

Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

Please forward this email to anyone you feel may also like to receive these newsletters. Thank you.

Submission date for articles for the next issue is 12 December

In this issue: Goring Hustings report; Skew Bridge closure; Christmas Eve Carols; Newbury Constituency Hustings next week and much more – plus our latest update of new planning applications.

Road Closure information – another West Berks closure

A329 closed at Skew Bridge from 24 December to 2 January

This is an advance warning that the A329 is to be closed between Pangbourne and Streatley, from 23.00 on Tuesday 24 December until Thursday 2 January 2020. The closure will be at the bridge that crosses the A329 across the railway between Beale Park and Mead Lane.



Temporary traffic lights have already replaced the permanent installation for preparatory works, which may cause delays.

Diversion will be via A329 Reading Road to Cholsey, Nosworthy Way, the A4074 back to Reading, A4155 and A329 back to Pangbourne.

Closure is so that Network Rail can remove the old redundant bridge adjacent to the new one. The closure has been organised to take advantage of the closure of the railway line.

Enquires should be addressed to Network Rails contractors on 0330 056 3530.

The closure can be viewed on one.network under the following link [A329 Skew Bridge, Lower Basildon](#)

Dependant on the state of the works emergency service access will NOT be possible past the works.

Road Closure lifted

The roadworks on Streatley Hill have been completed ahead of schedule, so the closure has now been lifted. Some minor work will be finished under 'stop and go' but the road is open.



Free car parking in the run up to Christmas Goring and other South Oxfordshire Car Parks

Drivers in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse can benefit from free parking in district council car parks on certain days in December. As a result, drivers will be able to park in the village car park without paying – on Saturdays 7, 14, 21 December.

Other South Oxfordshire car parks that will have free parking in December:

- Didcot – Mondays (9, 16, 23 December)
- Henley – Tuesdays (3, 10, 17 December)
- Thame – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 December)
- Wallingford -Thursdays (5, 12, 19 December)

What's on in December?

Below is a selection of just some of the upcoming events from the [Genie calendar](#). There are many more, so please check it out [online](#) where there are also details of how you can submit your own events for free publication. You can also find full details of these events on the Calendar.



Tuesday 3	Peter Wynne at the Q1 Care Hub, Goring Arcade, at 1pm
Friday 6	Goring Christmas Bonanza evening, Goring High Street and Arcade, 5-8pm
Saturday 7	Festive Food, Drink and Local Produce fair, Goring Village Hall 10am-3pm
Wednesday 11	Friends of Goring Library Christmas coffee morning 10.30am-12noon Talk in Woodcote: <i>Colditz: Beyond and Behind the Myths</i>
Friday 13	Goring Hall Live: Chris Barber Big Band
Saturday 14	History Society Talk: <i>Stories of Oxford Castle</i>
Thursday 13	Pick-a-Flick: <i>Roman Holiday</i>
Friday 20	Goring Unplugged

Please note: There will be **no Goring Gap Photo Club meeting on 3 December**. The talk on *Wild Swimming*, scheduled for that day and featured on p23 of November's GGN, has had to be postponed.



Christmas Eve Torchlight Carols Begin Christmas in the traditional way with this year's Goring & Streatley Torchlight Event

On Christmas Eve, at 6:30pm, the traditional Torchlight Carol Singing will be held in Streatley Meadows, accompanied by the Goring and Streatley Concert Band and including an address from the Rev'd Ben Phillips.

Please note that Streatley High Street and Goring Bridge will be closed from 6:15pm to 7:45pm for the safety of people walking to and from the event.

Torches will be on sale in Jacks and Goring Hardware from Monday 2 December. Torches for younger residents are available from Inspiration. **It is politely requested that torches only be lit upon entering the meadow.**

Christmas Day morning will be clean up time, join the committee and other residents between 10am and 12noon for a merry refreshment and some litter picking.

The Torchlight Committee needs more support to ensure the future of this legendary community event, for information please get in touch at gstorchtlight@gmail.com or via their Facebook page (Goring & Streatley Torchlight Event).

General Election Hustings – in St Thomas' Church, Goring

The prospect of hearing the views of all four candidates contesting the Henley constituency drew a capacity crowd.

Every available pew and additional chairs were filled. The overflow of people was directed into the choir stalls and then into the Canterbury Room where they were able to watch the proceedings on a large screen.



The two-hour long hustings was organised by Rev'd Ben Phillips, who also moderated the event and ensured the candidates kept to a strictly allotted time to answer the questions. Around 250 of the electorate, some of whom

travelled from other parts of the constituency, listened to each of the candidates in turn when they responded to 15 questions, sent to them before the event. Following this the audience was invited to ask additional questions.

The subjects covered a wide range of national and international issues, but many were centred around Brexit and there were some passionate pleas by candidates for the audience to vote for them on 12 December. The overall event was conducted with civility but with numerous bouts of loud clapping from supporters after key subjects were addressed, along with some hecklers interjecting from time to time. Overall, an interesting, useful and lively occasion.

The candidates are:

- John Howell (Conservative)
- Laura Coyle (Liberal Democrat)
- Zaid Marham (Labour)
- Jo Robb (Green)



Police Notices



Appeal For Witnesses Following a Burglary In Goring

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses following a burglary in Elvendon Road, Goring.

The incident took place between 4pm on 15 November and 12.35pm on 16 November. Unknown offenders broke into a container on the driveway as well as the property itself. They stole copper piping, under-floor heating units, tools and cabling.

If you have any information about this incident please report it on the [Thames Valley Police website](#), or call 101, quoting reference 43190358562.



Thames Valley Police is issuing advice to residents following multiple burglaries where jewellery and high value items have been targeted in Henley and the surrounding rural areas

Over the last month, seven burglaries have been committed during daytime hours at properties in Nettlebed, Sonning Common, Kidmore End, Highmoor and Dunsden Green. These are being investigated as linked.

Houses are being targeted for jewellery and high value goods such as handbags and shoes.

“Residents are encouraged to continue to be our extra eyes and ears. If you see someone acting suspiciously or notice a suspicious vehicle in the area, please call Thames Valley Police on 101 or report [online](#) quoting reference 43190339224.”

To help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary, be sure to follow this advice:

- keep all valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows
- keep front and back doors locked, even when you're at home
- install a burglar alarm with a visible alarm box
- install CCTV or a video doorbell camera
- install security lighting around your property
- lock side gates to prevent easy access to the rear of the property
- look out for your neighbours

For more crime prevention advice, please click [here](#).

11 Goring High Street (Old TSB Bank building) is up for sale again

The freehold of the whole building (ground floor plus the 2-bed flat above), is to be auctioned in London

with a reserve price of £475,000

The recently opened Riverside Fish & Chip business, and office space on the ground floor, will not be affected as the current business owner has a 25-year lease on these, which will carry through to the next purchaser if the property is sold.



Kutz.UK Hair Salon now open

The hair salon at the end of Station Road is now open and looking forward to welcoming clients

Full details of opening times and how to book are available on their website: <https://www.kutz.uk/>

Newbury Constituency Hustings – Thatcham

**7.30-9.30pm, Monday 2 December 2019
Thatcham Baptist Church, Wheelers Green Way,
Thatcham, RG19 4YF
Moderator: Pastor David Taylor**

Questions can be submitted in advance, giving your name, to david@thatchambaptist.org.uk, or a question card can be filled in on arrival and handed in by 7.15 pm.

Questions will be sorted before the meeting in order to cover a range of topics.

Candidates are:

- Liberal Democrats, Lee Dillon
- Conservative, Laura Farris
- Independent, Ben Holden-Crowther
- Green, Steve Masters
- Labour, James Wilder



Public Transport Timetable Changes

**Going Forward Buses – Winter Timetable starts 2 December
Support your local bus service this winter. We are lucky to have it – let's use it.**

There are a few changes in the new timetable, see Read More below.

GWR trains – new timetable from 15 December

Although there are extensive changes elsewhere in the network, most of the timetable changes from Goring are a matter of a few minutes earlier/later. There is a new 09.38 service to Reading, see Read More below.

Going Forward Buses



- Monday-Friday 134 – last bus will leave Goring station at 17.20 (connects with 17.01 from Reading and will wait up to 5 mins for the 17.18 arrival from Didcot).
- On Saturdays all journeys will use the 134 route and the timetable will be revised. No services via Streatley. Last bus from Goring remains at 16.45.
- New service on Saturdays: 8am from Springhill Rd and Cleeve to connect to Goring station and then go straight to Wallingford.
- The Reading (Tuesdays only) service has some minor re-timings and the Henley (Thursdays only) service is unchanged.

Before travelling please check the timetable
<https://www.goingforwardbuses.com/winter-timetables-2019/>

There will be a **normal** service over the Christmas and New Year period, but no services on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.

GWR Trains

- The 06.44 and 06.51 services are replaced by one semi-slow service at 06.45, arriving Paddington at 07.40.
- The 20.19 semi-fast service from Paddington is replaced by the stopping service at 19.56. The last train from Paddington on Sunday is half an hour later at 23.27.

Some West Country trains from Paddington no longer call at Reading in the evening peak. Details of the new timings are already available on train company websites but could still be subject to last minute changes. See GWR timetables: <https://www.gwr.com/plan-journey/train-times>

If you have comments on the new timetable please feel free to contact Mike Ward (mike.ward@btinternet.com) so that as representative for Goring & Streatley he can pass these on to GWR. More detail about the changes can be found in the November *Goring Gap News*.

There will be no service on Christmas Day or Boxing Day.

See <https://www.gwr.com/travel-updates/planned-engineering/christmas> for details of services over the Christmas period.



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, Streatley 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 two applications for Goring, one for Streatley, and none for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: Thurle Grange Barn Rectory Road Streatley Reading RG8 9QH
Proposal: Construction of a new outbuilding to include 2 garage bays and workshop/garden store.
Reference Number: [19/02794/HOUSE](#)
Consultation Deadline: **2 December 2019**

SOUTH STOKE

None

GORING

Location: Woden House Limetree Road Goring RG8 9EY
Proposal: Proposed erection of a semi-detached pair of dwellings (2 x 4 bed
Reference Number: [P19/S3433/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: **2 December 2019**

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Location: Littlethorpe Cleeve Road Goring RG8 9BJ
Proposal: Replacement of existing uPVC & glass conservatory roof with insulated flat roof & roof lights. Re-tiling existing extension roof to match main house. Cladding front wall of existing extension with handmade bricks. Replacement of front ground floor window. Addition of front ground floor window
Reference Number: [P19/S3418/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **4 December 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. It is published at the middle and end of each month. It includes planning applications for Goring, Streatley and South Stoke which are open for comment at the date of publication. 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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