

Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

In this issue: Potential road delays in Goring, PPG newsletters move to Genie; new parents' support group; award for Jacks; Jackson-Stops office closes, George Michael questionnaire results; Boat Club news; new Alpha course; police request - and our latest update of new planning applications.



Wallingford Road, Goring - between the railway station and the bridge: fence and barrier work to begin on 18 February Possible road travel delays in the coming weeks

On Monday 18 February work will be started by contractors to complete Network Rail's palisade boundary fence in Wallingford Road, between the High Street and Reading Road junctions in Goring (between the bridge and Tesco). Work on the fence was suspended in June 2016 when MIGGS pointed out that it was not being carried out in accordance with Network Rail's plans. Road traffic will be under the control of traffic lights throughout the work, which is due to be completed by Friday 1 March. When completed it will be much safer for wheelchairs, prams and pedestrians.

Where possible the new fence will be erected along a line that will enable the pavement to be widened, making it safer for all pedestrians but especially for wheelchair users. Each year, on weekdays alone, there are about 60,000 pedestrian movements along this pavement, mainly to and from the station.

The work will involve removal of the old, dilapidated wire mesh fence, removal of the temporary Heras panels, removal of the improvised crash barrier made of discarded railway track and replacement of most of the old fence supports. These consist of sections of Brunel's broad gauge track, which was installed in 1840 and lifted in 1866, when standard gauge was introduced. Some of the supports are badly corroded and are being held up solely by the ivy clinging to them. To minimise ground disturbance a few will be integrated into the new palisade.

When work is complete the minimum pavement width is expected to be 1100mm, the same as the modern pavement on the railway bridge. At its widest the pavement will be some 1500mm.

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is moving its Newsletter distribution to Genie

The PPG committee will shortly complete the move of its monthly newsletter and other general communications away from the traditional email method and all such communications will be sent out by the Genie mailing system in the future. This will provide a much more efficient method of communicating and will allow a better way of presenting information to members.



All PPG members will shortly receive (if they haven't already) an email from Jeremy Hutchins, Chair of the PPG with instructions on how to receive PPG newsletters in the future via Genie. Rest assured that the process is very simple. As you have to actively 'Opt-in' to comply with the latest GDPR data regulations, the process is set out for you in the email.

For the convenience of those PPG members who are already Genie subscribers, the same instructions are set out here, so please click on the green READ MORE link below.

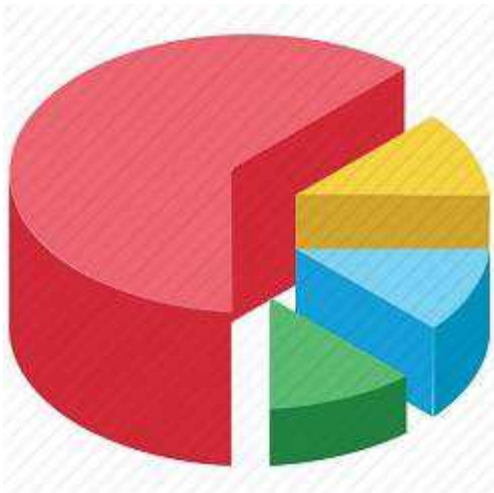
NB: If you are not a PPG member and would like to know more about and possibly register to become a member

of the group, click: [Goring & Woodcote Medial Practice - PPG page](#)

Instructions for current PPG members who are subscribers to Genie and would like to continue to receive the PPG monthly Newsletters:

Please note that these instructions only apply to a Genie newsletter originally addressed to you (not forwarded to you).

1. Please click the link on the bottom line of the black section at the very end of any Genie newsletter addressed to you, labelled 'update your preferences'. You may also [click here to update your preferences](#).
2. A form will open. Tick the box for 'Goring & Woodcote Patient Participation Group'.
3. To confirm the change, click the black button at the bottom 'Update Profile'.



Full results of the consultation by Goring Parish Council on the level of local support for the George Michael's birthday celebrations in Goring organised by his fans

Following previous celebrations of the late George Michael's birthday on the Rectory Garden, Goring-on-Thames Parish Council was asked by a George Michael fan group if they might have another event in Goring in June 2019.

While there have been supporters of this idea, some concerns have been raised about this becoming an annual event. The council determined it was best to consult residents on the matter prior to making a decision.

Views were sought with an on-line questionnaire, as well as a duplicate of the on-line questionnaire being provided to all homes in the parish, and at the GPC offices. In addition, the consultation was advertised in the *Goring Gap News*, the GPC website and Genie. The consultation period was from 14 November 2018 until January 2019.

The full 14 pages of the results of the consultation are provided in this link: [George Michael Consultation - Full results](#).

- Of the total of 657 responses, 441 (67%) were from Goring or Streatley. When making their decision, the council placed more weight on the local comments, and this sub-set's responses are highlighted below:
- The 441 respondents from Goring or Streatley were evenly split between supporters and objectors (c.40% each) of the fans holding an event in a suitable venue, with 18% expressing neither supporting nor objecting.
- When asked if they would support an event if it was not-for-profit and all proceeds went to charity, the majority (53%) of local respondents said they would support the idea, with 36% not supportive.
- Local respondents, were asked for their preference of the four council-owned spaces where the event should take place. The ranking was 48% in favour of the Gardiner Recreation Field (Cricket field), 43% for the Sheepcot Field, 37% Rectory Garden and 26% the Bourdillon Field.
- When questioned about their preferred frequency of the event, 30% said annually, 16% every two years, 24% occasionally and 30% never.

The decision taken by the Parish Council at its monthly meeting on 11 February was to allow the fans to organise their event, should they wish to, this June (and no more than every two years). The current year's event would only be allowed on the Sheepcot Field and there would be a number of conditions placed on the organisers on how they manage the event. These conditions and more details are in the [full survey results](#).

Westholme Stores, Goring (aka Jack's) awarded Runner-Up at the National Finals of the Drinks Retailing Awards

Jack & Varsha are delighted with the result and just narrowly missed getting first place at the ceremony on 5 February at The Dorchester Hotel, London

Jack's popular Londis convenience store, Goring, well known for its unusually large choice of over 600 bottled beers and ales from the best breweries in the UK and around the world, was in celebration mood on 6 February following its success at the lavish award ceremony the night before at the Convenience Drinks Retailer of the Year event.

Convenience stores and all retailers are fiercely competitive and so Jack decided some years ago to create a point of difference to set his store apart from other local shops. His range of imported and locally brewed beers and ciders, and also wines, to differentiate the store has proved to be a successful strategy. There is now a large following of local enthusiasts and others too who travel from far afield to take advantage of the wide range of special offers and products on offer from the many micro breweries who have set up in the past few years. Well done Jack and Varsha!



The Goring Gap Boat Club is preparing for Spring (and soon for the Regatta) and needs new volunteers to help

The club has been operating from its new, spacious boathouse at Lower Basildon since early January and now needs to work on the facilities inside, maintain the boats and finish off the external areas too.

The club is one of the largest recreational boating clubs in the Thames Valley and consequently it needs to meet the needs of the growing number of members and wants to provide improved facilities and be not only one of the biggest clubs, but also the best.

Off the back of the incredible levels of support the club has had from the local community and volunteers so far, they are now putting out a call out to anyone who is able to donate of their time during this next stage of our development and to join one of two work groups, the 'Boat Maintenance team' or 'Bank Maintenance team'. If you would be interested in helping and trying out either of these teams for size, or just want to come down for an informal look around to see what we are all about, please read on and also email

David sitemanager@goringgapbc.org.uk

The two work teams are:

Boat Maintenance: In the same way that volunteers have been mobilised to build the boat house, the Club takes great pride in the way over 40 rowing boats are kept on the water throughout the year. Behind this achievement sits a small team of club members who over the years have developed their skills to work fibreglass, carbon fibre and wood repairs.

Bank Maintenance: Likewise, now that there is a larger piece of land to manage, the Club is ready to welcome volunteers who wouldn't mind rolling up their sleeves to help develop and maintain the beautiful riverbank and grounds.

Both teams are voluntary, meet weekdays and/or weekends according to individual schedules and, if the Boat Maintenance team is anything to go by, are not all work and no play. The social aspect of Goring Gap Boat Club is integral to everything they do, so get on board!

The Goring & Streatley Regatta, one of the club's major events which takes place every two years in Goring, will be on Saturday 20 July 2019 and entries are open from 18 March.

For more about recreational rowing for the whole Goring Gap community and beyond, visit:

www.goringgapbc.org.uk

New Local Parents' Support Group

Three local mums are launching a support group for parents and parents-to-be. The group will meet on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month (starting 6 March with tea from 1pm) in the Catherine Wheel snug, Goring-on-Thames

The new group hopes to provide a friendly, local, safe space for parents or parents-to-be who feel they could do with some extra support in some way.

Whether you feel you are struggling, feeling isolated, suffering with flashbacks or other symptoms, or simply feel you need someone to talk to, we're here to listen. Come along for a listening ear, a friendly face, a warm mug of tea, some space and the time you need to talk. Please feel free to bring a partner or friend for support, and the organisers claim to be 'professional cuddlers' if you need to bring your baby! The group founders comprise of a qualified midwife, a professional counsellor and a mum with lived experience of birth trauma and PTSD.



The first session will be held on Wednesday 6 March. Tea will be available from 1pm, before the session starts at 130pm. It is hoped that the group will evolve to suit the needs of the community, so any comments in these early stages are welcome.

For more information, or to contact with any questions, please see the Facebook page:

[@goringandstreatleyparentsupport](#)



Goring estate agent, Jackson-Stops, has closed its office at Halsbury House near the river bridge

Last autumn, Director Tim Sherston, was approached by another estate agency to buy the Jackson-Stops business, which includes two offices in Newbury and Goring. The offer was accepted but the new owners decided to close the Goring office and centre all of the existing business in Newbury, although it will continue to cover the Goring/Streatley area.

The newly vacant office in Goring is to be occupied in the coming month or two by another tenant who is unable to be named at present.

Alpha - You're invited!

An Alpha Course will run in Goring for 7 weeks on Thursday evenings from 28 February to 11 April.

The venue is the Canterbury Room at St Thomas's Church. Meetings are free and start at 7.30pm with a meal and finish about 9.30pm

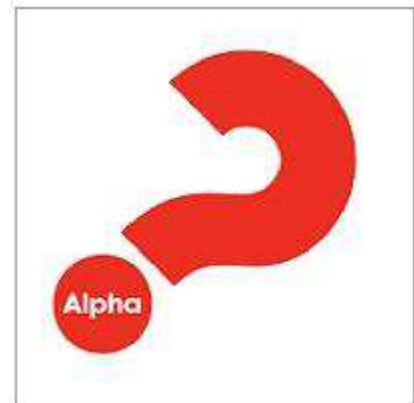
For the past two years the Anglican Churches of Goring, Streatley and South Stoke have run this course, where over 20 people each week have explored some of the big questions concerning life and the Christian faith.

Each session looks at different questions around faith, followed by small group discussions at which no questions are off limits and much lively discussion takes place. Comments from the last course included: "Give it a go and you won't be disappointed;" "Just come, you will be surprised how good it is."

Alpha evenings will start with a meal, so there's no need to eat first and it's possible for people to come straight from work. After the meal there will be a talk/video followed by discussions. Alpha is run all around the world, in cafés, churches, universities, prisons, homes, bars and everyone is welcome! No two Alphas are the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

If you're interested, please ask any questions and let us know of your dietary requirements. For further information or to register, please email alpha@thomandmary.org.uk - or just turn up on the night. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Alpha Team



The police would like your help with a survey on 'Coercive Control'

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) would like to hear from you.



Relationship abuse is not solely physical abuse but emotional and controlling abusive behaviours. It is also called 'coercive control'. The OPCC is launching a campaign to raise awareness of relationship abuse so that people who are experiencing it, identify with it and potentially seek help. The OPCC have developed a

survey to gather experiences of relationship abuse. The data gathered from the survey will support the campaign. All responses are anonymous. The campaign and survey will be launched under the branding of Victims First. Victims First supports victims and witnesses of crime across the Thames Valley and is managed by the OPCC.

If you would like to complete the survey, you can do so [here](#).

Can you spare a few hours a week at home to help Genie improve its news and information service?



The volunteers at Genie have lots of ideas on how to improve and expand the services it provides to the community, but would appreciate a few more people to help make these changes happen.

The current group of five local residents would welcome any offers of help – just information-gathering and some low-level technical help with producing the newsletters and keeping the website pages up to date. Only a few hours here and there are needed.

So, if you would like to know more, please enquire at contact@genienews.org and we can have a chat. If you are interested and would like to see what type of help we need, please read on.

The **new service** we are hoping to provide is a wide range of community information which is currently not available anywhere else in one single place or website. A **centralised and comprehensive information listing** on the Genie website would not only be helpful to all local residents, but invaluable to new residents trying to find out what is on offer in the Goring Gap area. We know what information we want and how to assemble it, but don't at present have the time and resources.

Other **current services** we may decide to expand include local **news gathering** – any budding reporters out there? Also the **Genie online calendar** is very popular, but could be even better with more organisations using it. Someone to simply contact local organisations to raise awareness of this free service and how it can support them would be extremely useful.

Genie doesn't have an office, as everyone works from home, so it's easy to make a real contribution - even if only a small input.

Thank you from the Genie team.



This twice monthly 'Planning Alert' lists all the current planning applications submitted to SODC (South Oxfordshire District Council) and WBC (West Berkshire Council) relating to properties in Goring, Stratley and South Stoke, and occasionally other applications that are locally relevant. They are listed by parish, in expiry date order, so the applications with the shortest periods in which to respond are at the top.

Should you be interested in finding out more, or commenting on any of these applications, click on the Reference number link to the application. To make a comment to the planning department, follow the advice given on the application. New applications, if there are any, will be added to the lists in subsequent Alerts and existing ones will remain until the consultation period has expired.

Click below to see details of 7 applications for Goring, 3 for Streatley, and 2 for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: **Oakridge, The Coombe, Streatley, Berkshire, RG8 9QT**
Conversion of part of garage to utility room alteration to existing porch and existing rear extension lean to roof, addition of chimney stack, roof material changed to slate and existing external walls to be rendered and part timber clad and internal alterations.

Proposal:

Reference Number: [18/03324/HOUSE](#)
Consultation Deadline: **18 February 2019**

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Location: **Southridge House, Streatley, Berkshire, RG8 9SJ**
Replace 5 windows (Listed Building)

Proposal:

Reference Number: [19/00036/HOUSE](#) & [19/00037/LBC2](#)
Consultation Deadline: **22 February 2019**

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Location: **Dundrum, Wantage Road, Streatley, Berkshire RG8 9LB**
Approval of details reserved by conditions 3-materials 5-landscaping and 6-construction method statement of previously approved application 18/03183/FULD (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 detached dwellings)

Proposal:

Reference Number: [19/00195/COND1](#)
Consultation Deadline: **28 February 2019**

SOUTH STOKE

Location: **Barracks Farm, North Stoke, Oxfordshire, OX10 6AZ**
Agricultural machinery, hay and straw building.

Proposal:

Reference Number: [P19/S0222/AG](#)
Consultation Deadline: **No deadline specified** (Target Decision Date: 4 March 2019)

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Location: **Land at Woodcote Road, South Stoke, RG8 0JJ**
Reserved matters application following Outline approval P17/S3206/O for residential development (up to 5 dwellings), and associated works, including access. In addition to discharge conditions 1- commencement, 2- approved plans, 3- maximum number of dwellings, 4- market housing mix, 5- landscaping, 6- tree protection, 7- biodiversity mitigation and enhancement strategy, 8- surface water drainage, 9- new vehicular access, 10- vision splay protection, 11- construction traffic management, 12- no surface water drainage to highway, 13- refuse and recycling storage, 14- fire hydrants, 15- hours of operation and 16- construction method statement.

Proposal:

Reference Number: [P19/S0171/RM](#)
Consultation Deadline: **27 February 2019**

GORING

Location: **Little Court, Manor Road, Goring RG8 9DU**
Proposed porch canopy. Extending ground floor bay and proposed first floor oriel bay.

Proposal:

Reference Number: [P19/S0179/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **20 February 2019**

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Location: **The Arcade, High Street, Goring RG8 9AY**
Replace 5 number existing bollards at the front of the property with similar

Reference Number: [P18/S4285/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: 27 February 2019

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Location: 2 Wey Cottage, Manor Road, Goring on Thames RG8 9DP
Proposal: Close off existing back door as new approved extension P17/S2668/LB has new doors into the garden.
Reference Number: [P19/S0296/LB](#)
Consultation Deadline: 27 February 2019

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Location: 4 Grove Farm Cottages, Goring RG8 0LU
Proposal: Change of use from agricultural to domestic (extension of garden).
Reference Number: [P19/S0251/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: 27 February 2019

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Location: 16 Holmlea Road, Goring RG8 9EX
Proposal: Variation of condition 4 (two additional parking spaces) on application P18/S1864/HH to add two additional off-street parking spaces. Ground and first floor additions and alterations.
Reference Number: [P19/S0394/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: 5 March 2019

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Location: The Boathouse, High Street, Goring RG8 9AB
Proposal: Demolition of existing fire damaged dwelling and boathouse. Application for replacement dwelling out of the floodplain.
Reference Number: [P19/S0336/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: 13 March 2019

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Location: Haydown, Elvendon Road, Goring RG8 0DT
Proposal: Creation of an access onto the highway (retrospective).
Reference Number: [P19/S0216/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: TBA - no officer has been assigned (Target Decision Date: 19th March 2019)

To visit SODC's planning website:
<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application>

Information on how to comment on a SODC application:
<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application/comment-planning-application>

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To visit WBC's planning website:
<https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

Information on how to comment on a WBC application:
<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/representations>

NB: Genie News will endeavour to make these alerts as comprehensive and accurate as possible, but Genie and its volunteers cannot accept any responsibility for any omissions, errors, incorrect links or other issues associated with this information.

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

if you like it, please forward to your friends and encourage them to subscribe. Also, 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](#).

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