

# **GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER**

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

**December 2021**

**Issue 183**

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## Chair's comments



A new face on the Chairman's letter!

Chris has stepped down as Chairman of the Parish Council after steering us through the pandemic, and providing us with his wise counsel over several years. On behalf of all the Council I would like to say a very big thank you to him for all his time and commitment. I will attempt to follow in his footsteps and guide us with as much care and sensitivity as he did. A difficult act to follow.

If you have driven through Cray's Pond recently you may have noticed some changes! After many years we have finally succeeded in having the roads through the hamlet covered by a 30 mile per hour speed limit. Through traffic will now be much more aware that this a small hamlet, not just another stretch of main road to be negotiated as fast as possible.

Many thanks, in particular, to Chris for his perseverance in seeing this project through to its conclusion, and thanks to OCC for putting in the new signs, gates etc.

As you will see from an article in the magazine by one of our new councillors, Mike Holland, we are not resting on our laurels with regard to traffic management on the routes through the parish. Following the concerns voiced by several parishioners we are now investigating whether it will be possible to have reduced speed limits in parts of Whitchurch Hill.

I have a great team of councillors, each with their individual areas of interest, and each using their expertise and interest to help improve our lovely Parish, to say nothing of the many hours of their time!

My particular interest in the Parish is in our excellent footpath network, and I will be continuing to keep an eye on these much-loved paths. Do contact me if you come across any problems.

Don't forget that all our parish meetings, which are held in the village hall on the second Tuesday of the month, are open to the public so do come along if you have an issue you would like to raise with us.

**Liz Collas**  
**Goring Heath Parish Council Chair**

**Planning Decisions October/November 2021**

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	Notes
<b><u>P21/S4312/FUL</u></b> Technology Centre Bozdown Drive Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR Provision of substations and upgraded utility works, amendments to the existing car park including provision of electric vehicle charging points with canopy above	No strong views	
<b><u>P21/S4036/DIS</u></b> Ladygrove Cottages Lady Grove Goring Heath RG8 7RU Discharge of condition 4 (Submission of details) on planning application P21/S2741/LB. Internal and external repair/replacement works	No strong views	
<b><u>P21/S3911/HH</u></b> Tintos Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PG Proposed Loft Conversion, Front Porch & Side Infill Extensions	No strong views	Permission granted

**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.





## Library Overrun!

We are grateful for all the book donations to the Whitchurch Hill phone box library.

However due to the limited capacity **please do not** leave books if there is no room to display them properly.

**CAROL SERVICE TUES 21ST Dec., 6.30pm-**

The Allnutt-Almshouses. Goring Heath. All very welcome.

Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Contact Peter 07784912935

## District Councillor's Comment

Just as we are all being urged to plant more trees, it is sad to see so many ash trees succumbing to ash die back. Some of us will remember the devastation caused by Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970's, and now it is hard to remember the huge elm trees that once grew in every hedgerow. Photographs of pre 1970 countryside show how the rural landscape looked different from today. Like Dutch Elm disease, Ash dieback is caused by a fungus, although this time the disease is windblown and not borne on a beetle.

The Hardwick estate were quick off the mark, and felled and sold much ash timber before the market was flooded, a good and sensible move, and it's great to see the new planting that has been done to replace the lost trees.

The role of trees in capturing carbon is so important, but just how this happens over the life of a tree, and how different species achieve this, is an interesting question. Carbon capture is performed by a tree through photosynthesis, the leaves absorbing the carbon, so that when they fall to the ground some of the carbon is locked in and stored in the ground, although quite a lot is lost back to the atmosphere through rotting.

The bigger the tree, the more leaves, so the more carbon is captured. It takes about 30 years for most trees to become a respectable size, with a good leaf canopy that is renewed and falls each year, putting carbon back into the ground. The loss of so many mature or semi mature ash trees at this time is a real blow to the role of trees in capturing carbon, as it will be years before newly planted trees achieve a similar level of carbon capture.

A typical tree can absorb around 21 kilograms of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year, however this figure is only achieved when the tree is fully grown. A car emits 300 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile, or put another way, about 12 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub> per gallon of fuel. Just one car, on average mileage, needs about 143 mature trees to absorb the carbon generated each year. So we need an awful lot of mature trees to make a real impact on the carbon being pumped into the atmosphere every day by every car, and at about 100 mature trees to the acre, that's a lot of land.

These figures are taken from various sources, and there is a big margin of error, and different authorities come up with different numbers, but the magnitude of the numbers is inescapable, and that's 30 years after a tree has matured from planting.

...

These figures are taken from various sources, and there is a big margin of error, and different authorities come up with different numbers, but the magnitude of the numbers is inescapable, and that's 30 years after a tree has matured from planting.

Although Goring Heath Parish has a lot of mature tree cover, I doubt it has enough to absorb the carbon from the number of cars in parish, which even at one per household would need about 150,000 mature trees for this parish's cars alone.

As the apocryphal Chinese proverb says, the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, but the second best time is now.

**Councillor Peter Dragonetti**  
**District Councillor for Kidmore End, Whitchurch, Goring Heath**  
**And Mapledurham**

## Books to Africa

**The telephone box library often has really good educational and childrens books that stay in there for a long time and are not widely popular. We have decided to work with Books to Africa, who distribute them from their warehouse in Canterbury. They accept new or good condition used books. If you are interested in helping to collect or store these items until we can have a day trip to Canterbury, please contact the Clerk 07814360566.**



- Nursery, Primary, Secondary and University textbooks
- Dictionaries, Encyclopaedias and Reference books
- Novels, Hobbies and Leisure books
- Bibles, Hymnals and Religious books
- Unused Notebooks and Exercise books (no folders or Document wallets please)
- Comics
- **Please Do Not give:** Damaged or illegible books, folders or document wallets, Magazines, brochures, photocopied resources, lecture notes etc

**Amanda Holland**  
Clerk  
Goring Heath Parish Council



## Traffic in Goring Heath

The Parish Council has undertaken a review of traffic accidents in Goring Heath. This shows a significant reduction in the number of accidents involving injury over the last decade, reflecting the benefits of past actions to reduce vehicle speed and improvements in vehicle design. However, risks remain, as shown by a recent fatality and occasional accidents involving serious injury. Following the introduction of the reduced speed limit in Crays Pond, the Parish Council is investigating other areas that might benefit from further controls. The experience of Parish Councillors and messages received from residents indicate that the following are of particular interest:

- The junction of Long Toll and the B4526
- The B4526 through Penny Royal
- The B471 from Crays Pond down to Whitchurch on Thames
- The 'village area' of Whitchurch Hill, as bounded by Goring Heath Road, the B471 and Hill Bottom,

Responsibility for reconfiguring road junctions and changing speed limits rests with the County Council rather than the Parish. However, we will continue to investigate the desirability for change, and liaise with the County Council where we conclude it to be appropriate.

**Mike Holland**

## Local Late Night Christmas Shopping Event

If you fancy kicking off the festive season by popping down to Goring to enjoy the pre-Christmas atmosphere, here is the date for your diary ..

Goring is hosting its late night shopping and Christmas event on the  
**3rd December from 4 pm to 8 pm**





## New Crays Pond 30 mph speed limit



The new 30mph gates approaching Crays Pond on the B4526 westbound.

Goring Heath Parish Council are pleased to announce that the long awaited and much wanted speed limit has been implemented. Practical work needed to enable the new 30 mph limit, which was approved by South Oxfordshire County Council (Highways) earlier this year, was completed at the beginning of November.

## NEW PILATES CLASS

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Taster Class  
£11

## **Conservation & Mowing**

The Parish Council takes responsibility for the management of a great deal of the road verges and grassed areas alongside the B471 and elsewhere.

In 2019 the PC decided to introduce a more nuanced approach to this management and try to establish areas of Road Verge Natures Reserve (RVNR). This involves leaving areas uncut until late summer when the grasses and wildflowers will have seeded. The mowings are left for 5-10 days to ripen the seed and allow it to fall. The area is then cleared and left until the following year.

These areas were to be the wide verges and some areas around the crossroads at Crays Pond.

We put this revised contract out to tender and after discussion appointed a Contractor.

The new regime began in spring 2020 and progressed pretty well with some hitches.

We renewed the agreement for 2021 but, for whatever reasons, the contractor consistently failed to deliver to the standard expected. The Parish Council decided to see the season out as we would not have easily found anyone to pick up the contract half way through.

We have now ended the contract and are in the process of re-examining both the management details and the wording of the contract before going out to tender for 2022 and onwards. We are going to include the bank on the eastern boundary of the Rec as a RVNR, as it has in the past been a diverse habitat. So don't be dismayed if it is not mown in the spring.

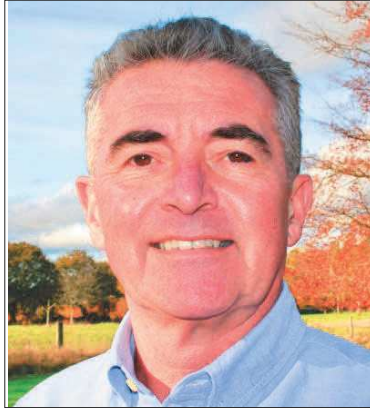
**Martin Wise**

## **Parish Hall Garden and Car Park Work Party**

On Sunday FEBRUARY 6th 2022 there will be a work party to get the garden of the Parish Hall, and the Car Park cut back and generally smartened up, but with good conservation practices at work.

Contact Amanda, our Clerk, to let us know if you can help. **Martin Wise**



**Meet The Parish Councillors: This Month, Peter Burdon**

I joined the Goring Heath Parish Council last month following a conversation I had with one of my neighbours, the former Chair of the council Chris Jessop, who suggested I apply for a vacant position.

My interest in joining arose from a deeply held belief that we must each do our bit in maintaining and developing thriving communities. It's not enough just to look after those nearest and dearest to us, nor should we think that central government will do it all too. Parishes are an important part of the jigsaw of our society and they are a key building block of communities. Helping my own parish flourish will be a privilege and a pleasure over the coming years.

My wife, Emma, and I moved to the parish two years ago after many years of globe-trotting, living in places such as Hong Kong, Switzerland and Dubai, as well as in different parts of the UK. We have quickly come to believe that this part of South Oxfordshire is a very special place. There are countless walks for us and our two dogs (and our five grown-up children), as well as easy access to Reading, Oxford and London for less rural pursuits and work. We really believe that Goring Heath is our 'forever home'.

I hope that my long and varied career, my enjoyment of working with people from many walks of life, and my basic character and values will be of benefit to the parish and my fellow councillors. From humble beginnings in the North East of England, I read chemical engineering at university and joined Esso. I then spent time as a management consultant in many industries in Europe and Australia. The next phase of my career was in retail with Boots The Chemist then with Thorntons and after that, Poundstretcher. For the last 12 years, I have worked in international education with organisations that bought and improved schools throughout the world. I'm currently starting up a new schools group focussed on buying and improving UK prep schools.

We've made many friends in the parish already but look forward to making many more in the years to come.

**Peter Burdon**

## **An ex-Chairman's comments**

So, I drove round the corner at the Crays Pond cross roads and had a moan about how scruffy the grass looked next to the pond. All the Council's fault I thought. That evening I was flicking through the Parish newsletter and saw the advert for a new Councillor. I suddenly realised that I had become the sort of person I have little respect for – easy to snipe from the side-lines, less easy to actually do something about it. That was my Kennedy moment “ask not what your country etc” and I joined the Parish Council.

For the last four years I have been on the Council, two and a half as Chair. I handed over the baton last month. And what a great few years it has been. Just a couple of reflections:

Firstly, we recognise that the substantive power in local government sits with the District and County Council, yet the Parish Council does have a surprising level of influence. We of course have direct control over some activities and spend, and make a difference on some of the local things that matter, but importantly I found that we do have a real voice on the bigger things. Because we are closer to the community and can feel the pulse of the parishioners, we are genuinely listened to over areas such as planning developments and traffic speed. The recent reduction of the speed limit at Crays Pond was a case to point. It was entirely down to the persistence and bloody mindedness of individuals on the Parish Council, ably supported by members of the community, that forced it through. Left to their own devices, the County Council Highways Department would never have implemented it. But we made it happen.

Secondly, I will now for ever be grateful for the people on the Council and what they do for our community. For no reward, they commit substantial amounts of time and energy for all of our benefits. Whether it is Liz prowling the footpaths to ensure no abuse, Hilary coordinating and digging into the many planning applications, Nick keeping the playgrounds safe, Martin focussing tirelessly on protecting our local ecology, Peter volunteering to drive the local bus and Taz applying his IT skills to keep us communicating so well during Covid and bringing in the latest data security processes. And our Clerk, Amanda, who goes well beyond her normal brief, coordinating so many charity activities and the person who pulled together the superb volunteer response during the worst of the Covid lock down. They all contribute so much.

Somethings never change though. I still moan about the grass at Crays Pond. But now I know how much effort went into trying to sort it – we cajoled the original contractors, changed the spec, tendered the work, commenced a new contract - and it still wasn't right. We go again next year.

No more sniping from the side-lines from me.

**Chris Jessop**



## Jorian's Bench

You may have noticed a new bench on the Village green. Jorian's Memorial bench is now situated on the Green in Goring Heath. The bench is inscribed with the words 'Remembering Jorian, loved and missed by all 23/8/2020'

His widow, Barbara states that the bench, which is sited between two oak trees, provides family and his many friends somewhere to remember good, fun times with Jorian, and that it provides an additional seat for the local community to watch football in play and be utilized for other events.. It also recognises all the people, who, on 21st August did all they could to save Jorian when he collapsed whilst playing his regular Friday night football with team mates on the Green.



## Design for new Council Office building

The concept design for the new South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils' offices has been approved and the detailed design process is now underway. The building is located opposite Didcot railway station and has been designed to meet a strict sustainability standard.

The building will feature solar panels and will include commercial office space the councils can let out to a third party. The councils will announce when the application has been submitted to enable local residents to take part in the consultation.

The building is available to view on the council's website.



## **Grass Cutting and Leaf disposal**

We are writing to everyone living in the Goring Heath area, where houses are on one side, to ask that any grass cuttings and / or leaves collected are disposed of in your own garden waste (brown) bins. There have been several instances where well-intended verge tidying and grass mowing of areas adjacent to or in front of properties has resulted in piles of grass cuttings and leaves being left on the verges, on the opposite side of the road to the houses.

Whilst we welcome efforts to maintain the area and value the well meaning intentions to do so, please understand that by leaving the grass cuttings / leaves in a pile rather than collection through the brown bin facility, this actually constitutes unauthorised dumping of waste. It is unsightly, as highlighted to us by members of the public, and can result in an increase of flies, odour and drain blockage resulting in flooding during autumn and winter.

Brown bins can be ordered from South Oxfordshire District Council's website: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste>.

Thank you for your cooperation.  
Goring Heath Parish Council

## **Age UK Advice Line**

If you'd like some advice on any services relating to Age UK , you can access more information by calling the **Age UK Advice Line for Oxfordshire on 0345 450 1276** Lines are open 8am to 7pm, every day of the year.

Services cover a wide range of helpful advice and information about activities including befriending (telephone calls or meeting up), singing and music groups, arts and crafts, cafes and lunch clubs, day centres, exercise classes, dementia support, IT training, bereavement support, social activities and money matters and financial advice.

## Father Christmas

Father Christmas and his helpers are taking time out of their very busy schedule to visit Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground on

**Thursday 9th December from 4pm to 5.30pm** to raise funds for the  
Rotary Club of Pangbourne.

Carol Singers, refreshments and a Ukulele band are expected, so do come along and meet with Santa!



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## The Sun at Hill Bottom, Whitchurch Hill—Under New Management



Hi, my name is Jan and I have just recently taken over the helm in The Sun at Hillbottom. I have over 35 years' experience in the trade. I feel very passionate about The Sun. It's been through many changes over the years and I wish to put it back on the map.

Let me tell you about this quintessential little gem. It is a traditional English free house pub, set within the lovely quiet rural countryside that we are lucky to reside in. Due to this it is a perfect stop for ramblers and cyclists alike, to quench your thirst and recharge your batteries before soldiering on. . . .



Alas, as I write this the kitchen is temporarily closed, but we hope not for long, however do not let this stop you from popping in and paying us a visit. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates regarding this.

I can guarantee that you will receive a warm friendly welcome. At this time of year, a glowing open fire awaits, and we have cask ales from West Berkshire brewery, Good old boy and a Loddon popular choice is the Hop-pit. I am also introducing a guest ale monthly. If this is not your tippie then we have a fantastic large range of lagers, wines and spirits on offer. We are family and dog friendly, have a gorgeous new patio area, and a large car park.

At present we are holding card bingo nights on a Wednesday at 7pm and Chase the Ace on a Friday (come and see what its all about) along with a meat raffle, and there's a lot more to come. Live entertainment, sports coverage, Christmas raffle, New years eve party (ticket holders only) and next year when the weather warms a little then watch this space for all the outdoor events.

If you have any special requirements then please do not hesitate to contact me, I would love The Sun to become the village pub once again!

Hope to see you soon, Jan





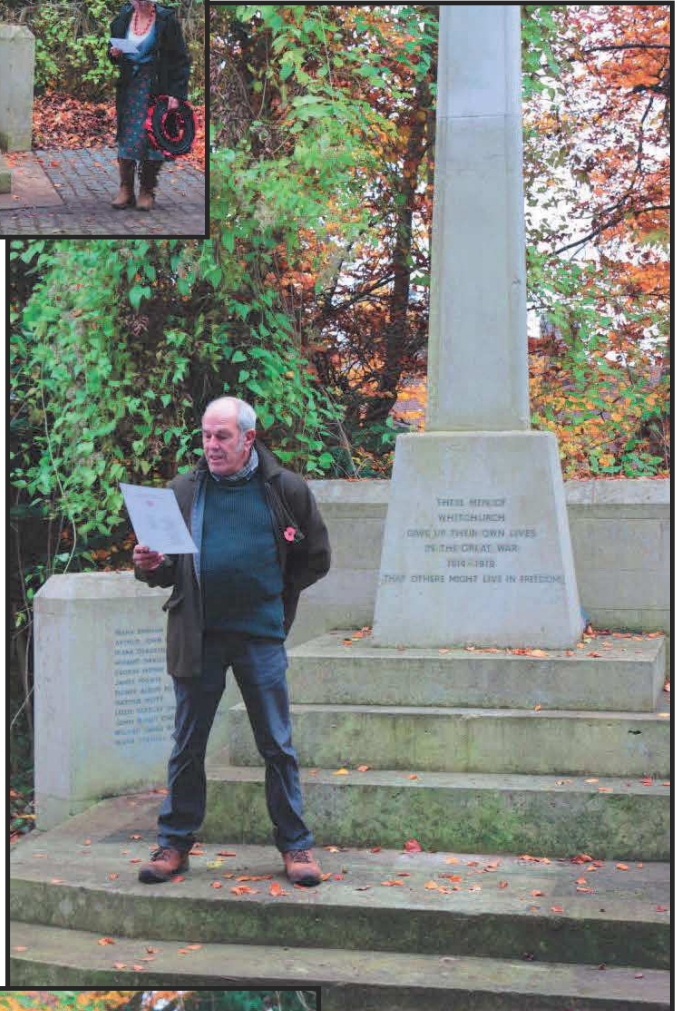


Reverend James Leach  
Conducts the Act of  
Remembrance

## Remembrance Day

On Sunday 14th November local residents gathered by the memorial to witness the laying of poppy wreaths in tribute to those who lost their lives through conflict. The wreaths were laid by Jim Donahue, Chairman of Whitchurch Parish Council and Liz Collas, Chair of Goring Heath Parish Council.

(Right) Martin Wise reads out the names of soldiers killed during the first and second world wars.





Councillors Jim Donahue  
and  
Liz Collas



(Left) A Poignant moment as bugler Stewart Lewin plays The Last Post.

A good turnout. (pictured) The Smith family from Whitchurch were just one of many who attended.





## **Free parking days returns in the run up to Christmas**



Shoppers in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being given a helping hand to buy local this Christmas by taking advantage of free parking in district council car parks.

The annual free parking tradition is to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents and the free parking days allocated to each area are agreed with the individual town councils depending on which day would best suit local traders.

**Drivers will be able to park for free in South and Vale car parks on the following days:**

Abingdon – Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 December  
Didcot – Mondays – 6, 13 and 20 December  
Faringdon – Saturdays 27 November, and 4 and 11 December  
Goring – Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 December  
Henley – Fridays 10, 17 and 24 December  
Thame – Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 December  
Wallingford – Thursdays 9, 16 and 23 December  
Wantage – Saturdays 4, 11 and 18 December

On the above days there's no need to display a ticket, however maximum stay times will still apply in specific car parks

For details on parking in southern Oxfordshire visit [southoxon.gov.uk/parking](https://southoxon.gov.uk/parking) or [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/parking](https://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/parking).

## **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](mailto:goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com).



# JINGLE JOG

Fun Run or walk!

Sunday 12th December



## A fun event for all the family!

Raising funds for Woodcote Primary School

- \* Adult Santas: **£6** (12 Yrs+)
- \* Junior Santas: **£5** (5-11 Yrs)
- \* Elves: **£2.50** (2-4 Yrs)
- \* Under 2 & Santa Paws: **FREE**
- \* Festive Family: **£20**

**Woodcote Village Hall**  
Event from 9:45am

Entry tickets & registration:  
**[pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events](http://pta-events.co.uk/fowps-events)**  
or **[fowps-pta@googlegroups.com](mailto:fowps-pta@googlegroups.com)**

Distances by age from 200m toddler dash to adult 3.5K

Cakes,  
Hot Food  
& Drinks,  
Music &  
Stalls

Medals  
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**Prize**  
for Best Festive  
Fancy Dress

A visit from  
**Smelly  
Wellies  
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## Whitchurch Hill WI



We are back - indoors that it. We never actually went away.

Our timing was perfect. The first of our indoor meetings since Covid saw damp and cool weather. We would probably have had to cancel if we'd been outdoors. It was little wonder that so many of our members jumped at the chance of a warm indoor gathering, complete with speaker, birthday flowers, raffle, and our flower of the month competition.

The parish hall was buzzing with chatter and laughter. All this was enjoyed whilst still being wary of life under Covid - members brought along their own chairs and coffee, whilst maintaining a good distance between each other. It didn't spoil our fun.

With Christmas just around the corner we discussed the recipient of this year's Christmas charity collection. The meeting unanimously agreed it should be the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). This was the first charity supported by the WI and provides money to women in poor communities around the world to help them set up projects to make themselves self sufficient. This might be, for example, chicken farming (for egg production) or making clothes for themselves and their community.

We also looked ahead to future meetings. November was scheduled for a talk on how to avoid scams and fraud in general. The meeting in December will be held two weeks earlier than normal (7 December) when our very own Sandra Attack will give a Christmas cookery demonstration (complete with tasters). That is sure to be one meeting well attended! Into the New year we are looking forward to a talk from Paul Whittle on China Beyond the Great Wall.

The final hour of our October get together was devoted to a lively and fascinating talk by Sophie Fryer entitled 'Hats off to Millinery'. Yes - you've guessed it. We learnt about the origins of millinery and how hats were, and are, made today. Trying on hats made by our speaker enabled us to all find a hat to suit us individually. Who would have thought there is a hat shape for each and everyone of us?!

If you live locally to Whitchurch Hill and fancy learning more about us please don't hesitate to give **Frances** a ring on **01189842162**.

**Sally Bergmann**

## **Whitchurch United Charities**

Whitchurch United Charities has a fascinating history with its original bequests ranging from Mary Eliza Moore who gave £300 to provide red cloaks annually for poor women and a bread charity that was left by John Whistler to provide a dozen penny loaves for distribution in church every Sunday.

In 1907 the surviving charities were combined to form Whitchurch United Charities, which in 1936 gave £10 a year to the nursing association and distributed groceries at Christmas and coal in January.

From 1967 grocery vouchers were issued instead, until in 2003 it was agreed that future grants should be made to support local youngsters' educational costs. Since 2003, many students (or their parents) who live in the ecclesiastical parish of Whitchurch have been helped to pay for school trips, essential equipment towards sporting excellence and many other educational pursuits.

The Charity would like to ask you to consider leaving a bequest in your will; your legacy would be to continue the tradition of village charity started in the 1600s and would enable the trustees to increase the grants they are able to make in future years.

If you are interested in leaving a legacy to this historic local Charity and would like to find out more, please contact Sarah Dixon (The Grant Application Secretary) on 0118 984 4262 or via e-mail [whitchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com) or by post at Flint House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch-on-Thames, RG8 7HH. All enquiries are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

**Sally Woolhouse,  
Chairman**

## **Goring Poor's Allotment Charity**

This local charity operating in the Goring and Goring Heath Parishes has funds available as small grants to help those individuals who might be experiencing financial difficulties. To discuss further please do give me a ring.

Revd Ben Phillips (Chairman) 01491 875651



**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.**

### **SUPPORT US**

We are a registered charity and rely on fundraising, with a £10k target this year to make up the funding shortfall caused by Covid19, to pay for roof repairs and for a new sandpit. Please support us if you can – the children are doing a sponsored Whitchurch Walk this Autumn. **You can DONATE/ SPONSOR by scanning the QR code here, or going to the webpage below:** <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool>

### **3 FREE and EASY ways you can support Whitchurch Pre-School**

- Become a Co-Op Member and select Whitchurch-on-Thames Pre-School as your community cause. For every £1 spent 2p will be donated to our cause.
- If you shop with Amazon, please use <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and enter Whitchurch On Thames Pre-School as your chosen charity, 0.5% of your order value will go to Pre-School
- Sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk) to support “Whitchurch Pre-School Whitchurch-on-Thames”. When you use the easyfundraising site or app to shop with retailers like John Lewis, M&S, H&M, the retailer sends us a donation of up to 5%. You can register here (completely free): [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=w4](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=w4)

### **JOIN US**

For children aged from 2½ - 5 years. Situated in an idyllic village location, with links to Whitchurch Primary School. We accept 2yr & 30hr government funding, and we offer flexible sessions 8.30am to 3:15pm weekdays, term time only. Limited sessions available this academic year, register as early as possible for remaining spaces, to be added to our waiting list and for places in September 2022.

**CONTACT US** [hello@whitchurchpreschool.org](mailto:hello@whitchurchpreschool.org) | 0118 984 4516 | [www.whitchurchpreschool.org](http://www.whitchurchpreschool.org)



## Checkendon Pre-School

We have been busy celebrating Fireworks Night, Diwali, and soon we will start to celebrate Christmas by making glittery decorations to put on our Christmas Tree . Celebrating enables the children to have a good time and demonstrate what is important to them and their culture. Celebrating help children to have a good understanding of the meaning, characteristics and purpose of **celebration**

We have been Celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Light by creating Diwali hand art. We also enjoyed making Diwali pops using bananas – a special treat to enjoy. The children really enjoyed making these and have said it was Yummy! We've also been making Rangoli patterns, focusing on different sequences and repeating patterns. These patterns help children make predictions because they begin to understand what comes next. They also help children learn how to make logical connections and use reasoning skills.

We have been creating wonderful Bonfire Night art work with paint to create fireworks, talking about all the different words we could use to describe firework sounds such as fizz, crackle pop and bang. It is also a great time to teach the children about how to keep themselves safe around fireworks

We're all looking forward to celebrating Christmas this year. Amongst other activities we'll also be celebrating by singing, having Christmas jumper days and enjoying our Christmas party, which will be visited by a certain VIP!

We would like to thank the Cherry Tree Inn at Stoke Row for kindly donating the children's Christmas dinner for this year's Christmas party.

We're planning a few fundraising events including our Christmas hamper raffle, tickets are on sale now at £1.00 a ticket. Tickets can be purchased from the lovely ladies at Checkendon Pre-School, situated at the Village Hall. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 3rd December 2021.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, do visit our website [www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk), call us on 01491 682589, e-mail [pre-schoolcheckendon@gmail.com](mailto:pre-schoolcheckendon@gmail.com) or just pop in – we always look forward to welcoming you to Checkendon Pre-School.

Kelly Mullins

# Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

## Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2017** and **31 August 2018**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2022**.

## Apply online at

**[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)**

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.

### For help and information:

Web: **[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)**

Email: **[admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

Tel: **0345 241 2487**



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

If you'd like to comment on any local issues, please send your comments to [goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Goring Heath and Whitchurch Show

A date for your diary - **9 April 2022.**

Goring Heath Parish Hall will host this 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.

To ensure everyone gets as much time as possible to prepare/practice any entries they may wish to submit - here are the topics for April's show.

**Art: Vase of Spring Flowers - A Picture of Lamb/Sheep - An Easter Bonnet. No item larger than A3.**

**Children's Section (up to 12 years): An Easter Picture - Four Easter Bunny Biscuits - Small Vase of 3 Different Spring Flowers**

**Flower Arranging: Max 16ins/40cms Colours of Spring - Miniature Arrangement (Max 4ins/10cms overall) - An Arrangement in a Mug**

**Handicraft: Decorated Picture Frame - Knitted Item - Patchwork or Quilting Item**

**Photography : Scene from a Bridge - A Celebration - A Water Activity**

We look forward to seeing you there. A full schedule for the day will be available in advance of the day itself, with instructions on how to enter etc. It will be very straight forward.

For those who do not want to enter the show itself why not come along and enjoy tea and cake and browse the brilliantly valued plant stall? A must for all Gardeners.

Liz Gibson

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

Open to the Public --All Welcome

*Sung Eucharist 1st & 3rd of the Month*

*Sung Matins 2nd & 4th & 5th of the Month*

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

*All Services are taken from the book of Common Prayer*

Chaplain: Rev Peter Dewey, -- 07784912955  
[revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Advertising in the Newsletter**

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

To find out more, please contact us at  
[goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com](mailto:goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com)

## **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)



# 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](mailto: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.**

## COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

### SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Peter Dragonetti      Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PT  
07866 202908, 0118 9844711      [peter@dragonetti.co.uk](mailto:peter@dragonetti.co.uk)

**Council Offices:**      135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4SB  
See below for dept. phone contacts      [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

### OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kevin Bulmer      35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY  
07803 005680      [kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Council Offices:**      County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND  
01865 792422      [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

<b>POLICE</b>	Thames Valley Police	0845-8505505
<b>POLICE</b>	PEC – Non-Emergency Calls	101
<b>POTHOLE</b>	-	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](mailto: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](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
11th January 2022	February 2022
8th March 2022	April 2022
12th May	June 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
	<a href="http://goringheathbowls.weebly.com">http://goringheathbowls.weebly.com</a>	
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	<a href="http://www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com">www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com</a>	
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: Chris Whatmore 07850691920  
Email: [whatmore@talk21.com](mailto:whatmore@talk21.com)



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