

**Issue 559**

**January 2026**

## **The Crowmarsh News team**

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

*Editorial & layout this month:* Lisa Gallacher and Jane Thrift

*Editorial support:* John Griffin, Toni Taylor, James Taylor, Gay Holden and Julian Park

*Advertising:* Pat Shields

*Distribution:* Frank Sadler and the team

## **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).

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.

## **Useful telephone numbers**

<b>Emergency only</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>Crime Stoppers</b>	<b>0800 555 111</b>
<b>Police non-emergency number</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>NHS non-emergency number</b>	<b>111</b>

## **Next month's issue**

All new advertisements and all copy for the February 2026 *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th January deadline**.

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

[crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com)

or deliver to the editors at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

[crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com](mailto:crowmarshadvertisers@gmail.com)

or deliver to The Old School, Benson Lane.

## BARBERS of BENSON

Book your next appointment at  
[www.barbersofbenison.com](http://www.barbersofbenison.com)

**South Oxfordshire's Premier  
Barbershop**

Our barbers are highly experienced in skin  
fades, childrens hair and scissor cuts.

33B High Street, Benson OX10 6RP 01491 917294

**SHOE  
REPAIRS**

**Leather  
Stitching  
Repairs**

**KEY  
CUTTING**



**FEET FIRST**

*Quality Shoe Repairs*



Contact **GARY**

21 St. Mary's Street Wallingford.  
Telephone (01491) 825224

Watchstraps  
Batteries

Travel Goods  
Luggage

## DON'T BUY IT HIRE IT!

• PLANT & TOOL HIRE • TRADE & DIY •

We are the hire specialists and stock all your  
needs - from hand tools to forklift trucks

Service second to none. Competitive prices.  
Delivery and collection service.

Open: Mon.-Fri. 7.30am - 5pm Saturday 7.30am - 12 noon  
PARKING A PLEASURE!

**DIDCOT PLANT**

Didcot Plant Ltd, Basil Hill Road, Didcot

**01235 814000**

[www.didcotplant.co.uk](http://www.didcotplant.co.uk)

**Fireplace  
Magic**

**Woodburners,  
Fires & Fireplaces**

- Installation
- HETAS registered
- Woodburner servicing
- Chimney sweeping



Showroom at: 45 Prospect Street, Caversham RG4 8JB  
Telephone: 0118 9463060

[www.fireplacemagic.co.uk](http://www.fireplacemagic.co.uk)

## CROWMARSH TYRE

BALANCING, TRACKING  
& PUNCTURES. LARGE  
STOCKS OF LEADING  
MAKES

AND  
EXHAUST CENTRE

01491 834088

BEADLE ESTATE, HITHERCROFT ROAD,  
WALLINGFORD, OXON. OX10 9GW



BATTERIES,  
COMPREHENSIVE  
STOCK

MOTS AND  
SERVICING  
FOR ALL MAKES  
OF CARS



Established 1983

**Roy Windebank  
AUTO ENGINEER**

[www.roywindebank.co.uk](http://www.roywindebank.co.uk)  
[roysworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:roysworkshop@gmail.com)



**ALL YOUR MOTORING NEEDS IN ONE STOP!**

From a light bulb, a new engine to an MOT, we have  
everything covered, call or visit us today!

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ○ Servicing & Repairs            | ○ Welding                 |
| ○ MOT's                          | ○ Diagnostics             |
| ○ Tyres                          | ○ Batteries               |
| ○ Brakes, Clutches<br>& Exhausts | ○ Wiper Blades<br>& Bulbs |

**01491 652345**

Kentwood Farm, Papist Way, Cholsey OX10 9LJ

**HOME BASE**

**PROPERTY**

★ WHATEVER YOUR PROPERTY NEEDS ★

**LETTINGS &  
MANAGEMENT**

**SALES**

01491 824470 | [info@hb-pm.co.uk](mailto:info@hb-pm.co.uk)

## Wallingford U3A

Our Christmas Party was held on Wednesday 3rd December 2025. Our members enjoyed a glass of mulled wine before our speaker, Mike Hurst told us of an Old Time Christmas. This was a light-hearted social history of Christmas at home in the mid-20th century. After the talk, there was a buffet, and the raffle raised money for Wallingford Stroke Club.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th January at 2pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. We will be joined by speaker Dr Martin Holmes who will deliver a talk entitled 'Rishi Sunak – A reputation revised?'. Visitors are very welcome at £3 per person.

Please visit our website for additional details:  
<https://wallingford.u3asite.uk/events/>

## What's new at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School?

### Christmas productions

Every year here at Crowmarsh school the year groups come together to perform a Christmas production. This year, years 1 and 2 acted out the story of 'Mend the Manger' whilst years 3, 4 and 5 told the tale of 'Twas the night before Christmas'. Year 6, Reception and Preschool performed 'Happy Birthday Jesus'.

### Money raised

We raised £285 for the Royal British Legion by selling key chains, stickers, fabric bracelets and the most popular choice, snap bands! In addition to this, we raised £135 for 'Save the Children' on Christmas jumper day, where we could pay £1 to wear our Christmas jumpers to school.

### A festive lunch

On Tuesday 16th December each year group enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch of potatoes, carrots, peas, turkey, pigs in blankets and, if we wanted, cranberry sauce and gravy. The Christmas lunch was also accompanied by a delicious, festive biscuit and we each got a cracker to pull.

### Senior citizens

Some of the local senior citizens came to Crowmarsh School for the afternoon. They were served biscuits and tea whilst being

entertained by year 6 and the choir singing Christmas songs.

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas!

Written by Ava and Beatrice

## Consultation on 2027-2028 admissions arrangements for Wallingford School

Wallingford School is consulting on its 2027-2028 admissions arrangements, as is required in the school admissions code. The school's 2027-2028 admissions policy reflects Oxfordshire County Council's 2027-2028 admissions rules for secondary schools. The admissions policy document and detail on the required changes can be seen on our website available at: <https://wallingfordschool.com/index.php/admissions/admissions/admissions-policies>

Should you wish to contact us about the draft 2027-2028 Admissions Policy, please email Wallingford School's Admissions team at: [admissions@wallingfordschool.com](mailto:admissions@wallingfordschool.com) or should you prefer, please send a letter to: The Admissions Team, Wallingford School, St George's Road, Wallingford OX10 8HH.

We will consider all comments received by Monday 26th January 2026, when the consultation closes.

## The Cholsey Archive – February event on village history

On Friday 13th February, at The Cholsey Pavilion, The Cholsey Archive will present an evening of three illustrated talks on village history, with musical interludes by versatile folk musicians Three Pressed Men. Admission will be just £5.00 (cash or card at the door) and will include light interval refreshments. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

The Archive's first event, in October 2025, was filled to capacity although seats will not be reserved as such (apart from special needs), please email: [archive@cholsey.com](mailto:archive@cholsey.com) or phone 01491 652295 to help us plan an enjoyable evening for all.

## **Past Times** with David Beasley

### **The Floating Soap of 1945**

I have little memory of Christmas 1944 itself, but I do remember the Christmas party held at Howbery Park in January 1945. The event was organised for all local children aged five and under and took place in the large communal Nissen hut in the grounds. Mothers were allowed to accompany their children.

Transportation was arranged from Wallingford Market Place, where American servicemen collected the mothers and children in jeeps. They drove back to Howbery at great speed. So fast, in fact, that it frightened my mother. She flatly refused to make the return journey in a jeep, so instead we walked all the way back to Wallingford, something I was not very happy about at the time!

Every child at the party received a present. I was given a Donald Duck doll, which I felt I was too old for and, in my young mind, thought should have been for girls rather than boys. My mother, however, received two bars of soap that floated on water. I thought this was a wonderful gift and far better than any doll. The floating soap may well have been the only reason I willingly took a bath, but only if I was allowed to use it.

The American Engineers were stationed at Howbery for about two and a half years, having taken over the site from the Canadian Engineers. Some Crowmarsh villagers still remember the volume at which they played their gramophones. It was so loud it could be heard throughout the village. Several complaints were made to the Chairman of the Parish Council, who contacted the camp's commanding officer, and the noise was promptly reduced!

***Please see the parish website for the latest on many local matters:  
[www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk](http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk)***

## **Wallingford Photographic Club**

Continuing the season into 2026, Wallingford Photographic Club ([wallingfordphoto.club](http://wallingfordphoto.club)) has talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions scheduled till May. We meet on Thursdays from 7.30pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion, with a handful of sessions online during the season.

The new year brings a busy month with our first session back on 8th January sharing progress on our themed assignments (following on from the club talk in December focussing on black and white images). Then on the 15th we have our first external competition of the programme - a second match-up against a photography club based in Spain (so an online-only session). On the 22nd we will have a club night where we collaborate to select images that will be entered into the upcoming 'Intimate Landscapes' competition. Followed by our second internal un-themed competition of the season on the 29th.

## **Wallingford and District Art Club – join us at our January demo**

Join the friendly Wallingford and District Art club on Tuesday 20th January at 7.30pm for a live demonstration as professional artist, Claire Cross, paints a beautiful watercolour scene using salt. Rather than just adding texture, the salt will 'paint' a large part of the picture in an interesting way. The demo will be held at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) and is free for club members or £10 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](http://www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk) or email [admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk](mailto:admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk)

**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)



Team Vicar; Vacancy  
Churchwardens: Linda Parker Tel:  
836100  
Margaret Foster Tel: 836076

## St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford

### January Services

Please note all our Services for the time being will be held in the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground.

Sunday 4th January	11.00am	Family Service
Sunday 11th January Epiphany	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 18th January	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 25th January	11.00am	Parish Communion

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

### The Churchwardens write...

A Happy New Year to you All!

On 6th January we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, when we remember the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were guided by a star, but it was not quite as simple as that. It was a long journey, probably involving many scans of the sky and complicated calculations. They followed the signs and clues that God gave them, and on our own journey we too need to look out for the signs and clues God gives us of his presence among us: the beauty of nature, the kindness of strangers, the love of friends and family, and the care of the many people who work for our welfare and safety.

Those who attended the church open day were impressed by the progress being made. We hope that the work will be completed by mid-January and that we will be able to hold a service of dedication and celebration on Sunday 8th February at 11.00am. Why not come along on that day and celebrate with us the joyful news that we now have a toilet and servery? These new facilities will be of enormous help in our plans to make God's House a welcoming centre at the heart of the Crowmarsh community.

However, after all that work the church needs a good clean. It would be wonderful if people could come and help, we do not have a date for this yet but keep an eye out for notices in the village and on the Crowmarsh Facebook page. If you can help, please contact the Church Wardens for up-to-date details and instructions.

Don't forget the Community café on the second Saturday in January. Join us for refreshments and a chance to catch up with your friends and neighbours.

Blessings,  
Linda Parker & Margaret Foster, Churchwardens.



## Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on Thursday 4th December 2025 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall. Present were councillors John Griffin (chair), Andrew Johnson, David Rowley, Julian Park, Stephen Sherbourne, Fleur Stevenson, Zazie Carruthers and Parish Clerk Sue Rance. County Councillor Gavin McLauchlan, District Councillor Sue Cooper and four members of the public also attended.

### Finance

Councillors agreed a grant of £500 to Citizens' Advice, £862.60 to North Stoke Village Hall to cover the cost of grass cutting in 2025, and £1500 to Crowmarsh School Parent Teacher Association to support the purchase of additional laptop computers to enable each child in a class to have access to a laptop when their class is using the equipment. (Cllr Stevenson declared an interest as a parent of children at the school).

The accounts balance was reported and payments agreed, including public liability insurance and servicing of the fire protection equipment in the pavilion.

The Finance Officer had circulated a draft budget for 2026-27 in advance, which was discussed and agreed. The council agreed to increase the precept requested for 2026-27 by 5% to balance the budget, which translates into a council tax increase of £3.12 (band D).

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) due from the housing development at The Sycamores in Crowmarsh Hill had not been received yet as the developer is in administration. The parish council holds CIL receipts of £170,064, which is allocated to be spent on infrastructure improvements.

### Planning

#### *Decisions by SODC*

P25/S3056/LDP Holly Cottage, 3 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Extension of the single storey side structure with mono-pitched roof to incorporate a utility room. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development.

P25/S1048/HH The Grange, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL. Construction of new double

garage, garden store and boat store. (Amended plans received 28 October showing new access driveway removed). Planning Permission.

P25/S3116/HH 2 Lane End, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8DG. Single storey rear extension to replace conservatory. Planning Permission.

P25/S3188/LDP 31 Rush Way, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8FU. Erection of a garden office building. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development.

P25/S2178/HH Long Reach House, Pickets Lane, North Stoke OX10 6BU. Installation of a three-quarter-span lean-to greenhouse with new double door access from the house. (Additional information received 6 October 2025). Planning Permission.

P25/S2557/HH 26 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EX. Single storey extensions and internal alterations including conservatory to rear, ground floor infill extension and garage conversion to create additional living spaces (as amended by plans to alter junction point of proposed conservatory received on 15 October and amended certificate received 16 October 2025). Planning Permission.

### *Consultations*

P25/S3559/LB The Old Farmhouse, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL. Replace existing roof tiles on southern wing, gable roof and hipped roof areas with hand-made traditional clay tiles. Recommend approval.

P25/S3162/FUL and P25/S3166/LB Former Jewson's Yard, 50 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, Full planning application for the erection of 14 dwellings, plus restoration and conversion of existing Grade II listed building to a residential dwelling, with associated works, parking and landscaping, with access from The Street, following the demolition of existing non-listed structures and removal of existing hardstanding. Councillors welcomed the proposals for energy efficiency and heating source but would like to see solar panels and electric charging points plus more provision for green space. There were concerns about lack of sufficient parking and the lack of provision for affordable housing.

P25/S3474/HH 151 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EQ. Construct new wall to front of curtilage in brick and flint with pedestrian and vehicle gates. Recommend approval.

(Stephen Sherbourne declared an interest).

### **Major developments**

A decision on the Newnham Manor application legal agreement is expected soon.

### **County council report**

Cllr McLauchlan's report had been circulated and he answered questions. He will again ask officers why installing the speed indicator devices in North Stoke is taking so long.

### **District Council report**

The District Councillors will report back on SODC's planning enforcement early in the new year. Adrianna Patridge has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of South and Vale Councils from 1st January 2026.

### **Strategic priorities**

A quote has been received from Drayton Construction for Watery Lane surface improvements. Detailed quotes are awaited for new bus shelters and village signage.

### **Environment and recreation**

Two quotes for improving the surface under playground equipment will be considered when the committee meets on 12th January. It is hoped to carry out the work early in 2026 so that the equipment can be re-opened. Additional adult gym equipment is being considered as well as improving the flooring in the main hall.

A member of the public who runs exercise classes at the recreation ground has expressed an interest in joining the committee and would be welcomed to strengthen the committee. The football pitches are very muddy and sometimes not playable.

### **Traffic and transport**

HR Wallingford had expressed concern about the safety of employees using the bus stop opposite Benson Lane and this will be raised with Cllr McLauchlan as well as with Benson Parish Council.

### **Other matters**

The council is required to publish a list of councillors with their roles and responsibilities

on the parish website. Cllr Stevenson will update the page from the clerk's up-to-date list.

Cllr Sherbourne encourages charitable organisations to apply for funding to the Bridge Estate Charity via the Wallingford Town Clerk.

Suggested locations will be sent to SODC for their parish deep cleanse of pavements and verges, which takes place in February.

### **Next meeting**

There is no meeting in January, so the next meeting will be on Thursday 5th February 2026 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

There are still vacancies on the parish council. To find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk or speak to any councillor.

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)

## **Crowmarsh Parish Council hopes for 2026**

The parish council is confident that many of our priorities to support our residents can be achieved or at least moved significantly towards completion in 2026. These include the Newnham Manor development and Toucan crossing on the A4074, safety measures for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers in Benson Lane, speed management systems and traffic calming in North Stoke and new signage at key points in the parish and at the main entrances to Crowmarsh Gifford. We are also planning a new website, and hope to recruit two more councillors, at least one of them from Mongewell. If you are interested in working with us to achieve these ambitions, please contact the parish clerk or any councillor.

## Cholsey Repair Café

Cholsey Repair Café will take place on Saturday 17th January 2026 at the Cholsey Pavilion, between 10.00 and 12.45.

The volunteer fixers offer help or advice on all manner of repairs to domestic items, from tool sharpening to bicycles, electricals, small furniture, textiles and even ultrasonic cleaning of small things like watch straps or jewellery. Help is always free of charge although a modest donation towards operating costs is appreciated.

Our website [www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com) provides more information or you can email [repaircafe@cholsey.com](mailto:repaircafe@cholsey.com)

## The Corn Exchange events

See the website [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk) for full details, latest updates and to book tickets.

**Pantomime 2026: Hansel and Gretel**, written by Marilyn Johnstone, performed by the Sinodun Players

Fri Jan 16, Wed Jan 21, Thurs Jan 22, Fri Jan 23, Tue Jan 27, Wed, Jan 28, Thurs Jan 29, Fri Jan 30, 7:30pm.

Sat Jan 17, Sat Jan 24, Sun Jan 25, Sat Jan 31, 2:00pm.

Sat Jan 17, Sat Jan 24, Sat Jan 31, 6:30pm.

Tickets £15 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), £18 (all other performances), £10 (under 16s)

## What's happening at Wallingford Library?

### Helping in our 'secret' garden

Why not pop along to our community gardening morning on Friday 23rd January. A great way to kickstart new year's resolutions about getting healthier and enjoying the great outdoors. There are tasks for all ages and abilities: come for half an hour or stay for as long as you wish. Wild About Wallingford will be here between 10am-12pm and we'll have warm drinks and biscuits to keep your energy levels up.

### Saturday Storytime

Our lovely volunteer will be reading stories for babies, toddlers and primary-age children on Saturday 24th January from 10-10.30am and we'll get the Lego and Duplo out for you to play with afterwards.

### Home Library Service

A reminder that you can use the Home Library Service on a short or long-term basis. If you cannot get to the library, one of our friendly volunteers can collect books for you and deliver them to your home. Do get in touch if you think this is something you may benefit from.

### Jigsaws

Library members can borrow jigsaws free of charge for three weeks. We've got lots of choice and various sizes, just the thing when the weather isn't pleasant. If you are not a library member, it is free to join, just bring in some ID.

### What we're reading this month...

#### *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

A look at how women were treated in 1950's America. Elizabeth Zott is a chemist. She has proof, but the men still treat her as a secretary. This is her story.

#### *The Orwell tour: Travels through the life and work of George Orwell* by Oliver Lewis

A book with some local flavour. Follow George Orwell through the significant places in his life, from early years in Henley, schooldays at Eton, his military career in Burma (Myanmar), life in Southwold, the civil war in Spain, writing in Jura and to his final resting place at Sutton Courtenay.

Both books are available through Oxfordshire libraries.

We have our regular events scheduled for 2026 but do keep an eye on our Facebook page or the Oxfordshire County Council's website for other activities, talks and events.

Contact us on 01865 815193 or email us at [wallingford.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wallingford.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Follow us on Facebook or visit our webpage for events:  
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-libraries>





## Water Voles spotted in the River Thame

River Thame Conservation Trust's volunteer monitoring team has confirmed the presence of Britain's fastest-declining mammal, sparking hope for the species' recovery in the catchment. Water voles have been recorded in the River Thame catchment for the first time in decades, after River Thame Conservation Trust volunteers captured video evidence of the endangered species at two sites: one on the River Thame near Chearsley and another on the Chalgrove Brook in Stadhampton.

The footage, gathered using motion-sensor wildlife cameras placed across the catchment, was part of the Trust's long-running monitoring project to detect signs of water voles and other key river species. Dedicated volunteers have been retrieving and reviewing thousands of clips, and their recent findings mark a hopeful sign of recovery for a species that has disappeared from much of the UK's riverbanks.

## Pizza and Politics: An Invitation for Young People in South Oxfordshire

Young people aged 11–18 from Wallingford and the surrounding areas of South Oxfordshire are invited to take part in a fun and friendly Pizza and Politics event on Friday 6th February from 5.30pm to 8.00pm in central Wallingford. This is part of Oxfordshire County Council's Future Generations programme and is a great chance to learn more about local democracy and have your voice heard.

At the event you will be able to:

- find out how local politics and democratic processes work
- understand the role of the council and decision-makers
- join in discussions about issues that matter to young people
- meet and chat with local politicians in an informal setting
- take part in a Q&A session and themed conversations with peers and councillors

Pizza, snacks and refreshments will be provided, and as a thank you for taking part young people will receive £15, travel expenses covered, and a participation certificate.

### How to take part:

To register your interest, you (or your parent/carer if you're under 16) must complete the online form by Sunday 1 February. Places are limited and signing up does not guarantee a place - participants will be confirmed from **30 January**.

For more information or to register, visit the *Let's Talk Oxfordshire* page: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/pizza-and-politics-wallingford-2026>

## Mongewell and North Stoke

There are two vacancies on the parish council for someone from Mongewell or North Stoke, so if you are interested in finding out more, please contact the parish clerk, (contact details p7) chairman or any councillor, or come along to our next meeting in Crowmarsh Village Hall on Thursday evening, 5th February.

# COULTON

## Plumbing & Heating

A local family business, based in Crowmarsh Gifford, providing a professional and quality service

Boiler Servicing, Repairs & Maintenance  
Boiler Replacements • Heating Repairs  
Landlord Safety Certificates  
General Plumbing Maintenance & Repairs  
Heating System Installation  
Cylinder Repair & Replacement  
Specialists in OIL & GAS

**T 01491 824486 M 07737 788773**  
[coultonplumbing@hotmail.com](mailto:coultonplumbing@hotmail.com)

Local members of  
**Checkatrade.com**  
Where reputation matters

## Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's talk on 4th December was given by Clare Foster, Garden Editor at House & Garden UK, on 'Pastoral Gardens', which is also the title of her new book. Clare shared with us how we can be inspired by the idea of a rural idyll to create a garden of beauty that brings in wildlife. At one extreme of garden design you have very formal, carefully manicured gardens. At the other end, you have total re-wilding. Instead, Clare advocated creating gardens that use a blend of both, creating pockets to encourage wildlife to flourish. Cottage gardens embody this more informal approach, and we were shown some stunning gardens which had drawn on this style. For example, Jasper Conran's garden has elements of formality but the overarching 'design' and informal flower-filled planting scheme means that it blends into the natural landscape. Another example was Knepp's wild walled garden. Here they have used the concept of re-wilding to create a nature-friendly garden. When creating our own gardens, Clare encouraged us to select resilient plants, not just drought tolerant ones. She also suggested we consider structure and shape, not just colours, so think *Verbena bonariensis* with its tall branching stems with thin leaves that you can look through and Papavers with their seedheads. The perennial wallflower Apricot Twist was recommended for its colour (and being good for pollinators). And she encouraged us to introduce self-seeding plants and allow the seedlings to spread naturally, such as in a gravel path. By the end of the talk we felt encouraged to incorporate the elements of re-wilding within a considered overall design, with the cottage garden being a source of inspiration.

On 8th January, we look forward to meeting Katharine, the Tea Break Gardener, who will share shade-loving plant ideas for a woodland garden. On 5th February we have Guy Deakins with his talk on 'Sexy Pollinators'. Each of these two talks is £5 for visitors, £2 for members – just turn up on the door, no need to book. Both events will be at our usual venue, Benson Parish Hall, OX10 6LZ. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start.

On 5th March we are very pleased to announce that we have Rachel de Thame coming to speak to us. Rachel is a regular presenter on Gardener's World and hosts her own BBC series, Small Town Gardens and

Gardening with the Experts. Previously she was gardening consultant for The Vanessa Show and a reporter for Heart of the Country. As well as Gardeners' World and other shows, she is a regular on the BBC's coverage of the Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. Rachel has written a number of gardening books and regularly writes columns for The Sunday Times, the Telegraph, and Gardeners' World magazine. This is a ticketed event - £16 for visitors, £10 for members. Please email us to purchase (contact details below) or buy them in person from Derry's Den (26 High Street, Benson).

Further information about the club and how to join as a member can be found on our website <https://bensongardeningclub.weebly.com> or please feel free to email [bensongardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:bensongardeningclub@gmail.com)

Liz Harrison

## January Cycling Routes with CTC Wallingford

CTC Wallingford is kicking off the New Year with a full programme of cycling routes throughout January, offering something for riders of all abilities.

A full list of January rides, including routes, distances and pace, is available online via the group's ride schedule here:

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/wallingford>

Further details about the club and its activities can be found on the CTC Wallingford website, or by following the group on Facebook and Instagram.

New riders are always welcome, and questions about rides can be sent to [info@ctcwallingford.org.uk](mailto:info@ctcwallingford.org.uk)

## Reservoir consultation

Thames Water is proposing a very large new reservoir in Oxfordshire to supply water to 15 million people across the South East.

The statutory consultation period runs for eleven weeks until 13 January 2026.

Please respond at

<https://www.ipsos.uk/SESRO>.

## Manor Café at Howbery

Open: 9am-4pm, Mon-Fri

MANOR CAFE  
at  
Howbery



- Hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes: all day
- Breakfast: 9.00am - 10.30am
- Paninis, baguettes and baps: 11.00am - 2.00pm
- Hot and cold lunch options: 11.30am - 1.30pm

Order online or at service counter  
Outside and indoor seating areas  
Takeaway service | Beautiful grounds | Ample parking

[www.howberypark.com](http://www.howberypark.com)

## Howard Chadwick Funeral Service

A life well remembered lives on

Established 1991

Howard Chadwick Funeral Service are here to support and guide you. Caring for families of all faiths since 1991 in Oxfordshire and the surrounding areas.

Our experienced and friendly team are available 24 hours a day by telephone or you can arrange a home visit.

- 24 Hour Service
- Bereavement Advice
- Transparent Pricing
- Private Chapel of Rest
- Floral Tributes
- Memorial Masonry
- Home Visits
- Prepaid funeral plans

Oxfordshire  
01491 825222

33 Banian Lane, OX9 8ED

[chadwickfuneralservice.com](http://chadwickfuneralservice.com)

Funeral Partners

## DIRTY CARPETS? GRUBBY UPHOLSTERY?

CALL

# GRIMEBUSTERS

YOUR LOCAL PROFESSIONAL CLEANING FIRM

[www.grimebusters.co.uk](http://www.grimebusters.co.uk)

PROFESSIONAL WET OR DRY CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY  
CLEANING AT UNBEATABLE RATES

For free estimates or advice, please call:

Oxford (01865) 726983 Abingdon (01235) 555533

Witney (01993) 868924

# LAWNCARE

GARDEN MACHINERY  
SALES, SERVICE & SPARES

LODGE FARM  
OLD READING ROAD  
CROWMARSH  
WALLINGFORD  
OXON OX10 8BW

Agents for:  
Mountfield - Westwood - Echo  
& many others  
Briggs & Stratton service centre  
TEL 01491 836060

## ALBRY PRINTING

For all your printing needs:

Full Printing & Copying facilities

Colour or B/W - no job too small

T: (01491) 836282 E: [print@albry.co.uk](mailto:print@albry.co.uk)

73 Fir Tree Ave, Wallingford OX10 0PB

Opening hours 9.00 - 11.00 Mon - Fri

other times by appointment

# GA

Electrical

Plumbing

Fire and Security

Call: 01491 835875

Email - [reception@groupga.co.uk](mailto:reception@groupga.co.uk)

Unit 11 Moses Winter Way, Wallingford, OX10 9FE



THE POSITIVE  
OUTCOMES GROUP

# WEPS

WALLINGFORD ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLIES

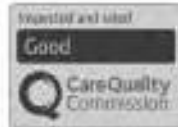
OPEN TO THE  
TRADE & PUBLIC

01491 827825

SALES@WEPS.ORG.UK

UNIT 11 MOSES WINTER WAY





Compassionate Care -  
Right at Home

Our services include:

- Personal Care
- Visiting Care
- Companionship
- Social support
- Dementia Care
- Medication Management
- Shopping
- Running Errands
- House-keeping and
- Meal preparations
- Live-In care
- Palliative Care



Local Reliable, Person-  
centred care

Free care consultation available - get in touch today!

Call Us  
Now

**01235 512344**

**MOSSINATOR®**  
ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS

Roof  
Cleaning



Bird Proofing



Chimney cowl  
installation



info@mossinator.co.uk  
01491 714009

**Warmingham**

www.warmingham.com

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Having celebrated successive record breaking years in **2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024**, to date, we've done it again in **2025!**

Please join us to realise your property aspirations!

Warmingham & Co - Your leading independent property consultancy....

Having been established for over 40 years, we don't rest on our laurels. Leading by the front, achieving the very best for our clients. For almost a 10th consecutive year, to date, 2025 has seen Warmingham & Co, out-sell and out-let all of our competitors within our area of coverage, as recorded by Rightmove. Accordingly, you can be assured of a professional and thorough approach from our highly qualified and experienced, personable staff, who both understand the current marketplace, and yield extensive local knowledge. Offering our clients the most effective, cohesive and progressive marketing package tailor-made to their own individual requirements, locally, nationally and internationally. 7 days a week, we are here to make your next move both seamless, and the right one for you.

WARMINGHAM & CO. 01491 875011. 01491 875011. 01491 875011. 01491 875011. 01491 875011. 01491 875011. 01491 875011. 01491 875011. 01491 875011. 01491 875011.

Sale & Valuations

T 01491 875011

E sales@warmingham.com

Call us 7 Days A Week to arrange a Free Valuation or Viewing

Office Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday: 09:00 - 18:00 & Sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

Website Opening Hours: 24 Hours A Day - 7 Days A Week - 365 Days A Year

Lettings & Valuations

T 01491 875011

E lettings@warmingham.com



Bob Warmingham



Laura Bow



Tina Shepherd



Duncan Hunt



Arun Redding



Julie Power



Paul O'Houghlin



Naomi O'Houghlin



Tonia Bonfield



Karin Bowls



Betty Shaw



Lisa Warmingham

## Could your company sponsor the 2026 Wallingford Thames Run?

The Wallingford Thames Run, South Oxfordshire's hottest 5k and 10k race, will be held on Sunday June 7 next year, with hundreds of runners, supporters and volunteers already preparing for the big day. This well-loved race, which runs through central Wallingford and Crowmarsh, helps raise much-needed funds for the Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School PTA and the Crowmarsh-based charity Style Acre.

To help the committee ensure the race event runs smoothly, it is calling upon the generous support of local businesses and organisations. The committee's fundraising goal is simple: to




cover event costs and ensure that every pound it raises goes directly to the PTA and Style Acre. The committee offers a range of sponsorship packages designed to suit businesses of all sizes. Sponsors can expect to get plenty of exposure both on race day and in the lead-up period on the Thames Run website, all associated social media channels and offline, too.

"We are truly grateful for all the support that local businesses have provided us in the past few years," said Josie Brettell, the Wallingford Thames Run Race Director. "We hope more companies join us – and help make the 2026 race even more successful than ever!"

For more information about sponsorship packages, please get in touch with the committee at: [thamesruncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:thamesruncommittee@gmail.com).

**Based just outside of Wallingford, we aim to deliver freshly grown produce with low food miles.**

**Enjoy the taste of local freshness with:**

-  Freshly grown seasonal fruit & veg
-  Eggs from our beautiful Oxford Brown hens
-  Fruit juice pressed from our own orchard

**Get in touch to find out what's fresh this week!**

 Call: 07909 918181 / 07533 819133

 Email: [orchardbattlefarm@gmail.com](mailto:orchardbattlefarm@gmail.com)

 Instagram: [@orchardbattlefarm](https://www.instagram.com/orchardbattlefarm)




**Ashburton Ltd**  
Landscaping Building Groundworks


Based just outside Crowmarsh  
Established 2001

- Landscaping
- Fencing
- Grounds Maintenance
- Groundworks
- Small Building Work

Local, professional, and reliable — covering South Oxfordshire and beyond.

**Get in touch for friendly advice and a no-obligation estimate.**

 07789 191818

 [info@ashburtonltd.co.uk](mailto:info@ashburtonltd.co.uk)

 [www.ashburtonltd.co.uk](http://www.ashburtonltd.co.uk)

## New booking system for Household Waste Recycling Centres

From Wednesday 14th January 2026 residents will need to book every time you visit Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

You can book online ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste)) or if you're unable to apply online, you can book by phone on 01865 519800. Bookings can be made up to two weeks in advance or up to 30 minutes before a visit (subject to availability). You will be required to select a site, the type of waste you are bringing and the date and time of your visit.

When you arrive, you will be asked for your booking number and proof of address, such as a driving licence, utility bill or council tax to show you are an Oxfordshire resident and are eligible to use the HWRCs for free (excluding DIY Waste charges).

To help Oxfordshire recycle even more we are also asking you to sort your recyclable items from other waste either before you arrive which will speed up our visit, or you can use the sorting area on site.

## Is your child 3 or 4?

Now is the time for parents of 3 and 4 year olds to apply for a primary school place. If your child was born on or between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, you need to apply now. The deadline is 15th January 2026.

Apply online at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions). If you need help or further information, please email [admissions.Schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.Schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or call 01865 519800, option 2.

## Fire service improvements

Oxfordshire want your views on improving our firefighters' response to emergencies.

Have your say at [letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ofrs-consultation](http://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ofrs-consultation) by 20th January. One proposal is to move Wallingford's Fire Station to Crowmarsh, site not specified.

## Winter Recitals Wallingford Return for 2026 Season

The much-loved Winter Recitals Wallingford chamber music series is back for its eighth season this January and February. Founded in 2018 by Henley-on-Thames pianist Anita D'Attellis, the series brings a mix of familiar classics and lesser-heard gems to audiences in Wallingford, while supporting local charities.

Five concerts will be held at St Mary-le-More Church, starting with Transcribed Masterworks on Saturday 10th January at 7pm, featuring works by Bach, Brahms and Franck performed with award-winning saxophonist Huw Wiggin.

On 17th January at 7pm, the programme Piano Quartets includes pieces by Beethoven, Mahler and Mozart, with a quartet of string players joining Anita at the piano.

Saturday 24th January at 7pm brings Fantasia, a journey through piano fantasies from Bach and Haydn to Chopin and Scriabin.

Cello and Cake on Sunday 1st February offers a shorter afternoon recital (3pm) with tea and delicious cake, starring young cellist Eleanor Biles.

The season concludes on 7th February with Flute and Harp, a beautiful programme of flute, harp and piano music including Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp.

Tickets for evening recitals are £20 (£5 for under-19s), with a discounted season ticket available for attending all four evening events (£59). The afternoon recital is £10 (£5 under-19s).

Proceeds from WRW26 will support St Mary's Eco Heating Appeal and Sue Ryder South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub. For programme details and tickets, visit the Winter Recitals page at [anitapiano.com](http://anitapiano.com)

## Carmel Meadows

Do you live in the Carmel Meadows development near CABI? This is one part of the parish that doesn't have a parish noticeboard, so if you would like to have one there, please let the parish clerk know where it would be best located (see contact details p7).





# CROW JAZZ



**Sat 24th January**  
**Swing from Paris**

An all-string jazz quartet playing music from the cafés & cabarets of Montmartre to Artie Shaw, Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli & the master of tango Astor Piazzolla.

**Crowmarsh Village Hall** Doors 6.45pm. Show 7.30pm

**Tickets (18) & info: [www.crowmarshjazz.co.uk](http://www.crowmarshjazz.co.uk)**

£5 tickets for Care workers & folks on benefits

Bar provided by The Queens Head. Enquiries: 07795974223

## NEW Pilates Classes

**In Crowmarsh Pavilion Mondays**

**9.30 am Mat Pilates**

**10.45 am Chair-based Pilates**

*Personal training*  
Enhance & develop  
your practice with a  
personal training session

For more information & to book  
007774209894 / 01491 659878  
[emmagreenpilates@gmail.com](mailto:emmagreenpilates@gmail.com)  
[emmagreenpilates.co.uk](http://emmagreenpilates.co.uk)



"Pilates is a journey which is adaptable and tailored to your specific needs,  
I am honoured to be part of that journey with you."

**PC**  
**DRIVE**  
**WALLINGFORD**

### LEARN TO DRIVE

Fully qualified, DSA approved  
instructor.  
Local, calm, friendly and  
professional tuition.  
Pre-test to post-test courses.  
Pass Plus registered.  
Dual controls.  
Air conditioning.

**PETER COSFORD (ADI)**  
**OFFICE: 01491 825091**  
**MOBILE: 07989 352325**



Scott Gesner

07818 244787

[gesnergardening@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gesnergardening@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.gesnergardening.co.uk](http://www.gesnergardening.co.uk)

*Contact us for a  
free quotation*

[www.RefreshPro.co.uk](http://www.RefreshPro.co.uk)



*Exterior Excellence - Specialist Cleaning*

\* Patio/Drive Cleaning \* Gutter/Facia Cleaning

\* Reach & Wash Pure Water window cleaning

*Pictures speak for more than words, please see our gallery at [www.refreshpro.co.uk](http://www.refreshpro.co.uk)*

*We are a reliable local family business based in Crowmarsh providing a professional service to Oxfordshire and the surrounding areas*

*\* Domestic & Commercial \* Free quotes on all services \* Full public liability insurance*

tel 01491 833937 *Kevin* 07772416465 *email* [info@refreshpro.co.uk](mailto:info@refreshpro.co.uk)



*Gents*  
*Hairdressing*  
Est. 1958

21 St. Mary's Street, Wallingford  
Oxfordshire OX10 0EW  
Telephone : 01491 837124

#### OPENING HOURS

MONDAY	8.30 am - 6.00 pm
TUESDAY	8.30 am - 6.00 pm
WEDNESDAY	Closed
THURSDAY	8.30 am - 9.00 pm
FRIDAY	8.30 am - 9.00 pm
SATURDAY	8.00 am - 6.00 pm

[www.thamessalon.com](http://www.thamessalon.com)

RUPERT  TOWERS  
HAIR SALON

A WARM WELCOME  
FROM RUPERT & THE TEAM

Brand Ambassadors - Louise & Simone  
New Talent - Kayleigh  
Assistants - Holly & Joe

[www.towershair.co.uk](http://www.towershair.co.uk)  
(Online booking available)

Tel: 01491 837 523

25 High Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0BU



*Beacon Flooring*  
A Family Run Business

**Carpet Wood**  
**Karndean Vinyl**

**Free fitting on carpet orders over £150**

16 High Street, Goring. 01491 454095

[beaconflooring@aol.co.uk](mailto:beaconflooring@aol.co.uk)

[www.beaconflooring.co.uk](http://www.beaconflooring.co.uk)

## WHAT'S ON — JANUARY 2026

### Regular events and meetings

Tuesdays	14.00-16.00	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion
From 23rd, every Friday	9.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
From 10th, 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	Services are currently held in the pavilion on the rec
Various days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	<a href="http://www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford">www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford</a>
Various days	Differing times	CTC Wallingford cycle rides	<a href="http://www.ctcwallingford.org.uk">www.ctcwallingford.org.uk</a>
Various days through the year	Differing times	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway	<a href="http://www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com">www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com</a>

### This month

Wednesday 7th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Dr Martin Holmes on "Rishi Sunak — a reputation revised?".	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 10th	10.30—12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 10th	19.00 onwards	Winter Recitals Wallingford	St Mary-le-More Church
Sunday 11th	15.00—16.30	Birinus and all that!	Dorchester Abbey
Wednesday 14th	19.45	TWHAS: Bronze Age Oxfordshire	St Mary-le-More Church Wallingford
Saturday 17th	10.00 - 12.45	Cholsey Repair Café (see p.8)	Cholsey Pavilion
Saturday 17th	19.00 onwards	Winter Recitals Wallingford Piano Quartets	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Saturday 24th	19.00 onwards	Winter Recitals Wallingford Fantasia - piano fantasies from Bach to Scriabin	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford

### February 2026

Wednesday 4th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Ways over Water	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 5th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall