

Issue 447

December 2015

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 currently distributed to over 700 households in Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell.

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

1 month – £7.50
3 months – £21.00
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Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £25.00 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies, please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News Team

The *Crowmarsh News* is run by the Crowmarsh News Association, a group of local volunteers.

Editorial and Layout: James and Toni Taylor

Editorial support: John Griffin

What's On listings: Julian Park

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and Team

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the January issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our 20th December deadline.

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

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

or deliver to the Editor at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

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Village Carols

Our annual Village Carols for all will be on Thursday 17th December at 6pm in St Mary Magdalene church. With carols, sketches, music, poems, songs and other seasonal performances from individuals and groups around our village, it promises to be an evening of Christmas celebration. There will be home-made mulled wine and mince pies to add to the Christmas cheer.

If you'd like to perform, please let Sarah Nesbitt know. Otherwise, just turn up on the night and join us as we prepare for Christmas as only Crowmarsh can.

Sarah Nesbitt
sjn62@icloud.com, 825903/07770 930756

Christmas Tree Festival

Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church Wallingford, 10th to 13th December.

Please come and see the 28 Christmas Trees in St Mary's Church in the Market Place. Each tree will be decorated by various local playgroups, schools or youth groups. The trees will each represent a carol or Christmas song which you can try to identify. There will be musical entertainment from time to time and refreshments, including soup and mulled wine, will be served.

The church will be open all day and the timing of the various events will be on the posters outside the church.

Free Family Carol Concert

Charity Parents And Children Together (PACT) will be holding its annual Carol Concert at Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 13th December.

The concert will include performances from the Abbey Choir and soprano Erin Hughes along with choir girl Rhean Legg. There will also be lots of opportunities for the congregation to join in for classic Christmas carols. PACT is especially delighted to welcome members of the Reading Community Gospel Choir (as seen on BBC's *The One Show* and *Songs of Praise*).

The carol concert will start at 5pm but everyone is invited to come to the Abbey at 4pm for a family tea party.

Tickets are free but should be booked in advance at www.pactcharity.org/carols. A retiring collection will be taken for PACT.

PACT supports families across Oxfordshire and beyond through adoption, award-winning therapeutic services and community projects. Chief executive Jan Fishwick said: "This is the fifth time we've returned to wonderful Dorchester Abbey for our Carol Concert. It's a lovely event and I encourage all to come along and get into the festive spirit!"

The concert is hosted by Rector of Dorchester Abbey and PACT trustee Rev Sue Booy.

Our own Scout Christmas Post

1st Crowmarsh Scout Group are delighted to work once again with other local Scout Groups to provide a special Scout Christmas Post between 1st and 18th December. Only 25p per card!

To use our delivery service, all you have to do is check your card is going to our delivery area and, if it is, just pop your card, along with 25p per card, into one of our special postboxes. Local Scouts will ensure delivery before Christmas and all proceeds will help local young people in Scouting.

Crowmarsh Scout Postboxes are located at

- Crowmarsh Village Store
- Crowmarsh Gifford School
- CEH Office, Crowmarsh Gifford
- North Stoke Village Hall
- South Stoke Village Store

Delivery Area:

Benson, Berick Salome, Cholsey, Crowmarsh, Ewelme, North Stoke, Preston Crowmarsh, Roke, Rokemarsh, South Stoke, Shillingford, Warborough, Wallingford & Winterbrook. Please only put cards in the box to be delivered to the areas listed!

Crowmarsh Gifford School

Can't believe December is here again! The classrooms are already feeling like Christmas and the children have been preparing for their plays for the past few weeks. Like last year, every child in our school will perform in a Christmas show. We hope that members of our community are able to come and watch the magic unfold with us! Our doors are open and invites are being sent out.....

We have had another busy month. Just recently we welcomed our MP John Howell back into school to return our flag that last year's class 6 designed. Remember, it was the flag that represented Oxfordshire in the 2015 Parliament Flags Project? You will now see a new flag pole outside our main gates where we will continue the tradition of having our pupils raising and lowering the flag during the day.

Also, thank you to those people who pointed out our school in the top 200 primary school's list in *The Sunday Times* the other weekend. On closer inspection we realised we featured fourth in Oxfordshire! A huge congratulations must be given to the incredible work of ALL the staff in school. They truly are a remarkable and dynamic team who always put the children at the centre of all they do. Of course, a huge thank you to the parents as well, for their continued support of all that we do.

Come and see our school this Christmas....we would love to welcome you into our school for many of our Christmas events that will be taking place over the following weeks. Also, for those who join us for our Christingle, please note that we are moving the date of this service until January so will inform you of the arrangements nearer the time.

Until then, we wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas.....

Mrs Flora Barton
Headteacher

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency number 101

Crowmarsh Pre-school

This month the children had a fun filled week of activities, crafts, baking and pyjama wearing to raise money for Children in Need. Everyone had a wonderful time raising money and the pre-school managed to raise £60 for this great cause.

The pre-school welcomed the Early Years Manager from Oxfordshire County Council in to our setting this month to find out more about what our outstanding pre-school does. We are also excited to welcome our new supervisor, Kelly, who starts with us this month.

Crowmarsh Pre-school is currently recruiting for a part time pre-school assistant. If you are passionate about working with children and would like further information about the role or to apply, please visit our website:
www.crowmarshpre-school.org.uk

Crowmarsh Pre-school has a strong emphasis on learning through play. We are open to all children between the ages of two and five years old and provide the perfect (and FUN) preparation for children getting ready to start school.

We offer two sessions a day during term time: Morning session 8.45/9am-12pm and an afternoon session 12-3pm. Lunch club is 12-1pm and may be added on to the morning session.

To find out more information about the pre-school please call our Manager, Dilys Beaumont, for a chat on 07951599623 or e-mail Vikki at admissions@crowmarshpre-school.org.uk

Wine, Mince Pies and Quiz with the Wallingford Gardening Club

At the December meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, our members will test their gardening know-how with a short quiz. Following a very brief Annual General Meeting, they will all enjoy wine and mince pies!

This event will be held in the Ridgeway Community Centre, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th December. As always, visitors will be very welcome for a nominal charge of £2.

Applications for School Places in September 2016

Entry to primary or infant school in September 2016

Children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012

The Admissions process for school places for September 2016 has now begun. The most important dates in the admissions process are as follows:

15 January 2016 – closing date for on time applications

Parents or Carers must apply by this date, on-line at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or on paper (forms are available from the County Council website or local schools).

18 April 2016 – letters offering places will be (second class) posted. Those who applied on-line will receive an email and will be able to view the result of their application online.

A reference booklet called *Starting School* is published on the County Council website and printed copies are available in all primary and infant schools, and in libraries.

To book the Pavilion or Hardcourt area in Crowmarsh...

phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or
e-mail chrisstrange47@gmail.com



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A Crowmarsh Wedding

A large crowd gathered at Crowmarsh Church, not only from Crowmarsh, but from Wallingford and neighbouring villages, for the wedding of Frances Caroline Williams-Wynn, second daughter of Henry Bertie Williams-Wynn of Howbery Park to Samuel Richard Brewis, of Ibstone House, Bucks. Frances was only 18 at the time. The wedding was due to start at 11am on Wednesday 6th November 1872. Large crowds began to gather up to an hour before the commencement of the ceremony. The road from Howbery Park to St Mary's Church was lined with people and the churchyard was full of spectators. The pathway from the street was carpeted and over the gate an arch was erected made from evergreens and flowers, topped with a flag bearing the words "May you be happy" (there was no lych-gate in 1872).

Around the entrance to the church, ferns and flowers had been arranged; inside the decorations were very elaborate. All the floral arrangements were done by Miss Eleanor Trollope and her sisters, daughters of the Rector, Revd J Trollope. As soon as the church was opened, people crowded in filling all the pews, with the exception of the chancel, which was reserved for the family and their guests, (about fifty in number). Many of the villagers who had come to witness the wedding were unable to get into the church, but were able to watch the ceremony by looking through the windows.

The bride, who was accompanied by her father, was the last to arrive. She was met at the church door by her six bridesmaids. The bridesmaids were her three sisters, Jessie, Bertha and Henrietta, Countess Marie and

Countess Helene Bismarck (two of the bride's cousins) and Miss Emily Conant, cousin of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were dressed in white silk tunics over white muslin, with pink and blue trimmings, with headdresses of lily of the valley and orange blossom with white tulle veils. The best man was Mr Percy Brewis, the bridegroom's brother. The bride wore a white silk dress, trimmed with Brussels lace, with a headdress that matched the bridesmaids'. The service was conducted by the Revds H Savell-Young, Studholme Brownrigg (an uncle) and the Rector J Trollope.

After the service, the happy couple walked down the aisle to Mendelssohn's Wedding March. As they left the church, the bells of Crowmarsh and Wallingford were rung. The path from the church to the road was lined by flag-waving school children; flowers covered the path up to the gate. The couple were conveyed to Howbery Park by carriage, where a wedding breakfast was served to the fifty guests. After the breakfast, the usual toasts and speeches were made. The bride and groom left for Didcot Station, from where they went on to Bath by train.

In the evening a dance was held at which a hundred guests were invited, the music being provided by Slapoffski's quadrille band. Guests were also able to view the presents which were on display in the morning room.

It's interesting to note that Frances' two bridesmaids, Marie and Helene, were related to Karl Otto von Bismarck, the German Chancellor. Marie was his daughter and Helene was his niece; her mother, Charlotte, was the sister of Henry Bertie Williams-Wynn, of Howbery Park.

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The date for the next Sale of Donated Goods is Saturday 12th December. As always, the sale will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm. We regret we are unable to accept goods on Sale

Day or the day before.

Volunteers are always needed to select and allocate donated goods and to assist with Sales. The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF.

For further details of these sales, please call 01491 641384 ext 246.

Wallingford Photographic Club



Wallingford Photographic Club meets on Thursday evenings at Crowmarsh Pavilion. The club is always pleased to welcome visitors (£3 for the evening) and new members, from beginners to advanced photographers. If there is something which interests you in the club programme, why not come along as a visitor and find out more about the club? Full details are on the website, www.wallingfordphoto.club

Our photograph this month is "Magic Woodland" by Michael Parrott. It was taken in woodland at Swincombe with a digital camera which has been adapted to be sensitive to infrared light.

To book North Stoke Village Hall

contact Nikki Arnfeld
 – 839736, 07969 788766, or
narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk
 or Stuart Soames
 – 836058, or
sjwsoames@btinternet.com



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The History of Glass and Glasses

December's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Dr Stephen Head, who will present 'The History of Glass and Glasses'.

Steve is fascinated by glass, and his collection concentrates on the great 18th century peak of British glass production. He will talk about the origins and history of glass, and the signs to look for in collecting old glass.

This talk will be held on Friday 11th December, 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.
www.twhas.org.uk

The White Tower under the Normans

January's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Jeremy Ashbee (English Heritage), who will present 'The White Tower under the Normans'.

Following his excellent talk on the Tower of London in the 13th and 14th centuries at the recent 'Castles of the Thames Valley' conference in Wallingford, Jeremy will be talking to us again about the Norman core of the Tower, the White Tower.

Based on work he did some years ago ahead of a major conservation campaign at the Tower, the talk will present a synthesis of documentary and archaeological examination of the building, and comparison with other parts of the complex and other towers elsewhere, to suggest what the intentions of the Normans were when they built it, and how that contrasts with how it subsequently evolved and was used in practice.

This talk will be held on Friday 8th January, 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall. As always, visitors (£3) are most welcome:
www.twhas.org.uk



Our winter break

As usual, Wallingford Museum will close for its winter break (December to February) to carry out refurbishment and prepare exciting new exhibitions for next year.

These will feature William the Conqueror's impact on Wallingford – including his crossing of the Thames here with his army 950 years ago after the Battle of Hastings. There'll also be an unusual and fascinating special exhibition revealing history through the work of cartoonists over the centuries. The Museum will re-open on 1st March 2016.

Please remember that the highly successful Museum bookshop, with its constantly changing stock of good second-hand books (all modestly priced) will remain open during December, January and February. The bookshop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 1pm.

However, for one Saturday only there will be 'The Best Book Sale' on 5th December from 10.30am to 3pm.

Sinodun Players' Panto

The Sinodun Players will be performing *Rapunzel* at the Wallingford Corn Exchange from 15th-30th January 2016.

This traditional family panto is brim-full with colourful characters. Audiences can boo, hiss, laugh, sing, clap, sneeze, quack and pat their heads whilst rubbing their tummies at the antics of witches, silly gnomes, courtiers, fairies and, of course, the lovely Rapunzel and her dashing prince.

Performances Tuesdays to Saturdays with a Saturday matinee. Tickets cost £10 for adults (Tuesday-Thursday) or £12 (Friday and Saturday), and £6 for children. They are on sale NOW from the box office (825000) or www.cornexchange.org.uk

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Are you having problems heating your house, or do you feel that you're paying more than you should? South Oxfordshire Citizens' Advice is urging people to take action, cut their bills by checking that they are on the best possible deal, switch tariff or supplier, or take up offers of help to insulate their homes.

You could benefit from savings of up to £320 a year from energy efficiency measures, an average of £100 by paying by direct debit, and up to £200 by shopping around.

Citizens' Advice has published new energy advice information and links to comparison tools. To find out how you can benefit, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advisernet/consumer/energy/energy-supply

Citizens' Advice has also issued eight money-saving tips:

1. Check your bills carefully and read your meter regularly so you can check that you're paying the right amount.
2. Talk to your supplier if you think your bill is wrong or if you have problems paying. They will give you advice or talk you through repayment options.
3. Make sure that you are on the cheapest tariff. Check with your supplier and use an accredited tariff-switching website to see who is offering the best deal. Most energy suppliers offer fixed price tariffs, ie the price of a unit of energy will stay the same for the length of the deal.
4. If you use a pre-payment meter, remember that standing charges will be added daily, even when you aren't using energy. Check how much these standing charges are and keep your meter topped up to avoid unexpected charges.

5. If you use heating oil as your main fuel, buy before winter and see if there are any local oil-buying clubs you can join. A scheme covering many local villages is the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council's Bulk Oil-Buying Scheme - visit www.oxon.rcc.org.uk

6. Make your home energy-efficient. Insulate lofts and cavity walls, install double glazing or use thick curtains to keep the heat in. Get your boiler serviced or replaced to ensure that it is energy-efficient. There are schemes to help pay for this and Citizens' Advice can tell you about them.

7. Save money and energy – don't leave appliances on standby. Fix leaking hot water taps and turn off the light when you leave a room.

8. Do a home energy check – visit the Energy Saving Trust home energy check at www.hec.est.org.uk Use this check to get a full report with details of your home energy use and the savings you could make.

Lastly, if money is tight, contact your local Citizens' Advice. They can look into your situation and see whether you are getting all the benefits you're entitled to, or if you can get help paying your bills.

Domestic abuse

Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens' Advice is raising awareness of specialist helplines people can call if they suspect that someone they know is in an abusive relationship.

- If the victim is a woman, you can get help from the freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247 (run in partnership by Refuge and Women's Aid)
- If the victim is a man, you can get help from the Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327
- If the victim is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, you can get specialised help from Broken Rainbow on 0300 999 5428
- If you live in Wales you can call the bilingual Live Fear Free national helpline on 0808 80 10 800

For further help: visit www.adviceguide.org.uk, phone 03444 111 444 or drop in to your CAB.

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Team Rector: Rev'd David Rice
22 Castle Street, Wallingford
Email: david.rice@ntlworld.com
Tel. 01491 202188

Churchwardens:
Margaret Foster, tel: 836076
Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services for December

Sunday 6th	Advent.2.	11am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 8th		12.30pm	Lunchtime Carols
Sunday 13th	Advent .3.	11am	All Age Worship
Thursday 17th		6pm	Village Carols
Sunday 20th	Advent .4.	11am	Parish Communion
Thursday 24th	Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols by Candlelight
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Friday 25th	Christmas Day	11am	Christmas All Age Communion
Sunday 27th	Christmas .1.	10am	Team Communion

St Mary Le More, Wallingford

Hello,

As you can see by the list shown above, the Church building will be well used over the month of December, and that is how we like it!

The Lunchtime Carols on Wednesday 8th is open to everyone who would like to celebrate Christmas with the people who come to work in the offices located in our village. We have a short service of Lessons and Carols, followed by a simple lunch of home-made soup and bread; a real moment of reflection during a busy time.

Carols by Candlelight is the time when the spirit of Christmas has really arrived as all the children come into the Church, to hear and tell the story of the Nativity; last year we needed elastic walls, but somehow everyone managed to squeeze in. Let's see how many more we can squeeze in this year!

For those who can't manage to attend the previous gatherings, there will be Services of Celebration at the Midnight Communion or Christmas Day All Age Communion.

A lot of celebration, during this period, but do we all really understand what we are singing about, and when we hear the familiar readings, do they go over the top of our head,

because we have heard them so many times over the years?

But it is good, to stop and go back to the Bible to read again the story of Jesus' arrival on this earth.

The story is an old one, and yet is as up to date as today. We still in this world have tyranny, zealous dictators, the oppressed and refugees, all of these things Jesus was a part of when he was born.

He came and gave us a message of hope and forgiveness, one which the world has yet to take on board in all its widest meaning. Let us this Christmas time, make a real effort to take a little bit of Christmas with us to last all through the year.

May you all have a blessed Christmas, and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

From all at St Mary Magdalene's,

Margaret Foster
Churchwarden

Pictures and logos for the Crowmarsh News...

...are best in .jpg or .pdf format.

Wallingford U3A

Our November speaker, Tony King, gave us a kaleidoscopic history of London's popular theatre world, from the 1663 opening of the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane and the World's first circus in 1781 onwards, in an amazing feast of music and colour.

He had rare footage of Lillian Gish singing "Follow the Van", of Little Titch and Ella Shields, pictures and recordings from the great Music Halls, of the Hippodromes, Sadlers Wells and the Alhambra. Then there was the arrival of electricity, and the coming of the great marbled and gilded cinemas.

There were tough times during the 20th century with wars and depression (what an audience should do if there was an air raid!), but there was Noel Coward, "Cavalcade", Howard Keel, Fred Astaire.

Post War saw the arrival of the great American Musicals: *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, through to *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story* and *Les Miserables*. He gave us much, much more than this brief survey suggests and has promised to come back. When he does, don't miss it.

Up and Coming:

2nd December: Christmas Party, Wine, Music and Song with Pandemonium

6th January: Not Joanna Lumley, Moscow to Vladivostok on the Trans Siberian Express. (Catherine and Deirdre)

4th February: AGM, then Jim and Pat Fish: Travels and Wildlife in Tanzania

Our Meetings are held at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome. For more information visit our website: www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford, or phone Jill on 835994.

Short Mat Bowls

takes place at the Pavilion on Tuesdays at 7pm and on Thursdays at 2pm. For more information, please call 837518.

District Councillor's Report

Oxfordshire County Council Budget Cuts

We should have news regarding OCC budget cuts and the results of their public consultation soon. I know many of you have joined me and taken the time to take part in the consultation, voicing your concerns especially regarding our local waste recycling centre at Oakley Wood.

I believe the Oakley Wood facility is sustainable and should remain open. I will give an update on this as soon as I hear from OCC.

Residents' Survey

We are currently knocking on doors to ask residents to take part in this year's Residents' Survey. We use the survey to keep track of what people think of the local area and our services. The researchers carrying out the survey all carry ID and an authorisation letter. If you have doubt about somebody on your doorstep, politely turn them away, close the door and give us a call on 01235 540614.

Christmas Parking Days

We're offering free parking days to help you shop locally in the run up to Christmas.

In South Oxfordshire it's FREE on the following days in December:

Didcot - every Tuesday

Goring - every Saturday

Henley - every Tuesday

Thame - every Saturday

Wallingford - every Thursday

Christmas Waste Collection

The Christmas waste collection calendar can be found in the latest edition of our residents' newsletter, *Outlook*, or on our website and explains when to put your bins out over the Festive Season.

If you have a District matter you would like help or advice with please do get in touch.

Enjoy the forthcoming holiday season!

Cllr Felix Bloomfield

Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523,

email: johngriffin@phonecoop.coop

Parish Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford

Website: <http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php>

Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 5th November 2015

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Francesca Jones, Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Hermsen, Ann Sharp, David Mannering and Stuart Soames; Sue Rance (Clerk), Melanie Malcolm (Finance Officer) and members of the public.

Apologies: from Councillors A Johnson, Mo Fillmore and Fleur Stevenson.

Matters arising from previous meeting

Grass cutting: the Crowmarsh Hill end of the footpath to Park View had still not been cut but must be included in the contract for next year. Cllr Soames had asked Scofell to do a final cut on the recreation ground at North Stoke.

The SODC Waste Team will not approve any new dog waste bins and has decided that litter bins recently requested by the Parish Council are unnecessary. Dog waste may now be placed in litter bins where no dog bin is available: signs need to be added to make this clear. Howbery Park do not plan to install a bin at the bus stop by the entrance to their site in Benson Lane but will continue to pick up litter there as necessary.

Cllrs Sherbourne and Griffin attended the Agrivert Liaison Meeting. There were no serious problems to report. Agrivert supply compost for both Botany and Emery-Owen allotments and are open to applications to support community projects.

The Chairman had attended the recent Town and Parish Council Forum and asked about the future of the SODC office site. A settlement with the insurers is expected by the end of the year, after which an announcement will be made.

Concerns about possible exposure to asbestos and vermin will be reported again to SODC and to our District Councillors.

It was agreed that retiring councillors may be presented with a long service certificate (gifts of monetary value are not allowed from public funds). The details will be discussed at a future meeting.

Finance

Payments were approved and the income and expenditure noted. A draft budget will be presented at the 10th December meeting. It was agreed that a budget working party will meet beforehand to prioritise suggested projects for presentation to the full council meeting.

The Finance Officer reported that the Council Tax Relief Support Grant, which has been received in the past from SODC, is being withheld this year, but grants may be applied for from SODC for specific projects.

The County Council is looking at devolving responsibility for a number of maintenance tasks to town and parish councils. Funding is not passed on in most cases, so parishes would have to find the costs from their budget, but might be able to manage the work more efficiently and could call on volunteers.

The council's insurance arrangements were reviewed and approved. The Finance Officer will review the council's asset register.

Grants of £100 each were agreed to the Crowmarsh and the North Stoke British Legion Poppy Appeals.

South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance: The Clerk will request more information about the charity's financial position and ask whether local people are benefitting from the service they offer.

County Councillor's report

Cllr Gray reported that the planned £50,000,000 of County Council cuts to services such as children's centres could be avoided by increasing council tax by 10%. This would require the County Council to hold a referendum and win it. At the 'Talking Oxfordshire' meeting held at the Regal Centre in Wallingford to discuss the cuts, there was a call for a public referendum on an increase in council tax.

An on-line consultation is taking place on children's centres: these may be withdrawn and replaced by eight resource centres in the major towns. More children are being taken into care than ever before so an early intervention service is needed to reduce this. Cllr Gray is working with children's centres to see what can be done in terms of locality support and to try to obtain some funding from other organisations, including parish councils.

The 134 Wallingford – The Stokes – Goring bus service is unlikely to be cut. There are currently 100 users of this service per day. However, other subsidised bus services will be affected.

OCC is asking parish councils to take on some of their responsibilities through a scheme called Oxfordshire Together: for example, grass cutting (which Crowmarsh Parish Council already does), school crossing patrol, sign cleaning and minor tree maintenance. Verges are now cut twice a year except for areas where safety is a consideration.

Planning

SODC decisions:

P15/S2987/HH (Householder): Erection of two single storey timber buildings to be used as garden rooms. 26 Wallingford Road, North Stoke, OX10 6BB:
PERMISSION GRANTED.

P15/3026/DIS: Discharge of condition 3 of planning permission P14/S3445/HH. Demolish existing derelict outbuilding, construct new outbuilding incorporating a double garage, storage and functions ancillary to the main house. Walled Garden, The Street,

Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EJ:
PERMISSION GRANTED.

Parish Council responses to SODC:

P15/S2158/FUL: Amendment no. 1: Proposed partial demolition of The Springs Hotel and part conversion, along with new build development to create 19 dwellings. The Springs Hotel, Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BE:
RECOMMEND REFUSAL as original application.

P15/S3211/HH: Single storey side and rear extension. 14 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED:
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P15/S3221/HH: Double and single storey rear extensions. Replacement glazing. PV panels to rear roof slope of existing house and roof slope to new rear extension. Demolition of existing outbuildings (as amended to reduce the depth of the extensions). 24 Wallingford Road, North Stoke (in the parish of Crowmarsh), OX10 6BB:
RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

P15/S3350/HH: Garsons Cottage, Pocock Lane, North Stoke (in the parish of Crowmarsh), OX10 6BG:
NO STRONG VIEWS.

P15/S3387/FUL: Demolition of existing buildings and creation of a new headquarters for CABI, erection of 91 dwelling houses, comprising open market and affordable housing, provision of open space, landscaping and parking and other associated works. The residential part of the proposal is made in full while the CABI headquarters part is made in outline form with all matters reserved for future consideration except access: CABI International, Nosworthy Way, Mongewell (in the parish of Crowmarsh), OX10 8DE:
RECOMMEND REFUSAL for the following reasons:

1. In planning terms this application consists of two distinct parts: an outline application for a replacement headquarters building for CABI, and a full application for a commercial housing development (intended to fund the new CABI building). The harm caused by the major

“enabling” housing development in visual, amenity and environmental terms would greatly exceed the benefit of replacing the existing CABI offices with a sustainable new HQ building in the area of outstanding natural beauty.

2. The main reason for recommending the refusal of this application is that it proposes major new residential development in an isolated location in the countryside. This is a substantial proposal for 91 housing units in a rural area away from the settlements of Crowmarsh Gifford and Wallingford. This is not a location where housing would normally be allowed. It is not a sustainable location for residential development and is contrary to Core Strategy policy CSS1 and SOLP policies G1 to G4 and H6: “Except as specifically provided for under other plan policies, planning permission will not be granted for new houses: (i) in the countryside, (ii) in settlements not listed ..., and (iii) on the edge of settlements ...” The site is approximately three-quarters of a mile from the settlement of Crowmarsh Gifford (designated as a larger village in the Local Plan) across open fields with no direct vehicular access.

3. This site is part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where only development that conserves or enhances the landscape quality of the AONB will be allowed (SOLP policy C2, Core Strategy policy CSEN1, NPPF paragraph 155). The residential development proposed will not conserve or enhance the AONB.

4. The proposals greatly expand the built footprint of a mainly green site, destroying biodiverse green areas (contrary to SOLP policy C6 and Core Strategy policies CSG1 and CSB1) and urbanising the area, including the setting of the popular public bridleway along one side of the site.

5. The site is accessed off the A4130 Nosworthy Way, a very fast piece of road, on a curve, with restricted visibility. The residential development will cause significant extra traffic as almost all travel between this remote site and any services or facilities will need to be by motorised transportation.

6. The outline application for the new HQ

complex depends entirely on the “enabling” additional housing to fund it. We have serious concerns that if the full application part of the proposal is approved prior to a fully approved application for the HQ complex it could allow the site to become a housing development without the proposed HQ complex being completed. In any case this is not the best location for a sustainable office development and is only put forward because CABI already occupies the site.

Recreation Ground & Environment Committee

The tennis club has moved to Benson. We need to promote greater use of the hard courts, which we have invested in.

The tree survey has shown that a number of willow trees near the river need to be made safe and action on this is under review. It was agreed to put up a notice and fence off part of the area and the public are asked to keep away from the riverside end of the nature area. It is hoped that some tree planting can be carried out in the main nature area soon.

Requests had now been received for remedial work on two ash trees. It was agreed that Tom Cottrell would be asked to carry out the tree work at Howbery Farm and to submit an estimate for the tree at Jethro Tull Gardens.

Traffic and Transport committee

Cllrs Sherbourne and Sharp expressed interest in joining Cllr Jones on this committee.

On 10th November a decision was to be made by Oxfordshire County Council about cutting bus subsidies. The final decision has not been made but the cuts are severe and a Parish Transport Representatives’ meeting will discuss this on 25th November.

Dial-a-Ride has been withdrawn and a volunteer drivers scheme to replace it could be a project to consider when drawing up the 2015/16 budget.

The Chairman has received a letter from the Hampshire and Thames Valley Police Operations Unit agreeing to meet to discuss the issue of speeding on the A4074 Portway.

There is no further news about the access road to the riverside park.

Report on the Thames River Users' Group (RUG3)

Cllr Mannering reported that there would no longer be public access to fire extinguishers at locks. Health and safety issues have been identified associated with the use of poles at locks. Riverside trees are to be managed by the relevant landowners rather than the Environment Agency. The fine for non-payment of mooring fees is £100. This applies to any boat using the river.

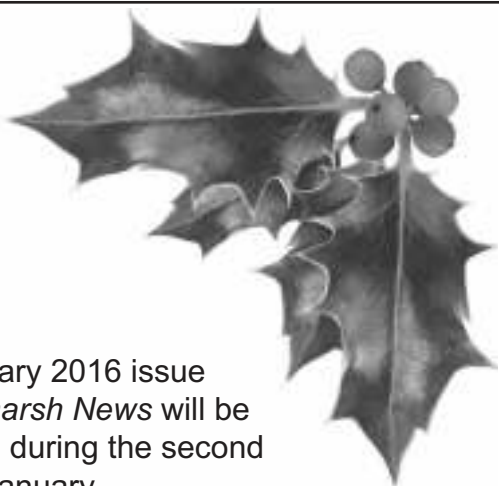
Next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 10h December at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. All welcome. The council does not normally meet in January.

Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall is ideal for children's parties and can be booked for £10.00 per hour (minimum 2 hours).

Please note that bouncy castles or other inflatables cannot be used inside the Hall, and that evening bookings from 7.00pm are subject to the full rate.

To book the Hall, call Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or e-mail cvhbookings@gmail.com.



The January 2016 issue of *Crowmarsh News* will be published during the second week in January.

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Wallingford and District Stroke Club

Wallingford and District Stroke Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall for activities and companionship, tea and cake. In the summer months we arrange outings, both locally and further afield, using the Wallingford Coach with its accessible platform.

We'd love to welcome more members (fees are very reasonable at £2 per month). If you, or someone you know, would like to join us – or just give us a try – please contact Norman Goodall on 01235 834503 or Jenny Tatman on 01491 839499 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

Stoke Row Market

The Stoke Row Market reopened for business in October. There are lots of exciting new stalls plus our familiar old stalls to browse.

Items for sale include local handmade bread, cakes, pies, pasties, local organic veg, mosaics, jewellery, bric-a-brac, local handmade wooden fencing, hurdles, (watch a display in the carpark), locally made fruit juice and crafts.

If you're feeling peckish, why not try our delicious bacon rolls, sausages in a roll, jacket potatoes, toasties, cakes, tea/coffee, canned drinks etc?

Please support us, all proceeds go to the Nuffield church windows fund. We look forward to meeting you.

For further details or to book a stall please call Sue 07782 187866 or Mary 01491 641434

Next date for the market is 19th December, from 10am to 2pm, at Stoke Row Village Hall.

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WHAT'S ON – NOVEMBER 2015

Regular events and meetings

Every Tuesday	19.00-21.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
3rd Tuesday	14.00-15.30	Age UK: Line dancing (over 50s)	Village Hall
2nd & 4th Weds	Evenings	Crowmarsh Ladies	Telephone 201756
Every Thursday	14.00-16.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	08.30-11.15	Wallingford Country Market	Regal Centre
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Regal Centre

This month

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th	All day	Santa Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 6th	13.30	CTC 21 mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 6th	All day	Christmas Festival	Wallingford Town Square
Wednesday 9th	19.30	Henley Philatelic: Stephen Marks, "Albania up to 1945"	Bix Village Hall
Thursday 10th	19.30	Parish Council	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Friday 11th	19.45	TWHAS; Steve Head on the history of glass and glasses	Wallingford Town Hall
Saturday 12th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th	All day	Santa Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Tuesday 15th	08.30-13.30	Farmers' Market	Wallingford Town Square
Thursday 17th	18.00	Village Carols	St Mary Magdalene, Crowmarsh
Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th	All day	Santa Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 20th	13.30	CTC 30-something mile road ride	Meet Wallingford Market Place
Thursday 24th	16.00	Carols by Candlelight and Nativity	St Mary Magdalene, Crowmarsh
Friday 25th	11.00-11.45	Christmas all age communion	St Mary Magdalene, Crowmarsh