

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

December 2022
Issue 189

Visit us at:

www.goringheath.com

Facebook: 'Goring Heath Parish News'
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com



Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No 1056772

??QUIZ NIGHT??

GORING HEATH PARISH HALL
SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2023
7.30PM

**Nothing to look forward to, now the festive
season is over?**

**Then here's your answer!– the now even more
famous**

Mike Holland Quiz Night!

Get your team of a (maximum)
six together, then book your table on

0118 984 2056 and leave a message
or email

telsome@icloud.com

There will be food and drinks to simulate the brain!

Cost £12 per person
See you there!

Chair's comments



This is the last newsletter of the year, so it is a good time to reflect on the past twelve months.

It has been an eventful year, memorable for an extreme heatwave and the death of the only monarch most of us have known, not to mention the ongoing tragedy of the invasion of Ukraine.

Here in Goring Heath the council has been busy in its usual unobtrusive way, in carrying out a myriad of small projects, which aim to make the area pleasanter for all who live here.

One of the most recent projects has been the restoration of the well in Whitchurch Hill. The undergrowth has been cleared, some minor repairs undertaken, and a very smart new roof added. It has been restored to its former glory!

It is not just the council who are looking after our joint assets. Thanks must go to all the parishioners who, for example, take so much time and trouble looking after the libraries in the telephone boxes. These mini spaces help to provide a sense of community, and we should not underestimate their value.

So, whilst there is a small band of people who are actively involved in the rather mundane job of local maintenance, there is also a very small number who are doing the opposite. The bus shelters have new roofs and repaired sides and are looking rather smart, but suitably rural. Unfortunately, someone has decided that the windows in the one at the Old Post office cross-roads would look better with large bits missing. The same person perhaps who seems to think that leaving beer cans in a heap by a country lane is acceptable. Let's be grateful that the local scumbags are in such a minority!

We will not, however, be resting on our laurels and already have plans in hand for next year. We have recently commissioned a new report on the state of the pond at Cray's Pond. This has highlighted the need for some quite serious and expensive remedial work. There are grants available to cover this type of wildlife friendly action, which we will be applying for early next year, and are fairly hopeful of succeeding in getting most of the costs covered.

The long overdue upgrading of the playground is work in progress, and the new emergency generator for the village hall should be installed early in the new year.

/...

And, finally, we were sorry to say goodbye to two stalwarts of the parish. Nick Elsome has resigned from the council after many years. Thank you for all your hard work, Nick, in particular securing the funding and project managing the playground at Garton's End, to say nothing of your sterling work as one of the main organisers of the annual fete. You will be missed!

We are also very sorry to say goodbye to Lucy Turner, who has edited this magazine with great enthusiasm for the past six years, and who has now decided to step down from this role. Thank you for all your efforts in putting together the magazine, especially in persuading people to produce copy to add in the Newsletter. You will be missed too!

This does however mean that we now have a vacancy on the council, and for someone to edit the magazine. If you would like to join us in either of these roles, and become involved in your community, we would love to hear from you. Do contact our clerk, Amanda (contact details at the back of the magazine}.

Liz Collas
Chair of the Parish Council

Newsletter—Volunteer Editor Required

Do you have an interest in writing, and local affairs, or just want to learn more about the Goring Heath community? Then please get in touch for more information about what the role entails.

The newsletter is published six times a year, and applicants would benefit from some basic knowledge of MS Publisher or Word as well as a willingness to attend some of the monthly parish council meetings.

Amongst other benefits, you will acquire an increased awareness of the local community, meet some great people and gain experience in the editorial process, whether for the CV, or just enhancing your personal skillset!

Please contact the Editor at
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

Planning Decisions

The following planning applications, decided between 16th September and 16th November 2022 have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received written confirmation from SODC.



Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
<p><u>P22/S3517/DA</u> No 1 Enigma Estate, Cold Harbour Goring Heath. RG8 7SZ</p> <p>Without planning permission the subdivision of the property known as No.1 Enigma Estate from a mixed use comprising 1) a single residential dwelling with ancillary accommodation; and 2) a workshop/office, to a new mixed use comprising 1) two separate self-contained dwellings and ancillary accommodation; and 2) a workshop/office. (SE19/387).</p>	Objection	
<p><u>P22/S3536/AG</u> Land south of the B4526 Crays Pond</p> <p>Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage tank to confer agricultural benefit as a fertiliser under environment agency landspreading regulations on land to the south of the B4526, Crays Pond, Reading.</p>	Agricultural Development - Application Not Req.	
<p><u>P22/S3743/HH</u> 6 Garton End, Crays Pond</p> <p>Demolition of existing detached garage and workshop and replacement with detached oak framed garage and workshop with guest accommodation over.</p>	No Strong views	
<p><u>P22/S2857/HH</u> 1 Garton End Crays Pond RG8 7QHTwo storey rear extension</p>	Planning permission granted	
<p><u>P22/S2922/HH</u> The Pothole Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7ST Ground floor extension to rear of property.</p>	Planning permission granted	

Planning

We would like to point out that No Strong Views is one of only three choices that SODC gives the parish council. It does not illustrate tacit approval of an application. Typically, it is supplemented with specific comments from the parish council highlighting areas of concern.

Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
<p><u>P22/S2922/HH</u> The Pothole Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7ST</p> <p>Ground floor extension to rear of property.</p>	Planning permission granted	
<p><u>P22/S3217/DIS</u> Haw Farm Deadmans Lane Goring Heath RG8 7RX</p> <p>Discharge of condition 4 (Tree Protection (Detailed)) under application reference number P21/S1832/HH. (Demolition of existing barn and construction of a new barn.)</p>	DIS Details Agreed	
<p><u>P22/S2974/DIS</u> Oak Cottage West Path Hill Goring Heath RG8 7RG</p> <p>Discharge of condition 4 (obscure glazing) on application P22/S0966/HH. Erection of a two-storey side extension and associated external works.</p>	DIS Details Agreed	

CRAYS POND GORING HEATH COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

We are looking for keen volunteers to help keep our community safe.
 Fatalities are four times more likely to happen in rural areas than in Urban areas—Would you like to help?



A Community Speed watch group has been set up to tackle speeding in our Community. During August, 2022 the CSW team formally reported 32 speeding vehicles to Thames Valley Police (TVP) with the highest recorded speed being 51 mph in a 30 mph area.

The scheme works under the operating principles of Community Speedwatch UK - a not-for-profit social enterprise that provides support for Speedwatch groups throughout the country. The scheme can provide communities with initial loan equipment and training to monitor speeding in their area. This is organised by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, via the local police, in our case TVP who are very supportive of the initiative.

Call for Volunteers: If interested, please visit

<https://bit.ly/3CRcK22> Then select "Thames Valley"/"Oxfordshire"/"Crays Pond -Goring Heath" to join our Group.

For any further information please contact the CPGH CSW Group Coordinator.

Email: crayspondcsw@sent.com or Twitter: @crayspondCSW

Act of Remembrance at the Memorial —Sunday 13th November



Crowds start to gather at the Memorial. (top)



Goring Heath Chair Liz Collas and Whitchurch on Thames Chair Jim Donahue lay wreaths.



Rev James Leach officiated at the Act of Remembrance.

The last post was sounded by bugler Stewart Lewins.

Councillor Martin Wise read out the list of men who had died in the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

Money Money Money



One of the less enjoyable days of the year is when the annual Council Tax bill lands on the doormat, and one gasps at the amount of money being demanded. As I have mentioned before, although the bill comes from the District Council, SODC, its largely being collected on behalf of the local big spenders, i.e. the County Council and the Police who take 78% and 11% respectively. The District Council keep only 6% and the parishes about 5%. The District Council also collects Business Rates, technically called Non Domestic Rates, or NDR. During the pandemic businesses who were liable for Business Rates were entitled to grants of various sorts, funded by the government but distributed by South Oxfordshire District Council. This was quite a big exercise for the Council, dishing out money instead of collecting it, and the District Council was pleased to support all sorts of eligible businesses. However, in the general rush to take advantage of the sudden fruiting of the magic money tree, some businesses who applied for this largesse forgot that they actually didn't pay business rates. On investigation, some of these businesses should have been paying quite substantial amounts.

With this information, the Green Lib Dem administration suspected that there may have been more businesses not paying rates,, and so external consultants were employed to match data from different sources to make sure that businesses in South Oxfordshire were paying their taxes like the rest of us. Amazingly, this exercise netted £2.6 million pounds of back tax, of which £500,000 has been retained by SODC and there will be an extra £200,000 a year coming to the District Council in future. The current administration at South Oxfordshire is keen to make sure that it is financially secure, and collects all the income that is legally due , and these additional funds are a welcome contribution to the budget; the backlog of £500,000 is about equivalent to 6% of the Districts funding from Council tax.

Aircraft Noise

Over the years, several people have raised concerns with me about the noisy planes that buzz around for about 10 minutes or so looping the loop, vertically diving etc before pulling up. Being so high, the noise from these planes is audible over a wide area, but strangely there is not much legal constraint over this noise. All planes carry a registration number, but even with powerful binoculars the number can't be seen from the ground.

There is a however a website <https://www.flightradar24.com/51.29,-1.45/11> that tracks every plane in the sky, and with this you can identify any plane that's flying near you, whether it is a passenger airline, executive jet, helicopter or light aircraft, where it has come from and then where it is going. Click on a plane, and you can see its flight path and its registration number, and from the registration number track the owner.

If you wish to complain about the noise of an aircraft, the Civil Aviation Authority states

“In general, if you have a complaint about aircraft noise, you should direct to it the airport where you think the aircraft was operating from. They have a duty to investigate your complaint and respond to you.”

The flight radar website shows where the plane has come from, which on a number of occasions has been White Waltham Airfield.

Peter Dragonetti

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

THE SUN

QUIZ

JOIN OUR MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT

THURSDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER
8PM

NO MORE THAN 5 IN A TEAM
£1 PER PERSON

WINNING TEAM TAKES THE POT!

WHY NOT GRAB A BITE TO EAT
TOO-FOOD AVAILABLE FROM
5PM.



SANTA'S COMING!



Whitchurch Hill Green



Thursday 8th Dec

4pm to 5.30



A collection will be taken by Santa's good friends, the Rotary Club of Pangbourne, who are organizing his visit.



Publicise your event and increase attendance by giving us the dates.

IT IS FREE

We welcome event dates from all local charities and groups for listing in the Newsletter. Please send the details to the Editor at:

goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com Please allow sufficient time in advance for the publication of the appropriate newsletter. Contribution deadlines and publication dates are on the inside back cover.

New Councillor vacancy

Would you like to join us on the Parish Council as our new Councillor? We are looking for someone who is interested in matters concerning the local community and is able to attend a monthly meeting at the Goring Heath parish hall,

If you are interested, please contact our Clerk, Amanda Holland whose details are on the back of the Newsletter.

Nick Elsome

We were all very sorry when Nick Elsome told us that he was stepping down from the Parish Council. Nick is someone who will always step forward and take on more, and who is also prepared to take on those more long and involved tasks where lots of different things have to be done to achieve an end. Nick organised the rebuilding of the play area at Garton End, getting quotes to support grant applications, and then getting the equipment installed and the grants paid. Nick also got the defibrillator for the village hall, and more recently took on the leadership of organising and running the fete. At meetings of the parish council, Nick always gives wise and pragmatic advice, and joins well with our relaxed and positive approach to the issues of the parish. We all wish Nick the best with his growing family, knowing that we will continue to see him around.

Peter Dragonetti

The Whitchurch Society's Art and Craft Exhibition 2022

This year's exhibition was again a great success, held over the weekend of 12th / 13th November in Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road. In the traditional way, the exhibits were judged by 4 external experts, and the winners were chosen in all the art, craft and photography categories, entered by adults and young people. Following the 'live' event, the entries could be viewed online for a fortnight afterwards on our special website.

If you would like to see the full list of the 2022 prize winners, they can be found via the link on the Exhibition webpage on the Whitchurch website (whitchurchonthames.com/groups/artscrafts.html). On the same webpage, there is also a link to the History of the Cups & Awards that have been won since the first Exhibition was held in 1972 – this makes for interesting reading, with 50 years of competition recorded.

There were 127 entries across the full spectrum of classes, in art, craft, photography and new media, from 65 exhibitors, both adult and young people. It was enjoyed by many visitors to the Hall over the weekend, with lots of positive feedback. Also, on the stage, the three local schools, namely Whitchurch Pre-School, the Whitchurch Primary School and the Oratory Preparatory School had set up impressive and colourful displays of school work by their students.



Who's won? The prize giving at the end of the weekend

I would like to thank all of the great team that helped in many ways to set the live exhibition up, and without whom it would be impossible to achieve, in the tight schedule. My special thanks also must go to the planning and organising team, (Sarah & Adrian Dixon, Wendy Ferguson

and Jean-Marc Grosfort) and to the Whitchurch Society committee, for all their hard work and support which made it another successful show.

And remember, it is never too soon to start work on your entries for the 2023 exhibition!!

Sally Woolhouse (Exhibition co-ordinator) sally@wotarts.co.uk



Lorna Woolhouse holding her 'Mouse Nativity' which won The Popular Vote



'Cheetah on the hunt' by Jean Marc Grosfort, winner of The Chairman's Cup



Visitors enjoying the exhibits



John Bradon (Chairman of the Whitchurch Society), Sally Woolhouse (organiser) with Matilda Oppenheimer being presented with the Whitchurch Cup, for the best Craft entry



(right) Display of artwork from Whitchurch Primary School

Photos courtesy of Richard Wingfield

The Hardwick Estate

Perhaps it is worth sharing a bit of background for those who don't frequent our neck of the Parish woods. Hardwick Estate is approximately 900 acres in total, with more than half of this covered by semi-ancient natural woodland - which many of you may enjoy walking through on the Estate's multiple foot-paths and permissive paths. There are also 27 tenanted houses, 23 of which are on affordable rents. The Estate's farmland was converted to organic in 1975, the third application in the UK, and it continues to be pioneering in organic agriculture. The main tenant farmers are James Norman - specialising in management of hay-meadows for species diversity and harvesting wildflower seed, as well as producing organic beef and a variety of arable crops – and Iain Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organic Partnership CIC) – a unique and nationally acclaimed stock free organic vegetable farm, which hosts the 24 hour honesty box farm shop Lin's Veg Shed.

A few years ago the Rose family (Miriam, Lawrence and Julian), who own Hardwick, began a visioning and research process to transition the Estate out of their family's ownership. It is our wish to release future generations from the tie of inherited land (which has been a painful burden to several generations of our family as well as a privilege), to share rights and responsibilities for land with the wider community, and to try to secure the Estate's ethos and integrity into the future. After much research we have settled on a Charitable Company as the vehicle to achieve this, heavily inspired by the Scottish community run Estates which now make up 3% of Scotland's land area. The board of the Charity will be made up of a mix of Rose family, Hardwick community and outside directors with relevant expertise. We are now in the process of working alongside the community at Hardwick (residential and commercial tenants and homeowners) to shape the fine detail of governance and avenues to participation in this novel structure.

The purposes of the Charity will reflect the Estate's vision (combining Rose family and Hardwick Community visioning processes); to manage the land for biodiversity as well as organic produce for local markets, to support the maximum number of sustainable land based livelihoods and artisanal craft people, and to look after the Estate and wider community by providing affordable housing, community events, access to land, education and a model of a thriving land based community.

There are enormous opportunities in this transition for the Estate and the local area including access to funding and the remit to benefit the wider community. There are lots of projects we'd love to pursue including providing more truly affordable eco-housing, renewable energy, more variety of land based businesses and produce which we could sell through a farm shop and

cafe, an access to land project working with marginalised groups from in and around Reading, cultural exchanges, talks and events, and meeting the challenges that arise in our, and every community, such as looking after our young and old, and how to live as harmoniously and productively as possible despite our differences.

We see Hardwick as a microcosm of wider society, an 'unintentional community' facing the myriad of environmental and social challenges of our day and meeting them as best we can. Its an exciting experiment and I hope many of you will join us along the way!

Hardwick Happenings by Miriam Rose (Hardwick Estate Manager)

The Squash and Pumpkin festival at Tolhurst Organics on 2nd Oct was a great success again, attracting around 1000 people. The following weekend a whole community meeting was held, as part of the Estate's transition to a community led charity, to begin developing an energy strategy for the Estate. This includes looking at best practice energy efficiency options for our old cottages and business units, as well as renewable micro-generation options on buildings, or larger scale community energy generation options (such as a community wind turbine or solar farm). This affects all of us in terms of increasing energy prices from the national grid, as well as the imperatives of the climate emergency. A working group was formed from community members, some of whom had a wealth of knowledge in the area, to take forward research and recommendations. We would be happy to share our findings with the local community where they could be applicable and relevant.

Our work developing a vision for the Estate over the last few years made it very clear that addressing the food security crisis by producing quality organic food and other products, was at the core of Hardwick's ethos. This was illustrated during the pandemic when supermarket shelves were empty and the Tolhurst Organic veg shed had queues of customers, and even had to ration produce! As a result we are now in the slow process of transitioning our extensive areas of horse grazing over to agriculture over the coming years. The fields currently used as a livery business at Hardwick Stud are the best quality for agriculture on the Estate, and the only soil similar enough to the walled garden for more horticulture or soft fruit production. Therefore the difficult decision has been made to convert this area, after two years notice, back into a farm growing produce for local needs. The horses and all those who work with them will be very much missed but we hope that the wider community will also appreciate the need for this change.

Goring on Thames Christmas Shopping Evening— 2nd December

The event starts at 4pm with lots to see, including Father Christmas, Punch and Judy, a fire engine and a hog roast.

Come and support our businesses and experience a fun festive evening! If you have a local business and would like to showcase it with a table in the arcade, please contact Kevin at Inspirations on 01491 873019

INFORMATION FROM AGE UK OXFORDSHIRE.



Age UK has launched an information campaign to help with the impact of the spiralling cost of living on people as winter approaches. This new **information campaign** is helping to ensure people are aware of and receiving all the support to which they are entitled.

The first stage of this campaign is focussed on raising awareness of **Pension Credit** and encouraging people to undertake a **benefits check** to ensure they are getting all the support that they are eligible for. Pension Credit also serves as a gateway to other forms of support, which could go a long way in helping some older people meet rising costs.

Make sure residents can find more information about the campaign here: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/cost-of-living-campaign/>

- We emphasise that these are **entitlements** not handouts. Sheets are available that outline the support available. You can find more information about entitlements here: [Benefits and entitlements for pensioners and the elderly | Age UK](#)

Age UK Oxfordshire & Action for Carers Oxfordshire

9 Napier Court | Barton Lane | Abingdon | OX14 3YT, Phone: 0345 450 1276
www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire



We are all looking forward to celebrating Christmas this year.

This week the children were very excited as they had the arrival of their Christmas post box. This came special delivery by airmail from no other than Rudolf the reindeer! The children have written their letters to Father Christmas and were delighted to post them in their post box and were very pleased when Rudolf took these letters straight to the North Pole.

We have also been decorating Christmas crackers, which may have a little treat inside for the children. The children have also been enjoying the role play area, Fathers Christmas's Grotto, where the children can wrap presents at the wrapping station, write and send Christmas cards and dress up in lots of festive outfits. We will be celebrating and enjoying many fun activities such as singing, Christmas jumper days and our Christmas party, which the children look forward to every year, and we will be expecting a visit from Jester Giggles and Father Christmas!

The children will be performing their Traditional Nativity play to our first live audience since Covid.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, do visit our website www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk, call us on 01491 682589, e-mail preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com or just pop in – we always look forward to welcoming you to Checkendon Pre-School.

Pangbourne Christmas Evening— Friday 2nd December

Have a Ho Ho Happy time at the Pangbourne Christmas evening!

Sample mulled wine and mince pies at many of the shops and have a wander around Pangbourne until shops close at 9 pm.

After the Christmas lights turn on outside the George Hotel at 7 pm there'll be a raffle drawn at 8 pm, plus lots of other activities !

Come and join us—the fun starts at 5 pm!



Our visit to a Food Waste Recycling plant – What happens when your little green bin is collected?

Your Parish Council recently received an invitation to visit the SGTP (Severn Trent Green Power Anaerobic digestion facility) between Benson and Wallingford, and two of us were able to visit early in November. This is where our weekly collection of food waste lands up.

The food waste lorries go into a special area where their smelly cargo is tipped out onto conveyor belts then they are disinfected and sent off to collect the next load. There, in a huge concrete pit were all the contents of thousands of green food bins - pumpkins, orange peel and chicken bones along with a surprising quantity of plastic bags and other rubbish. Machinery mashes it all into a liquid which goes off in one direction and the waste – plastic bags, rubbish that shouldn't be in food bins and unmashable food gets sent in another direction to be sent to the Energy Recovery Centre in Ardley for further processing.

The liquid then goes into giant round domed containers where it gets churned around and passed through five such containers eventually making methane gas and carbon dioxide which is turned into renewable electricity for the National Grid and is able to power over 4,800 homes. The process takes about 75 days.

The waste from this called “digestate” goes to make fertilizer for local farmland and compost.

The excess heat produced as a by-product is used to warm the digesters and heat the pasteurisation process.

Two major advantages is that this process diverts solid food waste from landfill and reduces the use of fossil-fuel derived chemical fertilizer.

Hilary Dewey

Festive Fun!

Q: Why does Santa have three gardens?

A: So he can 'ho ho ho'!

Q: What was the snowman doing in the vegetable patch?

A: Picking his nose!





Photos from the food Waste recycling plant

Electronic Christmas cards for Langtree School.

Langtree School Christmas ecards are now available

We have some wonderful designs from the children as well as many others too. ❄️
All proceeds go to the School so please donate the cost of the cards and stamps to
Langtree school. 🐾

ecards are only available on 'Don't Send me a Card' 📺

a super easy and a sustainable way to send your messages at Christmas ❄️
you'll be contributing to Global carbon savings too! Many thanks for your support.
Donate the cost of cards and stamps to Langtree school.: To see our cards please go
to [https://www.dontsendmeacard.com/ecards/charities/langtree-school-association/
christmas-2](https://www.dontsendmeacard.com/ecards/charities/langtree-school-association/christmas-2)

Christmas Services at St Johns Church Whitchurch Hill

Sunday Nov 27th 9.30 am All Age Advent Service followed by Kids Sing

Sunday Dec 11th 9.30 am Carols for All with Kids Sing

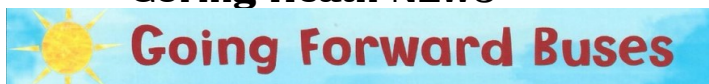
Sunday Dec 18th 4 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 2.30 pm Christingle at St. John's

Christmas Eve 9 pm Christmas Night Holy Communion

At St Marys Church Whitchurch on Thames

Christmas Day - 9.30 am Christmas Family Communion at St. Mary's



***** Everything changes from Monday 28th November *****

In agreement with Oxfordshire County Council we are increasing services on Route 134 Goring to Wallingford. We're also running a second bus to cover our other routes five days a week instead of just four.

Our improved timetable on Route 134 has two extra return journeys before lunchtime, giving a roughly hourly service both before and after lunch.

Times on all our other routes will change so that we can run the Goring to Wallingford service with one bus and the other routes with a second vehicle if necessary. We have tried to ensure the journeys that currently have the most passengers are not affected too much by these changes, but there will be fewer services between Goring and Pangbourne on our Reading routes and between Goring and Stoke Row on our Henley route. Unfortunately we will no longer be serving the Moretons on our D2 route as we have seldom had any passengers using the service.

Times on all our other routes will change so that we can run the Goring to Wallingford service with one bus and the other routes with a second vehicle if necessary. We have tried to ensure the journeys that currently have the most passengers are not affected too much by these changes, but there will be fewer services between Goring and Pangbourne on our Reading routes and between Goring and Stoke Row on our Henley route. Unfortunately we will no longer be serving the Moretons on our D2 route as we have seldom had any passengers using the service.

The latest information, including printed timetables showing the new services are available on our buses and at the usual outlets from the first week in November. Our website goingforwardbuses.com should always have the current timetable in operation, or please call us on 07484 605888.

Part time Logistics Officer vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a part time Logistics Officer, details below. Please email us at the address at the foot of this newsletter for more information.

Mike Ward—Going Forward Buses
littlebluebus@yahoo.com

Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

Oxford is known for many things, its architecture, its history, its alumni, and of course for the detective books and TV series of Inspector Morse. The first book, *Last Bus to Woodstock*, was published in 1975, but is probably the TV series of 1987 to 2000 starring John Thaw that most people have in their minds when they hear the haunting title music. With the later Lewis and Endeavour series, the images have persisted, and our November speaker pinpointed the highlights. Alastair Lack, a former BBC journalist and President of the Oxford Alumni organisation, entertained and informed us when he gave his talk on Thursday 17th November at 7.30pm at Goring Heath Parish Hall.

We'd really like to involve more people in our activities. We have speakers of quality, and a good range of interests are covered both local and national. As an early Christmas present, we will waive our usual non-members fee for this meeting, so come and join us for coffee and biscuits at 7pm, and sample our friendly meetings.

There is no meeting in December, but we re-convene on Thursday 19th January 2023 at Whitchurch Village Hall. Coffee and biscuits at 7pm, then a members meeting where we talk of our local researches and investigate our archives.

Contributions from members will explore, among others; Augustine Knapp, The Grotto on the Thames, and why Whitchurch didn't "swing" – though one resident's ancestor nearly did. All are welcome to join us.

Vicky Jordan

Festive Fun!



Q: Why did no-one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?

A: Because they were two deer!

The Christmas jumper my kids gave me last year kept picking up static electricity. I took it back and exchanged it for another one - **free of charge!**

Q: What do you call the Monarch's Christmas broadcast?

A: The **One** Show!

Changes to your waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period

Normal collection day		Revised collection day	
Monday	26 December 2022	Wednesday	28 December 2022
Tuesday	27 December 2022	Thursday	29 December 2022
Wednesday	28 December 2022	Friday	30 December 2022
Thursday	29 December 2022	Saturday	31 December 2022
Friday	30 December 2022	Tuesday	3 January 2023
Monday	2 January 2023	Wednesday	4 January 2023
Tuesday	3 January 2023	Thursday	5 January 2023
Wednesday	4 January 2023	Friday	6 January 2023
Thursday	5 January 2023	Saturday	7 January 2023
Friday	6 January 2023	Monday	9 January 2023
Monday	9 January 2023	Tuesday	10 January 2023
Tuesday	10 January 2023	Wednesday	11 January 2023
Wednesday	11 January 2023	Thursday	12 January 2023
Thursday	12 January 2023	Friday	13 January 2023
Friday	13 January 2023	Saturday	14 January 2023

Garden waste collections over the holiday period will be suspended to concentrate on Christmas waste collections. Collections resume in January 2023.

Calling for worthy hand bell beginners to the Whitchurch Wallopers Team



There is nothing more graceful, melodic and fun as ringing in a hand bell team choir. We have 36 beautifully crafted bells in a 3 octave chromatic set, manufactured at Whitechapel Foundry. Our leader Carol Wheeler is an accomplished exponent and excellent teacher who inspires confidence.

We ring a wide repertoire including Christmas music and perform at care homes and special events.

Beginners note!!! You do not have to be an expert in reading music. Although we play from music you will have two bells with two adjacent notes, one bell in each hand. Then it is just a question of counting the respective beats to the bar and ringing on your note, which we usually colour red and green to make life easier. In theory we never ring a wrong note, it really boils down to ringing the right note at the right time. But as we practice it is a wonderful achievement when it all flows.

We are planning to meet next year on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month commencing at 10am at 21 Swanston Field, Whitchurch. We commence on Wednesday 11 January at 10am.

Please contact **Peter Ferguson** tel: 07557 383634

Small 'shrine' at the site of the weeping willow

The Parish Council, as part of the recommendations in the assessment of the Pond, are considering removal of the large Weeping Willow to the west of the Pond.

As you may be aware, a small 'shrine' seems to be regularly placed at the foot of this tree, and the PC would not want to cause upset to the person (s) for whom this tree may be emotionally significant. To this end we would like to make contact with them and find a way to move forward.

Does anyone have any knowledge of this shrine and those for whom it is significant? Many Thanks.

Martin Wise
Goring Heath Parish Council

Whitchurch Hill WI

Our group has remained busy since the last newsletter.

On a very sad note we recently lost Sue Matthews, a much loved member. Though health prevented Sue from participating in meetings or activities for the last few years she was always interested in what we were getting up to and many of our members kept in regular touch with her. She will be very much missed.

On a brighter note we held a bring a friend morning in September and were delighted to host five guests that morning, and more since. Whilst we hope to gain new members from that initiative we have at least promoted our presence and helped spread the word about the purpose and ethos of WI, both locally and nationally.

Our regular programme has continued. We've been introduced to new skills with a morning learning tools and techniques on how to make unusual autumn floral displays. Before Christmas we will hear about life as a film extra, and of course sit down together for a much welcome Christmas Lunch at a local hostelry.

A number of us visited the Textile Museum out at Greenham Common in October whilst plans to celebrate our WI's 70th anniversary in April gather pace. We mustn't forget the forthcoming Coronation of course, giving us yet another occasion to celebrate.

If you fancy knowing more about us please ring Frances on 01189842162.

Sally Bergmann

Enjoy a stroll but no-one to walk with?

Our group of friendly social walkers get together once a month to try a different footpath or two around the parish.
We meet at 10 am at the junction of Hill Bottom and Hill Bottom Close.

Please feel free to join us.
Want to know more? Ring Sally on 07585 195669

Goring Heath and Whitchurch Autumn Show

In early September Goring Heath Parish Hall opened its doors for gardeners, vegetable growers and those with a craft, baking, or a photographic interest, to enter into friendly competition. Entries were invited from residents of both Whitchurch, and the Parish of Goring Heath.

Whilst the number of entries were well down on the Spring Show the competition was felt around the room as participants set up their exhibits in the morning, and then returned in the afternoon to see the results of their labours.

This season's overall winner was John Copeland for his success with fruit, vegetable and flowers. Other category winners were Liz Gibson, Wendy Ferguson, Debbie Leach, Sally Woolhouse, and Beth Strange.

Beth's vegetable monster won everyone over and was considered by many as the best item in the show!

One of the purposes of the show is to raise funds for Goring Heath Parish Charity. Whilst we have just about managed to make a profit this year the reduced numbers of entries puts into question the long term feasibility of This event, particularly as a fund raiser. Fingers crossed for a show in 2023.



Liz Gibson

The Art Café Whitchurch-on-Thames

The Art Café is open in the Old Stables, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7DB (opposite The Ferryboat) from 1030 am to 1230 pm every Saturday. It is a well-established local social event organised each week by a different local group to raise funds for themselves by offering tea, coffee, homemade cakes and a raffle in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Sometimes a local artist will be there to exhibit and sell their work.

It's a great way to meet old friends and make new friends, and to keep warm for a couple of hours! We now have a "Welcome Table" where people on their own or new to the area can be sure of a warm welcome and someone to talk to.

If you're a local group who is interested in running an Art Café please get in touch. We would also be delighted to hear from new artists and crafters who maybe have not exhibited before – we can help and support you to put on a show.

Finally, if you've never visited our Art Café or haven't been for a while, we would love to see you.

Geoff Weir

OldStablesBookings@btinternet.com

Educational grants available:

The Secretary of Whitchurch United Charities would like to remind all families that the Charity has funds available to help meet the costs associated with educational needs such as books, equipment or educational trips.

Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch.

Applications are processed twice a year, with closing dates being 31st March and 30th September. However, late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous 6 month period have not been fully allocated. All applications and decisions are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

If you would like to know more, please do contact Sarah Dixon (our Grant Application Secretary). Contact details: telephone: 0118 984 4262, address: Flint House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HH or e-mail – whitchchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com

Letters page:

A big 'THANK YOU' to Goring and Woodcote Health Centres!

We have both had some health hiccups lately and been looked after at Woodcote and Goring health centres.

When we say 'looked after' our care has been phenomenal. All the staff in the medical and admin team have gone out of their way to treat us with concern, kindness and respect no matter how busy they have been.

We are in agreement that we have the very best services from the surgeries and we're so fortunate and thankful that we live in this area

Paula and Chis Uden
Crays Pond.

Whitchurch Theatre Club Organiser opportunity

After organising over 200 trips to the theatre, day trips and holiday I am stepping down as organiser of the Whitchurch Theatre Club. After over 16 years I feel that it is time for someone younger to take on the role.

Being situated in the Thames Valley we are lucky in being able to visit theatres as far afield as Stratford, Salisbury, Bristol Brighton and Chichester. Not forgetting the easy access to London's West End down the M4. If you would be interested in taking on this role please contact me. Christine Martin 0118 9844252 or email whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

Merry
Christmas



Woodcote Volunteers needs your help

Could you offer some time as a volunteer driver? We need more people to help us provide a lift service to residents who need to attend essential appointments.

Full training is provided and mileage expenses are paid.

For more details visit our website
www.woodcotevolunteers.co.uk/driver-volunteer



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

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 Sunday of the Month

Sung Matins 2nd & 4th & 5th Sunday of the Month at 11am

*Said Holy Communion at 9.00am on 2nd & 4th Sunday with
special prayers for the sick*

All Services are taken from the book of Common Prayer

Chaplain: Rev Peter Dewey, -- 07784912935

revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk



Christmas Carol Service

**On Tuesday 20th December at 6 pm
to be held at St. Bartholomew's C of E Chapel,
The Allnutt Alms-Houses, RG8 7RS**

**Followed by mulled wine and mince pies
All are welcome**

Party hire

Don't forget you can hire cutlery, glasses, plates, catering tea-pots, 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

COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Peter Dragonetti Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom, Whitechurch Hill, RG8 7PT
07866 202908, 0118 9844711 peter@dragonetti.co.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 Number-

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
10th January 2023	February 2023
14th March 2023	April 2023

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

CHAIR

Liz Collas	Lcollas@ghpc.org.uk	01491 680466
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VICE-CHAIRMAN

Peter Dragonetti	Pdragonetti@ghpc.org.uk	0118 9844711
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Vacancy	Vacancy	
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Hilary Dewey	Hdewey@ghpc.org.uk	
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Martin Wise	Mwise@ghpc.org.uk	0118 984 3071
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Peter Burdon	Pburdon@ghpc.org.uk	
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Tarek Moghul	Tmoghul@ghpc.org.uk	
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Mike Holland	Mholland@ghpc.org.uk	
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CLERK

Amanda Holland	<u>goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com</u>	0118 9844867
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GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Lucy Turner /Vacancy		0118 9842415
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goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Amanda Holland		0118 9844867
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goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com