

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

April 2021

Issue 179

Visit us at:

www.goringheath.com

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goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

Want to lose weight, become fitter and stronger, improve energy?

Whatever your goals, a mobile personal training service, at your home or local park, with programmes carefully tailored for your individual needs. Whether a complete beginner or simply needing to get back on track post lockdown, great results guaranteed as quickly and as enjoyably as possible.

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www.samjessoppersonaltraining.com.

Chairman's comments



Since I last wrote in the newsletter, we have finalised our position from a budgetary perspective for the next financial year that commences on 1st April. We have decided to not seek any increase to the current level of the Precept – that is the sum that we request through the Council Tax that is allocated specifically for the Parish Council to spend. This amount is clearly itemised on the Council Tax bills you have recently received.

As a Parish Council we have discussed some of our immediate priorities. The primary focus remains seeking to reduce traffic speed within the Parish and ensuring careful attention to the surprisingly large number of planning applications we are receiving. There have been a couple of planning applications recently where there have been very strong feelings by parishioners and we have been highly supportive in representing their views. As regards the traffic speeds, we are working on three initiatives: firstly, ensuring that the reduced 30 mph limit through Crays Pond is implemented as soon as possible; secondly, seeing if we can reduce the speed limit on Goring Heath Road from 30 mph to 20 mph; and thirdly, exploring the possibility of reducing the speed limit through Whitchurch Hill to 30 mph from 40 mph. As we have experienced, such changes take an extremely long period time to achieve given our need to influence the departments within Oxford County Council, but we will be doing our best.

Over and above these key areas, we will be looking at a number of other initiatives. These include: better maintenance of the pond at Crays Pond – we have asked a pond expert to create a specific plan for us which our volunteers can work to; we have decided to refurbish our many old bus shelters in the Parish which are a highly attractive community asset and used frequently by walkers or by school children for waiting for their buses; we are attempting to improve the pathway down the slope to Shirvell's Hill; and are doing some smaller things like improving the ground around the table tennis table in the recreation ground and refurbishing the telephone box library in Whitchurch Hill.

So, busy times. Notwithstanding the Covid restrictions, we have decided to go ahead with an on-line annual general meeting on 15th April. I hope as many of you will be able to join us as can. It is a chance for you to hear more about the work we are doing as a Council on your behalf and importantly, share you views about the issues or things you would like to see improved within our community.

Chris Jessop
Chairman

Planning Decisions

The following planning applications have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received written confirmation from S.O.D.C.



Premises and application details	Parish Council	SODC
<u>P20/S4845/LB</u> Holly Copse Hardwick Estate Collins End RG8 7RN Replacement of existing single storey extension with two storey extension.	No strong views	
<u>P21/S0472/HH</u> Pilgrim Cottage Path Hill Goring Heath RG8 7RE Proposed garden room to be used as home office/ gym.	No strong views	
<u>P21/S0703/FUL</u> Butlers Farm Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PN New dwelling to replace existing barn and kennel building	Applica- tion to be reviewed	
<u>P21/S0635/HH</u> Bottom Farmhouse Blackbirds Bottom Goring Heath RG8 7SX Demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of new storage building within the same footprint.	Objection	
<u>P21/S0626/HH</u> Chimney Pot Cottage Crays Pond RG8 7QG Erection of replacement outbuilding	Objection	
<u>P21/S0585/FUL</u> Land south of Whitchurch Hill Whitchurch Hill Demolition of existing stables and redevelopment of site to comprise a detached residential dwelling house and associated outbuildings, relocated access and landscaping.	Objection	

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.

District Councillor's Comments

Despite Covid, the District Council has continued “in business”, and except for the hiccup over the brown bins a few weeks ago, when many of the waste team were off, the bin service that we all use has carried on. It's a tribute to both the men and women who do the physical service, and also the backroom people who juggle priorities and resources to keep the service going.

Officers of the council have been diverted onto distributing support to individuals and business's, an unusual role as normally they are collecting money from all of us who pay local taxes. The collection of taxes still has to carry on, of course.

This time of year is when budgets and council tax is set, and I am sorry to say that SODC has had to raise the Council tax again, it's going up by £5 to £132 a year for a band D property. I would point out that the current SODC element of the Council Tax at £126 is dwarfed by the County Council element of £1,527, and SODC's council tax is still one of the lowest in the country.

One of the significant costs the Council has had recently is rent for the temporary offices at Milton Park, following the fire at Crowmarsh six years ago. Continuing to rent was not sustainable, as the insurance payout was long exhausted, so in 2019, the new Council determined to crack on with building a new office. In some ways the delay was fortuitous, as Covid has shown that many staff can work from home so that the new office could be smaller than the old. The original plan to rebuild at Crowmarsh was set aside, and we are now going to have new build offices in Didcot, opposite the station on a site currently used as a car park that is already owned by the Council. This is a better location, accessible by train and bus, and central to both South Oxford and the Vale of White Horse, as again it will be a shared office for the two councils.

We have to prepare a Corporate Plan, and this has now been completed, giving a steer to the policies and direction of the Council under its LibDem and Green control. The Plan has six themes. Protection of our natural world, openness and accountability, action on climate emergency, improved economic and community wellbeing, homes and infrastructure that meet local need, and investments that rebuild our financial availability. More details are on the SODC Website. ...

Addressing the first of those themes, I, along with Councillor Ian Snowdon, have been appointed tree champions, encouraging tree growing and protection, promoting the value of trees and woodland and raising awareness of protection of trees and woodlands. The best time to plant a tree is 25 years ago, and I am pleased to say that I have been planting trees all my life, starting from when I was at school. One visible tree that I had planted in about 1987 was the Wild Service tree by the cross roads at Crays Pond, which is now a fine specimen of this uncommon but native species.

Councillor Peter Dragonetti

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

Goring Heath Parish Hall - Hall Manager needed



Interested in an opportunity to become more involved in your local community and meeting people?

In anticipation of the hall re-opening post Covid restrictions, we are looking for a Hall Manager to oversee the smooth running of our well-appointed and picturesque hall in Whitchurch Hill: to manage the experience of the hirer from enquiry to function.

This includes handling initial enquiries, meeting potential customers, discussing their requirements, showing the hall, offering advice and the administration of bookings.

A key aspect is conveying feedback from the customers to the committee at quarterly meetings so that issues can be resolved, and recommend improvements to ensure the continued success of the hall.

If you are interested or would like to know more please contact Chris Whatmore (Chairman) on tel 0118 9844022 or email whatmore@talk21.com.

Meet the Parish Councillors: This month, Hilary Dewey



I joined the Goring Heath parish council 3 ½ years ago having seen an advert for a volunteer in the Newsletter. To my surprise I was duly elected. I discovered that I had been enrolled into a very dedicated team of Councillors, some of whom had served for many years. I was surprised at the long agendas of items to be discussed at our monthly 2 hour meetings – speed limits, planning applications, grass cutting and ground maintenance, finances etc. and the quantity of emails that are sent out by our very able clerk.

This was a good opportunity for me to get to know the area better and to make some contribution for the privilege of living in the AONB of the Southern Chilterns.

I met my husband Peter on a coral reef in Aqaba, Jordan and after our marriage in his Church at Isleworth we made several moves to Parishes around the country before retirement. Finally, we moved with our IT guru son Alex, to a cottage in the grounds of the Allnutt Alms-houses near the Long Toll Rd Junction. There is a large garden and a special space for our beautiful hens. Peter looks after the St Bartholomew's Chapel in the courtyard which is also open to the public. I am a retired Osteopath having started several different practices in Peter's parishes. Before our marriage I was a SRN nurse, then a Travel Guide and Tour Operator before training as an Osteopath.

I am a keen skier and walker and have used the Covid Lockdown time to walk every footpath and road in our parish. Other interests include Classical Music & Opera, languages, tennis and gardening.

Hilary Dewey

Tree Champion

South Oxfordshire District Council has appointed Peter Dragonetti as one of its new Tree Champions. His work will form part of a wider drive to protect and restore nature across South Oxfordshire.



The district boasts 14 per cent tree cover, the highest in the county, but is still a long way behind the average of 36 per cent in Europe. The area needs more trees and woodlands to help enhance nature and wildlife.

His role will include encouraging people to reconnect with nature and promote woodland protection/conservation and tree-growing initiatives. Liaising with council officers and members to develop a new Tree Policy. He will also be involved in raising awareness of the statutory protections for trees and woodlands within local communities, and parish and town councils will also be part of his remit.

Cllr Dragonetti said: “We’ll be raising awareness of how trees and woodlands have an important role in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies. We want to encourage more tree planting initiatives and to encourage people to learn how they can help support conservation work across South Oxfordshire.”

South Oxfordshire District Councils

01235 422400

www.southoxon.gov.uk

How to find out if a tree has a protection order on them:

We can all access information about the trees in our District that have Tree Protection Orders on them.

The GIS Map that anyone can access can be found at

<http://maps.southoxon.gov.uk/gis/> and has all TPO trees marked.

To display this information, first click the INFO tab (top left on screen) and then activate the green, circular button situated below it on the screen, followed by the TPO button on the list.

I hope that this helps in understanding just where we have protected trees.

Peter Dragonetti

New food donation box in Whitchurch Hill



The box is situated on the floor of the phone box 'library' in Whitchurch Hill.

All the donated food will be collected by Reading Lions every Wednesday and will support food banks in Reading, therefore helping local people.

Once the new shelves are in, we will have a box to **recycle all your old prescription glasses.**

GORING HEATH VOLUNTEER GROUP

If you need help with shopping or other basics, like getting prescriptions or medical supplies, please go to the website goringheath.com and click on the red button.

This will take you straight through to the Goring Heath Parish Council email address. Tell us what you need and we will see if we can help.

Don't worry though, you can also **call us on the phone if you prefer.**

The number has changed since the first lockdown, it is now

07857 993 918.

Eric's Walks

You may have seen this map in the Bus shelters. The walks shown on the map all begin and end in Whitchurch-on-Thames and cover some of the most beautiful countryside in England. They are devised and described by Eric Hartley who has chosen them to give walkers the fullest opportunity to appreciate the natural beauty of the area. They are all available to download from Whitchurch on Thames website (whitchurchonthames.com)

Introductory walk

THE VILLAGE

Walk 1

HARDWICK WOODS

Walk 2

WHITCHURCH HILL AND THE SQUARE

Walk 3

HARTSLOCK WOOD

Walk 4

ON THE WAY TO MAPLEDURHAM

Walk 5

COLD HARBOUR/GREAT CHALK WOOD

Walk 6

THE SUN

Walk 7

COLD HARBOUR/PENNY ROYAL

Walk 8

MAPLEDURHAM

Walk 9

GORING HEATH

Walk 10

COLDHARBOUR FARM

Walk 11

BEHIND QUERNS

Walk 12

THE BOUNDARY WALK

The short walks

THE PERMISSIVE PATHS / TO THE BAULK AND BACK

Background

Eric Hartley arrived in the village in 1964 and published his first selection of walks in 1980. His popular booklet A Guide to the Walks around Whitchurch-on-Thames has passed through six editions. Now, newly updated 2020 editions of all the walks are available online, can be downloaded individually, and will be available soon on our local website **goringheath.com**.

In addition to the updated information in the walk descriptions, individual coloured maps have been created in 2020 for each walk, as well as the key map shown.

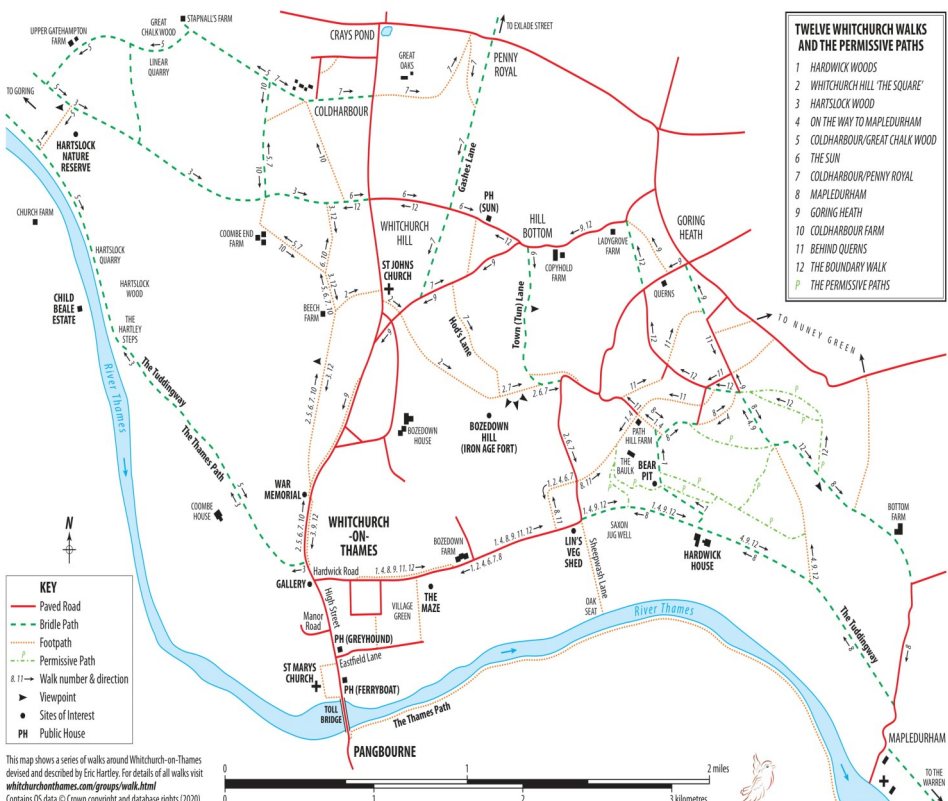
Acknowledgements

As before, Eric dedicates these walks to his Yellow Labradors. Lass (1974-1988) and Holly (1986-2000) each walked over 15,000 miles with him on these and many other walks. He now adds Molly, who joined him as a rescue dog in 2014 and has already covered more than 7,000 miles.

Eric would like to acknowledge the assistance he has received and to thank those who have helped in the updating and preparation of this new online edition of the walks. Special thanks to the person with special mapping skills who wishes to be referred to as a Whitchurchian.

Eric is hoping, before long, to republish the booklet A Guide to the Walks, alongside this new online edition, for those who prefer the information in a traditional form.

Many thanks to whitchurchonthames.com for use of this article. (ED)



Goring Heath Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday April 15th 2021

7.30 - 9.00pm

All welcome

Due to COVID restrictions this meeting will be
online only through Zoom

Agenda and Zoom link will be available before the
meeting on the Parish website at:

<https://www.goringheath.com/>

Parish Council Vacancy

We are looking for another person to join the Parish Council.

The meetings are held once a month and it's a great way to
get involved with your local community.

If you're interested, please apply to the Clerk at
goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com

Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute



Whilst much of what any Women's Institute does is obviously on hold for the moment your local Branch has continued doing things under the radar.

In February the winner of our Christmas-themed photographic competition was announced. Members voted for Susan Dryden's photo of a popular window decoration seen widely in Sweden . She spent much of the Autumn and early Winter there awaiting the arrival of her grandchild. Made of paper and filled with lights, it is something we don't necessarily see much of in our own windows at that time.



Our flower of the month competition is restarting, to reflect the start of Spring. Held every month there is a monthly vote and therefore a winner. At the end of the year the person with the most wins receives a prize. Normally done in real time we are of course still having to make do with photos.

Other activities include our jigsaw swap, a new competition based on words, Easter Card making/sharing, and Zoom based coffee mornings. We still continue to support the Wallingford Food Bank and respond to County and National initiatives.

Members are still making good use of the WI run on-line Denman at Home courses which cover many topics. History, craft, exercise, baking, hobby skills, - new topics are published weekly, providing something for everyone.

Hopefully by the next newsletter we will have managed to meet up again in person. This may possibly still have to be outside - but we are happy to make good use of our village greens in Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill if necessary. Once we do get to go indoors we look forward to the return of our varied and interesting programme of events and activities.

If you fancy knowing more please contact **Frances on 01189842162**

Community Litter picking for D of E Award Scheme student

Litter is an ever-growing problem in our world – it has been on-going for many years, and still lots of the time I see people throw litter out their cars or when strolling casually by; it's become a second nature for certain people. If you go out for walks, sometimes I watch people walking past a bit of litter and they observe it and carry on past – 'If I didn't drop it why should I pick it up?' is something that if everyone starts thinking, then we shall never solve the rubbish problem.



Over the past 3-4 months, I've made notes from every litter pick I've completed since 15 Nov 2020 for my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's award for the Volunteering section; these are the most common things I have found: face masks, fizzy drink/beer cans, food wrappers, crisp packets, tissues, plastic bags, containers and bottles – glass bottles, elastic bands, bits off cars and fast-food waste. I don't even know how many masks, tissues and cans I have found and collected over those months – too many. Funnily enough, I always found tissues along the exact same strip of road every week, and every week I picked them up, I'd come back next week and there would be a whole new load. Fortunately, I have been finding less and less tissues, but face masks and plastic items are always a constant problem. Some weeks, I have found the most random things

such as a golf ball, a paintbrush, a fork, a box of uneaten sandwiches, cigarette packs, a car permit, a pair of scissors, a pen, lots of receipts and a brand-new water bottle. You really wonder how people manage to drop these. On some occasions, I have had to step into a bush or hedge to reach a bit of rubbish; if people throw it from their cars, they really must throw it hard. It's not so difficult to take your trash home with you.

I have now completed this section of my D of E award, but I am still going to carry on doing it once a month – I think the environment appreciates it.

By Amelie Way

'You are never too small to make a difference.' - Greta Thunberg

D of E Award scheme student revamps village library

On a bright Sunday morning, Amanda Holland and I started to clear out the Whitchurch Hill phone box 'library'. This is one of many projects I'm involved in to support the community as part of my Duke of Edinburgh award. The purpose was to make room for some new shelving. What a mess it was! However, I'm glad that so many members of our community are willing to contribute to a communal area such as this.



We had to throw out a substantial number of the books, many of which was heart breaking for us, as we both love books. But it was worth it, as the new shelving will be very beneficial. I'm sure that it will fill up to bursting point very soon, and this is why I'm taking the opportunity to tell you about the new food bank that is being installed inside. This will be a plastic box on the floor that will take any food for the food bank, provided that it has a long shelf life. Jams, soap, toothpaste, tins, pasta and sauces would also be welcomed with thanks.

(Before the tidy up)

There might not be enough room in the phone box for all the books, so please refrain from leaving books outside the phone box or on the lid of the food bank.

I look forward to seeing the phone box full again, and keep up the good work!

Alejandro Jessop

Bus shelter refurbishments in Goring Heath



Five bus shelters in the Goring Heath area are being considered for refurbishments by the Parish Council. This one, sited next to the well in Whitchurch Hill, shows some interior ivy and some very interesting lichen on the roof.



The Whitchurch Hill Fete

Due to the Government's continued COVID-19 restrictions, the Whitchurch Hill Fete committee have regretfully decided to cancel our fete again this year.

The committee would like to thank everyone for their past support and we look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Please all keep safe, save lives and protect the NHS.
The Whitchurch Hill Fete Committee

Nick Elsome

To see more local news, and information on parish council matters, head to the Goring heath website.

Goring Heath NEWS

Getting Full-Fibre Broadband in Goring Heath

April 2021

Background

The government has provided funding, through OCC (Oxfordshire County Council), to improve broadband services in Oxfordshire. BT Openreach won the original contract. The programme has been going on for several years and all but about 3% of the county's premises now have FTTC (Fibre to the Cabinet). There have been many new cabinets installed. It turns out that it is often more economical to reach the more remote places by using FTTP (Fibre to the Premises – also known as full-fibre) and Openreach is doing this in dribs and drabs.

FTTC has a maximum download speed of 80 Mbit/s and FTTP has up to 1 Gbit/s. The prices are the same for the same speeds.

In 2019, OCC put out a new tender, called BiRO (Broadband for Rural Businesses in Oxfordshire) and funded by DEFRA, to connect the remaining business addresses using FTTP. Note that a business address is one which is liable for business rates. The contract was won by Airband (<https://www.airband.co.uk/>). The virus problem has slowed them down but they are beginning to connect up new business premises. They will also connect up any residential premises that are close to the business ones.

Situation in Goring Heath

Almost all premises in the Parish can now get much faster speeds than they had a few years ago using FTTC. There is very little FTTP available. Openreach has made FTTP available to people living along the B4526 whose telephone lines are connected to Goring exchange.

There are many premises in Goring Heath that are quite a long way (more than 1km) from the nearest cabinet and this results in somewhat disappointing speeds (10 to 15 Mbit/s), often with very slow upstream speeds which can make remote working difficult.

There is definitely a need to improve the services in the Parish. This means persuading fibre companies to provide FTTP; no new FTTC cabinets are likely to be installed from now on.

How to Improve the Situation

Anyone can have FTTP at almost any address if they are prepared to pay. Openreach can run a fibre from the nearest cabinet, or from somewhere else,

depending on what makes sense. I have heard of quotes in the region of £10,000 to £75,000! In some cases it is cheaper to install a private connection (leased line). All is not lost because the government has recognised the problem and made funding available to help. The money is administered through the Department of Culture Media and Sport - <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>. In fact, Oxfordshire has added more money to the scheme and up to £4000 is available per premise. Groups can get together and pool the funding to get a fibre company to connect up a group of premises. The Parish Council would be a good choice to coordinate this.

Openreach has a web page detailing what they might do to help:
<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/community-fibre-partnerships/grants-and-funding>

The PC could persuade Airband to cable the parish; they have to connect business premises so might be persuaded to connect up more residential properties at the same time.

OCC has a map which shows all properties and indicates whether they are in the BiRO scheme or something else. It looks like the area near the Sun will be in BiRO. There are other areas in Crays Pond (look for the yellow dots). The map is here (but it is not always accurate):
<https://digitalinfrastructureoxfordshire.co.uk/progress-so-far/coverage-map>

Other comments

Many people think that when an upgrade is available, it will automatically happen; this is not true. It is unlikely that your current Internet provider will mention that an improved service is available because they may get no more income from the work involved. You have to find out what is available and ask for the upgrade.

Even if the infrastructure were installed by Openreach, you don't have to take a service from BT. Almost any Internet Service Provider (ISP) can offer the same services, sometimes at better prices.

People often think that FTTP services must be more expensive. This is also not true; the prices are much the same as FTTC for the same speeds. However if you want speeds higher than 100 Mbit/s, you will pay extra.

Bill Pechey
March 2021

Election jobs

Poll Clerks for Thursday 6 May

Apply now!

SODC are looking for people to help run our polling stations at locations across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse on Thursday 6 May (6am to 10.30pm). Poll Clerks earn from £165 for the day.

Poll Clerks help to set up polling station equipment and issue ballot papers to members of the public. Some staff are also needed to act as queue marshals to help ensure that venues remain Covid-safe.

If you'd like to earn some extra money and play your part in running the elections, to find out more and for details on how to register your interest, please visit southoxon.gov.uk/electionjobs

Charity to cover the cost of educational needs for 5—25 year olds

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. We have not received many applications recently and we are keen for appropriate applications to be made during the next six months.

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 the 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

TENNIS IS BACK!

Outdoor Tennis resumes on March 29th
Membership **registration now open!**
Monthly £10 Membership also available
All abilities welcome!

Adult coaching starts **March 30th**
Box-League friendly games

www.pangbournetennis.org

pangbourne
tennisclub

Community Walks

Spring is here and with more personal freedoms just around the corner, the Community Walks are starting again!

Whilst every attention will be paid to the covid rules in force at the time off walking, we are looking forward to getting out and about with like minded people.

Walks start at the Sun Pub at 10am on the first Monday of the month - the first of this year's is taking place on 3 May.

New to the village and want to explore your locality? Enjoy a chat whilst walking the paths and bridleways? Want to catch up with old pals? Why not join us as we dust off our shoes and spend 90mins in pleasant company, making the most of what our stunning parish has to offer.

Feel free to ring Sally on 07585195669 if you want to know more.



Save The White Lion

**A group has started up for supporters
of The White Lion in Crays Pond.**

If you'd like to know more, or to get involved,
go to www.savethewhitelion.com

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Goring Heath Parish Council are looking for a volunteer to take care of the **advertising** for the Goring Heath Newsletter.

We need someone to identify and secure new advertisers for our 1000 household distribution and very reasonable advertising rates. The post holder would also issue invoices and ensure that payments are kept up to date.

Please apply to The Clerk on 07814 360 566
Or email goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com.

Goring Heath and Whitchurch Show

As many of you will know, the village calendar (in a normal year) includes this twice yearly show, in Spring and Autumn.

Taking place in Goring Heath Parish Hall this is an opportunity for gardeners, vegetable growers and those with a craft, baking, or a photographic interest, to enter into friendly competition.

Entries are invited from residents of both Whitchurch, and the Parish of Goring Heath.

Needless to say there were no so such shows in 2020 and with some doubt as to what opportunities will exist in 2021, the next show is planned for April 2022.

If things go to plan we hope to give you some of the craft and photographic topics this Autumn. This will give everyone plenty of time to put entries together for the Spring show. We look forward to seeing what we can all rustle up. All ages are catered for, so watch this space.

In the meantime, happy growing, cooking, painting, drawing, sewing, anything that you enjoy doing.

Liz Gibson

If you'd like to comment on any local issues, please send your comments to goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

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



Help power your community with the Calor Rural Community Fund

The Calor Rural Community Fund is a crowdfunding platform which raises awareness of projects needing funding in the community. Applications are open from **Wednesday 10th March 2021** and funds of up to £5,000 per project are available for the successful projects. On top of Crowdfunding, Calor are also giving away a very large pot of funding, totalling an amazing £85,000! So why not get your community involved and help raise awareness for your local community.

The judges assess applications based on four Factors: (Impact 40%) Sustainability (35%), Submission (15%) and Originality (10%)., and projects that have benefitted from this initiative have included scout huts, outdoor forest schools, an audio visual system, staging, sound and light equipment , beach wheelchairs, a tool shed and a defibrillator. For more information, please visit <https://communityfund.calor.co.uk>



**Oxfordshire
South & Vale**

New free phone Number



**We are pleased to announce that we have a new free
phone number.**

Adviceline: 0808 278 7907

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm free phone number

Financial help via the Winter Support Grant Scheme

Support is available for those families still in need as we ease out of lockdown. The Winter Support Grant scheme has been extended until 16th April 2021 and help is available in the form of supermarket and fuel vouchers or through the direct payment of energy or water bills.

If you are aware of any families in your communities that are struggling to afford food or essential items, please ask them to contact the Community Support team. We can help with supermarket vouchers or refer them into one of our advice centres if they need more support than we can offer. Our contact details are:

Community Connector Team

- Tel: 01235 422600

Email : communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk

They can also get in touch with advice centres. The contact details are:

- Citizens Advice – 0808 278 7907 (South and Vale).

Checkendon Pre-School

This term the children have been celebrating World Book Day, joining in with well loved stories, by using puppets and dressing up as characters in the books such as the 'Stick man' and 'Zog'.

We have also celebrated Mothers day with the children creating some beautiful tissue paper flowers and making heart decorations, and lovely butterfly keyrings, which the children have all enjoyed. This year the children also recorded some songs for their mummies which we sent home for them to enjoy as they could not come to visit us this year.

We have also been enjoying lots of Easter activities, creating Easter baskets, making cards and been busy hunting for Easter chicks, bunnies and eggs outside. We even had a visit from the Easter Bunny! On behalf of Checkendon Pre-School we would like to say thank you so much for the support from our Pre School families, local community and the Village Hall Committee who have supported us during this time. Thank you for your continued support .

Kelly Mullins

Almshouses Sunday Services **Normal Sundays:**

The Chapel is closed and no Services are taking place at the moment—normal services will resume when allowed. Use of the Chapel for private prayer may be arranged through contact with the Chaplain, Rev. Peter Dewey

The Chapel, Alnutt Alms Houses, Goring Heath, RG8 7RS
Contact: revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk or
tel: 07784912935

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 (for when we can!)

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

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Facebook page contains useful information for residents. Search for 'Goring Heath Parish News' and 'Like' us to keep up to date with any new information that we put on there. If you'd like to publish any news or advertise any events on the Facebook page, please contact the editor at:

goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com or you can contact the page directly by clicking on the 'Community' button on the Facebook page.

April 2021

Goring Heath NEWS

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 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
13th May 2021	June 2021
8th July 2021	August 2021
14th September 2021	October 2021

LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

Chiltern Society Footpath Representative	Liz Collas	01491680466
Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494764149
Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses)	David Watson	01189842174
	http://goringheathbowls.weebly.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 (Office Hours 9.30—11am)	Elizabeth Harrap	01491681171

Goring Heath Parish Hall : Bookings and Enquiries: Jane Diggle
email: ginnydiggle@hotmail.com

CHAIRMAN

Chris Jessop The Cottage, Cold Harbour, RG8 7SY 07814035024
cjessop1@btinternet.com

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Peter Dragonetti Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom, RG8 7PT 0118 9844711
peter@dragonetti.co.uk

Nick Elsome 6 Heath End, Crays Pond, RG8 7SQ 01491 682775
nelsome@mac.com

Hilary Dewey Old School Cottage, Goring Heath, RG8 7RR 01491/680261 or 07747/047078
hilarydewey@yahoo.co.uk

Liz Collas Haw Farm, Goring Heath, RG8 7RX 01491 680466
lizcollas1@yahoo.co.uk

Martin Wise 5 Coombe End, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7TD 0118 984 3071
martinwise10@hotmail.com

Nick Henry Ladygrove Cottage, Goring Heath, RG8 7RU 07900 498717
nick.henry@gouldinternational.co.uk

Tarek Moghul 3 Linden Cottages, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PH 07970 838196
tmoghul@me.com

CLERK

Amanda Holland 2 New Buildings, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PW 0118 9844867
goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER**EDITOR**

Lucy Turner 5 Hill Bottom Close, RG8 7PX 0118 9842415
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Amanda Holland 2 New Buildings, RG8 7PW 0118 9844867
goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com