

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

January 2017

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

December 2016

25 Sun Christmas Day Service SJC

January 2017

14 Sat History Society Art Café Old Stables

17 Tues Whitchurch Hill WI—"Alpacas" GHPH

19 Thurs History Society—Members evening WVH

26 Thurs South Ox. Archaeology Group Lecture GHPH

February 2017

11 Sat "Life's Merry-go-round" GHPH

16 Feb History Society AGM WVH

21 Tues Whitchurch Hill WI—"Catching smugglers" GHPH

23 Thurs South Ox. Archaeology Group Lecture GHPH

March 2017

21 Tues Whitchurch Hill WI GHPH

25 Sat Quiz Night GHPH

Publicise your event and increase attendance by giving us the dates.

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

Another year draws to a close, and it's a chance to reflect what we have achieved in the last twelve months. We are able to tick the diversity box quite well, I think, as we have done something for all age groups. For the children we have installed a great new play area at Garton End, for the keen and fit – or aspiring to be so – we have installed a table tennis table on the recreation ground at Whitchurch Hill, for those who might be a bit less fit we now have a defibrillator at the Parish Hall, and in remembering the past of this parish we are well on the way in having the War Memorial restored.

We have also been able to maintain the bus service after the County Council withdrew the subsidy, and I think that I am right in saying that we, with Whitchurch, are the only Parish Councils in the whole of Oxfordshire who have done this.

It has been good that local groups have formed to work on particular issues; for the bus service SOBAG have represented a strong local desire to maintain the current service, and have helped the Parish Council reach a decision that has popular support. Similarly, the pressure to have the White Lion reopened as a local pub has been driven and supported by the Crays Pond Community Group.

It reflects a strong community that these groups exist, and I am pleased that the Parish Council works in harmony and co-operation with them. It is also good that your Parish Council itself works well, while we may not always agree about everything, we have never had the falling out that we have seen in other local parishes.

I therefore thank my fellow parish councillors for the contribution they make to this success, I thank Caroline Hadley our parish clerk, and I also thank everyone in Sobag, in the Crays Pond Community Group, the Parish Hall Committee, the Fete Committee and those who turn out for the Litter Blitz, and the Fete for making this such a good place to live.

Peter Dragonetti

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/S2683/FUL The White Lion Goring Road Goring Heath RG8 7SH Erection of two storey building at northern end of site to provide five bed and breakfast units, three staff units and an office and reorganisation of car parking serving public house. Change of use of southern part of site to residential and erection of two detached 5-bedroom dwellings incorporating construction of driveway and parking.	Objects	Withdrawn
P16/S2767/FUL Field View House Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement two-storey 5-bedroom dwelling and detached two-bay garage and garden store.	No Objections	Permission
P16/S2731/FUL The Studio 1 Reading Road Crays Pond RG8 7QE Proposed alterations to existing dwelling including demolition of existing extension and conservatory and proposed new dwelling on existing garden space.	Objects	Withdrawn
P16/S3051/HH Boundary House Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PB Replacement of linking buildings with single storey extension.	No objections	Permission
P16/S2682/FUL 7 New Buildings Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PW To use part of the paddock (agricultural) as a garden	No objections	Permission
P16/S2392/FUL Goring Heath Poultry Farm Goring Heath RG8 7SB Existing Pole Barn erected for sheltering and feeding cattle	No Objections	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.

Premises and application details	Parish Council	S.O.D.C.
P16/S3320/HH 4 Beechwood Close Goring Heath RG8 7SG First floor side extension and front porch.	No objections	Permission
P16/S3272/AG Goring Heath Poultry Farm Goring Heath RG8 7SB 13 bay pole barn for sheltering cattle.	No objections	Withdrawn
P16/S3385/HH 9 Hocketts Close Whitechurch Hill RG8 7PZ Single storey rear extension	No objections	Permission
P16/S3546/FUL Cedar Lodge Goring Road Goring Heath RG8 7SH Erection of single detached two-storey dwelling with access, parking and amenity space (amendment to planning permission P16/S2431/FUL)	No objections	
P16/S3734/HH Rifleman Cottage Shirvells Hill Goring Heath RG8 7SP Removal of existing garage and 2 sheds at front of property. Construction of new timber framed double garage and 2 new timber sheds at front of property. Associated external works	No objections	
P16/S3887/HH The White House Crays Pond RG8 7QG Extensions and alterations. Replacement of garage.	No objections	
P16/S3863/HH Shirvell Cottage Shirvells Hill Goring Heath RG8 7SP Proposed single storey extension .	No objections	

Having a Party ?

Don't forget you can hire cutlery, glasses, plates, catering teapots, good folding chairs and tables from Goring Heath Village Hall at competitive prices and nice and local.

Contact Theresa at Bnt@waitrose.com

War Memorial

The story of the War Memorial continues (see Newsletter 154 for part 1)

After the original proposal had been rejected in May 1919 , and the original committee resigned , a new committee came together, and met on 24th June under the chairmanship of Sir Frederick Cardew KCMG , with some of the old committee members but not Mr Palmer. In December 1919 a list of names of the fallen was published, with their ranks and regiments, with the invitation to contact the Rector if there were any mistakes. There was also the intention to make a final decision on the memorial, although the rector seemed keen to press ahead with the original idea of rolls of honour tablets in the churches. This of course was the traditional form of memorial, demonstrated by the monuments in many cathedrals listing the fallen of now long forgotten nineteenth century campaigns in various parts of the world. By November 1919, the new committee was unanimous of its new plan, and had an artist preparing a design, and was ready to put it before a meeting of parishioners. Where to place it was now the difficulty. A proposal to site it by the river on the approach to the Mill was initially favoured, but there was opposition from the people of Whitchurch Hill, who wanted it near St John Church, probably on the recreation ground there which at that time was the recreation ground for both villages. However, ultimately by December 1920 a compromise was reached with a site chosen at a mid point between the two parts of the parish.. The rector was keen that there should be no railings around the memorial, and also suggested a seat should be part of the design. Not a bad idea considering its location halfway up a hill!

In the meantime, Mr Palmer pressed ahead with his original idea for a tablet roll of honour in the church, and also paid for a porch at St Johns Church, while a similar tablet was installed in St Marys Church. The tablet in St Marys was dedicated on January 15th 1921, and the South porch and tablet at St Johns was dedicated on February 21st 1921.

The main war memorial was dedicated on November 20th 1921 with a very large crowd of local people, and a former sergeant laid a wreath on behalf of the men of the parish. About 100 men from the parish served in war and came home, their names are listed on a roll of honour in the church.

The memorial was designed by Frank Loughborough Pearson, who was the son of the eminent Victorian architect J L Pearson. After his father's death in 1897, Frank completed many of his father's commissions. The contractor was T Boxall & Sons of Pangbourne, and the stone mason Messrs Toms & Son of Forbury Road, Reading. The total cost was £394-17-6, equivalent today of about £16,000. This was paid for by local donations, mostly amounts of one or two guineas, (£1.05 being a guinea, today's equivalent £42), with a few contributions of ten or twenty guineas. Corporate givers were H & G Simonds, the big Reading brewers, later Courage, Sellwoods Bros whose shop is now the Art Gallery and the Whitchurch Bridge Company

The names of the dead of the 1939-45 war were added, and the memorial was unchanged until a storm in January 1990, when a falling tree toppled the column and the original celtic cross was shattered. Unfortunately the memorial was at that time uninsured, so the remains of the column were re-erected, and a simple cross added.

Saturday 11th February

Goring Heath Parish Hall

8pm

Present Two Blokes and a Lady

in

An hilarious comedy in two acts-

“Life's Merry-go-round”

**An hilarious light – musical entertainment
reflecting life's ups and downs
with**

Roxy Boulter, Jim Mitchell and Grahame O'Connor

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**Come and enjoy a really entertaining evening
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Tickets £10 phone Theresa on 0118 9842056

Or

email bnt@waitrose.com

To book your seats

Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

On Thursday January 19th the Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society is opening its doors to all comers to hear about Sir Charles Rose, owner of Hardwick House in the early Twentieth century, and a possible model for Mr Toad in “The Wind in the Willows” by Kenneth Grahame. With his love of cars he might seem to fit the bill, but in real life Sir Charles was also a fascinating character, a sportsman, liberal politician, member of the leisured class, with connections to Edward V11, but with a private life shadowed by bereavement.

Michael Redley, of Oxford’s Department of Continuing Education, who has researched the life of Sir Charles and the times in which he lived, will give an illustrated talk, introduced by Miriam Rose, his descendant and current owner of Hardwick House. His booklet will be available to buy at £7. The event is at 8pm at Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road, Whitchurch, RG8 7EU.

On Saturday 14th January the History Society will be at the Art Café, serving delicious cakes and coffee. Please come and support us.

Our AGM takes place in Whitchurch Village Hall on Thursday 16th February at 8pm. Come and hear of all our activities – and maybe join us – and see Nick Brazil’s delightful new film “The Secret Life of Father Thames”, a journey of discovery down the Upper Thames.

Non–members always welcome, £3 to include coffee and biscuits.

Vicky Jordan

Christmas in Goring Heath

By the time you read this, you may have missed the service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St John's Church, but there may still be time to come to Christingle on Christmas Eve at St Mary's Church at 4pm, which is ideal for children, or the traditional Christmas morning service at St John's Church on Christmas Day at 10.30.

You don't have to be a regular church goer or a committed Christian to come to these services, which are based around a sense of community and togetherness. Christmas is more than a week of television and over indulgence.

Hedge Laying

Over the last couple of years, the hedge around the parish hall car park has been laid as the original planting had become quite overgrown.

There is one section left that needs attention, and we are therefore holding an open session for anyone who would like to come and learn and help to do this last length. No experience is required.

We plan to have the session on Saturday 14th January from 10 am – although if the weather is too bad it will be postponed to the following Saturday, 21st January.

If you would like to take part, please email me at: martinwise10@hotmail.com or phone me on 0118 984 3071.

Almshouses Sunday Services

Christmas to February

11.00 am Sung Eucharist

January 1st, February 5th

11.00 am Sung Matins

December 25th, January 8th, 15th,
22nd, 29th

February 12th, 19th, 26th

*All these services are traditional Book of Common Prayer
The Chapel, Allnutt Alms Houses, Goring Heath, RG8 7RS.*

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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WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The subject for our November meeting “Red Kites in the Chilterns” by David Glover. He showed us some spectacular slides of these and other wildlife, and recounted the successful re-introduction of Red Kites, particularly in this area, following almost extinction, they having been regarded as pests in previous centuries, and a payment of one (old) penny being paid for a carcase.

We have our Christmas lunch at a local hostelry in December, and in January our business meeting will be followed by a talk on “Alpacas”. Our February meeting will be a talk on “40 Years of Catching Smugglers” by Malcolm Nelson, and in March will be our AGM when we hope to encourage some new members onto our Committee, and we will be starting our forthcoming year's programme of speakers social event, outings etc..

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.

For information please contact Patricia Dent –email : pmdent@btinternet.com or telephone 0118 984 1696

LANGTREE SCHOOL SEEKS NEW GOVERNORS

There is probably no institution in South Oxfordshire that reflects so much credit on its area of operation as Langtree School. Largely thanks to the able leadership of Headteacher Rick Holroyd, supported by a great team of teachers, Ofsted judgements of the school have hovered between good and outstanding over recent years with the emphasis very much on the latter. This year's GCSE results were the best ever in many respects and the school is now comfortably within the top 10% in the country.

But, as Rick Holroyd has often said, there is no room for complacency and the professional staff can't do it all on their own. In the last few years Langtree has become an Academy, which is an independent, charitable, Trust, mainly funded on a per pupil basis by the government. The rationale for this change is that international research strongly suggests that schools which are autonomous do better as a result.

Charities need trustees, or in the case of schools, governors. And Langtree needs a number of new governors fairly urgently. We have Parent and staff governors but it is essential that there are also a number of governors with no sectional interests who are simply providing a public or community service. If they bring with them some of the professional skills which all organisations need to operate effectively, so much the better.

The task of governor can of course be demanding, but there is great intrinsic satisfaction in helping to ensure that our young people have access to a school which serves them well, and the opportunity to see and interact with those young people at their best is immensely rewarding.

If you are interested and would like to explore what is involved please email the Chair of Governors, Tracy Sedwell:

tracy.sedwell@btinternet.com further information.

On the Buses

We have agreed in principle to continue to support the existing 143 bus service for the next financial year, until April 2018, because of the feedback we received to the feature in the last newsletter. The responses we received were overwhelmingly in favour.

We have considered alternatives, and are still examining them with Whitchurch on Thames, but proposals such as using volunteers are really impractical when matters like insurance, vehicle acquisition and maintenance, let alone finding and organising volunteers, are brought into consideration.

The continuance of the service does depend on Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council and the Parishes and District Council in West Berkshire also continuing to play a role, so we are working to make sure that there are no difficulties elsewhere that could scupper the service.

The bus will certainly continue until March 2017, and we will do our part to support it until March 2018.

If you have not used it before, why not try losing your driving licence through speeding and then giving it a go. Or simpler still, give it a go anyway !

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

Senior Circuit – a low impact session suitable for all abilities

Thursdays 11.45 to 12.45 Goring Heath Parish Hall

For more information call Simone Passeri on 07717326661 or email 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

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

Goring Heath NEWS

Restoration of the War Memorial

January 2017

The plan to restore the War Memorial to its original design, to have it professionally cleaned and to improve the immediate surround is progressing well, and now out of the total cost of £9,000 we have raised just over £7,000, half of which has come from the War

Memorial Trust. If you would like to donate to this restoration, please email: whitchurchwarmemorial@gmail.com with an indication of the amount you



would like to contribute, and you will be contacted in due course when we have had sufficient promises of money to be able to ask the contractor to start work.

If you would like to make a comment, share something of local interest, or just have your say, please email the Editor at: www.goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com



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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 – 07917673692

??Quiz Night??
Goring Heath Parish Hall
Saturday 25th March
2017
8pm

Don't miss out on the now famous

Mike Holland Quiz Night!

Get your team of about six together and then book
your table.

Phone Theresa on 0118 984 2056
or email

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There will be food and drinks to simulate
the brain!

Cost £12 per person

It's competitive, ruthless but its fun!!

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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.

If you'd like to publish any news or advertise any events on the Facebook page, please contact the editor at:

[**goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com**](mailto:goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com)

RECIPE PAGE

Whilst flicking through an old recipe book the other day I found this very unusual recipe for Rook Pie. Not something that appeals to me but might ring the changes when we're all tired of the old turkey!

Rook Pie

6 Rooks
3 hard boiled eggs
1 pint warm water
1 oz butter
1 lb steak
1 oz flour
Pepper and salt
½ lb rough puff pastry
½ oz gelatine

Skin rooks. Remove livers and backbone. Wash and dry. Cut into neat joints and steak into pieces. Toss in seasoned flour. Fry rook joints in hot butter. Set aside and brown steak. Add warm water and simmer for 1 hour. Put rooks, meat and eggs into pie-dish. Pour gravy over gelatine, stir till dissolved. Pour over rooks, and when cold cover with pastry. Decorate. Brush with beaten egg and bake for ½ hour at Gas Mar 7. Pour on gravy and serve cold.

Apparently this is a local Lincolnshire recipe and it got me wondering whether anyone knows of any unusual local Oxfordshire recipes. If you do, please send them in.

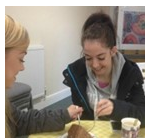


The community Art Cafe in Whitchurch on Thames runs in The Old Stables every Saturday morning between 10 am and 12.30 offering coffee, cake and conversation. A different charity or community group runs the cafe each week to raise funds for their cause – together the total raised this year was £8,800.



Gill shows arts and crafts from local and emerging artists and invites charity groups to run the cafe.”
(Reverend Claire Alcock)

It all started just over a year ago when local artist Gill Williamson asked the Reverend Claire Alcock if she could set up an Art Cafe in the Old Rectory Stables, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7DF.




Charities are having fun at their coffee morning fundraiser and local artists are queuing up to show off their work!”
(Gill Williamson)

Art Cafe is a great place to browse art and crafts whilst enjoying a cuppa. The display changes weekly so keep popping in to see if they have just what you’re looking for – or book a fundraising coffee morning for your favorite cause.

Or just drop in and say hello – they’re a friendly crowd!

Contact Gill Williamson for more info: gill@artcafe.co.uk



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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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neilandkathmcdougall@tiscali.co.uk

Rail Electrification Update No 9: Network Rail's Public Consultation - soon!

Following on from RAG's last update in August, Network Rail has been undertaking work on the new electrification designs and on the visual impact that these might have on the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). RAG members have seen the eleven gantry designs they are considering for a retrofit, but after detailed engineering analysis and cost evaluation they plan to reduce this to three or four possible designs to put before the general public as part of their (very late) consultation process. We have not seen the short listed designs yet and we are pressing for these to include non-portal type structures such as wire-head spans and more slender T-shaped designs. We believe that using these non-portal type structures is the only way to make a meaningful improvement to the aesthetic appearance of the current bulky and over-engineered gantry design.



Current tension portal to support 4 single electrified wires. Photo Ian Haslam

Network Rail will first show the short-listed designs to the 'Design Advisory Group' (the group of local statutory bodies that are working with Network Rail, which includes the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs Conservation Boards), in the next couple of weeks.

Network Rail has put some of the information relating to the remedial evaluation it is undertaking, and the impact that electrification is having on the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs AONBs, on a page of their website (www.networkrail.co.uk/great-western-route-modernisation/oxfordshire/). It includes maps, a list of the early options generated for potential retrofit (not the short-listed ones as yet), comments from the Design Advisory Group and some images from Balfour Beatty's evaluation workshops. The plan is to add more information onto this site as it becomes available.

Network Rail has also confirmed that the Public Consultation regarding the Great Western Mainline Electrification issues will commence on 21st January 2017, with drop-in meetings at various localities throughout the AONBs that have been affected by the work. Network Rail has stated that the process will be in two parts, with a second phase of drop-in meetings, which will incorporate feedback from the first, scheduled for March/April 2017. They have proposed a number of venues in the parishes affected, including Goring, Streatley, South Stoke, Cholsey, Moulsoford, Pangbourne and Basildon.

Network Rail will be contacting Parish Councils and Village Halls directly to arrange venues and dates. Please look out for the official notifications from them so that you can plan to attend and make your views known. As with the previous consultation in October 2015, representatives of Network Rail will be in attendance to answer questions and get feedback from the public. The specific dates for each venue may be announced at fairly short notice so we suggest that people interested in attending these meetings consider signing up on our website (link at end of article) and will we email the details directly. It is essential that the maximum number of people affected by the electrification work attend these meetings and make their feelings known to Network Rail, as this may have a major bearing on whether it ultimately fulfill its promises and stated intentions to use the money it says it has put in its budget to undertake the retrofit.

The recent announcements by Network Rail on deferring parts of the electrification work will not have a significant impact on our AONB stretch of track. They have put back the electrification of four branch lines to 2024 and beyond, including the Henley branch line and the Didcot to Oxford branch line. However, the electrification work on the mainline track (from London - Cardiff) will continue with a current timetable for completion scheduled for end 2018, but this appears an optimistic forecast. The knock-on effects mean that Network Rail has had to order more bi-mode trains (hybrid electric and diesel) for the mainline service.

RAG's next meeting with Network Rail is planned for January. We hope to know the firm dates for the public consultation dates before Christmas, but as the January issue of GGN is not delivered until about 21/22 January, about the time Network Rail plan to start the consultation. So, to be notified by RAG when the consultations are and where, please register on RAG's website: www.savegoringgap.org.uk/ (Then go to 'How to Help', then 'Join our Mailing List').

Ian Haslam & Ron Bridle (RAG)

The Village Fete

As you'll see from our advertisement in this edition, we are already planning for another successful and enjoyable Fete in 2017 - so please put Saturday May 27th in your brand new diary!

Every year, after we have counted up the day's receipts and paid our suppliers, we aim to make donations to some local charities and causes. Following last May's event we donated towards the maintenance and upkeep of our Parish Hall, the installation of a traffic safety system for a nearby school, and we helped sponsor a Charity Run by a local business in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief, which although a nationwide charity has played a key role in support of many local families. So we'd like to think that any profits from the event are always put to good use for the benefit the community.

Looking ahead, we are working on next May's Fete. In simple terms this breaks into two parts – booking the stalls and arranging the infrastructure for the event on the one hand, and 'delivering on the day' on the other. We have a small team of enthusiastic volunteers who year after year contribute hugely to the success of the event, but we could use some more help, particularly with the 'delivering on the day' part.

Could you give us an hour or two on the day? Not every year – it's not like a 'Lifetime Gym Membership'! If you could find an hour or two to help us with tasks such as erecting (and taking down) marquees, directing traffic, assisting on the BBQ, and the like, that would make our job so much easier. And you get to meet some lovely people!

Interested? If you could give us 'an hour or two' or indeed feel you'd like to be involved in planning the day, simply mail to whitchurchhillfete@gmail.com and we'll be happy to contact you to discuss further. Remember, it's not a never-ending involvement, simply a bit of help for a worthwhile local event. Your 'hour or two' once every few years would make a big difference.

The Organising Team

WHITCHURCH HILL VILLAGE FETE

Put the date in your diary now!



'A Fun Day out for all the family!'

Saturday May 27th

Starting at 2PM

Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground

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
POTHLES	-	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

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER

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

This is for any queries, correspondence, feedback and copy submissions. ,
This 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
9th February 2017	March 2017
13th April 2017	May 2017
8th June 2017	July 2017
10th August 2017	September 2017
14th October 2017	November 2017
9 th October 2017	January 2018

LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494 764149
Goring Heath Bowls Club (Alms Houses)	Maureen Jones	01491 681872
Goring Heath Parish Charity	Chris Whatmore	01189 844022
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	01189 787829
Tai Chi and Qigong	Karen Pounds	07867954786
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Emily Dalton	01189 844714
Whitchurch Hill Camera Club	www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com	
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Chair: Sue Matthews	0118 9844489
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association	Vicky Jordan	0118 9843260
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	0118 9842162
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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Goring Heath NEWS

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