



Crowmarsh News

Issue 556

October 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: Toni Taylor and John Griffin

Editorial support: James Taylor, Gay Holden, Julian Park, Lisa Gallacher and Jane Thrift

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

Emergency only 999

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Police non-emergency number 101

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Next month's issue

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

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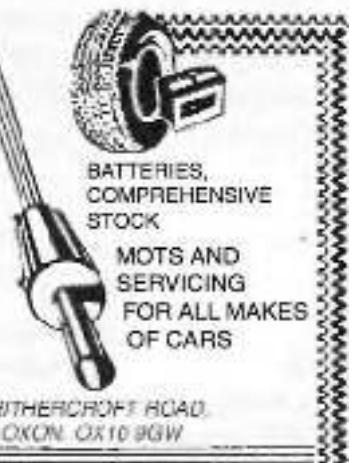
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What's new at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School?

It has been a busy and exciting start to the term at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School! Everyone has been settling in brilliantly, getting used to new routines, fresh challenges, and the ways of learning that make our school such a special place.

Our teachers are already noticing great things. As the Year 5 teacher commented, "Things are going very well – Class Five have settled in beautifully and have made a fantastic start to the year!"

Year 6 have certainly been keeping busy too. Recently, they enjoyed a trip to the Natural History Museum in Tring, where they explored animal classification in action. The pupils were fascinated by the huge variety of species on display and returned brimming with enthusiasm – and plenty of fun memories.

Across the school, classrooms are already buzzing with energy, curiosity, and creativity. It's clear that this year will be filled with lots of learning, laughter, and maybe even just a little bit of cheekiness along the way!

Here at Crowmarsh Gifford, we believe in caring, growing, persevering and shining – and from what we've seen so far, our children are already living out those values every day.

Written by two students in Year 6

Thames Run 2025 raises over £5000 for charity

The Thames Run on 8 June raised £4282 for Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School Parent Teacher Association, as well as £800 for the Crowmarsh-based charity Style Acre.

This remarkable contribution is down to the generosity of all the runners and sponsors – as well as the volunteers who kindly contributed their time and effort.

See the July Crowmarsh News for pictures and details about the event, which the organisers expect to bring back next year even bigger and better than before.

Past Times with David Beasley

Newnham Murren Churchyard

On a beautiful autumn afternoon my wife and I walked to Newnham Murren Churchyard. Walking around I noticed a disturbing number of people I knew buried there, a comforting observation. But there are also some people buried there who are now forgotten but ought to be remembered.

When you go into the churchyard on the left is a cross dedicated to the Hilton family, who lived at Number 2, The Lakeside, Mongewell. Henry Hilton (below) is buried here, and two of his sons are commemorated on the headstone. Both were killed in the First World War, Harold in Palestine in 1918 and Cecil died of his wounds in 1916. Cecil is buried at Meaulte Cemetery in France, where his headstone is unusual as the Portland stone it is made of is heavily coloured red. Henry never got over the loss of his two sons and died in 1919. Henry Hilton's son-in-law, Thomas Adams, was killed in March 1918. Thomas was married to Daisy Hilton, the sister of Harold and Cecil, who was an assistant teacher at Mongewell School.



Over on the west side of the churchyard, near the brick wall, is a large granite gravestone to George Inverarity Walsh, although his father Thomas Prendergast Walsh's details take up most of space on the stone, even though Thomas is not buried there. George's father was a Colonel in the Indian Army, and his grandfather fought in the Rifle Brigade at Waterloo. George was gazetted to the Leicestershire Regiment in 1888 and served with them for 20 years in Bermuda, Canada, the West Indies and South Africa. He fought in the Boer War 1900-1901 when he was mentioned in dispatches and received four campaign clasps on his South African medal. He was a member of Crowmarsh District Council and he paid in full for ten gas lamps along The Street to commemorate the Coronation of George V in 1911.

George (below) was only 46 years old when he died. The funeral was a simple one: there was none of the pageantry of a military funeral. The coffin was borne by men employed on the estate to the church and later to the graveside. He left a widow, two daughters and a son, who ran in the 1924 Olympics.



All of the graves there have a story to tell. This is only the story of two of those who are buried there, one from each end of the social scale.

Wallingford and District Art Club (WADAC)

Join the friendly Wallingford and District Art Club on Tuesday 21st October at 7.30pm for a live demonstration by a professional artist, Sarah Martinez, who will show us Pop Art screen printing. She set up Berkshire Printmakers after realising that manual "hands on" printing techniques were being lost to digital art, and she travels across the country with more than 30 photo screens, water-based inks, and squeegees.

The demo will be held at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) from 7.30 to 9.30pm and is free for club members, £5 for visitors. If you would like further information about this event or other club activities, visit the website www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk or email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk

Poppy Appeal Collection

On Monday 3rd November, members of the Crowmarsh Scouts will be knocking on 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 Gifford Scout Group

Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity

Did you know that the Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity, which is administered jointly by Wallingford Town Council and Crowmarsh Parish Council, makes grants to local organisations?

If you are a local club, society or other voluntary body that needs funding, please apply to the Parish Clerk, Sue Rance, at 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EL or email: crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com



Team Vicar: vacancy

Churchwardens:

Linda Parker Tel: 836100

Margaret Foster Tel: 836076

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford

October services — all at the Pavilion on the recreation ground, not at the church

Sunday 5th	11:00am	Family Service
Sunday 12th	11:00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 19th	11:00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 26th	11:00am	Service of the Word

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

The Churchwardens write ...

Dear Friends,

There is great excitement among St Mary's Magdalene's congregation, friends and supporters.

The Church is closed!! However, after many long years of trying, at long last work began on 8th September to create a servery and toilet facility within the Church building, and is proceeding well. There is no definite date for the completion, but hopefully very early next year.

There have been some very interesting developments during the excavations along the south wall, and several 17th and 18th Century remains have been uncovered, which will be reverently reinterred in the Churchyard.

Much effort from the congregation and villagers has gone into getting this far, but it is good to remember the words of Psalm 127: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it:" Which is a powerful reminder that human effort alone isn't enough: true success and protection come only when God is at the centre of the work.

Meanwhile our services will continue in the Pavilion and you are all welcome to attend. We are grateful for the parish council for giving us permission to use this venue and we feel that the community is being very supportive.

This support was shown in the success of our summer fund raising occasions: the concert at St Mary's Wallingford, the two history walks at Wallingford Castle and the table-top sale at last month's Community Café. Look out for future events at the Community Café and a date for the annual Quiz and Chips.

As Autumn arrives and nights shorten we remember all that God gives us in different seasons, and particularly in the Harvest season, and give thanks.

Blessings

Linda Parker and Margaret Foster, Churchwardens

Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 4th September 2025. Present were Councillors Stephen Sherbourne (Chair), Fleur Stevenson and David Rowley, Parish Clerk Sue Rance, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet, District Councillor Andrea Powell and four members of the public.

Finance

Monthly payments were agreed including £278.40 for the annual playground inspection. The budget will be reviewed at the end of September. The Council's standing orders were reviewed and approved unamended. It was agreed to continue with our current insurers.

Planning

Decisions by SODC

P25/S2210/LB 15A Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Repointing of the north, east and west elevations of the north wing, etc. Removal of non-original 1990s kitchen and replacement with a modern kitchen, etc. Listed Building Consent.

P25/S1886/LB Rectory Farm House, Church Lane, North Stoke OX10 6BQ. Retrospective application for alterations to Rectory Farmhouse and Barn. Listed Building Consent.

Consultations

P25/S2612/HH 26 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8BL. Replacement of shed with pre-fabricated garage outbuilding. Councillors declared an interest as the applicant is a former councillor.

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

P25/S2184/HH Mongewell Byre, Constitution Hill, Mongewell OX10 8BS. Proposed rear single extension and side 1.5 storey extension. No strong views.

Major developments

The Newnham Manor development legal agreement is still awaiting signature by the county council and Cllr McLauchlan will be

asked to chase this again.

There has been no news from the new owners of the Jewson site, which is now very untidy.

County Councillor's report

Cllr McLauchlan's report had been circulated. On Monday 8th September, the CEO of Oxfordshire County Council, Martin Reeves, is visiting Crowmarsh and other local parishes. The visit will focus on speeding and highway safety issues.

District Councillors' report

The District Councillors' report had been circulated and Cllr Cooper reported that designs for the Benson Mobility Hub will go out to consultation on 17th September.

Environment and recreation

The environment and recreation ground committee will meet on 15th September. As recommended by the suppliers, an additional layer of grass matting to provide extra protection will be laid under the large climbing frame and slide, which is currently out of use.

The seasonal tuck shop run by Andrew Nesbitt and Chris Strange over the summer has been popular and covered its costs.

Overgrown vegetation is being dealt with in various locations.

Strategic priorities

Three quotes had been received for replacement bus shelters: and the council agreed to accept the lowest, from Arrow Fencing. Three shelters would be ordered: one for outside the church, one at the end of Thames Mead and one opposite Home Farm. New shelters for North Stoke would be considered at a later date.

Traffic and transport

The council welcomed the recent police speed checks on Portway. The County Council is working towards reducing speed limits on main roads in the parish to 50mph and in some stretches 40mph.

Cllr Stevenson reported frequent instances of motorists failing to stop at the pedestrian crossing in The Street, despite the beacons and clear signage. Parents would like a school crossing patrol but that was not possible.

Drivers must always give way to anyone on a pedestrian crossing.

Cllr Sherbourne will continue to chase OCC to replace the obsolete vehicle-activated speed sign in North Stoke, and to permit installation of a post for a second such sign on the northbound side of Wallingford Road.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 2nd October, starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend as always.

There are still several vacancies on the parish council. To find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk or speak to any councillor. We really need a wider diversity of membership, particularly residents of Mongewell and North Stoke and generally younger people.

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

Wallingford Chamber Music

On Saturday 4th October at 7.30pm we will close our season in St Mary-le-More Church in Wallingford with the Wallingford-based Thames Consort, directed by Jeremy Boughton, with mezzo-soprano Elinor Carter (a Wallingford resident), soprano Lisa Gifford-Guy, with Rhian Davies (mezzo-soprano), performing Purcell's Come Ye Sons Of Art, and Dido and Aeneas.

Tickets £20 (free for under-25s; under-15s to be with an adult) from www.wcm.org.uk

Wallingford U3A

The next meeting of the Wallingford U3A will be at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Wednesday 1st October at 2.00pm. Our speaker is Peter Adamson on his book, 'A Town called Wallingford'. Visitors are very welcome at £3 a session.

More information about the local U3A is at www.wallingford.u3asite.uk

Short mat bowls club

Looking for something to do during the winter months? Why not join us at our very friendly short mat bowls club in Crowmarsh pavilion.

Wallingford and Crowmarsh Short Mat Bowls Club are looking for new bowlers, any standard, even beginners, and any age from 10 yrs to 100+. In fact we had a lady who played a month short of her 100th birthday!

We are a very friendly club and have two Roll Ups. We meet on Monday evenings, 6.45 to 9.15pm, and on Tuesday afternoons between 1.45 and 4.15. Also some Wednesday afternoons at the same time. We provide bowls: all you need is flat shoes or trainers.

We have a break for tea, coffee and any other refreshments (biscuits and sometimes cake too) for just £5 per home session. And the first four sessions are completely free. So please feel free to pop in and have a go any time.

We also play League Bowls in the OSMBA (afternoons and evenings) during the winter months and plenty of competitions in the summer months as well if you wish to enter.

We meet at the pavilion on the recreation ground, Bellamy Way, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8FN and you can contact Kevin Pickforth for more information by text on 07891 813669 or email kevinpickworth@yahoo.co.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

What's happening at Wallingford Library?

Agatha Christie Quiz

We enjoyed an afternoon of cupcakes and crime at our Agatha Christie quiz on 12th September, part of Wallingford's Murder Mystery Weekend. We had twenty people join us for questions and conundrums to challenge our little grey cells. Our winners were Karine and Fran who took away a library tote bag filled with Agatha Christie merchandise and Peter Adamson's fascinating book 'A Town Called Wallingford'. You'll soon be able to buy a lovely library tote bag from us, great for keeping your library books in.

Thames Valley at war

We will be hosting local author Jim Donahue on Thursday 7th November at 7.45pm. He will be talking about the role the Thames Valley played in World War II. Tickets for the talk are free but must be booked in advance due to limited seating.

Afterwards, Jim will be selling and signing copies of his beautiful book 'The Thames Valley, past, present and future: a snapshot of English life'. It will make a good Christmas gift or you can borrow a copy from us.

Saturday Storytime

We will be holding Saturday Storytime at 10am on 4th October, 15th November and 13th December, and you can stay and play with Lego afterwards. Don't forget, we have Lego club every other Saturday, the dates are on the Oxfordshire County Council website.

Hallowe'en Storytime

We are inviting children to come along for Hallowe'en stories on Friday 31st October at 2.30pm. Dress up as a spooky character and make a spider in a web afterwards. We'll even have our Trick or Treat box out again: will you pick out something yukky or yummy? Crafts suitable for age 3+ and no need to book, just come along on your broomstick!

Super Storytime

Join us again at 3.30pm on Monday 3rd November for our monthly story and craft session, suitable for age 3+, no need to book.

After work book group

We held our first evening book group in September, a group to discuss our love of literature with like-minded people. Future dates are 16th October, 13th November and 18th December, all at 5.45pm. Why not come and join us? What else can you do for free on a Thursday evening?

Home Library Service

With evenings drawing in and wintry weather on the way, the Home Library Service is available on a short- or long-term basis for those who cannot come into the library. If you are recuperating after an operation, managing a long-term health condition or caring for someone, this free and friendly service can keep you reading with a regular visit to your home. Contact us for details.

What we're reading ...

'A Northern Wind; Britain 1962-1965' by David Kynaston is part of a quintet of books that delve into the iconic 1960s. What was it really like in the heady heyday of Beatle-mania, how did a young woman nearly bring down a government and just how close did we come to nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis? Ending with the death of Churchill, this is a fascinating read mixing popular culture, politics and the daily concerns of ordinary lives in a richly detailed account.

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

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

On Wednesday 8th October we have a talk by Godfrey Cole CBE: 'The Abingdon Abbey Buildings: their history, their condition, and the enhancement plans'.

Godfrey is a trustee of The Friends of Abingdon Abbey Buildings Trust and he will tell the story of how volunteers have rescued these important historical buildings and turned them into much valued community assets.

www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html

The Corn Exchange events

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

Cinema tickets are £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.

Performances start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Please note that we will start on time and latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption to sitting patrons.

Cinema

Sunday 19th, Monday 20th, Wednesday 22nd – A Big Bold Beautiful Journey (PG)

Saturday 25th, Sunday 26th – Honey Don't (15)

Monday 27th – This is Spinal Tap (1984, reissued) (15)

Tuesday 28th – Spinal Tap II (The End Continues) (15)

Wednesday 29th at 7pm – Barry Lyndon (reissued) (12A)

Friday 31st – The Rocky Horror Picture Show (15)

Live on stage

Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th at 7:30pm, and Saturday 18th at 2:30pm, Sinodun Players present The Father, by Florian Zeller, a powerful, evocative play that deals with a subject that is ever more relevant in our aging society: dementia. The play invites us to see the world through the eyes of Andre (the father). Written with a wonderful insight into the way in which dementia affects us all, this play is humorous, moving and ultimately thought-provoking.

There will be a Q&A session after each performance with a dementia care professional joining the cast on stage. We hope you will join us to get answers to some of the questions that will be raised by this production.

Live screenings

Thursday 2nd at 7pm – Tosca from the Royal Opera House (PG).

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

Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th at 7pm, Love Never Dies (PG). £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

Tuesday 21st at 7pm, Metropolitan Opera – La Sonnambula. £18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Thursday 23rd, Fri 24th at 7pm, NT Live – Mrs Warren's Profession (14+). £18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Thursday 30th at 7pm, Bat Out of Hell (musical) (12A). £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s).

Benson Garden Club

We look forward to welcoming members and visitors alike to our indoor meetings starting this autumn.

Our first talk on 2nd October will be by Lucie Ponsford on 'Frost in the Garden'. Lucie will demystify the art of perfect pruning, offering practical guidance, expert techniques and seasonal know-how. She will also delve into the challenges that frost presents in the garden and will bring her knowledge of our area's frost pocket. It will be at our usual venue, Benson Parish Hall, OX10 6LZ. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start (£2 for members, £5 for visitors — no need to book).

Then on 6th November Chris Beardshaw will talk on 'Painting with Plants'. Visitors are very welcome and tickets are available now for £12 each. Please email us or buy them in person from Derry's Den (26 High Street, Benson).

However, a reduced price of £6 for Chris Beardshaw's talk is available for members who have enrolled for the coming year, so why not consider joining our friendly club, which was formed in 1995 and has over 100 members. We meet on the first Thursday in the month at Benson Parish Hall. Doors open at 7.15pm for refreshments; the meeting starts at 7.45pm.

Annual Membership subscriptions are due on 1st October 2025, so this is an ideal time to join. See bensongardeningclub.weebly.com or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com

Liz Harrison

Electric blanket testing

Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team is offering free electric blanket testing across the county. You can book your free electric blanket test today to stay safe and warm this winter: call 01865 519800 (option 4), email duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk or see the Oxfordshire County Council website.

Full addresses and time slots are provided when you book your appointment.

The closest place to us is Didcot on Tuesday 7th but they are also in Risinghurst, Oxford on Monday 6th and Wantage on Friday 10th.

Police and crime survey

Matthew Barber (Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley) is asking residents to complete his ongoing local crime survey. You are invited to share your experiences and have a say in how policing services are shaped in the Thames Valley.

To complete the survey, please visit www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/survey/

Learn about Cholsey's past: 4 eras, 4 speakers plus historical music

Join us at The Cholsey Pavilion on Friday 17th October for a journey through Cholsey's past, with some revealing insights into bygone days in Cholsey. The evening will include three illustrated presentations by the Cholsey Archive team, with a fourth by historian Judy Dewey, who has brought us so much knowledge of the village through the ages. There will also be themed historical songs by versatile folk trio Three Pressed Men, and light refreshments in the interval. The evening begins at 7.30pm.

Admission will be a mere £5 (cash or card at the door) and you are invited to reserve a seat by emailing archive@cholsey.com or telephoning 01491 652295.

Autumn at Just Trading

We are on a more even keel now financially with our team of volunteers and are looking forward to a busy autumn. We have had lots of fun this summer, having so many interesting conversations with visitors to Wallingford from all over the world. We usually ask if they have visited the museum yet, and recommend it if they haven't. We have also met many new residents who are finding out what is here and we often tell them about our marvellous Corn Exchange.

When we get closer to Christmas we shall need three volunteers in the shop at a time, so we are looking for more people to get trained up before we get very busy. We are a self-managed, mutually supportive and flexible team and do our best to play to people's strengths. If you are not sure if shop work is your thing come and give it a try for a few sessions.

You may be looking for paid work, but JT can be a good environment in which to develop your skills and build experience as a volunteer. Anna, who kindly ran our Instagram for a while, and built up her portfolio to such good effect, is now busy with paid Insta work. Whatever your skills we can find the perfect role for you.

Our over-arching aim is to make it easier for people to make more ethical shopping choices. We do the work to investigate product claims and find the best value for money. Thank you to all our loyal customers who give us so much support and appreciation.

Pop in to see us or contact Amanda on 01491 826600, or acgriff9@phonecoop.coop
Just Trading of Wallingford Ltd, 17 St Mary's Street, Wallingford

**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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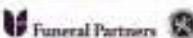
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Photographic Club

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 and meet us Thursdays at 7:30pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion.

On 2nd October our resident (retired) judge Gordon Roberts will take us through a critique of our own images — always a popular and useful session. Then on 9th we have another practical session focusing on phones: camera phone images and processing (sharing images and getting feedback and tips tailored to our experience levels).

On 16th Simon Booker joins us for 'Strictly Nature': he is a local up-and-coming wildlife photographer with a great presentation style and is making a mark on the 'camera club' scene. Then on 23rd October we have our first 'no set subject' competition of the season, where images of our choice will be assessed by a professional judge.

And the month closes on 30th with another practical evening exploring why in this digital age print still matters, and how to produce great images inexpensively that have impact — and sell!

Henley and District Stamp Club

Have you thought of resurrecting a hobby from your past, like stamp collecting, postal history or postcards? You will find it more than just collecting a little bit of sticky paper. If you look into the history and background of stamps and postal history, there is a lot to learn. Have a look at our website and "Steve's Stamp Stories" for more information.

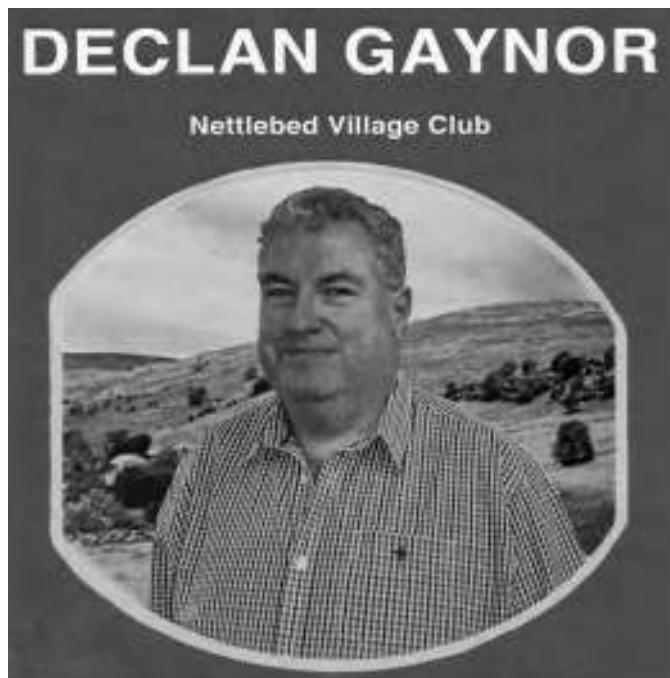
The Henley Stamp Club is a friendly group and we would be delighted to see new visitors or members.

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm. Further details can be obtained by phoning Steve on 07767 251670 or on our website: www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Nettlebed dance

On Saturday 25th October Declan Gaynor, Ireland's happy, singing, fast-fingered accordionist and keyboard player, returns to Nettlebed Village Club yet again by overwhelming demand.

Dancing 8pm until 11pm (Doors open 7.30) at the Nettlebed Club, 32 High Street, Nettlebed RG9 5DD. £10pp donation on the door.



*Country music * Irish songs * Sounds of the 60s and 70s *

Free parking. Disability facilities. Bar also sells tea, coffee and soft drinks. Very friendly atmosphere. Comfortable seating. Good size dance floor. We're looking forward to yet another really good night. Any queries please call Keith on 07752 374 610.

Christmas dance

Saturday 13th December with "Muscles and Curves" 5/6 piece band for the 3rd consecutive year! £10pp on the door. 8pm to 11pm (Doors open 7.30).

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.



Autumn spotlight

It's that time of year when the trees will be changing colour, the air is getting colder and fresher, and we can't help thinking of warm drinks, cosy clothes and playing in the crunchy leaves. It can be tempting to cut back all the dead and dying vegetation in our gardens and green spaces, but it's worth considering that many of these woody stems will become perfect winter homes for insects as they enter hibernation and can create areas of beauty in our homes and communities.

In Oxfordshire, the hedgerow species we generally recommend planting (for their capacity to provide for both people and wildlife year-round) include Blackthorn, Spindle, Common Buckthorn, Guelder Rose, Wild Privet, Cherry Plum, Dog Rose and Hazel.

Hawthorn berries have traditional use in heart-strengthening natural medicines but are also a vital source of food for caterpillars, moths and migratory birds. Spindle has vibrant autumnal pink colours and the leaves turn from a deep green to a beautiful red.

The native white, crack, pussy, osier and goat willows are a familiar sight along the Thames and tributaries. Willows provide shelter for birds, mammals, including bats, otters and water voles. Their leaves are the larval foodplant of the Purple Emperor, Large Tortoiseshell and Comma butterflies and their catkins the earliest sources of food for bees.

Trees are an important, stable long-term source of food for bees and other pollinators, providing thousands of flower heads all in one place. Plant a variety of tree species selected to benefit bees and other pollinators, with species that flower at different times of the year to provide nectar, pollen and nesting sites as well as offering a haven for other wildlife and cleaning the air and water and storing carbon. www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/tree-planting-guidance

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CROW JAZZ



Sat 25 Oct - Rachel Calladine
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Sat 13 Dec - Crow Jazz Christmas Cracker!
Featuring Art Themen, Fleur Stevenson,
Gareth Williams, & Denny Ilett

Crowmarsh Village Hall Doors 6.45pm. Show 7.30pm

Tickets (18) & info: www.crowmarshjazz.co.uk

£5 tickets for Care workers & folks on benefits

Bar provided by The Queens Head. Enquiries: 07795974223

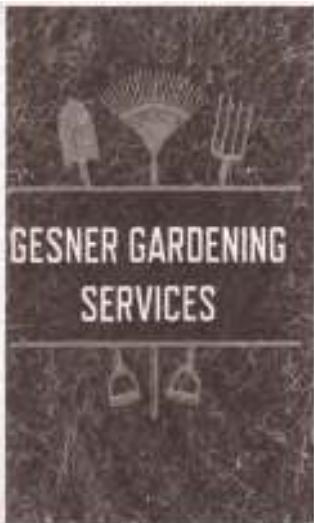
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WHAT'S ON — OCTOBER 2025

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

Wednesday 1st	14.00 onwards	U3A: 'A Town Called Wallingford'	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 2nd	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th	10.00 to 16.00	Open days — tel: 01491 825222 chadwicks@funeralpartners.co.uk	Chadwick's Funeral Service, 33 Benson Lane
Saturday 4th	19.30 onwards	Wallingford Chamber Music: Thames Consort: Purcell's Dido & Aeneas	St Mary-le-More Church Wallingford
Saturday 4th	19.00 to 21.30	Orchestra of St Johns — Mozart	Dorchester Abbey
Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th	All day	Running days: Back to the '40s www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway
Tuesday 7th	By appointment	Electric blanket safety testing (p.10)	Didcot and other places
Wednesday 8th	20.00 onwards	TWHAS: Abingdon Abbey's history, condition and enhancement plans	St Mary-le-More Church Wallingford
Saturday 11th	Overnight	Sue Ryder Starlight Hike (5k or 10k): call 0118 9550 433 or search online	Mapledurham Estate
Saturday 11th	10.30 to 12.00	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Friday 17th	19.30 onwards	A journey through Cholsey's past with speakers and historical music (p.10)	Cholsey Pavilion
Saturday 25th	19.30 to 23.00	Dancing to Declan Gaynor, Irish accordionist and keyboard player	The Nettlebed Club, RG9 5DD

November 2025

Saturday 1st	18.00 onwards	Fireworks and bonfire	Kinecroft, Wallingford
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
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