

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

February 2022

Issue 184

Visit us at:

www.goringheath.com

Facebook: 'Goring Heath Parish News'
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

The long awaited ...

WHITCHURCH HILL

VILLAGE FETE

is back!

Put the date in your diary now!

SATURDAY MAY 28th

Starting at 2PM

Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground

“A fun day out for all the family!”

**On B471, Ref RG8 7NY. Look for Car Parking
Signs**

Chair's comments



The Festive season is over for another year, but so, hopefully, are the gloomy days of lockdown.

Time to get out and about in the Parish and join in some of the many activities on offer, from Pilates in the village hall to the W.I., a walking group to a Theatre Club, and many more.

Several village events are in the planning stages to entertain us this summer. The first is the 'Great Goring Heath Litter Blitz'. Surely THE social event of the year- anyone who is anyone will be there! See information in this newsletter on where and when you can join in.

On the theme of litter, I would like to thank one of the unsung heroes of the Parish. I cycled past someone litter picking along Long Toll on a chilly December morning, quietly helping to make the Parish a cleaner and pleasanter place for us all to live in. Thank you!

The Spring Show, where gardeners, cooks, photographers and crafters can all vie with each other to win the coveted trophies takes place in the Village Hall on the 9th April. Not to be missed.

We are also very pleased to announce that the Whitchurch Hill Village Fete is returning after a two-year hiatus. This will include lots of fun for the family and a chance to meet up with your neighbours and friends. This will take place on May 28th at the recreation ground in Whitchurch Hill.

And, of course, this year we will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth. The Parish are planning to light a Beacon on the evening of June 2nd - more details to follow nearer the date.

Keep a look out in the newsletters and on our website for announcements of many more events throughout the year.

You may think this is a sleepy, and rather dispersed and disengaged, community but there is plenty going on out there. So, make this the year that you come out of your shell and join in. All the Parish events are run by volunteers, who, like the lone litter picker, give their time freely. The best way to show our collective thanks for their efforts is to turn up, enjoy yourself, and make each event a success. See you there!

Planning Decisions

The following planning applications between November 2021 and December 2022 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	Notes
<p><u>P21/S5362/LB</u> Ladygrove Cottages Ladygrove Cottage Goring Heath Road RG8 7RU With reference to LBC P21/S2741/LB dated 8th September, to extend the renovation works already consented at the property to include the replacement of the existing brick-on-earth floor within the rear reception (snug) and adjacent pantry/WC rooms with an insulated floor. Renew an expired LBC to install a new 900mm slate covered open porch / shelter at the back of the premises over a relocated rear entrance door (created as part of an extension to the existing premises in the mid 1990s). Permission was granted at the time but the porch element was never built.</p>	No Strong Views	
<p><u>P21/S4154/FUL</u> Cherry Cottage Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PU Extension of residential garden and installation of a swimming pool (heated by air source heat pump) measuring 11m by 6m in the rear garden behind the house (as shown in amended plans and additional information received 13th January 2022)</p>	Pending.	Further details required
<p><u>P21/S4966/HH</u> 14 Hill Bottom Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PX Side extension</p>	Permission granted	
<p><u>P21/S4738/FUL</u> Holmes Oak Stables Collins End Goring Heath RG8 7RJ The proposed development is the demolition of a row of derelict horse stables and the construction of a new timber clad building housing two commercial units, a commercial kitchen/ butchery unit, plus a toilet and a deer larder.</p>	No Strong Views	

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.

Chess Group

Your local chess group continues to meet regularly at the
Sun Pub.

Fancy a game? Used to play but a bit rusty?
Players meet between 12 and 2pm on the first and third
Mondays every month (moved from Wednesdays).

For more information please ring Chris Bergmann on
078767531881

Community Walk

Established in 2018, a walk continues to take place on the first Monday of each month.

Routes vary to reflect the seasons (and walking conditions of course!)

The group meets at the end of Hill Bottom Close at 10am . We walk for approximately one and a half hours. If you fancy joining us just turn up or ring **Sally** in advance on **07585195669**.
You will be made very welcome.

Books to Africa



After a great response from the last issue for a call for educational books, we are asking again!

We have decided to work with Books to Africa, who distribute them to their warehouse in Canterbury. They accept new and used books. If you are interested in helping to collect or store these items until we can have a day trip to Canterbury, please contact the Clerk on 07814360566.

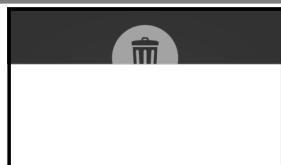
- Nursery, Primary, Secondary and University textbooks.
- Dictionaries, Encyclopaedias and Reference books
- Novels, Hobbies and Leisure books
- Bibles, Hymnals and Religious books
- Unused Notebooks and Exercise books (no folders or Document wallets please)
- Comics

Please Do Not Give: Damaged or illegible books, folders or document wallets, Magazines, brochures, photocopied resources, lecture notes etc.

Amanda Holland

Clerk, Goring Heath Parish Council

Binzone is a really handy, one-stop shop for everything you need to know about your waste collections. By downloading the BINZONE app on to your Android or iPhone/iPad you can find out when your bins will be emptied and what you can and can't recycle.



Free Walks Leaflets

The Chiltern Society are offering free Walks leaflets which details various walks across the area. These can be accessed by visiting Chilternsociety.org.uk/free-walks-leaflets/

Meet The Parish Councillors: This Month, Peter Dragonetti

I

I moved to Goring Heath in 1986, initially living at Crays Pond and then since 1994 in Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill. I came to this area when I got a job with Foster Wheeler, and later had other roles locally. Coming to a new area, we thought it was important to get to know the locality and people, and after reading the newsletter, my wife Sarah went along to a Parish council meeting and was subsequently invited to join the parish council. She played a big part in securing the Parish Hall for the community, negotiating with Richard Hughes the vicar who then managed the hall. While at Crays Pond we planted the daffodils by the cross roads, started the community litter blitz, and created Garton End play area. I later also joined the parish council, and was elected Chairman after a few years. As a parish councillor, I sometimes spoke at SODC planning committee meetings, and as a result decided I could contribute more. So I stood for election, and on my third attempt, in 2019, I was elected as an Independent. I was thrilled to have won by a large majority. One of the pleasures of living in a place for a long time, which is now some 35 years, is that of getting to meet so many people, and now as a District Councillor, I know, and am known by even more people. My children all went to Checkendon School, as at Crays Pond we were in its catchment area after Goring Heath school had closed, and they then went on to secondary school locally, and now all live and work locally.

Peter Dragonetti
District Councillor

WOODCOTE VOLUNTEERS

What do we do?

Woodcote Volunteers offer help to the:

- elderly
- disabled
- residents with a health condition

who are without a car and cannot use public transport and need to access a hospital, Health Centre, dentist, optician, bank, shop or a health and wellbeing service. We can also collect prescriptions, pensions or do shopping.

We serve Woodcote, Whitchurch Hill, Checkendon, Ipsden, South Stoke, Goring Heath and Crays Pond and drive to many locations, such as the Health Centre in Woodcote, Royal Berkshire Hospital (and other Reading hospitals) as well as the Oxford Hospitals. We will always try to take a client where they need to go as long as it is within a reasonable distance of our area.

Who are we?

Woodcote Volunteers is a 'Good Neighbour' Scheme which has been established for over 30 years. It is run by local volunteers only, for the benefit of these village communities. We are very lucky to have a fabulous team of friendly and reliable drivers, office workers and committee, some of whom have been contributing their time and skills for 30 years!

How to access our service

If you would like help, please contact our new office at Woodcote Community Centre on 01491 681171 between 9.30am and 11.00am Monday to Friday, when you can speak directly to one of our volunteer office workers. Outside of these hours you can leave a message on our answer-phone and someone will call you back the next working day. If you are new to using our service, we will need ask a few questions and then sign you up. Please be assured that all the information you provide is confidential and secure. /...

There is a flat rate charge of £1.50 to drive to a location within Woodcote. For longer journeys, there is a charge of 45p per mile.

Covid Safety

We are committed to keeping clients and drivers as safe as possible. Our drivers make sure that their car is cleaned with disinfectant wipes in all the areas our clients could touch. We ask that they and our clients wear masks in line with good practice and keep the car well ventilated whilst driving.

How can I volunteer?

We are lucky to have a wonderful team of Volunteers. However, the pool of Volunteers changes as people move in and out of the area. The need for help is a continuing one and the Organising Committee is always pleased to receive new offers of assistance, both as a driver or a helper in the office. If you would like to know more about volunteering with us, please contact Jane Forde direct on 07850 158274 or email her at janeforde32@hotmail.com. Alternatively, call the office on 01491 681171 during their office hours or leave a message on the answerphone. We would love to hear from you!

We wish everyone a very happy, safe and healthy 2022!!

Tea and Cake anyone?

Saturday 9th April in Goring Heath Parish Hall
14.30 - 15.30

Enjoy tea, coffee and a piece of home made cake
Browse the locally sourced plant stall
Meet old friends, make new friends

You will be most welcome!

Litter Blitz - Saturday March 26th

As part of the **Great British Spring Clean**, the Parish Council organises a community action day in the early spring before the undergrowth grows up and while the litter is visible and can be easily picked up. If you've been encouraged to get out into the fresh air and would like to 'do your bit' for your community, then join others from our local area and get Goring Heath clean and litter free.



If you'd like to take part 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 **10.00 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.

Star Count 2022

The Countryside Charity would like us to look up to the stars!



Research shows that light pollution is leaving fewer stars than ever visible to the naked eye, and they need our help to track how light levels are changing.

They would like us to become 'citizen scientists' and take part in a Star Count, a cosmic census to map light pollution.

They'll be asking us to choose a clear night between 26 February - 6 March 2022 and look to the skies to see how many stars you can spot within Orion. They'll give lots of guidance so you know where to look! It's a great, easy piece of stargazing – no telescopes required – for kids and adults, and it can be done safely from your garden, balcony or even bedroom window.

Goring Heath NEWS

CRAYS POND CHRISTMAS TABLEAUX

February 2022



Time has marched on but we would like to thank the residents of Goring Heath and Woodcote for making their appreciation known for our Tableaux 2021, Santa's List & Eddie the Elf's Workshop.

The lovely messages, 'likes' and surprise gifts for "Santa" were heart-warming.

Thank-you.

We were lucky to have many contributions from local residents – you know who you are – thank-you one and all.

We had great fun transforming our beloved shelters, and are so pleased we gave such pleasure.

Our best wishes for 2022.

Beryl, Pam, Felix, and Maddie Shepherd



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

In 2015 Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, gave a speech on the key threat that he believed the world was facing. He ventured that our biggest threat was not nuclear war but the spread of an airborne virus. He talked about the dramatic impact of Spanish Flu in 1918, which killed over 30 million people, and the more recent spread of Ebola in West Africa whose effects were much less dramatic.

From these two examples, he drew some conclusions and suggestions. His key conclusion was that whilst the probability of a life-threatening airborne virus was low, the countries of the world should prepare. He made several suggestions but the essence of them was that the world should have a plan and identify or create resources that could be called upon quickly.

As we know only too well, Mr Gates's prediction has turned out to be unerringly accurate. Not only did such a virus have a profound impact on life and our lives but that preparation could have mitigated the effects. The world didn't make a plan and identify resources as he suggested but it is understandable. For events which we think are unlikely to happen, we rarely prepare as we're very busy and shouldn't we just plan for the most likely of situations? The answer is probably 'yes' except where the impact of the occurrence will be dramatic.

So how does Mr Gates's speech apply to the small parish of Goring Heath? Imagine the South of England is hit by a severe weather event: hurricane-level winds or a heavy snow or ice, for example. As a result roads can be blocked, electricity supplies severed, and dwellings isolated. This in turn mean that the old and the infirm in our parish are at risk. In most circumstances, the normal agencies will deal quickly and effectively with such events. The emergency services, the utility companies, and the district and county councils have the resources to cope. However, in the unlikely case of a major weather event, these resources could be overwhelmed, and the parish could be without electricity or access for many days.

This is where a Community Emergency Plan has its role. Oxfordshire County Council recommends that all parishes have such a plan and

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Goring Heath is currently without one. The essence of a plan is a list of the resources that can be called upon by members of our community after severe weather events. The plan also identifies how the most vulnerable will be identified and looked after.

The list of resources will include items such as tractors, off-road vehicles capable of towing, chainsaws, water pumps, electricity generators and those who own and can operate them. The list will also include trained first aiders.

I am taking responsibility for developing the plan on behalf of Goring Heath Parish Council and I have also volunteered to be the Emergency Coordinator, if such a situation arises. The plan should be finalised and published to the parish by the end of March.

So how you help? If you own one of the items listed above and are willing to be called upon in the unlikely event of an extreme emergency, then I'd like to hear from you. Please drop me a line at peter.burdon@hotmail.co.uk or call/WhatsApp me on 07592 528 592.

Peter Burdon
Goring Heath Parish Councillor

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed on SATURDAY MARCH 5TH 2022 at 10am to carry out ESSENTIAL PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE at WHITCHURCH HILL RECREATION GROUND. Duties to include getting rid of rust spots and painting the playground equipment.

If you would like to be part of this effort, please contact the clerk on 07814360566 if you can help.
Tools will be provided.

District Councillor's Comment

A few weeks ago, Oxfordshire County Council hit the national press, and indeed some international press, through passing a motion that only vegan food should be served to Councillors at Council events. A greater use of vegan food in our diets seems to be a trend that is welcomed by many people, not only for health reasons but also because its recognised as being good for the planet through reducing carbon emissions. I am not particularly pro veganism, but I can see the merits of healthy eating, and am happy to be swept along with the tide of a more rational approach to our diet, when the advantages are so clear.

I found the furore raised about this vegan food being served to Councillors at their function a little bizarre when I learnt that this only happens about 6 times a year, and it's all free anyway; who knew that that County Councillors were fed at the public expense ?

One of the responsibilities of the District Council that does not impinge on most of us is addressing homelessness and rough sleeping, and there is a team that works with partners, health and care agencies, housing and support providers and voluntary agencies to help in this matter. This approach offers rapid access to long term accommodation and intensive support for vulnerable homeless households. At the end of last year, the housing needs team focused on a small number of entrenched rough sleepers with complex needs, people who had physical and mental health issues and had previously refused help. I am pleased to say that at 31 December there were no rough sleepers in either South Oxfordshire or the Vale of White Horse. This is the first time since 2013 that this has been achieved.

Following a review of Licensing Policy, the District Council decided, as a matter of policy, not to permit Casinos in the District. This was agreed on the basis that casinos bring the potential for criminal exploitation and money laundering, and casinos expose the vulnerable to the risk of problem gambling.

/...

The District Council has also adopted a new approach to planning enforcement to improve efficiency and transparency, and to address the backlog that has built up since the pandemic. The risk of Covid had restricted the ability to conduct onsite investigations. There are currently some 700 live investigations. Previously all enforcement complaints were addressed in the same way, under the new approach the focus will be on the most damaging and serious incidents.

Peter Dragonetti

District Councillor for Kidmore End, Whitchurch, Goring Heath and Mapledurham

**THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE
BEACON
2ND JUNE 2022 : SAVE THE DATE!**

As part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations we are pleased to invite you to a

Bonfire/ Beacon Gathering

In the field near Cold Harbour, Goring Heath, RG8 7SY.

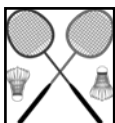
This is geographically a high point in the parish, and will be part of the national beacon chain.

It will be lit at 9.45pm.

Further details to follow.

If you would like to help with this event, please contact
07814 360 566

Goring Heath Parish Council are also asking members of the public for ideas to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These will take place over the extended Bank Holiday weekend between the 2nd to the 5th June. If you would like to share your ideas, please get in touch with the Clerk, at goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com



RG8 Badminton

The club was pleased to hold its fun Christmas tournament again this year after last year's cancellation. This involved a number of novelty rounds. The woman's champion was Helen Kennard with Merete Hawkins as a very close runner up. Peter Baker and Paul Evans finished on the same number of points and were subject to a playoff featuring play with a plastic ball whilst wearing a pirate eyepatch! Peter emerged as the winner and retained his title of two years ago.



We welcome both junior and adult members and will be back on court early in the New Year. We play at Langtree Community Sports Hall in Woodcote on Thursday evenings. We are fully compliant with Badminton England guidance concerning Covid safety precautions.

If you want to know more visit our website www.rg8badminton.co.uk or ring Julie on 07980 413026

Mike Holland's Quiz Night

The evening of Saturday 27th November saw the return of Mike Holland's much anticipated annual Quiz Night at Goring Heath Parish Hall.

Great fun was had by multiple teams who enjoyed delicious fish and chips whilst pondering the questions. Well done to 'CoombeRaiders' who fought off the other teams and claimed victory this year!



They're not letting go of that trophy! The winning team.

Goring Heath Parish Hall

If you're looking for somewhere to hold an event or party, the Hall could be the perfect place. It has capacity for 60 seated guests, 80 for a buffet style or 120 non seated. The kitchen is fully equipped with a dishwasher, large fridge, two cookers and two sinks, so it has lots of space for your own catering or external caterers.

Hire charges start from £25 for a full morning session, and £75 for an evening party session. Charges are less for charitable events and non profit making organisations. Please contact the Hall Manager Chris Whatmore on 07850691920 or email: whatmore@talk21.com

Goring Heath and Whitchurch Garden & Craft Show 9 April 2022

As many of you will know, the village calendar year includes this twice yearly show, in Spring and Autumn.

Taking place in Goring Heath Parish Hall this is an opportunity for gardeners, vegetable growers and those with a craft, baking, or a photographic interest, to enter into friendly competition. Entries are invited from residents of Whitchurch, Whitchurch Hill, Crays Pond, and outlying hamlets.

Scheduled for Saturday 9 April entry forms should be available from the end of March. In the meantime here is some information to enable you to plan your entries!

Exhibitors are requested to set up in the hall between 9 am to 10.15. Judging takes place from 10.30 and the event opens up to the public at 14.30. Tea, coffee and cakes will be on sale in the afternoon, with prize giving at approximately 15.30.

Listed below are the craft entry topics:-

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Photography : | Scene from a Bridge |
| | A Celebration |
| | A Water Activity |
| Flower Arranging : | Colours of Spring (< 16"/40cms) |
| | Miniature Arrangement (<4"/10cms) |
| | Arrangement in a Mug |
| Handicraft: | A Decorated Picture Frame |
| | A Knitted Item |
| | Patchwork or Quilted Item |
| Art (< A3) : | Vase of Spring Flowers |
| | Picture of lambs and/or sheep |
| | Easter Bonnet |

Children's Section: (12yrs and under) :

An Easter Picture

Four Easter Bunny Biscuits

Small Vase of 3 Different Spring Flowers

Baking & Preserves:

Jar of Orange Marmalade

Cheese Scones

Marmalade Cake (recipe given)

Fruited Apple & Almond Tea Loaf (recipe given)

We look forward to receiving your entries. If you have any queries in the mean time please feel free to contact one of the committee members.

Liz Gibson 01189842012

Sally Bergmann 07585195669

Betty Butler 07955182684

Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting at 8pm on Thursday 17th February at Goring Heath Parish Hall.

Our speaker will be Stephen Barker, a specialist on the English Civil War of 1642-46, and he will talk about Oxfordshire characters of that time – soldiers, saints and sinners. Whitchurch lies between the royalist capital at Oxford and London (and Reading at times) which supported the roundheads, and many skirmishes took place locally. Hardwick House still has damage attributed to civil war shells. All Welcome!

Vicky Jordan



Whitchurch Hill WI—The Womens' Institute (much more than tea and cake)

I regularly write about the recent activities within your local WI branch based here in Whitchurch Hill. I tell you about the many speakers who have addressed us, our involvement in village activities, and the importance to our members of being able to meet up with like minded people.

What some readers may not be aware of is why we exist as a group in the first place. Hence this short article - an attempt to provide some of the lesser known facts about us as integral part of the British way of life.

The very first WI meeting in the UK took place on 16 September 1915 in North Wales. A century later the world may have changed but the WI is a constant presence.

From humble beginnings the organisation boosted food supplies during both World Wars and actively argued for the supply of adequate sanitary housing. Subsequent campaigns have encompassed such critical issues as Equal Pay, Aids Awareness, Cervical Screening, and Plastic Pollution - to name but a few. In fact the National Federation of Women's Institute (NFWI) has a history of undertaking educational work and campaigning on a diverse range of issues. It was established to ensure that women are able to take an effective part in their community, to learn together, and together to influence local, national and international affairs on matters most important to members.

Whitchurch Hill WI reflects all of the above. Whether it is through our programme of educational talks, exploring and then voting on issues to be campaigned for at national level, or serving you that most welcome cup of tea at the village fete - everything we do has a purpose.

One of the key attributes of our group is the support and friendship we offer to each other. Whilst we have social events throughout the year we also have time at all our gatherings to catch up with old friends, and make new ones. Additionally this year will see us help decorate the village to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. You may not always see us, but we are always around and about.

If you would like know more please contact Frances Strange on 01189842162.

WHITCHURCH HILL VILLAGE FETE

The fete is taking place on May 28h this year and we need

volunteers to help with the preparation for, and running of the fete on the day, eg setting up, helping out and taking down at the end.

If you could spare a few hours to help out, please contact Nick Elsome on 01491 682775

OWLS (Our Woodcote Library)

URGENT - We're looking for a new team to help our local library. At the last OWL annual general meeting in February 2020 the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer intimated that, after ten years in their roles, they would not be standing at the next meeting. The Covid pandemic prevented a meeting being held in 2021 and during this year the work has continued, albeit in a reduced fashion, and in spite of health and other age-related concerns. However, this cannot continue and a new team is needed to fulfil the committee roles for the future.

The duties are not onerous, involving just two meetings (at the library or online) a year with Oxfordshire County Council library staff; liaising with village organisations; and overseeing the volunteer rota. We need to fill the three posts at our next **AGM**, which will be held in the library on **March 14th**. There are also vacancies for committee members. Please consider joining the OWL team, as chair, secretary, treasurer or volunteer

The library recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Could you be part of its future? Contact Vicky Jordan on 01189 843260 or vickyjordan5@hotmail.com or Lisa Trood on 01491 682323 or by e-mail at woodcote.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

The Whitchurch Society's Art and Craft Exhibition 2021

The exhibition was again innovative this time because it was held 'live' in Whitchurch Village Hall on the weekend of 20th - 21st November but also the entries could be viewed online for a fortnight afterwards. In 2020, the exhibition was only online and consequently it was not possible to award the usual prizes. The 2021 show returned to the traditional arrangements, with the exhibits being judged by external experts and winners being chosen in all the art, craft and photography categories, entered by adults and young people.

If you would like to see the full list of the 2021 prize winners, they can be found via the link on the Exhibition webpage on the village website (whitchurchonthames.com/groups/artscrafts.html). On the same webpage, there is also a link to the History of the Cups & Awards that have been won since the first Exhibition was held in 1972 – this makes for interesting reading, with 50 years of competition recorded.

There were 145 entries across the full spectrum of classes, in art, craft, photography and new media, from 64 exhibitors, both adult and young people. It was enjoyed by many visitors to the Hall over the weekend, with lots of positive feedback. Everyone was pleased that this popular annual village event had returned to its normal format. Also, on the stage, the three local schools, namely Whitchurch Pre-School, the Whitchurch Primary School and the Oratory Preparatory School had set up impressive and colourful displays of school work by their students.

I would like to thank all of the great team that helped in the many various ways to set the live exhibition up, and without whom it would be impossible to achieve, in the tight schedule. My special thanks also must go to the planning and organising team (Sarah & Adrian Dixon, Wendy Ferguson and Jean-Marc Grosfort) and to the Whitchurch Society committee, for all their hard work and support which made it another successful show.

And remember, it is not too soon to start work on your entries for the 2022 exhibition!!

Sally Woolhouse (Exhibition co-ordinator) sally@wotarts.co.uk

Going Forward Buses

On 31st January 2022 it will be five years since Going Forward Buses took over running the 134 Goring to Wallingford service and we're planning some 5th anniversary changes to our other bus routes from the 1st February so please check out our website or contact us via the details below. We're also running competitions where you can win some Going Forward Bus goodies!

Our buses may be available for hire - if you have an event you would like to visit as a group (maximum size 14!) or a place you would like to visit, we may be able to help.

It's easy if you have someone who could drive the bus, we are fully insured for anyone who has D1 on their licence - all we need is a DVLA check code (easily obtainable on their website) and a photocopy of your licence (back and front). We may be able to supply a driver, but this is subject to availability - and plenty of notice!

Our website **goingforwardbuses.com** should always have the current timetable in operation but for more information please **Contact us, preferably by email littlebluebus@yahoo.com or call us on 07484 605888**



Children in Whitchurch Hill were enchanted by Father Christmas when he and his sleigh stopped off to visit the recreation ground on December 9th.

The visit was organised by the Rotary Club of Pangbourne.

Goring Heath and Whitchurch Show

A date for your diary - **9 April 2022.**

Goring Heath Parish Hall will host this opportunity for gardeners, vegetable growers and those with a craft, baking, or a photographic interest, to enter into friendly competition. Entries are invited from residents of both Whitchurch, and the Parish of Goring Heath.

To ensure everyone gets as much time as possible to prepare/practice any entries they may wish to submit - here are the topics for April's show.

Art: Vase of Spring Flowers - A Picture of Lamb/Sheep - An Easter Bonnet. No item larger than A3.

Children's Section (up to 12 years): An Easter Picture - Four Easter Bunny Biscuits - Small Vase of 3 Different Spring Flowers

Flower Arranging: Max 16ins/40cms Colours of Spring - Miniature Arrangement (Max 4ins/10cms overall) - An Arrangement in a Mug

Handicraft: Decorated Picture Frame - Knitted Item - Patchwork or Quilting Item

Photography : Scene from a Bridge - A Celebration - A Water Activity

We look forward to seeing you there. A full schedule for the day will be available in advance of the day itself, with instructions on how to enter etc. It will be very straight forward.

For those who do not want to enter the show itself why not come along and enjoy tea and cake and browse the brilliantly valued plant stall? A must for all Gardeners.

Liz Gibson

SO (South Oxfordshire) Charitable Lottery raises an additional £15,000 for good causes

The SO Charitable Lottery will be giving an additional £15,000 to good causes in South Oxfordshire this year through money raised in its community fund.

75 organisations and charities across the district that have joined the lottery, and since its launch in 2018 over £63,000 has been distributed to good causes in the district that have signed up to the South Oxfordshire District Council scheme.

This month the £15,000 will be shared between all organisations selling 20 tickets or more a week. These organisations will receive funding based on the number of tickets they have sold.

Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary is one of the causes benefitting from the lottery with a donation of £2,689 from the community fund. The sanctuary's manager said: "One of our volunteers and supporters recommended that we sign-up to SO Charitable Lottery a while ago and it has raised important funds for us during that time.

Stewart Village Hall in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, joined the lottery when it launched and is another organisation which will receive extra funding this year, they will get £1,557.

The hall is in need of renovation and this funding and future funding received from the lottery will help them with that work.

When participants take part in the lottery, they can either support a charity or group of their choice or donate to the central community fund which is administered by South Oxfordshire District Council and distributed annually to multiple good causes.

The lottery is free to join, and organisations are invited to get in touch with the Community Enablement team at the council to find out how they can also benefit. Tickets can be bought online for just £1, with a chance to win a top prize of £25,000.

The New Year at Pangbourne Tennis Club



Welcome to 2022!

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to take more exercise, tennis could be for you! Tennis is very much a fitness thing. Leading tennis coaches point out that tennis, on its own, is enough to keep a person fit into their 80s. We are keen to keep everyone playing all year round for great exercise and fun. For new members, winter membership is available to take you up to the start of next season on 1st April.

A smashing finale to 2021

Members got together to end the year in festive style at the now traditional fun, American tournament on Sunday 5th December. The enthusiastic group got into the swing of the season and braved the traditional December weather for an afternoon of quick-fired matches. Congratulations to our winners Harry Latimer and Harry Fisher and runners-up Dorothy Buggle and John Alderton.

[Photo Caption Ready to take to the courts!]

Winter coaching - starts on Sunday 9th January

Over the winter, Damian Lane will be coaching on Sundays from 11:00 to 12:30 from January to the end of March.

"Pay and play" is £10 per session for members and we offer discounts for block bookings in advance. Non-members are also welcome (the standard cost is £15 per session.) Full details and the booking form are on our website or email us at info@pangbournetennis.org to find out more.

Looking ahead to the lengthening evenings and warmer weather, our spring programme for adults gets underway on Tuesdays in early April.

Social Tennis over the winter

Social doubles sessions are running on Saturdays each week (weather permitting) at 13:30 – 15:00. The very popular and competitive but friendly singles box league are also running. If you are interested in taking part and have not already signed up, please get in touch at info@pangbournetennis.org

Get ready tennis for junior tennis this spring – from 28th March

This year we are offering taster sessions for junior coaching on Friday 28th March and 4th April before the full main term which starts on Friday 22nd April and runs until 15th July. Full details are available on our website or contact us at juniors@pangbournetennis.org to register your children.

If you have any questions about the club or just want to find out more, email us at info@pangbournetennis.org, check out the website www.pangbournetennis.org or come to one of the social sessions. The club is located between the river and the railway on the Recreation Ground and we share the club house with Pangbourne Bowls Club.

Pangbourne Tennis Club Committee



Pangbourne Tennis Club

St John's Church and Churchyard

The church by the recreation ground in Whitchurch Hill is one of two churches in the Ecclesiastical parish of Whitchurch, the other being St Mary's church which is tucked away near the toll bridge. St John's Church was built in the 1880's and the churchyard laid out at the same time, as the church yard by St Mary's was full. Having two churches to look after is quite a challenge for the Parochial Church Council, a body not to be confused with the Parish Council, a wholly secular body.

Many people who are not regular church goers are keen to have a church in the village, and to that end a group called the Friends of St Mary's and St John's was set up a few years ago, a successor to the Friends of St John's. The current body of Friends has been successful in raising funds, and are also active in practical ways, notably in tidying up the church yard.

If you would like to be involved, services are held at St Johns on the first and fourth Sundays of the month, and details of the activities of the Friends can be found via **www.goringheath.com**

St. Bartholomew's C of E Chapel, The Allnutt Alms-Houses,
Goring Heath, RG8 7RS

Open to the Public --All Welcome

Sung Eucharist 1st & 3rd of the Month

Sung Matins 2nd & 4th & 5th of the Month

*Said Holy Communion at 9.00am on 2nd & 4th with special
prayers for the sick*

All Services are taken from the book of Common Prayer

Chaplain: Rev Peter Dewey, -- 07784912955

revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk

Advertising in the Newsletter

The Newsletter is issued every two months and covers Goring Heath, Crays Pond and Whitchurch Hill. The rates for advertising are £15 for half a page and £25 for a full page advert.

To find out more, please contact us at
goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com

Party hire

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

For information and booking:
goringheathparishhall@gmail.com

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club

Organiser: Christine Martin

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

Tel: 0118 9844252 Mobile: 07752785924.

e.mail whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

OPENING UP AGAIN AFTER THE LOCKDOWN

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month. Windsor, Oxford, Cheltenham, Stratford, Salisbury, 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 £14 per annum but £12 if paid online.

COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Peter Dragonetti Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom, Whitechurch Hill, RG8 7PT
07866 202908, 0118 9844711
peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk

Council Offices: 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4SB
See below for dept. phone contacts www.southoxon.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kevin Bulmer 35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY
07803 005680 kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Council Offices: County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND
01865 792422 www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

POLICE	Thames Valley Police	0845-8505505
POLICE	PEC – Non-Emergency Calls	101
POTHOLES	-	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.

This is for any queries, correspondence, feedback and copy submissions.

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
8th March 2022	April 2022
12th May	June 2022
12th July	August 2022

LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

Chiltern Society Footpath Representative	Liz Collas	01491680466
Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494764149
Goring & Almshouses Bowls Club	David Watson	07989 402190
	gabowlsclub@gmail.com	
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	www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com	
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	Jane Forde	07850158274

Goring Heath Parish Hall: Bookings and Enquiries: Chris Whatmore 07850691920
Email: whatmore@talk21.com

CHAIR

Liz Collas Haw Farm, Goring Heath, RG8 7RX 01491 680466
lizcollas1@yahoo.co.uk

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Peter Dragonetti Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom, RG8 0118 9844711
7PT
peter@dragonetti.co.uk

Nick Elsome 6 Heath End, Crays Pond, RG8 7SQ 01491 682775
nelsome@mac.com

Hilary Dewey Old School Cottage, Goring Heath, 01491/680261 or
RG8 7RR 07747/047078
hilyardewey@yahoo.co.uk

Martin Wise 5 Coombe End, Whitchurch Hill, 0118 984 3071
RG8 7TD
martinwise10@hotmail.co.uk

Peter Burdon White Acres, Goring Heath, RG8 7SY 0118 9844867
Peter.burdon@hotmail.co.uk

Tarek Moghul 3 Linden Cottages, Whitchurch Hill, 07970 838196
RG8 7PH
tmoghul@me.com

Mike Holland 2 New Buildings,, Whitchurch Hill, 01189 9844867

CLERK

Amanda Holland 2 New Buildings, Whitchurch Hill, 0118 9844867
RG8 7PW
goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER**EDITOR**

Lucy Turner 5 Hill Bottom Close, RG8 7PX 0118 9842415
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

Amanda Holland 2 New Buildings, RG8 7PW 0118 9844867
goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com