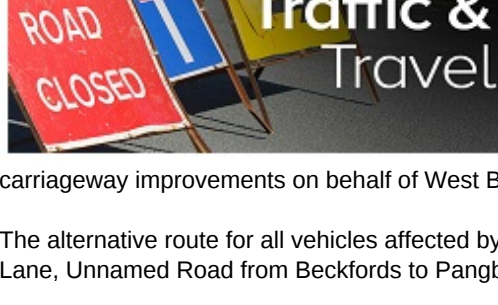


Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

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 May

In this issue: Road closure; GGN production dates; VE Day 75th Anniversary; new Genie calendar features; buy plants for charity; new Bookworm project; help from Citizens Advice with paying bills; railway electrification to be 'mended' – and our latest update of new planning applications.



Road Closure – Blandys Lane, Upper Basildon

Blandys Lane, Upper Basildon will be closed on 12 and 13 May 2020 between 8am and 5pm

Closure will be from its junction with Bethesda Street and Unnamed Road from Beckfords to Pangbourne Road. The closure is to enable Volker Highways to carry out

carriageway improvements on behalf of West Berkshire Council.

The alternative route for all vehicles affected by the Order is via Bethesda Street, Aldworth Road, Gardeners Lane, Unnamed Road from Beckfords to Pangbourne Road and vice versa.

Residential access will be maintained throughout and the diversion will be signed on site.

All enquiries please contact West Berkshire Council on 01635 519080

A plan of the closure can be found at: <https://one.network/?tm=117129508>

Plan your VE Day Party

Celebrate the occasion!

Unfortunately most of the official celebrations planned to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe have had to be cancelled.

As you will know, BBC1 will be featuring an evening devoted to this important anniversary. This will include a broadcast by the Queen at 9pm, followed by a nationwide singalong to Vera Lynn's 'We'll meet again'. (Dame Vera Lynn celebrated her 103rd birthday on 20 March 2020.)

You can hold a Stay at Home Street Party, or a Virtual Party via the internet to mark the occasion.

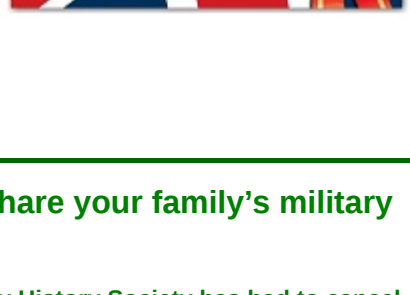
Why not take some video clips of your celebrations and post them on Genie's Facebook page? Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/GenieNewsOrg>

You will find some useful ideas at these two websites, although you may not want to try the wartime recipes using things like spam!

<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/plan-your-ve-day-party/>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/ve-day/>



An opportunity to share your family's military stories

The British Modern Military History Society has had to cancel its regular talk series

As an alternative project for these times it has started up Operation Bookworm, aimed at making a collection of family experiences and stories from the last two hundred years. The collection will be published on their website and hopefully become a book, with any profits going to the charity Blind Veterans UK.

The society meets in Woodcote and is keen to receive local stories. Contributions are welcome from all and can be anything from a couple of paragraphs to a couple of pages. There is lots of information about this interesting and worthwhile project on their

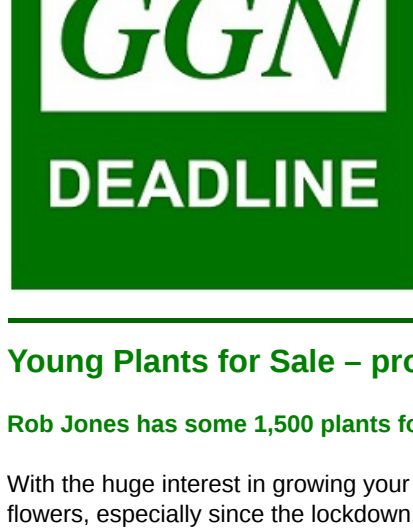
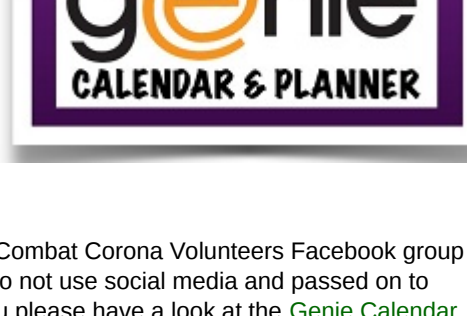
Genie calendar – now featuring online events and useful information

The Genie calendar has found an additional role in these strange times

It now also features online events and important dates plus useful information and links that can be updated on a daily basis and remain easily accessible.

The full list of local shop times and delivery arrangements can be found in the Shops page of the recently published Genie Coronavirus Public Information newsletter (Issue 25).

There is also a daily digest of recent news and information on the Combat Corona Volunteers Facebook group page. This is kindly collected by Patricia Williams for people who do not use social media and passed on to Genie each morning. If you think any of this would be useful to you please have a look at the [Genie Calendar](#).



Goring Gap News

Distribution dates

The 28-page April GGN (with 9 pages of selected advertisements for which advertisers will not be charged) should be delivered by Royal Mail to all residences in the RG8 9xx and RG9 0xx postcodes in the week starting 4 May.

For the May issue the copy deadline remains 29 April but distribution will not be until the week starting 25 May.

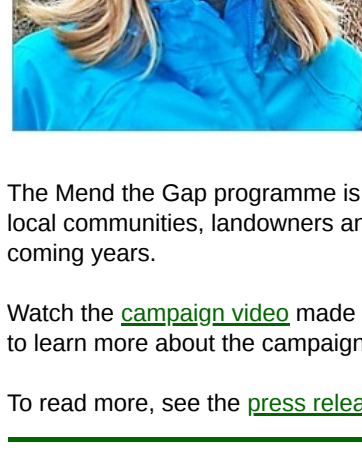
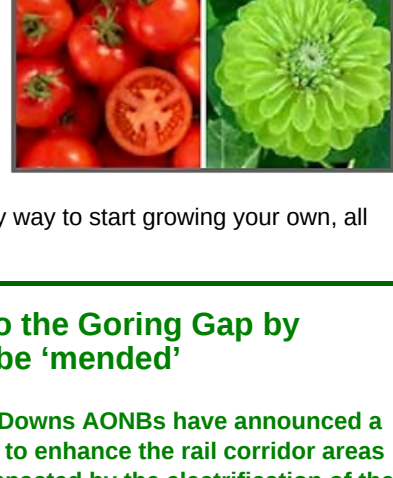
Young Plants for Sale – proceeds to charity

Rob Jones has some 1,500 plants for sale

With the huge interest in growing your own vegetables and cut flowers, especially since the lockdown, Rob Jones of The Garden Design Company has been providing advice and tips through short video clips on sowing seeds etc. He has been posting the videos on his Company's Instagram channel:

<https://www.instagram.com/thegardendesigncoltd/>

The side effect of all this is that Rob now has 1,500 plants, so with the garden centres and nurseries shut, these are being sold for Charity as selection boxes of 12 young plants, full details of which are in the [attached leaflet](#). With a choice of charities to support, the plants are an easy way to start growing your own, all for a good cause!



Environmental damage to the Goring Gap by railway electrification to be 'mended'

The Chilterns and North Wessex Downs AONBs have announced a new programme, 'Mend the Gap', to enhance the rail corridor areas that have been most adversely impacted by the electrification of the Great Western Railway.

Funded by Network Rail, the £3.75m programme and newly appointed Mend the Gap Programme Manager, Jo Watson, (pictured left) will seek to achieve two main environmental goals. £750,000 is earmarked for reducing the visual impact of the electrification infrastructure with line-side and screening vegetation planting. £3 million will be spent on schemes and projects to enhance the AONBs.

The Mend the Gap programme is being steered jointly by the two AONBs and RAG and will involve working with the communities, landowners and other partners to identify and deliver suitable enhancement projects over the coming years.

Watch the [campaign video](#) made in 2015 in and around Goring by members of the [Railway Action Group \(RAG\)](#) to learn more about the campaign that led to this funded programme.

To read more, see the [press release](#) on the Chilterns Conservation Board's website.

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale

We are still here to help

We are no longer able to offer face to face appointments from our Advice Centres. But you will be able to talk to our advisers on the telephone, Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Advice Line: 0300 330 9042

For general advice please visit our website [Citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)



Coronavirus: Get help if you can't pay household bills

The financial issues resulting from the pandemic mean that many of those fortunate enough to remain healthy have suffered a loss of income so drastic that even the paying of essential household bills has become questionable.

However, there are definite steps you can take to tackle these bills.

Many banks and utility companies, being keenly aware of people's predicaments, have already reached out to their customers with offers of help. So don't ignore your bills but get in touch with the companies to whom you owe money, or expect to owe money. They might be able to help by redistributing your debts, letting you pay in smaller amounts, over a longer time period, or on a deferred basis.

- If you are repaying a mortgage, contact your provider. The government has mooted the idea of a three-month mortgage payment holiday and you might be eligible for it.
- If you pay rent, contact your landlord to discuss the situation. If you are at risk of being evicted, remember that since 26 March 2020 the law on evictions has temporarily changed and, for many types of tenancy, eviction notices have to last a minimum of three months.
- You might be able to claim benefits, or enhanced benefits if you already receive them. The Citizens Advice website has details: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>
- As for Council Tax, if your income has dropped or you are on benefits, you might qualify for reductions. Contact your local district council, using the details on your latest bill.
- Get in touch with your gas or electricity supplier, as well as telephone/broadband company. Their help line phone numbers should be on your latest bill. They can tell you whether a special payment plan can be set up.
- If you owe income tax, HMRC has a free help line you can ring: 0800 015 9559 (Mon-Fri 8 to 4).

For further information, Citizens Advice Adviceline is always there to help you: 0300 330 9042.



This twice weekly '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 five applications for Goring, one 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: **Wed 13 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 5 May 2020

Location: Broughton Fairfield Road Goring RG8 0EX
Proposal: Single storey rear flat roof extension with lantern, with front and rear first floor dormer extensions
Reference Number: [P20/S1296/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: 14 May 2020

Location: Hillside Fairfield Road Goring RG8 0EU
Proposal: First floor extension with roof changed. New porch and internal alterations. New roof above garage
Reference Number: [P20/S1383/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: 16 May 2020

Location: Thameside House Cleeve Rd Goring RG8 9BJ
Proposal: New front covered porch area with storage below at lower ground level
Reference Number: [P20/S1226/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: 21 May 2020

Location: 6 Middle Springs Goring RG8 0DX
Proposal: Certificate of existing lawful use for roof-light 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 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.

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

