

GORING HEATH

NEWSLETTER

News, Information and Comment for Goring Heath,
Whitchurch Hill and Crays Pond



Alatinum Jubilee, June 2022 Issue 186

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BIG JUBILEE LUNCH FOR CRAYS POND'S FRIENDS AND RESIDENTS.
LET'S CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

DATE; SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022

TIME: 2PM TILL LATE

LOCATION; THE SCOUT HUT, READING ROAD

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC AND DRINKS.

MUSIC ** GAMES ** CAKE COMPETITION

DRAWING ** DRESSING UP **

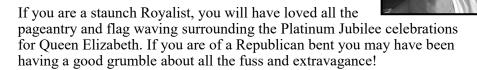
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Please email sarah and helen for more details or if you have ideas or want to help make bunting and set-up slgreeny@talktalk.net. And helenmhurst@gmail.com or call Beryl on 07464 744199

June 2022

Chair's comments

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the country, but even more importantly, we are lucky to live in such a stable country.



Nevertheless, the Platinum Jubilee, which we have just been celebrating, is a reminder of this stability. Whilst you may not agree with whichever political party is in power at any one time, at least we are as a country in control of our governance.

In many parts of the world there are conflicts which threaten both lives and their way of life, both from within and outside the country. The current invasion of Ukraine has united its people in a very visible way, and shocked those of us who take our peaceful existence for granted.

The response to this tragedy has been, for many local people, to do something practical to help in some way, even small gestures make a difference. There have been collections of clothes and other useful items to send to those who have lost everything, and several households in both Goring Heath and the surrounding villages have offered to host Ukrainians fleeing the fighting.

At the Goring Free Church Hall in Goring a monthly Drop- in Centre has been set up. This is for hosts and Ukrainians to meet up with others. This provides a place to share stories, provide mutual support and help the hosts to be as effective as they can be in helping their guests. If you are hosting a Ukrainian refugee, you are very welcome to Drop in for 'Cake, Coffee and Conversation'. For more information do look at the Free Church website.

So, love or hate the Monarchy, it is a system which has served us well for several centuries. There are not many countries in the world which have been such a safe place to live - including our very small, but very peaceful Parish.

Liz Collas Chair of the Parish Council

Planning Decisions

The following planning applications between March 2022 and May 2022 have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received <u>written</u> confirmation rom S.O.D.C.



Premises and application details	Parish	Notes
	Council	
P22/S1653/HH Brindles Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR A proposed single storey rear extension, alterations to existing roof profile (included lifting of ridge height) and three new traditionally proportioned pitched roof dormers, internal alterations and a side door canopy. a revision of previously approved application - reference P19/S2068/HH. LC to lead/report. Hunters Moon is with enforcement, and recent planning decisions were noted.		
P21/S0585/FUL Land south of Whitchurch Hill Whitchurch Hill. Demolition of existing stables and redevelopment of site to comprise a detached residential dwellinghouse and associated outbuildings, relocated access and landscaping. (As supported by Archaeological Desktop Assessment 01 April 2021) (As supported by Biodiversity, Carbon Reduction, Great Crested Newt, Landscape Impact and Lighting details 23 August 2021) (As amended by plans and documents submitted 22 March 2022 outlined within supporting cover letter).	Refusal of Planning Permission	
P22/S0966/HH Oak Cottage West Path Hill, Goring Heath RG8 7RG. Erection of a two storey side extension and associated external works.	Planning Permission	
P22/S0810/FUL Hill Bottom House Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PU. Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) on application P21/S1224/FUL. Alterations to siting, layout and elevations (Garage Plot 1) Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) & condition 3 (materials) on planning application P20/S0009/FUL (Amended plan 26/04/2022 to show visibility splays)	Planning Permission	
P22/S0493/FUL The Barn Collins End Goring Heath RG8 7RH Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) on planning application P21/S1721/FUL (One and a half storey ancillary outbuilding with one bedroom and two covered parking bays) to add a window to the bedroom.	Planning Permission	

Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
P22/S0377/HH Hunters Moon Hill Bottom	Planning	
Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT	Permission	
Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) on		
planning application P21/S4791/HH (Detached		
garage with annex above) increase height of the		
building. (As per amended plans submitted on		
31 March 2022, reducing the height of the		
building by 60cm when compared with the		
original plans submitted).		

Planning

We would also like to point out that No Strong Views is one of only three choices that SODC gives the parish council. It should not be read as illustrating tacit approval of an application. More often than not this choice is supplemented with specific comments from the parish council highlighting areas of concern.

Going Forward Buses

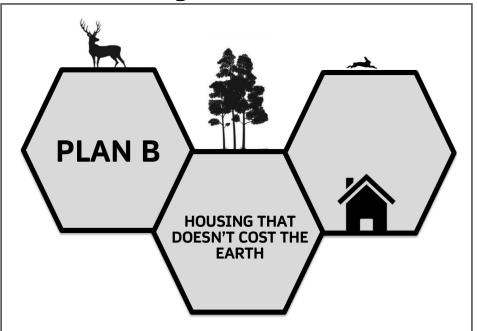
A message from Mike Ward regarding the Saturday bus service:

We're sorry that we're unable to run our Saturday services that we recently re-introduced on routes 134 (Goring to Wallingford) and 138/D1 (Wallingford to Didcot via Dorchester, Berinsfield and Long Wittenham) after Saturday 2nd April 2022.

Unfortunately we don't have a driver who can commit to being available on Saturdays. The numbers who used the Saturday service when it was running were somewhat lower than expected, and the significant increase in fuel costs would probably have forced us to stop running it in the not too distant future anyway. Running on Saturdays was likely to cost us far more than the income we received from it.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience caused to those who did use it; we hope they will find that the alternative services we operate on other days can meet their needs.

Due to the increase in running costs we may also need to review our weekday services on other routes in the not too distant future depending on the funding we receive from the County councils. Oxfordshire have not yet confirmed what funding will be available from 1st April 2022.



We are looking to provide affordable housing within Goring Heath in a unique way which combines modular eco homes with rewilded nature reserves.

We are actively looking for sites within the parish to purchase or to work with the landowners. We undertake all the planning work and can pay above rural land values if planning is gained.

We are also looking for people who would be interested in living in a Plan B home or who are interested in supporting our nonprofit making organization. Prices start at £150,000.

To find out more or contact us go to

www.planb.house

or email contact@planb.house

WOODCOTE VILLAGE GREEN FETE Saturday 10th September

Woodcote are holding their annual fete on the Woodcote Village Green. All the exhibition entries will be laid out in the village hall; so please do come and have a look at the old favourites, including vegetables, baking, the longest stinging nettle, photography, painting, home crafts, and children's arts and crafts. On the green there will be a variety of entertainment such as clowns, bouncy castles, a dog show, tug of war, skittles, and welly wanging; to name a few. There will be lots to feast on too - from tea and cakes provided by the Goring Heath Scout and Guides groups, pizzas from Soleluna, beer from South Oxfordshire Brewery, a BBQ, and much more.

Entry is free. Please be considerate when parking. Doors open from 12pm until 5.

Plant Stall for Charity

This year's plant stall is set against the back drop of a Ukrainian Flag as all the Proceeds will be going to the DEC Ukraine Appeal.

Thanks to all those who have kindly donated plants - and to those who have stopped to browse and often shop. As I write, £100 has been raised - and with more plants to go on display during the coming weeks hopefully we can improve upon this figure.

<u>^^^^^^</u>



June 2022 **Goring Heath NEWS**District Councillor's Comments

The scheme to offer support and homes for Ukrainian families involves South Oxfordshire District Council in checking that the accommodation being offered is suitable and safe, and this is being done by council officers visiting the proposed accommodation. The



guidance from the government is that accommodation offered must meet some basic standards, such as being kept clean and in a reasonable state, have adequate kitchen and bathroom space, have access to drinking water, have a working smoke detector and a number of other basic needs. Anecdotal feedback so far is that SODC officers have been very responsive and helpful, which is very good to hear.

One of the issues that has determined how planning applications are considered is what is called the five year land supply, which is a very complicated way of establishing whether the policies in the Local Plan are applicable in determining planning permission. Part of this calculation is the Housing Delivery Test, an annual measurement of housing delivery, ie the number of homes built. The Housing Delivery Test works by comparing the net homes delivered over the past three years to the homes required over the same period. Of course the Council does not actually build the homes, it can only grant planning permission. It can happen that developers can get planning permission for homes, and then not build them, which then triggers a failure of Housing Delivery Test. The recent announcement that the 5 year Land supply test is to be scrapped is good news, and will relieve some pressure on SODC, although as always the devil is in the detail which has yet to be revealed.

To escape the shackles of a 5 year land supply, we are already preparing a new local plan, this time jointly with the Vale of White Horse District Council, with whom we share offices and officers. While the most contested part of the current local plan was the so called strategic sites, a lot of the rest of the 350 odd pages of the current plan contains policies and guidance on issues such as design, air quality, landscape conservation areas etc which can be equally applicable to either District, so it makes sense to have a common approach. By having a joint local plan, there are significant savings in the use of the time and costs of our in house planning teams, the use of necessary external consultants and the cost of consultation and, in due course, examination.

The new Joint Local Plan 2041 which will guide the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they should go, informing planning application decisions.

The consultation process has now started, and a fresh and innovative approach has been taken, moving on from the traditional paper based consultation method. This new way is via an interactive website, where by navigating interactive maps, a video and images, you can explore the issues on your tablet, computer or mobile phone.

To start, we want to hear your thoughts on the main issues facing our districts and how we could use the Joint Local Plan to address them You can comment on Joint Local Plan Issues consultation from **now until** 11.59pm on Thursday 23 June 2022.

There is a new **innovative new interactive website** for this consultation.

Go to https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/local-plan-2041/ or google SODC Local Plan 2041 and follow the links.

Peter Dragonetti

SODC District Councillor for Kidmore End, Whitchurch, Goring Heath and Mapledurham



All Enquiries please contact: preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com, Tel: 01491 682589 www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk

Ways you can support Checkendon Pre-School

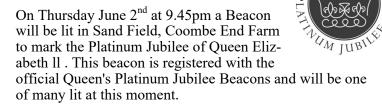
We have now signed up for Amazon smile. This means that each time you shop using amazon you can raise some funds for Checkendon Pre-school.

Please follow the link https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1156803-0

Easy fundraising. Please support the Pre-School and sign up to raise funds for the Pre-School - https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/checkendonpreschool/



Platinum Jubilee Beacon



E QUEEN

The site and beacon are made available to the public by the generosity of the Hatt family of Coombe End Farm.

Sand Field lies on the rise between Coombe End Lane and Coldhabour and is accessible by the footpath from both lanes to the north and south.

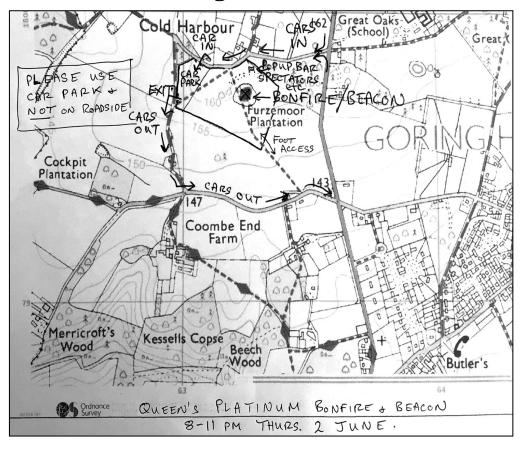
To minimise disturbance of neighbours & grater safety, I'd suggest cars come slowly down the Cold Harbour lane (opposite Oratory Prep School drive), bear left to keep houses on their right, and turn left into the field just after the last house, Owl Cottage. They can leave the field by the other gate, turn left down the farm track past our cottages, then left on to the Coombe End lane back to the B471.

Sand Field occupies an elevated position and our beacon, which will be a huge 'bonfire', should be visible from many miles around. A few decades back, Windsor Castle was visible from here but increased tree height has concealed that particular view.

See updates on the 'Goring Heath Parish News' Facebook site for more information.
All are welcome.

Martin Wise Councillor





Map of the location of Sand Field,

Map of area where the Jubilee Beacon will be lit at 9.45 pm.

Request for a volunteer 1st Aider to be present at the Beacon event

If you are a qualified 1st Aider and would like to be involved in helping out on the evening of the 2nd June, please get in touch with Jon Hatt on 0118 9843121 (www.bramblythatch.co.uk) for further information.



Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 1952-2022

Jubilee Party at The Sun (Hill Bottom)

Thursday 2nd June 2022

Starts at 12 noon till Late Bonfire Beacon (9.45pm) Fireworks (10.00pm)

BBQ and Hog Rolls from 1pm
Live Bands

Competition for the best fancy dress (patriotic)

Competition for the best decorated house (in the street)

Tug O War Splat the Rat Giant Jenga Limbo

Giant Play your Cards Right
And many more games!!!

Please join us for this fantastic celebration to honour our Queen

Goring Heath and Whitchurch Spring Show

On 9 April The Parish Hall in Goring Heath was filled with the scents of newly picked spring flowers, freshly prepared preserves and newly baked cakes. A heady mixture.

26 entrants (with 160 entries between them) marked a return to this twice yearly village celebration with a good standard of flowers, vegetables, handicrafts, art, photographs and baking on display. Thanks go to the judges who ran their expert eyes over the exhibits resulting in the award of trophies for the class winners.

Many visitors attended the afternoon's public event, enjoying the teas and cakes on sale, and taking advantage of restocking their gardens from the plant stall outside the hall.

Sue Sexon, the previous event organiser, kindly agreed to present the trophies. Other VIP visitors included one of the class winning chickens (eyeing up the competition for next year!). A true village event.

The winner of the best in show was Sarah Dragonetti, receiving the Whitchurch Hill Trophy, with her five stem flower display.

Class winners left to right, back row: Hilary Dewey, Betty Butler, Sarah Dragonetti, David Sexon Front row: Beth Strange, Liz Gibson.



Sally Bergmann

June 2022

Goring Heath NEWS



About us

Our team of experienced staff is committed to providing a secure and caring environment where children can learn and develop at their own pace within a happy atmosphere. We realise that all children are individuals with differing needs and abilities and we endeavour to respond and adapt to each child.

We are located next to, and with close links to, Whitchurch Primary School, on Eastfield Lane. We have a large, safe and enclosed garden with fantastic play equipment and covered areas, a large sandpit, mud kitchens and water trays. Our Pre-School classroom was refurbished in 2021, complete with a beautiful book den and home corner. We also benefit from our own outdoor learning area next to the pre-school site.

We follow the early years curriculum and the children do a whole range of fun activities rotated across the week, including dancing and games, music, art and craft, baking and food and early years science - making fizzy volcanoes, hands-on learning about bubbles, clouds, planting our own seeds and growing plants, paint colour mixing and lots more. All of this makes our Pre-School a really special place for our little people to grow and learn.

What we offer, and registering

Children can join us from 2.5 yrs and we accept Government childcare funding for 3 and 4 year olds, for **15 or up to 30 hours per week, term time.** We run Monday-Friday during term time, from 8.45-3.15 with an early drop off option at 8.30am.

Places are still available for the Summer term and from September this year but sessions are filling up fast. We recommend getting in touch as soon as possible to register. **CONTACT** <u>hello@whitchurchpreschool.org</u> | 0118 984 4516 www.whitchurchpreschool.org

Support us – please help us reach our £10k fundraising target

As a small local setting, run as a registered charity, and with the ever-increasing gap between costs and funding for early years places,

our fundraising is essential to providing the activities and facilities that are so important for Pre-Schoolers. This year we are raising money for roof maintenance and to replace the sandpit and astroturf areas.

3 FREE and EASY ways to support us:

- Become a Co-Op Member and select Whitchurch-on-Thames Pre-School as your local community cause. For every £1 spent 2p will be donated to our cause.
- If you shop with Amazon, go to https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ and enter Whitchurch On Thames Pre-School as your chosen charity, 0.5% of your order value will be given to Pre-School
- Sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk to support "Whitchurch Pre-School Whitchurch-on-Thames". When you use the easyfundraising website or app to shop with retailers like John Lewis, M&S, H&M, the retailer sends us a donation of up to 5%. You can register here (completely free):



https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch/?utm_cam_paign=raisemore&utm_content=w4

Please also look out for our fundraising events, and to donate any time you can scan the QR code here or go to:

https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool

Join us in the Summer term for our Silent Auction on Thurs 26th May, our ice cream stall at the Whitchurch Hill village fete on Saturday 28th May, and for tea and cake at the Whitchurch village Art Cafe on Saturday 25th June.

Thank you for all of your support!

Registered Charity:1183193

Whitchurch Hill WI—The Women's Institute

Whitchurch Hill WI meet on the third Tuesday in the month.

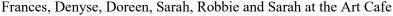
Those that wish to be are often busy in between times too, with the Spring months being no exception to that.

Many of you will have seen us hard at work at the Village Show in May serving the traditional teas and cakes from the marquee. Others may have seen us busy decorating the village well ahead of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in early June.

Before that, in March, we ran one of the Art Cafe's in Whitchurch, raising funds for the local branch of MND, and our own WI. Each event needs to be planned of course - and support from members is crucial if they are to be successful.

The above activities are additional to the walk and pub lunch we enjoyed in April, and the speakers who have entertained us this year so far at our regular meetings. Some of us have enjoyed an afternoon tea with other WI groups in Calcot whilst a summer outing to Waterperry Gardens for our own members is in the pipe-line too.

For more information please feel free to give Frances a ring on 0118984 2162





Sally Bergmann

Information on grass verges on the public highway (service strips)

How grass verges on public highways are maintained.

A 'service strip' is an area of public highway grass verge, usually the same width as a pavement, between the road and your private boundary. This may be physically shown by 'highway boundary' marker blocks in the verge, which must not be removed.

Report a damaged service strip:

We are responsible for the repair and reinstatement of the highway. Report via <u>Fixmystreet</u> or contact our Highway Enquiries Team to let us know, and we will then arrange for the repairs.

What is a service strip for? Report a damaged service strip
The service strip can be used by public utility companies to install and
access their equipment. It also acts as a pedestrian refuge and a vision
splay (allowing a clear view of the road).

Can I lawfully obtain the service strip?

Usually not: as an essential part of the highway network, a service strip cannot be deemed surplus to highway requirements.

Can I put up a fence or wall on the service strip?

No. It is unlawful to erect any structure which would infringe upon it. We have a duty to protect public use of the service strip and can take legal steps to formally request removal of such a structure.

Can I plant a hedge or shrubs in the service strip?

Usually not: a hedge or shrubs would also prevent public access and be unlawful. However, it would be reasonable for you to plant bulbs, summer or winter bedding plants as they would be classed as temporary (this does not affect your right to apply for a licence to plant on the highway if you wish).

Can I replace the grass of the service strip with gravel or paving? You should not alter the existing surface. We take no responsibility for unauthorised, uninsured work on the highway, and if there is an accident or incident, you could be held liable for damages or compensation.

How can I stop vehicles parking on the service strip? It is not designed or intended for parking, and we do not support it. But, if it is not causing an obstruction, any vehicle may park on the public highway provided it is taxed and legal.

What about grass cutting?

The layout is intended to encourage you to cut the grass over the service strip, which will enhance the appearance of your property. Local authority grass cutting contractors are generally unable to attend to service strips as often as you would like.

Chris Wellings

Many people were sorry to learn of the early death on 21st April of Chris Wellings, as Chris was a well known and long standing resident of Hill Bottom. Chris had lived in Hill Bottom for most of his life, and recently played an important role in providing the Goring Heath website. When Covid made life difficult for everyone, Chris enhanced the website specially and developed solutions to help volunteers.

In recent years, Chris was often seen out with his lively collie dog Rafa, whose need for exercise meant that Chris made many new friends, as Rafa's exuberance introduced Chris to many people.

Chris was always willing to help in community matters, using his technical expertise as needed, and we will miss him. Our thoughts go to his brothers and his team at his IT Company.

Woodcote Volunteers

Our Annual General Meeting in Woodcote Village Hall in April was a great success! It felt very good to be meeting up in person again, and connecting with colleagues face-to-face for the first time since 2019.



The AGM business was conducted efficiently thanks to the professional and ever cheerful Chair, Helena McBride.

We were very fortunate to have a talk from Dr Amanda Gemmill from Goring and Woodcote Medical Practice, who updated us on matters concerning the surgery. The feedback was very positive, with several members expressing their admiration for the way the surgery is operating and the increase in staff. Unfortunately, our other speaker from Oxfordshire Community First, who was going to talk to us about rural social isolation was unable to attend at the last minute due to illness. We were able to give a short update on this issue and are pleased to say that Woodcote Volunteers is making every effort to help eliminate this problem by providing transport for people who need to meet others - to socialise at groups or recreational activities. If you, or someone you know lives in Woodcote or surrounding villages who is socially isolated and cannot get out due to transport difficulties, please get in touch with us on our office phone number below.

Helena McBride thanked our long serving volunteers (some of whom had been with us 30 years!) by presenting them with a certificate and a lovely bowl of spring bulbs and flowers. We wish to thank Mike Hill of Woodcote Garden Centre for supplying these. We had further time to socialise before closing at approximately 8.45pm.

If you were unable to come along but would like more information about becoming a volunteer driver with us, we would love to hear from you. It is a very rewarding role and you will meet many new, interesting people in your local area. For more information, please call our secretary Jane Forde on 07850 158274 or email janeforde32@hotmail.com as the first contact.

If you need to request a driver, please don't hesitate to call us, giving as much advance notice as possible. Our phone number is 01491 681171 and our office is staffed Mon – Fri, 9.30am to 11am. We are closed bank holidays. Outside those hours you can leave a message on our answerphone and someone will return your call the next working day. We do not make a charge, but ask you to pay driver's expenses, which are charged at 45p per mile, or a flat rate of £1.50 within Woodcote.

NEWS UPDATES

We are very pleased to welcome some new volunteers to our team – Dawn, Sam and Caroline who are assisting as drivers and office helpers. We are very grateful to you all for offering to help local people and I know you will be happy and fulfilled in your new roles.

We have a Facebook page, so you can find out more about Woodcote Volunteers there - and please follow us!

Library books to your door



If you or someone you know are finding it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service can help!

Run by Oxfordshire County Council, the Home Library Service is completely free and delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county.

Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them.

The service is open to people who struggle to physically visit a library. It's also available on a short-term basis after illness or hospitalisation, and to people with caring responsibilities.

Registering is easy, simply call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice

June 2022

Goring Heath NEWS

The Minutes from the Goring Heath Annual Parish Meeting, held on April 12th at 8pm

Chair's Report.

Cllr Liz Collas welcomed a good turnout to our first Annual Parish Meeting to be held in person for three years.

The parish has emerged from the rather dull days of lockdown with a variety of activities. Many clubs and organisations kept going over lockdown and are now back to running their full programmes. I am very pleased that many of the organisers are here tonight to report on their activities. We were also very excited to see the return of the Village Quiz, and the produce shows. The fete is also making a very welcome return on May 28th.

The parish Council has been busy with a range of projects over the last year, some of them more visible than others. One of our key initiatives has been, finally, achieving a speed reduction through Cray's Pond. This is something that the residents of Cray's Pond have been lobbying for over many years, so we were really pleased to see this go through. The costs were covered by grants which was an added bonus. We are now carrying out initiatives to reduce the speed limit further to 20mph in various parts of the Parish, and we have a newly formed Speed Watch Group. Whilst we are a small parish we do have a few assets which we maintain, including the Pond at Cray's Pond, the recreation ground at Whitchurch Hill, the playground at Garton End, two telephone boxes, three bus shelters, four notice boards and various benches.

We have now found a new consultant to help us devise a plan for the maintenance of the Pond, which we will implement with the help of a team of volunteers. The play equipment is regularly maintained, and we are actively looking for ideas to update the facilities. The telephone libraries are proving a great success- thank you to the volunteers who look after these. The bus shelters, notice boards, and benches have been refurbished and maintained to a high standard.

This year we have signed a new contract for grass cutting- our single largest expenditure. I hope we will see an improvement in the grass cutting along several roads and in the recreation ground. Some of the areas will be deliberately left to grow as wildflower areas- hopefully providing a habitat for more insects. In the coming year we will be looking at further ways to reduce our carbon use, and also increase biodiversity. We will be marking the Queen's Jubilee with a beacon lighting on June 2nd. Everyone is welcome and we hope this will be a fun village event.

Our latest initiative is the introduction of a new IT system. This will involve a centralised account for communication and document storage. This will bring our data security and general data protection responsibilities up to date. There will be a new website, and new email addresses for all Councillors. More information in the next newsletter.

We have also continued with our regular activities, including making sure the footpath network is in good condition, running a Litter Pick, and consulting with the District Council about all the planning applications made within the parish.

Financially, we have maintained our spending at a similar level to previous years. Our income was £26,831, mainly made up of the Precept, and we ended the year with just over £30,000 in the bank. We have decided to reduce the precept slightly for the coming year. Our main expenses are the grass cutting contract, the clerk's salary, support for the local bus service, and the magazine. We are hoping to install two more defibrillators, at the Sun Pub, and the Almshouses. We have applied for a grant, but may need to contribute some of the cost.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to my fellow Councillors who give their time and expertise to make things happen in the village, and to Lucy who runs our newsletter. We are kept in order by our valiant clerk, Amanda, without whom we would be so much less effective. Thank you, Amanda for all your hard work, and for always going the extra mile.

District Councillors Report. Cllr Peter Dragonetti

reported that as he looked back over the year, the District Council has been facing new issues.

Although now a distant memory, the garden waste collection was a major concern for much of last year.

The plan for new offices at Crowmarsh was put aside, as the reality that we did not need all that space became apparent, and we are now going to take temporary smaller offices in Abingdon as a stop gap.

Taking back control of the councils finances has proved to be a good thing, cutting out Capita has saved costs and improved efficiency. The financial outlook for the council is much improved, and although the reserves are declining, the forecast position is much better than it appeared when he was first elected. He has been the District Councillor for 3 years now, and during that time he has been the most active councillor on the District.

He has attended 103 meetings since he was elected, more than any other councillor. The next best attended 84 meetings. It has helped that many meetings are now online. He has also attended the meetings of every other parish council in the ward, that's Whitchurch, Kidmore End and Mapledurham. It is some relief that Mapledurham only meets every two months.

In addition to writing in the Goring Heath Newsletter, he also writes in the Whitchurch on Thames Bulletin and Kidmore End Newsletter. As the readership does not overlap, he can often use the same material in each publication. He thinks that it is important to communicate as much as possible, and also be visible. South Oxfordshire District Council, under the control of Lib Dems and Greens, has in his view run the council efficiently and effectively, and he is proud to be a member of it.

Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute.

The Report for Whitchurch Hill WI was delivered to the meeting by Mrs Theresa Elsome, Mrs Frances Le Strange having sent her apologies.

Last year's report covered how Whitchurch Hill WI were supporting members through the pandemic. They came through it very well and with the lifting of restrictions the WI are back in the Parish hall enjoying monthly meetings again.

Numbers are down by 10 to 25 as some have moved out of the area or can no longer attend due to illness. There are 4 dual members which means that they already belong to another WI, in this case Stoke Row.

Whitchurch Hill WI attracts members from outside the village as they meet in the morning. They also enjoy the company of women from Whitchurch on Thames, Goring and Purley. Of course, when the WI was formed over a hundred years ago it was expected that the members would walk or cycle to their local WI

At the AGM in March, after 9 years, Frances Strange stepped down as President and Sarah Moody is the new President. Sarah was extremely active during lockdown when allowed, delivering food, birthday cards, flowers and generally keeping in touch.

They have wasted no time in finding ways to fundraise and have started a craft project. They have held a coffee morning in the Art Café to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Association and the next big event will be the village fete where they will run the tea tent. The craft project is the knitting of bunting, red white and blue, to decorate the well and telephone box for the

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Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Two members have been taught to knit while most of the others rekindled the skill and have enjoyed that old tradition of knitting. They will also donate the plants for the tubs at the well, red white and blue, of course.

They meet on the third Tuesday of the month and have a full programme of speakers booked until March 2023. Each month a social event on the first Tuesday is planned, this might be a walk and pub lunch, a visit to a garden, National Trust property or any place of interest such as the Textile Museum at Greenham Common. But one thing is constant, food and drink is always involved at some point. New Members are always welcome.

Scouts, Guides and Brownies. Mrs Doreen Pechey gave the following report.

Guides

"It's been a challenging couple of years both for the Guides and the leadership team. We lost a number of Guides who were not comfortable meeting on zoom and were anxious about meeting in person when we could. Meeting on zoom wasn't all negative as this enabled us to go to places we'd never normally be able to. The highlights of these two years are as follows.

We had a couple of meetings with some Oxfordshire scientists to complete the science careers challenge badge. As part of this badge, we went to Mars with the Mars rover. The Guides designed their own rover as part of this challenge and learned about constellations, moons, galaxies and science careers. It was fascinating, especially as most of the scientists were positive female role models.

We did scavenger hunts on Zoom which were great fun, they baked at home and made a cake and a pizza in a mug. We visited a wildlife centre in Essex and got to meet the animals on zoom. We also had a magician/comedian visit us on zoom and he was hilarious. We did a couple of escape rooms online, the Harry Potter one was a favourite.

Meeting face to face after lockdowns was a great feeling and although we kept to strict risk assessments, we were able to do lots of activities including visiting Green Broom farm to collect brambles to make bird feeders, circus skills and drumming; a penny hike which led us to the chippy in Woodcote, sailing at Goring sailing club; swimming with the Brownies at the Oratory school and doing some backwoods cooking.

We had a visit from the Home Guard Living Museum, who told the Guides about the role of the local defence volunteers. The Guides handled guns, bullets and did some morse code while wearing tin hats. This was one of the best evenings we've had and the first time that they have visited a Guide unit.

We managed a sleepover under the stars at the hut. Guides used their knowledge to identify constellations and we also had a telescope on hand for a closer look at the moon. Every single Guide took part in this activity which shows how much they missed our camps and residentials.

We also took part in a parliamentary debate for parliament week with our friends from Peppard Guides. Cats versus dogs was interesting and sweets vs chocolate was also a great debate.

We took part in operation Christmas child preparing and sending shoeboxes with gifts to under privileged children. We wrapped and filled 21 boxes as the Guides brough in so much stuff that we had more boxes than Guides. We found out recently that these boxes ended up in Liberia.

Our numbers are slowly increasing and we now have a good flow of Brownies moving up to Guides. We are very fortunate that we have a new young adult volunteer in Guides too.

This year we are celebrating our 100th birthday and the Guides are thinking of things that they would like to do for this momentous occasion."

Brownies. Mrs Doreen Pechey gave the following report.

"It's been a challenging couple of years both for the Brownies and the leadership team. We lost over half of our Brownies due to a mixture of moving up to Guides anxiety and not being comfortable with zoom as an alternative way to meet.

Our online meetings included using You Tube to do some origami bookmark folding. It looked easy but it was a challenge. We also learned how to do some cartoon drawing and found a game online called duck race. This was brilliant with the Brownies all shouting out for their duck to win. They also did some cooking at home baking cookies and cakes. Our scavenger hunts were hilarious with one Brownie bringing along her Dad as part of a hunt. We also visited a wildlife centre online. We spent as much time outside as we could, den building, planting sunflowers, leaf printing, cooking on open fires, having a campfire with the Guides. We also joined them at swimming.

We spent an evening experimenting with fizzy rockets trying different ways to reach the highest point. Messy but fun! We had a visit from a local dance teacher who taught the girls some folk and country dancing with live music from a violinist. Woodcote conservation team came in to make bug hotels and to talk about hedgehogs and what we can do to help them survive. Brownies learned about constellations and made their own viewers to find constellations in the sky. We held a Halloween glow party which is always great fun and they make up glow dance routines in the dark. Brownies also had an evening carol singing with the residents at Towse Court in Goring which was just lovely.

Our numbers are creeping up and we are very fortunate to have a new Guider who was already qualified and moved to Woodcote so we got her involved as soon as we could. The Brownies gained lots of badges during this time and learned new skills and we are thankful that we were able to keep in touch with each other during this challenging time."

Cubs. Mrs Doreen Pechey gave the following report.

Getting back to Face to Face meetings during the last year with Cubs has been amazing for leaders and Cubs alike as this is what it is all about. Some cubs have been here for over a year but have only seen other cubs and leaders on zoom calls. Getting to see each other in person was like meeting old friends and we all fitted in together as a happy family in no time at all.

We saw some changes at Cubs with very sadly 2 leaders retiring, but also some new leaders volunteering to create a new dynamic team with some new and fresh ideas & renewed energy.

At the start of Face to face meetings we were exclusively meeting outdoors. We kept very busy with activities like making fires & cooking on them, putting out fires using fire extinguishers, burning a guy during bonfire night (lots of fires). We did map reading, outdoor games with lots of running around, hiking during the day and at night and we even managed to fit in a Cubs weekend camp at the 1st Goring Heath Scout hut.

With covid restrictions lifting we then started doing more indoor activities with fitting in some badge work. We had our classic Pine Wood Derby car races with professional electronic timing in January, we successfully completed from our very own escape room game at the hut, built some rockets out of recyclable materials, baked pancakes on tin cans for Shrove Tuesday. We even had a visit from a family that lived in a temple in the forests of Guatemala to name but a few of the things we got up to. We are full to capacity with most cubs attending all meetings.

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Beavers. Mrs Doreen Pechey gave the following report.

"It's been a strange time for Beavers as well as the other sections. We felt that the six to eight year-olds didn't need the extra stress of Zoom initially, so we had no meetings until the September. Then the leaders had to learn to adapt quickly to delivering meetings over Zoom. More cooking, crafts and country (Scottish and Irish) dancing to get the Beavers moving. As soon as The Scout Association allowed, we had half the Beavers meeting outdoors, while the other half were on Zoom, and swapping the next week. At this stage we were unable to take in any new Beavers because we were limited to six meeting face-to-face, so we kept to 12. We are now up to 16, which is a much nicer number.

In 2021 it was too difficult to have an overnight camp, so we had two days "camping" and the Beavers went home overnight; some slept in their gardens in tents, while some had their sleeping bags under a table. The Beavers still managed to gain badges, including several attaining their "Chief Scout Bronze Award" which is the highest badge Beavers can get. We are now almost back to pre-Covid normal, and hope to have an overnight camp at the end of May.

The 143 Bus Service. Mr Mike Ward sent in the following report.

"When I wrote last year's report we were just beginning to see some signs of normality returning after a year of lockdowns. Passenger numbers were on the up, and I'm pleased to report that the trend has continued, although still not back to pre-covid levels yet on most of our routes. We fulfilled our promise to run a second bus on the Goring to Reading route, so Whitchurch Hill now has two journeys into Reading on Tuesdays and three coming back, including a new later afternoon service at 2.51 p.m. from Blagrave Street. We hope to be able to continue with this service into the summer, when we might manage to attract some visitors to Beale Wildlife and Basildon Parks, particularly in the school summer holidays. However all this does depend, as always, on the level of support we get from Oxfordshire County Council.

The scheme changed from April 1 st, and it seems that income from Concessionary Pass journeys will start off being reimbursed at near pre-covid levels, reducing every two months until it matches the actual number of journeys recorded. Whilst this is relatively good news for the first few months, it looks very likely to cause us severe problems by the time we get to late summer/autumn.

The Goring to Reading service has to run as part of the overall service we operate so as to have any chance of covering the overheads of the organisation. It seems very unlikely that overall actual passenger numbers will return to precovid levels. Furthermore, our fuel costs are now up by well over 50% in the past year, yet there is no additional income to cover that. It looks like it will be a very precarious situation.

In the meantime perhaps you would like to know more about what we need to do behind the scenes to keep the buses running? We would love to hear from you, whether it is helping us keep the timetables up to date at our bus stops, or keeping track of the mileage our buses do, or helping work out our monthly claims to the councils for Concessionary Pass journeys, for example. There is plenty to do! Maybe you'd be interested in a part time job? Please email me with your interests for more information.

And of course we always welcome anyone who would like to join our team of volunteer drivers who help out when our paid drivers aren't available. It's definitely time we had some lady drivers! You just need D1 on your licence to drive our 14 seater minibuses.

As always, we are very grateful for the support Goring Heath Parish Council has continued to give us during this difficult period, and also the contributions we have received from Goring Heath Almshouses. 'Every little helps', as they say!

Do let us know if you have any questions or comments about our services - please send an email to littlebluebus@yahoo.com.

The Parish Hall

Mr Chris Whatmore, chair of the Parish Hall Management Committee and interim Hall Manager gave the following report. "Looking back over the last year so much has happened. We re-opened the hall last May under the regulations at the time and some of our regulars returned and there were a few parties. However after giving it a good shot both the Tuesday and Friday Pilates with Vanessa and Michelle decided to take a break and Tots on the Hill didn't restart.

However it is great to see a new selection of regular users who have started using the hall in their place. Kinecroft Dance, after an experimental run last summer term, are now running two classes and Sarah is now regularly using the hall twice a week for her exercise classes. TaiChi has returned and is running extended sessions on some Wednesdays. It is also good to see that the WI, Scottish Dancing and History Society are also back using the hall.

If anyone is thinking of setting up a regular club Monday's or Friday's are pretty much the only regular slots available. Parties have been happening most week-ends but although we can be busy we are still not at capacity in this respect. We managed in the autumn to host a Mike Holland Quiz night, which was its usual great success. The timing fortunately fell between lockdowns and seeing the hall full of people having a really fun evening was a great lift. Thanks Mike.

Last year I mentioned we were considering equipping the hall with screen and audio system. This has not progressed yet owing to other priorities but is still for investigation in this coming year. We as a committee are very keen to keep the ambience and feel of the hall as currently so any installation would have to be sympathetic but not be such a compromise so as to not be effective. More prosaic work is to have the gable end tiles re hung as some of these are now coming adrift.

Expenses such as this are expected in a hall of this age and often come at short notice. As some of you may have noticed our flagpole was a casualty of the winter storms and we hope to have it back in place soon. Thanks to a donation from the fete committee we have had the flat roof section refelted last autumn which was showing signs of seepage and we have also carried out numerous other smaller repairs over the year.

To close if you would like to make a booking please contact the hall through our email address: <u>bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk</u>

GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON HOW THE FUTURE SHOULD LOOK

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have come together to work on a new Joint Local Plan which will guide the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they should go, informing planning application decisions for the districts.

To start, we want to hear your thoughts on the main issues facing our districts and how we could use the Joint Local Plan to address them. You can comment on our Joint Local Plan Issues consultation from Thursday 12 May until 11.59pm on Thursday 23 June 2022.

We've launched an **innovative new interactive website** for this consultation, which you can find using Google to search for **SODC Local Plan 2041**

Goring Heath Autumn Village Show

Whilst no-one wants to wish the summer away the Autumn edition of the Goring Heath and Whitchurch Show will be here before we know it.

Spring flowers will be replaced by late summer vegetables, whilst hedgerow plants will enhance the floral arrangements.

In the photography categories:

Photo showing five of the same object Reflections Wildlife

Art categories this time around are:

Still Life
View from a Window
Autumn Leaves

If handicraft is more your thing then you might like:

An item of Cross Stitch
Something made of Wood, not exceeding 24 inches
A birthday card

Flower Arrangements will be:

Hedgerow arrangement not exceeding 16 Inches Autumn colours in a tea pot Egg cup miniature arrangement not exceeding 4 inches

For those under 12 years of age we are inviting the following entries:

A Vegetable monster Friendship bracelet Iced Fairy Cakes (4 in number).

For the young at heart who love baking or jam making:

Victoria Sandwich (with red jam) sprinkled with sugar on top Carrot cake - recipe to be supplied Ginger biscuits 1lb jar of fruit jam Jar of fruit jelly Jar of Chutney (any flavour)

Schedules will be available nearer the time but if you want to enter and can't locate the full details please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee.

Liz Gibson 01189842012

Betty Butler 01491681780 or 07955182684

Sally Bergmann 07585195669

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Proposal for a 20 mph zone in Whitchurch Hill

Oxfordshire County Council is seeking to make "20mph the new 30mph' for Oxfordshire communities to make streets safer, encourage residents to walk or cycle and to reduce noise and pollution.

Further information is available at: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/requesting-20mph.

A first tranche of the scheme covers about 70 Town and Parish Councils, including Whitchurch on Thames.

The scheme has been discussed by Goring Heath Parish Council. Recognising the lack of pavements and street lighting, and the number of pedestrians of all ages using the roads of Whitchurch Hill, the following proposal has been developed, with a possible 20mph zone covering:

- Goring Heath Road from junction with B471 to Hill Bottom
- Orchard Coombe
- Hill Bottom from the junction with the B471 to the junction with Goring Heath Road
- Other roads within the triangle of the B471, Goring Heath Road and Hill Bottom (Rivacres, Oakdown Close, Bec Tithe, Hill Bottom Close, Hocketts Close, Bridle Road for completeness, but noting that designation would not be likely to impact traffic on these roads).

Mike Holland.

Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

In June and July we will be visiting some Downland churches of interest (including Farnborough where there is a John Piper window) and Caversham Court Gardens.

Further information from Vicky Jordan vickyjordan5@hotmail.com Subscription is £12 per year, non-members welcome at £3 per session

Meetings start at 7.30pm, Coffee from 7pm. Non-members welcome, £3.

For further information please contact the Secretary, Sue Matthews on 9844489 or Vicky Jordan vickyjordan5@hotmail.com

Vicky Jordan

St. Bartholomew's C of E Chapel, The Allnutt Alms-Houses, Goring Heath,RG8 7RS

Open to the Public -- All Welcome

Sung Eucharist 1st & 3rd of the Month Sung Matins 2nd & 4th & 5th of the Month Said Holy Communion at 9.00am on 2nd & 4th with special prayers for the sick All Services are taken from the book of Common Prayer

Chaplain: Rev Peter Dewey, -- 07784912955 revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk

Advertising in the Newsletter

The Newsletter is issued every two months and covers Goring Heath, Crays Pond and Whitchurch Hill. The rates for advertising are £15 for half a page and £25 for a full page advert. To find out more, please contact us at goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com

Party hire

Don't forget you can hire cutlery, glasses, plates, catering teapots, good folding chairs and tables from Goring Heath Village Hall at competitive prices, and it's nice and local.

For information and booking: goringheathparishhall@gmail.com

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club

Organiser: Christine Martin "Sonia", Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG

Tel: 0118 9844252 Mobile: 07752785924. e.mail whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

OPENING UP AGAIN AFTER THE LOCKDOWN

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month. Windsor, Oxford, Cheltenham, Stratford, Salisbury, and Chichester, amongst others,

are often visited. Major London venues and productions. Mainly matinees in the week, but sometimes evening performances and weekends.

Trips away. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

Coaches depart from Pangbourne
For our forthcoming programme please check the
Whitchurch-on-Thames website.
Subscriptions £14 per annum but £12 if paid online.

June 2022 Goring Heath NEWS COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Peter Dragonetti Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PT

07866 202908, 0118 9844711

peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk

Council Offices: 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4SB

See below for dept. phone contacts www.southoxon.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kevin Bulmer 35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY

07803 005680 kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Council Offices: County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND

01865 792422 www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

POLICE Thames Valley Police 0845-8505505

POLICE PEC – Non-Emergency Calls 101

POTHOLES - 0345-3101111

South Oxfordshire District Council New Department Numbers

Main Customer Service Number: 01235 422422

• **Planning** - 01235 422600

• **Building control** - 01235 422700

• Environmental health, food and safety - 01235 422403

• Licensing - 01235 422556

• Elections - 01235 422407

• Car parks - 01235 470118

• Community safety - 01235 422590

Street naming and numbering - 01235 422344

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER

You can get in touch with the Goring Heath Newsletter by emailing: goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com.

This is for any queries, correspondence, feedback and copy submissions.

The Goring Heath Newsletter is published by the Parish Council six times a year and is delivered free to every household in the Parish.

To contributors to the Newsletter:-

It would be most helpful if copy could be submitted to the editor as a document attachment to email and sent to goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council.

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
12th July	August 2022
15th September	October 2022
10th November	December 2022

LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

Chiltern Society Footpath Representative	Liz Collas	01491680466		
Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494764149		
Goring & Almshouses Bowls Club	David Watson	07989 402190		
-	gabowlsclub@gmail.com			
Goring Heath Parish Charity	Chris Whatmore	01189844022		
Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides	Doreen Pechey	01491681236		
Goring Thames Sailing Club	Jennie Wood	01491875619		
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491575205		
RG8 Badminton Club	Julie Drury	07980413026		
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (S.O.A.G.)Nancy Nichols 01189787829				
Tai Chi and Qigong	Karen Pounds	07867954786		
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Esther Lay-Sans	07713756537		
Whitchurch Hill Camera Club www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com				
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Sue Matthews	01189844489		
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning	Vicky Jordan	01189843260		
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	01189842162		
Woodcote Volunteers	Jane Forde	07850158274		

Goring Heath Parish Hall: Bookings and Enquiries: Chris Whatmore 07850691920

Email: whatmore@talk21.com

Printed by Goring Press: 01491 872555

GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR

Liz Collas Lcollas@ghpc.org.uk 01491 680466

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Peter Dragonetti Pdragonetti@ghpc.org.uk 0118 984 4711

Nick Elsome Nelsome@ghpc.org.uk

Hilary Dewey Hdewey@ghpc.org.uk

Martin Wise Mwise@ghpc.org.uk 0118 984 3071

Peter Burdon Pburdon@ghpc.org.uk

Tarek Moghul Tmoghul@ghpc.org.uk

Mike Holland Mholland@ghpc.org.uk

CLERK

Amanda Holland goring.heath.parish.council 0118 9844867

@gmail.com

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Lucy Turner 0118 9842415

goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Amanda Holland 0118 9844867

goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com