

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

September 2016

153rd Issue

Visit us at:

www.goringheath.com

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Parish News'

Forthcoming Events

GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library (CC = Community Centre)

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

SJC = Saint John's Church, Whitchurch Hill

September 2016

7th Whitchurch Hill Camera Club (WHCC) Meeting

12th GH Bowls Club Final Roll Ups

15th History Society "Eccentric London"

17th OWL Fundraiser

20th WI Business Meeting

24th WI Coffee Morning

WVH

Almshouses

GHPH

WL/CC

GHPH

Art Cafe

October 2016

1st OWL Celebration

20th History Society "English Country Houses"

22nd WHCC event

WL

GHPH

Art Café

November 2016

11th Charity Soup Lunch

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 at:

goringheathnewsletter@gmail.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

One of the disadvantages of living in this beautiful area is that there is significant pressure for development, and recent history shows that pressure for development in an attractive location too often results in the development despoiling for ever the very attractions that made the location special. Evidence of this is parts of the Spanish Mediterranean coast line, where pressure for short term economic gain has resulted in poor quality development that is not sustainable.

The only protection that most of the countryside has is the planning authority, for us South Oxfordshire District Council, who have a duty to protect and enhance the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but unfortunately too often chase the chimera of economic development. In the past, countryside outside London was under the same sort of pressure for development that happens here today. In the 1860's, Hampstead Heath was proposed for building, as was Epping Forest, and it was only the action of people who fought the commercial pressures of the nineteenth century that ensured we now enjoy these areas.

It takes courage, imagination and foresight to take a long view, qualities that are sadly lacking today.

Peter Dragonetti
Chairman

SITUATION VACANT!
VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED

Please see page 30 for more information.

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/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	Permission
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	Permission
P16/S1244/HH 11 Bec Tithe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NP Rendering outside walls	No objection	Permission
P16/S1279/FUL Green Bloom Plantation Eastfield lane near Crays Pond 4 polytunnels - all 5m wide, one 20m long, three 12m long 1 horse field shelter 1 Farm-shop (in the carpark area) 1 pole-lathe workshop shelter 1 field kitchen 1 compost toilet (As amended by highways statement, car park plan and waste management plan 17 May 2016)	Should be refused. No objection to Amended details	Permission
P16/S1646/HH 3 Palmers Cottages Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PP Single and second storey rear extensions; alterations to existing side doors to form windows; additional first floor side window; additional ground floor side door & porch canopy	Should be refused	Permission
P16/S1519/FUL Hedgerows Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT New two storey chalet dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow		
P16/S1672/HH 6 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Two storey side extension	No strong views	Permission
P16/S1755/HH 2 Hermitage Cottages Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7SU Erection of single storey rear extension	No strong views	Permission
P16/S1756/HH Single storey side extension. Location: 6 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ	Should be approved	Permission

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.

P16/S1755/HH 2 Hermitage Cottages Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7SU Erection of single storey rear extension	No strong views	Permission
P16/S1756/HH Single storey side extension. Location: <u>6 Hocketts Close</u> Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ	Should be approved	Permission
P16/S1853/HH April Cottage Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7ST Erection of timber framed 2 bay garage to front of property	No objections	Permission
P16/S1986/HH Woodlands Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill READING RG8 7PR Single storey front and rear extension with new entrance porch and new chimney	No objections	Permission
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; additional Bat Survey Report received 1st July 2016)	No objections	Permission
P16/S1854/HH The Pothole Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7ST Two storey extension to existing property.	Should be refused	
P16/S2249/HH <u>Ladygrove</u> Cottages 3 Road Running Through Lady Grove Lady Grove GORING HEATH RG8 7RU Erection of an oak framed studio outbuilding replacing existing outbuilding.	No Strong Views	
P16/S2211/HH 1 Hermitage Cottages Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7SU Single storey extension to rear.	No Strong Views	

Newsletter—Volunteer Editor Required

Due to moving out of the Goring Heath area and into the unexplored wilds of West Oxfordshire, I will be handing over the editorial quill to a willing volunteer.

If you have an interest in writing, and local affairs, or just want to learn more about the Goring Heath community, then please get in touch for more information about what the role entails. The newsletter is published six times a year, and applicants would benefit from some basic knowledge of MS Publisher or Word as well as a willingness to attend some of the monthly parish council meetings.

Amongst other benefits, you will acquire an increased awareness of the local community, meet some great people and gain experience in the editorial process, whether for the CV, or just enhancing your personal skillset!

Please contact the Editor at goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com for more information.

Fun, friendly and affordable physical activity sessions for people aged 60+

Senior Circuit

This low impact session is fun and suitable for all abilities.

Wednesday, 1.15pm-2.30pm

Goring Heath Parish Hall

£4 per session



Improve your fitness and reduce your risk of chronic illnesses with **Nordic Walking**

Wednesday, 1.15pm-2.30pm

Goring Heath Parish Hall

£ 24 per course (6 sessions)



To book or for more information please contact Simone on 07717326661 or simone.passeri@southandvale.gov.uk

Senior Strength Training Circuit

As we grow older our body naturally starts to change and slow down. Our muscles lose mass, ligaments and tendons get stiffer, bones become less dense and more fragile, our heart is less able to send blood quickly around our body and our metabolic rate slows. All of these changes can have significant effects on our physical health and ability to go about our daily lives. Older people are susceptible to health conditions such as osteoporosis, arthritis and diabetes as well as falls and fractures. Although these changes are inevitable with age, sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy choices like smoking and a poor diet can accelerate these changes.

But it isn't all doom and gloom! Research has shown that long term regular exercise can help counteract the effects of ageing and reduce the risk of developing conditions such as high blood pressure and heart disease. Strength training exercises are particularly important to keep our muscles healthy and strong and keep us able to do the things we enjoy for longer.

A circuit of strength training exercises can have many positive effects such as:

- Improving muscle and joint strength and flexibility
- Reducing stress on bones Reducing pain and stiffness
- Improving cardiovascular fitness
- Burning calories
- Increasing metabolism
- Improving mood
- Improving sleep Increasing confidence

South Oxfordshire District Council's Go Active Gold scheme is introducing a new Senior Strength Training Circuit class for people over 60 in Goring Heath.

Stretch and Meditation

With Ann & Michell

September 27th 2016 ongoing

Tuesday evenings- Goring Heath Parish Hall Whitchurch Hill

6.15-7pm strength/stretch/meditation

7.10- 7.55pm stretch/meditation

An enlightening experience through body and mind. As we strengthen and relax our body through stretch leading one into a beautiful meditation.

£8 per session

Contact email ann.asyouwish@gmail.com

Come get inspired...Go Green your home!

The pioneering owners of three of the UK's most eco-friendly SuperHomes will host free Open Days this September in Oxford & Wallingford (Sat 10) and Faringdon (Sat 24).

SuperHomes are older homes refurbished by their owners for greater comfort, lower bills and fewer carbon emissions - at least 60% less! In Oxford, couple Tim and Joanne have added internal wall insulation to their end of terrace house. In Wallingford, Sue Roberts has added external wall insulation. Both 1960s properties now benefit from triple glazing, mechanical ventilation, wood stoves and solar panels.

In Faringdon, the Williams family's 1958 bungalow has another feature – a biomass boiler – plus a range of fun solar cookers.

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.

These free events are promoted by the National Energy Foundation. To find out more or to pre-book a place on a free tour, visit www.superhomes.org.uk

- Gordon Glass, Superhomes, NEF



GO ACTIVE GOLD

Yoga Classes For The Over 50s

Goring Heath Parish Hall Whitchurch Hill

Starting Thursday September 9th

9.15 -10.30am

£6 per session

Instructor Daniela Capasso

Contact Simone Passeri to book your place.

simone.passeri@southandvale.gov.uk or

Daniela [Capasso danielacapasso2000@yahoo.it](mailto:danielacapasso2000@yahoo.it) – 07917673692



Charity Soup Lunch

Friday 11th November

At Goring Heath Parish Hall
From 12.30 onwards

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

Everyone welcome (all ages)

**(Please tel: Joyce Brannan on 0118 9843007 or Sheila on
0118 9842184 for numbers by Wed. 9th November)**

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Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

Members enjoyed two outings over the summer – to the Police museum in Sulhampstead and to Thame Museum, and attended the Whitchurch fete.

Our lecture season starts on Thursday September 15th when we meet at Goring Heath Parish Hall (on B471 opposite St John's Church) to hear Alan Copeland's presentation of "Eccentric London". We always look forward to Alan's illustrated talks as he comes up with unusual and amusing facts and this will be a good start to our autumn meetings.

Alastair Lack, a retired BBC journalist, will talk about English country houses on 20th October. This is a perpetually popular topic, and he will concentrate on Oxfordshire houses, past and present.

Our November meeting looks at the Murderess Mary Blandy – was she an innocent dupe or cold-blooded poisoner?

All meetings are at 8pm (coffee from 7.30), and open to non-members for £3, to include coffee and biscuits.

- Vicky Jordan

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

W: 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

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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www.cherriespetservices.co.uk

WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute members are enjoying their summer, with a craft morning "Making Lavender Bottles" (or Lavender Wands) in early June, followed later in the month by their annual summer trip to Waterperry Gardens (beautiful gardens, a Saxon church, Rural Museum, and much else).

July saw fine weather for a Strawberry Tea in a member's garden for charity followed by our July business meeting with a demonstration by Christine Brewster of recycling materials into baskets and flower pot holders, dishes and shopping bags. In August we have no business meeting but we shall enjoy our Annual Barbecue, in the garden of Goring Heath Parish Hall (or in the hall if wet).

Early September we shall have a walk from Wallingford to Benson, followed by lunch at the Waterside Café; those who do not wish to walk can drive straight to the cafe and park in time for lunch at 12.30. At our regular business meeting on the 20th we shall welcome Daniel Akam who will talk to us about "Hedgehogs and what you can do to help them survive".

On Saturday 24th September, Whitchurch Hill members will be running the coffee morning at the Art Cafe in Whitchurch on Thames, coffee/tea and homemade cakes plus a raffle from 10.30am – all welcome, do come and join us.

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



Almshouses September Sunday Services

- At 1100hrs Sung Eucharist (BCP) on September 4th
- Sung Matins (BCP) on Sundays 11th 18th and 25th

Location: Allnutt Alms Houses, Goring Heath, RG8 7RS.

- Rev. Peter Dewey

**RG8 BADMINTON CLUB – WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS FOR
THE 2016/2017 SEASON**

We are a small friendly club and we have a few spaces to accommodate new members in both the over 11 years (Smashers) club and the adult club. The Smashers are coached by a Badminton England qualified coach and assistant coach with support from adult club members and parents.

We meet on Thursday evenings in the Sports Hall at Langtree School (6.30 – 7.30 for Smashers and 7.30 – 9.30 for adults) term time only. Subscriptions are payable on a termly basis and are usually about £30 a term dependent on the number of weeks we play. A play-in session is provided free of charge. New members welcome throughout the season.

If you would like to know more or wish to join please contact **Julie Drury** on 01491 681654





Weekly activities include: » French » PE » Cookery » Football

Ofsted rating 'GOOD'

- ~ Secure outdoor area
- ~ Climbing Frames
- ~ Flexible choice of sessions
- ~ Hot lunches available
- ~ Childcare vouchers accepted
- ~ Easter & Summer Holiday Club

We are a friendly local pre-school situated within the heart of the Woodcote Schools, offering children aged 2 - 5 a safe, happy and stimulating environment in which to express themselves.

www.thecabinpreschool.co.uk 01491 680854

 Find us on facebook ~ Friends-of-the-cabin-pre-school

Goring Heath Village Hall Committee AGM

Chairman's report July 2015 to June 2016

The committee believes that the hall needs to be kept in a smart and clean condition in order to attract hirers to choose our hall over other local venues. We do require a certain edge and level of bookings to remain a viable concern and continue to be an asset to the village. On these grounds this last year can certainly be considered a success where we have achieved a considerable increase in the level of bookings and income.

As a non-profit making charity, it is our role to endeavour to match our running and maintenance costs with income from lettings and fund raising events; something that we have managed for the last 15 or so years, including exceptional expenses of, for example, a replacement boiler in Dec 2009. However this year it has become apparent that we will need to spend more than our usual allocation on maintenance as the south window has rotted beyond a regular painting and filler repair. For this we have started completing grant applications to partly fund the work.

We have also continued our drive to be energy efficient and reduce running costs by introducing the recommendations in the energy audit completed in Nov 2014. In this last year we have substituted more tungsten lamps with LEDs, which necessitated also changing the dimmers; we have added reflective foil behind our radiators and are now surveying the energy consumption of the fridge with a view to choosing a unit that better suits our requirements. As previously mentioned a major concern at the moment is the condition of the south window and here the energy audit has also helped in support of our grant applications. The proposal is to replace the south window with an identical new wooden frame, but replace the glass with double glazed panes. We will also replace the opening casements with better fitting, double glazed and more user friendly versions. As part of the same project, we intend to also refurbish the east and west windows of the main hall with similar easily operated casements.

This year we hosted another of Mike Holland's ever popular quizzes which was well attended and a great success. These events, as well as being an excellent social occasion are also a good fund raiser for the upkeep of the facility. I would really like to thank Mike for his part as quizmaster and the trustees for all the effort they put into promoting the event, selling tickets and the food they prepared and served on the night.

CONTD.



As I have mentioned it has been a very good year for which I would particularly like to thank Theresa Elsome the hall manager and Peter Dragonetti, not only for his treasurer duties but his willingness, alongside Bill Pechey, to solve hall maintenance issues, both of them often at a moment's notice. Finally I would like to thank all the trustees for their continued support as without them the hall would not be the success that we all enjoy.

If anyone living in the Goring Heath area would like to consider joining the committee, comprising representatives from local groups and elected trustees, please contact the hall manager Theresa Elsome or the Chairman Chris Whatmore (see contact details at the back of this newsletter.)

- Chris Whatmore

WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS (registered Charity)

Drivers urgently needed

As we are providing more regular weekly shopping and day centre trips as well as trips to the hospitals and medical centres, we are urgently looking to increase the number of volunteer drivers we can call upon. If you feel you would like to become part of our team please contact the office Monday to Friday 9.30am to 11.00am on 01491 681171 for further details. The service we provide to the community is greatly appreciated by all our clients.

**Elizabeth Harrap
Secretary**





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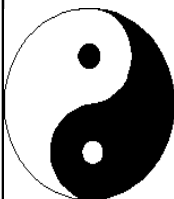
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GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER FACEBOOK PAGE

Just another reminder to take a look at the Goring Heath Newsletter Facebook page, if you aren't already checking in with it. It will contain some useful information that arrives too late to be included in the printed newsletter, as well as pictures, comments and suggestions from residents.

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:

goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com.



WHITCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES

(Registered Charity No. 264826 of 22.7.1907)

Whitchurch United Charities....Did you know?

(You may find this interesting if you are a student or a parent with a child between the ages of 5-25)

A little bit of History

Over the centuries, residents in Whitchurch have founded charities under the authority of the Rector and church with various local objects in mind. The earliest was Augustine Knapp's legacy of 1602. He left one pound (say £400 today) to be invested for the 'poor lame blind or impotent parishioners' to be distributed at the discretion of the Churchwardens.

The administration of these by the Rector and Churchwardens was time-consuming and difficult, and in 1907 they were combined and a registered charity created under the authority of the Charity Commissioners, who invest the proceeds and pay the interest to the Trustees.

Over the centuries, the funds have provided coal, winter coats and food vouchers amongst other benefits. However, for some while the trustees have felt that with today's welfare system, there could be a better use of the funds.

After considerable debate, the Charity Commission was petitioned to agree a scheme whereby grants could be made to assist local students. This was agreed by the Commission in Spring 2003.

The current scheme

Since 1st June 2003, the Trustees of the Whitchurch United Charities have been managing the distribution of the income from the Charity in the form of grants.

The purpose is to assist local students with the funding of essential equipment, such as musical instruments and books, or any other cost associated with an educational need. Eligible students are young people between the

ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch.

At present, the total income is approximately £400+ p.a. The accounts are vetted by the Charity Commission, and audited annually, with inspection available on request.

In the past few years, the Charity is fortunate to have received two additional bequests, namely the Lady Phoebe Rose Educational Charity and the Peter Minton Educational Bequest.

It is hoped that in future years, as the scheme becomes known, today's parishioners will leave legacies or gifts to increase our capital and consequently to make more income available for distribution.

Applications are welcomed throughout the year although grants are awarded bi-annually, in March and September.

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

If you would like to know more, or apply for a grant, please do 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

The Trustees

Mrs Jackie Kingsley (Chairman); Mrs Sally Woolhouse (Treasurer/Secretary); Mr Peter Hawley (Grant Application Secretary); Mr David Giles; Mrs Sue Matthews; Rev.Claire Alcock, Mrs Helen Bowsher

We are currently looking to expand our trustee group and are therefore looking for interested parties that might like to join our team. If you would like to know more information or would like to volunteer your services, please contact Sally Woolhouse: sally.woolhouse@gmail.com

Our Woodcote Library (OWL)

We are raising funds for new books in the library as County Council spending has been cut. Please come along to the Coffee Shop in the Community Centre next to Woodcote library on Saturday September 17th to support us – and of course enjoy delicious coffee and cakes.

Cakes will also feature in the tea party to be held in the library on the afternoon of Saturday October 1st, from 3pm, when we'll be celebrating 25 years of Woodcote library. Before 1991 Woodcote just had a mobile library visiting once a week. When Langtree School offered their music rooms (the old school) and the Library service agreed to fund staff, equipment and stock, the arrangement, unique in Oxfordshire, provided a village library and a school library in one.

Well worth celebrating, and all welcome.

- Vicky Jordan

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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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"Neighbourhood Alert" steals a march on latest scams

Scams! A very up-to-date type of crime which has followed us into the modern age along with all of the improvements in our communication systems - the telephone, the Internet, email and texting. Because of their efficiency and ruthlessness, scams pose a major threat to our security and peace of mind. But anybody who is alarmed about scams can now turn to a new resource which offers a realistic chance of staying ahead of the criminals.

This resource is the "Neighbourhood Alert" scheme, whose website provides email alerts tailored to your local area. The alerts are very up-to-date, timely and issued frequently. The information originates from Action Fraud, the police and neighbourhood alert scheme administrators, and also contains tip-offs on other types of crime like burglary and anti-social behaviour.

To sign up for free email alerts, go to <https://neighbourhoodalert.co.uk> and follow the simple registration process. On the home page, click on **JOIN** at the upper left. Answering the few simple questions on the online form takes about two minutes.

Citizens Advice can also help you if you have had recent experience of a scam or think you might have been conned recently. Do seek advice early, dropping in to your nearest Citizens Advice (for Oxfordshire South and the Vale, visit www.caox.org.uk for addresses and opening hours) or call AdviceLine on 03444 111444.

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is an independent charity that provides the national Citizens Advice service locally. We have 150 skilled volunteers supported by 10 staff, operating from five offices. We rely on local funding.

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale

**SEE OVERLEAF FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND GUIDANCE ON LOCAL SCAMS...**

Oxfordshire residents scammed by fake genealogists

It's one of the latest fashions - almost a craze in some quarters - and a harmless craze at that. All over the country quite ordinary people - the rank and file, and people just like you and me - are trotting hopefully into public libraries or crowding around the computer screen at home, finding out about their family histories and discovering facts about distant ancestors that amaze them. So! Our great granddad was an ocean-going sailor and shipped before the mast on a trans-Atlantic schooner! And fancy! Auntie Pauline who moved to Australia became a famous quilter! And perhaps we have a long-lost nephew! And so on and so forth.

These ordinary folk could be forgiven for feeling quite excited about their discoveries. However, Citizens Advice has learned that an excessive enthusiasm for tracing ancestors has apparently made people susceptible to approaches from unscrupulous parties trying to latch on to their enthusiasm and exploit it. These scammers, hiding behind the gauzy curtain of the Internet, work by contacting people at random, expressing the desire to "help" them "trace their inheritance".

South Oxfordshire Citizens Advice was recently made aware of one such company that contacted a client by letter, offering to trace deceased relatives who had died intestate so that an inheritance could be claimed from the deceased person's estate. The company said it would take a proportion of the proceeds from the search in order to cover its costs. The client gave the company an original copy of a birth certificate, pension statements and details of all relatives known to her. In due course the company informed the client that a distant cousin had died, leaving an estate. Power of attorney was given to a second company and the client was promised payment after the relatives had been contacted. At this point a police investigation intervened and the matter was taken no further, but the birth certificate original was never returned. It is easy to see that, without the police intervention, the case could have been much, much worse.

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Scams in all forms can cause misery, ill-health, or even ruin lives in some cases. Certain kinds of scams lead to loss of consumer confidence or personal self-esteem. Citizens Advice is calling on everyone to be vigilant and not to fall victim to scammers' tactics: cold calls, high-pressure sales techniques, automated voicemails asking for people's personal details and so on. Among the devices scammers rely on are spoofed email addresses, fake websites and fraudulent payment services. And they make use of the latest fads, like genealogy or the reclaiming of payment protection insurance (PPI), and set up a special trap to take advantage of them.

Citizens Advice has these key tips for people contacted by someone they think might be a scammer:

- * Contacted out of the blue? Be wary
- * If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is
- * Don't be rushed - resist pressure to make a decision right away
- * Never send money to anyone you don't know
- * Don't suffer in silence - speak out about your experiences

What action can you take when you are contacted by a suspected fraudster?

- * Get advice from Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 040506
- * Report scams or suspected scams to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040
- * Tell your family, friends and neighbours about it

Please share this information with others, especially those who you think might be especially vulnerable to scams.

For further help, drop in to your local Citizens Advice. Locations and opening hours of Citizens Advice offices in Oxfordshire South and Vale can be found on www.caox.org.uk

Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses)

This is our first report for a while in the Goring Heath Newsletter. The club is going strong, with 27 members (up from under 20 a couple of years ago), and for the first time this year we are playing in a bowls league, and holding our own.

The Almshouses provide us with a beautiful rural setting for our games, much admired by visiting teams. Our small green has three rinks (that is, you can play three games side by side) and we use the Almshouses common room, which gives us toilets, a kitchen, and social space for post-match get-togethers.

As well as league and friendly games against other local clubs, we play in-house competitions and have practice (and fun) roll-ups on Monday afternoons and Friday evenings.

In particular, our Monday afternoon roll-ups are perfect for anybody new to try their hand. Come along and soak up the tranquil atmosphere of The Almshouses and we can lend you some bowls to roll down our green. Just turn up for 2pm on a Monday, contact Maureen Jones (01491 681872), or email goringheathbowls@gmail.com. Our last roll-ups this year will be the week ending 17th September.

- David Watson



WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB

Did you know you have a long established, top rated camera club on your doorstep?

Whitchurch Hill Camera Club (WHCC), Village Hall, Manor Road is just a step away!

We start our year on the 7th September at 8.00 pm, a Wednesday (always a Wednesday) with an additional Thursday given over to a Practical Evening involving a teach-in, member to member: the first, on the 13th of October, includes 'Photoshop Skills & Techniques'. We pay our dues either annually or on the day - ideal for those whose Wednesdays are not always free.

Ahead of us is a varied programme including competitions - 'Digital Comp No. 1' on the 5th October: an open competition and perhaps a chance to show your favourite summer image? We also have external talks, AVs (audiovisuals), professional judging, travelogues and presentations. With a strong and growing female contingent the members are as varied as our programme itself, with both experienced photographers and beginners alike. Each member has their own recognisable style and interest, whether landscape, wildlife, still, portraiture, sports or street.

We are supportive and welcoming - whatever your style, whatever your level, come and join us!

On Saturday 22nd October find us at the Art Cafe where the WHCC will display a selection of our work and members will be on hand to answer your questions about the club. Coffee, teas and cakes from 10.00 to 12.30. Raising funds on the day will be APT Community Trust, a charity who plan to take responsibility for the running of Pangbourne Station Road public toilets.

Come to meet us...and have a more interesting Autumn!

Find a couple of our images overleaf, with info and lots more images at www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com

- Lyn Higgs



Images courtesy of Lyn Higgs, WHCC



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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: 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4S
See below for dept. phone contacts 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

South Oxfordshire District Council New Department Numbers

- ♦ **Planning** - 01235 422600
- ♦ **Building control** - 01235 422700
- ♦ **Environmental health, food and safety** - 01235 422403
- ♦ **Licensing** - 01235 422556
- ♦ **Elections** - 01235 422407
- ♦ **Car parks** - 01235 422417
- ♦ **Community safety** - 01235 422590
- ♦ **Street naming and numbering** - 01235 422344

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER

You can now get in touch with the Goring Heath Newsletter by emailing:
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com.

This is for any queries, correspondence, feedback and copy submissions.
Effective immediately, this should be easy to memorise and will remain constant, even if the editor doesn't!

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 goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
13th October 2016	November 2016
8th December 2016	January 2017
9th February 2017	March 2017
13th April	May 2017
8th June 2017	July 2017
10th August	September 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
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491 575205
RG8 Badminton Club	Julie Drury	01491 681654
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 Hill Camera Club	www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com	
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
Goring Heath Parish Hall :	Bookings and Enquiries: Theresa Elsome	0118 984 2056
	email: bnt@waitrose.com	

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