

Issue 537

March 2024

The Crowmarsh News team

The *Crowmarsh News* is run by the Crowmarsh News Association, a group of local volunteers — more help always welcome!

Editorial & Layout: Toni Taylor and Jane Thrift

Editorial support: John Griffin, James Taylor, Julian Park, Gay Holden 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.

ADVERTISING RATES

Our 2024 rates for a one-eighth-page display advertisement (nominal 9cm wide x 7cm tall):

1 month	£10.25
3 months	£29.00
6 months	£54.45
12 months	£101.60

Leaflet distribution

For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4) our rate is £36.30 for 1 month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (930 copies please).

Useful telephone numbers

Emergency only	999
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NHS non-emergency number	111

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the April 2024 *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th March deadline**.

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

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

or deliver to the editors at 57 The Street.


For all advertising, please contact

crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

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OX10 Community Centre and Sustainable Wallingford

Come and join OX10 Community Centre and Sustainable Wallingford to help prepare and share a delicious free supper using donated food at the Fountain community hub cafe, St Mary's Street OX10 0EW. Experienced cook Rosalia Barresi shares ideas for cooking simple meals from fresh ingredients every Tuesday up to and including 26th March between 3 and 7pm. Families and everyone welcome

Calling new councillors

Crowmarsh Parish now has ten councillors (listed below), but we should have twelve, and currently nobody on the council lives in either Mongewell or North Stoke. We really want all parts of the community to be represented, so do please get in touch with Sue Rance or John Griffin or any councillor to find out more. Your current parish councillors are:

John Griffin (chair), Stephen Sherbourne (vice-chair), Andrew Johnson, Julian Park, Liz Ryall, David Rowley, Fleur Stevenson, Julia Streete, Anna Best and David Topliss.

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 Neighbourhood Plan review

With the closure of Jewson's we now have a second key brownfield site in the parish as well as the former council offices in Benson Lane. That and several other changes in the past few years mean that it is time to review our parish neighbourhood plan to ensure that it is up to date. If you are interested in joining a small group to work with parish councillors on reviewing the plan, please contact the parish clerk or chairman see above

Crowmarsh litter collection

Volunteers for the litter collection on 16th March please meet at Bridge Villa yard, The Street, next door to the campsite where the litter pick starts and runs 9am until midday.

The Crowmarsh litter pick is on the same day as Wallingford 1155 are organising the litter picking in Wallingford. The 1155 group are lending litter pickers, bags and high viz.

Riverside Pool and Splashpark 2024 Season

talk to councillors on 23rd March, 10-12.00

We invite you to share your views on how the wonderful Riverside Pool and Splashpark's operation could be changed for the better in the 2024 season and beyond.



SODC and Wallingford Town Councillors will be at St Mary's Church café from 10am to 12pm on Saturday 23rd March to listen, ask questions and discuss. We imagine there may then be further conversations in the coming months. You might want to get involved practically too - to help new ideas happen - when the time comes. And to be clear; SODC has a contract with Better to operate the facility until 2026 which may mean that some suggestions may not be possible, ever, or at least until then. And, in the spirit of sharing creative ideas and having the discussion, we invite you to come along and talk about this great community asset.

Past Times from David Beasley

The St Mary's Street Ghost

On Monday 31st January 1899, what was thought to be a dead woman was seen at the first floor window of Mr Allright's shop at the north end of St Mary's Street (the restaurant Shellfish Cow now occupies the site). She had a very deathly pallor, she wasn't seen to move, her eyes were glazed and sunken and she was wearing a red cloak, which was more like a shroud. The opinion among the crowd that was beginning to gather around the shop was that she had committed suicide some years ago and now her ghost had returned. At about 6pm the crowd was so large that it blocked St Mary's Street completely and half an hour later the police had to be called to keep the road open, which they had great difficulty in doing. Amongst the crowd there was some concern about the inactivity of the police to keep the road open. At around seven o'clock a lady pushed her way through the crowd and entered the house. To the horror of the crowd she appeared at the first floor window and was seen to clutch the cold, stiff corpse and remove it from the window. This caused considerable unrest in the crowd. The disturbance in the crowd reached its height when the lady re-appeared in the street, unharmed, she closed the door behind her and coolly walked away. No-one in the crowd tried to stop or speak to her and she was allowed to just walk away. After some time the crowd gradually dispersed and the mystery apparition remained unexplained.

Mr Claude Rowbotham, the artist, who occupied these rooms as studios, suggested that his lay figure, which he used in his art classes, may have been set up as a joke by Oxford Students who were staying at the time. But many in the town preferred not to believe him and believed the ghost story more attractive.

To book North Stoke Village Hall

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

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

Can you help the Crowmarsh News?

The Crowmarsh News Association are the small team who produce your Crowmarsh News every month. We are very keen to find a few more volunteers to help us. We particularly need help with editing the material we receive. We're also looking for volunteers to lay out the pages and to deliver the finished product – especially on the new estates. The more volunteers we have, the less time each volunteer has to commit to. We have a rota for editing and page layout teams. Ideally we'd like to have three or even four teams. If you would like to get involved or want to find out more, email: crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com or speak to any member of the team, you'll find our names on the front cover.

The English Music Festival 2024

Do you love music and would you like to spend a weekend in the best of company, with a friendly and welcoming group of volunteers helping at an internationally-acclaimed music festival, with celebrated musicians and a wonderful array of music?

If so, please come and join us at the English Music Festival! We are looking for volunteers to help with stewarding, refreshments and looking after artists. Not only will you be warmly welcomed by our affable and inclusive group of helpers, but you will have the chance to meet and work with our star artists such as the BBC Concert Orchestra, clarinettist Michael Collins, conductor Hilary Davan Wetton and pianist and Radio 3 presenter Paul Guinery, and the opportunity to attend all the concerts.

The Festival takes place over the second May bank holiday, from Friday 24th to Monday 27th May, in Dorchester-on-Thames and we would welcome help over the whole weekend if possible, but if not, then whenever suits your own timetable. Duties can be tailored to your own interests, abilities and preferences. The full programme can be seen at <https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2024-may-festival/programme.php>. Please contact Festival Director Em Marshall-Luck at em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk for more information or if you are able to help.



Wallingford Museum

Wallingford Museum opens on March 1st for the 2024 season with two new special exhibitions.

Mammoths to Modern: the unfolding story of Wallingford's Landscape

This special exhibition presents the exciting emerging evidence of what lies beneath our feet in the vicinity of Wallingford. The gradual development of the town has given opportunities for archaeology to reveal the fascinating story of the people who have lived here over thousands of years before us.

The exhibits take us on an illustrated timeline from the mammoth bones and stone axes left by earliest settlers some 10,000 years ago, through Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman remains, to the coming of the Saxons who eventually built our present town defences just over 1,100 years ago!

It also traces how the town itself has changed over 11 centuries, with evidence from archaeology, documents and numerous aerial photographs.

So whether you have lived here all your life, have only just moved into the area, or if you are just passing through, you are part of this story and this exhibition is a must for you and your family - with plenty to interest young and old!

Axe-heads to Agatha: a history of metal-casting in Wallingford

Examples of cast metal items can be seen all over Wallingford – from the iron drain covers in our streets, to the cast-iron roof supports of the Corn Exchange, and from the Bronze Age weapons in the museum to the new bronze statue of Agatha Christie in the Kinecroft.

This exhibition traces evidence of local metal-working through the centuries, from coin-making and medieval blacksmithing, to modern foundries. It features especially a

superb collection of photographs of the working Walter Wilder iron foundry in Crowmarsh shortly before it closed in 1992.

Castle Walk - Saturday 30th March - Meet at the Museum 14.30

Enjoy discovering the history of Wallingford Castle, led by an expert guide.

Meet the Anglo-Saxons! An event for all the family!

Saturday 13th April, 11.00-16.00. Normal admission charges to the Museum apply. Please note: This Living History event is FREE as part of the Museum admission.

The Anglo-Saxons are coming to Wallingford Museum.

Come and discover more about the day-to-day lives of the people who lived their lives within the Anglo-Saxon burh of Wallingford. Weaving to writing, wheels to warfare, how would you manage without electricity, plastic materials or modern transport?

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

The 2024 talks programme is on the website <https://www.twahas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html>

Graham Twemlow: 'Recording Britain - Celebrating the Country's Natural Beauty and Architectural Heritage' 13th March

The talk will be at St Mary-le-More church, meetings are at 7.45pm for 8.00pm. Visitors very welcome £5

At the outbreak of WWII an ambitious scheme was set up to employ artists on the home front. The result was a large collection of watercolours and drawings that make up a fascinating record of British lives and landscapes at a time of imminent change. This talk will highlight the works that featured Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire landscapes and landmarks, recorded by artists such as John Piper, Walter Bayes, Barbara Jones, Stanley Anderson and William Fairclough.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Benson Garden Club Liz Harrison

On Thursday 7th March, Rob Jacobs, from Waterperry Gardens, will give a talk on 'The Secrets of the Herbaceous Border'. Rob's talk will be based around a year in the life of the herbaceous border. We will look at its design and husbandry, whilst watching the border change throughout the year. Waterperry Gardens' herbaceous border is renowned and Rob has been the Horticultural Manager since 1993, so he is ideal to speak on this topic. He first started working at Waterperry as an apprentice in 1979. Before becoming its Horticultural Manager, he moved to London and worked in gardens around the north and west of the city, for the rich and sometimes a little bit famous.

Then on Thursday 11th April, we have David Domoney on 'Confessions of a TV Gardener'. David is a garden and nature television presenter on shows including ITV's 'Love Your Garden'. (Britain's most viewed TV Gardening show), the Sunday Morning show 'Love Your Weekend,' and serves as the resident garden presenter on ITV's 'This Morning'. David has presented over 200 shows, half of them with Alan Titchmarsh, so is well-placed to reveal what happens behind the scenes of TV Garden makeovers. David is a Chartered Horticulturalist and has won 36 RHS medals and 3 RHS 'Best in Show' trophies, and his talk will also include anecdotes on behind the scenes at Chelsea Flower Show.

Both events will be at Benson parish hall, OX10 6LZ - doors open at 7.15pm for 7.45pm start. For Rob Jacobs' talk, visitors may attend for £5 each and for this one you can turn up on the door, no need to book. However, for David Domoney's talk, this will be a ticketed event. Again, visitors are very welcome to attend. Tickets will cost £12 each - please email us to purchase tickets (address listed below) or buy them in person from Derry's Den (26 High Street, Benson). A reduced price is available for members.

Further information about this thriving club can be found on our website

<https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or please feel free to email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock will stream an interview with the renowned writer of comics Ennis on Saturday 9 March from 7pm, followed by a live Q&A session.



Watchable via the museum's website, the event is the latest in a series of popular online events the museum has been running over the past three years. Watch Online at: <https://www.sofa.org.uk/whats-on/garthenniswarcomics>

International Women's Day 2024

This year Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, will be hosting a range of events to mark International Women's Day 2024 and celebrate the often-overlooked stories of women in and out of the armed forces.



On Saturday 9th March, the museum will host living historians Tastes Through Time and a talk by Antonia Keaney, archivist at the nearby UNESCO World Heritage site, Blenheim Palace.

Tickets for each talk are £10 and available at the museum and through their website.

The price also includes admission to all the museum's galleries (normally £6.50) and complimentary tea and cake

Benson Choral takes a new turn

Benson Choral Society's next concert combines the new with the old – local composer Richard Blackford's recent *Pietà* and Gabriel Fauré's incomparable *Requiem*. Richard's work has gained much critical acclaim and has as its basis the powerful and poignant mediaeval poem *Stabat Mater* which depicts Mary's suffering at the foot of the Cross.

Directing us for the first time is Jonathon Cole-Swinard who brings his experience as Head of Music and Chorus Director at Garsington Opera, together with two of the soloists from *Pietà*'s Bournemouth première as well as local virtuoso saxophonist Huw Wiggin and the West Forest Sinfonia.

The concert will take place at Dorchester Abbey on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £20 (reserved) or £17 (unreserved) and are available online at www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk. It will be a night to remember!

Crowmarsh Gifford C of E Primary School

To contact the school, email office.3200@crowmarsh-gifford.oxon.sch.uk

Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School is currently recruiting. We have some part-time opportunities which would suit local young people or perhaps someone moving toward retirement. Contact us or visit our website to find out more

Play Worker Vacancy

We are looking for fun, active, creative people to join our after-school team. You will be working as part of a team, looking after the children, setting up and leading activities both in the hall and outside. As well as providing the children with a healthy snack. After school club sessions are Monday – Thursday 3:15 pm – 5:30pm and until 5pm on a Friday. Successful candidates may wish to work a full week or certain days. The role is term time only. Grade 4, point 5 £23,500 FTE - £12.18 per hour

Looking for part time work? This role would suit young people after school/college (15yrs+) or parents, your own children will be able to attend at no charge during your working hours.

Midday Supervisor Vacancy

We are looking for Midday Supervisors to join our team and supervise the children during the most fun part of the day, lunchtime! Successful candidates will be responsible and reliable. You will be part of the team on the playground and in the hall. 12:00 -1:00pm Monday to Friday. Successful candidates may wish to work a full week or certain days. Grade 1, point 1 £22,366 FTE - £11.59 per hour

Site Manager Vacancy

We are looking for someone who is able to work 20 hours per week maintaining and improving our school site. You will be part of our team maintaining a healthy, clean, safe and welcoming environment. Duties will include responsibility for the security and maintenance of the school site, including managing contractors. 20 hours per week, times & days flexible. Grade 7, point 15 £27,803 FTE - £14.41 per hour. 52 Weeks per year + paid holiday entitlement (to be taken during school holidays) plus Bank Holidays

Henley & District Stamp Club

Have you considered starting a new hobby - could it be Stamp collecting? The Henley Stamp Club is a friendly group and we would be delighted to see new visitors or members. If you are interested in facts concerning stamps or postal history, why not come along and explore how you can promote your interest?

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm.
Wednesday 13th March – We have our annual Auction.
Wednesday 27th March – We have a guest speaker David Winnie giving a talk and display on the subject of “Bailiwick of Guernsey”.

Visitors and new members are very welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning Steve on 07767 251670 or on our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk



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

March Services (at St Mary Magdalene unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 3rd	11am	Family Service
Wednesday 6th	7.30pm	Licensing of Revd Sarah Nesbitt as Wallingford Team Rector (sign up in church)
Saturday 9th	10.30—12.30pm	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall preparing Mothering Sunday posies for
Sunday 10th	11am	Mothering Sunday Parish Communion
Sunday 17th	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 24th	10am	Procession with donkey from St Agatha's, Brightwell
	OR 11am	Palm Sunday Parish Communion
Mon 25th-Wed 27th	8pm	Compline Service
Thursday 28th	7pm	The Lord's Supper at St Agatha's, Brightwell
Friday 29th	11am	Good Friday Service in the Market Place, Wallingford
Saturday 30th	8pm	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil & Renewal of Baptism Vows
Sunday 31st	11am	Easter Festival Communion (with egg hunt)

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 4pm

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

The Vicar writes ...

Holy Week and Easter are the high point of the Christian year and provide many varied opportunities for worship which reflect the prevailing mood of each occasion. We remember:

- Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday when he is hailed as King;
- the Last Supper with his disciples in the upper room and the new mandate to love one another followed by the anguish of Gethsemane, Jesus' betrayal and arrest;
- the injustice of Jesus' trial and crucifixion on the cross of Good Friday;
- on Holy Saturday we reflect on the big picture of the salvation of humanity from sin and death, renewing our own baptism vows, before finally...
- the wonderful Easter morning when Jesus would rise again to new life leaving the tomb empty.

You can read the story for yourself in the last three chapters of Mark's Gospel, but please do join us in church if and when you can as you will always be most welcome to join us in worshipping our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Blessings, Rev Kev

Cholsey Repair Café

The next repair café will be on Saturday 16th March from 11.00 to 13.45. As usual, the volunteer fixers can tackle bicycles, electrical (and sometimes electronic) items, sharpening of tools, textile repairs, gluing, soldering and a good deal more. If a repair cannot be made, further advice is available. All work is free of charge but a donation is appreciated.

More information, including contact details, can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com

Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on Thursday 1st February 2024 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall. Present were Councillors John Griffin, Stephen Sherbourne, Julia Streete, Andrew Johnson, Fleur Stevenson, David Rowley and David Topliss, Parish Clerk Sue Rance, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet, District Councillor Andrea Powell. Anna Best, a resident of Crowmarsh Gifford, was coopted unanimously and welcomed onto the council. We are still looking for a parish councillor from North Stoke.

Matters from the previous meeting

Google Drive is now being used as a platform to store and share parish council documents.

The recent consultation on strategic priorities had received 44 responses and would be kept open on the website through February.

The council will write to the headteacher welcoming more liaison with the school.

Cllr Sherbourne was thanked for organising the successful tree work at Newnham Murren Churchyard.

Finance

A grant of £500 was made to South and Vale Citizens' Advice, and £200 was granted to the Thames Run Committee, which is organising a summer fun run in aid of Style Acre and Crowmarsh Gifford School.

Payments were agreed including £124.19 for the annual allotment insurance, £130 interim audit fee, £117 to Lee Webb Plumbing for annual boiler service at the pavilion, £7510 to

Benson Tree Services for tree work at Newnham Murren churchyard, £92.40 to PC Technicians to extend WiFi service to the new meeting room and £240 to Henley Contractors for GPS line marking of football pitches.

Quotations are being obtained for grounds maintenance and grass cutting, including Newnham Murren churchyard. It was agreed to keep the annual allotment fees at £20 for a whole plot and £10 for a half-size one.

Planning Decisions by SODC

P23/S3983/HH 23 Park View Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BL. Two-storey side and rear extension with single storey flat roof rear extension. New window to first floor front elevation. Proposed single storey, flat roof outbuilding in rear garden built into the sloping ground. Planning permission granted.

P23/S3182/LB Carmel College, Mongewell access road, Mongewell OX10 8BU.

Retention of northern set of gate posts and walls as constructed. Refusal of Listed Building Consent. The District Council will be expected to take enforcement action.

Consultations

P24/S0157/LDE Hatchery Cottage, Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW. To confirm implementation of planning permission P13/S3435/HH. No objection.

P23/S4344/FUL Black Barn Farm, Church Lane, Ipsden OX10 6AE. Conversion of redundant pig building to commercial (small workshops or storage, Use Class B2, E(g)(iii) or B8) including alterations to front. Recommend approval.

P24/S0187/LB Chaise House, 67 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF

Replace both existing bay windows at the front of the property. (As amplified by additional information received 30th January 2024.) Recommend approval.

Neighbourhood Plan

A review of the Crowmarsh Neighbourhood Plan is beginning and advice will be sought from SODC before holding a public consultation event. Dr Nick Robins has kindly offered to manage the process again, but we welcome others who are willing to assist in evidence gathering and drafting.

District Council report

Consultation on the issues and options stage of the Joint Local Plan continues until 26 February. The residential waste collection contract with Biffa has been extended for a further two years until June 2026. South Oxfordshire is now at the top of the English recycling tables, but more than 1/3 of our waste is still not recycled: reducing waste and reusing materials are even more important.

District Cllr Powell will ask officers about progress of the Newnham Manor development and whether any action is required in connection with the land to be transferred to the school.

County council matters

There was again no report from our county councillor.

Environment and recreation

The 420 new trees at the recreation ground have been under floodwater for much of the time since they were planted. Mulch will be obtained from the composting site when the water recedes.

Core Clean Services will clean the two bus shelters on Nosworthy Way. They will be asked about removing graffiti from the bus shelters in The Street and the noticeboard in the bus shelter at North Stoke crossroads.

A meeting was held in the new meeting room on 29th January. Cllr Streete has been elected committee chair. All urgent items following the fire risk assessment have been actioned.

The football pitches have been realigned and hire fees will remain unchanged this year. A sign is needed at the entrance to the pavilion for the benefit of visitors.

It is hoped to introduce an automated booking system. Cllr Best offered to help research how this could be connected to the accounting package used by the parish council.

Traffic and transport

Dorchester Parish Council is forming a working group to monitor the problem of motorcycle speeding and noise across several affected parishes and Cllrs Streete and Ryall have offered to join the group. Cllr Sherbourne would like to progress the provision of traffic calming in North Stoke. This will be considered by the committee along with speeding issues on Benson Lane, Nosworthy Way and other locations.

The Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in The Street and Benson Lane are now working and have been reset to the new 20mph speed limit. The older speed device supplied by the County Council in North Stoke was designed for a 30mph speed limit. The Clerk will contact Oxfordshire Highways and request that it is replaced.

Other matters

Strategic priorities

A meeting was held on 18th January to look through initial responses to the survey and the main issues of concern appear to be road safety and speeding. It was agreed to obtain costings for traffic calming and for improvements to Watery Lane and to allocate 20 minutes at the top of the agenda to a discussion of priorities at the April meeting.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 7th March 2024, starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

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

Have your say about river water quality

Consultation is open until 10 March on designating 27 sites as bathing waters including our beach by Wallingford bridge - see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-revealed-for-dozens-of-new-bathing-water-sites> If designated, the river water will be regularly monitoring by the Environment Agency, which will investigate pollution sources and identify action to be taken by water companies, farmers and others. Councils, residents, bathers, businesses and organisations are invited to respond before the consultation closes on 10 March.

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Helen Carter is an Oxfordshire photographer who specialises in pet, maternity and family photography. She will meet you in an outdoor location within the county and will capture beautiful images that will look stunning on a wall in your home and provide you with everlasting memories.

Email: helen@helencarterphotography.co.uk Mobile: 07828153075

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The Corn Exchange events

The website www.cornexchange.org.uk has full details and updates.

Cinema

All regular performances normally 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.

Films with subtitles will be shown on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm.

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

Friday 1st	One Life
Sunday 24th	The Nettle Dress (12A)
Monday 25th	All of Us Strangers (15)
2.30pm	
Friday 29th to	
Sunday 31st	Wicked Little Letters (15)

Live on Stage

Crescendo Music in association with the Sinodun Players present Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang

Tickets £25 (adults), £19 (under 18s)
Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th and
Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd at 7:30pm

Crescendo Music is once again partnering with The Sinodun Players to produce the hit musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. This fantasmagorical stage version features all the classic scenes and songs from the 1968 movie, including Toot Sweets, Me Ol' Bamboo, Hushabye Mountain and, yes, an actual flying car! Previous collaborations between Crescendo and The Sinodun Players have produced top-class sell-out shows, most recently Chess. This one-off production is

sponsored by Chitty Hire – the official Chitty supplier to theatres across the UK – so audiences are in for a spectacular visual and musical treat! Book early for this classic, much-loved story featuring a stellar cast and crew of local talent, working in conjunction with a professional production company with West End values and know how.

Music and Lyrics by Richard M Sherman and Robert B Sherman

Music by Special Arrangement with Sony/ATV Publishing

Adapted for the stage by Jeremy Sans

Based on the MGM Motion Picture

Licensed script adapted by Ray Roderick

Based on the children's novel by Ian Fleming

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI

Live Screenings

Tuesday 26th 7:15pm

Royal Opera – Madama Butterfly, live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
£18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Wednesday 27th 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Titanic The Musical

£18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Thursday 28th 7pm

NT Live: The Motive and the Cue, filmed live at the National Theatre
£18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Coming Soon

Wednesday 3rd April, 7pm

NT Live, Dear England, filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, London
£18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Monday 15th April, 7:30pm

NT Live – Vanya, filmed live in London's West End
£18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Wallingford and District Art Club

Join our friendly Wallingford and District Art club for our March live demo – ‘Woodland Sketchbook’ - at Centre 70 from 7.30 to 9.30pm on Tuesday 19th March. Cotswold artist, Kieran Stiles, illustrates his methods of working outside, using mixed media on a woodland sketchbook scene. Kieran shows that this is a great way of capturing a brief moment in a very immediate way. The demo is free for club members and £5 for visitors. If you would like further information about this event or other club activities, please visit the club website at www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk or email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk

£2 bus fares continue

A reminder from our parish Transport Rep Amanda Griffin: Thames Travel buses participate in the “two pound” scheme. This fare cap is guaranteed for the foreseeable future, so the maximum adult single fare is two pounds on any bus. Hence a return trip to Henley, Oxford, Reading or Didcot will only cost £4. Do support our local buses and take advantage of these bargain tickets. Thames Travel timetables are at www.oxfordbus.co.uk/services/buses-in-and-around-wallingford.

John Howell MP writes ...

If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts.

My website is www.johnhowell.org.uk my contact details are on the website.

My postal address is House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Email john.howell.mp@parliament.uk.

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WHAT'S ON — MARCH 2024

Regular events and meetings

Tuesdays and Thursdays	14.00-16.00	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion
Thursdays	19.30 onwards	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion
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 Saturday	10.00-12.30	Local Producers' Market	St Mary-le-More Church or Wallingford Market Place
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family service on the first Sunday of the month	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Various days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford
Various days	Differing times	CTC Wallingford cycle rides	www.ctcwallingford.org.uk/
Various days through the year	Differing times	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway	www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com

This month

Saturday 2nd	19.30 onwards	Winter concert: Bring on the youth	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Sunday 3rd	15.00—17.00	The Choir of The Thames Consort	Dorchester Abbey
Wednesday 6th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Graham Horn, 'An Heir and a Spare'	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 7th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 9th	10.30—12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Wednesday 13th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Celebrating the Country's Natural Beauty&Architectural Heritage	St Mary-le-More, Church Wallingford
Saturday 16th	9.00—12.00	Litter Collection with Crowmarsh Parish Council and 1155	Meet at Bridge Villa yard, The Street, Crowmarsh
Saturday 16th	10.00—13.00	Spring Weeding and seed swap outside Wallingford Library	Sustainable Wallingford activity
Saturday 23rd	19.30	Benson Choral Concert: Blackford's Pietà & Fauré's Requiem	Dorchester Abbey
Saturday 30th	18.00 onwards	Bach St Matthew Passion	Dorchester Abbey
Saturday 30th	14.30—16.00	Castle Guided Walk	Meet at Wallingford Museum
31st March, 1st April	All Day	Easter Egg Specials	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Sunday 31st	11.00—12.00	Easter Festival Communion Service	St Mary Magdalene, Crowmarsh Gifford

April

Wednesday 3rd	14.00 onwards	U3A: Ann Ford 'Morris Minors in the Media'	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 4th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall