

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

March 2016
150th Issue

Visit us at:
www.goringheath.com

Forthcoming Events

GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

SJC = Saint John's Church, Whitchurch Hill

February 2016

25th SOAG Lecture

GHPH

29th OWL General Meeting

Library

March 2016

5th Litter Blitz

Whitchurch Hill

17th History Society

WVH

18th Charity Soup Lunch

GHPH

April 2016

9th Gardening Show

WVH

21st History Society

WVH

29th Twinning Association Trip

N/A

May 2016

19th History Society

GHPH

28th Whitchurch Hill Village Fete

WH Rec 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 - James Collins at archaeologyblues@hotmail.com.

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

Over the years, it is noticeable how fewer people join in the life of this community. Perhaps it is a reflection of the times, when travel is easier and people work far away, or move into an area like ours and see it as little more than an a measure of personal success to be living in an attractive location in what the estate agents call a “popular village”. Without a school or a shop, and now with only one living pub, much of Goring Heath is little more than housing estate, with a variety of desirable homes at premium prices. While some people welcome new development, believing that new houses squeezed onto tiny plots will enable young people to move into or stay here, the reality is that the new houses that have recently been built cost in excess of £600,000.

There are lots of opportunities to join in to make this a living community, whether it's going to the pub, coming to the fete, learning about the past with the history society, entering the village garden show or going to our church. There are also opportunities to get more involved, by helping at the fete or joining in the litter blitz to help make our countryside a little cleaner. Whatever you do, it will improve your own personal wellbeing as well as making Goring Heath a better, living community for everyone.

Coming events are the Litter Blitz, (March 5th), Garden Show (April 9th), Parish Annual Meeting (April 14th), Fete (May 28th) and Queens Birthday jollity (June 11th) Be there – or be square !

Peter Dragonetti
Chairman

OWL (Our Woodcote Library)

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 29th February at 6pm in the library.

We're very grateful for the money donated by Woodcote rally, which will help to keep the library up to date, provide volunteer comforts and pay expenses of events. Volunteers have now been helping in the library for a year – we shall celebrate with a cup of tea!

Vicky Jordan

Litter Blitz

This year the Litter blitz is being run in collaboration with Whitchurch Hill WI, who are doing a litter pick as part of the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations. We meet on Saturday 5th March at Crays Pond and at the Hill Bottom cross roads at 10.00, and litter pickers and bags are provided, plus hi viz jackets. The re-opening of the bridge has again increased the volume of litter on the road up to Crays Pond.



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OF GORING HEATH**

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/S3494/HH Cwmgywn Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Construction of a wooden garage	No Strong Views	Permis- sion
P15/S3941/FUL Dormers Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Replacement dwelling with detached garage.	Should be Re- fused	With- drawn prior to determi- nation
P15/S3969/AG Access Road to Mount Pleasant Farm Goring Heath RG8 7TB Proposed agricultural building	No Strong Views	Planning applica- tion not required
P16/S0036/FUL BP Technology Centre Bozdown Drive Whitchurch Hill Reading RG8 7QR Installation of 3 no. antennas, and associated ancillary development	No Strong Views	
P16/S0091/FUL Land adjacent to Woodlands Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill Reading RG8 7PZ 3 bed chalet bungalow.	No Strong Views	
P16/S0170/FUL Cedar Lodge Goring Road Goring Heath Reading RG8 7SH Erection of two detached two-storey dwellings with access, parking and amenity space	Should be re- fused	

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.

Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

Our lecture season at Whitchurch Village Hall continues with Simon Wenham's illustrated talk entitled "Saints and Sinners", an account of religion in Oxfordshire in Victorian and Edwardian times, on **March 17th**. A very important part of social and individual life, it will be interesting to see the different responses to worship throughout the County.

On **April 21st** we will hear Catherine Sampson's description of unusual churches in Berkshire and around. She will talk about some of the quirky stories connected with the buildings, and suggest places to visit.

On **May 19th** we move up to Goring Heath Parish Hall for Katherine Bradley's account of the people and events connected with the Votes for Women campaign in Oxfordshire.

All meetings are on Thursday evenings, starting at 8pm, coffee served from 7.30. Visitors are welcome, £3, to include coffee.

Vicky Jordan

Tai Chi and Qigong Classes

Whitchurch Hill ~ Goring ~ Streatley
and other locations

Day-time, evening and weekend classes

Want to improve your overall sense of wellbeing?

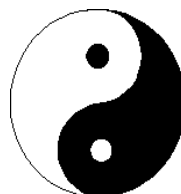
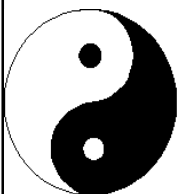
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Tuesday Evenings

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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.



Local poultry keepers! Why not add a tiny bit of Eggcitement to your life?

You have probably seen the adverts for the Gardening Show at the Village Hall on 9 April (see **page 19** in this issue) but did you know the schedule also includes classes for eggs? Hen eggs, both large fowl and bantam and waterfowl

eggs can be shown either as a single egg or as a plate of three. If you have never shown eggs before why not give it a go and give the judge some work to do this year?

Here are some tips for the real professional, but even if your eggs don't come up to these standards, don't be nervous about entering as the more entries the better!

Top Tips

Eggs must be clean and fresh and laid by your own birds. A clean nest box where they will help avoid scratches and marks on the eggs. Any colour can be shown, white, brown, blue, mottled, etc but if you are entering a plate of three they should all be matching in shape, colour and size. The best eggs will be free of bumps, lumps, cracks and pimples.

The judge will be looking to award points for **Shape, Size, Shell texture, Colour and Freshness, bloom and appearance**

Shape:

When showing eggs shape is of utmost importance. Ideally it should be broad, ensuring a large and well-rounded dome, with greater length than width. The sides are equal and symmetrical, rounding off to a smaller end which should not be too pointed.

Shell texture:

The shell should feel smooth to the touch all over. It should be free from hairline cracks, porosity, muscle indentations, lime pimples, bulges and without any roughness of any kind.

Colour:

Eggs come in many colours: Brown, White, Cream, Blue, Green, Olive, Plum, Mottle, Tinted etc. Always show the best coloured egg you have. For a plate of three the eggs should be matching and extra points are awarded for uniformity.

Size :

Large fowl can be any size. Bantam eggs should not exceed 42.5g (1½oz) which is the top weight allowed for Bantams on the show bench.

Freshness, Bloom and Appearance:

this is very much taken into consideration by the judge. Fresh eggs should have small air spaces and not be over-prepared. Eggs may be washed, but if they are, care must be taken that they do not appear artificially polished as this could lead to the exhibit being passed. Keeping nest boxes clean at all times is the golden rule when showing eggs.

For more information the following websites will help:

<http://www.poultryclub.org/eggs/showing-eggs/>

<http://www.pocketfarm.co.uk/showing-eggs-tips-for-success/>

Caroline Hadley



Charity Soup Lunch

Friday 18th March

At Goring Heath Parish Hall
From 12.30 onwards

*Delicious homemade soups, bread, cheese and
coffee for just £6.50*

*Everyone welcome (all ages) and if popular will be repeated on 1st Friday in
November*

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0118 9842184 for numbers by Wed. 16th March)**

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Her Majesty the Queen—90th Birthday Celebrations

Jon Hatt has kindly offered to host a bonfire beacon and jollity on one of the highest places in the parish, where we should be able to see other beacons in the distance, and perhaps even Windsor Castle. This is a local event only, and access will only be by foot. More details in the next edition.

Peter Dragonetti

Congratulations to...

... **Doreen Pechey** of Crays Pond who was the winner of the competition from the January 2016 edition of the Goring Heath Newsletter. Doreen correctly identified that the Feast Day of St Nicholas is December 6th.

Doreen was the lucky recipient of a lovely bottle of red wine to help chase away the chills of winter. But many thanks to all those who entered and better luck next time! Remember: you have nothing to lose by entering and the odds are never quite as long as you might imagine!



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WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Photographers, gourmets, francophiles, artists, explorers

Come and join us on our visit to La Bouille, near Rouen, this Spring. We go from Whitchurch by coach on **Friday April 29th** and return on **Monday 2nd May**.

The long weekend promises great hospitality in a delightful village by the Seine. An added attraction is Nick Brazil's exhibition of photographs at the village gallery. Our full day excursion will be to Honfleur with its beautiful harbour, art galleries, Eric Satie museum and waterside cafes and gardens.

- ♦ Four days for £200
- ♦ Comfortable executive coach

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Vicky Jordan

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Digital Advice in the South & Vale

Most people think of Citizens Advice as a place to go. A building. Often they think it will be a bit draughty and uncomfortable. It won't be. Some will phone and be surprised when they get through. Increasingly, they find us online. They don't do this because they are looking for Citizens Advice but because that is where Google takes them. Over 20,000 people from the South & Vale find themselves landing on the Citizens Advice web site every quarter. This is a good place to land because it is one of the few places on the web (apart from .gov.uk) where they can be sure that there will be no ads, no pop-ups, no out of date information, no opinions – just accurate facts.

Many people look online because they want to get genned up before seeking further advice, many cannot afford to pay for advice and don't know where else to turn. The content available from the UK government and reputable national charities such as MIND or AGE UK is reliable, rich and varied. You can often find enough information to deal with very complex problems.

Take the section on unfair dismissal on citizensadvice.org.uk (A question that 60 South & Vale residents have contacted us in person about this year). The online information includes sections on:

- ◆ Dismissal due to pregnancy
- ◆ Dismissal due to whistleblowing
- ◆ Dismissal due to sickness
- ◆ Dismissal due to capability
- ◆ Dismissal and Benefits
- ◆ Preparing for Tribunal
- ◆ What happens at a Tribunal
- ◆ Compensation for unfair dismissal.....plus another 30 pages of detail
- ◆ Goto www.citizensadvice.org.uk Or better still, just google your problem!

Everyone knows that people use Citizens Advice for help with debt and benefits but we do much more than that.

Since April 2015 we've had almost 4,000 questions in the South & Vale about Housing, Work or Relationships. There have been 10 times the number of questions about divorce (493) than marriage and civil partnerships(47).

More people have issues about private sector rents (54) and Tenancy Deposit Schemes (44) than any other Housing problem.

We can answer questions on adoption, advocacy, arrest, alien passports, arbitration, agency workers, annuities, autopsies, au pairs and auctions.....and that's just the letter A



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As well as dog walking and dropping in for all pets I also offer home from home boarding for holidays and house sitting.

"My neighbour said Max looks like he's smiling when he comes back from one of his walks"

Max's Mum



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THamesMOVE

Goring Heath

New way to sell in Goring Heath

Thamesmove is a new local online estate agents serving Goring Heath, Whitchurch Hill and Crays Pond along with the other villages in the RG8 postcode area. It is run by Tom Shaw and his partner who have lived in the local area for the last 18 years.

"Thamesmove is a hybrid estate agent. We keep our fees low by not operating high street premises, however we provide the same local and personal focus that you find with a high street estate agent."



HD video is a powerful way to sell your home

HD video holds the attention of buyers and tenants for much longer which allows us to sell all the features of your home together with the lifestyle that comes from living in Goring Heath and being part of the local community.

We attach the video along with floorplans and photos to your premium property listing on Rightmove, Zoopla and PrimeLocation. Properties with an HD video tour generate more views and have higher levels of enquiries. This ultimately leads to more interest and helps us to secure the highest possible price for your property.

We provide you with a dedicated sales negotiator to chase up buyer leads and a sales progressor to help ensure your property proceeds to completion as smoothly as possible.

TIP. Many local estate agents no longer advertise on Zoopla and PrimeLocation which account for around 30% of all buyer visits.

Sell your home for 0.5%

Launch offer

To help us become established within Goring Heath, we are offering to sell your home for 0.5% including a free premium listing and presenter led HD video tour.

What's more, to give you added confidence this offer is without any tie in period so if you are not entirely satisfied with the service you are receiving, you can walk away at any point without incurring any fees.



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GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER FACEBOOK PAGE

The Goring Heath Newsletter now has a Facebook page! This will be used to communicate items which fall in between the published copies of the newsletter as well as other material of local interest. Keep an eye on this to see any updates to make sure you don't miss any news and information.

Also feel free to add comments, suggestions or questions to the page that may be of use to others in the community. If you visit, please be sure to 'Like' the page—this will help us get a much snappier web address!

<https://www.facebook.com/Goring-Heath-Parish-News-177036926003271/>

If you'd like to publish/advertise any news or events on the Facebook page, please contact the Editor.



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Calling all gardeners, allotment holders, handicrafters, artists, photographers, bakers, preservers, poultry and duck owners and children under 12 from Goring Heath and Whitchurch. Come and showcase your talents in Goring Heath Parish Hall at the next Village Show which is the

SPRING SHOW

on Saturday, 9th April 2016

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

Non-exhibitors are invited to come along and see the results of everyone's hard work as the show is **open to the public from 2.30 – 4.00 pm**. Refreshments will be served, plants and raffle tickets will be on sale, trophies will be awarded and the raffle will be drawn.

The full schedule with all the classes, rules of entry, list of trophies and prizes, some helpful hints and the all-important entry form will be available from mid February on the two village websites www.whitchurchonthames.com and www.goringheath.com or you can contact a show committee member to ask for a schedule or with any queries you may have.

Liz Gibson : 0118 984 2012
Sue Sexon : 0118 984 4236

Denyse Williams : 0118 984 1139
Helen Willis : 0118 984 3620

WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

For our first meeting of the New Year, members joined Karen Pounds who talked about, and then demonstrated the art of “Tai Chi”. We were encouraged to take part in some gentle exercises and shown how to improve posture and circulation. In February Graham Loxton Best talks about “English Courtrooms”, and looking ahead to spring and summer we shall have “The History of Reading Abbey”, and then we shall discover what we can do to help our local hedgehog population. We shall have also have a baking demonstration in time for us to make our Hot Cross Buns for Easter.

We have regular business meetings with speakers on a variety of subjects, and most months we also have a social (walk and pub lunch) or craft morning and other events – usually on the first Tuesday of the month. 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

Pond Life

The trees around both Crays Pond and Tinepits Pond have been inspected, and some work will be done soon at Tinepits to fix the matters that needed attention. At Crays Pond, a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment has enabled us to do work to improve the dams that stop road pollution running into the pond, and also to pull back the reeds on the western bank.

Peter Dragonetti

WHITCHURCH HILL VILLAGE FETE

25 Piece Concert Band

Bottle Stall

Stalls & Games

Beer and Tea Tents

Barbecue

Punch & Judy

Children's Races

Swingboats

Candy Floss

Putt a Fiver



**Fun Dog
Show**



Raffle

'A Fun Day out for all the family!'

Saturday May 28th

Starting at 2PM

Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground

Energy Envoys help community hot spots to go green

Young people are crucial to our energy future – not only in the buildings around them today, but as the energy buyers, users and decision-makers of tomorrow. Will they propel us to a cleaner energy future? Energy Envoys may just make it so. This nationwide Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) volunteering opportunity, new for 2016, enables young people to help their community to use energy more wisely, save money and reduce carbon emissions.

Through their volunteering, participants could conduct an energy audit, organise an energy awareness campaign or run an energy saving competition. There are step-by-step guides for all sorts of projects which can be carried out in, for example, a local school, college, church, business, shop or venue. Online support includes a tutorial and one-to-one email support from energy experts at the National Energy Foundation.

Do you know someone aged 14-24 years ready to go for Bronze, Silver or Gold? If so, this certainly promises to be one of the more flexible, CV-enhancing, DofE volunteering options available.

For more information, visit **www.energyenvoys.org.uk**



Energy Envoys – Individual or group volunteering is possible

Photo courtesy of www.energyenvoys.org.uk

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Are you eligible for free energy saving home improvements?

The Affordable Warmth Network, supported by local authorities in Bucks and Oxon¹, has secured funding which could help you with the cost of making energy saving home improvements. You may be eligible for a free boiler upgrade, free home insulation or even, in certain circumstances, replacement windows and doors. Boilers account for about 55 per cent of what you spend in a year on energy bills², so an efficient boiler makes a big difference. You could qualify for a grant if:

- ♦ You own your home, or you rent your home from a private landlord and
- ♦ You receive certain means tested benefits, tax or pension credits *or*
- ♦ Someone in your household has a respiratory or cardiovascular health condition made worse by living in a cold or damp home.

To find out if you're eligible, or for impartial energy saving advice from an expert – call the Affordable Warmth Helpline on **0800 107 0044** or email **awn@nef.org.uk**

1. Excluding Milton Keynes

2. Source: Energy Saving Trust

Photo courtesy of www.nef.org.uk



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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 copy could be submitted to the editor as a document attachment to email and sent to archaeologyblues@hotmail.com

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
14th April 2016	May 2016
14th June 2016	July 2016
11th August 2016	September 2016
13th October 2016	November 2016
8th December 2016	January 2017
9th February 2017	March 2017

LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

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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