

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

In this short issue - congratulations are in order for the Goring Gap in Bloom team, and a reminder about this weekend's Get Involved Fair at the Goring Village Hall and the Autumn Clean-Up to Keep Goring Tidy.



### **Goring's Bloom team wins Gold again** **Best ever result in the Thames & Chilterns Region of Britain in Bloom competition,** **winning three awards at the annual Awards Ceremony.**

In addition to the main 'Gold Award' in the Small Town category, the team also won the 'First in Category' trophy and the Regional 'Pride of Place' award. Entries included cities, large and small towns and villages throughout Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Goring Primary School's contribution was awarded a 'Highly Commended' in the Mark Mattock Schools Challenge.

For the third consecutive year, Goring has won Gold in the competition. This is in recognition of the hard work of many dedicated volunteers who work all year round to enhance our community for its residents, businesses and visitors.

"Winning the main regional 'Pride of Place' award was," says chair Stephanie Bridle, "a great achievement. It is given to the one entrant, be it a small village or a city in the three counties, demonstrating the highest level of pride and endeavour in its community."

The judges said of Goring Gap in Bloom's efforts on winning this award: " 'Pride of Place' features in all that one observes in this small town. It is not just to do with cleanliness and tidiness, but a total sense of pride from all the participants in what they do and achieve. The Bloom project has encouraged businesses, residents, individuals and families to get involved in caring for their village. Grotty beds at the back of the car park, around the public toilets and along paths have been cleared and planted with perennials and bright sunflowers. Wheelbarrow displays encouraged local businesses to participate in a theme-based activity and an increasing number of premises provide their own displays. Finally, but by no means least, commuters now benefit from an embankment filled with new plants at the local railway station."

*Photograph of Goring Gap in Bloom committee, left to right: Susan Ritchie, Ron Bridle, Stephanie Bridle (Chair),*



## REMINDER: Get Involved Fair this weekend

Free to all, in the Goring Village Hall

The **Get Involved Fair: Goring** is this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, from 10am-4pm each day. Local volunteer groups, clubs and charities have been invited to have a table, at which they are able to provide information about their group and encourage those interested to possibly get involved. There will also be a 'community table' at which groups and organisations can leave information. At this table there will also be a way to give suggestions for groups that may not be locally available (or not known). Something like a

'Careers Fair', this event is free to all local groups and also free to the public to attend.

For those who want to see a little bit of what our local area offers, please plan to pop along to Goring Village Hall and have a look around. Meet some of the individuals involved in the 25+ local groups having tables, share your ideas for potential new groups, even leave materials of a local group you are involved in at the community table. There is no cost of entry, and all are welcome. The Village Hall is planning to have teas, coffees and cakes for sale.

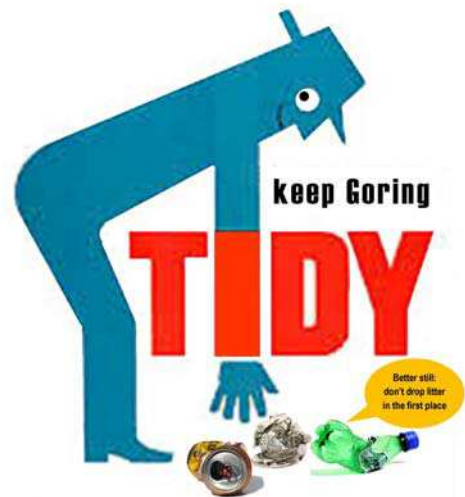
## REMINDER: Keep Goring Tidy: autumn clean-up

Tomorrow, Saturday 29 September, from 10am-12noon

Keeping Goring tidy helps keep it special for those who visit and shows a sense of pride in the area in which we live.

To support this effort, volunteers are invited to assemble at the Parish Council offices on Red Cross Road. Hi-Viz vests, pickers and sacks are provided. Areas will be designated, with all invited for refreshments afterwards.

Won't you join the volunteers? Only a short time-commitment needed and you will be part of the effort to keep Goring clean and tidy.



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To send in news items, use [news@genienews.org](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.

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