

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

September 2013
135th Issue

Visit us at:
www.goringheath.com

Forthcoming Events

GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

September 2013

12th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
14th Open Day	Police Rehabilitation Centre (Flint House)
17th W.I.	GHPH
28th Table top & car boot Sale	GHPH & car park

October 2013

3rd Whitchurch Bridge closes

4th Charity Soup Lunch	GHPH
10th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
13th Cross Lanes Open Day	Cross Lanes Apple Farm
17th History Society	GHPH
19th Antiques	GHPH

November 2013

1st Charity Soup Lunch	GHPH
2nd Moonrakers	GHPH
14th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
16th Art & Craft Exhibition	WVH

December 2013

6th Charity Soup Lunch	GHPH
12th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH

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

IT IS FREE

We welcome event dates from all local charities and groups for listing in this feature.

Please send the details to the Editor - Tim King at tim@tpking.me.uk.

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



Chairman's Comments

At last the long awaited closure and rebuilding of the Toll Bridge is about to happen; I cannot recall exactly when we were told that the bridge was at the end of its life, but I do know that we some years past the date at which the engineers had originally predicted it would, if not collapse, then otherwise be unusable.

The six months that the closure will take, will cause much disruption and inconvenience to many of us, more so than to the residents of Whitchurch on Thames who have the option of walking to Pangbourne. The re-routing of the bus service will be cause difficulty for many users in terms of longer journey times, and access to the M4 will also be more convoluted .

Whether there will be is less traffic on the local roads in Whitchurch Hill from Crays Pond and from the Ladygrove is difficult to judge, as traffic for BP will now all come from “our” side, and there will also be Whitchurch on Thames residents making different journeys. There has been concern about congestion in Goring High Street and Streatley, which may be a nightmare or which may actually not turn out to be as big a problem as expected.

Whatever happens, no doubt we shall all adapt to the new reality fairly quickly, changing behaviours to accommodate the situation, and then, come next April, we will be back to normal.

Peter Dragonetti
Chairman



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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	S.O.D.C.
P13/S1139/FUL Land adjacent to Rose Cottage Hill Bottom Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Erection of a two bedroom house.	Should be refused	
P13/S1185/FUL Turner Bros Demolition Ltd, The Forge Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NU Remodeling of existing 20th century workshops, offices and residential building, demolition of existing 1990's stables building, construction of a new single storey sunken residential home, creation of new landscape with new trees and shrubbery.	Should be refused	
P13/S1515/HH Goffs Clump, Goffs Hill Crays Pond RG8 7QA Proposed first floor extension	Should be approved	permission
P13/S1551/A The Oratory Preparatory School Great Oaks Goring Heath RG8 7SF Removal of existing roadside directional signage and replacement with 2no. monolith signs to main entrance of school site and one post and panel sign to exit of school site	Should be refused	
P13/S1638/FUL Lubricants UK Ltd, Technology Centre Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR Construction of new two storey Fire Tender building.	No strong views	
P13/S1641/HH Lavender Cottage, Cold Harbour (in the parish of Goring Heath) RG8 7SY Demolition of existing garage and gym building and replacement with new gym and pool building.		
P13/S1473/FUL Charity Farm Barns, Goring Heath RG8 7RR Change of use of land to agricultural and demolition of existing stable and erection of replacement barn style stable.	No strong views	
P13/S1828/HH Hawthorn House, Deadmans Lane, Goring Heath Reading RG8 7RX Roof alterations and extension to existing private dwelling.	No strong views	

Continued on page 6

Premises and application details	Parish Council	S.O.D.C.
P13/S1837/HH 7 Bridle Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PR Demolition of outbuildings and extension. Construction of 1 and 2 storey extensions plus restoration of entrance porch.	Should be refused	
P13/S1648/HH Mallory House, Shirvells Hill, Goring Heath RG8 7SP Demolition of existing coach house and garage and construction of annexe and replacement garage with associated driveway. Relocation of entrance gates and replacement of boundary wall and fencing.	Should be refused	Withdrawn
P13/S1947/HH Ashtree, Crays Pond, Reading RG8 7QG Erection of a two bay carport / garage	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.

APOLOGY

In my comments in the last edition of the Newsletter I incorrectly described the development as behind the Hatchgate Forge. In fact it was behind the Forge, Whitchurch Hill. I apologise for making this mistake, as the current owner of the Hatchgate ceased to own the Forge nearly 10 years ago. The current owner of the Hatchgate has also taken personally the remarks I made concerning the planning application, and I apologise unreservedly for associating her or her family in any way with the planning application. I also apologise for giving an indication that I believed that the application was being made by religious extremists, and by implication associating the owner of the Hatchgate with religious extremists. This is clearly not the case. I sincerely regret any distress that my comments may have made.

Peter Dragonetti



Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No. 1056772

SEPTEMBER 2013

Now the summer holidays are nearly over, the Management Committee of Goring Heath Parish Charity have organised some “events” to look forward to and which will appeal to a wide variety of tastes. So do come along to one or better still all of them.

Saturday September 28th 9am-12midday

Table top and car Boot Sale

Sellers – 8am

£7 Per Car and Table-top, £10 Per Van
Information and booking a pitch, contact
07793 443 270 or bnt@waitrose.com

Saturday October 19th 7.30pm – 10.30pm

An Evening with Simon Jones

Simon will value your treasures!
Tickets £10, includes a light supper
Contact 0118 9842056 or bnt@waitrose.com

Saturday November 2nd 7.30pm

Moonrakers – an Oxford based group of four musicians.

Tickets £10 which includes refreshments
Contact 0118 9842056 or email bnt@waitrose.com

To find out more about all these events, please look at the adverts included in this Newsletter or on the village website,

www.goringheath.com

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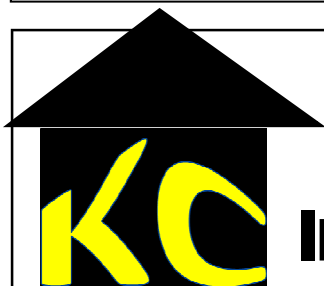
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Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No. 1056772

Car Boot and Table-top Sale

In

Goring Heath Parish Hall and Car Park

On

Saturday 28th September 9-12 noon

Sellers 8am

Booking essential

£7 Per Car and Table-top

£10 Per Van

Admission free for buyers

Home made refreshments

**For further details and to book your pitch
Call 07793 443 270**

e. mail - bnt@waitrose.com

Proceeds to the Parish Hall



The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club



Organiser: Christine Martin

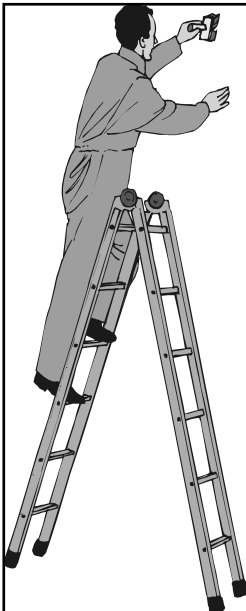
“Sonia”, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG

Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month.

Salisbury, Windsor, Oxford, Stratford, and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited. Also major London productions. Mainly matinees, but sometimes evening performances. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates. From Spring 2014 members can be picked up from Whitchurch Hill, Whitchurch-on-Thames and Pangbourne.

Subscriptions £8/10 per annum



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Charity Soup Lunch

Friday 4th October
Friday 1st November
Friday 6th December

At Goring Heath Parish Hall
From 12.30 onwards

*Delicious homemade soups, bread, cheese and
coffee for just £6*

Please telephone Joyce Brannan
on 0118 984 3007

These events are very popular
so please call Joyce to give her
an idea of numbers.



Chosen charities to be confirmed

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PRESS RELEASE – 2013

**APPLE DAY CELEBRATIONS
ORCHARD OPEN DAY
CROSS LANES FRUIT FARM, MAPLEDURHAM, RG4 7UW**

SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 10.00am-5.00pm

Apple tasting and fresh juice too. Guided orchard walks.

Here at Cross Lanes we have a splendid crop of many traditional English apple varieties. We grow over fifty varieties of apples, all different – sweet, sharp, juicy, crisp, nutty, rich, aromatic, complex and delicious. Come along to our Open Day and titillate your taste buds. Sweet juicy pears will be out for tasting too.

There are a host of other attractions. Apple games for the children and an array of apple peelers - who can get the longest piece of peel. See how the fresh apple juice is made and sample the different varieties. Bees are essential for apple growing and the beekeepers will be keen to share the secrets of the bees with you. Stalls will be selling delicious apple pies, cakes, muffins and jellies with local cider and plants too.

Join one of the guided walks at 11.00am or 12.30pm and 2.00pm or 3.30pm. This will show what is involved in producing excellent fruit in today's climate. Do you have problems with pest and disease or with your pruning? Displays in the barn will answer your questions. Many surprising stories about apples will be there too.

The Farm Shop, selling Cross Lanes apples and pears, juices and honey, will be open as usual. Tea and refreshments will be available all day.

Entrance and car parking are FREE.

For further information contact Gill Franklin on 0118 972 3167 or see www.crosslanesfruitfarm.co.uk.

NOTE. If you miss the day, the Farm Shop is open every Wednesday to Sunday from 10.00am to 6.00pm until the apples run out in January. Or see us at Farmers' Markets in Reading, Purley, Wallingford, Henley, Abingdon, Ascot and others.

Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute

After taking part in the Fete at the end of May, when WI members provided tea and cakes for a thirsty public, in July we ran a Coffee Morning at Woodcote, a good atmosphere and successful.

A fascinating morning took place at Hardwick House, with an interesting talk by Sir Julian Rose, a number of members ended the outing with lunch at the Ferryboat. The following outing had to be cancelled, but it may be replaced by a trip to the New Theatre Oxford for a backstage tour later in the year.

Our July speaker was Gillian Franklin, who told us about her Cross Lanes fruit farm, which started off in a small way 35 years ago, and now has 2,000 trees. She also gave us a history of apples, from their introduction to Britain by the Romans, when they were similar to crab apples, and their development into the 2,500 varieties now available to us. Members brought along cakes and other items made with apples – the cakes were sliced up and enjoyed by members with their coffee. The competition winner for apple recipes was President Frances.

Whitchurch Hill does not have a meeting in August, but will stage a barbecue for members, friends and family at the Parish Hall. Our next meeting will be on 17th September when the speaker will be Gillian Cane, talking about the Mitford Girls.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at Goring Heath Parish Hall at 10.15 am. Visitors are always welcome, and for information please telephone 0118 984 1696.

Patricia M. Dent

RG8 Badminton Club

We're once again looking forward to the beginning of the autumn term back at the Langtree Community Sports Hall in Woodcote after our nomadic summer season.

We continue to thrive and finished last term with over 50 members – both seniors and in our junior 'Smashers' (11 years old and over) sections. We will be fully affiliated with Badminton England from the coming season which brings many individual benefits including discounted equipment and tickets, full insurance and applications for free tickets to some tournaments.

We play on Thursday evenings in term time: 6.30 – 7.30 for 'Smashers' and 7.30-9.30 for seniors. Trevor Peters is our Badminton England registered coach who not only

runs the 'Smashers' sessions but also is available for private seniors coaching.

We're likely to have limited vacancies both in the senior and Smashers sections from September onwards.

If you're interested give me, Chris Uden, a call on 01491 681263.

Goring & Streatley Regatta 2013

Following the washout of 2012 we all waited with trepidation to see if the fine weather which preceded the event this year would hold for us. It did, although a bit overcast and slightly cooler.

The Race Card was full with 69 races scheduled including eight Dongola Races (Dongolas are punts but are propelled with paddles by enthusiastic youngsters rather than by the traditional poles) and an open Canoe competition to complete the family fun. We started early with the first races at 9:45, although by then the Hog Roast had already started serving Bacon sandwiches and people had begun to browse around the 32 Craft and Field stalls. We had a really diverse range of things available, from Leather Hats and Jewellery to Frozen Yoghurt. We were well represented by local and Charity organisations offering tea and Cakes as well. Local businesses supported us by sponsoring the event and donating prizes for the raffle; too many to mention here but special thanks go to estate agents, Warmingham and Davis Tate. The Funfair, always popular, started action at about 11:00 and continued all day at the entrance to the site.

The Racing was extremely competitive and exciting this year, and a list of the results is below. There was a great deal of rivalry between the various Goring, Streatley, and Maidenhead teams, and local amateur rowers. Honour was upheld on all sides, as in a variety of singles, pairs and fours, victory and elation was mixed with good sportsmanship and a great deal of energetic activity on the water. I never failed to be impressed by the ingenuity which the independent rowing teams display in selecting their names and I can only suggest that you browse the names of the winning teams for additional amusement!

Whilst the Racing was going on in the Arena we had demonstrations of Birds of Prey, Ferret racing, Dog Agility and of course, the assembly of local musicians known as Goring Unplugged playing live music from a Farm Cart, very rustic and very popular!

In addition to the Hog Roast we had a local Cider stall, paella, toasted sandwiches, plenty of Ice Cream, a steak sandwich and burger van and a very large Beer Tent so one could wash it all down.

In summary an excellent day out with a very village focus, we had just over 2,000

people through the gate, raised several thousand pounds towards a new boathouse on the outskirts of the village and saw a lot of happy (and some wet) people enjoying the day. As usual we owe a huge vote of thanks to the Bishop family for the use of their Water meadow, to the Race Officials, the Starters, the Judges and the Commentators, all of whom volunteer their services for the day, and of course thanks to the GGBC Regatta Committee and volunteers from the boat club without whom none of this could happen!

Brian Barnes
Regatta Chairman 2013

www.goringgapbc.org.uk

Results

Mens Coxed 4 (Beginner) - Crewless
Mens Coxed 4 (Intermediate) - Do Oar Die
Mens Coxed 4 (Intermediate 1) - Where's Brian?
Mens Coxed 4 (Experienced) -Cheltenham Caterpillars
Goring and Streatley Regatta - results continued

Womens Coxed 4 (Beginner)) - Mums Row Best
Womens Coxed 4 (Intermediate 1) - Ladies that Launch
Womens Coxed 4 (Intermediate 1) - Glory
Womens Coxed 4 (Experienced) - Pussy Willows

Mixed Coxed 4 - Stay in your Seat

Womens Single Sculls - Belinda Drew
Mens Single Sculls - Paddy Bamforth

Consolation Plate - Splash and Dash
GGBC Challenge - Goring Gap Boat Club B

Dongolas - Sassie Unicorns
Children's Dongolas - Black Pearl

All Square

The square boxes containing further squares and dots are called QR codes. Modern mobile phones especially smartphones can “read” the code with a suitable free “app” and display the message which usually contains a link to a web address which the user can open.

Planning and the Whitchurch Bridge closure

I do not know why we have to put up with the views of the chairman, Peter Dragonetti, regarding planning regulations. SODC have always been fair and sensible when passing planning applications. I do not know why he feels he can over-ride them. He wasted £3000 of the parish subscriptions by being impatient.

Instead of giving priority to his views about different applications at this moment he should give some thought to the closure of Whitchurch Bridge.

The Parish Council do not appear to have fought the corner of local pensioners in regard to the closure of Whitchurch Bridge. Perhaps this is because they are not pensioners themselves. The number of pensioners who use the bus service for shopping, dentists, doctor appointments, blood tests and even collecting repeat prescriptions are going to find life very difficult when there is no bus service. They are independent and like to go down on one bus and back up the hill again on the bus returning from Reading. They will be unable to do this from October. **Do the Parish Council have any idea how this is going to affect them?** You cannot expect them to walk any distance with shopping.

Barbara Tappern

Chairman's response

The Parish Council has a duty to consider and recommend for approval or refusal or have no views on planning applications, and planning applications are required to be considered against national and local planning policies. The Parish Council always makes its decision based on these policies. The application for a Judicial Review was made because the Planning Officer concerned, in our view, seriously misrepresented the relevant policies to the planning committee at SODC. The decision to proceed with this application was made unanimously by the whole Parish Council without dissent. As Chairman, I represent the views of the whole parish council, and again, in reference to the subject of the Chairman's comments in the last Newsletter, the whole Parish Council, was of the view that the application referred to was completely in conflict with national and local planning policies, and should therefore be refused.

As far as the bridge closure is concerned, there are inevitably some difficult choices to be made, and everyone will have to adopt to a greater or lesser degree. The rearrangement of the bus service but users should still be able to use it to get to and from Reading. The Pangbourne Surgery is also planning to provide a once or twice weekly surgery in Whitchurch Village Hall, which is expected to include a facility to collect repeat prescriptions.

Peter Dragonetti

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Reading - Pangbourne - Whitch

Draft timetable - Whitchurch Bridge Closure

September 2013 - April 2014

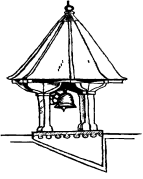
Mondays to Saturdays

142	142	142	142
TT	TT	TT	TT

Anti-clockwise circuit

M-F	SAT
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Reading Bus Station	09.00	11.00
<i>Chazey Heath</i>	09.10	11.10
<i>Cane End</i>	09.13	11.13
Checkendon Post Office arrive	09.20	11.20
Checkendon Post Office depart	07.25	07.25	09.25	11.25
Exlade Street , Highwayman	09.30	11.30
Goring Heath, Post Office	09.35	11.35
Woodcote, War Memorial	07.30	07.30	09.40	11.40
Crays Pond, White Lion	07.35	07.35	09.45	11.45
Hill Bottom, Sun P.H.	07.38	07.38	09.48	11.48
Whitchurch on Thames, Manor Road	07.43	07.43	09.53	11.53
<i>Crays Pond, crossroads</i>	07.53	07.53	10.03	12.03
<i>Goring, High Street</i>	08.00	08.00	10.10	12.10
<i>Streatley, Bull</i>	08.03	08.03	10.13	12.13
<i>Lower Basildon, Wall Park Lane</i>	08.06	08.06	10.16	12.16
Pangbourne, Police Station	08.12	08.12	10.22	12.22
Purley, Post Office	08.16	08.15	10.25	12.25
Tilehurst, Rail Station	08.24	08.18	10.30	12.30
Reading Tesco, Oxford Road	08.32	08.23	10.35	12.35
Reading Bus Station	08.47	08.31	10.43	12.43



Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No 1056772

Goring Heath Parish Hall

Saturday October 19th

7.30pm - 10.30pm

Jones and Jacobs Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers

An Evening with Simon Jones

*Come along with a treasure or two and let Simon
tell you their history and value them for you.*

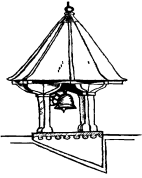
Tickets £10, includes a light supper

To book your tickets

Phone 0118 9842056

Or

E-mail bnt@waitrose.com



Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No 1056772

Goring Heath Parish Hall
Saturday November 2nd
7.30pm

MOONRAKERS

Moonrakers are four consummate musicians playing harp, fiddle, whistles, guitar, Irish bouzouki and female/male vocals. The group specialises in Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English traditional and contemporary tunes and songs, presenting "exquisite music" (BBC). They are rapidly creating a buzz in the world of acoustic music, with three albums receiving glowing reviews in the music press ("Just OOZES quality"- Living Tradition; "highly infectious"- Maverick) and appearances at many festivals, arts centres and churches in the South. This "fine organic collection of apt musicianship" (Earbuzz) displays "a true respect for the British folk tradition" (eMusic).

To read more about the Moonrakers, go to www.moonrakers.net

Tickets £10 including refreshments

To book your seats, contact 0118 9842056

Or email bnt@waitrose.com



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 **OXFORD AERIALS**

Whitchurch & Goring History Society

After our summer afternoon outing to Huntercombe Place and our summer evening historical walk around Benson - both blessed with fine weather - it is time to start the autumn lecture season.

We welcome Alan Turton on Thursday 19th September to talk to us about the life of an English Civil War soldier. Alan is an authority on the civil war, has appeared on many television documentaries and written extensively on the subject. Until recently he was curator of Basing House. Starting at 8pm, this is an evening not to be missed, as we are promised an intimate account - from boots to hat and all in-between - to bring the world of the seventeenth century soldier alive. Dressing up possibly involved. Many battles and excursions took place around South Oxfordshire, with sieges at Wallingford and Reading, and the Duck Street battle at Henley, so our ancestors would have been involved and called on to supply horses and food.

On October 17th we meet at the same time and place for an evening of short talks. Why not come along and join in the discussions of the history of the villages? We'll find out about the Polish encampment at Coombe Lodge, pick out some passages from the diary of Caroline Lybbe Powys from the eighteenth century and hear the result of members' researches.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month either at Goring Heath Parish Hall or at Whitchurch Village Hall. Coffee served from 7.30pm and we welcome non-members.

Please contact **Vicky Jordan** on 01189 843260 or vickyjordan5@hotmail.com.

Newsletter delivery

If anyone can spare some time to deliver 24 copies of the newsletter, six times a year, please get in touch with Theresa on 0118 984 2056 or bnt@waitrose.com.



September
www.goringh

The 100-year story of Flint House

The Police Rehabilitation Centre for 25 years

Situated on the Reading Road between Goring and Crays Pond, and set in 14 acres of gardens and woodland, Flint House has been through many changes since it was built in 1913. To mark its centenary, the Police Rehabilitation Centre – which has occupied the property for 25 years – has set up a special centenary display in the house featuring old photos and documents, historical notes and screen graphics.

Visitors will be able to inspect this display, as well as the extensive resources for treating police officers following injury or accident, when the Centre has another Open Day on Saturday, 14 September, as described below.

60,000 police officers treated

The Police Rehabilitation Centre, which is a registered charity managed by a Board of Trustees, has its own history going back 120 years. (*See article in GGN May 2012*). Flint House was acquired for the Centre in 1985 and, following extensive re-development, was officially opened in 1988. Further extensions and refurbishment followed, and new rooms added last August bring the total to 158.

Following a visit by the Home Secretary, Theresa May, last July a Home Office Grant was made available for further improvements. These include a new dining room with special service counter features to facilitate access for wheelchair users, improvements to décor and added security measures. A former lounge has been converted to another treatment room to meet the increased number of patients that can now be accommodated.

In the past year alone, the Centre has treated almost 4,000 sick or injured police officers of all ranks, and over the 25 years at Flint House the total admitted for rehabilitation treatment approaches 60,000. A visit from the Care Quality Commission in May (then under the new management) confirmed that the Centre meets the highest standards of care.

State-of-the-art equipment

The most advanced equipment is in use to suit the wide range of

treatments. A recent installation is a revolutionary anti-gravity rehabilitation treadmill, the AlterG. This employs unique differential air pressure technology developed by NASA to provide safe and comfortable partial weight bearing therapy while promoting normal gait patterns.

Visit Flint House Open Day – Saturday, 14 September

See the advanced facilities at the Centre, enjoy the beautiful gardens, then take tea in comfortable lounges or on the terrace. You will be welcomed by the Chairman, Daphne Priestley OBE and the Chief Executive, Commander Tom McAuslin RN and his staff. Attendance is 'By Invitation Only' so that numbers are known in advance. Just phone (01491) 874499 or email: enquiries@flinthouse.co.uk with your name and address by Friday 30 August, and an invitation will be sent to you.

Some Flint House highlights

- ◆ Architect-designed and built in 1913; the building materials included flints discovered on site during the excavations.
- ◆ After the First World War the house was let, and finally sold by the owner in 1925 for £25,000 to recoup his losses during the slump of 1921.
- ◆ The new owner, Mr CH Whittington, travelled to London to work every weekday. He carried out some additional building work and improvements. The Whittingtons, who had three children, enjoyed a comfortable and sociable lifestyle at Flint House. Staff at one time comprised a butler, cook, gardener and under gardener, a chauffeur, one kitchen maid, two housemaids, and a lady's maid.
- ◆ The local Scouts were allowed to use the rounds, and a fête held there raised funds for a new Scout hut in Goring.
- ◆ When the Second World War started in 1939, evacuated children from South London were accommodated. Later, part of the house was used by the Red Cross as a convalescent home for war wounded servicemen. Mrs Whittington was an active VAD and Commandant, and volunteers came from Goring village to help.
- ◆ After the war the house returned to private occupation. Mr Wittington died in 1961, and the house and estate were put up for

sale. An auction in May 1962 attracted only two bidders, both speculators, and the property sold for a knockdown £50,000.



- ◆ From 1963-1966 the house was used as a small independent school. Eventually, Flint House became the property of the Water Industry Training Board who added some study/bedrooms. When the Board was dissolved the property defaulted to the Thames Water Authority who had no immediate use for it, and it remained empty for some time.
- ◆ Mrs Whittington died in 1980, aged 98, still receiving cards and letters from appreciative former servicemen.
- ◆ In April 1985 Flint House and its surrounding land were purchased by the Police Convalescent Management Committee, and a new chapter began in the story of the old mansion. Today, there is a staff of over 100 working at the house, many of them local people, and the Centre is a part of Goring life.

Tony Burton

This article has been reproduced with the kind permission of the Editor of the Goring Gap News.

Helping hapless hedgehogs

We are ecologists based at the University of Reading, currently conducting a project examining the possible impact of road networks on hedgehog populations. It is estimated that hedgehog populations in some parts of the UK have declined by approximately 20% in the last 20 years, and one possible factor contributing to this decline is the fragmentation effect of major roads on hedgehog populations i.e. hedgehogs avoid crossing these major roads, leading to populations becoming more and more isolated from one another, which potentially makes them more vulnerable to other factors.

For this study, we are looking to obtain genetic samples from hedgehogs in a zone approximately 10 miles north and south of the M4 between Bristol and Reading. One source of these genetic samples is the bodies of hedgehogs that have been killed on the roads. As many hedgehogs now seem to be living in and around villages, we are hoping to enlist the help of people living in this study zone by getting them to report any sightings they have of dead hedgehogs so that we can collect the remains and take a small tissue sample for our analyses.

Therefore, would it be possible for you to broadcast this request to people living in and around Goring, Goring Heath and Whitechurch Hill through your community group and any other means you feel able?

To report any sightings, please get in touch via this email:
hedgehogs@reading.ac.uk

If you would like any more information please do not hesitate to contact Ben on b.williams@pgr.reading.ac.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you.

THAMES VALLEY POLICE UPDATE

A common complaint over the past two months from a neighbourhood policing angle has been the use of motorcycles in woodland areas and on foot paths. We have had several incidents reported in the Goring Heath area. To combat this the team and I have issued section 59 warnings to several offenders.

Art and Craft Exhibition 2013
The Whitchurch Society

Saturday 16th November 2013

Whitchurch Village Hall

(Entries submitted on Friday 15th November)

Rules can be found at www.whitchurchonthames.com
(Village Groups/Whitchurch Society)

The theme for the Joyce Voysey prize is “Wild & Free”

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A section 59 warning lasts for twelve months, if the offender receives another warning within those twelve months the police are then able to seize the offenders vehicle.

Section 59 warnings are a very effective way of preventing the anti social use of motor vehicles and I have recently received some positive feedback from a couple of local residents stating that since the warnings have been issued the number of incidents have decreased.

On a different note, as of next month I will be leaving my role in the Henley sector and taking up a different role within Thames Valley Police. My successor will be PCSO Mark Bell. Mark has worked in the area for several years and has a wealth of experience in dealing with the policing issues that generally effect the Goring Heath, Woodcote and Goring areas. Mark's email address is mark.bell@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Nick Glass, C9349
Police Community Support Officer
Henley Sector

Oxfordshire councils challenge fly tippers

A toilet, several sofas and bags of raw meat are just some of the things councils across Oxfordshire have had to clear up from bring bank sites in the last few months, as fly tippers continue to blight community facilities. The bill for removing waste tipped at the sites, typically located on housing estates or in supermarket car parks, reached over a huge £100,000 last year, and councils are clamping down on this illegal practice. Enforcement Officers will be making regular visits to sites to ensure they are being used correctly and using covert CCTV cameras to catch offenders.

Councillor David Dodds, Chair of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership said “we provide local bring banks to help residents recycle items that can't fit into their recycling boxes or bins at home. Unfortunately some people are abusing this service and leaving behind items which can't be recycled, costing us a huge amount to clear up every year. Often business waste is also tipped at the sites, which are provided for householders only.”

District councils provide bulky waste collection services for large electrical items and furniture, and there are 7 Household Waste Recycling Centres across

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the county that accept a wide range of materials for recycling and disposal. For more information on these services and waste management in Oxfordshire visit www.oxfordshirewaste.gov.uk.

If the containers at a bring bank are full or if you witness fly tipping please report it:

Cherwell District Council: 01295 227003

Oxford City Council: 01865 249811

South Oxfordshire District Council: 03000 610 610

Vale of White Horse District Council: 03000 610 610

West Oxfordshire District Council: 01993 861020



Oxfordshire Waste Partnership

Your Local Councils working together to improve your environment



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Wild about plants

Wild plant charity Plantlife (www.plantlife.org.uk), are hoping to reach out to many wild plant enthusiasts and nature lovers by inviting them to become wild plant 'pioneers' and subscribe to a free quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants via the 'Wild About Plants' project website - www.wildaboutplants.org.uk.

The May e-bulletin is out now and the August issue being written as we speak! The Wild About Plants team deliver Plantlife's outreach programme and work to help people reconnect with the outdoors and their local greenspaces. Working with schools, families and communities from all walks of life and with fantastic free downloadable resources, the team hope to engage people with the nature on their doorstep. In recent years subscribers have been asked to record the plant life in their local area and recount what they used to see/pick and forage for.

Plantlife have just launched "Flowers on the Edge" their annual road-verges campaign. They are asking communities to record how their road verges are looking this summer by taking photos and sending in stories.

The Wild About Plants team Wild About Plants is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. It is a partnership project involving partner organisations throughout the country.

Almshouses Bowls Club

We had an enjoyable afternoon playing against Pangbourne Bowls Club at their home green on Saturday 6th July. The scores were 74 points to Pangbourne and 63 points to Almshouses.

On Wednesday 10th July we played against Trentham's Bowls Club at their home green. The scores were Trentham's 83 points to Almshouses 55 points.

We played away at Shiplake Bowls Club on Wednesday 17th July and the score was Shiplake 85 points to Almshouses 47 points.

On Saturday 20th July we played at our home green against Burghfield Bowls Club and our luck changed, as the scores were Burghfield 41 points to Almshouses 70 points.

We played Caversham Bowls Club at their home green with a very tight result of Caversham 61 points to Almshouses 64 points. David Watson played his first match of the season and did very well.

We have unfortunately had a lot of our members unable to play all this season and would like to wish Colin, Chris, Ray, Simon and Ken well and look forward to having them back again next year.

We played our Triples in house match on Sunday 4th August which was a close result. The winners were Daphne, Derek and Peter.

On Friday 9th August we went on our Bowlaway weekend to Bournemouth and had good weather, friendly matches and lots of fun.

We have enjoyed playing all the matches and sadly have not been able to have a rematch with Goring. We have just three matches left to play plus our in house 'Richards Day' match in memory of Richard Abbott, who was a very respected and much loved Captain.

Ian Gair, who is the Warden of the Almshouses, has very kindly ensured that the green is watered regularly and the result is the best it has ever been, for which we are very grateful.

Sandra Chapman

www.almshousesbowlsclub.org.uk



10 reasons to refurbish an older home

Is it worth the hassle refurbishing an older home to make it much more energy efficient? Here are 10 reasons why it may feel like the healthy option:

1. Other people's fuel bills go up, yours go down. So you don't dread those winter bills.
2. Your house value is increased, so you are financially better off.¹
3. Your home is future-proofed against increasingly scarce energy supply, so you get peace of mind.
4. Mould growth is reduced or eliminated, so you breathe better.
5. Draught stripping and double glazing insulate you against external noise, so your home is more peaceful.
6. Double glazing increases your security.
7. Draughts are reduced, so you feel warmer and more comfortable.
8. Your home stays warm 24/7, reducing chances of illness. And because all the rooms are warm, you can use all your home.
9. Your home produces less environmentally damaging emissions, helping protect the planet and your kids.
10. Your home is insulated against summer sun, so it need no longer overheat.

Happy days!

To find out more about refurbishing an older home, visit
www.superhomes.org.uk



After refurbishment enjoy the comfort as well as the savings

Photo courtesy of www.superhomes.org.uk

COMPUTER TUITION FOR THE OVER 50's

Silver Surfers Inspire4Life is a group of volunteers who provide 1:1 tuition for the over 50's who

- ♦ Wish to learn how to use a computer or
- ♦ Wish to improve their computer skills

We are offering a 12 week course for **Complete Beginners** followed by the **Beginners Refresher** course for a total cost of £25.

Each session is for 1 hour on Thursday mornings starting on 9th January to 27th March 2014, from 10 – 11 am and from 24th April to 10th July 2014

All other courses consist of 6 x 1 hour sessions which take place on Thursday mornings in Purley on Thames at a cost of £25.

The courses covering all abilities are as follows

Complete Beginners –for people who have little or no computer skills; also gives an introduction to the internet

Beginners Refresher – to brush up and practice computer skills and gain more confidence

Taking Control of your PC – more advanced course to improve skills including how and where to save files and how to find them *Course dates from 14.11.13 to 19.12.13 at 11.30am to 12.30pm.*

Microsoft Word 7 – covering all aspects of the program including letter and documentation creation. *Course dates 14.11.13 to 19.12.13 at 10 to 11 am and 20.02.14 to 27.03.14 at 11.30 – 12.30*

Digital photography for Beginners – including how to take better pictures and how to transfer them onto your computer. *Course dates 03.10.13 to 07.11.13 at 10 to 11 am*

Refresher Photography – follows on from the previous course and teaches how to improve photographs using software such as Adobe Photoshop Elements. *Course dates 09.01.14 to 13.02.14 at 11.30 to 12.30*

For more information contact Suz Harper: Tel: 0118 941 5244 (11:00 – 16:00 weekdays only). E-mail: courses@inspire4life.me.uk or see website www.inspire4life.me.uk

COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Anne Ducker 01491 836169 Pearl Slatter 0118 984 5021
Council Offices: Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8HG 01491 823000
www.southoxon.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Dave Sexon, 3 Rivacres, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7QP 0118 984 4236
davesexon@yahoo.co.uk

Council Offices: County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND, 01865 792422
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

POLICE Wallingford Police Station 01235 512929
POLICE PEC – Non-Emergency Calls 101
POTHOLE 0845 310 1111

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 a copy could be submitted to me as a document attachment to email and sent to tim@tpking.me.uk Ed

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
10th October 2013	November 2013
12th December 2013	January 2014
13th February 2014	March 2014
10th April 2014	May 2014
12th June 2014	July 2014
14th August 2014	September 2014

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LOCAL GROUPS

Almshouses Bowls Club	Maureen Jones	01491 681872
Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494 764149
Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides	Doreen Pechey	01491 681236
Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club	John Bridgens	0118 9842682
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491 575205
RG8 Badminton Club	Chris Uden	01491 681263
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (S.O.A.G.)	Nancy Nichols	0118 978 7829
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Joe Griffin	07930 411660
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Chair: Sue Matthews	0118 984 4489
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association	David Robinson	0118 984 4142
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	0118 984 2162
Woodcote Volunteers (Office Hours 9.30—11am)	Janet Crowther	01491 681171
Yoga	Sarah Dixon	0118 984 4262

Goring Heath Parish Hall : Bookings and Enquiries: Theresa Elsome 0118 984 2056
 email: bnt@waitrose.com