

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

August 2024
Issue 198

Visit us at:
www.goringheath.com
Facebook: 'Goring Heath Parish News'
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com



Breast Walk Ever Oxfordshire



**Sunday
15 September
2024**

*Take part
from just
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 /BreastWalk

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#BreastWalkEver

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Against Breast Cancer is a registered charity in England and Wales
Registered Charity No. 1121258



Chair's Comments

July is footpath month!

I have been wearing out my trainers, and getting them very muddy in places, carrying out my twice annual survey of our 'Rights of Way' network.

When I volunteered to be the Chiltern Society's local path representative I didn't realise quite how many paths we have in the parish, and how varied they are. From tracks and bridleways to footpaths through the woods.

As well as mud, I have found plenty of brambles. This wet summer has meant a bumper crop of brambles, which may be a good sign for a good blackberry harvest, but less good for anyone walking through the woods with bare legs!

Luckily help is at hand in the form of the 'Path Maintenance Team' from the Chiltern Society, a volunteer group who spend their free time fixing gates, cutting undergrowth and removing fallen trees. Oxfordshire County Council are responsible for maintaining all public highways, but they rely on local volunteers to do much of the small-scale maintenance work.

Apart from the brambles I always enjoy doing the survey as it makes me visit parts of the parish which I seldom venture into. Nothing as exciting as launching into the dark scary woods in search of bears, more a pleasant stroll with the red kites wheeling overhead, and the odd deer scampering away.

Other than tramping the footpaths, and cycling the bridleways, the Parish Council is having a relatively quiet summer break. Traditionally we do not have a meeting in August, but we will, of course, still be keeping an eye on any planning applications that come in, and anything else that crops up that needs our attention.

After all the rain on St Swithin's Day which may not bode well for the rest of the summer, don't let that stop you discovering some of our local paths, on foot or as riders on bridleways (see note overleaf). The path from Hod's Corner should be cut soon, as well as that by Copyhold Farm. They make a lovely circular route from Whitchurch Hill. Enjoy!

Liz Collas

Chair of the Parish Council




NB - Footpaths!

If any horse riders or cyclists are reading this, please remember that not all rights of way are for you! On many of the footpaths in the woods I have found copious quantities of piles of debris left as evidence from a rider- I assume that the horse was not a riderless escapee.

Footpaths are for feet – those belonging the two-legged variety and their four-legged walking companions, not those with which leave horse shoe shaped imprints as further evidence that they were there. Horses and cyclists churn up the surface of the paths and make them much muddier and less pleasant to walk for the rest of us.

Dates for your Diary

Event	Day	Date
Woodcote Village Fete	Saturday	14th September
Thames 200 Community Challenge (road closures from 8:30am - 3:30pm)	Saturday	14th September
Breast Walk Ever - Oxfordshire (Wallingford)	Sunday	15th September
History Society September Meeting	Thursday	19th September
The Whitchurch Society at the Art Café, Whitchurch on Thames	Saturday	12th October
Whitchurch Art and Craft Exhibition	Saturday/ Sunday	23rd and 24th November

Planning Decisions The following planning applications, submitted between 15th May and 9th July 2024 have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received <u>written</u> confirmation from SODC.		
Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
<u>P24/S1652/LDP</u> 26 Orchard Coombe, Whitchurch Hill Installation of roof-mounted solar panels	No strong views	
<u>P24/S1901/LDE</u> The Old Village Inn, Goffs Hill, Cray's Pond Confirmation that the planning application that was approved on 15 June 2010, ref P10/E0526, remains in place. Works were completed on the annex on the property, however the two storey extension on the house was not completed, we would like to proceed with the works in line with the plans that were submitted. The building controls certificate of completion app no is B10.0511/ F dated 27 November 2011.	No strong views	
<u>P24/S1748/FUL</u> Technology Centre, Bozedown Drive Whitchurch Hill Construction of single storey building for testing and research activities in connection with electric vehicles and battery technology. Temporary planning permission for a period of five years.	No strong views	
<u>P24/S1678/LB and P24/S1677/HH</u> Rose Cottage, Path Hill, Goring Heath Application for an amendment to approved application P22/S0539/HH and P22/S0540/LB - Proposed demolition of existing side extension and construction of new replacement side extension to amend the size of the extension to reduce the height and reduce the floor area over the previous approval. In addition, to replace the existing 1970s French doors to the sitting room, to replace a window in the 1980s extension with a pair of French doors, to replace all of the 1970s windows, and to incorporate PV solar panels to the south-facing roof of the 1970s detached garage building.	No strong views	LB Consent PP Granted

Whitchurch Hill WI



We are keeping busy, with our regular monthly business meetings (complete with speakers), our monthly lunch socials and our knit and natter groups.

In June we raised money for MacMillan Nurses at our very own strawberry tea. Alison and Sarah certainly catered well, with sandwiches and cakes better than you might well find in a commercial establishment. With no charge levied for those attending everyone there was more than willing to make a charitable donation to this worthy cause.



Following a talk in June by Sarah Somerville on "The History of Shaw House" members are looking forward to visiting there in early August, which will replace our monthly lunch group.

Later in the month our regular meeting will be on the green in Whitchurch Hill (weather permitting of course).

During Covid when we could only meet outdoors this proved popular so every August we aim to relive those fresh air moments. Ladies bring along their own chair and liquid refreshments whilst the Committee may lay on an activity or two for the morning. Who knows what we will get up to!



In September we are hosting a talk from Austin Crabbe to learn about the "Affinity Trust at Englefield Garden Centre". As many of us visit there throughout the year it is likely to prove a popular session. October sees us hearing about - and no doubt doing "Seated Zumba" under the watchful eye of Thea Rogers. Certainly a new one on me. We will have no doubt enjoyed a few more lunches by then so it might prove to be a timely event!

Ladies from Whitchurch Hill and beyond are always welcome to join us so if you want to know more please feel free to ring Frances on 01189842162.

Sally Bergmann

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>



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www.theflowerartisan.co.uk

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

District Councillor's Commentary



Well, now we know, and for the first time there is no Conservative MP for Henley, or indeed for any constituency in Oxfordshire. I do not expect that the change of government will much affect the District Council or how it is run as most of what we do is, such as waste collection, is not a political issue. However there are to be changes to the planning system, and perhaps Oxford will be lose more of the green belt to development to create the economic growth that only seems to be achievable by sacrificing natural resources at a faster rate.

At South Oxfordshire we are progressing the creation of the new Joint Local Plan. Our current local plan provided for thousands of new homes in the District, so we cannot be accused of standing in the way of development and economic growth. There are several places where sites have already been given planning permission, including one site called North East Didcot where consent for about 2300 homes was given in 2017 and which, 7 years later, is still being built. Other strategic sites identified in the current plan are awaiting action by the developers.

The Council is working on a new Joint Local Plan with the Vale of White Horse; a few months ago there was an extensive consultation process which used a range of ways to attract as many opinions as possible. In June, the Council won a Highly Commended award at the Planning Resource Awards in the category for Stakeholder Engagement.

The Planning team is now working through all the comments and responses to the consultation, and the timetable is for a draft Local Plan to be published in the autumn of this year for more consultation, with a plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State in the spring of next year and the plan adopted late 2025.

In the Joint Local Plan will be planning policies that help address the climate emergency, restore nature, and meet the needs of our residents, such as delivering genuinely affordable low-carbon homes with the right infrastructure to go with it.

The intention is that the plan will address issues of standards in new homes to achieve net zero and to set standards for more efficient use of water. While the Net Zero standard of carbon reduction is addressing a global problem, the question of water efficiency is much more local.

South East England has water supply issues as there has not been much investment in water infrastructure despite the significant increase in population

and development over the last 30 or so years. Somehow these needs must be met, as well as the challenge that climate change may have on rainfall. The plans for a huge new reservoir near Abingdon have been dusted off again, and are now out for consultation. This is a reservoir not only for the local area but also to serve London. Improvements to water efficiency in new homes will only partially obviate the need for this reservoir, as there are many existing homes with inefficient use of water, not only locally but in the entire Thames Valley area.

Peter Dragonetti

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

Charity Event - Road Closure on Saturday 14th September

The Thames 200 Community Challenge charity event is taking place around Goring Heath and Mapledurham on Saturday 14th September.

There will be road closures between 8:30am - 3:30 pm affecting:

- ◆ The road from the B4526 Reading Road (Goring Heath) south-eastwards to Sheepways Lane (Trench Green);
- ◆ Mill Lane, southwards from the above road to Mapledurham Road;
- ◆ On Mapledurham Road from the Village to Mill Lane



THAMES 200 COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2024

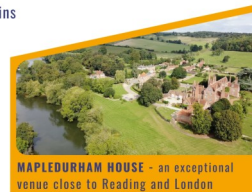
- ▶ Assemble a **team** of up to 10 participants
- ▶ Choose **your** race: **Swim/Bike/Run** or all 3
- ▶ Complete as many laps as you can
- ▶ The most laps in **200 minutes** wins

“ SERIOUSLY
FUN WITH A
FESTIVAL VIBE! ”

Fancy racing alongside
your kids? Check out our
Family Challenge



LIVE MUSIC • BBQ'N'BEERS • CAMPING



MAPLEDURHAM HOUSE - an exceptional venue close to Reading and London

The alternative route for traffic affected is via Sheepways Lane, A4074 Reading Road, B4526 and vice-versa

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 some-times, 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 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

Asian Hornet Monitoring - Update

The Asian Hornet traps ordered by the Parish Council have arrived and are being distributed around the Parish with help from our local resident, Sue.

The traps allow other insects in, but they can escape - only the hornet will remain in the trap for collection.

The traps will be monitored - the expectation is that these hornets will not arrive before this autumn or spring 2025. But the Parish will be ready if and when a queen is spotted in the area!



Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

Summer sees members going on outings. Our visit to Uffington took place on a beautiful sunny day which really enhanced the downland scenery, and the White Horse could be clearly seen on the hill above. The Tom Brown's Schooldays museum had extensive information about the monuments in the area, the school building, and a special display about a downed World War II aircraft.

Our next stop was at "the cathedral of the vale", the enormous cruciform church in the village.

After a pub lunch in Woolstone we went on to Compton Beauchamp where we found the little estate church in an idyllic spot among fields and trees.

We hope for more good weather for our visit to Goring and Streatley, when we will follow the map of the heritage trail. From roman river crossing to railway, and Oscar Wilde to George Michael, it will be interesting to learn about our closest neighbour and compare its history with ours.

In August everyone takes a rest, but we come back together on Thursday 19th September to hear Mike Cooper talk about "the Defence of Reading, from Vikings to Nuclear War".

The Society meets on the third Thursday of the month with lectures and member-led meetings from September to May. Membership fee is just £12 per annum and includes refreshments.

Contact Vicky Jordan, vickyjordan5@hotmail.com

Phone: 0118 984 3260

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.



How to spot a scam!

With the world becoming more digital, scams are on the rise. Below are some examples of the latest scams and some useful tips on how to spot them and protect yourself.

Direct debit refund scam warning

We are aware of a scam circulating on social media regarding victims of fraud in Oxford. Whilst we are not aware of any customers of Oxford City Council that have been victims, we wanted to warn residents to help keep them safe.

Adverts on social media are offering free, “risk-free” money by claiming back refunds of direct debits via your bank. This includes rent and Council Tax payments - but could also apply to any direct debit. Some victims have been contacted in person or via direct message.

This could put your home at risk, or you could end up being taken to court.

Three top tips:

- ◆ Keep your money safe by **never** sharing your bank account information with anyone
- ◆ **Remember**, if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- ◆ **Report** the scam to [Action Fraud fraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call them on **0300 123 2040**.

Digital switchover - potential scams

The transition from analogue to digital technologies has created new opportunities for criminals to target residents. For example, criminals may use phishing emails, fake websites, or phone calls to trick residents into providing personal information, such as bank account details or passwords. This information can then be used to steal money or commit identity theft. There is also the potential for increases in criminality through rogue traders selling equipment, charging for unnecessary work, or trying to pressurise members of the community into new contracts related to the digital switchover.

Around 1.8 million people use healthcare devices nationally, and we are concerned that reports of scams will increase as the 2025 switchover date approaches.

As with all scams, we advise you to contact your bank to stop any payments and discuss this with family or friends. Report any scams or fraudulent activity to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or via their [website](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

QR code scams in car parks

Scammers have been sticking fake QR codes on ticket machines in car parks. Ticket machines often contain scannable QR codes, which enable drivers to download the car park operator's app to pay for their parking. However, scammers are sticking fake codes to machines in an attempt to trick victims. If you scan a fake code, you will be taken to a website where you will be asked to enter your payment details. If you enter your details, you may be signed up for a recurring monthly payment.

Always check to make sure there is not another QR code underneath it.

TV licence scam

If you receive a text message regarding your TV licence please do not click on any links provided, including to set up a direct debit.

TV licencing will never send you a text saying you are entitled to a refund, ask you to set up a payment plan, or ask you to provide your bank details. They will never ask you for your personal information and they will not send you a text saying they can offer you a cheaper TV licence.

If in doubt call TV licencing from the telephone number on your paper TV licence.

Mobile phone scams

Be aware if you receive a text apparently from your son/daughter/grandchild stating for example

- ◆ "I have borrowed a phone as I have lost my phone/its been stolen. Can you please send me money as I cannot get home or I cannot buy food/pay rent. Could you please help me by transferring the money to this account?" giving a new sort code and account number
- ◆ "Hi mum I am texting off a friend's phone I have smashed mine and this phone is about to die, can you please WhatsApp my new number straightaway?"
- ◆ "Mum/Dad, I have dropped my mobile phone down the toilet, please can you transfer money to this account? I have no access to my bank account and I urgently need money to pay bills/go shopping for food"

These messages are often used by scammers to persuade friends and family to urgently send money to new bank accounts.

You can also report and get advice about fraud or cyber crime by calling 0300 123 2040. If someone calls you and claims they're from your bank, asks you to transfer money or make a payment, or wants to talk about your finances but it doesn't seem quite right, you can contact your bank by calling 159. Do this from another phone in case the scammer has stayed on the line.

New Building Update



We have made significant progress on our new building since our last update at Easter. Thanks to the amazing Pre-School Committee plus Chris Bell and Lawrie Gatherum, our planning application has now been submitted!

This is a huge step forward in a short space of time, so we are grateful to those giving up their time and expertise. Hopefully, by the time this is printed, we will have planning approval.

The plan is for a new, modular building with a similar footprint to the current one. This building will be both space and energy efficient, with an improved layout for the children and staff to enjoy - perfect for future generations. It will be a massive improvement on the current building which is over 50 years old and currently has to be propped up.



As the current building will not last this winter, we are aiming to start preparations prior to the October half term, completing the construction before Christmas. We are grateful to the school for supporting our plans and hope to keep making good progress in the coming months.

£70k funding gap

Alongside this, we have been busy applying for grants for which the Pre-School may be eligible. We have applied for over 10 grants big and small from Morrisons to the National Lottery. Sadly, we have been rejected from a number of these and our funding gap is approximately £70k. So we need every penny we can get.

We had visits from both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat candidates to raise the profile of our campaign. We have also been on BBC News, in the Henley Standard and Heart FM. We are hopeful that the Parish Council can

commit half of their CIL money from this year's budget. Our local community has kindly donated over £3,000 through our online donation page, plus other fundraising efforts have brought in £3,000.

But a significant gap remains and time is running out before we need to place the order for the new building and without this we will have to close the Pre-school.

If you can help, please get in touch at hello@whitchurchpreschool.org



Scan the QR code to go to:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/save-our-preschool>

Fundraising

We are grateful to you all who are helping to fundraise for us. A big thank you to Lottie and Charlotte at the Greyhound Pub for hosting a charity quiz night in May, to those who donated prizes and to the winning team who donated their prize money to our cause. Plus volunteers and bakers helping at ice cream Fridays and other activities.

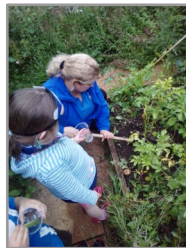
We must also mention a local 11-year-old girl, Amelia, who individually organised her own cake sale in support of our cause, promoting the event and made her own cakes. On her own she raised £168. Amazing!



Our Summer Term

We have had so much fun this summer term. Our highlights include sports week, getting active and learning new skills. We have also learnt how to grow vegetables in our allotment and discover outdoor friends at the same time. Finally we have been preparing our school leavers for their transition to school. We can't wait for the next term to begin,

Happy holidays to everyone!





RG8 Badminton

**** NEW SEASON STARTS SEPTEMBER 2024***

We are a small, friendly and sociable club.

We play regularly during the badminton season and our club members range in different levels and abilities. We welcome new adult members but are currently unable to take any new youth members (14 years plus in full time education) but please register an interest and we will be in touch when capacity allows. Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate beginners.

We meet on Thursday evenings in the Community Sports Hall at Langtree School (term time only) 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

Subscriptions are paid on a seasonal basis (Sept - May). It equates to approx. £3 - £4 per session for adults and £2 for youth members. An introductory session is provided free of charge.

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**.



Crays Pond Goring Heath Community Speedwatch Group Summer Update

You may have seen our small team of Speedwatch volunteers monitoring traffic speeds in Goring Heath, although we have reduced the number of Speedwatch sessions over the summer months to accommodate holidays. However, with only 4 volunteers we are still struggling to run sessions: three volunteers are required at each session.

We have evidence to show that Speedwatch is effective in slowing traffic long term, but we do need to maintain visibility. It is the presence of the Speedwatch team that has an impact rather than logging those who exceed the speed limit.

To run sessions, we desperately need more volunteers. Just one hour a month of your time would make a real difference. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch via speed-watch@outlook.com

Many thanks for supporting your Community Speedwatch Group.

The Whitchurch Art & Craft Exhibition 2024

The Whitchurch Society are very pleased to be holding this popular annual event again, in the Whitchurch Village Hall on Manor Road, on the weekend of 23rd & 24th November.

This is a 'live' format exhibition which is open for all current residents and ex-residents of Whitchurch-on-Thames, Whitchurch Hill and Goring Heath to enter. Plus children at local schools.

There are various categories – something for everyone! Our fabulous judges will be awarding cups for best exhibits in Art, in Craft, in Photography and for Film & Animation (New Media). There is also recognition for best first-time adult exhibitor and junior winners in four age groups too.

This year's theme for the special Joyce Voysey prize is 'Colours of Autumn'. You are encouraged to start thinking about how you might produce a piece of art, craft, a photo or a film which interprets this subject – but please remember that your entries for all the other classes can be on any subject whatsoever.

Details about how to enter will be available by the end of September on the village website and Facebook and look out for posters around the village later this year.

We will be hosting an Art Café in The Old Stables on Saturday 12th October to raise funds for this exhibition. We would love you to join us for a cuppa and piece of cake.

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

We look forward to seeing your creations this Autumn.

Sally Woolhouse

Woodcote Volunteers

Getting our clients out and about

We don't just take people to medical appointments! Some clients enjoying the board games afternoon at Woodcote Library.



Tea Party for our clients – Summer Break

The new Tea Parties are proving very popular with our clients. We would like to extend a big thank you to Henry Law who entertained our clients at the July meeting, with his singing and guitar playing which was enormously appreciated.

Tea Parties are held on the first Wednesday of each month from the new time of 2.30pm – 4.00pm at the Community Centre in Woodcote.

Please note – there will be NO tea parties in August and September due to volunteer holidays. We will recommence on Wednesday 2nd October and look forward to seeing many of our clients there. Please do let us know if you wish to attend and call the office to ask for help with transport if you need it. Thank you.

Blue Badges

It has been confirmed that our organisational Blue Badges which expire in March 2025 will not be renewed due to a new policy of enforcement of the strict rules by Oxfordshire County Council. This will be, for some of our clients, an enormous problem as they are unable to apply for a variety of reasons.

We have a team of volunteers who are helping those clients that are eligible and have all the correct documentation to apply for their own blue badges if they don't already have one. If you are a client who struggles with their mobility and does not already have a blue badge, please contact us and we

will try to help.

New Volunteers

We would like to say a huge thank you and welcome to several new volunteer drivers to our team – all from Whitechurch Hill. They are Caroline, Trudi, Sarah and Kirsten. They will be an enormous help and are looking forward to their first drive!

TO FINISH.....

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.

If you need a driver, please give us at least three days' notice as it can be hard to find someone at the last minute – but we will always try!

- ◆ **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**
- ◆ **General enquiries – call 01491 681171**

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.

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

Woodcote Village Fete – Saturday 14th September 2024

Come along and join in the fun at Woodcote Village Fete! It's on Saturday 14th September 12pm to 5pm.



This is a great event for the whole community. Entertainment includes live music, a compere, a dog show, inflatable fun, a produce and craft show and a tug of war. We will also have a children's entertainer, Jester Giggles, who will put on a show for the younger children and Berkshire Reptile Encounters will be at the fete between 1pm and 3pm with some interesting creatures!

We also have a raffle with some great prizes and a variety of stalls to peruse.

There is plenty of food and drink on offer too. There will be a barbecue, a pizza van, an ice cream van, a coffee truck and other treats available. There will also be a bar and a traditional tea tent.

Woodcote Village Fete has a website – www.woodcotefete.com – with more information about the fete including stalls and raffle prizes etc. and also has the produce and craft show competition entry form and competition categories for those of you who might like to enter.

For those of you on social media please like and follow our Facebook page [@WoodcoteVillageFete](https://www.facebook.com/WoodcoteVillageFete) for further updates and information.

See you all there on Saturday 14th September 12pm to 5pm for a fun day out!

The Woodcote Village Fete Team

Pangbourne Tennis Club is the LTA National Club of the Year!

Pangbourne Tennis Club is not only Berkshire Club of the Year, the Central and East Regional Club of the Year, but was crowned National LTA Club of the Year at the LTA Awards ceremony on 2nd July. Club chairman Richard Raynes and head of fundraising Kim DeMarchi received the award on behalf of the club from broadcaster Adrian Childs.



Committee members receiving the Regional Award in Nottingham from the LTA President Sandi Proctor



National Award presentation

Why are we Club of the Year? Our aim is to make tennis accessible to everyone of all standards and ages. The membership has blossomed over the last few years. The facilities have been vastly improved with three well maintained courts and new LED court lighting with the generous support of members and the local community. The junior programme has flourished under the guidance of club coach Damian Lane.

There's a full programme of coach-led sessions on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings which run throughout the year - under the lights when necessary.

Friday nights are tennis nights, with social doubles from 19:30 - 21:00, or join us on Saturday afternoons for social tennis at 14:00 - 15:30. Everyone is welcome and all levels of players enjoy these sessions. You just need to be able to serve and sustain a rally - you certainly don't need to be a Wimbledon champion!

Annual membership for 12 months from the date of joining is £65 for adults, £135 for family membership and £25 for juniors.

New members always received a warm welcome. Check out membership options, the coaching programme and social tennis sessions at pangbournetennis.org or scan the QR code.



A vacancy at the Goring Heath Almshouses

The Almshouses at Goring Heath are a group of sheltered homes where retired, or soon to be retired, people over the age of 60 can live on an independent basis.



We offer a welcoming community in beautiful grounds that include their own Chapel, Community Room, guest room, parking and allotments.

Each unfurnished almshouse comprises of a centrally heated and newly decorated home with a bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and bathroom.

It is a requirement that applicants (either single or couples) must be of good character with limited means, have resided in the local area for the last two years and can demonstrate that they have need of an almshouse.

Residents are appointed by the Trustees of the Allnutt & Baker Almshouse and Educational Trust as a beneficiary of the Charity and pay a weekly maintenance charge instead of rent, along with a fuel contribution.

Applicants should apply to the address below in writing, giving background details and, if the initial criteria are met, an application form will be sent.

Clerk to the Trustees

The Allnutt & Baker Almshouse and Educational Trust

The Office

The Almshouses, Goring Heath

Oxfordshire. RG8 7RS

Phone: 01491 681699 goringheathcharities@gmail.com

Chess Group



This twice monthly group meets on a Wednesday 12-2pm at the Sun Pub. Whilst the start time is set, it is true to say that sometimes the finish time varies - depending on the games being played! It is however an easy come, easy go get-together to suit all attendees.

In July, the players decided to try to meet every Wednesday - though not everyone will be able to do this all the time. That's ok - as any gathering of two or more people will ensure a game is played. It also increases the chances to play for anyone new considering giving it a try but who is not available under the current arrangements.

Want to know more? Ring me on 07876531881.

Chris Bergmann

Calling all students!

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

Eligible students are young people between the 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

REPAIR CAFÉ

Goring Village Hall

Saturdays 11:00am—12:30pm

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.



Dates — 3 Aug, 5 Oct, 7 Dec 2024

Information: 07789 871620

What's happening at Checkendon Pre-School:



As we come to another successful end of year, full of fun, sunshine, sports days and leavers parties. We would like to say goodbye to 17 of our children as they are off to Primary School. We wish them all good luck in their new adventures and will miss them all.

We are also very delighted to share with you all that, in our latest Ofsted inspection June 2024, we were rated GOOD. I would like to thank all the fantastic staff who work hard all year round to make sure that every day is a special day for the children at Checkendon Pre-School.

Ofsted said:

- ◆ Staff readily embrace children's natural curiosity and intervene appropriately to deepen their interests.
- ◆ Staff celebrate children's achievements with great enthusiasm. Staff's praise helps to raise children's self-esteem and confidence.
- ◆ Staff help to support children's critical thinking skills well.



We would like to thank everyone in our local community, friends and families who continue to support Checkendon Pre-School and to wish everyone a lovely summer holidays and we look forward to new adventures in September 2024.

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

The White Lion Cray's Pond ACV Status June 2024

As we have stated in a previous article in the *Goring Heath Newsletter* the Asset of Community Value status for the White Lion Crays Pond needed a new nomination in June this year.



The nomination process is a robust analysis of the status of the property in line with guidance included in the Localism Act of 2011 and updated by government.

South Oxfordshire District Council has approved the nomination and The White Lion is now listed again on the schedule of properties deemed to be Assets of Community Value, which held by the council.

The listing lasts for a further 5 years, and is, as happened last time, subject to the appeal process if initiated again by the owner.

The owner has advised the council he wants a review of the decision, as he did in 2019. We will keep you informed of the outcome

So a **BIG THANK YOU** to all of you who are supporters and backed up your support by forwarding your statements supporting the project, and those who re-affirmed your 'In Principle Promise' of funding.

We also gained new supporters and new 'In Principle Promises' during the process and to those of you are new to the project, *welcome and thank you*.

We hope that with this new period of nomination, the owner considers the offers sent to him by this group, or uses this period to construct and put forward his own plans for the White Lion as a properly funded and serious pub/restaurant/café/accommodation business

Meanwhile

We can't do this without you, there is no magic money tree.

'In Principle Promises' can be made on our website under Fundraising page:

<https://www.savethewhitelion.com/contact>

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

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

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
POTHOLES	-	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
13th September 2024	October 2024
15th November 2024	December 2024
10th January 2025	February 2025

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

GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Liz Collas	lcollas@ghpc.org.uk	01491 680466
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VICE-CHAIRMAN

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GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

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