

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

March 2013
132nd Issue

Visit us at:
www.goringheath.com

Forthcoming Events

GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

March 2013

1st Charity Soup Lunch	GHPH
9th Quiz Night	GHPH
14th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
16th Litter Blitz	Various
19th W.I. AGM	GHPH
21st Goring Gap Boat Club evening	

April 2013

6th Spring Gardening Show	GHPH
11th Parish Council & Annual Meeting	GHPH

May 2013

5th Abingdon Air & Country Show	Abingdon Airfield
9th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
17th Hold a Fish & Chip Supper for SIA	
25th Whitchurch Hill Fête	Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground

September 2013

28th Moonrakers	GHPH
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**Publicise your event and increase attendance by giving us
the dates.**

IT IS FREE

We welcome event dates from all local charities and groups for listing in this feature.

Please send the details to the Editor - Tim King at tim@tpking.me.uk.

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

Some readers of this Newsletter will have been puzzled by my last report, in which I appeared to be some what confused as to the time of year, while the most diligent readers will recognise that it was a reprint of my comments of nine month previously. Every cloud has a silver lining, and in this case, I am, like a Blue Peter presenter, able to bring out a report I prepared earlier, in this case for the last edition of our News Letter.

As a parish, we now have an opportunity to take a greater lead in planning matters, thanks to changes introduced by the government in respect of planning and localism. Keen readers of this newsletter will know that the parish council takes this matter seriously, and we are often dismayed by the approach of our District Council.

If we, as a parish, produce a Neighbourhood Plan, it carries real legal weight. The Planning Authority, in our case normally SODC, are obliged to consider proposals for development in the neighbourhood against the neighbourhood plan.

I hope that the parish council properly represents the views of people in our parish and any ideas the parish council has in this matter are broadly in line with feelings locally. However, the law requires that a Neighbourhood Plan has to be approved by a referendum of local people, so we want to start by engaging as many people as possible in the process, so that the plan we develop has involvement outside the parish council.

It is likely that, as most of us joined the parish council because of interest in issues like this, we will take the lead, but that should not be necessarily so, and we welcome anyone else to come forward and join with us in this project. If you would like to know more about this, please email goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com or phone me, Peter Dragonetti on 0118 9844711 for a chat to find out more.

For those who are worried about the cost and what this might do to Council tax, I am pleased to be able to report that the government has modified the rules so that the parish does not have to pay the costs of an Inspector to examine a neighbourhood plan, or of the referendum that has to be held within the parish to make sure that people agree with it.

I am also pleased to be able to say that the parish website goringheath.com back on air. My thanks again to Chris Wellings of Hill Bottom whose business CTC Aspire provided the easy to use software to create the site and who is also kindly hosting the site free of charge.

And, talking of money, I am also pleased to be able to report that, for I think the third year running, the Parish Precept (ie our part of your Council tax) has again been reduced , this time by 2.86%.

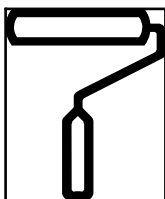
Peter Dragonetti
Chairman

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL

8PM

GORING HEATH PARISH HALL



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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.
P12/S2860/HH Cherry Cottage Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill (In the parish of Goring Heath) RG8 7PU Single and two storey front and side extensions with internal alteration to existing. (amendment to planning permission P12/S1397/HH) (As clarified by amended Design and Access Statement received 06/12/12).	Should be refused	Permission
P12/S2635/HH 5 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Two storey rear and single storey side extension.	No Strong Views	Permission
P12/ P12/S2813/FUL Former Goring Heath Poultry Farm Goring Heath READING RG8 7RU Erection of a new veterinary practice barn type building.	No strong views	Refused
S2893/LB Police Rehabilitation Centre Flint House Reading Road Goring RG8 0LL Removal of existing servery hatch between dining room and kitchen and enlarge opening to create new doorway.	No strong views	Listed Building Consent
P12/S3018/HH & P12/S3019/LB 1 Enigma Estate Coldharbour Goring Heath RG8 7SZ Erection of a side extension (Re-submission of application P12/S2443/HH)	Should be Refused	
P12/S3138/HH Sunny Home Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PG Construction of a side extension, reconfigured roof with a loft conversion incorporating two front dormers	No Strong Views	
P12/S2927/LDP Oak Tree Cottage Gashes Lane Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PY Conversion of existing garage to a habitable room.	No Objection	Permission
P12/S2978/FUL The Oratory Preparatory School Great Oaks Goring Heath RG8 7SF Removal of condition 7 on planning application P05/E0686 (New indoor pool and access)	Should be approved	Permission

Continued overleaf

Premises and application details	Parish Council	S.O.D.C.
P13/S0119/HH 20 Hill Bottom Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PX Single storey extension and alteration.	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.

All Square

The square boxes containing further squares and dots are called QR codes. Modern mobile phones especially smartphones can “read” the code with a suitable free “app” and display the message which usually contains a link to a web address which the user can open.

Litter Blitz

The litter is always with us, and there seems to be as much as ever.

If you feel that you could do something for the environment in which you live, why not join in. It is only for a couple of hours, but with many hands making light work and many feet covering a lot of distance, we soon make a difference to our verges and hedgerows.

All you need to do is turn up at Crays Pond, or the Hill Bottom cross roads or the old Post Office at Goring Heath, at 10 am on 16th March. Bring some gloves, and if you can, bring some strong plastic rubbish bags. We will provide these as well, but they soon fill up, and it’s easier to leave a heavy bag to be picked up later than have to completely fill it up.

More information on our web site, or if you want to be reminded, email goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com with your mobile number, and you will receive a text the day before.

Peter Dragonetti



The Editor
Goring Heath News
By Email

Listening Learning Leading

Cllr Ann Ducker MBE

LEADER

ann.ducker@southoxon.gov.uk
Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford, OX10 8ED

Tel: 01491 823131 Fax: 01491 823134
Textphone: 18001 01491 823131

11 February 2013

Dear Editor

Following statements made in the Chairman's report of the January 2013 edition of the Goring Heath News we write to provide some balance to what we consider to be unfair criticism and a misunderstanding of the South Oxfordshire District Council Countryside Officer's role in this process.

As this is a County planning application South Oxfordshire District Council is one of several consultees invited by the County to comment on the application. Consideration of the various consultation responses then enables the County planning officers to make an informed and balanced decision.

The Countryside Officer's role in commenting on planning applications is to assess the ecological impacts of planning proposals. This would typically involve ensuring that the proposals would not result in any breaches of legislation designed to protect certain habitats and species and where possible to secure gains for wildlife. It is not the role of the Countryside Officer to provide comments about general impacts on the countryside arising from development. These issues would be considered by the planning officers and other consultees.

In this case the Countryside Officer's findings were supported by other professionals who were consulted, including the County ecologist and the Environment Agency.

The County's decision was to refuse the application. The refusal reasons did not include adverse impact on the surrounding woodland.

South Oxfordshire District Council recognises the valuable contribution that our countryside provides to the environmental quality of our district and the lives of our residents. We employ dedicated specialist professionals such as the Countryside Officer to ensure that development decisions give full consideration to environmental factors that are valued by our residents

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OXFORD AERIALS

enabling our planning officers to make informed decisions in relation to development proposals.

Yours faithfully



Cllr Ann Ducker MBE
**Leader of the Council
and Ward Member for Goring**



Cllr Pearl Slatter
Ward Member for Goring



Charity Soup Lunch

Friday 1st March
At Goring Heath Parish Hall
From 12.30 onwards

*Delicious homemade soups, bread, cheese and coffee
for just £5*

Please telephone Joyce Brannan

on 0118 984 3007

These events are very popular so please
call Joyce to give her an idea of
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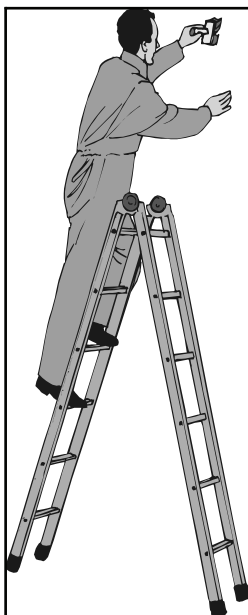
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Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No. 1056772

??QUIZ NIGHT??

GORING HEATH PARISH HALL
SATURDAY 9TH MARCH
8PM

Its that time of year again! Don't miss out on the now famous

MIKE HOLLAND QUIZ NIGHT!

Teams of approximately six.
Cost £10 per person, includes food.

Its competitive,
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to book a table for your team!

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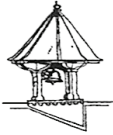
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SPRING SHOW

Goring Heath Parish Hall

Saturday
6th April 2013

Open to the Public 2.30 - 4.00 pm

Competition classes include Flowers, Fruit and
Vegetables, Eggs, Art, Handicrafts,
Photography, Baking and Preserves and
Classes for Children up to 12 years

* Raffle * Refreshments * Plant Sale *

For schedules and entry forms contact

Liz Gibson	01189 842012
Rosamund Heath	01189 842358
Ann Lewis	01189 842377
Sue Sexon	01189 844236
Helen Willis	01189 843620

Or download an entry form from
<http://www.whitchurchonthames.com/diary.php>



ABINGDON

Air & Country Show

Sun 5th May, from 10am

**Flying Displays, Vintage Vehicles,
live music, Kids Amusements,
Static displays, Crafts and more.**

Gate Admission; Adult £15, OAP £10, Child 5-15 £5,
under 5s Free. Advance tickets available, enquire via
the website: www.abingdonfayre.com

**Abingdon Airfield, off Barrow Road,
Shippon, ABINGDON, OX13 6JQ**



The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club



Organiser: Christine Martin Tel: 0118 9844252
"Sonia", Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill
e.mail: c_nmartin@tiscali.co.uk

**The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals,
plays, classical concerts etc. once a month. Chichester, Bath,
Oxford and Richmond, amongst others, are often visited. Also
major London productions.**

Mainly matinees but sometimes evening performances.

Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

Subscriptions £5 per annum.

Coaches leave from Pangbourne.

Whitchurch Hill Fete
SATURDAY 25th MAY
2PM

Stalls and Plants Galore
Ferret Racing Punch & Judy
Bottle Stall Raffle
Children's Races & Games
Swing boats Barbecue
Beer and Tea Tents
25 Piece Concert Band
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Fun Dog Show

Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground



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COMPUTER TUITION FOR THE OVER 50's

Silver Surfers Inspire4Life is a group of volunteers who provide 1:1 tuition to the over 50's who wish to learn how to use a computer or wish to improve their computer skills.

Each course consists of 6 x 1 hour sessions which take place on Thursday mornings in Purley.

There are 6 different courses covering all abilities

- **Complete Beginners** – for people who have little or no computer skills
- **Beginners Refresher** – to brush up on their computer skills
- **Taking Control of Your PC** – including how and where to save files and then how to find them.
- **Microsoft Word 7** – covering all aspects of the program
- **Digital Photography for Beginners** – including how to take better pictures and how to transfer them onto your computer
- **Digital Imaging** - Using Photoshop Elements 7 – teaches you how to improve and manipulate your photos.

Fees: the Beginners course is free – to get you started. All other 6 week courses are currently £25.

For more information contact Suz Harper: tel: 0118 941 5244 (11:00 – 16:00 week-days only). E-mail: courses@inspire4life.me.uk Or see www.inspire4life.me.uk

In addition to the computer courses Silver Surfers also run **Tai Chi** classes in Purley on Wednesday afternoons. Beginners are always welcome.

Whitchurch & Goring Heath twinning Association

We shall be celebrating 35 years of our link with La Bouille, on the banks of the Seine near Rouen. We expect a party of about 35 people to come on May 4th to 6th and be entertained by us. If you would like to be involved, please e-mail vickyjordan5@hotmail.com, or ring 0118 984 3260.

We would really like new people to be involved, especially families with children, and of course next year you will be entertained in France.

RG8 Badminton Club

2012 has been the best ever for our Club. Record membership, good income and maximum enjoyment – so much so that we have even reduced our subscription for the Spring Term! Our popularity is such that we even have a waiting list for the first time for both the Senior and our Junior – the *Smashers* – sections.

Our General Meeting took place in December and the following Committee appointments were approved – Chris Uden (Chairman), Simon Holland (Treasurer), Trevor Peters (Club Coach and *Smashers* lead), Chris Batey, Merete Hawkins, John Hawthorne and Bruce Jones (Committee members).

The autumn season ended with both seniors and Smashers tournaments. Winners of the Seniors competition were:

Ladies – Winner: Merete Hawkins
 Runner up: Helen Kennard
Men's – Winner: James Smith
 Runner-up: John Hawthorne

The *Smashers* tournament culminated in a fantastic final with Euan Aitchison emerging as winner narrowly over Joshua Hankin. Well done to both - and to our Coach Trevor Peters - for producing such high quality games.

Our Club Christmas Dinner and Party Night took place once again at the Red Lion in Woodcote. After an excellent dinner we had a Winter Olympics featuring silly games with the gold medal going to Julian Wiltshire.

If you're interested in joining us contact me, Chris Uden, on 01491 681263.

Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute

Tuesday 18th December members met at midday for our annual Christmas lunch. This year's venue was close by at the Sun Inn, Hill Bottom where we all enjoyed a delightful meal in pleasant surroundings and good company.

We were lucky that the snow had all but disappeared so our January meeting could take place on 15th as usual. Members were entertained by a fascinating picture show by our local expert professional photographer; Alan Copeland entitled "The

Big Picture". He makes it all look so easy, this modern technology! But members excelled with the competition, a lovely array of black and white photographs, more my era. Margaret Palling was first with a perfect picture of the mill and surroundings down in Whitchurch. Heather Baker came second with a picture of her overlooking the magnificent bay at Hartland Quay in North Devon and third was Frances Strange with a beautiful picture of her mother-in-law's grandmother helping an old lady and fisherman mend nets taken in Whitby by Victorian photographer, Frank Sutcliffe. The flower of the month, a beautifully scented Sarcococca, was won by Tony Aldiss.

MARCH 19TH

Annual Meeting and Quiz so its time to get those little grey cells charged up.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 10.15 a.m. in Goring Heath Parish Hall. If you are interested in finding out more about Whitchurch Hill W.I. then do please contact us (Theresa Elsome), telephone number 0118 9842056. Visitors are always welcome too.

Wendy Blow

Church of England Services **at St Bartholomew's Chapel**

Allnutt Almshouses; Goring Heath, RG8 7RS

Services are taken from the Book of Common Prayer and Readings from The King James Bible.

The Chapel is open to the Public.

Lenten Group:

Mondays, 18th; 25th; Mar, 4th; 11th, at 2.30-3.30pm followed with Tea.
Subject: Introduction to Meditation as Silent Prayer

March 3 rd	11.00	Holy Communion (Sung)
March 10 th ; 17 th ; 24 th	9.00	Holy Communion (Said)
	11.00	Matins (Sung)
March 29 th (Good Friday)	11.00-1200	Hymns and Meditations
March 31 st (Easter Sunday)	11.00	Holy Communion (Sung)

Rev Peter Dewey

Whitchurch Bridge – News Bulletin 4, January 2013

1. Progress on the Reconstruction of the Bridge

Invitations to tender for the reconstruction of Whitchurch Bridge have been sent out to selected contractors with expertise in constructing bridges over water. The Whitchurch Bridge Company (WBC) expects to appoint the successful contractor by the end of April 2013.

It is expected that the Bridge will close in September 2013, but the actual date depends upon the outcome of discussions with SSE and Openreach on the time they need to divert their services off the Bridge and on to the temporary footbridge.

WBC acknowledges that Bridge users need to know when the Bridge is closing so that they can make plans etc, and will announce the exact closure date as soon as possible.

2. The Temporary Footbridge

The temporary footbridge will be open for pedestrians and wheeled bicycles before the main Bridge closes. It will be 1500mm wide (about 5 feet), with gently sloping ramps at each end and no steps. It will be open at all times and be lit at night.

3 Traffic Management

The 3 involved highways authorities – Oxfordshire, West Berkshire and Reading – are discussing a signage plan to direct traffic away from Whitchurch-on-Thames whilst the Bridge is closed. They will also have powers to impose parking restrictions as necessary to keep traffic flowing on the diversionary routes and to ensure that highways near the Bridge are not blocked.

There is a fundamental problem with the lack of parking space near the Bridge which would, for example, allow residents of Whitchurch Hill and beyond to drive down to Whitchurch-on-Thames and walk over to Pangbourne for shops etc. WBC and the highways authorities see no easy solution to this.

4. Value Added Tax

WBC has lost its High Court claim that HM Treasury is obliged by law to refund VAT paid by the Company on goods and services provided to it. The

VAT to be paid on the cost of reconstruction could amount to £700,000: the Court judgement (which is linked to from our website) acknowledged that this sum will be passed on to Bridge users. WBC will decide soon whether or not to appeal.

5. Information

There is more information about the reconstruction of the Bridge on our website, including a timetable for the works and some Drawings. WBC will listen to Bridge users and local residents and do whatever it can to minimise the inconvenience the temporary Bridge closure will cause.

Geoff Weir

Company Secretary, the Whitchurch Bridge Company

www.whitchurchbridge.com

Almshouses Bowls Club

The Almshouses Bowl Club attended the annual end of year dinner and presentation at the Red Lion, Woodcote just before Christmas. The winners of the various trophy's were:

Singles - Martin Higley

Doubles - Felicity Abbott & Melvyn Jones

Triples - Steve Little, Roy Gavells & Martin Higley

Richard's Fun Day - Felicity Abbot & Maureen Jones

Best Improved Player - Peter Chapman

The Friday Night 'Roll Up' winners were:

First - Gareth Jones

Second - Steve Little

Third - Clive Goodburn

Keep up the good work Gareth, well done!

Our season gathers momentum from 13th April when we have our first Friday roll-up in preparation for our match away at Goring - weather permitting. The full fixture list is on our website. If there is anyone who would like to join our very friendly club, please do not hesitate to telephone **Maureen Jones on 01491 681872** who would be only too pleased to welcome you.

Tim King

www.almshousesbowlsclub.org.uk



“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”



Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 17th May 2013

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 17th May 2013 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Since 2009 we have raised over £20,000 and it has become our flagship community fundraising event. We want to raise £10,000 from this event in 2013 we can provide more support to spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk

Oxfordshire Autism Alert Card

The Oxfordshire Autism Alert Card is available **free of charge** to anyone in the county with autism. It can be shown if the holder needs:

- Support from their contacts
- Help in difficult/stressful situations
- Help from police officers or other emergency services
- Help on public transport
- To explain about autism

It will also assist will assist people to identify that they are dealing with someone with autism. If presented with a card, please support the cardholder using the advice on the card and contact their named supporters.

The scheme provides free autism training for police and other services.

Alert Card leaflets and posters available on request.

Autistic Spectrum Conditions

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability, caused by differences in the brain, which affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. About 1 in 100 people are autistic, many remain undiagnosed. At the one end of the spectrum, sometimes Asperger's syndrome, people are very able in many ways, having normal or above average intelligence. It is important to realise that this is not always "useful intelligence" when it comes to everyday situations. Difficulties are not visible and are often misunderstood. People are affected differently, but difficulties with the following are common:

- Social interaction
- Verbal and non-verbal communication;
- Understanding body language, tone of voice, facial expressions
- Eye contact may be avoided time needed to process conversation
- Over/under sensitivity to touch, light, colour, sound, smell, temperature, etc.
- Difficulty foreseeing consequences of one's actions
- Overload, when anxious, stressed and/or faced with the unexpected

For more information: www.autismoxford.org.uk

Tel: 0844 381 4484; Email: alertcard@autismoxford.org.uk



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Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club

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Charitable Trust Number 1131754

□ info@lions-gwd.org.uk " www.lions-gwd.org.uk (0845 833 9837



PRESS RELEASE

Lions to go with chips

The 29th Annual 10k Charity Road Run organised by Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club was successfully completed in good running conditions on Sunday morning 13th January 2013. A team of Lions had been out early to spread salt and grit on parts of the route that had developed some icy patches. Despite there being no wind the course was slow and so the record finish time of 30 minutes 31seconds still stands.

First over the finish line was Nick Jones from Newbury, timed at 34:37 followed by Charlie Pearson from London, who was second over the line and timed at 34:46. The first female 10th over the line was Samantha Amend from Marlow, timed at 38:16. A total of 383 runners finished the course despite 425 having pre-registered, and some runners arrived too late after the 10am cut-off deadline to be entered and given electronic timing chip tags on the day.

The UK Athletic Association referee, Graham Pickup helped assure the Lions of their continued good organisation, preparation and administration of this popular annual event.

All finishers received a medal as shown in the attached table of results. Winners Cups and Trophies were presented by the main sponsor of the event, Goring estate agent Bob Warmingham as shown in the photograph. To get copies of photographs taken of individual runners on the day please tel: 0118 978 4331 or view www.denischapman.co.uk

Volunteers from a number of other local clubs and organisations helped the Lions maintain the enjoyment, safety and efficacy of this annual event. They include Scouts & Guides, Rotary and 41 Clubs, and wives all are much appreciated. A team from St John Ambulance provided first aid cover, but thankfully no injuries were reported.

Eight local businesses made generous contributions. Warmingham – Goring Estate Agents were the major sponsor, others include Halarose Ltd – Woodcote, Sol-Tec Ltd – Reading, JRS Services – Woodcote, Woodborough House Dental Practice –

Pangbourne, Bouchier Fencing Co - Woodcote, Johnson Matthey - Sonning Common.
and The Boathouse Dental Surgery – Goring.

The profit and sponsorship monies from this event are still being received, but are estimated to be about £3,000 and will be used to support local charities and volunteer groups.

For more details about Lions, if you are a member of a local charity or volunteer group in need of help or wish to help Lions continue to make a difference in the local community, please e-mail: info@lions-gwd.org.uk

ENRYCH Oxfordshire (formerly Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers)

ENRYCH Oxfordshire runs a thriving project for the benefit of adults with a physical disability who live in Oxfordshire. We work with people from many of the small villages as well as some of the larger towns in the county.

Our members, currently in excess of 250, all have physical disabilities of some sort, whether newly acquired as a result of road traffic accident or stroke, or from disabling conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis or Arthritis. The shocking reality is that anyone of us can find ourselves with a disability. In a split second our lives could go out of our control and simple things seem impossible – it's very frightening. Our aim is to give some control back to people, supporting them to realise they have a life worth living and life can be fun and enjoyable.

We enable people with a disability to claim back a huge part of their lives and indulge in some of life's simple, but essential pleasures same as people without physical disabilities do. Most of us enjoy being social, whether that means something simple such as going to the cinema or the pub or watching football, and even taking part in activities like sailing, fishing, sky-diving or learning languages or history – anything able-bodied people can do we can enable our members to do too. They don't have to sit at home watching everyone else have the fun, they can participate and we'll enable them to do whatever they want.

Suitable and like minded volunteers are recruited to support individuals in following their chosen interests on a one to one basis. This may involve visits at home or trips out within the local community. A smaller number, who may not wish for a volunteer, are facilitated to join a local college or specialist club.

Susan Linnett
Branch Manager
Tel No: 07518 300387
Charity No 1119954

Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme bulletin: January 2013

Thank you to everyone who contacted me in response to the first of these bulletins: it is heartening that so many Oxfordshire residents are interested in woodfuel.

The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme now has a [website](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk) which provides lots of advice on growing, cutting, storing and burning woodfuel: www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk.

I will be running a series of one-day woodfuel-related study visits on 15 April, 13 May and 8 June. They cost £25 each. More information is available on the website.

The Oxfordshire Woodland Project is running workshops on woodland management: see www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/woodland-workshops.

The moisture level of woodfuel is important: a freshly cut log at 50% moisture has only about half the energy content of an equivalent well-seasoned log at 20% moisture. The woodfuel programme has a moisture metre that you are welcome to borrow.

Grants: Households that do not have central heating and install a biomass boiler before the end of March can get a £950 grant. Woodland owners who need to put in roads to extract woodfuel can get a grant that covers up to 60% of the cost. Please contact me if you need help with these, or with any other aspect of woodfuel.

Riki Therivel, manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk, 01865 243488

3 steps to a greener home

Holding on to more of the heat you pay for is a sensible way to reduce your energy bills. In an older home 3 key steps will help to achieve this:

1. Draught-proofing

Start by draught-proofing doors, windows, letterboxes, keyholes and cat flaps. Install extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms so you don't need to open windows.

2. Insulation

You've put 270mm in the loft. Now to the walls. If they aren't cavity walls which are easily insulated, solid wall insulation may suit. Adding it externally should be easier following a recent change in planning advice. If not, internal wall insulation adds real comfort and is best installed just prior to redecorating. All these approaches are supported by the government's Green Deal.

3. Improved Glazing

Energy efficient glazing is now available to replace single glazing, even in original sash window frames. If upgrading isn't affordable, consider removable secondary glazing. Failing that a thick pair of curtains helps!

You can see these and other improvements in exemplar homes in March and September when SuperHomers host free events around the country. For more information and to meet a homeowner who has already had the work done, see www.superhomes.org.uk



All are invited to join
**Goring Gap
Boat Club**
for an evening with
Zac Purchase Olympic oarsman
and the launch of the
New Boathouse Appeal
on Thursday 21st March 2013

Zac will talk about his Olympic experiences and GGBC committee members will provide a summary of the plans for a new boathouse.

£7.50 including wine and cheese.

Tickets are available via the club website

www.goringgapbc.org.uk



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club

Serving the villages of South West Oxfordshire

One of over 44,000 Lions Clubs Worldwide, forming **Lions Clubs International**

Charitable Trust Number 1131754

□ info@lions-gwd.org.uk " www.lions-gwd.org.uk (0845 833 9837



PRESS RELEASE

Lions thank Santa helpers

The Lions Club of Goring, Woodcote & District raised a record £4,391.18 with the kind help of local volunteer groups who turned out as Santa's elves to assist with door to door collections. This total is over £1,000 above last year and marks the 31st successive year the Lions have toured the villages of South Oxfordshire with Santa on his sleigh to collect donations whilst playing seasonal carols.

Each volunteer group of helpers will receive 50% of the amounts they collected towards their chosen charity project. In Sonning Common the Lions were helped by Shirehall Rugby Club, in Woodcote by local Beavers, Cub & Scout Leaders and in Goring by Goring Primary School PTA.

The total amounts collected by area are as follows

Sonning Common	£1,026.30
Goring on Thames	£1,025.46
Woodcote & Crays Pond	£1,009.12
Whitchurch Hill	£ 371.07
Whitchurch on Thames	£ 306.47
At the Tollbridge	£ 652.76

Goring, Woodcote and District Lions Club is part of the International "family" of Lions Clubs, but is very much a local club, dedicated to helping in the local community with members who live in the area. The majority of the Club's fund raising receipts are spent locally with approximately 10 to 12 % of funds going to support Lions International charitable projects in other parts of the world where people are in need of help.

Every pound donated goes to charity with no administration charges taken out.

For more about Lions telephone: Chris Stevens, President on 0118 984 4551

Or Alan Wright, Secretary on 0845 833 9837

email: info@lions-gwd.org.uk Website: www.lions-gwd.org.uk

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COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Anne Ducker 01491 836169 Pearl Slatter 0118 984 5021
Council Offices: Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8HG 01491 823000
www.southoxon.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Dave Sexon, 3 Rivacres, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7QP 0118 984 4236
davesexon@yahoo.co.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
POTHOLE 0845 310 1111

The Goring Heath Newsletter is published by the Parish Council six times a year and is delivered free to every household in the Parish.

To contributors to the Newsletter:-

It would be most helpful if a copy could be submitted to me as a document attachment to email and sent to tim@tpking.me.uk Ed

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
11th April 2013	May 2013
13th June 2013	July 2013
8th August 2013	September 2013
10th October 2013	November 2013
12th December 2013	January 2014
13th February 2014	March 2014

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GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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VICE-CHAIRMAN

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Kate Giles	10 Hocketts Close	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PX	0118 984 1590
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Marjo McGee	Field End	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 872136

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GORING HEATH PARISH CHARITY

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nick.henry@gouldinternational.co.uk

LOCAL GROUPS

Almshouses Bowls Club	Maureen Jones	01491 681872
Bridge Club (7.30pm Tuesdays)	Tony Robinson	01491 680278
Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Ian Rowbottom	01628 523649
Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides	Doreen Pechey	01491 681236
Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club	John Bridgens	0118 9842682
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491 575205
RG8 Badminton Club	Chris Uden	01491 681263
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (S.O.A.G.)	Nancy Nichols	0118 978 7829
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Jo Griffin	07930 411660
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Chair: Sue Matthews	0118 984 4489
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association	David Robinson	0118 984 4142
Whitchurch Hill WI	Theresa Elsome	0118 984 2056
Woodcote Volunteers (Office Hours 9.30—11am)	Janet Crowther	01491 681171
Yoga	Sarah Dixon	0118 984 4262

Goring Heath Parish Hall : Bookings and Enquiries: Theresa Elsome 0118 984 2056
email: bnt@waitrose.com