

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

August 2021

Issue 181

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Chairman's comments



As frequently mentioned in the past, one of the biggest issues we are trying to address is the speed of traffic within our community. This was brought home to me recently when a pet was sadly killed in Crays Pond by a car travelling at excessive speed, and when one of our Councillors mentioned that he had personally observed how frequently cars were driving beyond the speed limits whilst he was working on repairing one of our bus shelters. This clearly puts our community at risk.

In turn, I find it surprising how challenging it is to get the support and action of Oxford County Council (OCC) Highways to help address this, given how obvious it is that it is the right thing to do and all the tail winds in society point to the benefits of reduced speeds in general, whether for safety or environmental considerations. It was interesting that it was finally mandated recently at the OCC Cabinet that it should be policy in relatively built up areas that 20mph should be the default speed limit.

So what are your Parish Council doing about it. Firstly, we are regularly badgering OCC Highways to implement the new 30mph speed limit at Crays Pond that was approved earlier this year. There have apparently been delays due to the release of funds and slight modifications to the works plan to allow for a high-pressure fuel pipeline that runs through the village. We are reassured however that all has been resolved and they are pushing ahead with the plans. We thank our Parishioners for their patience and assure you that we are doing everything we can to hurry things along. It is hugely frustrating for us all. Secondly, we are commencing engagement with OCC Highways on seeing if we can reduce the speed limit to 20mph (from 30 mph) along Goring Heath Road in Whitchurch Hill and also to 30 mph (from 40 mph) in the stretch of road through Whitchurch Hill past the Parish Hall and Church. Finally, Councillor Wise is initiating a project to see if we can set up a Traffic Watch scheme in the community. This enables volunteers, with the full backing of Thames Valley Traffic Police, to use hand held speed detectors to monitor traffic speed and report transgressors. This enables the Police to create a data base of drivers who frequently speed with apparently excellent prosecution results. We will share more details of how you could help over the coming months, but if you are interested in being involved, please let Councillor Wise know through the Parish Clerk's email address.

Two final points totally unrelated to the speed issue. It is good to see the refurbished bus shelters across the Parish, with their rooves in particular sympathetically restored. And our apologies for the inadequate grass cutting across the Parish over the last couple of months. We had thought that we had this sorted after the changes to the specification last year, but whilst the wet weather hasn't helped, we have been very unhappy with the quality of the contractor's work. We are addressing this for the future.

Lee asked me to give you a quick update on this project... I'm pleased to say that a 'block' of CIL monies, for various projects / areas has now transferred between SODC and OCC and the monies are now being split up into individual budgets so that I have something to order the works against. I understand that the Crays Pond work is progressing well and is ahead of many other schemes involved with this round of monies.

In the meantime, (in parallel to the money transfer) the proposed installation has required some detailed discussions and installation methodology to allow for the high pressure fuel pipeline that runs through the village. I've agreed this, with slight modification to our works, on site with both the pipeline engineer and the practical works supervisor. We're just finalising the necessary paperwork permissions. In essence, the slight variation is to ensure that the sign / gateway foundations don't interfere with the pipeline and, in doing so, I've added in a small amount of aggregate surface around the affected gateway so that any pedestrians that use the verge can still easily do so, without needing to step out into the carriageway.

As soon as the order is placed, the materials can then be procured and, once all together, the roadworks booked, fuel pipeline engineer booked and the legal order (for the 30mph) can be brought into operation.

Oh, and in addition there is also the linemarking additions / alterations which will also tie into this work (along with the overall linemarking refresh which is also being undertaken and has ties into this project).

I hope this helps, - we're getting there... and we appreciate both your enthusiasm and patience.

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.

| PLANNING APPLICATIONS June /July | Parish Council | Notes |
|---|-----------------|-------|
| <p><u>P21/S2942/HH</u></p> <p>Laurel Cottage Coldharbour Goring Heath RG8 7SY Rear extension and associated internal alterations. Replacement of defective windows and re-instatement of main entrance door to original position.</p> | Pending | |
| <p><u>P21/S2630/HH</u></p> <p>Bridle Cottage Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Demolition of a conservatory at the rear of Bridle Cottage & replacement with a slightly larger single storey extension with a traditional roof structure with roof lights.</p> | No Strong Views | |
| <p><u>P21/S2741/LB</u></p> <p>Ladygrove Cottage Lady Grove Goring Heath RG8 7RU Internal and external repair/replacement works</p> | No Strong Views | |
| <p><u>P21/S2237/FUL</u></p> <p>Hunters Moon Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Detached garage with annex above</p> | No Strong views | |
| <p><u>P21/S2327/HH</u></p> <p>Field View House Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT The erection of a double garage at the side of Field View House</p> | No Strong Views | |

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.

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At Whitchurch Pre-School, our team is committed to providing a secure and caring environment where children can learn and develop at their own pace within a happy atmosphere.

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Fantastic large, safe and enclosed garden and allotment.

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Offering flexible sessions 8.30am to 3:15pm weekdays, term time only.

Contact us at hello@whitchurchpreschool.org | 0118 984 4516

Registered Charity: 1183193

District Councillor's Comment

I think we all welcome the end to Zoom meetings, and it was good to get back to Goring Heath Parish Hall for the Parish council meeting this week. It was the first time I had met Tarek Moghul, our newest parish Councillor, face to face, and I am looking forward to his contributions. On the District Council, we are also back to live meetings, but in a rather strange format where we actually use a Zoom meeting although we are all in the same room. This format enables people to watch the meeting live on line, and in the case of Planning committee meetings, objectors can put their points from home via a live link. I expect this facility will continue, as it is so much easier for anyone who wants to speak about a planning application but who may not want to spend a whole evening in Didcot.

After something of a lull last year, new planning applications have increased considerably this year. People working at home want extensions, and there is relentless pressure for new homes in our beautiful countryside, not least because of the significant financial gain to be made. The recent appeal for a retirement care village at Sonning Common, in the AONB, was granted by a Planning Inspector; bizarrely, the reasons the Inspector gave are apparently in conflict with the findings of the Inspector who examined the Local Plan last year. It was just a few years ago that a single garage in Hill Bottom was refused planning permission on Appeal because of the impact on the AONB.

At a recent meeting of SODC, we considered the government's proposals to require photo id to be produced if you want to vote at an election. We were told that this is to address voter fraud; in this part of the world there is no evidence of any voter fraud, so it seems to be a solution looking for a problem, and actually would cost the District Council a lot of money as it would have to issue ID cards to people without passports, as well as placing quite a burden on Polling Station staff.

Councillor Peter Dragonetti

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

Home Library Service

Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library any reason? The Home Library Service is run from Oxfordshire County Council and serves 700 customers throughout the county.

How it works

Contact us to discuss the kind of Books, Large Print/Regular Print, DVDs, Audio Books on CD, Music CD or DVD's, that you like to read or enjoy. We can then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home. Our volunteers are DBS checked, wear an identification badges and provide a helpful and friendly service. Whenever possible, we try and arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time. Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The Home Library Service is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns.

How to register

To register for this service or for further information call your local library or telephone the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

David William Andrews

Mrs. W. Andrews wishes it to be known that Mr. David William Andrews passed away on the 4th May 2021 after a long illness bravely borne.



Above, a lovely purple Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

Wild Orchids in Goring Heath

Apparently conditions have been good weather wise for wild orchids to grow this year as many people have reported seeing them dotted around the area. These two specimens were seen in Whitchurch Hill.



A Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* - above and left.



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

Going Forward Buses**CHANGES TO THE BUS TIMETABLE**

Since May 18th, Going Forward Buses has been operating the Goring to Reading service with two buses. The second bus runs an 'express' service from Goring to Reading direct via Crays Pond at 09.12 and Goring Heath Almshouses at 09.14, returning from Reading Blagrove Street/Marks & Spencer at 11.25. The bus will also drop you off at Tesco Kings Meadow if you ask the driver! It returns from Tesco Kings Meadow at 11.21. The bus also picks up and sets down at Caversham Library bus stop. For those living in Whitchurch Hill the bus departs from The Sun at 10.01 (or there is currently a second journey into Reading at 11.11), coming back from Blagrove Street/Marks & Spencer at 12.20 (Tesco Kings Meadow at 12.16). You can catch the bus at any safe point along the route, just give a clear hand signal to the driver to get him to stop.

We are currently negotiating possible funding from Oxfordshire County Council for our Goring to Wallingford service. This may result in some timing changes for our Goring to Reading service from early September. It is likely that the 'express' service will be able to continue to run at the present times, but the Whitchurch Hill service at 10.01 may run around 15 minutes later in both directions, and the current service from Whitchurch Hill to Pangbourne/Goring at 10.11 won't run anymore (it will have to run 'fast' from Crays Pond direct to Goring to fit in with revised timings required by Oxfordshire County Council on the Goring to Wallingford route). Also unfortunately the second journey from Whitchurch Hill into Reading at 11.11 will suffer a similar fate! But neither of these services has managed to attract many passengers to or from Whitchurch Hill, so hopefully the inconvenience won't be too great. Please check our website Going Forward Buses CIC shortly before travel for details of the current timings, or call us on 07484 605888 if you're unsure.

Mike Ward,
Managing Director Going Forward Buses CIC

Going Forward Buses is looking for part time drivers!

Holiday cover and possibly one or two days a week

We are restoring more of our services following the lockdown, so need cover for our permanent driver when he goes on leave, and are also considering running a second bus on some days and/or on Saturdays.

Our 14 seater minibuses can be driven by anyone with D1 on their driving licence.

We are a Community Interest Company (not for profit) providing scheduled bus services which are available to the general public, but are also a vital link for many elderly folk in the villages surrounding Goring and Wallingford.

Pay starts from £10 per hour. We would also love to hear from anyone who could volunteer a few hours occasionally. Ladies are especially welcome to apply.

If you think you might be interested or want to know more, please contact the Managing Director initially by email littlebluebus@yahoo.com

For more information about the organisation and the services we run, please see our website
www.goingforwardbuses.com

Some interesting history about the old Whitchurch Hill

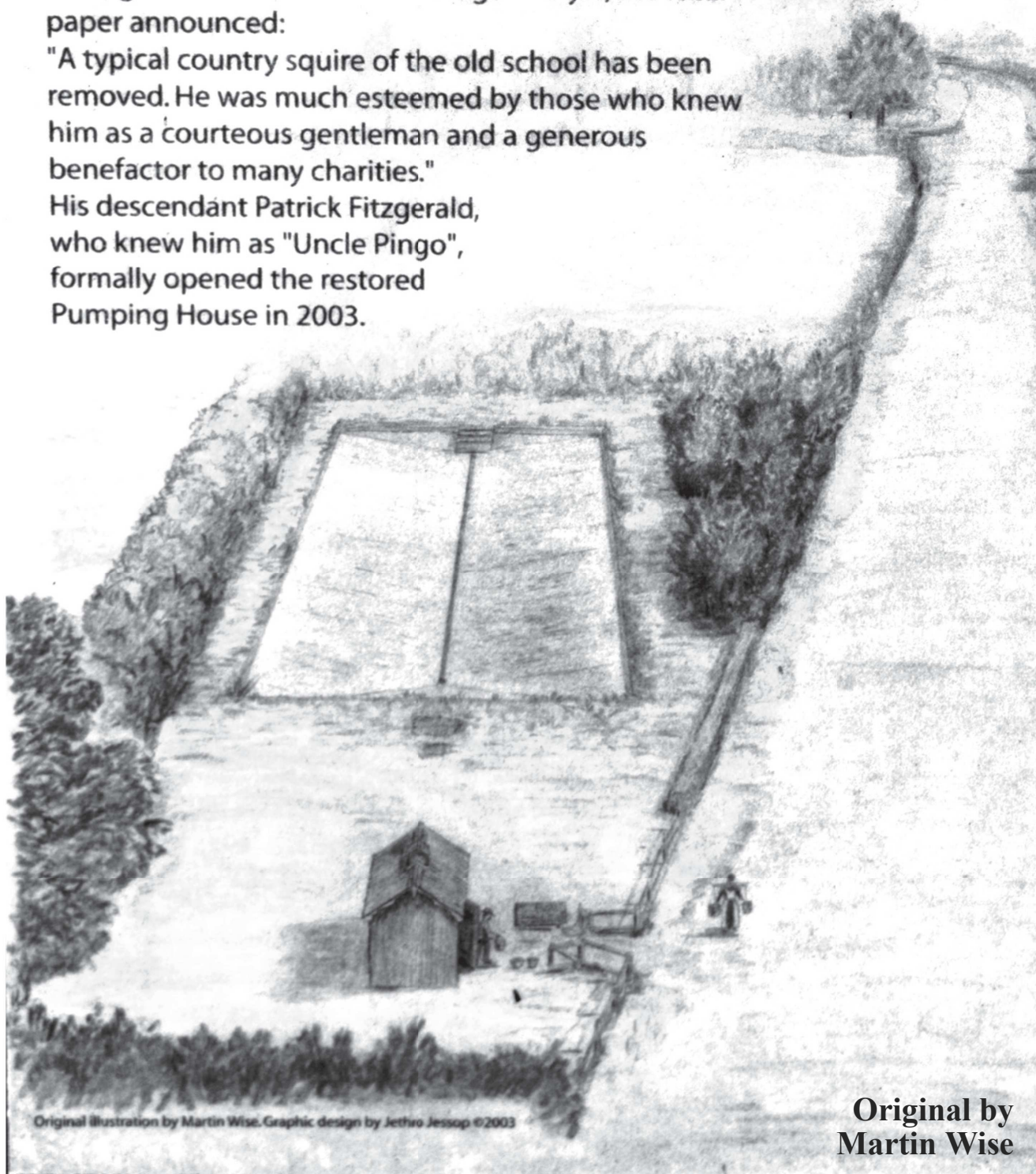
Hill Bottom Reser

CHARLES LAURENCE WEARE GARDINER (1849-1928)

inherited the Coombe Park estate at the age of 17 yrs. A local benefactor, he donated the land for St Johns Church and the recreation grounds at Whitchurch Hill and Goring. When he died in Devon aged 78 yrs, the local paper announced:

"A typical country squire of the old school has been removed. He was much esteemed by those who knew him as a courteous gentleman and a generous benefactor to many charities."

His descendant Patrick Fitzgerald, who knew him as "Uncle Pingo", formally opened the restored Pumping House in 2003.



**Original by
Martin Wise**

Pumping House which now sits behind Goring Heath Parish Hall

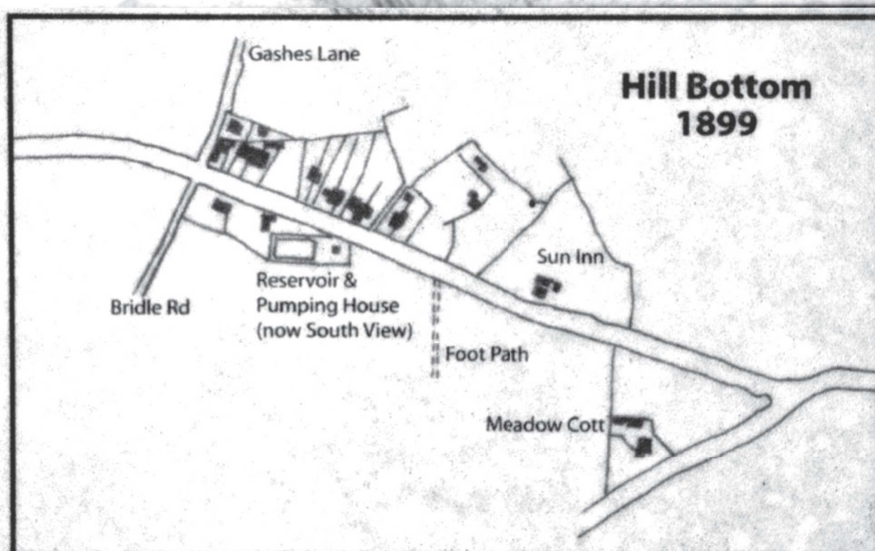
Reservoir & Pumping House

The Pumping House stood originally in Hill Bottom, on what is now the west side of Hill Bottom Close. It contained machinery to pump water from the brick lined reservoir, 30 feet long by 8 feet wide by 12 feet deep, which held 22,452 gallons. It received rainwater from a sloping concrete collecting plate, 80 feet long and 44 feet wide.

The door appears to have been the original notice board stating terms of use. It is dated 1886 and made by order of Charles Laurence Weare Gardiner, the owner of the Coombe Park estate.

The Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society moved the Pumping House here when the original site was redeveloped in 2001.

The Society is grateful for financial help from the Local Heritage Initiative, South Oxfordshire District Council and Castrol plc.



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The old Pumping House, Whitchurch Hill



In its position sited behind the Parish Hall.



Fiddler on the roof!

In June, on two of the hottest days of the year thus far, Councillor Martin Wise and his team of craftsmen set about restoring our two iconic bus shelters, here in Crays Pond. One, situated on the B4526 has been in service for over 60 years. Their expertise has ensured they will remain well used and loved for the next sixty.....

So, on behalf of the residents of our much-loved hamlet, I would like to thank Goring Heath Parish Council, both for the renovation of our slatted seats and for making our shelters sing again.....

Beryl A Rutherford



Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute



As a local group it is nice to be able to report an Increase in membership since we restarted our meetings.

This is particularly pleasing as we lost a few members over the last year, often with people moving out of our catchment area to be nearer to family.

We are currently collecting donations from members for Wallingford Food Bank, and wash bag items for the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The hospital issue our packs (and those from other WIs) to patients who enter hospital without such items - and many patients have found them invaluable.

At our meetings on the Village Green, either in Whitchurch Hill or Whitchurch on Thames we run a number of different stalls for members - these might be a plant stall, a book stall, or maybe even a bring and buy stall when anything might turn up!

In June, Susan Dryden was presented with a garden voucher for winning the Word Link Challenge run over three months in the Spring. Frances Le Strange clocked up yet more points by winning the Flower of the Month competition with a flower from her Tulip Tree. The stalls took £22.

Our July gathering will include a treat for everyone - strawberries and scones, to go with our own personally supplied tea or coffee. In early August we will be having a walk in and around Goring Heath Parish, followed by lunch at the Sun Pub. There have been plenty of takers, some to walk, some to lunch, some for both. This, and our normal monthly gathering on the third Tuesday in August will maximise our opportunities for socialising and supporting each other during what for some is still a difficult time.

If you are interested in learning more please do contact Frances on 01189842162

Sally Bergmann



Announcement of Extended Opening Times and Hours

We're excited to announce an enhancement to Nursery and Kindergarten at the Oratory Prep School to provide provision for 50 weeks a year for our younger pupils, aged 2 to 4 from September 2021. This has been in response to an increasing number of enquiries from parents who would love to experience our Nursery - known as Little Oaks - but needed more than a traditional term-time pre-school offering.

In addition to what you would expect from an all year round nursery setting, children in Little Oaks benefit from the fantastic facilities and grounds of the Oratory Prep School. All children from Nursery upwards experience Forest School and Kindergarten are able to have swimming lessons as part of their day in our indoor pool.

Days will also be extended to provide 7.30am - 6.00pm care for those who need it and by the time the children have reached the end of their time in Little Oaks, the transition to Reception is seamless as they are just a playground away from one another where they can continue their Oratory Prep Education.

To find out more, please email our Registrar, Cordelia Atkinson at c.atkinson@oratoryprep.co.uk, call 0118 9844511 or visit our website www.oratoryprep.co.uk



Charity Plant Stall raises £325.00

The plant stall to raise money for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and the RNLI has now been taken down from outside Elsinor in Hill Bottom.

Thanks to so many people's generosity we raised £325. This has been distributed between the two charities.

I were going to give £150 to Air Ambulance and £155 to RNLI but a further £20 was received after I had sent money off to the Air Ambulance so this increased the amount given to the RNLI to £175.

Thank you to everyone who supported the stall.

Sally Bergmann

Get Knitted!

If you fancy getting creative with wool and needles, two local groups are offering just that opportunity:

Crafty Knit and Stitch takes place on the first Thursday of every month in The Old Stables , Whitchurch, every Thursday 2—4 and 7—9 pm.. Join them with your knitting, crochet, needlework or crafts. Everyone welcome.

Knit and Natter takes place at Olga Mowforth House, Woodcote, RG8 OQP every Tuesday at 2.30—4 pm. There's a £1 charge and refreshments are available. Contact Barbara Penniall on 07768 072 449 for more information.

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

Checkendon Pre-School

During this summer term, we have been playing some lovely group games such as duck, duck goose and what's the time Mr Wolf to encourage turn taking, supporting co-ordination and listening skills as well as encouraging counting and number recognition. Small group activities are a great way for building relationships with friends, regulating emotions and developing empathy, and children learn through observing how their peers solve problems.

Sports day has been slightly different this year, being held in house due to Covid. The children all had a brilliant time, running races, taking part in bean bag toss, football shoot out and relay races, then finishing the event with a nice picnic on the field and an ice pop.

They have enjoyed participating in leavers' celebrations this term, culminating in a party with lots of dancing and a picnic, and a morning where the children were presented with their pre-school leavers certificates. We would like to wish good luck and say goodbye to some of our children, Fraser, Axel, Jack, Sianne, Dylan, Effie, Molly, Olivia, Isabella, Ludovico, Dominic and Mara, who will be leaving pre-school and moving up to their new primary. We will miss them and wish them all the best and know that they will go on to do amazing things.

We are delighted to inform you that we raised £230.00 for our summer Jam Making fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who donated sugar, fruit and jars for this. The money raised will go towards a new choosing area for the children. This is to encourage independence and decision-making in children.

Checkendon pre-school has remained open during the pandemic and have continued to provide a nurturing, safe and caring place for the children. The staff have worked tirelessly to maintain high standards of care, making sure each child's individual needs have been met and supported.

On behalf of Checkendon Pre-School we would like to say thank you so much for the continued support from our Pre School families, local community and the Village Hall Committee.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School C.I.O, 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.

Kelly Mullins

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club

Organiser: Christine Martin

**“Sonia”, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill,
RG8 7PG**

Tel: 0118 9844252 Mobile: 07752785924.

e.mail whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

OPENING UP AGAIN AFTER THE LOCKDOWN

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month. Windsor, Oxford, Cheltenham, Stratford, Salisbury, and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited. Major London venues and productions. Mainly matinees in the week, but sometimes evening performances and weekends.

Trips away. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

Coaches depart from Pangbourne

For our forthcoming programme please check the Whitchurch-on-Thames website.

Subscriptions £14 per annum but £12 if paid online.

St. Bartholomew's C of E Chapel, Goring Heath, RG8 7RS
Open to the Public.

Sunday Services: 11.00am.

Sung Eucharist 1st & 3rd of the month.
Sung Matins 2nd & 4th & 5th of the month.
All Services are taken from the 'Book of Common Prayer'.

Chaplain: Rev. Peter Dewey – 07784912935 - Text/call

Advertising in the Newsletter

The Newsletter is issued every two months and covers Goring Heath, Crays Pond and Whitchurch Hill. The rates for advertising are £15 for half a page and £25 for a full page advert.

To find out more, please contact us at
goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com

Party hire

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

For information and booking:
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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.

August 2021

Goring Heath NEWS

COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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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 |
| POTHOLE | - | 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 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 9th September 2021 | October 2021 |
| 11th November 2021 | December 2021 |
| 13th January 2021 | February 2022 |

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 Diggles
email: ginnydiggles@hotmail.com

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New Councillor Vacancy

TBC TBC TBC

TBC

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