

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

May 2016  
151<sup>st</sup> Issue

Visit us at:

[www.goringheath.com](http://www.goringheath.com)

Facebook: search 'Goring Heath  
Parish News'

**Forthcoming Events**

**GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall**

**WL = Woodcote Library**

**WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall**

**SJC = Saint John's Church, Whitchurch Hill**

**May 2016**

17th WI meeting

19th History Society

21st GH Almshouses May Fayre

28th Whitchurch Hill Village Fete

GHPH

GHPH

Almshouses

WH Rec Ground

**June 2016**

5th WI Craft Morning

11th Queen's Birthday Bonfire

GHPH

**TBC\***

*\*Please check our Facebook page or the Goring Heath website in coming weeks for more information. Access will be on foot only—no vehicles.*

**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](mailto: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**

There are several issues at the moment that we are working on. After the further consultation taken after the changes of Whitchurch on Thames parish council, the war memorial project is now back on track. We have engaged an architect to draw up detailed drawings to support the applications for grants that we expect will cover most of the cost. What is now proposed is the restoration to its original full height and design, a surround extending to about a metre out from the base with a kerb to the roadside and an information board.

Many of you will have seen the sign outside the White Lion offering it for lease. The owner has an obligation under the enforcement order to reopen it as pub, so it should be back with us some time around the end of July, as we understand that a number of operators are interested in taking on the lease.

The bus service however is still forecast to cease in its present form in late July as the current subsidy is being withdrawn. Unfortunately the level of usage has fallen away in recent years, not helped recently by the extended return journey via Upper Basildon. We are talking to Whitchurch Parish council about providing some alternative arrangement, but although West Berkshire Council are still providing a subsidy for the service on their side of the river the subsidy of about £25,000 per year that our County Council was providing would be too much for us to meet even if split with Whitchurch. The bridge tolls alone cost the bus nearly £8,000 a year; the bridge company has offered to reduce the bus toll from £2.50 to £1, but that's probably now too little and too late.

On a more cheerful note, we are all looking forward to the Fete on May 28th and The Queen's Birthday Bonfire on June 11th. If you want to meet your parish councillors, most of them will be manning the barbecue at the Fete, so yet another reason to enjoy a burger or hot dog on the day!

**Peter Dragonetti**  
**Chairman**

## 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.
P16/S0036/FUL BP Technology Centre Boztdown Drive Whitchurch Hill Reading RG8 7QR Installation of 3 no. antennas, and associated ancillary development	No Strong Views	Permission
P16/S0091/FUL Land adjacent to Woodlands Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill Reading RG8 7PZ 3 bed chalet bungalow.	No Strong Views	Permission
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 refused	Refused
P16/S0186/FUL Enigma Estate Cold Harbour Lane Goring Heath RG8 7SZ Change of use from stable to office/workshop and applying for a retrospective application of a flue (Wood burner) **Retrospective application**	Should be refused	
P16/S0638/HH Greenhills Shirvell's Hill Goring Heath RG8 7SP Two storey front and rear extensions	No Strong Views	Permission
P16/S0697/HH Holly Copse Collins End Goring Heath RG8 7RN Installation of a domestic in ground outdoor swimming pool, plant room and surrounds.	No Strong Views	
P16/S0212/HH Field View House Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Two storey front, side and rear extensions. New roof construction. Single storey rear extensions (scale and design as amended by revised plans received 9 March 2016)	Objects to original no objection to Revised plan	
P16/S0811/HH 15 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Formation of overnight carers room.	Should be refused	

## 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.



## Katy's Ironing Services

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

### **COMPETITIVE PRICES**

**PLEASE CALL KATY BLAKE ON 07917 712158**

**OR EMAIL**

**[katy.blake28@googlemail.com](mailto:katy.blake28@googlemail.com)**

**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?**

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## *On top of the world!*



Congratulations to Whitchurch Hill's very own world champion **Kia Lawrence**, who came back from the World Tap dance Championships in Reisa, Germany as double gold medallist!

Kia, who is 15 and lives with her family in Orchard Coombe, landed gold in the Junior Small Group and Junior Formation categories, as well as coming 7<sup>th</sup> in the Trios. This is the second year running that Kia has represented England in the World Tap dance Championships and the second time she has won gold for the Junior Formation.

Kia has been a keen dancer for many years and is currently working with the Tap Attack Dance Company.

**Debbie Bark**

## **CALLING ALL WALKERS IN GORING HEATH**

If you are a keen walker - with a dog or without - or a horse rider, you will already be aware of the quirks and delights of our local footpaths and bridleways.

We are very fortunate to have such an extensive and varied network on our doorstep. The footpaths and bridleways are mostly in good condition but, from time to time, there are problems such as overgrown paths, access difficulties, and loss of signage.



This is where I would like your help! I am the footpath representative for Goring Heath, on behalf of the Chiltern Society. My role is to keep a check on the rights of way through the parish and to ensure they are in good condition for us all to enjoy. The ultimate responsibility for the paths lies with Oxfordshire County, but much of the inspection and minor repair work 'on the ground' is done by volunteers from the Chiltern Society.

I am an enthusiastic walker but I cannot cover all the paths every week, so it would be very helpful if you could let me know about any problems you come across on your walks and rides. Any small problems I will deal with as quickly as possible, and anything more difficult I will pass on to the County Officer for footpaths.

As I am also on the Parish Council my contact details are on the back of this newsletter, and on the Parish website.

Thank you.

**Liz Collas**

THE BESPOKE APPROACH

## **Pilates & Yoga classes**

Goring Heath Parish Hall



**Tuesday Evenings**

*More group classes in Goring & Woodcote...*

Please contact Betsy for further info

**M: 07922 439 165**

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

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

*Private classes ~ Mat & Pilates Equipment*

## **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.



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GORING HEATH ALMSHOUSES

## **Goring Heath Almshouses**

### **MAY FAYRE**

**Saturday 21<sup>ST</sup> May 2016**

**10am till 12**

**Come and join us for refreshments**

**and a slice of homemade cake**

**Wander around the Grade 1 listed Almshouses and grounds.**

**Plants for sale**

**Bric-a-brac**

**Homemade Cakes**

**Books**

**Tombola and Raffle**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**FIND US ON THE TOUR OF BERKSHIRE ROAD—RG8 7RS**

**WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Our March Meeting was our AGM, and our President Frances was re-elected unanimously to serve for a further year, as were Committee members, who had all agreed to stand again.

Our Treasurer was pleased to report that our finances are in fair shape, and our membership numbers are climbing steadily. This is due in part to an interesting programme of speakers, but also to other events which are arranged at regular intervals, and a friendly and sociable membership which leads to lively meetings.

At the beginning of March we visited Waring's Bakery in Tilehurst for a "Sweet Dough and Hot Cross Buns" demonstration. Enjoyed by all, we are planning to repeat the exercise later in the year to organise our preparations for Christmas. At the beginning of June we shall have a Craft Morning, when we shall learn to make Lavender Bottles. This will be at Goring Heath Parish Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 10am. Later in June members will be taking a trip to Waterperry Gardens.

Our meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May will give us time to debate our reactions to the WI Resolutions to be presented at the NFWI Annual Meeting in Brighton in June, and we shall also have speaker John Painter who will tell us about the History of Reading Abbey.

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**

**Calling all STUDENTS !!**

**The trustees of Whitchurch United Charities want to remind all students and families that the Charity has funds available to help with the cost of books and equipment or other educational expenses such as school trips.**

Contd. Over



The two closing dates per year for applications are now **31<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> September**. These have been changed slightly following a review of the timetable which was undertaken by the trustees at a meeting earlier this year. If there are any funds remaining after the grants have been made in April and October, then late applications are considered as soon as they are received.

Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch. (Note - if the St Mary's and St John's Parish Magazine is delivered to your house, then you are in the parish and therefore eligible).

All applications and decisions are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

If you would like to know more, please contact Peter Hawley (our Grant Application Secretary) on (0118) 984 3069 or write to him at:-

3 Whitchurch House  
High Street  
Whitchurch-on-Thames  
Reading RG8 7EP

Sally Woolhouse

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## **2016 Annual Meeting Report** **by County Councillor Kevin Bulmer**

### **Third Reading Bridge**

The bridge would link the end of the A329(M) in Berkshire to Playhatch in Oxfordshire. The enthusiasm of the scheme promoters is not shared by many Oxfordshire residents or the county who are concerned about the large amount of extra traffic that would be deposited on to already congested rural roads. Cost would double with mitigation works to surrounding roads.

### **Budget**

The net result of this is that the council will be able to set a balanced budget in 2016/17 but over the medium term now has £15.2m of unidentified savings to make as opposed to the previous figure of £11.2m. The new £4m of unidentified savings all fall in 2017/18.

### **Unitary**

Conflicting visions, watch this space.

### **Transport**

21st Feb notice to cancel bus subsidies given 27th July end, hoping to have information by end of May as to which routes are affected

### **Potholes**

OCC have bought a new and innovative road repair machine that has been nicknamed 'the Dragon' which is now tackling potholes across the county. According to Skanska Infrastructure Services which developed the unit, its unusual nickname arises from the fire-issuing nozzle it employs to de-ice pothole surfaces on roads in Scandinavia. The 'Dragon' also repairs minor cracks and other defects that could develop into potholes, resulting in cost-saving preventative measures. It is being tested on UK roads over the summer to gauge and evaluate performance. The machine is operated by a single driver in the cab. It's touted as safer, faster, less expensive, and more environmentally friendly than traditional forms of road repair. First the affected area is blown free of debris; for colder conditions a flame melts the ice off the surface first. Then a hot bituminous emulsion is applied to the defective area. After chip-pings, the material is compacted and treated with compressed air to ensure water-resistance. Then the road is immediately ready to accommodate traffic.

## New Oxfordshire Libraries App

Oxfordshire Libraries can now be accessed from smart phone or tablet. People can:

- ♦ manage their account
- ♦ search the catalogue
- ♦ renew and reserve books.

Bar code scanning is available on devices with a front-facing auto-focus camera.

Search for 'Oxfordshire Libraries' at the App Store or Google Play.

## Property Back Office and Reserves

There have been misleading media reports that OCC could reduce its financial challenges by selling property, cutting the back office and drawing on reserves. The reality is that OCC has already sold more than 100 properties realising over £62 million that has been used on capital projects. Furthermore, 26 leases have been terminated saving over £2.1 million p/a. With regard to back office functions, the number of directors has been cut by 50%, senior managers by over 40% and staff generally by 30%. Various services are already shared with other councils and partners, and further options are being explored to find even more back office savings. Reserves are already being drawn upon and will soon become low compared to expenditure.

## Didcot collapse

Site handed over to the Health & Safety Executive for recovery & investigation which will take 2 to 3 months.

## Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy

Pressure from local Councillors has led to Oakley Wood being retained at least for the next few years.

## CONTACT DETAILS:



*Address: Councillor Kevin Bulmer, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND*

*Email: [kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

*Tel: 07803005680*

*Twitter: Kevin Bulmer @bulmer\_kevin*



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**areasweep@btinternet.com**

## WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Our visit takes place from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and there is room on the coach for anyone who would like to join us. A report will be in the next edition of the newsletter, or look on the Whitchurch on Thames website for pictures of the events.

Vicky Jordan

## HAVE YOU GOT THE BOTTLE?

To all those generous people who donate bottles to The Bottle Stall at the Fête, we shall start the collection approximately two weeks before Fête Day on 28<sup>th</sup> of May.



## Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

Our last lecture this season takes place up the hill at Goring Heath Parish Hall on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Katherine Bradley of Oxford will tell us about the Votes for Women campaign in Oxfordshire, and there are sure to be local stories to tell. The meeting is at 8pm, coffee served from 7.30pm, and non-members are welcome, cost £3 to include coffee and biscuits.

We shall be at Whitchurch Hill fete on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May – so feel free to call in at our stall and find out more about our village. We'll also be selling books.

In June and July we go on outings during the day, and all members will receive e-mails with the details.

Vicky Jordan

# WHITCHURCH HILL VILLAGE FETE

## Outline of the Day

Start Time is 2PM

☀ Stalls, Food, Drinks & Refreshments, Band, Kid's Corner,  
Attractions & Entertainments – continuous through the  
afternoon ☀

### Events: Guideline Times

2:15 Punch & Judy Show

2:30 Fun Dog Show

3:30 Children's Races

4:00 Punch & Judy

4:30 Raffle Prize Draw

5:00 Egg Throwing & Close



*'A Fun Day out for all the Family!'*

# Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>

**Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground**



# WHITCHURCH HILL VILLAGE FETE

## **Fun Dog Show**

Enter the show on the day: £3 a class – Go to The Smiling Dog Company Marquee near the main gate

Pre-enter the show by May 25th for a discounted cost of £2.50 a class – just e-mail to [charley@thesmilingdogcompany.com](mailto:charley@thesmilingdogcompany.com)



### **Classes start at 2:30pm**

- **Best Young Handler**
- **Waggiest Tail**
- **Most Handsome Dog**
- **Prettiest Bitch**
- **Best in Show**



**Rosettes to 6<sup>th</sup> Place! And the legendary Golden Bone for Best in Show!**

***PLUS! New to the Fete – Have a go at Dog Agility! Available from 3:45PM. No need to book but feel free to email Charley if you want to know more***

***'A Fun Day out for all Dogs!'***

# **Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground**

**This Year's Fete – Saturday May 28th**

Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – The Village Fete starts at 2 p.m. and continues through the afternoon. We have a wide range of attractions lined up for your enjoyment – stalls offering a variety of items, cakes, BBQ, refreshing drinks, traditional fairground style entertainments including the ever popular Swingboats and Revolving Cups, Punch & Judy, a Concert Band, Children's Races, Kid's Corner, a Fun Dog Show, Tombola, a Raffle with a superb range of prizes, and more besides.

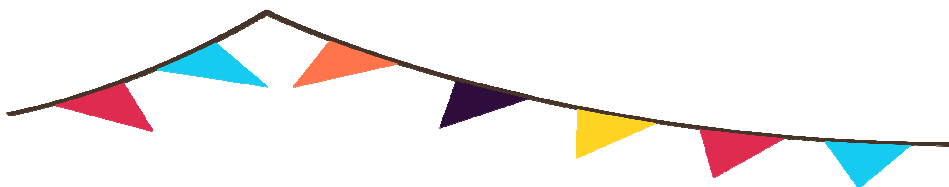
To help plan your day, you'll find an outline timetable for both the main event and the Fun Dog Show on pages 14 –15 of this newsletter. Raffle tickets will be on sale, so 'buy early, buy often' to boost your chances of winning! Relax over a tea, or a drink from the bar. Enjoy the Concert Band, and take part in the events. Buy some plants for your garden, fresh produce from the Allotments Stall, learn about the History of the area, win a coconut at the Shy – sounds good, doesn't it?!

If you are driving (or have friends who plan to drive) to the venue, there's ample parking in the nearby Castrol Car Park - just follow the 'Car Park' signs - it's only a short walk from there to the Recreation Ground. If you park in the nearby roads, please bear the residents in mind, and also ensure you aren't blocking access for emergency vehicles, buses and the like.

And as always, please bear 'SAFETY' in mind - guard against the burning sun, don't get de-hydrated, keep an eye on children, watch out for moving vehicles, be they on road, path or field, and if in doubt, just ask any of the team.

So, a fun day is planned – all we need is good weather, and above all YOU! Please come along, it promises to be an enjoyable day, and we in the Organising Team look forward to welcoming you.

**John Gray**





## LOCAL, FRIENDLY AND RELIABLE PET SERVICES

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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## **Online budgeting tool available from Citizens Advice**

Citizens Advice has developed a simple online questionnaire which can help you to understand what you're earning and spending, and where you might be able to cut costs.

The tool, which is quick and easy to use, is accessible at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/work-out-your-budget/>

In order to get started, you need your most recent bank statements, payslips, bills and receipts. However, you can also use rough figures if you just want a general idea of your position.

We are here to help everyone, of all ages and from all backgrounds. If money is tight, Citizens Advice can look into your situation. For further help, call Adviceline on 03444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. Locations and opening hours of our offices in south Oxfordshire can be found on [www.caox.org.uk](http://www.caox.org.uk)

**Goring Heath and Whitchurch Spring Show**

Once again our talented residents managed to gather together flowers from their gardens, cakes and jam tarts from their kitchens, eggs from their poultry, handicrafts and artwork from their nimble fingers and photos from their albums and put on a wonderful display in Goring Heath Parish Hall on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April. Considering the unseasonal weather so far this year, the number of daffodils on display was particularly impressive! Thank you so much to everyone who entered, to the judges who had the difficult (but we're told very enjoyable) task of 'ranking' the exhibits and to Sarah Hanfrey who did a great job with the refreshments. One tip for future exhibitors – if you're thinking of entering the Flower Arranging section, you are allowed to use bought flowers in your arrangement, they don't have to be home-grown.

The show was also well supported by the public who came along in the afternoon to see the entries, buy plants and raffle tickets and enjoy a cup of tea and slice of home-made cake. Several visitors came from further afield than Goring Heath and Whitchurch and we're very grateful to them for making the effort to join us – they were surprised at how many green fingered and artistic residents the villages boast, together with great cooks and photographers, and have promised to return to future shows.

The only disappointment was the lack of entries in the children's class *but* this doesn't detract from Sophie Bucknall's lovely drawing of a 'fantasy insect' which thoroughly deserved its First Prize. The number of children's entries has fallen away over the last few shows and we would urge parents, grandparents and anyone who enjoys doing art/craft/cookery with enthusiastic youngsters to encourage them to enter the children's section. After all, these very children are hopefully those who will, in the years to come, enter as adults and ensure that the village show survives for another generation.

A questionnaire was handed out to exhibitors and visitors asking for their views on when the shows should take place, whether any additional classes would be welcomed and whether they would be prepared to help out with any aspect of organising the show. A good number were completed and returned to the committee on the day but anyone who took it home to think about their answers can drop it in to a committee member (addresses are on the schedule) or scan it and email it to [helwillis@aol.com](mailto:helwillis@aol.com). If anyone who normally exhibits at or visits the show but couldn't make it this time would like a copy of the questionnaire, please contact Helen Willis (email as above or phone 0118 984 3620). You don't *have* to put your name on the questionnaire but, if you are able to offer some help with the organisation of the shows, it

would be very helpful to have your contact details!

Finally, the most important part of this report, the **cup and trophy winners**:

**Betty Haytor Memorial Cup**

*Most points in Flowers Section*

**Dave Sexon**

**Floral Arrangement Trophy**

*Most points in Flower Arranging Section*

**Denyse Williams**

**Arts and Crafts Trophy**

*Most points in Art and Handicraft Section*

**Liz Gibson**

**Egg Cup**

*Most points in Egg Section*

**Sarah Dragonetti**

**Baking and Preserves Cup**

*Most points in Baking and Preserves Section*

**Sue Sexon**

**Photography Cup**

*Most points in the Photography Section*

**David Pearson**

**Douglas Allardyce Memorial Rose Bowl**

*Most outstanding exhibit in the Vegetables, Fruit and Flowers Sections*

**Sarah Dragonetti**

**Children's Cup**

*Winner of the Children's Section*

**Sophie Bucknall** (aged 4)

**Whitchurch Hill Trophy**

*Most points overall*

**Dave Sexon**

Thank you again for your support and see you in September.

**The Show Committee**



# Tai Chi and Qigong Classes

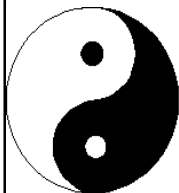
Whitchurch Hill ~ Goring ~ Streatley  
and other locations

## Day-time, evening and weekend classes

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Private lessons available

Call Karen on 07867 954 786  
or see [www.karenpounds.co.uk](http://www.karenpounds.co.uk)



### **GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER FACEBOOK PAGE**

Many thanks to all our readers who have Liked our Facebook page! Not only will this help us benefit from a bespoke Facebook web address, it will also ensure that you are up-to-date with any parish news which breaks after the publication date of the newsletter itself.

If you haven't already done so, please head over to Facebook, search for 'Goring Heath Parish News' and Like us to ensure you are kept up to date with any new information that we put on there.

And of course, if you'd like to publish any news or advertise any events on the Facebook page, please contact the editor at [archaeology-blues@hotmail.com](mailto:archaeology-blues@hotmail.com).





## Is heating your home adequately a struggle?

As part of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), energy companies are required to help households who can't afford to adequately heat their home. ECO can assist by greatly reducing the cost of a number of energy saving home improvements:

- ♦ Loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation (for homeowners and private tenants)
- ♦ Double glazing (in low income areas with a mix of private and social housing)
- ♦ Boiler replacement/central heating (if the boiler is unreliable/open fires in use)

### What's the catch?

You'll usually have to contribute to the cost and you'll need to be in receipt of means tested benefits such as pension credit for a boiler replacement. However, the possibility of improved comfort and lower energy bills should make this a very good long term investment.

### How do you apply?

To find out if you are eligible, call the Affordable Warmth helpline on 0800 107 0044 or email [awn@nef.org.uk](mailto:awn@nef.org.uk).

Photo courtesy of [www.nef.org.uk](http://www.nef.org.uk)



*Cavity wall insulation helps a home retain warmth for longer.*



### **Langtree scoops a third national award in two years for exceptional progress at GCSE!**

Staff and students are celebrating again at Langtree as the school has received confirmation of a yet another national award for exceptional progress at GCSE. Following two national awards in 2014 for achievement and progress, the school has again been identified by the Schools, Students and Teachers network (SSAT) for excellent performance in 2015, with GCSE results which put the school in the top 20% of all schools nationally for progress at KS4.

Langtree's Educational Outcomes Award will be presented at a regional celebration event to be held in London over the few weeks, held to draw attention to the work of high-achieving, improving and innovating schools and teachers.

Sue Williams, Chief Executive of SSAT said: 'It's my great pleasure to commend Langtree School on their excellent 2015 performance, and to have the opportunity to highlight and share their great work at the SSAT Educational Outcomes celebration evening. I have the privilege of visiting a lot of schools and I am always impressed by the creativity of teachers in engaging and inspiring students. Recognising and sharing successes like this is at the heart of SSAT's mission, so I'm delighted to congratulate Langtree School on their achievement'.

Headteacher Rick Holroyd added: 'We are all immensely proud of the Class of 2015 for their hard work in achieving such outstanding results last summer. These outcomes have given those students the very best chances to progress to further educational opportunities, and I would like to wish them all every success in the future. The staff at Langtree work extremely hard to ensure that all our students achieve their potential, and this award, following two similar awards last year, is worthy recognition of their hard work and dedication in recent years to bring about such exceptional results'.

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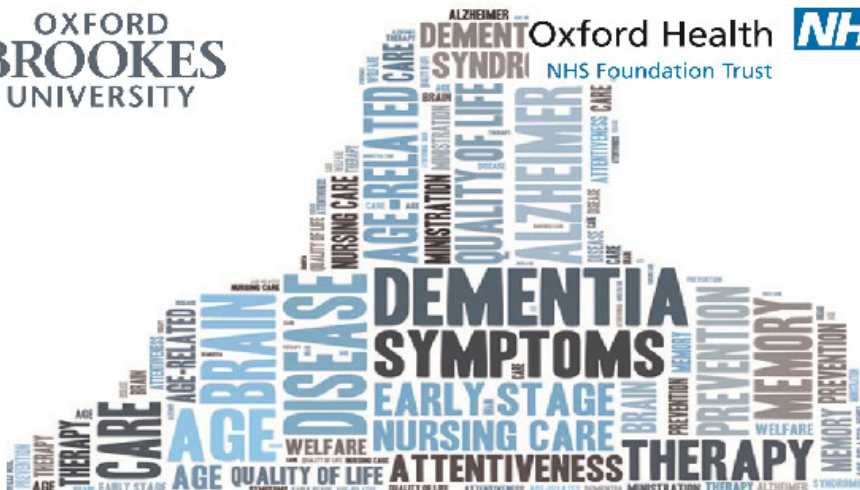
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**[www.svcarers.org.uk](http://www.svcarers.org.uk)**

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Health Matters

## **Behaviours that challenge: looking into the ways of reducing early institutionalised care for dementia**

**Dr Brian Murray** Consultant Older Adult Psychiatrist and Associate Medical Director for Older People's Services, Oxford Health NHS Trust

Dr Murray will look at how to manage behavioural and psychiatric symptoms of dementia to prevent early institutional care.

**On Wednesday, 18 May 2016, 18:00**

**At Chakrabarti Lecture Theatre, John Henry Brookes building, Headington Campus**

**Book now:**

**Tel: 01865 484864 Email: [events@oxfordbrookes.ac.uk](mailto:events@oxfordbrookes.ac.uk)**

## May Day

So, daylight saving is upon us, the evenings are longer and lighter and the air feels just that little bit warmer. Sometimes it does, anyway: I was pretty surprised to look out upon snow flurries just a couple of days ago, but our little island always seems reluctant to let go of winter too soon.

May Day will shortly be here—if indeed it is not already as you read this—and it's worth remembering this ancient reception of fertility and new life as we breathe in the sweet perfume of the Spring air around us.

May Day celebrations can historically be traced back to the Roman Republic, with the festival of Flora, the goddess of flowers, but it's likely that celebrations pre-date this. Certainly the Celtic peoples honoured this date as Beltane, a festival of fire and light, with huge bonfires being lit to honour the coming of the sun and pre-empt a bountiful harvest. All fires in the villages were extinguished on Beltane, and only the one large community fire remained. People purified themselves by jumping through the flames, and cattle were driven through the smoke to protect them from disease and encourage fertility. At the end of the evening, all villagers took some of the ceremonial flames back to their own homesteads to rekindle their own fires.

With the Christianisation of Europe, the May Day celebrations became less religious and more secular, and old Anglo-Saxon customs became tokens of merriment and celebration: Morris dancing, the crowning of the May queen and the May pole itself are likely to contain remnants of old Anglo-Saxon and Celtic traditions. Traditionally, seeding had been finished by this time and so farm labourers were given a day off (a gesture continued in the placement of a Bank Holiday on the first Monday of the month.) Communities celebrated the coming of warmth and the fertility of people, livestock and the soil with community gatherings and village fetes.

More local to our own County, in Oxford, people traditionally gathered outside Magdalen College to listen to the singing of morning madrigals as a way of crowning the previous evening's jollification. Nowadays, perhaps the city's more infamous custom is that of people jumping from Magdalen Bridge into the river Cherwell to celebrate 1st May; the tradition persists despite its danger, as the water is so shallow that many May Day leapers have been seriously injured by the fall. Previously the city council have closed the bridge in a bid to prevent revellers from risking life and limb, though it has been reopened again in recent years.

One of my own favourite springtime customs is walking through the woods—such as those at Great Oaks and the Oaken Wood just north of Whitchurch Hill—feeling the hint of warmth in the air and the subtle scents of new life on the wind, and seeing the luscious carpets of bright bluebells stretching out in all directions.

Where are your favourite springtime spots in the parish? Visit our Facebook page and post your recommendations for places that capture the essence of this vibrant season so others can benefit from them too.

And let me wish all our readers a very relaxed and enjoyable Spring!

**-Ed.**

## **STUARTS HOME DECORATING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

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## 13 - 19 June 2016 - Recycle Week

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, Recycle Week is a celebration of recycling, with this year's theme being '**The Unusual Suspects**'. The aim of the week is to encourage people to recycle items from around the home which often get forgotten.

During the week Recycle Now will be:

- Highlighting these unusual items
- Showing the benefits that come from recycling
- Motivating people to do more
- Demonstrating how to be a more effective recycler

We will provide lots of digital content for you to use, and will also produce some templates for printed material to enable you to get involved as much as you can. We will be sending regular updates out about Recycle Week 2016 and other Recycle Now campaigns. If you know anyone who might be interested in these, please ask them to sign up for our [newsletters](#).

Thanks

The Recycle Now team

For more information please visit [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)



**REMINDER FOR YOUR DIARY—REVISED BANK HOLIDAY  
WASTE COLLECTIONS**

## Bank holiday collections

### Don't forget...

...your bins will be emptied on a different day in the weeks after a bank holiday.

<b>Normal collection day</b>	<b>Revised collection day</b>	<b>Which bin?</b>
Monday 2 May	Tuesday 3 May	Grey bin and food bin
Tuesday 3 May	Wednesday 4 May	Grey bin and food bin
Wednesday 4 May	Thursday 5 May	Grey bin and food bin
Thursday 5 May	Friday 6 May	Grey bin and food bin
Friday 6 May	Saturday 7 May*	Grey bin and food bin
Monday 30 May	Tuesday 31 May	Grey bin and food bin
Tuesday 31 May	Wednesday 1 June	Grey bin and food bin
Wednesday 1 June	Thursday 2 June	Grey bin and food bin
Thursday 2 June	Friday 3 June	Grey bin and food bin
Friday 3 June	Saturday 4 June*	Grey bin and food bin



## SPRING

by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844—1889)

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning  
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,  
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.





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## **COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION**

### **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

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01491 576352      [robert.simister@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:robert.simister@southoxon.gov.uk)

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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  
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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](mailto: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 June 2016	July 2016
11th August 2016	September 2016
13th October 2016	November 2016
8th December 2016	January 2017
9th February 2017	March 2017
13th April	May 2017

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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

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Printed by: Goring Press, Gatehampton Farm, Goring-on-Thames  
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