

Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

In this issue: Local Elections, Firefighters needed, April Calendar, Medical Centre Notice reminder, The Grotto planning consent - and our latest update of new planning applications.

Are you registered to vote in the forthcoming Parish, Town and District Council Elections on Thursday 2 May?

If you are a resident in South Oxfordshire or West Berkshire District Councils there are elections on Thursday 2 May.

Key dates

- 26 March – details of election confirmed
- 3 April - the final deadline for those wishing to be a candidate for any Parish, Town of District Council
- 4 April – details of who you can vote for published, when the nominations period has closed
- 12 April – deadline to register to vote in this election
- 15 April – deadline for applications to vote by post
- 24 April – deadline for applications to vote by proxy
- 2 May – polling day (7am to 10pm)
- 3 May – election results.

To vote in this election you must:

- be registered to vote
- be 18 or over on the day of the election
- be a British, Irish, Commonwealth or EU citizen
- be registered at an address in the area in which you want to vote
- not be legally excluded from voting.
- Please note, overseas voters are not eligible to vote in this election

To become a candidate in this election, you must:

- download and complete the nomination papers
 - for [Parish/Town Councils](#)
 - for [District Councils](#)
- deliver the forms to the District Council offices no later than 4pm. please note, the **forms must be hand-delivered**.

For further information see specific information available from your district council:

[SODC election information](#)

[WEST BERKS DISTRICT election information](#)



Goring Fire Station needs more on-call firefighters now!

Have you got what it takes? If so, please read on

Goring fire station in Icknield Road, is an 'on-call' station not staffed 24 hours a day but by part-time, paid on-call firefighters who carry out an essential and professional role. At present there are only 9 firefighters employed, but



as they have different rotas and are not always available, sometimes it's difficult to muster the necessary 4-person crew, including the specially trained driver, when their beepers go off after an emergency 999 call.

Firefighting can be considered as a second, but flexible and paid, job. Firefighters need to respond quickly if they are on call, and be able to get to the fire-station and get the vehicle on the road in about 5-6 minutes. So, you obviously need to be living and working fairly locally and have the flexibility to leave what you're doing as soon as your beeper goes off and you get a 'shout'. There's great camaraderie amongst the Goring crew, not just on drill nights but on other training sessions and on call-outs. That's why so many firefighters have continued to do the job for many

years and have become experts in their specialist fields.

You can contact terry.coupar@oxfordshire.gov.uk for more information. Alternatively, you can just pop down to the station during any drill night on Wednesday evenings (7-9pm).

For more details of the pay and benefits, the qualities and fitness levels you need and the hours you can offer, please read on.

There is one fire appliance in Goring, which is often called upon to put out fires or rescue people from a variety of situations, including RTCs (Road Traffic Collisions). Much of the work is local, but sometimes it's further afield, especially when Goring iare mobilised to assist in major incidents. Firefighters save lives and protect people, environment and property in the community, so it's an important, valuable service which anyone may need at any time.

Pay and benefits for on-call firefighters

On-call firefighters receive a standby rate for the hours they spend on-call and further disturbance fees and hourly rates for attending incidents and drill nights (see links below) and can expect to earn £5,000 - £9,000 per year depending on the number of call-outs they attend and the station they are attached to. [On-call pay and benefits](#)

About the role of an on-call firefighter

- Being an on-call firefighter is a paid, professional role.
- As an on-call firefighter you would receive the same training as our wholetime firefighters but instead of being based at a fire station you would be called out to respond to incidents when alerted. On average you could be expected to be called out two or three times each week for about an hour at a time, this can be at night or during the day.
- Every week you would need to attend a drill night to take part in training exercises and carry out equipment maintenance. You might also spend time working in your local community to help reduce the [risk of fires and incidents](#) by attending local events and performing [Safe and Well checks](#).
- To apply you need to be over 18, live or work within five minutes of a recruiting fire station and be able to respond at a moment's notice.

What qualities do I need?

Our on-call firefighters come from every walk of life, we have on-call firefighters who are self-employed or work from home, and parents with children at school. There are also shopkeepers, builders, plumbers, office workers and people who are not currently employed.

What is important is that you are enthusiastic and can meet certain essential requirements. The work can be physically demanding and therefore physical fitness is of utmost importance. Previous experience is not required as we provide a comprehensive training programme.

You choose the hours

We normally request our on-call firefighters spend a minimum of 40 hours per week on-call, with some people choosing to cover the maximum quota of 120 hours per week. You won't spend all this time working – it's just the time you're available for us to call you if there's an incident.

You can choose when you want to provide cover. This could be during the daytime, evening or weekends, or a combination of the three. Your [local station](#) will match your availability with the needs of the station.

A second job

Although it sounds like a big commitment many people successfully balance their on-call firefighter duties with another job. Some are self-employed whilst others have permission from their employer to leave work for short periods during the daytime if necessary. We have [information for employers](#) about staff becoming on-call firefighters if you want to talk to your employer about applying.

Coming up in April – time to get out and enjoy the warmer weather

The Spring has sprung gloriously this year.

Down at Withymead, the Loddon lilies are already coming into bloom and can be seen on the open days later in April and May.

Gardeners have the Goring in Bloom plant sale to look forward to on **April 27th** – time to stock the summer borders with plants that thrive in the Goring Gap. Plant donations are welcome, so do pot up and label those spares when tidying the garden.



It's great to see the spring flowers in the villages at this time of year but no one wants to see them accompanied by litter. No problem – a Spring 'litter pick' session is planned on **Saturday April 13th** in Goring – all are welcome and many hands make light work.

If litter collection isn't enough for the more physically inclined, there is much else to tempt them – invitations to learn and train for rowing, sailing, running, tennis and bowling are on offer in Goring this spring. The sailing club have an Open Day on **April 13th**. Don't forget, it's time to get entries in for the Regatta and River Festival and the Hairy Legs Challenge.

There's a great range of live music happening in April. **This Sunday** catch the Starter Band in their Spring Fling, and on **Friday April 12th** enjoy some smooth jazz with the Damon Brown Quintet. A special choir concert in St Bartholomew's at Lower Basildon will be happening on **Palm Sunday, April 14th**.

On **Friday April 19th** Goring Village Hall will vibrate to the wail of electric guitars as Denny Ilett Jnr pays homage to Jimi Hendrix. **On the last weekend of the month** South Stoke plays host to the Britpickers. In Goring, the Concert Band are giving a Spring Concert, and at St Thomas' there is a recital for violin and piano by Ian Fountain and Erica Geldsetzer, internationally renowned musicians.

There are interesting talks at the village societies this month, and a fashion show in South Stoke on **April 5th** there are just too many events to mention them all here. Please go to the Genie calendar and see for yourself <https://www.genienews.org/enewsletters/calendar-events-planner/calendar/>

And please remember, if you are organising an event this month, this year, next year ... think **CALENDAR** and **C**heck the calendar, **A**dd to it, **L**et the world know about your event.

We can't display events we don't know about!



REMINDER: IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT from the Practice Manager of the GORING and WOODCOTE MEDICAL PRACTICE:
There will be no normal telephone and GP service on Wednesday afternoon 3 April

On Wednesday 3 April 2019, between 12.30pm and 6.30pm, the Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice will NOT be receiving telephone calls or managing requests from patients for urgent, 'on the afternoon' medical help or advice. As arranged by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, any requests from patients, their relatives or carers, during this time, will be handled via the Out of Hours Service.

Patients should contact the NHS 111 service (by dialling 111) or dial 999 if they have a life-threatening problem.

The Practice will not be operating routine doctor surgeries but support staff will be available for face-to-face booking of appointments, collecting prescriptions, etc. The phones will have a message directing patients to the NHS 111 service, or to 999, as appropriate. The Practice will be open as normal during the Wednesday morning, from 8.00am – 12.30pm. Normal service will resume on Thursday 4 April 2019 at 8.00am.

The reason for this reduced service on the afternoon of 3 April is that the team at Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice will be attending an important workshop on Primary Care Networks and the impact this will have on the

way the Practice functions going forward. This has been organised by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and will be attended by all Medical Practices in South East Oxfordshire.

News about the Grotto (aka ILAM) in Upper Basildon

The planning application to convert the near derelict building complex known as the Grotto (aka ILAM) in Upper Basildon into a luxurious country retreat has now been agreed in principle and the final legal agreement should be completed by 16 April



The planning consent will be granted under the planning terms of 'Enabling Development' and includes the restoration, reconstruction and enhancement of the main house converting it to a 53-bedroom hotel with restaurant and bars, 6 new 2-bedroom lodges and a new leisure facility including a 2-storey spa and gym, tennis courts, an outdoor pool and a boathouse. There will also be 2 detached family houses for private purchase.

Statement to Genie from West Berkshire District Council Planning Department:

The application, 17/00186/COMIND, for the Grotto was presented to Eastern Area Planning Committee on 16th January with a recommendation for approval subject to a legal agreement and conditions. Members debated the issues and unanimously agreed to approve the application. The application is now subject to the completion of the legal agreement, where we have an agreed extension of time until 16th April. This is the link to the committee report, and update report, which includes the legal

agreement: <http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=4719>

The case officer for this application is Emma Nutchey, Principle Planning Officer (emma.nutchey@westberks.gov.uk)

Excerpt from a Statement to Genie from the developer, SUSD Goring Ltd:

SUSD worked in close collaboration with Historic England and West Berkshire Council to ensure it provides an amenity for the local community, that the site ecology would be protected and enhanced and that all works to the existing main house would be completely respectful of the heritage asset.

The works will involve the reinstatement of a number of original elements, including a first-floor conservatory, which will combine historical reference with contemporary detailing, and the return of the grand 'Oval Room' on the ground floor as well as sensitive remedial works to the white painted brick façade replicating the former appearance of the building.

In the grounds, the tennis courts will be refurbished, the boathouse reinstated, a 20th Century studio building will be replaced by a two-storey spa and gym with outdoor pool and a 'coach house' extension will be built, linked to the original building by a glazed walkway, to accommodate 19 of the guestrooms.

The reinstatement of the Grotto Estate as a luxurious country retreat will demand close attention to detail, careful selection of materials and an observance of traditional detailing and construction methods. Emphasis will be placed on achieving the correct balance between traditional and contemporary design and detailing, and on ensuring that an underlying consistency of quality and feel is established across the entire site. Both the hotel experience and the residences will sit within the high end of their respective markets.



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 6 applications for Goring, 3 for Streatley, and 2 for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: **Pensylva, The Coombe, Streatley, RG8 9QL**
Proposal: Extend existing bungalow with part 1.5 storey and part one storey extension. (renew application 17/00945/HOUSE)
Reference Number: [19/00652/HOUSE](#)
Consultation Deadline: **9 April 2019**

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Location: **Woods Farm Water Treatment Works, Stitchens Green, Streatley**
Proposal: Development of welfare facilities building at Woods Farm Water Treatment Works.
Reference Number: [18/01579/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: **12 April 2019**

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Location: **Cleeve Court House, Streatley, RG8 9PR**
Proposal: Non material amendment to planning permission 18/01445/HOUSE. Amendment: Omission of two storey extension and chimney.
Reference Number: [19/00682/NONMAT](#)
Consultation Deadline: Non-material.. **Determination deadline 17 April 2019**

SOUTH STOKE

Location: **The Coaching Barn, Littlestoke Manor, Little Stoke OX10 6AX**
Proposal: Discharge of condition 3 (joinery, insulation & new materials) on P18/S0359/LB. (Alterations to implement a change of use from agricultural store building (sui-generis) to an arts / crafts centre (D1)).
Reference Number: [P19/S0666/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: Not subject to public consultation (but registered and open to public inspection) – **target decision date 11 April 2019**

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Location: **Ferry House, Ferry Road, South Stoke RG8 0JL**
Proposal: Installation purpose built tennis pavilion next to tennis court.
Reference Number: [P19/S0613/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: **20 April 2019**

GORING

Location: **2 Elvendon Road, Goring, Reading RG8 0DU**
Proposal: Demolition of existing boiler showroom and erection of two new detached dwellings and associated external works.
Reference Number: [P19/S0685/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: **10 April 2019**

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Location: **10 Heron Shaw, Goring RG8 0AU**
Proposal: Discharge of condition 3 - materials on application ref P18/S1166/HH. Proposed 2 storey side and single storey rear extension following demolition of attached garage and sun-room
Reference Number: [P19/S0643/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: Not subject to public consultation (but registered and open to public inspection)

– target decision date 10 April 2019

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Location: Rose Cottage, Croft Road, Goring RG8 9ES
Proposal: Extension and conversion of existing garage block into auxiliary accommodation to the main dwelling house
Reference Number: [P19/S0789/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: 17 April 2019

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Location: Primrose Cottage, Fairfield Road, Goring, Oxfordshire RG8 0EU
Proposal: Discharge of condition 4 - tree protection on application P18/S3965/HH. Proposed oak framed garage building using existing access
Reference Number: [P19/S0790/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: Not subject to public consultation (but registered and open to public inspection) – target decision date 24 April 2019

Location: 14 Heron Shaw, Goring, Reading RG8 0AU
Proposal: Discharge of condition 3 (materials) on application P18/S1322/HH. Proposed addition of a tiled pitched roof over an existing front porch/lounge continued over front of existing attached garage
Reference Number: [P19/S0924/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: Not subject to public consultation (but registered and open to public inspection) – target decision date 2 May 2019

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Location: 9 Elmcroft, Goring RG8 9EU
Proposal: Discharge of condition 4(tree protection) on P18/S3518/HH. (Single storey rear and side extension)
Reference Number: [P19/S0946/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: TBD, though target decision date 6 May 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.**

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