

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

May 2014
139th Issue

Visit us at:
www.goringheath.com

Forthcoming Events

GPHH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

May 2014

2nd Twinning Visit

7th Piano recital

Church of St Thomas Goring on Thames

8th Parish Council Meeting

GPHH

15th History Society

GPHH

16th SIA Fish and Chip Supper

20th Whitchurch Hill WI

GPHH

24th Whitchurch Hill Fête

Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground

28th Whitchurch in the Holy Land

The Old Stables

31st Hill End Past, Present & Future

Hill End, Farmoor

June 2014

7th June Fayre

Almshouses Goring Heath

12th Parish Council Meeting

GPHH

15th Whitchurch Hill WI

Greys Court

July 2014

10th Parish Council Meeting

GPHH

August 2014

No Parish Council Meeting this month

Publicise your event and increase attendance by giving us the dates.

IT IS FREE

We welcome event dates from all local charities and groups for listing in this feature. Please send the details to the Editor - Tim King at tim@tpking.me.uk.



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

Chairman's Comments

I have spoken many times on behalf of the parish council at meetings of the Planning Committee of South Oxfordshire District Council, and it was a first for us that, at the meeting at which the fate of the garden of the Sun Inn was to be decided, the committee overruled the recommendation of the planning officers and rejected the application by Brakspear to build a house on the garden. It was evident that the inclusion of all the grounds of the Sun as well as the actual building as a community asset had created confusion. By agreeing that the garden was a community asset, SODC had already recognised that the garden was integral to the facilities and integrity of the pub as a whole. I must also thank Ann Ducker and Pearl Slatter for speaking strongly, and with good planning arguments, against the officer's recommendation, which greatly strengthened our case.

The case of the White Lion was won earlier on in the planning process, as here the officers refused the application to turn it into a house, so the matter never came before the committee.

In both these cases, it was a case of people power as local individuals got together and created campaigns in support of these community facilities, and the Parish Council thanks everyone who led and who joined in.

The first battle may have been won, but the war is not over, as appeals can be made for both situations.

Peter Dragonetti
Chairman

Bus Service

At the Annual Parish Meeting there were several comments about the unreliability of the bus service, which is now putting people off using it. If you do have problem, please let the parish council know by email as soon as possible.

The more evidence we have, the better case we have when complaining to the County Council who subsidise this service.

If the bus does not arrive, phone Thames Travel on 01865 785400 (Mon Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-6pm). **If the bus is not running, you can take a taxi and claim the cost back from Thames Travel.**



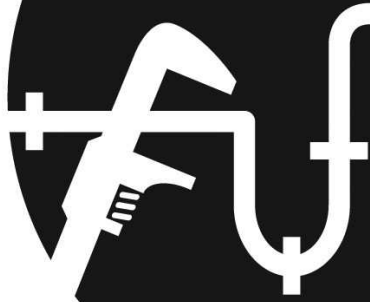
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Planning Decisions

The following planning applications have been considered. Where a decision is not given, it means the Parish Council has not yet received written confirmation from S.O.D.C.



Premises and application details	Parish Council	S.O.D.C.
P13/S2912/FUL Sun Inn Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PU Erection of a single dwelling with associated landscaping and new vehicular access.	Should be refused	Refused
P13/S3862/FUL 4 Airey House Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR Erection of a two storey 5-bedroom detached house and attached double garage (resubmission).	Should be refused	Permission
P13/S3934/FUL White Lion Goring Road Crays Pond Oxon RG8 7SH Change of use from A4 (public house) to C3 (residential).(as amplified by drawings & Viability Assessment accompanying email from Agent dated 21 January 2014)	Should be refused	Refused
P14/S0234/HH 8 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Part garage conversion to habitable space and erection of a first floor extension (As amended by drawing no. BLO-001 A, 002 A and 004 A accompanying letter from Agent received 19/02/14 and showing the garage extended forward	Should be approved	Approved
P14/S0202/FUL Woodlands Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR Erection of 2 bedroom house and new vehicular access.	Should be refused	Permission
P14/S0368/FULThe Barn Collins End Goring Heath RG8 7RH Erection of two single storey extensions.	No Strong Views	Permission
P14/S0386/HH Russett Cottage 4 Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR Two storey rear extension.	Should be refused	
P14/S0414/HH Meadow Down Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Proposed rear two storey extension, raising of roof, amended drive and vehicular access arrangement.	Should be refused	
P14/S0642/FUL Shervell Cottage Shirvells Hill Goring Heath Oxon RG8 7SP Erection of replacement storage shed for domestic storage.	No Strong Views	

Continued on page 6

Premises and application details	Parish Council	S.O.D.C.
P14/S0574/FUL Cherry Cottage Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PU Change of use from agricultural to garden.	No Strong Views	
P14/S0864/HH 3 Oakdown Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NR Side extension to form larger kitchen.	No Strong Views	

Planning

We would also like to point out that No Strong Views is one of only three choices that SODC gives the parish council. It should not be read as illustrating tacit approval of an application. More often than not this choice is supplemented with specific comments from the parish council highlighting areas of concern.

Friends of Music at Goring

Piano Recital by Joseph Houston

Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 1.00 – 2.00 pm in the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Goring-on-Thames.

Our first concert this year will be a lunchtime recital by the young pianist Joseph Houston. The programme will include music by Chopin, Liszt and Debussy.

Joseph studied at York University and the Royal College of Music. He has appeared as soloist in concertos by Brahms, Beethoven Tchaikovsky, etc., and given performances at the Royal Albert Hall, Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall, etc. He is supported by Making Music's Philip and Dorothy Green Award for Young Artists Scheme, and is a recipient of the Musicians Benevolent Fund 'Emerging Excellence' Award.

Tickets: £12.00 at the door or £10.00 if purchased in advance, available from *Inspiration* in Goring Arcade or members of the Committee, Tel. No.: 01491 873341.

STATEMENT BY THE WHITCHURCH BRIDGE COMPANY Thursday 13th March 2014 Delay to the Re-opening of Whitchurch Bridge

The exceptionally high river levels since the start of the year have prevented any works being undertaken at Whitchurch Bridge, seriously disrupting the programme for completion of the reconstruction project. As the river needs to open for boat traffic from 31st March, we have had to undertake a detailed review of how the works can be safely recommenced in these changed circumstances which add complexity to the project.

We have developed a plan with our main contractor which will enable the works to be completed as soon as possible whilst addressing the river navigation regulations and local planning authority requirements relating to the environmental impact of some weekend and night working.

We expect that the improving river conditions will enable us to restart work by the end of March. Subject to this being so, and there being no further delays due to river conditions or other unforeseen events, we expect the Bridge to re-open for road traffic in September 2014. A more precise date will be announced later.

Mike Beckley, Chairman of the Whitchurch Bridge Company, says “The Company acknowledges the work put in by Balfour Beatty, in collaboration with the Company’s own project management team, the Environment Agency, local environmental health officers and others, to devise a plan of action which can be implemented as soon as river conditions allow. All the parties involved have demonstrated their commitment to getting the Bridge reopened as soon as possible.

“The Company again expresses its regret for the disruption caused by the reconstruction of the Bridge and looks forward to reopening this vital community asset as soon as possible.”

Litter Blitz 2014

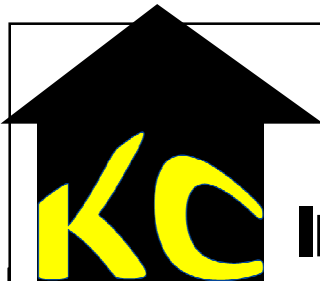
This year we had excellent weather, and were able to collect a lot of stuff from around the parish. I estimate we did about 5 miles of verges. There seemed to be fewer of the beer cans that have been noticeable before, so perhaps our secret drinker has moved away. It was still particularly annoying to see, on Monday evening, a fresh Tango can deposit on a verge which had been clean on Saturday. There was a strong turnout from Crays Pond, and also at Goring Heath, whereas Whitchurch Hill was covered by just a few stalwarts.

I am pleased to report that the proposal that keepers of a vehicle should be held liable for littering is now accepted, and from next year the District Council will have powers to put this into effect. A few well placed cameras would be able to spot a lot of offences, raise some cash and reduce our council tax further.

Peter Dragonetti

Whitchurch Hill Fête - volunteers wanted

The organisers of the Whitchurch Hill Fête are looking for a few more people willing to help run this very successful fête. Please contact:- 07802 794168 or 0118 984 2056.

**Improvements**

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The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club

Organiser: Christine Martin

“Sonia”, Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill, RG8 7PG

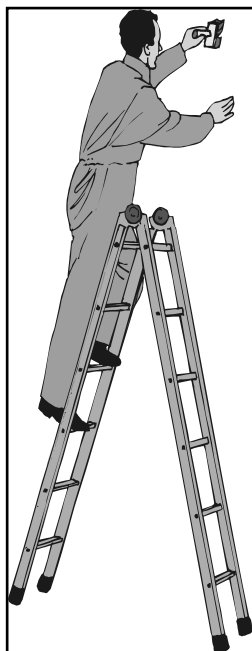
Tel: 0118 9844252 e.mail whitchurchtheatreclub@gmail.com

The Whitchurch & District Theatre Club takes you to musicals, plays, ballets, operas, classical concerts etc. once a month.

Salisbury, Cheltenham, Oxford, Stratford and Chichester, amongst others, are often visited. Major London venues and productions. Mainly matinees in the week, but sometimes evening performances and weekends. Trips away. Tickets purchased at group/concessionary rates.

When the Whitchurch Bridge re-opens, members can be picked up from Whitchurch Hill, Whitchurch-on-Thames and Pangbourne. Also Tidmarsh and Theale when necessary.

For our forthcoming programme please check the Whitchurch-on-Thames Website. Subscriptions £10 per annum but £8 if paid online.



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WHITCHURCH HILL FETE
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2PM

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Children's Races & Games
Swing boats
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Barbecue
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Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground

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On/Off Buses

I sympathise with people using the 142 bus service at present. The journey is far longer than we are used too.

It has come to my attention that the buses are not keeping to the timetable. They are often late arriving. On 30th December my husband and I went into Reading using the 9.48am bus with the idea we would catch the 1pm service out of Reading. However at 1.15pm I rang Thames Travel to ask the whereabouts of the bus and was told that it was cancelled. We were stranded in Reading. If you ring Thames Travel the most common reason they give is that the bus has broken down and they do not have a replacement.

I wish to make a plea that anyone who has the misfortune of a bus not turning up would they please contact Goring Heath Parish Council.

We have fought long and hard to keep a bus service at Whitchurch Hill and only by people letting the Parish Council know when we have poor service will we hang onto it. The old adage applies 'Use it or lose it'.

Barbara Tappern

Whitchurch in the Holy Land

The Old Stables, 7pm Wednesday 28 May 2014

A quarter of a century ago, a coach load of intrepid pilgrims from the congregation of St Mary's and St John's made their pilgrimage to Jordan and Israel in what turned out for several to be the experience of a lifetime.

You are all invited to meet the survivors of the trip and its leader, the Rev Richard Hughes, to watch a colourful and lighthearted video record of the expedition.

Do come; it is a massively informative account of the historic biblical sights we visited and a fine account of the camaraderie and moments of great piety which infused the whole group.

We are particularly keen to share the benefits of this moving experience with our current congregation and neighbours and to welcome them to the bonds of fellowship forged on that visit.

There will be light snacks of Palestinian cuisine according to Richard's own recipes. Please inform Peter Hawley (0118 984 3069) if you are able to attend



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May 2014

Goring Heath NEWS

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

An invitation for you to
join us on our visit to La Bouille, our pretty twinned town in Normandy

Our luxury coach will depart on Friday May 2nd
for a weekend of French culture and hospitality

This year, in addition to the customary welcome evening by the mayor and the private
dinner parties, we shall make two very interesting visits.

ARROMANCHES

In the 70th anniversary year of D-Day and the battle of Normandy we visit
Arromanches where the allies built mulberry harbours to land troops and supplies. Models, vid-
eos and diorama bring to life the achievement of taking 600,000 tonnes of concrete and supplies
across the channel, and of the battles fought on the beaches.

BAYEUX

Bayeux, where the tapestry, a wool embroidery on linen, tells the story of another conquest, by
the Duke of Normandy in 1066. The audio guide tells the story, and the original retains the
naughty bits which our copy in Reading leaves out!

Dates	May 2 nd morning returning May 5 th evening
Coach	Premier class
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Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute

Whitchurch Hill W.I. held their Annual General Meeting in March. President Frances was elected unanimously to continue for her second year, and Committee Members also volunteered to continue, with the exception of one resignation, who was replaced by a willing volunteer, all approved.

The Committee report reminded us that a number of minor alterations have taken place in the past year, we now start our meeting slightly earlier with business, followed by a coffee break before we listen to our speaker. Members also enjoy the cafetieres of fresh coffee which are placed on each table.

Among our charitable efforts in the past year we have made a collection of toiletries for the Women's Refuge in Reading. We also support the Sue Ryder Home, and we make an annual donation to ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World)– a charity with which the WI has been closely involved.

The varied programme for the coming year includes talks on the Thames and Chilterns Air Ambulance, The Ladies of the Tower, a history of Lady Brunner's time with the WI, and the World of the Honeybee as well as a trip to Denman College for a day. Social events will not be neglected either.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at Goring Heath Parish Hall at 10.15am Visitors are always welcome, and for further information please telephone 0118 984 1696

Patricia M. Dent

Whitchurch & Goring History Society

For our May 15th meeting we move up to the Goring Heath Parish Hall for an evening of Members' Short Talks.

Both meetings start at 8pm, with coffee served from 7.30pm. Non-members welcome for a contribution of £2 (includes coffee and biscuits).

Please contact **Vicky Jordan** on 01189 843260 or vickyjordan5@hotmail.com.

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Testimonial from Max’s Mum.

Messing about on the river

For the last three years volunteers have been assisting our Lock Staff on the Thames at the 45 locks along its length between Lechlade and Teddington. Now, ahead of our fourth season, we invite you to apply to become a Volunteer Assistant Lock Keeper at a lock near you.

The Environment Agency, which is navigation authority for the Thames, is now recruiting for the 2014 season and are looking for volunteers who can commit to assisting at least one day a week between May and the end of September. Volunteers can agree their hours with lock keepers but need to be available at least from 11 to 5. Volunteers are particularly needed along the river between Reading and Lechlade.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people and to find out more about the Thames, its history, wildlife and management. At the same time volunteers know that they are doing something worthwhile that is really appreciated.

Our Volunteer Assistant Lock Keepers work alongside paid lock keepers. They help boats pass through the lock safely: taking ropes, directing traffic, and operating sluices and lock gates. They help maintain the site: painting, tidying and gardening. They provide information to visitors, be they on foot or afloat, so that they can make the best of their time on the river. Visitors really appreciate the local knowledge that volunteers can provide.

All applicants are invited to an assessment at a local lock. Here they will have the role explained to them and be shown what it involves in practical terms. They will also be assessed to decide which site may be most appropriate for them and to ensure that they have the physical capabilities required. After successful completion of the assessment, they attend an induction course which focuses on safety and preparing them for the lock side.

On the lock side the volunteers follow a documented training programme before being signed off to take charge of the lock on their own. This will only be for short periods, while the paid keeper is at lunch for example. The volunteers are there to augment the service provided by paid staff rather than to replace them.

Volunteers are provided with some uniform and can claim mileage for travel to and from a lock local to them. They also receive a monthly newsletter which keeps them in touch with what is going on along the river and other activities of the Environment Agency.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering on the Thames and to receive an information pack and application form, please contact the Volunteer team on 01491 828360 or email thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Celebrate Hill End's Past, Present & Future!

Hill End is a special place for many children of Oxfordshire, often giving them their first experience of spending a night away from home. This summer Hill End is celebrating its past, present and future with a special family open day on Saturday 31st May from 11am-4pm.

Entry is free and families can bring a picnic to really enjoy the surroundings of Hill End's 65 acre site. There will be a history trail and visitors can bring their Hill End memorabilia to share their memories, whilst discovering Hill End's 80 year history. Explore the present day with storytelling, bushcraft and willow workshops and a craft fair. There will also be outdoor cooking, an open dormitory and the opportunity to look in to the future!

The Hill End Centre is a 65-acre site spread over a gentle south-facing hillside on the edge of Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire.

The site is managed for wildlife, with a wide diversity of habitats including chalk grassland, ponds and streams, marshland and developing woodland. The upper grassland slopes are part of the Wytham Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest. It can provide all of the natural resources for field studies and environmental education. In 2004 the site achieved its Eco Centre status meaning we maintain an environmentally friendly approach to everything we do.

The Hill End Outdoor Centre
The Hill End Centre
Eynsham Road
Farmoor
Oxford
OX2 9NJ

Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses)

Our season is now well underway. If you would like to come and watch to get the feel of the game, or if you would like to try your hand at bowls, already play and would like to join our club, please do not hesitate to contact:

Maureen Jones on 01491 681872

Daphne Walker on 01491 682154

Tim King on 01491 684198 or

Clive Goodburn (Club Captain) on 01491 682638 for details and to arrange a time and date to meet at the green and have a go.



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 OXFORD AERIALS



“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury”

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 16th May 2014

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16th May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA’s vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so we want to make the matter matter and raise £25,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk

Local Police Area - End of Year Report

The end of the financial year enables us to assess our performance whilst looking ahead to this year's priorities.

Once again I am really pleased to inform you that during the last twelve months we have been able to reduce crime whilst increasing the number of offenders we have brought to justice. During the last year we have reduced crime by 0.2%. Whilst this is a modest decrease, it should be viewed in the context of our success in reducing crime by over 38% in the last ten years. There were, last year, over a 1000 less victims of crime than there were two years ago.

Within the last financial year we were the second best performing Local Police Area in Thames Valley delivering:

- 6% reduction in Dwelling Burglary.
- 37.4% detection rate in Dwelling Burglary.
- 37.0% detection rate in Rape.
- 61.3% detection rate in Violence against the Person with Injury.
- 6% reduction in Violence against the Person with Injury.

One of the most effective ways to reduce crime is to catch those who are responsible and bring them to justice. We have again this year increased the number of offenders we have brought to justice. We have the second highest detection rate for crime within Thames Valley with offenders being brought to justice in one in three of the crimes committed in our district.

The simple facts are that you are less likely to be a victim of crime in South Oxfordshire or the Vale of White Horse than almost anywhere else in the country. Also, if somebody commits a crime within our district they are far more likely to be caught. Whilst we are extremely proud of these achievements we do not underestimate the challenges of maintaining these levels of performance and we are committed to striving to further reduce crime.

This year we will again prioritise dwelling burglaries. This is a crime that can have a devastating impact on victims who feel their homes have been invaded and have often lost irreplaceable items, sometimes with huge sentimental value. Whilst we are proud to have reduced this crime by 60% in the last ten years we are determined to reduce it still further.

Twenty percent of all this year's dwelling burglaries across the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire occurred in Henley town centre. The overwhelming majority of these offences are believed to have been committed by two local men. These offenders have now been charged with these offences and are currently awaiting trial. Once again, we have the highest detection rate within Thames Valley Police for dwelling burglary.

We will again be prioritising offences of violence this year. Historically, the largest volume of these offences have occurred during the Friday and Saturday night time economy period as a result of increased intoxication levels. As a result of this, over the last 12 months we have committed significant resources into policing these times. Together with our partners, we have worked with local licensees to reduce levels of intoxication and to deliver a zero tolerance approach to those individuals who wish to behave in an anti social or disorderly manner. As a result of this approach for the first time in many years violent incidents in our town centres on a Friday and Saturday evening have decreased.

It is largely through this work that we have successfully reduced injuries sustained through violent assaults across the district by over 6%.

However, violence has shown an increase across the district and this has largely been as a result of an increase in domestic violence. It has been acknowledged for many years that offences of domestic violence are under reported and hidden within the home. It is a priority for us to give victims of domestic violence the confidence and reassurance to report these crimes. It is believed that the increase in this reported crime is a sign of our success in encouraging reporting; our challenge now is to continue supporting victims, ensure their safety, and prevent further reoffending.

Tackling rural crime will again be a priority for us this year. We are proud to have reduced crime in the rural community by 25% in the last year, although we recognise there is a great deal that still needs to be done to deter those individuals who travel into our community and blight our countryside. We are this year increasing the number of dedicated resources to tackle rural crime and have scheduled a rolling programme of proactive operations.

Whilst we are understandably proud of the continued reduction in crime and increase in offenders being brought to justice, it is the style with which these successes have been achieved that brings the most satisfaction.

Contrary to what some sections of the media would have you believe, within South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse the overwhelming majority of the public have a great deal of trust and confidence in the Police. It is this relationship with the public which has enabled us to deliver sustained reductions in crime; we cannot detect crime without the support of the public. We rely on the public to tell us when they are victims of crime, to tell us when they see something suspicious and to give evidence at court in order for us to bring offenders to justice. It is our role to keep the public safe, we recognise our unique relationship with the public in which we are reliant on their trust in order to fulfil our duties, we will endeavour this year to enhance and build on this relationship.

We will over the next year continue to develop our Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and community messaging across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. These schemes enable us to further develop our relationship with local communities enabling us to let them know what is happening and how they can help us

keep them safe and protect their property. If you would like to discuss how we can enhance the schemes in your local area please do let me know and I will arrange for a member of our neighbourhood team to contact you.

As I regularly point out we have not reduced crime on our own and I am extremely grateful for the continuing help and support from both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, the Community Safety Partnership and all those volunteers who support us through the Special Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch and the Neighbourhood Action Groups.

Thank you for your support this year, it has been very much appreciated and I look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

A.Boyd
Superintendent
South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse LPA

All Square

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 Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides Doreen Pechey 01491 681236
 Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club John Bridgens 0118 9842682
 Pilates (Friday Morning) Michele Houston 01491 575205
 RG8 Badminton Club Chris Uden 01491 681263
 South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group (S.O.A.G.) Nancy Nichols 0118 978 7829
 Tai Chi and Qigong Karen Pounds 07867 954786
 Tots on the Hill, Baby and Toddler Group Nicola Robinson 0118 984 2239
 Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society Chair: Sue Matthews 0118 984 4489
 Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association David Robinson 0118 984 4142
 Whitchurch Hill WI Frances Strange 0118 984 2162
 Woodcote Volunteers (Office Hours 9.30—11am) Elizabeth Harrap 01491 681171
 Yoga Sarah Dixon 0118 984 4262

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