

Issue 522

December 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: James Taylor, Julian Park, Revd Kevin Beer, Toni Taylor 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.

Useful telephone numbers

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

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).

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the January 2023 *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th December deadline**.

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

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

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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 enjoy your first Christmas as part of the local community. 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.

Crowmarsh Stores to close

Sadly the Crowmarsh Stores is finally closing. People living or working in the village are very grateful to the current staff and their predecessors for providing this important community resource, which has been more than just a shop to many people over very many years.

The Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 3rd November that the closure of the shop was a significant loss to the village and noted that some villages maintained a shop run by the community itself. A local resident Maureen Norton has offered to start an interested group to look into the possibility of starting a community shop.

Will anyone interested in exploring this idea please contact the Parish Clerk or email Maureen at Maureenorton@hotmail.com and we will endeavour to organise a meeting in the New Year.

Speed and noise nuisance

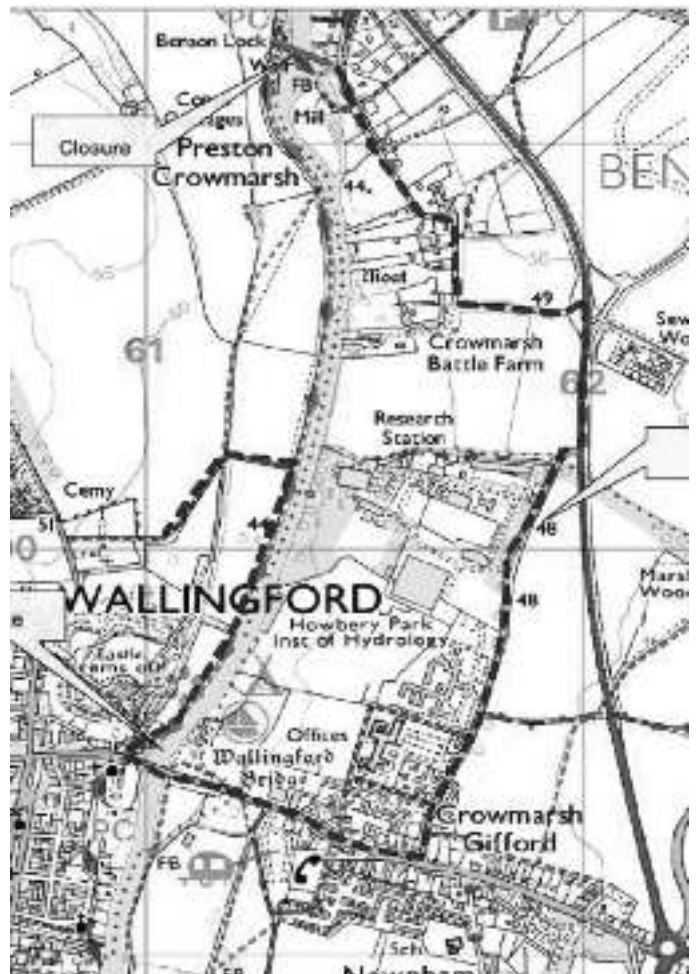
The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 8th December at 7.30 pm in Crowmarsh Gifford village hall to address questions on speeding and motorcycle noise nuisance on the main A4074 and A4130 roads.

This is following up a meeting held almost a year ago on this subject with Mr Barber and John Howell MP. Our county councillor and members of other parish councils affected have been invited. See parish council notes.

Thames Path temporary closure at Benson weir

The Environment Agency has closed the Thames Path footbridge over Benson weir for an unspecified time while river levels are high, because of the potential for impact damage caused by floating debris.

The Thames Path is open to Benson Lock on the Wallingford side, but not across the lock or the weir. River conditions may be checked at riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk.



Crowmarsh Gifford CE Primary School

We look forward to regular news and views from the school again when their new Headteacher, Mrs Vania Eaglen, takes up her post in the New Year.

Meanwhile we wish all the staff and children, their parents and families, a very happy Christmas — and the same to everyone in the parish.

CTC Wallingford

(part of Cycling UK)

Cycling UK bike rides from Wallingford continue through December, departing from Wallingford Market Place, mainly on Thursday afternoons:

- 20-something-mile road ride on Thursday 1st December, 1:00 pm
- 20-something-mile road ride on 8th December, 1:00 pm
- 23-mile road ride on Sunday 11th December at 9:30 am, via Brightwell, Long Wittenham, Culham, refreshments in Abingdon, back via Sutton Courtenay, Appleford and the Wittenhams
- 20-something-mile road ride on 15th December, 1:00 pm
- 20-something-mile road ride on 22nd December, 1:00 pm
- 20-something-mile road ride on 29th December, 1:00 pm

Please register in advance for these rides.

Also on Sunday 11th December, Cycling UK Wantage are organising The White Horse Cycle Challenge in aid of Whizzkidz, departing from Wantage Market Place.

Further details are available on our website (www.ctcwallingford.org.uk) and Facebook page (log in needed, www.facebook.com/groups/wallingfordctc) or email info@ctcwallingford.org.uk.

SODC recycling quiz

People across South Oxfordshire have the chance of winning a hamper worth £100 by putting your Christmas recycling knowledge to the test.

The quiz aims to encourage everyone to put the correct items into their domestic recycling bin over Christmas and to reduce contamination so that the recycling is clean and the materials can be sold on to make new products.

Christmas is when people have the most waste, so the council is reminding people to put only recyclables in your green bin. If recycling is too contaminated it has to be

rejected at the recycling sorting facility, and a whole lorry load of items will be wasted. Last year 434 tonnes of recycling was rejected between December and January as too contaminated.

Nappies, food and black bin bags are the worst contaminants, but people also put items in the green bin that they hope are recyclable but which should actually go in the grey waste bin, such as broken drinking glasses, plastic Christmas decorations and sweet wrappers.

If you take part in the quiz, you can find out how much you know, or don't know, about Christmas recycling, and those with the highest scores will be put into a draw to win a hamper full of reuse and zero-waste goodies.

To take part in the quiz for the chance to win the hamper, and for more information on Christmas waste, reuse and recycling, head to southoxon.gov.uk/christmaswaste. The quiz closes at midnight on Sunday 8 January 2023.

For collection dates over Christmas and New Year, see below or www.morerecycling.co.uk.

Changes to your waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period

	Normal collection day	Revised collection day	
Monday	26 December 2022	Wednesday	28 December 2022
Tuesday	27 December 2022	Thursday	29 December 2022
Wednesday	28 December 2022	Friday	30 December 2022
Thursday	29 December 2022	Saturday	31 December 2022
Friday	30 December 2022	Sunday	1 January 2023
Monday	2 January 2023	Wednesday	4 January 2023
Tuesday	3 January 2023	Thursday	5 January 2023
Wednesday	4 January 2023	Friday	6 January 2023
Thursday	5 January 2023	Saturday	7 January 2023
Friday	6 January 2023	Monday	8 January 2023
Monday	9 January 2023	Tuesday	10 January 2023
Tuesday	10 January 2023	Wednesday	11 January 2023
Wednesday	11 January 2023	Thursday	12 January 2023
Thursday	12 January 2023	Friday	13 January 2023
Friday	13 January 2023	Saturday	14 January 2023

Please remember that we suspend garden waste collections over the holiday period to concentrate on Christmas waste collections. Collections resume in January 2023. For more information, please see our garden waste page on our website.

Find out more about recycling tips and waste collections over Christmas and New Year on our website www.morerecycling.co.uk.

We will post information about any disruption to waste collection services on our website and social media sites.

Our call centre is open for queries from 9am – 3.30pm on 23 December, 9am – 5pm on 28, 29 and 30 December on 03000 810810.



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

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

Sunday 4th	11am	Advent Family Service
Saturday 10th	10.30am-12.30pm	Christmas Community Café (Crowmarsh Village Hall)
Sunday 11th	11am	Advent 2 Parish Communion
Sunday 11th	6pm	Christmas Carol Service
Wednesday 14th	12.30pm	Lunchtime Carol Service
Sunday 18th	11am	Parish Communion
Saturday 24th	3pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service
Sunday 25th	11am	Christmas Day Family Communion
Sunday 1st January	11am	Team Communion

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 4pm

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

The Vicar writes ...

We would love to welcome you to our church, especially if you have recently moved into the village or just have never made it through our door. Our revamped team website www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk has videos showing you what you might expect. So, please consider this a personal invitation to you to join us in December as we prepare for Christmas during Advent and then celebrate the great festival itself during the twelve days of Christmas!

As well as our usual Sunday services, we are also reintroducing the Lunchtime Carols on Wednesday 14th for anyone who works in the village, whether at home or for one of our employers including HR, UKCEH and CABI. Please stay for soup and a roll afterwards. Our main Christmas Carol Service on Sunday evening 11th December follows the traditional readings and carols format by candlelight.

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve is mainly for younger families as we retell and sing the Christmas story whilst recreating the Nativity tableau. I will again be hoping for a young baby to play the part of Jesus, as well as children for all the other parts. We have some costumes, but it would help if we have a few angels, shepherds and wise men* all making their way from home... (* Note the Bible doesn't say there were only three of these, just more than one!)

We are also inviting you to decorate a window at home during Advent with a seasonal theme to brighten up the village, for which we will be awarding a prize this year at the Crib Service. Search for the Facebook group "CG Advent Trail" and post pictures of your windows there (or see previous years' windows for inspiration).

So, please celebrate with us at any of these services listed above.

With every blessing and joy as we celebrate Christmas.

Rev Kev

Past Times from David Beasley

A gift to Crowmarsh Church

In December 1895 a peal of tubular bells was presented to Crowmarsh Church by the daughters of the late Mr Bertie Watkins Williams-Wynn of Howbery Park (who had died earlier that year).

The Revd Studholme Brownrigg preached a sermon entitled "So the House of the Lord was perfected."

The bells were manufactured by Messrs Harrington and Latham of Coventry. They are in the key of "C" and are very sweet in tone and can be easily rung by one person.

They also had a tablet that commemorates the gift mounted on a wall. Mrs Williams-Wynn also presented Crowmarsh church with a silver chalice and paten in memory of her late husband, and a stained glass window to the memory of her sister, Mrs Lismond.

A further gift of large sanctuary lamps was presented to the church by Lady Williams-Wynn.

The Williams-Wynn family were generous to the church and village. They would give food to villagers who were sick and arrange for the sick to have their washing cleaned by their own staff. A tea party was held most years for the villagers.

Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's November talk was by Andy McIndoe, an author and regular contributor to magazines, blogs and BBC Radio, with over 40 years' experience in retail and production horticulture. His deep knowledge and expertise were evident throughout his very engaging and informative talk on "The Winter Garden".

Andy set the scene for how the winter garden has changed over time. Forty or fifty years ago, plants would have been cut back in autumn and the earth forked over to make the garden tidy - and winters were long, typically with heavy snow. The changing climate with milder winters, combined with the wider range

of plants available, mean that gardeners now consider garden design for all four seasons. We seek out plants that look good in winter and retain, rather than cut back, those that provide much needed structure during the bare months.

Supporting wildlife is also an important consideration that has changed our habits, with gardeners choosing to clear the garden much later to offer greater protection.

Andy shared some dramatic illustrations of iconic winter plants to show how foliage, flowers, stems and bark come into their own during winter. Here are a few of his recommendations:

Helleborus x hybridus is very good for establishing under deciduous trees, with the advice to remove the foliage now and mulch, and then enjoy the flowers in January. Pittosporum "Tom Thumb" was recommended as a compact, trimmable plant whose foliage becomes intense in colour as the weather gets colder. To retain the gorgeous stem colour for Cornus sanguinea "Midwinter Fire", Andy advised cutting stems back to 2-3cm in late March.

For pots, Skimmia japonica "Magic Marlot" does well. Nandina domestica "Obsessed" reaches a couple of feet in height and is good for narrow, shaded borders. And Sorbus vilmorinii was recommended as a good tree for smaller gardens, with pretty pink berries. Andy finished by encouraging us to think about how we can improve our gardens for all seasons, and we now have plenty of ideas for winter.

Our next talk on 1st December will be by Dr Michael Leach on "The origins of Christmas Part II". Then on 5th January 2023, award winning garden designer Christine Gibbs is speaking about "Gardening with the environment in mind". For both talks, our venue will be Benson parish hall. Doors open at 7.15pm for 7.45pm start (£2 for members, £5 for visitors – no need to book).

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

Liz Harrison

Quiz helps food bank and Village Hall in North Stoke

Villagers from North Stoke were tested on their knowledge of irrelevant facts, musical miracles, random events, awesome statistics, Eurovision memories and famous films at the village quiz night. This was to raise funds for the food bank and ongoing upkeep of the North Stoke Village Hall. There were highs and lows, whoops of joy and groans of despair (especially during the 'wipe out' round) with an interval for delicious desserts.

After an evening of fun, the village raised over £800 thanks to an incredible team effort which included willing and able village volunteers. Thank you to wonderful villagers for supporting our fund-raising efforts.

Karen Tong (from The Window magazine)

Crowmarsh Church quiz

Meanwhile in Crowmarsh Gifford last month the Church was packed with 11 teams for the hotly-contested Quiz 'n' Chips, the first for three years, which raised over £600 towards a new church toilet.

Cholsey Repair Café

The first Cholsey Repair Café of 2023 will take place on Saturday 21st January at the Cholsey Pavilion from 11.00 to 13.45. As usual, talented volunteers will be on hand to try to help you fix all manner of broken household items, toys, clothing, bikes and so forth.

The underlying aim is to teach repair skills that reduce demands on the world's reserves of energy and materials — and perhaps save you needless expense. More information can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com. or email repaircafe@cholsey.com.

Volunteer skills available this month, subject to availability, will include bicycles, electrical items, specialist gluing, laptops/computers, clothing and textiles, tool & knife sharpening, furniture, portable appliance testing, ultrasonic cleaning and mechanical problems.

Library books to your door

If you or someone you know cannot easily 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

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club continues to enjoy a mix of online and in-person meetings, the latter at Crowmarsh Pavilion. Our inclusive club allows people of all ages and levels of experience to learn how to improve their photography through talking 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 online sessions).

On 1st December David Gibbins will be talking online (Zoom) about his photographic journey all the way from slides to online technology, featuring creative and travel shots.

On 8th December we will have a members' participation evening when we will select a shortlist of 'Intimate Landscape' images to enter into a regional competition. The following week, we will have a Christmas social event.

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

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Corn Exchange listings

Cinema in December

Films will start on time and late-comers will only be allowed in after the start where there is no disruption to sitting patrons. The bar and auditorium open from 7pm so there's time to collect drinks beforehand. We are also showing some films at 2.30pm on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. Tickets are normally £10 (£5 for under 15s). Please check the Corn Exchange website for up-to-date details.

Thursday 1st *A Bunch of Amateurs* (12A)

Friday 2nd and Sunday 4th *Watcher* (15)

Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th
Three Day Millionaire (15)

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th *The Menu* (15)

Monday 12th to Wednesday 14th
Armageddon Time

Wednesday 14th at 2:30pm and Thursday
15th at 7:30pm *Charlotte*

Friday 16th at 7.30pm, Sunday 18th at 2:30pm
and 7:30pm, Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd at
7:30pm and Wednesday 21st at 2:30pm
Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical (PG)

Live screenings

Thursday 8th December, 7.15pm
Nutcracker with the Royal Ballet, live
from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.
A sparkling festive treat for the whole family.

Peter Wright's much-loved production, with
gorgeous period designs by Julia Trevelyan
Oman, and Tchaikovsky's brilliant score,
combines the thrill of the fairy tale with
spectacular classical dancing. Tickets: £18
(adults), £15 (senior citizens), £10 (under 18s)

Live on stage

Saturday 17th December
Punchbowl, Sinodun Players' musical
introduction to Christmas. Come along and join
in the fun.

Coming soon

Friday 13th to Saturday 28th January
Pantomime: *Jack and the Beanstalk* from
the Sinodun Players, *Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30pm with
a Saturday matinee at 2:30pm*

Dame Dotty Dimple and her two sons (not
forgetting Buttermilk the cow) will entertain you

while they try to save their home from the
Broker's Men. And of course, there's that
pesky Giant, Buster Gut Bucket making the
poor villagers of Windy Bottom very scared –
villagers keep disappearing to feed that ogre.
But hopefully Fairy Sugardust will make
everything alright in the end and the wicked
Witch Piccalli will be defeated.

Public booking is open at the box office and
online at www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Monday 30th January, 7:15pm
Like Water for Chocolate with the Royal
Ballet, recorded earlier this year.

Sue Ryder and Treecycle



Sign up to have your Christmas tree recycled and support Sue Ryder

Sue Ryder is encouraging local residents to
keep spreading the festive cheer into the New
Year, by signing up to have their Christmas
trees collected and recycled to raise vital funds
for families needing care.

Once the festivities are over, Treecycle
Thames Valley, supported by Rabbits Vehicle
Hire, G A Butlers & Sons, Ashburton Ltd
Landscaping and Arborfield Tree Care, will be
collecting real Christmas trees direct from your
front door or driveway so that they can be
chipped into mulch and recycled.

For a donation, people who live in OX10,
OX11, OX12, OX14, OX49, RG1, RG2, RG4 7
-9, RG5, RG6, RG7, RG8 0, RG8 7-9, RG10,
RG14, RG18, RG19, RG20, RG30, RG31 and
RG40 postcodes can have their trees collected
between Monday 9th and Thursday 12th
January 2023.

All money raised will help Sue Ryder to
continue offering its compassionate, palliative
care and bereavement support, helping its
teams be there when it matters.

Find out more about the environmentally-
friendly fundraising collection drive by
Treecycle Thames Valley and book a
collection by Wednesday 4th January 2023 by
visiting sueryder.org/thamestrees.

Contact the Sue Ryder Thames Valley
fundraising team with any queries by email to
thamesvalley.fundraising@sueryder.org or
phone on 0118 9550 433.

Services at St Mary's Church, North Stoke

Sunday 4th December (Advent 2)	11am	Holy Communion
Thursday 8th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	4pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Saturday 24th (Christmas Eve)	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at Ipsden
Sunday 25th (Christmas Day)	10am	Holy Communion with Carols
Sunday 1st January 2023	11am	Holy Communion

(from The Window magazine, www.ipsdenvillage.co.uk/page-3)



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Henley and District Stamp Club

Christmas is nearly here, and we are rushing around getting ready for the mad season.

This is the last year you can use your old stamps to send Christmas cards. They will continue to be sold until stocks are exhausted, but from 31st January only postage stamps that include the barcode fixed to the stamp can be used. Whatever you do, please do not remove the digital code strip.

You can exchange old stamps for the new barcoded version through Royal Mail's 'Swap Out' scheme. Application forms are available from www.royalmail.com/barcodedstamps.

To learn more about stamps and postal history, why not visit us at Bix one Wednesday evening? You can then meet people who find postal history and the story of stamps fascinating.



On Wednesday 14th December, members will display parts of their collection with a connection to the letters C and D. Approximately 9 pages, telling a story.

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

Parish Council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 3rd November. Present were Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Julian Park, Jay Anderson, Andrew Johnson, David Rowley, Stuart Soames, Liz Ryall, Fleur Stevenson and Julia Streete, plus Parish Clerk

Sue Rance, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet and District Councillor Andrea Powell and two members of the public.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

First Class Tree Surgeons will carry out the pruning of the hedge at Home Farm on Thursday 8th December.

Cllr Streete reported on a meeting she attended in Charlbury about tree planting. Some free trees are available and she has ordered two for Park View and replacements will be planted for trees planted last year that died in the summer drought, including those the Earth Trust planted on the riverside.

The application for bathing water status for Wallingford beach has been submitted on behalf of SODC and the Town Council.

The chairman will set up a meeting with Benson Parish Council to discuss management of the green open space on the Newnham Manor development.

The Clerk has emailed County Councillor Bloomfield about the crossing at The Springs, North Stoke, Cllr Soames has spoken to The Springs who are also chasing this up with the County Council. The police speed detection van has visited North Stoke recently.

Finance

The council agreed a grant of £150 to North Stoke Parochial Church Council for the printing costs of The Window magazine, distributed monthly in Ipsden and North Stoke.

Two grant instalments had been received from the FCC Communities Foundation towards the pavilion project. Overall expenditure to date on the project is £82,000 and income has been £53,000.

The rate of pay and hours worked by the Clerk and Finance Officer were reviewed and an increase was agreed. Chris Strange's salary will be reviewed by the Environment and Recreation Ground Management Committee.

Payments approved included dog bin emptying, grass cutting for September and hall hire for September.

Planning

Decision by SODC

P22/S2973/LDP Mere Cottage, Mongewell Park OX10 8DA. Solar panels to southeast roof elevation. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development

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Consultations

P22/S3672/HH The Thatched Cottage, Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW. Proposed refurbishment of existing dwelling. Recommend approval

P22/S3870/HH Spring River (formerly Minyak), Pocock Lane, North Stoke OX10 6ET. Demolition of conservatory and proposed single storey front extension, single storey infill extension and new garage canopy roof. New cladding. Recommend approval

P22/S3789/FUL Avalon Kennels, Icknield Way, OX10 6PP. Change of residential unit to specialised veterinary clinic; construction of replacement dwelling, relocation of parking areas. Recommend approval

Large developments

It has been reported to the parish council that the footpath (No. 2) from the new Bloor development to Benson Lane is overgrown and the surface is poor. Residents need to use this path to take children to school and to walk to the village and Wallingford. A high Leylandii hedge is overhanging the surface of the path. This will be raised with the County Council.

District Council report

The District Councillors reported that SOHA is to build more social housing in the county.

The sewage pumping station at Newnham Farm has now been completed and hedges and trees will be re-planted.

District Cllr Andrea Powell is on the SODC Environment Group. Insulating homes is a key priority. Cllr Johnson suggested that a survey could help to identify where residents could access grants to improve their insulation. The cost of living area on the SODC website includes suggestions on this topic. A thermal camera could help in identifying homes requiring improved insulation. A winter wellbeing pack including grant and benefit information is available from Age UK Oxfordshire.

There was no report from the county councillor.

Environment and recreation

The pavilion project is expected to be completed by the end of November. The ramp

and stairs have been modified 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.

The chairman reported on a meeting at Wallingford Town Hall to discuss tree planting under the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which was on the same day as the national hedgelaying championships at Clack's Farm. The Oxfordshire Treescape report shows a wide range of possibilities for planting trees and hedges, which requires partnership with landowners. Cllr Streete will order free trees to replace those lost from the nature area, where ideal species are alder, birch and willow.

Volunteers may be recruited to plant them. Additional trees could be planted at the recreation ground between the cricket nets and the nature area. Oak trees would be suitable for this location. The Earth Trust is planting replacement trees on the riverside.

Due to the outbreak of avian flu, anyone finding three or more dead birds together, particularly owls and water fowl, should report it on the government website gov.uk, where more details can be found.

The boundary hedge between the recreation ground and Jethro Tull Gardens will be pruned early in 2023.

Traffic and transport

County Councillor Bloomfield will again be asked to chase progress on highways issues.

In response to the Parish Council's letter about speeding, Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber and representatives of Thames Valley Roads Policing will attend the December parish council meeting to give an update on the problem of speeding traffic on the main roads through the parish. County councillors and our MP will be invited and Neighbouring parish councils will attend.

The speed indicator device in The Street does seem to make drivers more aware of their speed.

Some street lamps on Wallingford Bridge are still not working and despite previous requests,

the street lamp in North Stoke still has an orange sodium light instead of a white LED. The Clerk will report these matters again.

Parking on pavements in Newnham Green and Thames Mead has been reported, which creates a hazard for pedestrians, especially those with prams and pushchairs and is against the Highway Code (new edition published this year). Drivers are asked to make sure they always park safely on the roadway or their own drive and not on pavements or anywhere that might impede access for pedestrians or other road users.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Thursday 8th December 2022 at 7pm. It was agreed to begin the meeting early to make a start on the agenda. The business will focus on the budget and parish precept for 2023/24. Discussion of road safety with the Police and Crime Commissioner and police will begin at 7.30pm. There will be no meeting in January.

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 Howell MP writes

Having been through a rather turbulent period I am pleased that we now have Rishi Sunak as our Prime Minister. He has had my support over the months, and I believe that he will be the person to get to grips with the key issues that we face.

It is interesting to reflect on the issues that have been before us in recent months, and also the reactions that come forward. Understandably there are strongly held views and in this time of Remembrance it seems to me that there is plenty of room for shared understanding, moderation and mutual tolerance.

Take for example the attendance of the Prime Minister at COP27. Within a few days of taking office his initial response was that he could not attend due to needing to focus on the immediate national issues before him. He faced a backlash on that and, once he had

been able to assess the workload on his desk, agreed that he could go. However rather than this being seen as a decision based on assessment of the situation it was dubbed as a U-turn. If politicians 'stick to their guns' they may be accused of not listening. If they give serious thought to an issue and have a change of heart they are accused of a U-turn. Either way there is an accusation to face.

It is good that the Prime Minister has pledged to return to the 2019 manifesto which was supported through the General Election. It promised an ambitious environmental programme with robust action on climate change and nature loss. It is important to note that protecting our environment does not mean sacrificing economic growth. Green measures can reduce the cost of living, create employment, investment and export opportunities, and safeguard our long-term prosperity and security. It is also important to ensure that measures taken are affordable and encourage people to make environmentally friendly decisions. It is precisely this need to bring people with us that protest groups overlook. It is not about who shouts loudest or makes the grandest gestures but about how we work together to resolve the important issues of our time.

Let us also consider the issue of storm discharges where untreated sewage is released into rivers. I completely agree that sewage pollution is not acceptable but when these discharges of untreated sewage are released into a river it is when water levels are exceptionally high and there is risk of flooding to properties. If you live in a property which would be flooded with raw sewage this might have a strong influence on your view and the realistic timescales for improvement.

If there is an issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work please do look at my website, www.johnhowellmp.com. Further details of the work of Parliament are available on the parliament website www.parliament.uk.

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WHAT'S ON — DECEMBER 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, Wallingford
Various days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford
Most Sundays	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 Pavilion or on Zoom
Various days	Various times	CTC Wallingford cycle rides	www.ctcwallingford.org.uk (see p.4)
Various days	Various times	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway	www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com

This month

Various days	Various times	The Polar Express Train Ride	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Sunday 4th	All day	Christmas shopping event	Wallingford Town Centre
Wednesday 7 th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Xmas party with singer	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 8th	19.00-21.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 10th	10.30-12.30	Christmas Community Café	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 10th	19.00-21.00	OSJ — A Night of Carols	Dorchester Abbey
Sunday 11th	18.00 -19:00	Christmas Carol Service	St Mary Magdalene's church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Friday 16th	19.30-21.30	Handel's Messiah	Dorchester Abbey
Sunday 18th	16.00-17.00	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	St Mary's Church, North Stoke
Saturday 24th	16.00-17.00	Christmas Eve Carol Service	St Mary Magdalene's church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Saturday 24th	23.30 onwards	Midnight Communion	St Mary's Church, Ipsden
Sunday 25th	11.00-12.00	Family Christmas Service	St Mary Magdalene's church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Sunday 25th	10.00-11.00	Holy Communion with Carols	St Mary's Church, North Stoke

January 2023

Saturday 14th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 19th	19.30 for 20.00	Wallingford Photographic Club: people and architecture of Uzbekistan	Crowmarsh Pavilion (see p.7)
Saturday 21st	11.00-13.45	Cholsey Repair Café	Cholsey Pavilion (see p.7)