

Annual Meeting of the Parish 2023

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Parish Council

The Parish Meeting is a chance for all our local groups and organisations to tell us what they have been doing this past year, and hopefully a bit of what they plan for the future. It is worth your time to have a read of the reports from each group that has been able to provide one.

The Parish Council has been quite busy this past year, and the Public Spaces Strategy Report has been received and there has been consultation with the community. From this projects have been set-up, and the real work begins to realise what are now just ideas. Most exciting (and considered 'low hanging fruit') are the two playgrounds being refurbished: Bourdillon and Gardiner. These have been a long time coming, and will hopefully address the real need for quality playground equipment to replace the tired equipment that is no longer fully fit for purpose. Also begun is the refurbishment of the Sheepecot pavilion, another long overdue project. Hopefully the new Council will address the issue of a much-needed teen space as well.

Recognition should go to our Clerk, Sarah Edmunds. She completed her CiLCA qualifications with special mentions for each of her submissions – all done within a remarkable time (just 6 months when a year is the normal duration). This qualification provides the Council with the opportunity to maintain its 'Powers of Competence', providing additional options when considering its decisions. Now the Clerk and Assistant Clerk are both qualified, ensuring that our Agendas and Minutes are best practise, but also that the various decisions made by the Council are properly carried out. I have had the pleasure to see the most recent internal auditor's report and with many positive comments including the statement:

“I have noted that many of the actions which I recommended last year have been completed; the Clerks and Council should be commended for this.”

As the first tier of local government, the processes can seem quite bureaucratic and at times daunting. It is reassuring that our administration is recognised as being well done.

Because of the deadline to make this submission for the Annual Parish Meeting, I am writing this prior to the election at which there will be 10 Councillors elected and after which a new Chair will be elected. It is important for all to remember that each elected member volunteers their time and seek to do what is best for the whole community. I wish them the very best, no matter who is elected, and with gratitude remember those who have previously served. It can be a very difficult job, with little reward.

Cllr Bryan Urbick
Chair of the Council

GORING-ON-THAMES

Financial Summary

The following table details the final end of your accounts by budget code for the most recently completed Financial Year: 2022-2023, and the previous financial year 2021-2022 for comparison.

The reserve account contains funds that have been earmarked for specific purposes. Whilst £271,000 is a significant amount to hold in reserve, the council is currently working toward an Operating Reserve at a level of the recommended 50% of precept, circa £80,000 plus saving for significant infrastructure projects, such as replacing the aging inventory of street lamps, play equipment replacement, Pavilion upgrades etc

NOTE: All figures to be considered draft, until accounts have been audited.

INCOME		2021-2022	2022-2023
100	General Income		
1010	Bank Interest	588	1496
1020	CIL Receipts	51463	37871
1030	Community Car Park	3026	7752
1040	Events Income	1863	1623
1050	Grants/S106/Donations	11983	2500
1060	Insurance		
1070	Miscellaneous Income / Other	135	226.48
1080	Precept	158306	160065
1090	Property Income	4348	14711
1100	Loan Repayment		7000
Total	General Income	231712	233244
200	Burial Ground Income		
2010	Grazing & Miscellaneous	58	0
2020	Interments and Plots	15446	13538
2030	Memorials; Including Bench Donations	3399	3370
Total	Burial Ground Income	18903	16908
400	General Finance and Grants		
4040	Miscellaneous Expenditure		231
4060	Staff Costs		218
Total	General Finance and Grants		449
600	Facilities		
6160	Street Lighting		500
6220	Utilities – Gas, Water, Electric		1253
Total	Facilities		1753
Total	All Income	250614	252354

GORING-ON-THAMES

EXPENDITURE

		2021-2022	2022-2023
300	Administration		
3010	Allowances Expenses Training	1392	1216
3020	Awards and honours	0	60
3030	COVID-19 Response (not Staff)	2969	
3040	Election fees	0	16199
3050	Hire of Meeting Room	39	
3060	Postage, copies and printing	1036	457
3070	Publications	582	262
3080	Subscriptions	938	1054
3090	Legal Fees	3387	2772
3100	Rates and Taxes	1497	1497
3110	Website	69	
3120	Annual Meeting of the Parish		177
Total	Administration	11839	23693

400	General Finance & Grants		
4010	Audit and Accountancy	2950	1515
4020	Bank Charges	64	74
4030	Churches S214(6) LG Act 1972	0	
4040	Miscellaneous Expenditure	0	623
4050	S137 and Other (Non-Grant) Payments	452	
4060	Staff Costs	39130	49664
4070	Transport S26-29 LGR Act 1997	350	700
4080	Loans to Local Organisations		7000
4090	Grants under General Powers of Competence		7000
Total	General Finance & Grants	42946	66586

500	Burial Ground		
5010	General Maintenance	1347	110
5020	Mowing & Hedges	2253	2465
5030	Plot Preparation	1660	3075
5040	WHBG Waste	742	785
Total	Burial Ground	6001	6435

200	Burial Ground Income		
2030	Memorials; Including Bench Donations		486
Total	Burial Ground Income (Spending)		486

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600	Facilities	2021-2022	2022-2023
6010	Car Park	2400	2626
6020	Defibrillator	250	1003
6030	General Maintenance & Repair	6711	2667
6040	Grass Weeding Strimming Fertil	12713	11083
6050	Hedges/Fences/Paddocks/Gates	0	1838
6060	Pedestrian Safety Projects	25000	596
6070	Inspections Surveys & Reports	4953	2304
6080	Insurance	1749	1087
6090	Office Equipment	1288	207
6100	Playground Equipment Maintenance	230	
6110	Property Sundries	2640	3980
6120	Public Spaces Review	1993	2008
6130	Security, Fire & Safety	285	75
6140	Software and back-ups	3859	2309
6150	Street Furniture & Seats	812	510
6160	Street Lighting	23014	23438
6170	Street Light Replacements	6437	3428
6180	Summer of Play	12873	17489
6190	Telephone & Internet	1161	359
6200	Traveller Eviction & Cleanup	0	
6210	Trees	983	1650
6220	Utilities - Gas, Water, Electr	4086	5190
6230	Vandalism	135	
6240	Waste / Litter / Street Cleaning	9463	3719
6250	Winter & Flooding	0	
6255	Jubilee 2022	2416	12491
6260	Village Planting		2379
Total	Facilities	125451	103154
700	Neighbourhood Plan		
7040	Misc Expenses/ purchases NP	110	110
Total	Neighbourhood Plan	110	110
Total	All Expenditure	186348	200465

GORING-ON-THAMES

		2021-2022	2022-2023
TOTAL	INCOME	250614	252354
TOTAL	EXPENDITURE	186348	200465

EARMARKED RESERVES

	Account	2021-2022	2022-2023
320	EMR Operating Reserve	71464	71464
325	EMR Tree Felling & Replacement	12000	12000
330	EMR Playground Equipment	20500	20500
335	EMR MIGGS Pavement Widening	5000	5000
340	EMR Car Park Reserves	12000	12000
345	EMR CIL	31415	68940
350	EMR Pedestrian Safety Projects	0	511
355	EMR Street Lighting Replacement	42489	41450
360	EMR Covid-19 Response	4555	4555
365	EMR Security	3249	3249
370	EMR Public Spaces Strategy	11007	11007
375	EMR GGBN Reserved Monies	1031	699
380	EMR External Audit Costs	3700	0
385	EMR WHBG Reserved Plots	5500	5500
390	EMR Summer of Play	12303	
395	EMR Winter of Play	0	
400	EMR Jubilee 2022	4803	
410	EMR WHBG - 99y Maintenance	5000	5000
420	EMR Election Costs	8000	0
425	EMR Freedom of Goring	1000	940
430	EMR Previous Financial Year Commitments	4374	0
TOTAL RESERVES		259390	270816

Sarah Edmunds, RFO

Goring Church of England Primary School

At Goring Church of England Primary School we strive to be the best that we can be, to be happy and healthy, and to do good. We cherish our traditional links with the Church, and our Christian values are rooted in everything we do. Our sense of community encourages kind and respectful behaviour where everyone's contribution is valued, and where diversity and what makes us all individuals are celebrated. Through our partnerships with other schools, the community and the Church, we enjoy a range of experiences, enabling us to be successful and giving in our lives ahead.

For every member of the school community we have the same shared vision:

“We are all part of God's vine and are rooted in His rich soil. We are nurtured and supported so that we may grow and spread out into the world to love and to serve.”

We support our vision through our school with our associated values:

- Belong
- Believe
- Achieve

Review of the year:

There has been much to celebrate in the life of our school over the last year. It was wonderful to be able to conclude the last academic year with the return of our annual Sports Day after a 2-year hiatus caused by Covid. Since September our sporting activities have gained pace, with particular success in external competitions for our cross-country runners and football teams. Musical contributions to school life have also resumed in full, with the school choir performing not only in school but also for services at St Thomas' church. The orchestra has also been able to give young players their first experience of ensemble playing at Christmas and for the school fete.

Academically, our pupils have continued to benefit from an exciting, inspiring and child-centric curriculum which aims to challenge all of them to achieve their best. The curriculum is designed to cater for each child's specific needs, allowing for the fact that children progress and learn at different rates. The mixed class structure, which was introduced due to declining pupil numbers in 2021, has provided an opportunity for redesigning the curriculum and maintaining freshness for teachers as well as pupils. As part of this we have revamped the curriculum section of our website (<https://www.goring.oxon.sch.uk/learning/curriculum-excellence/>), which now gives an impressive amount of information about exactly what and how the children learn.

The current class structure is as follows:

G – Greenfinch (Year R and Year 1)

O – Owl (Year 1 and Year 2)

GORING-ON-THAMES

R – Robin (Year 2 and Year 3)

I – Ibis (Year 4)

N – Nightingale (Year 5)

G – Goldcrest (Year 6)

Challenges:

Whilst the leadership team and all staff have been extremely adaptable in responding to changing pupil numbers and different class structures, this does represent a significant financial challenge to the school. As we highlighted recently in the GGN, Goring CE Primary School has in the past been sheltered from the worst of the funding cuts through a combination of very efficient financial management, the generous support of the PTFA, and the opportunity to take additional children in the form of the two bulge years that passed through the school over an eight-year period.

Now these bulge years have left, the landscape is very different: the birth rate has dropped not just locally but regionally, affecting a significant proportion of village schools in South Oxfordshire and many further afield. We therefore have substantially fewer children on roll which has meant a considerable drop in income. Together with other local schools, we are actively looking at ways of addressing this to ensure financial resilience for our village primary schools.

On a more positive note, we are extremely grateful for the fantastic work of the PTFA in raising funds for the general costs of running of the school. Events such as the Craft Fair and the Goring 10K (which raised over £16,000 this year) not only enrich village life but also make a real difference to what we are able to do as a school. We are also grateful to those individuals who have responded to our recent appeal for regular or one-off donations towards school running costs. Details of how to give can be found on the school website,

www.goring.oxon.sch.uk/donate/ or email clerk@goring.oxon.sch.uk for further information.

In summary, whilst all state-funded schools continue to feel the effects of financial constraints, the primary school children in our village continue to experience a broad, exciting and inspiring education. This is in no small way thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of our very experienced staff team.

Henry Fay
Chair of Governors, Goring Church of England Primary School

Goring Gap News

2023 is the 35th Anniversary year of GGN, representing countless hours of voluntary work and over £160,000 in donations to local good causes. Communication via GGN has contributed to the vibrancy of our local community and helped local businesses find custom. The GGN back copies are a unique historical record of 35 years of life in the Gap, available to all, thanks to the hard work of our Production Manager, Jim Emerson, who put all the back copies on www.goringgapnews.co.uk

In the past year the editor has encouraged less well-known volunteer groups within the Gap to provide articles about their work, in the hope of raising awareness of the importance of these groups to the community and encouraging new volunteers to join them. GGN welcomes articles and photographs about Gap news, people, places and activities from all local people and would especially encourage young writers to make 2023 the year in which they contribute an article and get their work published. Please send your contributions to goringgapnews@gmail.com

1st Goring-on-Thames Scouts

1st Goring on Thames Scout Group comprises Scouts, Cubs and Beaver sections. We have approximately 50 young people across the 3 sections and a full waiting list for each.

During the past 12 months, the sections have been involved in many varied activities held at Storton Lodge, these have included night go kart racing, whittling and fire wood making, fire lighting, scrapheap challenge, the list goes on, all working towards earning their skills and challenge badges for the different sections. We have also participated in a number of activities away from the Lodge, sailing taster sessions at Goring Thames Sailing Club, County Aqua Camp in Dorchester and our annual Group Camp at Goring Heath. The group is currently led by an Exec Committee which oversees the group, and the running of Storton Lodge as a village community facility. However, the Exec Committee is under staffed and we are looking for more volunteers to join in the running of the committee, as well as a new Group Scout Leader and additional leaders to support the current leaders who run each section.

Goring Gap Local History Society

2022 saw a return for the Society to normal activities after the Covid-19 pandemic. Face to face monthly talks in Goring Village Hall resumed, and members and guests heard some interesting speakers on a range of topics. The annual coach outing to Sandhurst Military Academy took place in June and was much enjoyed.

As it was the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Society held a 3-day exhibition in Goring Community Centre over the Bank Holiday weekend on Life in the Goring Gap in the 1950s. Members hunted through their cupboards for artefacts from the time and displays of photographs and documents were also shown, along with a timeline for the decade illustrated with contemporary advertisements. A film of the 1953 coronation festivities in the Gap ran throughout the day and Cleeve by Goring WI kindly provided refreshments in the form of drinks and delicious home-made cakes.

To continue the Jubilee theme, the annual journal was a special edition which focused on life in the 1950s here, with articles on a variety of topics. It was illustrated with old photos and adverts from local publications, such as the parish council's 1950s editions of their Guide to Goring on Thames. This booklet furnished some fascinating details of the time.

The Society has an archive of books, documents, maps and pictures which are kept in a room at the Community Centre. During the pandemic individuals and organisations decided to go through their own records. As a result the Society received donations of material, including some substantial deposits, such as those of the now defunct Amenity Association. Whilst very grateful for these accessions, our archivist now has a big job to catalogue them all.

The Transport History Group, which ran very popular monthly outings for many years, fell into abeyance during the pandemic, but began to organize trips on a more modest scale again.

The Society is run by a small committee who work hard to put on an interesting programme of events and carry out the necessary administration. GGLHS has about 180 members, but more are always welcome. To find out more, see www.goringgaphistory.org.uk

Janet Hurst
Secretary

Cleeve by Goring WI

This was our first full year of activities since Covid hit and we have certainly been busy. It was a significant year too as 2022 marked the 60th anniversary of Cleeve WI. There was an excellent turnout for the celebratory dinner at The Highwayman in Exlade Street in May, which everyone enjoyed.

We have had a varied programme of talks and workshops each month which included some speakers of excellent quality. In June we learned the complicated art of Furoshiki – Japanese fabric present wrapping - which certainly gave everyone some new ideas and in November, to mark Halloween, the President, Chris Cox, led a hands-on pumpkin carving session, which was great fun. At Christmas the entertainment was led by Ted Morse, with musical participation by members using home-made percussion instruments, followed by the usual buffet and wine. The summer party was on the theme of 'Mellow Yellow' with appropriate garb and some interestingly hued food to eat.

In order to keep the programme suited to the group's needs, a questionnaire was circulated seeking members' opinions on the format of meetings and suggestions for topics to be covered.

We have also been busy outside the monthly meetings. Book Group has continued to meet regularly and for a while we headed out into the fresh air for a ramble each month, but this fell by the wayside in the cold days of winter. We participated in the Great British Spring Clean in April and organized a village litter pick, in association with the parish council. Other philanthropic activity included our famous lock teas which took place on 21 August, accompanied by the Goring and Streatley Band. Our WI has continued to support the Wallingford Food Bank with donations of cash and goods and at Christmas Chris was able to take them a car groaning with items. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.

In February a successful visit was organized to Welford Park to see the snowdrops.

Cleeve's catering services have also been utilized at various events. When we took part in the Big Green Week event in Goring on 1 October, in addition to serving food and drink, we put on a display on WI environmental campaigning past and present.

Our WI has a Climate Ambassador, Julia Green, who keeps us up to date on current environmental issues. In February we always wear green hearts to 'show the love' and this year Sue Farmer made a wonderful postbox topper which was decorated by other members to show the two sides of the state of the planet – one depicting the damage now and the other the situation to which we aspire. The topper was mounted on the postbox in Goring High Street and has been greeted with acclaim. It was appropriate that when voting for the current year's NFWI resolution, our members voted for the one aimed at cleaning up the UK's rivers.

This year several members have left or moved away and, although some ladies have joined us, we could do with more new recruits. To help with this, we have ramped up our publicity, and articles and photos about our activities are now appearing regularly in the Henley Standard, Goring Gap News and Round and About. Items are also submitted to the 'Over to You' section of the OFWI magazine Oxfordshire Inspires. We have a Facebook page too, but it would be good if more members posted to it. Cleeve WI meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at Storton Lodge and visitors are welcome.

Janet Hurst
Secretary

Goring on Thames in Bloom

In 2022 activities returned to normal after the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic. Goring on Thames Parish Council contracted Bloom to produce and maintain the hanging baskets on the river bridges and the High Street. As it was the year of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, bedding plants were chosen in suitable royal colours. Bloom's own containers throughout the village were planted up to match. Goring on Thames in Bloom now has over 30 planters in different locations which help to brighten up the parish year round for residents and tourists alike.

Work has continued on the various areas which have been developed by Bloom, such as the bed on the Gardiner Field by the cricket nets and the wild flower meadow on the BT site by the village car park. Sustainable planting keeps these places looking good throughout the year. Sunflowers were planted either side of the path from the High Street to the car park as these provide a cheerful splash of colour for those visiting the shops and using the services. A new project was to clear and plant up the narrow strip in the north west corner of the car park, for long a weedy mess. The owner of the house being developed over the wall kindly dug it out and refilled with topsoil. This area now matches the lavender border by the allotments which is looked after by a local family.

In co-operation with Network Rail, Bloom continues to keep Goring and Streatley Station looking attractive with perennial planting in the large bed on Platform 4 and the strip by the public footpath next to Platform 1, along with the planters on Platform 3. Watering the containers is always a challenge, and in 2022 we were able to install a large water butt fed from the footbridge guttering on Platform 1, to match the one previously installed on Platform 3. The planters on Platform 4 were tended by volunteers from Village Greenfingers, with Bloom supplying the plants.

Despite these extra sources of water, the hot summer of 2022 meant that, followed by a wet and cold winter, several plants and shrubs were lost, requiring replacement in April 2023.

2022 saw Goring on Thames in Bloom enter the Thames and Chilterns Regional Britain in Bloom competition, with the judges visiting in July to tour the village and see Withymead Nature Reserve. The latter received a special award for environmental achievement and Bloom was pleased to receive its 7th Gold award. The group declined the invitation to enter the National Competition again, due to pressures of involvement in other activities, such as the Jubilee celebrations and the Gap Festival. The group was involved in the Open Gardens in the latter.

The Bloom group is entirely self-funded and in April 2023 held its first plant sale on the Rectory Garden for three years, giving a welcome boost to funds. We are grateful to all our donors and supporters.

Bloom is run by a small committee of four people, but without its team of around 30 volunteers, could not operate successfully. The committee thanks them all for their hard work and commitment. Extra help is always welcome, so please do get in touch for information on what is involved.

Janet Hurst
Secretary, Goring on Thames in Bloom
www.goringgapinbloom.org.uk

Goring Gap Boat Club

We've grown!

Since moving to Lower Basildon our membership base has more than doubled and continues to grow. We have introduced nearly 50 people to rowing through the very popular learn to row courses in the last year alone.

We are also attracting a lot of new experienced rowers and the number of juniors, students and fun boat members. If we continue to grow at the same rate, we will have 300 members in 5 years' time and that makes us one of the UK's largest recreational rowing clubs.

We have 5 Club sessions a week during the Summer and 3 in Winter, but experienced and competent rowers can row outside of those times. We also wanted to open up the use of the club to other river users through our fun boats: punts, paddle boards, canoes, fixed seat rowing boats and this has proved popular. Our slipway is also available to allow access to the river.

We have hosted Sport in Mind for a day of river-based fun, the local open water swimming club Christmas party and various other groups and individuals throughout the year. Where possible, safe and practical the Club is very open to other groups using our site.

Boathouse Development

We had plans to bring in mains electricity and water this year but given the massive increase in energy costs we decided that instead, we would expand our capacity to generate our own solar energy. We do still want mains water and have the funds put aside to install it but are waiting on Thames Water who seem to do things at glacial speed. We may yet find a way to clean our own water before it arrives which is an attractive thought.

Volunteering

We are a club run by, and for, its members on a volunteer basis. It's not just rowing either. We have a large site, an unfinished boathouse and work to do constantly to maintain the grounds, river front, building and access. Members and non-members (friends of the Club) volunteer on a regular basis to keep us moving in the right direction and we welcome anyone from the local community who would like to come and meet some like minded people and use your skills or labour to help us build a wonderful community asset. We provide tea, coffee and good conversation!

For more information about us visit www.goringgapbc.org.uk and for anyone interested in volunteering contact chairman@goringgapbc.org.uk.

**Lorraine Slade
Club Chair**

Goring and Streatley Concert Band

The Goring and Streatley Concert band is a community Band, open to players of all ages and abilities. We currently have about 35 members. The band was originally founded before the First World War but when the Second World War became imminent it was impossible to carry on. The band was reformed in 1977 for the Queen's Silver Jubilee and has continued, without interruption, since then.



The band performs a wide variety of music, ranging from marches such as Barnard Castle, a favourite with concert bands and brass bands across England, through arrangements of popular music like songs by Adele or The BeeGees, arrangements of classical pieces including excerpts from opera, to specially commissioned pieces.

We also have a Starter Band (which has its own musical director) made up of children and adults; as well as catering for those not yet ready to play in the concert band, the Starter Band provides an opportunity for concert band players to play their second or third-choice instrument. The repertoire for the Starter Band is similar to the main band but not quite as difficult.

In 2022 the band returned to playing a full season of engagements after the disruption of the Covid pandemic. The highlight of the year was playing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, both at the Beacon lighting ceremony and for Goring and Streatley's "Big Lunch". The regular engagements in Goring were playing for Cleeve by Goring's "Teas at the Lock" on a sunny August Sunday afternoon and for the Christmas Eve Carols, which in 2022 were in the Rectory Gardens as the Torchlight Procession was not held. The main band gave a Christmas Concert in St Thomas of Canterbury Church, which included the World Premiere of "Folk Song Suite" by Richard Lambert and a specially commissioned piece, "Fiesta" by Jamie Smith. The band had come to know Jamie when he produced, in an incredibly short time, a concert band arrangement for the Jubilee Anthem.

The Starter Band was as active as the Main Band, with a "Spring Fling" concert at Benson Parish Hall in March and a Christmas Concert at Goring Village Hall the day after the Main Band's Christmas Concert.

Sadly (for the band) our musical director Andrew McBirnie decided that work and other commitments meant he could no longer devote all his spare time to the band, so our Christmas Concert marked his retirement from the post. The band was sorry to see him go – but as he occasionally plays percussion, we hope to tempt him back to play at concerts in the future.

So we went through the laborious process of finding, auditioning and appointing a new musical director in March. We are delighted to welcome Andy Townsend, a trumpeter and music teacher, who we know will lead the band to great things. Some of you may already know Andy, as he has played occasionally for Goring Jazz in the Community Centre.

Goring and Streatley Concert Band welcomes all enquiries from wind and percussion players. We are especially keen to fill vacancies in the percussion and brass sections. We rehearse every Monday except Bank Holidays from 8.00pm to 10.00 pm at the Goring C.of E. Primary School, Wallingford Road, RG8 0BG. We also have a Starter Band for less-experienced (or rusty) players; it rehearses from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on Mondays.

For more information, contact Nick Cooper, the Secretary, at secretary.gsrb@btinternet.com or visit our website at <https://www.goringandstreatleyband.co.uk/>

Village Greenfingers

Reflecting over the past 12 months the committee have worked to rebuild the society after the Covid 19 epidemic. The fruits of their labours are here to see. We are still here, entering our 32nd year, still functioning, still enjoyed by the membership, and with new members having joined since Christmas. Congratulations to Stephanie, our programme secretary, for the enjoyable, varied selection of speakers during this time.

Looking at the membership card covering last twelve months we have enjoyed visits from gardening experts such as Bryan Fisher talking about climbing plants, Ray Broughton with his wealth of knowledge about all things horticultural, and Alan Goold - who demonstrated techniques on pruning & caring for soft fruit.

These meetings were interspersed with talks from local speakers: we're lucky to have such experts on our doorstep. We enjoyed evenings with Paul Jenkins from the South Stoke Wildlife and Conservation Group, Bridget Thompson talking on her gardening business and Jenny, Peter & Kay giving us a wonderful insight into a true gem that's within walking distance with 'The Story Of Withymead'

On the social side we had our private visit to the grounds of Englefield House, followed by a leisurely lunch in the Village Cafe that stretched long into the afternoon.

Our Christmas social was well attended and the quiz hosted by our very own David Woodage was well received. Thank you once again David. We also enjoyed our annual lunch in January - we were well looked after by the staff at the 'Four Points' and, with Spring in sight, exchanged stories of the drought of '23 and hopes for the gardening year of '24.

Our monthly competitions are popular and allow us to showcase produce or flowers from our own gardens - and sometimes our photography or artistic skills. The overall winner of the competitions wins the Challenge Cup - with their name suitably engraved for posterity.

Looking to the future, we have a great programme for the coming year, covering many topics such as dahlias, water in the garden, bonsai, and starting with a trip to Wisley, which should provide inspiration as well as envy!

Mobility Issues Group for Goring & Streatley – M.I.G.G.S

Holmlea Road pavement resurfacing: MIGGS appreciates the work done by OCC to improve the pavement surface in Holmlea Road, including improved wheelchair access ramps. The importance of Holmlea Road as a pedestrian route to and from the railway station and shops will increase with the development of housing on site GNP3 in Manor Road.

Farm Road resurfacing: We also appreciate the work done by OCC to fill more than thirty potholes that made wheelchair access to Farm Road difficult. Farm Road is part of an important right of way, providing a short route from the High Street railway bridge to Milldown Road, Fairfield Road, Cleeve Down, Icknield Road, Towse Court, the Bourdillon field and the primary school.

Gatehampton Road pavement surface and pedestrian safety: We will be making strong representations to the new parish council and to OCC, the highway authority, to carry out urgently needed improvements to the pavement surface in Gatehampton Road, especially south of the 20mph limit. We will also continue to press for installation of a dropped kerb and informal pedestrian crossing opposite the station car park and station entrance.

Red Cross Road pavement collapse: The collapsed pavement on the west side of Red Cross Road is a serious hazard for wheelchair users and other pedestrians on an essential route to and from the surgery from High Street and the east side of the railway. OCC has so far refused to carry out repairs and we will continue to press them for urgent action.

Wallingford Road pavement: The access ramp across Wallingford Road pavement at the entrance to the C of E primary school is in a very poor state of repair and represents a hazard to wheelchair users and elderly pedestrians, including those from Towse Court, for whom it is on an essential route to and from the shops and surgery. MIGGS has asked OCC to carry out repairs urgently.

Dropped kerbs: MIGGS welcomes the close attention given by the parish council to the need for dropped kerbs in various parts of the village and looks forward to these being installed. We also welcome the action of OCC to install a dropped kerb at the junction of Station Road and Croft Road.

20mph speed limit: We welcome the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the built-up streets of the village. Although this is not universally popular it is important for elderly pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, including parents with young children and pushchairs.

Station Road pedestrian safety: We are disappointed at the slow progress with pedestrian safety improvements in Station Road. We appreciate that our proposals have the full support of the council and that delays are caused mainly by the low priority given by OCC to a formal consultation on suspension of time-limited parking places in the road. The trial pedestrian priority lane cannot go ahead until these parking places are suspended. We welcome the acknowledgment by the parish council and OCC that the pedestrian lane should be properly marked and that additional repairs to the road surface will be needed.

Access to Goring surgery: MIGGS continues to press the medical practice to improve access to the Goring surgery and has offered a modest cash contribution towards the cost of installing a ramp that would enable wheelchairs to enter from the rear side of the glass porch.

Replacement orientation plaque for visitors outside Goring & Streatley station: MIGGS welcomes the warm support given by the parish council to its proposal to replace the existing orientation plaque outside Goring & Streatley station with a new, more detailed, up to date and inclusive plaque that highlights accessible routes and paths in Goring and Streatley villages. We are grateful to the council for agreeing to adopt the plaque once installed, to SODC councillor, Maggie Filipova-Rivers for including this project among those awarded grants

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from the councillor community grants scheme and to Mend the Gap for awarding MIGGS a grant to cover the greater part of the costs.

Readibus: As reported in GGN in March, MIGGS had taken the difficult decision to withdraw financial support for the Readibus door-to-door bus service it had supported since OCC withdrew its support in 2013. The reason for this decision was that demand had fallen to an average of fewer than three passengers per trip and it was hard to justify the annual cost of £1,400, shared equally with the parish council. We are attempting to find out whether there is an economically sustainable way to support a less frequent service. In ten years, MIGGS has contributed nearly £6,000 to subsidise the service. However, demand fell during the Covid pandemic and has not recovered since.

Planning for accessible housing developments: Although MIGGS has no collective view on the merits (or otherwise) of developing the Manor Road site (GNP3) we are reasonably content that the access paths cater adequately for the needs of mobility impaired pedestrians. We have continued to press for better pavement access to the proposed housing development site GNP6, between Wallingford Road and Springhill Road.

Accessible pedestrian by-pass at The Bull Inn crossroads, Streatley: Although it is located in Streatley, the accessible pedestrian by-pass at The Bull Inn in Streatley will benefit many Goring residents, including those who regularly take part in health walks led by Goring Gap Walks. The cost of applying for planning and listed building permission for this project has been subscribed by Streatley parish council and a generous private resident of Streatley.

Streatley footpath 21: The opening of Streatley footpath 21, the campaign for which is being strongly supported by MIGGS, is expected later this year. MIGGS has offered a cash donation towards the cost of making this path as accessible to disabled people as it will be to others. Footpath 21 will complete a short, circular, nature-rich walking route from Streatley High Street to the recreation ground and back to The Swan meadow, taking in the Thames path, that is accessible to all pedestrians in normal river conditions.

MIGGS constitution: The constitution has been updated to show that our aim and purpose is to exchange information and represent the interests of residents of the Goring and Streatley area who have limited mobility; and to raise and disburse money for that purpose. In practice this includes working with others to:

- Improve accessibility by rectifying existing problems, such as removing physical obstacles and improving paths and pavements.
- Avert new and future accessibility problems, by intervening in the planning process, responding to consultations and advising on minimum standards.
- Create and enhance opportunities for leisure and a better quality of life for mobility impaired people and help them participate equally in social activities.

MIGGS committee: Members of the MIGGS committee are: John Boler (chairman) and Maureen Whitcher (treasurer) plus Bob Gregory, Dr Rhys Hamilton, Angie Tomlinson and Frank Tomlinson.

Goring and District Twinning Association



Goring and District's (GDTA's) twinning relationship with Bellême, in the Orne department of Normandy in northern France, dates from 1979.



In that time there have been numerous themed visits between the two communities including cookery, drink, fishing, firefighters, golf, gardens, tennis, schools, U3A, judo, windsurfing, singing, bridge, photography, walking, horses, Edwardian, carnival, food, dance, football, cycling, art, orchestra and mushrooms.

Our communities have exchanged many gifts. In Goring you can see the cockerel weathervane on the roof of the Village Hall, the sun dial on the top of the Royal Mail building and the water tap installed outside the Coppa Club. In Bellême there is a red telephone box and the original community tapestry. In Goring we have "Bellême Mews" and in Bellême there is a "Rue de Goring on Thames".

Over the years GDTA has held numerous fund-raising events, including Las Vegas evenings, wine tastings, quiz nights, gourmet evenings, dance nights and craft fairs.

Our Twinning has had a remarkable journey over more than 40 years, and there have been wonderful links established between our two communities. Numerous personal friendships, which have evolved over that time, remain. Now, though, we have significant challenges.

Brexit has had a huge impact on Twinning. ID cards are generally used by the French for travel throughout Europe and were used for trips to England. Now, a full passport is required. Only about 45% of French residents have passports (many fewer outside the major conurbations) which makes a trip to Goring expensive for individuals. The regulations are also now more complicated for our trips to France as the UK is now outside the EU. These regulations are not new. They have always been in place for non-EU citizens entering France.

The GDTA committee is now too small to arrange visits or fund-raising events. Between 1979 and 2019, there were around 20 committee members at any one time. Now there are four. The twinning committee in Bellême is also undergoing significant change.

Despite these challenges the Parish Council, the current GDTA committee and those still involved in Bellême are all committed to keeping the relationship alive. In March the Bellême twinning committee kindly invited us to Bellême to help celebrate the Carnaval, organised in conjunction with Stühlingen, their twin town in Germany.

For further information please contact: goringtwinning@gmail.com

The Hub by Q1 Foundation

The Hub, our local community charity, has continued to serve the community as we emerged from lockdowns, and restarted its face-to-face activities and support for local residents – becoming a Warm Space for local people during this cold winter, and a place for hardship support as we face the cost of living crisis. We have continued to grow our services and now have around 120 visits/enquiries to use our services every month. The growing usage means we have needed to take on a second part-time member of staff who specialises in providing support.



During the year The Hub provides:

Support – providing assistance to people with complex matters eg, checking if they're eligible for benefits, and helping them make applications, information around care and funding of care for a loved one, or accessing hardship assistance, including through our partnership with the Wallingford Foodbank.

Information – helping people find local information, activities, support groups, and much more. We signpost to other services, and help people – particularly those not confident with technology – to access information

Activities – running support groups and activities, so people can connect with each other, have company, make friendships and improve their mental and physical wellbeing. Our current regular rota of weekly activities includes coffee mornings, seated exercise, puzzle and games club, seated tai chi, seated yoga, jigsaw exchange. We also run monthly support groups for local Carers and for people with Parkinson's. We hope to also start a Dementia support group in the near future. We've also run a number of interesting Communi-Tea talks to support the community on topics such as Scam Awareness, and Understanding Dementia.

As a small charity, we rely on the fantastic support of our community to help us raise the funds necessary to continue our work, and have been delighted by the recent generous donations to our Help The Hub campaign, as well as the 20 people who became Hub Heroes, fundraising for us by jumping out of a small plane! We had many people attend our Quiz Night in the autumn which raised funds to help cover the costs of updating our website. Many of the local businesses support us in lots of ways too, which is hugely appreciated. If you or your organisation or club would like to support The Hub financially with a one-off or regular donation, or would like to undertake a fundraising event for us, we would love to hear from you.

We also could not serve our community in the way that we do without our fantastic team of volunteers, for which we give them heartfelt thanks. We have around 60 volunteers who help on a regular or ad hoc basis, with everything from administration and fundraising, to hosting Hub visitors, marshalling the vaccine clinics at the surgery, and delivering prescriptions and food. Our small team of volunteer drivers provide local lifts to things like our clubs and activities, or to job centre appointments (not medical appointments, which the Transport Office at the Community Centre provides). We are always looking for more volunteers to help, particularly with driving and fundraising and would love to hear from you if you'd like to get involved in supporting your community.

We are also in the process of setting up our Friends of The Hub group – if you're interested in supporting our work, or keeping up to date with our news and activities, please contact us for a sign up form. It's free to join and we'd love to count you among our supporters. Pop in to the hub or: www.TheHubBTG.org.uk

Goring Free Church

We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ who meet to praise God, seeking to combine proper reverence with an informality that is appropriate for a family gathering. We also endeavour to be faithful in our preaching of the Word of God yet still relevant to the 21st Century.

Our services

We have two regular Sunday services each week, at 10.30am and at 6.30pm. Our 10:30 am morning service caters for all ages with a crèche, as well as youth and children's activities, running alongside for part of the time. An informal time over tea or coffee follows this. Our evening services vary in style and include a more devotional time of prayer and communion; a preaching-based service; opportunity to discuss a topic in small groups (café style); and the occasional evening of praise and testimony.

Most of the preaching is given by the pastor, Nigel Gordon-Potts, together with a small team of preachers within the church. There are occasional visiting preachers. All the morning services, including the sermons, are recorded. The current sermon series and historical recordings can be found on our Podcasts page.

As well as extending a welcome to anyone wishing to join us in worship on Sundays, we offer a wide range of midweek activities for the benefit of the whole village community:

The Drop-In

For adults of all ages we open our doors every Thursday morning, offering hot drinks, homemade cake, conversation and friendship (as well as warmth in the winter months!). After the misery of Covid lockdowns it has been a particular joy over the last year to welcome in some of our community's more isolated older people. Now that we are using our main hall for the Drop-In we have plenty of space to expand as visitor numbers have increased.

Children's midweek groups

During term time we run weekly baby and preschool groups (on Tuesday and Friday mornings respectively) as well as fortnightly Friday evening youth group for secondary school aged children. Though these all have a Christian ethos, they are attended and valued by a wide variety of people beyond those who regularly attend our Sunday services.

We are as usual really looking forward to this year's King's Club, our summer children's holiday club for primary school aged children. This year the title is "Seaside Rock", and it will run from Monday July 24th to Friday July 28th.

This is just a brief summary of some aspects of what we have been doing together at Goring Free Church; full details of all our activities, including those mentioned above, can be found on our website:

www.goringfreechurch.org.uk

Henry Fay
on behalf of the elders

Gap Festival

2022 End of Festival Report

Over 7,000 people were united through the ten-day programme of more than 80 events and what a celebration of our community it was!

An amazing 3,370 tickets were booked for admitted events in advance, with many more turning up on the day for additional free drop-in community events, and a further 3,500 seats were filled as part of the Jubilee Street Party celebrations.

The GAP Festival charity was set up as a legacy to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, so it was particularly apt that this year's programme of events started with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The Festival officially opened with the lighting of the Jubilee beacon on 2nd June, followed by a thanksgiving service featuring a choir of local residents who came together to sing the Song for the Commonwealth for this momentous celebration.

The showstopper event for this year was the villages' attempt of the longest Jubilee Street Party in Britain on 5th June, where 550 tables were set out by volunteers along Goring and Streatley's High Streets in a 1.3km stretch.

One of the first Festival events to sell-out was local band The Lightyears, who brought their floor filling anthems back to their roots in Goring. In the words of The Lightyear's recent post on social media, the audience and band were both "rockin' the fest" in style.

Further sold-out events included a unique conversation between MP Theresa May and the Bishop of Oxford, where they discussed how church and state co-exist today hosted in St Thomas' Church, Goring. This unique event had been postponed from the previously planned Festival, cancelled due to the pandemic, but it was certainly worth the extra-long wait!

Peter Pan, performed by the magnificent Illyria Outdoor Theatre, saw families calling out "I believe in fairies" in a magical touring production of this children's classic with real flying - the first of its kind. Performed in the beautiful backdrop of Friar's Ford, the evening sun shone on this early evening performance adding an additional magical dimension.

Keynote speaker and National Geographic Explorer, Dr Niall McCann, was joined by a panel of local experts, where the audience were invited to ask them about how global conservation thinking can translate into local community actions following a talk about his conservation adventures around the world.

Streatley Farmhouse became a real venue highlight for many, with this beautiful c18th barn hosting both award-winning folk group The Unthanks and specially produced GAP Festival Opera performances of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* sung by some of the UK opera houses' finest performers (see review in previous month's edition of GGN).

Jo and John who attended The Unthanks said "Streatley Farmhouse was a perfect venue for The Unthanks, who provided a beautiful evening's entertainment. We were not previously aware of the GAP Festival, but will definitely be looking out for the next one!".

Many of the events also offered a twist on the more traditional or expected artforms, such as the musical comedy evening with Harriet Braine and Pete Orton, one-man show performed by Mark Kitto about the

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boxer uprising, and talk with Sunday-Times Bestselling Author Stacey Halls which featured excerpts of Handel's Messiah sung by Goring Chamber Choir.

A record number of people enjoyed exploring the Festival's two open garden dates across the two villages. With almost 1,500 tickets sold, plus lots of tea, cakes and produce, owners offered the chance to see some of the hidden beauties in our local area. The gardens delighted and inspired visitors and helped to raise well over £11,000 for the GAP Festival and other chosen charities.

More than 160+ people danced the night away in Goring Village Hall at the silent disco and an audience of 80 attended a special lunchtime recital of Schubert's Octet in St Mary's Church, Streatley.

Plus, there was a whole host of incredible art, poetry, writing and textile workshops, led by local artists and experts (see the photos to get a feel for just how much effort, focus and creativity went into these sessions), as well as the wide range of live fringe music which popped up across village venues and pubs throughout the Festival period.

The next generation signed up to experience a gruesome teen horror make up session, there was a fun-filled teddy bear's picnic in Rectory Garden, and the library hosted regular storytime and crafts for little ones which were free to enjoy.

Alice (aged 5) said "I loved doing the Ladybird Heard' workshop at the library, painting and decorating the pebbles and making my own very hungry caterpillar".

There was even a special poetry competition held in partnership with Goring, Streatley and South Stoke Primary Schools, which were played and displayed around the open gardens.

Not forgetting, of course, the spectacular red carpet premiere screening with 'paparazzi' at the Festival's first ever Children's Film Festival and showing of SING 2. The judges were blown away by the creativity and film executions created by young people across the community. We can't wait to launch the entries for the next Film Fest in spring next year (watch this space!).

Also new to this year's Festival programme was the wide range of Festival Calm and Festival Fit sessions. From yoga, meditation and singing for the soul to bootcamp, pilates and runs, these early morning activities were run by local individuals, venues and fitness instructors. Providing early risers with the ability to get their GAP Festival fix in before breakfast.

A priority for this year's Festival was to include a range of free events to make the Festival inclusive and accessible for as many people as possible. The wide range of free events included the Artists at Goring art exhibition, children's activities, Festival Calm sessions, Saturday Festival Market Day, and the creative ceramic tile workshop where many people dropped by to create their little piece for the Jubilee legacy project, to be installed in the Goring community toilet block. And of course there was the infamous Big Breakfast which celebrated the final day of the Festival, enabling both locals and visitors of the villages to enjoy a piece of the Festival too.

In fact, Jo Gilbert, stumbled upon the beautiful Festival Playful art installation and marquee set up for the Jubilee celebrations in Rectory Garden whilst out for a walk along the Thames path: "We approached Goring hoping to find a spot to rest our weary bones, then 'voila' there in front of us was the Rectory Garden, a jewel awaiting us. How fantastic to have a village with such an extensive lineup of events organised".

This year's Festival was a celebration of all that makes our community so special" said Ginny Avery, GAP Festival Artistic Director, "From the Festival's sponsors and the amazing volunteers that all give their own

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time to make these events happen, to the venues themselves and everyone that booked tickets and attended the events."

Rachel Winterbottom, organiser of the Festival Market Day said "I was really excited to be asked to help with the Festival, and as a project manager, hoped to utilise my skills to do so. It was really good fun to organise. I loved being part of a wonderful dedicated team and was surprised at how much effort everyone puts in. What great people!".

The GAP Festival team and its charity trustees would like to thank all those involved in the Festival programme, including all those that organised the events as well as the marshalls, parking attendants, cream tea servers and every other helping hand, without whom the Festival would have not been possible.

We would also like to thank all our amazing sponsors and supporters, including this year's main Festival sponsor Warmingham & Co. As a charity, we rely completely on the generosity of individual donations, sponsors and everyone that booked tickets to attend. We couldn't put this on without you. Thank you.

So all that's left to say is - that's a wrap!

To be first to hear from the charity about the next GAP Festival due to be held in 2024, you can sign up to the e-newsletter at www.thegapfestival.org or follow The GAP Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. .

See you in 2024!

**Julia Jones and
The GAP Festival Team**

Goring Cricket Club

2022 Season Review

2022 was an exciting season at Goring Cricket Club with a wide number of players and volunteers contributing on and off the field. Overall we won 21 out of our 52 games, so whilst not our most successful season in recent years there was some great cricket played and a number of memorable performances. Despite some challenging moments for our Saturday XI, we comfortably retained our place in the Premier Division of the Berkshire Cricket League, finishing 7th thanks to a run of 4 consecutive wins in August.



Perhaps most pleasing was the continued success of our recently formed Development Squad. This was put in place to give our Academy graduates the opportunity to transition from the academy to senior cricket in a supported fashion. A large number of this squad, aged 14 to 16, obtained valuable experience in senior matches in 2022 and many were a mainstay of our Sunday side with a few even starring in our Saturday league side.

The club gathered in November at Goring & Streatley Golf Club to celebrate the season at our annual awards dinner. It was particularly great to see a number of our U13 academy players and parents and development squad players join the celebrations.

Off the pitch, **Jamie Vickery** picked up the award for *Clubman of the Year* for his contributions in launching the Boundary Bar and social media. **Duncan Kent** was our *Non-Playing Clubman of the Year* for the benefit he gave to many club members through 2022 by providing complimentary batting coaching as well as joining Jamie in setting up the Boundary Bar. **Rich McNeill** deservedly picked up the *Reg Jeffries Long Service award* for his fantastic efforts in recent years in a variety of important areas – being Club Welfare Officer, T20 Captain and launching our very successful Girls team.

Navneet Singh Chawla was chosen as the *1st XI player of the year* thanks to his excellent contributions in his debut season across all disciplines. Our cricketing rockstar, **George Taylor**, picked up the *T20 player of the year* trophy due to some scintillating innings. **Danny Tottman** was the young player of 2021 and built on that by securing the *Sunday player of the year* award with fantastic all-round contributions.

Perhaps the most hotly contested award was the *Young player of the year* with a number of the development squad in the frame. The award was taken home by **Ozzie Matthews**, who impressed with bat and ball and broke in to the league team. We also saw youngster **Will Slade** collect the *Fielder of the year* as he became our go to league wicketkeeper.

After dominating the bowling awards last decade, **Peter Slade** showed that age is no barrier in 2022. Not only did he score his first ever century for Goring, but he took an impressive 47 wickets (22 more than anyone else) at an average of just 16.4, to secure the *Bowler of the year* award.

Another previous young player of the year winner, **Max McGee**, was the winner of our flagship award - *Cricketer of the year* as well as *Batsman of the year* for his exploits opening the batting. Max achieved the milestone that every batsman strives for – 1,000 runs in a season – and he showed great maturity in becoming the lynchpin of our league side. The highlight amongst many for Max was his 139 against Welford Park in August – the highest 1st XI league innings in the history of the Club!

At Goring Cricket Club we are excited about the future and want to get as many of the local and surrounding community involved in cricket at Goring as possible, whether that is a player, supporter, or official. We offer

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opportunities for all ages and skills, so please contact gcc@goringcricketclub.com if you are interested in joining or would like more information.

As we approach our 150th year anniversary in 2026, a major project the club committee is focused on is replacing our current practice nets facility that is towards the end of its useful life with a new state of the art enclosed 3-lane non-turf practice facility. The new facility will be a fantastic asset for the club and the wider community – provide great safety benefits for cricketers and users of the Gardiner recreation ground, significantly enhancing the quality of the coaching experience, allowing us to reduce the growing academy waiting list and invest in Women’s and Girls cricket. For the second time in 12 months, the parish council have voted in favour of the cricket club having use of the former bowling green site for this purpose from 2024 onwards. Therefore, we are proceeding with the pre-planning application and will keep the parish council and wider community updated on status over the coming months.

Jonny Russell
Chairman



Max McGee celebrates scoring the highest 1st XI score in the 146 year history of Goring Cricket Club



Goring Cricket Academy thriving after stunning 2022 season

It's been another busy year for the Goring Cricket Academy, providing cricket training and matches from age 4 through to 16; we've had over 250 Academy players this season. Cricket is for everyone in the Academy. Once the children begin hard ball cricket, we have to ensure their safety and enjoyment of the game and hence have teams of different abilities from development level through to county players. We've a long waiting list of players wanting to join too!

Indoor training started indoors in February for the Under 9 (Year 3 & 4), Under 11 (Year 5 & 6) and Under 13 (Year 7 & 8) age groups (mixed boys and girls) using professional cricket coaches and team managers. In April, we moved to outside training which was for the same age groups – plus, the girls only squads in Under 11 and Under 13.

All Stars Cricket

The ECB All Stars programme caters for 4-7 year olds and is often the first introduction that children get to cricket via formal training session run by parent helpers – or “Activators”. This year we had over 70 young players in this group training every Saturday under the guidance of our AllStars Head Coach, Matt Armitage. The older AllStars then progress into the formal Goring Cricket Academy from school year 3.

Under 9s

Our Under 9s were managed this season by Paul Dineen with matchday support from Tom Rhind and Jon Williams.

Due to high numbers, as with all other age groups, we enter multiple competitions to ensure maximum match play for our players. The Oxfordshire competition is a little less formal than Berkshire, which is a league-type structure, whilst the focus across the board is fun and inclusivity whilst learning all elements of the sport – and is played with a soft ball. Other friendly games were arranged with other local opposition.

Goring won the Berks Pool they were placed in, won all their matches in the Oxon competition and most of their other games too – ending up having played 25 matches and winning 22 of them.

Under 11s

Richard Turner, Kayur Rughani and Rodders Grafton, are the team behind the Under 11s this year. Off the back of winning every game in 2021, the Under 11s also entered multiple competitions in 2022.

In Berkshire, we finished 2nd in our Pool (just one loss) and attended the Berks County Finals Day on 4th September. Whilst in Oxfordshire we entered a Pairs team (Development level) and won our Pool winning every game. In the more formal “out-your-out” T20 format we again won our Pool with a 100% win rate. We also entered the Oxfordshire U11s “Hundred” format and won our Pool – again winning every game. This took us to Finals day – on the same day as the Berkshire finals– meaning we had to split our squad!! We are proud to have had 22 players from the Under 11s represent Goring at county finals days this season alongside teams including Reading, Oxford and Slough.

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Under 13s

We won our Oxfordshire Pool in the Hundred format (winning every game) and beat local rivals Kidmore End to progress to the semi-final to be played in the next few weeks. In the Berkshire T20, we finished 4th in a very strong pool which included Sonning CC who finished 2nd in the whole of England! We finished 3rd in the Oxfordshire T20 Pool we entered and a fantastic 2nd in our Pool for U13 Pairs (development) team. The squad is managed by Chris Walsh with support from Ian Wardle and Bob Scurr.

Under 15s / Development Squad

The U15/Development Squad, whilst low in numbers, provided many players that played in our adult/senior T20 team and Sunday squad - and a few that played for our senior first XI in the Berkshire Premier League. This has become a great introduction for our younger players to integrated into the adult teams. Next season, we will have a formal Under 15 T20 league team.

Girls Squad

The girls-only squad is headed by Rich McNeill, supported by Graham Lunt and Dave Lewis, and playing hardball cricket. The U13s entered a league for the first time in Goring CCs 146-year history, and narrowly missed out on qualification for Finals Day. Similarly, our U11 girls squad played their first ever competitive games of hardball against local opposition winning 3 out of 4 games.

County Pathway

Each year, we nominate stronger players to follow the Oxfordshire Player Pathway that train throughout the winter and results in possible selection to play for the county at various age groups for boys and girls; in particular, 20% of the Oxfordshire Boys U11s squad are Goring players! Overall this year, we were delighted to have had a total of 20 Academy players represent Oxfordshire and play against counties such as Lancashire, Kent and Sussex to name but a few.

Clemmie Humphreys is a current Under 13 player who was one of the key catalysts in ensuring we pushed forward the formation of our girls squad. She has been a regular in the Oxfordshire Girls Team for a few years now and at the end of this season was asked to attend an observation day for the Emerging Player Pathway of the South of England women's team, the Southern Vipers.

All in all, another record-breaking season for The Academy. Many of you will have seen the hundreds of children training, playing and having fun every day of the week this summer at Goring Cricket Club. As we approach our 150th year, it looks like we have a bright future.

Andy Ankerson
Head of Academy

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Under 11's competing in Finals Day in front of Windsor Castle



Goring Girls first competitive league game in the club's 146 year history

Goring United Football Club

Introduction to GUFC

Goring United FC was established in 1901, following the merger of two local sides and since then the club has always fielded at least one adult football team. The club currently has five teams: two men’s Saturday teams, two women’s teams and a men’s Sunday team. In recent years the club has really developed and flourished, moving up from two teams to five, as we introduced women's adult football to the village and restarted the men's Sunday side.



In 2020 the club had the prestigious honour of being voted the Oxfordshire FA’s club of the year, which is undoubtedly one of the club’s biggest achievements. The club was given the award not just for an excellent season on the pitch but also for their work in the community.

The club is made up of purely volunteers, who selflessly give up their free time to run the club. The majority of the players come from the local Goring area and many have played for the club for several years now. We have strong connections with the Goring Robins and ensure there is a pathway from youth football to adult football between the two clubs.

Here is a selection of team pictures from our archives. We are very proud to have been fielding Goring teams for over 120 years now:



For the full history of the club, you can visit a designated page on our club website:

<https://www.goringunitedfc.co.uk/clubinfo/Club-history>

2022-23 season review

This has been a mixed season for the club. We again fielded 2 Saturday men’s teams, 2 Sunday women’s teams and a Sunday men’s team.

The men's first team have continued to hold their own in division one of the Thames Valley Premier League in what has been an injury plagued season. A difficult start saw the team bottom of the league after the first 4 games but a return to fitness of several key players saw the team win every game in November and consequently win the league’s team of the month award. Further injuries led to inconsistent results but at the current time the team look as if they will finish in a comfortable mid-table position. Tim Monk again led the team, with assistance from Mark Canning and they are hopeful that if the squad can maintain fitness next season a promotion push is a real possibility.

The men's reserve team were again in division 3 of the TVPL, with Mark Sachse continuing as manager. The team have been near the top of the table all season and a good finish could bring a well-deserved promotion.

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The men's Sunday team were promoted from division 2 of the Reading & District Sunday League last season and have more than held their own in division 1 under the new leadership of Tom Brownlow, ably assisted by Andrew Taylor. At the present time a secure top half finish looks likely.

The women's first team have gone from strength to strength following successive promotions. They have had some fantastic performances in division 2 of the Thames Valley Counties Women's League and are looking to continue their rapid rise up the football pyramid. Iestyn Llewellyn and Colin Williams have again managed and coached the team and continue to impress everyone with their dedication and organisation.

The women's reserve team played their second season in the development division of the TVCWFL. It has been a difficult season but they continue to develop and enjoy their football under the management team of Nikki Trevorrow and Alex Llewellyn.

The costs of running a football club continue to increase and we are very grateful to all our sponsors, we would welcome the opportunity to forge further relationships with any local businesses who would like to become involved with a progressive and community focussed local football club.

Looking ahead

The basic aim for Goring United as a club is to continue to provide adult football for men and women aged 16 and above. We pride ourselves on being a local club and at the heart of the community and plan to remain so for many years ahead.

Goring United are ambitious to play at as high a level of football as is possible and always welcome new players, supporters and volunteers.

The club are fully supportive of the Parish Council's plans to develop sporting facilities for all of the local community.

Next season the teams will again be playing on our two local football sites, the Gardiner recreation ground, where a Goring team has played since the club's start in 1901 and the Sheepcot recreation ground, which we share with the Goring Robins teams. The Gardiner pavilion was refurbished in 2017 and has provided much improved facilities for the football club, as well as the cricket and bowls clubs with whom we share it. There are a few minor changes that would be needed to support step 7 football but these should not prove insurmountable.

The Sheepcot playing field continues to provide football for all age groups, however the growing popularity of local football, particularly for women and girls, means there are insufficient pitches. The club would welcome opportunities to work with the Parish Council on improving the pavilion and exploring the possibility of an artificial pitch which would benefit many of the community.

We pride ourselves on the connection and pathway that we provide from youth football in the Goring Robins to adult football in Goring United. This connection will undoubtedly only grow stronger in the coming years, ensuring that local boys and girls, men and women, of all ages, can continue to play the sport that they love within their local community.

Tim Monk
Chairman, Goring United FC

Goring Robins Football Club

Introduction to GUF

This year we've been delighted to coach a record number of over 350 children, the demand for children wishing to play football is at an all time high. Most teams have an extensive waiting list with girls football going from strength to strength.

We currently have 28 teams - 17 boys, 9 girls and 2 mixed which makes Goring Robins one of the largest football clubs in South Oxfordshire, something we are all immensely proud of.

Seeing the children having so much fun, playing with their friends, creating new friends and being outside improving their physical fitness and wellbeing is so rewarding.

We have 15 teams at our foundation phase U6's to U11's and 13 teams at junior phase U12's to U18's. Teams compete in the Oxfordshire Youth Football League, East Berkshire Football Alliance, Berkshire Youth Development League and Berkshire County Girls Football League.

Goring Robins are proud to be an FA Accredited Football Club. This is an initiative by the FA to raise standards in the grass roots game through supporting the development of clubs and leagues. It also recognises and rewards commitment, quality and achievement. The clubs and leagues who achieve the FA Charter Standard demonstrate they offer well-run and sustainable football.

Each team has coaches who are fully qualified and we offer our players extra coaching either 121 or group sessions with CW Coaching. CW Coaching also provides football camps during half terms and the summer holiday.

During 2023 we anticipate to field 30 teams taking us to nearly 400 players.

We have a 6 year agreement with the football foundation for pitch improvements at Sheepcot and are about to enter year 3. I'm sure you can see the difference in the quality of our pitches and they are very durable with very few games being cancelled due to poor weather unlike most other clubs.

One of our core values is to ensure the boys and girls are playing football to have fun, we also like to win too. Here are some of our successes this season:

U8's, U9's and U10's cup winners

U13 Reds champions of their division in EBFA

U8's and U13's girls are playing in their cup final on 20th May

U11 Reds & U14 Reds were cup finalists in the OYFL

We are very excited about the future of the football club and feel it plays a big part in our local community.

Please contact grfc.secretary@gmail.com if you have any questions or enquiries as a player, supporter or would like to be more involved with the club as a volunteer, your help is always appreciated.



James Simpson

Chairman – Goring Robins