

Welcome to Genie's 'Village Matters' newsletter

In this issue find details of a new 'hub' for health and social care, get a short overview of upcoming local events, and learn about the new Goring Gap Boat Club HQ - plus other topics you may find of interest!

If you like this newsletter, please forward to your friends and encourage them to [subscribe](#).



New 'Hub' for health & social care in Goring

This innovative service, the first of its kind in the area,
to be located in the old Swift Ink premises in the Arcade

The aim is to provide a conveniently located 'one-stop' facility for people to visit or telephone to access free information and advice about all the care, social care and related support services available within the voluntary, charity, NHS and private sectors. Work has already started on fitting out the Care Hub, which will be open on Friday 1 December.

This new facility, based under one roof in the High Street, will provide a much needed central point of contact for carers and clients when they want to discuss care needs. If confidentiality is important there will be a quiet, private area available for knowledgeable staff to explain the different support options available. The Care Hub is hoping to work closely with NHS and other providers to create a fully joined up resource for adults of all ages. Whilst there are many excellent services available, there is currently no single list or place to find them all, so it can sometimes be challenging to find out how to access the wide range of services required when a person needs multiple types of health and social care.

Local care and charity groups will be offered the facility of desk space in the Care Hub at set times throughout the week so people will know when they can visit or telephone to speak to particular support groups, which may include Citizens Advice and others providing care-related services.

In addition, The Care Hub is planning a range of small group meetings and clubs (eg a knitting circle and cards etc) with practical and educational sessions on personal safety, particularly around the home. The trained and qualified staff will be 'dementia-friendly' and provide a safe and caring environment to make people at ease when they drop in for a chat. One of the aims is to help equip senior members of the community to get back out and about and to help them to make new friends, to avoid the loneliness of being in their own homes for much of the time.

This initiative and its holistic approach to care has been the long-held dream of Melanie Meads, a Streatley resident and Founder of Q1Care, who has provided domiciliary adult care services in the Goring Gap and Reading area for many years. For further information about the Care Hub, please email

melanie.Meads@q1care.co.uk or telephone Q1Care's head office in Theale on 01189 323 865 or visit the Q1Care website www.q1care.co.uk

The Hub opens on Friday 1 December, but may not be fully ready to offer the whole range of services until later. Opening times will be 9am - 5pm, Monday to Saturday. Their telephone number (from 1 December) will be 01491 525639. All are welcome to drop in and find out what it offers.

Message from the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG):

Help us plan GP services in Oxfordshire - now and for the future



Public meeting on Tuesday 28 November, 6.30pm - 8pm
The George Hotel, High Street, Wallingford, OX10 0BS

Throughout the summer your GP practice has joined others in Oxfordshire to talk about how they currently work, what problems they regularly face and how they could work better. They have also been talking to Patient Participation Groups to find out more about the patient experience, listening to what patients feel is important and their ideas for change.

From this ongoing engagement work with patients, GPs and clinicians in your local area, they have identified the challenges each locality faces, their priorities and how those priorities could be met.

Julie Dandridge, Head of Primary Care, Oxfordshire CCG, said, 'We would like to invite local residents to come and join us at some workshops to discuss in detail with doctors and NHS managers how GP and primary care services in their local area could be organised. We want to know from people, what works well at their GP practice at the moment. GP services are facing increased demand, recruitment difficulties and budget pressures, so we would like to understand from the public, how services could work better in the future'.

The details for your meeting are:

South East Locality (Goring, Woodcote, Wallingford, Henley-on-Thames, Benson, Thame, Chinnor, Sonning Common and surrounding villages):

Tuesday 28 November, The George Hotel, High Street, Wallingford, OX10 0BS

6.30pm – 8pm

This event will include a short presentation followed by round table discussions. Further information about these events are available online and if you are unable to attend but would like to have your say there is a short online survey available

here: <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/LocalityPlansOxon/consultationHome>

To book your place and get more information please email cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net or call 01865 334638.



Are you 'Arts friendly'?

If so, The GAP Festival would love to hear from you.

Would you like to become a 'Festival Friend' and support next year's Goring & Streatley arts festival on 14-17 June 2018?

Nowadays most, if not all, community events and projects need support by community-minded residents who offer help in different ways. Although the committee tries to raise most of the group's finances from ticket sales, sponsorship and grants, donations from individuals are really important as well. Having sufficient funds early on helps to keep ticket prices affordable for all, and becoming a registered Friend is one way residents can feel they are making a practical

contribution to the community arts scene.

The donation to become a Friend is £100 per person per festival and there are some tangible benefits. Please see below.

The biennial Gap Festival is a registered charity and Goring & Streatley's main large cultural event. It gives performance opportunities to young people and much pleasure to the 6,000 or so people who attend. It also benefits the community in many other ways, including supporting the local economy. Planning for the next festival is well underway and there are some exciting events lined up again, including performances by internationally-known artists.

As a Friend you will benefit from:

- priority booking two weeks before tickets go on sale to the public
- a private Friends reception before the festival
- use of the 'Friends & Sponsors Hospitality Tent' during the marquee events
- your name listed on the Supporters page on the festival website

...and the feeling you've made a valuable contribution to making this wonderful event happen again.

The donation is £100 per person, but, of course, if you would like to donate more, that would be most welcome. You can donate in full now by cheque, direct transfer or spread the cost by paying by Standing Order, half now and half next year. Details of how to donate are below.

If you are interested in promoting a business or organisation you may be involved with, please let the committee know as there are a range of festival sponsorship packages available to suit any budget.

Different ways to become a Festival Friend:

£100.00 per person (or £150.00 for 2 family members):

Online:

<http://www.thegapfestival.org/friends.html>

Cheque: Please send a cheque made out to 'Goring and Streatley Festival' to Honorary Treasurer c/o Battle Hill, Elvendon Road, Goring-on-Thames, Reading, RG8 0DT. (Please inform of both names if you are donating for two).

Direct Transfer: The festival's account details are: Sort Code: 30-99-15, Account No: 27334068 (Lloyds Bank, Wallingford, OX10 0EH).

Standing Order: You can set up an annual Standing Order to pay the same overall amount per festival, but half the amount each year (i.e. £50.00 or £75.00). The festival's details are: Sort Code: 30-99-15, Account No: 27334068 (Lloyds Bank, Wallingford, OX10 0EH).

Gift Aid Form: Please print off and complete [this form](#) as it allows the festival to claim the tax relief from your donation if you are a UK tax payer. The charity's name is 'Goring and Streatley Festival'. Please return it to the Honorary Treasurer c/o Battle Hill, Elvendon Road, Goring-on-Thames, Reading, RG8 0DT.

THANK YOU.

The GAP festival team

GREAT LOCAL EVENTS

Coming up before Christmas ...

Enjoy **SHOPPING** for something special at Goring's Christmas Craft Fair on Nov 18-19th, or at the South Stoke Shopping Evening on Nov 23rd. There are more opportunities to 'buy local' at St Thomas' Christmas Fair on Nov 25th and at the very popular Goring Christmas Shopping Evening with tree lighting and festive music on Dec 1st, followed by the Goring Festive Food, Drink & Local Product Fair on Dec 2nd.



There are **CONCERTS** to be enjoyed in the churches on Nov 19th, Dec 9th and 10th. In Goring Village Hall you can enjoy Goring Unplugged on Nov 24th and Dec 15th, or see the Chris Barber Big Band on Dec 8th. On Christmas Eve there will be carol singing in the Vicarage Gardens.

You can enjoy **THEATRE** locally as well. The Goring Gap Players present *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* on Nov 22nd-25th. After Christmas, South Stoke and Goring have productions coming up (Jan 20th at South Stoke and Jan 27th at Goring) with *Murder in the Village Hall* murder mystery evenings.

Don't miss out on all these great local opportunities this year. Join in and support your community events.

To find out more details of the events, just click below to find the genie calendar. All the details to these and many more are there for you to browse, alongside details of how to get your own event listed.

<https://www.genienews.org/enewsletters/calendar-events-planner/calendar/>



New HQ for Goring Gap Boat Club **New volunteers are now needed to help fit it out**

Next year the Goring Gap Boat Club, organisers of the Goring & Streatley Regatta every year, will relocate to its purpose-built premises on the southern bank of the river, just upstream of Gatehampton Brunel's bridge.

After many years of seeking a site for a permanent home, the club has achieved its long-term aim of finding the perfect location to base its community rowing activities.

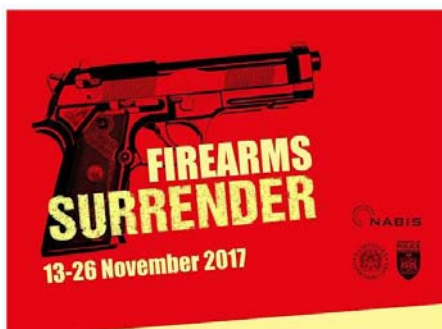
The construction of the boathouse shell (including its 'grass roof') is being undertaken by contractors, but all the rest of the work of creating the waterfront, preparing the site and fitting out the boathouse has to be done by club members and a small army of volunteers.

The club would love to hear from anyone who can help them. They need to source the materials, expertise and tools etc for completing the project and create a first class facility everyone in the Goring Gap area to enjoy. If you can help or offer advice, please contact the club by emailing chairman@goringgapbc.co.uk

The Goring Gap Boat Club is one of the largest recreational boat clubs in the Thames Valley and a truly community organisation. Membership is open to all, from youngsters wanting to gain their first experience of rowing to veterans wanting to continue their love of the water.

Over the years it has been estimated that 1,500 rowers (many of them total novices) have taken to the water under the guidance of the club. Many of these have gone on to compete in the ever popular Goring and Streatley Regatta and now regularly row for pleasure and to keep fit.

For more details about the club, how to become a member and their 'Learn2Row' courses which the club has been running for over 10 years, visit the website: www.goringgapbc.org.uk



Message from Thames Valley Police - Firearms Surrender

People in England and Wales have until Sunday 26 November to hand in guns, other weapons and ammunition to police stations without being punished for possession

Police say many firearms are held in ignorance of their legality and urge people to surrender them if they do not have a licence for them or consider surrendering licenced firearms if they no longer have a use for them.

The surrender period, which started on 13 November and runs until 26 November, is part of a national initiative by the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) to reduce the number of illegally held firearms within our communities.

The police will also accept replica and imitation firearms, air guns, BB guns, antique guns and component parts.

Local police stations which are taking part in the surrender include:

Oxford, Abingdon, Reading, Newbury and others listed in the TV Police article about the surrender - see link:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/general/thames-valley-police-launches-firearms-surrender/>

**To comment on any of these stories please email <mailto:contact@genienews.org>
To send in news items, use <mailto:news@genienews.org>**

***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.*

*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](#).*