
Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

In this issue: New Swan Hotel details, Christmas Market & Festive Food, Drink and Local Produce Fair, Swan car park latest, George Michael consultation questionnaire, local business news - plus a lot of other things you may find of interest!



The Swan at Streatley - exclusive first peek at its exciting new riverside event space

This computer generated image (cgi) of the Swan hotel's new event space shows the flexible accommodation which will be available next year for up to 120 guests for weddings, conferences and private parties.

The extensive multi-million pound investment in the public areas will restore the hotel to its former glory and make the most of its outstanding location. The refurbishment includes a total redesign of the restaurant, old bar and Boat House to update all the facilities allowing unhindered views of the river throughout its length and breadth, as seen in the image.

With nature as the primary inspiration, this contemporary events space will maximise natural light and feature spectacular river views. The restaurant and associated catering and beverage services will be provided by the new and successful Coppa Club group of restaurants who offer all day dining from coffee to cocktails, brunch, lunch and supper.

The last phase of the refurbishment will be the renovation of all 47 bedrooms, with the most luxurious rooms designed to be sympathetic to the listed building's heritage.

The whole redevelopment of the hotel, one of the community's major assets, will enhance Goring and Streatley's reputation as a special and beautiful riverside destination and continue to attract visitors and support the local economy.



Goring Christmas Fair (10am-5.45pm) and Goring Festive Food, Drink and Local Produce Fair (10am-3pm) and the Official 'Christmas Lights Switch-on' at 6pm, Rectory Gardens all on Saturday 1st December 2018.

Goring's annual Christmas Market activities this year will taking place on Saturday 1st December, 10am-5.45pm in Goring arcade, Goring Village Hall and around the High Street.

The Christmas Market will be in full swing from 10am to 5.45pm with tables in the Arcade and dotted about the village. Local shops will be running their own activities from 2pm so pop in to them all and have a look around. Don't miss the Punch and Judy shows for kids of all ages.

The Christmas Food Fair will be hosted in the Goring Village Hall 10am-3pm so pop in there and see what our many local producers have on offer.

The official Christmas Light Switch-On will follow the Christmas Market at 6-6.30pm in Rectory Gardens. There will be carol singing and an ensemble from the Goring and Streatley Concert Band.

Goring's Fire engine and crew will be present and children, as usual, are welcome to learn about the controls. There will be lots of food and music too as well as our guest star Santa, who will be hosting a grotto on the day upstairs in The Village Chocolate Café.

The wonderful, twinkling Christmas Tree, again kindly donated by Yattendon Estates Ltd and Lord Iliffe, will be a centre-piece in the Rectory Garden and Pierreponts will also be there selling mulled wine, mince pies and soft drinks to add to the atmosphere. Monies this year will be raised in the Rectory Gardens for ABF, The Soldiers' Charity.

To help make Christmas prosperous and flourish for everyone this year, SODC (South Oxfordshire District Council), has agreed to make parking FREE all day every Saturday (but only Saturdays) from 1-22 December in the Wheel Orchard Car Park in the centre of Goring.

Come and join in and have a great day in Goring to help celebrate the start of the Christmas season.

All events, at this stage may be subject to change.



A second planning application is submitted to extend the parking facilities at the Swan at

Streatley

Following the refusal of the initial planning application in February for 112 additional parking spaces on the meadow beyond the main car parking area, a new application was submitted on 8 November to West Berkshire District Council (WBC) for a reduced number (91) of spaces.



At this point, WBC has not validated the new application and allocated a planning reference number, so the application cannot be accessed by the public and comments cannot yet be made. Genie will publish the reference number as soon as it is known so, should anyone want to comment on the application, they can submit them directly onto the planning website.

Alternatively, readers can check if the application is up on the WBC's planning portal by opening the link below and then typing in the hotel's postcode **RG8**

9HR in the search bar.

<https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

As soon as the number is issued by WBC, orange notices will be posted around the hotel which will show the reference number and will also be on the hotel's website and social media. Genie will also publish the number and share it on Genie's Twitter feed.

The Swan considers this is an important application as a barrier system to the car park may be needed if planning permission is refused a second time. The risk of the community losing the use of the Swan's car park if planning permission is denied a second time was explained at a Streatley Parish Council meeting in October. Mr John Gripton (Director) presented the case for the need for an extension to the car park and stated that if the extension was not permitted the Swan may be forced to close the car park to anyone who is not a guest or a gym member.. This would unfortunately affect users of the Church, the Morrell Room, coach parking for the Youth Hostel and other visitors to the area. The knock on effect would lead to more congestion in Streatley High Street as people seek alternative parking.

Once the application is available on the WBC website, residents may want to review it and comment on it accordingly, depending on their views.

George Michael Celebrations - Consultation Questionnaire

Goring Parish Council are aware of differing views amongst the local community on whether the June George Michael celebrations should become a regular event.



They write:

The Parish Council has been asked by a George Michael fan group to have a 'George Michael birthday weekend' event somewhere in Goring in June 2019. As there have been supporters of this idea, there have also been some concerns raised about this becoming an annual event. The Parish Council determined it was best to consult on the matter prior to making a decision. Your views are very much appreciated.

You may respond to these questions by an on-line survey, which you can find [here](#): or download a PDF version from [here](#) to complete and e-mail to clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk or deliver by hand/post to Goring on Thames Parish Council, Old Jubilee Fire Station, Red Cross Road, Goring, Reading RG8 9HG

Closing Date: 5th January 2019

George Michael Celebrations - Questionnaire

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Note: GPC has no direct control over events held on commercial or licensed premises or the village hall, only on their own land – so this consultation is about Parish Council-managed spaces.

Where do you live?

Goring or Streatley

Within a 30 minute travel distance

Elsewhere in the UK

Outside the UK

(Why is this asked? We will be using this information to analyse the responses to be able to gauge level of local support as well as the support from outside the local area.)

How much do you support the idea of a George Michael birthday celebration event (probably in the month of June) organised by his fans, at an appropriate location in Goring?

(Strongly support, Somewhat support, Neither support nor object, Object somewhat, Strongly object)

If this event was a not-for-profit event to support popular charities (ie Childline, Terrence Higgins Trust, Samaritans, etc), how much do you support the idea of a George Michael birthday celebration event (probably in the month of June) organised by his fans, at an appropriate location in Goring?

(Strongly support, Somewhat support, Neither support nor object, Object somewhat, Strongly object)

There are four potential Parish Council managed locations that may be considered for this George Michael birthday celebration event. Below each is a description, from the Trust Deed or other appropriate document, of the intended use of that site. Please rate each on appropriateness for this event (Very appropriate, Somewhat appropriate, Neither appropriate nor inappropriate, Somewhat inappropriate, Very inappropriate)

Gardiner Recreation Ground

("Public pleasure or recreation ground for residents of Goring and visitors and friends.")

Sheepcot Field

("Not anything but recreational purposes and as a public open space.")

Rectory Garden

("Exercise or recreation.")

Bourdillon Field

("For public recreation ground and playing fields.")

If this George Michael birthday celebration event is to go ahead, how often would you like to see it occur?

Annual

Bi-annual

Occasionally

Never

Any other comments?

Name:

Address (including postcode):

E-mail address:

Names, addresses and e-mail addresses will not be disclosed and are requested purely to confirm local residency and to identify submissions from those outside the area. Responses from addresses that are not confirmable will be deleted. All personal information will be deleted once the outcome of the consultation has been reported back to Council.



Additional public access Defibrillator now installed at Goring & Streatley railway station

Another village asset Public Access Defibrillator, the third in Goring, has been installed at Goring and Streatley Railway Station, thanks to a generous donation, the support of the Parish Council and Great Western Railway. The machine is situated in a large bright yellow box just inside the station entrance on the side of the ticket office.

The other two machines are located at Goring Village Hall and on the pavilion wall at Sheepcot Recreation ground.



These defibrillators are designed to be used by ANYONE in an emergency, including ordinary members of

the public without any first aid training - not just first responders or the ambulance service. Speed of action is of the essence and the most important factor in saving lives in cardiac arrest. They are simple to use and full instructions are printed on the box and on how to contact the emergency services for help.

Full instructions are printed on the front of the box: Call the emergency services – quote the number on the box and they will give the door code and get help on the way. Take the Defibrillator out and connect it to the patient as quickly as possible.

The Defibrillator has clear instructions – turn it on and it will talk to you giving detailed information on how to use it with both voice and on screen prompts.

It is designed so that a shock can only be given if the patient actually needs it – part of the self-checking process includes heart monitoring so it will not give a shock to anyone whose heart rhythm is not in fibrillation or not having a cardiac arrest.

There are two pads connected to the Defibrillator that need to be pulled out and stuck to the patient's bare chest – diagrams and voice prompts will help get it right.

Further information can be found in a training film produced by the suppliers of the equipment at:
<https://vimeo.com/98530930>



Armistice Day service, Goring-on-Thames

Along with Armistice services throughout the world, Goring, Streatley and South Stoke remembered and honoured their fallen soldiers too at their respective war memorials.

In a poignant and well attended service at St Thomas', Goring, people remarked that the leaves being blown off the trees as the village hall clock struck precisely at 11 o' clock during the 2 minutes silence were reminiscent of the poppies released from the ceiling at the Royal Albert Hall Remembrance Service.



Local Business News

Featuring - new shop in the High Street, replacing Ruby Pepper, closure of The Leatherne Bottel, two vacant premises in Goring

New shop opening soon in Goring High Street

FAULKNER AND WELLS

Caroline Pierrepont (The Goring Grocer) will be opening her sister store across the road at 3 High Street very soon.

Faulkner & Wells will be stocking cookware, homeware and gifts that are all exclusively handmade here in



FAULKNER AND WELLS

reopening at 3 High Street, Goring on Thames. Gina, has decided at the present time to offer a home and 'pop up' service for both her fashion and Colour Analysis business, recently launched as Ruby & Blue. Gina's contact details remain the same, for those of you who would like to reconnect.

Meanwhile, Gina is delighted that both Caroline & Tiyah will be launching their new business at No3 High Street very soon and wishes them the very best for their new venture.

Britain. Each item has been carefully selected by Caroline and her step-daughter, Tiyah, who will be running the store.

The shop hopes to continue the Pierrepont trend of championing the independent market and emphasise the importance of supporting smaller businesses and artisans.

What's happened to Ruby Pepper?

For those of you who are not aware, Ruby Pepper will not be



The Leatherne Bottel restaurant is now closed

It was with regret that Sally Albin who opened the restaurant as a pop-up in July of this year announced that it was closing on 28 October. Further information regarding future plans for The Leatherne Bottel will be announced in due course.

The two unoccupied buildings in Goring Arcade and High Street will remain vacant for months to come.

No 7, The Arcade

Genie can confirm that this unit, vacant since October 2017 after Swift Office Stuff moved to its new premises in the High Street, has no businesses currently interested in taking up the lease, so it will remain unoccupied for some months to come. There has been some interest in the past year for the 480 square feet, from a nail bar and other types of organisations, but none has progressed their negotiations.



The Old TSB Bank

It appears that this building will also remain unoccupied and in its present state for months to come.

Mohumed Abul Hasan, who recently received planning permission (with many conditions attached) to convert the ground floor to a fish & chip shop, has withdrawn and the lease is now available again.

It appears there is at least one other company interested in the property (which has the planning permission for a 'Hot Food Takeaway' until June 2021), so we await developments.

Streatley Parish Forum

This annual event for invited representatives from local organisations with an interest in Streatley and its activities took place on 8 November in the Morrell Room.



The meeting was well attended with about 25 organisations present, along with parish councillors, who had the opportunity to talk about their own plans and update the other groups for the purpose of not only contributing information to the revision of the Streatley Parish Plan but generally to increase awareness of what is going on in the community and elsewhere.

Organiser and moderator, Karen Morton, of the Streatley Parish Plan Group, also invited Simon Carter DL, to explain his role and duties as one of Berkshire's Deputy Lieutenants, which was of great interest to the audience. Also invited to talk were representatives from the Swan Hotel to discuss the on-going refurbishment and the issue with its planning application for an extension to the Swan's car park. (Both of these subjects are dealt with as separate items in this newsletter.)



People with passion needed!

In June 2020 the Festival trustees would like to mount another exciting festival – but they need new volunteers with a passion for the arts – or just a passion to put something back into the community by helping out.

The GAP Festival is a charity with the aim to promote the arts in all forms. During the past 3 festivals, it has succeeded in this and has left annual legacies such as the Swan sculpture on

the island, the mosaic in the Morrell Room and the schools' totems in the 2018 touring Equinox exhibition. It has also inspired volunteers to set up new offshoot village groups (eg Gap Comedy, the Textile Group, and a new Art Group in the New Year), as well as inspiring youngsters with performers and artists visiting the local schools.

The current team who plan the festival from scratch each time are very happy to lend their support to anybody who would like to join this important core group of organisers. We need people with interests in music, drama and art or people who are just good at organising people or good project managers. We would love to have some new ideas, additional enthusiasm and people who enjoy a hands-on approach and are happy to tackle a part of the festival, even if it is quite a small element.

If this might be you then please get in touch either via the website or by e-mailing director@thegapfestival.org. We have found that some of the best events were organised by small groups of people or couples who can bounce ideas off each other and give support to one another, so why not ask your friends or partners if they might pair up and join in?

This could be your chance to put something back into the community that is fun as well as providing a permanent legacy. Many people who helped out this summer were new people to the villages who have now expanded their social networks, meeting all sorts of 'can do' people who now are friends.

Sometimes making a little bit of effort reaps rewards that are not expected. Join us and see! You might even get a chance to meet a celeb or two! www.thegapfestival.org
