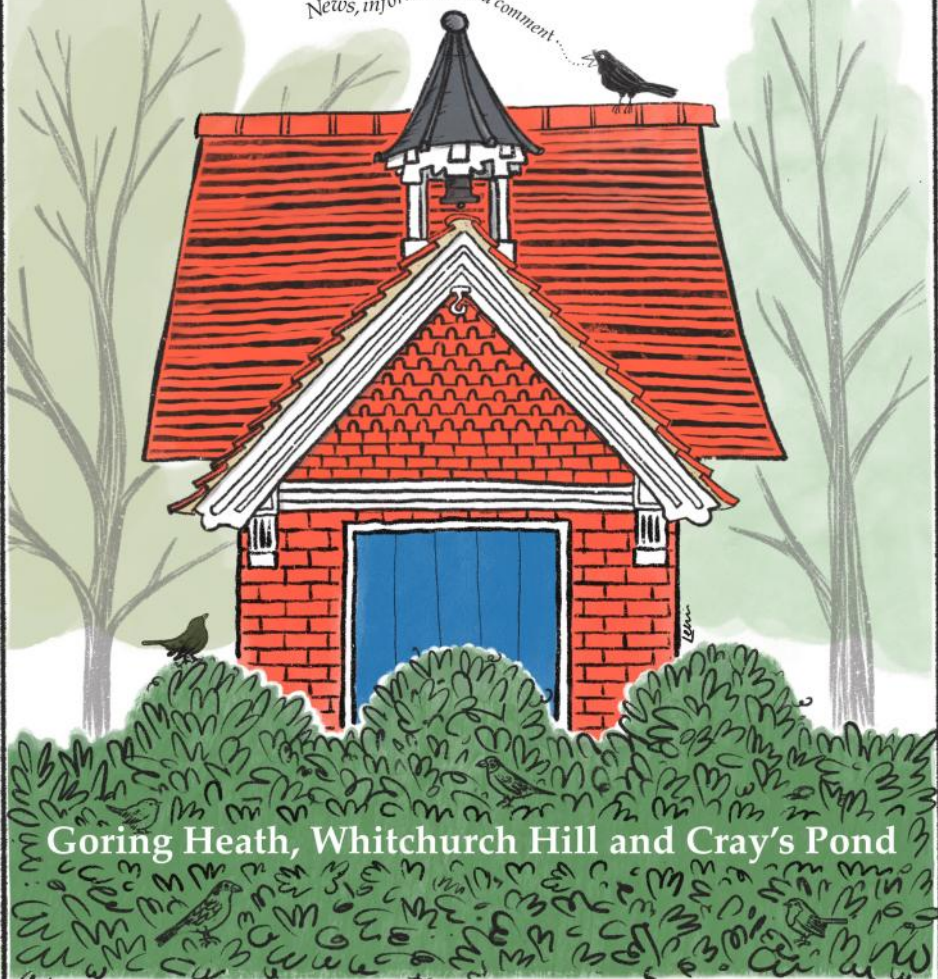


June 2026

Issue 209

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

*News, information and comment...*



Goring Heath, Whitchurch Hill and Cray's Pond

[goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

# ST MARY'S YOUTH CLUB

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**

**7 – 8.30PM**

**THE OLD STABLES**

**YEARS 6 - 10**

music, games, table tennis, tuck shop\*

\*bring some money for tuck shop

**FRIDAYS 5.30pm – 6.30pm YEAR 6**

**FRIDAYS 6.45pm – 7.45pm YEAR 7 and 8**



angtree Team Ministry

The Parish of St Mary's Whitchurch-on-Thames  
with St John's Whitchurch Hill  
Email: [jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com)  
Judi Green: [green\\_judi@hotmail.com](mailto:green_judi@hotmail.com)

## Chair's Address



As we move into early summer, the parish is looking particularly beautiful, with the hedgerows in full bloom, longer evenings returning, and plenty of signs of new life around us. Many residents will no doubt have spotted families of goslings along the nearby River Thames and young wildlife beginning to appear across the parish — always one of the real pleasures of May in Goring Heath.

After a glorious spell of weather in April, May has — until recently at least — felt rather more like a traditional April, with its mixture of sunshine, showers and blustery days. Let us hope the warmer weather now settles in properly and that we can all enjoy a good barbecue season over the months ahead.

A particular highlight of the month was our wonderful Whitchurch Hill Fete on Saturday 23rd May. It was fantastic to see so many residents, families and visitors coming together to enjoy the day. The atmosphere throughout was warm and welcoming, with a real sense of community spirit on display. A huge thank you goes to all of the organisers, volunteers, stallholders and everyone who contributed their time and energy to make the fete such a success. The new interactive additions proved especially popular and added a fresh dimension to a much-loved annual tradition.

Although attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting in April was modest, it was nevertheless extremely valuable to hear the reports and updates from those leading the many groups and organisations that help make our parish such a vibrant and active community. The dedication and hard work that goes on behind the scenes across so many local activities is greatly appreciated and deserves recognition.

As always, there is much happening behind the scenes across the parish, and we remain grateful to all those who volunteer their time in so many different ways — whether through local events, community groups, environmental efforts or simply supporting neighbours and friends.

I hope everyone enjoys the beginning of the summer season and has the opportunity to make the most of our beautiful local countryside in the weeks ahead.

**Warm regards,  
Mark Skidmore,  
Chair of the Parish Council**



# Tots on the Thames



**The Old Rectory Stables  
Whitchurch on Thames (RG8 7DF)  
WEDNESDAYS 10.00 am – 11.30 am**

A stay-and-play Baby and Toddler group

Let them: play, create, sing, snack and make friends!

While you enjoy a hot cuppa and a biscuit!

£3 per session

For more information email Debbie on [debs.leach@btinternet.com](mailto:debs.leach@btinternet.com)

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Whitchurch-on-Thames with St John the Baptist  
Whitchurch Hill

Vicar: Rev'd James Leach.

Email: jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com Tel: 0118 976 5905



## GORING HEATH PARISH HALL



To hire our charming, picturesque and well equipped village hall for your next party, community event or society, please contact

[bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk](mailto:bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk)

The hall, over the last twenty years, has undergone continuous sympathetic refurbishment and extensions and provides all you would expect of a modern venue to host your event or meeting, whilst retaining its charm and original character. For full details please visit our website:

[goringheathparishhall.uk](http://goringheathparishhall.uk)

or contact [bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk](mailto:bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk) to discuss your requirements.

### Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

In June and July there are outings for members, starting with a forage around Lewknor, visiting churches, a pub, and admiring the Chilterns scenery .

We don't meet in August, but return to Goring Heath Parish Hall in September with a lively lecture by Stephen Barker on Trench Humour in the First World War. We meet at 2.30pm and welcome non-members.

**Contact Vicky Jordan for more information**

[vickyjordan5@hotmail.com](mailto:vickyjordan5@hotmail.com) 0118 984 3260

## Struggling with Home Heating Costs? Help May Be Available

Do you live in Oxfordshire and find it difficult to afford your home oil heating costs? The Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme may be able to provide financial help and support. To find out more, scan the QR code or visit:

[Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme](#) | [Oxfordshire County Council](#)

### Contact the Crisis Support Team

Phone: 01865 804171

Email: [RSSOxfordshire@necsws.com](mailto:RSSOxfordshire@necsws.com)



### Additional Help and Advice

Even if you are not eligible for financial support through the Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme, you can still get free advice and support from [Better Housing Better Health](#).

Their friendly team can help with:

- Free warmth and wellbeing assessments for your home
- Advice on fuel grants and other financial support
- Energy-saving tips and guidance

### Contact Better Housing Better Health by scanning the QR code or by:

Phone: 0800 107 0044

Email: [bhbh@nef.org.uk](mailto:bhbh@nef.org.uk)

Web: [www.bhbh.org.uk](http://www.bhbh.org.uk)



### Cost of Living Support

For any other cost-of-living enquiries, please contact the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council Community Hub. The team are happy to help.

Phone: 01235 422600 (option 3)

Email: [Communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)



**Shedquarters** is a Men's Shed located in the car park of Peppard War Memorial Hall.

If you want to learn how to make things from wood or metal, or just want a cuppa and some company,

**please come and visit us**

MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 10-12.30

[www.shedquarters.org.uk](http://www.shedquarters.org.uk)

## All for One — and One for All!

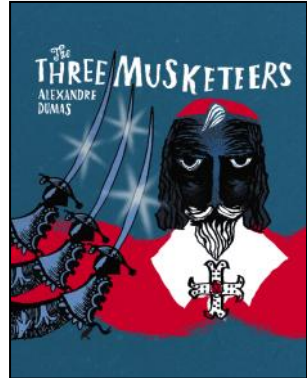
Baroness Sheehan is once again kindly hosting the Illyria Theatre open-air production of The Three Musketeers in the beautiful grounds of Basset Manor, Stoke Row, on **Saturday 1st August 2026**.

As well as promising a wonderful evening of outdoor theatre, the event is an important fundraiser for Citizens Advice Oxfordshire.

Bring a picnic, blanket or folding chair and settle in for a memorable summer evening of adventure, intrigue and daring sword fights under the open sky. Refreshments will also be available during the performance.

By coming along, audiences will not only enjoy a fantastic production, but also help raise valuable funds for a service that supports many people in our local communities.

**Tickets available here: [The Three Musketeers](#) or scan the QR code**



## NOT ALL SUPERHEROES WEAR CAPES...



### Could you be a Superhero?

Woodcote Volunteers urgently needs **Volunteer Drivers** to support local people in need of help getting to medical appointments or staying connected in their community

- Very flexible
- Just a few hours a month would make a huge difference
- Mileage expenses reimbursed

If you would like to make a real difference in your local community we would love to hear from you

To find out more visit our website [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk) or contact Jane by email at [info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](mailto:info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk)

## District Councillor's Commentary



Although the government had said that it would make an announcement on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Oxfordshire after the May elections, an announcement that had already been delayed, the elections have come and gone and no announcement. Amongst all the other political excitement that's going on as I write, perhaps Local Government Reorganisation seems rather unimportant. Although the presence of Reform in Oxfordshire is, in the main, restricted to flag flying from lamp posts, in Essex where Reform has now taken control of the County Council, the new administration has written to the Government saying that they will do all they can to oppose LGR for Essex.

Here in Oxfordshire, we had no county election in May, so the Lib Dems are still in control, and Reform restricted to a single councillor in Didcot. In Oxford, Reform also won no seats, neither did it in Reading, so both our local metropolises are somewhat different electorally from other parts of the country. It seems that the Oxford congestion charge, that raised so much opposition when proposed, has turned out to be quite successful. It is so often the case that the worst predictions for such changes rarely come to pass, and things turn out just fine. Remember that as an Oxfordshire resident you get a number of free passes, while the alternative of the X40 bus to Oxford, or Reading, can be a good option.

The main interaction most people have with the District Council is not potholes which are the County Council responsibility, but bin collection. And the exciting news on that front is that the existing bin collection contract with Biffa has been renewed for at least 8 years and it could be extended to 16 years. I think that generally speaking Biffa do a pretty good job, and one of the additional things that the contract covers is picking up fly tipping, which I have found is always done very promptly when reported. The Council is also building a new depot for the waste service vehicles, as the arrangement for the existing depot at Culham has come to an end. The new depot, near Great Milton, has been bought outright so this location is secure for the future. Still on waste, the system for the

garden waste bins, with an annual renewal for a sticker seems to have gone smoothly.

With the summer nearly upon us, and the prospect of the weather warming up, don't forget the wonderful heated open air swimming pool at Crowmarsh by Wallingford Bridge. Although you have to book a session on line, which sounds onerous but isn't really, it's a wonderful facility. And for those with children, the adjoining splash park needs no booking and is in a great location for a low cost family day out. Open from the end of May.

*Peter Dragonetti*

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



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**Email: [alexwise1992@gmail.com](mailto:alexwise1992@gmail.com)**

**Planning Decisions**

The following planning applications, submitted up to 12th May 2026, have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received written confirmation from SODC.



Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
<b>P26/S0593/LDP</b> The Pothole Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7ST Erection of a wooden gazebo	No Strong Views	Granted
<b>P26/S0525/HH</b> Grey Court Cottage Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NX New porch, garage extension & lantern to kitchen roof.	No Strong Views	Granted
<b>P26/S0413/HH</b> Rosemary House Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PU Ancillary accommodation in roof of garage to provide bedroom with en-suite shower.	No Strong Views	Granted
<b>P26/S0273/LB</b> Pilgrim Cottage Path Hill Goring Heath RG8 7RE Application to replace all of the 1961 and 1988 window and door joinery.	No Strong Views	Granted
<b>P25/S3762/FUL</b> Land south of Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PN Demolition of existing stables and redevelopment of small part of the paddocks to construct a detached self-build bungalow with relocated access and associated landscaping.	Objection	Refused
<b>P26/S0131/LB</b> Copyhold Farm Lady Grove Goring Heath RG8 7RT Replace failed clay tiles on The Old Stables with new clay tiles of a similar design and appearance	No Strong Views	
<b>P25/S2734/LDE</b> The Pothole Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7ST Certificate of lawfulness for the operational development of Building B (completed 2016) and also of a fence (completed 2017).	No Strong Views	

Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
<p><b>P25/S2648/FUL</b> Woodcote Sawmill Pot Kiln Lane Goring Heath RG8 7SS Single storey barn / outbuilding extension.</p>	<p>Objection</p>	
<p><b>P24/S2309/FUL</b> Land to the north and west of Pangbourne Technology Centre Boztdown Drive Whitchurch Hill Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar panels</p>	<p>Objection</p>	
<p><b>P24/S3513/DA</b> Butlers Farm Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill Without planning permission, the material change of use of that building from agriculture, to a mixed use of agriculture, general storage and residential dwell- ing. Without planning permission, the creation of hardstanding sited on the land, that facilitates the material change of use.</p>	<p>Objection to the appeal</p>	

## Annual Parish Litter Pick

A big thank you to everyone who turned out for the annual Parish Litter Pick on Saturday 28th March. Teams gathered at the Parish Hall, Crays Pond and Goring Heath Post Office before heading off to tackle roads and verges across the parish.



## The Friends of St Mary’s and St John’s

*The Friends are an independent charity and welcome members from all faiths and none. We aim to bring together the local community in support of the preservation and improvement of our two churches and their churchyards.*

Registered Charity no. 116833

\*\*\*\*\*

### Work Parties

Our regular churchyard working parties at St John’s take place on the last Wednesday of the month, starting at 10am and those at St Mary’s are on a more ad hoc basis.

Thank you to all those that make a regular appearance as many hands really do make light work.

If you fancy joining one of these sessions, please get in touch with Sally Woolhouse at [whitchurchfriends@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchfriends@gmail.com). A welcome cup of coffee is always provided at half time.

### Save our Spire!

Work at St Mary’s will start on 19<sup>th</sup> May when the scaffolding will begin to be erected. The work on the Spire itself is due to begin in June. The amount that the Friends have donated to the project now comes to about £20,710 which includes the interest it has accrued.

### Fund Raising

A successful Art Café was held in The Old Stables on April 4th when £183.50 was raised. Our next **Art Café will be on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>** and in all likelihood will have happened by the time this Newsletter is published.

We are very grateful to all of you who support these events by baking, donating raffle prizes, or by coming to the event. If you haven’t yet been to an Art Café please do consider giving it a try. They occur each Saturday morning for differing charities each week, and are advertised at The Toll Bridge. Perhaps drop in after a Saturday morning shopping in Pangbourne?

## Future Events

As I write, Granny's Attic Stall at **Whitchurch Hill Fete** will be happening next weekend. Thank you to all of you who have contacted either me or Sally Woolhouse to donate items that surplus to requirement. We hope for a fine day and a good attendance, as that usually means a great day for the Fete. A **Nature Trail** is currently being finalised for the event, and we hope that it will have been enjoyed by a good few Fete-goers!

## Membership

We are always keen to welcome new Friends. Membership currently stands at 67 members in our parish.

For more information on how to join please go to the Whitchurch on Thames village website at <https://whitchurchonthames.com> and follow the link for the Church, or ask me, or Sally Woolhouse. Subscriptions start at a minimum of £10.00 per year and can be Gift Aided.

*Sarah Dragonetti, Chair of The Friends*

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

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

We welcome event dates from all local charities and groups for FREE listing in the Newsletter.

Please send the 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.

## Pangbourne Bowls Club

With the summer months ticking by Pangbourne Bowls Club is in full swing.



We are now reaping the rewards of a busy winter of club improvements. Working very much with Pangbourne Tennis Club, the pavilion kitchen has had a major refurbishment, making the serving of refreshments at club socials and club matches that much easier. The green on which we play also received a great deal of attention - to such an extent it was in very good condition right from our opening day.

On a more colourful note we used the winter months to update our team colours - moving from a white/pale blue and burgundy shirt to a white/pale blue and navy-blue shirt - to be worn predominately with navy blue trousers. Our thanks go to Michele Allen for a sizeable sponsorship from her company to make this possible.

Michele joined us for our open day in April - quite literally. Not only did she present the new shirts to the Club, but joined the Club herself.

We continue to enjoy a variety of in-house matches and competitions, external friendlies and of course league matches against local clubs. We always welcome anyone interested in giving the game a go - no previous experience necessary.

We are very happy to arrange an initial chance to try your hand - with coaching then available should you wish to join us.

If you would like to know more please don't hesitate to contact

***Sally Bergmann on 07585195669*** for more information.



Pictured are (LtoR) Chris Bergmann in the new club colours, Michele Allen, and Club Captain Colin Holloway.



As announced in the April edition of this newsletter, The Save Our Spire Fundraising team are delighted that the project will receive a grant of circa £150,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This together with other grants received and local fundraising to date means that there are now sufficient funds for the project to commence, which is great news. Works have now started on site with scaffolding expected to be in place by end of May, and work on the Spire itself due to start in June.

A big thank you to all whose generosity and support have made this happen.

In the meanwhile, fundraising continues with events planned over the coming months, including sale of 2 paintings of St Mary's Spire created and donated to the appeal by local artist Alastair Dunstan, and following success of the Jazz in the Garden Event last year, we are pleased to be planning this year's event for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July and hope you can join us there.

Further details on these and other fundraising updates, and progress on the project will be posted on the Whitchurch village website ([www.whichurchonthames.com](http://www.whichurchonthames.com)) and in the next edition of this newsletter.

If you would like to donate, please scan the QR code shown here or contact Ken Baker at [baker\\_kenneth2@sky.com](mailto:baker_kenneth2@sky.com)

Thank you for your continued support.

***The Save Our Spire Fundraising Team.***



*Scan to donate*

## Party hire

Don't forget you can hire cutlery, glasses, plates, catering teapots, good folding chairs and tables from Goring Heath

Parish Hall at competitive prices, and it's nice and local.

For information and booking:

[bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk](mailto:bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk)

## Woodcote Volunteers



### AGM

On the evening of May 6th 2026 we held our AGM in the Pavilion Room at the Village Hall. There were 22 attendees, including the nine committee members. We received the annual reports from the Chair and Treasurer, and the Trustees and committee members were duly re-elected. In addition to the formal business, the evening was also an excellent opportunity to socialise with other volunteers. Copies of the Chair's Report and Treasurer's Report, along with an infographic showing detailed drive statistics for 2025, can be found on our website at [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk/AGM](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk/AGM).

### Help with Blue Badge applications

Do you think that you (or a friend or relative) might be eligible for a Blue Badge parking permit? The application process can be daunting, but we have a team of experienced volunteers who can help our most disabled clients apply for their Blue Badges. (Note that you do not need to be a driver or have a car to apply for a Blue Badge). If you think you may be eligible and would like help with an application, please call 01491 681171 and leave a message.

### Help with using your digital devices

We are continuing our successful series of free digital advice sessions. These are aimed at local residents who may be struggling with their smart phones, iPads or laptops, or with using the internet. The friendly 45 min one-to-one sessions are held twice each month in Woodcote Community Centre at 2-4 pm on the 1st Saturday and at 10-12 noon on the 3rd Thursday. The next sessions are on the afternoon of Saturday 6th June and the morning of Thursday 18th June. To book your slot, please call 01491 877749 and leave a voicemail if necessary.

### Volunteer story

As part of our occasional series of volunteer stories, this month we have a story from Jane, a volunteer driver and our Volunteer Coordinator.

I joined the volunteers as a driver in 2021, having recently retired and moved to the village. I didn't know many people and thought getting involved in a community group would be a good way to meet people. It was the best decision I ever made! I've never forgotten one particular drive in my early days which really encapsulates what we are all about. The elderly gentleman lived in Woodcote and told me it was the first time he had left the village in about a year. This made me realise that not only are we making a practical difference to our clients' lives, but we can also give

them a sense of wellbeing. By chatting, providing a change of scenery and suggesting other activities, we are helping to make a difference. Since then, we have expanded from just doing drives and are always looking for other ways to be good neighbours. I would totally recommend being a volunteer driver. It is flexible, rewarding and good fun!”



Further information about our volunteering opportunities can be found on our website (see below). If you think you'd like to join Jane and become one of our volunteer drivers, we'd love to hear from you. Either email [info@woodcotevolunteers.org](mailto:info@woodcotevolunteers.org) or, for an informal chat, call Jane on 01491 877749 and leave a message if necessary.

## Tea parties

Tea parties for our clients are held at the Community Centre in Woodcote on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. We provide tea and home-made cakes free of charge. At our May tea party, we had a visit from the local constabulary! No, it wasn't because we were partying too loudly – but they certainly kept us arrested. (Boom boom!). We are very grateful to PCSO Graham Daley and his colleague for giving up an hour of their time to talk about their roles and day-to-day activities. They are part of our neighbourhood policing team, whose aim is to make our communities safer through visibility and engagement with the local community. We learned that PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers), while having no power of arrest, can patrol and reassure, provide follow-up support and tackle anti-social behaviour and parking issues. It was a very interesting session enjoyed by clients and volunteers alike.

The next tea party will be on Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at 2.30 - 4.00 pm, and will feature a fun quiz postponed from last month. If you need a lift to get there, call our office phone number (below).

## Finally...

To request a driver please call the Woodcote Volunteers' office on 01491 681171, giving at least three days' notice as it can be hard to find someone at short notice – but we will always try! Office opening hours are Monday to Friday 9.30 – 11.00 am (except bank holidays and the Christmas period). Outside these times leave a message and you will be called back the following working day. Other details:

- To volunteer, email: [info@woodcotevolunteers.org](mailto:info@woodcotevolunteers.org)
- Our website: [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk)
- Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers)
- General enquiries – **01491 681171**

## **Another Memorable Whitchurch Hill Fete!**

This year's Whitchurch Hill Fete took place on Saturday 23rd May under glorious sunshine — one of the hottest May days on record — and once again proved to be a wonderful celebration of village life and community spirit.

The day began bright and early, with volunteers busy assembling marquees, gazebos and stalls across the recreation ground before visitors arrived for an afternoon packed with entertainment and traditional fete fun. Mike Holland kept proceedings running smoothly as MC, while the Maidenhead Silver Band helped create a wonderfully traditional fete atmosphere.

The fete continues to pride itself on maintaining the atmosphere of a traditional village fete, and there was certainly something for everyone to enjoy. Children were especially well catered for, with the new circus workshop proving a great success alongside the ever-popular bouncy castle, swing boats, tea-cups roundabout and candy floss stall. Competitive spirits emerged during the children's races, with running, hopping and sack races all enthusiastically contested. The traditional coconut shy was also extremely popular — by the end of the afternoon every coconut had found a new home with a lucky winner!

Food and refreshments were in plentiful supply throughout the day. The WI tea tent served delicious homemade cakes, while the Crays Pond Community Group ran the busy beer tent, offering welcome shade from the heat. The Parish Council barbecue was kept busy all afternoon, Whitchurch Primary School's ice cream stall proved extremely popular in the sunshine, and Lina's Tandoori attracted a steady queue of hungry visitors.

Many local organisations and charities also took part, raising funds and awareness through games, raffles and tombola's. The History Society invited visitors to mark buried "treasure" locations around the parish and guess the number of sweets in a jar, while Granny's Attic, run by the Friends of St Mary's and St John's, did brisk business throughout the afternoon. Visitors also enjoyed browsing plants, crafts and produce from a range of local stallholders.

As always, two of the biggest attractions were the bottle stall and the grand raffle, both generously supported by parishioners and local businesses. Pro-

ceedings concluded in true Whitchurch Hill tradition with the much-loved Egg Throwing Competition, won this year by Jake and Ben.

One of the pleasures of the Whitchurch Hill Fete is the way it brings together so many different parts of the community. Families relaxed in the sunshine while children dashed between activities, neighbours caught up over tea and cake, and visitors lingered around the stalls and displays throughout the afternoon. The recreation ground was filled with conversation, laughter and the unmistakable atmosphere of a traditional village fete at its very best.

Behind the scenes, dozens of volunteers gave their time before, during and after the fete, helping with everything from refreshments and games to tidying up long after the final visitors had gone home.

The fete was organised by Martin Wise and Peter Burdon, supported by Emma Burdon, Lucy Murrell, Sarah and Peter Dragonetti, and Simon and Lesley Reed, together with many other volunteers from across the parish who gave their time before, during and after the event. Their hard work, along with the support of local organisations, businesses and residents, helped ensure another hugely successful and enjoyable day for the whole community.

## **Thank you to our Raffle Sponsors**

The Whitchurch Hill Fete organisers would like to extend their sincere thanks to the local businesses who generously donated prizes for this year's Grand Raffle. We are very grateful for their continued generosity and community spirit.

***Many thanks to:***  
**Pangbourne Cheese Shop**  
**Lina Tandoori**  
**Goring Hardware**  
**Nino's Deli**  
**Goring Grocer**  
**The Sun Inn**  
**Tolhurst Organics**

Moments from the Whitchurch Hill Fete







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Apply Today

Email: [humanresources@oratoryprep.co.uk](mailto:humanresources@oratoryprep.co.uk)

Deadline: 6th July 2026



Address: The Oratory Prep School, Great Oaks, Goring Heath,  
Reading, Oxfordshire, RG8 7SF.

Telephone: 0118 984 4511

## The Phone Box Libraries

Some years ago the Parish Council acquired the two redundant K6 Phone Boxes at Cray's Pond and Whitchurch Hill.

They have both been re-purposed to function as 'libraries' with books being deposited and taken away informally. The Cray's Pond branch is splendidly cared for and organised by Beryl Rutherford, but we do not know who now runs the Whitchurch Hill box. Any info would be much appreciated.

However, both boxes are getting pretty much in need of redecoration and the PC is setting about the process. We are contacting a highly recommended craftsperson who we hope will undertake the task. It may mean the libraries will be out of action for a while but I'm sure it will be worth the wait.

***Martin Wise***



## Something for Everyone this Summer!

**pangbourne**  
tennis club

The club is in full swing for spring and summer, with a welcoming mix of social tennis, coaching and league matches for all ages. New members are always very welcome.

Adult coaching runs on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings, with sessions to suit all levels. Our popular Back to Tennis session (Tuesdays 8–9pm) is ideal for returning players looking to rebuild confidence in a relaxed, supportive setting.

Junior coaching is running on Fridays after school until 17th July for ages from 4 right up to teenagers.

Pickleball and Walking Tennis run on Saturdays (13:00–14:00), offering fun, inclusive ways to get active. Social doubles takes place on Fridays and Saturdays, bringing players together for friendly matchplay.

***Get in touch to find out more and come along.***



Scan to go to the  
website

# The Sun Turns One!

*Celebrating one year at The Sun Inn, Whitchurch Hill...*

At The Sun Inn, John and Lana are celebrating a remarkable first year behind the bar, having quickly become familiar faces at the heart of the community. Since taking over last Autumn, they have brought fresh energy to the pub while preserving its traditional character and welcoming atmosphere. Their first major accolade came soon after settling in, when the pub was awarded Campaign for Real Ale Pub of the Season for Autumn 2025 — recognition of both the quality of the ales and the atmosphere they have worked hard to create.

Throughout the year, the pub has become a regular meeting point for steam engines and vintage enthusiasts, helping create a unique traditional atmosphere around the inn. Building on that success, John and Lana have launched a new Classics Club, welcoming enthusiasts of classic cars, motorcycles, tractors and other vintage vehicles for monthly meets.

Winter brought a series of memorable community events, including a heartfelt tribute to the late Roy Denison, whose treasured beermat collection now lines the walls of the pub. Popular quiz nights also raised funds for a medical supply run to Ukraine and the restoration of the spire at St Mary's Church.

This Spring saw the pub bursting into life once again with a successful May Bank Holiday beer festival, complete with BBQ, live music and a hog roast that drew visitors from near and far. The weekend showcased exactly what John and Lana have aimed to create: a lively, welcoming local at the centre of village life.

Attention now turns to Summer, with the pub's first anniversary party taking place on 18th and 19th July. To mark one year at the helm, John and Lana are planning a sausage and cider festival with live music across the weekend, promising another memorable occasion for regulars and newcomers alike. They would also like to thank everyone whose support and community spirit have helped make their first year such a success.

*“Having come to the area as strangers just a year ago, we truly feel like part of the community now, thank you all for your kindness.”*



# THE SUN INN

WHITCHURCH HILL RG8 7PU  
01189 843 909



EXPERT REAL ALES  
LUNCH SERVED\*

REGULAR EVENTS  
HUGE BEER GARDEN



## CELEBRATING 1 YEAR!

**SAUSAGE & CIDER FESTIVAL WEEKEND**  
**10 CIDERS + 6 SAUSAGE VARIETIES**

<b>SAT 18 JULY</b>	<b>2PM</b> HORSE & CARRIAGE DELIVERING BEER FROM HOOK NORTON BREWERY
	<b>7:30PM</b> LIVE MUSIC WITH JIM CARROLL
<b>SUN 19 JULY</b>	<b>3PM:</b> LIVE 3 PIECE BAND - ACOUSTOPEA

*Thank you so much to everyone who has been so welcoming during our first year here in Goring x*

## OPENING HOURS

MON	12:00	20:00
*TUES	15:00	21:00
WED	12:00	21:00
THUR	12:00	21:00
FRI	12:00	23:00
SAT	12:00	22:00
SUN	12:00	19:00

*\*No food on Tuesdays*

We have a new website! Keep up to date at: [www.TheSunRG8.com](http://www.TheSunRG8.com)

Scan here and follow us on Facebook:



[facebook.com/TheSunRG8](https://facebook.com/TheSunRG8)



## Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute



Our new year 26/27 has started well. Two months in and we have already enjoyed an in-house delicious lunch courtesy of our very talented chef members to celebrate the 70 plus years Whitchurch Hill WI has been in existence. Additionally we have kept up our regular events with a pub lunch, and a Knit and Natter Group where members make items for the various departments within the RBH.

Our most recent speakers were Rosemary, Dennis and Theaka - all of whom contributed to a very informative talk on Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. A collection in support of the Charity was held and took over £100. Next time around we will be entertained with stories about Life in Royal Service, whilst in July we shall enjoy and no doubt participate in music of the 60/70/80s. Something for everyone we hope.

Business-wise, at our meeting, we discussed the national issues going before our WI National Annual Meeting in June. Both resolutions were supported by those eligible to vote - Public Conveniences for all in publicly accessible places, (to cater for all diversities and disabilities), and secondly safe and secure accommodation for all women in need. These will be put to the National Vote and if adopted will be promoted and supported by the WI at local and national level as appropriate.

June is traditionally the month of cream teas - and perhaps afternoon teas in general.

With our appreciation for tasty food we will of course be partaking - with an afternoon tea at a member's house - hopefully in garden chairs under the shade. Either that or it will be indoors to void the wind and rain. Who knows?!

We were delighted to welcome three prospective new members to our WI this month and very much hope to see them again in June. Should you be interested in learning more about us please contact Frances on 01189842162.

We meet at Goring Heath Parish Hall on the third Tuesday of every month at 10am. You would be most welcome.

***Sally Bergmann***



Langtree Team Ministry



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# OUTDOOR CHURCH

Connecting with God in nature

**We meet at 4.00pm  
at St John's Churchyard  
Whitchurch Hill**

Join us as we connect with God together outdoors,  
followed by a meal in the parish hall across from St John's.  
Suitable for all ages.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Whitchurch-on-Thames with St John the Baptist Whitchurch Hill  
Registered Charity Number: 1213356

Vicar: Rev'd James Leach.

Email: jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com Tel: 0118 976 5905

## Hardwick Happenings

Spring is very much in the air at Hardwick, with lambs and calves frolicking in the fields and blossom appearing across the Estate. Read on to find out more about what we have been up to this winter, and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events this summer or at the weekly Saturday pop-up café at Lin's Veg Shed (9am–1pm).

### Hardwick Trust

This April marks one year since the first seven Interim Trustees were elected from the Hardwick community. In October, three additional Trustees were co-opted to bring skills in financial management, business and fundraising. The 10-strong Board continues to meet monthly to oversee the establishment of the charity that will eventually own Hardwick Estate, while also developing the policies and procedures needed to ensure the organisation operates effectively, transparently and in line with its vision.

Recent training has focused on managing conflicts of interest — an important issue for any community-led organisation — to ensure decisions remain objective and trusted by the wider community.

We expect to submit our Charity Commission application in the coming weeks, with the Estate expected to transfer into Hardwick Trust by the end of 2026. The charitable objectives of the Trust are to:

- protect the environment through organic agriculture and sustainable woodland management;
- educate the public in rural skills, woodland management and organic farming;
- encourage access to footpaths and recreational areas;
- provide affordable housing for those in need.

### Stud Farm developments

The redevelopment of the former Stud Farm will become a central project for the Trust, helping deliver the wider vision while also generating income to support charitable activities. Structural surveys are currently underway on the timber stables and historic 18th-century Tithe Barn, both of which require restoration work. Fortunately, the central brick building remains in good condition.

Although the scale of the project can feel daunting, it is exciting to have these historic buildings back in local care so they can be preserved and made accessible for future generations. Decisions about how the restored buildings will be used will involve consultation over time. In the meantime, the Estate hopes to continue hosting community events such as the Winter Market.

## Forestry

Work continues across Hardwick's 500 acres of woodland to create a more diverse mix of tree species and ages, improving biodiversity while supporting timber production. A major part of this work involves controlling deer and grey squirrel populations, both of which can severely damage trees if left unchecked. Thanks to Countryside Stewardship funding, significant progress has been made over the last two years. Many visitors will already have noticed increased woodland regeneration and a welcome return of birdlife, previously affected by grey squirrels disturbing nests and feeding on eggs and chicks.

To allow safe deer management, a small number of permissive woodland paths have been temporarily closed. We appreciate this may alter some walking routes and thank visitors for their understanding and support for the long-term health of the woodland. Early morning walkers are also asked to keep dogs on leads to avoid disturbing deer stalking activities. Anyone interested in learning more about Hardwick's woodland management should look out for details of the annual woodland walk with forester Ben Manning this September.

## Upcoming events

### **25th June, 7.30pm – Hardwick Lecture: *Pinsk to Pinner*, by George Nowacki**

George shares the story of his four-year journey with his mother during World War II, including time spent in a labour camp in Archangel and later in a refugee camp near Tehran. **The Packing Shed, RG8 7RB.** £5 entry.

### **27th June, 10am–2pm – Stockfree Organic for Life and Business**

Farm tour at Tolhurst Organic exploring how biodiversity can work within food production systems at any scale. Book online at: [Tolhurst Organic Events](#)

### **25th July – Hardwick Summer Fete at the Pumphouse**

BBQ, bar, dog show, sports day games, ceilidh and more!



# WHITCHURCH PRE-SCHOOL



For children aged 2 - 5 years

Government funding  
for 15 and 30 hours

Flexible sessions,  
term time

Cooked lunch option



Learning through play approach

Rural setting, new eco building, large outside play area  
and dedicated allotment space



SENCO, Forest school, Health Smiles  
and Hygge accredited.



Find out more at  
[www.whitchurchpreschool.org](http://www.whitchurchpreschool.org) or ring 0118 984 4516

## Help Shape Community Benefits from Future Low-Carbon Energy Projects

Residents, community groups, parish councils and businesses are being invited to comment on a proposed countywide approach to community benefits linked to large-scale low-carbon energy projects in Oxfordshire.

The consultation, running from 12 May to 14 June 2026, is being led jointly by Oxfordshire County Council and the district councils. It looks at how communities hosting renewable energy projects — such as solar farms, wind turbines and battery storage — could benefit through voluntary contributions and shared ownership opportunities.

Possible benefits could include support for community facilities, nature recovery projects, energy efficiency schemes and help tackling fuel poverty.

The proposed policy would not affect planning decisions, but aims to create a fairer and more consistent framework for discussions between councils, developers and local communities.

Further information and the consultation questionnaire are available at

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cbc-and-cso-in-oxfordshire>

### ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service

Christopher  
THE LOCKSMITH



Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors



No Call Out Charge



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For More Advice & Help  
Call Christopher:

07772 111 222

## From Our County Councillor : What's Happening in Oxfordshire



Oxfordshire County Council has approved a new three-year Cost of Living Programme for 2026–29, replacing the previous Household Support Fund with the government's new Crisis and Resilience Fund. The programme will continue to provide targeted support for residents facing financial hardship, including help with food, energy costs, household essentials and financial advice.

Funding for 2026–27 totals £5.56 million and includes additional support for households using heating oil. The programme will place greater emphasis on longer-term financial resilience through Family Hubs, local advice services and the Residents Support Scheme.

Potholes remain a significant issue across the county, with 13.1% of Oxfordshire's road network currently classed as being in poor condition. Concerns also continue regarding the quality of repairs being carried out. There are plans for additional preventative road maintenance, including surface inlay schemes in both Whitchurch and Woodcote. Residents are encouraged to continue reporting potholes and poor repairs via Fix My Street (see page 41).

Progress has also been made on gully and drain clearing across Oxfordshire. The county has around 147,000 gullies, and a year-long inspection and cleaning programme began in April 2025 to help reduce flooding caused by blocked drains. More than 135,000 gullies — around 92% of the network — have now been cleaned at least once. Some locations still require follow-up work or more substantial repairs. The enhanced cleaning programme will continue through 2026–27, with higher-risk areas prioritised for annual cleaning.

Changes introduced earlier this year at Oxfordshire's Household Waste and Recycling Centres continue to attract attention. Since January 2026, all visits must be booked in advance either online or by telephone. More than 113,000 bookings have already been made, with the council reporting reduced landfill costs and measures to tackle suspected commercial misuse of the sites.

The new booking system has prompted mixed reactions from residents, particularly around ease of access and concerns about possible increases in fly-tipping, although the council says no increase has currently been identified. A formal review of the scheme is expected after Redbridge Recycling Centre reopens following essential works later this year.

***Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers***

[Maggie.Filipova-Rivers@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Maggie.Filipova-Rivers@Oxfordshire.gov.uk) 07850 141623



## Live-in Care That Feels Like Family

- ♥ **Immediate Care** – Swift support after hospital discharge.
- ♥ **Tailored Care** – From short stays to long-term companionship, designed around you.
- ♥ **Your Choice** – Fully managed for total peace of mind or flexible introductory options



*"Everyone at Mumby's has been so supportive from the very beginning. The carers have also been fantastic, supporting my mother to live independently and caring for her needs."*




**Finalist 2026**

### Discover how we can help:

☎ **01865 391 187**    ✉ **info@mumbys.com**



## Calling all students!

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 primary school age 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

**e-mail –** [whitchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com)



## Checkendon Church of England (A) Primary School

### Bluebell walks and the joy of outdoor learning



This term, pupils once again took part in our annual Bluebell Walk through the beautiful local woodland. Blessed with sunshine and carpets of vibrant bluebells, the children enjoyed a peaceful walk immersed in nature and experienced one of the most special signs of spring in our local area.

Staff were incredibly proud of the way pupils conducted themselves, showing care for the woodland, appreciation for wildlife and consideration for one another. It was a lovely reminder of how valuable these shared experiences are in helping children develop confidence, curiosity and a sense of responsibility towards the world around them.

We are so fortunate to have access to such beautiful outdoor spaces within our local community. Opportunities like these are an important part of our wider curriculum and reflect the values we promote through outdoor learning and Forest School. Time spent in nature allows children to observe carefully, explore freely and develop resilience, independence and wellbeing in ways that are difficult to replicate inside the classroom.

Our youngest children are currently enjoying their topic, "Where My Wellies Take Me", which celebrates exploration, community and outdoor learning. As part of this, they have already visited the local Equestrian Centre and are soon to visit Blue Tin Production. These real-life experiences help bring learning to life and deepen children's understanding of the world around them.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our local community for the continued support shown to our school. Wherever we go, our children are always met with such a warm welcome, and we are incredibly grateful for the opportunities this provides them.

We hope members of the community have also enjoyed seeing the bluebells in bloom this year. A huge thank you also goes to all the staff and parent helpers who supported the walk and helped make the experience possible.

These moments create memories that children carry with them for years to come, and we feel incredibly lucky to offer them as part of life at our school.

**What’s happening at Checkendon Pre-School:**

Look what we have been doing....

We have been making the most of the outdoor space and enjoying the beautiful sunshine and taken maths outdoors this term. Outdoor maths turns nature into a classroom, using counting and numbers to engage children through hands-on activities like finding, sorting, measuring with natural objects as well as activities such drawing numbers with chalk on concrete, and playing active games like nature-themed hopscotch. We have been drawing Chalk numbers 1 –10 to combine counting with jumping. The children have been drawing around themselves, and creating patterns with the chalk. We also used stones, leaves and natural objects to count with and use as markers to identify different chalk numbers and help us with our games of hopscotch.

We have also enjoyed **Wheels Week** - always a child’s favourite. The children have been enjoying using their bikes, scooters, and ride-a-longs at Pre-School, going fast, slow, stopping starting and changing direction. This has been encouraging the children to negotiate space, support their balance and co-ordination as well as a great way to introduce them to road safety. They have also enjoyed playing the traffic light game, red for stop and green for go.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, do visit our website: [www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk), call us on 01491 682589, e-mail [preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com](mailto:preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com) or just pop in – we always look forward to welcoming you to Checkendon Pre-School.



**Hop, skip and jump**



**Wheels Week**



**1,2,3**

*Checkendon Pre School CIO. Registered as a Charity No 1156803*

**Ways you can support Checkendon Pre-School**

**Easy fundraising. Please support the Pre-School and sign up to raise funds for the Pre-School - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/checkendonpreschool/>**



## Whitchurch Primary School Update

Whitchurch Primary School has launched into the summer term with energy, enthusiasm and plenty of excitement, with pupils already enjoying a packed calendar of learning, sport and special events.

Classrooms have been buzzing with fascinating topics and hands-on learning. Children celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday by learning about conservation, wildlife and the importance of protecting our planet. Pupils have also loved exploring the bird topic, while younger children have been captivated by learning about turtles and their life cycle.



Lessons have been full of discovery, investigating the viscosity of liquids, learning about the fire triangle and exploring the structure and function of plants. Creativity has also flourished, with children experimenting with stained glass window designs and making colourful bracelets ready for the upcoming summer fair.



Our broad curriculum has brought festivals and traditions to life, with pupils learning how and why Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi and exploring the vibrant Hindu Festival of Colour. Meanwhile, music has filled the corridors as children enthusiastically learned to play bucket drums and the ukulele.



Outdoor learning continues to thrive thanks to fantastic new pond dipping equipment funded by the PA. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed getting closer to nature and discovering the wildlife living in and around the school pond. Who knew!

There has also been plenty happening beyond the classroom. Football and boccia tournaments have kept our teams busy, representing the school brilliantly through teamwork and sportsmanship. Year 3 had an unforgettable residential trip to Youlbury, building confidence, friendships and independence, while several year groups enjoyed a visit to the Earth Trust.



Our Year 6 children have shown incredible determination and resilience as they completed their SATs exams. The whole school community is enormously proud of their hard work and positive attitude throughout the week.

And there is still so much to look forward to! Upcoming events include the ever-popular Colour Run, Sports Day, the end-of-year picnic and the always-entertaining Year 6 stalls.

Our School continues to be a place filled with curiosity, creativity and community spirit and we can't wait to see what the rest of the term brings!

**Hayley Wilkins**

**Whitchurch Primary School Parents' Association Treasurer**

## GORING REPAIR CAFÉ

Free repair service by skilled volunteers

Goring Village Hall

10:00am—12:30pm

*6th June - Repair Café and Exchange Event*

*12th Sept and 5th December*

Full details on website



Voluntary donations are welcome cover expenses

[www.goringrepaircafe.info](http://www.goringrepaircafe.info)

Repair - Recycle - Reduce consumption & carbon - Restore our Planet

*Refreshments available in Café Bellême*

**St. Bartholomew's C of E Chapel  
The Allnutt & Baker Almshouses  
Goring Heath, RG8 7RS**



*Open to the Public - All welcome*

Alternating weekly services, Matins & Holy Communion at 11.00am

Holy Communion the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Matins (Morning prayer) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

*All Services are taken from the Book of Common Prayer*

*Chaplain:* **Rev Ross Hathway**

*Contact:* **07895 588 240**

**Purley Barn Bridge Club**

The friendly club for folk from round and about the Purley, Pangbourne, Tilehurst and Goring areas!

We meet at the historic Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley, RG8 8DR every Friday morning at 9.40am for a morning of friendly bridge with friendly people with a break for a chat, coffee, tea and biscuits.

Basically, Purley Barn is a social club whose members play bridge.

No previous experience is necessary and free coaching is available if required. Playing bridge at the Barn is an ideal way to meet people who don't take the game too seriously and who are always welcoming of new members – just turn up before play starts on a Friday and we'll fit you in.

We also play online on Tuesday evenings – so why not give that a try as well. Play your cards right and ring **Martin on 07746 680183** or visit our website at: <https://www.bridgewebs.com>





# Important information

## Goring Mobile Service located at:

Outside West Holme Stores,  
24-26 Wallingford Road,  
Goring, Reading, RG8 0BG

The opening times will be changing from  
the week commencing  
**Monday 16 March 2026**

New Opening hours	
Monday	No Service
Tuesday	13:30 - 16:00
Wednesday	08:00 - 11:30
Thursday	No Service
Friday	No Service
Saturday	No Service
Sunday	No Service

For information in Braille, large print or audio call 03452 66 01 15, Textphone 03457 22 33 55  
or to see a copy of our Principles of Community Engagement about changes  
to our Post Office network visit our website  
[postofficeviews.co.uk](http://postofficeviews.co.uk)

## Bus Service for Goring Heath on Tuesdays:

### Goring to Reading

	Tue
<b>GORING, Railway Station</b>	<b>10:15</b>
Streatley, The Bull	10:17
Lower Basildon, Park Wall Lane	10:21
Basildon Park, Entrance	10:23
Beale Park, Entrance	10:25
<b>PANGBOURNE, The George</b>	<b>10:28</b>
Whitchurch-on-Thames, Greyhound	10:31
Whitchurch Hill, The Sun	10:36
Crays Pond, Beechwood Close	10:40
Goring Heath, Almshouses	10:42
Cane End	10:46
Upper Woodcote Road, Shepherds Lane	10:50
Highmoor Road, Methodist Church	10:53
Caversham, Library	10:57
<b>READING, Blagrove Street EO/EP</b>	<b>11:02</b>
<b>READING, Friar Street FC</b>	<b>11:05</b>
<b>READING, Tesco Kings Meadow</b>	<b>11:10</b>

### Reading to Goring

	Tue
<b>READING, Tesco Kings Meadow</b>	<b>12:55</b>
<b>READING, Blagrove Street EO/EP</b>	<b>12:59</b>
<b>READING, Friar Street FC</b>	<b>13:00</b>
Caversham, Library	13:05
Highmoor Road, Methodist Church	13:07
Upper Woodcote Road, Shepherds Lane	13:09
Cane End	13:15
Goring Heath, Almshouses	13:19R
Crays Pond, Beechwood Close	13:20
Whitchurch Hill, The Sun	13:23
Whitchurch-on-Thames, Greyhound	13:27
<b>PANGBOURNE, The George</b>	<b>13:29</b>
Beale Park, Entrance	13:31
Basildon Park, Entrance	13:32
Lower Basildon, Park Wall Lane	13:33
Streatley, The Bull	13:38R
<b>GORING, Railway Station</b>	<b>13:40R</b>

## Household Waste Recycling - Book in Advance!

You now need to book an appointment in advance to visit any of Oxfordshire’s household waste recycling centres, such as Oakley Wood.

And you also need to take proof of address with you, such as your driving licence, or a recent council tax or utility bill.

To find out more and book a visit to a household waste recycling centre, go to:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/household-waste/household-waste-recycling-centres/book-recycling-centre-visit> or scan the QR Code

If you are unable to book online, call OCC’s Customer Services Centre on **01865 519800**



**SEND US YOUR POTSHOTS**

**Want a faster service?**



**Submit good quality photos**  
and help us locate, grade and prioritise our resources to fix our streets.

Report on [fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

 **FixMyStreet**  **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

You can help OCC improve our roads by reporting potholes and other issues on FixMyStreet:

<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk> or scan the QR code.



Uploading clear photos when you report a pothole helps our highways team assess and prioritise repairs more quickly. Tips for helpful photos:

- ◆ Show the pothole’s location with a wide-angle shot. Include landmarks like house numbers or road markings (but avoid personal info or number plates).
- ◆ Add a close-up photo with something to show the pothole’s size and depth.

Please stay safe: Only take photos when it’s safe to do so. Never step into live traffic or put yourself at risk. Together, we can make Oxfordshire’s roads safer and smoother.

**COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION****South Oxfordshire District Councillor**

<b>Peter Dragonetti</b>	Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom	07866 202 908
	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT	01189 844 711
	<a href="mailto:peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk">peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Council Offices</b>	Abbey House, Abbey Close	See below for
	Abingdon OX14 3JE	department
	<a href="http://www.southoxon.gov.uk">www.southoxon.gov.uk</a>	phone contacts

**Oxfordshire County Councillor**

<b>Maggie Filipova-Rivers</b>		07850 141 623
	<a href="mailto:maggie.filipova-rivers@oxfordshire.gov.uk">maggie.filipova-rivers@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Council Offices</b>	County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND	01865 519 800
	<a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>	

<b>POLICE</b>	Thames Valley Police	0845 850 5505
<b>POLICE</b>	PEC - Non-emergency calls	101
<b>POTHoles</b>		0345 310 1111

**South Oxfordshire District Council Department Numbers**

<b>Main customer service number</b>	<b>01235 422 422</b>
◆ Planning	01235 422 600
◆ Building Control	01235 422 700
◆ Environmental Health, Food and Safety	01235 422 403
◆ Licensing	01235 422 556
◆ Elections	01235 422 407
◆ Car Parks	01235 422 118
◆ Community Safety	01235 422 590
◆ Street Naming and Numbering	01235 422 344

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)

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
17th July 2026	August 2026
11th September 2026	October 2026
13th November 2026	December 2026

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

### LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

Chiltern Society Footpath Representative	Liz Collas	01491680466
Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494764149
Goring Heath Parish Charity	Chris Whatmore	01189844022
Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides	Doreen Pechey	01491681236
	Andrea Bain	
	<a href="mailto:goringheathguiding@gmail.com">goringheathguiding@gmail.com</a>	
Goring Thames Sailing Club	<a href="http://www.goringthamessc.com">www.goringthamessc.com</a>	
Pangbourne Bowls Club	Sally Bergmann	07585195669
Pangbourne Tennis Club	<a href="mailto:info@pangbournetennis.org">info@pangbournetennis.org</a>	
RG8 Badminton Club	Julie Drury	07980413026
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (SOAG)	Nancy Nichols	01189787829
Tai Chi and Qigong	Karen Pounds	07867954786
Tots on the Thames, Baby and Toddler Group	Debbie Leach	
	<a href="mailto:debs.leach@btinternet.com">debs.leach@btinternet.com</a>	
Whitchurch Hill Camera Club	<a href="http://www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com">www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com</a>	
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Vicky Jordan	01189843260
	<a href="mailto:vickyjordan5@hotmail.com">vickyjordan5@hotmail.com</a>	
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning	Wendy Ferguson	01189841262
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