

THE GORING AND ILEX CONSERVATION GROUP

Conserving the beauty and present character of Goring, the Ilex Avenue,
the trees in Sea Lane and the Goring Gap



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.15pm for 7.30pm Thursday 19th Sept 2024 at
Methodist Church Hall, Bury Drive, Goring



Following the AGM there will be a talk given by John Oliver of the RSPB

Review of the Year

Introduction

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and we invite you to join our Annual General Meeting in September. As you can see our committee has been working hard on various matters over the year and the following reflects their commitment. The committee is elected at the AGM and if you would like to join the committee then please let us know beforehand or on the night.

Thoughts of a New Committee Member

I joined the Committee earlier this year having been a volunteer with the group who meet once a month to help maintain and preserve the Plantation with jobs such as clearing undergrowth, planting and litter picking. This provides good exercise and is a practical way of serving our community by cherishing a beautiful local area and, as a relatively new resident, making friendships. Attending Committee Meetings is giving me insight into just how much work the CIGC do on behalf of Goring. I am humbled and amazed by the incredible knowledge of the members, their links with the Council and other organisations and the range of work done on behalf of local residents. It is a privilege to be involved with and have my input appreciated and valued by such a dedicated group.

If you have time look at the website and join the monthly sessions whenever you have time!!

Plantation

Our volunteers meet every second Saturday of the month from 10am until noon. Over the year this totalled 330 hours.

Our many tasks included removing small dying trees; planting native trees and shrubs; keeping the pathways clear; monitoring the young trees; removing Sycamore saplings and cutting back Sycamore spurs (as these out compete our native trees and plants); planted woodland wild flower seeds and bulbs; cleared leaves from Amberley Drive (by the Plantation) to help prevent flooding; cleaned out the well-used bird boxes; and collected the ever present litter.

We could not undertake our usual task of spreading woodchip on the pathways as the Council no longer provide any. If there are any local tree surgeons who can help, and provide wood chippings (not green) then do please contact us.

The Year 10 Design and Technology students at the St Oscar Romero Catholic School, answered our call to hand build some new bird boxes.



Membership Subscriptions / Donations

Membership is a minimum of £1 per household. Feel free to pay more if you are able! Monies can be paid in by cash, cheque or preferably bank transfer. Our Santander bank account details are below.

Account Name	Goring & Ilex Conservation Group
Account Sort Code	09-01-29
Account Number	64220493
Reference	Post Code & House Number

A membership card/receipt for year end Aug 2025 will then be issued.

These six wonderfully crafted, replacements are now awaiting new tenants. Our heartfelt thanks is extended to all those concerned. None of this would be possible if it were not for our hard working volunteers; our supportive Membership; and the Council Rangers. (The coffee, tea and especially the home make cake, provided at “ half time” helps too !!).

Planning

Last year, we considered Chatsmore Farm and Persimmons constant attempts to obtain planning permission for 475 dwellings there. The final determination by a new Planning Inspector is now planned for the autumn. This is after the election and depending upon the winners, policy on housing may change and we hope that this will not influence the outcome.

The southern end of the Gap by the Greensward - has kept us, other groups, and the councillors busy – not to mention the heavy work by the planners. This is due to the strip fronting the Gap now owned by a local resident who initially proposed posh allotments.” These morphed into a sandpit for the local children – with a bar and concessions! Later a pétanque court was added together with car parking, toilets, and a 40-foot-long container. The planners and licensing authority unsurprisingly turned them down but the owner has appealed all the decisions. We commented on these applications and will continue to monitor them.

As part of the ProGaps alliance we have objected against the application by the developer at Rustington Golf Centre to omit 43 affordable homes from the 191-dwelling development. The development was initially refused by Arun planners but won on appeal, with the Planning Inspector at the appeal, giving substantial weight to these affordable housing provisions. As in this case, should permission be granted, we have often thought that the compensation offered to the council is inadequate for provision of these dwellings elsewhere. We review local planning applications at our committee meetings and comment as appropriate but other items we have considered this year include the revised Goring Hall Conservation Area appraisal and the official opening of Courtlands School where we previously expressed our concerns regarding preservation and protection of the historic features such as the Gold and Oak rooms. We hope that the Courtlands buildings and grounds will now be well maintained. There have been a large number of Tree Preservation Order applications to trim, replace or remove trees. We take the advice of an arboriculturist on these works. Finally, before carrying out any works to your property or boundary, please check online or consult the planners to see if you need planning permission.

Finance

Our independently reviewed accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 reflected a surplus of £524. We were grateful to receive £1,443 from Members as subscriptions and donations. Bank interest received was £51.

Our total costs were £970, which included printing £310; liability insurance £211 and website hosting of £154. Total reserves at the 31st December 2023 were £6,843, of which £6,000 remains as our Conservation Fund. These funds have accumulated steadily over many years and remain available to fund future costs to protect Goring (for example the continued defence of the Goring gap).

Website

For facts on our Group please visit our website:- www.ilex-conservation-group.co.uk



The Goring & Ilex Conservation Group Subscription / Donation

Could you please bring the completed ‘tear off’ slip to the AGM or alternatively pop it into either of the two letterboxes below. A membership card will then be issued. Your details will be kept securely. Please be assured that we will not pass them on to any third party.

John Daley

48 Aldsworth Avenue

Bob Niall

34 Marine Crescent

Name.....

Address.....

Amount Paid £.....

Number of Members in Household.....

Phone no.....