

Issue 526

April 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: Sian Evans and John Griffin

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

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 rate is £33.00 for 1 month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (880 copies please).

Next month's issue

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

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

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

or deliver to the Editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

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Welcome to new residents

A warm welcome if you have just moved into Crowmarsh Gifford, Mongewell or North Stoke, including all who have moved into homes on the new residential estates as they grow, and we hope you will be very happy here and quickly become part of our local community.

The Crowmarsh News still needs volunteers!

The Crowmarsh News editorial team is pleased to welcome Sian Evans as a new editor and we thank Caroline Campbell who is stepping down. To continue publishing every month we still need new volunteers to share the work. The more teams we have, the fewer times each person has to do it. So can you help with editing articles? Or perhaps page layout in Publisher? Or could you help to deliver copies door-to-door in your area? If you think you might be able to help, just email crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com for a chat.

Quiz 'n' chips success

The Wallingford WI team *Winspiration* won a close-fought quiz contest on 17th March. The venue had to be changed to Crowmarsh Village Hall because of falling plaster in the church. Thanks must go to those who served refreshments and ordered the fish and chips, and to Revd Kevin Beer for his ingenious and sometimes contentious questions, including many on a St Patrick's Day theme. The nine teams helped to raise over £600 for the church, but we can look forward to more fund-raising events through the year.



Photo of the winning team taken by Sarah Streets

Council elections on 4th May

Get election ready – check your voter registration and ID before it's too late

On Thursday 4 May, residents will go to the polls to choose local councillors who will make decisions on important issues, such as where we should focus our efforts locally to help tackle climate change, where and how new housing gets built, how we ensure there's enough affordable housing, and much more.

Everyone aged 18 or over who is eligible can vote in the local elections, but you must be registered at your current address by midnight on 17th April – if you need to register, apply now at gov.uk/register tovote

To vote at a polling station on 4th May, you must bring valid photo ID with you. This is a new Government requirement. Find out what ID you can use at electoralcommission.org.

If you don't have an accepted photo ID, apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate by 5pm on 25th April.

Or you can vote by post – the deadline for postal vote applications is 5pm on 18th April.

Or you can ask someone else to vote on your behalf (a proxy vote). The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on 25th April. To apply for a postal or proxy vote visit southoxon.gov.uk or call the District Council on 01235 422422.

Wallingford Country Market

Our Easter Market will take place on Maundy Thursday 6th April (replacing our usual Friday market) when Easter bakes and treats will be available. Orders taken for most items we sell. New producers always welcome: if interested, please visit us one Friday morning and speak with our Market Manager, Alison Broadbridge, or phone her on 681596.

We are open each Friday morning in St Mary-le-More Church, (situated just behind the Town Hall), between 9.30am and 12 noon. Fresh delicious Home-baked Cakes and Savouries, Local Honey and Seasonal Preserves, Plants, Flowering Bulbs and Hand-crafted items available each week.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club continues into spring with a programme of events and talks on Thursdays at 7.30pm. From April we are meeting in person at Crowmarsh Pavilion.

6th: a journey around Namibia, with Eddy and Pam Lane

13th: a more interactive session, with our annual combined portfolio competition, where members arrange four photos on a theme, and an architecture competition

20th: a members' evening (guests welcome)

27th: the month closes with Mark and Judy Buckley-Sharp's Journey in Printing.

The season closes in May with our End of Season Competition on 4th and AGM on 11th.

Brightwell Art Club

Brightwell Art Club meets on Saturday mornings (10 – 12 in term time) at the Village Hall. We are a friendly group of people who welcome beginners as well as more experienced painters, and usually have a tutor with them helping on a differing theme each week. The last meeting of term is on mixed media with tutor Janet Lueck, on 1st April. Next term starts on 22nd April.

You could pop in and meet the group on a Saturday morning: coffee is served about 11am. For further information, email Isabella Darby at izdarby@icloud.com.

Henley and District Stamp Club

Snowdrops have been out, and we are changing the clocks to enjoy more daylight.

Henley Stamp Club is a friendly group, and we would be delighted to see visitors or new members at Bix Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m.

If you are interested in facts about stamps or postal history, why not come along and find out how you can promote your interest?

Wednesday 12th – Members will display 'Cinderellas and Revenues'.

Wednesday 26th – Guest speaker Chris Folland will talk about the 'Pigeon Post of New Zealand'.

For further details phone Brian on 01491 681739 or see www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Past Times from David Beasley

The residents of The Street in 1939

Miss Mabel Gertrude Brown, a 72-year-old spinster, lived at The Giffords on the Street, Crowmarsh, with her sister, Florence Margaret. Mabel's father was John Brown, a clergyman from Compton, Berks, who had been living for many years at Didcot. Sharing a room with them was a retired teacher named Ruth Denham.

Rose Cottage next door was occupied by Matilda Kate Shick, a 75-year-old woman, blind from birth. Living with her as her companion was Amelia Maria Way. Occupying the cottage next door was Mrs Winifred Rose Danby, whose occupation was listed as Unpaid Domestic Duties, which was the case for most housewives in 1939. Her daughter, named Lewis, was a member of the Women's Land Army. The landlord of the Bell Inn, George Robert Bryant, served in the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War, and was married to Ada Bryant. Next door was Thomas Wigley, who worked as a van driver and carpet and lino fitter and was the son of William and Mary Wigley. He died in 1954 at the age of 50.

Opposite the Giffords is the Queens Head – in 1939 the landlord was Sidney Walter Shinn, born in Brixton in September 1885. His parents were George and Ann and his father's occupation was described as a Professor of Music. In 1903, Sidney obtained a job in Nigeria working on their railways. He joined up in 1916, served in Africa and was in action in 1917. Sidney married Alice Chudleigh in 1930, and returned to England in the 1930s. In December 1935, he and his wife moved to Acton and lived there until 1938, when they moved to be landlords of the Queens Head. He died in Brighton in 1965.



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

April services and events (at St Mary Magdalene's Parish Church unless otherwise stated):

Palm Sunday 2nd	11am	Family Service with dramatized reading of Christ's Passion
Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th	8pm	Holy Week short reflective service of Compline
Maundy Thursday 6th	7pm	We join Brightwell congregations for a shared supper at the Free Church to recall Jesus's "Last Supper" with his disciples.
Good Friday 7th	11am	Churches Together united worship, Wallingford Market Place
Saturday 8th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Holy Saturday / Easter Eve 8th		Easter Vigil Service beginning at 8pm with the lighting of the Easter Fire at sundown, followed by meditative readings and prayers and renewal of baptismal vows as we anticipate Easter
Easter Sunday 9th	11am	Family Festival Communion Service, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children
Sunday 16th	11am	The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (with the financial and other reports for 2022) will follow the service.
Sunday 23rd	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 30th	11am	Parish Communion

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm

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

The Vicar writes ...

April brings the climax of the church's year as we enter Holy Week and the Easter season. We hope that you will join us in worship as we commemorate and celebrate these historic events which still change lives today.

So how can the cross, an instrument of execution like the guillotine or the electric chair, be good news for anyone? The difference is that it wasn't an ordinary man who was crucified on "Good Friday", but rather God himself in human form. He was sentenced to death for blasphemy, because he claimed to do things that only God could do: not just teaching beyond human wisdom and performing miraculous signs and wonders, but forgiving people their sins – only God can do that.

But because God stands for the ultimate good, all the bad things (sin) could not just be ignored. There were damages to be paid for and a sentence to be served. Therefore, God's act of restorative justice was to take that death penalty upon himself for all our sins on the cross. Although he was innocent, he took our place, so that we are forgiven and all our debt of sin written off in full. Now that's good news! And it gets even better when Jesus rises from the grave, conquering death itself so that we too can live his risen life! That is love in action, love that invites a response...

Blessings, Rev Kev

The Corn Exchange events

Cinema

All performances start at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise. Please note that we will start on time and that latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption to sitting patrons. This means that we may have to reseat some latecomers.

For Live Screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room where there is a large screen relay. The bar and auditorium will open from 7pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand.

We are also showing films on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please look at the website for updates.

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

Saturday 1st - Pearl (15)

Sunday 2nd to Tuesday 4th - Allelujah (12A)

Wednesday 5th, 2:30pm - Allelujah (12A)

Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th - Everything Everywhere All at Once (15)

Friday 7th, Sunday 9th & Thursday 13th - My Sailor, My Love (12A)

Saturday 8th, 2:30pm & 7.30pm - Elvis (12A)

Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th - Mary Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman (U)

Wednesday 12th, 2:30pm - Dreambuilders (U)

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th at 7.30pm, plus Saturday 15th at 2:30pm - 80 for Brady (12A)

Monday 17th & Wednesday 19th - God's Creatures (15)

Tuesday 18th at 7.30pm, Wednesday 19th at 2:30pm - Vermeer - The Blockbuster Exhibition (PG)

Friday 21st & Sunday 23rd to Tuesday 25th plus Wednesday 26th at 2.30pm - Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (12A)

Friday 28th - My Everest (12A)

Live screenings

Wednesday 12th, 7:15pm - The Royal Ballet: Cinderella, live from The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior), £10 (under 18s)

Thursday 20th, 7pm - NT Live: Good. Delayed relay of a live performance from the Harold Pinter Theatre, London.

David Tennant makes a blistering return to the West End in one of Britain's most powerful political plays, as an ordinary man who is swept into the Nazi regime. Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior), £10 (under 18s).

Thursday 27th, 6.45pm - The Marriage of Figaro. Recorded from The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Director David McVicar brings out the revolutionary elements in Mozart's great comic opera of intrigue, misunderstanding and forgiveness. Sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Tickets: £15 (adults), £12.50 (senior), £10 (under 18s).

Live on stage

Saturday 29th at 7:45pm – Abba Sensation, one of the best ever Abba Tribute Acts, which combines costume changes, lighting effects and a faithful reproduction of the Abba sound. Tickets: £18.

Saturday 29th at 7:45pm – A Room of One's Own. The award-winning Dyad Productions (Female Gothic, I, Elizabeth, Christmas Gothic, and Austen's Women) return with a twenty-first century take on Virginia Woolf's celebrated talk. Tickets: £18.

Coming soon

Tuesday 30th May, 7.15pm - The Royal Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty - Tickets £18.

Thursday 1 June, 7pm - National Theatre Live: Best of Enemies (15), filmed live at the Noël Coward Theatre - Tickets £18.

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



Wallingford Museum news

50 years of TWHAS, The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

This exhibition reflects TWHAS's development from its early beginnings through to the establishment of the museum and the impact of the historical and archaeological research on the heritage of the town.

House Detectives: history behind the door

The museum's main exhibition is family friendly: our younger house detectives are invited to discover the family living in our mystery house by playing the mystery house game. Then we have an archaeological house themed finds tray, for budding archaeologists, a time line of houses, as well as an art trolley.

On your journey through the museum you will discover how we became house detectives and how you could become one too!

The houses in this exhibition have been chosen to reflect the changing development and use of houses in Wallingford, from the medieval period to the 20th century.

Do have a peek at the Museum's family events programme for Easter and Summer at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk/events

Guided walks

Wallingford's Guided Historic Town Walks start again on Saturday 8th April. Walkers meet under the town hall, no booking required, just turn up for 11am start. The cost is £10 per head for a tour lasting between 90 -120 mins and includes a season ticket to the Museum.

Museum bookshop

We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We look forward to seeing you - it's free to browse!

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

Check the TWHAS website www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html for the 2023 talks programme.

Sue Wright, Wallingford Museum

Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's talk on 2nd March 2023 was "Nuts about Narcissus" by Pip Smith. He reminded us of Wordsworth's celebration of the joy of daffodils in his famous poem. The daffodil's Latin name *narcissus* was the name of the flower that Narcissus turned into in the Greek myth. It was probably the Romans who brought daffodils to Britain, but the Reverend George Engleheart (1851-1936) could be called the father of the modern daffodil, with 720 cultivars to his name. Today there are over 27,000 cultivars.

Pip stressed the importance of planting daffodil bulbs in September (or even the end of August, if possible), as they need at least 8 weeks' warmth. He advised paying for the biggest bulbs you can afford, as the bigger the bulb, the better the flower. Once flowering has finished, only deadhead the actual seedhead, rather than the whole stem. The leaves should be left for around 5-6 weeks to allow the daffodil to photosynthesize.

Pip then shared his top 25 varieties. N. "Geranium" was recommended for its sweet scent and longevity in flowering. N. "Dutch Master" looks like a 'proper' daffodil, such as a child would draw, with large yellow flowers. N. "Pipit", sweetly fragrant, is a suitable choice if you don't want too much foliage.

He finished by recommending some lovely places to see daffodils, including Dymock Woods in Gloucestershire, where you can view them in a woodland setting, and the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley, Surrey.

In May we have a tour for our members of the Oxford Botanic Garden.

To join Benson Garden Club, see our website <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com.

Liz Harrison

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Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 2nd March. Present were Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Julian Park, Andrew Johnson, Stuart Soames, Liz Ryall, David Rowley and Julia Streete, plus Parish Clerk Sue Rance, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet and District Councillor Sue Cooper.

Finance

Payments approved included dog bin emptying, refuse collection, £592.99 for a more robust cabinet for the defibrillator at the village hall to replace the one that was damaged, £212.38 electricity charges in January at the pavilion and £416.70 membership fees for the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

Additions to the council's financial regulations were agreed; the financial risk assessment was reviewed and approved unchanged. Three items were added to the asset list: a flagpole, a line marking machine and a TV screen for the pavilion, totalling £2,145.75.

Three quotes have been received for this year's grass cutting contract, to include roadside verges, North Stoke recreation ground and Newnham Murren churchyard. Scofell will continue to maintain the nature area at the same price as last year. Two companies expressed interest in quoting for the pedestrian crossing near the Bell and plans have been sent to them.

Some changes were agreed to the budget, including provision for extra help to manage the recreation ground. Annual allotment fees will remain at £20 for a full-sized plot.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P22/S4648/S73 Blenheim Farm, Icknield Way, Benson OX10 6PR. Application to vary conditions and make minor amendments to the approved landscaping scheme. Planning Permission.

P22/S3853/LDP UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Maclean Building, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BB. To install 6 EV car charge points with dual outlets to provide the site with 12 x EV car charging spaces.

Certificate of Lawful Use or Development. P22/S4382/HH 6 Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BD. Proposed cart shed (as amended by plan received 6 February 2023). Planning Permission.

P22/S1045/FUL UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Maclean Building, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BB. Ground mounted solar arrays to the north-east and west of the site (amended plan and flood risk assessment received 6 October 2022). Planning Permission.

Consultations

P22/S4164/FUL Land east of Reading Road, Wallingford OX10 9HG on Thames riverbank (neighbouring parish). Change of use of land to informal private leisure use, to include an area allocated to the open storage of non-motorised boats and the siting of a trailer storage shed (retrospective). No strong views.

Major application

Following a meeting with Avant Homes and their agent, district councillors and planning officers about the management of the open spaces on the Newnham Manor site, the applicants still insist that a management company is their preferred option rather than transferring the open space and management responsibility to the parish council. The parish council expects to be represented alongside residents on the management board. Arron Twamley, agent for the developers, agreed to provide further information.

District Council report

District Councillor Sue Cooper reported on the budget for 2023-24. The District Council's share of the council tax will increase by £5 a year for an average Band D property, which represents a below-inflation rise of 3.6 per cent. In 2022-23 the Band D rate was ninth lowest in the country for a shire district council.

Bookings have opened again for the bulky waste collection service. Electrical and non-electrical items will be collected on the same day but have to be kept separate.

There was a discussion on how to tackle the problem of litter, and following the parish council meeting a litter picking event was organised in Crowmarsh on Saturday 11th March to coincide with the Wallingford event

run by the 1155 charity - thanks to them and Andrew Townsend for assistance and to the nine volunteers who came to help.

SODC's contractors Biffa are responsible for collecting litter on main roads and have been asked to clean up Clacks Lane and the B4009 Crowmarsh to North Stoke road as priority areas. If a request with Biffa needs chasing up, the SODC waste team will investigate if you email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk. The council's general enquiries number is 01235 422422, or 422410 out-of-hours.

There was no report from the county councillor.

Environment and recreation

The environment and recreation ground committee were authorised to buy furniture and other items for the pavilion. They are making plans for the opening event.

An application (successful) had been made for 420 mixed species trees to be planted at the recreation ground / nature area and these will be delivered in November.

Traffic and transport

The committee met on 27 February and further letters would be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police about the lack of action on speeding and motorcycle noise. All correspondence is copied to neighbouring parish councils, the MP and the county councillor. The council agreed to move forward with a Community Speedwatch scheme with volunteers. Anyone interested should contact the parish clerk.

Local elections

Parish and District Council elections will be held on Thursday 4th May. There are three parish council vacancies for the North Stoke ward that includes Mongewell and nine for Crowmarsh Gifford. It was stressed that photo ID will be required when voting at a polling station, but as usual there is an option to vote by post or proxy.

Other matters

Streetlamps on Wallingford Bridge have been repaired shortly after the meeting. The broken steps from the bridge to the riverside are due to be repaired in June.

Cllr Ryall is updating the parish emergency plan and will submit it to the county council once she has received full information about venues to be used in the event of an emergency.

Cllr Soames had received a request about the use of North Stoke Recreation Ground for football games. If there is a proven need for pitches, the ground will need remedial work to make it playable, which could be funded from our Community Infrastructure Levy.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Thursday 6th April 2023 at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will now be on Thursday 18th May at the pavilion, starting at 7.00pm.

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

Parish councillors needed

There will be 12 parish council seats up for election on 4th May: three for North Stoke ward (which includes Mongewell) and nine for Crowmarsh Gifford. North Stoke and Mongewell are under-represented at present.

Electric car guide

The Parish Council has received details from John Ellmore about an electric car guide website (electriccarguide.co.uk) that aims to give guidance to owners (or prospective owners/drivers) of electric vehicles (EVs).

This site is non-commercial and free to use. It provides educational guides and resources to help people transition from petrol vehicles to electric ones.

The shift towards electric vehicles is a critical issue affecting local communities and the global environment and many people are still finding out about the technology and how best to adopt it.

St Mary's Church, North Stoke

Palm Sunday 2nd April	11 am	Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday 6th April	7.30 pm	Team Service at St Mary's, Ipsden
Good Friday 7th April	12 noon	'Watch at The Cross' at Mongewell
Easter Sunday 9th April	11 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16th April	10 am	Online Service, Zoom ID 188 513 761
Sunday 23rd April	11 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30th April	10.30 am	Team Service at St Leonard's Woodcote

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Their Finest Hour Second World War collection day

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum aims to preserve people's memories

- Share your family's Second World War stories and objects to be digitized for an online archive
- Museum Open Day from 11am - 3pm on Saturday 1st April 2023 with free admission to the SOFO museum in Woodstock
- See Second World War living history displays, kit displays, and art exhibitions in the museum galleries

The event is part of a nationwide campaign organised by Their Finest Hour, a team based at the University of Oxford and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is collecting and preserving the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War.

As these stories are fast fading from living memory, it is vital that they – and the wartime objects that often accompany them – are preserved for future generations.

At the Digital Collection Day, stories about your family's wartime experience – and associated objects such as diaries, letters, medals, journals, and ration books – will be recorded, digitised, and then uploaded to the Their Finest Hour online archive, which will be launched in June 2024 and be free-to-use.

To encourage even more people to drop in and share their stories, the SOFO Museum will waive its normal admission fee on the day – entry will be free to all on 1st April. With often limited parking in Woodstock, Blenheim Palace will also be kindly supporting this event, offering free parking to those attending to share their stories. The museum is just a short walk from Blenheim Palace through the Woodstock Town gate.

SOFO will also be hosting a range of other Second World War themed events and exhibitions on the day. Visitors will be able to see displays from 1940s living historians inside the museum, a recently installed replica Anderson Shelter, as well as other exhibitions.

Visitors can talk to museum staff on the day about donating items to the museum's own

collection if they wish, but the focus will be on digitisation - photographing objects, recording stories and scanning documents - so original items can remain with their families.

Dr Stuart Lee, *Their Finest Hour* project leader, said, "We know from previous projects that people have so many wonderful objects, photos, and anecdotes which have been passed down from family members which are at risk of getting lost or being forgotten. Our aim is to empower local communities to digitally preserve these stories and objects before they are lost to posterity."

The project team is especially interested in collecting contributions from people from under-represented backgrounds in order to increase the diversity of the Second World War heritage we record.

Sponsored riverside walk

A fun sponsored circular riverside walk will take place on Saturday 10th June starting at St Mary's, Newnham Murren, OX10 8BW and taking in other historic churches. A shuttle ferry across the Thames between Little Stoke and Cholsey Marsh will be provided by Floatability.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

FUN SPONSORED CIRCULAR RIVERSIDE WALK

FERRY CROSSING AT LITTLE STOKE / CHOLSEY MARSH

VISITING & SUPPORTING HISTORIC CHURCHES AT WALLINGFORD, MONGEVELL & NEWNHAM MURREN

Saturday 10th June 2023

Starting at St. Mary's, Newnham Murren OX10 8BW

10am to 4pm - Free parking

Returning to Newnham Farm House for tea and cake!

8 Miles or 4 Miles with shuttle boat booking

To register interest, book a start time or book a shuttle boat please email: circular.walk.wallingford@gmail.com

Enquiries: 01491 833111 / 07399 767480

FLOAT ABILITY

Oxfordshire Community Trust

John Howell MP writes ...

I am writing ahead of the Spring Budget which I know many await. Most people will have received support for increased energy bills automatically through their provider. However, there are several households not on main-stream supply or who have other specific arrangements, such as Park Homes. In February, the alternative scheme to ensure that support is available to such households went live for everyone and applications for support to the Alternative Energy Support Scheme can be made online.

With the coming of Spring, we are more aware of the countryside around us. In recent weeks, I have had numerous comments on the litter in public places. I agree that this is an eyesore, and we need to keep drawing attention to the need for people to take their rubbish home or use the bins provided. In recognition of the problem, the Government published its National Litter Strategy in 2017 which set out several ways to tackle the problem. This has been regularly reviewed, and initiatives such as The Great British Spring Clean have been well supported by volunteers across the country.

Thankfully, most of our children progress through mainstream education with little problem. However, there are some who have special educational needs, and accessing this is not always easy. The delays can cause considerable stress for children and their families, and the time lost can be critical. This is not just a local problem, and the Department for Education has been looking to see what changes need to be made to improve the system.

Following consultation, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan has just been published with the aim of ensuring that the right support is given at the right time and in the right place. This is fully supported by the Department for Health and Social Care. There is much work to be done in this area, but the publication of this plan and the associated measures for improvement are an important step in the right direction.

There are, of course, many big issues which affect us all, so if there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. To know more about my work as a MP, please look at my website www.johnhowell.org.uk. My contact details are also on the website.



Supporting older people in our community

Age UK Oxfordshire is a local independent charity that is dedicated to helping all older people live life to the full. Whether people are on a quest to live well into old age or are going through tough times, we're here to help.

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- Homeshare
- Bereavement support groups
- Foot care
- Scams prevention advice
- Hospital discharge support
- Social activities and clubs
- LGBTQ+ groups
- Book groups

Contact Age UK Oxfordshire at 9 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT, email contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk, phone 0345 450 1276, or see www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire.



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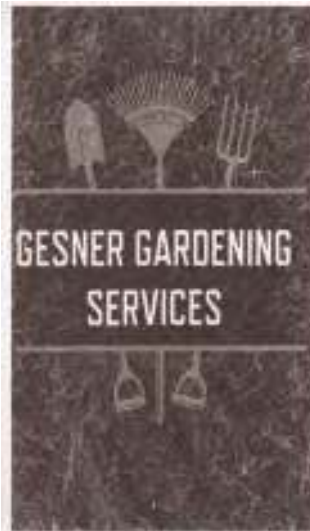
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WHAT'S ON — APRIL 2023

Regular events and meetings

Every Friday	9.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary le More Church, Wallingford
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70, Wallingford
Every Thursday	19.30 onwards	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Most Saturdays	10.00-12.30	Local Producers' Market	St Mary le More Church, Wallingford, or Market Place
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
Various Days	Differing times	CTC Wallingford cycle rides	www.ctcwallingford.org.uk/
Various summer days	Differing times	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway	www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com

This month

Wednesday 5th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Marie-Louise Kerr on 'Oxford's Penicillin'	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 6th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 8th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Sunday 9th	11.00 onwards	Easter Day service	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Sunday 9th & Monday 10th	All day	Easter trains	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Wednesday 12th	20.00 onwards	'History for all: TWHAS - from its origins to its future' by Judy Dewey	St Mary le More Church, Wallingford
Saturday 22nd	18.00-20.00	Concert of classical and jazz music by autistic performers	Dorchester Abbey
Sunday 30th & Monday 1st May	All day	Bank Holiday trains	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway

May

Wednesday 3rd May	14.00 onwards	U3A: From Barrow to Baghdad and back again	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 4th	07.00-22.00	District and Parish Council elections	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall / North Stoke Village Hall
Sunday 7th	12.30 onwards	Coronation celebration lunch	North Stoke Village Hall
Thursday 11th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 18th	19.00 onwards	Annual Parish Meeting	Crowmarsh Pavilion