

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

March 2023  
Issue 190

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**Goring Heath Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**

Goring Heath Parish Hall  
B471 Whitchurch Hill  
RG8 7NY

**Tuesday April 11th 2023**

**8.00pm - 9.30pm**

**All welcome**

Refreshments will be available.

For further information or to add to the agenda please contact the clerk at [goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com)

or the Parish website at <https://www.goringheath.com>

## Chair's Comments

This month one of our Goring Heath Parish Councillors has passed a remarkable milestone.

Martin Wise has been on the council continuously for forty years. That's a lot of meetings – about four hundred and forty! During that period, he has seen many others come and go. None displaying his superior staying powers. It is really good to have someone on the council who knows the area so well, and has dealt with so many problems- many of which recur at regular intervals.

Martin is very interested and knowledgeable about the impact of climate change and other environmental problems such as the decrease in insects, and steers us towards making more environmentally friendly choices for the parish. As a result, the parish areas that we have control over such as the grass verges and the two ponds are being looked after in as wildlife friendly way as possible. Last summer we left some of the verges to grow longer to encourage more wildflowers to grow and provide food for the shrinking insect pollution. All suggestions from Martin.

This year we are embarking on an ambitious project to revitalize the pond at Crays Pond and stop it reverting to land as all ponds will eventually do. We are lucky that Martin has not rested on his laurels after forty years but is still enthusiastically project managing this improvement. This involves not only the planning of the work, liaison with contractors and keeping an eye on the work, but also the laborious job of applying for various grants to cover the not inconsiderable cost of the project.

Forty years of service is not compulsory for us mere mortals. Most of us only serve for a few years but all contributions to the smooth running of the parish are greatly valued. We are currently looking for someone to replace a recently resigned Councillor. What are you waiting for? Come and join the team- no experience needed, just enthusiasm. Contact our clerk to get involved.

From one long serving member of the team to a very new member. This month we welcome Louise Shearer, who is our new newsletter editor. This is her first magazine, so I hope you all find something useful and interesting to read. A big thank you to Louise for taking on this exciting opportunity in journalism- no pay but lots of appreciation from all who take the trouble to read these pages, and especially the Parish Council.

I also want to give a big thank you to Ian Reynolds who has been running the Community Speed Watch Programme on behalf of the council. Ian has been doing all the preparation and paperwork, helped by a small team of volunteers. Unfortunately, his team has reduced in number and he now desperately needs some more helpers.

/...



**March 2023**

## **Goring Heath NEWS**

It is not too time consuming, with only a short on-line training session, but very rewarding.

If you have ever shouted abuse under your breath as yet another car races by you through Cray's Pond or Whitchurch Hill, then take this opportunity to do something about it. More details in Ian's report later in this magazine.

And on the subject of volunteering and doing something for your community, there is an excellent chance for everyone to get involved in a few weeks. The local, or passing through, litter bugs continue in their efforts to pollute the verges of our quiet lanes with all manner of debris. The most common items are beer cans and sandwich packets etc. I wonder what will be the most unusual item we find this year. Let us know!

This year the great 'Goring Heath Litter Pick' is happening on April Fool's Day. All are welcome. Kit is provided, but bring your own silly hat if you want to liven up the occasion. We will meet at various points in the parish at 10am- see notice in this magazine.

The more people who join in the more of the extensive road network we can cover, so this is the year to put off all other social engagements on Saturday 1st April and join the party! See you there.

**Liz Collas**

**Chair of the Parish Council**



### **Goring Heath Litter Pick Saturday 1st April 10am**

Join us to tidy up the verges and paths of the Parish

**Meeting points:**  
Goring Heath Parish Hall Car Park  
Old Post Office Crossroads

## From the Editor—all change!

After over six years enjoying being Editor of this Newsletter, I've now decided to step down from the role and pass the reins over to someone else. I'm delighted to be leaving the editorship in the capable hands of fellow Whitchurch Hillian (if that's a word) and book club member Louise Shearer.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to all the people I've met through this role and thank you to everyone involved in making the Newsletter happen, especially those who generously give up their free time to send articles to the Newsletter, and the distributors who ensure that every household receives their copy.

***Lucy Turner***

I'm delighted to step into Lucy's shoes as the new Editor – she will be a hard act to follow, but I will try my best!

I've lived in our wonderful Parish for nearly 18 years so I'm pleased to have found an opportunity contribute to the community.

Looking forward, May this year is going to be extra busy, with three Bank Holidays and the Fete on Saturday 27th May, as well as local elections and, of course, the coronation on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Help to mark the occasion by entering the special Coronation competition. All the details are on page 24.

I hope you find this edition of the Newsletter informative and interesting. Please do email me with ideas and articles for future issues at [goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com)

***Louise Shearer***

## Congratulations to the victorious Coombe Raiders

The Annual Village Quiz was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 28th January.

Ten teams packed the hall and racked their brains on questions on entertainment, the Royals, sport, events of 2022, eusic and so on, sorting out their Jurgen Gröblers from their Alyna Sabalenkas, and their Ernest Shackletons from their Dot Cottons.

Fish and chips were provided by the Lemon Plaice in Tilehurst, and fine ales and wines were served.

The winners were the Coombe Raiders, successfully defending the trophy.

Many thanks to all who turned up on the night to make it such a success and helped organise the event.

All funds raised go to the Goring Heath Parish Charity.



**Planning Decisions**

The following planning applications, decided between 17th November 2022 and 14th April 2023 have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received written confirmation from SODC.



<b>Premises and application details</b>	<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p><b><u>P22/S4647/FUL</u></b>                      3 Ladygrove Cottages Goring Heath Road                      Ladygrove RG8 7RU                      Change of use of the existing annex from ancillary residential accommodation to ancillary residential accommodation and short term lets. Amendment to P16/S2249/HH.</p>	<p>No Strong Views</p>	
<p><b><u>P23/S0056/DIS</u></b>                      BP Technology Centre Bozodown Drive near                      Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR                      Discharge of conditions 3(materials schedule) &amp; 4 (glazing) on application P19/S4248/FUL as amended by non-material amendment application P22/S2567/NM. (Redevelopment of the site to include demolition of time expired buildings (G, K, M, N, S (all to be fully demolished) and U (part demolition to remove store room) and replacement with a single building (Building H). Refurbishment of existing laboratories (Building D)).</p>	<p>No Strong Views</p>	
<p><b><u>P22/S4350/FUL</u></b>                      The Old Bungalow Mount Pleasant Farm, Access Road To Mount Pleasant Farm Goring Heath RG8 7TB                      Demolition of sub-standard dwelling together with associated outbuildings, erection of new sustainable dwelling.</p>	<p>Objection</p>	
<p><b><u>P22/S4346/FUL</u></b>                      Timbers Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NU                      Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement 5 bed dwelling with garage.</p>	<p>Objection</p>	

## **Planning**

We would like to point out that No Strong Views is one of only three choices that SODC gives the parish council. It does not illustrate tacit approval of an application. Typically, it is supplemented with specific comments from the parish council highlighting areas of concern.

## **Crays Pond Restoration**

In 2022 GHPC commissioned Gareth Matthes, a Wetland Ecology Consultant, to look at the habitat in and around the pond with reference to Rod D'Ayala's similar surveys from 2010 and 2014.

His resulting report made recommendations about measures to restore the habitat and improve it for increased biodiversity. It is the intention of GHPC to implement these measures over the course of 2023.

The plan is to completely remove the mature Weeping Willow to the west of the pond and replace it with three *Sorbus aucuparia* (Rowan). The existing tree offers very little habitat value and transpires vast amounts of water from the pond.

Then there will be arboricultural work to allow access by machinery that will remove a large quantity of silt and sediment. Also, the 'island' of vegetation and up to 50 per cent of the marginal vegetation will be removed.

Other work will include the removal of Sallow (*Salix caprea*) scrub from the pond itself and coppicing of the Sallow on the western margin. Also, a standing dead oak on the eastern margin is to be stabilised by strapping to a healthy neighbour. This dead tree offers great potential for Bat roosts.

Whilst the public always has access to the whole pond area we do not intend the creation of clear paths. The PC has a policy of prioritising this whole habitat as a space for wildlife primarily.

Our Grant Applications will be made in the spring with the intention of beginning the work in late summer/autumn when water levels are lowest.

**Martin Wise**

## District Councillor's Commentary

As I write this, the District Council is about to approve its budget for the coming year. This will be fourth budget of the current Green and Lib Dem administration at SODC, and this time we are within spitting distance of a completely balanced budget.



Although the principles set out by Mr Micawber in David Copperfield are difficult to follow completely in the arcane world of local government finance, and the budget deficit this coming year is £673,000, that is a great deal less than it was a few years ago.

We can look smugly at other Local Authorities such as Thurrock, Croydon and Slough where what Michael Gove has described as “significant failures in their local leadership, governance and financial management” has led to debts of hundreds of millions of pounds resulting in Council Tax rises of up to 15%.

In South Oxfordshire, we have not indulged in speculative investments, and over the last four years we have taken key finance functions back in house from Capita, as well as other activities which had been outsourced. With finance back in house, we have had a better handle on our budgets, and improved our revenue collection and had significantly better financial reporting which has reduced the cost of the external audit and enabled managers to manage more efficiently.

We are also now benefiting from the recent increase in interest rates on our investments which were last reported as £179 million, some £25 million more than 4 years previously.

A strengthened financial position has also enabled the Council to do the good things it was elected to do; aided by a grant from government, we are replacing the gas heating at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot with air sourced heat pumps and solar panels, with projected annual saving of £20,000. We are responding to the difficulty people on low incomes have in finding homes by starting a social housing project, and we have numerous initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint across the District.

In May, there will be local elections, and I am sure that everyone will be keen to take part in our precious local democracy.

One change this year is that to stamp down on the voter fraud that is apparently endemic, if you want to vote in person you have to bring along voter ID to the Polling Station.



For most people this is a passport, photo driving licence or bus pass, but for the young who have yet to travel or drive, or older people who may have given up foreign travel and surrendered a driving licence, the choice is to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate or to request a postal vote. However, you can use an out-of-date passport or driving licence etc so long as it looks like you.

## **Peter Dragonetti**

SODC District Councillor for Kidmore End, Whitchurch, GoringHeath and Mapledurham Heath

## **Councillor Martin Wise - 40 years service**

The last GHPC meeting on February 14th 2023 marked a very special anniversary, 40 years almost to the day that Martin attended his first meeting as a Parish Councillor. During that time he has served as chair, vice chair and every other office you can think of, and has rarely missed a meeting.



His common sense and willingness to take on any number of tasks was celebrated with a glass of fizz and a presentation of The Martin Wise Trophy, which will be awarded at the Fete for the Annual Egg Throwing Competition. Martin has special knowledge of everything that grows, and how to keep it all in check! His current project concerns Crays Pond and its renovation. Councillor Wise was awarded The Freedom of the Parish for this outstanding achievement and service to the Parish.

**Mr Lewis Moghul**

It is with immense sadness that we report the sudden death of one of our dearest young parishioners, Lewis Moghul. His car collided with a tree on the A4130 between Bix and Nettlebed on Friday February 3rd 2023. Lewis, aged 22, lived in Whitchurch Hill with his parents Tarek and Sarah, his younger brother Leo and sister Lottie. He went to Whitchurch Preschool and Primary, Langtree, and then Henley College. He was working as a trainee financial advisor at Orchard House Independent Financial Advisors in Henley since February last year.



I feel I can speak for all of us when I say that we are overwhelmed with sadness that he has been taken from us all so suddenly. Lewis was so very highly thought of by all who knew him, he worked hard and had huge enthusiasm for so many things. Every time I met him, I would be impressed by his polite and kind nature, and his lovely easy way of relating to everyone. Sarah and Taz have lived in the village for over 20 years, and contribute so much to the community. I know they have found comfort in the many messages and cards they have received from friends and neighbours, and by the huge numbers of flowers and tributes that have been left at the scene of the accident.

Our thoughts and love are with his family and friends.

**Amanda Holland**

**Charitable Educational Grants**

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

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

Applications are processed twice a year, with the closing dates being 31st March and 30th 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).

Phone: 0118 984 4262,

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

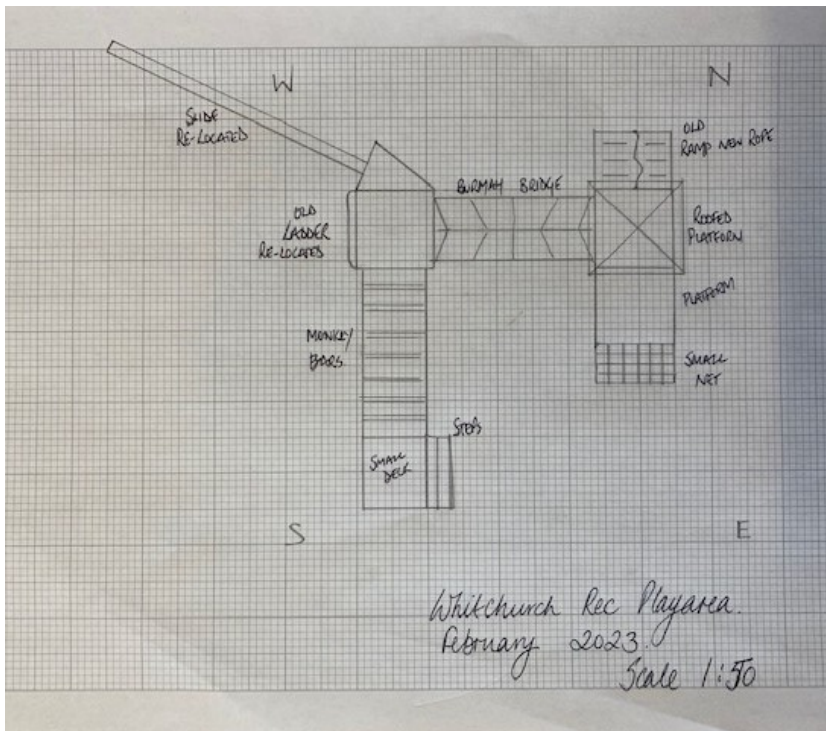
## Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground Play Equipment

For some years now Goring Heath Parish Council has been discussing the renewal and renovation of the playground.

We are finally coming to a conclusion and can share with you a draft plan of the proposals for a new multi play unit to replace the existing one which is looking very tired. Final plans will be on display at the Fete.

The new unit will repurpose some of the existing equipment, such as the slide and the rope ladder, and there will be new features such as monkey bars, platforms and towers to explore.

Alongside the renewal of the play unit, we will be renovating the roundabout and all the swings, and replacing all the safety matting.



WHITCHURCH HILL  
VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground  
RG8 7NX

Gift and food stalls

Amusements

Children's races

Brass band

Tea tent and mobile pub

Egg Throwing Competition  
and the chance to win the inaugural  
Martin Wise trophy

## A CALL TO ACTION!

The Whitchurch Hill village fete made a welcome return to the parish in 2022 after a two-year hiatus because of the Covid pandemic. The fete has been a landmark event in parish life for many decades. And in some senses, it is still as it was so many years ago. As one parishioner, who has lived in Whitchurch Hill for many years told me, it is “a glimpse of how England used to be”.

Spread across the Whitchurch Hill recreation ground you will find: a variety of stalls selling crafts, food and many more things beside; amusements (that don't involve electronics); tea tent; children's races; brass band; barbeque; beer tent; and by tradition at the end of the fete, the egg throwing competition. This year, to mark parish councillor Martin Wise's 40 years of service on the council, the prize will be an egg-shaped trophy to be presented by Martin.

For many years, the organisation of the fete has been led by Theresa and Nick Elsome, together with John Gray. But they have decided to retire from service and hand the baton onto another. I'd like to thank them for their hard work and perseverance – without them the spirit of village life in our parish would have waned.

From lowly burger flipper at last year's fete, I have been promoted to organiser of the fete and I hope to maintain the character of the fete so splendidly preserved by Mr Gray and the Elsomes. Most of the organisation of the fete can be handled by one or two people but on the day itself, a spirited team of volunteers is needed to do things like erect tents and put tables and chairs out.

This year's fete is on Saturday 27th May. The set-up generally takes from 8am to 10am and then the dismantling from 5pm to 6pm.

If you're interested in helping, please contact me on [pburdon@ghpc.org.uk](mailto:pburdon@ghpc.org.uk).

**Peter Burdon**  
**Parish Councillor**

*Ed: I feel this is a good place to note the sad passing of a great friend to the Parish, Mr Nigel Chaffey. He will be sorely missed*

## Woodcote Volunteers



### February marked our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Yes, in February 2023, Woodcote Volunteers was 40 years old! What an amazing milestone and such a credit to the people of Woodcote and surrounding villages who have kept this much needed service going for so long. We are run by volunteers only, who serve on the committee, as drivers and manage the office.

We held a celebratory event on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February in the Village Hall for our current and past volunteers, clients and others who support us in a variety of ways.

### Goals for 2023

Our goal for 2023 is to try to increase our pool of volunteer drivers from the current 34 to 40! We are becoming increasingly busy and our valiant team of drivers are getting a bit stretched!

If you would like to give something back to your community, and feel a huge sense of satisfaction by helping others, why don't you consider offering a few hours each month as a driver?

Our drivers always comment on how much they enjoy volunteering this way, as they can chat to some lovely people while driving, and at the same time make a huge difference to people locally, who say they cannot imagine how they would manage without us.

You don't have to commit to any specific days or hours – we call you and if you are free to take the job, great; if not, that's no problem. You can choose how far and where you are prepared to drive – we especially need volunteers to take local people to hospitals in Reading and Oxford - but if you don't want to drive that far, we have many requests for drivers to take clients to local towns and villages. Even if you can do just one drive a month, that would be wonderful. Your expenses are paid at the current government-set rate of 45p per mile.

Our only requirements are that you have a DBS check, undertake some simple training, your car is taxed, insured and MOT'd (if applicable) and that you have a genuine interest in helping people.

See our website for much more information and if you would like to find out more, email our secretary Jane Forde at:

**[info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](mailto:info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk)**

## Woodcote Volunteers

### Keeping our clients safe

In 2022, we began to introduce a few changes that we believe will reduce risk and keep our clients as safe and comfortable as possible.

We are providing safeguarding awareness training to all our drivers, and St John's Ambulance provided first aid awareness training in January. We have been given guidance from our local GPs as to what to do if a client falls. We have purchased a new, lightweight wheelchair so if a client is at risk of a fall, we can keep them safe by bringing this with us for the journey.

We have several organisational Blue Badges, allowing us to park close to the entrance of a building to reduce the distance a person needs to walk. This is very welcome when walking is uncomfortable or tiring.

### Other news

We are very pleased to welcome Nikki to our team of volunteer drivers. Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Janet Page and Stephanie Waite, who are leaving us. Janet has been a driver with us for ten years and Stephanie helped in the office for over a year. Thank you so much and you will be missed.

### To finish.....

As usual, if you need a driver, please don't hesitate to give us a call on **01491 681171**. Our drivers are available to take you to medical or social appointments and we can collect prescriptions.

### **Please give us as much notice as possible before the date you need us.**

One of our office workers will answer the phone between 9.30 and 11am on weekdays (excluding public holidays) and you can leave a message on the answerphone at other times.

Find out more about us by looking at our website:

**[www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk)**

Or visit our Facebook page: **[www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers)**

*We're here – to get you there!*

## Pre-School News



Whitchurch Pre-School is located within the grounds of Whitchurch Primary School in Whitchurch-on-Thames. Our team of experienced staff is committed to providing a secure and caring environment where children can learn and develop at their own pace within a happy atmosphere. We follow the early years curriculum and the children experience an exciting range of fun activities rotated across the week. We recognise that all children have differing needs and abilities and we ensure that we respond and adapt to each child.

We enjoy beautiful natural surroundings, with the idyllic backdrop of the Chiltern Hills and alpaca farm. We are a forest school accredited pre-school with a dedicated outdoor and nature learning area. Forest school learning provides hands-on experience in the natural environment supporting building children's confidence through problem solving. Our staff love seeing our children thrive in this environment.

### **A busy start to 2023**

The Spring term 2023 has started with gusto. The purpose-designed indoor classrooms and outdoor play areas have been alive with the sound of children exploring, making new friends and having fun. We have enjoyed welcoming two more qualified members of staff, supporting children with tailored learning and development.

Favourite activities this term have included celebrating Chinese New Year, enjoying a special penguin day, baking delicious cheese scones and creating 'pies' in our newly renovated mud kitchen. Our supportive and green-fingered parent community also gave our very own allotment a tidy up, making it much more accessible to the children to learn about the natural world. Highlights included planting bulbs while learning about nature and a "Gruffalo Hunt"

### **Come and join Whitchurch Pre-School**

We currently have spaces available for new starters aged from 2.5 years. We are open Monday-Friday during term time, from 8.45-3.15 with an early drop-off option at 8.30am. We offer free places for 3 and 4 year olds (funded by the government) for 15 or up to 30 hours per week during term time.



To register your interest, please use the following contact details:

Email: [hello@whitchurchpreschool.org](mailto:hello@whitchurchpreschool.org)

Phone: 0118 984 4516



## Open Day – 22nd April 2023

To find out more about the pre-school we are holding an open day on 22nd April 2023 between 10am - 1pm.

Come along to view our facilities and meet our friendly team of staff. There will be activities for the kids to keep them entertained and information available to prospective parents.

## How to support us

As a small local setting, run as a registered charity, and with the ever-increasing gap between costs and funding for early years places, our fundraising is essential to providing the activities and facilities that are so important for pre-schoolers.

This year we are raising money for improvements to our pre-school building.

3 FREE and EASY ways to support us:

- ◆ Become a Co-Op Member and select Whitchurch-on-Thames Pre-School. For every £1 spent 2p will be donated to our cause.
- ◆ Shop with Amazon, go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and enter Whitchurch On Thames Pre-School. 0.5% of your order value will be given to Pre-School.
- ◆ Sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to support “Whitchurch Pre-School - Whitchurch-on-Thames”. The easyfundraising website or app allows you to shop with retailers like John Lewis, M&S, H&M then sends us a donation of up to 5%. Register for free at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch>
- ◆ To donate anytime go to: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool>

Please also look out for posters for our fundraising events happening across the year. You can find more details on our Facebook page at Whitchurch Pre-school.

Thank you for all of your support!

*Registered Charity: 1183193*



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 ★ **Keen to help to improve the safety of the roads in our** ★  
 ★ **Parish?** ★  
 ★ Fatalities are four times more likely to happen in rural areas ★  
 ★ than in urban areas. ★  
 ★ Volunteer with our Community Speedwatch Group and be part ★  
 ★ of reducing the speeding which puts lives in danger. ★  
 ★★

The Crays Pond and Goring Heath Community Speedwatch Group has a committed, but very small group of volunteers who continue to monitor speeding vehicles on our roads. The presence of the Speedwatch volunteers is as great a deterrent to speeding as reporting the offenders to the police

In January, the group was able to run six sessions and reported 38 offenders to Thames Valley Police (TVP) from 437 passing vehicles. Witness statements have also been given to TVP in relation to the “Garton End Incident” in Crays Pond.

There are six TVP approved sites—three in Crays Pond and three in Whitchurch Hill—but too few volunteers to keep the community safe. The group wants to run regular sessions at the approved sites but needs more volunteers for this to be feasible. Anyone over the age of 18 can volunteer. You can sign up for as little as one 60 minute session per month or more if you’ve got the time. Full training is given and you would be always be working with other volunteers during the sessions.

To volunteer, or for more information, email the GPGH CSW Group Coordinator at [crayspondcsw@sent.com](mailto:crayspondcsw@sent.com) or via Twitter: [@crayspondCSW](https://twitter.com/crayspondCSW).

Activity—January 2023							
Date	Time	Location & Speed Limit (SL)	No. of Offenders	No. of Vehicles	% above the SL	Average speed over the SL	Highest Speed/% above the SL
8.1.23	11:30-12:30	B452: Crays Pond House (30mph)	8	75	11%	25%	39mph 30%
11.1.23	11:30-12:30	B4526—corner of Beechwood Close (30mph)	4	62	6%	29%	41mph 30%
14.1.23	14:30-15:30	B471: Entrance to St Johns (40mph)	6	100	6%	25%	54mph 35%
19.1.23	11:30-12:30	B4526: Crays Pond House (30mph)	5	100	5%	37%	48mph 60%
21.1.23	11:30-12:30	Goffs Hill (30mph)	15	100	15%	33%	45mph 50%



## RG8 Badminton

The club finished another successful season in which we welcomed a number of new members.

Our final meeting in December featured a fun and festive Christmas tournament with a number of novelty rounds. The eventual very deserved winners were Julie Drury and Peter Baker. Worthy runners up were Helen Kennard and Martin Page



We play at the Langtree Community Sports Hall in Woodcote on Thursday evenings. So, if you're looking for some fitness, fun and friendship in the new year why not contact us?

We welcome both junior (14 years +) and adult members. All that we ask is that you are not totally new to badminton – that you know the rules and basic shots (even if they don't always work!). Juniors should have received some form of coaching. Fees are the equivalent to £3 per session – half for juniors. We are fully compliant with Badminton England guidance concerning Covid safety precautions.

If you want to know more then visit our website [www.rg8badminton.co.uk](http://www.rg8badminton.co.uk) or ring Julie on 07980 413026.



## What's happening at Checkendon Pre-school?

Our theme this term is Lets investigate.... Cold.

We are thinking about the winter and weather such as snow and what we need to wear to keep warm. We are focusing on one of our favourite children's stories, The Gruffalos Child, creating a display board of favourite characters and using our delightful new story sacks.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, do visit our website [www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk)



## Telephone Box Library Whitchurch Hill

This is a heartfelt plea to you all!



Please do not fill up the box with unwanted books like this.

If there is no room on the shelves for your donation, why not take out some of the older looking books and replace them with your shiny new ones?

Anything that is left on the floor gets damp and unusable pretty quickly.

Please spare a thought for the poor soul who tries to keep it tidy.

Goring Heath Parish Council are working with Ethan Day to help him achieve his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Ethan will be helping to keep the phone box in Whitchurch Hill tidy and will soon be a familiar face around and about picking litter and reporting any community news or issues to the Clerk.

He will only be on duty for 3 months, so if you see him around, a smile and a wave would be lovely.

## Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

In our everyday lives we probably don't pay them much attention, but the Blue Plaques on the buildings of South Oxfordshire mark the places where writers, engineers, and other notable people spent their lives. Marie-Louise Kerr returns to Whitchurch Village Hall on **March 16<sup>th</sup>** to tell us their stories – and make us think about who else should merit this recognition. She is a very engaging speaker, and we are delighted to welcome her back.

The lion statue in Reading's Forbury gardens commemorates the fallen soldiers of the Battle of Maiwand. Dan Allen of the Victorian Military Society will explain the campaign of the second Anglo-Afghan War in 1880, which gave rise to tributes to the "Berkshire Eleven" in poetry, art and literature. At Whitchurch Village Hall, on Thursday **April 20<sup>th</sup>**.

2023 an important year for us as, by the summer, the society will be 30 years old. During that time we have held exhibitions, published books, heard speakers on all aspects of local and national history, and provided information to enquiries from all over the country. This last year we have heard talks on Oxford castle, Thames Valley artists and writers, the English Civil War, the Romans in Oxfordshire, milestones, South Oxfordshire on canvas, and the Oxford of Inspector Morse as well as looking at local place-names.

Our meetings start at 7.30pm, with coffee served from 7pm. Non-members are welcome, £3, to include coffee or tea and biscuits. But why not join us? Membership is just £12, and covers our eight lectures and the possibility of coming on two membership-only summer outings.

**Vicky Jordan**  
**[vickyjordan5@hotmail.com](mailto:vickyjordan5@hotmail.com)**

## Whitchurch Hill WI

For some the Women's Institute is an organisation heard about but rarely seen. This is understandable I suppose, as much of the national effect is behind closed doors, lobbying MPs and the like to support women's issues



Each year WI members choose a topic to support and we have just completed our round of voting. Whilst you may not think it, the WI's promotion of an issue is an important influence on those who ultimately make the decisions.

More locally the role of the WI is to educate, and provide a social forum for local people. Whitchurch Hill has been doing just that for 70 years and in April we will be holding a birthday party to mark this very special milestone.

In May we will see the return of a very popular speaker, Tom Way, with his wildlife photography from around the world.

In June we take a different tack, and will be hearing Kate Bettison tell us about her life as a film extra.

As you can see - a very varied programme of speakers.

I have mentioned being known about but not seen. Well the next few months will change that locally as we take on a fund raising morning at the Art Cafe on 11 March, and fulfil our annual role as providers of the much welcome tea and cake at our very own village fete on 27 May.

We are not forgetting the Coronation of course and are busy making appropriate decorations to help mark the occasion. We are having our very own Strawberry Tea in June - what could be more fitting?

We hope to meet some of you at either or both of these occasions but in the meantime if you wish to know more please do feel free to contact Frances Strange on 01189842162.

**Sally Bergmann**

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

Our group of friendly social walkers get together once a month to try a different footpath or two around the parish.  
We meet at 10 am at the junction of Hill Bottom and Hill Bottom Close.

Please feel free to join us.  
Want to know more? Ring Sally on 07585 195669

## Going Forward Buses

### Drivers needed!

Going Forward Buses need another driver urgently!

It's a paid position for someone qualified to drive a mini-bus.

The village bus which serves our Parish has been kept running as normal on Tuesdays by the dedicated team volunteer drivers, but the company needs another employed driver to sustain the service.

Please do spread the word with your family, friends and acquaintances, or apply yourself!

For more details contact Mike Ward, Going Forward Buses

[littlebluebus@yahoo.com](mailto:littlebluebus@yahoo.com)

### Information from Age UK Oxfordshire



Age UK has launched an information campaign to help with the impact of the spiralling cost of living on people as winter approaches. This new **information campaign** is helping to ensure people are aware of and receiving all the support to which they are entitled.

The first stage of this campaign is focussed on raising awareness of **Pension Credit** and encouraging people to undertake a **benefits check** to ensure they are getting all the support that they are eligible for. Pension Credit also serves as a gateway to other forms of support, which could go a long way in helping some older people meet rising costs.

You can find more information about the campaign at: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/cost-of-living-campaign>

We emphasise that these are **entitlements** not handouts. Sheets are available that outline the support available. You can find more information about entitlements by searching online for: **benefits and entitlements for pensioners and the elderly Age UK**

**Age UK Oxfordshire & Action for Carers Oxfordshire**

9 Napier Court | Barton Lane | Abingdon | OX14 3YT,

Phone: 0345 450 1276

[www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire)



**The Coronation is Coming!!**

Enter our special competition:

**A Right Royal Entrance**

As you know, an important day is coming up - the Coronation - on Saturday 6th May!

We were wondering how to mark this exciting event. Other parishes up and down the country are holding street parties or covering themselves in bunting.

Here in Goring Heath we are holding our very own competition.

Decorate your front gate/door/garden (all variations will be eligible) with a Coronation theme to win a fabulous prize!

And there will be another especially wonderful prize for the best junior entry (under 16).

**Judging will take place on Monday 8th May from 3pm.**

*Register your interest with our Clerk at [goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com](mailto:goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com)*

<b>May Events</b>		
<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Monday	1st May	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday	4th May	Local Elections
Saturday	6th May	Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Consort
Sunday	7th May	Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle
Monday	8th May	Bank Holiday and Best Themed Garden competition
Saturday	27th May	Whitchurch Hill Fete



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

Open to the Public --All Welcome

*Sung Eucharist 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month*

*Sung Matins 2nd & 4th & 5th Sunday of the Month at 11am*

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

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

Chaplain: Rev Peter Dewey, -- 07784912935

[revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk)

**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 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.

## Party hire

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

For information and booking:  
**[goringheathparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathparishhall@gmail.com)**

March 2023

# Goring Heath NEWS

## COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

### SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

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

### OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kevin Bulmer          35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY  
07803 005680 [kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Council Offices:**    County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND  
01865 792422 [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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

## South Oxfordshire District Council New Department Numbers

**Main Customer Service Number:                      01235 422422**

- ♦ **Planning -**    01235 422600
- ♦ **Building control -**                                01235 422700
- ♦ **Environmental health, food and safety** 01235 422403
- ♦ **Licensing -**                                         01235 422556
- ♦ **Elections -**                                         01235 422407
- ♦ **Car parks -**                                         01235 470118
- ♦ **Community safety -**                             01235 422590
- ♦ **Street naming and numbering -**           01235 422344

### EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER

You can get in touch with the Goring Heath Newsletter by emailing:  
[goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com).

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

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

## To contributors to the Newsletter:-

It would be most helpful if copy could be submitted to the editor as a document attachment to email and sent to [goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com)

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
10th April 2023	May 2023
12th June 2023	July 2023

## LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

Chiltern Society Footpath Representative	Liz Collas	01491680466
Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494764149
Goring & Almshouses Bowls Club	David Watson	07989 402190 gabowlsclub@gmail.com
Goring Heath Parish Charity	Chris Whatmore	01189844022
Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides	Doreen Pechey	01491681236
Goring Thames Sailing Club	Jennie Wood	01491875619
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491575205
RG8 Badminton Club	Julie Drury	07980413026
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (S.O.A.G.)	Nancy Nichols	01189787829
Tai Chi and Qigong	Karen Pounds	07867954786
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Esther Lay-Sans	07713756537
Whitchurch Hill Camera Club		www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Vicky Jordan	01189843260 vicky.jordan5@hotmail.com
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning	Wendy Ferguson	01189841262 wendyefergie@gmail.com
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	01189842162
Woodcote Volunteers	Jane Forde	07850158274

Goring Heath Parish Hall: Bookings and Enquiries: Chris Whatmore 07850691920  
Email: [whatmore@talk21.com](mailto:whatmore@talk21.com)

**March 2023**

# **Goring Heath NEWS**

**GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **CHAIR**

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Peter Burdon                                  Pburdon@ghpc.org.uk

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### **ADVERTISING**

Amanda Holland                                  0118 9844867

**goring.heath.parish.council@gmail.com**

## **Advertising in the Newsletter**

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

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