

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

July 2015  
146<sup>th</sup> Issue

Visit us at:  
[www.goringheath.com](http://www.goringheath.com)

**Forthcoming Events**

**GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall**

**WL = Woodcote Library**

**WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall**

**July 2015**

9th Parish Council Meeting

19th History Society

21st WI

GHPH

TBA

GHPH

**August 2015**

No Parish Council Meeting this month

29th Whitchurch on Thames Village Fête

Eastfield Lane

**September 2015**

10th Parish Council Meeting

15st WI

GHPH

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](mailto: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**

My thanks to Nick Henry who has been chairman of the Parish Council for the last year. We did not need an election this year, which saved the parish several hundred pounds. Richard Greenford has retired after several years on the council and my thanks to him for the work that he did and the diversity of opinion that he brought to our discussions. We are pleased to welcome Liz Collas from Deadmans Lane to the Parish Council.

The fête this year was a vintage one, with great weather, crowds of visitors and lots to see and do. Thanks to everyone who contributed to its success, not least John Gray who took over the running of the fête this year. As always it is a great occasion to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

I fear for the future of the bus service, as the cut back from Crays Pond and the longer route round Upper Basildon appears to have led to a decline in usage, perhaps this is also a result of the little publicised raising of the age point for free bus passes. Use it or lose it – well perhaps we will lose it anyway.

**Peter Dragonetti**  
**Chairman**



**WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THIS JOB TO ME AND SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY, RELAXING OR DOING SOMETHING MORE INTERESTING INSTEAD !!!**

**PLEASE CALL KATY BLAKE ON 07917 712158  
OR EMAIL**

**AS PART OF YOUR HOLIDAY COSTS, WHY NOT BOOK WITH ME BEFORE YOU GO, SO I AM AVAILABLE TO DO ALL YOUR IRONING ON YOUR RETURN?**

**I WILL COLLECT AND DROP OFF FREE, WITHIN 5 MILES  
OF GORING HEATH**

## Money, money, money

Two of our popular grants schemes are opening for applications. One is for big projects, like extending, improving or delivering community facilities such as village halls, sports pavilions or play areas etc. This is our Communities Capital Grants scheme for funding between £15,000 and £100,000.

The other scheme is our young achiever awards, which is open to 11 – 18 year olds who've excelled in a chosen sport, art, or volunteer work.

Both schemes are open for applications until 31 July, so please share this with anyone you think would be interested.

If you have any questions or need a bit more information, contact the grants team or visit the grants webpage at SODC or email [grants@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:grants@southandvale.gov.uk).

## 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.
P15/S0486/HH 9 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Single storey rear extension	No Strong Views	Permission
P15/S0381/FUL Land adj to Crossways The Close Crays Pond RG8 7QE Erection of a detached 3-bedroom chalet bungalow.	Should be refused	Permission
P15/S0712/HH Langholm 13 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QL Proposed front and rear garage plus first floor bedroom extensions	No Strong Views	
P15/S1298/HH Pancroft Goring Road Goring Heath RG8 7SH Construction of a single-storey outbuilding ancillary to the use as a dwelling house	Should be refused	
P15/S1570/HH 2 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QL Single storey extension	No strong Views	
P15/S1609/HH Highfield Gashes Lane Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PY Oak framed single storey garage with loft storage.	Should be refused	
P15/S1656/HH Chalkwood Cottage Coldharbour Goring Heath RG8 7SZ Proposed front porch. Proposed insertion of 2no dormer windows. Proposed enlargement of existing glazing to rear and insertion of new french doors	No Strong Views	
P15/S1767/FUL Land adjacent to Woodlands Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Erection of a chalet bungalow	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.

# THE BESPOKE APPROACH

Pilates and Yoga

Goring Heath Parish Hall



Tuesday Evenings

**Next block of Pilates classes starting soon  
Yoga classes available as drop-in or in blocks**

For further info - Contact Betsy

M: 07922 439 165

E: [thebespokeapproach@gmail.com](mailto:thebespokeapproach@gmail.com)

W: [www.thebespokeapproach.com](http://www.thebespokeapproach.com)

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## The Village Fête

A gloriously sunny day saw a large crowd flock to the Whitchurch Hill Fete, and the mood seemed to match the weather, with the stalls and refreshment tents running at full speed all afternoon. We are very grateful to all who took part - visitors, stall holders, and everyone who helped with the running. As the saying goes 'You know who you are!'

The Bottle Stall was as popular as ever, and our thanks to all who donated – your support makes a massive contribution to the success of the Fête. The BBQ team worked flat out to keep the crowd's hunger at bay, while the ladies at W.I. Tea Tent seemed to be serving tea and cakes non-stop. The Beer Tent, operated again this year by our popular local pub The Sun, was surrounded by happy fête goers, enjoying music, conversation, and some well-deserved refreshments.

Our area's future Olympians impressed in the Children's Races, while the finest golfers in the land yet again found the Putt-a-Fiver challenge beyond them! The canine attendees also played their part, and along with their owners seemed to enjoy the Dog Show, run so ably by Charley and her team from the locally based Smiling Dog Company.

The Raffle generated a record level of receipts – our thanks to all who bought tickets, and to the Raffle Team who put a huge amount of work into making it such a success. We had a terrific range of prizes on offer again this year, and we are very grateful to the local businesses who kindly donated these – The Ferryboat, The Highwayman, Nino's, The Cross Keys, The Sun, The Woody Nook, Kimberley's, The Plaice, Lina Tandoori, Pangbourne Cheese Shop, and Woodcote Garden Centre, as well as several individual donations. The generosity of these donors deserves both recognition and reward - so we make no apology for urging you to show your appreciation of their contribution to the village by giving them your business during the months ahead.

Now, we are regularly asked two questions:

**Does it cost much to run the Fête?** Yes, it costs over £1000, and most of that is committed up front – paying for some of the performers, hiring marquees, arranging First Aid cover, buying BBQ ingredients, etc. So if



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it's raining, and numbers are down, we would likely lose money. If it's a nice day, with a good attendance, we should make a modest profit, typically in the region of £1250.

**Where does any profit go?** We use some of it to hold a reserve, mainly to cushion against the dreaded rainy day, but the bulk goes towards donations to good causes - Local Scouts, Parish Hall, Church maintenance, Hospices, upkeep of local landmarks, National Charities, and similar.

But we don't just get questions – we also receive some compliments! Several people commented to us on the wonderful atmosphere of the event, and how lovely it was just to see people meeting and talking. And in the end, that's the aim – to make it a great day out for the village.

If you want to know more, or would like to get involved in running the event, just mail [whitchurchhillfete@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchhillfete@gmail.com)

The Organising Team

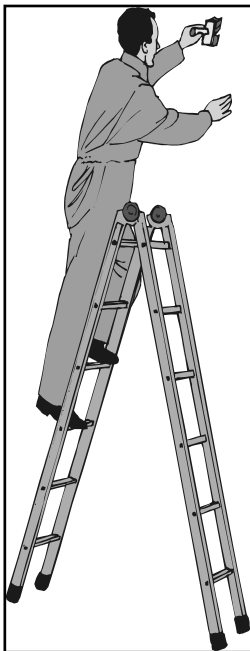
## Broadband

Parts of this parish, such as Crays Pond can now get Faster Broadband because they are close to the telephone exchange in Woodcote. For Whitchurch Hill, served by Pangbourne exchange, the promise is that we will get Faster Broadband by December this year. Whitchurch Hill is currently served by a BT Cabinet located on the footpath at the top of the hill , but this has been found to be incapable of being upgraded to meet the need, so it is being replaced or supplemented by two new cabinets, one for the east side of the village and one for the west. This should cover most of Whitchurch Hill, but in the current plan, some parts of the village including post codes RG8 7PW , 7NY, 7NZ and 7NU are not projected to be included in the faster broad band scheme. There are further developments to the programme so there might be changes. Check the latest position on

<http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/coverage-map> .

I am told that there will be updates in July.

**Peter Dragonetti**



## **Rob Turner Handyman**

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# **The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club**

**Organiser: Christine Martin**

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

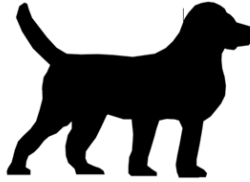
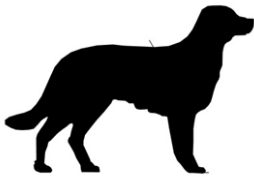
**Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail [whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com)**

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.



The Parish Council have installed a new dog waste bin at the end of the Hods Lane footpath opposite the entrance to Bec Tithe in Whitchurch Hill, the new facility joins the existing dog waste bin that is placed on the recreation ground. In general most dog owners in the parish are very responsible and always clear up after their dogs.

It is hoped that the new bin will mean that the very few dog owners who do not clear up will have no excuse. This footpath has at times been a problem area for dog fouling and as it is also used by families with small children it would be good to think that this will help to make the path pleasant for all to walk

BAG IT      BIN IT

## Footpath monitor volunteers

Chiltern Society Rights of Way Group have vacancies for path monitor volunteers for the Chiltern Society in the Goring Heath parish and wonder whether it might be possible to advertise these in your parish magazine as I would be very keen to recruit volunteers who actually live in the parish.

Anyone interested in walking the Parish should contact: [alanfutter5@virginmedia.com](mailto:alanfutter5@virginmedia.com)

<http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk/support-volntr.php>



## **Tai Chi and Qigong Classes**

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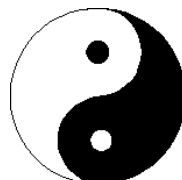
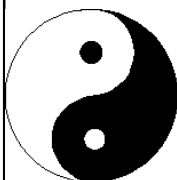
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### **Parish Quiz Team**

Readers of this Newsletter with a long memory will recall that a few years ago there was a call for people to join a quiz team that competed in a local inter village knockout competition. A team was formed, and in the first couple of years did reasonably well, getting through a couple of rounds aided by bonus points for being “new kids on the block”.

Last year, we went out in the first round, but this year we have beaten Preston Crowmarch, Benson and Nettlebed to reach the dizzy heights of the final which will be against Stoke Row in the next few weeks. The team is led by Martin Wise.

**Peter Dragonetti**

## **WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

In this, the centenary year of the WI, many members are taking part in the number of events which have been organised. We joined a number of other WIs in our area for lunch on the day of the handover of the WI Baton which had travelled round the country in April. In May we had an in- depth discussion on the merits of the resolution "Failing to Care", the resolution failed at the last hurdle, the National Annual Meeting at the Albert Hall and was not voted on.

At this same meeting the Queen, the Princess Royal and the Duchess of Wessex all appeared and received a very warm welcome from a packed Albert Hall. One of our members was successful in the ballot for an invitation to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace at the beginning of June and enjoyed her (slightly windy) afternoon there. Many more local events will take place during this celebration year for the first 100 years of the WI.

Our own speaker meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July will be Corry Starling talking about Mapledurham Watermill, when there will also be a competition for home made bread, cakes and biscuits. Following this we shall have our annual Barbecue for members, friends and family in August. In mid-September we will be helping at the WI Pang Valley Group Meeting and will welcome the Reading Mobility Team and their Guide dogs to our regular meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Patricia Dent**



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## Mobile Library Service

Following the consultation on proposed changes, new routes and timetables will be introduced with effect from Monday July 6th 2015.

The Service listened to all comments and suggestions and amended the proposed list of stops in response to this feedback. As a result: some stops that it had been proposed to replace have been reinstated; the locations of some stopping places within a community have been changed to reflect local knowledge; and some stopping times have been reviewed. No stop that was proposed to be retained and that is currently visited by customers has been withdrawn and the mobile library service model now includes 229 stops rather than the 200 stops that were proposed at consultation.

Any changes made to the consultation proposal are as a result of feedback received at local level and address the detail of the local stop. The over-arching proposal to retain seven mobile library vehicles, maximising our existing resources in order to bring significant benefit for more people has not been changed. The new service will comprise: 4 general service mobile library vehicles serving communities; 1 dedicated home library service vehicle delivering to individuals who are unable to otherwise access library services; and 2 mobile libraries visiting primary schools to promote reading for pleasure.

Details of stops and timetables are available online on the county council website and in hard copy on mobile library vehicles. Information about the Home Library Service is also available online and in all libraries.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/mobile-libraries>



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# **Whitchurch on Thames**

# **Village** On the Village Green, Eastfield Lane

# **Fete**

**Saturday 29th August 2-5pm**

**Wide range of stalls, Food and drink outlets,  
Rides and Entertainments**

**Please contact Emily with any enquiries:  
[emilyDalton@outlook.com](mailto:emilyDalton@outlook.com)**



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**Henley Citizens Advice Bureau alerts pensioners to potential scams**

Henley CAB has issued a warning to pensioners about scammers targeting their pension savings in the wake of the new pension rules. Five types of scams have been reported:

1. Pension "transfers": Scammers charge pensioners high fees for moving their pensions but nothing happens; or the money is moved without their permission; or, if the pensioner agrees to the transfer, the money vanishes or is transferred to fraudulent schemes.
2. Pension savings become "investments": People are told that they can get more out of their savings by investing in goods like wine, or "revolutionary" new products or projects.
3. Pension "advice": Scammers offer "free" pension advice or a review of the victim's savings, which can cost money and be useless, or might just be a cover for obtaining crucial personal details.
4. Pensioners are offered services for a fee. In some cases no service is provided at all. In others, a service is provided but it is either expensive or not in the consumer's best interest.
5. Contacting people by email or telephone, scammers persuade victims to hand over personal data like their National Insurance number and bank account details. Sometimes the scammers will use information they already have, such as name of the victim's employer or pension provider.

**Pension scam advice**

1. Inform someone else about a possible scam, an unsolicited phone call or text, or offer of money.
2. Never give out your bank details or send money unless you are certain you can trust the person who has asked you to do this.
3. Don't feel pressured to make a decision straight away. Take your time.

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[www.svcarers.org.uk](http://www.svcarers.org.uk)

## **Foot Health Practitioner**

**Foot Health care in your own home**

**Patricia Spender MCFHP MAFHP**

**Mobile: 07733 320702**

**Tel: 0118 984 1132**

**Email: [pat.spender@gmail.com](mailto:pat.spender@gmail.com)**

Corns, Callus, Ingrown & involuted nails, specialised nail cutting, Fungal nails, Athlete's foot, Verruca's, care of the Diabetic high risk foot, general foot maintenance.

4. Seek advice by calling the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 040506

5. Report a potential scam to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

People approaching retirement with a defined contribution pension pot will be able to get face-to-face help from a Pension Wise expert in their local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Make an appointment by phoning Adviceline on 03444 111444 or dropping in to the bureau. For CAB opening hours, see [www.caox.org.uk](http://www.caox.org.uk)

Alternatively, visit the government's Pension Wise website or telephone 030 0330 1001.

## Visit the old houses transformed into homes of the future

You can get the inside story on some exceptional home improvement projects this September as SuperHome Open Days return. SuperHomes are older homes refurbished by their owners for much greater comfort, lower bills and far fewer carbon emissions - at least 60% less!

These are some of the UK homes most improved for energy use, making them fit for the future. Most have superior insulation; many

have alternative heating sources and some produce their own energy.



*Photo: Sanya Polescuk's is one of 8 SuperHomes to visit in London*

In every SuperHome you can learn about a range of installed technologies. Examples include heat pumps, solar panels, advanced ventilation and water saving devices; also triple glazing, wood stoves and all types of

# the smiling dog company

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Testimonial from Max’s Mum.

insulation. Tours and Q&A sessions will let you quiz the owners, so you can discover what worked and get frank feedback on anything that didn't.

You can visit over 50 refurbished Victorian, Edwardian and post-war properties in September. Most will open during Heritage Open Days (10 -13 Sep) and Open House London (19/20 Sep). SuperHome Open Days are coordinated by the National Energy Foundation. *Entry is free.*

To find out more or to pre-book a place on a free tour, visit [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)

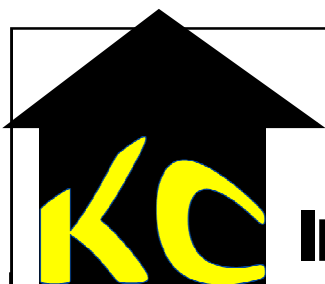
## Whitchurch War Memorial Improvements

You may have heard that we are considering some improvements to the War Memorial we share with Whitchurch Hill. The Whitchurch on Thames and Goring Heath Parish Councils jointly manage the memorial. The Goring Heath Council has suggested some improvements to the existing War memorial during the period of 2014 - 2018 in honour of the 100th anniversary of WW I.

Some of the improvements under consideration are:

- Re-establishment of the memorial 'steeple' to its full height pre-1989 storm damage, where the height of the obelisk was significantly reduced.
- Improved accessibility to the memorial from road where the path and road have deteriorated making access to the monument difficult, particularly for elderly people.
- An Interpretive Board giving details of those remembered on the Memorial and details of others of the Parishes who died in WW1 and yet may be on NO memorial.
- Improved sitting area with landscaping including a hedge.
- Professional cleaning of the memorial.





## Improvements

- Driveway repair/installation/modernisation
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Given the importance of the memorial to both communities, we would like to get feedback from as many residents as possible before any changes are made. Following a well attended presentation on the 30th of May at the Old Stable in Whitchurch, both parish councils are keen for residents to give their options via the feedback form, email the clerk(s) and/or discuss your views with Councillor Martin Wise of Whitchurch Hill and Councillor Jim Donahue of Whitchurch on Thames.

As the estimated costs for these improvements range from about £1500 to £19,000, we are planning to apply for a grant to cover most or all of this. The War Memorial Trust has already indicated that many of these improvements would be eligible for a grant.

The process for the improvements will be:

- Based on feedback from both Whitchurch on Thames and Whitchurch Hill communities, a grant for one or more options will be applied for during 2015
- Depending on the results of the grant, a recommendation will be made to both the Goring Heath and Whitchurch Parish Councils. The more expensive options that include restoring the old Steeple will only be pursued if a grant is awarded.
- If additional funding is required, this will be either requested to be split between the councils or a fundraising campaign initiated.
- It is anticipated that the actual restoration would happen during 2016/2017 to be completed for the WWI anniversary.

The options available are listed below. Costs are indicative.

Option	1	2	3	4	5
	Full Steeple and Landscaping	Full Steeple w/o Landscaping	Access and Cleaning only	Cleaning and Plaque only	No changes - just cleaning
Steeple replacement	£8,500	£8,500			
Access improvements	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000		
Cleaning	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500
Plaque	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
Landscaping	£5,000				
subtotal:	<b>£19,000</b>	<b>£14,000</b>	<b>£5,500</b>	<b>£2,500</b>	<b>£1,500</b>
<b>Not Eligible for a grant:</b>			(assume grant only awarded if steeple is replaced)		
Plaque	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
Landscaping	£5,000				
Access			£3,000		
Cleaning			£1,500	£1,500	£1,500
<b>Likely amount of funding that will need to be raised by two parishes</b>	<b>£6,000</b>	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>£5,500</b>	<b>£2,500</b>	<b>£1,500</b>
Tick preferred option					



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## COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

### SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Robert Simister Yew Tree Cottage, Harpsden Bottom Henley on Thames, RG9 4HS  
01491 576352 [robert.simister@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:robert.simister@southoxon.gov.uk)

Council Offices: Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8HG 01491 823000  
[www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

### OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kevin Bulmer 35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY  
07526 743091 [kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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

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](mailto: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
13th August 2015	September 2015
8th October 2015	November 2015
10th December 2015	January 2016
11th February 2016	March 2016
14th April 2016	May 2016
14th June 2016	July 2016

Printed by: Goring Press, Gatehampton Farm, Goring-on-Thames  
Reading Berkshire RG8 9LU Tel: 01491 872555

**GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN**

Peter Dragonetti	Covert Cottage	Hill Bottom RG8 7PT	0118 984 4711
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**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Nick Henry	Ladygrove Cottage	Goring Heath RG8 7RU	07900 498717
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Nick Elsome	6 Heath End	Goring Heath RG8 7SQ	01491 682775
Kate Giles	10 Hocketts Close	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PX	0118 984 1590
Liz Collas	Haw Farm	Goring Heath RG8 7NP	
Tim King	Greenacre	Crays Pond RG8 7SH	01491 684198
Marjo McGee	Field End	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 872136
Martin Wise	5 Coombe End	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7TD	0118 984 3071

**CLERK**

Caroline Hadley	15 Bec Tithe	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NP	0118 984 1594
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Email: [goring.heath.parish.council@googlemail.com](mailto:goring.heath.parish.council@googlemail.com)

**GORING HEATH PARISH CHARITY**

Chairman:	Bill Pechey	Jays Lodge	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 680552
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[nick.henry@gouldinternational.co.uk](mailto:nick.henry@gouldinternational.co.uk)

**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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email: [bnt@waitrose.com](mailto:bnt@waitrose.com)