

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 18th Sept 2025 at
Methodist Church Hall, Bury Drive, Goring



Following the AGM there will be a talk given by Tony Pratt of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust

Review of the Year

Introduction

Another year, another newsletter to explain some of the work our committee and dedicated volunteers have been doing over the past year. We also invite you all to join our Annual General Meeting in September. The committee is elected annually at the AGM and if you would like to join the committee then please let us know beforehand or on the night.

Goring Hall Conservation Area

Last year a Goring Hall Conservation Area Appraisal was published highlighting areas of the Ilex Avenue needing attention. The Committee commented on this assessment and is now engaged with the Park Ranger with the intention of agreeing a Volunteers' Plan to help with the conservation and preservation of the Avenue. Whilst the Parks Department has overall responsibility for this area, we feel that volunteers can play a big role in some of the much-needed maintenance. This includes removal of bramble bushes and undergrowth around saplings, clearance of storm damage, maintaining furniture, improving the footpath etc The Appraisal also stressed the need to engage with all stakeholders in formulating such a maintenance plan: "Continued maintenance and management of the Ilex Avenue should be encouraged in a productive partnership between residents, local amenity groups and the Council." We will keep you informed through our Website, Newsletters, and social media on progress, and of course, the call for more Volunteers. In the meantime, if anyone has comments regarding the Ilex Avenue, please let us know.

Plantation Benches & Notice Boards

We investigated and then successfully applied for funding from the Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Three wooden benches will shortly be placed alongside the main pathway, so those who wish to sit, can do so comfortably.

Suitable wooden notice board(s) will also be erected. We have been engaging with a local school and hope to also engage with other community groups to create informative and interesting displays for these notice boards. If you wish to join us in this endeavour then do please contact us.



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 the year will then be issued.

Plantation

Each second Saturday of the month, our volunteers gather at 10am and work diligently until noon, with a short interval for refreshments. We regularly publish a brief report on our website and in the local free press. We have a current team list of 35 volunteers, with an age range of 3 to 80+, who help maintain this wonderful woodland area for everyone to enjoy. Amongst our many tasks we plant native trees, shrubs, wild flowers and bulbs; spread woodchip; remove Sycamore saplings and brambles; remove litter; clean and repair our tools; clean repair and replace the bird and bat boxes; and endeavour to keep the pathways clear. And all this is done on behalf of the Council, who thankfully were able to provide us with woodchip this year.

If you wish to join us, you would be most welcome, and we are currently looking for individuals who wish to be involved in the planning and management aspects; also those with first aid skills.

As ever we are indebted to our hard working volunteers; our supportive Membership; Council Rangers; and of course those who supply the cake !!

Planning

Chatsmore Farm and Persimmon's planning attempts have exercised us over many months but in March this year the Planning Inspector dismissed Persimmon's appeal. We are told that Worthing Council will be discussing with Persimmon any future moves. We also mentioned last year the various schemes mooted for the strip of land at the front of the Gap owned by Mr. Dixon. He won an alcohol license but following a visit by Planning Enforcement, preparatory work for a sandpit and many other installations was stopped and we were informed that he then decided to sell the land through a local estate agent. We now understand, at the time of writing, that the land is not currently for sale and await any further developments for this piece of land. We continue to review local planning applications at our committee meetings and comment as appropriate and these include work to trees covered by a Tree Protection Order (TPO). Worthing Council keep an online register of TPOs made since 2015 and can assist for those made before then. Not all "worthy" trees or groups are covered, however and if you think that a tree or trees near you should qualify, there is assistance on the council websites. If you do want to remove or drastically alter a tree on your land which is not covered by a TPO, please discuss this with your neighbours first as a nuisance to you could be a treasured part of your neighbour's landscape and discussion may result in a solution reasonable for all.

Finance

Our financial records for the year to 31st December 2024 were again independently reviewed. A surplus of £678 arose. Subscriptions and donations gratefully received from our members totalled £1,729. Bank interest received was £69. The overall costs were £1,120. This included Printing £365; Liability Insurance £221; Website Hosting £154 and AGM expenses of £142. Our Reserves now total £7,521 of which £6,000 remains as our Conservation Fund to use on future costs arising (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 Persons in Household..... Phone no.....
(for membership numbers)