

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

**March 2020**

**Issue 174**

Visit us at:

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

**March 2020**

## **Goring Heath NEWS** **Forthcoming Events**

GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

ORS = Old Rectory Stables

SJC = St John's Church, Whit. Hill

WL = Woodcote Library (CC = Community Centre)

PVH = Pangbourne Village Hall

**Bowls Club** Open roll-ups every Monday at 2 pm

Almshouses

Badminton Club—every Thursday pm (term time)

Langtree School

### **March 2020**

2nd OWL—AGM

WL

9th Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society, 8pm

WVH

9th Community Walk—meet outside Sun Pub 10 am

11th Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association

AGM, 7pm

ORS

14th WHWI—Art Café,

ORS

19th Whitchurch History Society, 8pm

WVH

28th Litter Blitz—details on p 5

18th Whitchurch Hill WI, 10 am`

GHPH

20th Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society  
7,30 for 8 pm. £3 includes coffee and biscuits.

WVH

28th Litter Blitz—Details on p.5

28th Goring Heath Spring Show 2.30—4

GHPH

### **April 2020**

6th Community Walk—meet outside Sun Pub 10 am

16th Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Soc. 8pm

WVH

21st WHWI, 10 am

GHPH

### **May 2020**

8th—11th Twinning Association trip to La Bouille

23rd Whitchurch Hill Village Fete 2—5pm, Recreation Ground

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

**IT IS FREE**

We welcome event dates from all local charities and groups for listing in this feature. Please send details to the Editor at: [goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Investing in our community

As you might be aware, a small proportion of your Council Tax bill is allocated for the Parish Council to manage on behalf of our community. For those of you technically minded, this is named the Precept. The Parish Council has recently debated the level that the Precept should be set at for the 2020-21 financial year commencing in April, and after several years of this remaining flat, the Council has decided that it is sensible for us to increase the level slightly. We feel it important that if we are going to ensure Goring Heath remains such a pleasant place to live, that we must invest appropriately in our community assets as well improve standards of the day to day up-keep of our Parish.



To put this in perspective, the Precept, will increase next year from £23,000 to £26,000, that is around £6 per household per annum. Full details of our budget are available for you to view on the Parish Council website, but initiatives we are investing in include upgrading the Parish Hall car park, an improved grass cutting specification and expenditure on signage to support the anticipated reduction in the speed limit at Crays Pond. I hope you will agree that this all makes sense. We are happy to discuss this at any time – or of course at our annual general meeting planned for the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> April.

And whilst speaking of investing in our community, I am delighted to see the formation of the Goring Heath Conservation Group, a team of volunteers who will be regularly meeting to work on a number of conservation activities. A big thank you for those of you getting involved – and more volunteers always welcome.

**Chris Jessop**  
Chairman

### Parish Council Vacancy

We are still looking for another person to join the Parish Council. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk, Amanda Holland (details on the back of the Newsletter) to find out more about the role and what is involved.

**March 2020**

## **Goring Heath NEWS**

### **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.



<b>Premises and application details</b>	<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>SODC</b>
P19/S4570/LDE The Stables Mount Pleasant Farm Goring Heath RG8 7TB Erection of a single dwelling house and subsequent continuous use thereof	No Strong Views	
P19/S4406/FUL Lavender Cottage Coldharbour Goring Heath RG8 7SY Addition of dormer window to existing building	No Strong Views	
P19/S4406/FUL Bensgrove Farm, Goring Heath, RG87RY Change of use of redundant agricultural barn to residential dwelling plus internal and external alterations. Demolition of lean-to on stable block and Erection of a garage and carport together with a soft landscaping scheme.	No Strong Views	
P19/S2054/FUL Greenbroom Farm Shop on the B4526 near Cray's Pond RG8 7SG 5 years temporary planning permission - change of use from agricultural to Sui Generis Mixed land use - horticulture, forestry and education businesses with temporary accommodation for workers and visitors. Extension of permission for existing poly-tunnels and permission to erect five temporary wooden cabins tied to the agricultural and forestry use of the land.	Under Consideration	
P20/S0514/HH 4 Beechwood Close Goring Heath RG8 7SG Proposed double storey side extension and front porch following the demolition of the attached garage.	Under Consideration	

## 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.

### ***GORING HEATH LITTER BLITZ— SATURDAY 28TH MARCH***



The neighbourhood enjoyed a spring clean last year when over 70 black bin bags full of rubbish were collected by volunteers of all ages.

The Parish Council organises a community action day in early spring before the undergrowth grows up and while the litter is still visible and can easily be picked up.

If you can spare about 2 hours and would like to do your bit for your community, please come along and take part in the Goring Heath 2020 Litter Blitz which is being held as part of the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 28th March.

There are three assembly points: the Parish Hall car park, Crays Pond cross roads by the bus shelter and by the Old Post Office, Goring Heath. We meet at 10 am and are usually finished by lunchtime. Litter bags are provided but please wear gloves. A parish councillor will be on hand to assist at all locations.

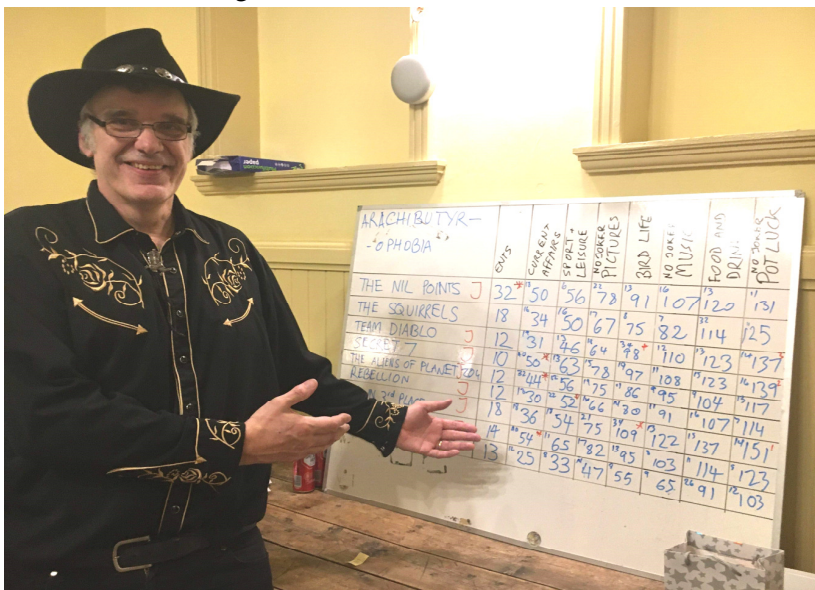
### **OAKLEY WOOD (WALLINGFORD) RECYCLING CENTRE**

The recycling centre at Wallingford will be closed for two days on Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday April 1st in order to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance.

March 2020

## Goring Heath NEWS

An evening of fun, fiendishly difficult questions and fish and chips were enjoyed by everyone who took part in Mike Holland's now famous Quiz Night on the 8th of February. A total of £630 was raised, which will go towards improvements to Goring Heath Parish Hall.



Above: Mike Holland at the scoreboard. Below: The winning team



## Comments by District Councillor

Life on the District Council is interesting at the moment; the issue of the Local Plan is one that has not gone away. Although the election in May last year brought into office many people who had clearly stated their opposition to the new Local Plan, the government has overruled the new council. The Secretary of State has threatened to take away the District Council's planning powers and pass them to the County Council. You will have seen just how much new housing is already being built in Benson and Wallingford, and there are already more houses to be built in Didcot, Crowmarsh and Watlington, but the new plan envisaged even more. Are these new houses really being built to meet local need or is it for some other reason ?

The design for the new office at Crowmarsh to replace the old one that was destroyed by arson has now been revealed, and it follows the outcome of the public consultation that was carried out last Spring. The cost has increased from the original estimates, but as the building was destroyed over five years ago, that is hardly surprising. Over those years, a significant amount has been spent on renting office space, and there is no realistic alternative to rebuilding on the same site. It is planned that the new offices will be occupied by April 2022. Local residents with a long memory will recall that, a few years ago, it was proposed that the old office was demolished anyway and rebuilt because it was so badly designed and difficult to run. While that idea was abandoned, it does demonstrate that building poor quality offices on the cheap is not really value for money.

If you would like to discuss these matters, or any other issue involving the District Council, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Peter Dragonetti, District Councillor

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

If you'd like the chance to catch up with your parish councillors, and to find out what's happening in your local area, then come along to the next Annual Parish meeting which will be held in Goring Heath Parish Hall on the 9th April at 8 pm.

There will be wine!

## **ADOPT A SAPLING OR 10?**

The Great & the Good are making great claims about planting millions of trees to combat climate change. Only, there is one small problem once they have done that. Keeping them alive.

In our own small way, we are trying to manage our Great Oaks Wood to provide not only beautiful woodland, but help capture carbon. Having thinned out some of the mainly conifers, we are replanting with native hardwoods. With help from Martin Wise & friends, by the time you read this, we should have planted some 600 saplings.

My worry is keeping them alive so that they will actually grow & mature. I just wondered if any parishioners would like to help, mainly by keeping an eye on them, and help water them through their first year or two? I am not quite sure how this might work, possibly having a communal watering session once a week, or allocate a few trees to keep an eye, eg when out for a walk.

It would be a learning experience for us all, and could be interesting to see what we could make work for successful sapling survival.

Anyone interested, please contact me - **Jon Hatt 0118 984 3121**  
or [merricroft@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:merricroft@yahoo.co.uk)

### ***SOME USEFUL EMERGENCY NUMBERS ..***

- To report fallen trees or other debris which pose a risk to your safety or the safety of others, please call 999
- To report fallen trees or other debris which doesn't pose such a high risk but still needs to be dealt with, please call 101
- If you lose power or can see that a power line is down please call 105
- If you are concerned about flooding, you should visit the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit online - <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com> – and it will summarise the key numbers to call below:
- If you have a flooding emergency which is a threat to someone's life, contact Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on 999
- To report flooding relating to a highway such as blocked ditches, blocked drains or flooding on a road call Oxfordshire County Council Floodline on 0345 310 1111
- To report flooding from a main river contact the Environment Agency through the Floodline (Tel: 0345 988 1188 or 0800 80 70 60) or visit their website
- If your property is at immediate risk of surface water flooding please contact Thames Valley Police on 101



## Footways in the Parish

Over the past years the Parish Council (PC) has spent a considerable sum on the establishment and maintenance of footways alongside the B471, effectively from the War Memorial to Shervell's Hill.

Whilst there are some sections that are less than ideal (from the Hatchgate northwards to the Rec and from St John's to Cherry Mount), overall, these footways allow reasonably safe walking along the length of the 'main' road.

It is worth noting that these are NOT Public Footpaths or Bridleways but part of the Highway and subject to the same legislation as the carriageway itself. This means that obstruction of the footway is in effect no different to obstruction of the road in terms of the Law. As part of the Highway these footways are not marked on Ordnance Survey maps

This clearly puts responsibility for keeping the hedges clear of the footway on the adjoining Landowners who ARE responsible for THEIR hedges. The Highway Authority are empowered, in the last resort, to cut the hedges and invoice the relevant landowner for the work....an expensive option I would imagine. The Parish Council urges relevant landowners to take responsibility for maintaining their hedges where they obstruct the footways.

The PC hopes to develop new mowing regimes for parts of the verges along which our footways run, resulting in increased bio-diversity and making walking them an even greater pleasure.

**Martin Wise**

## Sustainable Woodland

The practice of managing woodland by coppicing has been practised for millennia. This process of regularly harvesting poles from regrown stumps (*stools* in woodland vernacular) has kept a supply of wood available for firewood, construction and a host of greenwood products used on the farms, in the home and gardens.

By choosing products from our native woodlands, one supports this industry and the fantastic habitats that coppicing creates.

So, if you are planning on buying Bean Poles, Pea Sticks, Pyramid plant supports, rustic fencing or any other similar thing, then do visit [www.coppice-products.co.uk](http://www.coppice-products.co.uk) where you can find suppliers of a host of excellent woodland craft produce.

**Martin Wise**



*Goring Heath Parish Charity  
Regd No 1056772*

**Goring Heath and Whitchurch**

# **Spring Show**

**Saturday 28 March 2020**

**2.30 pm to 4.00 pm**

**Goring Heath Parish Hall**

**Enter your finest flowers, fruit, veg, floral  
arrangements, handicrafts, artwork, baking and  
photos.**

**Or come along to view the entries & enjoy homemade  
cake, tea & coffee, raffle and plant stall.**

Full schedule of classes and entry  
forms will be available on:

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

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

Phone for a printed copy:

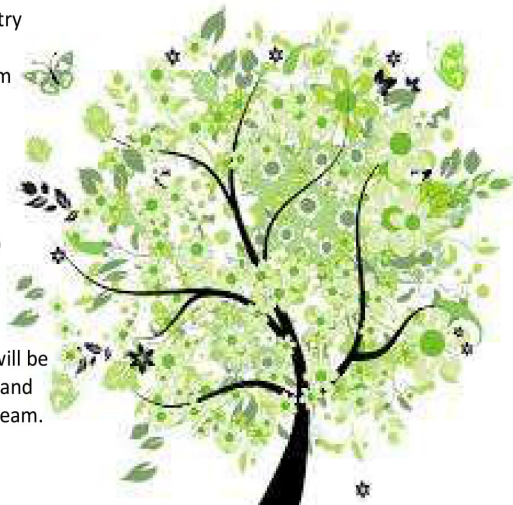
Judith Johns on 0118 9842816

Liz Gibson on 0118 984 2012

Sally Trinder on 0118 984 2610

Sue Sexon on 0118 9844236

Current committee members will be  
standing down after this show and  
are actively looking for a new team.  
Please contact Sue Sexon



## THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S & ST JOHN'S, WHITCHURCH (an independent charity)

I am pleased to report that the Friends project for improvements to St John's Churchyard has now been completed. The contract work to clean, repair and paint the railings on the main road cost £2700. This was supplemented by three volunteer workdays and considerable individual volunteer effort. At last, we have a clear view of the church building and the churchyard from the road.

To keep things that way, there will always be a need to avoid new growth of brambles etc. This work will continue with further workdays at St John's on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March.

The St Mary's Church clock has settled down and is working normally – just as it was 100 years ago !

With regard to further significant projects, the Friends Trustees are in discussion with the Whitchurch Parochial Church Council on developments for St Mary's and St John's.

We are currently planning events for 2020 and we hope to include a flower festival in June, a social evening including a talk on a local subject in September and our annual music evening in October. Dates to be advised shortly.

The Friends will be running the ArtCafe at the Old Stables on Saturdays 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Our thanks again to the many volunteers for making all these events and projects happen.

If you are not already a member of the Friends and would like to join, do get in touch with me.

Keith Williams  
Chairman.

Tel:- 0118 984 1139

email:- [keithc.williams@btinternet.com](mailto:keithc.williams@btinternet.com)

**March 2020**

## **Goring Heath NEWS**

‘Before’ and ‘after’ photographs of St John’s Churchyard following a significant tidying project carried out by the Friends. Since the improvements were completed, cyclamen flowers have made a reappearance and now grow in abundance around the churchyard.





## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

To continue to regularly receive your favourite reading material, new volunteers are needed to be distributors of the Goring Heath Newsletter. We particularly need volunteers for the outlying areas of Goring Heath and Cold Harbour. It's a great chance to get to know your local area, get some fresh air and exercise and just be helpful!

If you can help, please contact the Clerk, Amanda Holland (details on the back page).

## CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER GROUP

Under the supervision of local conservationist Rob D'Ayala, the newly created Conservation volunteer Group is gathering strength and attracting new members. One of their first projects will be ways to improve the pond area at Cray's Pond.



If you'd like to get involved, please contact the Clerk, Amanda Holland (details on the back page)

## A Plastic-free Cuppa

96 per cent of tea drinkers use tea bags. Many of the popular brands use a bag construction that uses oil-based plastics in either the bag material or the sealant that holds it together. The use of these materials renders the bag non-biodegradable or recyclable. There is also evidence to suggest that these materials release plastic nano-particles into the beverage.

Should you wish to avoid the possibility of ingesting these nano-particles, and contributing to the weight of plastic pollution. Then you might be interested to know the brands that are plastic free.

The PLASTIC-FREE brands are - Abel & Cole (Delivery Scheme), Clipper, Co-Op Own brand 99, Pukka Herbs, Teapigs, Twinings Pyramid Range and Waitrose Duchy Range.

Those TO AVOID are - PG Tips, Tetley, Twinings 'heat-sealed' and 'string and tag', Yorkshire and Lidl own brand.

Of course, the best way is to make your cuppa with loose leaf tea. It really is no more time consuming and makes NICER tea.

**Martin Wise**

## The 2019 Whitchurch Art & Craft Exhibition

This popular annual event took place in Whitchurch Village Hall over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> November. There were 189 entries overall – 57 of these were on the theme of ‘Masks’ created by the junior exhibitors for the Joyce Voysey category. These made a particularly eye-catching display!

It was a very successful and sociable occasion which provided the opportunity for everyone to see and share the results of the creative talent in our community. It was lovely to welcome new exhibitors to the show, and we hope they will continue to enter in the years ahead. The only disappointment was that there were no entries at all in the Junior 12 to 18 years section. We must really try to encourage the secondary school youngsters to enter next year.

Colourful displays of work by children at the Pre-School, the Primary School and the Oratory Prep School were again on show on the stage. A lot of time and effort went into these super displays by the hard-working school staff and helpers.

This was the second year for the Brazil Award. This category is for film, documentary or animation videos, no longer than 5 minutes in length. There were four entries this year, which was encouraging. All were very enjoyable and well filmed but the winning video entitled ‘The Battle of Bedroom Castle’ by Henry Lowe aged 9 was outstanding.

Visitors enjoyed refreshments all weekend and meeting up with friends and neighbours before the prize-giving ceremony at 4-30pm on Sunday. Congratulations to all the worthy prize winners. A full list can be viewed on the village website.

Very many thanks to all exhibitors and also to everyone who helped with the setting up, dismantling and running of the show, including serving the refreshments and making delicious cakes. Finally, my special thanks to Sarah Dixon, Wendy Ferguson, Jean-Marc Grosfort and Laura Lucas who helped me in the planning stages and to the Whitchurch Society members who supported us.

\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\* The theme for this year’s Joyce Voysey Prize is  
**‘Happiness’**

**Sally Woolhouse ((sally@wotarts.co.uk)**

## Letters Page

### Subject: What should farmers grow on their land?

As a "mixed" farm (Cattle, Crops & Countryside) we really do not know which way we should be heading, now.

For the first 30 years after World War 2 it was easy, produce as much food, as efficiently as possible, for home consumption. Government directed us by using "Deficiency Payments" (guaranteeing minimum payments) to get us to grow what was needed. On joining the EEC, the policy continued, but using "Intervention" buying into storage. Sadly this was too successful, as it continued too long, and Europe found itself with excess surpluses in expensive storage. Farmers were then paid to "Setaside" land - i.e. not produce from it - & this has continued under various names, to this day. Currently it is called "Environmental Focus Area" - meaning we have to take >5% &/or obey other rules, as part of the annual Basic Payment. Farming is lucky to break even, so the Basic Payment for me is a big part of our farm's profit. We have a beef herd (currently plagued with TB), arable crops, some for energy production, but not Oil Seed Rape, because of uncontrollable pests, since a pesticide ban. We were in Environmental Schemes, but these have become so complicated, with erratic payments, that we have not rejoined.

Half the world is starving, & the other half has surplus, cheap (to them) food. Crops are the most efficient food source, but animal meat provides better quality proteins. Ruminants (cattle & sheep) can eat grass (absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>) that grows on land that cannot be cropped, and again supply top quality food, but they also produce high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents. Pigs & Poultry are the most efficient forms of meat production, but require better quality foods, e.g. soya beans, grown on arable land.

Rain Forests are the "lungs of the world". It is nonsense to fell these forests to plant arable crops. It should be made more profitable to their owners to keep them, rather than clear them. I believe it takes decades (if not centuries) to grow back an acre of woodland that absorbs as much CO<sub>2</sub> as an acre of existing Rain Forest. But if we plant trees on our arable fields, where will our food crops be grown?

As I say, I want to do the right thing, and still provide a living for my family. What should I grow on my farm?

Jon Hatt

JN & KV Hatt

Merricraft Farming, Coombe End Farm, Goring Heath, Reading, RG8 7TA  
+44 (0) 118 984 3121

March 2020

## Goring Heath NEWS

### *'WONDERFUL VILLAGES PHOTO COMPETITION'*

A competition is being run with prizes of up to £1,000 to provide vital funds for rural community halls and to emphasise the vital role that halls play in building rural communities. The theme is 'Village Life - and they're looking for a photo which characterises the value of community in a village'.

This photo was taken two years ago, at the tail end of 'the Beast from the East' and shows some of our hardy locals on the annual Litter Blitz. If you'd like to vote for Goring Heath Parish Hall, then go to <https://villagehallsurvey.com/survey/photo-competition/photo-gallery> and vote. The closing date to vote is 15th March.







# **WHITCHURCH HILL VILLAGE FETE**

## **SATURDAY 23rd MAY—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Preparations are well underway for this year's village fete, to be held on Saturday 23rd of May, same time; 2-5pm, same place; the Whitchurch Hill recreation ground and hopefully the same weather we have experienced over recent years.

If you would like to be involved in the planning part of this year's fete and subsequent fetes, please email us at **[whitchurchhillfete@icloud.com](mailto:whitchurchhillfete@icloud.com)**

We welcome and would very much appreciate any help we can get, especially with setting up, erecting and dismantling the marquees on the day. So please feel free to pop by around 8am to the Whitchurch Hill recreation ground on the big day and lend a hand if possible. Then come to the organisers tent at 5pm when the fete finishes, there is always something to do.

We have our regular attractions in place, bar, BBQ, bottle stall, band, tea tent and raffle. If you would like a stall, or have an attraction we have not already booked, please email the above address detailing your intended pitch.

We look forward to seeing you on the day, and thank you for your continued support.

**Maz and Nick Elsome**

## **Whitchurch Hill WI**



Visitors are always welcome to join our monthly meetings. We have had an excellent start to 2020, kicking off with a delicious home-made afternoon tea, giving the twenty or so attendees plenty of time to socialise together. Our thanks go to the organisers. Laughter could probably be heard from some way away!

Our business meeting later in the month was very well attended and brought us up to date with the latest WI news. We discussed environmental issues, food banks, and future socials. We decided to plant a tree in 2020, and to continue collecting things like crisp packets and mascara wands for recycling. More will undoubtedly emerge as the year progresses. Three members in particular went away happy - we had a birthday flowers presentation, raffle prize winner, and a winner in the garden flower competition. Not bad for a Tuesday morning!

Our speaker was Simon Jones from Jones and Jacobs Auctioneers. His subject - "An Auctioneers Lot" proved to be an interesting and amusing talk about the role of the auctioneer - and an insight into some of the special items that he has handled and sold. He described the role of the auctioneer as one of the earliest recyclers, going back to the early 18th century - an interesting thought.

Our first walk of the year took 11 intrepid members along wind-swept paths near to Ipsden, finishing with a delicious lunch for 18 members at the King William Pub. Everyone enjoyed their outing.

For those who frequent the Art Cafe in the Old Stables the WI team will hopefully see you there on 14 March.

To see who we are and what we have to offer, please telephone Frances on 0118 984 2162 if you would like more information. Our meetings are held at Goring Heath Parish Hall RG8 7NY from 10am on the third Tuesday of each month (except December).

**Sally Bergmann**

## GORING HEATH BOWLS CLUB (ALMSHOUSES)



Goring Heath Bowls Club is a small friendly bowls club located at **Goring Heath Alms Houses** close to **Whitchurch Hill**, between **Mapledurham** and **Woodcote**.

Our members play friendly games of outdoor bowls at the **Alms-houses** every week from April to September, as well as enjoying competitive matches against other local bowls clubs.

Bowls is an outdoor game much enjoyed by all age groups. No prior experience is necessary as full training is given to our new members and we have spare sets of bowls for members to use.

We also enjoy great social events as well: an **Annual Bowls Tour**, a **Late Summer BBQ**, **Quiz Nights** and an **Annual Xmas Dinner**.

**Contact:** **Ian Cooper** 07879 486198 [iancooper@msn.com](mailto:iancooper@msn.com)

**Web Site:** <https://goringheathbowls.weebly.com>

## **OWL – OUR Woodcote Library**

OWL has completed five years of volunteering in the library, and most of the original members are still hard at work helping the Librarians. However, we do have a need to top up our pool of people and would welcome anyone who would like to help. We work around people's other commitments, but usually a volunteer would expect a two-hour session once or twice a month. We particularly need more people who can come in on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings. It's a nice place to be, the staff are very appreciative of what we do and tea and biscuits are supplied. Ask at the library for details (01491 682323). Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the library, and all welcome.

## **Whitchurch & Goring Heath Twinning Association**

It's our turn to visit La Bouille, near Rouen and we have booked a coach to take us there via the ferry at Dover, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, returning on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Any resident of the two villages is eligible to join us and we would welcome new people to our group. You can look forward to generous hospitality with a reception and dinner on the Saturday. On the Sunday we will take a trip to Fecamp, a pretty seaside town where the delicious Benedictine is made. All this will cost in the region of £200

To find out more e-mail [vickyjordan5@hotmail.com](mailto:vickyjordan5@hotmail.com) or ring 0118 984 3260. You don't have to speak French and can look forward to an enjoyable weekend in good company.

## **Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society**

Surely everyone has seen the huge lion statue in Forbury Gardens, which tops the monument to those who died in the battle of Maiwand. How many know the details of the war, its date, or the outcome? Dan Allen of the Victorian Military Society will explain all this on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road, Whitchurch. The meeting starts at 8pm, with coffee served from 7.30. Non-members are welcome, £3, to include coffee and biscuits. The subscription is just £12 per year so why not join us?

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February where we heard from respected Oxford historian, Mark Davies about the extraordinary story of a humble pastry cook in Oxford who was one of the pioneers of aeronautics. He was the first Englishman to fly in a balloon, ascending from Oxford in October 1784, a journey that lasted six miles. He went on to fly longer distances, and even helped a Mrs Sage to become the first British female balloonist. Despite landing in the sea on two occasions, he lived to 72 years old. On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February we ran the coffee shop, raising money to buy the Victoria County History volume on our area when it is published. A worthy cause to eat cake for We meet on the third Thursday of most months for a speaker or other historical activity and go on two outings in the summer.

## Notice Board refurbishment



Thanks go to Mike Holland for refurbishing the notice board which sits in the car park outside Goring Heath Parish Hall. Repairs include new lead flashing on the roof and yacht varnishing.

### In the event of snow ...

Hopefully, the threat snow might have passed by March but I'm reminded of the 'Beast from the East' of two years ago so this might still be relevant! In the event of heavy snowfall, local roads are not cleared by the County, but we do now have salt bins in strategic places where there have been problems in the past. We also have some bags of salt that are available for anyone who wants to be public spirited and is willing to apply it to the road outside their house. We can drop one or two bags off in advance which can be tucked away in anticipation. Each bag will cover about 50 yards of road as not much is needed to be effective.

Please email us at [Goring.Heath.Parish.Council@gmail.com](mailto:Goring.Heath.Parish.Council@gmail.com) if you want to join in with this. Please note that this is not free salt for your own driveway or property, it must only be used on the road or pavement, as should the salt in the salt bins.



# EnglishTuition

**English Tuition sessions taught by a highly experienced, qualified Teacher of English.**

**I am a literacy and language specialist and teach across all key stages.**

**I motivate students to gain confidence in their own ability in an enjoyable and creative way to gain a secure knowledge of the English curriculum and to achieve their potential.**

- All specifications taught: IGCSE, GCSE and A Level
- Specialist knowledge of GCSE AQA and Edexcel Curricula
- Literature texts focus on critical reading, contextual knowledge and language analysis
- Structuring written responses
- Examination and study skills

**\_To discuss how I can offer support or for any further information please call:**

**07799100237**

## *Enjoy a stroll but no-one to walk with?*

The monthly Community Walks are still taking place, and all are welcome to join us.

Our numbers vary from 6 - 16 (so far at least) with one or two other folk expressing an interest in joining us.

We walk the local highways and byways of Goring Heath Parish, from 10am to about 11.30. from the Sun Pub. Whilst we normally meet the first Monday of the month it does occasionally move to the second Monday.

The pace is fairly leisurely, giving us all time to socialise as we go.

The next walks are as follows

**9 March** (second Monday of the month)

**6 April**

**4 May**

If you would like to know more please ring **Sally on 07585195669**

### ***EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FUND - DEADLINE 31st MARCH***

**The Secretary of Whitchurch United Charities would like to remind all families that the Charity has funds available to help meet the costs associated with educational needs such as books, equipment or educational trips.**

Eligible students are young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years and whose permanent residence is within the parish of Whitchurch.

Applications are processed twice a year, with the closing dates being 31<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> September. However, late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous 6 month period have not been fully allocated.

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

If you would like to know more, please do contact Sarah Dixon (our Grant Application Secretary). Contact details: telephone: 0118 984 4262, address: Flint House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HH or e-mail – [whitchchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com](mailto:whitchchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com)





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# **The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club**

**Organiser: Christine Martin**

**“Sonia”, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG**

**Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail whitchurchthetreclub@gmail.com**

**Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month or more. Salisbury, Windsor, Guildford, Stratford and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited. Major London venues and productions. Mainly matinees in the week, but sometimes evening performances and weekends. Holiday trips away. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates. Coaches depart from Pangbourne. For our forthcoming programme please check the Whitchurch-on-Thames Website.**

**Subscriptions £14 per annum but £12 if paid online.**

## **UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**



**Would you like the opportunity to expand your mind, meet new people and learn new skills?**

**U3A (The University of the Third Age) is a UK-wide movement which brings together people in their ‘third age’ to develop their interests and continue their learning in a friendly and informal environment..**

**If you are retired, semi-retired, about to retire or finished raising a family you are welcome to join us. There is no minimum age. We provide opportunities for education, recreation and companionship in a mix of activities of your choosing.**

**Activities and classes vary from group to group. For more information just go to <http://u3asites.org.uk/goring-gap> or phone 01491 872023(for Goring). Other groups can be found on the U3A website.**



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For more information please call:

**David Bowen on 0800 847 7104 or visit**  
**[honeygroup.co.uk/people/DavidBowen](https://honeygroup.co.uk/people/DavidBowen)**

## Almshouses Sunday Services December to March

11 am Sung Holy Communion: 1st March, 5th April, 3rd May

All other Sundays:                      9 am    Holy Communion  
   11am    Sung Matins

*All these services are traditional Book of Common Prayer  
and are open to the public*

The Chapel, Alnutt Alms Houses, Goring Heath, RG8 7RS

## 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 Jane Diggle  
ginnydiggle@hotmail.com

## **GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER FACEBOOK PAGE**

If you haven't already done so, please head over to our Facebook page which contains useful information as well as forthcoming events, pictures and suggestions from residents. 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)**

**March 2020**

## **Goring Heath NEWS**

### **COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION**

#### **SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Peter Dragonetti      Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PT  
07866 202908, 0118 9844711      [peter@dragonetti.co.uk](mailto:peter@dragonetti.co.uk)

**Council Offices:**      135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4SB  
See below for dept. phone contacts      [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  
01865 792422      [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

<b>POLICE</b>	Thames Valley Police	0845-8505505
<b>POLICE</b>	PEC – Non-Emergency Calls	101
<b>POTHOLES</b>	-	0345-3101111

### **South Oxfordshire District Council New Department Numbers**

**Main Customer Service Number:** 01235 422422

- ♦ **Planning -** 01235 422600
- ♦ **Building control -** 01235 422700
- ♦ **Environmental health, food and safety -** 01235 422403
- ♦ **Licensing -** 01235 422556
- ♦ **Elections -** 01235 422407
- ♦ **Car parks -** 01235 470118
- ♦ **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](mailto: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](mailto:goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com)

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

<b>Deadline for contributions</b>	<b>Publication month</b>
9th April 2020	May 2020
11th June 2020	July 2020

## **LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS**

Chiltern Society Footpath Representative	Liz Collas	01491680466
Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494764149
Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses)	David Watson	01189842174
	<a href="http://goringheathbowls.weebly.com">http://goringheathbowls.weebly.com</a>	
Goring Heath Parish Charity	Chris Whatmore	01189844022
Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides	Doreen Pechey	01491681236
Goring Thames Sailing Club	Jennie Wood	01491875619
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491575205
RG8 Badminton Club	Julie Drury	07980413026
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (S.O.A.G.)	Nancy Nichols	01189787829
Tai Chi and Qigong	Karen Pounds	07867954786
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Esther Lay-Sans	07713756537
Whitchurch Hill Camera Club	<a href="http://www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com">www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com</a>	
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Sue Matthews	01189844489
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning	Vicky Jordan	01189843260
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	01189842162
Woodcote Volunteers (Office Hours 9.30—11am)	Elizabeth Harrap	01491681171

Goring Heath Parish Hall : Bookings and Enquiries: Jane Diggle  
email: [ginnydiggle@hotmail.com](mailto:ginnydiggle@hotmail.com)

**March 2020**

# **Goring Heath NEWS**

## **GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

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**2 New Buildings Whitchurch  
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