



Issue 543

September 2024

The Crowmarsh News team

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

Editorial & layout: Toni Taylor and John Griffin

Editorial support: James Taylor, Julian Park, Gay Holden, Jane Thrift and Revd Kevin Beer

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and the team

The *Crowmarsh News* is a self-funded publication, and we regret that we are unable to accept unpaid advertising, even from local businesses and societies.

We welcome material for inclusion but do not necessarily endorse the views of contributors. We reserve the right to refuse material or to shorten contributions as may be appropriate: editorial decisions are final.

ADVERTISING RATES

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

1 month	£10.25
3 months	£29.00
6 months	£54.45
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For a single sheet loose insert in the Crowmarsh News (size up to A4) our rate is £36.30 for 1 month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (930 copies please).

Useful telephone numbers

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Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the October 2024 *Crowmarsh News* must reach us by our **20th September 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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Can you help us produce the Crowmarsh News?

The Crowmarsh News Association are the small team who produce your Crowmarsh News every month. We are very keen to find a few more volunteers to help us, particularly with editing the material we receive. You don't need to be a professional or an experienced proof reader, so long as you can spell (with the aid of a dictionary or spell checker!), use a computer and are willing to have a go. Why not give it a try?

We are also looking for volunteers to lay out the pages in Microsoft Publisher and to deliver the finished product door-to-door once a month. The more volunteers we have, the less time each person has to spend. We would like to have three or four editing and page layout teams: at the moment we only have one editor, so we really need some help with that!

If you would like to get involved or want to find out more, email crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com or speak to any member of the team – you will find our names on the front cover.

Cholsey Repair Café

A further session of repair help is available from Cholsey Repair Café on Saturday 21st September at the Cholsey Pavilion between 10.00 and 12.45.

Our expert fixers can look at your problem items and a repair is usually achievable (although it's not possible to make promises without seeing an item). As for what you can bring, the answer is pretty much anything you can carry, be it a desk fan, a pair of trousers or a pair of shears. Repairs are free but a donation towards costs is appreciated.

The excellent Cholsey Community Café will be selling tea, coffee and cake right next door. See our website, www.cholseyrepaircafe.com, or email repaircafe@cholsey.com with any questions.

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

Past Times with David Beasley

Mark Wickens, a Crowmarsh Policeman

Mark Wickens, Crowmarsh's policeman, was stationed here from 1882 until 1899. He was born in Kingsclere, Hampshire in 1844, where his father, Stephen Wickens was employed as a farm labourer; his mother's name was Harriet.

Mark worked on the same farm as his father until he reached the age of 16, when he joined the Grenadier Guards until he took his discharge on 18th January 1873.

In 1870, while still in the Guards, he married Winifred Brewer, a dressmaker, from Sarsden, near Chadlington in North Oxfordshire. Their first child was born in 1871.

In 1873, the year of his discharge from the army, he joined the Oxfordshire County Police Force and was initially stationed in Goring, then North Stoke, before being transferred to Crowmarsh in 1882.

He remained Crowmarsh's policeman until his retirement in June 1899. In May of that year he was on duty at Caversham Petty Sessions for the last time when the Magistrates called the Court to thank him for past services and said that they would miss him. In 1907 he took over as landlord of the Game Cock Inn in The Street (now a private house). He died in Crowmarsh on 28th February 1924 and was buried in Crowmarsh churchyard.

From our new MP

I am deeply honoured and grateful to have been elected by the people of Henley and Thame constituency to represent you in parliament as your Liberal Democrat MP.

I grew up in Lancashire and lived and worked in Belgium in the healthcare sector before moving to South Oxfordshire. I have been Oxfordshire County Councillor for Chalgrove and Watlington since 2021 and also, since 2023, a South Oxfordshire District Councillor and was cabinet member for climate change and nature recovery 2023-2024.

It was a real pleasure to meet so many people in Crowmarsh throughout the general election

campaign and listen to the issues residents face. It will be my job now and that of our parliamentary group to constructively hold the new government to account, and to fight for you on your issues.



The first few weeks since being elected have been both exciting and frantic as I race to find my feet (and my way around parliament), as well as to set up a constituency office and hire the staff needed to best serve you. So far, the only *faux pas* made in parliament was sitting in an 'SNP seat' and being told gruffly to move along!

You can already contact my office on freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk. From September I will be holding weekly online surgeries and regular in-person surgeries around the constituency. I hope as well to see as many people as possible as we get out on the doorsteps again, and I will continue to listen to you.

*Freddie van Mierlo,
Member of Parliament for Henley and Thame*

Sustainable Wallingford Draughtbusters

Sustainable Wallingford has received funding from South Oxfordshire District Council to carry out this free project to help those living in draughty properties in Crowmarsh, Benson and Wallingford.

We now need more volunteers to carry out the draughtproofing or the project will not succeed.

We will be in Benson Village Hall from 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th September to explain in more detail how this project works. We will have examples of draughtproofing materials to show you and you can leave your details with us on the night to become a volunteer, as well as to go on the list to have your property draughtproofed.

Alternatively, come and see us on Saturday 5th October between 10.30 and 1pm at the Undercroft of Wallingford Town Hall.

Contact us on suswaldb@gmail.com to find out more.

Wallingford and District Art Club (WADAC)

Join our friendly art club for a live demonstration as professional artist, Chris Forsey, paints a beautiful harbour scene in acrylics and watercolour. Self-taught, Chris is an elected member of The Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours (RI) and The Society of Graphic Fine Artists (SGFA).

The demo will be held at Centre 70 (off Goldsmiths Lane in Wallingford) from 7.30-9.30pm on Tuesday 17th September 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 website at www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk or email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk.



A light mist, Port Isaac by Chris Forsey



Team Vicar: The Revd Kevin Beer
The Vicarage, 34 Thames Mead,
Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EY
Tel: 01491 599873 (day off Monday)
Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Blog: revkevbeer.blogspot.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford

September services (at St Mary Magdalene unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 1st	11am	Family Service at St Mary Magdalene's
Sunday 8th	11am	Parish Communion at St Mary Magdalene's
Saturday 14th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café at the Village Hall
	All day:	"Ride & Stride" for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust
Sunday 15th	10am	Parish Communion at St Mary Magdalene's
	4pm	Evening Service at St Mary's, Newnham Murren
Sunday 22nd	11am	"Back to Church Sunday" Communion
Sunday 29th	10am	Team Communion at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford
Sunday 6th October	11am	Harvest Festival Family Service

Morning Prayer – every Friday at 9am

Evening Prayer – Sunday at 6pm (except 15th September)

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

The Vicar writes...

Good news! We have been granted the faculty (the church equivalent of planning permission) to proceed with our plans for the toilet and servery at the west end of the church. We are now in full fundraising mode to raise the necessary funding for this project. The budget is £150,000 as there will be major changes to the drainage on the south side of the church to cure the damp problems and to replace the rotten flooring. All work below ground requires archaeological oversight in case anything of historical significance is unearthed, whilst other work seems to be made more expensive as the church is Grade 1 listed. We are actively seeking grants towards this work to add to the legacies already received from parishioners over a number of years. Please get in touch if you would like to make a donation, as local support really helps to attract the funding from charitable trusts.

The annual sponsored "Ride & Stride" event takes place on Saturday 14th September, where we encourage people to visit as many churches as possible in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, one of the charities that will be helping us with our building project.

See www.ohct.org.uk for more information and how to take part. Alternatively, you are welcome to sponsor me and Ralph (my Springer Spaniel) as we attempt to run a half-marathon distance to visit at least 20 churches in the area. You can do so online here: <https://app.goodhub.com/crowmarsh> or using the form in church.

Are you a lapsed church member? Were you or a family member baptised at St Mary Magdalene's? There is a perfect opportunity to rejoin our worshipping community again on "Back to Church Sunday" on 22nd September. Please don't be a stranger!

Blessings,

Rev Kev

Parish council notes

Crowmarsh Parish Council met on Thursday 1st August 2024 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall. Councillors Stephen Sherbourne (chair), Julian Park, Andrew Johnson, David Rowley and Fleur Stevenson, Parish Clerk Sue Rance, Finance Officer Yvonne Peet, and two members of the public were present.

Finance

Payments were agreed including £795 for installing two defibrillator bases, £180 to repair a leak in the roof tank at the pavilion, £6536 to Xylem Water Solutions for replacing the drainage pump at the pavilion and £240 to Tom Cottrell for tree management at the nature reserve.

Adjustments were agreed to the budget, reflecting Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income received, the appointment of Andrew Nesbitt as assistant caretaker and anticipation of higher receipts for recreation ground bookings this year.

Planning

No decisions by SODC had been reported.

Consultations

P24/S2250/HH Old Walled Garden, Mongewell Park. Ground floor extension. No strong views.

P24/S1537/HH 15 Jethro Tull Gardens, Crowmarsh Gifford. Rear extension. Roof lowered to 3.0 metres. No strong views.

P24/S1565/FUL Blackbarn Farm, Ipsden. Livestock building. No strong views.

Major development at Newnham Manor

District Councillor Cooper reported that a meeting had been held between the planning department, Oxfordshire County Council and the developer to discuss the arrangements for land to be transferred to the school as part of the development. Approval is awaited from the Oxfordshire Diocese, and it is hoped to proceed to the final decision soon.

Neighbourhood plan review

Dr Nick Robins reported that following the general election the new government was proposing changes to the arrangements for neighbourhood plans. He will attend a meeting

with the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Planning Association.

He envisaged that our neighbourhood plan policies would remain essentially unchanged.

He has incorporated amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework into the updated draft, including the former SODC offices site, and proposed that North Stoke recreation ground should be defined as a green space for the parish. He will also draw up a stakeholders' consultation.

Strategic priorities

Bases for defibrillators have been installed at Mongewell and near Park View, but the actual cabinets will not now be available until early 2025. It was agreed that the installation fee of £795 for the two defibrillators should be taken out of the Community Infrastructure Levy money received.

Clearance of overgrown vegetation in Watery Lane has been booked for 6th and 7th November.

District Council report

The District Councillors' report had been circulated and was noted.

County Council matters

No report had been received from County Councillor Bloomfield.

Environment and recreation

Andrew Nesbitt has been appointed as assistant caretaker. Chris Strange was thanked for his work in increasing hiring income. Pavilion income will be reviewed at the September meeting. The scouts have begun to serve refreshments on Saturdays during the school summer holidays.

Traffic and transport

A site visit by the Oxfordshire Highways Engagement Team has been arranged for Thursday 26th September, convening at 10am at the entrance to the former SODC site on Benson Lane. Specific concerns about speeding and pedestrian safety will be addressed. This meeting will also include sites of concern at Mongewell and North Stoke.

Councillors unanimously agreed to support the proposal raised by residents to reduce the

speed limit on the A4130 Nosworthy Way near the entrance to the CABI site to 40 mph. This will be reported to County Councillor Bloomfield.

Other matters

The children's playground at French Gardens is very overgrown and choked with weeds. The Clerk will raise this with the Bloor estates office.

Next meeting

The next parish council meeting will be on Thursday 5th September 2024 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EL email: crowmarshparishclerk@gmail.com

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead email: johngriffin@phonecoop.coop

Former Jewson's site

Property developers T A Fisher, based in Berkshire, have now confirmed that they have acquired the former Jewson's site and intend to build approximately 15 new homes there. The old farmhouse will be retained as it is a listed building.

The parish council plans to engage with the owners and the local planning department to discuss the details and is still keen to hear residents' views on the kind of development you would like to see here on The Street.

Benson Garden Club

We will re-start our talks in October with Toby Buckland on 'Abundance'. You may recognise Toby's name as a Gardeners' World presenter and his talk on practical tips and advice on plants for an abundant garden will spur into action those of us who jealously admired fellow gardeners' trugs of produce over the summer (how do courgette plants produce so much!). Visitors are very welcome to attend and tickets are available now for £12 each. Please email us to purchase (contact details below) or buy them in person from Derry's Den

(26 High Street, Benson). A reduced price is available for members.

It's still the club's season for being out and about visiting gardens, and for our most recent visit, members enjoyed visiting a local garden which placed an emphasis on attracting and nurturing wildlife. There was a stunning circular native wildflower lawn, with delicate flowers and humming with insects. Bee hives were nestled in a corner of an orchard, which contained over 100 apple varieties: Beauty of Bath, Devonshire Quarrenden, Winston and Ribston Pippin, to name but a few, conjuring up our apple heritage. A teeming wildlife pond, productive vegetable garden and gorgeous herbaceous border completed this magical garden, which had plenty of spots to sit and reflect. Bathed with early evening summer sunlight, this garden visit was very special. Truly inspirational!

If visiting gardens with a friendly group of gardeners appeals to you, further information about the club and how to join can be found on our website bensongardeningclub.weebly.com, or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com.

And if you are looking for an interesting talk to inspire you, please do consider coming along to Toby Buckland's talk on 3rd October!

Liz Harrison

Come dancing at Nettlebed

On Saturday 5th October Nettlebed Dancing and Music Friends are hosting a social dance with Ireland's Declan Gaynor, the singing Irish fast-fingered accordionist and accomplished keyboard player, who brings us the sounds and songs of Irish, Country Music and 60s/70s popular songs. Bring your friends and enjoy an enjoyable night out at the Nettlebed Club, RG9 5DD. 8pm to 11pm - no tickets needed.

We are a not-for-profit group and just ask for a donation of £10 on the door. Free parking. Friendly venue. Disability facilities. Good size dance floor. The bar also sells tea and coffee. Queries? Call Keith on 07752 374 610.

We also hold two hours of social dancing to country and popular music CDs on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm for a donation of £5pp on the door.

The Corn Exchange events

See the website www.cornexchange.org.uk for full details, updates and booking tickets.

Cinema

Performances start at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise. Please note that we start on time and latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption to sitting patrons, so we may have to reseat latecomers. The bar and auditorium will open from 7pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand.

Films with subtitles will be shown on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm.

Cinema tickets are £10 for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 1st, 7.30pm and 8.15pm *Against All Odds (U)* The story of the Chelsey and Wallingford bunk line — all tickets £5

Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th *Trap (15)*

Wednesday 4th at 2.30pm *Trap (15)*

Thursday 5th *Wilding (PG)*

Saturday 7th 7.30pm *Gosford Park (15)*

Sunday 8th, Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th *It Ends with Us (12A)*

Wednesday 11th at 2.30pm *It Ends with Us (12A)*

Friday 13th to Monday 16th *Widow Cliquot (15)*

Saturday 14th at 2.30pm *Kensuke's Kingdom (PG)*

Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th *Blink Twice (15)*

Wednesday 18th 2.30pm *Blink Twice (15)*

Friday 20th and Saturday 21st *Firebrand (12A)*

Saturday 21st 2.30pm *Borderlands (12A)*

Live screenings

For live screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room where there is a large screen relay. Tickets are £18 (adults), £15 (seniors), £10 (under-18s), except where stated otherwise.

Tuesday 10th at 6.30pm Royal Opera House, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Thursday 12th at 7pm National Theatre, *Prima Facia (15)*

Tuesday 24th at 7pm *Miss Saigon (15)*
25th Anniversary Show — tickets £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

Agatha Christie murder mystery weekend

Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September, in collaboration with Wallingford Museum and Wallingford Town Council.

Friday 6th at 7.30pm *The Mysteries of Miss Marple*, talk by Mark Aldridge, tickets £15

Saturday 7th at 12.30pm Two one-act Agatha Christie plays by Wallingford School, tickets £5

Saturday 7th at 3.30pm *A is for Arsenic, the poisons of Agatha Christie*, talk by Kathryn Harkup, tickets £15

Sunday 8th at 3pm *How to write a Thriller*

Live on stage

Tuesday 10th to Saturday 14th September
The Last Five Years (all tickets £15)

Sinodun Players present a critically-acclaimed off-Broadway contemporary musical drama about a turbulent relationship of a couple who meet, fall in love, marry and divorce over the span of five years. It is an emotionally powerful and intimate musical, which has captivated audiences and critics alike, earning cult status.

Written and composed by Jason Robert Brown, musical direction by Sue Huntingford-Ledger, stage direction by Tom Mackriell.

This production deals with adult themes and is being held in the Studio Theatre which has unreserved seating.

Coming soon

Tuesday 15th to Saturday 19th October at 7.30pm *Breath of Spring*, written by Peter Coke, Directed by Dorothy Hirsch presented by the Sinodun Players.

Tickets £12 (Tuesday 15th only £15)

It is the late 1950s London and times are hard! The Sinodun Players present a new production of this witty action-packed comedy, which invites you into a world where you can leave your troubles behind for a few hours and just spend some quality time laughing.

Wallingford Museum



Agatha Christie Mystery Weekend

A highlight of this weekend will be 'The Making of Wallingford's Statue of Agatha Christie' by sculptor Ben Twiston-Davies, 11.30am on Saturday 7th September in the Masonic Hall, Goldsmiths' Lane. Discover just how Agatha's statue was created, from concept to completion.

How many of us have visited and admired the statue of Agatha Christie, just opposite Wallingford Museum? How many have taken the obligatory selfie! Are you curious to know how this work was created? Then sign up for Ben's talk (£10pp) via the museum website www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk/events.

Fabulous Fossils, 21st September

Once again we are offering this very popular family event at the museum on Saturday 21st September, run by the Oxford Geology Trust.

Get your tickets soon for the budding palaeontologists in your family to handle fossils from Oxfordshire and around the world. Normal admission prices to the museum apply and booking is essential, via the website (above).

- Make your own Dino-Mask and colour dinosaur pictures
- Handle dinosaur teeth, claws and bones
- £2 Lucky Dip for a 60 to 300 million year old fossil!
- Bring along your own fossils for our experts to identify
- See and handle fossils from Oxfordshire Geology Trust.

Other events

The last Wallingford Castle history walk of the season is on 28th September at 14.30, starting at Wallingford Museum, £10 pp, cash only.

Creative art workshops will be taking place at Wallingford Museum over the October half-term. Artist Julie Edwards and Ron Thompson of 'Planet Art' will be working to develop ideas for a piece of public art at St Joseph Homes, Highcroft, Wallingford. Come and work on a large collaborative drawing rolled out on a 10m

scroll, inspired by Wallingford Museum's collection. Decorate, craft, paint wooden figures to illustrate characters throughout the town's history. Workshops are free, but the normal museum entrance charge applies.

For more information please visit www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Sue Wright, Wallingford Museum

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

On Wednesday 11th September, John Painter will give an illustrated talk about 'Reading Abbey and the Abbey Quarter'. This talk will look at the rich history and architecture of Reading Abbey and its site in the centre of Reading, from its foundation in 1121 up to the present day, where the future of Reading Gaol is still causing controversy.

Visit www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html for the full programme of TWHAS talks at St Mary-le-More church.

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford Photographic Club returns from our summer break for an exhibition and a new season in September. Come along and join our informal and inclusive group of enthusiasts and amateurs as we start our new weekly programme of talks, presentations, competitions and practical sessions.

We discuss a wide range of topics - not just technical - including getting feedback on your photos if you're keen to show them. We meet on Thursdays from 7.30pm at Crowmarsh Pavilion, and we'll have a few sessions online (later in the season) where we make the most of speakers from far away.

On 19th September the season begins with our welcome evening including an introduction to the club, our programme, committee and membership, and we have a local guest photographer Benji Walker presenting some 'live music' photography. On 26th Robert Harvey joins us to show and discuss effective use of lenses ranging from long telephotos to

fish-eyes and stitched panoramas to capture the most impact.

October 3rd brings our first practical evening when we will be having a walkabout in Wallingford, plus practical sessions including a camera settings surgery. The following Thursday our own resident retired photography judge will give pointers and helpful critique on your photos in time for the first competition of the year. Then on 17th October Darrell Godliman joins us to present his take on Architecture, including much local work but also further afield.

The first competition of the season takes place on 24th ('No Set Subject'), then October closes with a practical evening on 31st (topic/plan to be confirmed).

See wallingfordphoto.club for all details.

Church anniversaries

Catholic Church celebrates centenary

St John's Catholic Church in Wallingford Market Place is celebrating its centenary on 22nd September. Mass will be celebrated at 11am, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

300 years of the Quaker Meeting House

Did you know there has been a Quaker Meeting House in Wallingford for 300 years? Tucked in opposite the entrance to the castle, this hidden jewel was built when 'Friends' (as Quakers are also known) moved from their earlier origins in Warborough.



Wallingford Quaker Meeting House, built 1724

Wallingford Quakers will be celebrating the 300th birthday of their Grade 2* listed meeting house on 14th September, to coincide with the local Ride and Stride event for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, when many other places of worship will also be open. We are also marking the 400th anniversary of the birth of George Fox, who founded the Quakers.

The Meeting House at 13 Castle Street will be open from 10am to 6pm. Do drop in to have a look at the historic meeting room and garden, have a cup of tea and find out other interesting 'did you know?' facts about Quakers.

Henley and District Stamp Club

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Bix Village Hall at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on 11th September. Like many clubs and societies, we are looking for new members. We are a friendly group and if you are interested in stamps or postal history, why not come along one Wednesday evening and meet other people who find postal history and the story of stamps fascinating? Further details can be obtained by phoning Steve on 07767 251670 or on our website www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk.

Crowmarsh Community Café

The next Crowmarsh Community Café is on Saturday 14th September from 10.30am until 12.30pm. All are welcome to join us in Crowmarsh Village Hall: come and meet your neighbours and enjoy some refreshments. We provide homemade cakes, tea and coffee and any donations will go to the running of Crowmarsh church.

We look forward to seeing you this month and on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

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

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



CROW JAZZ



Chris Cobbson & Hugh Turner Quartet
Sat. 28th September

Karen Sharp Quartet Sat. 26th October

All Star Christmas Cracker!
Sat. 14th December

Crowmarsh Village Hall Doors 6.45pm, Show 7.30pm

Tickets (£15-18) & Info: www.crowmarshjazz.co.uk

£5 for Care workers & people on benefits

Bar provided by The Quocas Head. Enquiries: 07795974223

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

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Make Art Not War



The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SofO) in Woodstock is marking its 10th anniversary and 110 years since the start of the First World War by hosting a Great War art exhibition and running an art competition for young people over the summer, which will culminate in its own exhibition this autumn.

Now taking entries, the competition is open to children and young people aged from 7 to 18, and will be divided into three age brackets: 7-10; 11-14; 15-18. Prizes will be awarded for the top entries from each category.

The museum is looking for entries that tie into the theme of 'Journeys Through War', inspired by the museum's own collections. These could take the form of art portraying a glider pilot's flight to Normandy on D-Day, the journey made by the many evacuees that came to Oxfordshire during the Second World War, or even the journeys made by carrier pigeons used to send secret messages during wartime.

The Journeys Through War exhibition will go on display from Saturday 19th October until Sunday 17th November, with any media accepted, and also both physical and digital entries welcome. Submitted work can take inspiration from museum collections from the First and Second World Wars, but could take in more recent events or even earlier conflicts. The deadline for entries is 29th September,



with more information and an entry form available at bit.ly/summerartcomp.

Currently, the museum is hosting John Noot's collection of First World War art in *The Art of the Great War* exhibition, which runs until 22nd September.

John has been an art collector and dealer for over 50 years, and during this time has drawn together an incredible collection of WW1 art. This latest exhibition is a follow up to *The Art of World War II* — an exhibition previously hosted by Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum — which proved incredibly popular, showcasing a diverse range of original art from a mix of amateur and professional artists, both up-and-coming and well-established.

The Art of the Great War presents a similarly broad range of original art and prints, capturing both the horrors of the conflict and snatched moments of humour during the darkest of times. Together the collection provides a very human perspective of events of 1914-1918.

The collection is a personal one for John, inspired by childhood memories of his own father, who served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Great War's often-forgotten Salonika campaign. Asked for a personal highlight from the exhibition, he points out one of the largest paintings on display which is by



Paintings in the Art of the Great War exhibition by Lionel Edwards (left) and Georges Paul Leroux (above)

Henry C Seppings Wright, an official artist to New Zealand forces. The striking piece (below) depicts two German soldiers helping a wounded British Tommy out of a trench. John explains: "That, to me, goes to say, we're all human beings ... why are we doing this?"



Summer chamber music — grand finale

Wallingford's flourishing summer festival of chamber music in St Mary-le-More Church is not quite over. We still have two big concerts coming in September.

First on 7th September we welcome long-time favourites, the Sacconi String Quartet, joined on this occasion by cellist Alice Neary, enabling the performance of Arensky's String Quartet, which needs two cellos, and the incomparable Schubert C major Quintet, which I'd go a long way to hear.

Then our own Jeremy Boughton brings his Thames Consort on 28th September with a programme of Bach, Buxtehude, Praetorius and Vivaldi, with soloists Elinor Carter (mezzo), Lisa Gifford-Guy (soprano) and Sharon Warnes (violin).

Even that's not the end as on 12th October we have Sacconi's violist Robin Ashwell and pianist Anya Fadina with a postponed concert featuring Schumann, Panufnik, Hindemith, Ireland and Brahms.

You can book tickets and reserve seats at www.wcm.org.uk or pick up a brochure at the library or Wallingford Town Information Centre. Early booking is recommended. Tickets are £20, but free for under-25s.

Roger Morgan, 01491 837494.

Sue Ryder Starlight Hike

There's still time to sign up to the Sue Ryder Starlight Hike Thames Valley on Saturday 5th October and walk 10k beneath the stars to celebrate the memory of a loved one.

Sign up at sueryder.org/StarlightThamesValley or contact the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice and Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire fundraising team via email thamesvalley.fundraising@sueryder.org or by calling 0118 9550 433. Standard tickets start from £20 per adult.

If you can't join in the hike but still want to be part of this incredible event, we are looking for volunteers to support it, so contact the fundraising team for more information. See last month's Crowmarsh News for the full article.

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WHAT'S ON — SEPTEMBER 2024

Regular events and meetings

Tuesdays	14.00-16.00	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion
Every Friday	9.30-12.00	Wallingford Country Market	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Every Saturday except 31 August	10.00-12.30	Local Producers' Market	St Mary-le-More Church or Wallingford Market Place
Every Sunday	11.00 onwards	Parish Communion. Family service on the first Sunday of the month	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Crowmarsh Gifford
Thursdays from 19th (see p.9)	19.30 onwards	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Gifford Pavilion
Various days	Differing times	Didcot and Wallingford Ramblers	www.ramblers.org.uk/didcot-wallingford
Various days	Differing times	CTC Wallingford cycle rides	www.ctcwallingford.org.uk
Various days through the year	Differing times	Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway	www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com

This month

Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September	All day and evenings	Wallingford Bunkfest: music, dance, beer and much more ... https://bunkfest.co.uk/	Kinecroft, Bullcroft and many other locations in the town
Wednesday 4th	14.00 onwards	U3A: 'The life of Richard Smith'	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 5th	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Friday 6th to Sunday 8th	A range of events, see p.8 and p.9	Agatha Christie Mystery Weekend celebrating the Queen of Crime	See visitwallingford.uk/events/agatha-christies-murder-mystery-weekend/
Saturday 7th	20.00 onwards	Wallingford Chamber Music: Sacconi string quartet with Alice Neary Cello	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Wednesday 11th	19.45 onwards	TWHAS talk: Reading Abbey and the Abbey Quarter, see p.9	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford
Saturday 14th	10.30-12.30	Crowmarsh Community Café	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 14th	10.00-18.00	Wallingford Quaker Meeting open day	13 Castle Street, Wallingford
Saturday 22nd	11.00 onwards	Centenary celebration: Mass followed by refreshments	St John's Catholic Church, Market Place, Wallingford
Saturday 28th	20.00 onwards	Wallingford Chamber Music: The Thames Consort	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford

October

Wednesday 2nd	14.00 onwards	U3A: 'An adventure to the North Pole in the wake of heroes'	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Thursday 3rd	19.30 onwards	Crowmarsh Parish Council meeting	North Stoke Village Hall
Saturday 5th	20.00-23.00	Social dance with Declan Gaynor the singing accordionist	The Nettlebed Club, RG9 5DD
Saturday 12th	20.00 onwards	Wallingford Chamber Music: Robin Ashwell (viola) & Anya Fadina (piano)	St Mary-le-More Church, Wallingford