

GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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

May 2015
145th Issue

Visit us at:
www.goringheath.com

Forthcoming Events

GHPH = Goring Heath Parish Hall

WL = Woodcote Library

WVH = Whitchurch Village Hall

May 2015

2nd-4th Twinning Visit	GHPH
7th Elections	GHPH
8th 70th Ann. VE Day celebrations	
9-10th Cycle Event	GHPH
14th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
15th History Society	GHPH
16th Bowls Club open morning	The Almshouses
19th WI	GHPH
19th Public Enquiry Whitchurch Toll Bridge	WVH
23rd Whitchurch Hill Fête	GH Recreation Ground
30th War Memorial presentation	The Old Stable

June 2015

11th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
16th WI	GHPH
19th History Society - visit to Wallingford Museum	

July 2015

9th Parish Council Meeting	GHPH
19th History Society	TBA
21st WI	GHPH

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

This year past has in some ways been a little quieter than a few previously experienced though common themes persist year on year.

The Precept

For the 5th year in a row we have reduced our Precept a further £500 to £16,500. The balance sheet for the Parish Council remains on a sound financial footing, with money ring fenced for extraordinary projects as and when required and contingency funds as required by our Auditors.

Litter Blitz / Working Parties

We recently organised the Annual Litter Blitz, which was as ever well supported by the regular parishioners. This remains a simple but effective event which clearly shows a visual improvement throughout our Parish.

Through the year we have carried out a number of working parties to improve the natural environment, notably work on the Recreation Ground (Village Green), and also continue to manage both the Tinepits and the Crays ponds.

A Full Eco Survey of Crays Pond was carried out this February, and this has now resulted in a plan of work to continue to improve the water quality and range of habitats.

We also approved the hedge laying at the back of the car park outside the village hall, which looks great.

Projects

Linking footpaths

We remain keen to pursue linking the footpaths to Goring and continue to look for a way to make this a reality. We are currently looking to approach the local landowner to seek a permissive path.

War Memorial

We have set up a scheme to look to rebuild the joint War Memorial and also to improve the immediate surrounding area to make it an

attractive point of interest and to bring it back to its former impressive state.

The Council is actively looking into purchasing defibrillators to place in the Parish. This has become an increasingly popular concept across the country, and after discussion we are looking for possible site positions. Much like an Insurance Policy, let us hope that they never have to be used.

Planning

As a Parish Council the issue of Planning, and the interpretation of the SODC/National Guidelines remains a key issue and concern. At times we remain baffled as to how certain major applications gain immediate approval, whilst other, more seemingly **minor** plans are rejected.

At times the desire by the planning department to protect the AONB seems well judged and prudent, at other times the guidelines appear to have a coach and horses run through them.

Example : a temporary garage is rejected on the grounds of not being in line with existing buildings, whilst what appear to be in fill and new builds in the countryside are waived through.

As many of you may know, we are assessing the value of making the site at Penny Royal a possible Rural Exception site for new and affordable housing. A Survey for Need was sent out last month in the Newsletter and we await the findings. Rest assured the Parish Council is not bound by any findings

Whitchurch Bridge Toll Bridge

Our relief that the bridge finally reopened after such a lengthy delay, appears short lived, with their intention of increasing the cash rate from 40p to 60p.

Richard Greenford wrote on behalf of the Parish Council to object to this, and the letter with many others from concerned parishioners has triggered the public Inquiry that will be held 19th May.

Peter Dragonetti stepped down as planned after his 5 year stint as Chairman of the Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to

thank Peter for remaining such a vociferous fighter for all things Whitechurch Hill and Goring Heath. I am always thankful that he remains on our side, not against us as he has a terrier like persistence in gaining answers and movement in our struggles.

I would also like to thank **Richard Greenford** who has decided not to stand again for the Parish Council. Richard has through the years worked hard on behalf of all the parish and often served as a very healthy counterpoint to the prevailing views.

I'd like to thank my fellow councillors, who take time out of their busy lives to work for us all to keep the parish in good shape and to improve whenever possible. Special thanks to Martin Wise who remains very much our local eyes and ears, and to Tim King for compiling and Editing the Newsletter

Special thanks go to **Caroline our Clerk**, who has continued to work assiduously on our behalf in her trademark efficient and cheerful manner. Controlling us does at times look like a thankless task!

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing away of our District Councillor **Ann Ducker** on 21st September last year. Ann was a great supporter of the parish, and a fantastic guide for us through the council's work. A friend to us all and she is greatly missed.

Thanks go also to Pearl Slatter who after many years as our District Councillor is I understand to retire, and also to Kevin Bulmer our County councillor

Finally I would like to thank all those in the parish who look on their own behalf to make a positive contribution to the life of our area. The clubs, the volunteers and the organisers.

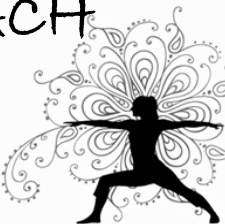
The Fête Committee is urgently looking for willing helpers for this year's event. Any help before, during and after that is offered would be fantastic. The fête has been a great success for so many years, and we must not take for granted that this will forever be the case without fresh enthusiasm.

Nick Henry
Chairman

THE BESPOKE APPROACH

Pilates and Yoga

Goring Heath Parish Hall



Tuesday Evenings

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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.
P14/S3480/FUL Woodlands Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR Proposed erection of a Code 5 dwelling with associated parking and amenity.(amendment to the design of the scheme as shown by drawings accompanying email from Agent dated 17 December 2014)	Should be refused	Permission
P14/S3937/FUL Ivydene Crays Pond RG8 7QG Erection of two-storey three-bedroom dwelling and new access.	Should be refused	Permission
P14/S4035/HH Briar Cottage Collins End Goring Heath RG8 7RN Single and two storey rear and side extensions and alterations.	No Strong Views	Permission
P15/S0099/HH Hedgerows Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT Proposed ground floor alterations, porch and chimney extensions and raise the roof to provide first floor accommodation.	No Strong Views	Permission
P15/S0486/HH 9 Hocketts Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ Single storey rear extension	No Strong Views	
P15/S0381/FUL Land adj to Crossways The Close Crays Pond RG8 7QE Erection of a detached 3-bedroom chalet bungalow.	Should be refused	
P15/S0712/HH Langholm, 13 Orchard Coombe Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QL Proposed front and rear garage plus first floor bedroom extensions	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.



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Children's Races

Swingboats

Candy Floss

Putt a Fiver



**Fun Dog
Show**



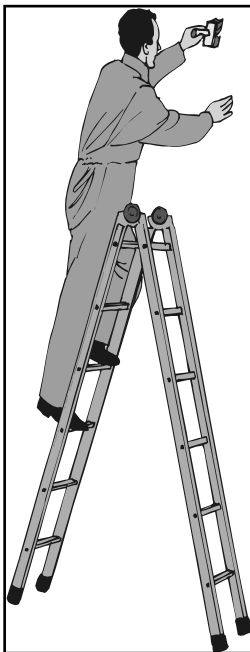
Raffle

'A Fun Day out for all the family!'

Saturday May 23rd

Starting at 2PM

Whitchurch Hill Recreation Ground



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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 or more.

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.

Coaches depart from Pangbourne.

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

70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day Beacons – 8 May 2015



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

There are a number of events being held across the UK to mark the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. On the 8 May 2015 beacons will be lit in cities throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man in commemoration of the peace that these and others helped to realise. At the going down of the sun on the 8th May the first beacon will be lit (at a location to be announced). Minutes later, cities and others the length and breadth of the country will fire their beacons as a celebration of light emerging from the darkness of war, and the triumph of the human spirit.

Oxfordshire County Council will be taking part lighting a beacon at 9.30pm, communities in Oxfordshire are encouraged to follow this by lighting beacons in towns and villages, enabling local communities to remember lost loved ones and the sacrifices they made to secure the peace we all enjoy today.

We are publicising events and activities on our website, here:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/news-and-events-celebrating-armed-forces>

Goring Heath Scouts, Brownies and Guides

From the Group Scout Leader:

During the last year, the drive has been mended with tarmac, and the disabled toilet access is complete. We have a portable ramp for disabled access on order. The latest project is raising funds for a new cooker.

All sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts) are full with waiting lists. We have sufficient Beaver and Scout leaders, but could do with more Cub leaders.

From the Group Guider:

The Brownies have a long waiting list, and more leaders are needed for both Brownies and Guides. Oxfordshire is running an International

Camp this year (Quest) and 500 Oxfordshire Guides will be attending it.

Two more Guides have attained their Baden-Powell Award, which is the highest award for a member of the Guide section. Andrea Bain has now been a Guider for 20 years, and has a nice silver brooch to prove it.

There are lots of activities planned for the summer term, and they are out-and-about as much as possible, including an annual trip to Adventure Dolphin

Tai Chi and Qigong Classes

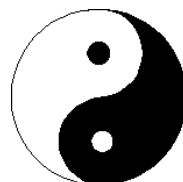
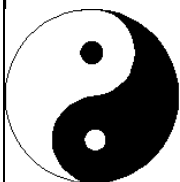
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Take control of impending debt problems

Citizens Advice is urging people who are worried that they are running into debt to seek help as soon as possible.

The consequences of falling behind on basic bills like rent, council tax or energy bills can be serious. In extreme cases, nonpayment of rent can lead to eviction, energy debts can result in your power being cut off, and not paying council tax can lead to a prison sentence.

Citizens Advice is seeing an increasing number of people seeking help because they can't make their incomes stretch to cover essential bills. Low pay and slow wage growth have left many people struggling to pay

for rent, energy supplies and council tax.

It can be very difficult to cut back on these costs, but there is action you can take to get your finances back on track. If you are worried about debt, come to Citizens Advice for help as soon as you become aware that there is a problem. Problems only get worse if they aren't tackled early.

Top tips on dealing with debt

1. Dealing with debt problems is easier when the debt is small, so take action before the figures start to spiral out of control.
2. Don't take out more credit or a loan to cover your debts.
3. Look carefully at your spending. Is there anything you can cut down on? Draw up a realistic budget.
4. Do talk to your creditors and let them know you are having problems.
5. Don't pay off the creditor who is shouting the loudest but first pay the most important bills, like mortgage or rent, council tax, and gas and electricity. Otherwise you will be in danger of losing your home, having your gas and electricity cut off, or ending up in court.
6. Don't ignore court papers.
7. Citizens Advice gives free, independent and confidential advice. They will help you work out repayments and negotiate with your creditors, and also help you keep out of debt in the future. A CAB adviser can check and see if you are missing out on benefits, tax credits and other help to which you might be entitled, and can help you make a claim.

For further help, call Adviceline on 03444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau, which is located at 32 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AH. For opening hours, see www.caox.org.uk

Pettits - Wallingford

Readers and customers may be interested to know that some of the health foods (Queenswood brand in particular) may be obtained through Derry's Den, High Street, Benson. You may need to order a larger quantity than you are used to buying. I have no connection with either establishment other than a satisfied customer. Tim King



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Whitchurch on Thames

Village

on the Village Green, Eastfield Lane

Fete

Saturday 29th August 2-5pm

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Please contact Emily with any inquiries: emilydalton@outlook.com

Whitchurch and Goring Heath Twinning Association

This year we will be receiving a party from La Bouille over the weekend 2nd to 4th May. Everyone who would like to be involved will be very welcome. To find out more please come to our Annual General Meeting on Friday 13th February in the Old Rectory Stables at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available.

It will be over 37 years since the twinning association came together, after Tim Claxton stumbled on the pretty village by the Seine when he was on the way to Le Mans. Many friendships have grown up over these years so that the village near Rouen has become an extension of our own.

To ensure future ties we would like to involve new people from our villages. Most of us get by without a great knowledge of French, and we are on an equal footing, as most of our visitors will not have a great knowledge of English. But it seems to work.

Vicky Jordan

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WHITCHURCH HILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The March meeting of Whitchurch Hill Women's Institute was our Annual General Meeting. Apologies were received from a number of members who were unwell or unable to attend, but 16 members unanimously elected President Frances to office for a further 12 months, also the Treasurer and other members of the Committee. Our Hon. Treasurer's report pointed to the increased costs of hire of the meeting room, fees for good speakers and most other items. Last year, 2014 we gave one member a Bursary to attend a course at the WI College at Denman, and subsidised a "Denman Day" also at the college, which was much enjoyed by all who attended. We also made donations to Associated Countrywomen of the World – a charity well supported by the WI.

Our social events, also started last year on a different day from our meetings, have been well received, and those involving lunch or tea being particularly well attended! We have also made knitted dolls for orphans in Zimbabwe, collected useful items for the Women's Refuge in Reading, and have contributed a pennant – designed and made by members, and portraying our local church, St John's, to add to many others made for this centenary year of the WI.

We are looking forward to our new programme which will include such varied subjects as "Tai Chi", a talk on English Courtrooms and another on Georgian Cookery, and Paintings from WW1. We are making a trip to Highgrove to enjoy the gardens in June and listening with anticipation to the NFWI Annual Meeting which this year will be at the Royal Albert Hall.

Meetings take place at Goring Heath Parish Hall on the B471, on the third Tuesday of the month. The doors open at 10am and the meeting starts at 10.15. Visitors are welcome – do come along and find out what we do. For further information please ring 0118 984 1696

Patricia Dent

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Whitchurch War Memorial Improvements

You may have heard that we are considering some improvements to the War Memorial we share with Whitchurch Hill. The Whitchurch on Thames and Goring Heath Parish Councils jointly manage the memorial. The Goring Heath Council has suggested some improvements to the existing War memorial during the period of 2014 - 2018 in honour of the 100th anniversary of WW I.

Some of the improvements under consideration are:

- Re-establishment of the memorial 'steeple' to its full height pre-1989 storm damage, where the height of the obelisk was significantly reduced.
- Improved accessibility to the memorial from road where the path and road have deteriorated making access to the monument difficult, particularly for elderly people.
- An Interpretive Board giving details of those remembered on the Memorial and details of others of the Parishes who died in WW1 and yet may be on NO memorial.
- Improved sitting area with landscaping including a hedge.
- Professional cleaning of the memorial.



Original War Memorial
- pre 1989 storm

Given the importance of the memorial to both communities, we would like to get feedback from as many residents as possible before any changes are made. On the 30th of May we encourage you to stop by the Old Stable in Whitchurch to fill out a feedback form and discuss your views with Councillor Martin Wise of Whitchurch Hill and Councillor Jim Donahue of Whitchurch on Thames. We will have diagrams of different options.

As the estimated costs for these improvements range from about £1500 to £19,000, we are planning to apply for a grant to cover most or all of

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this. The War Memorial Trust has already indicated that many of these improvements would be eligible for a grant.

The process for the improvements will be:

- Based on feedback from both Whitchurch on Thames and Whitchurch Hill communities, a grant for one or more options will be applied for during 2015
- Depending on the results of the grant, a recommendation will be made to both the Goring Heath and Whitchurch Parish Councils. The more expensive options that include restoring the old Steeple will only be pursued if a grant is awarded.
- If additional funding is required, this will be either requested to be split between the councils or a fundraising campaign initiated.
- It is anticipated that the actual restoration would happen during 2016/2017 to be completed for the WWI anniversary.

The options available are listed below. Costs are indicative.

Option	1	2	3	4	5
	Full Steeple and Landscaping	Full Steeple w/o Landscaping	Access and Cleaning only	Cleaning and Plaque only	No changes - just cleaning
Steeple replacement	£8,500	£8,500			
Access improvements	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000		
Cleaning	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500
Plaque	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
Landscaping	£5,000				
subtotal:	£19,000	£14,000	£5,500	£2,500	£1,500
Not Eligible for a grant:			(assumme grant only awarded if steeple is replaced)		
Plaque	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	
Landscaping	£5,000				
Access			£3,000		
Cleaning			£1,500	£1,500	£1,500
Likely amount of funding that will need to be raised by two parishes	£6,000	£1,000	£5,500	£2,500	£1,500

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Testimonial from Max’s Mum.

Bowls - a new season gets underway

The Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses) are a small self supporting club and are looking forward to our new season. We would very much like to welcome new members to join us. We only play friendly matches so there is no pressure, we obviously like to win our matches and we do very well, but we always have an enjoyable time with lots of smiles, friendly banter, gentle exercise in the fresh air and delicious teas after the games.

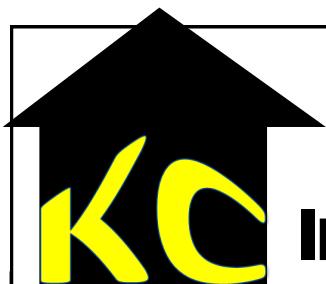
We will have an informal **'Roll Up' every Monday afternoon starting from Monday 20th April, 2015 at 2pm** at our home green at The Almshouses, Goring Heath, RG8 7RS, weather permitting of course. There is no obligation and the only requirement is to wear flat shoes and we will provide the bowls and encouragement. Once you have tried your hand at bowls and are happy and you wish to join our friendly club, the cost of membership is only £25 for new members - which is half the normal membership fee and an absolute bargain!

The green is in a beautiful and quiet location with adjacent parking and was created by the three original members lovingly carved from the meadow and who were all residents of the Almshouses in Goring Heath, namely, Joe Pinchin, Phil Drewitt and John Roberts.

If there is anyone interested in joining our friendly club and would like more information please contact Clive Goodbourn, our Captain, on **01491 682491**, Maureen Jones, our Vice Captain, on **01491 681872**, or Daphne Walker on **01491 682154** to arrange to come down to our Green at Goring Heath. Our website www.almshousesbowlsclub.org.uk

There will also be an Open Day on **Saturday 16th May, 2015 between 10am - 12 noon.**

We look forward to having new members joining us and you will be made very welcome, so please don't be shy and give bowls a try!!



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**GORING C.C.****Youth Cricket in 2015 with Goring CC**

2015 is already shaping up to be an exciting and very busy cricket season for our U8 to U13 youth players. Goring's Cricket Academy is running coaching sessions for children aged 8 to 13 every Tuesday on Goring's Gardiner Recreation Ground, 5:30pm to 7pm from 28th April until 30th June. Coaching for all age groups is delivered by qualified level 2 and 3 coaching staff and will cater for all abilities. In addition there will be plenty of opportunity to play friendly and competitive matches. For the first time the U9's will play in Oxfordshire's Friendly League, whilst all able cricketers up to and including U13's have the choice of playing in the Gauntlett Goblet Tournament, a pairs format competition as well as The U13 Oxfordshire League and for The Ron Maudsley Trophy, a knockout competition, the later two being T20 format. Something like 25 games will be played in Goring and at other local clubs.

All children of any ability are very welcome to take part. If you would like to know more about the club or have any questions please email academy@goringcricketclub.com. More details can also be seen on our website, www.goringcricketclub.com/academy.

Thames Valley Police Annual report

A copy of the report is available to view on the parish website.

Last but not least - not necessarily a "fête accompli"

The Fête Committee is urgently looking for willing helpers for this year's event. Any help before, during and after that is offered would be fantastic. The fête has been a great success for so many years, and we must not take for granted that this will forever be the case without fresh enthusiasm.



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COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Pearl Slatter 0118 984 5021

Council Offices: Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8HG 01491 823000

www.southoxon.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Kevin Bulmer 35 Springhill Road, Goring on Thames, RG8 0BY

07526 743091 kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Council Offices: County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND, 01865 792422

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

POLICE Wallingford Police Station 01235 512929

POLICE PEC – Non-Emergency Calls 101

POTHLES 0845 310 1111

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 a copy could be submitted to me as a document attachment to email and sent to tim@tpking.me.uk Ed

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

Deadline for contributions	Publication month
11th June 2015	July 2015
13th August 2015	September 2015
8th October 2015	November 2015
10th December 2015	January 2016
11th February 2016	March 2016
14th April 2016	May 2016

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Reading Berkshire RG8 9LU Tel: 01491 872555

GORING HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

Nick Henry	Ladygrove Cottage	Goring Heath RG8 7RU	07900 498717
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VICE-CHAIRMAN

Peter Dragonetti	Covert Cottage	Hill Bottom RG8 7PT	0118 984 4711
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Nick Elsome	6 Heath End	Goring Heath RG8 7SQ	01491 682775
Kate Giles	10 Hocketts Close	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PX	0118 984 1590
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Tim King	Greenacre	Crays Pond RG8 7SH	01491 684198
Marjo McGee	Field End	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 872136
Martin Wise	5 Coombe End	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7TD	0118 984 3071

CLERK

Caroline Hadley	15 Bec Tithe	Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NP	0118 984 1594
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Email: goring.heath.parish.council@googlemail.com

GORING HEATH PARISH CHARITY

Chairman:	Bill Pechey	Jays Lodge	Crays Pond RG8 7QG	01491 680552
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GORING HEATH NEWSLETTER

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LOCAL GROUPS

Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers	Howard Dell	01494 764149
Goring Heath Bowls Club (Almshouses)	Maureen Jones	01491 681872
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	Vicky Jordan	0118 984 3260
Whitchurch Hill WI	Frances Strange	0118 984 2162
Woodcote Volunteers (Office Hours 9.30—11am)	Elizabeth Harrap	01491 681171
Yoga and Pilates	Betsy Twelves-Dickson	07922 439165

Goring Heath Parish Hall :	Bookings and Enquiries: Theresa Elsome	0118 984 2056
	email: bnt@waitrose.com	