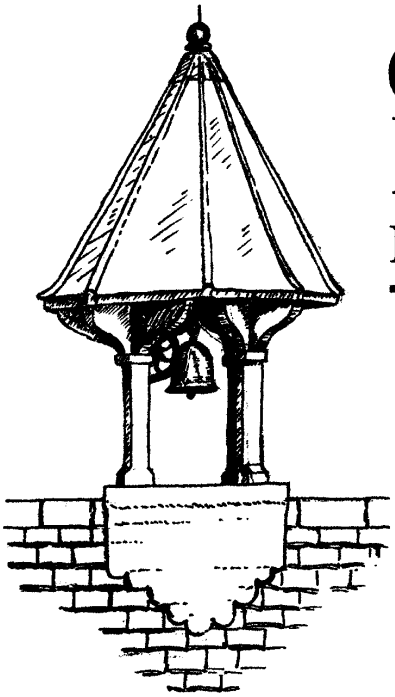


GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

April 2025
Issue 202

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

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

Chair's Comments

This month we welcome our newest member of the Parish Council, Mark Skidmore. We are very pleased that he has agreed to join our small council and help to look after the Parish. I hope he will find his involvement worthwhile and interesting. I know that one of the things I have gained from my involvement is a much better knowledge and feeling for the whole area, not just my house and surroundings, so I hope Mark will enjoy his involvement.

Sadly, this month we say goodbye to Hilary Dewey, who is moving out of the Parish with her husband Reverend Peter Dewey, who is currently the rector at the Almshouses. Hilary has been on the council for several years, and as well as being responsible for keeping an eye on the planning applications has been a stalwart helping to man the barbecue at the fete. We will all miss her, and a very big 'Thank You' to Hilary for all she has done for the Parish. We are all hoping that the move doesn't take place before the fete as I'm not sure how we will get the burgers served without her deft work on the burger buns!

Taking of the fete, the organisers are now busy making plans. It may always seem to be a simple affair - just a few stalls and a band, but in reality, it takes a lot of planning. The band and all the stallholders and entertainers have to be booked, tents put up, and the WI have to galvanise their excellent cake makers. An English fete is not worthy of its name without both the tea tent and the equally important beer tent.

Whilst the planning stage for the fete is very important, there are always jobs to do at the last minute, including collecting bottles for the very lucrative and fun bottle stall, fetching and carrying, putting up tents and moving chairs. The jobs are mostly unglamorous, but it's fun to be involved, so if you can lend a hand, and maybe some muscle, do contact the organisers - see their article in the magazine.

Some sunshine at last, and the daffodils are out. If you are a keen walker, you will have noticed that both Town Lane, going from near Copyhold Farm southwards, and the path by Hod's Corner, have both had a serious haircut. Many thanks to the volunteer path maintenance team at the Chiltern Society for spending many hours trimming back the very overgrown paths. We have an excellent network of paths in the Parish and, hopefully, will be adding one or two to the official map in Birchen Copse, just

south of Woodcote. The application for official recognition of three well-trodden routes has, apparently, reached the top of the pile at OCC. Don't hold your breath!

And finally, the Parish Council is looking forward to welcoming you to the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 8th April. Come along and hear what's happening in the parish!

Liz Collas,
Chair of the Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 8th April 2025 All Welcome!

If you'd like the chance to catch up with your local parish councillors and to find out what's happening in your local area, then come along to the Annual Parish Meeting.

It's at Goring Heath Parish Hall on Tuesday 8th April at 8 pm.

The Parish Council would like to extend a warm welcome to all parishioners and special thanks to all the litter pickers, newsletter distributors and contributors, telephone box tidiers, speedwatch volunteers, footpath walkers, defibrillator monitors, playground keepers, fete volunteers and all of you who help us to keep this parish such a lovely place to live.

The Parish Council, our local clubs and societies will be reporting on their activities and plans.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

For more information, or if you would like to see/ add to the agenda, contact the clerk at **goringheathparishcouncil@gmail.com**

Welcome to our New Parish Councillor

Mark Skidmore moved to the parish 16 months ago, but is no stranger to the area, having previously lived in the surrounding region between 2006 and 2015 and again from 2019 onwards.

Currently serving as one of three Deputy Heads at Pangbourne College, Mark brings a wealth of experience in strategic planning, budget control, conflict resolution and community engagement.

Mark has expressed a strong commitment to fostering a more connected and engaged community. His primary motivation for joining the Council is to work collaboratively to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

Whitchurch Hill Fete 2025 - Volunteers Needed!

The Fete committee is hard at work organising everything which makes the afternoon a memorable occasion.

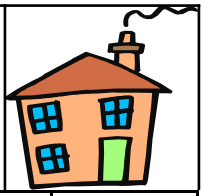
Would you like to volunteer to help set up on the morning of 24th May, or help put the Recreation Ground back to its usual self at the end of the day?

If you are available to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you.

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

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	PP granted
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/S3437/HH Hurst Cottage Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill New garage to the side of the house.	No Strong Views	PP granted
P25/S0092/LB Copyhold Farm Goring Heath Replacement of failed and rotten windows.	No Strong Views	Listed Building Consent
P25/SO125/S73 Timbers, Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill Removal of condition 14 on planning permission P22/S4346/FUL (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement 5 bed dwelling with detached garage) - to remove condition 14 (Close existing access (b)) in order to retain the secondary access.	Objection	
P24/S2601/FUL Flint House Reading Road Goring Change of use from residential dwelling to flexible meeting space, extension and alteration of existing bungalow, along with demolition of existing double garage.	No Strong Views	

Premises and application details	Parish Council	Notes
P24/S3513/DA Butlers Farm Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill Without planning permission, and in relation to the building sited on the Land in the indicative position as shown edged orange on the Plan and inset map, the material change of use of that building from agriculture, to a mixed use of agriculture, general storage and residential dwelling. Without planning permission, the creation of hardstanding sited on the Land in the indicative position as shown hatched blue on the Plan and inset map, that facilitates the material change of use .	Objection to the appeal	
P25/S0031/HH Chalkwood Cottage Cold Harbour Erection of a single storey timber outbuilding and lean to on a brick foundation wall in keeping with existing garage on property.	No Strong Views	
P25/S0517/HH The Deepings Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill Removal of main roof to house, reconstruction to form steeper pitched roof with flat roof dormer to rear elevation to form two habitable rooms with ensuite bathrooms; three rooflights to front elevation and one rooflight to left hand elevation.	No Strong Views	
P25/S0357FUL 1 Enigma Estate Cold Harbour Demolition of existing stables and construction of replacement stables for domestic use.	Objection	

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

District Councillor's Commentary

One of the most remarkable achievements of the current Green and Lib Dem administration that has run South Oxfordshire since 2019 is that it has achieved a level of financial stability that many councils can only envy, and this is despite having one of the lowest levels of council tax in the country.

Up until recently, South Oxfordshire District Council had to draw on its reserves to achieve a balanced budget, but for the coming financial year that is no longer the case, with income exceeding expenditure. This has been achieved through careful control over spending as well as improved income as a result of higher interest rates. The council is also benefiting from revenue from the EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) scheme, which addresses the increased waste stream of packaging that has to be collected by our refuse teams. We expect to receive £1.3 million in the coming financial year.

One of the reasons that SODC is financially strong is that it does not provide social services, the cost of which accounts for 50% of Oxfordshire County Council's budget. Both adult and children's social services have taken up more and more of the County Council budget in recent years, and the cost of supporting individuals in need can be very high.

The options for SODC with compulsory unitisation are of being bundled into a greater County Council, which unsurprisingly is favoured by the County Council, or joining with the Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire District council to form what has been branded Ridgeway Council. West Berkshire is already a Unitary Authority, and is not financially secure. It is now having to make cuts of various sorts and has also been bailed out by the government. It is not in as bad a state as some of the other local authority basket cases like Thurrock, Slough or Woking, but no doubt will be pleased to take advantage of SODC's resources.

For now, it's largely business as usual, with the change to the way residents pay for the brown garden waste bin to improve matters. Although payment by direct debit, which is how it has been done up to now, seems straight forward, the reality is that things don't always work as they should, and there were many cases where brown bins were being emptied that were not being paid for. The new system, where payment and the service all start at the same time for everyone and only bins that display the current licence will be emptied, should be more efficient.

Peter Dragonetti

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

Whitchurch Hill WI

Another WI year has come and gone, with another Annual Meeting put to bed.

Liz Gibson won the trophy for the Flower of the Month Competition 2024/25 and Tricia Clapp won the inaugural Competition Cup. At the meeting, our events table was adorned with March's Flower of the Month courtesy of many member's gardens – with Frances Strange starting this year's competition in pole position. Alison Broadbridge leads the field in the Competition Cup with her tapestry display on the subject of games.

After the formal business was complete we enjoyed, or suffered the frustrations of, a Dingbat Challenge, with winners taking away Easter goodies to enjoy. Thank you Tricia for organising.

So, what has the coming month in store for us? We have monthly Knit and Natter Groups where those participants who like to craft make items for the RBH baby unit. Those with other interests donate items for the RBH Welcome Packs (toothbrushes, flannel, toothpaste, soap etc).

Wallingford Food Bank continues to receive donations too whilst some of the proceeds from our recent Art Cafe will go to a charity of choice. Thank you to all those who popped by to support us.

Along the way we have a few social gatherings planned too. Meals out at local pubs, an afternoon tea with the Pang Valley WI Group and a planned trip to a local garden (under the National Open Gardens) are all in the diary. All that, before summer really arrives.!

It won't be long of course before we start our planning (along with everyone else) for the Whitchurch Hill Fete and our particular specialist activity - The Tea Tent. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

If you fancy knowing more about us please feel free to give Frances a ring on 01189842162.

Sally Bergmann

Oxfordshire County Council Election: Thursday 1st May

Goring Heath Parish will be going to the polls to elect the County Councillor for Goring and Woodcote on Thursday 1st May.

Remember that you need to bring photo ID to the polling station.

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards
- Voter Authority Certificate
- Anonymous Elector's Document
- Older person's bus pass or a disabled person's bus pass

All of these IDs must be originals, not copies, but some expired documents will be accepted.

Find out more by searching for **Accepted forms of photo ID | Electoral Commission**

The last date to:

- Register to vote is **Friday 11th April**
- Apply for a postal vote is **Monday 14th April at 5pm**
- Apply for a proxy vote is **Wednesday 23rd April at 5pm**

Whitchurch & Goring Heath History Society

We're invited to take a stroll through Caversham Court Gardens for our illustrated talk at Whitchurch Village Hall on Thursday April 17th at 2.30pm. Edward Evans, chairman of the Friends of Caversham Court Gardens is our guide to this historic place, a hidden gem on the banks of the Thames.

Our last meeting before our summer outings will take place at the same time and place, on Thursday 15th May when we will unearth papers from our archives. One topic will be the Oxfordshire, and very local, connections of Jane Austen, whose 250th birthday is celebrated this year.

Contact: Vicky Jordan

vickyjordan5@hotmail.com Phone: 0118 984 3260

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.

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

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

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**

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

Work parties at St John's will be on the last Wednesday of the month during 2025, and the next one scheduled for April 30th at 10am. We continue to make very good progress with the bramble clearance, but there is always plenty to do to keep the vegetation in this lovely large churchyard under control.

Work 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.

Spire Restoration

The spire restoration at St Mary's is our main future funding project. There are no more developments at the time of writing, and we remain in the early stages of planning. Long eared bats have been found in the belfry, and we are awaiting news about how to deal with them whilst the construction work occurs.

Fund Raising

A *Quiz Night* was held on 29th March at Whitchurch Village Hall. I am writing this just before the event so I hope that it was fun and successful. Our next *Art Café* will be on **Saturday 5th April** at The Old Stables in Whitchurch.

Grannies Attic at Whitchurch Hill Fete

After the success of last year we are running this again, so please get in touch with me if you have any pre-loved items, small tools, unwanted gifts or bric a brac that you would like to donate. Please

bear in mind that items should be small enough to be carried away at the end of the fete, so nothing too big, and no books or clothes.

New Trustee

Geraldine and Paul Witcher have now moved from the village and we are in the process of finding a new Trustee to join the Friends Committee. We meet about 6 times a year. If you would like to become more involved with the community, by looking after our two churches and churchyards, please get in touch.

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

Tea Parties for our clients

Our clients loved the musical quiz in March and thank you to Brian for running it. Our next Tea Party will be on **Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 2.30pm, finishing at 4pm.** We are being treated to a talk by Vicky Jordan about an aspect of local history. It should be very interesting so please come along to our free event for tea, cake, talk and good company.

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 below.

New Client Liaison Volunteer

We are delighted to welcome Yvette Decmar, who some clients have already met through our tea parties as she comes along to those each month. She would like to gather feedback from our clients about how we can improve, or offer different services, so if you have any good ideas, she would love to hear from you. Please contact her via our office phone number or our email address and messages will be passed on.

Woodcote Winter Wheels: Driving Health and Happiness!

February was the last month this winter that our free drives were offered. We were able to offer free drives over the winter due to the generosity of both the Co-op Community Fund and Woodcote Rally and would like to thank them again. It was a very well received initiative, with over 150 drives undertaken in the period, resulting in significant savings for our clients. We hope to be able to repeat this next winter.

Blue Badges

Having successfully helped several of our clients to apply for a Blue Badge, we now have the capacity on a first come, first served basis, to help others who live in our catchment area. If you think you may be eligible but require some advice or need help with the process, please

call our office phone number in the first instance and someone will call you back.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on **Wednesday 16th April** in the Pavillion Room, Village Hall, Woodcote, from 7pm. All of our volunteers and the wider community are very welcome to attend, to find out more about our service and meet those who are involved. A speaker from Age UK has kindly agreed to come along to talk about their services.

Call out for new drivers

We do need a few more drivers and we would love to hear from you! Being a volunteer driver is a wonderful opportunity to help others while making new friends. Please go to our website **www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk** to find out more about the role and how to contact us.

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.

WHITCHURCH HILL

VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 24th MAY

FROM 2PM

£100 GRAND PRIZE DRAW

GIFT STALLS

BBQ PUB TEAS

CHILDREN'S RIDES

BRASS BAND DOG SHOW

EGG THROWING COMPETITION

Mike Holland's Quiz Night

The annual contest for the honour of winning the Theresa Elsome Trophy, the social event of the year in Whitchurch Hill, took place in the Parish Hall on March 1st.

Three-time winners The Coombe Raiders, the Manchester City of Whitchurch Hill Quizzing, took on the Mad Hatters, The Daffodils, Quiz Team Aguilera (that name still raises a chuckle in what must be its 20th year), Whitchurch Wombles, The Undecided, Leaky Bucket, Insta-Kram and Crayswood.

The Mad Hatters took an early lead, but the Coombe Raiders responded and went into the break with a very healthy lead, stunning the opposition with their knowledge of sport and politics. They then went further, snatching the prized bottle of prosecco (other sparkling wines are available) with their skill/outrageous luck in Play Your Cards Right. However, when it came to Geography the Raiders knew not where they were and with late jokers being played they were caught.

Fittingly, on St David's Day the Daffodils, led by Vicky Jordan, triumphed. Congratulations to the team!

Many thanks to all those that supported the event, proceeds from which support the Parish Charity, and to all those organising the food, the drink and getting the tickets sold.

The Daffodils proudly displaying the Theresa Elsome Trophy with Quiz Master Mike

We hope to see you again next year.

Mike Holland, Quiz Master

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.**

The Flower Artisan
SEASONAL & SUSTAINABLE CUT FLOWERS
Locally grown in Goring Heath
Weddings & Events
Bouquets & Subscriptions
PYO Dahlia
Farewell Flowers
www.theflowerartisan.co.uk
Email: sarah@theflowerartisan.co.uk Tel: 07833 476125

Pangbourne Bowls Club
A date for the diary?

Spring is fast approaching, and with it the start of the outdoor bowling season. We have a busy summer planned - but not just with matches against other clubs.

On **Saturday 5th April** we are planning to be outside Garlands in Pangbourne to promote our club and the activities we enjoy. We will be there 10am - 1pm, so if you fancy a chat to learn more do come and say hello.

On **Saturday 12th April** we will open our club doors to returning members and anyone interested in having a go at bowling, maybe for the first time. Please just wear flat shoes.

Playing will of course be weather dependant, but the kettle will be on, and the bar open, for anyone wanting to just come along and see who we are. This will be from 2pm at the Bowling Green. Details of exactly where to find us are below.

On **Saturday 3rd May** we are proud to again host the Houdin Exchange visitors, whilst on **Saturday 17th May** we are delighted run another Open Day. All ages very welcome and no previous experience required.

A programme of social events are planned for the rest of the summer.

For anyone joining our Club (and particularly for those new to the sport) coaching will be available from our own qualified instructors.

Roll ups will take place on a Monday afternoon from 2pm and a Friday evening (times to be confirmed). These give everyone an opportunity to practice new and old skills alike.

Pangbourne Bowling Club is located at the far end of the Recreation Ground off Thames Avenue, next to the tennis courts. The Club House is visible from the car park, though the green itself is out of sight behind hedging.

Thames Avenue is opposite the Working Men's Club. Turn down the Avenue and at the end turn left then right into the car park access road. Park up and cross the field to the Club House, where a warm welcome awaits you. For any further information please contact:

Sally Bergmann on **07585195669.**

Everyone Active Grant Scheme

Open 1st April - 26th May

The Active Communities Strategy

South Oxfordshire District Council wants to create opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and the role the council plays in providing high quality active opportunities for our communities to contribute to tackling inactivity and addressing the inequalities that challenge our society.

We have made £50,000 available annually for our voluntary sector who support communities to become more active or to sustain activities. Projects will be prioritised, in line with our Active Communities Strategy and emerging delivery plan.

Basic rules of the scheme

- Projects should provide benefit to more than one individual becoming active or sustaining activity, to groups of residents in South Oxfordshire.
- The maximum grant you can apply for is £1,000.
- You can apply for revenue costs or capital items, with a maximum total project cost of £5,000.
- You can request 100% of your project costs.
- The project must complete within 12 months of the award decision.
- We will accept one application only from each organisation each year.

Who is eligible?

The scheme is open to:

- to all not-for-profit groups and sports clubs.
- Town/parish councils and parish meetings.
- Not for profit preschools, PTAs and local authority run schools or Academies can apply for non-statutory elements of the education programme that are not already funded through school budgets and are out of hours school provision.

Find out more by searching for:
Everyone Active grant scheme - opening 1 April to 26 May 2025 - South Oxfordshire District Council

Brownies and Guides in Goring Heath

We have thriving Brownie and Guide Units who meet at the Scout and Guide Hut at Crays Pond.
There are some vacancies - to find out more, email Andrea Bain at goringheathguiding@gmail.com

GORING REPAIR CAFÉ

Free repair service by skilled volunteers

Goring Village Hall

10:00am—12:30pm

1st Saturday of every even month

Dates and full details on website

Voluntary donations are welcome cover expenses

Refreshments available in* Café *Bellême

www.goringrepaircafe.info

Repair - Recycle - Reduce consumption & carbon - Restore our Planet

The new tennis season is here!

At Pangbourne Tennis Club we are keen to make sure that anyone who would like to play tennis, at any level, can take part in club activities. We are a friendly club, and you will get a warm welcome, whether you fancy giving tennis a go for the first time or are an experienced league player. Our activities cover the whole range, and we want to encourage as many people as possible – of all ages, shapes, sizes and fitness levels – to enjoy the wonderful facilities we have at the club.

The club is located between the river and the railway on the Recreation Ground, and we share the club house with Pangbourne Bowls Club.

Benefits of membership include free access to the club courts, discounted rates for drills and training sessions, fun tournaments, a range of team matches and free membership of the Lawn Tennis Association, which gives you access to the ballot for Wimbledon tickets.

The annual subscription for adults is £65. Junior membership is £25. We also offer a family membership for £135, which covers up to two adults and all the children in the family.

New to tennis? There's a course for you!

The **Start to Play** programme for adult and older teenage beginners is starting again on **4th May** and is open for booking. Running on Sunday mornings at 10:00 – 11:00, this programme is designed for players who are completely new to tennis and want to learn the basics. Run by our club coach Damian Lane who is very experienced in developing players of all standards, this programme will get you started in a supportive environment. It's also suitable for older teenagers who haven't played tennis before. The sessions are limited to six participants, so book early!

Interested in Walking Tennis?

Have you heard of Walking Tennis? Along with Walking Football and

Walking Netball, there's now Walking Tennis! In this version of the game, doubles are played on a singles court, the ball is allowed to bounce twice, and no running is allowed.

It's a great way to continue to play tennis as one gets older. It's also very useful to get back on court after sustaining an injury or if you have recently started to play. We are running social Walking Tennis sessions on **Saturdays at 13:00 – 14:00**. It's free, open to both members and non-members. There's no need to book and we can lend you a racquet if needed.

Email us at **info@pangbournetennis.org** for more information.

Coaching, drills and social tennis

The popular Tuesday evening and Sunday morning coaching and drill sessions run throughout the year. The spring programme starts on Sunday 13th April/Tuesday 15th April . Check out the website for details of the sessions.

Social doubles sessions run on **Friday evenings at 19:30 – 21:00** and on **Saturday afternoons at 14:00 – 15:30**. Everyone who can serve and sustain a rally is welcome. And, if you are thinking of joining the club, come down to one of these sessions to meet other members and try out the courts.

Junior coaching is back on Fridays.

Get ready for junior coaching on Friday afternoons after Easter for a 12-week programme. Each week sessions cater for children from 4 year olds upwards. All the information and how to book for your children is on the website.

And finally, join us for our Open Day on Saturday 10th May!

Everyone is welcome to come down to the club from 13:00pm. There will be mini-tennis for children and drills for adults. You'll be able to measure the speed of your serve as well as trying something new – pickleball or walking tennis. Complimentary refreshments will be available all afternoon.

Go to **www.pangbournetennis.org** or scan the QR code to join, book adult and junior coaching or just find out more about the club!

Scan to go to the website

Dates for your Diary
April and May

Event	Day	Date
Friends of St Mary's and St John's Art Café The Old Stables, Whitchurch on Thames	Saturday	5th April
Annual Parish Meeting Goring Heath Parish Hall (8:00pm)	Tuesday	8th April
Pangbourne Bowls Club Open Day (2:00pm)	Saturday	12th April
Woodcote Volunteers AGM (7:00pm)	Wednesday	16th April
County Council Elections	Thursday	1st May
Pangbourne Tennis Club Open Day (1:00pm)	Saturday	10th May
Pangbourne Bowls Club Open Day (2:00pm)	Saturday	17th May
Whitchurch Hill Village Fete The Recreation Ground (from 2:00pm)	Saturday	24th May

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

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

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.

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

What's happening at Checkendon Pre-School:

We have been looking at changes in our environment, looking at what is happening as we move from winter into Spring. This can support children's seasonal understanding and the changes to the natural world. We have noticed that the daffodils are coming into bloom, the snow drops and crocus are also giving a beautiful bit of colour after the cold, wet winter. The Checkendon pre-school garden continues to be a big hit with the children, helping them develop new skills including responsibility of caring for plants, understanding about cause and effect, and what plants need to survive and flourish.

The children have also been celebrating World Book Day, joining in with well loved stories, using puppets and dressing up as characters in the books such as 'Meg and Mog' and 'Puss in Boots'. We have enjoyed lots of our favourite stories and learning how to take care of books.

We celebrated Mothers Day with the children, with a Mothers Day Diddi dance and making them some beautiful daffodil still life cards using paint.

We have also been enjoying lots of Easter activities, creating Easter baskets, making cards and hunting for Easter.

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

SOBELL HOUSE HOSPICE

Palliative care bereavement support service

We are looking to recruit volunteers for our bereavement service to provide support to family and friends who have lost someone close to them.

Are you...

- warm, empathic and a good listener?
- able to support other people's expression of grief and distress?

Do you...

- have 16 hours a month to spare?
- have your own transport?
- want to make a difference?

We provide...

- foundation level training (apx. 60 hrs).
- ongoing training, supervision and support.
- travel and phone expenses.
- online mandatory training (apx. 8 hrs).

We do not recommend this work for those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years.

Training will take place from September to December 2025 and it is essential that all training is attended.

Closing date for applications: 30 June 2025

If you are interested in finding out more or applying, please contact us on:

W: sobellhouse.org/bereavement-volunteer
E: pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk
T: 01865 225944/01865 225868

Registered Charity No. 1118646

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

New landlords are on their way to the Sun Inn

John O'Grady and his partner Svetlana (Lana) are all set to become the new landlords of the Sun Inn, Hill Bottom.

They are planning to take over in mid-May.

John has 27 years in the trade, running pubs in Northamptonshire and most recently in the village of Swaffham Prior outside Cambridge.

They took over the then closed Red Lion in Swaffham Prior in October 2023 and transformed it. They won the Cambridgeshire CAMRA Most Improved Rural Pub 2024 and went on to win Cambridgeshire CAMRA Rural Pub of the Year 24/25.

All being well, there are plans for a Beer Festival in September for National Cask Ale week - watch this space!

John and Lana are looking forward to welcoming customers old and new, including all the CAMRA folk in the parish.

Extra Collection for Brown Bin Customers up to 11th April!

From 1st April, brown bin (garden waste) customers need to display their permit on the top of the bin. If you've not got your permit yet, go to **www.southoxon.gov.uk/gardenwaste** to apply.

But, at the next regular collection up to 11th April, permit holders can put out a maximum of four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to their brown bin.

Please use standard size (60 litres) black refuse-style sacks or boxes/ containers totalling no more than a standard bin-full. Bags and containers must be left open so that the crews can easily empty them into the vehicle.

Do not use bags larger than 60 litres - they won't be emptied as they are too heavy to lift!

Bus Service for Goring Heath on Tuesdays: Timetable

Goring to Reading

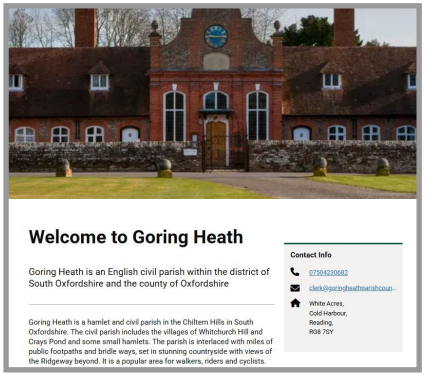
	Tue
GORING, Railway Station	**10:15**
Streatley, The Bull	10:17
Lower Basildon, Park Wall Lane	10:21
Basildon Park, Entrance	10:23
Beale Park, Entrance	10:25
PANGBOURNE, The George	**10:28**
Whitchurch-on-Thames, Greyhound	10:31
Whitchurch Hill, The Sun	10:36
Crays Pond, Beechwood Close	10:40
Goring 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**

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

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.

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
16th May 2025	June 2025
11th July 2025	August 2025
12th September 2025	October 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
	Andrea Bain goringheathguiding@gmail.com	
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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Peter Burdon
Hilary Dewey
Mike Holland
Mark Skidmore
Martin Wise

Contact the Parish Councillors at **clerk@goringheathparishcouncil.gov.uk**

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ADVERTISING

Contact the Editor to discuss your requirements:
goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com 07554 432216

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 **goringheathnewsletter@gmail.com**