

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

---

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

April 2024  
Issue 196

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 Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**

Goring Heath Parish Hall  
B471 Whitchurch Hill  
RG8 7NY

**Tuesday April 9th 2024**  
**8.00pm - 9.30pm**  
**All welcome**

*Guest Speaker: The Manager, Hardwick Estate*

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



At long last two of our much-heralded projects are actually happening. We have been talking about both improving the playground at Whitchurch Hill, and renovating the pond at Crays Pond, for several years!

If you live at Crays Pond, or if you have walked or driven by the pond in the past couple of weeks, you will not have failed to notice what appears to be some rather drastic changes.

If you are a nature lover, and have concerns for the local wildlife you might be thinking that we have acted very rashly, but sometimes you have to take what appears to be destructive action to preserve a habitat and provide an opportunity for a healthy ecosystem to develop.

The willow tree was sucking vast amounts of water out of the pond and contributing to the problems of very low water in dry years. As hot dry summers are becoming more frequent this problem will only be exacerbated.

As the pond has been opened up you can clearly see the large areas of plant growth in the middle of the pond. The pond is not a natural feature and, if left to its own devices, will gradually silt up and trees will colonise. Ponds are fast disappearing from our countryside as they become less needed by farmers and are filled in or left to silt up. They provide vital habitat for many aquatic species both in and around the pond.

As for the silt, the pond will be dredged later in the year, at the time least disruptive to the life cycles of the creatures which call the pond their home. We have taken advice from experts in pond ecology and are acting on their suggestions.

I hope we will be preserving the pond to be enjoyed by both man and beast for many years to come.

The playground is having less drastic treatment, but we hope will provide a more interesting and challenging space for local children to test their climbing skills and provide more scope for imaginative outdoor play.

The playground should be finished by the most important date in the summer calendar - the Whitchurch Hill Fete. This always takes place on the Saturday of the late May Bank Holiday weekend - May 25<sup>th</sup> this year.

Somehow the sun always shines and the fete provides plenty to keep the families and folks of the area amused and involved. There'll be lots of stalls selling all manner of goods, as well as children's races, a performing dog demonstration and a Punch & Judy show.

The very popular bottle raffle will be there as usual and the gift raffle has a top prize of £100. The WI will provide delicious home-made cakes for tea, there'll be a mobile pub to quench any thirsts and the parish councillors will perform their most important function of the year - running the barbecue!

The fete will conclude as it always does with the egg throwing competition which is open to all with a grand prize for the winner.

See you there!

**Liz Collas**

**Chair of the Parish Council**

## **Annual Parish Meeting - 9th April 2024**

### **All Welcome!**

If you'd like the chance to catch up with your local parish councillors and to find out what's happening in your local area, then come along to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**It's at Goring Heath Parish Hall on Tuesday 9th April at 8 pm.**

The Parish Council would like to extend a FORMAL INVITATION and special thanks this year to all the litter pickers, newsletter distributors and contributors, telephone box tidiers, speedwatch volunteers, footpath walkers, defibrillator monitors, playground keepers, fete volunteers and all of you who help us to keep this parish such a lovely place to live.

This year we will also be inviting a special guest speaker.

Miriam Rose from Hardwick will be able to update us all on developments on the estate which makes up a large area of the Parish. This will be in addition to reports from all our local clubs and societies, the bus, and other interesting developments from the Parish Council such as the refurbishment of the playground, speed and traffic updates, new 20mph zones, recent tree works and the important work at Crays Pond.

### ***REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE***

For more information, or if you would like to see/ add to the agenda, contact the clerk at [\*\*goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com) or take a look at [\*\*Goringheath.com\*\*](http://Goringheath.com) for further details.

## Goodbye and Welcome!!!

Our Clerk Amanda Holland is stepping down from the role of Parish Clerk at the April Meeting.

She has been in the role for nearly six years and has seen the Council through a number of changes and updates.

During the pandemic she coordinated the Goring Heath Volunteers who delivered essential supplies to shielding and housebound parishioners, and also the infamous Parish Hall egg box where parishioners could access free eggs donated by a fellow local. She is retiring as a number of projects are concluding, most notably the recreation playground update and the Crays Pond Refurbishment. We thank her for her service and wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Emma Burdon will be taking over the post at the June meeting. Emma tells us she is excited to be able to give something back to the lovely community where we live. We offer her a warm welcome and wish her the best of luck in her new role.



Seasonal Bouquets & Bunches

Flower Subscriptions

Weddings & Farewell Flowers

Contact Sarah on 07833 476125 or [sarah@theflowerartisan.co.uk](mailto:sarah@theflowerartisan.co.uk)

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

Locally grown in Collins End, Goring Heath, RG8 7RN

**Planning Decisions**

The following planning applications, submitted between 10<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 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/S4248/LDP</u></b> 4 Hill Bottom Close Flat roof single storage rear extension with an associated patio less than 30cm high</p>	No strong views	
<p><b><u>P24/SO566/LB</u></b> Copyhold Farm To replace the half of the existing roof on an agricultural building that has failed</p>	No strong views	
<p><b><u>P24/S0137/HH</u></b> The Old Parsonage Whitchurch Hill Demolition of existing single storey rear extension, construction of a new single storey rear extension and orangery, conversion of existing utility and passage into a new larger utility with</p>	No strong views	
<p><b><u>P24/S0236/LB</u></b> The Firs Nuney Green Airband broadband provider needs to run an overhead wire to the property, then route it into the property and connect to an interior wallbox.</p>	No strong views	LB consent
<p><b><u>P24/S0147/HH</u></b> The Old Stables Whitchurch Hill Change of use from garage to gym and home office. Erection of new gate and side wall.</p>	No strong views	
<p><b><u>P24/S0142/HH</u></b> The Old Village Inn Goffs Hill Crays Pond Two storey and single storey rear extensions, and front porch</p>	Objection	

Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
<p><b>P24/S01077/HH</b> 19 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill</p> <p>Proposed ground floor rear extension. Proposed front porch. Proposed partial garage conversion. Proposed insertion of new roof lights. Proposed re-roofing including installation of PV panels. Proposed external alterations including replace-</p>	No Strong Views	
<p><b>P24/S0728/FUL</b> 1 Palmers Cottages Whitchurch Hill</p> <p>Proposed development of a chalet style building within the garden curtilage for use as an osteop-</p>	No Strong Views	
<p><b>P23/S4267/HH</b> The Old Parsonage Whitchurch Hill</p> <p>Installation of new windows to front elevation at ground and first floor and removal of existing render to front elevation and installation of new breathable lime render</p>	No strong views	PP granted
<p><b>P22/S4346/FUL</b> Timbers Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill</p> <p>Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement 5 bed dwelling with detached garage. (Amended plans received 10 May 2023 showing new dwelling of new design repositioned in the plot closer to the north-east corner of the site with the vehicle access from Goring Heath Road. Bat Scoping Report and Preliminary Ecological Appraisal also submitted and amended plans received 21 June 2023 and 5 July 2023).</p>	Objection	PP granted

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**

Not many people know that there is a national league table of local councils based on the amount of collected waste that is recycled. In the past few years South Oxfordshire has hovered just off the number one spot, but last year, with a recycling rate of 61.6%, our District topped the table, with Vale of White Horse coming up in third place at 60.9%.



Helping South Oxfordshire is that 55% of the waste is made up of organic waste, principally garden waste.

The government publishes a wealth of statistics on waste and one figure that really struck me is that the amount of waste, across the country, going to landfill has dropped from 22 million tons in 2000/01 to 1.76 million tonnes in 2022/23. The reduction in landfill is made up of several factors including an overall reduction in household waste and increases in recycling and incineration.

There are imminent changes to the arrangements for paying for the garden waste collection service in South Oxfordshire which will be introduced from 1st April 2025 with a transition period from April 2024. At the moment, every brown bin has its own direct debit payment, which means that if you have more than one bin you have more than one direct debit, each on the anniversary of each brown bin service starting for you. From April 2025, the direct debit process will be replaced by a once a year payment in April for everyone, and once payment is made a sticker will be issued to be put on your bin so that the waste crew know that the service is paid for – no sticker, no collection! Apparently there have been some cases under the current system whereby bins are emptied when no direct debit payment has been made. Anyway, no need to panic yet as more information will be sent to you.

The current charge of £60 for a brown bin is also having to rise to £69 as the costs of the service provided by Biffa have increased and, as the garden waste service is a paid for service, it must breakeven and not be subsidised by other council tax payers. You may remember the difficulties of a year or so ago when Biffa could not provide the normal service because drivers and operators had left for other jobs. The contract with Biffa, which has been in place for the last 14 years has just been extended for a further two years. A recent waste satisfaction survey has yielded encouraging results for SODC household waste collections, indicating a high level of resident approval with this side of the service. An impressive 82% of respondents expressed satisfaction, or high satisfaction, with the overall quality of the service provided.



The move to extend the current contract was driven by central government's delay in clearly outlining the forthcoming changes within the waste industry stemming from the Environment Act 2021. The extra two years will provide the necessary space to develop a brand-new waste strategy to determine an approach for the next 10 years.

In setting the budget (and so Council Tax) for the coming year, although there are increases in various charges, there have also been savings. One of the biggest sources of income for the council is the return on investments, which have benefited from the recent general increases in interest rates. In the current year SODC will receive over £7million, £2million more than expected.

One of the savings that has been made is vacating the rented offices in Milton Park, which were costing some £1million a year. Looking ahead, the Council is pressing ahead with new offices as part of the Didcot Gateway Regeneration project. The capital cost of this is some £25million, which will be largely funded by borrowing, with projected borrowing costs in 2026/27 of £425,000.

It is worth noting that offices at Milton Park were rented for about eight years, a substantial cost with nothing to show for it at the end.

## **Peter Dragonetti**

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

## **Chess Group**

The first and third Wednesdays of the month see a group of players meet at the Sun Pub at 12 noon.

We play chess for a couple of hours with drinks and sandwiches available to purchase as lunchtime refreshment.

We are non-league, intermediate players, who just enjoy a game.

If you would like to know more please ring me on 07876531881.

*You would be made very welcome!*

***Chris Bergmann***



## Crays Pond Goring Heath Community Speedwatch Group

Since August 2022 the Crays Pond Goring Heath Community Speedwatch group (CSW) has conducted over 60 CSW sessions across six different locations in Crays Pond and Whitchurch Hill. Each session typically lasts for one hour and the minimum requirement is that three operatives are in attendance. Every session is approved by Thames Valley Police (TVP). The results for each session are inputted to the TVP Community Speedwatch online portal. Offenders receive a warning letter from TVP and repeat offenders, or aggressive drivers may get a home visit.

Sessions have identified three troublesome blackspots in our community. The CSW group targets these locations; the aim being that about 75% of all sessions are attributed to these three sites.

- **Garton End, Crays Pond**, traffic heading east on the B4526 from the Goring direction - speed limit 30mph. Highest speed recorded 50mph - or 66% above the current speed limit. The good news at this location is that we have seen the best reductions in the percentage of speeding vehicles from when we first started. At the beginning we were regularly in the top teens - approaching 20%. Now the average has settled at 7% which is a significant improvement. [Over 11 sessions]
- **St Johns Church, Whitchurch Hill**, traffic heading south on the B471 from the Crays Pond direction - speed limit 40mph. Highest speed ever recorded 61mph - or 52% over the current speed limit. The results here are not as encouraging as Garton End. Moderately better at perhaps 9% from 12% when we first started. [Over 17 sessions]
- **Goffs Hill, Crays Pond**, traffic heading north on the B471 from the Whitchurch Hill direction - speed limit 30mph. Highest speed recorded 51mph or 70% above the current 30mph. What seems to work at Garton End in terms of a reduction over time of speeding vehicles, does not seem to work at Goffs Hill. Results have been broadly flat - going from about 12% in the early days to circa 11% - so really no change/no improvement. This location is broadly similar to Garton End in terms of traffic volumes and the speed limit of 30mph is the same. The only difference being that in Garton End we come from 40mph to 30mph through the village gates, and at Goffs Hill it is 50mph to 30mph. [Over 14 sessions].

Drivers are offered some leeway in speed before being formally reporting to TVP. Therefore, the real rate of speeding above 30mph/40mph would in reality be significantly higher than the recorded data - estimated to be circa 20% higher.

The Speedwatch initiative has gathered useful data to factually identify problem areas where longer term speed reductions measures such as Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and/or speed cameras are needed. In the longer term this will need to be pursued by Goring Heath Parish Council.

Volunteers are always required. To register (do not use a smart phone) please visit:

**<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/WIZ-FRONT-v2-GetInvolved-exist-1.php>**

Then select Thames Valley/Oxfordshire/Crays Pond-Goring Heath to join our Group. Then follow the links.

After completing the online training there is further on-the-job training you need to complete; new operatives will attend the first CSW session as an observer to 'look and learn'.

For further information please contact: **crayspondcsw@sent.com**

## From the Editor - Spot the Difference!

The improvements to the playground are underway - you may have noticed that the area has been cordoned-off whilst the contractors do their work.

This photo was taken on 21st March.

By the time you are reading this, there will be quite a difference.

Our younger parishioners are set to have great time on the new monkey bars, platforms and towers.



Our retiring parish clerk Amanda Holland has guided this project to completion on behalf of the Parish Council. Thank you Amanda!

## Hello From Whitchurch Pre-School



What a terrific spring term we are having. The staff and children have been getting out and about and enjoying the weather, rain or shine.

Some of the highlights include making the most of our allotment, visiting the horses, cooking and supporting rising 5 for school readiness.

### Fundraising for our new roof

Our lovely pre-school building needs some essential repairs to it this summer to keep it safe and cosy for the children and staff for future years.

The most pressing repair is the roof. After 30 years of use, plus it was donated second hand, it now needs to be replaced. Quotes are coming in at £15,000. We have some money allocated, but we need to fundraise as much money as possible to cover the remaining shortfall. As a charity-run organisation, we rely on fundraising to support our essential repairs, so every donation really helps. To support us, scan the QR code.



Our parents and local community have been out helping to fundraise towards this. We recently held a bingo night at the Greyhound Pub on 20th March. Prizes included a family pass to Bucklebury Farm, a £50 flower voucher from Bluebells in Henley, treatment vouchers from Chrysalis Well-being and Bijou Holistic Therapies plus alcohol from the Sun Pub in Whitchurch Hill. Thank you to all of our contributors and those that turned out to support us. Every contribution does count.

### Allotment revamp

During March and April we are working to improve our dedicated allotment space, where we teach forest school for the children. Currently the space is so large, it's really hard to maintain without regular help.

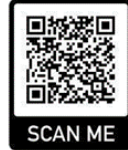
But, with the help of Miriam Rose from our Pre-School Committee, we have a new garden plan and some willing parents to renovate the space. We plan to divide the space into new zones and add paving, making the space a better place for the children to learn and play, as well as easier to maintain in the future. So watch this space for a before and after photo!

## New funding for 2 year olds and spaces available

From April 2024, many families will be able to benefit from the change to government funding which will give 2 year olds 15 hours of free childcare. We currently have spaces available for new starters aged from 2 years upwards.

### 3 FREE and EASY ways to support Whitchurch Pre-School

1. To donate to our cause - scan the QR code here or go to:  
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool>
2. 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.
3. Sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) to support "Whitchurch Pre-School - Whitchurch-on-Thames". This website 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/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=w4](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitchurchonthamespresch/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=w4)



Thank you for all of your support! *Registered Charity: 1183193*

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)



## **Rosie Care**

**Dementia and Palliative Care  
Trained and Experienced  
Public Liability Insured, Enhanced DBS  
Own Car and Blue Badge**

**Contact me on:  
Tel 01491 682437 Mobile 07966 509 908**

### **Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society**

Say “William Morris” and you can’t be sure what image comes into the listeners mind. Is it the artist of the famous willow pattern? Or the founder of the company that made the mini?

On **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April** we welcome back Marie-Louise Kerr (curator without museum) to explore the lives of two very different men with the same name. Her talk, “The Two William Morris’s of Oxfordshire” begins at 7.30pm (coffee served from 7pm) and is at Whitchurch Village Hall. Non-members are welcome to join us, and we charge just £3 to include coffee and biscuits.

Our last meeting before the summer will be at Goring Heath Parish Hall on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May** when we want to look at the last seventy years in the area covered by the history society. It was in 1952 that the new parish of Goring Heath was formed from parts of Whitchurch and Goring parishes. How have the villages changed? What do we remember of how life was when we first came here? An informal evening, coffee from 7pm, discussion from 7.30pm. No charge for non-members.

In June and July we go on members-only outings and re-convene in September.

## Whitchurch Hill WI

As a group we don't undertake much fundraising during the year. Our annual dues and nominal donations at our meetings enable us to cover most of our costs. However, like any organisation it is always very useful to have a little surplus - to enable us to make charitable donations as we feel appropriate and to contribute to a designated activity during the year.

To this end we have in recent times run the Art Cafe in Whitchurch twice yearly. From the proceeds of this particular event we make a charitable donation to a specified charity whilst retaining a little of the money raised for our own funds. On Saturday 16 March we made a profit of £160, after a busy morning of coffee and tea drinkers many of whom also generously contributed to our raffle. £100 of this money is being donated to Helen & Douglas House in memory of Doreen Godley .



*Sarah, Sandra and Robin preparing to open the Art Cafe*

With our Annual Meeting in mid-March, we will soon be publishing our programme of events for 2024-25. This will include our programme of speakers, social events and the one or two fundraising activities to come.

If you want to know more about us, please ring Frances on 01189842162.

**Sally Bergmann**

## 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. 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.**

## Become a Fete Stallholder

The Whitchurch Hill Village Fete is more than just an event - it's a celebration of community spirit, fun and creativity.

Our stallholders are an integral part of this cherished tradition, and they gain so much more than a top up of the bank account. It's an opportunity for them to showcase their talents and interact with a wide variety of visitors to the fete, as well as contributing to the strength of the local community.

We have a wide variety of stallholders, but we are always keen to recruit more.

*If you have a passion for crafts, food, or showcasing unique products then we'd love you to join us as a stallholder at the upcoming fete on Saturday 25th May.*

Whether you create handmade crafts like jewellery, pottery, artworks or textiles, bake delicious sweet or savoury treats, create preserves or sauces, or source interesting artifacts, the Whitchurch Village Fete is the perfect platform to share your passion with the community.

And it's so easy and there's no upfront cost. All you need is a table or two to display your wares and possibly a gazebo but that's optional. You'll need a card machine to take debit or credit card payments - these are available online at minimal cost - plus a float for cash payments.

There's no fee for the stall pitch. We just ask you to contribute 10% of your takings to the fete fund which supports local charities and causes.

If you are interested in learning more or securing a pitch, please contact the fete organiser, **Peter Burdon on 07592 528592 or [pburdon@ghpc.org.uk](mailto:pburdon@ghpc.org.uk)**





WHITCHURCH HILL  
VILLAGE FETE

☀️  
SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
FROM 2PM ☀️

---

£100 GRAND PRIZE DRAW

☀️  
GIFT STALLS

BBQ PUB TEAS

CHILDREN'S RIDES

BRASS BAND ☀️ DOG SHOW

EGG THROWING COMPETITION

---

## Annual Parish Litter Pick

Many thanks to everyone who turned out on Saturday 23rd March for the annual parish litter pick. Teams tackled the roads and verges throughout the parish..

Once again, bags and bags of rubbish were collected - from sweet wrappers and crisp packets, through plastic bottles, takeaway cups, bits which have fallen off cars and a vast quantity of cans, to large objects including abandoned car tyres. The recyclables were predominately the aforementioned cans (Strongbow made a “strong” showing for the second year running). New this year was an outbreak of discarded vapes. These too were kept separate - they play havoc at the recycling centre!

*Thanks again to the intrepid litter pickers.*



# 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*



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

Information: 07789 871620

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

### *Community Walks*

Join Chris and I for a community walk on the first Monday in the month!

Everyone is welcome. We walk for about one and a half hours - routes chosen to reflect the weather and season.

Some routes are always more familiar than others but there is always something new to see.

We gather at 10am at the end of Hill Bottom Close, by the post box.

If you want to know anything more just give me a ring on 07585195669

***Sally Bergmann***

## Woodcote Volunteers - A Full Agenda of News!

### Computerised booking system

Our new booking system is now up and running and we wish to thank Woodcote Rally again for their financial contribution to this. For clients, there is no change – call us as usual to request a driver during our opening hours of 9.30am to 11am each weekday morning or by leaving a voicemail message. The office team will enter the request on our booking system, which automatically sends out an email to all drivers that same day, which is a much better system for both office team and the drivers. For office helpers there is no time-consuming phoning around and **all** drivers are notified of the jobs needed, not just those that are able to answer their phones between 9.30am and 11am.



*A huge thank you to Tim and Dave for spending many hours working away to get our new computerised booking system up and running!*

### Tea Party initiative for our clients

Our clients can at times feel quite isolated and don't get out as often as they would like. To help address this, a team of volunteers put the idea of a monthly "Tea Party" to our clients. There was a very positive response! Please note, this is for our clients only – those who have no means of transport and live in the catchment area.

We do need new volunteers to assist us with the running of this initiative, and would appreciate any help you can provide, whether it is to provide a lift once a month, to help in the kitchen or just to sit with our clients to make them feel welcome and supported. If you would like to get involved, please email [info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](mailto:info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk). Thank you.

### Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm at Woodcote Village Hall, Pavilion Room. It is a public meeting, so anyone is welcome to attend. If you are considering joining Woodcote Volunteers either as a driver, office helper or committee member, it is a good place to find out

more. We are fortunate to have been offered a talk by Goring and Woodcote Medical practice manager who will update us on the latest developments at the surgery.

## **New Treasurer**

Our wonderful treasurer and driver, Ken Ison, is stepping down from this role after 18 years of service to us and the community. He certainly deserves some time off! We will be welcoming his replacement, Richard Anderson, who is very kindly giving his time and expertise to support us in this key role.

## **Dementia Friends**

There was an excellent turn out by our volunteers for a talk from the Alzheimer's Society about dementia. Everyone who attended is now a "Dementia Friend" who knows about dementia and the many different ways it can affect daily living. They will be even better able to assist, support and understand those people with this disease, whether they be clients, family members or friends. Everyone agreed it was a very well delivered, relevant and interesting presentation. Our thanks to the Alzheimer's Society who provided the speaker at no cost.

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

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to three of our long standing and long serving volunteers this month – Chris Chant who has been a driver and office helper for over 20 years, and Shirley Bryant who has been with us in the same roles for 30 years and as previously mentioned, Ken Ison, who has been driving for 22 years. Their experience and wisdom will be greatly missed. Thank you so much for all you have done.

If you are thinking about becoming one of our drivers or office helpers, we would love to hear from you! Please go to our website to find out more about the various roles, joining and how to contact us.

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. If you would struggle to pay a driver's expenses, please mention this to our office team when you book, as we may be able to help.

**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 9.30am 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)**

## Mike Holland Quiz Night - A good time was had by all!!!

Fifty or so punters turned up for the Annual Mike Holland Quiz Night at the Parish Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

This annual institution is always lots of fun, with devilish picture and music rounds, and this year an added bonus of the old TV favourite "Play Your Cards Right" . To cries of higher! lower! the winner proudly takes home a bottle of bubbly (prosecco actually). Nibbles, beers and good wines were on offer before settling down mid quiz to huge portions of lovely fish and chips.



This years' winners were the infamous Coombe Raiders, who have now won the cup three years on the trot. Mike presented them with their trophy, re-named this year as the Theresa Elsome Cup, in memory of our dear friend who did so much for our community.

Remember to put the date in your diary for next year and get a solid team



The Coombe Raiders receive their trophy from Mike Holland



He played his cards right!

together, it is a great night out that raises important funds for our Parish Hall maintenance

### Party hire

Don't forget you can hire cutlery, glasses, plates, catering teapots, 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)**

## Police and Crime Commissioner Update

### *Working in partnership to fight crime*



Matthew Barber, the P&C Commissioner for Thames Valley recently wrote to Parish Councils to highlight the work being done to support Thames Valley Police in fighting crime.

- Phase 1 of the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership was launched earlier this year to improve CCTV coverage and better use of technology to support strong local policing. The partnership provides new cameras owned, operated, monitored and maintained by the police with continued support from councils. Phase 1 covers Milton Keynes and Slough. Phase 2 is planned for Oxfordshire later this year.
- Community Safety Partnerships between the police and local government tackle anti-social behaviour and persistent criminal concerns. The funds allocated to them have been increased by 15% for 2025/26. This means that £11.4m will be provided for crime prevention work in local areas over the next four years.
- Parish Councils can apply for funding for crime prevention through the Community Fund. This takes money from criminals - through the sale of stolen goods - and provides it to good causes. £400,000 is available per year from this fund and many parishes and towns have already benefited from the scheme.
- Speeding causes great concern in many communities. The P&C Commissioner is working with the Chief Constable on a new road safety enforcement team. He supports Community Speedwatch and is looking to improve the support offered to Community Speedwatch volunteers. The Community Speedwatch scheme has recently been moved into the new Citizens in Policing portfolio with the Force, which means that as well as free equipment available from the P&C Commissioner's office, the support for volunteers will be improved.
- There has been a reduction in crime across the Thames Valley in the last year and the force is on target to have doubled the number of neighbourhood officers by the end of the financial year. This increase is set to continue, with further funds committed to put more officers into neighbourhood teams and recruit PCSOs and Special Constables.

The P&C Commissioner can be contacted at [pcc@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:pcc@thamesvalley.police.uk)

Website: [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)

## **The campaign to save the White Lion Crays Pond continues. *Help us to retain the ACV status.***

The story is a long one, but here is a brief update.

Up to 2019 the owner was living in the property, contrary to legislation, and was eventually asked to leave by a High Court Judgement. Since then the property has remained empty, and becoming more and more dilapidated.

In 2019 we were successful in retaining the ‘Asset of Community Value’ (ACV) status, (first granted in 2013), over the property.

The ACV means that the property cannot be sold by the owner unless offered to the community first. It is a useful tool in the community’s armoury.

It can stop disposal of the property as an ‘Investment Opportunity’

Since 2019 a Community Interest Company (CIC) in the pub’s name has been established as a means of making offers to purchase and applying for Community Ownership Funds with which to purchase, renovate and manage its improvement. This is the vehicle that would own and run the property when we are successful.

We are now in the position to get the ACV nominated again and this is where we need your help as every ‘Nomination’ period of 5 years is a re-application, not a renewal. As years go by it becomes more difficult to maintain ACV status, with the property left to deteriorate and remain unused by the owner.

Therefore we need to show that the community, both local and the surrounding, support the campaign

### ***Why should you help?***

As you know, once a pub is lost to development you never replace the community benefits that it provides. It is not just a pub, but a hub that can provide food, drink, accommodation, a meeting place, a market place, a focus for walkers, cyclists and others, or just a place to sit, relax and reflect.

It can also add to the local commercial activity and can provide employment.

The White Lion Crays Pond is ideal, with its position and land, to provide all this, and not simply become a plot for more residential development.





Supporting the project and to retain the 2024 ACV nomination helps the wider community decide what happens to The White Lion property.

Many residents of Goring Heath and surrounding area have already registered as supporters through our website and many have also promised financial support.

## How could you help?

- You could register your support through the website and send us your contact details. <https://www.savethewhitelion.com>
- You could also register an 'in principle promise' on the fundraising page <https://www.savethewhitelion.com/contact>
- You could also let us know why you want to support the retention of the ACV by writing an email to us, so we can pass this on to SODC with our 2024 nomination documents.

To contact the Crays Pond Community Group email us at:-  
[crayspondcommunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:crayspondcommunitygroup@gmail.com)



# 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.

@ 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)

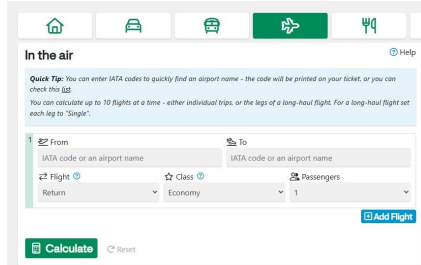
## **Saving the Planet**

*If you have to travel, why not think about Carbon Offsetting?*

While the ideal is to reduce the amount of carbon we produce by reducing the amount we travel, the reality is that most of us have to travel significant distances from time to time.

Climate Stewards - a branch of the charity A Rocha - has developed a tool to help us think through some of the implications of our lifestyles.

Their website has a simple carbon calculator ([www.climatestewards.org/carbon-calculators/](http://www.climatestewards.org/carbon-calculators/)). You can enter the details of your planned trip and compare the impact of the different forms of transport. It also enables you to calculate the amount of carbon you are generating - on a specific trip or during more everyday aspects of living.



You are able to donate to projects that offset your carbon usage against projects that reduce the global use of carbon. A number of companies offer carbon-reducing options, from planting and “farming” sustainable forestry to projects, often in the global south, which both mitigate carbon production and bring tangible developments to the communities and local environment in which they are based. Examples include plastic recycling, tree growing, and the provision of fireless stoves. The cost of offsetting a cubic ton of carbon varies between companies, depending on the way the offsetting is achieved.

*“Being Carbon Neutral means engaging in the process of reducing emissions as part of a target-driven carbon management plan, whilst compensating for what has not yet been reduced by carbon offsetting, Being Carbon Neutral doesn’t indicate a lack of ambition but recognises that the journey towards Net Zero will take time”*

### **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**

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

## Asian Hornet Danger

Goring Heath Parish Council have agreed to join a national monitoring programme of the Asian Hornet managed through a beekeeper from Reading Beekeeping Association.

We have ordered some Asian Hornet traps and some bait. We plan to start monitoring as soon as we can, but it's unlikely we'll see any this Spring. We wanted to get ready and be prepared for when they will arrive.

With the help of Sue, one of our local residents, we can then monitor the traps until the end of April and repeat the process for a 6-8 week period in the Autumn.

Each monitoring trap will need to be placed at head height (for ease of inspection) and positioned where they can be seen regularly during the day – peoples' gardens or place of work would be best. Once the Asian hornets arrive (?Autumn 24 or Spring 25), GHPC will then purchase more traps and we'll do more intense monitoring and trapping of AH queens to stop nests being established. This is a huge threat to our native bee population. The traps allow other insects in, but they can escape - only the hornet will remain in the trap for collection.

Sue has agreed to help us look at the map area and suggest a few places to locate the traps. Ideally, they should be spread throughout the parish at 1km<sup>2</sup> locations. If you would like to help us in this task and would like to help monitor a trap for us, please get in touch.

For further information, if you're on Facebook have a look at the **Jersey Asian Hornet** page to see what they're doing.



## Helping at Elections

If you are interested in taking part in the democratic process, the District Council who run elections are looking for people to work in polling stations on Thursday 2 May for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election.

It's a paid role and fairly easy work, although it can be a long day. If you are interested, find our more at <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/working-elections-2/>, or look on the SODC website for job opportunities at elections.

## News from Checkendon Pre-School



Our theme this term is 'Space'. This was taken from one of the children's interests. The children have been investigating space, looking at different planets, astronauts and making rockets to fly us to the moon!

We have been using our imaginations and became astronauts and have been flying off to the moon in our space rocket to visit the moon and explore, 5,4,3,2,1 - blast off!

We have been learning all about the moon, what it is made of, gravity and how long it takes to get there. The children have taken pictures of themselves and have used these pictures to turn themselves into an astronaut which we have put up on our 'We are out of this world display'. We have enjoyed making flags to plant on the moon along with our very own footprints on the moon which we made from Plaster of Paris so that all the astronauts who visit the moon will know that Checkendon Pre-school have been there.

We have also celebrated Mothers Day with the children bringing in pictures of their mummies and talking about all the wonderful things our mummies do for us. We also invited them to join us to celebrate Mothers Day by enjoying our Diddi Dance session with us. This was a great success with both parents and children alike having a brilliant time.

I am delighted to inform you that Checkendon Pre-School C.I.O has been able to raise just under £1000 last year with a wide variety of fundraising events such as the Christmas raffle and our sponsored fishing event. This is a very welcome support which will enable us to provide some wonderful new resources for the children to support their learning and development. A very big thank you to all who supported this scheme. Our next fundraising event is the Checkendon Run on Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> 2024. Please come along and show your support or if you feel you might be able to help at the event please let us know. [checkrun1@checkendon-run.org.uk](mailto:checkrun1@checkendon-run.org.uk)

On behalf of Checkendon Pre-School we would like to say thank you so much for your continued support.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School C.I.O, 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.

***Kelly Mullins***

## Play tennis this spring!



Keen to play tennis but are new to the sport? Or maybe you haven't played for many years but would like to get back on court? Perhaps you are a seasoned player and are looking to play locally in a league team? Maybe you are looking for tennis coaching for your children?

Pangbourne Tennis Club - the Berkshire Club of the Year - is ready to welcome you with a wide range of options for all levels of players.

The programme for spring and summer 2024 starts on Tuesday 2nd April under the experienced guidance of the club's coach Damian Lane.



**Want to learn to play?** Sign up for Start to Play on Sunday mornings at 10am - 11am.

This 8 week course is designed for adults and older teenagers who are new to tennis and will enable you to develop the basic skills in a supportive environment.

**Rusty racquet or looking develop more confidence on court?** Back to Tennis on Tuesday evenings 6pm - 7pm is for you!

**An improving/intermediate player keen to progress?** Choose club coaching on Tuesday evenings from 5pm - 6pm and/or Skills and Drills on Sundays at 11am - 12:30pm.

**Looking for a good workout on court?** Book for a High Energy Drills session on Tuesday evenings at either 7pm or 8pm.

**Junior coaching** runs on Friday afternoons for children from 4 years and upwards.

The club has men's, ladies' and mixed teams competing in the local league. Players interested in competitive tennis are always welcome to get involved with the team squads.

And, not to forget social tennis! **Social doubles** sessions run on Friday evenings from 7:30pm and on Saturday afternoons. Everyone is welcome to come along and mix in.

Fun **American tournaments** are held throughout the season - the first one is on Sunday 7th April at 1:30 - 4:30pm. You don't need a partner and all standards are welcome - you just need to be able to serve and sustain a rally to take part.



Find out more about the club and sign up for membership and coaching at [www.pangbournetennis.org](http://www.pangbournetennis.org) or scan this QR code.

## 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:**      Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JE  
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>POTHOLES</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
17th May 2024	June 2024
12th July 2024	August 2024

## 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
Goring Thames Sailing Club	Jennie Wood	01491875619
Pilates (Friday Morning)	Michele Houston	01491575205
RG8 Badminton Club	Julie Drury	07980413026
South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (SOAG)	Nancy Nichols	01189787829
Tai Chi and Qigong	Karen Pounds	07867954786
Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group	Debbie Leach	
	<a href="mailto:totsonthehill@myyahoo.com">totsonthehill@myyahoo.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
	<a href="mailto:wendyefergie@gmail.com">wendyefergie@gmail.com</a>	
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)

**April 2024**

# **Goring Heath NEWS**

## **GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **CHAIR**

Liz Collas                      [lcollas@ghpc.org.uk](mailto:lcollas@ghpc.org.uk)                      01491 680466

### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Peter Dragonetti              [peter@dragonetti.co.uk](mailto:peter@dragonetti.co.uk)                      01189 844711

Peter Burdon                      [Pburdon@ghpc.org.uk](mailto:Pburdon@ghpc.org.uk)                      07592 528592

Hilary Dewey                      [hilarydewey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hilarydewey@yahoo.co.uk)

Mike Holland                      [Mholland@ghpc.org.uk](mailto:Mholland@ghpc.org.uk)

Martin Wise                      [martinwise10@hotmail.com](mailto:martinwise10@hotmail.com)                      01189 843071

### **CLERK**

Amanda Holland              [\*\*goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com)                      01189 844867

## **GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER**

### **EDITOR**

Louise Shearer                      07554 432216

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

### **ADVERTISING**

Amanda Holland

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