

**Issue 527**

**May 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, 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 (900 copies please).

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## **Next month's issue**

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

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## **South Oxfordshire District Council elections on Thursday 4th May**

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.

**Important: 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 on the SODC website or at [electoralcommission.org](http://electoralcommission.org).

In Benson and Crowmarsh ward we can vote for two candidates. The candidates for these two seats are:

- Bloomfield, Felix Peter (Conservative Party)
- Cooper, Sue (Liberal Democrats)
- Flux, Gary John (Conservative Party)
- Powell, Andrea Jane (Green Party)

## **Parish Council elections**

There is no Parish Council election on 4th May. The nine parish councillors elected without a contest are: John Griffin, Andrew Johnson, Andrew Nesbitt, Julian Park, David Rowley, Elizabeth Ryall, Stephen Sherbourne, Fleur Stevenson and Julia Streete.

There are still three vacancies on the Parish Council as no nominations were received for North Stoke and Mongewell ward. This means the Parish Council can co-opt people to these places, so if you are interested — especially if you live in North Stoke or Mongewell — please contact the parish clerk (details on page 11).

## **Coronation weekend events**

Among the local celebrations on the weekend of His Majesty King Charles III's coronation, Wallingford Town Council will be screening the ceremony on Saturday 6th May in the Castle Gardens, North Stoke Village Hall is hosting a coronation lunch on Sunday 7th May and OX10 Community Centre is hosting a Big Lunch on the Bull Croft on Bank Holiday Monday, 8th May. Details in "What's On".

## **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 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](mailto:crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com) for a chat.

## **Howbery Park tree trail**

Howbery Business Park in Benson Lane is running a family-friendly tree trail again during the May-June half-term holidays. A free tree trail pack with map will be available from the Manor Café from Tuesday 30th May to Friday 2nd June between 9am and 4pm.

The trail takes in eleven notable trees, each of which is described on the map. The pack will include crayons and paper for tree rubbings, and there will be mini hole punchers by each tree to stamp the map. At the end of the trail, children can collect a small reward from the café, and are welcome to play on the picturesque Manor House lawn.

Young children will need to be accompanied on the trail, as there are some roads and slow moving vehicles on the park, and beehives on one edge of the lawn.

**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)

## Past Times from David Beasley

### The Hiltons of Mongewell

Cecil Henry Hilton (pictured below) was born in 1894, the son of Henry and Ellen Hilton of Mongewell. Henry Hilton and Charles Anderson from North Stoke were both gardeners at Mongewell House, and they each lost two sons in the Great War.

Cecil lived at Lakeside Cottage on the banks of the large lake in Mongewell, along with his three brothers, Harold, Ernest and Herbert, and their sister Rosie. In 1901, Rosie was a teacher helper at North Stoke School and later became a teacher there.

Cecil joined the North Somerset Yeomanry around 1912 and served in the 1st Battalion of that regiment. He was with them when they went to France in late 1914. On 11th July 1916, his regiment attacked Trones Wood, where Cecil was severely wounded, and he later died from his wounds. He is buried at Meaulte Cemetery in France (see opposite).



Cecil's brother Harold (Henry's eldest son) who was born in 1891 worked as a gardener in Westbury, Wiltshire. He joined the Wiltshire Regiment and fought in Egypt, where he was killed in action on 10th April 1918. Both brothers' names are remembered on their father's headstone in Newnham Murren churchyard.



### Services at St Mary's Church, North Stoke

Sunday 7th May, 11 am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th May, 10 am Online Service,  
Zoom ID 188 513 761

Sunday 21st May, 11 am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th May, 11 am Morning Prayer



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

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

Sunday 7th	11am	Coronation Celebration Family Service
Saturday 13th	10.30-12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
Sunday 14th	9.30am	Rogation Team Service at St Agatha's, Brightwell
	4pm	Evening Service at Newnham Murren
Thursday 18th	8pm	Ascension Team Service at St Agatha's, Brightwell
Sunday 21st	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 28rd	11am	Pentecost Festival Communion

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 6pm

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

### The Vicar writes ...

May 2023 brings a significant historic moment in our nation's history as King Charles III is crowned in a ceremony that will be remembered for generations to come, drawing crowds from around the world as well as dignitaries and other world leaders. Most of us will be glued to the TV, although others will want to experience the atmosphere first hand. Indeed, my wife Lesley-Anne will be there as one of the volunteer Street Pastors! I'll be active ringing bells at Wallingford and Brightwell and we will have a very special celebratory Family Service on the Sunday.

There is something about the tradition and place that transcend our usual eras of time: Westminster Abbey has hosted every coronation since William the Conqueror in 1066, despite the Reformation, the Civil War, Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions that have transformed almost every other area of our society. Indeed, the most ancient tradition of anointing with oil dates back to the first kings of Israel around 1000 years before Christ, who Christians understand as the fulfilment of that line as the Messiah, "the anointed one", and our permanent King under whom King Charles will reign (hence the cross on top of St Edward's crown).

But institutions also adapt to survive and this coronation will blend tradition with modernity, with various elements of the ceremony updated to reflect the changing times, such as the inclusion of more diverse voices and perspectives. There will be prayers and blessings in different languages, reflecting the multicultural nature of modern-day Britain.

The coronation of King Charles III will be a time for reflection and celebration. It is an opportunity to honour the legacy of Queen Elizabeth II, who had seemed to be a constant presence in the lives of many people. It is also a time to look to the future, and to embrace the new era that King Charles III's reign will bring. We pray that it will be a time of celebration, unity, and hope for the future of our country.

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 see the website for updates.

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

Monday 1st to Friday 5th (plus 2.30pm on Wednesday with subtitles) - The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (tba)

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th - Love According to Dalva (15)

Thursday 11th & Friday 12th - Air (15)

Sunday 28th & Monday 29th - Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power (tba)

Wednesday 31st (2.30pm and 7.30pm) - The Eight Mountains (12A)

Saturday 3rd June to Monday 5th June (plus 2.30pm on Saturday with subtitles) - Book Club - The Next Chapter (12A)

### Live screenings

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.

### Live on stage

Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th at 7:45pm and Saturday matinee at 2.45pm – Sheila's Island. Sinodun Players present Tim Firth's play, subtitled A Comedy in Thick Fog, directed by Gloria Wright. A very human dark comedy set in a ground-breaking atmospheric stage design with fog, water and projection design. Tickets: £18 (£9 on the opening night).

## Road closures

Regular travellers will already know that Oxford's Botley Road is closed until the end of October (and again between March and October 2024) while the railway bridge is demolished and replaced as part of Network Rail's £161 million investment in expanding Oxford station, with a new platform and western entrance, and an improved and safer road layout for buses, cyclists and pedestrians.

Closer to home, the road works at Benson to install a light-controlled crossing on the A4074 are scheduled to be completed by 19th May.

## Henley and District Stamp Club

As King Charles has his coronation on 6th May, new stamps with the King's profile will be issued and we will soon be losing the use of the stamps with the Queen's head.

The Henley Stamp club is a friendly group, and we would be delighted to see new visitors or members. If you are interested in stamps or postal history, why not come along one Wednesday evening and find out how you can promote your interest?

Wednesday 10th May – Guest speaker Paul Watkins will give a talk about what was happening in 'WWII-France'.

Wednesday 24th May – AGM followed by displays with the subject 'North America'.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Visitors and new members are very welcome. For details phone Brian on 01491 681739 or see [www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk](http://www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk)



## Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's talk on 30th March was given by Michael Holland, a writer, lecturer and author with a 25-year career at the renowned Chelsea Physic Garden in London.

From his series of talks, "Tales from the Fruit Bowl", the one he gave to us was titled "Saucy & Spicy" and focused on the Solanaceae (nightshade) plant family. Comprising around 2,300 species, the Solanaceae family is found on all continents except Antarctica and covers a wide diversity of plants, from petunias and tomatoes to peppers and deadly nightshade.

Whilst some of these plants are very poisonous, many have become dietary staples, such as the potato, which was originally from South America and has been cultivated for around 2,500 years.

We learnt a host of surprising facts. The tomato's Latin name translates as "edible wolf peach", suggesting something to be wary of eating, but by the end of the 16th century they were known as love apples. Green bell peppers, from the genus *Capsicum*, are simply less ripe and less sweet than the red, orange or yellow versions that they will ripen into. While the Scoville scale, invented in 1912 to measure the heat of chillies, is familiar to many food lovers, perhaps less well known is that the hottest part of a chilli is the white flesh, not the seeds. And deadly nightshade, which is extremely toxic when eaten, is also used for medicinal purposes.

We have now finished our series of speakers, and will re-start in October, with our first one by Charles Dowding on the "No Dig" method.

From May to September, it's the Club's season for being out and about visiting gardens, and details are available on our website, <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com>. Further information about the club and how to join can also be found there, or please email [bensongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:bensongardeningclub@gmail.com).

### Annual plant sale

In the meantime, to get this season's planting off to a flying start, on Saturday 20th May we have our annual plant sale at Bob's Corner, High Street, Benson from 9am to midday. This sale is always very popular and there will be a

wide selection of plants available, together with advice on how to grow them.

*Liz Harrison*

## Wallingford and District Art Club

### Local Artists Celebrate the Coronation

Wallingford and District Art Club, founded in 1979, is holding its annual Summer Exhibition on 13th and 14th May at Centre 70, where members are encouraged to show works that represent the theme, CELEBRATE to mark the coronation of King Charles III. There will be a review and appreciation of these works by local artist and tutor, Anthony Wilder, at a preview event on the evening of 12th May.

The free exhibition is open to the public from 10am each day. There will be a range of art for sale outside of the CELEBRATE theme, and over 80 works using all painting media, plus cards and gifts, created by local artists.



The image here is *Spring Trees* by Ana Allen, a well-known local artist and club member, who specialises in painting delightful, gentle acrylics of local and far-flung landscapes.

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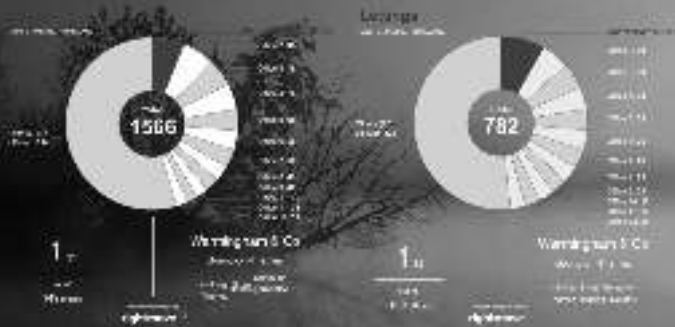
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## Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 6th April. Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Stephen Sherbourne, Julian Park, Stuart Soames, David Rowley, Julia Streete and David Topliss, plus Parish Clerk Sue Rance and District Councillor Andrea Powell.

### Finance

Payments agreed included monthly salaries and expenses, dog bin emptying, refuse collection, allotments insurance, church floodlighting and £504.00 to the contractors Ashburton for the initial grass cut, including Newnham Murren churchyard.

A grant was made to North Stoke Parochial Church Council of £900 towards the cost of grass cutting at North Stoke Church and the adjoining pound.

The parish council approved the lowest quote, from SCM, to replace the guttering and downpipes at the Pavilion with black coated aluminium at a cost of £16,000.

Two companies have submitted quotes for a new pedestrian crossing near the Bell and these will be considered at the May meeting.

### Planning

#### **Decisions by SODC**

P22/S4431/HH The Old Farmhouse, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL. Outdoor swimming pool. Planning Permission.

P23/S0119/HH North Stoke Farm, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL. Detached garage with two dormer windows. Planning Permission.

P23/S0169/HH 6 Elizabeth Road, Mongewell OX10 8FQ. Single-storey rear extension. Planning Permission.

P22/S4576/HH 13 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BL. First floor dormer extension. Planning Permission.

P23/S0516/DIS CAB International, Nosworthy Way, Mongewell OX10 8DE Discharge of conditions 25 (Site Investigation Scheme & Remediation Strategy) & 26 (Completion Verification Report) on application P15/S3387/FUL. Details Agreed.

#### **Consultations**

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. Permitted development – no comment within the limited criteria allowed.

P23/S0904/HH Linden, 16 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Erection of extension to rear and side of existing bungalow together with alterations and new boundary fences. Creation of new vehicular access and driveway. No objection.

P23/S0926/AG Black Barn Farm, Church Road, Ipsden OX10 6AE (Crowmarsh parish). Proposed grain tipping bunker. Recommend approval as it is within the farmyard.

P23/S0871/HH Laliq, Mongewell OX10 8BP. Two storey rear extension, thermal upgrade, replacement windows and new entrance canopy. Alterations to existing extension: minor changes to approved application ref. P22/S0930/HH to alter the solar PV and position of the air source heat pump. No objection.

P23/S0713/HH 5 Jethro Tull Gardens, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8DS. Single-storey rear extension and garden office. No objection – loss of garage but separate garage shown on plans.

#### **Major application**

Reserved matters applications are expected soon on the Newnham Manor site. A detailed layout and design for the proposed 'school land' off Old Reading Road has been submitted as part of pre-application discussions with SODC planners.

District Councillor Powell will make further enquiries about parish council representation on the management committee for the development.

#### **District Councillors' report**

District Councillor Andrea Powell presented the report, which had been circulated.

A climate emergency action plan is being drawn up.

South Oxfordshire was again second in the country for recycling in 2021-2022.

A pilot electric car club scheme is starting in Wallingford and other Oxfordshire towns. The

parish council also hopes to participate in a scheme to provide public EV charging points locally.

Thames Valley Probation Service is running a Community Payback Scheme where offenders do unpaid work including graffiti removal, refurbishing parks and playgrounds, painting and decorating community buildings, and clearing rubbish. It aims to combine a strong punishment with changing offenders' behaviour and making amends to the community. SODC's Community Safety team is interested to hear of any projects that may benefit from this type of work.

*There was no report from the county councillor.*

### **Environment and recreation**

Cllr Rowley gave an update on the pavilion project. The contractor, SCM, had been taken over, but it was hoped that this will not seriously affect completion of the project. There is still some engineering work required to the balustrade on the external ramp.

Representatives of the three main funding bodies, SODC, FCC and the Parish Council, will be invited to perform an official opening on Saturday 17th June. Refreshments will be served from the new servery and Mr David Beasley will present an exhibition of historic Crowmarsh photos in the main hall.

Cllr Rowley will consult the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee about the need for additional dog waste bins. Cllr Soames reported that an additional bin is needed in North Stoke.

### **Traffic and transport**

The Chairman had an unexpected telephone call from the outgoing Chief Constable, but it was felt that this was not an appropriate response to the council's concerns about speeding and motorcycle noise. Sadly, a further accident had occurred on the A4074 recently and a pedestrian had died. A further strong letter will be sent to Thames Valley Police and copied to neighbouring parish councils. Cllr Sherbourne is circulating information about Community Speedwatch.

The Sunday Thames Travel buses to Oxford and Reading are to be cut back to an hourly

service. There is currently a reduced adult fare of £2 for any single journey until the end of June and residents are encouraged to use the buses whenever they can.

### **Local elections**

District Council elections will be held on Thursday 4th May. There are four candidates for the two vacancies. Note that photo ID will be required when voting at a polling station. [See page 3]

There will be no parish council election on 4th May since exactly nine nominations were received for Crowmarsh Ward, equalling the number of places.

No nominations were received for North Stoke Ward, which also includes Mongewell, but the parish council can co-opt people to fill these three seats at the 11th May meeting. Please contact the parish clerk if you are interested in being considered.

We thank Cllr Stuart Soames who is standing down from the council for his long service representing North Stoke.

### **Next meeting**

The next parish council meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, at which the chair and vice-chair are elected. This will be held on Thursday 11th May 2023 at North Stoke Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Grant requests and co-options to the council will be considered at this meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting for all electors will be held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at Crowmarsh Pavilion, starting at 7.00pm – everyone is welcome to come and hear reports and to ask questions of your parish, district and county councils.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EL  
email: [crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com)

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead,  
email: [johngriffin@phonecoop.coop](mailto:johngriffin@phonecoop.coop)

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

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Saturday 10th June 2023

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## Pavilion grand opening

The grand opening of Crowmarsh recreation ground pavilion's new facilities will take place on Saturday 17th June at 10.30am.

The Parish Council's Environment and Recreation Committee has been working for 12 months with builders SCM and project architect Michael Simpson to redevelop the north-eastern part of the Pavilion.

The improvements include new public toilets, accessible from outside, a small drinks and food servery opening onto a paved and landscaped outdoor dining terrace with new benches, an outdoor table tennis table and, inside the pavilion, a new small meeting room.

We are particularly proud of the disabled toilet and baby-changing facility, which can be accessed from the new outdoor terrace via a gently sloping ramp. See the graphic below.

The project received an award of £73,016 from SODC's capital grants programme and £67,238 from the FCC Communities Foundation, which gives grants for community projects through the Landfill Communities Fund, as well as £75,000 plus contingency from Crowmarsh Parish Council.

At the grand opening on 17th June, there will also be a special exhibition of historic village photographs in the main hall, kindly brought together by local historian David Beasley, author of our regular Past Times column.

## North Stoke open gardens

On Sunday 11th June, from 2.00pm to 6.00pm, several residents in North Stoke have kindly offered to open their gardens to the public.

They include some particularly large gardens with river frontages, two that border the spring-fed lake, and some interesting cottage or more modern gardens with delights to discover.

There will be an opportunity to meet the owners, to ask questions about plants, wildlife and the village, before relaxing with tea and cake in the Village Hall. There will be plants on sale, and if time permits, a visit to our historic village church may be an added interest.

Cost: £6 on the day, cash or card (children under 14 free), tea and cake £3. All proceeds will go to the upkeep of our beautiful, historic Village Hall, which dates from 1911.



## Local repair cafés

Cholsey repair café returns on 20th May at the Cholsey Pavilion. Doors will be open from 11.00 to 13.40, and a wide variety of 'broken' items can be examined, and hopefully repaired. Volunteer fixers offer advice and free repairs, although a donation towards our running costs is welcome, and spare parts need to be paid for. Find out more on our website [www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com).

Goring Repair Café recently ran a successful first session at Goring Village Hall and plans to repeat on the first Saturday of even-numbered months, making 3rd June their next event. The next Riverside Repair Café in Wallingford will be on 17th June.

## Sponsored riverside walk

A fun sponsored circular riverside walk of 4 or 9 miles will take place on Saturday 10th June, starting at St Mary's Church, 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.

There will be tea and cake afterwards at Newnham Farm House. Proceeds will be shared between the Churches Conservation Trust and Floatability. Please register interest at [circular.walk.wallingford@gmail.com](mailto:circular.walk.wallingford@gmail.com) or call 01491 833111 or 07399 767480.

## Concerts@Cholsey

John Kirkpatrick is one of the most enduring favourites of the folk music world, regularly wowing audiences with his consummate skill and verve as a squeezebox player, singer and composer. Whether he's on concertina, melodeon or his huge button accordion, reports tell that John is playing better than ever and you can see and hear him at The Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 13th May, courtesy of Concerts@Cholsey.

Doors open at 7.00 pm for 7.45 start. There will be a real-ale bar and support by the additional voices and squeezeboxes of Three Pressed Men. Tickets are just £10 in advance from [concerts@cholsey.com](mailto:concerts@cholsey.com) or 01491 652295, or £12 at the door, if still available.

## Chilterns Walking Festival

Bookings are open for the 11th Chilterns Walking Festival, which takes place from 20th May to 4th June. Soak up the splendour of early summer in the Chilterns with a fantastic programme of over 60 walks and events. Book early at [www.chilternsaonb.org/whats-on/walkingfest](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/whats-on/walkingfest) to avoid disappointment!

Highlights include half-term family walks, such as South Stoke River and picnic walk, a wheelchair-friendly walk near Nettlebed Cheese Shed on 20th May, a 7-mile Chilterns Three Peaks walk on 24th May, a Mindful Maharani Meander with Salam Seeker's Muslim women's outdoor group and birdsong and wildflowers of spring on 21st May, taking in the Hartslock Nature Reserve and learning to light a fire at Path Hill Farm.

## John Howell MP writes ...

I would like to begin this month with a personal note, which some readers may already be aware of. After 15 years as the MP for the Henley Constituency, I have decided that I will not seek to be a candidate in the next General Election.

I have served this constituency since 2008 and by the time of the end of the next parliament I will be coming up towards my mid-70's. I do not want to be in parliament until that time as I would like to pursue other avenues.

Until the next General Election is called and Parliament dissolved, I remain your MP and will continue to represent concerns and assist constituents, whilst also leading the UK Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe on behalf of the Government.

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.

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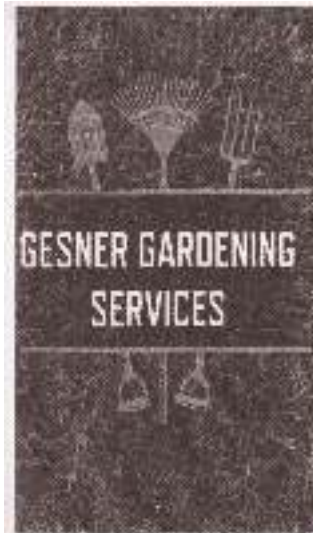
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## WHAT'S ON — MAY 2023

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

### This month

Wednesday 3rd May	14.00 onwards	U3A: From Barrow to Baghdad and back again	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Thursday 4th	07.00-22.00	South Oxfordshire District Council elections	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall / North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 6th		Coronation screening	Wallingford Castle Gardens
Sunday 7th	12.30 onwards	Coronation celebration lunch	North Stoke Village Hall
Monday 8th	11.30-14.30	Big Community Lunch	The Bull Croft, Wallingford
Thursday 11th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council annual meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 13th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 13th	19.00 for 19.45	Folk concert by John Kirkpatrick	Cholsey Pavilion
Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th	10.00-17.00	WADAC Summer Art Exhibition	Centre 70, The Kinecroft, Wallingford
Sunday 14th	15.30 onwards	Piano recital by Mary Daniels followed by tea and cake	St Mary's Church, Ipsden
Thursday 18th	19.00 onwards	Annual Parish Meeting	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Wednesday 10th	20.00 onwards	TWHAS: Heidi Tunney on Pauper children in Wallingford Union Cottage Homes 1900-15	St Mary le More Church, Wallingford
Saturday 20th May	11.00-13.40	Cholsey repair café	Cholsey Pavilion
Saturday 20th May	09.00-12.00	Benson Garden Club plant sale	Bob's Corner, High Street, Benson

### June

Thursday 8th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Saturday 10th	14.00—16.00	Sponsored circular riverside walk with ferry crossing	Starting from St Mary's Church, Newnham Murren
Sunday 11th	14.00-18.00	North Stoke Open Gardens	North Stoke (start at Village Hall)
Saturday 17th	10.30 onwards	Grand opening event	Crowmarsh Pavilion