

# GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

October 2024  
Issue 199

Visit us at:

[www.goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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# ST MARY'S YOUTH CLUB

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**

**STARTS 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
THE OLD STABLES**

**YEARS 6. 7. 8. 9**

music, games, table tennis, tuck shop\*

\*bring some money for tuck shop

**YOUTH CLUB in the STABLES every FRIDAY in term-time**

**YEARS 6 and 7 meet 6:45 – 7:45pm**

**YEARS 8 and 9 meet 8:00 – 9:00pm**

**Starts back on the 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**



angtree Team Ministry

The Parish of St Mary's Whitchurch-on-Thames  
with St John's Whitchurch Hill

Email: [jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com)

Judi Green: [green\\_judi@hotmail.com](mailto:green_judi@hotmail.com)

## Chair's Comments

Strange things were happening in Goring Heath over the summer, and I don't mean the abundant blackberries or the lack of sunshine.

Was anyone else somewhat startled to find that Goring Heath was no longer a pleasant rural location, a bit of a backwater where nothing too exciting happened, but the home of large-scale gambling enterprise? Yes, I am talking about the takeover of our green and pleasant village by a Malaysian gambling consortium!



Well, not actually the village but our parish website! When you clicked on to the usual Goring Heath website you were greeted by something quite foreign - literally. Instead of information on the next village meeting and the latest on village affairs you were offered opportunities to take part in a gambling consortium. At least that is what I am told. Not being a fluent, or otherwise, Malay speaker I had no idea what I was looking at. The takeover was very weird, not sure what is in it for the Malaysian outfit.

It was suggested to me that if you found it by mistake when looking for information on Goring Heath, then you might place some bets. Not sure this holds water- can you speak Malay?

The management of the website had lapsed since the sad death of Chris Wellings who very kindly managed it for the parish, But, this loss of our website was not unexpected and we have been working behind the scenes to produce a new site, including new email addresses for all the councillors. This is a secure government domain so hopefully will be safe from hostile takeovers!

Many thanks to our new clerk, Emma Burdon, and her husband, Councillor Peter Burdon, for doing all the leg work on the new domain. I believe it has taken many hours of laborious poring over a computer, so it's great to see it up and running. More details of the new site can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

Summer is a quiet time for the Council, but we have been keeping an eye on local matters. The footpath clearances which were promised for August were delayed, but hopefully the routes known as Town Lane, and the path by Hod's Corner will have been trimmed by the time you read this.

Autumn is upon us, and as the nights draw in and winter looms, why not lift the gloom by taking on a new challenge. We are currently looking for at least two new councillors - come to a meeting to test the waters. We really could do with some new blood to add to our discussions - and you might even enjoy it. We do not bite!

**Liz Collas, Chair of the Parish Council**

## The Friends of St Mary's and St John's, Whitchurch

The Friends have enjoyed an active summer of fund raising and the continued maintenance of both churchyards at St Mary's, Whitchurch and St John's at Whitchurch Hill.

Whilst both churchyards require regular maintenance, it is at St John's that the brambles and seedlings have grown massively taking advantage of the rainfall that we experienced earlier in the year. In order to control and manage this, a group of Friends have been meeting regularly to clear the growth and we can see that progress is gradually being made.

Many of us find it a very satisfying experience to be outside working as a group, enjoying nature and each other's company. Coffee or tea is served with biscuits at 'halftime' which is fortifying and enjoyable. This is a sort of 'green gym' work party and we would welcome more helpers, as many hands do make light work.

Please get in touch with Sally Woolhouse, our secretary via email at [whitchurchfriends@gmail.com](mailto:whitchurchfriends@gmail.com) or me, if you would like to join in and be informed of future dates.

Our fundraising events have been fun and productive; we run the *Art Café at The Old Stables in Whitchurch* on a bi-monthly basis, which brings a regular income from passers-by and our loyal supporters who stop off for coffee and cake. Do drop in if you haven't tried the Art Café, as it runs each week as a fundraiser for a charity or local organisation.

Those of you who enjoyed the *Whitchurch Hill Fete* this year might have seen or visited our popular Granny's Attic Stall. We were amazed by the amount of donations we received from The Friends and our friends, and intend to be back next year!



We are looking forward to hosting our *Musical Evening* on **October 12<sup>th</sup>** at St Mary's Church. Doors open at 6.15 pm.

The evening will begin with The Oxford Fiddle Group giving us a selection of tunes from England, Ireland, Scotland and the USA, followed by local singers and instrumentalists displaying their talents. It's always such a treat to listen and see performances in our own community.

The entrance fee is a suggested donation of £10.00 per head to include a drink and nibbles. Do come and bring a friend or two!

All money raised from social events, membership subscriptions and donations are contributed towards the maintenance, preservation and improvement of the two church buildings in our Parish, and their churchyards.

The Friends is an independent charity to which we welcome members from all faiths and none.

Our current membership is 69 and we always welcome new members. The application form can be found in the entrance of both churches and the annual payment required can be any amount of at least £10.00 per member. As a Friend you can be involved just by making the annual contribution, and being as active as you wish.

The Friends aim to help preserve the heritage of our two historic buildings in this Parish, support the use of the churches by the wider community, and help bring together people from Whitchurch on Thames and Whitchurch Hill. We work closely with the Parochial Church Council when considering new projects to finance. The timber shingles on the tower of St Mary's Church and the repair of any associated timberwork is the PCC's next project and this is currently in the early stages of planning.

Our *AGM* will be held at *The Old Stables on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>* at 3 pm. Do come and meet us and find out more about our work and fundraising, but we hope to see you first at the Musical Evening!

***Sarah Dragonetti, Chair of The Friends,***

Email: [sarah@dragonetti.co.uk](mailto:sarah@dragonetti.co.uk)

Phone: **01189844711**

***Registered Charity no 1168335***



## The Parish has a new website:

<https://goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Scan this QR code to go direct to the site.



All the information about the Parish and the Parish Council is at your fingertips.

And the newsletter is available on the website.

**Email addresses are changing too!**  
The new email address for our clerk Emma is [clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**The Parish Councillors will have new email addresses from mid-October - see the back page for these new email addresses.**

## Dates for your Diary

Event	Day	Date/Time
The Whitchurch Society at the Art Café, Whitchurch on Thames	Saturday	12th October 10:00am
Musical Evening (Friends of St Mary's and St John's)	Saturday	12th October 6:15pm
Pangbourne Art Group Exhibition	Saturday/ Sunday	12th/13th October
Act of Remembrance	Sunday	10th November 11:00am
Whitchurch Art and Craft Exhibition	Saturday/ Sunday	23rd/24th November

## Planning Decisions

The following planning applications, submitted up to 9th Sept 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>P24/S1652/LDP</u></b> 26 Orchard Coombe, Whitchurch Hill Installation of roof-mounted solar panels</p>	No strong views	Approved
<p><b><u>P24/S1901/LDE</u></b> 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.</p>	No strong views	Approved
<p><b><u>P24/S1748/FUL</u></b> Technology Centre, Boztdown 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.</p>	No strong views	
<p><b><u>P24/S2309/FUL</u></b> Land to the north and west of Pangbourne Technology Centre Boztdown Drive Whitchurch Hill Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar panels and battery energy storage system to supply electrical power to Pangbourne Technology Centre; associated plant, plant enclosure and cabling; access driveway; landscaping; and ancillary works.</p>	Objection	
<p><b><u>P24/S2413/HH</u></b> Setters Barn Collins End Goring Heath Installation of 30 ground mounted solar panels in 6 rows of 5 at bottom of garden by garden shed</p>	No Strong Views	
<p><b><u>P24/S2731/HH</u></b> Hunters Moon Hill Bottom Car Port</p>	Comments	

## Speed Limit Update



At a meeting at the end of July, Oxfordshire County Council approved plans for reduced speed limits along the B471 to 40mph from Crays Pond to Orchard Coombe, and 30mph from Orchard Coombe to the houses at the top of the hill, and within the village triangle to 20mph. Many of you will have noticed that the 20mph signs have already been erected. It is currently unclear when work on the B471 will start, but we expect that this will happen soon.

The Parish Council would like to thank all of those who responded to OCC's consultation. The great majority of responses were in favour of the proposals. Those raising objections fell into two groups. Some felt that action was not needed for various reasons, to which we make the following responses:

- *They did not perceive that there is a problem with traffic speed in the parish.* The Parish Council has over several years received complaints from people in various parts of the parish about speed. The proposals made reflect those concerns.
- *Preference should be given to fixing potholes.* Given the way that budgets are structured at the OCC level, money saved by not going ahead with speed controls would not automatically be transferred to fixing road defects in Goring Heath. We can report that OCC has improved its systems for dealing with potholes and other road defects. The Parish Council has engaged with this new process with some immediate effect, though we appreciate that parishioners may not have noticed, given the overall state of our roads!
- *Speed restrictions were part of an anti-car agenda.* Everyone living in Whitchurch Hill, including those complaining about speeding and developing plans for further speed control, is dependent on using cars.

In contrast, some others felt that the proposed action did not go far enough. OCC and other statutory consultees (the police) considered that the proposals balanced the interests of the stakeholders and were not willing to go further than proposed.

**Mike Holland, Goring Heath Parish Council**

### 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)



## Whitchurch Hill WI



August is normally the month we enjoy meeting outside - as a nod to the several al fresco meetings we had on the village green during covid restrictions.

However, this August - on our particular day - the weather forecast was for showers and blustery winds. As a result, we had a change of plan - and met in our usual indoor venue - but without a speaker to entertain and educate us. Instead, we enjoyed a very varied sales table with 80% of the proceeds going to the seller and 20% for our own WI funds. Special thanks to Sarah and Alison and all donors for a superb selection of goodies - baked items, vegetable produce, plants, books and knickknacks. Trade was brisk!

Coffee was accompanied by birthday cake - to celebrate the four members who enjoyed August birthdays- particularly Tricia whose special day was on the day of our meeting. She was busy too - sharing a couple of birthday cards she had received - as well as entertaining us all with a "what am I?" quiz.

With the changing of the seasons, we begin our autumn programme. At the time of writing this we are revving up to run the Art Cafe in the Old Stables - with a donation this time going to the RBH Palliative Care Unit. We have speakers lined up for our monthly meetings, starting with Austin Crabbe talking about the Affinity Trust at Englefield Garden Centre. This will be accompanied by a bring along garden-themed competition alongside the regular flower of the month.

Outside of the regular gatherings we have something for everyone. A Harvest Lunch in October will be provided by our very own catering duo Sarah and Alison. In November we have a table booked at The Packhorse for lunch and of course December is Christmas lunch season!

Alongside this we can join other WI members at a cheese and wine evening in Purley as well as a Christmas Card Workshop in October in Upper Basil-don.

Talking of Christmas, we will be collecting food etc for Wallingford Food-bank this year.

The WI is open to any lady locally who enjoys hearing interesting talks, likes good company and, if you fancy it, a little bit of friendly competitive rivalry. Not everyone joins in the latter aspect of WI - so this is very much optional.

If you want to know more please contact Frances on 0118984 2162.

***Sally Bergmann***

## District Councillor's Commentary



Unless one is one of the “grande fromages” with a role on the Cabinet, most elected councillors have little power or influence, for much of the council’s work is pretty routine. There can be situations where things go off the rails, particularly when people at a Council, officials and elected, fail to exercise proper controls or challenge what is going on. Local government has a long history of wrongdoing, ranging from Westminster City Council with Shirley Porter in the 1980s to Thurrock and Woking more recently with their disastrous projects. Private Eye keeps me well abreast of current misdoings in other places, and so I try and keep an eagle eye on things in South Oxfordshire.

One area where Councillors have a direct role is on the Planning Committee, where recommendations by Planning Officers can be overruled by the Committee. Most recommendations by planning officers, despite objections raised by Parish Councils, are followed through. But there are exceptions, and if there are good planning reasons to differ from the officers’ recommendation, then that is the right thing to do.

It is particularly gratifying when, after rejecting a development at Committee, an appeal is also refused. However, most of the appeals that are refused arise directly from decisions that have been made by planning officers and which never come to Committee. Unlike a planning application, there is no cost for an applicant to make an appeal.

There are national standards for the quality of planning decisions, and I am pleased to say that your council does pretty well. There are different standards for major decisions, i.e. large sites, and non-major. For major sites 4.2% of decisions were appealed, and 0.8% of those appeals were allowed, compared to nationally where, while fewer decisions were appealed (3.0%), nationally more appeals were allowed (1.3%). For non-major decisions, in SODC only 1.5% were appealed, and then 0.6% were allowed. Nationally, there were more appeals at 2.3% and 0.7% allowed.

The grounds on which the Planning Committee has refused consent includes developments being unneighbourly or having an adverse impact on the character of the area. These are necessarily subjective judgments, but the planning committee system is there to make subjective judgements, and to hear the views of neighbours, parish councils and other interested parties who may not have had the opportunity to express their concerns to planning officers as professionally as developers.

Development has to be in accordance with the Local Plan, which itself has to be aligned with the National Planning Policy Framework or NPPF. The latter is periodically revised and is currently going through a major revision with the change of government. The District Council is pressing on to complete the new Joint Local Plan as so much work has already been done on it and it would be frustrating if changes have to be made if the new NPPF overtakes it.

## Peter Dragonetti

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



## GORING HEATH PARISH HALL



To hire our charming, picturesque and well equipped village hall for your next party, community event or society please contact [bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk](mailto:bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk)

The hall over the last twenty years has undergone continuous sympathetic refurbishment and extensions and provides all you would expect of a modern venue to host your event or meeting, whilst retaining its charm and original character.

For full details please visit our website: [goringheathparishhall.uk](http://goringheathparishhall.uk) or contact [bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk](mailto:bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk) to discuss your requirements.

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

These continue on a monthly basis. With the more inclement weather anticipated with the passing of the seasons, routes will be chosen to reflect conditions.

We meet at the junction of Hill Bottom Close and Hill Bottom at 10am on the first Monday of each month. We walk for about one and a half hours.

The dates for the walks for the remainder of the year are:

- Mon 7th October
- Mon 4th November
- Mon 2nd December

If you want to ring to discuss first give Sally a call on 07585 195669.

Everyone is welcome.

*Sally Bergmann*

## Act of Remembrance Sunday 10th November at 11am

Every year there is a Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial (B471 on the hill between Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill)

It is an opportunity to remember the Armed Forces and their families from the UK and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.

The road is closed between 10:45 and 11:15 to allow wreaths to be laid.



*All are welcome at the service.*

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

After a summer of history outings we return to indoor meetings. On Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> we welcome back Marie-Louise Kerr (curator without museum) to tell us of “The Woman Who would be Queen – Empress Matilda”. Her escape from Oxford in the snow, her defence of Wallingford castle and her negotiations to end the anarchy make a fine story.

The meeting will be at Goring Heath Parish Hall at 7.30pm, with coffee served from 7pm, and will be the last evening meeting for a while, as it will be more comfortable to meet earlier during the winter months.

On Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup> we will be welcoming Jim Donahue to talk to us about his newly published book “The Thames Valley: Past, Present, and Future – A Snapshot of British Life”. The title covers a wide range of information in a long time frame, and I’m sure we’ll have lots of questions for him. Note – the meeting will be 2.30pm at Goring Heath Parish Hall, followed by tea.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, with non-members paying £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

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

**Phone: 0118 984 3260**

## **Chess Group - The Sun Pub**

Did you try chess as a youngster?

Have you played on-line during Covid or the darker evenings of winter?

A group of half a dozen or so meet regularly at the Sun Pub 12 -2pm on a Wednesday for friendly games (though winning is always the aim!) and a general social get together.

This might be over lunchtime, but the pub serves light lunches which can always be enjoyed with a pint, or coffee, according to taste.

For further information ring Chris on 07876531881.

**Chris Bergmann**

**Bus Service for Goring Heath on Tuesdays:  
New Timetable**

After many years of excellent service, Going Forward Buses are unable to continue to run the bus service through Goring Heath to Reading.

The service has been taken over by Oxfordshire County Council.

Here's the new timetable for the route which runs from Goring station to Reading and return on Tuesdays.

**Goring to Reading**

	Tue
<b>GORING, Railway Station</b>	<b>10:15</b>
Streatley, The Bull	10:17
Lower Basildon, Park Wall Lane	10:21
Basildon Park, Entrance	10:23
Beale Park, Entrance	10:25
<b>PANGBOURNE, The George</b>	<b>10:28</b>
Whitchurch-on-Thames, Greyhound	10:31
Whitchurch Hill, The Sun	10:36
Crays Pond, Beechwood Close	10:40
Goring Heath, Almshouses	10:42
Cane End	10:46
Upper Woodcote Road, Shepherds Lane	10:50
Highmoor Road, Methodist Church	10:53
Caversham, Library	10:57
<b>READING, Blagrove Street EO/EP</b>	<b>11:02</b>
<b>READING, Friar Street FC</b>	<b>11:05</b>
<b>READING, Tesco Kings Meadow</b>	<b>11:10</b>

**Reading to Goring**

	Tue
<b>READING, Tesco Kings Meadow</b>	<b>12:55</b>
<b>READING, Blagrove Street EO/EP</b>	<b>12:59</b>
<b>READING, Friar Street FC</b>	<b>13:00</b>
Caversham, Library	13:05
Highmoor Road, Methodist Church	13:07
Upper Woodcote Road, Shepherds Lane	13:09
Cane End	13:15
Goring Heath, Almshouses	13:19R
Crays Pond, Beechwood Close	13:20
Whitchurch Hill, The Sun	13:23
Whitchurch-on-Thames, Greyhound	13:27
<b>PANGBOURNE, The George</b>	<b>13:29</b>
Beale Park, Entrance	13:31
Basildon Park, Entrance	13:32
Lower Basildon, Park Wall Lane	13:33
Streatley, The Bull	13:38R
<b>GORING, Railway Station</b>	<b>13:40R</b>

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

Open to the Public --All Welcome

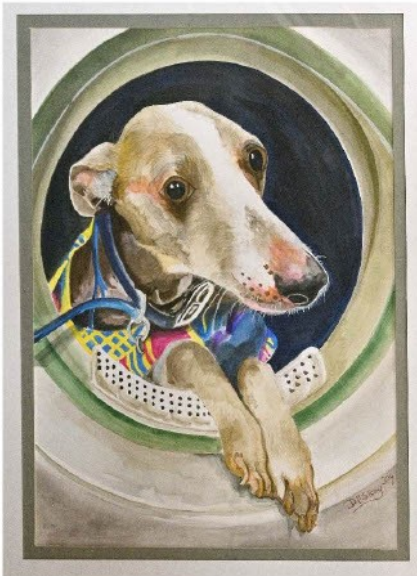
*Sung Eucharist 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month*  
*Sung Matins 2nd & 4th & 5th Sunday of the Month at 11am*  
*Said Holy Communion at 9.00am on 2nd & 4th Sunday with*  
*special prayers for the sick*  
*All Services are taken from the book of Common Prayer*

Chaplain: Rev Peter Dewey, -- 07784912935  
 revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk

# PANGBOURNE ART GROUP

## Annual Exhibition 12th & 13th October 2024

from 10am to 5pm each day



- 50p entrance fee
- refreshments
- meet the artists
- demonstrations

Come along and purchase original art, prints, greeting cards and Christmas cards.

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

Venue: Pangbourne Village Hall

## Hello From Whitchurch Pre-School!



We are so happy to be back for our Autumn term. Everyone is enjoying being back in the classroom, learning and exploring, and we have welcomed some new starters who are settling in well. We have been making the most of our outdoor space, spending time in our dedicated allotment, discovering different wildlife and apple picking.



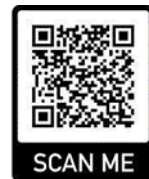
## New Pre-School Building for the New Year!

By the time of publication, we hope to be about to move into our new preschool building. We made a lot of progress over the summer months both in planning and gaining additional funds for our project. Since we launched our 'Save our preschool' campaign, we have received donations from families, parents, the wider community and the parish council. This is on top of existing funds we already had in the bank from previous years. We have also been lucky enough to receive a couple of sizable grants and private donations meaning we are now sitting shy of our target by £20k, which is a massive step forward from our position back in Easter.

As a reminder, the plan is for a new modular building with a similar footprint to the current one. It will be both energy and space efficient, with an improved layout for the children and staff to enjoy, perfect for future generations.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who have helped us to get this far by making donations, volunteering time and materials, and helping to fundraise, as well as the primary school for being so supportive. We are still busy fundraising to finish the building work and make our pre-school as sustainable as possible.

Please get in touch if you would like to fundraise, volunteer or help in any way to save our pre-school by email at: [hello@whitchurchpreschool.org](mailto:hello@whitchurchpreschool.org)



To donate at any time, scan the QR code here, or go to: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/whitchurchpreschool>

Thank you for all of your support!



## The Pangbourne Band Hits the Right Note for Our Pre-School with Disney Concert

We started off the school year with a magical concert by The Pangbourne Band at St Mary the Virgin Church in Whitchurch, taking us through the history of Disney films with numbers from Snow White, Frozen and Encanto. There was even a fancy-dress competition for the kids. A big thank you to The Pangbourne Band for putting on such a fun event for all the family and helping us to raise much needed funds for our pre-school.

There will be many more events to come. Please check out our website [www.whitchurchpreschool.org](http://www.whitchurchpreschool.org) or follow us on our Facebook page.

## Spaces Available from January 2025

From January 2025, we have spaces available for new starters aged from two years upwards

- We're open from Monday to Friday during term time from 8.45am - 3.15pm with an early drop-off option at 8.30am and late pick up to 3.30pm.
- Government-funded places are available for two-, three- and four-year-olds for 15 or 30 hours per week during term time.
- We are Forest School, Healthy Smiles and Hygge accredited.
- Children from out of the Whitchurch catchment area are welcome to apply.

To register your interest, please use the form on our website or email: [hello@whitchurchpreschool.org](mailto:hello@whitchurchpreschool.org)



## Whitchurch Hill Phone Box Library - Thank you Daisy!

Daisy has been working towards her bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and has been looking after the phone box library in Whitchurch Hill for a whole year!

She has written the piece below to share her experience. I can also report she told me that she really enjoyed it and will keep an eye for us whenever she passes.

Thank you Daisy!! Good luck with the rest of your award!!

*Amanda Holland*

### **Daisy writes:**

I started on the 7th May and ended on the 7th May! I visited every week. When I started, I wasn't sure what I thought it would be like, but after a few weeks I got the hang of it and liked to organise each shelf for a certain thing.

I went through the books and tried to remember which ones hadn't been taken for a few weeks so when it was very full I could get rid of them.

I think the phone box is very useful and a great thing to have because, if people are looking for a genre of books they can go there and trade in a book they have already read for a book that they haven't. Thank you!



## **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 are available on the Whitchurch-on-Thames village website and Facebook, and look out for posters around the village.

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 tea or a coffee and a piece of cake – and we very much look forward to seeing your creations this November!

***Sally Woolhouse***

**[sally@wotarts.co.uk](mailto:sally@wotarts.co.uk)**

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

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

## Woodcote Volunteers

### Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payment



You may have read in the news that Winter Fuel Payments worth up to £300 will be removed from pensioners unless they are in receipt of Pension Credit?

It is worth anyone who has reached retirement age to make a claim for Pension Credit if your WEEKLY income is less than about £218 per week for a single person or £332 per week joint income if a couple. Your weekly income can be more than that if you are disabled, a carer and in some other circumstances, so it is always worth checking. Savings up to £10,000 are disregarded.

**It is easy to check** – you can either phone the Pension Credit claim line directly or call someone like Age UK or Citizens Advice as they can do a full benefit check for you. If you are unable to make the call yourself, a friend or family member can call for you as long as you are with them when they make the call. You will need details of all your income and savings to hand, along with your NI number, Council Tax charge and rent (if applicable).

The phone numbers are:

Pension Credit Claim line: 0800 99 1234

Age UK helpline: 03454 501276

Citizens Advice: 0800 144 8848

### Tea Party for our clients

Tea Parties are held at the Community Centre in Woodcote on the first Wednesday of the month. We provide tea and home-made cakes and there is no charge. You can enjoy a new activity each month and will have time for a chat to other clients and volunteers.

Please let us know several days in advance if you need a lift.

### Retiring Volunteers

We would like to say a huge thank you to Stella and Philip who are leaving us to have a well-earned rest. Whilst Philip was a relatively new recruit, Stella has been with us for 19 years and will be very much missed. We wish you well.

### Committee roles becoming vacant April 2025

It is some way ahead, but not too soon for us to start the process of advertising for a new Chair and Secretary for Woodcote Volunteers as both positions will be vacant as of our AGM in April 2025. If anyone is interested in finding out more, please email the Secretary Jane Forde using the address below and she can call you for an informal chat in the first instance. It would be very helpful

to start the process of integration and familiarisation before April. A brief description of the roles are available on our website.



## 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](mailto:info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk)**
- ◆ **Find out more about us: [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk)**
- ◆ **Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers](http://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.

## Woodcote Library Book Club: New Time, New Timetable!

We are going to meet earlier from now on. This is partly because of a change in library opening hours, but also to avoid the challenge of cold and dark evenings. We will meet at 4.15pm (the library closes at 5.30pm) and hope the afternoons aren't also too cold and dark. There could be tea!

Would you like to join us? We have a couple of vacancies, and autumn is a good time to take up new activities. We read all sorts of writing, and have discovered authors new to us and read books we would not normally have picked up.

We will now meet on the fourth Monday of the month at the library. We discuss the book, supplied by Oxfordshire library service (so no cost involved), and related issues. It's a friendly group, though we do not always agree! Ask at the library, or phone **01491 682323** to express your interest.

## **Make an Impact!**

*Volunteer with Citizen's Advice  
Oxford South and Vale*



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

Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are and whatever their problem. In a typical year our 111 volunteers support around 10,000 people. Our volunteers play a vital role, ensuring that people receive the advice and support they need.

We are currently looking for advisers and IT specialists.

### **Advisers will:**

- Receive extensive training and support to ensure they have the knowledge to help people move forward
- Learn about a range of issues that affect our clients including benefits, debt, housing and employment (no prior knowledge necessary)
- Give confidential advice over the phone and in person
- Make a real difference to people's lives, contributing to improving their wellbeing
- Have a sense of belonging to the community developed through working with people from all backgrounds

A new adviser training course begins in early October 2024, so apply now!

### **IT specialists will:**

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

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week, if possible, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment.

We also welcome volunteer receptionists, fund raisers, communication workers and HR administration.

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

<https://citizensadvicesav.org.uk/volunteering/>



# Tots on the Thames

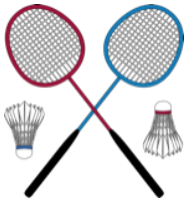


**The Old Rectory Stables  
Whitchurch on Thames (RG8 7DF)  
WEDNESDAYS 10.00 am – 11.30 am**

**Starting on 11<sup>th</sup> September**

A stay-and-play Baby and Toddler group  
Let them: play, create, sing, snack and make friends!  
While you enjoy a hot cuppa and a biscuit! £3 per session  
For more information email Debbie on [debs.leach@btinternet.com](mailto:debs.leach@btinternet.com)

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Whitchurch-on-Thames with St John the Baptist Whitchurch Hill  
Vicar: Rev'd James Leach.  
Email: [jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com](mailto:jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com) Tel: 0118 976 5905



## RG8 Badminton

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](http://www.rg8badminton.co.uk) or ring **Julie on 07980 413026**.



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



## 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 31<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> 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).

### Contact details:

**Telephone:** 0118 984 4262,

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

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

## REPAIR CAFÉ

Goring Village Hall

Saturdays 11:00am–12:30pm

1st Saturday of even-numbered months

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 — 5 Oct, 7 Dec 2024

Information: 07789 871620

## What’s happening at Checkendon Pre-School:

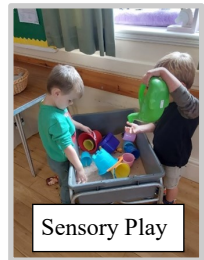


We are delighted to be back after the summer holidays and are looking forward to a fun packed term full of enthusiasm, creativity, and learning.

Checkendon Pre-School have had a wonderful start to the new term, settling into our new routines, exploring, learning, having fun; meeting new friends and reuniting with old ones.

We would like to welcome our new children Posie, Primrose, Victoria, and Asa to Checkendon Pre-School.

This term we will be focusing on children’s “interests”, which we hope will inspire and engage children’s learning through play. This is an excellent way for the children to get to know each other and encourage a variety of different activities and learning.



Checkendon Pre-School will be encouraging the children to be independent, helping and encouraging them to learn skills through their everyday routines such as making decisions and taking on responsibility.



We have been making the most of our wonderful outdoors and surrounding areas exploring the woods, field, and local area, den building and collecting lots of interesting items we have found on our walks, using these materials to make collages. We will also be learning about Harvest, how crops grow, machinery used and making bread plaits in Little Chefs. We are also very excited to see that the pumpkins in our garden are growing really well and the children are excited to harvest these.



To find out more about Checkendon Pre-School, 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.

### 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

# Active Communities Team

South Oxfordshire District Council

**SIGN UP**  
to our mailing list  
**FOLLOW US**  
on Facebook



**KEEP UP TO DATE ON HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES,  
COMMUNITY WALKS, PROJECTS, EVENTS AND  
FREE SESSIONS LIKE PARK YOGA!**

SCAN ME



## COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

### SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Peter Dragonetti Covert Cottage, Hill Bottom, Whitchurch 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**

♦ <b>Planning</b>	01235 422600
♦ <b>Building control</b>	01235 422700
♦ <b>Environmental health, food and safety</b>	01235 422403
♦ <b>Licensing</b>	01235 422556
♦ <b>Elections</b>	01235 422407
♦ <b>Car parks</b>	01235 470118
♦ <b>Community safety</b>	01235 422590
♦ <b>Street naming and numbering</b>	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
15th November 2024	December 2024
10th January 2025	February 2025
14th March 2025	April 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 Thames, Baby and Toddler Group	Debbie Leach	<a href="mailto:debs.leach@btinternet.com">debs.leach@btinternet.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)

## GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

*NB: Gov.uk email addresses will be in use from mid-October*

### CHAIR

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Cllr.liz.collas@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

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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

[clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk)