

**Issue 524**

**February 2023**

## **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**

**Emergency only** 999

**Crime Stoppers** 0800 555 111

**Police non-emergency number** 101

**NHS non-emergency number** 111

## **ADVERTISING RATES**

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

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| 1 month   | £9.35  |
| 3 months  | £26.40 |
| 6 months  | £49.50 |
| 12 months | £92.40 |

### **Leaflet distribution**

For a single sheet loose insert in the Crowmarsh News (size up to A4) our rate is £33.00 for 1 month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (840 copies please)

## **Next month's issue**

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

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

[crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com)

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

[crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com)

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

**HOWARD CHADWICK**

*A caring family owned and managed Funeral Service*

- *Dedicated Private Chapel of Rest* •
- *Golden Charter Pre Paid Funeral Plans* •
- *Specialists in Memorial Stones and Designs* •

**33 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh,  
Wallingford OX10 8ED**  
Tel: 01491 825222

Golden Charter

**SHOE REPAIRS**     **Leather Stitching Repairs**     **KEY CUTTING**

**FEET FIRST**  
*Quality Shoe Repairs*

Contact **GARY**

21 St. Mary's Street Wallingford,  
Telephone (01491) 825224

*Watchcaps  
Batteries*     *Travel Goods  
Luggage*

**The Landscape Group Oxford**  
GARDEN, GROUNDS & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Based in Stadhampton we deliver:

- Garden and Grounds Maintenance, including tidying, pruning & mulching
- Fencing, Turfing, Lawn Repairs
- Hedge Cutting and Tree Work
- Drives, Patios and Landscaping
- House and Garden Clearance
- Property Maintenance, inside & out

**Give your garden a Spring Clean!**

£10 million Public Liability Insurance. Trading Standards Approved.  
Safecontractor Accredited, NPTC & Lantra Qualified.



**'QUALITY, SERVICE & VALUE'**

Tel: 01865 341750     e: [lee@tigo.co.uk](mailto:lee@tigo.co.uk)  
w: [www.tigo.co.uk](http://www.tigo.co.uk)

**Liza's Yoga  
Chair Yoga**



- **Chair Yoga:** seated and standing exercises with the aid of a chair. We work gently to increase strength, balance and flexibility slowly; ideal if you have not exercised for a while. We close with some relaxation

**NEW VENUE...**

- **Where:** Sunny's da, Benson, OX10 6LZ  
Committee room, 1st floor Benson Parish Hall (if available)
- **Class length:** 45 mins
- **When:** Thursdays - Chair Yoga 12 noon

**For details of next course start date/cost and to book please contact Liza on [lizahealthiergenerations@yahoo.com](mailto:lizahealthiergenerations@yahoo.com)**

Liza is a registered yoga teacher.     Registered Health Care Practitioner

**CROWMARSH TYRE**

BALANCING, TRACKING & PUNCTURES. LARGE STOCKS OF LEADING MAKES

AND  
**EXHAUST CENTRE**

01491 834088

BATTERIES, COMPREHENSIVE STOCK

MOTS AND SERVICING FOR ALL MAKES OF CARS

BEADLE ESTATE, HITHERCROFT ROAD,  
WALLINGFORD, OXON. OX10 9BW



**HOMEBASE**  
PROPERTY

★ **WHATEVER YOUR PROPERTY NEEDS** ★

**LETTINGS & MANAGEMENT**     **SALES**

01491 824470 | [info@hb-pm.co.uk](mailto:info@hb-pm.co.uk)

## 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 we hope you will be very happy here and quickly become part of our local community.

If you would like to help with the monthly distribution of the *Crowmarsh News* in your local street or neighbourhood, or join the editorial team, please contact the email address on the front page.

## Parish Council news

The next parish council meeting is on 4th February at 7.30pm. The parish council did not meet in January, but we report this month on the discussion about traffic speed and motorcycle noise held on 8th December with the Police and Crime Commissioner and police representatives.

There will be parish council elections on 4 May 2023. All registered electors in the parish are eligible to stand for election. Please contact any councillor or the parish clerk if you would like to find out more about what the parish council does and how you could get involved. There is a need for more parish councillors, especially in Mongewell and North Stoke, which are currently under-represented.

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, email: johngriffin@phoncoop.coop  
Parish Clerk: Mrs Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EL, email: crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

## Thames Path closure at Benson weir

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

The Thames Path is open to Benson Lock on the Wallingford side, subject to the flooding abating, but not across the lock or the weir.

River conditions may be checked at [riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk).

## Traffic speed and noise

The parish council hosted a meeting in December with Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, Chris Hulme, Traffic Management Officer on behalf of Thames Valley Police and Claire Benson of Roads Policing at Thames Valley Police. The local MP and county councillor were invited but did not attend.

As well as parish councillors and local residents, a Henley Standard reporter attended plus representatives of Benson, Nuffield, Bix & Assendon, Nettlebed and Warborough Parish Councils.

The meeting was a follow-up to one held in December 2021 at Benson with Matthew Barber and John Howell MP about speeding and noise on the A4074 and A4130. Residents wanted to know why so little action had been taken by the police and what will be done now to address these problems. Most people agreed that the problem has worsened over the past few years.

Speeding and motorbike noise have long been reported as serious problems especially in fine weather. The H Café at Berinsfield has been a magnet for motor-cyclists for over 20 years, with some riders travelling from as far away as Surrey to use our local roads. Claire Benson reported that the police visit the H Café from time to time and have run safety checks including checking motorcycle silencers.

Speed data on the A4074 and the A4130 has shown excessively high speeds immediately next to residential areas: a motorcyclist had been detected doing 120 mph in the 30mph zone at Shillingford and motorbikes and cars have been recorded speeding on Crowmarsh Hill. Sound levels as high as 115 decibels have been recorded. There was also a recent incident when a car left the road and demolished a fence close to the Crowmarsh roundabout. Nuffield Parish Council had also reported motorcyclists exceeding 100mph on the A4130 but no action had been taken by the police.

Matthew Barber apologised on behalf of the police. He recommended that more enforcement should be carried out and the police could work with the county council to

achieve this. He favoured road network design and use of technology. The root cause is inappropriate behaviour but enforcement is a strategy to combat it. He agreed that police visibility would help, including speed vans.

Measures recommended included the use of sonic cameras activated by noise. These can be moved around and motorists are not aware of them. Matthew Barber said that these and possibly average speed cameras are the best options, and have been tried elsewhere, but there is significant work in setting them up and calibrating them. Conventional speed traps could be a deterrent if better publicised. Matthew Barber will ask his colleague in Surrey to share strategies used there. A toucan light-controlled crossing has been approved for the A4074 Portway in Crowmarsh; Benson should soon be getting a toucan crossing on the A4074 too.

Parish Councillors regretted the lack of communication via police community support officers (PCSOs). Matthew Barber said they are actively trying to recruit more such officers.

Crowmarsh Parish Council has applied for 20mph limits to be applied to our residential roads. Oxfordshire County Council wants to introduce this lower speed limit to 80% of areas in the county that are currently in the 30mph zone. There is a three-year countywide programme for lowering the speed limit in this way and Crowmarsh Parish is on the list for 2023-24. The 20mph project is hoped to be effective through creating blanket cover. In some areas where it has been introduced, there has been a 4 mph reduction in average speed, although 80% of drivers were still exceeding the new limit.

#### **Actions from the meeting:**

- Chris Hulme will send information about Community Speed Watch to the local parishes. A new scheme is in place that is easier to administer. It depends on volunteers using a speed gun and providing data to Thames Valley Police. Letters are sent out to offenders and after three offences the police will follow up in person. Signage provided locally could be also used.
- Matthew Barber to liaise with colleagues in the Surrey police for information on their strategies for dealing with these problems.

He will also research information on sonic cameras and average speed cameras.

- Cllr Sherbourne suggested positioning sonic cameras in pre-surveyed locations and moving these around as required.
- The police were asked to provide more frequent, more visible speed vans.
- Chris Hulme agreed to keep the parishes informed of what action is being taken by police and to increase their visibility.

If you would like to help with the parish council's traffic and transport group or volunteer for Community Speedwatch, please contact the parish clerk: email: [crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com)

More details of Community Speedwatch are on the PCC pages of the Thames Valley Police website at [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/community-speedwatch/](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/community-speedwatch/)

## **Wallingford Country Market**

It's Seville orange marmalade time at Wallingford Country Market, one of our bestselling preserves, on sale from February along with our other regular products. Orders can be placed for most items. If you haven't already been, please visit us one Friday morning between 9.30 and 12 noon in St. Mary-le-More Church behind the Town Hall. You may be surprised at what you will find.



We are always looking for new producers to enhance the variety of what we offer, so if you have growing,

baking or craft skills and would like to join our team we would love to hear from you. Bakers and gardeners in particular would be very much welcomed.

Please contact our Market Manager, Alison Broadbridge (01491-681596) for further information, or pop into the market one Friday morning and speak with her or any of the producers. We look forward to seeing you.



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](mailto:teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk)  
Blog: [revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk](http://revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk)

## St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford

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

Sunday 5th 11am Family Service  
Saturday 11th 10.30-12.30 Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall  
Sunday 12th 11am Parish Communion  
Sunday 19th 11am Parish Communion  
Wednesday 22nd 8pm Ash Wednesday Team Communion at St Leonard's, Wallingford  
Sunday 26th 10am Team Communion at St Mary-le-More Wallingford with the Bishop of  
Dorchester

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 4pm

Full details at [www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar](http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk/calendar)

### The Vicar writes ...

It was wonderful to welcome many villagers back to our services over Christmas for the first time since COVID. I hope that you will consider joining us for our regular worship each Sunday. Christianity isn't just for celebrations, but part of everyday life, and Sunday is when we recharge our spiritual batteries ready to serve our neighbours during the week. As Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness." (John 10:10). That has certainly been my experience.

But what if you don't yet know God? How can you find him? In one way God our creator is so different from us that this is a challenge, but the good news is that he loves us and wants to be in a relationship with us and so he chooses to reveal himself to us, primarily in human form as Jesus. He shows us what God is like, saying, "If you really know me, you will know my Father as well." (John 14:7).

Throughout Lent, we are inviting everyone to "Come and See", not just to hear more about Jesus, but to experience how life is transformed by knowing him. Whether you can make it to church or not during Lent, you are invited to subscribe to a daily email or a weekly email for families with children at: [www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/), which will follow His teaching known as the Beatitudes.

May you know his blessings!

Rev Kev

## **Past Times** from David Beasley

### **The death of Nora Isabella Marshall**

When Nora Isabella Marshall was found drowned on Saturday 25th May 1918 it caused considerable shock throughout the town. She was born in Wallingford in 1859, the youngest daughter of John Hedges Marshall, who was a doctor in the town until his death in 1893. Nora had lived with her elder sister Mary in Castle Villas, in Castle Street, for nineteen years. She was very public spirited and served on the Local Food Control Committee, she supported the suffrage movement, was a Sunday School Teacher, and a district visitor in St Peter's Parish.

Nora was in the habit of taking her Pekinese for a walk along the bank towards Benson each day. On Saturday, she left at ten o'clock to take the dog for its walk, saying that she would not be long. At about 11 o'clock Mrs F P Chamberlain of Crowmarsh Battle Farm was rowing with some friends to Wallingford, when near the bridge over the brook that flows past Hedge's Boathouse, she heard a dog barking and crying. The water is some five feet deep at this spot. She took the dog into the boat and later gave it to Percy Turner at the landing stage by the bridge.

Percy Turner realised the dog belonged to Miss Marshall. Friends walked along the riverbank but they found no sign of her. The Police were informed, Inspector Webb started dragging operations but they found nothing. On the Sunday again friends searched the riverbank with no result. On Monday PC Kimber started dragging the river again at about midday. Miss Marshall's body was found and was brought to the bank. It was thought that the dog slipped down the bank and Miss Marshall in trying to help the dog fell into the river and was unable to save herself and drowned.

The funeral was held on the following Thursday in St Peter's Church. It was so packed with mourners that some of the congregation had to stand outside the church during the service. Miss Marshall was buried in the Wallingford Cemetery, and a memorial plaque was placed on the wall in St Peter's, paid for by public subscription.

## **Benson Garden Club**

On Thursday 5th January, Benson Garden Club held its AGM, followed by a talk by award-winning garden designer Christine Gibbs.

The Chair's report included an encouraging summary of how the club has managed to resume a full programme of speaker events and garden visits following lifting of Covid restrictions. We also introduced some initiatives in 2022, including a seed swap and a "flower of the month" competition, both for members only.

Christine's talk was on "Gardening with the environment in mind". This topic was a great start to the year, inspiring us to change our perspective on how we garden. She spoke about how to garden in a sustainable way, including how to encourage wildlife into our gardens. Christine provided many suggestions to make our gardening both more sustainable and fulfilling: creating lots of different habitats, recycling wherever possible, ensuring winter refuges for wildlife and not wasting resources on buying plants ill-suited to your garden's conditions.

Our next talk on Thursday 2nd February will be by Charlotte Popescu on "In praise of apples". Charlotte is an experienced gardener and writer, including "The Apple Cookbook".

Then on Thursday 2nd March Pip Smith will give us a talk on "Nuts about narcissus." A landscape architect with over 13 years' experience as a professional horticulturist, Pip has been head gardener at several private and public gardens, most recently at the highly acclaimed Wollerton Old Hall in Shropshire.

On 30th March, Michael Holland will give a talk from his "Tales from the fruit bowl" titled "Saucy and spicy" (focusing on the nightshade family). Michael is a writer, lecturer and author with a 25-year career at the renowned Chelsea Physic Garden in London.

For all three talks, our venue will be Benson Parish Hall. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start. £2 for members, £5 for visitors – just turn up on the door, no need to book.

Further information about this thriving club, which has been running for over 25 years, and how to join are on our website <https://>

bensongardeningclub.weebly.com, or feel free to email [bensongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:bensongardeningclub@gmail.com)

Liz Harrison

## Market gardening under climate change

On Tuesday 7th February at 7.30 p.m., Sustainable Wallingford is meeting in the back room at the Dolphin pub in Wallingford to hear from local market gardener Mark Stevenson (a stallholder at the Saturday local producers' market) about how climate change in recent years has affected his growing of fruit and vegetables.

## 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](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk) [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice)

## Henley and District Stamp Club

Spring is starting and the days are getting longer. At the Henley stamp club, we are preparing for our annual auction where you will be able to obtain fantastic material. This year we can proudly announce that we have over 800 lots of excellent quality. Come along to our preview meeting on 22nd February for the items to be auctioned on 8th March.

To learn more about stamps and postal history, why not visit us at Bix one Wednesday

evening and meet people who find postal history and the story of stamps fascinating too. On Wednesday 8th February we have a guest speaker to show aspects of "Tasmania".



Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Further details can be obtained by phoning Brian on 01491 681739 or on our website [www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk).

## Cholsey repair café

The next Cholsey repair café is on Saturday 18th March, from 11.00 to 13.45. A wide variety of repairs can be attempted, from bicycles to toasters, from torches to garden shears. Repairs and advice are free, but a small donation towards operating costs is appreciated and the cost of replacement parts must be covered.

This very popular voluntary service can be busy at times, but the rush has usually died down by about 12.15.

---

A repair café will also take place on Saturday 18th February, 10.00-13.00, at Eastgate House, just across Wallingford Bridge.

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

Phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or email [chrisstrange47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisstrange47@gmail.com)

## IT and Networking Specialist



### Connected and Simplified

The company was founded on the premise that increased use of network enabled devices has changed the nature of audio-visual needs for many small businesses and residences. Strong network infrastructure should be the first point of contemporary systems to provide flexibility and support the simplest, most cost effective and reliable IT and AV solutions.

Get in touch if you are looking for:

- IT Consulting, Business Coaching
- IT Support
- New & Old Network Systems
- AV Systems & Installation
- IT Security & Monitoring

For more detailed information visit [www.alexandermoller.co.uk](http://www.alexandermoller.co.uk)

+44 789 688 2660

[alex.moller@gmail.com](mailto:alex.moller@gmail.com)



Look good...  
feel good.

Forrester's Wallingford has built its reputation as a centre of excellence and showcase for cuts and colour.

For more information about offers and promotions or to book a FREE consultation, contact us today.



You can now book online.

01491 837 523 [Forrester's4Hair.com](http://Forrester's4Hair.com)

For Us at: 25 High Street, Wallingford, OX10 7PL



**Beacon Flooring**  
A Family Run Business

## Carpet Wood Karndean Vinyl

Free fitting on carpet orders over £150

16 High Street, Goring. 01491 454095

[beaconflooring@aol.co.uk](mailto:beaconflooring@aol.co.uk)

[www.beaconflooring.co.uk](http://www.beaconflooring.co.uk)

# COULTON

## Plumbing & Heating

A local family business, based in Crowmarsh Gifford, providing a professional and quality service

Boiler Servicing, Repairs & Maintenance

Boiler Replacements · Heating Repairs

Landlord Safety Certificates

General Plumbing Maintenance & Repairs

Heating System Installation

Cylinder Repair & Replacement

Specialists in OIL & GAS

**T 01491 824486 M 07737 788773**

[coultonplumbing@hotmail.com](mailto:coultonplumbing@hotmail.com)

Member of  
**Checkatrade.com**  
Where reputation matters

## Carpet & hard floor care

Vacuum cleaners, bags, filters, spares & repairs

Carpet cleaning machines, shampoos & deodorisers

Rotary floor polishers, pads, wax & polish. Scrubber-driers

 **CLEAN MACHINE** Hire & Sales

01491 825600 [www.machinesthatclean.com](http://www.machinesthatclean.com)

St. Peter's Street Shops, Wallingford, OX10 0BG (behind Champions)

## D.S. HUTTON FLOORING

**CARPETS & VINYL  
SUPPLIED & FITTED**

**HOME ESTIMATES**

Mobile: 07840 678145

Home: 01865 299107

Email: [david.hutton18@talktalk.net](mailto:david.hutton18@talktalk.net)

4 Shuttleworth Close, OX10 8FS



## Corn Exchange listings

Films will start on time and late-comers will only be allowed in after the start where there is no disruption to sitting patrons. 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 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 [cornexchange.org.uk](http://cornexchange.org.uk) for up-to-date details.

### Cinema

Sunday 29th January, 7:30pm *Fanny and Alexander* (15)

Tuesday 31st January, 7:30pm *I Wanna Dance with Somebody* (12A)

Wednesday 1st February, 2:30pm and 7:30pm *I Wanna Dance with Somebody* (12A)

Friday 3rd February, 7:30pm *Death of a Hollow Man* (12A) — a special celebration of 25 years of Midsomer Murders with an episode filmed in the Corn Exchange in 1997: this is a free film courtesy of the President of the Sinodun Players, John Warburton.

Saturday 4th, 2:30pm and 7:30pm *Avatar, The Way of Water* (12A)

Sunday 5th to Tuesday 7th, 7:30pm *A Man called Otto* (12A)

Wednesday 8th, 2:30pm *A Man called Otto* (12A)

Wednesday 8th, 7:30pm *Enys Men* (15)

Friday 10th, 7:30pm *Empire of Light* (15)

Saturday 11th, 7:30pm *Tar* (15)

Sunday 12th & Monday 13th, 7:30pm *Empire of Light* (15)

Tuesday 14th, 2:30pm and 7:30pm *Tar* (15)

Friday 17th to Monday 20th, 7:30pm *The Fablemans* (12A)

### Live screenings

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

Christopher Wheeldon's new full-length ballet is a co-production between The Royal Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. The ballet is inspired by Laura Esquivel's captivating family saga, where the central character's emotions

spill out through cooking to influence everyone around her in startling and dramatic ways. Mexican conductor Alondra de la Parra acts as musical consultant for Talbot's newly commissioned score and Wheeldon has worked closely with Esquivel to reshape her richly-layered story into an entertaining and engrossing ballet.

Thursday 2nd February, 7pm **The Crucible** from the National Theatre

Recorded earlier in the year, this is a thunderous new imagining of Arthur Miller's parable of power and its abuse, with Erin Doherty (*The Crown*) and Brendan Cowell (*Yerma*) as John Proctor and Abigail Williams. A witch hunt is beginning. A group of young women in Salem suddenly find their words have an almighty power. As a climate of fear, vendetta and accusation spreads through the community, no one is safe from trial.

Wednesday 15th February, 7pm **The Barber of Seville** live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, sung in Italian with English subtitles. With vocal fireworks, scheming lovers and one very busy barber, Rossini's comic opera is packed with fun and mischief.

Thursday 23rd February, 7pm **Othello** from the National Theatre, recorded earlier this year.

Shakespeare's compelling tragedy of boundary-defying love, thwarted by oppressive social barriers and meddling outside forces, is brought startlingly up to date by a stellar cast including Giles Terera (*Hamilton*).

Tickets for all live screenings: £18 (adults), £15 (senior citizens), £10 (under 18s)

### Coming soon

Tuesday 7th to Saturday 11th March at 7:45pm with a Saturday matinee at 2:30pm **Chess**

The collaboration between Crescendo and the Sinodun Players is back, presenting the hit musical *Chess*. Written by ABBA's Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus with lyrics by Sir Tim Rice, *Chess* is a masterpiece of musical theatre, featuring songs like *I know Him So Well*, *One Night in Bangkok*, *Anthem*, and *Pity the Child*.

Tickets: £18 (adult), £16 (under 18s)

**g**  
GRACE & GRAVITY


**YOGA & WELLBEING IN WALLINGFORD**  
hello@goodandgracious.co.uk  
07708 531423

Beautiful studio location in Crowmarsh Gifford.  
Classes to suit all abilities and ages including Post-natal, Mens, Aerial, Chair Pilates and more.

**G.R. Galliford**  
Graham  
07762650809  
01491 824583

Mini Digger with Operator

Block Paving  
Driveways  
Patios  
Fencing  
Drop Kerbs  
Groundwork



**THOMAS MERRIFIELD**  
SALES LETTINGS

FOR ALL YOUR PROPERTY NEEDS, CONTACT THE LOCAL EXPERTS TODAY

T: 01491 833833  
E: wallingford@thomasmerrifield.co.uk  
72 High Street, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0BX  
thomasmerrifield.co.uk

**Fireplace Magic**

**Woodburners, Fires & Fireplaces**

- Installation
- HETAS registered
- Woodburner servicing
- Chimney sweeping

Showroom at: 45 Prospect Street, Caversham RG4 8JB  
Telephone: 0118 9463060  
[www.fireplacemagic.co.uk](http://www.fireplacemagic.co.uk)



**GA**

Electrical  
Plumbing  
Fire and Security

Call: 01491 835875  
Email - reception@groupga.co.uk  
Unit H Moses Winter Way, Wallingford, OX10 9FE

THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES GROUP




**WEPS**  
WALLINGFORD ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLIES

**OPEN TO THE TRADE & PUBLIC**

☎ 01491 827825  
✉ SALES@WEPS.ORG.UK  
UNIT I MOSES WINTER WAY

## Christmas Treecycling scheme raises a tree-mendous £87,000 plus for Sue Ryder

National healthcare charity, Sue Ryder, is thanking people across the Thames Valley for supporting its Christmas Treecycle initiative, helping them to raise more than £87,000 for families needing their care.

The palliative, neurological and bereavement support charity, Sue Ryder, which operates the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading and Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub

South Oxfordshire, ran a green scheme with their tree-ly amazing volunteers to collect real Christmas trees direct from people's front garden or driveway in return for a donation.

The collected trees were then chipped and recycled to create an organic product which can be used for mulching gardens, topping up garden or woodland paths, surfacing children's play areas, or as biomass fuel. This meant that residents who chose to Treecycle were not only helping to raise vital funds for Sue Ryder but also helping to reduce landfill.

Sue Ryder worked with 27 volunteers and were kindly supported by big-hearted corporate partners Rabbits Vehicle Hire, G A Butler & Sons, Arborfield Tree Care, Ashburton Ltd Landscaping, Reading's Transit Man Removals, Garnet Hill Tree Services and Fernoak Tree Surgeons Ltd to collect and recycle trees from postcodes in their area.

The 837 trees collected from across the Thames Valley were a huge part of the 5822 trees gathered across the country by Sue Ryder. Overall the scheme has raised a fantastic £87,391 for the charity so far, with more donations coming in, which will go towards helping to continue Sue Ryder's expert and compassionate palliative care and bereavement support.

Georgia Thornton, Community Fundraiser from the Sue Ryder Thames Valley fundraising team, said: "We want to say a huge thank you to the local community for supporting our Christmas Treecycle scheme this year. It can be difficult to know what to do with your real tree once the festivities are over, but by recycling with us and making kind donations, you have helped to reduce landfill and raise vital funds so that we can continue to be there for families when it matters.

"We also want to show our appreciation to all of our volunteers for donating their time and for their incredible efforts and hard work – without their support we really couldn't make the initiative happen."

Find out more about fundraising events for Sue Ryder in 2023 by viewing the events calendar for Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice at [sue Ryder.org /2023event](https://sue Ryder.org/2023event) and for Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire at [sue Ryder.org /2023events](https://sue Ryder.org/2023events) or by contacting the Sue Ryder Thames Valley fundraising team on 0118 9550 433 or email [thamesvalley.fundraising@sue Ryder.org](mailto:thamesvalley.fundraising@sue Ryder.org).

## Walking in Oxfordshire

Time to get walking again! With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Oxfordshire has loads of walks to download and print for free at [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire). It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Oxfordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris ([john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk))

---

Look out too for the Chilterns Conservation Board's next walking festival which will be coming up from 20th May to 4th June. See <https://www.chilternsaonb.org/whats-on/walkingfest>.

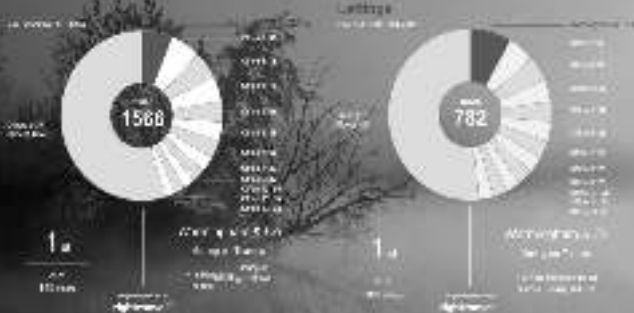
## Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club continues with 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 conversations with other members, presentations by visiting speakers, practical evenings and competitions. The club

# Warmingham

www.warmingham.com

Your leading independent property consultancy....



Having celebrated successive record breaking years in 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, we're done again in 2022. Having been established for over 10 years, we do not sit on our laurels leading from the front. We are still growing and our success is due to our commitment to our clients and our staff. We are a team of professionals who are passionate about what we do and we are committed to providing the highest quality of service to our clients. We are a team of professionals who are passionate about what we do and we are committed to providing the highest quality of service to our clients.

01491 652345  
 01235 555533  
 01993 868924

Established 1983



## Roy Windebank AUTO ENGINEER

www.roywindebank.co.uk  
 roysworkshop@gmail.com



**ALL YOUR MOTING NEEDS IN ONE STOP!**  
 From a light bulb, a new engine to an MOT, we have everything covered, call or visit us today!

- Servicing & Repairs
- MOT's
- Tyres
- Brakes, Clutches & Exhausts
- Welding
- Diagnostics
- Batteries
- Wiper Blades & Bulbs

**01491 652345**

Kentwood Farm, Papist Way, Cholsey OX10 9LJ

## Manor Café at Howbery

Open: 9am-4pm, Mon-Fri



- ☛ Hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes: all day
- ☛ Breakfast: 9.00am - 10.30am
- ☛ Paninis, baguettes and baps: 11.00am - 2.00pm
- ☛ Hot and cold lunch options: 11.30am - 1.30pm

Order online or at service counter  
 Outside and indoor seating areas  
 Takeaway service | Beautiful grounds | Ample parking

www.howberypark.com

## DIRTY CARPETS? GRUBBY UPHOLSTERY?

CALL

# GRIMEBUSTERS

YOUR LOCAL PROFESSIONAL CLEANING FIRM

www.grimebusters.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL WET OR DRY CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING AT UNBEATABLE RATES

For free estimates or advice, please call:  
 Oxford (01865) 726983 Abingdon (01235) 555533  
 Witney (01993) 868924

## DON'T BUY IT - HIRE IT!

• PLANT & TOOL HIRE • TRADE & DIY •

We are the hire specialists and stock all your needs - from hand tools to forklift trucks

Service second to none. Competitive prices.  
 Delivery and collection service.

Open: Mon-Fri 7.30am - 5pm Saturday 7.30am - 12 noon  
 PARKING A PLEASURE!

**DIDCOT PLANT**

Didcot Plant Ltd, Basil Hill Road, Didcot

01235 814000

www.didcotplant.co.uk

meets every Thursday at 7.30pm for an 8pm start (7.45pm start on competition evenings and online sessions).

On 2nd February Stephen Ball takes us on a virtual trip to Scotland in a Zoom-only session.

On 9th February we will enjoy a popular members' evening entitled 'you are the judge' where we gather at the Pavilion to appraise a set of members' images, and experience what it's like to be a judge by critiquing and scoring them. Then it's our turn for real on the 16th where the season's themed competition takes place, with the topic this year being "Action".

On 23rd we're online again to learn from J P Stones' 'storytelling for photographers' how to get narrative into our images.

## The Art of World War II

An exhibition of diverse, original artwork, all produced during, and depicting scenes from, the Second World War, will go on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, from 25th February to 7th May.

The exhibition has been curated from John Noott's personal collection, gathered together during his career as an art collector and dealer for over 40 years. Drawn together, the art forms a history in pictures of the Second World War while showcasing incredibly personal perspectives which reflect a varied range of experiences before, during, and after the war. Through the work of artists of the time, visitors will see the war unfold 'as it happened'.

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to see a view of Dunkirk as troops are evacuated, painted by a nephew of Winston Churchill, John Spencer Churchill, a reflection of what he had witnessed during his own army service. The artist would return to England to inform his uncle personally of the need for boats to assist in rescuing the troops there.

Elsewhere, the plight of both evacuees and refugees is seen as artists of the time depict the many people displaced by war, such as those coming to Britain as part of the *Kindertransport* rescue programme in the build up to the Second World War.

The artists whose work is included in the collection range from skilled amateurs to professionals, from those already renowned at

the time to those who would go on to make a name for themselves in a post-war world. A sketch by Eduardo Paolozzi, better known as a pioneering pop-artist, contrasts newly arrived American troops with a typical Oxford scene of a student cycling through the city. The artist faced discrimination and internment under the Enemy Aliens Act, along with many of his family, when they moved to Britain from Italy.

The exhibition also features art from *Vogue* fashion illustrators forced to flee Paris, and *Beano* cartoonists who turned their hand to cartography to aid General Montgomery in North Africa.

Collector John Noott grew up in wartime Britain and his lived experiences inspired him to gather the collection throughout his career.

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is open from Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm and on Sunday 2pm-5pm. The county's own military history museum is located in the gardens of the Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, on the doorstep of Blenheim palace. Contact for further details and hiring the collection: [museumdirector@sofo.org.uk](mailto:museumdirector@sofo.org.uk)



## John Howell MP writes ...

I agree with the Prime Minister when he said that New Year should be a time of optimism and excitement, and yet many look ahead to 2023 with apprehension. There are indeed many concerns at home and abroad. The concerns that dominate for each of us will vary according to our own circumstances and needs.

Over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, I had several conversations on the fallout from the pandemic, with many people feeling that the negative effects, particularly in relation to mental health and well-being, are still taking their toll. The nervousness at the news that China would reopen its borders is an example of the fear that lingers, not only in relation to physical health, but also over the dread that life could be restricted once again. However, we must remember that we are in a very different place to where we were at the start of the pandemic, with knowledge, vaccines and medicines available to help prevent such devastating measures being taken again.

For those concerned at the continued cost of living issues, I was pleased to see the Government announcement of further support this year for pensioners and those on low incomes. It is also good to see the continued support in relation to energy costs for business and non-domestic customers. This is subject to on-going review in a fast-changing situation.

I know that many constituents are concerned over issues relating to Thames Water. I have written previously of my concerns on storm discharges. I have also raised a number of other specific concerns with the company over time. I was saddened, although not entirely surprised, to read in the Ofwat annual assessment of water company performance that Thames Water fell amongst the worst performers. I am in touch with the Chief Executive of Ofwat on this. He has confirmed that they are very concerned over this and advised me that Thames Water have committed to spending an additional £2bn in the 2020-25 regulatory period, on top of the £9.6bn final determination, to turnaround their performance. He acknowledges that there is

much to be done and has confirmed that they are monitoring the situation closely. We will be keeping in touch on progress.

Another concern that also tends to arise with the new year is changes to bus services when timetables are reviewed. I fully appreciate that when bus companies make changes, some people will be inconvenienced having become used to services running at particular times. Although buses are run on a commercial basis there are some subsidies available to support services in specific circumstances. These are administered by the County Council. Having investigated some of the concerns, I understand that for bus companies there are many issues to consider when looking at the sustainability of services. In some cases, it is simply a matter of low passenger numbers that makes a route unsustainable, and the companies need to divert resources to other routes where there is greater usage to keep these running. However sometimes the issues are wider. For example, on one route up for change, the bus company wanted to use double decker buses across the whole route. Some of the rural roads included in the journey were not suitable for such vehicles. Whilst the Government does have a National Bus Strategy, the challenges in rural areas are many. As we know all too well, some routes are simply lost altogether due to lack of use.

There are of course, many big issues which affect us all, which are well rehearsed in the national media and which the government is already working to address. If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. 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. The address is [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk). My contact details are also on the website.

**To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall for birthday parties and events**

Call Chris Strange on 07711 904252  
or email: [cvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhbookings@gmail.com)

**ARBOCARE  
TREE SURGERY LTD**  
Qualified and Experienced Arborists

Established over 25 years

Contractors to the National Trust

Crown reductions \* Thinning

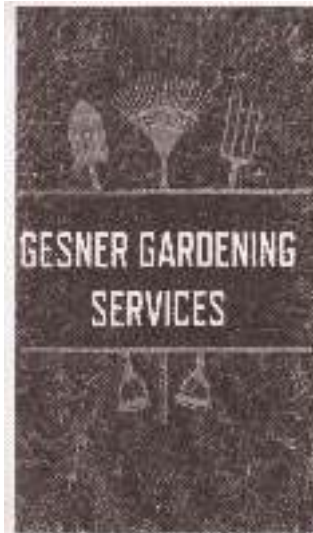
Felling \* Hedge Trimming \* Stump Grinding

Decay Detection & Tree Reports

**Free Phone: 0808 1555815**

**Mb: 07778811136**

**WWW.ARBOCARE.CO.UK**



Scott Gesner

07818 244787

gesnergardening@yahoo.co.uk

www.gesnergardening.co.uk

Contact us for a  
free quotation

**LAWNCARE**

**GARDEN MACHINERY  
SALES, SERVICE & SPARES**

LODGE FARM  
OLD READING ROAD  
CROWMARSH  
WALLINGFORD  
OXON OX10 8BW

Agents for:  
Mountfield - Westwood - Echo  
& many others  
Briggs & Stratton service centre  
**TEL 01491 836060**

[www.RefreshPro.co.uk](http://www.RefreshPro.co.uk)



Estimate Evaluation Specialist Cleaning

\* Patio/Drive Cleaning \* Gutter/Facia Cleaning

\* Reach & Wash Pure Water window cleaning

For a quote please contact us on 01491 833937 or [info@refreshpro.co.uk](mailto:info@refreshpro.co.uk)

Refresh Pro is a company that provides a range of services including: Gutter/Facia Cleaning, Patio/Drive Cleaning, Reach & Wash Pure Water window cleaning, Estimate Evaluation Specialist Cleaning

01491 833937 or Kevin 07772416465 or [info@refreshpro.co.uk](mailto:info@refreshpro.co.uk)

**PC  
DRIVE  
WALLINGFORD**

**LEARN TO DRIVE**

Fully qualified, DSA approved  
instructor.

Local, calm, friendly and  
professional tuition.

Pre-test to post-test courses.

Pass Plus registered.

Dual controls.

Air conditioning.

**PETER COSFORD (ADI)**  
**OFFICE: 01491 825091**  
**MOBILE: 07989 352325**

**THAMES SALON**  
**THAMES SALON**  
**THAMES SALON**  
**THAMES SALON**

*Gents  
Hairdressing*  
Est. 1958

21 St. Mary's Street, Wallingford  
Oxfordshire OX10 0EW  
Telephone : 01491 837124

**OPENING HOURS**

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| MONDAY    | 8.30 am - 6.00 pm |
| TUESDAY   | 8.30 am - 6.00 pm |
| WEDNESDAY | Closed            |
| THURSDAY  | 8.30 am - 9.00 pm |
| FRIDAY    | 8.30 am - 9.00 pm |
| SATURDAY  | 8.00 am - 6.00 pm |

[www.thamessalon.com](http://www.thamessalon.com)

**ALBRY PRINTING**

For all your printing needs:

Full Printing & Copying facilities

Colour or B/W - no job too small

T: (01491) 836282 E: [print@albry.co.uk](mailto:print@albry.co.uk)

73 Fir Tree Ave, Wallingford OX10 0PB

Opening hours 9.00 - 11.00 Mon - Fri  
other times by appointment

**Tom Cottrell Landscapes**  
Est 1974 Family Run Business

Telephone: 01491-836974

All tree aspects - David Cottrell

Felling, Reducing, Reshaping  
Thinning, Removal, Pollarding  
Shrub & Tree Pruning  
Dead Wood Removal  
Hedge Management  
Stump Grinding

Garden & Landscaping Services

Turfing, Hedge & Grass Cutting, Planting  
Fencing, Patios  
General Garden Maintenance  
Garden Renovation & Construction  
Woodchip Mulch  
Seasoned Logs & Kindling Wood

Web: [www.tomcottrelllandscapes.com](http://www.tomcottrelllandscapes.com)

Email: [tomcottrelllandscapes@gmail.com](mailto:tomcottrelllandscapes@gmail.com)

Orchard Cottage, High Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Nr Wallingford, Oxon OX20 0PS

## WHAT'S ON — FEBRUARY 2023

### 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                         | <a href="http://www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford">www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford</a> |
| 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                             | <a href="http://www.ctcwallingford.org.uk">www.ctcwallingford.org.uk</a>                           |
| Various days | Various times   | Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway                | <a href="http://www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com">www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com</a>       |

### This month

|               |               |  |  |
|---------------|---------------|--|--|
| Wednesday 1st | 14.00 onwards | U3A: The poison umbrella murders   | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall                     |
| Thursday 2nd  | 19.00-21.30   | Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting   | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall                     |
| Saturday 4th  | 19.00 onwards | Tudors and more — concert by the Thames Consort                                    | Dorchester Abbey                                   |
| Tuesday 7th   | 19.30 onwards | Sustainable Wallingford meeting: market gardening and climate change               | The Dolphin, St Mary's Street, Wallingford         |
| Wednesday 8th | 20.00 onwards | TWHAS: The Frewin Hall excavation  | St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford                |
| Saturday 11th | 10.30-12.30   | Crowmarsh Community Café   | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall                     |
| Saturday 11th | 19.00-21.00   | OSJ concert: 150th anniversary tribute to Vaughan Williams                         | Dorchester Abbey                                   |
| Saturday 18th | 10.00-13.00   | Riverside Repair Cafe  | Garden at Eastgate House (near Wallingford Bridge) |
| Sunday 26th   | 15.00 onwards | Choral Music from Amici Della Voce: James MacMillan, Vaughan Williams and more ... | St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford                |

### March

|                     |                |                                  |                                |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Wednesday 1st March | 14.00 onwards  | U3A: The Commonwealth War Graves | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall |
| Thursday 2nd        | 19.00-21.30    | Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting | Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall |
| Saturday 18th       | 11.00 to 13.45 | Cholsey repair café              | Cholsey Pavilion               |