

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

June 2024
Issue 197

Visit us at:
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goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

pangbourne
tennisclub

The Recreation Ground
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Pangbourne RG8 7BY
pangbournetennis.org

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Chair's Comments

Whilst I write this the fete is still a week away - but the weather forecast looks promising, so hopefully by the time you read this you will have spent a glorious sunny afternoon at the annual fete.

If you were there, I hope you had a good afternoon. There are some lovely photos in the magazine to remind those of you who attended what a good afternoon it was, and perhaps entice you to come next year if you missed this year's very enjoyable afternoon.



It has finally stopped raining, and we do seem to have left the winter gloom behind us. The trees are bare one minute, then everything turns green. We might not have loved the endless rain, but the trees and plants are looking very well on it!

And talking of new beginnings, our Parish Clerk, Amanda Holland, has now stepped down (I hesitate to say retired as I am sure she has some other schemes up her sleeve!). Amanda has been both an excellent clerk, but perhaps more importantly, an ever-cheerful presence at our meetings. Her fund of local knowledge, and people, has been invaluable.

The job of clerk has become more onerous in recent years. Even for a small parish, the bureaucracy seems to grow by the day. You only have to look at all the governance data on our website to see how complicated the role has become. I doubt if anyone is enthusiastic enough to read them all, but everything is there as required by Local Government law, and it has all been compiled by Amanda. To remain cheerful whilst dealing with the demands of the annual AGAR report (if you interested to know what that is you can look in the depths of our website-you have been warned..)

So, a very big 'thank you' to Amanda. Amanda has definitely gone above and beyond what the job entailed in her job description. We will miss her at our meetings, but will perhaps lure her back as a councillor?

And welcome to Emma Burdon who has become our new clerk. I think Emma has gone into the role with her eyes open about the paperwork. We didn't deliberately deceive her...promise! I hope Emma will enjoy the job, and we on the council all look forward to working with her.

The annual fete may have come and gone but there is plenty going on in the parish, so I hope you find lots to enjoy in our lovely area in the coming months-join the walking group, the History society, the WI, to name but a few. If you are new to the area, or a more established resident, joining a local club or society is a great way to meet people and pursue an interest or take up a new hobby.

Liz Collas

Chair of the Parish Council

Welcome to our new Parish Clerk

My name is Emma Burdon, and I am honoured to introduce myself as the new Parish Clerk for Goring Heath. I would like to thank the outgoing clerk, Amanda Holland, for her outstanding service to the community and for providing me with an insightful and supportive handover.



Along with my husband, Peter, we have five children, with three of them living in Australia and a fourth shortly to join them for an exciting new job. This is either a testament to the outstanding opportunities and lifestyle in Australia or a comment on our parenting skills! Peter and I have lived in the parish for nearly five years after a decade of living in Hong Kong, Switzerland and Dubai. With our two Hungarian Vizslas, Lottie and Monty, we love the countryside in this part of the Chilterns and have made many good friends within this very welcoming community.

I started my career as a solicitor but after a break for the children, I moved into legal recruitment and over the last two decades I have been a fitness instructor and personal trainer. I also have been an adviser for Citizens Advice and, most recently, a driver for Woodcote Volunteers. With a background in law and supporting communities, I am excited to bring my experience and enthusiasm to our parish clerk role. I am committed to ensuring that our community continues to thrive and that our parish council operates efficiently and transparently.

In my role, I aim to:

- Enhance communication: establishing clear and open lines of communication between the Parish Council and residents;
- Promote community engagement: encouraging active participation from all community members in parish activities and decision-making processes;
- Support local initiatives: work diligently to support existing programmes and introduce new initiatives to benefit the community.

Goring Heath parish, covering Whitchurch Hill, Cray's Pond, Penny Royal and the hamlet of Goring Heath is a very special place. I look forward to working with the parish councillors and the broader community to make it an even more special place to live, work and play.

Whitchurch Hill WI



Seventy-one and counting - the age of Whitchurch Hill WI.

To mark the occasion in April, members enjoyed a buffet lunch in our meeting venue of Goring Heath Parish Hall.

The Committee provided the savouries whilst members provided the deserts.

An excellent balance - with plenty of time to socialise after the essential business of the day had been conducted.

Earlier that month we enjoyed a lunch at the Four Points whilst in May we drove in the opposite direction to sample the menu at the Rising Sun, Witheridge Hill. We will soon become connoisseurs of the local hostelrys - there are worse hobbies to have!

But enough about food. Whether with members of Whitchurch Hill WI or with members from other groups there is plenty else to occupy our time.

As a community activity, May is always busy. By the time you read this we will have run the very popular tea tent at Whitchurch Hill Fete on Bank Holiday Saturday and this will have required the cake makers amongst us to practice our baking skills ready for the big day. Those less inclined to bake often lend their services to serve the teas, wash the crockery, clear the tables etc. There are plenty of tasks to go round.

We have a busy schedule of speakers for the coming year. There is a topic for everyone, from Wetlands at Otmoor, the history of Shaw House, candle making, the Kennet & Avon Canal, and more. Amongst these monthly events our Knit and Natter Group meets monthly too, enjoying a social morning of craft which itself produces items for the RBH and beyond.

Guests are always welcome to come along to one of our meetings to see at first hand what we are about. If you fancy doing so please give Frances a ring on 0118 984 2162.

Sally Bergmann

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

Planning Decisions

The following planning applications, submitted between 10th January and 14th May 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
<u>P23/S4248/LDP</u> 4 Hill Bottom Close Flat roof single storage rear extension with an associated patio less than 30cm high	No strong views	LDP
<u>P24/SO566/LB</u> Copyhold Farm To replace the half of the existing roof on an agricultural building that has failed	No strong views	LB Consent
<u>P24/S0137/HH</u> 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 new pitched roof and some internal alterations	No strong views	PP Granted
<u>P24/S0147/HH</u> The Old Stables Whitchurch Hill Change of use from garage to gym and home office. Erection of new gate and side wall.	No strong views	PP Granted
<u>P24/S0142/HH</u> The Old Village Inn Goffs Hill Crays Pond Two storey and single storey rear extensions, and front porch	Objection	PP Refused
<u>P24/S0728/FUL</u> 1 Palmers Cottages Whitchurch Hill Proposed development of a chalet style building within the garden curtilage for use as an osteopathy practice.	No Strong Views	PP granted
<u>P24/S01077/HH</u> 19 Orchard Coombe 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 replacement horizontal composite cladding.	No Strong Views	PP granted

Purley Barn Bridge Club

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

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

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

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

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



Seasonal Bouquets & Bunches
Flower Subscriptions
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Contact Sarah on 07833 476125 or sarah@theflowerartisan.co.uk
www.theflowerartisan.co.uk

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

District Councillor's Commentary



At a recent Local History Society meeting in Goring Heath Parish Hall, we reflected on the changes to life in this area over the last 70 years or so. The greatest change was the development of new houses and housing estates, largely facilitated by the extension of mains drainage in about 1970. The main drainage had followed the pre-war installation of electricity and mains water, and was then followed by the provision of mains gas. So it is that development proceeds, and with it the character of an area changes. Social change in the last 50 years or so has involved much greater mobility, and where once many local people worked in Reading and commuted in by bus, now people travel to work all over the place, and the once frequent and well patronised local bus services are no more.

Changes again are in the air, as the realisation that climate change is the result of the huge increase in fossil fuel usage, to which motor traffic is a great contributor. However, the juggernaut of development and growth seems to largely depend on increased fossil fuel usage, and we are all complicit in demanding easier and more comfortable living. The action needed to avert and ideally reverse climate change is very challenging and we all hope that something can be done that does not require any sacrifice on our own part.

The government is aiming for net zero by 2050, and SODC has to play its part in that target. The SODC Corporate Plan, now called The Way Ahead, has climate change as an important theme, and while the Council itself is not a significant contributor of carbon, it can direct carbon reduction through policies that set standards for development. The councils has its own emissions from buildings, particularly leisure centres, and when these are being refitted the most efficient energy use is being designed.

Following on from the Local Plan Consultation, there was an extensive consultation about the Way Ahead, and while some people may complain about consultation exhaustion, having a culture of consultation and openness must be a good thing, and will become embedded in how the Council works. Perhaps if a culture of openness been in place in some other local authorities the financial disasters at Thurrock, Woking Slough and Croydon might not have happened. Closed minds are never a good thing

Peter Dragonetti

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

Enjoy a stroll but no-one to walk with?
Community Walks

These are regular events on the first Monday of each month.

We have been running (that should read walking of course!) for 6 years. Looking back I think we have only had to cancel one walk due to poor weather. Quite surprising because we haven't even got more than damp on any occasion too! Boots have, of course, got muddy sometimes, but we do try to arrange a route according to conditions. That bit is not always so easy but with a choice of woodland, fields and lanes, there is something for everyone.

We meet up at 10am at the junction of Hill Bottom and Hill Bottom Close. The dates for the walks for the remainder of the year are:

- Mon 3 June
- Mon 1 July
- Mon 5 Aug - no walk
- Mon 2 Sept
- Mon 7 Oct
- Mon 4 Nov
- Mon 2 Dec

If you fancy joining us feel free to give me a ring or just turn up. You will be very welcome!

Sally Bergmann
07585 195669

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

or ring **Julie on 07980 413026.**

Changes to telephone landlines



The UK's telephone network is being upgraded, which means that landline services are changing.

You can still have a landline in your home, but the technology that powers it will be different. This means that, in future, landline calls will be delivered over digital technology called Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which uses a broadband (internet) connection.

For most, switching over will be straightforward, but some people may need new equipment or support to make the changes.

The decision to upgrade has been made by industry, not Ofcom (the telecommunications regulator) or the UK Government. However, Ofcom does have rules that telephone suppliers have to adhere to, in order to protect customers in power cuts, and to require phone companies to provide access to emergency calls.

When the changes are happening

This change will be happening across the country and for most networks the move to digital landlines will be complete by December 2025 (though this may be delayed to 2027).

Your supplier will let you know when they are moving you. For example, BT who are rolling it out region by region, will begin making the change in Oxfordshire in spring 2024.

If you already have a broadband connection, you may only need to plug your phone into your broadband router or use an adapter to connect your phone and router together.

Contact your telephone supplier and let them know if you:

- have a disability or any other needs that mean you will need extra help with this change
- don't have a mobile phone or if the mobile phone signal at your home is too poor to ring for emergency services

Your telephone supplier may be able to delay changing your system or provide additional help during the change.

What effect will the change have on personal alarms and telecare?

This switchover may affect some telecare devices and other equipment such as pendant alarms. Carium is the supplier for people who have an alarm fitted by Oxfordshire Social Services. New Carium devices are already digital and will work after the switchover. If you have an older device, Carium will get in touch with you to swap it for a digital version.

If your device is not from Carium, we suggest that you take the following steps:

- Contact your **personal alarm or telecare device supplier** to check if your device will be affected. If you need to upgrade your device, they may be able to provide this for free or they may need to charge a one-off fee.
- Whoever your **telephone supplier** is, make sure they're aware that you have a telecare alarm and will need extra support during the switchover.

What effect will the change have on home-security alarms?

If you have a home-security alarm, such as a burglar alarm, which uses your telephone line to alert you when the alarm is triggered, you will need to contact your alarm provider to check if your device will be affected by the digital switchover. If you need to upgrade your device, they may be able to provide this for free or they may need to charge a one-off fee.

What effect will the change have during power cuts?

The new digital landline system will rely on electricity from your household electrical socket, so will not work during a power cut. You can use a mobile phone as a 'back-up' way of getting in touch with people. Checking your mobile phone signal in various areas of your home would be sensible to ensure you can make a call should you be in bed, for example.

You may wish to change your mobile phone provider if another service has better signal in your area. If you live somewhere where you rely on your landline (for example you may have not have a mobile phone, or experience poor mobile signal), then your landline telephone supplier will offer you a 'resilience solution' to make sure you can still make emergency calls during a power outage.

Ofcom rules for telephone suppliers currently state they only need to ensure you have access to emergency calls for 1 hour, though most suppliers are providing solutions which will last on stand-by for up to 8 hours.

What effect will the change have on how you make calls?

When you pick up your phone, you will not hear a dial-tone. When you make a call, you will need to use the full phone number including the area code for all calls. For example, when calling Oxford City Council, you will need to enter 01865 249811, even if you live in Oxford.

Be aware of scams!

We have been made aware that scammers are calling people claiming they need to hand over bank details as part of the switchover, or they will be disconnected. The digital switchover is free of charge, and councils and their care alarm providers and contractors will NEVER ask for personal or financial information over the phone. If you've come across a scam or any fraudulent activity, please report it to **Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040**.

CONSULTATION:

*Goring Heath proposed 20mph,
30mph & 40mph Speed Limits*



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Oxfordshire County Council wants to make our built environments safer and more attractive places to walk and cycle. To enable this, 20mph speed restrictions are being used to help promote alternative modes of transport for local travel.

Further details on how the council is considering making 20mph the new 30mph for Oxfordshire communities can be found at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/requesting-20mph>

We're therefore asking for your views on the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit within Whitchurch Hill part of Goring Heath, replacing the majority of the existing 30mph speed limit in the process. Additionally, speed limits on the B471 Whitchurch Road will be reduced to 30mph from the village leading southwards, and to 40mph between the village & the Cray's Pond crossroads to the north.

The proposals are being put forward following road safety concerns raised by the parish, and form part of a countywide programme of works that seeks to deliver 'a safer place with a safer pace' for the residents of Oxfordshire. In light of this, the following consultation documents can be viewed on on the Council's consultation portal:

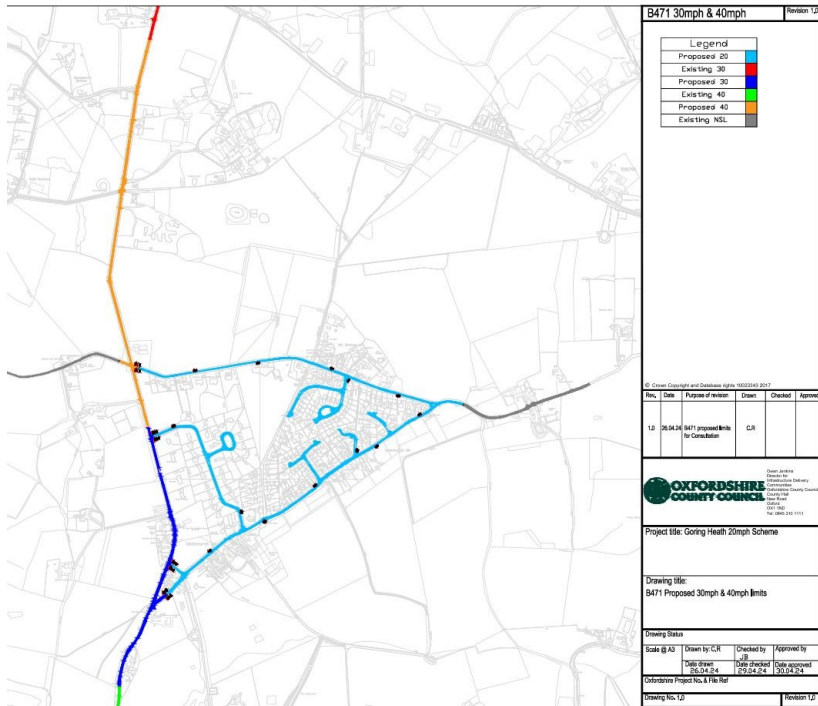
https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/goringheath_speedlimits2024

- Public Notice,
- Statement of Reasons,
- Consultation Plan(s), and
- Draft Traffic Regulation Order(s).

The proposed Traffic Regulation Order was advertised in the Oxfordshire Herald Series newspaper on Wednesday 22nd May 2024, and details are also available to view on the Council's consultation portal.

As stated on the notice, any objections or other representations on the proposal should be submitted by **Friday 14th June 2024**.

Proposed speed limits for Whitchurch Hill and B471 Whitchurch Road



Keep Clear!

As the hedges and verges grow ever thicker, it is important that we keep our footways, pavements and rights of way unobstructed.

If you own or manage property, be it fields or gardens, that adjoins a right of way then it is your responsibility to not cause obstruction.

This is particularly important regarding the footway that runs alongside the B471. The Parish Council do arrange for regular mowing but cutting back of hedges and shrubs etc is very much down to the owner of the property.

Also, keeping 'lines of sight' clear at road junctions is covered by these rules (Section 130 Highways Act 1980).

Martin Wise

The Whitchurch Hill Fete Needs You!

Yet another fabulous Fete was enjoyed in bright sunshine on Bank Holiday Saturday this year. Our thanks must go to Peter Burdon and all the helpers and volunteers who, over the years have made the fete such a memorable occasion.



But, after two years at the helm, Peter has to step back and more hands are needed to join the team to make the magic happen again in 2025!

Can you help with any of the vacant roles?

Set up and take down	Peter Burdon
Stall Holder Liaison	Vacant
Bunting	Vacant
Bottle Stall Collectors - Organiser	Vacant
Bottle Stall Labelling/Storage	Emma Burdon
Treasurer	Peter Burdon
Raffle Organiser and Stall	Vacant
Car Parking	Amanda Holland
First Aid Organiser	Amanda Holland
Coconut Shy Organiser	Vacant
Signage	Vacant

To find out more and get involved, just drop a line to the Parish Clerk Emma Burdon at goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com



FETE RAFFLE

**We would like to thank the following
for donating raffle prizes:**



GORING HARDWARE

LINA TANDOORI - PANGBOURNE

VIRGO BEAUTY – GORING

GORING VILLAGE BUTCHERS

THE GORING GROCER

THE CHEESE SHOP – PANGBOURNE

NINO'S ITALIAN DELI – PANGBORNE

GREEN'S BUTCHERS – PANGBOURNE

MASOOM'S INDIAN REST. – GORING

EMMA DAG

AMANDA HOLLAND

EMMA & PETER BURDON



Whitchurch Hill Fete 2024 in Pictures!







After an energetic egg throwing competition, the winners of the Martin Wise Trophy for 2024 were Laura and Alice.

Congratulations for a hard fought win!

The Future of Villages

A recent informal evening meeting of the Local History Society saw about ten members and guests sit around the table and chat about what changes we had seen in the Goring Heath and Whitchurch , Woodcote and Checkendon communities over the last 50 or so years. I know what you are thinking....not so much a meeting, more of a day centre.

However, from a sometimes-nostalgic ramble a common theme emerged. Firstly, the realisation that all those voluntary roles that keep the social/cultural life of our communities alive are all carried out by ageing people and that without the involvement of a new generation of local activists these things will die out.

This led us to discuss why this situation had developed. The huge increase in women able to pursue careers was immediately an apparent factor. Whether for reasons of financial necessity or personal fulfilment that chunk of the population who were previously 'available' are no longer so.

Developed transport infrastructure has made it possible for folk to commute greater distances for work, taking up more free time. An abundance of other available leisure activities has also had an effect.

Working in the village, as I do, I am amazed at how few people I see out and about. Those that are about are nearly all seniors!

So what of the future? Our Village Fete, greatly enjoyed with a reputation that spreads well beyond RG8, is in peril of folding. Peter Burdon, who has done SO MUCH over the last two years to develop the whole 'fete process' is not able to take command next year and without a strong committee this event will surely fold. There are many ways to help and many hands make light work!

Our village will become a rather depressing dormitory without its cultural heart.

If you possibly can, do step up to keep our villages alive.

Martin Wise



Tinepits Pond

As you may have noticed, the first stage in our restoration of Crays Pond has been completed and we now await the point later in the year when the excavation and removal of silt etc can be carried out.

In the meantime, our attention turns to another of our ancient ponds. Tinepits Pond, normally a seasonal feature, is still full.

Nonetheless, we are to commission an ecological survey of the pond and its environs. This will form the basis of any future management plans.

Martin Wise



From the Editor

The article from the Cray's Pond Community Group in April's edition stimulated some correspondence!

Whilst the Cray's Pond Community Group is focused on retaining the ACV on the White Lion and preserve it as a pub for the benefit of local residents, others in the community have different views about its future. This month, another perspective is presented by a Cray's Pond resident, along with letter concerned about the use of personal data by the Community Group.

And, I'd like to stress that the opinions expressed in the newsletter are not those of the Parish Council (or the Editor!). Rather the newsletter is offering a forum to air a range of views.

As a post-script, the decision on the ACV is due to be published by SODC around 14th June.

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the appeal for support for the campaign to save the now derelict White Lion Pub in Cray's Pond (Newsletter 196 April, 2024) by the Cray's Pond Community Group. My issue is to do with the possible misuse of residents' personal data. The article states that it "Many residents of Goring Heath have already registered as supporter through our website'. I believe what they actually have is simply a mailing list. I myself was previously on this list; I thought it was a means of keeping up to date with what was going on. As I now remain neutral on the subject of the future of the pub, I had to resort to asking the community group to remove my details from their mailing list, for fear of being misconstrued as a 'supporter'. They use the number of people on the list as being deemed to demonstrate a metric of support. I feel sure that many people on this mailing list do not know the way their data is being used.

My advice to local residents, who may have given their details to the Crays Pond Community Group, and are no longer 'supporters' of the White Lion pub scheme, is that they should write to the group and ask that their details are removed. I believe the email address they use is crayspondcommunitygroup@gmail.com - insert 'White Lion Campaign' in the subject line.

For what it is worth, my initial preference ideally would have been for the pub to open again; but under the ownership of professional management. However, against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis, energy costs, and business rates, I am very doubtful it this is feasible. Recent figures show that almost 400 pubs closed in the first six months of 2023; more than two a day vanished, almost matching the total for the whole of 2022 when 386 were lost.

Regards

Ian Reynolds

The White Lion, Cray's Pond : Remove the ACV Status

The article published in the April 2024 edition of the Newsletter represents only one side of the White Lion story. The article was written by the “Cray's Pond Community Group” with the implication that it has widespread support in the village. The Group seems to claim that anyone with whom it has communicated is a supporter; but this does not necessarily reflect the level of support within the village.

The Group is seeking to retain the ‘Asset of Community Value’ (ACV) status for the White Lion on the basis that the village needs a pub and retaining a pub improves the amenities available to the community.

An alternative view is that the argument that Cray's Pond needs a pub no longer holds. When the pub started trading, there were no televisions, no cars, and no possibility that local residents could find entertainment elsewhere. The day of the “pub” has probably gone. Like stagecoaches, steam railways and red telephone boxes, they serve no purpose other than as records of the life of past generations. There is an argument that the village needs a better facility than the scout hut; a place with meeting rooms and a café facility. However, it is questionable whether a facility whose prime purpose is to serve alcohol is needed. A community centre would provide a much better and focused service than a pub.

The Group has set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) with the aim of buying the property, but it is not clear how they will find the money to purchase and rebuild the pub; possibly by building houses for sale on the site?

Many residents feel that the longer the ACV remains in place, the weaker the argument for the ACV. Can we break the deadlock by removing the ACV and seeing what the owner proposes to do? If we do not like it, we can object. Until the situation is resolved, we have a deteriorating eyesore in the middle of the village.

How can you help remove the ACV

Register your objection at the SODC:

communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk

Contact your SODC councillor: peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk

Contact your county councillor: kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Bill Johns,

Cray's Pond Resident

Whitchurch United Charities

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

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

Applications are processed twice a year, with the closing dates being 31st March and 30th September. However, late applications are considered if the available funds for the previous 6 month period have not been fully allocated.

All applications and decisions are treated in strict confidence by the Trustees.

If you would like to know more, please do contact Sarah Dixon (our Grant Application Secretary).

Phone: 0118 984 4262

Address: Flint House, Hardwick Road, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7HH

e-mail: whitchurchunitedcharities@gmail.com

Chess Group

Another regular community group, meeting on the first and third Wednesdays at the Sun Pub at 12 noon.

Anywhere between four and eight participants generally attend, and games are organised at random, so over time everyone gets to play each other.

Whilst each game is of course competitive the atmosphere is friendly and supportive.

If you fancy knowing more please ring Chris on 07876531881.

You would be made very welcome!

Chris Bergmann

General Election 4th July 2024

Check you are ready to vote!



DATE	DEADLINE to:
18 th June	Register to vote
19 th June (5pm)	Apply for a postal vote
26 th June (5pm)	Apply for a proxy vote*
26 th June (5pm)	Apply for a voter authority certificate, the free ID that allows you to vote if you do not have the newly necessary photo ID**

* You can apply for an emergency proxy vote in some circumstances up to 5pm on election day

** You can apply for a voter authority certificate online at

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate>

REPAIR CAFÉ

Goring Village Hall

Saturdays 11:00am—1:30pm

1st Saturday every alternate month

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 Bellème



Dates — 1 June, 3 Aug, 5 Oct, 7 Dec 2024

Information: 07789 871620

Woodcote Volunteers

Tea Party initiative for our clients

The new Tea Parties are proving very popular with our clients. One of our client's daughters wrote to us afterwards, "I just wanted to say a huge thank you for yesterday. Mum had such a lovely time. She's really looking forward to next month! Such a wonderful thing to organise and very much appreciated by all, I'm sure."



The tea parties are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 2pm – 3.30pm at the Community Centre in Woodcote (for our clients only, sorry). We do need new drivers to assist us with the running of this initiative, and would appreciate any help you can provide. If you would like to get involved, please email info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk. Thank you.

Blue Badge Applications – help for clients

It appears that the Blue Badges we hold as an organisation may not be renewed as of March 2025 – seemingly a new policy by the Council. The Blue Badges we hold help our drivers and clients immensely – it means our most disabled clients can be dropped close to the entrance of the places they need to get to – especially important when it comes to parking at hospitals.

To try to mitigate this loss, we are building a team of volunteers who will help clients who don't already hold them, to apply for their own Blue Badges. It has the additional benefit of allowing our clients' family and friends to park in disabled bays when they go out together.

We need more helpers with this project, so if you are good with form filling and could assist one or two people, please would you get in touch? You will be doing a huge service to our most vulnerable clients. Thank you. Contact details are on our website www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk

Saturday Coffee Morning

We will be hosting a fundraising coffee morning at Woodcote Community Centre on Saturday, 8th June, 10:00 – 12:30. We would love to see you there! Meet your friends or make new ones, over coffee and home made cakes and cookies.

TO FINISH.....

We would like to welcome some new volunteers to our team – Isobel, Wendy and Jane who are helping with our tea parties in their different roles and also Sheila, who along with Wendy, will be helping clients with their Blue Badge applications. Thanks to all of you for so kindly giving your time.

If you could help in any way, we would love to hear from you! Please go to our website to find out more about the various roles and how to contact us.

To book a driver, call 01491 681171 giving as much notice as possible.

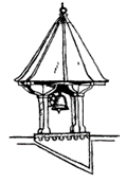
To volunteer, email: info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk

Find out more about us: www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers

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.

Goring Heath Parish Hall: Hall Cleaner Wanted



We are looking for a cleaner for our Parish Hall to help ensure that it is in a smart and clean condition for our hirers. We believe that the attractive building and well-kept state of our hall is a key factor in drawing people to use our hall. The cleaning role is considered vital in supporting this.

The cleaning duties are normally up to two hours per week depending on the bookings and the hours can be flexible.

If you are interested or would like to know more please contact Chris Whatmore (Chairman) on 0118 9844022 or email whatmore@talk21.com.

A warm welcome to Daisy

Daisy has just started her new role volunteering in the Parish for her Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award.

Thank you Daisy, and enjoy your time helping out!





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

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

Citizens Advice: fighting negative budgets with positive help

The rising cost of living and debt hardship in recent years is a familiar story, but very recently the issue has become alarming enough to reach the condition of a national emergency. This is why Citizens Advice has brought some entirely new vocabulary into play, declaring in recent publicity that five million people in this country (one in 15 households) are living on “negative budgets” – in other words, they have nothing in the bank and are in permanent debt. Another 2.3 million people only manage to stay out of debt by cutting back even on living essentials. They know that once their bank accounts dip below zero it takes an extraordinary effort to climb out of the pit.

Citizens Advice says that the biggest cause of negative budgets is rising housing costs, but there are other factors such as higher energy bills, and salaries and benefits that cannot keep pace with inflation.

If you are in debt yourself and locked in battle against creditors and the cost of necessities, remember that Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is there to help you. Our experienced advisers can work through your income and spending and set a personal budget that meets your basic needs while also setting a plan for paying off your debts in the long term. We can find out whether you are entitled to benefits, or enhanced benefits, and discuss whether you could do something to increase your earnings. We can point you in the direction of money helper websites or “breathing space” schemes.

So don't despair, but get in touch with us right away. Call our local Adviceline on 0808 278 7907 or our national Debt Helpline on 0800 240 4420.

And have a look at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> Free, confidential and impartial advice is always available.

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.

What's happening at Checkendon Pre-school: Look what we have been doing....



We are delighted to be back for another exciting term after a lovely Easter break. We have been playing lots of games both inside and outside to support listening skills and understanding instructions, such as Old MacDonalds Lotto, What's the time Mr Wolf, and Simon Says.

It's the final term of Pre-School before the children start their new adventures in their Primary schools. We will be helping to prepare them for their transition from Pre School to school, with a variety of fun activities designed to support them through their transition, preparing for their next steps.

The children are looking forward to Wheels Week, bringing in bikes, scooters, and ride-a-longs to Pre-School. This encourages the children to negotiate space, support balance and co-ordination as well as a great way to introduce them to road safety. Wheels Week is always a children's favourite.

Each week for 11 weeks we will add new activities on your Tapestry for you to do with your children at home. These activities are a great way to provide ideas of ways in which you can support your child's learning at home.

To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, do visit our website:

www.checkendonpreschool.co.uk

call us on 01491 682589

e-mail preschoolcheckendon@gmail.com

or just pop in – we always look forward to welcoming you to Checkendon Pre-School.

Kelly Mullins

Ways you can support Checkendon Pre-School

Sign up to raise funds for the Pre-School at- <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/checkendonpreschool/>

Checkendon Pre School CIO. Registered as a Charity No. 1156803 Checkendon Village Hall, Checkendon, Nr Reading, South Oxfordshire, RG8 0SR



What's the time Mr Wolf



Sound Lotto



Simon Says

HANDMADE Oxford

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY
CRAFTS FESTIVAL

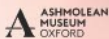
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COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

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07866 202908, 0118 9844711
peter.dragonetti@southoxon.gov.uk

Council Offices: Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon OX14 3JE
See below for dept. phone contacts www.southoxon.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kevin Bulmer 35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY
07803 005680 kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Council Offices: County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND
01865 792422 www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

POLICE	Thames Valley Police	0845-8505505
POLICE	PEC – Non-Emergency Calls	101
POTHLES	-	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

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

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
12th July 2024	August 2024
13th September 2024	October 2024
15th November 2024	December 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	
	totsonthehill@myyahoo.com	
Whitchurch Hill Camera Club	www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.com	
Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society	Vicky Jordan	01189843260
	vickyjordan5@hotmail.com	
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning	Wendy Ferguson	01189841262
	wendyefergie@gmail.com	
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	01189842162
Woodcote Volunteers	Jane Forde	07850158274

Goring Heath Parish Hall: Bookings and Enquiries: Chris Whatmore 07850691920
Email: whatmore@talk21.com

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Advertising in the Newsletter

The Newsletter is issued every two months and covers Goring Heath, Cray's 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