

Welcome to Genie's 'Village Matters' newsletter

Village Matters reports on topical events and items of interest to local residents. There is no specific publication schedule, as it goes out 'as and when' sufficient material justifies a newsletter. Unless stated otherwise, the items will refer to Goring-on-Thames, Streatley, South Stoke and the surrounding villages.

In this issue: Vote **now** to help the Allotment Society, notice of an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting to start the public consultation on the Goring Neighbourhood Plan, where to find advice about Universal Credit - plus a lot of other information and dates for your diary.

If you like it, please forward to your friends and encourage them to subscribe. Also, to ensure you consistently receive the e-mails it is suggested that you either 'whitelist' subscribe@genienews.org or **add us to your contact list.**

More details on Genie newsletters [here](#).



Streatley Allotment Society needs your vote - today!

A different sort of hedge fund!

Our local allotmenters (in the Streatley Allotment Society) are a self-sufficient bunch and equally sourced from the two villages. They are currently in need of your support to get a grant to tame the very overgrown hedges around the allotments.

A 'hedging project' has been accepted as a candidate for a cash award from this year's Aviva Community

Fund. However, the outcome depends entirely on the number of votes they can muster in the shortest time.

If they are successful they could gain up to £1,000, which would make a huge difference to them. Their best chance to win an award is to be among the first group of entries to get 1,000 votes. Voting opens on Tuesday 24 October.

Please help them get in trim and go to <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-2139> **and VOTE NOW!** Thank you.

New local help and advice about Universal Credit

Citizens Advice (Oxfordshire) has asked Genie to distribute the following information about its new specialist advice service for people receiving or applying for Universal Credit.



Citizens Advice South Oxfordshire became a full service area for Universal Credit on 11 October. This means that anyone applying for one of the six means-tested benefits (or already on one of them but reporting a change in circumstances) will have to apply for Universal Credit. Citizens Advice is aware that some applicants may find difficulties with the new system, especially with the recent changes, but the charity's specially-trained advisers are available in local offices to help any clients who need it.

Universal Credit merges six existing benefits into one: Child Tax Credit; Working Tax Credit; Housing

Benefit; Income Support; income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and income-related Employment and Support Allowance.

Citizens Advice is working closely with the district councils' housing needs teams and local housing associations to support those who need help with Universal Credit applications.

Citizens Advice also offers confidential, impartial advice and information on many other day-to-day issues, so if you need help with Universal Credit or in other ways, please visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk or telephone 03 444 111 444.

Alternatively, you can drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice office, which include Woodcote, Wallingford, Didcot and Henley. For a full list of local offices, click: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/contact-us/>

For more information about Citizens Advice in South Oxfordshire in general, click: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale



County Council Housing Survey 2017

Oxfordshire County Council is currently carrying out a short, census style survey of households occupying homes that were built in Oxfordshire within the last ten

years. Survey forms were sent out to most new households earlier in October, with a deadline for the return of completed forms of Friday 17th November.

The survey asks questions about the characteristics of those moving to new homes in the county and the type of homes they have moved to. This information will provide the local authorities of Oxfordshire with up to date evidence about the type of infrastructure and services that will be needed to support further housing growth in the county and will assist them in their negotiations with developers about funding. The County Council has asked that anyone who may have received a form to kindly take a little time to complete and return it. If your household received a survey, there are details as to how to complete it on-line, if that would be preferred.

For more information, see www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/housingsurvey.

Big delay on Network Rail's promised public consultations on new electrification gantry designs



On 19 October, at a meeting in Goring chaired by John

Howell MP, senior Network Rail (NR) managers told the Goring & South Stoke Railway Action Group (RAG) that they are delaying the local consultation meetings they had originally planned for earlier this year. The new proposed dates will not be before Spring 2018. As many are frequently requesting more information, we felt it was important to include in this Genie newsletter. Full details of the meeting and future actions are expected to be in the next Goring Gap News. You can also follow the sequence of events and background to the consultation process and the whole subject of the controversial electrification equipment on RAG's website www.savegoringgap.org.uk.



Extraordinary Goring-on-Thames Parish Council Meeting on the Neighbourhood Plan, tomorrow Tuesday 24 October, at 7.30pm

The council will convene an Extraordinary public meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24 October in the council offices in Red Cross Road, Goring to consider the publication of the Neighbourhood Plan for consultation. **The public and press are cordially**

invited to attend. (This meeting will take place just before the Planning Committee Meeting).

The Agenda can be viewed and downloaded here: <http://www.goringpc.org/meetings/details.php?meeting=454>

Agendas can also be seen on the notice board at the Old Jubilee Fire Station (Parish Council Office), Red Cross Road, Goring and on the electronic notice board at: <http://www.goringpc.org>

Goring Gap Business Network talk with guest speaker. Thursday 2 November, 7.30-9.30pm, Goring Village Hall

Guest speaker, Paul Tollet (Board member of the British Bobsleigh & Skeleton Association), will talk on the 'Commercialisation of the British Bobsleigh Team', including achieving peak performance on the track - and in the Board Room.



The meeting is hosted by the Trustees of Goring Village Hall and there will also be a talk by Bernard Novell (Chairman, GVH) on the success of the village hall and its role in the community.

All GGBN members (and guests by request) are welcome.

RSVP by 30 October to Dawn (Bonnie) or Richard Roberts. T: 01491 872184 or Mobiles: 07957 571620 & 07917 020737; or email bonnie@positiveconsultancy.net

The meeting will also include a short AGM.

(NB: Only paid up members of the GGBN, prior to the start of the meeting, will be able to vote on the election of the officers).

Light refreshments provided by Pierreponts and the GGBN.



Open Meeting on Obesity and Self-Care', Goring Village Hall, 11am-12.30pm, Saturday 4 November

The Patient Participation Group (PPG), working with the Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice, has arranged for specialist doctors on obesity to discuss this growing problem and the measures people can take themselves to reduce and prevent it.

The speakers will be Mr Gregory Jones, Consultant Bariatric (weight loss) Surgeon, Royal Berkshire Hospital and Dr Andy Goode, GP Obesity Treatment Lead, Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice.

For your interest, some official statistics on obesity are attached. [To see them click here.](#) (The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics).

Remembrance Day services on Sunday 12 November in Goring, Streatley & South Stoke

On Sunday 12th November there will be Remembrance Day observations at the war memorials in the churchyards at St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring, St Mary's Streatley and St Andrew's, South Stoke, all starting at 10:50am.

Immediately following the outdoor ceremonies there will be a Remembrance Day service in each of the churches. All are welcome.





A photograph of the service in a previous year at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Goring.



The GAP Festival 2018 is now recruiting

We are all volunteers who enjoy the buzz of working together to make the biennial Arts Festival in Goring and Streatley a success. If you've been involved in the previous festivals in 2014 and 2016, you'll know it's a fun atmosphere and a great way to meet new friends and learn new skills.

If you'd like to help get in touch now - and let us know how you would like to help.

Whatever your skill or interest, we can find you a role. You could manage an event, look after a celebrity, help with fundraising, design posters and leaflets, use your social media skills in the marketing department, shift chairs and scenery, put up banners, deliver flyers, sell tickets, operate sound and lighting, serve in the catering and bar areas or help in a myriad of other ways. So, whether you are interested in getting experience to enhance your CV or would like to indulge your interest in the arts, we would love to hear from you.

The Festival is 13 - 17 June, but we need you now!

Contact the artistic director Heather Dunthorne director@thegapfestival.org or call 07889 368082 or have a look at the website www.thegapfestival.org.

Thank you.

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