

Issue 521

November 2022

The Crowmarsh News team

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

Editorial and Layout: Toni Taylor and Jane Thrift

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

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and the team

ADVERTISING RATES

The *Crowmarsh News* is distributed to over 800 households in Crowmarsh Gifford, North Stoke and Mongewell.

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

1 month — £8.50
3 months — £25.00
6 months — £45.00

Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £30 for one month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (840 copies please).

Crowmarsh News

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

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

Useful telephone numbers

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Police non-emergency number 101
NHS non-emergency number 111

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the December 2022 *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th November 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

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Welcome to new residents

A warm welcome if you have just moved into Crowmarsh Gifford, Mongewell or North Stoke, 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*.

Wallingford Country Market

The Country Market is open every Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church (behind the Town Hall) between 9.30 and 12 noon, where we sell a range of baking, plants and other produce, preserves, honey, eggs (when available) and crafts. The market has been a popular feature of the town for nearly 50 years.

Plants, produce and crafts will be available every week, but the bakery table will only be available on the first and third Fridays of each month: 4th & 18th November and 2nd & 16th December. There will be an extra special Christmas Market on 23rd December, the last market of the year. 18th November is when we start taking Christmas orders for most baked items we sell, and the market returns after the Christmas break on Friday 20th January 2023.

Baking will only be available each Friday in future if we can recruit new bakers. So, if you love to cook, (sweet or savoury), and feel that you may like to join us, please contact Alison (our Market Manager) on 01491-681596 or pop into the market one Friday morning and speak with her or any of the bakers. You would not necessarily have to bake every week, but any additional help will be very much appreciated.

A personal appeal – success!

You may remember an appeal in last month's Crowmarsh News from Alistair Clemence, a former resident of Crowmarsh, who was looking for the Williams family, also former residents who had moved to Canada. Well, we are delighted to announce that we had an instant response from a current resident who was able to put Alistair in touch with the Williams family. Thank you to Jenny for bringing about the happy reconnection.

Cholsey Repair Café

The last Cholsey Repair Café of 2022 will be held at the Cholsey Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey, on Saturday 19th November, from 11.00 to 13.45.

All manner of broken household items can be considered, except large appliances. The café's sharpening service has been very popular and recent repairs have included clothing, clocks, hairdryers, lamps, vacuum cleaners, bicycles and much more. Volunteers ask only for a donation towards running costs, plus any spare parts required. See www.cholseyrepaircafe.com for more information or email repaircafe@cholsey.com.

Library books to your door

If you or someone you know find it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service run by Oxfordshire County Council can help.

The service is completely free and delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county. Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them.

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

To register simply call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice

Benson Garden Club

To open our 2022/23 speaker programme, Benson Garden Club's October talk was given by Nick Bailey. Nick is a freelance horticulturalist, best-selling author, award-winning TV presenter, garden designer and speaker. He is a very engaging speaker and "Revive Your Garden" proved to be a practical and inspirational talk, starting with an unrelated fun fact that Chelsea Physic Garden (where he was Head Gardener for 7 years) has the most northerly fruiting grapefruit in the world.

Nick then took us through the steps and accompanying techniques needed to rejuvenate a garden from scratch. Understanding the nuances of your garden was Nick's starting point e.g. what type of soil do you have, what existing plants can you revive by cutting back really hard, where are the sun traps? Form follows function and Nick reminded us that the garden has to be practical as well as beautiful. Adding plenty of organic matter - Nick recommended mulching with milled manure – is also an important part of the rejuvenation process.

Nick showed us examples of different pruning techniques – my favourite was the canopy lift, which can transform your garden's appearance. He also described how you can layer into existing plants for successional planting with dramatic effects. For example, clematis are beautiful plants that can grow through other plants. Adding annuals to existing borders is another way to rejuvenate a tired patch – sowing Mosquito Flower seeds was one suggestion. Nick also suggested sowing self-seeders such as Nigella (Love-in-a-mist), which often create some of the best effects.

We received plenty of creative tips and inspirational ideas – what a fantastic start to our speaker programme!

Our next talk on 3rd November will be given by another very experienced and well-known gardener. With over 40 years' experience in retail and production horticulture, Andy McIndoe is an author and regular contributor to a number of magazines, blogs and BBC Radio. Andy has also been awarded the prestigious Veitch Memorial Medal. Andy's talk, "The Winter Garden", will cover foliage, flowers, stems and bark that come into their own during winter.

As usual, our venue will be Benson parish hall doors open at 7.15pm for 7.45 start (£2 for members, £5 for visitors – just turn up on the door, no need to book). We will also have our "Flower of the Month" competition (for members only).

Liz Harrison

<https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com>

or please feel free to email
bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

Under pressure to use an energy pre-payment meter?



Citizens Advice can help

In the concluding months of 2022, Citizens Advice is expecting to see more cases of a disturbing trend: low-income families with energy supply debts being pressured or even coerced into using pre-payment meters for their gas and electricity. Energy supplied by pre-payment meters costs more than energy paid by direct debit or on-demand, and this comes at a time when drastically increased price tariffs this autumn will probably see most people's fuel bills double.

Energy suppliers are legally obliged to negotiate repayment plans with customers who are falling behind on their bills, but many suppliers are ignoring this requirement and proceeding with installing pre-payment meters - or, for customers with smart meters, remotely switching them to prepayment.

If you are one of the many people who are confronting this problem, or are generally floundering amidst your finances, worried about the future, or want to discuss your in confidence, get in touch with Citizens Advice on Adviceline 0808 278 7907. You can also telephone the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133 or the Citizens Advice Debt Helpline on 0800 240 4420.

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

Phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or email chrisstrange47@gmail.com



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

November services and events (at St Mary Magdalene unless otherwise stated):

Sunday 6th:	11am	Family Service
	6pm	All Souls Memorial Service
Friday 11th:	7pm	"Quiz'n'Chips"
Saturday 12th:	10.30am-12.30pm	Crowmarsh Community Café (Village Hall)
Sunday 13th:	10.45am	gather for Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday 20th:	10am	Team Service at St Mary's, Wallingford
Sunday 27th:	11am	Advent Sunday Family Communion
	4pm	Advent Carol Service at Newnham Murren Church
Sunday 4th Dec:	11am	Family Service

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 4pm

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

The Vicar writes ...

November is traditionally the time of remembrance. We offer lots of ways to do this in church...

To test your memories our popular "Quiz'n'Chips" returns on Friday 11th November (including an Armistice themed round), so please book your team straight away by emailing me with numbers and menu options (fish, sausage or spring roll with chips). The £12 ticket price doesn't leave much spare for fund-raising, so there will be a bar and raffle to help relieve you of any spare cash. We are treated as a small business, so just keeping the lights on is a financial challenge!

We have a special team service on Sunday 20th November as we say farewell to our Team Rector, the Revd David Rice as he retires from full time ministry after 22 years in Wallingford. I am the fourth Team Vicar during this time and have personally appreciated David's wealth of experience in ministry, and our church wardens have particularly benefitted from David's help and support during the vacancies. We wish David and Janice a long and happy retirement, and hope to see them around as they won't be moving far away.

In this year when we have mourned the death of our Queen, many have been reminded of the loss of a close friend or relatives. Our All Souls' Memorial service on 6th November gives a chance to honour them by name by lighting a candle in this reflective evening service. If you wish to include the names of anyone known to you then please add their name to the list at the back of the church which is open each day.

For our Remembrance Sunday Service this year we again welcome members of our uniformed organisations as well as the Oxfordshire Home Guard who will parade in honour of all who gave their lives in wartime. Please join us for this and then in church where the service continues.

Our candlelit Advent Carol Service at Newnham falls on the last Sunday of November. There will be a minimum donation of £3 to cover costs and to raise money for the Churches Conservation Trust who maintain this lovely church building.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Past Times with David Beasley

The Sale of Howbery Estates



Picture of Howbery Mansion from the 1858 sale catalogue

It was on the 15th February 1858 that finally Howbery Estates came up for sale, after being advertised for a number of weeks in the local papers. Franklin and Gale were the auctioneers who held the auction in the Corn Exchange. The auctioneer was John Gale, who succeeded in disposing of 39 of the 49 lots. There was considerable interest locally in the auction, the property being well known in connection with the late proprietor William Seymour Blackstone, who was for several years MP for the borough of Wallingford. The Howbery Mansion was uncompleted because Blackstone was declared bankrupt and was unable to pay for the mansion to be completed.

A large number of prospective buyers assembled in the Corn Exchange and the competition was very keen. The total sales amounted to almost £35,000. The arable land and meadows, lying in Crowmarsh Gifford and Newnham Murren, fetched from £40 to £80 per acre. The Howbery Mansion, with two adjoining farms, comprising altogether some 240 acres and a fishery, were purchased by Alfred de Mornay, for a price amounting to nearly £17,000. The purchaser bid in person, and it was understood that he intended to finish and fit up the mansion and live there. The announcement of the sale of the mansion was received with considerable applause.

The Castle Grounds Estate, comprising of the site and ruins of Wallingford Castle with its magnificent trees and views, was sold to Mr John Kirby Hedges, whose residence it adjoins for £3, 250, exclusive of timber.

It was thought at the time that the prices realised were very satisfactory. Alfred de Mornay didn't stay long at Howbery, having completed the construction of the mansion he sold the house to Mr Williams-Wynn in 1862, and bought Col d'Arbres Estate (Cold Harbour) and lived there until his death in 1895.

Wallingford Theatre Club

Wallingford Theatre Club (WTC) is looking to recruit new members. Do you enjoy theatre? Would you like to enjoy going to the theatre without the hassle of driving and parking? Would you like the company of other theatre-goers with whom you can share your enjoyment (or otherwise!) of the show? Then the Theatre Club may be just what you are looking for.

Having ceased all activities during lock-down, when all theatres were closed, the Theatre Club is fully up and running again. Recent visits have been to theatres in Richmond, Winchester and Aylesbury to see such shows as HMS Pinafore, The False Servant, Boeing – Boeing, Best Exotic Marigold Hotel and Blood Brothers - an eclectic mix to suit a variety of tastes. We avoid West End theatres and choose local theatres which are up to a couple of hours drive away. They are usually in locations where there is an excellent choice of restaurants and cafes for lunch – Richmond and Winchester being prime examples.

Our trips are made in a luxury coach and leave Wallingford and Didcot mid-morning, arriving at the venue in time for lunch before the performance. We leave for home shortly after the performance ends, getting back to Wallingford or Didcot early in the evening. Altogether an enjoyable day out.

Because we are able to get discounts for group bookings ticket prices are reasonable so the current cost to members of the theatre ticket and the coach trip combined is around £60 per person.

The Wallingford Theatre Club has members from the whole Wallingford area including Didcot. If you are interested in learning more about the Theatre Club – or know enough already to want to join, please contact the Membership Secretary Marion Rae, call on 824422 or by email davidandmarion@274industries.com. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Benson Choral Society

Benson Choral will perform a concert of Mozart masterpieces in Dorchester Abbey on Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm.

Mozart was commissioned to write his masterly Requiem in 1791 but was unable to complete it before his own death. The film 'Amadeus' portrays it as a commemoration of his own life, and it is a great favourite with singers and audiences alike. Back in 1780 Mozart composed his Vesperae Solennes de Confessore, consisting of five psalms and a Magnificat. It includes the famous Laudate Dominum, whose soprano melody set against a choral background is among the most magical of all Mozart's vocal writing. Benson Choral Society is joined by four soloists and the West Forest Sinfonia Orchestra under distinguished guest conductor Nicholas Cleobury.

Tickets are available online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/benson-choral-society> or by phoning Stephanie on 01865 407395.

Henley and District Stamp Club

Sorry to tell you that Christmas will quickly be here and as the days get shorter and the nights longer, have you thought of starting a hobby? As a younger person most had a childhood collection of stamps, why not take this on as an adult and visit us at Bix one Wednesday evening? You can then join others that enjoy the hobby, meet with like-minded people.

Wednesday 9th November – 'The Franking System of Great Britain' by guest speaker Bob Garland.

Wednesday 23rd November - 'Aspects of Gibraltar' by guest speaker Eric Holmes.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 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

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Corn Exchange listings

Cinema

All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Please note that we will start on time and that latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption to sitting patrons. This means that we may have to reseat some latecomers. For Live Screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room where there is a large screen relay. The bar and auditorium will open from 7pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand.

We are also showing films on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please look at the website for updates. This is being done for an interim period but will continue if there is sufficient demand.

Tickets £10 for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

Film screenings were still being finalised as the Crowmarsh News went to print. Please check the Corn Exchange website for details of films showing in November.

Live Screenings

Thursday 3rd November, 7pm NT Live: The Seagull, recorded at the Harold Pinter theatre, London

Director: Jamie Lloyd, Starring: Emilia Clarke, Tom Rhys Harries, Indira Varma, Daniel Monks, Sophie Wu

Emilia Clarke (Game of Thrones) makes her West End debut in this 21st century retelling of Anton Chekhov's tale of love and loneliness.

A young woman is desperate for fame and a way out. A young man is pining after the woman of his dreams. A successful writer longs for a sense of achievement. An actress wants to fight the changing of the times. In an isolated home in the countryside, dreams lie in tatters, hopes are dashed, and hearts broken. With nowhere left to turn, the only option is to turn on each other.

Following his critically acclaimed five-star production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Jamie Lloyd brings Anya Reiss' adaptation of Anton Chekhov's classic play to stage. Filmed live in London's West End with a cast including Tom Rhys Harries (*White Lines*), Daniel Monks (*The Normal Heart*), Sophie Wu (*Fresh Meat*)

and Indira Varma (*Game of Thrones*).

Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior citizens), £10 (under 18s)

Wednesday 16th November, 7:15pm The Royal Ballet: A Diamond Celebration, live from Covent Garden

A dazzling showcase marking 60 years of the Friends of the Royal Opera House. The showcase will demonstrate the breadth and diversity of The Royal Ballet's repertory in classical, contemporary and heritage works. It will include world premieres of short ballets by choreographers Pam Tanowitz, Joseph Toonga and Valentino Zucchetti as well as The Royal Ballet's first performance of 'For Four' by Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon and a performance of George Balanchine's 'Diamonds'.

Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior citizens), £10 (under 18s)

Live on Stage

Saturday 26th November, 7:45 Live on stage, Arthur Smith presents his Edinburgh Fringe Show – about the Edinburgh Fringe (Age guidance 14+).

“There are Edinburgh Fringe legends and then there is Arthur Smith” (Bruce Dessau, Times)

This is Arthur Smith's love letter to the playground of the imagination that is the Edinburgh Fringe on its 75th birthday. Telling the story of this great city and its festivals and recalling some of the triumphs, disasters, love affairs and arrests of his many Augusts in Auld Reekie. Hamlet, Colditz, Leonard Cohen, Dante, dementia, Gary Lineker and the Leith Police all feature in this moving hour of revelations, songs, poems, and gags.

Announcing his new show, Arthur Smith said: 'Ever since they chose to name Arthur's Seat in my honour, I have felt obliged to study this glorious city and delve into the history of its ridiculous and brilliant Festival. I am proud to present this show as a celebration of its 75th anniversary.' Arthur has been a comedian for a very long time and is also a successful playwright with both *An Evening with Gary Lineker* and *The Live Bed Show* transferring to the West End. His autobiography, *My Name Is*

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District Council

Daphne Fairfax, was published to critical acclaim in 2009. Arthur is a regular presenter on BBC Radio 4 and 4 Extra, has appeared on Have I Got News for You, QI, Grumpy Old Men, The Unbelievable Truth and The One Show. He does the commentary on the hit BBC series Money for Nothing and his recent book is called 100 Things I Meant To Tell You. He also performs stand-up all round Britain and beyond. In 2008 he won the Edinburgh Festival Spirit of the Fringe Award and continues to host his legendary and increasingly surreal late-night tours of the Royal Mile. He spent the pandemic delving into the long and glorious history of the Edinburgh Festival and writing a joke about Deliveroo. He is the recipient of the Bath Plug Award at the Bath Comedy Festival and has won 2 (imaginary) Oscars.

All Tickets £15

Coming Soon

8th December, 7:15pm

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker, live from Covent Garden

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club is now back at Crowmarsh Pavilion for the season. Our inclusive club allows people of all ages and levels of experience to learn how to improve their photography through conversations with other members, presentations by visiting speakers, practical evenings and competitions. The club meets every Thursday at 7.30pm for an 8pm start (7.45 start on competition evenings!) and we'll have a few Zoom-only sessions during winter months.

In November we have our first competition - with a 'no set subject' contest, members submit their best work for feedback and a judge's rating. There are print and digital images categories at the session in the Pavilion and it makes for a fun and interesting evening. Then we head online (only) on 10th for award-winning Tracey Lund's talk on wildlife photography from around the world. On 17th we're online again for our much-anticipated talk from Jane Goodall on "The Beautiful Light". We end the month (on 24th) with our second competition which again is open, with no particular theme or topic.

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 6th October. Present were Councillors Stephen Sherbourne (Chair), Julian Park, David Rowley, Stuart Soames, Fleur Stevenson and Julia Streete, plus Parish Clerk Sue Rance, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet and District Councillor Sue Cooper.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

Cllr Sherbourne is awaiting a reply from Lee Turner of Oxfordshire Highways about several highways issues. The clerk has contacted cabinet members at OCC about our application for a 20mph speed limit and this is on the list to be considered next year.

The school has reminded parents to be careful when parking in Old Reading Road. It is hoped that The Bell will allow parents to park in their car park when dropping off and collecting their children, as the Queens Head does, and that parents can walk with their children either from home or from a safe parking place.

The Finance Officer has requested a quote from Shield Maintenance for cleaning the two bus shelters on Nosworthy Way. It was agreed to engage First Class Tree Surgeons to trim the Home Farm hedge at a cost of £450+VAT as no other contractors had responded.

Finance

The council agreed a grant of £100 each to the North Stoke and Crowmarsh British Legion Poppy Appeals. A donation of £250 was agreed to Wallingford Volunteer Drivers (formerly Wallingford Volunteer Centre).

Staff salaries will be reviewed next month after taking advice from Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and neighbouring councils.

Payments approved included batteries and fuses for the speed indicator device in the Street (£121.98), repairs to the tennis courts (£4,495.50), maintenance of the nature area (£598.50), the council's external audit (£480), grass cutting (£972.00) and electricity supply at the pavilion for Quarter 2 (£300.87).

Continued overleaf

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Planning

Decision by SODC

[P22/S2233/FUL](#) Sheringham House, Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG. Existing garage and dwelling retained, demolish rear single-storey extension. Proposed two-storey single dwelling C3 (As amplified by energy statement) Refusal of Planning Permission

Consultation

[P22/S2900/FUL](#) Riverside Park, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EB Accessible mooring position, improve existing riverbank access, widen footpaths with addition of a small storage shed. Recommend approval, with comments about the design of the shed.

Newnham Manor development – management of the open space

We now have a calculated commuted sum to be paid to the parish council to manage the open space on this development (excluding highway and estate roads and the area to be conveyed to Crowmarsh Primary School). The parish council agreed in principle to accept the money to manage this area for the benefit of all residents. We will consult Benson Parish Council about their experience as they have taken on a management responsibility for a number of green spaces on new housing developments in their parish.

District Council report

SODC and the Vale of White Horse District Council have moved into offices in Abingdon temporarily. A planning application is being submitted to build new offices opposite Didcot railway station.

SODC is putting in an application for bathing water status for Wallingford Beach (as is Wallingford Town Council), and the parish council agreed to support this initiative to improve river water quality.

Environment and recreation

Cllr Rowley reported that a Pavilion project site meeting was held on 4th October. It is hoped to complete the project before the end of November. The next payment due will be £10,795. The first claim of £9557.11 has been

made to the grant-awarding body FCC Communities Foundation. It was agreed to ask the architect to produce additional drawings and information for the new ramp and stairs to ensure that they comply with building regulation requirements for disabled people.

Anyone parking in the recreation ground car park is reminded to remove their vehicle before the advertised time of closing the gate, or they will be locked in overnight.

Cllr Soames reported that an oak tree planted in North Stoke last year is doing well, but around two-thirds of the trees funded by District Councillors for the Crowmarsh Gifford nature area died in the summer drought and only six have survived. Cllr Johnson will obtain a quote for replacement trees. It was reported that a resident of Ewelme has some saplings which he is willing to provide free of charge and there are other sources of free trees.

Traffic and transport

The Bell pedestrian crossing project is now awaiting approval of the plans by Oxfordshire Highways. There has been no news on plans for the crossing at The Springs, North Stoke, although the boundary of The Springs has been queried. County Councillor Bloomfield will be asked to chase up progress on highways issues.

In response to the Parish Council's letter about speeding, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, and representatives of Thames Valley Roads Policing will attend the December parish council meeting.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Thursday 3rd November at 7.30pm. Please let the parish clerk know if you would like to attend.

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EL,

email: crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead,

email: johngriffin@phonecoop.coop

John Howells MP writes

With Party Conference season now over the House returns to business. For my part I was unable to attend Party Conference as I was asked to join two other UK parliamentary representatives on a Council of Europe delegation to Bosnia Herzegovina. The delegation was tasked with monitoring the Presidential and General Elections to verify that the elections were free and fair, and that there was no obvious corruption in the process. Election observation missions help to ensure that the crucial values of the Council of Europe in the matters of human rights, promoting democracy, and the rule of law are known, understood, and accepted, and that countries are committed to them in the ways in which they conduct elections. In this instance we were able to confirm that the election was peaceful and fair. However, in the longer term many questions remain about the stability of the country. This work of the Council of Europe makes an important contribution in working towards greater stability, both in Member States (of which there are 46) and beyond. Observations are by official request of the national authorities.

In recent years we have become only too aware of our global interdependence, both because of the pandemic and, more recently, as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. One aspect of our global interdependence is around food security and supply chains. The need for home production is ever more important for continuity of supply, and also to reduce the miles that our food travels. In an area where farming is important it is good to see the industry being given more independence and financial resilience. The new Environmental Land Management Schemes being rolled out will support farmers to not only produce high-quality food but also to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Another issue that I know to be of local concern is that of planning. I have long championed reforms in this area, seeking greater local input through Neighbourhood Planning, and I am pleased to see that the proposed legislation looks to strengthen this. I have also long expressed my concerns at the lack of infrastructure coming forward in line with development and will be watching closely to see how the proposals for a new

Infrastructure Levy will work to ensure that we have the things we need for our communities, such as schools and GP surgeries. I know that some concern has been expressed at the proposals for Investment Zones, especially in relation to the environment. It is my understanding that key planning policies will ensure that developments protect our precious natural heritage and maintain national policy on the Green Belt.

For many the overarching concern at the moment is the cost of living. Whilst we await the details of the Government Financial Plan, I trust that everyone is aware of the support for which they are eligible. Full details of this can be found on the Government website at www.gov.uk/cost-of-living. At this link you can find the support set up for everyone, as well as support for those on low incomes, those with disabilities, for small business, and several other links.

As we settle into this period of parliamentary time there will be many issues for discussion. If there is an issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way, if you have access to that. My email address is john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. Alternatively, you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or at my constituency address (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD). Please note that correspondence sent through the post takes longer to reach me as it has to go through offsite security scanning before being delivered.

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in 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 are available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk.

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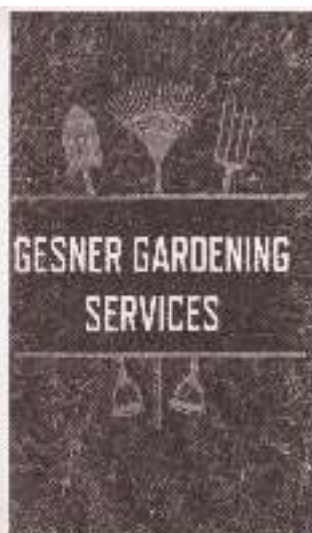
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WHAT'S ON — NOVEMBER 2022

Regular events and meetings

Fridays	9.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Saturdays	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70, Wallingford
Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	St Mary-le-More Church (Market Place on 1st Saturday)
Various days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford
Every Sunday except 20th	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family service first Sunday of month.	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Thursdays	19.30 onwards	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursdays	13.00 start	CTC Wallingford cycle rides	www.ctcwallingford.org.uk
Various days	Various times	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway	www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com

This month

Wednesday 2nd	14.00 onwards	U3A: Passports, assassins, traitors and spies	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 3rd	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 5th	18.00 onwards	Wallingford Fireworks night	Kinecroft
Sunday 6th	18.00—19.00	All Souls Memorial Service	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
Wednesday 9th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Poverty Pestilence and Public Health	St Mary Magdalene's Church Crowmarsh Gifford
Friday 11th	19.00 onwards	"Quiz'n'Chips"	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh
Saturday 12th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 12th	19.30—21.30	Benson Choral Society concert: Mozart Requiem & Solemn Vespers	Dorchester Abbey
Sunday 13th	10.45-11.40 10.00-12.00	Remembrance Service Wallingford Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Wallingford Market Place
Saturday 19th	11.00—13.45	Cholsey Repair Café	Cholsey Pavilion
From 24th November	All day	The Polar Express Train Ride	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Sunday 27th	16.00—17.00	Advent Carol Service	Newnham Murren Church