

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

December 2024
Issue 200

Visit us at:
goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: 'Goring Heath Parish News'
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com

ST MARY'S YOUTH CLUB

FRIDAY NIGHTS

7 – 8.30PM

THE OLD STABLES

AGE 11-13

music, games, table tennis, tuck shop*

**bring some money for tuck shop*

NEW TIME

7 – 8.30PM



Anglican Team Ministry

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

Email: jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.com

Judi Green: green_judi@hotmail.com

Chair's Comments

In this time of remembrance, the Parish Council carries out, what I personally consider to be, our most important function of the year.

Each year on Armistice Sunday we arrange for the hill down to Whitchurch to be closed for half an hour whilst parishioners from Goring Heath meet with those from Whitchurch to pay our respects to those who died in the two world wars.



Although the time and date for the service all stem from the ending of the first world war, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918, we are remembering all those from both parishes who have died in both world wars. Their names are etched on the memorial and are read out in a solemn reminder of those young lives.

We meet at the war memorial, which is placed just beside the road where our parishes join - perhaps an unusual location as most memorials are more central to their populations. It is quite easy to be unaware of its presence, especially if driving up or down the hill where the nature of the road means that full attention on the road is necessary.

Several years ago, Martin Wise, a Parish Councillor, arranged for the memorial to be repaired to its original state after it suffered some damage to its top, and each year he cleans the area around the base with the help of one of our previous clerks, Caroline Hadley. It looked very spruce. Thank you both for your time and effort.


It is a brief, but thoughtful, ceremony including a two-minute silence and the laying of wreaths on behalf of each parish. Do come next year if you can. Everyone is welcome.

Thank you to Jon Hatt for parking his tractor on the hill as a gentle discouragement for anyone trying to venture down the hill during the ceremony! You don't argue with a tractor.

My thoughts this year were focused on how fortunate my generation has been. We have neither been involved in a war, nor seen our children sacrifice their lives in a major conflict. Sadly, the world is not a peaceful place at the moment and there are far too many families still losing their sons, and daughters, in conflicts.

The reflective nature of Armistice Sunday is echoed by the falling of the leaves and the passing of another year. It is a time to reflect on the past year - remember the highs and lows, and especially if you have a garden, the lush growth and the slugs!


Liz Collas, Chair of the Parish Council



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 have changed too!
 The new email address for our clerk Emma is clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk
The Parish Councillors have new email addresses - see the back page for their new email addresses.

Christmas and New Year Dates for your Diary

Event	Day	Date
Goring Christmas Shopping Evening	Friday	6th December
Pangbourne Christmas Shopping Evening	Friday	6th December
Art Café supporting Whitchurch Pre-School	Saturday	14th December
Harwick Market	Sunday	15th December
Woodcote 10K Run	Sunday	12th January
Art Café supporting Friends of St Marys and St Johns	Saturday	1st February



Langtree Team Ministry

Whitchurch Parish Advent and Christmas Services 2024 *St Mary's Whitchurch on Thames St John's Whitchurch Hill*

1 st December	9.30am	St. Mary's	Advent Sunday Communion
8 th December	9.30am	St. John's	Holy Communion
15 th December	9.30am 4.00pm	St. Mary's St John's	Nativity Service Service of Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Hall
22 nd December	6.00pm	St. Mary's	Carols by candlelight (No morning service)
24 th December	2.30pm 4.30pm 9.00pm	St. John's St. Mary's St. Mary's	Christingle Christingle Christmas Night Communion
25 th December	9.30am	St. Mary's	Christmas All Age Communion




Checkendon Church of England (A) Primary School

We would like to invite you to watch our Nativity on
Tuesday 10th December - contact school for details.

([email: office.3801@checkedon.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3801@checkedon.oxon.sch.uk))

Everyone is welcome to attend our Christmas Church
Service on **Wednesday 18th December** at 2.30pm.

Planning Decisions		
The following planning applications, submitted up to 14th Nov 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/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/S2309/FUL</u> Land to the north and west of Pangbourne Technology Centre Bozedown 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.	Objection	
<u>P24/S2413/HH</u> 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	No Strong Views	
<u>P24/S2731/HH</u> Hunters Moon Hill Bottom Car Port	Comments	Granted
<u>P24/S2923/LB</u> Copyhold Farm Goring Heath Re-roofing of The Studio with clay tiles to match those being removed	No Strong Views	Listed Building Consent Granted
<u>P24/S2610/HH and P24/S2611LB</u> Holly Copse House, Hardwick Estate Collins End, Goring Heath Rebuild a boundary wall attached to an outbuilding	No Strong Views	

Whitchurch Hill WI

Our members have been enjoying a varied programme over the last few weeks.

October saw an excellent balance of activities.

The Harvest Lunch was a particular success with a sumptuous three course lunch provided by our very own creative caterers, Sarah and Alison. Not only was the food a delight but the autumnal decorations coupled with a decorative competition gave a radiant mix of colours.

Two weeks later we had an enjoyable session of Seated Zumba, courtesy of Thea Rogers. This was a new activity to most if not all participants and was well received. We might even try it again! On a more sedentary note, our pre Christmas meeting will see us Candle Making, courtesy of Brian Graham. We will be getting ahead of Christmas decorating that tends to start from November onwards.

Also with Christmas in mind we are collecting for the Wallingford Food Bank as our seasonal charity this year. Another delivery of Welcome Packs has also been made to the RBH along with other items often made by our Knit and Natter Group. Those who don't knit or similar are very welcome to attend to natter only - and some do just that.

The programme of activities for 2025 is being planned with a wide variety of topics to hear about and/or participate in. If any local ladies think they might like to know more, you would be very welcome to join us at 10am on the third Tuesday of any month (except December) to see who we really are.

Our secretary Frances would also welcome a call from you on 01189842162.

Sally Bergmann



*The Harvest Lunch (l to r):
Liz, Frances, Sarah, Angi,
Doreen, Wendy*



*Sally, Liz and Sandra (l to r)
loading items donated to the
food bank*

District Councillor's Commentary



One of the things that the District Council is particularly good at is picking up fly tipping and, where ever possible, prosecuting those responsible.

Recently the director of a restaurant in the Cowley Road Oxford, Masood Khanloo, who was responsible for tipping waste at Shotover Country Park had to pay fines and costs totalling £8500. This was the second time he had committed this offence, and when questioned by officers came up with a string of inconsistent accounts of how he had disposed of his waste.

Other offenders who have dumped garden waste and household items across the district have been successfully traced and prosecuted. Our council officers are diligent and persistent and will rummage through dumped waste to find evidence as to who was responsible.

If you see fly tipping, please contact SODC as soon as possible, so that not only can an officer check it out for evidence but also it can be picked up by our contractor as quickly as possible. This is important as fly tips attract other fly tips, and I am pleased to say that there is not a huge fly tipping problem here.

Another aspect of the environmental work that the Council does is the inspection of food premises; you will have seen the Food Hygiene Ratings outside restaurants and food shops, and it is good that this work is carried out to protect the public. Serious issues are publicised in the local press, and can lead to prosecution. I understand that owners are warned and are then subject to re-inspection, failure a second time will lead to more serious action. While the notices displayed outside should show the ratings, you can check the ratings online quite easily. Perhaps something to do while waiting for the first course!

It's not only food hygiene that can be an issue, but other environmental issues such as noise and smell, and a restaurant in Wheatley was recently fined for not fixing issues of this kind despite being warned.

Another matter which SODC is responsible for is the licencing of taxis and taxi drivers. The legislation on taxis is quite detailed, and is there for the protection of the public.

On Saturday 26th September an enforcement operation was conducted, where inspections were carried out of vehicles' road worthiness and the driver's compliance with the legislation. During the four hour operation, 34 vehicles were stopped and 19 were non-compliant with issues such as fare charts not displayed or drivers not wearing their badge. Police also took action against five vehicles and issued fixed penalty notices.

Another aspect of the Council's work in this area is the licencing of street traders. The District Council's policy in respect of this matter is under review, and is currently out for consultation. The aim of the policy is, as always, to ensure the safety of the public and the maintenance of a well-ordered public realm.

More information about these matters can be found on the SODC website

All of this work done by the Council is for the protection of the public and enables us all to be more confident that we can live safe and happy lives. This work is an important and unsung part of the District Council's function.

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

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 or contact bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk to discuss your requirements.



Whitchurch Hill and Crays Pond Speedwatch Volunteers Needed!

Speedwatch is a community based road safety initiative to increase the awareness of speeding on local roads.

It is approved by Thames Valley Police and supported by Goring Heath Parish Council. We monitor the speeds of passing vehicles in Crays Pond and Whitchurch Hill using a portable speed indicator device and record the details of vehicles travelling in excess of the speed limit.

Speeding drivers are never prosecuted or fined as a direct result of Speedwatch. However, the registered keeper receives written advice from Thames Valley Police.

Our Speedwatch sessions have resulted in a reduction in speed on local roads, however, our continued visible presence is necessary as a reminder.

We currently have a very small team of volunteers and urgently need more to keep up a local presence. If you would like to volunteer please contact the group via speed-watch@outlook.com .

Online training is provided by Thames Valley Police and volunteers can do as many Speedwatch sessions as they wish: even just an hour per month would make a difference to the safety of our roads.

Do you have a neighbour, friend or family members who would struggle if the power was off?

By registering for SSEN's free Priority Services, a dedicated team will contact you, or your nominated contact, if they need to switch off your power to carry out essential maintenance. Register at www.thepsr.co.uk





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Email: alexwise1992@gmail.com

**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.

**Bus Service for Goring Heath on Tuesdays:
Reminder of the New Timetable**

The service running from Goring Station to Reading via Whitchurch Hill is now operated by Oxfordshire County Council. Here’s the current timetable.

Goring to Reading

	Tue
GORING, Railway Station	10:15
Streatley, The Bull	10:17
Lower Basildon, Park Wall Lane	10:21
Basildon Park, Entrance	10:23
Beale Park, Entrance	10:25
PANGBOURNE, The George	10:28
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
READING, Blagrove Street EO/EP	11:02
READING, Friar Street FC	11:05
READING, Tesco Kings Meadow	11:10

Reading to Goring

	Tue
READING, Tesco Kings Meadow	12:55
READING, Blagrove Street EO/EP	12:59
READING, Friar Street FC	13:00
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
PANGBOURNE, The George	13:29
Beale Park, Entrance	13:31
Basildon Park, Entrance	13:32
Lower Basildon, Park Wall Lane	13:33
Streatley, The Bull	13:38R
GORING, Railway Station	13:40R

Thursday Specials from Going Forward Buses

We are hoping to run “specials” on some Thursdays, starting from Goring at around 9:30 and arriving back at around 14:15. The fare is expected to be £8 or £5 if you have a Bus Pass or any railcard valid in Oxfordshire or West Berkshire.

We are considering various local destinations and would like to hear your suggestions of places you think by be suitable for such trips. Email littlebluebus@yahoo.com with your suggestions and to join our mailing list.

Mike Ward, Managing Director

www.goingforwardbuses.com

www.facebook.com/goingforwardbus



What an appropriate number plate for a Going Forward Bus!
HV16 OAP

The Friends of St Mary's and St John's

The Friends are an independent charity and welcome members from all faiths and none. We aim to bring together the local community in support of the preservation and improvement of our two churches and their churchyards.

Since last writing, The Friends have enjoyed a Musical Evening at St Mary's which was good fun and well attended despite the rather damp day. We were entertained by The Oxford Fiddle Group for the first half of the evening followed by an eclectic mix of local talent which was quite magical to hear within the setting of St Mary's.



St Mary's, Whitchurch on Thames

We regularly host the Art Cafés at The Old Stables on Saturday mornings – do drop in for our first event in 2025 which will be on Saturday 1st February and you will be warmly welcomed.

At our AGM in October we were pleased to share our financial situation and welcomed feedback from those Friends in attendance. Our main future project will be supporting the PCC to raise money for the spire restoration project at St Mary's. This is in the early stages of planning as the architects have recently applied to the Diocese for the work to be allowed. Once the faculty has been granted quotes can be sought for the restoration work.

We continue to organise regular work parties in both church yards. The brambles at St John's have become a bit of a jungle with the steady rainfall over the spring and summer months and we are working hard to clear and manage them.



St John's, Whitchurch Hill

Do get in touch with Sally Woolhouse at whitchurchfriends@gmail.com if you fancy joining one of these sessions where a welcome cup of coffee is always provided at half time!

We will be planning our fund raising events for the New Year at our next meeting and will keep you posted via the website and on the usual noticeboards.

For more information on how to join the Friends please go to the Whitchurch on Thames village website at whitchurchonthames.com and follow the link for the Church.

Sarah Dragonetti
Chair of The Friends

Woodcote Volunteers

Are you creative and familiar with social media?

We are looking for a new person to be our communications lead. The role is not very time consuming and consists of putting posts on our Facebook page, occasional design work, writing the monthly article for this newsletter and updating our web page (full support/training given). 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 description of the role is available on our website.



Tea Parties for our clients

We had a very good turnout for our Tea Party in November and thanks go to Henry Law for stepping in at the last moment to play some guitar, which went down well. Our talk by Age UK about how to avoid scams – a very important issue – had to be postponed at the last minute but we hope to put this on early next year. Our next Party, with a Christmas theme, is on Wednesday 4th December, when we will have a singer and maybe some carols!

Tea Parties are held at the Community Centre in Woodcote. We provide tea and home-made cakes and there is no charge; we only ask for volunteer expenses if we drive you. You can enjoy a new activity each month and will have time for a chat to other clients and volunteers. Please give us plenty of notice if you need a lift.

Blue badges

Just a reminder that we can help our clients to apply for a Blue Badge if they think they may be eligible. Please call our office phone number if you would like to be passed on to someone who can advise.

New volunteers

We would like to say a huge thank you to Marcia who has joined us to help with the committee agenda and minute taking – you will be a great asset to us and help the smooth running of our meetings.

Office hours over Christmas and New Year

We will have a limited service during this period, with office helpers only coming in to check urgent messages. We also have a limited number of drivers who are available, so if you can find alternative transport arrangements to your medical appointments, we would be grateful, thank you.

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.

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.

Refreshments available in Café Bellême

Next Event — 7 Dec 2024

2025: 1 Feb; 12 Apr; 7 Jun; 2 Aug; 4 Oct; 6 Dec

Information: 07789 871620

Act of Remembrance 2024

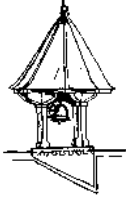


On Remembrance Sunday - this year on 10th November - parishioners from Goring Heath and Whitchurch on Thames met at the War Memorial on Whitchurch Hill for the annual Act of Remembrance. The Rev James Leach officiated and Councillor Martin Wise read the roll call of those from the parishes who gave their lives in the two world wars.

Liz Collas, chair of Goring Heath Parish Council and Jim Donohue, her counterpart for Whitchurch on Thames laid wreaths on behalf of the parishes. This year, the secretary of the Woodcote-based Modern Military History Society, Jerry Cockeram, also laid a wreath.



(l to r): Councillor Peter Burdon, Councillor Jim Donahue, Councillor Liz Collas, the Rev James Leach and Mr Jerry Cockeram after the Remembrance Sunday service.



Goring Heath Parish Charity
Regd. No 1056772

Mike Holland Quiz Night!

**Goring Heath Parish Hall
Saturday 1st March 2025
7.30pm**

**Cost £15 per person
including Fish and Chip Supper**

**Book your table for a team of up to six
email:**

events@goringheathparishhall.uk

Hello From Whitchurch Pre-School!

**Building Update: New Pre-school Progress**

Construction of our new pre-school is progressing beautifully! Following the complete demolition of the old building, the new structure has been erected, with a frame, roof, and exterior walls now in place. It's inspiring to see the rapid development, and we're eagerly looking forward to unveiling the finished building in just a few short weeks. This modern space promises to be a vibrant and welcoming environment for our pre-schoolers to learn and grow.



A huge thank you to our past and present parents and amazing community for their generosity in helping us bring this exciting new project to life!

The new building will be both energy and space efficient, with an improved layout for the children and staff to enjoy, perfect for future generations.

This project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with South Oxfordshire District Council as the lead authority.

Forest School Adventures in the Meantime

While the construction is underway, our pre-schoolers have been lucky enough to enjoy a cosy temporary classroom, generously lent by Whitchurch Primary School. Using this as our base, we've been taking advantage of the crisp autumn days to dive into forest school activities on our very own allotment.

Forest school has offered an incredible learning experience, allowing children to embrace the changing seasons, learn about local wildlife, plant and engage in hands-on arts and crafts in the great outdoors.



As the days grow shorter, time spent outside has been especially valuable, providing not only fresh air but a chance for creative exploration in nature.

We're thrilled to have this unique outdoor space where children can dig, plant, and discover, fostering curiosity and resilience through direct contact with the natural world.

As we await the completion of our new pre-school, we're grateful for the enriching experience that forest school provides, helping our children thrive in a dynamic, outdoor environment.



Fundraising for Our New Playground

Join us at the Art Café at the Stables in Whitchurch-on-Thames at 10:30 am on Saturday, 14th December!

Enjoy a friendly chat, a hot drink, and a slice of cake as you support fundraising efforts for our new pre-school playground.

Local artists will also be displaying and selling their art and crafts. If you're an artist interested in participating, please get in touch at fundraising@whitchurchpreschool.org



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

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 the first quarter of 2025 are:

- Mon 6th January
- Mon 3rd February
- Mon 3rd March

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

Everyone is welcome.

Sally Bergmann

Woodcote Library Book Club - New Time, New Timetable

We have decided to meet earlier from now on. We will meet at 3.30pm (the library closes at 5.30pm) and hope the afternoons aren't too cold and dark. There could be tea!

Would you like to join us?

We have a couple of vacancies, and this 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.

Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

We will be meeting in the afternoons in the winter months, with meetings followed by tea and, possibly, cake. All are welcome to attend our meetings, with non-members paying £3.

There's no meeting in December, but we start up again in Whitchurch Village Hall at 2.30pm on Thursday 16th January 2025 for a session of members' contributions and discoveries. There will be a chance to look at some of the information we hold in our archives, and to ask questions about Whitchurch's past.

Then on 20th February we hold our AGM, and we welcome back Alan Copeland to show us the curiosities he has found in the Cotswolds.

Contact:

Vicky Jordan

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



Tots on the Thames

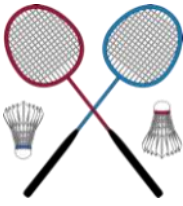


**The Old Rectory Stables
Whitchurch on Thames (RG8 7DF)
WEDNESDAYS 10.00 am – 11.30 am**

Starting on 11th 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

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 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 or ring **Julie on 07980 413026**.



Seasonal Bouquets & Bunches

Flower Subscriptions

Weddings & Farewell Flowers

Contact Sarah on 07833 476125 or sarah@theflowerartisan.co.uk

www.theflowerartisan.co.uk

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

Dog Bins - Have Your Say!

It has come to the Parish Council's attention that the provision of dog bins is fairly scarce within the Parish.

We are therefore seeking input from all parishioners to decide if more bins would be welcome, and if so, where they should be located. Your feedback is invaluable in creating a cleaner and more pleasant environment for everyone.



When considering locations for new dog bins please bear in mind the following:

- Budget constraints (unfortunately we cannot place them on every street corner)
- Placement restrictions (we are not allowed to place bins on street furniture, such as lamp posts or signs)
- Land ownership (we cannot place bins on private land)

We must also collectively acknowledge that removing dog waste is the responsibility of dog owners and waste should be bagged or taken home for disposal in the black bins.

We need your suggestions to help identify where there are gaps.

- Are there specific areas where you often see dog waste but no bins?
- Where do dog walkers frequent?
- Which paths or routes are most commonly used by dog owners?



Once we gather your feedback, the Parish Council will review the suggestions. Our goal is to implement the best possible solution for our community with the resources available.

Parish Clerk

Goring Heath Parish Council

clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

07504 230 682



Autumn Update

This term, the pupils of **Silver Birch Class** (our year 5 & 6 children) embarked on an exciting and enlightening journey to explore the history and significance of the Windrush generation. Through engaging lessons and activities, our young learners gained a deeper understanding of how the arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948 marked a pivotal moment in British history. To culminate this fascinating topic, the class channelled their creativity by designing and building vibrant carnival floats, inspired by Caribbean culture .



Willow Class (our year 3 & 4 children) has embarked on an exciting journey back in time to the Stone Age! The children have been buzzing with enthusiasm as they've explored this fascinating period in history through a range of engaging activities. A highlight of our term was a memorable trip to the Earth Trust, at Wittenham Clumps. The children had a fantastic time learning about the lives of early humans, their habitats, and the tools they used.



Oak Class (year 1 & 2) have embarked on an exciting journey through history with their topic 'The King in His Castle'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about King Charles and his fascinating life. Their studies were brought to life with a memorable visit to the magnificent Windsor Castle, where they explored the grandeur of royal history up close.



Finally, introducing our new reception class – the **Acorns**. I am so pleased to announce that we have 4 classes again at Checkendon. This term they have spent time settling in and getting to know each other, as they have come from a range of pre-schools. The Acorns have had an absolute whale of a time in the puddles and the rain. We encourage this kind of play not only because it is so much fun but because it is brilliant for their balance and motor skills, their emerging understanding of the world which will eventually become scientific understanding of cause and effect, their spatial awareness, and their vocabulary and affinity with the natural world around them.



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



We have been joining in with lots of celebrations... Rosh Hashanah – celebrating Jewish New Year, Halloween and Bonfire Night as well as enjoying all the different colours of autumn during our nature walks. We have been playing games for Rosh Hashanah, getting messy with paint making firework pictures, collecting autumnal leaves on our walks and creating spooky ghosts for Halloween. The little chefs have enjoyed making a variety of sweet and savoury treats this term including Apple and Honey cake for Rosh Hashanah, Autumnal Pizza, using a variety of different coloured toppings and Bonfire Bangers for Bonfire Night.



Rosh-Hashanah

The children are also looking forward to our upcoming Christmas celebrations. Due to popular demand, Checkendon Pre-School will again be doing the Christmas Hamper Raffle. This is our main fundraiser for the year. If you would like to support your local pre-school and purchase some tickets you can come to the Village Hall and speak to the Checkendon ladies. It is £5.00 for a strip of tickets. Thank you for your continued support.



Autumnal Pizza

The children were very excited on the arrival of their Christmas post box. This came by Special Delivery Airmail from no other than Rudolf the reindeer! The children have written their letters to Father Christmas and were delighted to post them in their post box and were very pleased when Rudolf took these letters straight to the North Pole.

We are decorating Christmas crackers, which may have a little treat inside for the children. The children have also been enjoying the role play area, Father Christmas's Grotto, where the children can wrap presents write and send Christmas cards and dress up in lots of festive outfits.

We will also celebrate and enjoy many fun activities such as singing, Christmas jumper day, Polar Express day, performing our Nativity to friends and family and our Christmas party, which the children look forward to every year, with visits from our friends Jester Giggles and Father Christmas. *Thank you all for your continued support and Merry Christmas!*

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.



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

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>



Party hire

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

For information and booking:

bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk

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).

Contact details:

Telephone: 0118 984 4262,

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

e-mail – whitchurchunitedcharities@gmail.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

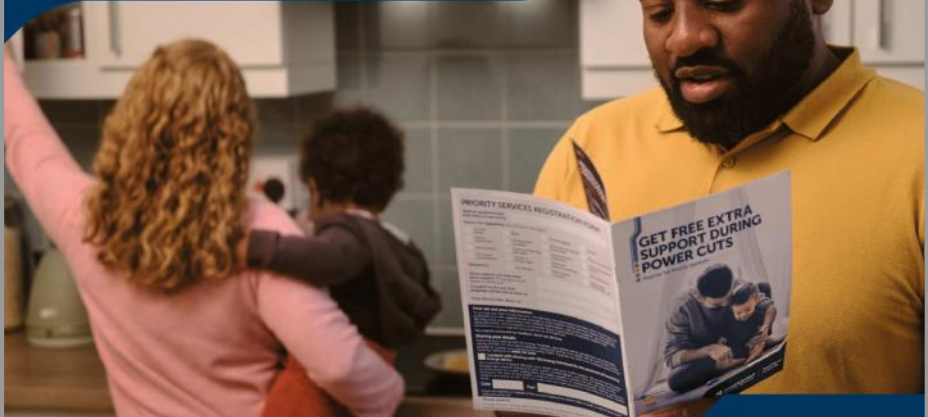
*Said Holy Communion at 9.00am on 2nd & 4th Sunday with
special prayers for the sick*

All Services are taken from the book of Common Prayer

Chaplain: Rev Peter Dewey, -- 07784912935

revpeterdewey@yahoo.co.uk

DO YOU NEED EXTRA SUPPORT IN A POWERCUT?



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or call us on
0800 294 3259



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Electricity Networks

COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

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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**](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

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
10th January 2025	February 2025
14th March 2025	April 2025
16th May 2025	June 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	debs.leach@btinternet.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
	wendyfergie@gmail.com	
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	01189842162
Woodcote Volunteers	Jane Forde	07850158274

Goring Heath Parish Hall: Bookings and Enquiries: Chris Whatmore 07850691920
Email: bookings@goringheathparishhall.uk

GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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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