

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

September 2015
147th Issue

Visit us at:
www.goringheath.com

Forthcoming Events

GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

September 2015

10th Parish Council Meeting

GHPH

15th WI

GHPH

17th History Society

GHPH

October 2015

8th WI

GHPH

8th Parish Council Meeting

GHPH

15th History Society

GHPH

20th WI

GHPH

November 2015

12th Parish Council Meeting

GHPH

14th Art & Craft Show

WVH

17th WI

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

There have been two public inquiries recently, one in respect of the increase in tolls on the bridge and the other about the conversion of the White Lion at Crays Pond into a house without planning permission.

The toll bridge inquiry generated a huge amount of interest, and it was amazing that the Inspector disregarded all the evidence put forward against the increase. A little while ago the Department of Transport wanted to completely dispense with public inquiries of this nature so that toll increases could be pushed through without any public examination. It would seem that in effect that has already happened, as in my opinion the bridge company's case completely fell to bits when challenged at the Inquiry.

The outcome with the White Lion is more satisfactory, as the Inspector confirmed that the White Lion should have remained open as a pub as it was a community asset and viable, and that the current owner had acted incorrectly. Furthermore, it is now apparent that as it is registered as an asset of community value it cannot be simply converted to some other business use but must be reopened as a pub.

There is also good news on the high speed broadband front; Crays Pond now has access to high speed broadband and Whitchurch Hill is now scheduled to have it by the end of the year.

Less good news in respect of the bus service, which is now at high risk of being axed. The truncation of the service from Crays Pond and the diversion through Upper Basildon on the return leg has made it less attractive, and usage has fallen, and although the Oxfordshire County Council only subsidised the few miles it ran in Oxfordshire with the section from Pangbourne to Reading supposedly being "commercial", it appears that without the Oxfordshire subsidy the whole route is unviable.

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.
P15/S0712/HH Langholm 13 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QL Proposed front and rear garage plus first floor bedroom extensions	No Strong Views	Permission
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	Permission
P15/S1570/HH 2 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QL Single storey extension	No strong Views	Permission
P15/S1609/HH Highfield Gashes Lane Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PY Oak framed single storey garage with loft storage.	Should be refused	Permission
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	Permission
P15/S1767/FUL Land adjacent to Woodlands Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Erection of a chalet bungalow	No Strong Views	Permission
P15/S1879/HH 15 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Formation of granny flat with retention of car park space in garage.	Should be Refused	Permission
P15/S1914/FUL Lubricants UK Ltd Technology Centre Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR Removal of condition 5 (additional car parking) of application P13/S2840/FUL and removal of condition 6 (restriction of use at weekends) of planning permission P95/S0561.	No Strong Views	Permission
P15/S2283/HH Old Tile Cottage Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PN Erect a replacement greenhouse	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 & Yoga classes

Goring Heath Parish Hall

Tuesday Evenings

Classes resume 22 Sept. All welcome!

Please contact Betsy for further info

M: 07922 439 165

E: thebespokeapproach@gmail.com

W: www.thebespokeapproach.com

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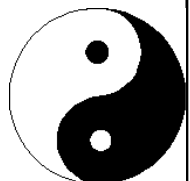
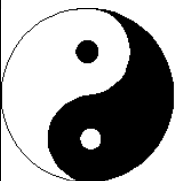
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WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our July meeting was Corry Starling “the Miller of Mapledurham” talking about Mapledurham Watermill, who gave us a fascinating overview of the watermill and its long history. There has been a watermill on the Thames for over 1,000 years, and Mapledurham appeared in the Domesday Book. The one we can see these days has working equipment and machinery dating from well over 100 years ago. It still runs as a commercial enterprise, in spite of being a listed building, and produces both wholemeal and white flour, and runs an interesting shop.

Our business meeting commenced with a report on the letters we have written in connection with the possible loss of our bus service into Reading. We have received some (non-committal) replies and await more news on the subject.

Looking ahead – our September 15th meeting will bring us “GUIDE DOGS – the Reading Mobility Team” and the following day, the 16th, we shall take part in the “WI Pang Valley Group” Meeting which will be at the Beansheaf Community Centre.

More to look forward to will be a morning devoted to “Take Better Photographs” on 8th October, “Georgian Cookery” at our regular meeting later in October, “Painting the War” - paintings of the first World War in November, a session of “Tai Chi” in January, and a wide variety of interesting speakers throughout the whole of 2016.

Competitions and outings as well as other social events are planned too. Guests are welcome to come and see what we do. Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, except for December and August, at Goring Heath Parish Hall RG8 7NY at 10am - and for further information please telephone 0118 984 1696

Patricia Dent

Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society

Over the Summer we have visited two local museums, the Museum of Oxfordshire at Woodstock and the Vale and Downland Museum at Wantage. Both told their stories well, and both had good cafes!

On Thursday September 17th we are returning to Goring Heath Parish Hall, on the B471 opposite St John's Church, to start the Autumn lecture programme. The title of Martin Buckland's talk will be The Invisible Brick: revealed in language and literature, in the local area. I've started looking around me already!

On Thursday October 15th the same venue will see Peter Hawley presenting his findings.

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

Vicky Jordan



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REMINDER FOR YOUR DIARY!!!

The Whitchurch Society
are holding their annual
Art & Craft Exhibition
2015

at
Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road
Saturday 14th November, 10am-5pm

Refreshments served all day
Prize giving at 5pm

Sending-in of exhibits:
Thursday 12th Nov 7-8pm at May Cottage, Eastfield Lane &
Friday 13th Nov 10am - Noon at the Village Hall

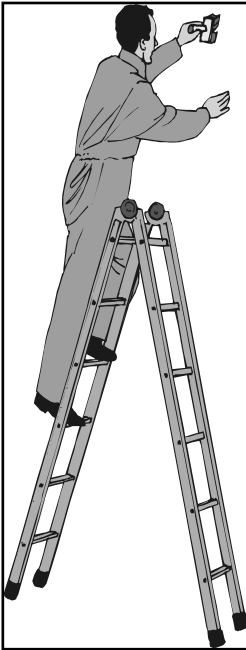
Joyce Voysey Prize Theme is 'Bridges'

We look forward to receiving entries for the exhibition from ALL age groups, and from previous contributors, but we also hope that there will be lots of new entrants too, especially children who may not have entered before. Young people might be particularly interested in submitting work in new media. We welcome all ranges of work - it is an enjoyable, friendly event, not an elitist showcase!

All residents (both past and present) of Whitchurch-on-Thames and Goring Heath parishes are eligible to enter their work. Please join in!

The details of all the categories and entry rules are set out on the website at <http://wotarts.co.uk>

If you have any queries or would like to help with running of the exhibition, please don't hesitate to contact Sally Woolhouse on
0118 984 4365 or email sally@wotarts.co.uk



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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.

Citizens Advice offers Pension Wise appointments at local bureaux

Citizens Advice is providing Pension Wise appointments at Henley and other bureaux in South Oxfordshire, giving people access to free and impartial pension guidance in their local area.

Following pension reforms on April 6, people approaching retirement have greater freedom over ways they can use their pension savings. People will be able to take a lump sum, take out an annuity or a mixture of the two.

Pension Wise is a new government service designed to help people understand their pension options and empower them to make the right choices for themselves.

Free face to face Pension Wise appointments are available to book now at Henley bureau. The 45-minute appointments will be tailored to individuals, taking into account the value of their pensions and their plans for retirement.

A Pension Wise appointment could help you if:

- You are approaching retirement or are aged 50 or over;
- You have a defined contribution pension.

Guidance appointments are also available on the telephone, provided by the Pensions Advisory Service. Information and general guidance is also obtainable online at www.pensionwise.gov.uk.

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Sunday trading hours could change - we want to know what people think



Listening Learning Leading

In response to changing shopping habits the Government has put forward proposals to devolve Sunday trading laws to allow greater flexibility over the hours that large shops can stay open.

This September, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will submit a joint response to the proposals, however before doing so we want to hear how residents and local businesses may be affected if these changes go ahead.

Under current arrangements large shops with more than 280 square metres floor space can only open for up to six hours between 10am and 6pm on a Sunday, while smaller premises are free to open all day.

The Government hopes that by allowing local flexibility for Sunday trading, consumers will be offered more choice when to shop locally, businesses will have more freedom on opening hours and staff greater opportunity to work on a Sunday.

Anyone wanting to have their say on the proposals for Sunday trading should visit <http://tinyurl.com/sunday-trading-hours> by Thursday 10 September.

Free To A Handy Man/Woman!

The now closed Plant Stall has the remains of the trolley from which the plants were originally sold.

All the woodwork is rotten but the frame is still solid, so if anyone wants a project – to rebuild a trolley, we can supply one!!

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 OXFORD AERIALS

PUMP HUNT FOR SEWAGE STATION OWNERS

- **Thames Water to take on the responsibility of 4,000 sewage pumping stations from property owners and managers**
- **Utility will take over electricity and maintenance costs under new legislation, potentially saving customers thousands of pounds**
- **Firm appeals for help tracking 1,800 'missing' stations**

Thames Water is appealing to customers to help identify privately owned sewage pumping stations.

The utility, which serves 15 million customers across London and the Thames Valley, will take responsibility for around 4,000 pumping in October 2016, but needs to track down 1,800 currently off its radar.

New legislation means sewage pumping stations, which power wastewater away from properties and out into the public sewer pipe network, currently owned and maintained by customers will become legally owned and operated by the local water company.

The pumping stations are found in all shapes and sizes, and can be in places where there are a number of properties needing to connect to the public sewer network. Customers will know they have one as they'll be paying to maintain and power them.

Jerry White, of Thames Water, said: "This is really good news for customers. We'd urge anyone who thinks they may have one to get in touch so we can check they are eligible for the transfer of ownership. In some cases, as well as electricity savings, maintaining and replacing pumps can cost thousands of pounds so it's an excellent deal for them.

"We believe we know where approximately half of the stations we need to take over are, but really need help to find the other 1,800. Please get in touch if you think this applies to you and we can take on the responsibility forever."

Anyone with a private pumping station can make Thames Water aware at thameswater.co.uk/pumphunt

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Finance Governor needed for Langtree School

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Langtree is an extremely popular (and currently oversubscribed) 11- 16 school with Academy status, and with a specialism in the Performing Arts.

Please contact rhloyd@langtreeschool.com for further information. We will hope to hear from you!

Newsletter Editor required

Seeking a volunteer editor for this newsletter, six times a year. Knowledge of MS Publisher, MS Word or similar program an advantage. Able to attend monthly Parish Meetings would be beneficial. Please contact Tim King or the Parish Clerk for more information. Contact details are on the back page.



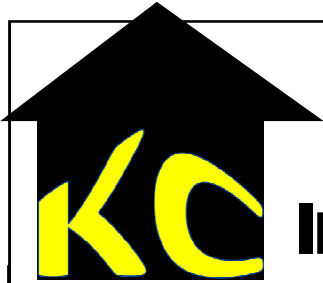
Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No 1056772

Goring Heath Parish Charity

The Trustees of Goring Heath Parish Charity are looking for a volunteer to join them and to serve on the Management Committee of the Parish Hall.

Becoming a Trustee is not an onerous task but very worthwhile with meetings being held on the first Thursday at 8pm, every three months. The next is due to be held on September 3rd.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Theresa Elsome, preferably by email at bnt@waitrose.com or, if no email available, telephone 0118 984 2056 and leave a message, if necessary.



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The Goring Heath Newsletter - Past, present and future

The Past

Looking back through my first newsletters in 2005, the King Charles Head was serving traditional Thai dishes, and a gas leak in Hill Bottom had residents evacuated while engineers tracked down the source. Whitchurch Bridge Company applied for a toll increase and took away the concessionary rate - so nothing new there except that the concessionary rate was re-instated.

Germination of the Oak Project commenced to get saplings in our hedgerows to replace the mature trees. The idea of creating a focal point with a gazebo on the village green was just a pipe dream. The quieter Christmas Mini Market raised nearly £288 for the Goring Heath Parish Charity funds.

Mr Farrow reported that additional money had been allocated to catch up with repairs to damaged road surfaces - still in the news 10 years on!

The Goring Heath Well built by Samuel Gardiner was repaired at a cost £5885.

South Oxfordshire District Council urged us to achieve a target of 29% recycled goods. Latest figures show the District achieved 65.71% (2013-2014). The proposed closure of three or four out the seven household waste and recycling centres by Oxfordshire County Council, with reduced opening times for the ones that are left would seriously impact the local residents and recycling rate.

The Present

Sometime, during the lifespan of this edition, I shall be moving to the wilds of north Devon. Crays Pond can now enjoy (at a price) high speed broadband and I am assured that internet access in my new location north of Oakhampton is "reasonable". I am happy to continue to produce the newsletter from afar until a local person comes forward. I shall be standing down from the Parish Council at the September meeting.

The Future

So, while modern communications enable us to be in contact 24/7/365, it is preferable that someone closer to the action should be composing the newsletters. Is there someone in or near Goring Heath who would be prepared to spend some time every couple of months assembling and composing the newsletters? For more information - my contact details are on the back page.



Helena

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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

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

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
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
11th August 2016	September 2016

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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

GORING HEATH PARISH CHARITY

Chairman:	Bill Pechey Jays Lodge	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 680552
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GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

Editor:	Tim King	Greenacre Goring Road Crays Pond RG8 7SH	01491 684198
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tim@tpking.me.uk

Advertising:	Nick Henry	Ladygrove Cottage Goring Heath RG8 7RU	07900 498717
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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