

March 2014

Visit us at: www.goringheath.com

Forthcoming Events
GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall
WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

March 2014

3rd OWL AGM	WL
13th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
15th Quiz Night	GHPH
20th History Society	WVH
28th HowdenJones in Concert	GHPH

April 2014

5th Spring Show	GHPH
10th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
17th History Society	WVH

May 2014

2nd Twinning Visit	
8th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
16th SIA Fish and Chip Supper	

24th Whitchurch Hill Fête Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground

June 2014

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

We are lucky that, with the exception of some bigger puddles in the road than usual, we have been spared the flooding directly, although the prolonged closure of the bridge and other travel disruptions will have affected many people. The weather is something we can't do much about directly, but perhaps we could all do more to reduce our impact on the environment.

All too often, if we do something better for the environment, it is usually good for us too as individuals. Walk or cycle more, drive less, and it improves your health; join in the litter blitz, and you get to know your neighbours, as well having a bit of exercise and getting that warm glow from having done a good deed.

Many people have joined in the actions around "saving" the White Lion and the garden of the Sun, and we are currently awaiting the outcome of planning decisions by SODC. It seems that the odds are stacked against us, as like the weather, we are up against forces that we cannot direct or control.

Peter Dragonetti Chairman

Bus News

There have been several incidents recently when the bus service has not run properly. On 21st December, it failed to operate at all, leaving many people waiting first for one service and then later for the next one, neither of which appeared. For some local passengers, this was particularly traumatic. As the 21 December was a Saturday, the Thames Travel office in Wallingford was closed so could not be contacted by telephone.

As our bus service is subsidised by the County Council, Thames Travel has obligations to run a proper service, and in a letter to a resident who suffered on 21 December, the County Council officer has written that if the service does not run the cost of a substitute taxi can be claimed from Thames Travel. This letter is published on our web site, www.goringheath.com, together with the timetable and how to get a bus pass.





Planning DecisionsThe 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/S2912/FUL Sun Inn Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PU Erection of a single dwelling with associated landscaping and new vehicular access.	Should be refused	
P13/S3032/FUL Copyhold Farm Lady Grove Goring Heath RG8 7RT Demolition of existing agricultural workshop building and erection of an agricultural workshop building	No strong views	Permission
P13/S3252/FUL Hawthorn House Deadmans Lane Goring Heath RG8 7RX Erection of replacement dwelling.	No strong views	Permission
P13/S3366/FUL The Oratory Preparatory School Great Oaks Goring Heath RG8 7SF Change of use and retention of existing headmasters house and conversion to Special Educations Needs department	No strong views	Permission
P13/S2840/FUL Lubricants UK Ltd Technology Centre Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR Building J alterations and first floor extension (amended plan received 18th October 2013 and additional information received 1st November 2013 and amended plan received 8th November 2013).	No strong views	Permission
P13/S3535/FUL Copyhold Farm Lady Grove Goring Heath RG8 7RT Change of use of one bay of an existing barn and workshop to a furniture workshop.	Should be refused	Permission
P13/S3862/FUL 4 Airey House Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR Erection of a two storey 5-bedroom detached house and attached double garage (resubmission).	Should be refused	
P13/S3929/HH Westholme Barn Bunces Lane Goring Heath RG8 7RH Single storey rear extension	No Strong Views	Permission
P13/S3934/FUL White Lion Goring Road Crays Pond Oxon RG8 7SH Change of use from A4 (public house) to C3 (residential).(as amplified by drawings & Viability Assessment accompanying email from Agent dated 21 January 2014)	Should be refused	

Premises and application details	Parish Council	S.O.D.C.
P14/S0234/HH 8 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Part garage conversion to habitable space and erection of a first floor extension.		

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.

Litter Blitz 2014

This year our Litter Blitz will be on Saturday, 15th March. The format is as usual; please meet at Crays Pond, Goring Heath Old Post Office and Hill Bottom cross roads at 10.00 am. Please wear gloves and good footwear. We will provide litter bags, litter pickers and a number of high visibility jackets.

Expectations were that with the closure of the bridge there would be less litter on the road down to the river from Crays Pond, but that does not seem to be the case.

There is currently a proposal in parliament that registered owners of vehicle would be liable for littering, as it is currently virtually impossible to identify and prosecute who ever it is who throws stuff out of the window. I have asked John Howell MP to support the amendment that the Lords made to the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill 2013-14 that would bring this change into law.

Whatever the weather, whatever the litter, please join in with this community project for nor more than a couple of hours to help make our countryside that little bit cleaner, at the same time meeting or renewing your acquaintance with your neighbours.

Peter Dragonetti



GORING HEATH PARISH HALL SATURDAY 15TH MARCH

&PM

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Goring Heath Parish Charity Regd. No 1056772

howdenjones in Concert



'Beautiful Music in Beautiful Places' Tour 2014

At Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7NY Friday 28th March 2014 7pm for 7.30pm.

Creating their 'beautiful music in beautiful places' Tour, Kate and Paul have been sharing their music and stories, often meeting friendly, fascinating people and visiting some wonderful, unusual venues in sometimes remote and always beautiful areas along the way. They write about life and their observations of it, often poignant, sometimes humorous, and gathering new material as they travel, they captivate an audience in a unique intimate atmosphere. Their show has been described as, 'relaxed and enchanting' and 'an absolute delight', 'their joy, talent and good humour were infectious'. 'music for all ages 'With a variety of instruments including, guitar, fiddle, mandolin, bodhran and banjo, superb harmonies and great musicianship, howdenjones will promise to give you a foot tapping and thought provoking evening with plenty of smiles!

You can hear examples of howdenjones music by visiting www.howdenjones.co.uk

Drinks and refreshments - Tickets £10 each from 01189842056

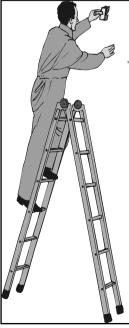
The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club

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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Goring Heath Parish Charity Regd. No 1056772

SPRING SHOW

Goring Heath Parish Hall Saturday 5th April 2014

Open to the Public 2.30 - 4.00 pm

Competition classes include Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, Flower Arranging, Eggs, Art, Handicrafts, Photography, Baking and Preserves and a Class for Children up to 12 years

* Raffle * Refreshments * Plant Sale *

For schedules and entry forms contact

Liz Gibson 01189 842012 Rosamund Heath 01189 842358 Ann Lewis 01189 842377 Sue Sexon 01189 844236 Helen Willis 01189 843620

Or download an entry form from www.goringheath.com

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LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club





Charitable Trust Number 1131754

info@lions-gwd.org.uk " www.lions-gwd.org.uk (0845 833 9837

PRESS RELEASE

When the going gets tough

The Lions 30th Annual 10k Charity Road Run on Sunday 5th January took place during a dry window of weather with 87 people registering on the day and just over 250 runners in total. Quite a large number of runners who had registered in advance failed to take part.

Race winner Jake Shelley completed the course over 2 minutes ahead of Charlie Pearson who was also runner up in the race last year.

Goring Estate Agent Bob Warmingham, was the main sponsor, the official starter and also presented the race trophies. Other sponsors were Halarose, JRS Services and Bouchier Fencing, all of Woodcote; Woodborough House Dental Practice of Pangbourne; Johnson Matthey of Sonning Common; and the Boathouse Surgery of Goring.

The official photographer Denis Chapman has photographs of all runners available to download from his website www.denischapman.co.uk

Sponsorship monies are still being received, but this tough event is thought to have raised more than £2,000 for the Alzheimer's Society despite lower numbers taking part than in previous years. Lion President Alan Lovegrove said "Generally, it went very well. Obviously the numbers were a bit disappointing but that was partly due to the weather. Quite a few runners cancelled at the last minute."

"The run was supposed to happen next Sunday but the hall was not available so we had to hold it much closer to Christmas than we usually do, but the rain did hold off whilst the run took place and despite some large puddles we haven't had any complaints about the course."

Volunteers from several other local clubs and organisations helped the Lions maintain the enjoyment, safety and efficacy of this annual event. They include Scouts & Guides, Rotary and 41 Clubs of Goring & Caversham, and all were very much appreciated. A team from St John Ambulance provided first aid cover, but thankfully no injuries were reported.

If you would like more details about the Lions please e-mail: info@lions-gwd.org.uk

Whitchurch & Goring History Society

Thursday March 20th is the date for our evening of exploration of the Polish Camp. Anna Szczeponec and Peter Hawley will fill in the gaps in our knowledge, and there could be a distinctly Polish flavour to the refreshments.

Thursday April 17th sees Nigel Adams explaining the history of hedgerows and how they are managed today.

Both meetings at Whitchurch Village Hall at 8pm. Coffee served from 7.30pm Visitors welcome, £2, including coffee.

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

Whitchurch Hill Fête - volunteers wanted

The organisers of the Whitchurch Hill Fête are looking for a few more people willing to help run this very successful fête. Please contact:- 07802 794168 or 0118 984 2056.

Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute

Whitchurch Hill W.I. members enjoyed a survey of their local history when Vicky Jordan came to talk to them at their January meeting. Her talk ranged from the Anglo -Saxons (only post holes remaining) through the Medieval period (pottery remains) and on to the Tudors, touching on the Normans (Bec Tithe used to send its taxes to the Abbey of Bec near Rouen) and almost to the present day.

January also saw a Social Afternoon Tea held at a member's house being attended by most members who enjoyed tea with homemade cakes and the chance to relax and chat. Members are also looking forward to a trip to St Botolph's 11th Century Church in Swyncombe for Snowdrop Sunday in February.

Nearly all members have sent in their votes for the Resolution to be placed before the National AGM in June this year, with a choice of four it will be interesting to see where the WI will place its not-inconsiderable muscle this year.

Our programme for the coming year – 2014-15 – will also include some interesting speakers on a variety of subjects, as well as an additional monthly opportunity to enjoy social events, outings, pub lunches and walks, or visits to places of interest.

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

Patricia M. Dent

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

An invitation for you to join us on our visit to La Bouille, our pretty twinned town in Normandy

Our luxury coach will depart on Friday May 2nd for a weekend of French culture and hospitality

This year, in addition to the customary welcome evening by the mayor and the private dinner parties, we shall make two very interesting visits.

ARROMANCHES

In the 70th anniversary year of D-Day and the battle of Normandy we visit Arromanches where the allies built mulberry harbours to land troops and supplies. Models, videos and diorama bring to life the achievement of taking 600,000 tonnes of concrete and supplies across the channel, and of the battles fought on the beaches.

BAYEUX

Bayeux, where the tapestry, a wool embroidery on linen, tells the story of another conquest, by the Duke of Normandy in 1066. The audio guide tells the story, and the original retains the naughty bits which our copy in Reading leaves out!

Dates May 2nd morning returning May 5th evening

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Road Works

There have been two sets of road works on the B471 between Hill Bottom Cross roads and the entrance to the Oratory Prep. First BT, under its Open Reach brand, laid ducting so that an alternative fibre optic connection could be made in due course to BP.

This was filling the gap between the 0118 numbers with Pangbourne exchange and the 01491 numbers with Woodcote Exchange (known as Checkendon); this has been followed by the replacing of the existing steel gas main with plastic.

The gas work started in Hill Bottom, where the new main is being pulled through a hole that is being drilled horizontally. The ground is very variable, and the drilling machine broke down in Hill Bottom because of the large stones it came across, and the gang has had to switch to doing the main road to co-ordinate with the Pipeline Agency who are responsible for the oil pipeline that runs along the road.

Apparently while the gas line is being drilled there has to be someone from the Pipeline Agency on site to make sure they don't hit the oil line. In due course they will be back in Hill Bottom.

Our Woodcote Library (OWL)

The Annual General Meeting takes place at the library at 7.30pm on Monday $3^{\rm rd}$ March.

We expect to hold public meetings later in the year to recruit volunteers.

Vicky Jordan

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.

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Testimonial from Max's Mum.

Should we be burning wood, gas or coal?

Fracking has support in government and here's a possible reason. According to the government's statistics, North Sea gas production is in rapid decline, falling by nearly two thirds since 2000. In 2012 year we imported about 4 times more gas than we exported, mostly from Norway and Qatar. Of the electricity we used in 2012, 39% started life as coal, 28% as gas, 19% as nuclear and 11% renewables. A rise in wholesale gas prices saw energy suppliers switching back to coal. Yet, the government wants CO₂ down 80% by 2050.

What's to do? 27% of UK CO₂ emissions come from our homes. We all need electricity and winter warmth. Fracking could be an answer, although the film Gasland points to potential downsides. What options do homeowners have? Some are switching to a 100% renewable electricity tariff. Others are generating their own electricity and hot water with solar panels. Some are even using waste wood for space heating. The most determined are reducing their home's space heating requirement, so insulating themselves from future energy price hikes.

To find out more about these low carbon trailblazers, visit www.superhomes.org.uk.



SuperHomers Paul and Celia Sousek have reduced their fossil fuel use to near zero. Photo courtesy of www.superhomes.org.uk

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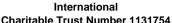
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PRESS RELEASE

Lions give to Scouts

By way of thanks and appreciation in return for help provided by Goring Heath Scouts, Guides and Beavers during two recent local fund raising events the Lions Club of Goring, Woodcote & District have just donated them a total of £500.

At a Scout meeting on Tuesday evening 28th January Group Scout Leader Ruth Hubbard received a cheque from Lion President Alan Lovegrove.

In thanking Lions on behalf of the Scouts, Guides and Beavers Ruth Hubbard said, "Various Beaver Parents and I enjoyed helping the Lions, acting as Santa's Elves, during the Lions pre-Christmas tour of local villages. The Scouts and Guides had a great time supporting the Lions' Charity 10k Run on the 5th January. It was certainly a bit parky at our half-way watering station, but the Scouts loved it. The Guides also enjoyed running their water station at the finish."

£100 of the money donated by the Lions is being used by the Scouts to help fund a trip to the Reading Climbing Wall. The Guides are using £100 towards a new camping tent and the balance, including £200 awarded to the Beavers will be set aside to help pay for re-surfacing the driveway and paving an area surrounding the Scout Hut at Crays Pond. The current cost for completing this work is estimated to be £15,000 so a lot more funds are still needed.

There are currently about 22 Scouts, 20 Guides, 24 Brownies & Cubs and 20 Beavers at Goring Heath. Ruth said "Goring Heath is a thriving group, with a strong and dedicated leadership team and executive committee, but there is a large waiting list of youngsters wanting to join the Group. We are always in need of additional volunteer adult leaders and committee members, whose children gain priority on the waiting lists; without adult volunteers there is no Scouting."

If you are able to help or would like more information please contact Ruth Hubbard on telephone: 01491 681391

The Lions Club are also looking for more members and if you would like more information please call Alan Wright on 0845 833 9837 or view the website: www.lions-gwd.org.uk



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The CONSUMER PARTNERSHIP in OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire's CABs go orange!

January 2014 saw several advice agencies and housing associations in our county go orange as Big Energy Saving Week 2014 took hold. In Abingdon, Banbury, Oxford, and Witney at least 30 volunteers helped to pass on key messages in shopping centres and libraries – to check, switch, insulate, or just use less energy. This raises the CEP's game in Oxfordshire to a whole new level. Wait till we reach May, which is – as last year - Scams Awareness Month...!

We were particularly glad to be able to work closely with the Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Network; they joined us at Abingdon market, Witney library and Banbury's Castle Quay shopping centre.

Are "Work Capability Assessments" fit for work?

We now turn our attention to the consumer aspects of a new campaign called **#FitforWork** around the Work Capability Assessments required for certain benefits. The Consumer Partnership's interest in this campaign lies in the fact that people are paying for compulsory medical evidence from private firms, but these companies are unaccountable for poor quality or bad customer service. In preparation we are carrying out a survey of GPs.

May will be Scams Awareness month

Then, with the number of scams multiplying, May will once again be Scams Awareness Month. One recent scam was adverts for non-existent jobs, which wasted applicants' time, money and emotion, just in the hope that they might also click on a CV-writing service for which the scammer would be paid a pound! You will all have your pet examples. We would love to have yet more helpers throughout Oxfordshire for our May campaign: can you help to raise awareness in your local library, church or sports club?

Get in touch through www.caox.org.uk/consumer or call David on 01865 304125.

What is the CEP? The Consumer Partnership brings together a network of all Oxfordshire's CABs, Trading Standards, and a range of other advice agencies and support groups, housing associations, consumer bodies, Victim Support, etc. Based at Oxford CAB and managed by David Soward, the **Consumer Empowerment Partnership** (to give it its full name) came into being in June 2012 and is funded Citizens Advice nationally who in turn receive funding for this purpose by BIS.



"Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury"

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 16th May 2014

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16th May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40^{th} anniversary and so we want to make the batter matter and raise £25,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk



Langtree School

Langtree School has a great history of opening its doors to the community, and as a result we would like to offer more to our local residents. What do you as our community want? Are you interested in art classes, adult literacy, adult numeracy, ICT, zumba, yoga, pilates, body pump, what else? Are you a teacher / trainer who has the skills to offer a class to our community?

Did you know that Langtree School is available to hire? The sports hall, the main hall with the stage is perfect for shows and performances. There are other spaces of various sizes around school that are ideal for all sorts of other events. If you have a request or an idea for a course or would like to hire the school facilities, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Furthermore, our Senior Citizens Lunch Club sadly ceased to run about 2 years ago, but at our Christmas Party in December several of our guests expressed a wish for its return. The school is currently looking at the possibility of restarting the Senior Citizens Lunch Club. Please get in touch if you are interested.

We are delighted as a school to work closely with our community, building relationships, extending and improving the activities we can offer our students and to our local residents.

Langtree School has offered our students and their parents and carers the opportunity to listen to guest speakers, and we would now like to open these events to you, watch this space. Could you or someone you know offer us a lecture? In the past we have be able to listen to Anthony

Jones from Microsoft who spoke to us about internet safety, Professor Sir Brian Hosking – internationally renowned climatologist, Professor Andy Kempe drama course leader at Reading University and Jo McGuiness from Cancer Research UK.

Please get in touch if you would like to hire a school space, would like to hire a space to run an event, can offer an extracurricular class, would be interested in joining the lunch club, would like to ask a question or make a suggestion.

Contact: Mary Taylor-Lane, Community Coordinator.

Email: community@langtreeschool.com Telephone: 01491 680514 or write to me at: Langtree School. Woodcote. Reading RG8 0RA

STATEMENT BY THE WHITCHURCH BRIDGE COMPANY

Delay to the Re-opening of Whitchurch Bridge

Balfour Beatty, the main contractor for the reconstruction of Whitchurch Bridge, has informed the Whitchurch Bridge Company that it will be unable to re-open the Bridge to road traffic on the advertised date of 14th April 2014. It is now expected that the Bridge will re-open in July 2014 – the exact date will be announced later.

Although many options have been explored for recovering the time lost prior to the start of the demolition works and more recently due to the adverse river conditions, Balfour Beatty has been unable to devise a plan which will get the project back on schedule. The Whitchurch Bridge Company's project management team will continue to work collaboratively with Balfour Beatty to evaluate all opportunities for saving time during the remainder of the project.

Mike Beckley, Chairman of the Whitchurch Bridge Company, says "The Company very much regrets the inconvenience that the delay to the re-opening will cause to local residents, residents on the diversionary routes and local businesses. We will continue to press Balfour Beatty to complete the works as soon as possible". 27th January 2014.

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

Kevin Bulmer 35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY

07526 743091 kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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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.

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GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

COMMING INDITINITINI	MSH COCITOR		
CHAIRMAN Peter Dragonetti VICE-CHAIRMAN	Covert Cottage	Hill Bottom RG8 7PT	0118 984 4711
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CLERK Caroline Hadley Email: goring.heath.pa	15 Bec Tithe arish.council@googlem	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NP ail.com	0118 984 1594
GORING HEATH PARI Chairman: Bill Pe	SH CHARITY echey Jays Lodge	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 681236
GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER Editor: Tim King Greenacre Goring Road Crays Pond RG8 7SH 01491 684198 tim@tpking.me.uk			
Advertising: Nick F		ttage Goring Heath RG8 7RU al.co.uk	07900 498717
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Goring Heath Parish F		Enquiries: Theresa Elsome @waitrose.com	0118 984 2056