



Crowmarsh News

Issue 557

November 2025

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 this month: Lisa Gallacher and Jane Thrift

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

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

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Next month's issue

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

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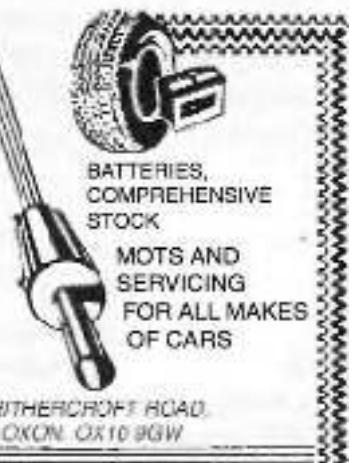
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What's new at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School?

The schools pet chickens' eggs are for sale!

The eggs are £1 for six, which is a great price as some supermarkets are usually selling six eggs for £2! Buying these eggs is great for our school community as it raises money for our PTA, for school equipment and we also put money aside for school trips. It would help our school if we had more computers and PE equipment for sports that are not common ones.

Cadburys World trip

This month the current year 4s went to Cadburys World on an exciting trip. They got to write their names in recycled chocolate, tried samples of chocolate, played shooting games, went to the cinema, ate chocolate pots and played at the parks.

The Year 4s said it was an amazing experience, and they would recommend it even if it was outside of school time. They said even the teachers enjoyed it.

Girls football tournament

This month there was a girl's football tournament and Crowmarsh Gifford entered two teams. The teams did extremely well and were in the Top 5. Crowmarsh A came in 2nd with an exciting match against Benson A, where Benson scored on the last kick of the game winning 1-0. Crowmarsh B unfortunately lost in knock outs and came 5th.

Written by Ethan & Reuben

Community Café and Tabletop Sale

Following the success of September's tabletop sale at the Community Café, which raised £200 for the Crowmarsh Church building appeal, there will be tabletop sales at the Community Cafés at **Crowmarsh Village Hall** on **Saturday 8th November and Saturday 13th December**. The Café and sale will run from 10-12pm and in addition to the stalls there will be tea, coffee, homemade cake and bacon butties.

Tables are £6 each and proceeds will go towards the Crowmarsh Church building appeal. There are still tables available for

sellers at both sales. If you would like to book please contact Zoe at garagesale25.oxvok@passmail.net

Cholsey Repair Café

On the third Saturday of odd-numbered months, between 10.00 and 12.45, you can visit Cholsey Repair Café with your broken household items, for help with getting them back into regular use. The venue is The Cholsey Pavilion on Station Road and refreshments are available right next door in the Cholsey Community Café until about midday. Perhaps we'll see you on **Saturday 15th November**.

Volunteer fixers will do their best to help and advise, and have an impressive track record with electricals, bikes, woodwork, sharpening, soldering and many other repair skills.

No charge is made for repair work, although parts need to be paid for and a donation towards operating costs is greatly appreciated. See also www.cholseyrepaircafe.com or email repaircafe@cholsey.com.

Crowmarsh Gifford Children's Christmas Party

On Saturday 29th November, from 3:00 to 5:00pm the Village Hall committee are hosting a Christmas party for children aged between 4 and 11 years old who live in Crowmarsh Gifford or North Stoke.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be a visit by Father Christmas.

If you would like to attend please email: susanrance@btinternet.com by **Saturday 8th November**.

Thank you. Crowmarsh Village Hall Committee

To book the pavilion or hardcourt on the Recreation ground in Crowmarsh Gifford

Phone Chris Strange on 07711 904252, or email chrisstrange47@gmail.com

Past Times with David Beasley

The Trollope's of Crowmarsh

The Reverend John Trollope became Rector of Crowmarsh Church in 1844, after serving for several years as Rector of South Stoke. He remained at Crowmarsh until his death in February 1878, faithfully serving the parish for more than three decades.

Born in May 1800 at Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire, John was the son of the Reverend Thomas and Ann Trollope. Ann was a third cousin of the famed Victorian novelist Anthony Trollope, linking the family to one of the literary greats of the time.

In May 1831, John married Elizabeth Bunce Hazel, the daughter of a merchant ship owner. Together they raised a remarkably large family of eleven children, all of whom survived into adulthood - a notable achievement in the Victorian era. Interestingly, the Trollope family included no daughters, and among the sons was John Herbert Trollope, who joined the East India Company and later retired as a Captain of an East Indiaman.

When the family moved into the Crowmarsh Rectory, they found it in poor condition and far too small for their growing household, which at that time included seven children. In 1845, Reverend Trollope extended and improved the house to better accommodate his family.

Around the same period, William S. Blackstone built a schoolroom in Benson Lane (now known as the Parish House) at a cost of £300. The building was made available to Reverend Trollope, who hoped to establish a village school. Unfortunately, he lacked the funds to equip it properly; it was described at the time as "a very bare room and a grate." An appeal to the National Society for a grant to purchase simple furniture, including two benches, forms, and a hat rail, was turned down. Nevertheless, perseverance won the day. In 1850, the school was sold to Reverend Trollope for £158, and he successfully ran it until his death in 1878.

After his passing, the Trollope family had to vacate the Crowmarsh Vicarage and moved to St. Martin's Priory in St. Martin's Street, Wallingford. Four of the Trollope daughters and John Herbert remained there for the rest of their lives. The last of them, Mary Anne

Trollope, passed away in 1917.

Though they left Crowmarsh, the Trollope sisters continued to support village life, helping with local events and parish functions up until 1916. Their lasting connection to the village reflected the deep roots their family had established over Reverend Trollope's long ministry.

Large families were not uncommon in Victorian times. The Reverend Thomas Hughes of Mongewell also had eleven children, while the Rector of Swyncombe had nine. Looking at the old village rectories today, it is clear why they were built so large as young vicars often filled them with children! One cannot help but feel sympathy for the poor wives of Crowmarsh and Mongewell, who bore and raised these many little ones under such demanding circumstances.

Wallingford and District Art Club

Join the friendly Wallingford and District Art club on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30pm for a live demonstration as professional artist and sculptor, James Ort, creates an animal in clay. James says: "Clay is a fascinating medium. I've always admired the movement and poise of all creatures great and small and enjoy being able to capture their unique characters in clay". The demo will be held at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) and is free for club members or £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

Wallingford U3A

The next meeting of Wallingford U3A is on November 5th at 2 pm in Crowmarsh Village all: A Potted History of Gardens. Visitors are very welcome at £3.00 per person.

The Christmas party is on December 3rd, members only.

Our website is www.wallingford.u3asite.uk Then click on Wallingford- u3a Siteworks and you'll be there!



Team Vicar: vacancy

Churchwardens:

Linda Parker Tel: 836100

Margaret Foster Tel: 836076

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford

November Services

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

Sunday 2nd November	11.00am Family & "All Souls" Service
Sunday 9th November	11.00am Act of Remembrance at Lych Gate <i>No Church Service in the Pavilion</i>
Sunday 16th November	11.00am Parish Communion
Sunday 23rd November	11.00am Service of the Word
Sunday 30th November	10.00am Team Service in St Mary's, Wallingford. 4.00pm Advent Service. Newnham Church

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

The Churchwardens write ...

Dear Friends,

The work in St Mary Magdalene's is progressing well, with much of the outside work completed. The inside has been turned upside down but shows clear signs of its ultimate completeness. We have been most fortunate in receiving a gift of \$10,000 from a lovely couple, Mike and Mary who visited the church last summer on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Over coffee they learned about the toilet and servery project and thought of us when deciding on their charitable giving. We are very grateful and hope they will return to visit us some day to see how their gift was used.

Our "**All Souls**" Service will be held on **Sunday 2nd November**, and will be held in the **Pavilion at 11.00am**. If you would like the name of your loved one to be Remembered by the lighting of a Candle, please come along to that Service. At Community Café in November and December there will be Table-Top sales. The last one proved very successful and had a great Community vibe. To book a Table contact Zoe Bagley garagesale25.oxvok@passmail.net. The Revd Sue Booys is organising a Charity Coffee Morning on **Wednesday November 19th from 10.30am** at 6 The Limes, Crowmarsh, at which some beautiful Olive Wood craft Items made by Palestinians will be on sale, All welcome for Coffee and Cake.

Advance Notice: Save the date!! On **13th December at 7.30pm**, Linda Parker will be giving a talk at St Mary's Wallingford to raise funds for the toilet and servery. The topic is "*Christmas in Wartime*" and will look at how Christmas has been celebrated by Armed Forces and civilians in the conflicts of the 20th and 21st Centuries. We will be having our **Advent Service at 4.00pm on 30th November in Newnham Church**. There will be a standard charge of £5.00 which will go to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, and will cover both the Church collection, and Mulled wine and Mince pies afterwards. This year was the 800th anniversary of the Second World War and all over the world nations have been remembering the people who died in that conflict. The war saw destruction on an unprecedented scale, and victims of the war died in combat, in bombing raids, in concentration camps and through starvation caused by the worldwide conflict. We remember with gratitude their sacrifice and particularly on Remembrance Sunday we gather to pay tribute to their memory. In Crowmarsh on **Remembrance Sunday**, as the church is closed the act of remembrance will take place at the **Lych Gate at 11.00am**. There will be no service at the Pavilion that day.

Blessings, Linda Parker & Margaret Foster; Churchwardens.

Benson Garden Club

Benson Garden Club's first talk after our season of garden visits was given by **Lucie Ponsford** on 'Frost in the garden – should you worry about pruning?'. Lucie explained that plants will differ on timing based on their evolutionary trait (determined by their geographical origins). The other thing to consider is whether you want to prune for structure and growth and to stimulate more flowers, or to prune to keep the plant in check.

For roses, Lucie advised that you should prune them during their dormancy, which occurs in January/February, to help avoid disrupting active growth. If you prune during their active growth, you are diverting energy away from producing flowers and instead to the process of wound healing. As roses are tip-bearing flowers which flower on the current year's growth, you are pruning them during the dormant stage of their plant cycle to stimulate more stems and therefore more flowers. You can cut roses back hard if you need to renovate them and encourage lots of fresh growth, but this will possibly result in thinner stems and smaller flowers. If you are looking to keep an existing shape, pruning by a third will help maintain structure and encourage thicker stems. Lucie was careful to point out that pruning for ramblers is different as they flower before midsummer's day and on last year's growth, so fall into the non-deciduous group where you prune immediately after flowering.

Lucie reassuringly advised us to not prune unless it is really needed, so that we can allow plants to naturally develop their intended shape.

6th November,: Chris Beardshaw 'Painting with Plants'. Visitors are very welcome to attend and tickets are available: £12 each (£6 for members). Please email us to purchase or buy them from Derry's Den (26 High Street, Benson). The talk will be at our usual venue, Benson Parish Hall, OX10 6LZ. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start.

4th December, Clare Foster, Garden Editor at House & Garden UK. (£2 for members, £5 for visitors – just turn up on the door, no need to book). For further information:

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

Liz Harrison

Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 2nd October 2025.

Present were Councillors: John Griffin (Chair), Julian Park, Andrew Johnson and Stephen Sherbourne

Also Attending were: Dr. Yvonne Peet (RFO), OCC Cllr Gavin McLaughlan, District Cllr Sue Cooper and Ms Zazie Carruthers. Four members of the public attended the meeting.

Questions from the public

It was noted that joint local plans from the Vale and SODC have been rejected by the National Planning Inspectors. District Cllr Cooper noted that this was in part because of lack of co-operation on housing sites between Oxford City and other Districts.

A North Stoke resident raised the question of speeding through the village. He would like to hear from Cllr Best about the community speed watch initiative. It was noted that the County Council had undertaken to replace the existing speed indicator device over a year ago but this has still not happened. OCC Cllr McLaughlan noted there is an OCC decision meeting about the A4074 on Thursday 9th October at 10.00am. Individuals may listen in.

A question was raised about the new proposal for 215 houses between Benson Lane and the A4074. Cllr Griffin noted that the parish council will not respond until a formal planning application is made.

County Councillor's Report

Cllr McLaughlan's report had been circulated and this was noted.

29th October marks the start of the temporary congestion charge in Oxford. Motorists outside Oxford may apply for a permit per car allowing 25 visits per year.

District Councillors' Report

The District Councillors' report had been circulated

Strategic Priorities

Three bus shelters have been ordered. First one to be constructed will be on The Street opposite Home Farm. Two more in North Stoke could follow if requested.

Watery Lane Improvements: A separate meeting will be arranged to discuss this.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P25/S2612/HH 26 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BL Replacement of shed with pre-fabricated garage outbuilding. Planning Permission.

P25/S2184/HH Mongewell Byre, Constitution Hill, Mongewell OX10 8BS. Rear single storey extension and side 1.5 storey extension. Planning Permission.

P25/S1885/LDE Rectory Farm House, Church Lane, North Stoke OX10 6BQ. Outbuilding used as outdoor kitchen incidental to the enjoyment of Rectory Farm House. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development.

P25/S0408/LDE Annexe, 202 Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG. Use of annexe building as independent residential unit. (Additional information received 4 August 2025). Refusal of Lawful Use or Development

Application withdrawn

P25/S2534/LDP 2 Lane End, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8DG. New garden room replacement for existing conservatory.

Consultations

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. Recommend approval if no major impact on neighbours at 25 and 27.

P25/S2712/HH and P25/S2718/LB 55 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EA. Additions and alterations. Double-storey rear addition. Single-storey rear addition. Recommend approval if neighbours' concerns about use of shared rear access during construction are addressed.

Major developments

We hope we are close to the Newnham Manor application legal agreement being signed. We then need to urge the applicants to implement the scheme. This is urgent now that Bloor Homes are about to apply for planning permission for a scheme for over 200 houses on a site between Benson Lane and the A4074.

Neighbourhood plan

Note that the Planning Inspectors have asked SODC and Vale of White Horse Council to withdraw their Joint Local Plan 2041 from the inspection process. This could have significant implications for the strength of our Neighbourhood Plan to resist unwanted development.

Finance

Monthly payments and a six-month review of the 2025-26 budget was conducted. It was agreed that no changes should be made to the current budget. The next budget review will be in December when the new budget and precept will be discussed.

The Treasury and Investment Policy had been circulated for review. It was agreed that the policy be approved without amendment.

Remembrance Sunday

A wreath will be laid on behalf of the parish council at the lych gate in Crowmarsh on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November.

The Clerk will contact residents of North Stoke to arrange for a wreath to be laid at the church there.

Environment and Recreation Ground Committee

A new bench has been proposed to be sited outside the church by the bus shelter. Cllr Sherbourne will research the cost. If it is decided to go ahead with this, a notice will be posted in Crowmarsh News and residents will be invited to make suggestions for other small improvements in the parish.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee held on 15th September had been circulated and these were noted.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 6th November, starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend as always.

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

Letter from Wallingford Emergency Food Bank

In September this year we fed 349 adults and 211 children in 170 households. This is an increase of 60.4% in numbers of households which is the largest percentage increase since February 2024. The need for our help is rising (and that is before anyone switches on their heating). We also had requests from 15 new clients. This is typical of the last few months.

We have had Harvest deliveries in October for which we are very grateful. The food we receive now has historically fed clients well into January. This year it may not be quite as long as that, but it still makes a huge difference to feel that support from the local community. We are thankful for the donations we received recently from so many churches, schools and other local organisations.

Christmas is coming and if you are thinking of supporting us, do please get any Christmas goodies to us by the end of November. If you want to give Advent calendars then early in November please, so we can get them to children in time for the 1st December. **For ideas on what to donate, please consider tinned vegetables, long life milk and juice, jars of coffee and tea, tinned potatoes, tinned meat meals, tinned rice pudding, custard, cereal and jam.** Despite everything we are still well supplied with tinned fish, baked beans and dried pasta so no particular need for those.

We have an app now called Bank the Food. You can download it in the usual way and put in your postcode, then 'follow' Wallingford food bank. It's designed to prompt you as you enter a store with a donation point but you can also use it to check what we need when you are shopping anywhere

I have received this from someone who is happily in the position of no longer needing our help. I wanted to share her words with you as it is easy to lose sight of the impact of your donations and the volunteers' hard work: *'I remember when our first food bank delivery came. The kids thought it was like Christmas even though it was ordinary food. The*

thoughtful little extras at Christmas and Easter made us feel that the world cared. The foodbank was an absolute lifeline at certain points in our journey. It meant the children have never had to experience real hunger or go without a meal. Having come from domestic abuse it was more than just food. It was knowing the world cared and there were good people doing good things. It meant a lot! More than you can imagine.'

Thank you on her behalf and on behalf of all those receiving food in the coming, colder months.

For more information on how to donate please visit: <https://wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk>

Alice Penney
Manager

What's happening at Wallingford Library?

The Thames Valley at War – author talk, Thursday 6th November at 7.45pm

A correction from last month's magazine, our Thames Valley at War talk with local author Jim Donahue, will be on Thursday 6th November, not the 7th as reported in the October edition. The talk is free but please contact us in advance to book a place. Jim will be selling and signing copies of his book 'The Thames Valley: Past, present and future: a snapshot of English life'.

Baby Week 14th-20th November

We love babies so we're excited to be celebrating this special week. Despite the name 'Baby Week' it highlights services aimed at 0-5 year olds, and their parents/carers. This year's theme is Healthy Parent, Healthy Baby. There is no minimum age limit for a library card and reading to babies helps cognitive and language development, fosters bonding and emotional connection, develops listening and concentration skills and can create routine and comfort, especially when stories are read at regular times such as bedtime. During this week we will have:

- Friday 14th November 10.00-10.30am Rhymetime, singing and instruments. Ideal for tiny ones and toddlers
- Saturday 15th November 10.00-10.30am Storytime with Lego afterwards for older

- children
- Thursday 20th November 2.30-3.30pm
Coffee and Chat for parents. Come along for free refreshments and a chance to chat with other parents or grandparents.

Toddlers will be pleased to hear that we have received some additional Duplo, thanks to a generous donation from KP News. Duplo is always available to play with in the library, we also have a number of board games and jigsaws that little ones can enjoy while they are here. We will also have Super Storytime with a craft activity on the first Monday of each month at 3.30pm, aimed at ages 3+.

Gardening with Wild About Wallingford

Tempting as it is to hibernate with the nights drawing in and cooler weather, it is good for our mental health to socialise and connect with nature. Why not join Wild About Wallingford in our secret garden for some light gardening and companionship followed by hot drinks and biscuits afterwards? Keep an eye for posters in the branch or our Facebook page for details of upcoming dates.

Coffee mornings

If we can't tempt you into the great outdoors, why not join us at one of our free coffee mornings? We have Meet Up Mondays on the first Monday of each month at 10.30am. We'll be feeling festive by the 1st of December so come along for a little pre-Christmas treat. My Vision meet on the third Monday of each month at 10.30am. This group supports those managing visual impairment and offers support to carers too. Free, with refreshments provided, just come along.

Contact us on 01865 815193
Wallingford.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk,
 see www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-libraries or follow us on Facebook.

The Corn Exchange events

See the website www.cornexchange.org.uk for full details, latest updates and to book tickets.

Cinema tickets £10 for Adults and £5 for under 16s unless otherwise stated. Doors open at 2pm and 7pm and the bar will be open so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand. Films with subtitles will be shown

on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30pm.

Cinema

Sat 1, Mon 3, Tue 4 at 7:30 pm & Wed 5 at 2:30 pm – The Roses (15)
 Wed 5 at 7:30 pm – Spinal Tap II: The End Continues (15)
 Thurs 6 at 7:30 pm – Eddington (15)
 Sun 9, Mon 10, Tue 11 at 7:30 pm – Islands (15)
 Thurs 13, Sun 16, Mon 17 at 7:30 pm – After The Hunt (12A)
 Fri 14, Sat 15 at 7:30 pm – John Cleese Packs It In (12A)
 Tue 18, Wed 19 at 7:30 pm – One Battle After Another (15)
 Wed 19 at 2:30 pm & Thurs 20, Sat 22 at 7:30 pm – Mr Blake at your Service (PG)
 Sun 23, Mon 24 at 7:30 pm – The Mastermind
 Wed 26 at 2:30 pm – After the Hunt (12A)
 Wed 26, Sat 28, Sun 30 at 7:30 pm - Bugonia

Live Screening

Sun 2 at 7 pm – Bat Out of Hell (12A)
 Tickets £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

Wed 12 at 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm – Caravaggio: Exhibition on Screen (12A)
 Tickets £10 (adults), £5 (under 16s)

Tues 25 at 7:15 pm – Cinderella from the Royal Ballet
 Tickets £18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Thurs 27 at 7 pm – NT Live – The Fifth Step
 Tickets £18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Live on Stage

Fri 7 at 8pm – The Acoustic Ballroom – 20th Anniversary Special
 Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (under 16s)

Sat 8 at 7:45 pm - Pulse – Pink Floyd Tribute
 All tickets £19
 Fri 21 at 7:30pm - Jazz Diva Duo with Rebecca Poole & Fleur Stevenson
 All Tickets £20

Sat 29 at 7:30pm - The Bootleg Shadows
 All Tickets £19

Sign up to Wild Oxfordshire's free email newsletter at www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk to get regular news and information from the county and beyond.

November News – Winter Wildlife

Bees in Winter

Heading into the cold winter months, we need to be even more considerate to our local bees than usual. In winter, honeybee queens remain in their hives except for particularly sunny days. Bumblebee queens may also emerge from hibernation if prompted to by mild weather. Solitary bees will leave their nests once ready to mate. When bees do emerge during winter, they need to have access to nectar, or they risk dying of starvation. To help these pollinators survive the winter, we recommend you plant winter bloomers in your garden. These include single flowered Hellebores (the open face gives great access to pollen and nectar!), Crocuses (make sure to plant them in an area with lots of light so they fully open), Snowdrops and Aconites. Ivy also works well as a late nectar source as well as shelter from any harsh conditions. If gardening isn't your thing, you can make natural spaces bee friendly by creating twig and leaf piles (which can be as easy as not raking your garden when fallen leaves drop!) and caring for wayward queen bumblebees by either carefully relocating them to flowers or offering her a 1:1 sugar and water solution.

Tips for looking after our hedgehogs this winter

- Always move your burn piles before you light them as hedgehogs and frogs often use them to sleep in. This is, after-all, how hedgehogs were once upon a time cooked to be eaten! Thankfully it is now illegal to eat this endangered species.
- If you find a sick or injured hedgehog, or one that's up and about during the middle of the day, call either Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue centre on [07549322464](tel:07549322464) or [Tiggywinkle's wildlife hospital](http://Tiggywinkleswildlifehospital.co.uk) on [01844 292292](tel:01844292292).

- Put out a shallow dish of water or make sure your ponds are easy to get out of for hedgehogs, so they have water to drink. Sometimes hedgehogs come out of hibernation to eat and drink, especially in warmer weather, so even at this time of year, putting out water can help.
- Avoid using pesticides or herbicides as this will make hedgehogs very ill. Find out more at www.hedgehogrescue.org.uk

To find out more about Hedgehogs head over to the Wild Oxfordshire website at www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk and have a look in guidance for mammals.

Rhiannon Young – Wild Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Engagement Officer

Poppy Appeal Collection

On Monday 3rd November, members of the Crowmarsh Scouts will be knocking in doors in the Crowmarsh area to sell poppies and collect for the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. If you would like to make a purchase or donation, please have cash available when they call. Your support will be greatly appreciated and all funds raised go towards supporting veterans and their families.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

1st Crowmarsh Scout Group.

Community police visit

Date for your diary: our neighbourhood policing team will hold a "Have your say" session at the Community Café on Saturday 13th December at Crowmarsh Village Hall

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

To book North Stoke Village Hall

Phone Nikki Arnfeld on 07969 788766 or email narnfeld@yahoo.co.uk

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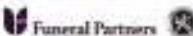
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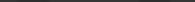
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Christmas Concert in Benson

Wantage Concert Brass Band will be bringing Festive Cheer to Benson with their Christmas Concert on Sunday 7th December at 7 pm at the Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson. There will also be a raffle and refreshments.

The Concert is a joint event between the Band and the Benson Community Shed (BenShed). BenShed will have moved into its new home before the Concert, and will be opening its doors from January 2026. So come along on 7th December and get into the Christmas spirit while supporting 2 very good causes.

Tickets (price £10 each, children under 16 free) are available from 1st November from Derrys Den Benson, Chapel Lane Hair &

Beauty Benson, via the Wantage Band website: www.wantageband.org/events or from Benson Community Shed bensoncommunityshed@gmail.com

Sue Ryder Christmas Treecycling Thames Valley

To learn more about this eco-friendly fundraising initiative in Thames Valley, supported by Rabbits Vehicle Hire, and to reserve a collection by midnight on 4 January 2026, visit www.sueryder.org/treethames

Registrations to reserve your tree collection open on 1 November.
Thank you for your support.

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Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club's new season is up and running, exploring diverse topics on camera and phone photography, feedback on members' photos, and guest speakers. Come meet us on Thursdays at 7:30pm in Crowmarsh Pavilion.

November brings our first day out of the season with a trip to Bristol on Saturday 8th: join us for a day in the city and at the Paintworks at the docks with the Martin Parr Foundation and the RPS. We'll then share and review our day and photos at the Pavilion on Thursday 13th, and look at a free image editing software as an alternative to Lightroom.

On 20th a competition with the theme 'movement' will allow us to test our creativity and get feedback on images with the topic at their core. Then on 26th we have an online session with Jack Lodge "Photographing the Seasons". Jack is a new star on the landscape scene with a very engaging style of presenting (note this session is on a Wednesday not a Thursday).

Henley and District Stamp Club

Have you thought of resurrecting a hobby from your past, like stamp collecting, Postal history or Postcards? Did you know someone tried to have letters delivered by rockets in the UK?

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 find out about how you can promote your interest?

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. In November we have meetings on the 12th and 26th

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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Sat 13 December

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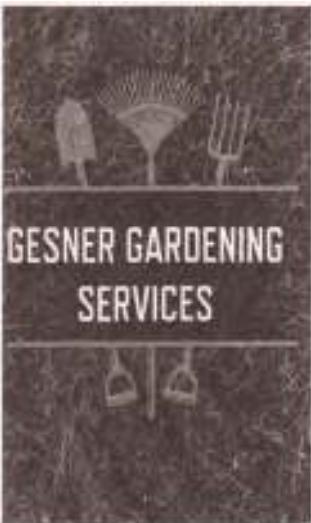
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WHAT'S ON — NOVEMBER 2025

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
Saturday mornings	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 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 1st	18.00 onwards	Fireworks and bonfire	Kinecroft, Wallingford
Saturday 1st	All day	The Fireworks Flier	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway, see https://www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com/
Wednesday 5th	14.00 onwards	U3A: Dr Stephen Head: 'A potted history of gardens'	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 6th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Friday 7th	Evening	Amwell Springs Taproom on Tour	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway, see https://www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com/
Saturday 8th	9.30 to 16.30	Secrets of the Soil: Digging Deep for Nature's Recovery. Contact jessica@wildoxfordshire.org.uk	Rose Hill Community Centre, Oxford OX4 4HF
Saturday 8th	10.30 to 12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Sunday 9th	Morning	Remembrance parade and service	Wallingford Market Square
Wednesday 12th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS: County Archaeology Roundup	St Mary's Church, Wallingford
Sunday 15th	10.00-16.00	Find Our Past. Researching Wallingford's History: Study Day	Methodist Church, St Leonards Square

December 2025

Wednesday 3rd	14.00 onwards	U3A: Christmas Party	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 4th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 13th	10.30 to 12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café and neighbourhood police "have your say"	Crowmarsh Village Hall