

Welcome to Genie's 'Village Matters' newsletter

In this issue find information on a train station closure, a Pre-school Empty Space Appeal, an update on the weir, and some of January's events in the Gap - 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](#).



Paddington station will be closed over Christmas

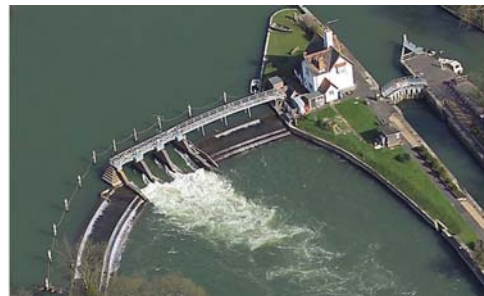
From Friday 23 to Friday 29 December

The closure is due to work on the Crossrail project and there will be no services in or out of Paddington main line station during this period. Travellers from Goring & Streatley station are advised to check out their journey before travelling at: [National Rail Enquiries - Great Western Railway services during Christmas and New Year 2017/18](#)

Goring hydropower update Court case about the Goring hydro scheme to be heard

Goring Parish Council has successfully argued a rarely permitted legal procedure to allow them to re-open the request for appeal against the previous Judicial Review judgement. The court date has been set to formally allow the application to re-open and immediately then to consider whether to allow the Appeal, and if successful, then to hear the Appeal – all on the same day: 20th March 2018.

The action being taken does not involve either Goring and Streatley Sustainability Group, or Goring and Streatley Community Energy, and only involves South Oxfordshire District Council regarding how they approached the planning application for the hydro scheme on the Goring weir.



Though this request to the Court has been on-going for many months, this information can now be made public. The request for the Appeal was made on four grounds:

1. The High Court judge erred in his interpretation and application upon s 31(2A) of the Senior Courts Act 1981 when he ruled in favour of the Goring Parish Council but did not quash the decision;
2. The judge erred in finding that the District Council could lawfully conclude there would be harm to the Conservation Area but not to the AONB;
3. The judge erred in finding the District Council's approach to acoustic harm to the AONB was lawful: and
4. The judge was wrong to hold that the duty to investigate whether there was harm to listed buildings "must be triggered by someone raising it as a potential issue".

In order to prepare for the hearing, all the standard Court of Appeal procedures apply with deadlines for arguments for the full Appeal hearing and plaintiff responses in February.

A successful Appeal would mean the existing planning permission for the hydro scheme would be quashed. Unless and until this happens, the permission stands.



reality. The mud kitchen provides open-ended opportunities for the children to learn, play and explore the natural world together.

Goring & Cleeve Pre-school

The pre-school has had a fantastic addition to their outside area. A mud kitchen has been built by the parents and their families. In particular, they owe a big thank you to Ali Boyd and her father John Higgs who took the lead on this fantastic project. Debbie Lewington, supervisor, said they have very generous and caring parents who support the children's learning and have made this mud kitchen a

The Goring & Cleeve Pre-school has just received confirmation of a successful application to be part of the Tesco Bags for Help Scheme in order to receive funding to continue to develop their outside space.

In January and February 2018, the Pre-school will be one of the three charities/causes which you can vote for, using the blue tokens. The four Tesco stores where Goring & Cleeve Pre-school will appear are detailed below:

1. Goring Gatehampton Road Express RG8 0ER
2. Cholsey Wallingford Express OX10 9ND
3. Cockcroft Didcot Express OX11 8LL
4. Didcot OX11 9BZ

The charity with the most blue tokens will receive £4,000; £2,000 will go to the one with the second most and £1,000 to the charity with the least. Any of these amounts would help but obviously to have the full £4,000 would be amazing for our children so ...

Please, please, please when you shop in any of these Tesco stores, ask for the blue tokens and vote for Goring & Cleeve Pre-school. Your support is greatly appreciated and the school will keep you informed at the pre-school's [website](#).

Enjoy January in the Gap ...

All events for January and beyond at the Genie Events Calendar

After the Christmas festivities come to an end the cold short days of January may seem unappealing. But there's still plenty happening in The Goring Gap and the Genie calendar is constantly being updated to help you find it.



Get together with friends to solve a murder mystery in South Stoke or Goring, seek out Aladdin in Woodcote and The Ugly Duckling in Didcot, or visit The Gap Gig on the 12th and shake out any remaining January blues.

Is your New Year Resolution to learn something new? Learn about Oxford with the WEA, Reading with the Gap Photo club, Wessex castles with the History Society or maybe join an art class.... Have a look at all the events at the [Genie Events Calendar](#).



Gap Comedy Club formed

Paul Sinha announced as first event

The latest addition to the rich cultural life of Goring and Streatley has been launched – The Gap Comedy Club!! Run by a group of local volunteers on a non-profit making basis, they are hoping to run 3-4 events per year in either the Morrell Room or the Goring Village Hall kicking off in early 2018. Two major artists have already agreed to perform for us, names you will have definitely heard of.

Paul Sinha, a nationally recognised comedian, has been confirmed for the first event. *Shout Out To My Ex* is being performed on Thursday March 8 2018 at 7.15pm in the Morrell Room, Streatley. Paul Sinha has written and performed his own series on Radio 4, is a frequent guest on Radio 5 Live's *Fighting Talk* and is the Chaser, known as The Sinnerman, on ITV's *The Chase*. He is also an Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee, Rose D'Or Radio Comedy Award winner, Chortle Best Club Comic winner.

Full details are provided at their [website](#), at which you are able to buy tickets and sign up to receive future

email bulletins to keep you aware of new shows. Call 07549 663331 if you have any problems. The Club can also be found on Facebook.

4 large (98 sq metre) 'Safari tents' and one 16 sq m Breeze House being proposed

Deadline for comments on the planning application is 27 December 2018

The planning application is for change of use for the annual temporary erection of four 98 sqm Safari Tents and one 16 sqm Breeze House between April and October each year. This is on land south of the river and west of Gatehampton Bridge in Lower Basildon (opposite the Little Meadow Nature Reserve). Details about the application (West Berks 17/03203/FUL) and how to comment can be found [here](#).



local singers' rendition of Wham's 'Last Christmas'. (this can be heard in the last 15 minutes or so of the recording).

George Michael's life in Goring A special 3-hour live BBC Radio Berkshire broadcast on Monday 18 December

If you missed the 3-hour live BBC Radio Berkshire programme on George Michael which took place on Monday December 18th in Goring, it will be available until 16 January on BBC iPlayer at [this link](#). A number of people were interviewed live talking about their personal experiences of meeting George in and around the village. Claud Gibson conducted the 35-strong choir of our

Genie is now a-Twitter

To get our message out as quickly and widely as possible, Genie has recently set up its own Twitter account. It is still in its early days, but we hope it will become a great resource for sharing Village Matters with those on Twitter, getting the word out about urgent Public Information and letting everyone know about upcoming events in the Calendar. Our username is [@GenieNewsOrg](#) so do please follow us and retweet anything you find of interest.



Binzone

Waste has never bin so easy with a new smartphone app

Waste collection information is now just a screen tap away in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. The two district councils have launched a brand-new smartphone app, which is available free of charge for iPhone and Android phones right now.

The app is called Binzone – by simply tapping their postcode in and selecting their address, residents can find out which bin is being emptied this week, and what day it's being emptied.

The app will also send users a notification if their waste collection day changes due to a bank holiday – very handy for keeping track of what day bins will be emptied over the Christmas period. It will also let residents know if collections are disrupted by snow or icy conditions.

That's not all though – residents can also use Binzone to look up what bin their rubbish goes in. Ever been confused as to what bin an empty aerosol can goes in? Not any more – residents can simply search for it in Binzone and find out. It's the green recycling wheelie bin, by the way.

Councillor Charlotte Dickson, cabinet member for waste at the Vale of White Horse District Council, said, "The app is so easy to navigate and will save residents time by having all the information needed right at their fingertips, especially the changes to collection days around bank holidays."

Councillor Tony Harbour, cabinet member for waste at South Oxfordshire District Council said, "If the weather worsens again this winter I think the Binzone app will come into its own by keeping our residents

informed on what is happening to their collections. It is very handy to have the information in one place.”

Binzone is available to download free of charge on the iPhone Appstore and the Google Play Store.

Reminder

Christmas Eve Torchlight Procession has been cancelled this year

Please pass this on to anyone outside the villages who may be thinking of visiting for this event. See Genie report [here](#).

All that's left ...

... is to say Happy Christmas

From the Genie team to all Genie subscribers. And best wishes for a peace-filled 2018!



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 or add us to your contact list. More details on Genie newsletters [here](#).