

Issue 529

July 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: Toni Taylor and John Griffin

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

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and the team

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

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

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For a single sheet loose insert in the Crowmarsh News (size up to A4) our rate is £33.00 for 1 month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (930 copies please).

Next month's issue

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

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

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

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The Dolphin, Wallingford, Wed. 2nd August, 9.30am.
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Grand opening of the new pavilion facilities

A fine crowd of local residents and friends, parish and district councillors gathered on the Crowmarsh Gifford recreation ground on Saturday 17th June to celebrate the completion of the two-year project to improve the facilities at the Pavilion.

Andrew Johnson, chairman of the parish council's environment and recreation committee, explained that the project followed on from the success of the 2018 play area and continued a change in thinking by the Parish Council. By winning funding and support from organisations like South Oxfordshire District Council and the FCC Communities Foundation, we could go from providing facilities that were just good enough to provide the very best for our residents.

The new facilities include public toilets, a new disabled access ramp, an attractive new patio, a servery selling food and beverages and a new state-of-the-art small meeting room. This design came about largely thanks to parish councillor David Rowley and was realised by our architect Michael

Simpson, project managed by the committee, with the help of builders SCM and huge day-to-day help from Chris Strange to keep everything running.

Kellie Hinton, Vice Chair of South Oxfordshire District Council, also thanked the committee and praised David Rowley's drive in working so hard on the details and liaising with SODC. She appreciated the amount of fund-raising, planning and time commitment that has gone into making this pavilion even better than it was. SODC contributed over £73K to this project from their grants fund, which was the largest grant given that year.

John Griffin, Chairman of Crowmarsh Parish Council, echoed thanks to Andrew, David and all the fantastic team who saw this project through to success, and to SODC and FCC for



their maximum grants that have meant very efficient use of Parish Council funds. He encouraged people and local groups to come forward to make use of the meeting room and the servery and the pavilion as a whole.

Kellie and John then jointly cut the ribbon to open the facilities and Andrew thanked the volunteers for serving fantastic cakes to help raise funds for the church, and encouraged everyone to enjoy the jazz band and view the fantastic show of historic photos in the main hall, curated by David Beasley.

Past Times from David Beasley

The Crimean War peace celebrations

The morning of 30th May 1856 was very overcast and the sun was not seen all day. Despite the weather, the whole population of Wallingford and Crowmarsh were aroused at nine o'clock by the ringing of bells and the firing of cannon at the start of the peace celebrations commemorating the end of the Crimean War. Crowds began collecting in the Market Place from Wallingford, Crowmarsh and other surrounding villages.

At eleven o'clock the Aldermen and Town Councillors, accompanied by the band of Long Crendon, with members of St Stephen's Lodge of Odd Fellows, went in procession to the house of the Mayor, Mr Edward Wells, at 47 High Street, where the members of the Corporation were given an excellent collation.

At 12 o'clock they returned with the Mayor to the Market Place, where tables had been laid out with seating for 400 of (as newspapers of the day called them) the working class. They had received tickets in advance entitling each man to 1lb of cooked meat, 1lb of plum pudding, two pints of ale and 8ozs of tobacco. The females of the town received nothing but were allowed to cook the meat - how generous!

The meats were laid out for inspection, with all their garnish of vegetables, in Mr Clark's house (where the Corn Exchange now stands). At exactly 1 o'clock the Mayor took his seat in a chair on a raised platform and Grace was said by the Revd John Langley, Rector of St Mary's.

The band played during the meal, toasts were proposed and responded to. The duties of serving at the tables was performed by the members of the Committee. Every house in the town was more or less decorated with flags and banners with appropriate national comments.

The shops in the town closed their windows, which it was thought somewhat marred the liveliness of the scene, but as a demonstration intended to leave a remembrance of a return to peace in the year 1856 the celebrations could be considered an undoubted success.

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 still looking for new volunteers to share the work of publishing and distributing your monthly magazine. The more people we have, the fewer times each person has to do it.

So can you help with editing articles? Or with 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.

The Street – new crossing

The Parish Council has accepted a quote to build a pedestrian crossing in The Street, near The Bell, and have been given a provisional start date for the works of 24th July. No details about the travel control measures are available from the County Council at the time of writing.

The detailed plans are available on the village website <https://crowmarshgifford.org.uk/> and any further information made available after the Crowmarsh News' deadline will also be published there.

If you have any questions about the plans, please contact the parish clerk – email crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

To book Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall for birthday parties and events
Call Chris Strange on 07711 904252
or email: cvhbookings@gmail.com

To book the pavilion or hardcourt on the Recreation ground in Crowmarsh Gifford
Phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or
email chrisstrange47@gmail.com



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

July Services (at St Mary Magdalene unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 2nd	10.00	Team Communion at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford with Bishop Gavin of Dorchester
Sunday 2nd	12.30	Christenings: Stanley and Eve Fanstone
Saturday 8th	10.30-Noon	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 9th	11.00	Parish Communion
Sunday 16th	11.00	Parish Communion
Saturday 22nd	10.00-16.00	St Birinus Pilgrimage from Churn Knob to Dorchester Abbey
Sunday 23rd	11.00	Patronal Festival Family Communion
Sunday 30th	11.00	Team Communion at Crowmarsh

Morning Prayer - every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm

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

The Vicar writes ...

Now that summer is truly upon us after a late start, our minds turn to holidays and a chance to unwind. Have you planned yours yet? I know I'm looking forward to a break. Just knowing that this is in the diary helps me to relax! I also find that the journey is as important as the destination, despite any travel disruption, delays and strikes which seem to be a feature of these times. The word holiday derives from "Holy Days" as a reminder that spiritual refreshment is also important.

This year I am leading a mini-pilgrimage that is named after St Birinus, the patron saint of our diocese, who first brought the Gospel to this area, converting Cynegils, the King of Wessex, in 635. On Saturday 22nd July, we will walk from "Churn Knob" in Blewbury to Dorchester Abbey stopping at various churches on the way. You will be able to join at various points if you don't want to walk the entire 11 miles. For those who don't wish to walk, perhaps you would consider being a driver to get us all back to the start! Please contact me for more details.

If you would like to meet the current Bishop of Dorchester (who succeeds Birinus by a mere 1,374 years!) then please join us for the Team Communion at St Mary's in the centre of Wallingford. This service replaces our Family Service which is usually on the first Sunday of each month, but that returns on Sunday 6th August with our popular "Pet Service", where we bring all varieties of animals into church and give thanks for them.

July also brings our Patronal Festival, which we celebrate this year on Sunday 23rd July, this being nearest to the Feast Day of Saint, St Mary Magdalene, which falls on 22nd July. As well as celebrating our patron saint, we celebrate our life together as a church family in our worship and witness.

Blessings, Rev Kev



Wallingford Museum news

Summer at Wallingford Museum will kick off with the ever popular family Archaeology Day on Saturday 22nd July. This is a drop-in event, from 11am to 4pm, part of the National Festival of Archaeology. You will have the chance to meet archaeologists, see some of their finds and try out some archaeology for yourself as well.

Every Wednesday from 2 to 4pm during the school holidays we are offering families a pop-in crafty activity, from weaving houses to making a mediaeval-style tile, suitable for ages 5 plus. Normal admission charges apply.

House detectives: history behind the door

Our 2023 exhibition is proving popular. The houses in this exhibition have been chosen to reflect the changing development and use of houses in Wallingford, from the mediaeval period to the 20th century. On your journey through the museum you will discover how we became house detectives and how you could become one too!

Guided historic town walks

Walkers can just turn up under the town hall on Saturday mornings for an 11am start, no booking required. The cost is £10 per head for a tour lasting 90 to 120 minutes and it includes a season ticket to Wallingford 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!

Sue Wright
Wallingford Museum

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk/events

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

On Wednesday 12th July Gary Elliott will talk about '*Justice in Wallingford: Police and Magistrates in the late Victorian period*'.

This talk will look at policing in Wallingford and the work of the Magistrates' Court which was held weekly in the Town Hall. It will particularly explore working peoples' experience of justice in the Borough at the end of the 19th century.

Gary is a local historian and resident of Wallingford, and a member of the TWHAS Research Group.

For details of the the 2023 talks programme see www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.

Henley and District Stamp Club

The club has a break over the summer and will start meeting again in September. On those rainy days why not look at resurrecting a hobby from your past, like stamp collecting? If you look into the history and background of the stamps and postal history, there is a lot to learn.

We are a friendly group and we would be delighted to see visitors or new members. Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

Thames Path update

The Environment Agency has reported that repairs to the pedestrian bridge across the Thames at Benson weir will not be completed before 2026 and diversion signs are in place.

However Bygone Boating based at the Benson marina have started running a passenger ferry service across the river between the Riverside Café and Benson lock while the bridge is closed. This will depend on them having enough staff to operate it, so it is best to call 07375 677823 before setting off on your walk to check that the ferry will be running.

The Corn Exchange events

Note: there will be a protracted closure from 6th to 20th August for our annual maintenance and replacement of the stage floor.

Please look at the website for any updates to the programme: www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Cinema

All performances start at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise. Note that we will start on time and latecomers will only be allowed in where there is no disruption to sitting patrons, so we may have to reseat some latecomers. For Live Screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room where there is a large screen relay. The bar and auditorium will open from 7pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand. We are also showing films on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm. These showings will have subtitles.

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

Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th *Chevalier* (12A)

Wednesday 19th 2.30 & 7.30pm *Oklahoma the Musical* (PG)

Thursday 20th *Tokyo Stories* (PG)

Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd *Asteroid City* (15)

Monday 24th to Thursday 27th *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* (12A)

Saturday 22nd and Wednesday 26th at 2.30 *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* (12A)

Friday 28th to Saturday 5th August (all days & times) *Oppenheimer* (12A)

Live on stage

Tuesday 11th to Friday 14th July, 7.30pm,
Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th July, 2.30pm

The Sinodun Players present *A Bunch of Amateurs* by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

When a Hollywood action movie superstar comes to your village theatre to take the lead role in a production of King Lear, Hollywood Happens. This cannot be a good thing! Or can it? The Stratford Players, from a small but charming village in Suffolk, are frantically fundraising trying to keep their theatre alive

and the developers from the door. In desperation they come up with a publicity plan to gain sponsorships and save their theatre. Enter stage left Jefferson Steel striding in to play Lear in Stratford. Imagine his surprise as it slowly dawns on him the reality that he is not in Stratford upon Avon!

Hilarity ensues as cultures collide, politely on one side of the equation, and he faces the reality of his vanity and insecurity. This culturally and very human observant comedy drama comes from the pens of two of the UK's greatest satirical writers.

Tickets: £12, £9 (Tuesday night)

Coming soon

Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd September

Bunkfest — There will be events during the day in the auditorium and foyer and the bar will be open all day. Please feel free to pop in and enjoy the music. Bunkfest events are of course free.

Saturday 9th September, 3.30pm

Lucy Worsley talking about Agatha Christie

As part of this weekend event to unveil the statue of Agatha Christie, there will be several events in the Corn Exchange remembering our notable president. Lucy Worsley will be headlining this on the Saturday afternoon.

Cholsey Repair Café

Cholsey Repair Café rides again on Saturday 15th July, when you can bring your broken household items to The Cholsey Pavilion for advice and possible repair by a team of experienced volunteer fixers.

Doors open at 11am and the session will run until 1.45pm. Repairs and advice are given free (apart from the cost of any spare parts) but donations towards running costs are appreciated.

Tasty refreshments and hot drinks, courtesy of the Cholsey Community Café, will be available next door until midday.

You can learn more about Cholsey Repair Café at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com, or email repaircafe@cholsey.com with any questions.



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District Council waste services: give us your views

Let's talk rubbish! Tell us what you think of our waste services. Survey open until 10 July.

What do you think of your local household waste and street cleaning services? That's what South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils want to know as they launch their new waste services survey.

The two councils are asking people to share their views and experiences of waste services across the districts, including household waste, recycling and food waste collections, bulky waste collections, street cleaning, customer services and the councils' waste and recycling information.

The feedback from the survey will help to identify what aspects of these services people are happy with as well as the areas which could be improved. Your opinion really does matter to us – take the survey now by visiting www.southandvale.gov.uk/WasteSurvey.

Comments are open until 11.59pm on Monday 10 July 2023. If you have any questions or you require the survey in an alternative format please call 01235 422146 or email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk.

This waste survey focuses on services provided by the District Councils. It does not cover any questions about Household Waste Recycling Centres as these are owned and managed by Oxfordshire County Council.

Recipe of the month: Mrs Bun The Baker's Lemonade Scones

You can't beat these lemonade scones: the kids can really get stuck in with these. Just 3 ingredients and mix them all together, it couldn't be simpler. Once I make these with my classes they don't go back to the traditional method, they use this one. But the BIG question is... jam or cream first? *[No question, it's jam first! - Ed.]*

400g self-raising flour
175ml double cream
175ml full sugar lemonade

HOW TO MAKE

1. Preheat the oven to gas mark 5 or 190°C (fan oven 170°C).
2. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
3. Place the flour into a bowl.
4. Measure the cream into a jug and add in the lemonade. Watch it fizz!
5. Pour it into the flour and stir with a spoon until you have a soft dough mixture. You might have to get those hands in to give it a squeeze.
6. Sprinkle some flour over the work surface, place the scone dough on the top, sprinkle with a little more flour.
7. Roll the dough lightly. You only want it to be 2cm in height. You can always press it down with your hands, so you don't get it too thin!
8. Use a cutter (around 4-6 cm) to cut out the scones.
9. Place them on the baking tray.
10. Brush with a little egg or milk and sprinkle some sugar over them.
11. Place them in the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes.

TIPS

1. Turn the scones over when they are on the baking tray, so the scone dough that rested on the baking tray becomes the top: I find they rise better!
2. Use a shapes cutter to make flowers or stars.
3. Add some spice to them or a few raisins if you like.
4. As you cut the scones don't turn the cutter, instead try to pull it straight out, this helps the scone rise evenly and create a natural break in the scone, so you don't have to cut it open with a knife.

Next month: Mrs Bun The Baker's lemon biscuits (and variations)

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

Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 8th June.

Present: Councillors John Griffin, Stephen Sherbourne, Julian Park, Liz Ryall, Julia Streete, Andrew Johnson, Fleur Stevenson and Andrew Nesbitt plus Parish Clerk Sue Rance and District Councillor Sue Cooper and two members of the public.

Finance

Payments agreed included monthly salaries and expenses, dog bin emptying, refuse collection, grass cutting and maintenance, repairs and servicing, as well as items for the pavilion improvement project and a £200 donation towards the North Stoke coronation celebrations.

SCM builders had submitted a final interim claim of £29,890 for pavilion improvements. There are still final grant payments to come in and the finance officer will compile a full report and balance sheet once the project is completed.

It was agreed to accept the lower of two quotes received for the pedestrian crossing near The Bell, but the Finance Officer will contact the Highways department to ask for a contribution to the parts that involve repair of the road. [See note on page 4]

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P23/S1200/S73 Avalon Kennels, Icknield Way OX10 6PP. Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) on application P22/S3789/FUL - 1) extend end of north facing two storey part of house; 2) extend eastern end of single storey part; 3) alterations to fenestration; 4) amendment to roof over garage and 5) metal chimney flue to single storey roof (Change of existing residential unit to specialised veterinary clinic; construction of replacement dwelling, relocation of parking areas). Planning Permission.

P23/S1168/N5D Crowmarsh Stores, 64 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ES. Internal alterations to former shop to create additional habitable living space within wider confines of 64 The Street. Prior Approval Agreed.

P22/S2900/FUL Riverside Park and Caravan Site, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EB Construct an accessible mooring position, improve existing riverbank access, and widen footpaths (amended plans to overcome flood concerns). Planning Permission.

P23/S1343/DIS The Thatched Cottage, Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW Discharge of condition 3 (Schedule of Materials) on application P22/S3672/HH (Refurbishment of existing dwelling. Alterations to external materials). Details Agreed.

P23/S0904/HH Linden, 16 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Extension to rear and side of existing bungalow together with alterations and new boundary fences. Creation of new vehicular access and driveway. Planning Permission.

Consultations

P23/S1736/HH 151 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EQ. (Cllr Sherbourne declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.) Construct porch to front elevation. No objection.

P23/S1668/N4C Black Barn Farm, Church Road, Ipsden OX10 6AE. Re-use of 340sqm of farm buildings for Class E purposes. Believed to be permitted agricultural development. No objection.

P23/S1666/AG Black Barn Farm, Church Road, Ipsden OX10 6AE. Proposed grain tipping bunker building. This is a standard agricultural building within the area of the farm buildings. No objection.

District Councillors' report

A questionnaire has been launched for residents to express their views on the current waste and recycling service. The results will be taken into account when the waste collection contract is renewed. [See article on page 10] There is also a consultation on the recently produced Air Quality Action Plan.

The Riverside Park splash pad is being refurbished and a cover has been purchased for the swimming pool to save energy in the evenings and overnight.

There was no report from the county councillor.



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Environment and recreation

Cllr Johnson reported on progress being made to complete the pavilion improvement project in time for the opening on 17th June. There are a few snagging issues but these will not affect the use of the building. Some enquiries have been received from people interested in running the servery. The charges for hiring the meeting room and servery will be agreed by the committee.

Cllr Park reminded the council that stakes will be needed for the 700 new trees which will be delivered in October or November. He will obtain quotes and report back.

SODC is carrying out a deep cleanse in the parish from 5th to 8th September. They will be asked to remove weeds and litter from the Newnham Green service road behind the Queen's Head and Jewsons, where there is overhanging vegetation, and also other streets if they have time.

Traffic and transport

A meeting has been arranged with Superintendent Lewis Prescott-Mayling of Thames Valley Police on Thursday 29th June to discuss speeding and noise issues on the A4074 and A4130 roads and other concerns. Neighbouring parish councils and other interested parties have been invited to attend.

Community Speedwatch training of volunteers is under way. Cllr Nesbitt offered to help. Teams of three are required to do the monitoring, which will be carried out on the A4074 and the A4130.

Consultation on 20mph speed limits in the parish has been launched by Oxfordshire County Council. Wallingford Bridge and new developments will also be included.

Pedestrian access to the new estate from Benson Lane is being discussed with Oxfordshire Highways and the Countryside Access and it is hoped a site meeting with them can take place soon. Correspondence had also been received about inappropriate parking in Benson Lane near the entrance to French Gardens.

Strategic priorities

Work on the pedestrian crossing of The Street near the Bell is to start on 24th July.

Cllr Sherbourne will contact Oxfordshire Highways for more details on the duration of the project and information to be given to residents. [See note on page 4]. The County Council is being asked for a grant because of the poor state of the road where the crossing is to be built.

Cllr Park presented information on his research into suitable locations for countryside interpretation boards, which could show a map of the parish with rights of way and items of interest, as well as a QR link to the parish website and the Countryside Code. Four possible locations will be investigated. Permission from landowners will be required.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 6th July 2023 at North Stoke Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

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

Nettlebed Art and Craft Show

Start painting and crafting to exhibit at Nettlebed Art and Craft Show in Nettlebed School Community Hall next month. This is open for two days: Saturday 5th August from 12 noon to 6pm and Sunday 6th August from 10am to 5pm. Entry forms will be issued with full instructions. If you would like to show your work, please email: nettlebedas@gmail.com or phone 641138 to get on our mailing list.

Come and support us over the weekend. There is free parking and free entry. Teas are available on both days. This show has something affordable for everyone including wonderful paintings and various crafts including sculpture, woodturning, cards, glass mosaics, textiles and jewellery. Our profits are donated to local charities

To book North Stoke Village Hall

Phone Nikki Arnfeld on 839736 or email
narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk

John Howell MP writes ...

In a month when the temperatures are rising, and many people are getting out and about more to enjoy the countryside, it is good to see some recent announcements that will benefit the countryside and also support our farmers. Of course, this is not to suggest that these issues are of concern all year around!

In the middle of May the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced new funding for farmers and landowners to support projects to create new habitats for wildlife, help protected sites and boost efforts to reach net zero. It builds on the success of the first round of the scheme announced last year and will help with work to protect and enhance landscapes. It will deliver environmental benefits while also supporting farmers. Natural England and the Environment Agency will take the lead on the work and will select specific projects based on a number of criteria such as their environmental and social impact and, for the first time, there will be a food production criterion. This is important as it will be used to ensure that projects take food production into consideration and mitigate any negative impacts on this where possible.

Also announced last month was a commitment to protect the interests of our farmers in future trade deals. I know that this has been a concern within the constituency and am delighted that the Prime Minister has brought together representatives from the whole food supply chain for the 'UK Farm to Fork Summit.' This will include representations from the UK's farming, horticulture and agri-food sectors and is welcomed by the National Farmers Union.

Then at the beginning of June Defra launched another initiative with the publication of 'Unleashing Rural Opportunity.' This is a policy paper setting out plans to grow the rural economy and communities. It involves some key planning proposals which will involve consultation in the near future. Details of this are yet to be published. I hope that anyone with an interest in the growth of our rural communities will take an interest in this paper which can be found on the GOV.UK website by searching the title of the document.

Perhaps with a focus on the rural economy it is worth also mentioning the Procurement Bill

which has its final reading in the House in this week that I write. The Bill was introduced last year and, among other things, seeks to bring forward more effective Government procurement and to help smaller businesses (SMEs) win a greater share of government expenditure. I know from correspondence with constituents in business that some of the former complexities of the government procurement process has effectively ruled them out. I am pleased that this has been worked on to create easier access. If the Bill is passed there will be a duty on contracting authorities to have regard to the particular barriers facing SMEs throughout the procurement lifecycle, and to consider what can be done to overcome them. During the course of the progress of this Bill through parliament there have been some concerns on issues such as national security. However I believe that these have been dealt with at different stages. Although it takes some time to get a Bill through parliamentary process, one of the merits of the staged progress is that there is time for issues and concerns to be raised and for amendments to the original Bill to be made before it is passed into law.

There is always much going on in parliament; 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.

Music at the Barn in Ipsden

This year Music at the Barn will take place on Saturday 15th July at Ipsden Farm, The Street, Ipsden, Wallingford, OX10 6AG. Gates open from 6.30pm with music beginning at 7pm. Music is provided by a wide range of local performers to whom you can relax, dance or sing along!

Entry to all is very reasonable at £7.50 per adult on the gate (cash please) and under-16s are free. Bring your own picnic, rugs, tables and chairs but no barbecues or candles please as the barn is an historic Grade II listed building with consequential legal and insurance requirements.

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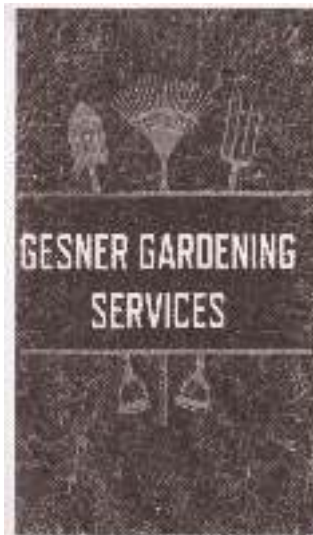
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WHAT'S ON — JULY 2023

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 or Wallingford 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 days	Differing times	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway	www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com

This month

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd	Sat. evening All day Sunday	Heritage trains running	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 2nd	15.00-17.00	Live music: Goring and Streatley Band	Castle Gardens, Wallingford
Tuesday 4th	19.30- 21.00	Sustainable Wallingford: the pros and cons of electric cars	The Dolphin Pub, Wallingford
Wednesday 5th	19.00-21.00	Instruments of Time and Truth	Dorchester Abbey
Wednesday 5th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Reminiscences of a School Master	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 6th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 8th	10.30-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th	From 10.00 each day	Woodcote Rally: veteran & vintage transport, music, craft, food & drink	Tidmore Lane, Woodcote RG8 0PH
Sunday 9th	15.00-17.00	Live music: Blewbury Brass Band	Castle Gardens, Wallingford
Wednesday 12th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Justice in Wallingford	St Mary le More Church Wallingford
Saturday 15th	16.00 onwards	Wallingford's curfew bell celebration	Wallingford Market Place
Sunday 16th	All day— various times	Heritage trains running	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Thursday 27th	Various times	Midweek holiday special	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway

August

Wednesday 2nd	9.30 onwards	Sue Ryder coffee morning	The Dolphin Pub, Wallingford
Wednesday 2nd	14.00 onwards	U3A: The music of Lionel Bart	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 3rd	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th	12.00-18.00 10.00-17.00	Nettlebed Art & Craft Show 2023	Nettlebed Community School Hall
Saturday 19th	12.00-17.00	Cholsey 80th Village Show	Cholsey recreation ground