

# The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for October 2025



## Cropredy Church Christmas Tree Festival 2025

**Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Come and join us for this wonderful event on the first weekend of Advent!

Our beautiful Church will be open from 10.30am until 4.00 pm on both days.

Admission is only £1 per adult (children under 12 are free), which entitles you to vote for your favourite tree. As well as the beautiful array of trees to see, you can enjoy tea, coffee or mulled wine, and delicious cakes and mince pies while you decide on the tree that will get your vote.

You will also have the chance to shop for some new Christmas decorations at the Christmas Stall, and buy a raffle ticket to win a great prize!

We look forward to welcoming everyone to this joyous event

A special concert for St. Mary Magdalen, Wardington

### 'BEAUTY' PERFORMED by VENTIQUATTRO

Oxfordshire's premier a cappella chamber choir

Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>. 4.00 - 5.00 p.m.

£15 on the door, under 18s free, all refreshments included

*Tavener: Song for Athene, Whitacre: Sleep, MacMillan:*

*Radiant Dawn, Rusby: Stars, Bach, Rachmaninoff, and some surprises too*

Web: [www.vq24](http://www.vq24)

Instagram: [@acappella24](https://www.instagram.com/acappella24)

email: [dj@vq24.fun](mailto:dj@vq24.fun)



### Canal & River Trust

The Canal & River Trust will be organising a service of remembrance on Armistice day at the wharf in Cropredy. Representatives will be attending the existing service in the village on Remembrance Sunday and will be laying a wreath. There will be a small museum in the wharf shed on the Sunday and Tuesday for people to come and learn about the canal and how it was used in the WWI and WWII. There will also be a heritage boat there called "Radiant" on both days. She was a fire boat during WWII and is in use today delivering coal and gas.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Armistice day there will be a service in the church followed by a gathering at the wharf itself. A 2-minute silence will be observed and another wreath placed onto a new war memorial by one of the trusts senior managers. This will be followed by a poem and final reading, light refreshments and a possibility of some light live music.

The finale at mid-day will be a "Poppy wildlife survey" in and around the village, where members of the village can join our volunteers for an hour or two after the service has finished.

## Community Harvest Thanksgiving

We extend a warm invitation to our annual Community Harvest Thanksgiving, 10.30am, on October 12th, followed by refreshments. This is an opportunity to gather with thanksgiving for those who farm in our community and support the nations food production, to give thanks for the beauty of creation, to remind ourselves of our responsibilities to care for creation, and to also consider our responsibility to work and pray for a fairer world, remembering those whose harvest have failed, and those who struggle to put good food on their tables. We will be collecting non-perishables for our local food-banks, and ask you to give generously to the food offering as you are able.

The service will be an all-age friendly service with Harvest Hymns and songs, everyone is welcome.

## Dates for your Diary

Sunday November 2nd. In Memory Service remembering 'those we love but see no longer'

Sunday November 9th. 10.50 am Village Act and Service of Remembrance

[vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com](mailto:vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com)

01295 750486 / 07747 181868

Revd Sarah

## SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Sunday 5th.	9.30 a.m.	Family Communion	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Sunday 12th.	10.30 a.m..	Community Harvest Thanksgiving	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Sunday 19th..	10.00 a.m.	Seeker Service	Siobhan and Rebecca Croft
Tuesdays	12 noon	Holy Communion Service	
Wednesdays	9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	

Churchwardens: Verna Wass [verna.wass@btinternet.com](mailto:verna.wass@btinternet.com) 01295 758222,  
Graham Oliver [nb.Alnwick@gmail.com](mailto:nb.Alnwick@gmail.com) 01295 750956

## All enquiries for baptism, wedding or funeral services,

Revd Canon Sarah Fenby I Vicar of Shires Edge Benefice

The Vicarage, High Street, Cropredy

Tel: 01295 750486 Mob: 07747181868 Email: [vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com](mailto:vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com)

Bell-ringing, practices every Monday. Tower secretary: Grace Wilson, 07765 465 994

## SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHAPEL (all services 10.30 p.m. unless otherwise notified)

Sunday 5th.	Marilyn Nutt
Sunday 12th.	Circuit Service at Marlborough Road Church
Sunday 19th.	Local Arrangement Service
Sunday 26th.	Rev Chris Eddy (inc Holy Communion).

## COFFEE MORNING

with homemade cakes and other things to buy

FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup>. 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

METHODIST CHAPEL SCHOOL ROOM

Bring friends and family or come on your own to meet and make new friends.



# Cropredy Historical Society

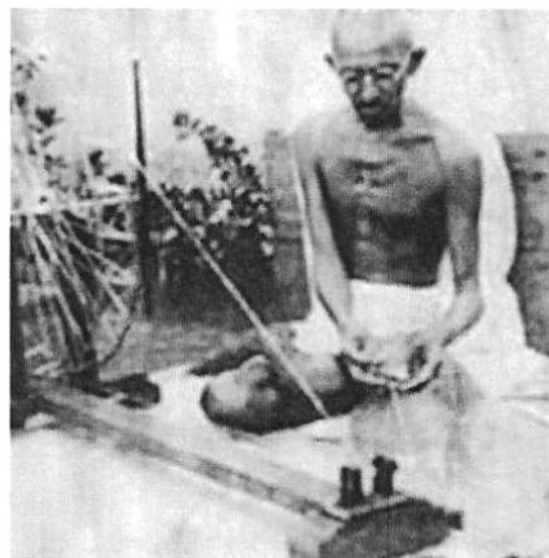
## Mahatma Gandhi

### talk by Stephen Barker

Wednesday October 15th. Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

How and why he changed from a supporter of the Raj, even serving in the First World War as a stretcher bearer, to leader of the call for independence for India.

Refreshment Visitors Welcome £5



## Cropredy Gardening Club Flower, Vegetable and Craft Show

**Many thanks** to all who entered and supported the Village Show that took place on the Bank Holiday Saturday, 23rd August. Despite the very dry summer, there was a lovely display of flowers and vegetables in the Village Hall and cookery and craft items showing the talents of our community. We had 41 adult and 7 junior entrants.

Congratulations to all of those who won prizes. A list of the main prize-winners is printed below:

RHS Banksian Medal for most points in vegetables fruit & flower classes Robert Dunn

Most points in fruit and veg classes Roger Watkiss

Most points in Cookery Sue Ewing

Most points in Crafts Sarah Walters

Most points in flower classes Rachel Coyne

Most outstanding Junior entry (age 5 & under) Freya Blakeman

Most outstanding Junior entry (age 6-10) Olivia Blakeman

Most outstanding Junior entry (age 11-16) Alastair Bridge

Best kept allotment Helena & Andrew Mills

Helena Mills won the People's Choice Award for her decorative selection of vegetables.

The much-coveted Victoria Sponge Sandwich class (with a whopping 10 entries!) was won by Samantha Bushnell. We are hoping to bring back a winning cup for this class, so welcome sponsorship or contributions towards the cost.

The committee would like to express special thanks to all who donated Special Prize money, raffle prizes and everyone who helped to set up the hall in advance, during the show, and those who helped clear the village hall afterwards.

We would like to encourage more people than ever to enter this wonderful traditional village celebratory event in 2026. It is free for juniors to enter (and prize money to be won!!!) so please encourage the children in your family to enter. The committee are very open to improvement ideas, so please do get in touch about how to make this event bigger and better than ever.

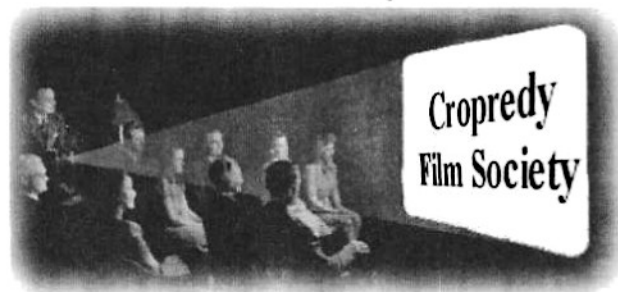
Contact Helena Mills (Show Secretary) [helena.mills@btinternet.com](mailto:helena.mills@btinternet.com) / 07894 758315 or any other committee member.

# CROPREDY FILM SOCIETY

## AUTUMN SEASON 2025

Film Suppers at 7.00 pm

Doors open 6.30 pm



**Saturday October 25th.**

### **Juror #2**

"Justice is blind. Guilt sees everything." What if a juror in a cut-and-dried murder trial suddenly realises that he was perhaps the killer?

*Juror #2* is an American legal thriller, co-produced and directed by Clint Eastwood. It stars Nicholas Hoult, Toni Collette, J.K. Simmons and Kiefer Sutherland in strong performances.

Released 2024

Duration 114 minutes

Booking through [f.61whitaker@btinternet.com](mailto:f.61whitaker@btinternet.com). Ticket prices for members still only £8. New members always welcome. No tickets on door in order to comply with licensing rules.

## Cropredy Lunches

Cropredy Lunches is open to anybody who would like to have a delicious home cooked lunch twice a month. We usually have about twenty guests, but there is room for a few more. If you would like to join us on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 12.30 p.m., just get in touch with:

Valerie Peachey at [valerie.peachey@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.peachey@gmail.com) Phone 01295 750739 or 07818 414046

Look forward to hearing from you. Valerie Peachey

## Garden Centre, Café and Antiques

**£5 OFF**

When you spend £30

or more

With this advert- t&c apply

Offer expires:

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**



**Pansies, Violas,  
Wallflowers and Baskets  
Great Autumn Colour**



**Spring Flower Bulbs  
Now In  
Ideal Time to Plant**

Barn Farm Plants Gift Vouchers...make an ideal Gift!

**Barn Farm Plants  
Garden Centre**

Opening Times  
Mon to Sat 9am- 5.00pm  
Sunday 10am-4pm

Upper Wardington  
Banbury, Oxon, OX17 1SN

01295 758080  
[www.barnfarmplants.co.uk](http://www.barnfarmplants.co.uk)



## Your Local Exterior Cleaning Company

- Window Cleaning, Frames, Sills & Doors all Included
- 4 or 8 Week Schedule
- Fascia and Soffit Cleaning (Including Exterior of Gutters)
- Gutter Clearing
- Driveway + Patio Cleaning

**Regular and Reliable**  
**Call Gavin on 07873272188**  
**[info@jhmcleaning.co.uk](mailto:info@jhmcleaning.co.uk)**  
**[www.jhmcleaning.co.uk](http://www.jhmcleaning.co.uk)**



## YOGA

Cropredy Village Hall

Classes aim to gently improve muscle strength, flexibility and alignment, release tension from body and mind, increasing wellbeing.

Postures, Breathing, relaxation.

Please enquire for more information.

Beginners Welcome. New term 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2025

Wednesdays (term time) 10.30-12.00am

Donna Duncombe (Real Yoga Qualified)

01295 722652 [duncombe.donna@gmail.com](mailto:duncombe.donna@gmail.com)

SIMON



FIELD

**Simon Field, Cropredy.**

**Experienced General Builder Established 2003.**

**For all your building needs – extensions, roofing, chimney repair and re-build, kitchens and bathrooms.**

**For a free quote please phone 07906310586 or email**

**[nomisfield@gmail.com](mailto:nomisfield@gmail.com)**

## WI Activities and Entertainment

The WI is not only a do-gooding and finger wagging group but from the very beginning it has enjoyed social evenings and entertainment. We no longer have talks on plucking and trussing chicken or preserving fruit and we don't stand around the piano singing madrigals. Our founding members stressed the need for socializing and were very good at letting their hair down; they put on plays, had dancing lessons, played silly games and organized village treasure hunts. With the coming of cinema and television we are not so good at entertaining ourselves. Now every monthly meeting has a speaker or demonstrator and our range of topics is endless. Just this year we have had a biker who called his talk Blood, Bikes and Babies; he told of the incredible charity that covers Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire rushing blood and baby milk (to neonatal clinics) from the John Radcliffe to all over these counties. We listened to an illustrated talk about Banksy (criminal or genius) and his works. We heard from a lady who had come as a one-year old on the Windrush, been abandoned immediately by her mother, lived as a foster child until that family went to Australia and left her behind. Despite all this she became the first black cadet and policewoman in Warwickshire then retrained as a social worker forging a successful and rewarding career. A truly memorable talk. Our latest talk was from a lady who had been on The Repair Shop and we had a very amusing and insightful look at behind the scenes stories of that 17th century barn. We don't only sit and listen. We also hold workshops, once a year, and have done things as varied as silver clay working (held twice it was so successful), mosaic coaster making, paper flower lessons, restringing grandmothers pearls or recycling them into other jewelry, belly dancing. Also once a year we plan outings to places or things of interest. This year we are going to the V & A to see the Cartier exhibition. In previous years we have been to the National Portrait Gallery, Buckingham Palace and Handel and Jimmi Hendrix's house and the Wallace collection. In other parts of the country we went to the Black Country Museum, the Needles and Buttons Museums in Birmingham and to a play in Oxford. We have walked, cycled and swum a hundred mile challenge; had a go at bowls and putting, picnicked on Avon Dasset and have an archery session in our sights. All this and plenty of time to chat at monthly meetings.

**We hope and expect this dynamic group to keep going for another hundred years – come and join us. And not a sniff of jam anywhere.**

## Cropredy Gardening Club

Talk by Craig Blackwell

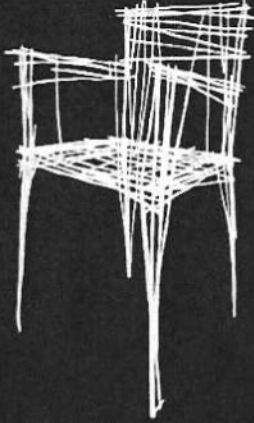
'Creating and maintaining a wildflower area in your garden'

Wednesday October 8th. at 7.30 p.m.  
Cropredy Village Hall

Join ecologist and Oxfordshire wildflower expert Craig Blackwell for an illustrated talk on establishing wildflowers in your garden. Wildflowers are essential for maintaining biodiversity, providing habitats and food for pollinators like bees and butterflies. Join us to understand how you can contribute to ecological balance and help sustain local wildlife.

All welcome, free to members, non-members £5

lawrence furnishings  
RE-UPHOLSTERY CUSHIONS



**RE-UPHOLSTERY**

**01280 704437**

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

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

## **BOURTON DRAIN SERVICES**

**BLOCKED DRAIN SPECIALISTS**

All types of blockages undertaken -  
Domestic - Retail - Commercial -Industrial.  
Toilets - Baths - Sinks - Urinals - Showers -  
Gullies - Drains - Grease Traps  
CCTV Surveys - Tanker Service -  
Gully Emptying

**HIGH PRESSURE WATER JETTING**  
**SPECIALISTS.**

**BANBURY'S ORIGINAL AND BEST LOCAL  
INDEPENDENT DRAIN CLEANING COMPANY.  
GENUINE 24 HOUR 7 DAY SERVICE.**

**Approved Contractors to Several Local  
Authorities**

**Over 20 years experience.**

**Unit 15, Beaumont Business Centre,  
Beaumont Close, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 1TN.**

Phone 01295 758303

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



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



[www.treasured.rip](http://www.treasured.rip)  
professional grave care  
**treasured**

### **Memorial tending & grave care**

Anniversaries met  
Cards and messages delivered  
Gravestone/site restoration  
Weeding, strimming/pest control  
Re-lettering and gravel renewal  
Vase maintenance/care  
Covering OX/CV/NN



Annual cover: £9.99pm  
No set-up/up-front fees  
No visit restrictions/extras

[dj@reallybusy.co.uk](mailto:dj@reallybusy.co.uk)

insta: [treasured.rip](https://www.instagram.com/treasured.rip)

X: [@treasured\\_rip](https://twitter.com/treasured_rip)

**07747 635551**





# FAR FAR GALLERY

WORKS70 by Simon Allison - *Open to the public Sunday 12 October 2025*

Works are now well underway on our gallery barn conversion.

We look forward to inviting you to the opening of the space that was so well supported by the village when we were gaining planning permission to expand the Lockbund Gallery programme.

For more information please visit our website: [www.farfargallery.com](http://www.farfargallery.com)  
Sign up to our mailing list for details of our inaugural and future exhibitions.

Email: [info@farfargallery.com](mailto:info@farfargallery.com) Tel: 01295 758066  
Find us: Far Far Gallery, Oxhey Hill, Cropredy, Banbury OX17 1DR

**Hot Food**  
**Local Deli**  
**Local Crafts**  
**Carols**  
**Games**

**Cropredy Primary  
School's**

**Christmas  
CROPFEST**

**Bigger and better  
for 2025!**



**Afternoon Tea**  
**Santa grotto**  
**Husky dogs**  
**Raffle**  
**Games**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday**  
**6<sup>th</sup>**  
**December**  
**12-4pm**

The PTFA will be out in Cropredy on the weekends of November 15th. and 22nd. collecting bottle, chocolate and raffle donations. If you have anything you'd be / happy to give we would be very grateful!

All your Massage and Beauty needs  
in Cropredy

Targeting a pain area, wanting to  
prevent damage or just looking to  
relax and unwind with our natural  
scents and products.



## Heal & Unwind at R3balance.

Welcome to our new home  
in the Old dairy of Prescote Manor Farm in Cropredy

Book online [www.R3balance.me](http://www.R3balance.me)

Or call 01295 264 079

**cinnam@n**  
hrconsultancy

## Is HR on your To Do List?

Banbury based HR Consultancy trusted by many  
local businesses just like yours.

- Ⓢ getting the HR essentials in place
- Ⓢ ensuring legal compliance
- Ⓢ streamlining HR admin
- Ⓢ being approachable & responsive

Professional  
CV  
writing  
service too

**We care for your business just like you do.**

**We'd love to support you too.**

[www.cinnamonhr.co.uk](http://www.cinnamonhr.co.uk) ☎ Tel: 07456538677 ☎ [hello@cinnamonhr.co.uk](mailto:hello@cinnamonhr.co.uk)

## Travel, Troubles and Transgression, Notes on the Cropredy Burial Register

Historians know all too well the hazards of being side-tracked during the course of their research. A casual comment, a passing reference, and all of a sudden one finds oneself off down a rabbit hole that may lead to 'Wonderland' or, at least, 'Well that was quite interesting' land. In this case I had been asked to check the burial register for Cropredy parish to confirm the number of casualties interred in the churchyard in the aftermath of the Battle of Cropredy Bridge (June 29th.1644).<sup>1</sup> Other soldiers found their last resting place in Cropredy both during the English Civil War and before. What provoked this brief investigation were the repeated references to the burial of poor 'wayfaring' persons which of course lead on to the question of vagrancy. 1545 was not a good year for itinerants who not only passed into the parish but also out of this mortal life for we read of four burials:

February 7th. A poor woman that went a gadding  
February 16th. A poor chylde going a gadding  
February 27th. A poor wench that went from dere to dere  
March 21st. A poor body that went by the way.

Four anonymous travellers perished and were presumably buried at the parish's expense in just six weeks, three of them in February, the 'cruellest month' in actuality. Gadding is perhaps a slightly archaic term but its modern usage certainly retains the meaning of going from place to place in search of distraction. In the sixteenth century it had rather more negative connotations. It is possible that the two individuals who had been gadding had been mother and child although it is interesting that none of the casualties are named, presumably because they were found dead or had been too ill to interrogate. The previous four years saw four similar entries:

1540, April 26th., Annes Green, a goer by the way  
1541 October 1st., Yssabell Clapton, a stranger  
1544 May 3rd., Richard and Alys Wryght, strangers  
1544 December 19th., A poor child that went begging.

Of course some of these individuals may have been *bona fide* travellers, the Wryghts for example but 'goer by the way' suggests a peripatetic lifestyle. The remainder of the century saw 8 further fatalities with a distinct cluster in the mid-1590s.

1553 July 13th., Gyeles - a stranger Chylde  
1557 May 2nd., Margarytt, a poor child that went a begging  
1581 March 2nd., A poor wandering boy about the age of 12 years  
1588 February 17th., Margaret a poor wandering woman  
1594 March 4th., James Towley, the child of a poor wandering woman  
1595 June 22nd., A poor wandering man in ... of a soldier  
1595 December 23rd., The child (conytted?) to a poor wandering woman abroad at Asten The Walls  
1596 January 15th. A poor wayfaring man's child, a boy about 5 years old

In all, the latter sixty years of the sixteenth century saw the deaths of 17 itinerants who were buried in Cropredy, around one death every 3 or 4 years, so by no means an uncommon happening. What is remarkable is that Banbury itself and many of the surrounding villages had very few such occurrences... what made Cropredy different? Read more in the next exciting episode.

Stephen Wass

<sup>1</sup> Oxfordshire History Centre:

Register of baptisms, marriages and burials, 1538-1571 PAR78/1/R1/1

Register of baptisms, marriages and burials, 1572-1654 PAR78/1/R1/2

Register of baptisms, marriages and burials, 1654-1719 PAR78/1/R1/3

Register of baptisms, marriages and burials, 1719-1812 PAR78/1/R1/4

Transcribed by Sue Lester, transcription currently held in archive of Cropredy Historical Society, Church Rooms, Cropredy.



Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday 8th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.30 p.m.	Cropredy Gardening Club <i>A wildflower area in your garden</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 12th.		WOPRKS70 by Simon Allison	Far Far Gallery
Monday 13th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Wednesday 15th.	7.30 p.m.	Cropredy Historical Society <i>Mahatma Gandhi</i>	Village Hall
Sunday 19th.	4.00 p.m.	Ventiquattro in Concert	Wardington Church
Wednesday 22nd.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Saturday 25th.	6.30 p.m.	Cropredy Film Society <i>Juror #2</i>	Village Hall
Monday 27th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall

**The Crier is published by The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Cropredy.**

**Whilst every care is taken the editor accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, consequences or the endless diversion signs that have sprung up everywhere that lead to nothing but confusion.**

**Deadline for the next edition will be Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Stephen Wass: [editor@church-of-st-mary-the-virgin-cropredy.org](mailto:editor@church-of-st-mary-the-virgin-cropredy.org)**

*Village organisations have generally been allocated half a page each month. We can sometimes accommodate more, depending on the volume of notices coming in, and we will always do our best if you have a special event coming up. Please talk to us if you think you might need more space, and bear in mind when drawing up notices that they may need to fit on half a page and that we can only print in black and white.*

**Advertising rates for 2025 are as follows:**

**Quarter page £8 per calendar month**

**Half page £15 per calendar month**

**Full page £25 per calendar month**

**Advertisers who book and pay for the year ahead attract a discounted rate of 12 months for the price of 10 (or pro rata for alternate months or other prepaid block bookings)**