

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

*Public Meeting
9th April
Village Hall
8.00pm*

March 2015

144th Issue

Visit us at:

www.goringheath.com

March 2015 Goring Heath NEWS

Forthcoming Events

GPHH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

March 2015

2nd	OWL AGM	WL	
12th	Parish Council Meeting	GPHH	
13th	Marie Curie Charity Soup Lunch	GPHH	Note new date!
14th	Litter Blitz		
17th	WI AGM	GPHH	
19th	History Society	WVH	
21st	Quiz Night	GPHH	

April 2015

9th	Parish Council & Public Meetings	GPHH	
11th	Spring Gardening Show	GPHH	
16th	History Society	WVH	
21st	WI	GPHH	

May 2015

2nd-4th	Twinning Visit	GPHH	
7th	Elections	GPHH	
9-10th	Cycle Event	GPHH	
23rd	Whitchurch Hill Fête	GH	Recreation Ground

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

Precept 2015

After much discussion I pleased to report that for the 5th year in succession, the Parish Council has decided to decrease the total by £500 to £16,500 for the coming year.

We continue to hold a Reserve as per our audit requirements, and in order to find any extraordinary or unforeseen projects in the year.

Proposed Increase in tolls at Whitchurch Bridge.

The Parish Council, along with many interested parties has written to the Secretary of State for Transport to voice our opposition and ask for a Public Enquiry.

The Department has acknowledged the correspondence and we await their next step.

Litter Blitz

A simple but always effective working party for all of the parish to get involved with.

Saturday 14th March

From 10.00 to 12.00 am with a number of starting points around the parish (see article - Tim if you could give the page no) it would be great to see as many as possible lend a hand to tidy the verges of litter in our lovely parish.

Annual Public Meeting

Thursday 9th April 8.00 pm at the Parish Hall

All are welcome to attend and ask questions of all your parish councillors. With an election coming in May, what better time.

We will also be running a presentation on a project to restore the War Memorial.

**Nick Henry
Chairman**

THE BESPOKE APPROACH

Pilates and Yoga

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Tuesday Evenings

Next block of Pilates classes starts 10 March
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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.
P14/S3493/O Land adjoining Woodlands Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Outline application for erection of a chalet bungalow.	No strong Views	Outline Planning Permission
P14/S3777/HH Oakwood House Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PN Alterations and extensions to dwelling to include 2 storey rear extension with existing dormer alterations.	No Strong Views	Permission
P14/S3726/HH Hurst Cottage Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PL Single and two storey extension and rebuild of single storey kitchen extension.	No Strong Views	Permission
P14/S3480/FUL Woodlands Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR Proposed erection of a Code 5 dwelling with associated parking and amenity.(amendment to the design of the scheme as shown by drawings accompanying email from Agent dated 17 December 2014)	Should be refused	
P14/S3937/FUL Ivydene Crays Pond RG8 7QG Erection of two-storey three-bedroom dwelling and new access.	Should be refused	
P14/S4035/HH Briar Cottage Collins End Goring Heath RG8 7RN Single and two storey rear and side extensions and alterations.	No Strong Views	
P15/S0099/HH Hedgerows Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Proposed ground floor alterations, porch and chimney extensions and raise the roof to provide first floor accommodation.	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.

Volunteer deliverers required for this newsletter.



If you can spare some time every other month to deliver these newsletters within the parish, to other deliverers, please get in touch with Theresa Elsome who would greatly appreciate the help as she is unable to drive for the foreseeable future.

Theresa may be contacted on 0118 984 2056
or email: bnt@waitrose.com

Tai Chi and Qigong Classes

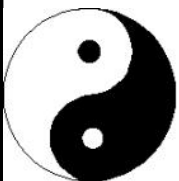
Whitchurch Hill ~ Goring ~ Streatley
and other locations

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Charity Soup Lunch

Friday 13th March

At Goring Heath Parish Hall
From 12.30 onwards

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on 0118 984 3007

These events are very popular so please call
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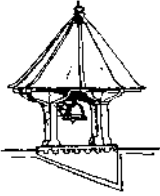
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Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No 1056772



**IT MAY BE A NEW YEAR
BUT THE "OLD" FAVOURITES
ARE THE BEST!**

MIKE HOLLAND'S QUIZ NIGHT

**Is back in
Goring Heath Parish Hall
on
Saturday 21st March
8pm**

There is plenty of time
to get a team together, so don't miss out.

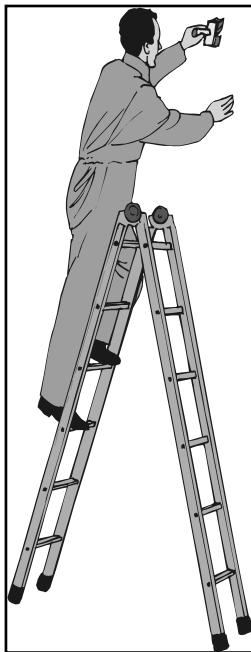
There will be food and drinks to stimulate the
brain.

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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 or more.

Salisbury, Cheltenham, Oxford, Stratford 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 £10 per annum but £8 if paid online.



Goring Heath Parish Charity Regd. No. 1056772

Goring Heath and Whitchurch

SPRING SHOW

Goring Heath Parish Hall

**Saturday
11th April 2015**

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
Sue Sexon	01189 844236
Denyse Williams	01189 841139
Helen Willis	01189 843620

Or download an entry form from

www.whitchurchonthames.com/diary.php

www.goringheath.com

Image courtesy of federico stevanin at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

March 2015 Spring Heath NEWS

Elections 7th May 2015

Along with a General Election, on the same day, there are Parish Council elections.

If you are interested in standing as a Parish Councillor and fulfil the following criteria:-

- aged 18 or over.....
- on the electoral role or resident within 3 miles of the parish
- own land or work in the parish
- are a citizen of the UK, Commonwealth, EU or Ireland
- able to attend regular evening meetings
- interested in local issues, preferably not just a single issue

....please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.



OWL (Our Woodcote Library)

Volunteers have been training at Oxford and have taken part in a welcome and orientation evening. The rota has been in operation since mid January and staff are busy training volunteers in the library so that when the new system starts on March 30th all will go smoothly.

We'd like to thank the Rally for the generous donation made to OWL, which will help to cover the incidental costs we will have and you should see the results in the library.

Our Annual General meeting will be on Monday March 2nd in the library at 7pm and we welcome all to join us.

WHITCHURCH HILL VILLAGE FETE

25 Piece Concert Band

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Barbecue

Punch & Judy

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Whitchurch on Thames Village

on the Village Green, Eastfield Lane

Fete

Saturday 29th August 2-5pm

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Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society

March 19th Bruce Smith gives an illustrated talk on Drove Roads

April 16th Elizabeth Hazeldine recounts the "Wilful murder of
Kate Laura Durgey: being an account of a murder in Henley on
Thames that ocured December 1893 which shook Victorian society".

All these meetings take place at Whitchurch Village Hall at 8pm,
coffee served from 7.30pm.

Non-members welcome as ever, £2 including coffee.

Vicky Jordan

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Crays Pond

The ecologists have completed their survey of Crays Pond and its surrounding environs.

The full report can be viewed on the website www.goringheath.com

The PC was very pleased to read that the water quality has continued to improve. as a result of the construction of the drainage swales that interrupt the flow of surface water from the road into the pond.

I will produce a synopsis of the main points of the report in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Martin Wise

Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association

This year we will be receiving a party from La Bouille over the weekend 2nd to 4th May. Everyone who would like to be involved will be very welcome. To find out more please come to our Annual General Meeting on Friday 13th February in the Old Rectory Stables at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available.

It will be over 37 years since the twinning association came together, after Tim Claxton stumbled on the pretty village by the Seine when he was on the way to Le Mans. Many friendships have grown up over these years so that the village near Rouen has become an extension of our own.

To ensure future ties we would like to involve new people from our villages. Most of us get by without a great knowledge of French, and we are on an equal footing, as most of our visitors will not have a great knowledge of English. But it seems to work.

There will be more information in later editions of the newsletters.

Vicky Jordan

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WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In our January meeting we enjoyed a talk “My Mother and the WI” – Sir Hugo Brunner spoke about his mother, Lady Brunner and her long connection with the WI. Prior to her marriage to Sir Felix Brunner, she had followed in her mother’s footsteps, and those of her father and grandfather onto the stage where she made her debut at the age of sixteen. After her marriage she devoted herself to many local causes. They lived at Greys Court, now a National Trust property where the public can enter and enjoy the atmosphere and history of the house, and the family history.

This year is the centenary of the Women’s Institute, and many events are taking place in our area, including the handover of the baton which has been travelling round the country, in April.

Our speaker programme for this current year is almost complete, and will include varied delights such as a talk from the Miller of Mapledurham, Georgian Cookery, Paintings of World War I and a session of Tai Chi.

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, except for December and August, at Goring Heath Parish Hall at 10am. Visitors are welcome, and for further information please telephone 0118 984 1696 or email : pmdent@btinternet.com

Patricia Dent

Beanpole Week 11th-19th April

Every year the Small Woods Assoc. and National Coppice Federation promote National Beanpole Week. The aim is to encourage gardeners to use locally produced coppice products for bean poles and pea sticks, thus helping to keep our woods and coppices in good management.

Local suppliers can be found by going to www.coppice-products.co.uk and following links to suppliers in South-East.

Martin Wise

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Hedge at the Parish Hall Car Park

Over the weekend at the end of January, the Parish Council, in collaboration with the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB), hosted a two day Hedge Laying training course at the Parish Hall Car Park.

The hedge, of mixed native species with standard hedgerow trees, was planted in the late 1990's and has had only minimal maintenance since then. Because of the height and thickness, it was decided to lay it in the South of England style rather than Midland, which would have been more common hereabouts. (This S of E style was more suited to sheep country rather than the Midland cattle and arable farms).

Seven trainees, and Peter Dragonetti as a volunteer, tackled an ominous challenge over the weekend and got a difficult hedge down to what is now a 'proper job'.

Myself and former Champion hedgelayer Nigel Adams were trainers and Neil Jackson of CCB an invaluable assistant.

Thanks to Mrs J. Hedgcock for accommodating the waste brush in her field, and to Jon Hatt for removing it later.

Martin Wise

Logs for Labour

Would you like free firewood, or do you have a woodland that needs managing?

The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment's "Logs for Labour" programme aims to promote sustainable use of woodfuel by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events are 2-3 hours long and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees, or piling up brush. Bring sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (hand tools only allowed)... or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers.

Information about forthcoming events is at www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk, or 'like' us at www.facebook.com/oxonwood.
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“my neighbour says Max looks like he’s smiling when he comes back from one of his walks“

Testimonial from Max’s Mum.

Residents of Henley and Didcot to benefit from new service

Oxfordshire Mind's specialist Benefits for Better Mental Health team give anyone with a mental health problem expert advice and guidance to help them navigate the complex benefits system.

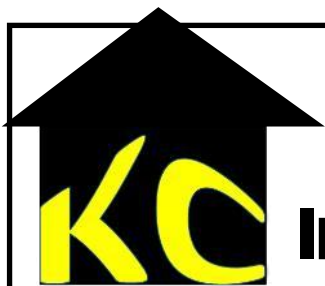
Now the Oxfordshire Mind Benefits team are working more closely with Didcot/Henley Citizens Advice Bureau, as part of the Tap-In Advice Service across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse. David Bryceland, Oxfordshire Mind's Benefits Project Service Manager, explained what the team can do to help people having problems with their benefits:

"We often get people visiting our service who are very confused about the benefits system and who are worried that their current benefits could be taken away. Our team will work one-to-one with that person to give them a thorough 'benefits health check' to make sure they are claiming everything that they're entitled to. We can explain what the letters they receive actually mean and resolve any problems they might be experiencing. We can also help them complete the right forms and make difficult phone calls.

"As we work with people with mental health problems, we have a lot of experience in helping people apply for Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payments. We also have an excellent track record of winning appeals when people have been turned down for ESA."

The Benefits team will be working out of both the Didcot CAB and Henley CAB twice every month. Anyone who has a mental health problem and would like their advice should make an appointment by either contacting their local CAB or by ringing the Benefits for Better Mental Health hotline (Mondays to Thursdays, 10am to 1pm) on 01865 243585.

In or around Henley, call Adviceline on 08444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau, which is located at 32 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AH. For opening hours, see www.caox.org.uk



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Messing about on the river

For the last 4 years volunteers have been assisting our Lock Staff on the Thames at the 45 locks along its length between Lechlade and Teddington. Now, ahead of our fifth season, we invite you to apply to become a Volunteer Assistant Lock Keeper at a lock near you.

The Environment Agency, which is navigation authority for the Thames, is now recruiting for the 2015 season and are looking for volunteers who can commit to assisting at least one day a week between May and the end of September. Volunteers can agree their days with lock keepers but need to be available from 10 to 5. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and to find out more about the Thames, its history, wildlife and management. At the same time volunteers know that they are doing something worthwhile that is really appreciated.

Our Volunteer Assistant Lock Keepers work alongside paid lock keepers. They help boats pass through the lock safely: taking ropes, directing traffic, and operating sluices and lock gates. They help maintain the site: painting, tidying and gardening. They provide information to visitors, be they on foot or afloat, so that they can make the best of their time on the river. Visitors really appreciate the local knowledge that volunteers can provide.

All applicants are invited to an assessment at a local lock. Here they will have the role explained to them and be shown what it involves in practical terms. They will also be assessed to decide which site may be most appropriate for them and to ensure that they have the physical capabilities required. After successful completion of the assessment, they attend an induction course which focuses on safety and preparing them for the lock side.

On the lock side the volunteers follow a documented training programme before being signed off to take charge of the lock on their own. This will only be for short periods, while the paid keeper is at lunch for example.

Volunteers are provided with uniform and can claim mileage for travel to and from a lock local to them. They also receive a monthly newsletter which keeps them in touch with what is going on along the river and other activities of the Environment Agency.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering on the Thames and to receive an information pack and application form, please contact the Volunteer team on 01491 828360 or email thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk



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Pearl Slatter 0118 984 5021

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www.southoxon.gov.uk**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

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

07526 743091 kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.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

POTHOLES 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
9th April 2015	May 2015
11th June 2015	July 2015
13th August 2015	September 2015
8th October 2015	November 2015
10th December 2015	January 2016
11th February 2016	March 2016

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March 2016 Goring Heath NEWS

GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Richard Greenford Cosy Cottage Hill Bottom RG8 7PT 0118 984 4147
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GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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LOCAL GROUPS

Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers Howard Dell 01494 764149
Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses) Maureen Jones 01491 681872
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
Tai Chi and Qigong Karen Pounds 07867 954786
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group Nicola Robinson 0118 984 2239
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society Chair: Sue Matthews 0118 984 4489
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association Vicky Jordan 0118 984 3260
Whitchurch Hill WI Frances Strange 0118 984 2162
Woodcote Volunteers (Office Hours 9.30—11am) Elizabeth Harrap 01491 681171
Yoga and Pilates Betsy Twelves-Dickson 07922 439165

Goring Heath Parish Hall : Bookings and Enquiries: Theresa Elsome 0118 984 2056
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