

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: Goring wins Gold again, don't be a victim of car lock jamming, Goring Grocer needs your votes, Swift Ink moves to new premises - plus several other updates on local news.

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](#).



Vote for Goring Grocer

Goring Grocer has been nominated for the Farm shop/Deli Awards 2018

They need votes!

Tell the judges why they should win this award. Your comments will be used anonymously in the judging

process and also on marketing materials. Votes are based on the quality of comments, rather than just the quantity.

Vote using this [link](#).

Goring Gap In Bloom Wins GOLD Award

Britain In Bloom Competition



Goring Gap in Bloom was awarded a coveted 'Gold' at the Royal Horticultural Society's Thames & Chilterns Regional Awards Ceremony in Amersham on 28 September. This was the Goring's third Gold award and the result delighted the members of the committee who went to hear the long-awaited results following the judges' visit to Goring on 12 July.

In addition to the main Gold award, Goring Primary School received a 'Highly Commended' in 'The Mark Mattock School's Challenge Award 2017' for its horticultural achievements.

Goring Gap is classified in the 'small town' category, due to our population, which just exceeds the number to qualify in the 'village' category. Goring Gap therefore competes with towns more than twice our population which have more resources and bigger budgets, such as Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire and Twyford, Berkshire.

The judges praised the extent of community effort and the number of volunteers involved, especially in the new projects undertaken this year, such as the garden area by platform 4 at the railway station and the perseverance of the group in the negotiations trying to improve the wildflower area on the BT telephone exchange property and the boundary fence. They also commented on the quality and quantity of the hanging baskets and the overall cleanliness and tidiness of the village, so thanks and recognition must go to all the many volunteers who contributed toward winning this Gold award.

During the opening ceremony, the Chairman of the Thames & Chilterns in Bloom, Ted Smith, congratulated Goring for being selected by the BBC to represent the Thames & Chilterns region and for being filmed throughout the summer for a half an hour episode in a new documentary series on the Britain in Bloom competition. The programme is to be shown on BBC 2 next year, date to be advised, but probably in the Spring. (Details will be announced in a future Genie newsletter).

BEWARE!

Criminals using 'car lock jammers' to rob cars in Goring



A number of Goring residents have had sat navs and other valuable items stolen from their cars recently - without their cars being broken into or damaged. The thieves didn't break a window or force a lock because they used 'car jammers', which work remotely from up to 75m away and can be bought online for as little as £25 by anyone.

This is how it probably happened. The criminals watch people arriving home, probably in the evening, and just before they are about to lock their cars they wirelessly block or scramble the locking function of your remote key fob. The owner still hears the reassuring 'beep' when they press the lock button, but the jammer device blocks the radio frequency, leaving your car unlocked as you walk away none the wiser. The thief can then simply walk up to your car, as if it were their own, open the door and steal anything they can find.

Fortunately, any crime in Goring is relatively rare, but here are 3 simple precautions you can take to help prevent this happening to you:

1. Have a look around when you're locking your car to see if there are any strangers nearby, maybe in parked cars.
2. After you've locked your car with your key fob, check the car door physically to be sure it is locked.
3. Don't leave tempting valuables on show in your car.

This link shows how the thieves do it: [Graphic showing how car jamming works](#)

To find about how you can prevent this happening to you, read more at [BBC - What you can do to prevent car jamming](#)

Litter-Pickers Needed To Help Keep Goring Clean

Cleaning up Goring on 14th October

Volunteers are needed again for the autumn clean-up to help the regular band of stalwarts (including whole families) who turn up to for this wonderful act of public service to keep Goring clean and tidy.

If you'd like to help, just turn up at 10am on Saturday 14th October at Goring Parish Council offices in Red Cross Road (between Goring Hardware store and the surgery). All the equipment you need will be supplied and there are refreshments available on your return.

If you need any further information, please email maureen.whitcher@btinternet.com

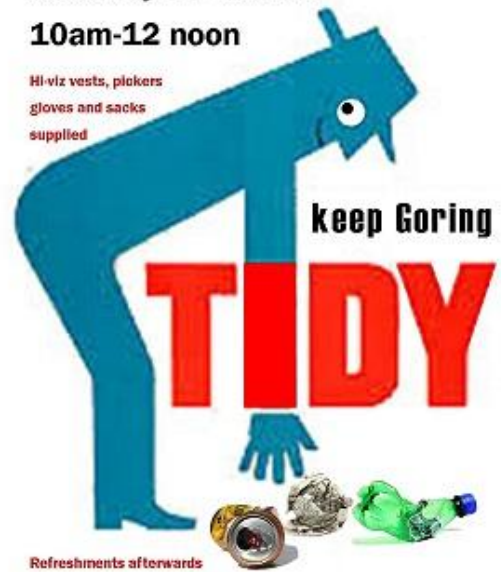
Goring village autumn clean-up

Assemble at parish council office, Red Cross Road

Saturday 14 October

10am-12 noon

Hi-viz vests, pliers
gloves and sacks
supplied



The Springs Hotel & Golf Club

To be developed into a Holiday Destination

The Springs Hotel & Golf Club in North Stoke has been acquired by Darwin Escapes (previously known as Darwin Holiday Parks), as an addition to the holiday company's 20 leisure locations in England and Wales, from Cornwall to the Lake District, offering everything from short breaks to holiday homes to rent or buy.

The Golf Club is still operating as before, but with plans to refurbish the club house facilities and restaurant. The old 32-bedroom hotel, which has deteriorated since it closed at the end of 2014, will be developed in due course.

The famous 'guitar-shaped swimming pool', with the steps into it designed as a fretboard, however, is understood to be retained as a feature. The hotel was once owned by Deep Purple rock legend Ian Gillan, who designed the pool. Gillan bought the dilapidated 1874-built mock Tudor house in 1973 for £100,000, when it was used as a nursing home, and invested almost £500,000 to restore it.

Thames Valley Police

Renewed Appeal for Witnesses

Thames Valley Police have asked Genie to repeat their appeal for witnesses of a sexual assault which took place in August. The incident took place at approximately 12.35am on Saturday, 5th August, on a path between Elvendon Road and Lockstile Way, opposite the Bourdillon Field.



The victim, a 25-year-old woman, was cycling along the path and was approached by a group of five males who were all aged between about 16 and 20 years. One of the group approached the victim and assaulted her by touching her inappropriately. The offender is about 5ft 11ins tall, of a slim build and with brown hair in a centre parting. He was wearing dark clothing and had a bicycle with him. (The victim was not injured as a result of the incident.)

Investigating officer Sergeant Mark Allmond, based at Abingdon police station, said: "I would like to hear from anyone who has any information relating to this incident, or who has any information which they think could help our investigation".

If you have any information relating to this case, please call the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number on 101 quoting Reference number 43170231328. Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously at anytime on 0800 555 111.

'Swift Office Stuff Ltd' opens



Swift Office Stuff Ltd (formerly Swift Ink & Swiftclik Ltd) opened in new premises in Goring High Street on 2nd October, in the location previously occupied by the cycle shop at 10 High Street.

Billy and Shaun are delighted with their new shop space and carry an extensive range of essential and useful office products for home and office use, and are expanding with many new lines. In addition to a new website there is a new business catalogue available.

Having supplied local customers and businesses for over ten years, Swift Office Stuff look forward to seeing all their old customers and some new ones.

All businesses are welcome to open an account and receive regular updates and special offers by email – or just call in to say hello and leave your details.

New premises, new product ranges and a new website at www.swiftofficestuff.co.uk

Footnote: There are several active enquiries about the two shop units that Swift ink vacated when the business moved out from the Arcade. We await the outcome with interest.



Vacancies at Genie News

Genie is Growing, would You like to help?

Genie is run by a small, dedicated and enthusiastic team of volunteers with a mission to produce the best rapid communication system for the Goring Gap possible. Our activities are growing and we now need additional help in three particular areas - news gathering, updating the online calendar and on the technical side, in IT support.

IT support: Genie sends out its newsletters using MailChimp, the world's leading automated email platform. Although we have several MailChimp *aficionados* in our team who format the editorial material and manage the database, there are times when they are away or busy. We need one or two people to stand in when needed. It's not difficult and full training will be provided, so please get in touch if you want to find out more.

News gathering and reporting: With so much happening locally, we need more people willing to spend a few hours a week here and there seeking out and researching local news stories (on the phone and/or face-to-face) and then writing them up for publication. If you have an enquiring mind and fancy yourself as a cub reporter, or have interest or experience in journalism, we would love to hear from you.

Genie online calendar: As more people are using the Genie calendar as their main source of 'what's on' in the area, and also as an 'event planner' (for event organisers to check dates in the months or even years ahead to avoid date clashes), the calendar needs to be comprehensive and always up to date. We have one person dedicated to this job, but she needs support with so much going on. It's an easy job that is done on your own computer from home whenever you have any spare time.

To find out more on any of these roles, please contact Ron Bridle: contact@genienews.org or phone 07789 871620. Thank you.

Under Offer

Old TSB Bank building in Goring High Street

The property in the centre of Goring is now under offer and the sale may be completed shortly. 'Best and final bids' had to be submitted by the deadline of 4 August and a number of bids were submitted to CBRE which met the required conditions.



Genie will be advised by CBRE as soon as the sale is completed and the new owner's details will be published in a forthcoming newsletter.

Goring-on-Thames Tennis Club

Appeal for new members



The summer season is over, the leaves are falling and the cricket nets came down last weekend. Are you keen to keep exercising, enjoy the fresh air and meet new people? If so, joining Goring Tennis Club could be the answer!

It's a friendly club of mixed ability and ages and has a thriving Juniors membership and several senior teams in the Newbury and Oxfordshire Leagues. Next year they will be celebrating 50 years and hosting a variety of events.

If you would like to give tennis a go - or are wanting to get back into it again, but aren't quite ready to commit to a full year's membership, the club has introduced some 'rusty rackets' coaching sessions, for those who are exactly that - rusty!

They have five all weather outdoor courts, two of which are floodlit. The Clubhouse has recently been refurbished and has toilet facilities in the adjacent pavilion.

Head coach Jon has made available some special slots on Thursday evenings, 8-9pm, starting on 5th October for £5 per session for 4 weeks.

If you are interested, get in touch with the coach: jonathan.h@goring-tennis.co.uk or contact Sandra on 0777 5643457. Non-members are welcome to try the sessions out before joining. To meet some of the members and have a chat, come to one of the Club sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am, Sunday mornings from 10am and Tuesday evenings 6.30-8.30pm. More details at [Goring Tennis Club](#).

Successful Fund-Raiser

Goring & Cleeve Pre-School



Over 90 parents and friends of the Pre-school charity staged a quiz and disco at Goring Village Hall on Saturday evening to boost their funds.

Pictured is Martin Holman, captain of the winning quiz team 'Strictly Come Scouting'.

To follow the plans for other fundraising activities of the pre-school, including hiring its children' bouncy castle, visit their [website](#).

Meeting Cancelled

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Public Meeting, scheduled by Goring-on-Thames Parish Council for 6.30pm on Monday 9 October, is now cancelled.

Looking for Family Members

Goring on Thames Parish Council is trying to locate the family of the late **Emily Maud Penny** who died on 3rd April 1993 aged 90 years, lived in Springhill Road, and is buried at the White Hill Burial Ground.

Could any information be passed to the Parish Council Clerk on clerk@goringpc.org or ring 01491 874444.

To comment on any of these stories please email <mailto:contact@genienuws.org>

To send in news items, use <mailto:news@genienuws.org>