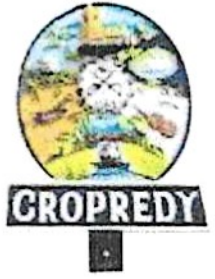


The Cropredy Crier

Village news & events for May 2026



CROPREDY CHURCH FETE

Saturday June 20th

from 12.30

St. Mary's Church and Churchyard

complete with all your favourites: Village Pantry, our legendary Bottle Tombola, Teas, BBQ, Pimms Bar, Raffle, Plants, Baubles Bangles and Beads, Live Music and more.

Not to mention games and activities to keep all ages entertained.

Helpers welcome and donations gratefully received

Please contact verna.wass@btinternet.com 01295 758222

Cropredy Harlequins Summer Soirees

Saturday July 11th (evening) Sunday July 12th (afternoon)

Save the date and share your inspiration for

an outdoor cabaret style entertainment on all things "Weather".

Interested in performing or have an idea for a song, reading, sketch?

Please contact our secretary: carolinewatsham@btinternet.com

Cropredy Fairport Festival

It's not quite that time of year yet, but...concessionary tickets for the Fairport weekend will be on sale to village residents in Cropredy Village Hall on **Saturday June 27th** and **Saturday July 4th** between 10.00 a.m.- 12.00 and 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Payment by card or cheque is preferred please. Residents in the marina are also eligible to buy tickets by showing a current council tax invoice. Please bring identification with you and proof of address. As last year tickets will cost £48 and £24 for children aged 12 to 17



WELFARE MATTERS. Pantry in the Porch at St Marys' Church is proving very successful and is definitely meeting a need. We are grateful for a grant from Cherwell District Council to help restock but would welcome donations from members of the community to help us fill this need. Literature on cooking on a budget also available in the porch. We have recently received some donations of fresh vegetables which have been very popular, and a donation of cat food for those with hungry pets to feed.

One-off Food Vouchers for those who need extra support from time to time can be accessed through Revd Sarah Tel: 01295 750486/ Mob: 07747181868 or Mr Reeves at the School. An individual, couple or family may apply.

Baptism & Confirmation The Bishop of Dorchester Bishop Gavin Reid will be baptising and confirming on Sunday May 3rd at 9.30 a.m., at St Mary's Cropredy, if anyone is interested in knowing more about what baptism and confirmation mean, or making these next steps of faith in Christ for themselves, please do not hesitate to be in touch. I'm always happy to talk about such things!

Please be in touch at: Vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com 01295 750486, 07747181868

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Sunday 3rd.	9.30 a.m..	Family Communion	Bishop Gavin
Sunday 10th.	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Revd Sue Cooke
Sunday 17th.	10.00.a.m.	Seeker Service	tbc
Sunday 24th.		Visiting Sunday	
Tuesdays	12 noon	Holy Communion Service	
Wednesdays	9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer	

All enquiries for baptism, confirmation, wedding or funeral services to:

Revd Canon Sarah Fenby Vicar of Shires Edge Benefice

The Vicarage, High Street, Cropredy

Tel: 01295 750486 Mob: 07747181868 Email: vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com

Churchwardens: Verna Wass verna.wass@btinternet.com 01295 758222,

Graham Oliver nb.Alnwick@gmail.com 01295 750956

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

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

Sunday 3rd.	Local Arrangement Service at Cropredy
Sunday 10th.	Local "Cluster" service at Chacombe (Note 10.45 a.m. start).
Sunday 17th.	Hazel Stagg
Sunday 24th.	Jane Wass.
Sunday 31st..	Circuit Service at Marlboro' Rd Banbury. (No service at Cropredy)

COFFEE MORNING

with homemade cakes and other things to buy

FRIDAY 8th. 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 closed now until next winter





Do you want to keep active and enjoy the fresh air? I'm pleased to tell you that Croppredy Tennis Club are inviting Members to enrol for the 2026/27 season. We are a friendly club, and we will be delighted to have more people joining. From 1st May 2026 until 30th April 2027, the membership rates are:

Family Membership (up to 2 adults and 3 children under 18)	£90
Adult Membership (single)	£63
Croppredy Resident discount Family Membership (up to 2 adults and 3 children under 18)	£80
Croppredy Resident discount Adult Membership (single)	£55
Student (over 16 at 1.5.25 but under 23 yrs)	£30
Junior (under 16 at 1.5.25)	£15

Our courts are in excellent condition. Coaching is available for juniors and adults. We also operate a Pay & Play for non-members. Please visit the CTC website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CroppredyTennisClub> for obtaining membership online and details of the club, including booking courts.

Croppredy WI

COLOUR IN ART

Tuesday May 12th. 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall

This month we welcome popular speaker Lizzy Rowe for a return visit. Lizzy is an artist and art historian who gave a fascinating talk on Banksy last year. This time she will share insights into the use of colour in art. All welcome - £5 admission for non members (including men). Tea, coffee, home-made cake, sales table, raffle, collection point for Banbury Food Bank.



CROPPREDY UKULELE GROUP

Monday May 11th. 6.30 -7.30p.m. We are a small, informal group who meet once a month in a member's home and do the occasional public performance. Suitable for all levels. Chord sheets provided.

Further details from carolinefwatsham@gmail.com.

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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.

Wednesdays (term time) 10.30-12.00am

Donna Duncombe (Real Yoga Qualified)
01295 722652 duncombe.donna@gmail.com

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CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Cropredy Parish Council meeting held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7pm Present: Councillors Tania Johnson, Jacqui Smith, Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Carine Varaez, Rachel Hughes, County Cllr Chris Brant and David Best (Clerk). Two members of the public attended the meeting.

- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Carl Twynham, District Cllr Phil Chapman
 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 16th March were approved as a correct record and were signed by the chairman. The minutes of the February meeting will be signed in the May meeting.
 - MATTERS ARISING:**
 - Trees on the Allotments** – The cost of removal is approximate £1000 and this expenditure can't be justified as the allotment rent is £110 per annum. Allotment holders will be encouraged to manage trees as they sprout in any allotments. The allotment agreement will be reviewed and updated.
 - Cabinet for the defibrillator at the school** – The school asked if the PC would fund an external cabinet but has not advised the cost. **Webcam to show Flooding at the bridge** – no progress with this
 - Garage Sale** – The date is to be decided. This will be held at the same time as another event (TBA) in the village so that it can be promoted jointly. Cllr Rachel Hughes will check with the WI.
 - Metal Recycling Collection Scheme** – This will probably be done at the same time as the Cropredy Fairport Convention. A possible location for dropping off the metal items will be the Sports and Social Club car park.
 - Community Repair Day** – Middleton Cheney are launching theirs shortly and this will be observed to see how it operates. Hook Norton run a scheme and District Councillor Chris Brant will advise the details of the organisers.
 - Safety at the School** – It was agreed that OCC Highways will be invited to observe the traffic and pedestrian issues one morning at 8.15am so that they can make recommendations. Cllr Des Knight will formally request this to District Cllr Chris Brant.
 - VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**
 - Loose Kerbstone at Village Hall** – this has been repaired but additional gravel may be required as it is higher.
 - Cracks in the Tennis Court** – Mr Tim Batchelor will dig exploratory trenches to determine if roots are causing the damage and if a root barrier should be installed. He has advised that cutting down the trees would cause more damage as they absorb water.
 - Surface water in Red Lion Street opposite the bungalows** – This was reported on Fix my street. OCC Highways has advised that this may take some time to fix and for more information visit www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com
 - Upper Churchyard Mowing** – The mowers have been serviced by Mr Geoff Wheeler. The rota has been issued but more volunteers are required and Cllr Des Knight will try to recruit more via a note in the Cropredy Crier.
 - Licence Labels for Brown Bins** – These have been attached to the bins apart from the bin at Vicarage Gardens that couldn't be located.
 - Playground** – Cllr Jacqui Smith has completed an application for a grant and will prioritise the work list and circulate it. A 10 year plan of work will be drafted
 - Canals and Rivers Trust** – The next towpath taskforce is 29th April.
 - Flooding on Williamscot Rd** – Mr John Taylor will submit a quote for digging out the ditch and District Councillor Chris Brant will forward an OCC Flood Prevention grant application which could contribute towards the cost.
 - Tennis Court Flooding** – a concrete kerb has been installed to try to divert water away from the courts.
 - Station Rd post box repairs** – This has been reported to Royal Mail and the postman will follow this up.
 - TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING**
 - Speedwatch** – A new 3 month schedule will be put in place early May.
 - Street Lighting** – Conversion to LED lighting has still not been completed Cllr Clive Dunn will request an update prior the May meeting.
 - Resurfacing of Williamscot Road** – this has been completed.
 - Missing 20mph speed limit sign on Station Road** – Someone has removed the sign from the pole, This has been reported on Fix my Street.
 - VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT:** No update
 - PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA:** The May and June PC meetings will be held in the Sports and Social Club. Cllrs Tania Johnson and Carine Varaez will go to the club to investigate what technology is required to broadcast it.
 - SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT:** No update
 - PLANNING: 25/03234/OUT (74 houses on Land East of Claydon Rd)** The report from the planning consultant giving advice on this application is imminent and will be circulated to councillors as soon as received.

New Planning Applications and Appeals:

26/00518/F – Oathill Farm – Equestrian Stables – PC to decide

26/00692/PIP - Brickfield House permission in principle for up to 4 houses – The applicant attended the meeting to brief the PC who will decide the response.

23/00976/F – Land between Railway track and School Lane – 71 Houses & public car park – It is believed that the notification of this planning application was sent to the PC in error by CDC (the original application was withdrawn). Two emails have been sent CD requesting confirmation and the PC is awaiting a response. District Councillor will follow this up with CDC

New Planning Decisions: None since last meeting.

26/00166/F – Thickthorn Farm – Alterations to extension of outbuilding – CDC granted 18/03/2026

10. **COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: Ability Bus** – OCC has secured funding for a further year.

Stagecoach service to villages north of Banbury – District Cllr Chris Brant is trying to secure funding to extend the current service out to villages.

Cherwell Local Plan – the decision from the government is awaited on this.

Caravan development on road to Great Bourton – CDC enforcement is taking legal action against this.

11. **SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB: Parish Councillors representation on the Management Committee** – Cllrs Jaqui Smith and Rachel Hughes are going to become committee members.

12. **PARISH MATTERS:**

- i. **Churchyard Wall repairs** – The CARE Engineer is going to survey the wall on 28th April.
- ii. **Recruitment of new clerk** – Three people have applied and it is hoped that the interviews will take place in the week beginning 20th April.
- iii. **Insurance renewal** – It was agreed to renew the insurance of the Sports and Social Club premises and public liability insurance.

13. **FINANCE: Accounts to 31st March** – These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no requests for clarification. The Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was agreed and the AGAR will be submitted to the external auditor after the internal audit has been completed.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Cllr Tania Johnson recommended the OALC training to councillors

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE:**

- i. **Local Heritage Assets** – It was agreed to investigate registering The Red Lion, The Brasenose, and the village shop with CDC after the owners have been contacted. Previous attempts to contact the owners of the village shop have failed.
- ii. **Post box at Springfield House** – This is leaning over and it was agreed to contact the owners to see if it has been reported
- iii. **Resignation of Cllr Tania Johnson** – Cllr Tania Johnson has advised that she is stepping down as a councillor after the May meeting.

16. **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** None

17. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – Monday 11th May Your Village needs you.

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Have you moaned that the Parish Council are not doing a good job?

You can only change by becoming part of it. More hands make lighter work, leaving all the work to few, means certain projects will have to be put to one side. Step up be counted and join your Parish Council. Meetings second Monday of Month.

Contact clerk@cropredyparishcouncil.gov.uk or phone 07941063549

MORE SUPPORT URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Cropredy Upper Churchyard Mowing Rota 2026 It's that time of the year when we start thinking about mowing the Churchyard. Last year we had a team of 22 volunteers but we have lost some of that support due to change of circumstances. To help us maintain the appearance of this historic village asset - we just need you to volunteer (all necessary equipment and fuel is provided). The mowing rota starts in March and finishes in September with cuts every 2 weeks requiring an average of 3 volunteers per cut. If we can maintain a team of 22 volunteers, it will require on average 2 cuts per volunteer.

If you feel that you can support the existing team with this worthwhile activity. then please put yourself on the list for the 2026 season. If you can help us, please give me a call at your convenience so that we can talk it through. It would be very much appreciated to help maintain the appearance of our village church.

Des Knight, Cropredy Parish Councillor, 07990 588392

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Cropredy Gardening Club

Wednesday May 13th. Leaving Cropredy Village Green at 1.00 p.m.

Visit to Upton Wold Garden, Moreton-in-Marsh

"The most glorious garden view in England"

"A garden for all seasons. Upton Wold contains a plethora of rare trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and bulbs."

All welcome including non-members, entry price £15 payable on the day
Please contact Sue Fairbrother on 750523 or by email if you would like to come



Cropredy Historical Society

Wednesday May 20th. Cropredy Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

When the Landships Came to Town

An illustrated talk by Helen Frost

The incredible story of the Tank Banks which aimed to raise money for the war effort through investments in War Bonds and War Savings Certificates. With the assistance of vivid whirlwind journeys, the tanks whipped up excitement as they visited towns and cities all over the country.

What were the final totals raised? Can you match the towns and cities to the funds raised? You may be surprised at the results. Pit your wits in Helen's true or false quiz, while learning weird and wonderful things about Tank Weeks.



Visitors always welcome £5

Refreshments free

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

Great caution needs to be exercised when drawing conclusions, especially numerical ones, from such parish records. In between the vagaries of individual record keepers and the uneven survival of the data, to say nothing of errors in transcription, there are inevitably gaps and inconsistencies. Even so these necessarily brief entries in the registers inevitably expose in brief flashes human stories of enormous complexity. We have already seen a variety of terms used to label those who go gadding about from beggars to strangers to the most common term in the Cropredy accounts 'wayfaring'. Whilst there was a certain clarity in definitions of vagrancy, for example the Vagabonds Act of 1531 defined the subjects of the act as, 'any man or woman being whole and mighty in body and able to labour: having no land, master, nor using any lawful merchandise, craft or mystery whereby he might get his living', in practice those buried in Cropredy are likely to have had as many stories as there were individuals. Similarly those poor infants, products of illicit relationships, laid to rest in the village were outsiders of a different stripe but still would have had their story to tell. However, the brutal fact is that over the course of two centuries 41 travelling people, 11 of who went nameless to their grave, 14 soldiers, 9 of them anonymous and 11 illegitimate children were interred in Cropredy churchyard, No doubt some were welcome, some, perhaps many, were not; some residents of the parish of Cropredy would have exhibited charity and compassion others perhaps less so. These remain topics that retain their contemporary relevance from the much demonised 'hippy convoys' and Stonehenge's 'Battle of the Beanfield' of the 1980s, through local opposition to the siting of caravan parks for travellers to the current support for families fleeing conflicts in the Ukraine and Middle East, displacement, dispersion and destitution trouble us still. This series of articles has been somewhat on the serious side, next time we hope to move onto something more upbeat in demonstrating the centrality of St. Mary's Church to life in the village with an analysis of, and comment on, the Cropredy marriage registers 1540 to 1700.

Cropredy C of E Primary School – Spring Term Update for Our Community

It has been a wonderfully rewarding term, and we are delighted to share some of the highlights with our local community.

Academic Success We are incredibly proud to announce that our school has been named the top performing school in North Oxfordshire for our Year 6 SATs results. This recognition reflects the tremendous effort of our pupils, the dedication of our staff, and the strong partnership we continue to build with families. Since my arrival as Headteacher, we have been working hard on raising expectations and celebrating every child's potential—and it is wonderful to see such a marked and positive upturn in outcomes.

Our Wider Ethos While academic success is something we value greatly, our vision for our pupils extends far beyond test results. We remain committed to offering a broad, rich, and inspiring curriculum that helps children develop confidence, resilience, and a genuine love of learning. A core part of this is our Forest School provision, which every child in the school accesses throughout the year. These sessions encourage problem-solving, teamwork, creativity, and a deep connection with nature—values we hold at the heart of our curriculum. We continue to see wonderful engagement in our Mandarin lessons, where children are developing both language skills and cultural understanding. This sits alongside our much loved Folk Music teaching, which remains a defining and

cherished part of Cropredy life. Our musicians are already preparing for the exciting opportunity to perform at Fairport's Cropredy Convention in August—an unforgettable experience for our Year 4 and Year 6 pupils each year. The school continues to work alongside The Reverend Sarah Fenby and Mr. David Upton in giving children a chance to explore their faith within our C of E school. Reverend Sarah visits the school weekly, leading assemblies to classes, whilst David kindly comes into practice hymns and songs to children, which children thoroughly enjoy showcasing at our Easter service

New Partnerships and Local Learning Looking ahead to the autumn, we are excited to be working in partnership with the Banbury Canoe & Kayak Club, right here in the village. Our Year 6 pupils will be taking part in kayaking and canoeing as part of their PE curriculum, making full use of our wonderful local environment. Alongside this, children will be learning about local history, including the Battle of Cropredy Bridge and its significance within the English Civil War. This blend of physical activity, historical study, and outdoor learning offers a rich educational experience.

Trips and Experiences This Term Our curriculum is brought to life through hands on experiences, and this term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities across the school. We are extremely proud of the rich learning taking place within our school and the enthusiasm our pupils show each day. Thank you to our local community for your continued support and interest in the life of our school. We look forward to sharing more news and achievements as the year continues. Will Reeves (Headteacher)



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May

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Wednesday 6th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Monday 11th.	12.30 p.m.	Cropredy Lunches	Village Hall
	6.30 p.m.	Cropredy Ukulele Group	tba
	7.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	Sports and Social Club
Tuesday 12th.	7.15 p.m.	Cropredy WI <i>Colour in Art</i>	Village Hall
Wednesday 13th.	1.00 p.m.	Cropredy Gardening Club <i>Garden visit Upton Wold</i>	Village Green
Wednesday 20th.	2.00 p.m.	Cropredy Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
	7.30 p.m.;	Cropredy Historical Society <i>Landships Come to Town</i>	Village Hall
Monday 25th	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 apparently flawed logic that potholes should be filled, roads resurfaced and markings painted...in that order.

Deadline for the next edition Tuesday May 18th. editor@church-of-st-mary-the-virgin-cropredy.org



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CROPREDY W.I. WELCOMES YOU

We are a friendly and supportive group of women who enjoy taking on new challenges. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month 7.15 for 7.30pm at Cropredy Village Hall (except during August) and enjoy a range of activities including guest speakers, hands-on activities, campaigning, group excursions and socialising.

Membership is open to women of 18 and over. Guests (including men!) welcome to attend our meetings and activities. £5 admission for non-members (refundable from annual subscription upon enrolment).

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Our fused glass workshop was enjoyed by members and guests, who all created unique, high quality, artworks. We have also focussed on climate issues, craftivism and future resolutions. 2025 was our centenary year and we celebrated in style with several special events for members and the community as a whole, including a vintage coach trip to afternoon tea, village treasure hunt and the installation of a new tree, commemorative plaque and time capsule in the village.



COMING UP



May: Colour in Art

June: All About ARCh

July: Garden Party

Sept: Whip Cracking workshop. Oct: Queen Victoria - a Life in Portraits

Nov: CPR demo

Dec: Christmas Party

For updates on meetings, outings and workshops, follow us on Facebook

Cropredy W.I., contact Caroline 07802 722923 or email cropredywi@gmail.com