

The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for January 2026



CROPREDY Church Quiz

in the Village Hall

Saturday February 7th., 7.00 p.m.

Teams of 4 £9.00 p.p. to include supper
Bar Raffle



Contact: Gill Parratt.....750427 or Pip Dealtry.....758255
(pipdealtry@hotmail.com).

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St. Mary's Church March 28th.
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SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Sunday 11th.	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Sunday 18th.	10.00 a.m.	Seeker Service	Siobhan and Rebecca Croft
Tuesdays	12 noon	Holy Communion Service	
Wednesdays	9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	
Sunday 4th.	10.00 a.m.	Ringling in the New Year Family Communion for Epiphany Wardington	Revd. Canon Sarah Fenby
Churchwardens:	Verna Wass	verna.wass@btinternet.com	01295 758222,
	Graham Oliver	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

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 4th.	Rev Phil Robinson, inc. Holy Communion. (congregations from Chacombe, Greatworth, Hinton joining us.)
Sunday 11th.	Cate Vokes
Sunday 18th.	Hazel Stagg
Sunday 25th.	Circuit Service (at Marlboro' Rd, Banbury)



COFFEE MORNING

with homemade cakes and other things to buy

FRIDAY 9th. 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.



'Warm Space' cafe - normally 1st, 3rd, & 4th Fridays

Oxfordshire's Secret Gardens - a talk by Stephen Wass
for Banbury Historical Society
Banbury Museum
Thursday January 8th. 7.30 p.m.

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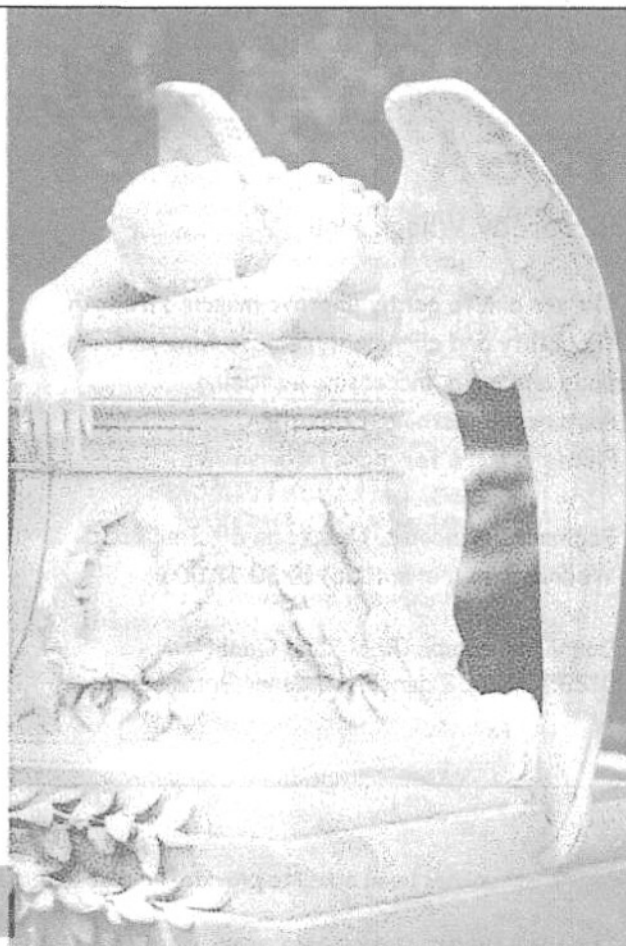
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YOGA



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 8th Jan. 2025
Wednesdays (term time) 10.30-12.00am

Donna Duncombe (Real Yoga Qualified)
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CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 8th December 2025 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson, Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Jacqui Smith, Rachel Hughes, Carine Varaez, Carl Twynham, County Councillor & District Councillor Chris Brant and David Best (Clerk). Three members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs District Cllr Phil Chapman

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 10th November were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i. **Oak tree on an allotment** – Cllr Tania Johnson undertook to ask Mr Tim Batchellor for advice on removal or transplanting the oak tree and a tree on plot 5.

ii. **Installation of additional dog poo bin at Upper Prescote** – CDC has confirmed that they can empty the bin if it is on a road so a new bin will be ordered by the clerk.

iii. **Request from the school to fund a defibrillator cabinet** – The school has been asked to provide the cost so that the PC can decide whether to fund this.

5. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Canals and Rivers Trust – In November, the task force commenced renovation of a brick building at the Claydon flight of locks to establish another Lockkeepers Inn. This work will be continued at the next scheduled 'Towpath Taskforce' on Wednesday 29th January 2026.

Damaged manhole and sign – These were reported on Fix My Street. The manhole has been repaired but the signs has not been repaired yet, but OCC has acknowledged that it will be repaired.

Potholes on Oxhey Hill – These have now been repaired.

New waste bin in Vicarage Gardens – The PC would like to thank Mr Simon Bull for fitting this and removing the ivy on top of the churchyard wall.

Playground maintenance – A quote has been received for repairs identified in the last playground inspection report. A quote will also be obtained for the zip wire and then grant applications will be submitted.

6. TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING

Street Lighting – Cllr Clive Dunn has drafted a questionnaire on part night lighting to be distributed in the village when confirmation has been received of the conversion of lights to LED.

Blocked gulleys on Williamscot Road – These have been reported to OCC on Fix My Street

7. VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT : No update

8. PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA: No update.

9. PLANNING:

New Planning Applications and Appeals:

25/02754/F – The Straw Barn – Addition of 1st floor windows – PC has no objections.



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New Planning Decisions: None since last meeting.

10. COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

Parish Council Christmas Tree – Councillor Chris Brant congratulated the PC on their Christmas tree at the church

Highways issues – Councillor Chris Brant is meeting OCC Highways every 6 weeks and has offered to raise any issues on behalf of the PC.

Glass recycling in Blue Bins – Glass can be recycled in Blue Bins from 1st January.

Local Government reorganisation – Three proposals have been submitted to the Government who will consider them and carry out a public consultation next year.

11. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB: Parish Councillors representation on the

Management Committee – The constitution provides for 2 councillors to be represented on the committee but there are currently none. Representation on the committee will be decided at the January PC meeting.

12. PARISH MATTERS:

i. Churchyard Wall repairs – Mr Andrew Baxter, chartered surveyor, has met with Mr Stephen Wass, to discuss the location of the wall ties. The clerk is organising a meeting between Mr Andrew Baxter and OCC Highways to seek their approval for the repairs.

ii. 2026-27 Budget and Precept – The draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed to increase the precept by 5%.

iii. Letter from Obsidian requesting a meeting with the PC on the proposed planning application for 74 additional houses (Phase 2) – In reply to the request from Obsidian to meet with the PC, the PC advised that it would meet with Obsidian at the public meeting with Cropredy residents. Obsidian advised that it was not holding a public meeting, so it was agreed to form a subcommittee with two members of Keep Cropredy Rural to meet with Obsidian to obtain more details on their proposal to build additional houses. It was agreed to contact the Hanwell group who opposed the application in their Parish for advice and details of the planning consultant that they engaged. A letter was sent to Thames Water as they had advised after the phase 1 planning had been granted that there was insufficient capacity in the system to process the sewage. Thames Water advised that it would respond to CDC on any new application after completing an assessment. A resident has asked the PC if it will contribute to the cost of an independent consultant to assess the sewage issue, but CDC has advised the PC that the planning department will use the report submitted by Thames Water (the statutory consultee) not a consultant. A subcommittee will also be formed with residents to ensure that the Phase 1 development is built in line with the conditions set by CDC. Obsidian has advised that a developer has agreed to take on the phase 1 development and is expected to submit the "Reserved Matters" application to CDC in the spring. Cropredy Surgery has advised the PC "We are discussing Heads of Terms with Obsidian and we are trying to get this finalised

currently. We have passed our terms back to Obsidian and are awaiting their response. The ICB has been involved in the process and have been supportive."

13. FINANCE.

Accounts to 30th November – These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no requests for clarification.

14. CORRESPONDENCE: None outstanding

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE: None

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CROPREDY FILM SOCIETY

Film Supper at 7.00 p.m.

Doors open 6.30 p.m.

Saturday January 31st.

The Ballad of Wallis Island

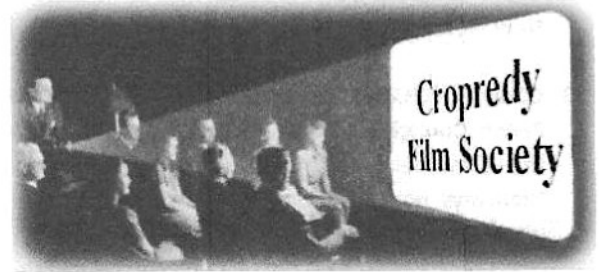
Released 2025 Duration 100 minutes

An eccentric millionaire lives on a remote Welsh island, and books his favourite musical act to come out of retirement to perform a lucrative one-off concert.

Starring Carey Mulligan with Tim Key and Tom Basden

Booking from January 5 through f.61whitaker@btinternet.com. Ticket prices for members still only £8.

New members always welcome. No tickets on door in order to comply with film licensing rules.



CROPREDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday January 21st

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Followed by **Banbury's People**

Verna Wass profiles some interesting and significant residents

Plus an opportunity to inspect and review photographs and memoirs from CHS archives



Cropredy Harlequins present

A Ding Dong Verily

*Friday 16th and Saturday 17th January
at 7.30pm*

Cropredy Village Hall

Tickets £8.00

available from

01295 758224

or Ticket Source (see QR code)



(Licensed bar)

Travel, Troubles and Transgression, Notes on the Cropredy Burial Register Part IV

The fact that 14 women and 9 children should have been buried in Cropredy as compared to 15 men (Table 1) is perhaps surprising in that so many women and children should have taken to a wandering life although one might also suspect that they were less robust than the men on the road. Beier says of vagrant women that, 'they were basically of three sorts: those looking for husbands who had deserted them, unmarried pregnant girls' and those who in the parlance of the time were labelled as 'nymphs of the pave'. Quite predictable is the season of vagrant deaths (Table 2) with a peak in deaths in March, a time when, whilst the weather has started to improve, it is a month of dearth as far as food supplies are concerned.

In considering the long term occurrence of traveller related burials in the village it certainly appears that there are clusters of dates although establishing a correlation between numbers and exterior events is problematic. The worse the weather the more fatalities amongst the wandering poor but equally the worse the weather the less likely the poor were to be abroad. Similarly years of bad harvests may have driven more people onto the road and at the same time residents may have been less well placed to offer sustenance. In our case research has shown that there seems to be little correlation between high prices, implying poor harvests and numbers of vagrant burials. It may be that fluctuations are more closely linked to local circumstances along with a degree of randomness. It was generally recognised that the problem of vagrancy effectively began to diminish after 1660 and the Restoration. Beier offers a number of explanations, the chief one being that, 'demographically

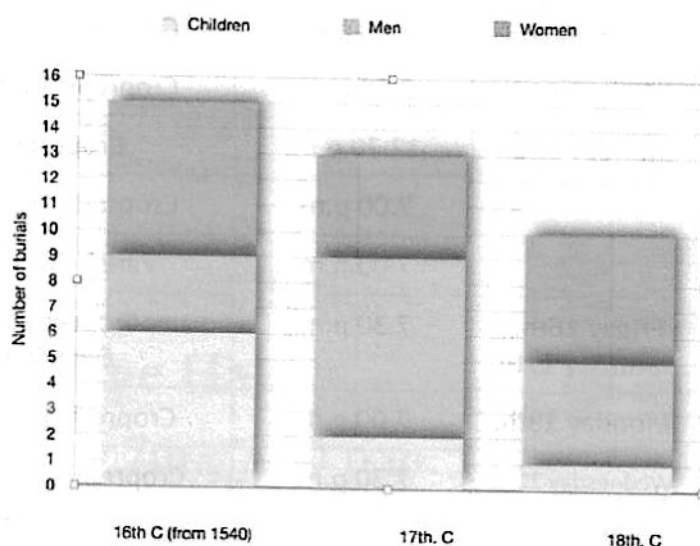


Table 1 Vagrant burials 1540 - 1800 by gender and age

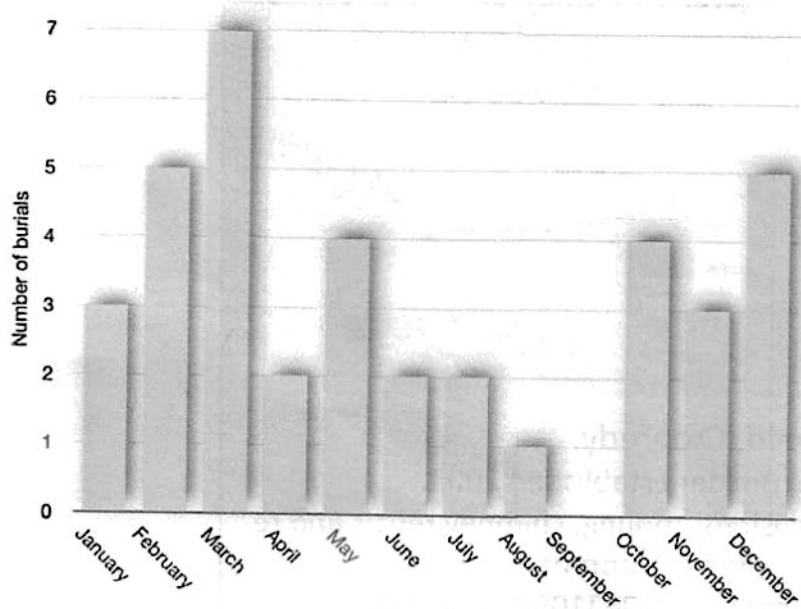


Table 2 Vagrant burials 1540 - 1800 by month

and economically society became more stable and prosperous from the mid-seventeenth century'. However things worked out, eventually, the people of Cropredy provided the ultimate resting place for 41 possible vagrants and doubtless in other ways supported wayfaring people in the final days of their lives.


Of course benighted travellers were not the only inhabitants of Cropredy churchyard. Unsurprisingly, given the level of military activity in the area during the Civil War a number of burials relating to military men were recorded that we shall examine next time.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Monday 5th.	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Wednesday 7th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Monday 12th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	Methodist Chapel
Friday 16th./ Saturday 17th.	7.30 p.m.	Cropredy Harlequins <i>Ding Dong Verily</i>	Village Hall
Monday 19th.	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Wednesday 21st.	7.30 p.m.	Cropredy Historical Societys <i>Banbury People</i>	Village Hall
Monday 26th.	6.00 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
Saturday 31st.	6.30 p.m.	Cropredy Film Society <i>Ballad of Wallis Island</i>	Village Hall

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for any errors, omissions, consequences
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Stephen Wass: editor@church-of-st-mary-the-virgin-cropredy.org

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