

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 17th Sept 2026 at
Methodist Church Hall, Bury Drive, Goring



**Following the AGM there will be a talk given by
Pollinator Pioneers on honeybees, pollinators,
and basic beekeeping.**

Review of the Year

Introduction

We hope that you will find this newsletter interesting, covering some of the work our committee has been carrying out over the past year. We must also mention the excellent work in The Plantation which our monthly volunteers tackle for the benefit of our residents and visitors. You are all welcome to join our Annual General Meeting in September when the committee is elected and if you would like to join them – especially in the Treasurer or Chair roles - please let us know beforehand or on the night.

Trees and nature in Ilex Way and The Plantation

The launch of the Vision for Nature policy by Adur and Worthing Councils emphasises the importance of wildlife corridors across the district and includes the Goring Gap and its associated public open spaces of the Ilex Avenue and The Plantation.

Whilst the semi-natural woodland of The Plantation running south from Goring Hall to the sea has more obvious benefits for nature, the Ilex Avenue running east west at the northern edge of the Goring Gap is a more formal landscape dominated by a single species.

The Goring and Ilex Conservation Group is committed to the protection of trees whether as woodland or as an avenue the challenge is to marry this with an enhancement of its value to wildlife as well as the built environment, something that for the avenue gets easier towards the western end.

Today the trees retain the classic even-aged, evenly spaced and single species uniformity of an avenue in parts only and the effect of travelling along it in a carriage for which it was designed has long since gone. It remains a great walk in a defined space with the trees focussing the eye on a distant green.

The remaining original trees, now around 186 years old and giving that cathedral like high vaulted canopy when walking within, contrast with sections of younger replacement giving a less uniform avenue but perhaps one with more resilience as a tree feature. Some of the crowns of the older trees continue to decline gracefully most notably near Aldsworth Avenue and Fernhurst Recreation Ground.

It is these ancient trees with their open cavities exposing old wooden cupboards of fungi and history within which are the essential charm of the Ilex avenue.

Whilst the Ilex Oak produces quantities of acorns that are a major food for birds like Wood Pigeon, Jay and Magpie, adding some native species like the English Oak when replacing trees would increase the diversity of fungi, invertebrates and ground flora which are foundations of the food webs on which our wildlife depends,



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 for the year will be then be issued.

Ilex Avenue - Long Term Plan

We continue to plan and organise a long term maintenance plan for the Goring Hall Conservation Area (Ilex Avenue). Discussions with WBC Parks Management have been very encouraging and the involvement of volunteers is seen as valued additional effort. Whilst tasks like the clearance of brambles and some basic pruning of low branches are relatively straightforward, many other tasks still have to be reviewed and agreed by the WBC Parks Management. The Committee recently had a walk down the Ilex Avenue and noted areas where brambles are surrounding the trees and low branches are overhanging the pathway, especially considering it is designated a bridlepath. Further discussions are taking place with local residents, and any comments on these matters are welcomed. It is hoped that a group of volunteers can start this work this autumn.

Planning

The strip of land at the front of the Gap remains problematic. At the time of writing, you will no doubt be aware that, having been unable to sell his plots, Chris Dixon has opened this up to the public with parking, food and drink outlets under a 28-day allowance before planning permission is required. He also has a premises licence granted under appeal to sell alcohol within certain time limits. He is attempting to legitimise and extend this with a planning application due to be determined in August. We, along with other local groups and our local councillors have objected to his plans.

In May, two of our committee members attended a session on the council's new Vision for Nature strategy part of which includes the "Goring Green Gap Corridor" which provides a habitat connectivity between the South Downs and the coast. This vision should add to and strengthen the additional protection for the southern part of the Gap designated as the Goring-Ferring Gap Local Wildlife Site in the Worthing Local Plan.

We continue to review local planning applications at our committee meetings and comment as appropriate. There has been concern regarding the size of the Eurogreen "mound" at Highdown and we have been in touch with the National Park who assure us that they are monitoring the situation. We have also commented on the low provision of parking spaces in new local developments which may push some of their residents' and visitors' vehicles onto neighbouring roads, so far to no avail. If you have a local planning concern, applications, current and past, are available to view on the council's website, we would also be happy to speak with you.

Finance

Our financial records for the year to 31st December 2025 were again independently reviewed, by a longstanding member. A surplus of £300 arose.

Subscriptions and donations gratefully received from our Members totalled £1,744. Bank interest received was £70. The overall, regular costs, were £1,514. This included Printing £365; Liability Insurance £277; Website Hosting £154 and AGM expenses of £137. Plantation costs of £506 included nest boxes £75; Notice Board Repairs £144; Blue bell bulbs £33 and replacement of tools and gloves etc., £254.

Under the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Scheme we also received £2,661. This was then spent on three wooden benches, with metal plaques, which were securely placed within the Plantation by the Council Rangers.

Our Reserves now total £7,821 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.....
(for membership numbers)

Phone no.....