



Crowmarsh News

Issue 520

October 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: Caroline Campbell and John Griffin

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

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and the team

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.

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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).

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the November 2022 issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th October 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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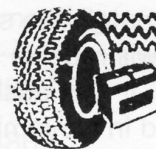
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Welcome to new residents

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, and come to this month's community café on Saturday 8th October if you can.

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*.

News of Crowmarsh News!

The Crowmarsh News Association, the small team that produces your *Crowmarsh News* every month, is very grateful to Crowmarsh Parish Council for granting us £1500 to bridge the gap between a fall in advertising income since the pandemic and a significant rise in printing costs (mainly because we are now distributing more copies – free – to the new homes in the parish). This grant will enable us to publish a 20-page issue more often, and to upgrade our very slow laptop.

The team is very keen to find a few more members to share the work of editing, compiling and delivering the magazine. If you have recently moved to the area, or if you have been a Crowmarsh resident for many years, you will be equally welcome to join us.

If you would like to get involved or want to find out more, 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. You don't need lots of experience, just a willingness to spend a few hours to help produce your local newsletter.

A personal appeal to contact former Crowmarsh residents

Alistair Clements is trying to renew contact with John and Brenda Williams or their daughters Andrea and Clare. They lived in Crowmarsh until the early 1980s and then moved to Canada.

If anyone can shed any light on their current whereabouts, Alistair would be very grateful. Please send any relevant information to crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com.

Bin collection day changing

From the week starting 10th October, SODC contractors Biffa are rationalising their waste and recycling collection rounds to make them more efficient and the collection day in some areas of the parish is changing (e.g. from Tuesday to Thursday). Residents will have had a letter to advise them, but if in doubt please contact the waste team on 03000 610610 or email admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk.

Citizens Advice — Warm Home Discount rules updated



As winter approaches, many people will be nervously anticipating the cold weather and its inevitable effect on their heating bills. The Warm Home Discount (WHD) was introduced in 2011 to offset some of this burden.

For 2022-2023 there have been a couple of significant changes to the WHD: the number of energy suppliers participating in the scheme will increase, and those on disability benefits who don't have low incomes or high energy costs will no longer receive the WHD.

The value of the WHD payment is currently £150. Nobody has to apply in order to receive it, with the exception of those living in mobile homes on a park home site (see below). The payment is credited automatically to the consumer's electricity supply account (or credit is directly applied to a pre-payment meter), and energy suppliers have to make this payment by 31st March each year.

Eligibility for the WHD is ascertained by data-matching between energy suppliers and government departments. There are three eligible groups of consumers: low-income pensioner households, low-income people on some means-tested benefits, and households with high energy costs, determined by the type of property you live in, especially its age and its floor area (based on information supplied by the Valuation Office Agency or the Land Registry). There is an alternative form of WHD for those living in mobile homes on park home sites: for more information about this, visit www.gov.uk and search for "Warm Home Discount".

You can also see www.citizensadvice.org.uk and look for "Check if you'll get the Warm Home Discount in 2022". The Citizens Advice consumer helpline is 0808 223 1133 and our Adviceline is 0808 278 7907 if you have other concerns about energy costs.

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.

We are sorry to say that the number of bakers has decreased. So, although plants, produce and crafts will still be available every week, from October the bakery table will only be available on the first and third Fridays of each month: 7th & 21st October, 4th & 18th November and 2nd & 16th December. There will be a special 'Apple Day' on 7th October and 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.

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 meet and to learn how to improve their photography by conversations with other members, presentations by visiting speakers, practical evenings and regular competitions. The club meets every Thursday at 7.30pm for an 8pm start (7.45pm start on competition evenings) and we'll have a few Zoom-only sessions later in the season.

Our sessions in October will take us to Japan on the 6th (with Ric Gillams), our resident (retired) judge Gordon Roberts takes us through a critique of our own images on the 13th, on 20th Helen Webb will take us 'From Humble Beginnings – a journey from "A Bird on a Stick" to 'High Key', and finally on 27th Neil Cave joins us from Timeline Events, with a talk entitled, "Inspire, Capture, Print"!

Join us for any or all of these. See wallingfordphoto.club for more information.

Henley and District Stamp Club

The evenings are rapidly drawing in, so time to think of a new hobby. If you are interested in anything to do with the post, stamps, old letters, postcards or would like to know more, come to Bix one Wednesday evening to find an absorbing and varied hobby. You will also have the opportunity to do research into different aspects of 'philately'. Help and advice is willingly given.

Wednesday 12th October: An experimental evening trying out PowerPoint for our displays.

Wednesday 26th October: Members evening, Telling a story in two A4 pages or one A3, illustrated with different philatelic items.

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



Team Vicar: The Revd Kevin Beer
The Vicarage, 34 Thames Mead,
Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EY
Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)
Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Blog: revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford

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

Sunday 2nd	11am	Harvest Festival Family Service
Saturday 8th	10.30am-12.30pm	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 9th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 16th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 23rd	11am	Bible Sunday Family Communion
Sunday 30th	11am	All Saints' Festival Communion

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm (BST) / 4pm (GMT)

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

The Vicar writes ...

Thank you to all who left messages in our Book of Condolence for HM Queen Elizabeth II. The flowers and the tributes from our Crowmarsh School children made the church a very special place for remembrance and reflection, especially for those who were unable to travel to London or Windsor. Amongst all the pageantry of a monarch's funeral was a family mourning the loss of a mother and (great) grandmother. Many were reminded of the loss of their own loved ones. I hope that the church services at Westminster Abbey and St George's will have helped us all through the mourning process, and that the Christian hope of resurrection would have brought comfort and strength to many more of the billions who watched around the world. Indeed, this would have been the Queen's prayer as she said in one of her Christmas broadcasts:

'I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life. Countless millions of people around the world continue to celebrate his birthday at Christmas, inspired by his teaching. He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served. We can surely be grateful that, two thousand years after the birth of Jesus, so many of us are able to draw inspiration from his life and message, and to find in him a source of strength and courage.'

The prayer of our National Anthem was answered: our Queen reigned over us for a very long time; she was 'gracious' and 'noble' and 'victorious' in the things that really matter – hope and faith in Christ, love of God and of the people she's been empowered to serve. As we get used to the new (or old) words to this familiar tune, we now pray this also for King Charles III.

As we enter this new era, we are painfully aware of the cost of living crisis, affecting so many individuals, small businesses, schools, care-homes and charities around us. Our Harvest Festival Family Service on Sunday 2nd October is an opportunity to give thanks for the food that we often take for granted in our society and to share a small proportion with those less fortunate than ourselves via the Wallingford Foodbank. Similarly, as the nights draw in and the clocks change, please look out for any neighbours who risk their health with limited heating. Although we can't afford to keep the church building open as a warm place, as a community we will always be welcoming and offer what help we can, so feel free to contact me.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Past Times: By David Beasley

In remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II, this month we are simply printing some photos of Her Majesty's visit to Wallingford and Crowmarsh in 1956.



During her visit, the Queen unveiled a memorial to 800 years of Wallingford's royal charter and signed the visitors' book at Howbery Park in Crowmarsh.

Could you be a Crowmarsh school governor?

The Governors of Crowmarsh Gifford CE Primary and Pre-School are looking for a new school governor to join us in contributing to the welfare and education of young people during their formative years and help us build our strength and expertise in three areas: HR, Information Technology (IT) and Finance.

We would also like someone who is prepared, in the course of time, to undertake the Safeguarding Link and/or the SEN (Special Educational Needs) governor role.

We are an enthusiastic and committed group of 10 governors currently who work collectively to support the effective running of the school by ensuring the school's clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and overseeing the school's financial performance and making sure its money is well spent.

No special qualifications are needed and training is available for all school governors. The work is rewarding, interesting and makes a huge difference to the school, its pupils and the local community.

We have about 236 children, who mostly live nearby. Ours is a 'good' school, as rated by Ofsted in 2017, but we believe that 'better never stops' and we strive to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that the school's development goes from strength to strength.

We invite applications from those who would like to join us in contributing to the welfare and education of our young people during their formative years. So if you feel you have the time and desire to make a difference, and relevant experience in the areas needed, we would be very keen to hear from you.

Please let us know by 31st October if you are interested.

To find out more, please contact Angus Brettell and Tim Crossingham via email: office.3200@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk. You might also like to visit the school's website at crowmarshgiffordprimary.com.

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Liza is a registered yoga teacher.

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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



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Corn Exchange listings

Films 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 if there is no disruption, so 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.

Because of significant increases in our energy costs, the Corn Exchange is having to raise the cinema price for adults to £10 for all showings from 1st October, but under-15s prices will remain at £5. Prices for live screenings will also rise to £18 (adults), £15 (over 60s), £10 (under 18s) for showings from that date.

We are bringing back matinee performances in October, initially on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please look at the website for updates. This is for an interim period but will continue if there is sufficient demand. Tickets are £10 for Adults and £5 for under-15s unless otherwise stated.

Cinema

Sunday 2nd to Monday 4th October, 7:30pm
The Forgiven (18)

Friday 7th to Sunday, 9th October 7:30pm
and Saturday 8th October at 2:30pm
See How they Run (12A)

Monday 10th to Thursday 13th October
7:30pm and Wednesday 12th October, 2:30pm
Mrs. Harris goes to Paris (PG)

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th October, 7:30pm
Ticket to Paradise

Live screenings

Wednesday 5th October, 7:15pm

The Royal Ballet: ***Mayerling***, live from Covent Garden

Inspired by dark and gripping real-life events, this Royal Ballet classic depicts the sexual and morbid obsessions of Crown Prince Rudolf leading to the murder-suicide scandal with his mistress Mary Vetsera. Kenneth Macmillan's 1978 ballet, set to music by Franz Liszt, is a masterpiece of storytelling. This revival marks 30 years since the choreographer's death.

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

Thursday, 6th October, 7pm ***Jack Absolute Flies Again***, recorded at the National Theatre.

This rollicking new comedy by Richard Bean and Oliver Chris is based on Sheridan's *The Rivals*. After an aerial dog fight, Pilot Officer Jack Absolute flies home to win the heart of his old flame, Lydia Languish. Back on British soil, Jack's advances soon turn to anarchy when the young heiress demands to be loved on her own, very particular, terms.

The cast includes Caroline Quentin, Laurie Davidson, Natalie Simpson and Kelvin Fletcher.

Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior citizens), £12.50 (under 18s)

Wednesday, 12th October, 6:45 The Royal Opera: ***Aida***, live from Covent Garden

A co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago. Sung in Italian with English subtitles. Princess Aida has been kidnapped: a valuable prize in a war between Egypt and Ethiopia. Meanwhile, the ambitious soldier Radames wrestles with his feelings for her. As they draw closer together, each must make an agonizing choice between their loyalty to home and their love for each other.

In this new production, director Robert Carsen situates Verdi's large-scale political drama within a contemporary world, framing its power struggles and toxic jealousies in the apparatus of a modern totalitarian state. Royal Opera Music Director Antonio Pappano conducts Verdi's glorious, monumental score.

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

Coming soon

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

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

Thursday, 8th December, 7:15pm The Royal Ballet: Tchaikovsky's ***The Nutcracker***, live from Covent Garden.



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Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 1st September. Present were Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Jay Anderson, Andrew Johnson, Julian Park, Julia Streete, David Rowley and Liz Ryall, Parish Clerk Sue Rance, District Councillor Andrea Powell, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet and two members of the public.

Matters arising from the August meeting

Cllr Sherbourne is in contact with Lee Turner of OCC Highways about highways issues, including parking in The Street in Crowmarsh Gifford and the need for a crossing outside The Springs in North Stoke. The Clerk will ask County Cllr Bloomfield if there is any further news on our application for a 20mph speed limit. Public support for this has been acknowledged by OCC.

The Clerk will ask the school to remind parents to be careful if they need to park in Old Reading Road to drop off or collect children from school.

Finance

The Crowmarsh News Association outlined their need for financial support to sustain the free monthly magazine, delivered to all households. The association has been able to run independently for ten years, but since the pandemic advertising revenue has reduced and printing costs have increased with the number of new houses in the parish, so it is currently losing around £100 per month. The council agreed a grant of £1500 to support the Crowmarsh News, to be reviewed annually.

The council agreed a grant of £760 to North Stoke Village Hall Management Committee towards the annual cost of grass cutting and hedge cutting at the village hall and grass cutting at the North Stoke crossroads and bus stops.

The council is due to be paid a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment of £97,817 in respect of the Benson Lane development. It was agreed that payment of this should be deferred until April 2023 to avoid it being capped.

The council's current internal auditors are

closing their business. The Finance Officer had received a quote of £235 from April Skies Accounting for a remote audit and it was agreed to accept this quote, subject to the company being approved by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

The parish council has a three-year agreement on insurance premiums which ends in 2024. The renewal premium is £4,317.66 and this was approved.

Payments were agreed, including £240 to Chris Strange for grass cutting, £141.07 for recreation ground management, plus £1162.49 for a replacement line-marking machine and paint, £166.39 for dog bin emptying, £235.20 for the annual play area inspection, £2562.00 for grass cutting (April, May and July) and £828.00 for traffic speed surveys. A partial invoice of ~£37,000 is expected from SCM for the pavilion project.

Planning

Decision by SODC

P22/S2320/FUL Land adjacent to Jasmin Mews, The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EJ. Two-storey detached dwelling slightly sunk into the ground with garden and attached garage to the side and 2 outdoor terraces at first floor level. (Resubmission of P21/S2010/FUL to increase ridge height and main dwelling floor levels by 40cm). Planning permission.

Withdrawn

P22/S0318/FUL Maclean Building, UKCEH, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BB. Installation of car port structure with 258 photovoltaic panels and 19 dual 7.4kW electric vehicle chargers and a 50kW electric vehicle charger.

Consultation

P22/S2973/LDP Mere Cottage, Mongewell Park, Mongewell OX10 8DA Solar panels to southeast roof elevation. Recommend approval

Newnham Manor development

The council has examined the plan and agreed that we wish to take on the management of all the open space on this development (excluding highway and estate roads and the area to be conveyed to

Crowmarsh Primary School) in exchange for a commuted sum which the District Council will calculate and agree with the developers.

District Council report

Refurbishment of the splash pool at the Riverside Park is to go ahead at an estimated cost of £240,000.

Marketing of the former SODC office site is to begin. The council has stated that this site is not allocated for housing but could include some social housing for the elderly alongside community or medical facilities. Sustainability will be an important consideration and the Parish Council intends that a sub-committee will meet with SODC to discuss our needs on the site.

Environment and recreation

The parish council received an update on the pavilion improvement project and Cllr Johnson reported that some tiles on the pavilion roof need to be replaced or repaired and downpipes and guttering need replacing. If the Finance Officer cannot contact the original builder to do this work, SCM has provided a quote for the repairs and it was agreed to reuse the existing tiles if possible.

There is an option to have an automatic lock on the new toilets but Chris Strange would prefer to lock them at the end of the day to avoid the possibility of anyone being trapped inside.

The organisers of the music festival 'Crowfest', which was held this summer, would like to hold an all-day festival on 24th June 2023. This was discussed and it was agreed that, while another evening event would be approved, permission would not be given for an all-day festival.

Watery Lane surface improvements

The chairman and Cllr Park had revisited Watery Lane and circulated photos and a brief summary of the current situation. It was agreed that the landowners involved need to be identified and Oxfordshire countryside service asked for detailed advice on the options so they could be discussed.

Traffic and transport

Cllr Griffin reported that a new bus service, numbered 23, will run through between Didcot

and Henley, replacing the X38 service.

David Bellchamber of OCC Highways asked Cala Homes to clean the two bus shelters near CABI and the housing development, which became extremely dirty with mud from contractors' vehicles during the early construction period. However, no action has taken place and he has offered to give the shelters a deep clean at the County Council's expense. The parish council is then asked to take responsibility for insurance and ongoing maintenance of these shelters. The Clerk will obtain a valuation so they can be added to the asset list and will confirm to OCC that the parish council is willing to adopt them. The Finance Officer will ask Shield Maintenance to quote for future cleaning and also approach the Facilities Manager at CABI. Cllr Griffin reported that a local resident has volunteered to look after the bus shelter at the end of Thames Mead and hoped that other residents and businesses would help to keep nearby bus shelters clean and tidy.

There will be a public hearing on 8th September at County Hall where the cabinet member will consider the proposal for a pedestrian crossing at The Bell. The county council officer has recommended that a raised zebra crossing should be provided and Cllr Sherbourne will attend to support this. [This was approved.]

Reports have been received on speed surveys carried out on Portway and the A4130 as well as in North Stoke. The A4130 data showed 85% of vehicles travelling at more than 50mph in the 30mph limit. It was agreed to send the data on the A4130 to John Howell MP and to Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner, who had promised a further meeting with parish councils on this concern. The traffic and transport committee will draft a letter, to be copied to all recipients of the first communication, including neighbouring parish councils. Cllr Topliss is researching suitable signs to be posted on the A4130, reminding motorcyclists of the need to take care.

Other business

The Chairman had received an invitation to the RAF Benson annual reception but is unable to attend and Cllr Johnson will represent the council at this event.

The hedge in front of Home Farm will be pruned.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 6th October, starting at 7.30pm. The agenda will include the need for dropped kerbs and a review of officers' salaries. 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

Cholsey repair café

The last Cholsey Repair Café of 2022 will be held at the Cholsey Pavilion, Station Road, 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 tool 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.

Meanwhile, the Riverside repair café will be at Eastgate House, by the bridge in Wallingford High Street, on Saturday 15th October.

Oxfordshire Community Land Trust community share offer

Oxfordshire Community Land Trust, a non-profit organisation, is starting to tackle the shortage of affordable housing by its first housing scheme close to the City of Oxford.

Work has started to build eight affordable homes for rent (five one-bedroom and three two-bedroom flats) in a high value area with an acute shortage of affordable housing on the edge of Oxford, in Cumnor parish.

Crofts Court is in a sustainable location with good public transport links to the city centre. The design seeks to achieve high energy efficiency and includes solar panels for each apartment in order to promote sustainability and minimise residents' energy bills.

The intention is to set rents at levels within the Local Housing Allowance (the maximum rent that Universal Credit will pay for housing) and therefore, technically, affordable to everyone.

The homes are set to be completed by next summer and from October 2022 there will be an opportunity for social investors to invest in the project via a Community Share Offer, a tried and tested way to raise funds for community projects, which the trust will be using to reduce the funding costs relating to Crofts Court.

To find out more about this and the trust's other projects, visit the Oxfordshire Community Land Trust website: oclt.org.uk.





Sue Ryder events in December

Lights of Love Thames Valley

Sue Ryder is inviting people to remember and reflect upon special memories of loved ones at its Sue Ryder Lights of Love Thames Valley event this December.

The winter remembrance event, held at the English Martyrs Church in Reading on the evening of Thursday 8th December, will see people come together alongside others in their community who are also living with loss to give thanks and collectively celebrate the lives of people who have died.

It will feature readings, songs and live music performances and guests are invited to make a dedication in memory of someone special, which will be displayed at the event.

Sue Ryder Lights of Love Thames Valley is free to attend and open to anyone who wishes to commemorate a loved one, regardless of when they died or whether they were a former patient of Sue Ryder or not.

Limited spaces are available. For more information or to register to attend, visit sueryder.org/lightsthamesvalley or contact the Sue Ryder Thames Valley Fundraising Team at thamesvalley.fundraising@sueryder.org or call 0118 9550 433.

For those who are unable to attend the event in person, there is also an online dedication wall available at sueryder.dedicationpage.org/lightsoflove2022.

December Daily Dash

Walk, jog, run or roll 5k every day this December and raise vital funds for Sue Ryder.

December can be a busy month. Take some time for yourself every day, whilst also helping Sue Ryder to continue to be there for people when it matters most. Do it your own way. On your own or in a group. Fast or slow. Morning,

noon or night. However, if you do the December Daily Dash, when you go the distance, you make the difference.

It is free to take part, but your donations and fundraising will make all the difference to patients and families needing Sue Ryder's specialist palliative, neurological and bereavement support.

So, make December yours. Sign up now at decemberdailydash.com or email december.dailydash@sueryder.org.

CTC Wallingford cycle rides

There will be 20-something-mile cycle rides leaving Wallingford Market Place at 1.00pm on Thursdays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th October.

Please see www.ctcwallingford.org.uk/ for further details of these and other rides.

Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's membership year runs from October to September, so now is the ideal time to think about joining us. This thriving local garden club has been running for over 25 years and currently has more than 80 members. We offer a warm welcome to new joiners, both experienced and new gardeners, and the club continues to delight members with a tried and tested format for our annual programme of events.

Our monthly speaker programme runs from October to May (on the first Thursday of the month) in the recently-refurbished Parish Hall at Sunnyside, Benson (OX10 6LZ). Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start and talks last approximately 60 - 75 minutes. For our new members, if you don't know anyone, please let us know when you arrive so that we can make you feel welcome and make some introductions.

At these events, we also have our "Flower of the Month" competition (for members only). You are invited to bring a single flower in a vase from your garden which our speaker will judge and award the winner a small prize.

We also tend to have one "big" event each year with a well-known speaker. As mentioned in last month's edition, Nick Bailey will be opening our series of talks on Thursday 6th

October. Visitors are very welcome to attend for £10 – just turn up – no need to book.

Nick Bailey is a freelance horticulturalist, best-selling author, award-winning TV presenter, garden designer and speaker. “Revive Your Garden” will be a practical and inspirational talk catering to those who seek to bring their existing outdoor space back to life, or those who have newly acquired a shabby garden (including first-time gardeners). Nick will focus on practical achievable ideas, gardening techniques and simple design solutions for gardeners old and new.

Then from June to September is the Club’s season for being out and about visiting gardens. Prices for trips will vary and, depending on availability, you may be able to bring a visitor. In the Summer, we also have a social event in a lovely garden setting, typically hosted by one of our members.

Further information about our club and how to join can be found on our website <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or please email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com.

Liz Harrison

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

SOFO Museum’s online talk explores the experience of Oxfordshire men fighting in the Great War’s ‘forgotten army’ in Salonika.

- ♦ Online talk streaming on the SOFO Museum website from 7pm, Thursday 27 October 2022: Stream link: www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/salonika/
- ♦ Covers the lesser-known conflict in Salonika during the Great War, where two battalions of the county regiment fought.
- ♦ Speaker Alan Wakefield is a curator at the Imperial War Museum and author of *Under the Devil’s Eye: Britain’s Forgotten Army at Salonika 1915-1918*
- ♦ Free to view, but donations are encouraged during the stream in support of the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust.

In October’s online talk hosted by the Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum, to be

streamed, with a live Q&A, on 27th October at 7pm, Alan Wakefield will detail the campaign of the British Salonika Force during World War One, including the part played by soldiers of Oxfordshire. The talk, followed by a live Question & Answer session, will be streamed freely (no ticket or sign-up required) from the SOFO website, but donations will be welcomed to support the museum.

Though now a forgotten front, during the Great War large numbers of British and allied troops were tied up in the strategically vital Balkans. The county regiment, The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, sent two battalions from the Western Front to see out the remainder of their service in the campaign.

Alan Wakefield has researched the lesser-known Salonika Campaign in every detail, from the arrival of the first British troops in 1915 to final victory. He is head of the First World War and Early Twentieth Century team at IWM and co-authored *Under the Devil’s Eye: Britain’s Forgotten Army at Salonika 1915-1918*.

Using first-hand accounts, Alan paints a vivid picture of life for the British Army while there. Learn of the disappointments of the British XII Corps offensive in April/May 1917 (The First Battle of Doiran), and the more successful aggressive raiding in the Struma Valley.

About Alan Wakefield

Alan Wakefield was born in Marlborough, Wiltshire, in 1968. He graduated from the University of Reading in 1990 with a degree in History and followed this with an MA in War Studies from King’s College London. Having worked as a curator at the National Maritime Museum and RAF Museum, Alan qualified with an MA in Museum Studies from University College London.

Between 2000 and 2016 he was employed as a curator and then Head of the Photograph Archive of the Imperial War Museum.

In August 2016, Alan was appointed Head of First World War & Early 20th Century Conflict at the IWM. In this post, Alan is in charge of a team of seven curators and historians who are charged with responsibility for all historical and collections output at the museum relating to the period 1900 – 1929.

In 2004 he co-authored *Under the Devil's Eye: Britain's Forgotten Army at Salonika 1915-1918* and in 2006 *Christmas in the Trenches 1914-1918*. In 2009, Alan edited for publication the diary of a Royal Field Artillery signaller who served on the Western Front, titled *Plough and Scatter: the Diary-journal of a First World War Gunner*. He is currently working on a book about the First World War campaign in Mesopotamia.

Alan is Chairman of the Salonika Campaign Society and a member of the British Commission for Military History. He writes and lectures on various aspects of military history, with particular emphasis on the First World War and over the past decade has led many tour groups to the battlefields of the Salonika Campaign.

The exhibition Battles of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry puts you onboard a Horsa Glider as it prepares to land in Normandy in the early hours of D-Day 1944, while Secret War explores the world of spies and espionage and lets you try your hand at sending and decoding secret messages.

SOFO holds a collection of over 3,500 objects and 7,500 archive items from two county regiments, the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars (QOOH) and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. These are our starting point for reflecting on the county's rich and diverse military heritage.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN Registered Charity No. 1145408 www.sofo.org.uk frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk 01993 810 210



Age UK advice on pension credit and the cost of living

Age UK Oxfordshire is running a campaign aimed at anyone who is retired and worried about the cost of living.

Even though you may have modest savings, a retirement income or own your own home, they say it's worth checking whether you're entitled to Pension Credit.

They emphasise that these benefits are entitlements not handouts, and there are information sheets to point people to the support available. You can find more information about these entitlements at www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/

You can call Age Concern on 0345 450 1276 or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/cost-of-living.

About the Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum

SOFO Museum first opened during the summer of 2014, tucked away in the beautiful garden in the grounds of the Oxfordshire Museum and Woodstock Library, just on the doorstep of Blenheim Palace.

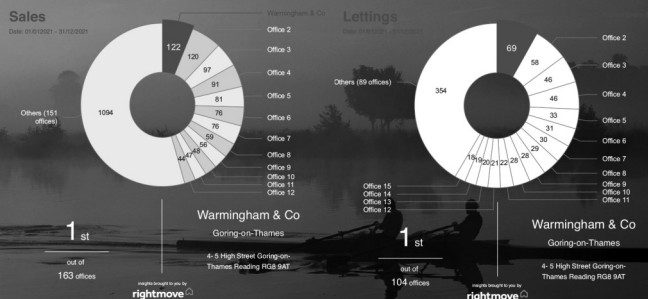
More than a local military museum, SOFO is a museum that everyone can enjoy, from kids to parents and grandparents. We tell stories of how conflict has affected the county and its people, from soldiers serving on the front lines to ordinary people living on the Home Front.

As well as a range of ever-changing displays and events, our permanent exhibits explore topics that you'll find surprising and moving in equal measure, such as raw accounts of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen from both camp survivors and Oxfordshire soldiers.

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

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John Howell MP writes...

I join with people from across the world to express my deep sadness at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. My deepest sympathies to King Charles III, his Queen Consort and all of the Royal Family at their loss. The affection that Her Majesty showed to all those she met is now reciprocated in the outpouring of grief. She will be sorely missed. May she rest in peace. Long live the King.

The House returned from the summer recess on Monday 5th September. It was always going to be an historic week with the incoming of a new Prime Minister on 6th September. The fact that resignation of one Prime Minister and the invitation to another took place at Balmoral instead of the traditional Buckingham Palace was no great surprise as we have seen the frailty of the Queen in recent months. No one questioned the decision of a lady in her 90s asking for others to come to her. Having seen these events at Balmoral only a few days before her death meant that the news of her death came all the more as a shock, her dedication to duty and her service to the nation continuing to the end.

Having had one monarch for seven decades, most of us are seeing events that have not taken place in our lifetime, and indeed with the advent of television during the late Queen's reign some of these ceremonies have never before been seen by more than a few. We greet our new King and indeed, barring tragedy, it will be a King that we welcome for the foreseeable future.

In Parliament normal business was suspended as we entered a period of national mourning. The House sat for two days to enable MPs and Lords to pay tribute to the late Queen, and for oaths to be sworn to His Majesty the King. The Palace of Westminster was prepared for the Lying in State and other procedural and ceremonial events. The timing is such that following the period of national mourning we would be entering the annual period of Party Conferences. However, at the time of writing, it is not clear whether these will go ahead and thus what the schedule for the sitting of the House will be. By the time this newsletter is published this will have been decided.

When the House returns there will be much to do, and the new Prime Minister will be able to proceed with her agenda to address the critical issues that our country faces. It is good that she just managed to squeeze in the key announcement on the support for people in relation to the energy crisis before these historical events took place. This has been widely welcomed.

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. Or write to John Howell MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

“Murder, mystery and mayhem”

is the title of two local history walks around Crowmarsh Gifford and Newnham Murren in October. Each walk will delve into some unexpected, unusual and unsolved events of the past. You can expect a series of ‘snapshots’ in time as we arrive at different locations on the walk.

We will meet at 2pm on Saturday 22nd October and Sunday 23rd October, on the Crowmarsh Gifford side of Wallingford Bridge (gathering at the top of the old access road).

All proceeds are in aid of our local church, St Mary Magdalene, so please come with a £10 (cash-only) donation, which will be collected at the start of each walk.

Edwina Johnson
edwina.johnson@ntlworld.com

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall for birthday parties and events

Call Chris Strange on 07711 904252
or email: cvhbookings@gmail.com

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

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

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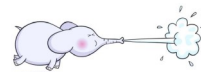
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WHAT'S ON — OCTOBER 2022

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	Centre 70 (but in the Market Place on the first Saturday of the month)
Various days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family service first Sunday of month.	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

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd	All day	Back to the 1940s weekend	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Saturday 1st	20.00 onwards	Chamber music: The Thames Consort	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Wednesday 5th October	14.00 onwards	U3A: Reminiscences of a school-master	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 6th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Thursday 6th	19.15 for 19.45	Benson Garden Club talk by Nick Bailey: see page 14	Benson Parish Hall
Saturday 8th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 8th	19.00-21.00	Orchestra of St John's concert: Dvorak, New World Symphony	Dorchester Abbey
Wednesday 12th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Silchester revealed	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Saturday 15th	09.00-12.00	Riverside Repair Café	Eastgate House, High Street, Wallingford
Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd	14.00 onwards	Local history walks: Murder, mystery and mayhem	Crowmarsh end of Wallingford Bridge
Thursday 27th	19.00 onwards	Online talk: the British Salonika Force in World War 1	Live stream, see page 15

November

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 12th	19.30 onwards	Benson Choral Society concert: Mozart Requiem & Solemn Vespers	Dorchester Abbey