

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

July 2023  
Issue 192

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*Goring Heath Parish Charity*  
*Regd No 1056772*

**Goring Heath and Whitchurch  
Autumn Show**



**Saturday 9 September 2023**  
**2.30 pm to 4.00 pm**  
**Goring Heath Parish Hall**

**Enter your finest flowers, fruit, veg, floral arrangements,  
preserves and baking.**

**Or come along to view the entries & enjoy homemade  
cake, tea & coffee, raffle and plant stall.**

## Chair's Comments



I am very pleased to say that my predictions of sunshine for the day of the fete did not disappoint- in fact it was a glorious sunny English summer afternoon. Perfect to enjoy everything on offer, from beer and tea, to the barbecue and lots more. Evidence of the fun had by all, and the relaxed atmosphere is shown by the photographs included in the magazine.

This was the first fete run by Councillor Peter Burdon - let's hope he is not put off by all the hard work it entailed, and enjoyed it enough to repeat the show next year! Whilst Peter was the chief organiser, there were many others involved, giving of their time freely to make sure the event ran smoothly. Thank you to everyone who made this parish event such a success.

If you are running a local event we are always keen to hear about it. Articles for the magazine are very welcome, especially with some interesting or maybe amusing photos!

May also saw the local elections in South Oxfordshire for District Councillors. I know many people prefer a postal vote, but I like to go in person to register my vote - it seems to have more meaning that way. Postal votes are yet another way, like internet shopping, that reduce our daily contact with other people. I always bump into someone I know when I vote. It is such a spread-out parish that weeks can go by without seeing one's neighbours!

I was very pleased that one of our long-standing Parish Councillors, Peter Dragonetti, has retained his seat on the District Council, representing us and several neighbouring parishes. Whilst you may agree or disagree with the colour of his politics, he always works for the benefit of his parishes. As a Parish Council we are non-political, but having someone so vested in the local area is a great advantage to us.

As a Parish councillor Peter attends our meetings with both hats on. This is very useful as it gives us more insight into how SODC might view initiatives which we might wish to pursue. His advice on matters relating to planning is also invaluable as he has such a good understanding of how the system works, and the best way for us to make our views as local representatives heard.

And, if you did go to vote in person, did you remember to admire the lovely village hall? Don't forget to think about hiring it next time you are looking for a local venue for a party. It has excellent facilities and is a bargain to hire! Information on who to contact is at the back of the magazine.

**Liz Collas**  
**Chair of the Parish Council**

## Planning Decisions

The following planning applications, decided between 15th April 2023 and 19th June 2023 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><b><u>P23/S0380/FUL</u></b>            Bozedown Windmill Bozedown Drive            Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PE            Erection of wind turbine on 15 metre high tower / pole (19.36 metres high including blade).</p>	No Strong Views	
<p><b><u>P23/S0300/HH</u></b>            Cwmgwyn Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT            Construction of a garage .</p>	No Strong views	Approved
<p><b><u>P23/S0384/FUL</u></b>            Goffs House Goffs Hill Crays Pond RG8 7QA            Construction of a tennis court.</p>	No Strong views	Approved
<p><b><u>P23/S0699/HH</u></b>            Pot Kiln Cottage Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7ST            Erection of single storey rear extension.</p>	No Strong Views	Approved
<p><b><u>P23/S1492/HH</u></b>            Oakdene Gashes Lane Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PY            Erection of a detached single storey temporary garden room within the rear garden.</p>	No Strong views	Approved
<p><b><u>P23/S1249/HH</u></b>            Hill Bottom House Hill Bottom RG8 7PU            Installation of 16 ground-mounted solar panels.            Conversion of loft/storage space in existing garage to create a one bedroom annex above garage with kitchen and bathroom.</p>	No Strong views	Approved
<p><b><u>P23/S1389/HH</u></b>            Covert Cottage Hill Bottom RG8 7PT            Single storey rear extension.</p>	No Strong Views	Approved

Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
<p><b><u>P23/S1220/HH</u></b>                      5 Oakdown Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NR                      New roof and loft conversion creating additional bedroom accommodation.</p>	Objection	
<p><b><u>P23/S1342/HH</u></b>                      Old Well Cottage Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PQ                      Erection of a garden studio.</p>	No Strong Views	Approved
<p><b><u>P23/S1822/HH</u></b>                      Crays Pond Lodge Goring Road Goring Heath RG8 7SH                      Proposed ground floor side extension.</p>	No Strong Views	
<p><b><u>P23/S1732/HH</u></b>                      24 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QL                      Demolition of existing conservatory, new rear and side extensions, new gable front and pitched roof, erection of covered porch, alterations including external material and fenestration changes, thermal upgrade throughout and introduction of renewable energy sources. Raises the pitch of the garage roof.</p>	No Strong Views	
<p><b><u>P22/S4346/FUL</u></b>                      Timbers Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NU                      Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement 5 bedroom dwelling with detached garage. Amended plans received 10th May showing new dwelling of new design repositioned closer to the NE corner of the site with vehicle access from Goring Heath Road.</p>	Objection	

## **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.

## **District Councillor's Commentary**

The election in May is now fading from memory, and I was delighted to be re-elected as the local District Councillor. My Conservative opponent worked hard across the ward and Jim Donahue was one of the few Conservatives who made a real effort. When I was first elected 4 years ago, it was against a Conservative controlled Council where about 33 of the 38 councillors were Conservatives. Today, there is only one Conservative councillor in the whole District. As it was a similar result across the country there was something more than local issues that shaped the result. An interesting side note is that the Vale of White Horse is now believed to be the only District Council in England where there are no Conservative or Labour Councillors.



I am pleased to say that although the Lib Dems are now the majority in South Oxfordshire District Council, the agreement to work together with the Green Party continues, and that two members of the SODC Cabinet will be from the Green Party, namely Robin Bennet and Andrea Powell, and I will remain as Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee.

I hope that the next four years will not include anything as game changing as Covid which was very disruptive at the time but has brought new ways of working that seem to have bedded in quite well. In terms of political disruption, we have got through the Local Plan sign-off and seen off the Arc and its Expressway, although the latter is something of a Hydra and however many heads get cut off, it springs back to life with some new soft sell branding. More immediately, we have the challenge of the HIF road, a multimillion pound project that is supposedly a relief road for Didcot but like all good road schemes, may be simply stage 1 of a more ambitious scheme. Join the dots.

The Green element of the District Council has realised that Didcot needs more than a relief road, and have proposed that we secure for Didcot a substantial area of undeveloped land outside, say 500 acres, that can be used both for nature recovery and to provide a green lung for this new urban centre.

When you look at Oxford with the Port Meadow and Shotover Country park, or London with Hampstead Heath or even New York with Central Park, and then delve a little into the history of how these now highly valued large green areas were secured, it is clear that a visionary approach is needed to ensure that Didcot does become a desirable place to live and work, and not attract the sort of opprobrium that is now applied to Slough.

## Peter Dragonetti

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

## Chess Group

A group of regular players still meet at 12 noon on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Sun Inn in Hill Bottom. Some live in the village whilst others come from the surrounding area.

Generally speaking, each Wednesday session lasts until 2pm, or a short time beyond. The availability of a lunchtime snack over a coffee or pint of beer makes the games particularly sociable.

Even though the group has only been going for a little over a year there has been the occasional opportunity to play friendlies against other clubs, such as Henley and Didcot.

Most, if not all, came to the group after a considerable absence from playing over the board, and had returned to the game by playing computer chess.

If you fancy trying your hand at a friendly game either turn up at a scheduled gathering, or ring **Chris Bergmann on 07876531881**.

*You would be made very welcome!*

## **Woodcote Volunteers**



### **Our plans for the coming year**

We held our Annual General Meeting in April at which we set out our goals for the coming year, which included:

- Change our constitution to broaden the scope of services we are allowed to offer to our local community, to further assist in alleviating isolation, such as a befriending service
- Increase the number of jobs we undertake
- Recruit more drivers – we need at least 40 (currently have 38)
- Establish what the barriers are to people using our service(s) and work out what we can do to break these down
- Measure our (anticipated) success in reaching those in need who are not currently using our service.

We are currently exploring the setting up a befriending service and will write more about this in coming months.

### **Financial Hardship**

We do not charge clients who need a driver; however, a client is asked to pay a driver's expenses at the rate of 45p per mile (there is a flat rate of £1.50 for drives within Woodcote). This is considerably cheaper than using a taxi but can add up, especially if a client needs to be taken further afield. Our office helpers will always tell you in advance what the approximate expenses cost will be. Please let us know if this would place you in financial difficulty.

### **Drivers needed**

Since 1983, our charity has been helping hundreds of people in Woodcote and surrounding villages who are unable to get about as before. They have mobility problems such that they are unable to use public transport or drive. You and I may take it for granted that we can pop to the shops, doctors, hospital appointments, the opticians, go out to meet a friend and the like. Volunteer Drivers change the lives of people who otherwise would find it difficult to do those simple things.

There is no minimum time commitment. You simply advise us from the outset what days and times that you are usually free. We do not expect you to be waiting by the phone for your jobs; we try to give at least 3 days' notice of a job. Occasionally we have an urgent request

Our drivers find this type of volunteering very rewarding and you will meet some fascinating people. If you would like to know more, please either look at our website – [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk), or call our Secretary, Jane Forde, on 01750 158274.

## TO FINISH.....

As usual, if you need a driver, please don't hesitate to give us a call on **01491 681171**. We collect from Woodcote and immediately surrounding villages. **Please give us as much notice as possible before the date you need us.**

Find out more about us by looking at our website:

[www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk) Or visit our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers](http://www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers)

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - Report from Ethan Day

From time to time, Goring Heath Parish Council sponsors young people to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This is an update and report from Ethan Day, who lives in the village and has been working hard since February to keep our Parish looking its best.

“Over the past 3 months, in the village I have been doing a couple of things to make our community a cleaner and healthier place; the main one being litter picking. Due to our village being well looked after, I wasn't collecting bags and bags of rubbish. Although, particularly along the main road going down the hill, there were larger amounts of rubbish beginning to be built up. The litter was predominantly plastic bottles and crisp packets, which does not make for surprise. Apart from along the main road, there were no obvious places that had substantial amounts of litter.

Aside from litter picking, I made sure that the library telephone box was kept clean and organised, so that people could easily select and return their chosen books. It was great to see the selection of books, and the fact that some of them had clearly been read. But, after reading a book next time, it would be better if the book could be returned to the same part of the book-shelf or at least put on the shelf.

From doing this experience, I can see that it is clear that the community looks after the environment and doesn't leave a mess. I began to see multiple cases of wildlife beginning to reappear in the spring months, as well as the sun coming out in the last month. Overall, the village is looking very clean and a pleasurable place to live.”

*We wish you good luck with the Award and thank you for your hard work.*

**GHPC**



## **Goring Heath Charities is looking for two new Trustees**

The Almshouses at Goring Heath are one of the area's oldest institutions, dating back to 1726. We have 12 dwellings in tranquil grounds of 25 acres and provide accommodation for local people over the age of 55 who are of limited means and can live independently.

The Charity is run by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for maintaining the property, ensuring that residents are safe and comfortable and managing its investment portfolio.

We are seeking to recruit two new Trustees who are interested in the work of the Charity and understand the principles of good governance.

People with charity sector experience would be particularly welcome as would candidates with knowledge of social care and delivering services to older people.

The positions are unremunerated, there are four quarterly trustee meetings per year held on a Friday morning.

If you are interested and would like to find out more information, please email our Chairman Garry Forster, at [\*\*garryjforster@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:garryjforster@gmail.com)

**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\*\*](mailto: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.



# Tots on The Hill

Come along and join the fun!

Every Thursday during term time, 10:00 - 11:30 am.

Let them: play, create, sing, snack and make friends.

While you enjoy a hot cuppa and a biscuit!

£3 per family.

**Started in May!**

@ Goring Heath Parish Hall

Whitchurch Hill (opposite St John's church)

For more information check out our Facebook page or email Debbie on [totsonthehill@myyahoo.com](mailto:totsonthehill@myyahoo.com)

## **Whitchurch Hill WI**



Summertime is a particularly busy but socially enjoyable time for our WI.

Our monthly speaker programme continues as normal at our regular meetings in the Parish Hall Whitchurch Hill on the third Tuesday of every month.

With the warmer season (though this summer took a long time coming!) we take the opportunity to enjoy more of the outdoors. A walk around the gardens at Englefield House was very successful, followed by a lovely lunch at the cafe in Englefield. Another Tuesday saw many members enjoying a traditional scones and jam tea utilising the garden of the Parish Hall.

Our busiest day was on the day of Whitchurch Hill Fete (as it was for many locals) with an abundance of homemade cakes being delivered by members to the WI tea tent to be sold with copious cups of tea throughout the afternoon. Thank you to everyone who supported us on the day - and to the show organisers for inviting us to provide these traditional and popular refreshments.



All the workers went home very tired after a full-on day - but happy in the knowledge that all cakes were sold and all the cups and saucers had been washed and put away for another year.

For more information about your local WI please ring Francis Strange on 01189842162.

***Sally Bergmann***

## *From the Editor*

May and June are busy months in the parish and there's so much to cover from the Whitchurch Hill Fete and the Right Royal Entrance competition, not to mention the visit of the Morris dancers to the Sun Inn. The Stoke Row Rally took place in the heart of the parish and next year we will have a splash on that too!

Letters to the editor are always welcome and I was delighted to receive this email from Lesley Withers:

*It was gratifying to see Mike Holland's item on the Annual Parish Litter Pick and well done and thank you to all involved.*

*However, the situation would be a great deal worse if it weren't for the weekly efforts of Elise Way. Elise has been picking up rubbish around Whitchurch Hill for years, sorting and recycling it where appropriate.*

*In my estimation, this makes her an Unsung Local Hero and well deserving of a mention!*

**Keep the letters coming!**

## **The Fete Committee and Goring Heath Parish Council would like to thank the following local businesses for their generous donations to the Raffle 2023.**

Nino's Brasserie Pangbourne	Three bottles of wine
Albert Fields Hair salon	Voucher for hair cut worth £60
Woodcote Garden Centre	Plants
Wayne Coneley	Soft Toys
Tolhurst Organics	Two punnets of Strawberries
Lina Tandoori	£20 meal voucher
O'Brien's Café and Kitchen	£15 voucher
Pangbourne Cheese Company	£15 voucher
Virgo Pangbourne	£25 voucher for hair/beauty
The Eye Shop Pangbourne	Aviator sunglasses worth £200
Forresters Pangbourne	Treatment and blow dry
La'Di Kitchen	Meal and cocktails worth over £30
Dudley Singleton	Large bottle of whisky
Davis Tate	Prosecco
Cozze Pangbourne	£30 meal voucher
Greens of Pangbourne	Two £10 vouchers
The Cheese Shop Pangbourne	£20 cheese voucher
Carly Thompson	Tropic skincare voucher

## A Fabulous Day



The band is in the shade, fortunately!



Hot work at the BBQ



All the fun of the fair



Engrossed in Punch and Judy



Taking a break in the tea tent



It's early days in the egg throwing



Will he catch it?

## For the Fete!



Egged!!



Winners of the Inaugural Martin Wise Trophy for Egg Throwing were Emily and Tom pictured with Martin Wise (right)



New organiser Peter Burdon featured in the Henley Standard

## Prize Winners for the Right Royal Entrance Competition



Joint Winners Georgina (left) and Rosemary (right)



Runners-up Anne (left) and Hilary (right)



Kid's races all done! Mike and daughter Amy tidy up.



And a special mention for the WI



Our junior winner Astrid

A Right Royal



Georgina with her replica St Edward's Chair, complete with corgi.



Rosemary went to town with St Edward's Crowns and red white and blue baskets as well as bunting and flags.



Hilary created a red, white and blue flower display set off with bunting, crowns and a royal tea towel for added impact.



Anne got out the flags and the bunting. A special thanks to Tony for putting up the large posters!



A special mention for the WI who decorated the well and the church railings.



Little Astrid decorated her summer house to celebrate.

# Entrance Competition



**The Parish Council did their bit around the area**



**The bunting and flags were on display up and down Goring Heath Road**



## Morris Dancers visit Whitchurch Hill

Berkshire Bedlam and The Old Speckled Hen Morris sides visited the Sun Inn for a great evening of dance and music on 15th June.

And you can enjoy another evening on **Monday 17th July** when the Kennet Morris men will be at the Sun Inn.



Old Speckled Hen, from Abingdon, dance North West Morris from Lancashire and Cheshire.

*Photos by Jan Lewis*



Berkshire Bedlam from Wokingham are a Cotswold Morris dance team.

### *Enjoy a stroll but no-one to walk with?*

#### *Community Walks*

Our monthly walks continue on the first Monday in the month.

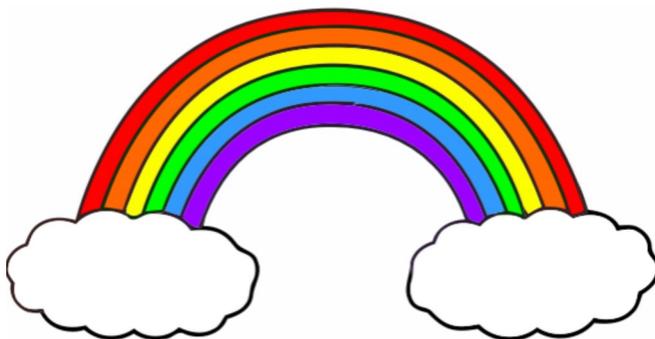
We meet at the junction of Hill Bottom Close and Hill Bottom at 10am and usually walk for about an hour and a half.

The nature of the walks are of course weather dependent and take into account the presence of livestock in fields etc.

The arrangements are very informal so please just turn up in you fancy joining us. Our next meeting dates are: Mon 3rd July and Mon 7th August.

If you want to know anything more just give me a ring on 07585195669

**Sally Bergmann**



## Rosie Care

Dementia and Palliative Care  
Trained and Experienced  
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Own Car and Blue Badge  
Contact me on:  
Tel 01491 682437 Mobile 07966 509 908



### Crays Pond Goring Heath Community Speed Watch Group

#### May 2023 Report

The Group currently has seven Thames Valley Police approved sites; four in Crays Pond and three in Whitchurch Hill and is on the look-out for keen volunteers to help keep our community safe.

We ran three sessions during May and reported a total of 27 offenders from 335 passing vehicles. This represents 8% of vehicles, a rate which was also seen in April.

The current hot-spots for speeders remain the B471 at St Johns Church, Whitchurch Hill, the B4526 Garton End and the B471 Goffs Hill in Crays Pond. Since we have been monitoring Garton End the percentage of drivers speeding, in chronological order, has been respectively 18%, 17%, 20%, 10%, 4%, 7%, 7%, 7%; this continues to show a bumpy trend downwards which is certainly encouraging.

We had an interesting interaction with a driver on 15th May and accordingly reported a White Citroen Berlingo—the driver drove at walking pace then 'parked' up circa 20 m in front of the Group— to disrupt the traffic flow and our session as well as causing a significant safety hazard for other motorists. This driver is a repeat offender having been reported twice previously for speeding at the exact same location. Not a youngster but obviously with a bee in his bonnet! Thames Valley Police will hopefully pay him a visit. This sort of conduct is completely disgraceful.

**20 MPH—Twenty is Plenty**

We have written to Mike Holland asking that Crays Pond be tagged on to the Parish Council’s Whitchurch Hill application to Oxfordshire County Council in relation to changing the existing 30 MPH to 20 MPH on the B471/B4526.

For any further information, including joining instructions, please email the CPGH Group Coordinator at [crayspondcsw@sent.com](mailto:crayspondcsw@sent.com) to register your interest.



**Crays Pond Goring Heath  
Community Speed Watch Group**

**Activity Report for May 2023**

Date	Location & Speed Limit (SL)	No. of Offenders*	No. of Vehicles	% above the SL	Average speed over the SL	Highest Speed/% above the SL
2.5.23	B4526: Bellmouth junction to Garton End (30mph)	8	108	7%	30%	45mph 50%
9.5.23	B471 St John’s Church (40mph)	9	100	9%	22.5%	53mph 32%
15.5.23	B471-Goffs Hill grass verge	10	127	8%	41%	51mph 70%
<b>Totals/Average</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>8%</b>		

\*Offenders are recorded at 36 and 47mph and above in 30 and 40 mph areas respectively.

## Hello from Whitchurch Pre-School

Our bustling pre-school has had a busy Summer Term! Our caring staff invested time and energy into

designing creative activities to excite the children. We made the most of our purpose-designed indoor classrooms and they have been buzzing with the sound of children exploring, making new friends and having fun. We are lucky to have such experienced staff who can support the children with tailored learning and development.

Some of the children's favourite moments this term have included an outing to Rushall Farm, a leavers party for those starting Reception in September and celebrations to mark the 30 year anniversary of Whitchurch Pre-School at our current site. Our supportive parent and carer community have been a bit part of these events. They also turned out in force for our Summer Social, our silent auction and to run our ever popular 'Ice Cream Fridays'.

### Come and Join Whitchurch Pre-School

We currently have spaces available for new starters aged from 2.5 years upwards.

- We're open from Monday to Friday during term time, from 8.45am - 3.15pm, with an early drop-off option at 8.30am
- Free government-funded places are available for 3 and 4 year olds for 15 or 30 hours per week during term time.
- Children from out of the Whitchurch catchment area are welcome to apply.

To register your interest, please use the following contact details:

**[hello@whitchurchpreschool.org](mailto:hello@whitchurchpreschool.org) 0118 984 4516**

### How To Support Us

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 improvements to our pre-school building.

To donate anytime scan the QR code here or go to: **<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool>**

Thank you for all of your support!



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*

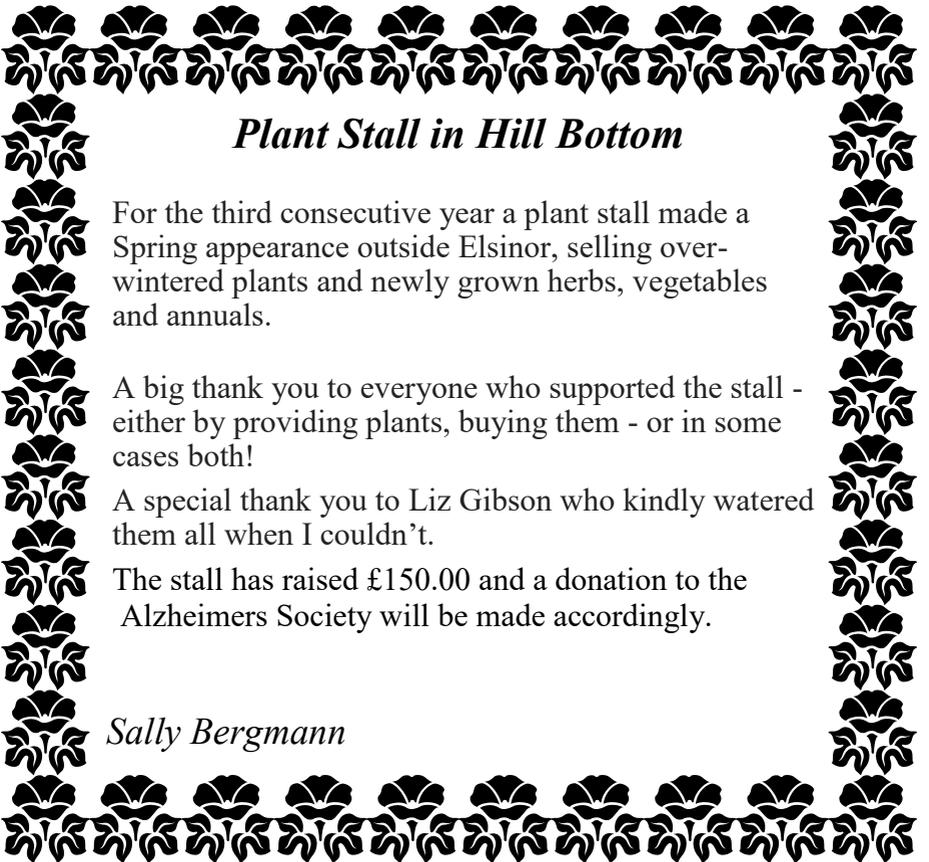
*Sung Matins 2nd & 4th & 5th Sunday of the Month at 11am*

*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](mailto:revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk)



*Plant Stall in Hill Bottom*

For the third consecutive year a plant stall made a Spring appearance outside Elsinor, selling over-wintered plants and newly grown herbs, vegetables and annuals.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the stall - either by providing plants, buying them - or in some cases both!

A special thank you to Liz Gibson who kindly watered them all when I couldn't.

The stall has raised £150.00 and a donation to the Alzheimers Society will be made accordingly.

*Sally Bergmann*

## Farewell to Theresa Elsome

We are deeply saddened to report the sudden death of Mrs Theresa Elsome of Whitchurch Hill who died at her home on Sunday 18 June 2023. Theresa was one of our Parish's most devoted community members, and loved both the people and the village she lived in. This was demonstrated by her commitment to everything she was involved in. If you were a member of a society or club, used Goring Heath Parish Hall, visited the St John's church or attended the Whitchurch Hill village fete, you will have either met her or benefitted from her many contributions.



All her involvements were long term, from being a member to chairing the WI, organising the Whitchurch Village Fete for over 30 years, manager of the Goring Heath Parish Hall and was still fund raising on its behalf by organising quizzes, film nights, music concerts; had been a member of the Parish Council and still attended and contributed to the AGMs; was a highly active member of the History Society and the Friends of St Mary's and St Johns; she was a constant supporter of the church, cleaning and providing the floral displays with the other volunteers. She was also on the organising committee of the Spring and Autumn Flower and Produce Shows which she was working to restart this autumn and, as an illustration of her passion for the Parish, she had been working on this the night she died peaceful in her sleep.

Theresa was selfless to a fault and this extended to so many other significant contributions. Again, for decades Theresa was a Woodcote Volunteer; still an active member of CPRE; distributed and delivered the village magazines, collected for the Life Boats and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and for those who needed extra support she would always offer a meal, a lift, an ear. Something she was still doing in her 80's despite her own health challenges. She was also passionate about preserving the beauty of our area and the heritage of our villages.

Theresa was born in Aden in 1940 while her family were outrunning the invasion of North Africa in World War 2, eventually arriving in Britain to live at Yeomanry House in Reading. The family settled in Whitchurch Hill starting an association with the area spanning nearly 80 years. She trained as a nurse at the John Radcliffe in Oxford and practiced at Flint House police convalescence home in the later stages of her career. Her husband, Bernard Elsome served in the RAF, which meant her young family lived around Britain, the Netherlands and Cyprus. Theresa loved her garden, her cats, dogs (including all those she looked after for others), cooking, her friends and family, and her community.

She is survived and will be greatly missed by her family, Nick and Maz Elsome of Crays Pond and Amanda Elsome and Mark Sullivan of Melbourne, Australia, and her much loved grandchildren Ben, Ned, Hector, Maud and Nellie. We know she will be missed as a friend to so many of you in the village.

Farewell Theresa. You were an inspiration and irreplaceable force for good.

**REPAIR CAFÉ**  
**Goring Village Hall**  
**Saturdays 11:00am—1:30pm**  
**First Saturday of every month**

New, free repair service by volunteers to help reduce waste

Help reduce carbon emissions and Save our Planet

Bring up to two items needing repair or attention and we'll do our very best to fix them whilst you wait.

Voluntary donations are welcome to pay for hire of hall etc.

*Refreshments available in Café Bellême*



2023 — 1 April, 3 June, 5 Aug, 7 Oct, 2 Dec

2024 — 3 Feb, 30 March, 1 June, 3 Aug, 5 Oct, 7 Dec

Information: 07789 871620

**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](mailto:goringheathparishhall@gmail.com)**

## **Whitchurch United Charities: Could you leave a legacy?**

Students living within the Parish of Whitchurch or Whitchurch Hill are most fortunate, because if they require financial support for any educational need, they can apply to the Trustees of Whitchurch United Charities. Twice a year, the Trustees consider applications and award grants.

One of the original United Charities was set up in 1602 by Augustine Knapp who left a legacy of one pound - roughly equivalent to £400 today.

His father had left him the Manor of Woodcote, which became known as Rawlins Manor, and has now become part of The Oratory School. Described in his will as a yeoman of Rotherfield Greys and Peppard, he became a rich landowner and a thoughtful philanthropist leaving a further £200 to the Mayor and Corporation of Henley-on-Thames for a grammar school.

In order to ease their administration, the Augustine Knapp Charity and seven others were combined in 1907 to become the Whitchurch United Charities. At this time funds were to benefit “poor, lame blind or impotent parishioners” but, in 2003, the Charity Commission agreed to change this so that the Trustees now assist students with a wide range of educational needs. Books, instruments, additional tuition, sports equipment, tools and educational outings have been recent awards.

Over the last 5 years a total of £3,295 has been awarded to 13 students. The awards are treated confidentially and because of this, parishioners may be completely unaware of them and the beneficiaries.

Whitchurch United Charities uses the interest from funds that are invested with the COIF Charities Investment Fund to provide a sustainable income. Our annual income is about £500 from the £26,500 we have invested.

We hope that parishioners may wish to provide more help to local students by leaving a legacy. A gift in your will can mean that Whitchurch United Charities will continue to grow its investment fund and make meaningful grants to students that apply.

We, the Trustees, would like this local charity to have more funds to support local people in the same spirit that inspired Augustine Knapp 420 years ago. As the charity is small, a gift of any size in your will can make a significant difference to our investments and the interest received.

***Sarah Dragonetti , June 2023***

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*Registered Charity No: 264826*



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](mailto:goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com)

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
8th August 2023	September 2023
10th October 2023	November 2023

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Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Debbie Leach	totsonthehill@myyahoo.com
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