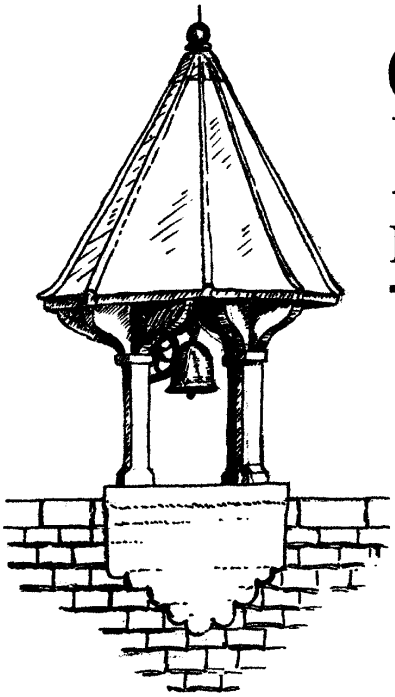
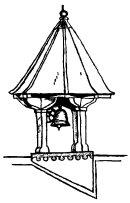


GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

February 2025
Issue 201

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



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

Chair's Comments

A New Year and some key dates for the new diary!

We are a small parish, but there is quite a lot going on, starting off the social calendar with one of the highlights of the year, namely, the QUIZ

The village quiz will be held on Saturday March 1st in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm. This is always an entertaining evening, with fiendish questions set by the ever-inventive Mike Holland. He always has some surprise rounds up his sleeve so mugging up will likely get you nowhere. But even the losers still get to enjoy a fish and chip supper.

Book early to avoid disappointment. Some new blood is needed to oust the reigning champions!

The quiz will be hotly followed by the annual litter pick on Saturday 29th March. I wonder what will be the most frequently picked up drinks cans this year? Red Bull? Coke? Or, more likely, some brand of lager. Everyone welcome - the more hands we have the greater area we can cover. All equipment, including picking up sticks, sacks and high-vis jackets will be provided - so no excuse.

Have you had a look at our new website yet? It is still a work in progress as new information is gradually added. We now have a lovely picture of the Almshouses on our opening page, as opposed to the landscape we started with. The more eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that it was a beautiful view, but the catch was that it was not actually in the Parish.

One of the articles on the new website highlights the concern over the future of the village fete. The fete is a much-loved local institution; it is always well attended, the sun always shines, and the cakes are unfailingly delicious. However, it is under threat from a shortage of volunteers.

A new committee is being formed to run the fete. If you would like to become involved do look at the article on the website, and the information in this magazine. It need not be a very onerous commitment, especially if several people share the load. The tasks are varied, from helping with the planning (booking stalls etc) to helping put up tents on the day. It is all fun and a good way to meet some new people – and you'd be helping to ensure the fete continues to entertain for years to come.

Village fetes are fairly rare locally now - I know of several that have somehow faded away from lack of enthusiasm from volunteers. Let's not add ours to this statistic. It is a very lovely English tradition.

Liz Collas, Chair of the Parish Council

Dates for your Diary

February to May

Event	Day	Date
Art Café supporting Friends of St Mary's and St John's. The Old Stables, Whitchurch (from 10:30am)	Saturday	1st February
Goring Heath Parish Hall Car Park Working Party (10:00am)	Saturday	8th February
History Society AGM Whitchurch Village Hall (2:30pm)	Thursday	20th February
Mike Holland's Quiz Night Goring Heath Parish Hall (7:30pm)	Saturday	1st March
Art Café supporting Pangbourne Bowls Club. The Old Stables, Whitchurch (from 10:30am)	Saturday	22nd March
Goring Heath Litter Pick Meet at the Parish Hall Car Park (10:00am)	Saturday	29th March
Friends of St Mary's and St John's Quiz Night Whitchurch Village Hall (7:30pm)	Saturday	29th March
Annual Parish Meeting Goring Heath Parish Hall (8:00pm)	Tuesday	8th April
Good Friday	*Friday*	*18th April*
Easter Sunday	*Sunday*	*20th April*
Easter: Bank Holiday	*Monday*	*21st April*
May Day Bank Holiday	*Monday*	*5th May*
Whitchurch Hill Village Fete The Recreation Ground (from 12 noon)	Saturday	24th May
Spring Bank Holiday	*Monday*	*26th May*

Whitchurch Hill Fete 2025 - Volunteers Needed!

Are you passionate about bringing our community together? Do you have ideas to make this year's village fete the best one yet? We need your help!

The Parish Council is excited to announce the creation of a brand-new committee to organize and run our much-loved annual village fete on Saturday 24th May. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved, meet new people, and make a real difference in our village.

Why Volunteer?

- Be part of a cherished tradition.
- Share your creativity and skills.
- Help create a fun-filled day for all ages.

Roles Available:

Whether you're a seasoned event organizer or just keen to lend a hand, there's a role for everyone. Some areas where help is needed include:

- Event planning and logistics
- Fundraising and sponsorship
- Marketing and communications
- Setting up and packing down
- Managing stalls and activities

How to Get Involved

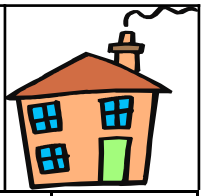
If you're interested in joining the committee or simply volunteering on the day, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Emma Burdon at clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Let's work together to make this year's fete a day to remember. Thank you for your support—we can't do it without you!

Planning Decisions

The following planning applications, submitted up to 13th Jan 2025, 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
P24/S1748/FUL 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	
P24/S2309/FUL 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	
P24/S2413/HH 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	Withdrawn
P24/S2610/HH and P24/S2611LB Holly Copse House, Hardwick Estate Collins End, Goring Heath Rebuild a boundary wall attached to an outbuilding	No Strong Views	Listed Building Consent
P24/S3437/HH Hurst Cottage Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill New garage to the side of the house	No Strong Views	
P25/S0092/LB Copyhold Farm Goring Heath Replacement of failed and rotten windows	No Strong Views	

Whitchurch Hill WI

We are approaching the end of our programme year, which runs from April to March.

At the time of writing, we only have two business meetings left before our Annual Meeting in March when we adopt the proposed programme for the next year.

We are looking forward to learning about the past, present and future of the Kennet and Avon Canal in January. February will taste rather different - with one of our very own members giving a presentation on Sardine Dishes.

Between times we will socialise over drinks and meals together and participate in friendly gatherings and informal competitions .

Our programme for the coming year is diverse. We will be introduced to Indian Dancing, take a vocally led Stroll through Berkshire Graveyards, go back in time to RAF Uxbridge, learn about Withymead Nature Reserve …. with much else to enlighten and enjoy.

If you would like to know more, you are very welcome to contact Frances on 01189842162

Sally Bergmann

Rainfall Recording

Already a few people locally record rainfall amounts, and I wonder if they, and others who care to do so, might send their data in to me so an accurate local record might be kept.

I record on a weekly basis - daily is probably more accurate. But as long as the details are clear, we can make sense of it.

Send data to me at:
martinwise10@hotmail.com

Martin Wise
Coombe End
140m above sea level.

District Councillor's Commentary

It is likely that South Oxfordshire District council is going to follow Goring Rural District Council (1894-1932) and Henley Rural District Council (1894–1972) into oblivion, and we will be governed by a new unitary authority which, if the current proposals from the government come to fruition, will have a minimum population of 500,000. This compares to the current population of South Oxfordshire of around 153,000.

A unitary authority covers all the activity handled by the District Council as well as the functions of the County Council. The District Council's functions are quite well defined, principally planning and waste collection. It can also encompass social housing, although in South Oxfordshire we hived off responsibility for that to a housing association many years ago. The County Council includes highways and waste disposal, plus libraries and education, and the huge responsibility of adult and children's social services. Social services take up over 50% of the Oxfordshire County Council budget.

Over the years the County Councils have lost various responsibilities. Most recently schools have been able to opt out into Academies, before that Further Education Colleges, some community health services, and the Ambulance service were moved on from County Council control.

Exactly how we will fall into a unitary authority is not at all clear at the moment. Bundling South Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire District Councils and Oxford City Council together in one huge mega county council is one option, which would have a population of about 730,000. This would tick the government's size box and could be one component of the suggested strategic authority that is also proposed, a mayoral organisation on the model of Manchester or Birmingham. In such a authority we would perhaps be bundled in with Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Berkshire.

Whether larger organisations will achieve the desired objective of economic growth is difficult to judge, although all the experts seem to think it's a good thing. The same was said of the local government reorganisation of the 1970's, and was also the same message that came out repeatedly as the National Health Service was re-organised repeatedly from the late 1960's onwards with, for example, Regional Authorities created, then abolished and then re-instated.

Of course, with ever larger organisations the voice of residents gets progres-

sively fainter, with elected representatives, if any, inevitably working to their own agendas, political agendas or government directives and decision making increasingly influenced by powerful lobby groups.

If we do end up with these mega authorities, I think it would be good if there was some sort of mechanism for the term of office for elected people to be ended by popular demand, as is now the case with MPs who can be the subject of a recall petition.

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.

Goring Heath Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Goring Heath Parish Hall
B471 Whitchurch Hill
RG8 7NY

Tuesday April 8th 2025

8.00pm - 9.30pm

All welcome

Refreshments will be available.

For further information or to add to the agenda please contact the clerk at **clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk**

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Email: alexwise1992@gmail.com

Goring Heath Litter Pick
Saturday 29th March
10am

Join us to tidy up the verges and paths of the Parish
All equipment is provided!

Meeting points:
Goring Heath Parish Hall Car Park
Old Post Office Crossroads

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.

Work Parties

Our regular work parties in both churchyards have wound down over the Christmas period, but great clearance of brambles has been done in the centre of the churchyard at St John's. On Jan 8th, volunteers from Sonning Common Green Gym made the first of two visits and started to clear the brambles in the North East corner with significant effect.

We have decided to have monthly work parties at St John's during 2025. They will be on the last Wednesday of the month beginning on February 26th at 10 am. At St Mary's the next work party will be on February 19th, again starting at 10 am. Work parties at St Mary's will be on a more ad hoc basis as the churchyard is well tended at the moment. 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 and many hands really do make light work!

Spire Restoration

The spire restoration at St Mary's is our main future funding project. This remains in the early stages of planning as the architects have applied to the Diocese for the work to be allowed. Once this has been agreed, quotes can be sought for the restoration work. One exciting development is that we have bats in the belfry! It is in fact the brown long eared bat that has been detected sheltering in the spire. This little critter is known as the whispering bat as, due to its long ears and acute hearing, it has a quiet call/voice. We will need to find out whether a special licence is needed to begin work because of its presence.

Fund Raising

After the success of our last Quiz Night in April 2023, we will be holding another this year, so please make a note in your diary for **Saturday 29th March** at Whitchurch Village Hall, Manor Road. The ticket price will include a light supper and there will be a bar and raffle on the night, as well as a mixed bag of entertaining questions posed by our Quiz Master. More details will follow in due course and we look forward to seeing you there.

The Art Café at The Old Stables (High St, Whitchurch) on Saturday 7th December was well received despite heavy rain. On the day, local artist

Sarah Shore displayed some beautiful pieces of artwork, many of which were inspired by local landscapes. Our Art Cafés will continue regularly and our next date is on Saturday 1st February so do drop in if you can.

New Trustee

We will be sorry to say farewell to Geraldine and Paul Witcher who plan to move out of the area sometime soon. Paul has been a very proactive trustee for the Friends and was chairman of the Friends for a number of years. We are therefore seeking a new trustee to join us on the Committee. We meet about 6 times a year: please contact me or Sally Woolhouse for more information if you are interested.

We are always keen to welcome new Friends and for more information on how to join please go to the Whitchurch on Thames village website at **https://whitchurchonthames.com** and follow the link for the Church, or ask me, or Sally Woolhouse.

Sarah Dragonetti, Chair of The Friends

Pilates with Katie

Mondays at 7.30am and Tuesdays at 9.45am

Woodcote Village Hall, Reading Road RG8 0QY

A mixed ability class suitable for all ages and levels.

Pilates is one of the safest forms of exercise for general physical health and for rehabilitation after injury due to its focus on controlled movements and correct alignment. Benefits include improved core strength, increased flexibility, enhanced posture, better balance, muscle tone through the body, improved body awareness and injury prevention

Please contact Katie on 07773 399263 or katiejferries@googlemail.com

Woodcote Volunteers

Woodcote Winter Wheels: Driving Health and Happiness!

We are pleased to say that our new initiative to help our clients over the winter months is going well, and as of the date of writing this, over 70 clients have benefitted from free drives.

Due to the generosity of both the Co-op Community Fund and Woodcote Rally, we are able to provide free drives over the three winter months of December, January and February.

It may be useful to reiterate here our criteria for accepting requests for a drive: clients should live in the villages of Woodcote, Ipsden, South Stoke, Crays Pond, Whitchurch Hill, Goring Heath and Checkendon. In addition, clients should have no means of transporting themselves to where they need to go. In practice this normally means they don't have their own car and/or they are unable to drive and/or public transport is not an option. Our range is generally about 20 miles radius of Woodcote – which means we can take clients to Oxford, Abingdon, Reading, Wokingham, Henley, Thatcham to name a few. If in doubt, please phone us to ask! We have a friendly and helpful office team who take calls between 9.30am and 11am Monday to Friday and our answerphone is checked each day for messages left.

Tea Parties for our clients

Our next Tea Party will be on **5th February 2025** at 2.30pm, finishing at 4pm. We are being treated to a talk by Age Uk about scams awareness – a really useful subject, I am sure you'll agree.

Tea Parties are held at the Community Centre in Woodcote. We provide tea and home-made cakes and there is no charge. Please give us plenty of notice if you need a lift by calling our office phone number.

New Volunteering opportunities with us

We are looking for people to join us to help in the following roles:

- Volunteer Driver – without drivers, we wouldn't be able to offer this service at all! Enjoy interesting conversations with our clients while providing an essential service
- Safeguarding Champion – ensure our safeguarding duties are carried out

- Client Liaison – keep in touch with our clients and be their voice on our committee
- Volunteer Coordinator – recruit, induct and support new volunteers

Please go to our website (shown below) for detailed information about each role and how to contact us for an informal chat if you are interested in knowing more.

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.

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.

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THE ORATORY PREP SCHOOL
Cor Ad Cor Loquitor

The Oratory Prep School's facilities are available to hire, including the theatre, swimming pool, astroturf, cricket and football pitches and meeting rooms.

These spaces are ideal for events, sports or meetings. For more details, please contact **lettings@oratoryprep.co.uk**.

The Whitchurch Society's Art and Craft Exhibition 2024

This was a very successful exhibition, which was held over the weekend of 23rd/24th November in Whitchurch Village Hall in Manor Road. There were more exhibitors and exhibits than in any previous years, since the Exhibition was first held over 50 years ago. The quality of the entries was most impressive and this was commented on by many visitors.

The exhibits were judged on the Friday evening by 3 external experts, and the winners were chosen in all the art, craft and photography categories, entered by adults and young people.

The theme for the Joyce Voysey Prize was ' Colours of Autumn' and, not surprisingly, this encouraged a wide range of imaginative creations, especially from the younger exhibitors.

There were 13 adult exhibitors who had never taken part before. In total, there were 246 entries across the full spectrum of classes, in art, craft, photography and new media, from 132 exhibitors, both adult and young people.

It was enjoyed by many visitors over the weekend, as were the refreshments which were served on both days.

Also, on the stage, the three local schools, namely Whitchurch Pre-School, the Whitchurch Primary School and the Oratory Preparatory School, had set up impressive and colourful displays of school work by their students. These are always enjoyed by all the visitors.

A new award called The Founder's Award was presented for the first time. It has been given by the family of the founder of the very first exhibition back in 1969. It was awarded to the exhibit which the judging panel decide is the 'Best in Show'.

The full list of the prize winners can be found via the link on the Exhibition webpage on the Whitchurch website (whitchurchonthames.com/groups/artscrafts.html).

Also, the website's Photo Gallery holds a great selection of photos of the exhibition.

I would like to thank all of the great team that helped in many ways to set the exhibition up, and without whom it would be impossible to achieve, in the tight schedule. My special thanks must go to the planning and organising team (Sarah & Adrian Dixon, Wendy Ferguson, Jean-Marc Grosfort, and Kate Lowe) and to the Whitchurch Society committee, for all

their hard work and support which made it another successful show.

And remember, it is never too soon to start work on your entries for the 2025 exhibition!!

Sally Woolhouse,
Chair, Organising Committee

Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

The Society's AGM is on 20th February at 2:30pm at Whitchurch on Thames Village Hall, Manor Road.

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

Bus Service for Goring Heath on Tuesdays: 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, Blagrave 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, Blagrave 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**

Hello From Whitchurch Pre-School!

Our New Preschool Building is Here!

We are thrilled to announce that construction of our brand-new preschool building was completed in December and officially opened on Friday 17th January.

We welcomed local Liberal Democrat councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers to cut the ribbon.

This modern facility provides a vibrant and welcoming environment for our little learners to explore, discover, and grow.

Thoughtfully designed with both children and staff in mind, the new space features an improved layout that maximizes comfort, safety, and creativity. It's not just a place for learning—it's a space where imaginations can take flight and lifelong memories are made.

One of the standout features of our new building is its energy and space efficiency. It has been designed to meet the needs of today while planning for tomorrow, ensuring that it remains a wonderful space for future generations.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our community. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our past and present parents, as well as our amazing neighbours, for their generosity and unwavering belief in this vision. Together, you've helped us turn a dream into reality, and we couldn't be more grateful!

As we step into this new chapter, we can't wait to see the joy, curiosity, and creativity that will fill these walls.

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

Seeking Local Artists

To make our preschool environment as warm and inspiring as possible, we are seeking a talented local artist to volunteer their time and skills to paint a mural on one of our main walls.

The mural will play a key role in brightening up the space and sparking imagination in our little learners.

While this is a volunteer opportunity, we would be delighted to showcase your work on our website and social media, giving credit to you as the artist. If you are interested in contributing your talent to this project, please contact us at: hello@whitchurchpreschool.org

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful impact on our preschool community. We can't wait to hear from you!

Limited Spaces Available

We still have a few spaces available for new starters aged from two years upwards in our brand-new pre-school building.

- 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 outside the Whitchurch catchment area are welcome to apply.

To register your interest, please use the form on our website or email: **hello@whitchurchpreschool.org**

Registered Charity: 1183193

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

Looking back to 2024 it is amazing to think we managed a walk every first Monday of the month.

Despite the often very wet weather we seemed to strike lucky and only had to resort to one road-only walk - and didn't cancel our gatherings at all.

Let's hope we do equally well in 2025. The schedule remains the same - we meet at the entrance to Hill Bottom Close on the first Monday of the month at 10am, finishing around 11.30am.

We are a friendly bunch of villagers and would welcome anyone who might wish to give us a try. Feel free to give me a ring on 07585195669 if you want to know more.

Sally Bergmann

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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

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!

The new email address for our clerk Emma is clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact the Parish Councillors by emailing the clerk.

Chess Group - The Sun Pub

Wednesday lunchtimes at the pub sees a table or two occupied by villagers and visitors enjoying a friendly game of chess. This has been going a few years now, having initially been twice a month. Due to player preferences this is now weekly, though obviously not everyone is free to play every time

Boards are provided so if you fancy a go all you need to do is turn up at 12 noon- 2pm.

Failing that, please feel free to give me a ring beforehand on 07876531881.

You would be made most welcome.

Chris Bergmann

Langtree Team Ministry

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Tots on the Thames

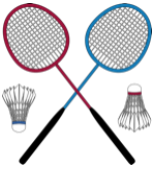
The Old Rectory Stables
Whitchurch on Thames (RG8 7DF)
WEDNESDAYS 10.00 am – 11.30 am

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.**

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.

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

Pangbourne Bowls Club

I'm sure many of us in the village visit Pangbourne from time to time but are you aware that Pangbourne has a Bowls Club and has done for over 100 years?

The green is at the far end of the Recreation ground, Thames Avenue, opposite the tennis courts.

We are a small but friendly bunch of ladies and gents who play throughout the summer and cater for all ages. Whilst we play in league and friendly matches, everyone is encouraged to play as much or as little as they wish and to this end the plan is to offer casual roll ups either afternoon or evening to allow access for all.

For those new to the game coaching will be provided by qualified coaches, as will equipment, however all we ask is that flat shoes be worn.

At this time of the year we are busy preparing for our new season - looking after the bowling green; arranging the match fixtures, planning social events etc.

On **Saturday 22nd March** you will find us serving the regular refreshments at The Art Café in the Old Stables, Whitchurch from 10.00am to 12.00 noon, so come along and meet us there.

Think you may be interested in coming along to give Bowls a try? We will be holding an Open Day on **Saturday 12th April** at 2.00pm and if you are unable to attend on this date, there will be a second chance, date to be publicised when arranged.

If you can't get along to the Café or to the Open Day and would like further information please contact me.

Sally Bergmann

07585195669

Whitchurch Hill and Crays Pond Speedwatch

A Few Speedwatch Results for the Thames Valley!

The Community Speedwatch co-ordinator for the Thames Valley Police published some interesting statistics illustrating how the scheme has performed in 2024.

People who have joined the Thames Valley Police Community Speedwatch Scheme	2,352
Sites approved across Thames Valley Police area	1,738
Roadside sessions (hours) for 2024	4,122
Operator hours across Thames Valley Police area for 2024	11,451
Letters sent in 2024	42,718
Vehicles passing through the CSW system in 2024	504,470
Vehicles reported to DVLA for no tax in 2024	1.025
Percentage of NON re-offenders after receiving 1st letter	**95.32%**

We know that 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** .

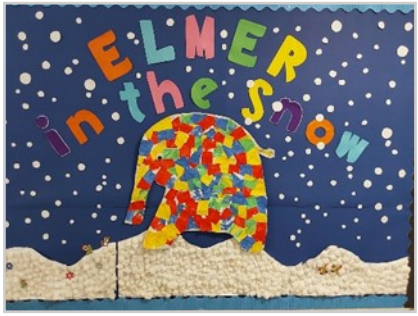
Online training is provided by Thames Valley Police and volunteers can do as many Speedwatch sessions as they wish: even just an hour per month would make a difference to the safety of our roads.

What's happening at Checkendon Pre-School:

We are delighted to be back after a busy Christmas period and would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We have lots of exciting activities and celebrations to look forward to this term filled with lots of fun, adventures, and learning.

Firstly, I would like to say a great big thank you to all families and local community and businesses who supported our Christmas fundraiser, through buying or selling tickets and donating prizes. We are very pleased to share with you that we raised £800. We would like to say thank you very much to everyone for your continued support. We have now been able to purchase a new book shelf for our story area and our new Polydron Build-a-Shop for our home corner. The children are delighted with our new resources.

We welcome back our Diddi dance classes. This term we will be learning the Charleston. Little chefs will be cooking up a storm, creating some lovely wintery treats to keep us warm in the cold weather, as well as Work Out Wednesday and much more. This term we are focusing on the story of 'Elmer in the Snow'. Elmer the Elephant teaches children to embrace their differences, be true to themselves, and value friendship and diversity.



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**

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 — 1 Feb 2025

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

Information: 07789 871620

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

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
angtree Team Ministry
The Parish of St Mary's Whitchurch-on-Thames
with St John's Whitchurch Hill
Email: jamesleach.whitchurch@gmail.co
Judi Green: green_judi@hotmail.com

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

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
14th March 2025	April 2025
16th May 2025	June 2025
11th July 2025	August 2025

LOCAL GROUPS—CONTACT DETAILS

Brownies and Guides	Andrea Bain goringheathguiding@gmail.com	
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
Pangbourne Bowls Club	Sally Bergmann	07585195669
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 vickyjordan5@hotmail.com	01189843260
Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning	Wendy Ferguson wendyefergie@gmail.com	01189841262
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	01189842162
Woodcote Volunteers	Office	01491 681171

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