

## Welcome to Genie's 'Village Matters' newsletter

In this issue find reminders of the final dates for consultation on the Basildon Ward boundary change and the Goring Neighbourhood Plan, an update on the Goring Primary School, and a 'thank you' to Genie subscribers - plus a lot of other things you may find of interest!

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

### 11th December 2017

#### Last day of lodging comments about the Basildon Ward boundary change

The proposals for the South East region can be viewed [here](#) and you can respond to the consultation [here](#). All responses need to be submitted before the closing date of December 11th.

### 13th December 2017

#### Last day of consultation for Goring Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Goring on Thames Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal have been published for Regulation 14 (Parish) consultation, ending at 5pm on Wednesday 13th December 2017. [Here is a link to the Plan](#) and [here is a link to the Sustainability Appraisal](#). A short summary of the Plan has been delivered to every dwelling in the village, and an electronic copy is [available here](#). You can provide your comments in the following ways:

- Submitting comments online by [clicking here](#)
- Downloading a comment form from that website and emailing it to [info@goringplan.co.uk](mailto:info@goringplan.co.uk)
- Emailing your comments to [info@goringplan.co.uk](mailto:info@goringplan.co.uk)
- By letter to Goring on Thames Parish Council, Old Jubilee Fire Station, Red Cross Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9HG

All comments must include your name and home address.



### Goring CE Primary School Update

#### Goring Primary School Working Group, Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Council progressing well on project for the future of the school

It is appreciated by the School that the importance of the School to the community has been recognised within the Neighbourhood Plan currently in consultation. It is also acknowledged that a specific land allocation cannot be made in this Plan. There is a desire, though, to enhance some of the wording within the Plan, before it is finalised and submitted to SODC, to better support future options

for the School. This was the key focus of a consultation meeting with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) last week.

The meeting with the School Working Group, the NPSG and Parish Council representatives was very constructive, and all in the meeting felt that the concerns of the school were understood. Likewise, the NPSG was able to further explain the principles and approach taken in drafting the plan, as well as answer questions. In the end, there was a commitment by the Steering Group to review the points raised and to seek to find ways to enhance the Plan accordingly. Assuming that the revised Plan submitted to

SODC by GPC (after all consultation comments have been taken into account) adequately addresses the concerns discussed, the School Working Group committed to publicly encourage support for the Plan.

As background, the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council, at the Extraordinary Meeting held in September, decided to support the School to work through the process to get the best school facilities for Goring and at the same time, not to delay the current Neighbourhood Plan process but to include the school issues as a strategic project in the Neighbourhood Plan. This is evident in the draft Neighbourhood Plan currently in consultation.

Shortly after the Extraordinary meeting, a Working Group was formed by the School's Governors, and three Parish Councillors have been designated to provide the support. All has been going very well, with great strides being made to explore all options for the school and to work through the necessary process. The first major step - an objective, comprehensive feasibility study looking at the condition and expected life of the current school, as well as the potential for renovating or rebuilding the school on the existing site (with or without the Bourdillon Field) - is being commissioned. Funding for the study has been agreed, with approximately half from the Parish Council and half from the Diocese. It is expected that the results of the Feasibility Study will be reported end February/early March. From that point, the next steps will be considered and agreed and the outcome reported to parents and the whole village.

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## Are you a grandparent with 3 or more grandchildren over 18 years?

If so, a TV production company is looking for outgoing grandparents who want to spend more time with their adult grandchildren for an interesting TV documentary.



The programme will allow grandparents to share their knowledge, advice and practical help, while learning more about the lives, hopes and aspirations of their grandchildren.

Applicants will be considered for the show with a working title of *Gran Knows Best* being made by Shiver (ITV studios). "With grandparents reportedly only seeing their grandkids on average twice a year, it's not surprising the two generations often know little about each other's lives," commented one of the show's producers.

In the show British grandparents will spend one-on-one time with their multiple grandchildren in an attempt to get to know them better and see if they can offer any help. Along the way, they will learn about the pressures their grandchildren face, the lifestyle choices they make, their hopes for the future and what, if anything, is standing in their way of achieving them.

Shiver is one of the largest independent providers of factual entertainment TV programmes in the UK and produces programmes for ITV, BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky.

To find out more about this opportunity, contact the company directly either by telephone on 0207 157 4588 or email [shivercasting@shiver.tv](mailto:shivercasting@shiver.tv)

[www.shiver.tv](http://www.shiver.tv)



## Join in the Christmas spirit... Lots of local events this December

Have a look at Genie's Calendar to find out when and where you can:

- ... go to a traditional candle-lit carol service
- ... shop for gifts in local markets
- ... save money and shop for a spare bed/chair/anything at Sue Ryder
- ... meet Santa on a train, or in South Stoke Village Hall
- ... learn about South Stoke's Christmas Cracker
- ... hear about an Old Time Christmas
- ... sing carols on Christmas Eve

Find out more [here](#).

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**A thank you to Genie subscribers**

The Streatley Allotment Society has sent the message below to all the Genie subscribers who clicked on the link in the Village Matters newsletter in October and voted to support its funding campaign.

We did it! We got the votes we needed for our Aviva Community Fund project and are now finalists! A big, big thank you to Genie subscribers for helping us with our publicity.

**Cyndy and John Ashton**

### Streatley Allotments Tree-Trim Project

Streatley Allotment Society is a small organisation of 38 plotholders from our own and the neighbouring village of Goring who grow an assortment of vegetables, fruit and flowers on our village allotments. The allotment site borders our village meadow, the recreation ground, and the parish church and churchyard. Together these form the heart of our small community.

The allotments were created 5 years ago from what was weed and bramble covered waste ground, and everyone has worked hard to get it into an attractive and productive state. At the start we had some funding to help clear the site and put in fencing. From this bare beginning we have turned our plots into productive gardens. Communal efforts take care of most general maintenance and improvements to the site.

One of our early projects was to replant the long hedgeline shared with the village meadow. This is now growing well and we keep it in trim. But a second major L-shaped border is formed by trees which affect all of the plots adjacent to it. We want to have this reduced in height and width to let the light in and allow those plots to flourish.

This is too big a project for us to tackle ourselves, and unfortunately the longer we leave it, the bigger and more expensive the job gets. We have had quotes to do the work, but they are all in excess of what we can raise through years of plot fees, which are our only income. Together with our reserves, £1,000 would pay for the entire border to be reduced to a height and width that we could maintain ourselves.

This is the last of the major establishment works that are needed on our allotment site, and we very much hope that we can be awarded the funds to allow us to complete it.



**BBC**  
**RADIO BERKSHIRE**  
95.4 FM, 104.1 FM



### BBC Radio Berkshire looking for contributors

Special 3-hour live programme about George Michael to be recorded in Goring on 18 December

To commemorate the approaching anniversary of the death of George Michael in Goring on Christmas Day 2016, BBC Radio Berkshire are looking for local people who knew George to contribute to the programme.

Many people have already come forward to be interviewed and a local choir will sing a George Michael song to end the programme scheduled for broadcast between 10am - 1pm on Monday 18 December. For further information or to participate, contact BBC Producer, Andrew Wootton at [anthony.wootton@bbc.co.uk](mailto:anthony.wootton@bbc.co.uk)

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 emails it is suggested that you either 'whitelist' [subscribe@genienews.org](mailto:subscribe@genienews.org) or add us to your contact list. More details on Genie newsletters [here](#).