

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

September 2023  
Issue 193

Visit us at:  
[www.goringheath.com](http://www.goringheath.com)  
Facebook: 'Goring Heath Parish News'  
[goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com)



*Goring Heath Parish Charity*  
*Regd No 1056772*

**Goring Heath and Whitchurch  
Autumn Show**



**Saturday 9 September 2023**

**2.30 pm to 4.00 pm**

**Goring Heath Parish Hall**

**Enter your finest flowers, fruit, veg, floral arrangements,  
preserves and baking.**

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

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

[www.facebook.com/goringheathandwhitchurchspringandautumnshow](http://www.facebook.com/goringheathandwhitchurchspringandautumnshow)

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

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

**Phone for a printed copy:**

Liz Robinson on 07462532716

John Coupland on 07397778872

Maureen Britt on 07555460326

## Chair's Comments



As I write this the rain is still coming down. It has not been the best summer, but I'm sure we can all remember plenty of past summer holidays sheltering from the rain with a pack of soggy sandwiches!

But it's not all doom and gloom as our green and pleasant land has been restored to us. The brown grass of last year is a distant memory, and the both the flowers and the vegetables are very happy with the rain.

Talking of gardens and their produce, it is the time of year to be eying up your best marrow, your most beautiful dahlias, your prettiest apples and many more, and hoping to outdo your neighbours to win one of the coveted prizes in the Autumn Show. Given all the rain this year, and the bountiful harvest that should ensue, there will be plenty of very good entries in the vegetable categories. Do your runner beans have what it takes to win the accolade of 'longest runner bean', or perhaps you are hoping to produce the heaviest marrow. But it's not all about size, prizes will also be awarded for appearance and taste- smaller fruit is often tastier- this certainly applies to tomatoes.

The show will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> from 2.30pm to 4pm. If you are not a keen gardener and you have neither the space nor the inclination to grow produce and flowers you can still take part in the fun by entering the baking competition. The categories vary from a meatless quiche to a madeira cake or a pot of jam.

And if you are neither a grower or a baker, come and enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake, and admire the various entries on display. There are many categories in the fruit and vegetable sections, as well as flowers, and a children's competition- for a comprehensive list see the GH website, and further information in this magazine.

August is usually a time when the country goes on a go-slow, and the council takes a break from its regular monthly meetings. We are still, however, keeping a watchful eye on the Parish, and continuing to progress various projects. The playground is going ahead, although work is yet to start on the ground, and we are continuing our appraisal of all planning applications that are submitted for the Parish.

On the ground, I am aware that some of the footpaths have become rather overgrown after all this wet weather and I am trying to arrange for them to be cut. If you come across any overgrown paths do report them to me, our foot-path rep, as well as on the OCC website. They are very understaffed at OCC in the highways department and will only act if there is a serious problem!

One minor problem which is process of being resolved is the gate onto the path which leads from Crays Pond towards Cold Harbour.

Sept 2023

## Goring Heath NEWS

The repairs have been scheduled as part of a workday for the Chiltern Society's maintenance team, so hopefully it should be fully working by the Autumn.

Let's hope for some sunshine to enjoy the autumn- the blackberry crop looks very promising!

**Liz Collas**

**Chair of the Parish Council**

# REPAIR CAFÉ

## Goring Village Hall

### Saturdays 11:00am—1:30pm

### First Saturday of every month

New, free repair service by volunteers to help reduce waste

Help reduce carbon emissions and Save our Planet

Bring up to two items needing repair or attention and we'll do our very best to fix them whilst you wait.

Voluntary donations are welcome to pay for hire of hall etc.

*Refreshments available in Café Bellême*



2023 — 1 April, 3 June, 5 Aug, 7 Oct, 2 Dec

2024 — 3 Feb, 30 March, 1 June, 3 Aug, 5 Oct, 7 Dec

Information: 07789 871620

## Planning Decisions

The following planning applications, decided between 19th June 2023 and 11th July 2023 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
<p><b><u>P23/S0380/FUL</u></b>                      Bozedown Windmill Bozedown Drive                      Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PE                      Erection of wind turbine on 15 metre high tower / pole (19.36 metres high including blade).</p>	<p>Objection</p>	<p>Withdrawn</p>
<p><b><u>P23/S1220/HH</u></b>                      5 Oakdown Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NR                      New roof and loft conversion creating additional bedroom accommodation.</p>	<p>Objection</p>	<p>Approved</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 bedroom dwelling with detached garage. Amended plans received 10th May showing new dwelling of new design repositioned closer to the NE corner of the site with vehicle access from Goring Heath Road.</p>	<p>Objection</p>	
<p><b><u>P23/S2105/HH</u></b>                      2 Walnut Tree Cottage Crays Pond RG8 7QQ                      Alterations to existing garage/studio to form additional habitable ancillary residential accommodation, to include the provision of an external stair and alterations to the roof.</p>	<p>No Strong Views</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.

## District Councillor's Commentary

One of the challenges that the current administration of South Oxfordshire District Council faced when taking over in 2019 was what to do about the council offices. Many of you will remember the former council offices in Crowmarsh were destroyed by arson in 2015, some four years previously. A temporary solution was to rent offices in Milton Park at



Didcot, this cost about a million pounds a year. The new Lib Dem-Green administration needed to resolve this as the million pounds a year was a significant cost and unsustainable and was putting the council's finances at risk.

Plans were immediately drawn up to resolve the situation, with options examined of rebuilding on the existing site at Crowmarsh, using land already owned by SODC opposite Didcot Station or using Abbey House in Abingdon, owned by the Vale of White Horse District Council. The last option was ruled out because it is likely that Vale District Council will dispose of it, and in any event there is not sufficient space to accommodate both Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire Councils.

The plan is now to build a new office in Didcot which will be able to accommodate the needs of both SODC and Vale, and which will contribute to the improvement of the character of the area. Until a year or so ago, the view that greeted one as you left Didcot Station was a scene of dereliction and decay, with a row of boarded up shops or offices, an extensive badly surfaced open car park and the Prince of Wales pub sitting isolated surrounded by parked cars.

New buildings do not come cheap, and this new office will be well designed and energy efficient, and well connected to public transport. It is now largely forgotten that a few years ago SODC was considering demolishing and rebuilding the offices at Crowmarsh because they were not "fit for purpose". I cannot now recall all the problems, but I think the heating system, ventilation and insulation was wholly inadequate, and so the building was either too hot or too cold, and also suffered from leaking roofs.

The new office, which is now close to final design, will contribute to the regeneration of a key part of Didcot, now our largest town, and will also provide for the needs of both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils. It will be owned by SODC and Vale will rent an element.

The building is now being designed as four storeys high, not five as initially planned, and still includes large 'living walls' which will align the building closely with the garden town principles and support biodiversity.

There are lots of positive reasons for choosing the Didcot Gateway site: its proximity to excellent public transport links, its location is close to the centre of the two districts, it's a sustainable option for the future both economically and environmentally and its land that South Oxfordshire District Council already owns, and it offers the opportunity to share space with partners.

Although I hope that by the time you read this, the issue of street food at the Greyhound in Whitechurch will have been resolved. The operators of the pub are legally obliged to have licences to serve street food as there can be issues about noise, litter, car parking etc. Although the licensing process is administered by SODC, this is done within the legal framework set by the government.

Unfortunately, the pub operator, instead of applying for the licenses has engaged in a social media campaign blaming SODC. I will not say more other than there is a lot of misinformation about, and SODC are keen to support this street food service, but cannot simply ignore national legislation.

Fly tipping is a problem that does not go away, but we have a very energetic and proactive officer who follows up on fly tipping incidents, appealing on social media for information about waste, as often offenders do a cheap job, e.g. clearing fence panels, and then dumping them. This has been successful and fly-tippers have been identified and then prosecuted.

I am pleased to say that the government has raised the maximum fine for fly tipping from £400 to £1000, and the penalty for littering or spraying graffiti from £150 to £500. The latter is not too much of problem locally, although litter is always with us. Not so easy to catch offenders.

## **Peter Dragonetti**

SODC District Councillor for Kidmore End, Whitechurch, Goring Heath and Mapledurham Heath

### **Volunteer Newsletter Distributor Needed!**

We are looking for a volunteer to distribute the newsletter in Crays Pond. It's a round of 14 houses and the newsletter is published every other month.

For more information, contact Amanda on 07814 360 566 or email [goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com)



## Terry Bailey (1955-2023)

We are so sorry to have to pass on the very sad news that our dear driver and friend Terry passed away peacefully on 12<sup>th</sup> August, just a month short of this 68<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He is already sorely missed, having driven for us so faithfully and reliably for six years, and also GoRide who ran the service before us. Our thoughts are with his family and friends, and we hope they will find the help and support that they need at this very sad and difficult time.



This is how we would like to remember dear Terry

We will certainly pass on any details we have about funeral arrangements in due course. Please contact us via Facebook or email [littlebluebus@yahoo.com](mailto:littlebluebus@yahoo.com) if you wish to be kept informed.

***Mike Ward, Managing Director Going Forward Buses CIC***

## New Autumn Timetables in Operation from 4th September 2023

There are changes to most of the Going Forward services from Monday 4th Sept. Copies of the new timetables are available on the buses or from [www.goingforwardbuses.com](http://www.goingforwardbuses.com)

## Routes 145-148 Goring to Reading

All services will start and end at Goring station, allowing morning trips from Reading to Beale Park and Basildon Park. The afternoon service will no longer run to Tesco Kings Meadow.

## Are you interested in getting involved? Part time driver(s) wanted!

We have an urgent requirement for driver(s) to cover some of our regular Monday to Friday services, including early morning school run and late afternoon journeys. Exact hours can be discussed. The 14-seat mini-buses can be driven by anyone with D1 on their driving licence.

The rates of pay are good and we would love to hear from anyone who could volunteer for a few hours occasionally. Ladies are especially welcome to apply!

If you think you might be interested, please contact Mike Ward initially by email ([littlebluebus@yahoo.com](mailto:littlebluebus@yahoo.com)) and be part of a Community Interest Company (not for profit) providing vital links for the villages in our parish.



**The Whitchurch Art & Craft Exhibition 2023**

The Whitchurch Society are very pleased to be holding this popular annual event again, in the Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road, on the weekend of **18th & 19th November 2023**.

It will take place in the traditional 'live' format in the Hall only this year. We have decided to not put it online afterwards, which we hope will make it simpler for submitting your entries (no need to photograph them) and will hopefully encourage a higher turnout.

The exhibition is open to all current residents and ex-residents of Whitchurch-on-Thames, Whitchurch Hill and Goring Heath, plus children at local schools.

This year's theme for the Joyce Voysey prize is 'Re-use, Reduce, Recycle'. You are encouraged to start thinking about how you might produce a piece of art, craft or a photo which interprets this very topical subject!

But of course, please remember that your entries for all the main classes (Art, Craft & Photography) can be on any subject whatsoever. All entries are very welcome but we ask that adults and children submit no more than 6 entries each please.

Save the date in your diaries and get busy... with your brushes, paints, camera, needles, glue, varnish, stamps, inks, wool, chisels, pliers, cottons, clay, pens, paper, lovely ideas...

Keep an eye on the Whitchurch website and look out for posters around the village for all the details about how to enter.

***Sally Woolhouse***

**sally@wotarts.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**

Please allow sufficient time in advance for the publication of the appropriate newsletter. Contribution deadlines and publication dates are on the inside back cover.

Goring Heath Parish Charity Regd. No 1056772



*Goring Heath Parish Hall*  
*Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm*

*Jones and Jacobs Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers*

*An Evening with Simon Jones*

Come along with a treasure or two and let Simon tell you their history and value them for you.

**Tickets £10, including nibbles**

Wine, Beer and soft drinks for sale

To book your tickets email:  
**events@goringheathparishhall.uk**





## Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice needs volunteers!

Are you looking for a new challenge, and want to contribute something to your community? Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice is looking for volunteer advisers and IT specialists to work in our friendly offices in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley or Thame.

Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are and whatever their problem. In a typical year our 127 volunteers support over 9,000 people.

We are currently looking for:

**Advisers:** After comprehensive training you will be giving advice to clients in person or via the telephone or webchat. We advise on a broad range of topics including debt management, benefits, employment, housing and relationship issues. You will need good IT skills and a desire to help people in your community. A new adviser training course begins in early October 2023, so apply now!

**IT specialists** to help to maintain our IT systems and support the service. Help staff and volunteers with day-to-day IT issues, for example with trouble logging on, connecting to Wi-Fi and locating files. We also would welcome support to maintain our local Citizens Advice website.

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week if possible, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment. You'll also learn new skills and meet new people in the course of your volunteering.

**To apply, please follow this link:**

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/>

**Or, if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email:** [recruitment@osavcab.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@osavcab.org.uk) and one of our team will contact you.

## Whitchurch Hill WI



As another summer month passes by those in our WI continue to keep themselves busy.

Recent weeks have seen donations made to MacMillan Nurses (£70), Wallingford Foodbank, and the RBH with our Patient Welcome Packs.

In addition, many of the members present to hear our June speaker made further impromptu donations on hearing Sally Leonard speak about her work in Reading. As Reading Street Pastor Coordinator Sally joins other volunteers supporting those on the streets at night. Her talk proved to be interesting, tinged with sadness, but also uplifting to think so many help those in need.

In June we said a very sad goodbye to one of our longest serving members - Theresa Elsome. As a tribute to her members of our WI made cakes and served the teas to over 100 attendees to her funeral. Quite an afternoon.

As we entered July some of us joined forces to enjoy a lunch at the Four Points in Aldworth whilst our speaker later in the month gave us an interesting insight into her life as a Metropolitan Crime Scene Investigator.

August will see us out and about again - this time for lunch at the Makers at Nuffield on 8 August.

On Saturday 12 August a number of us will be hosting the weekly Art Cafe in Whitchurch on Thames. Here locals gather for a morning cuppa and slice of homemade cake whilst catching up with friends. A raffle run by the WI provides us with an extra source of income.

Whilst many WI groups do not meet up in August, we shall be holding a social morning and quiz on Tuesday 15 August with our Knit and Natter Group continuing their monthly gatherings.

If you fancy joining us for these or similar activities, please do ring Frances on 01189842162.

***Sally Bergmann***

## Woodcote Volunteers

### Woodcote Village Fete

We are very pleased to be participating at the village fete again on Saturday, September 9th. Please do drop by and say hello to us on our stall.



## **Busier than ever.....**

In the first six months of this year, our total number of journeys was almost as many as in the whole of 2022!

We assist 83 clients at the current count, who live in Woodcote, Ipsden, South Stoke, Crays Pond, Goring Heath, Whitchurch Hill and Checkendon. We do need more drivers, so please do consider it if you have a few hours spare each month! If you would like to know more, please either look at our website – [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk), or call our Secretary, Jane Forde, on 01750 158274.



## **Just Giving**

If you would like to make a donation, you can now do this easily online by visiting our website, [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk)

If you prefer non-tech, just call our Treasurer, Ken Ison on 01491 680866 who will explain how to donate in cash or by cheque or bank transfer.

Thank you very much.

## **TO FINISH.....**

As usual, if you need a driver, please don't hesitate to call our office on **01491 681171**. We collect from Woodcote and immediately surrounding villages.

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

One of our friendly 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)

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

### *Community Walks*

Our monthly walks continue on the first Monday in the month.

We meet at the junction of Hill Bottom Close and Hill Bottom at 10am and usually walk for about an hour and a half.

The nature of the walks are of course weather dependent and take into account the presence of livestock in fields etc.

The arrangements are very informal so please just turn up in you fancy joining us. There's no walk in September. The autumn dates are 2 Oct, 6 Nov and 4 Dec. If you want to know anything more just give me a ring on 07585195669

## *Friends of Goring Heath - Volunteer Vacancies*

There are currently opportunities for you to get involved with your local community.

A happy band of volunteers distribute newsletters, look after the phone box libraries and notice boards, keep an eye on footpaths and access and many other little things that make a real contribution to our quality of life out here in the countryside.

Vacancies this month are as follows:

- **Newsletter Distributor (Crays Pond)** Every other month, a round of 14 houses.
- **Community Speed Watch Volunteers:** 2 more people needed to join 4 regular speed monitors once/twice a month.
- **Defibrillator Checker:** monthly visual check of the battery life, easy but important!
- **Playground Inspectors (Whitchurch Hill):** monthly general inspections for wear and tear.

Printed guidelines and further information are available from Amanda on 07814 360 566

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)



# Tots on The Hill

Come along and join the fun!

Every Thursday during term time, 10:00 - 11:30 am.  
Let them: play, create, sing, snack and make friends.

While you enjoy a hot cuppa and a biscuit!  
£3 per family.

**Starts again in Sept!**

@ Goring Heath Parish Hall  
Whitchurch Hill (opposite St John's church)

For more information check out our Facebook page or email Debbie on [totsonthehill@myyahoo.com](mailto:totsonthehill@myyahoo.com)



## Checkendon Church of England (A) Primary School

Wow! What a fantastic year our school and pupils have enjoyed. There are so many achievements we can't possibly fit them all in here, but here's a flavour of what has happened and a look to the next academic year too.

I have now been head teacher at the school for two years and what a great two years we've delivered. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our amazing staff without whom none of our achievements would have been possible. And my thanks does not stop there. The commitment of our parents and carers has never been stronger and this, alongside our ever dedicated and hard-working PTA Team, is complemented by members of the church and wider community. This community makes Checkendon Primary School a very special place indeed.



### **Oak Class**

Adventured to Windsor Castle to learn about castles and mediaeval life.

Developed their learning in the new all-weather outside area.

Achieved fantastic results across the key stage one and phonic tests.

### **Willow Class**

Took a trip to Henley's Pizza Express as part of our healthy eating project. Explored the Wittenham Clumps with the Earth Trust to understand what it would have been like to be an Anglo Saxon.

Achieved fantastic results across the year 4 multiplication test.

### **Silver Birch**

Achieved fantastic results across Year 6 SATS with every child achieving the level expected for their age.

Journeyed to Winchester Science Museum to develop their science knowledge.

Enjoyed our annual residential trip with PGL.

Put on an epic production of 'Cinderella Rockafella' including opportunities for younger children across the school.

### \*\*\*NEW\*\*\* from September - After School Club

We are very pleased to announce that from Monday 4th September we will be offering an after school club five days per week.

Your feedback tells us that safe, dependable child care is crucial to you, so we are delighted to offer this new service. Please get in contact with our school office for more information.



## Changing of the guard of our governors

After serving us for over 4 years our chair of governors Richard Castle and our vice chair Steve Laszinski will be stepping down in September. Their contributions have been tremendous and I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank them for the support and guidance that they have provided me since I joined.

They have helped transition the school across a change of headteacher in 2020 and have overseen a successful Ofsted review. Our new chair of governors James Rawson and vice chair Piers Craven will be assuming their roles in September and I am looking forward to continuing our close working partnership.

***Sarah Hillier, Headteacher***

**Tel: 01491 680693**

**Email: [office.3801@Checkendon.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3801@Checkendon.oxon.sch.uk)**

**<https://www.checkendon.oxon.sch.uk>**



## The Friends of St Mary's and St John's are holding *A Musical Evening* featuring local singers and instrumentalists

The programme will feature an eclectic mix of pieces from different musical genres which will appeal to all tastes and celebrate local talent. The performers will include professional musicians, Clare Langan and Tim Valentine as well as local enthusiasts.

Refreshments will be served prior to the start of the performance.

Where: St Mary's Church, Whitchurch-on-Thames

When: **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

– welcome drinks from 6.45 pm

– performance at 7.30 pm

– expected running time 1 hour 15 mins

Tickets: Entrance is free with a suggested donation to the Friends of St Mary's and St John's Whitchurch of £10 per person

See village website for more details;

[Whitchurch-on-Thames > Diary \(whitchurchonthames.com\)](http://Whitchurch-on-Thames > Diary (whitchurchonthames.com))

## Goring Heath and Whitchurch Autumn Show

Saturday 9 September 2023  
2.30 pm to 4.00 pm  
Goring Heath Parish Hall

**Please come along and support your local Autumn  
Garden Show on 9th September**

Enter your finest:

- ◆ flowers
- ◆ fruit
- ◆ vegetables
- ◆ floral arrangements
- ◆ preserves
- ◆ baking

The show also includes a children's section (up to 12 years of age).

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

Details on how to enter, the full schedule of classes and entry forms are available on:

[www.facebook.com/goringheathandwhitchurchspringandautumnshow](https://www.facebook.com/goringheathandwhitchurchspringandautumnshow)  
[www.whitchurchonthames.com](http://www.whitchurchonthames.com)  
[www.goringheath.com](http://www.goringheath.com)

## Party hire

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

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

## Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

We're looking forward to meeting up again for our Autumn lectures, which will be at Goring Heath Parish Hall, at 7.30pm (coffee from 7pm), on Thursday evenings.

**SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>** Local historian Mike Cooper's talk "Abbey and Castle" will explore the relationship between the powerful abbey and the people of Reading, and investigate the possibility of there being a castle in the town.

**OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>** Writer Carolyn Milner will look at the role of female flyers in "Women with Wings" and explain how she researches her historical fiction.

**NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>** Alastair Lack, erstwhile BBC foreign correspondent, will speak about his "Travels with Auntie".

Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings. Non-members pay £3, to include coffee and biscuits, or why not join us? The annual subscription is just £12. Contact [vickyjordan5@hotmail.com](mailto:vickyjordan5@hotmail.com)

## Chess Group

Over the last couple of months there has been a regular game of chess (or two) at the Sun Pub on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 12-2pm.

Though primarily established to play friendlies on home turf some members have also played against a group who play at Pangbourne Social Club. Not only did this prove to be a very enjoyable get-together but new friends were made.

New players are always welcome so if you fancy a go don't hesitate to either pop in on the day or give Chris Bergmann a ring on 07876531881.

*You would be made very welcome!*

**Hardwick happenings by Miriam Rose, Estate Manager**

As ever, much is happening here at Hardwick! The transition to the Estate becoming a community led charity is now in full swing, boosted enormously by the seven person Hardwick delegation's trip to the Community Land Scotland conference in Skye in June. The conference is an annual gathering of the many community owned Estates in Scotland, which now make up 3% of the country, and was hugely informative and inspiring for the group of tenants and management team who attended, giving us a renewed sense of confidence that our approach has great potential for the future of the land and community.

Last week's Henley Standard featured a full page spread entitled 'Heirs hand over Estate to community stewardship' which is our first piece of public coverage about the transition and points out that this will be the first community run Estate in England, following the success of the Scottish community owned land model.

We are also very aware that our surrounding local community are also key stakeholders in Hardwick's land and have valuable ideas and input into its future. Therefore we will be holding a public talk and consultation about Hardwick's future in the village this winter where you will be able to find out more about the transition and some other upcoming changes such as the change of use of the Stud Farm land as well as input your thoughts and ideas.

**Events:**

**1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> September Wellbeing gathering at Hempen with Earth Living.** A curated intimate event for those wanting to connect with nature, organic nutrition, the hemp plant and our community farm. [Hempen.co.uk](http://Hempen.co.uk)

**16th September [Stockfree Organic – for life and for business AUTUMN](#).** Farm walk for growers, farmers and general public, guided by Iain Tolhurst. 10 am – 2 pm Hardwick Estate, Lin's VegShed, Tolhurst Organic Farm.

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 11am - 3pm. Hardwick Market** at Lin's Veg Shed – farmers market, street food, arts and crafts and live music.

**28<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm – Iain Tolhurst, 'Stock free organic horticulture how and why'**. Hardwick Lecture Series at Tolhurst Organic Packing Shed.

**1st October – Tolhurst Organic CIC annual Squash and Pumpkin festival.** See <https://www.tolhurstorganic.co.uk/events/>

**6th – 8th October. The Organic Growers Gathering at Tolhurst Organic CIC.** Talks, workshops, music, sauna etc. *Search Organic Growers Gathering 2023 on Eventbrite to book.*

**26<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm – Ben Manning, “Near natural woodland management at Hardwick”.** Hardwick Lecture Series at Tolhurst Organic Packing Shed.

## Top title for Tolly

On 17<sup>th</sup> June Iain Tolhurst (Tolly) of Tolhurst Organic CIC was awarded MBE in His Majesty's The King Birthday Honours list for services to agriculture, and on 5<sup>th</sup> July the Soil Association presented Tolly with the Lifetime Achievements Award in the Best On Organic Markets BOOM Awards.

Tolhurst Organic was the first farm to attain the Stockfree Organic standards and Tolly's philosophy of a "systems approach" to working with soil, nature, biodiversity continues to inspire farmers and growers worldwide. He has pioneered many key techniques, including the use of green manures, intercropping and under sowing, functional biodiversity, alternatives to peat growing media and the use of woodchip.

However, Tolly's greatest achievement and impact, and that of the farm itself, is the knowledge and skills shared to over 200 trainees and volunteers across the years. These are people who will perpetuate the values of the farm, and in his speech at the lovely MBE party at Walled Gardens on 1<sup>st</sup> July, Tolly dedicated his award to them all and handed custom-made medals to those present.



***Congratulations!***

## Willow Weaving in the Woods by Suz Williams

Willow weaving workshops are in full swing at Greenbroom Farm this spring and summer.

I hold a variety of weaving and carving workshops in the coppice behind the farm and people from across the country have been coming along to learn a new skill.

More workshops are planned for later in the year. If you'd like to attend a workshop then get it touch with Suz on [thecoppiceco@gmail.com](mailto:thecoppiceco@gmail.com)



## **Spotlight on..... The Real Tennis Court** **by Tim Tomalin, Chair of The Friends of Hardwick Tennis Court**

The court at Hardwick is a favourite of many real tennis players throughout the world. It is visited often by players from Australia, France and the USA. The charm of Hardwick House and the Estate is admired by all. Prince Edward came and played on his world tour on behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. During the Ladies World Championships being held at the Oratory recently, Hardwick hosted the parallel amateur doubles tournament as part of the event.

The court was built for Charles Day Rose by Joseph Bickley in 1907. It is the third Rose court: Sir Charles already had a court in his house in Newmarket and the first one at Hardwick, built in 1896, allegedly proved too far from the house for convenience. Mr Bickley developed the formula for the finish of the walls and floor, and the technique for curing it that nobody has managed to reproduce. He took his secret to the grave, and "our" court is one of the few remaining Bickley courts with all its original surfaces intact. In 1989 The Friends of Hardwick Tennis Court was formed and made an agreement with Sir Julian Rose to have access to the court under licence, to play and maintain the court and its facilities. Over time the roof was fixed and lights installed, changing rooms and kitchen updated. Hardwick is one of very few regularly used privately owned courts in the world.



The game of real, or Royal, tennis developed from games played in the street where there was sufficient space, or we think played by monks in abbey cloisters, as the shape of the playing area suggests. Real tennis thrived until the late nineteenth century when lawn tennis was invented.

The court is laid out with galleries under a sloping roof, the penthouse, which runs round three sides of the court. On the fourth wall there is a short section set at about 45 degrees. This is a useful target as it sends the ball flying sideways across the court; quite alarming for anyone whose duty is to return the shot and isn't ready! If the player at the service end fails to hit the ball before its second bounce, the distance of the second bounce from the end wall is marked and a chase has been laid. The best chases are the ones nearest to the wall. After the players have changed ends, the new server serves and the new receiver has to win the chase, placing the ball closer to the wall. If the ball isn't going to make it then the server doesn't have to hit the ball to win the point.

Are you following? It has been said that it is like a cross between lawn tennis, squash and chess. And the Royal bit? Well, Henry VIII enjoyed the game and, it is said, every time he lost a point he invented a new rule to put things right!



## RG8 Badminton

We play at the Langtree Community Sports Hall in Woodcote on Thursday evenings.

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 and would welcome some fitness, fun and friendship then visit our website [www.rg8badminton.co.uk](http://www.rg8badminton.co.uk)

or ring Julie on 07980 413026.

### **New Children's Dance Classes for Whitchurch.**

A new Saturday dance class is starting on 16th September in Whitchurch Village Hall. The classes are run by Rachel Griffin and Sarah Toms of Amico Dance Academy.

Dance is a great way for children to develop creativity and self-expression while improving their strength, coordination and flexibility. There's a variety of classes on offer for children of all skills levels using selected programmes of study from Acrobatic Arts, bbodance and BTDA.

Whether your child is interested in acrobatics, ballet, modern dance or tap, there are classes for children aged 6+ as well as Mini Amicos for younger children.

Rachel and Sarah would be very happy to explain their classes and discuss what would work well for your child.

Contact them on:

**Rachel Griffin: 07771 753088**

**Sarah Toms: 07929 760204**

[www.AmicoDance.co.uk](http://www.AmicoDance.co.uk)





## The Dog's Nose, Knows Best in Goring Heath Parish Hall....

Have you ever wondered what your dog's nose is capable of?

Scent detection work is when a dog uses its sense of smell to identify and locate a particular scent, to the exclusion of all other scents. Dogs have a huge head start in this area because their nose is vastly superior to that of a human. Dogs are estimated to have between 250,000,000 – 300,000,000 olfactory receptors, whereas humans only have about 6,000,000. For most dog breeds, the olfactory sense is their primary sense and, is how they 'see' and process the world around them.

Humans have benefited from dogs' extraordinary olfactory abilities in areas such as Customs and Excise; police work; Search and Rescue; Medical Alert and in the hunting field.

Scent work is a wonderful way to collaborate with your dog in a fun and low-impact way. It is an activity that provides your dog with crucial mental stimulation (this means it can be extremely tiring!!) and a way to engage in natural and instinctive canine behaviours. It is accessible to dogs of any breed and age, and because it is minimal impact, it can be wonderful for dogs recovering from surgery or illness, or those who are becoming less active with age.

It is a fun, pet-dog sport that can really help to develop a dog's confidence and their sense of self-esteem, equipping them with skills that they can use to help them cope in situations that they might otherwise find challenging. It can really boost a sense of the human/ dog partnership, as we take on the privileged role of trusting our dogs and learning how skilled they really are. Of course, it is important to note that the human role in the scent work sport is very much that of the supporting actor: the dogs have all the natural ability!!

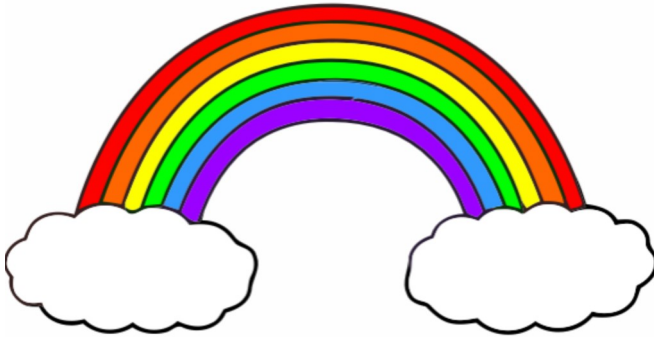


Scent work is now available in Goring Heath, as Cerys from Blue Lemon Dog Training has qualified with Scent Work UK as a level 1-3 instructor, and she also offers National Nosework Association Odour Recognition Train and Test.

Once teams have graduated from the beginner course, then the fun really accelerates!! The teams can participate in away days, where they may be searching farms; sporting venues; museums; boatyards and buses! They also embrace games, including a canine "Cluedo"- inspired event where the dogs must solve the crime using their scent detection skills!! Recent beginner "graduates" have been from a wide range of different breeds, demonstrating just how many dogs can benefit from scent work.

Blue Lemon Dog Training have a new beginner course currently booking into September 2023. If you would like to learn more about unleashing the power of your dog's nose, please message Cerys at [bluelemondogtraining@gmail.com](mailto:bluelemondogtraining@gmail.com) All teaching methods used are reward based and force free. Cerys is a fully qualified dog trainer and is registered with The Animal Behaviour and Training Council.





# **Rosie Care**

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*Join our fostering community in Oxfordshire*

We're looking for more foster carers in Oxfordshire to provide a safe and secure home to a child when they are unable to live with their parents. It may be for a short period of time, or they may stay with a foster family long term.

The dedicated website explains the steps [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering)

Our foster carers receive:

- A welcome payment of £1,500
- Generous fees, paid in addition to the child's allowance.
- Dedicated social worker support.
- Access to professionals, support groups and specialised training.

If you feel you could be a foster carer, please register your details here to find out more

<https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fosteringenquiry>



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 October 2023	November 2023
12th December 2023	January 2024

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## **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  
[goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com)