

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 26 April

In this issue: keeping positive; road closure; Genie update; no bonfires please; Neighbourhood Watch advice; daily cycling exercise; Going Forward Buses – and our latest update of new planning applications.

Keeping positive – some suggestions and links

- Neighbourhood Watch have suggested setting up pPreviewhونه 'calling trees' as a way for people to keep in touch regularly, reducing isolation and loneliness. Click [here](#) to read the NW newsletter with details.
- Many windows in the villages are displaying rainbows or thank you posters. 'Thank you' messages for NHS staff are being collected and displayed at the station. There are other essential workers to thank as well.
- Exercise is important and dancing is free. If you prefer something more formal, there are many free ideas for home exercises on the internet. If you are fit, Joe Wicks is a popular search and he does offer a 'senior' [10 minute](#) version. For people with arthritis [Versus Arthritis](#) has specific exercises to help manage joint pain. Pilates is available online from local teacher Vanessa Mansergh, please see the [Genie Calendar](#).
- If you have studied mindfulness there are online sessions available from Andy Taylor 07999 407705 and Bonnie Dawn Roberts 07957 571620.
- The BBC sites are awash with ideas for things to do. For example, there are some difficult word [quizzes](#) here. One of the suggestions on [Gumtree](#) is learning to say hello in 50 languages! (Having been known to greet someone with a jolly 'Hola' in Greece, I think I'd better pass on that one.)



If you've found something that's helped to keep you positive and would like to share it why not email it to us [here](#).

Those who cannot leave their homes may like to see some recent photos:



Road Closure
Park Wall Lane in Upper Basildon will be closed for one day on 22 April 2020 between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30 to enable Thames Water to carry out a reinstatement to the carriageway.

The alternative route for all vehicles affected is via Bethesda Street, Aldworth Road, Pangbourne Road, Pangbourne Hill, A329 Church Road, A329 Shooters Hill, A329 Reading Road and vice versa.

Residential access will be maintained throughout and the diversion will be signed on site. Please Note: Whilst Blue light access will be maintained, approach with caution as plant may have to be moved.

All enquiries should be directed to: Tiffany Ellison 0203 5779042.

A plan of the closure can be found at: <https://one.network/?tm=116996870>

Up-to-date and comprehensive local and national coronavirus information available in Genie's Public Information newsletters



Readers who have explored all the different pages and links of the latest red-topped Public Information (PI) newsletter sent to you on 7 April may like to know that we will be updating all the information regularly in future PI newsletters. With over 20 primary links and many sub-links in the main Local and National reference sections alone, some of this information can quickly become out of date. All content, therefore, is being constantly reviewed by our volunteers and the parish councils so that subsequent editions will provide you with the latest accurate information you need.

Whether you want to know which local food shops are open and provide a home delivery service, how to access any type of local help in Goring, Streatley and South Stoke from the local councils and volunteer groups or to see a comprehensive list of all the local and national support lines available, these special newsletters will be updated as frequently as needed. All information in these newsletters have been approved by the three local parish councils and all previous newsletters can be reopened at any time from the archive on [Genie's website](#).



Neighbourhood Watch warns about Scams and Crimes
Unscrupulous people are taking advantage of the current situation.

Please see this [website](#) for further details:

Bonfires and smoke

Please follow the guidance from your local council and do not light bonfires at this time.

[West Berks Council](#):

Don't be tempted to light Bonfires, Chimineas, Fire Pits or anything else that emits lots of smoke.



During this time we are urging you to think of others and please do not be tempted to light bonfires at home in the garden or in public spaces such as allotments. A lot of people are at home during this unprecedented time and are vulnerable – any one of your neighbours might have respiratory issues or even be fighting Covid-19. Smoke inhalation can impair breathing so during this difficult time please put their needs first and hold off with your bonfire. Be a good neighbour and think of others – remember, save lives and save the NHS.

SODC:

We are urging people not to light bonfires at this time to protect the respiratory health of the vulnerable and to avoid unnecessary burden on the NHS. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and smoke inhalation can impair people's breathing. In addition to this, with larger numbers of people now working from home and also looking after children, the smoke from such bonfires can cause unnecessary nuisance to your neighbours.



Keeping fit on Two Wheels
Goring and Streatley are great places to get your daily exercise by bike.

The roads are quieter than usual at the moment and they're not all steep. To see a collection of recommended local rides from as little as 4 miles, go to the [Routes](#) or [Map](#) page of the Goring Gap Cycling website. The ride guides have been compiled and tested by a local cyclist and they can all be downloaded for free. They work best with [ViewRanger](#), the best smartphone app for walking or cycling. This can also be downloaded for free. With the app and the map on your smartphone you need have no worries about getting lost. You can even set the app up so it shows you where to turn at each junction.

(From Steve Rock)

Genie Note to all cyclists and runners: please be aware of other road users, especially walkers using a footpath next to the road. Where necessary to maintain the correct distance, ride or run in single file. Ensure you remain at least 2 metres from walkers – where possible keep to the middle of the road, especially when approaching corners. If you hug the corner when turning left, you may be less than one metre from a pedestrian on the footpath, who has nowhere else to go.

Going Forward Buses – Suspension of Services

It is with regret that Going Forward Buses advises they had to suspend running all services from Saturday 28 March 2020 onwards.



The numbers travelling fell so dramatically (less than 5 passengers per day) that they could not continue operating. They also fell in view of the government advice that travel should be avoided as much as possible that they should stop, for the health and safety of their passengers and drivers. They are hoping there will be some financial assistance available from the government and local authorities which will enable them to get through this difficult time and allow them to re-start services when the crisis is over.

Please check their website www.goingforwardbuses.com for news of if and when they will start operating again, or send an email to littlebluebus@yahoo.com and ask to be added to their newsletter mailing list so they can keep you informed that way.

They thank all their passengers for travelling with them and hope to see you on board again in the not too distant future. Stay safe and well!

(From Mike Ward, Director Going Forward Buses CIC)



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 three applications for Goring, three for Streatley, and none for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: The Old Golf House Rectory Road Streatley Reading RG8 9QA
Proposal: Subdivision of The Old Golf House and annex into two separate residential dwellings
Reference Number: [20/00835/FULD](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Thu 30 Apr 2020**

Location: The Lodge Rectory Road Streatley Reading RG8 9QH
Proposal: New gates and gate posts (car and pedestrian) to the front of the property
Reference Number: [20/00795/HOUSE](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Thu 30 Apr 2020**

Location: Playing Fields Streatley Primary School The Coombe Streatley Reading RG8 9QL
Proposal: T1 - Yew - Fell
Reference Number: [20/00652/TPW](#)
Consultation Deadline: **1 May 2020**

SOUTH STOKE

None.

GORING

Location: Land to the Rear of Cleeve Cottages Icknield Road Goring RG8 0DG
Proposal: Erection of four terraced dwellings with associated parking and amenity space
Reference Number: [P20/S0767/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date 21 April 2020**

Location: Shanklin 7 Milldown Road Goring RG8 0BA
Proposal: Addition of a rear dormer for extra bedroom in roof
Reference Number: [P20/S1116/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **22 April 2020**

Location: 6 Middle Springs Goring RG8 0DX
Proposal: Certificate of existing lawful use for rooflight on north elevation of garage & use of loft space for storage.
Reference Number: [P20/S1203/LDE](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date 26 May 2020**

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>

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 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.

More details on Genie newsletters [here](#).

