Sat 11th June: Liane Carroll
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Crowmarsh Village Hall Doors 6-45pm. Show 7.30pm

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

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a local course and organise a race to raise funds for charity to say thanks for the life-saving care. And they haven't looked back since. They've supported around ten different charities along the way including the John Radcliffe special care baby unit, Air Ambulance and Mind. Every year half of the proceeds go to Ewelme primary school. They have wanted to support the local Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire for some time through the Chiltern Chase.

The Chiltern Chase regularly attracts around 500 runners to take on scenic 5km, 10km or 15km routes through the stunning Chilterns. The event organisers hope lots of people will support this year's event by signing up at www.chilternchase.org.uk.

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 they are accompanied by a parent. There's a car park, easy access to the start line and delicious refreshments and cake.

Meghan Bentley, Community Fundraiser at Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire said, "We're absolutely thrilled to be charity partners for the popular Chiltern Chase for the next two years and want to thank the organisers for supporting us."

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

Wallingford Country Market

Every Friday in St Mary-le-More Church between 9.30am and 12noon

Our Annual 'Outside Market' coincides this year with the Queen's Platinum Anniversary celebrations on Saturday 4th June. It will be held in the Market Place between 9am and 12.30pm, and will replace our usual Friday market on 3rd June. This market will feature 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 sell. 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.



Improving Crowmarsh Pavilion Facilities

The Parish Council is engaged in a project to provide new facilities at the Crowmarsh Pavilion on the recreation ground for the local community. This will complement the success of the adjacent and popular playground, which was completed about two years ago, with the help of grants from SODC Community Capital Grants and WREN's FCC Community Action Fund, as well as Parish Council funding and contributions from others.

The project involves the conversion of surplus changing space to create new toilet provision, meeting room and a servery all within the existing external walls, without extending the building. Users have identified a need for additional toilet provision to serve the recreation ground and children's play area. The toilets will be externally, independently accessible and located near the children's play area.

There will be two unisex toilets including Disability access and baby changing facilities. The toilets will be accessible by a ramp for wheelchair and pram users, and by new stairs.

There will be a new additional meeting room, as there is considerable demand on the existing Meeting/Club Room and the additional room will provide greater flexibility in the programming and use of the pavilion.

A drinks and snack server with external hatch is to be included for the provision of refreshments to those using the sports fields and children's play area. This will allow the parallel use of the main hall and kitchen as required. It is hoped that a number of local groups (such as the school PTA, Beavers and Cubs, the local church group and sports clubs) will benefit from the upgraded facilities.

The access and upper landing will be reconstructed with metal balustrading to create a more open appearance with improved visibility for parents of children using the facilities.

The existing Meeting/Club Room will be improved with two new windows, giving more natural light and views, making it a more attractive as a venue.

At present there is a limited rear terrace that is not suitable for socialising or activities. This terrace is being improved, extended and made more visually attractive with planting boxes, tables and chairs, and will provide space for terrace games.

As well as contributing, the Parish Council is seeking funding from South and Vale Capital Grants and FCC Community Action Fund with the aim of starting building works in the second half of 2022. If parishioners have questions or comments, they can be addressed to the Parish Clerk at crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

The Corn Exchange in May

Full details of all performances are available on the website: www.cornexchange.org.uk

Cinema

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

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

Sunday 1st to Thursday 5th: Operation Mincemeat (12A)
Friday 6th to Sunday 8th: The Outfit (15)
Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th: Hive (15)
Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th: Don't Look Up (15)
Friday 13th: Paris 13th District (18)
Sunday 29th to Thursday 2nd June: Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)
Wednesday 1st June, 2:30pm: Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)

Live on stage

Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th May, 7:45pm

Sinodun Players present Nell Gwynn by Jessica Swale

Tickets £12 (special offer of £9 on the first night)

The time is the 1660s. Charles II has ascended the throne. Nell Gwynn, is an orange seller turned actress who was to become the King's mistress, probably his favourite. He had a secret passage built between his court rooms to her house in Pall Mall so that they could rendezvous away from public eyes. And the people loved her because she was one of them. The play is an entertaining homage to Nell rather than an attempt at documentary style historical accuracy. And it's great fun.

Coming soon

Saturday 4th June, 7:45pm: Pulse (a Pink Floyd Tribute Band)

Tuesday 7th June, 7pm: Royal Ballet live recording from Covent Garden

Thursday 9th June, 7pm: NT Live Screening of Straight Line Crazy

Wednesday 22nd June to Saturday 25th June: Encore Youth Annual Showcase

Wednesday 13th July to Saturday 16th July: Sinodun Players present Bedroom Farce

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WHAT'S ON — MAY 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
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Centre 70
Various Days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	See - http://www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family service first Sunday of month.	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
Various Days	Differing times	Cycling CTC Wallingford	See- http://www.ctcwallingford.org.uk

This month

Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd May	All Day	Bank Holiday Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Wednesday 4th May	14.00 onwards	U3A: Variety is the Spice....of working?	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 5th May	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Sunday 8th May	All day	Wallingford Vehicle Rally	Town Centre and KineCroft, see wallingfordcarrally.org
Sunday 8th May	4pm	Evening Service	St Mary's Church, Newnham Murren
Wednesday 11th May	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Medical Advice from the 18 th Century	St Mary's Church Wallingford
Saturday 14th May	19.00 to 21.00	Music: OSJ, Young Stars of the Future	Dorchester Abbey See Dorchester-abbey.org
Saturday 14th May	19.00 onwards	Amwell Springs Ale Train	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Saturday 14th May	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
Thursday 26th May	19.00 onwards	Annual Parish Meeting	Crowmarsh Pavilion

June			
Wednesday 1st June	14.00 onwards	U3A: Wonderful Wales	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June	All Day	Jubilee Bank Holiday Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Saturday 4th June		Jubilee Competitions	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Sunday 5th June	12.30-16.30	The Big Jubilee Lunch 2022	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 9th June	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall

Details of walks with Didcot & Wallingford Ramblers are at www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford