



Issue 546

December 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: James Taylor, Julian Park, Gay Holden, John Griffin 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
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Police non-emergency number	101
NHS non-emergency number	111

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the January 2025 *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th December deadline**.

For all items of news, articles, notices or correspondence, please email

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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Crowmarsh Gifford School

Year 3 students have been diving into the wonders of Ancient Egypt, discovering the fascinating history of pharaohs, pyramids, and mummies. In class, they have been learning about the ancient civilization's daily life, gods, and the process of mummification.

Year 4 students had an exciting day out at Cadbury World this week, where they explored the delicious world of chocolate! The children took part in fun, interactive activities, learning about the history of Cadbury and how their favourite treats are made. They even got to see how chocolate is produced and enjoy a variety of chocolate-themed attractions. It was an educational and sweet experience that everyone will remember for a long time!

This Remembrance Day, year six have put poppies on their outside door, read Flanders Field in the assembly and sold poppy snap bands, wrist bands, key rings and finally paper poppies.

We raised £318 for Children in Need by dressing in our own clothes for the day.

Apprenticeship Opportunity

We want to fund and support an apprentice to gain their level 2 or 3 in Early Years Childcare.

go to: www.crowmarshgiffordprimary.com and search for vacancies

Wanted!

Can you devote a few hours each month to help the Crowmarsh News? We need volunteers to edit, design and distribute the magazine every month.

Contact details are on the front cover

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

Jewsons site

As reported previously, parish and district councillors met with representatives of T A Fisher on 23rd September to find out more about their declared intentions to transform the empty builders merchant site into a high-quality residential scheme. They told us they are developing a plan for 15 2-storey one and two bed housing units, retaining the original brick and flint listed building, with cottages facing directly on to The Street that reflect the neighbouring buildings and using the existing entrance. We were assured that they will carry out a public consultation before they submit their full application to give neighbours and other residents a chance to examine their proposals and make any representations direct to them before the formal planning process. The parish council will report back as soon as there is any more news.

Christmas choir members for St Mary Magdalene, Crowmarsh!

We are hoping to have a choir to sing at the Carol service on 15th December at 6pm. We will lead the singing and sing two carols as a choir. We will have two rehearsals in December, on Saturday 7th at 10.30am and Friday 13th at 6.30pm.

If you are interested, please email lindamparker56@gmail.com to find out more detail.

It will be great fun, and it will be so good to have a choir leading the singing.

To book North Stoke Village Hall

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

Past Times with David Beasley

Revd. Porter's Retirement Presentation

At the end of September 1893, the Revd. Richard Ibbetson Porter, Crowmarsh's Rector for the past 15 years, was compelled to resign because of ill health. On Wednesday 27th September his parishioners gave Revd. Porter a presentation, held in the Crowmarsh Schoolroom, at which he was given a purse containing a large sum of money collected in Crowmarsh. Also, a copy of the address given by Mr Joseph Philips, which was framed and signed by his parishioners. In his address, Mr Philips referred to the high esteem in which Revd Porter was held in Crowmarsh and the neighbourhood. After the short speech a tea for all was given, an entertainment in the form of a concert was given by the parishioners. Among the performers were the Misses Dearlove who gave a pianoforte duet and a pianoforte solo by Miss Elsie Bradford. In the second half, the School Children performed "Fairy Fay", the performers being George Dunsdon as King of the Goblins, C Wheeler, W Keen, W Scudds, and E Lovegrove were the Imps and the part of "Fairy Fay" was beautifully performed by A Wilder. Mr Johns gave a fine rendition of the "Lost Chord" and Miss Johns touched hearts of all present with her performance of "Children's Home". At the conclusion of the entertainment Mr Joseph Phillips gave a vote of thanks to the performers and to Miss Dust and Mr Stevens who organised the concert. Revd and Mrs Porter shook hands with everybody as they left the schoolroom.

Revd Porter moved to Powderham in Devon, where he died in September 1896. He was born in September 1837, to Thomas and Isabel Porter, in St Pancras, London. He married Phoebe Man in 1862 and had four children, Willoughby, Mildred, Cecil and Sibyl. In 1862 to 1868 he became Rector of St Andrews, South Stoke, moving to Chipping Ongar, in Essex from 1869 to 1878, from there he came to Crowmarsh where was Rector from 1878 to 1893.

School applications

As part of the application process for reception entry to infant and primary school, Oxfordshire County Council is advertising the need for parents and carers of children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 to apply for a school place.

If you have any questions, please check the primary application web page which has all the information needed, plus a link to the online application form: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

The School Admissions Team can be contacted direct on 0345 241 2487 or at admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 15th January 2025.

Our Nettlebed Christmas "Party" Dance

Nettlebed Club, High Street, Friday 13th December, 8pm to 11pm

The entertainment is with "Muscles and Curves", the very popular five-piece band who are back by overwhelming demand after a great night last Christmas!

An informal happy pre-Christmas night out. You do not have to dance to enjoy yourself! You can sing along - tap your feet to the beat! Come and enjoy the atmosphere, the music and vocals from a wide range of popular music - e.g Country, Irish, 60s/70s - maybe a quick-step, jiving, bopping, a waltz, jigging, party numbers - maybe Christmas sounds we like to sing along with!

Doors open 7.30pm. Free parking. Disability facilities. Bar also sells tea, coffee etc. Good size dance floor. The Nettlebed Dancing and Music Friends are a not for profit group of friends who run live social dances in Nettlebed and also dancing to CDs some Tuesday nights. We do ask for a £10pp donation to hopefully cover our costs for this live event. No tickets needed – just arrive and enjoy yourselves! We do hope to see you there, any questions, call Keith on 07752 374 610.

Also please make a note to keep Friday 14th February 2025 free for our Nettlebed ♡ Valentine's Dance ♡ with the very popular McGrath Duo!



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

December services (at St Mary Magdalene unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 1st December	11.00am	Advent Sunday Family Service
Sunday 1st December	4.00pm	Advent Carol Service at Newnham Murren Church
Thursday 12th December	12.30pm	Lunchtime Carols
Sunday 15th December	6.00am	Christmas Carol service (see separate choir article p3)
Sunday 22nd	11.00am	Family Communion
Tuesday 24th	3.00pm	Christmas Crib Service
Wednesday 25th	11.00am	Christmas Day Family Communion
Sunday 29th	10.00am	Team Christmas Communion at St Agatha's, Brightwell

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am, Evening Prayer – every Sunday at 4pm

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

The Vicar writes...

December can feel like chaos – lots of social events, services, Christmas presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, our churches offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time. Our church's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024, Follow the Star: Calm and Bright, draws on the world-famous carol, Silent Night: *"Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright..."*

One of the reasons that this carol is so universally loved is the way it invites us into the still centre of the Christmas story, to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World.

The angelic messages we encounter in the biblical story of Jesus' birth typically hold together the need for calm in the present ("Do not be afraid" ... "Fear not") with the hope of a bright future ("for you have found favour with God" ... "for behold I bring you tidings of great joy"). Throughout Advent, we seek some calm during this busy period, with a chance to pause during the busy season as we prepare for Christmas and put it in its original context – away from all the pressures of adverts telling us what a perfect Christmas must be, but to the hope of God joining us in the midst of "woes of sin and strife" that another carol describes.

The time of preparation for Christmas, called Advent (meaning 'coming'), begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas which falls neatly on the 1st December. We will mark this with an Advent Carol Service at 4pm at Newnham Murren - this year the theme is "Looking for the Light", which seems even more appropriate in this church which has no electricity or heating, so wrap up warm! Afterwards, we are invited for mulled wine and mince pies next door at the farmhouse to raise money for the Churches Conservation Trust who maintain Newnham church (suggested minimum donation £3 please).

The thematic pattern of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany can be seen as darkness-light-manifestation or as promise-fulfilment-proclamation. I hope you will join us in church for each step of the journey through the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season to appreciate the anticipation and preparation, celebration and reflective appreciation of the Incarnation – as "O come, all ye faithful" invitation carol gives the joyful and triumphant reason for the season: "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing"!

With every blessing and joy in the light of Christ,
Rev Kev

Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on Thursday 7th November 2024 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall. Councillors John Griffin, David Rowley, Anna Best, Stephen Sherbourne, Andrew Johnson, Fleur Stevenson, Julian Park and David Topliss, Parish Clerk Sue Rance, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet, District Councillor Sue Cooper and five members of the public were present.

A member of the public thanked Cllr John Griffin and District Cllr Cooper for responding to their concerns about possible future use of the former SODC site, which could result in sewerage problems. It was noted that consultation on the joint local plan ends on 12th November but the site has not been allocated for any specific purpose and residents will have an opportunity to respond whenever there is a planning application.

Matters from previous meeting

The Finance Officer is still seeking an internal auditor for next year's audit.

The Clerk has submitted the parish council's request for items to be included in the forthcoming deep cleanse: litter picking in Clacks Lane, litter picking and weeding in Benson Lane and at the end of Thames Mead. Cleaning of street signs has also been requested.

Cllr Sherbourne was unable to attend the River Users' Group 3 meeting on 10th October.

Finance

Councillors agreed a grant of £250 to the Wallingford Volunteer Drivers, and £682 to North Stoke Village Hall Committee to fund grass cutting charges for the year.

The pavilion had been revalued at £1.487 million resulting in the additional premium of £210.48. Other payments agreed included £579 for the clerk's new laptop, £160 to Liam Bridges for installation of defibrillators and £2400 to First Class Tree Surgeons for clearing vegetation and dead trees from Watery Lane.

At the next meeting the precept and budget for

next year will be considered. The Finance Officer will circulate a draft before the meeting.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P24/S3031/HH Morrells Farm, Nuffield Lane, near Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 6QQ. Proposed pitched roof over existing front porch, proposed side dormer, alterations to existing front and rear dormers and new front and rear roof lights and Juliet balcony to rear. Planning Permission.

P24/S3050/HH 151 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EQ. Construction of front extension to form a porch. Planning Permission.

P24/S2752/HH 15 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EU. Single-storey side extension. Planning Permission.

P24/S2586/FUL Carmel College, Mongewell OX10 8BU. Part retrospective temporary permission for filming for up to 14 Days as well as preparation and clean-up of the site between August and December for a total of 28 days. Planning Permission.

Consultations

[P24/S3334/HH](#) 18 Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BB. Two-storey side and rear extension. Single-storey rear extension. Replacement single garage. Associated landscaping and internal and external works. No concerns about the wider impact but SODC needs to consider strong objections from neighbours.

[P24/S3436/LB](#) & [P24/S3435/FUL](#) The Grange, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL.

Residential conversion self-build of an existing barn with associated access off Pocock Lane, together with parking, landscaping and all enabling works. No objection.

Major developments

A decision on the Newnham Manor application legal agreement is expected by the end of the year.

Neighbourhood plan

We agree to follow our planning officer's

recommendation and follow the simplest and quickest review process that will bring our neighbourhood plan up to date so that it will robustly defend against speculative development. The local plan and national policy are still going through consultation and we will need to revise our plan again after that.

In the emerging Joint Local Plan, Table TCR1 has misclassified Crowmarsh Gifford as a Tier 3 village/local centre: this is being challenged with SODC.

County council matters

County Councillor Bloomfield's priority grant fund is still open for applications. The Clerk will apply for £300 for tree planting at the recreation ground.

District Council report

District Councillor Cooper highlighted the new waste strategy and the trial of an electric refuse collection vehicle.

Strategic priorities

Vegetation has been cleared from a length of Watery Lane and the next stage is to improve the surface.

Defibrillators have been installed at Park View and Mongewell. Thanks were expressed to Mr Liam Bridges for fitting them.

Strategic priorities will be reviewed at a special meeting to be held in January.

Environment and recreation

The play area grassy mounds have become unstable and the tunnel has been inspected by Eibe who recommended replacement. There is also a worn area under the basket swings. Cllr Rowley will circulate quotes before the next meeting.

Cllr Park reported that 130 of the 420 trees planted at recreation ground had died, due to the flooding early in the year. The Clerk will contact Cllr Bloomfield and request his grant support to buy replacement trees.

The CCTV Policy was reviewed and approved with no amendments.

Trimming of overgrown trees at the bottom of Cox's Lane and between Robert Sparrow Gardens and Park View is in hand.

Traffic and transport

The meeting with the Highways Engagement Team took place on 7th November and various sites in the parish were visited. Speed reduction measures were discussed in Benson Lane, Nosworthy Way and along the B4009 to North Stoke. The meeting will be followed up with details of specific requests. Cllr Sherbourne reported that the Speed Indicator Device in Benson Lane is not working. Drop-kerbs on village pavements can be requested via the highways engagement team.

Cllr Best reported that OCC Highways has agreed to the Autospeed watch camera being sited on one of their lamp posts. A licence is needed to view the data: Cllrs Best and Johnson will do this. Cllr Best will request a pro forma invoice for the camera and will obtain a 'Speed Camera' sign to be sited on the next lamp post. Cllr Park offered to help with the fitting of the camera.

Cllr Topliss reported that the 30mph sign by Wallingford Bridge has been removed and the speed limit will now be 20mph through Crowmarsh Gifford and Wallingford. He would like to request some more repeater 20mph signs to be fitted in The Street.

Other matters

Cllr Best will help with a review of the accessibility of the website.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th December at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The draft budget will be discussed. 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

St John the Evangelist Catholic Church Centenary

The year 2024 has a particular significance for the church of St John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Wallingford! It marks the 100th anniversary of the building as a catholic church. The site is considerably older.

A church community has existed in the corner of the Market Place since the late 17th century, and the Wallingford Independent Church maintained the religious connection from 1785 until 1798. The congregation declined after the mid-19th century and was disbanded in 1881.

The building was then used by the YMCA the Evangelisation Society and for non-denominational services before becoming auctioned off in 1905.

Following refurbishment and alterations the chapel re-opened in late 1924 as a Roman Catholic Church. Prior to this Catholics had to travel to Dorchester to attend Mass.

As the congregation grew, the need for larger accommodation became apparent and in 1958 the incumbent priest Fr Kearney was granted planning permission for rebuilding and renovation of the church.

In 1993 a major renovation took place when the organ loft was removed, a large window replaced two smaller windows behind the altar. Fr O'Brien directed the project.

The amalgamation of the parishes of Didcot and Wallingford took place in 2006, when Fr O'Sullivan served both churches.

Today the church flourishes with the arrival of Father Dominic Adeiza in 2022 and with a lively and active congregation.

On Sunday 22nd September 2024 the 100 year Anniversary was celebrated.

The 11am Mass was co-celebrated by Father Dominic and Canon Peter, accompanied by the church choir. This was followed by refreshments and drinks and a special Anniversary Cake in the church hall. The event was attended by over 160 people, in the church, church hall and overflowing to the outside area!

News from your MP

Dear Residents of Crowmarsh,

The past few months have been a whirlwind, and I'm really grateful for the chance to represent and serve our community. It's been a busy time getting to grips with the role and meeting so many of you, and I'm looking forward to working together to make a positive difference here in Crowmarsh.

Reflecting on the experience of my first three months in the job, I'm pleased with where I've got to – but I recognise this is very much just the start.

Firstly, I'm delighted to share that after a busy summer period of hiring I now have a full team in place, including five caseworkers based in our new Chalgrove office who are working hard on the backlog of emails, and going above and beyond on individual cases. Parliament has already presented me with a great deal of exciting opportunities including joining clubs that offer trips from the US to the Falklands, but I'm clear I've been sent to parliament to serve the constituents of Henley and Thame. Whenever the parliamentary schedule allows, I make sure I'm here in the constituency working on the issues that matter most to you.

Secondly, I've set to work meeting with local stakeholders, particularly in the NHS to build the relationships needed to get results for residents. MPs don't hold any 'power' to force bodies like the NHS to do anything. Instead we have a convening power to bring people together and find resolutions together. MPs in some ways have less direct ability to demand an action than councillors – and have no access to the civil service – but I'll be putting my new parliament.uk email and embossed parliament stationery to good use!

Thirdly, I've also got to grips with the suite of tools available to backbench opposition MPs. I'm occasionally asked what impact an opposition MP can have – especially when the government has a large majority. It's a valid question and impact relies on being active, and willing to use everything available to you. I make regular use of the opportunities presented to ask ministers 'oral questions', speak in the chamber on a debate, and pose 'written questions' to ministers. I'm delighted

too that our campaign on carers has broken through to the government, who now will increase the earnings threshold for carers allowance.

Since the July election, I've also been actively involved in local issues. I attended an excellent Q&A session on climate and nature in Benson last month and I would like to thank Bioabundance for organising it. I held an in-person surgery in Benson recently and I also had a tour of Benson Sewage Treatment Works to discuss the improvements that have been made to the site. Over the coming months, I will continue to meet with as many residents as possible. If you would like to get in touch or attend one of my surgeries, I would love to hear from you.

Best wishes
Freddie van Mierlo MP
freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk

Recycle your real Christmas tree and support Sue Ryder's vital work

National healthcare charity Sue Ryder is inviting residents to participate in their Christmas Treecycle scheme to help raise essential funds for families in need of palliative and bereavement care.

For a suggested optional donation, the charity will collect real Christmas trees directly from your front door, garden, or driveway and recycle them.

As part of Christmas Treecycle, Thames Valley residents in OX10, RG1, RG2, RG4, RG5, RG6, RG7, RG8, RG9, RG10, RG30, RG31, RG40, RG41 postcodes can have their trees collected between 7-10 January 2025.

Real Christmas trees are fully recyclable and can be transformed into compost or wood chippings for use in parks, gardens, and landscaping. By choosing to Treecycle, you'll not only support Sue Ryder but also help reduce landfill waste.

To learn more about this eco-friendly fundraising initiative in Thames Valley and to book a collection by midnight on 1 January 2025, visit www.sueryder.org/treethames.

Contact the fundraising team at Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice and Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire with any queries on 0118 9550 433 or email: thamesvalley.fundraising@sueryder.org

District Councillor's Report Rethinking Waste

One of the most visible services provided by the District Council is the collection of household waste, including food waste and recycling. For several years, SODC has outsourced this service to Biffa, whose performance is regularly monitored and reviewed. Residents' surveys regularly reflect overall satisfaction with the way that both Biffa and the Council manage our domestic waste collection and disposal. South Oxfordshire recently moved to the top of the national league table for recycling, indicating a strong shared commitment between the council and residents to reduce our impact on the environment



The Council has recently extended its contract with Biffa and has also agreed a new Waste Resources and Street Cleansing strategy, which encourages everyone to rethink their approach to waste.

We are promoting the district's many Repair Cafés and asking all residents to consider buying second-hand or to borrow an item from a "Library of Things" rather than always opting for a new purchase.

You can find out much more about the new waste strategy by visiting a special webpage at www.southandvale.gov.uk/rethinkingwaste/.

Here you can also find ideas on how to use up leftover food.

Warren James Hairdressing



Village salon Warren James Hairdressing Wins Big at the UK Salon Awards!

We are thrilled to share some incredible news with our wonderful community— Warren James Hairdressing has been recognised at the prestigious UK Salon Awards, bringing home THREE awards!

****Best Colour Salon Oxfordshire -** This award reflects our commitment to delivering outstanding hair colour services. A testament to the creativity and expertise of our team in delivering high quality colour transformations for our clients.

****Best Stylist Oxfordshire – Becky -** Becky’s dedication, creativity, and talent have earned her this well-deserved recognition.

****Future Talent – Katie -** Katie was recognised for her exceptional promise, passion and dedication.

We want to thank all our clients for your continued support. These awards are a reflection of the trust and loyalty you’ve shown us. We can’t wait to keep delivering award-winning service to each and every one of you.

The Warren James team



New Defibrillators in the Parish

The Parish Council has installed two more defibrillators. They are located in Mongewell and at the entrance to Park View. They are in stand alone temperature stabilised cabinets but are the same Defibtech DDU 120 models as those at the Pavilion and the Village Hall. They are stored in a ‘ready’ state and are fully automatic.



There is a comprehensive operating guide online. As with all defibrillators the same essential rules apply.

If the patient is unconscious or unresponsive and is not breathing or not breathing normally dial 999 for an ambulance. Give your precise location and the ambulance operator will tell you what the access code to the cabinet is, if appropriate. This is to ensure that an ambulance is en route before any attempt is made to use the defibrillator.

Once the patient is lying on their back you press the central On/Off button and follow the voice prompt instructions. You will need to expose their bare chest. All of our devices have the adult pads installed (if the patient is under 8 years of age or 25kg in weight you will need to swap to the paediatric pads which are inside the cabinets). It is essential to ensure that the best possible contact is made with the patient’s chest.

Once this has been done the machine will assess whether it needs to shock the patient. It will warn you NOT to touch the patient when it is about to discharge into the patient and the shock required ‘auto’ light will flash.

Follow the machine’s instructions to perform CPR if needed and listen to any further instructions it gives you.

Hopefully the ambulance will then soon arrive and take control of the situation.

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email chrisstrange47@gmail.com

**Service at St Mary's Church,
Newnham Murren**

Sunday 1st December
Advent Service 4.00pm

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Having celebrated successive record breaking years in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022,
and 2023, we're doing it again in 2024! Please join us to receive your property calendar!

Warmingham 2025 is a beautiful calendar packed with local scenes, beautiful landscapes and historic sites. It's a must-have for anyone who loves the area. The calendar is available in both print and digital formats. It's a great way to keep your home warm and cozy during the winter months. It's also a great gift for friends and family. So, pop in or call today to get your 2025 calendar!

© 2024 Warmingham. All rights reserved. For more information, please contact us at info@warmingham.co.uk

Warmingham is a community of people who love their home and want to share it with others. We are proud to be a part of the local community and to support local businesses. We are also committed to providing a high quality service to our customers. So, pop in or call today to get your 2025 calendar!



The Corn Exchange events

Please look at the website (www.cornexchange.org.uk) for full details.

The theatre will be closed from Tuesday 24th December until Thursday 16th January when we start our annual pantomime which is Dick Whittington.

Cinema

All regular 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.

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.

Films for December: Small Things Like These (PG); Never Look Away (15); Portraits of Dangerous Women (15); Christmas Eve in Miller's Point (12A); Superman: The Story of Christopher Reeve (PG); Red One (12A); Gladiator II (15); and Wicked (PG).

Live Screenings

Tuesday 10th December 7:15pm
The Royal Ballet - Cinderella from The Royal Opera House
Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (seniors), £6 (under 18s)

Tuesday 17th December 7:15pm
The Nutcracker from the Royal Opera House
Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (seniors), £6 (under 18s)

Live on Stage

Saturday 7th December 7:45pm
Moonage, A David Bowie Tribute Band
Tickets £19

Saturday 14th December 7:30pm

Punchbowl by the Sinodun Players
Tickets £12

Coming Soon

Friday 17th January to Saturday 1st February
Dick Whittington by the Sinodun Players
Tickets Adults £18-weekend, £15-week, under 16s £10

Join us for a magical adventure with "Dick Whittington", the classic pantomime filled with laughter, music and fun for all ages! Follow young Dick and his loyal cat as they set off to seek fame and fortune in London, where the streets are said to be paved with gold!

Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's November talk was given by Nick Gilbert on 'The Gilberts' Dahlia Year'. Nick talked us through his year at the nursery, which starts with the deadheading of spent flowers, squeezing the seed pods gently to expel the moisture, then leaving them on a windowsill to dry out. The seeds are then stored away before they can be sown in March/April-time, germinating in 7-12 days. You can also take cuttings – Nick takes over 70,000 each year at his nursery. As a nice final touch, Nick brought a tray full of dahlia seed pods for us to take home to try our luck. As he pointed out, we might have picked a new variety waiting to be sown!

Our next event is for members only and their guests, where Annie Smith will give a talk and practical demonstration on 'A Christmas Table Decoration'. We will then have a chance to make our own decoration to take home. In the New Year, on Thursday 9th January, we have Chris Day on 'Growing Under Cover'. Chris is a professional horticulturalist, gardening magazine editor and writer, and regular podcaster and speaker. Chris will be looking at specific plants for protected cropping, the logistics of growing crops and ornamentals under glass and plastic, and some of the pitfalls of this type of cultivation. It will be at our usual venue, Benson parish hall, OX10 6LZ. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45 start (£2 for members, £5 for visitors – just turn up on the door, no need to book).

Further information about this thriving club can be found on our website <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

Liz Harrison

Wallingford Thames Run is back for 2025!

After a hugely successful return to the running calendar in 2024, we're excited to announce that the Wallingford Thames Run will take place on Sunday 8th June 2025.

Starting and ending in Crowmarsh, with proceeds going to Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School PTA and Style Acre, we hope to attract more runners than ever before with the event culminating in a children's colour dash in the school grounds.

Registration for the race opens at the end of December. Should you wish to support the event and volunteer your time we'd love to hear from you.

There are various levels of sponsorship still available for this high profile local event, so if you or your business would like to support it in this way, in return receiving some great PR throughout, please get in touch (email below).

We look forward to keeping you all updated over the following months and, as ever, we are extremely grateful for the support of the community in making this valued event and fundraiser such a great success.

Josie Brettel, Race Director

www.wallingfordthamesrun.co.uk
thamesruncommittee@gmail.com

Wallingford U3A

On 4th December members who have booked, meet for the annual Christmas party.

The next speaker is on 8th January: Martin Holmes on Theresa May - A Reputation Revised? Visitors are very welcome at £2 per session. Please visit our website: <http://wallingford.u3asite.uk/>. This will take you straight into our Home page. All the Speakers, Outings etc are listed there.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club (wallingfordphoto.club) continues into winter with talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions. We meet on Thursdays from 7.30pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion, with a handful of sessions online during the season, to make the most of inviting speakers from far away. December includes a guest speaker at the Pavilion: Peter Crane talks us through 'Street photography my way' including candid, monochrome and colourful images. As the new year begins, we reconvene on 9th January with a members' evening, '8x10' where eight members present for ten minutes on a topic of their choice. Then on 16th Joe Houghton joins us for an online session on 'Mono processing live' where he discusses the different approaches and thought processes needed to both shoot and post-process your images in black and white. On 23rd January it's the popular and informative "You are the judge" session, where we sit in groups to critique and score a selection of members' images. It's very interesting to be on the other side of the judging process! The month ends with our third Club competition of the season - 'No Set Subject 3' on the 30th.

Henley And District Stamp Club

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm. There is only one meeting for December, on Wednesday 11th December and it will be our Postcard evening where members have an opportunity to display some interesting postcards. We may also find out some interesting facts about the postcard and how it has developed. 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

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WHAT'S ON — DECEMBER 2024

Regular events and meetings

Tuesdays	14.00-16.00	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion
Every Friday	9.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	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
Thursdays	19.30 onwards	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion
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

Sunday 1st	Daytime	Wallingford Christmas Market and Santa dash	Market Place and shops
Wednesday 4th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Christmas party	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Wednesday 4th	18.00 for 18.30	Sue Ryder winter remembrance event	Reading University
Thursday 5th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 7th	10am to 4pm	Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue Christmas Fayre	Benson Parish Hall
Sunday 8th	18.30 for 19.00	Handel's Messiah in aid of Wallingford Food Bank	St Mary le More Church, Wallingford
Tuesday 10th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: Life and Death at a Roman Villa, speaker Malin Holst	Zoom only, see www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html
Wednesday 11th	18.00 to 19.00	Community Christmas Carols	Wallingford Market Place
Saturday 14th	19.00 to 21.30	A Night of Carols	Dorchester Abbey
Tuesday 24th	15.00 -16.00	Crib service	St Mary Magdalene Crowmarsh
Wednesday 25th	11.00 -12.00	Festival Communion	St Mary Magdalene Crowmarsh

January 2025

Wednesday 8th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Theresa May: a reputation revised	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 11th	10.0 -13.00	First Local Producers' Market of 2025	St Mary le More Church