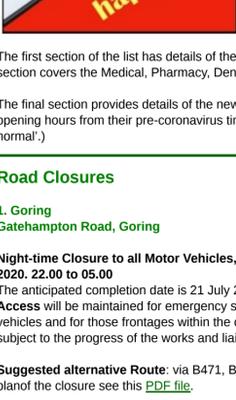


Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

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 June)

In this issue: Latest shop openings; West Berks school transport refunds; face masks & coverings; road closures; lockdown activities; station irrigation system; new village map; planning consultation; Parish GPC vacancies; locked gates in Goring. Floatability – and our latest update of new planning applications.



Many local shops now open since government guidelines for retailers were relaxed yesterday

On Monday 15 June, Government guidelines permitted a wide range of 'non-essential' shops and retailers the opportunity to open. They must, however, adhere to the current social distancing rules in place.



To see the latest 'List of Local Shops and Facilities' (Update No 5 @ 15 June), which is always on the Home page of [Genie's website](#), look for and click on this graphic at the top right of the website:

The first section of the list has details of the 19 local Food & Take-Away Services currently available. The second section covers the Medical, Pharmacy, Dental, Veterinary and other facilities.

The final section provides details of the newly opened retailers. Please note: Only the shops which have different opening hours from their pre-coronavirus times are listed. (All others NOT listed are understood to be 'open as normal'.)

Road Closures

1. Goring Gatehampton Road, Goring

Night-time Closure to all Motor Vehicles, 20-21 July 2020 22.00 to 05.00

The anticipated completion date is 21 July 2020. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor.

Suggested alternative Route: via B471, B4526, Reading Road, Gatehampton Road and vice versa. For a plan of the closure see this [PDF file](#).

Reason: To facilitate access telecoms mast for testing and maintenance works
For more information, contact Kyle Stephenson on 01652 656291 or email Kyle@Shift-Traffic.com

2. West Berks Road Closures in Yattendon

The Square/Yattendon Road will be closed from 20 to 22 July 2020 from 09:30 to 15:30.

A plan of the closure can be found at <https://one.network/?tm=117348952>

Bryants Lane will be closed on **20 July 2020** for one day only from 9:30 to 15:30.

A plan of the closure can be found at: <https://one.network/?tm=117347483>

All enquiries please contact West Berkshire Council on 01635 519080.



The use of Face Masks and Coverings during the Coronavirus Pandemic

This article has been supplied by the Emergency Response Coordinator and member of the Goring & Streatley Communications Group to provide some general information about this somewhat confusing area of face coverings.

Information about whether to wear face coverings and when to wear them is ever changing, so always check www.gov.uk for the latest update.

Face MASKS, part of what is known as PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), are used in many situations and are designed to various different levels and standards of safety. They are generally needed (for the COVID-19 situation) in medical situations and by hospital staff, carers and ambulance workers, but some of the public are also wearing them in the current pandemic.

A face COVERING is made of material (normally cotton) and goes over the nose and mouth. It can be home-made, purchased or even improvised (e.g. a scarf or bandana that ties behind the head). Government Guidelines on how to wear and make a cloth face covering are set out [here](#).

A face MASK can be used instead of a face covering, but a face covering cannot be used in a situation where a face MASK is required. The government asks that people do not use medical grade PPE masks, to ensure these remain available for frontline staff.

At the time of publishing, the government recommends that you wear a face COVERING in enclosed spaces and that you must wear them on public transport or when attending a hospital as a visitor or outpatient – please read point 10 of the government advice [here](#). Public transport operators may stop you travelling on their transport without a face covering, or impose some other penalty, so please read the [current government advice](#) which was updated on 14 June. Please also see the links to check exemptions and get further details, as these do change.

The UK government requirements are given above. Information by the World Health Organisation on face coverings (referred to by WHO as non-medical fabric masks) can be found [here](#). It is your choice which advice to follow, but as a minimum you should follow the UK government advice.

Local Information on Face Covering Requirements

Locally people are also asked to wear a face COVERING if they visit either the Goring or Woodcote GP surgeries. A scarf is sufficient so do not delay going to the GP if they have asked you to do so.

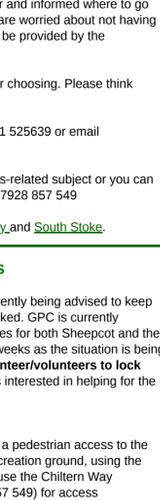
If you are attending A&E at the Royal Berkshire Hospital you will be required to socially distance and a face MASK will be provided to you. At the John Radcliffe A&E you will be met at the door and informed where to go and what to do. DO NOT delay going to the hospital if you need A&E because you are worried about not having a face covering. DO NOT delay calling 999 in an emergency either, face masks will be provided by the ambulance service when needed.

Several local charities are making face coverings in exchange for a donation of your choosing. Please think about supporting them before buying commercial ones.

More information is available from the Goring & Streatley Villages Helpline on 01491 525639 or email info@goringandstreatleyhelpline.co.uk

The Helpline is still available for any support residents may need on any coronavirus-related subject or you can talk to the Emergency Response Coordinator, Nikki, on 07787 376156 or Lynn on 07928 857 549

Further information is available on the parish councils' websites for [Goring](#), [Streatley](#) and [South Stoke](#).



Gates to Goring's public Spaces

The Goring-on-Thames Parish Council is currently being advised to keep the gates to some of Goring's spaces fully locked. GPC is currently considering having a schedule of opening times for both Sheepcot and the Whitehill Burial Ground. During the next few weeks as the situation is being evaluated, **the Council is looking for a volunteer/volunteers to lock and unlock the gates each day.** If anyone is interested in helping for the next month or so, please contact the Clerk at clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk.

In case some residents are unaware, there is a pedestrian access to the Whitehill Burial Ground from the Sheepcot recreation ground, using the Chiltern Way Extension. For those unable to use the Chiltern Way Extension, please contact the clerk (07928 857 549) for access arrangements through the main entrance.

The Gardiner Recreation ground continues to have the large stones, kindly provided by Grundon, to block the accesses.

The Council would like to offer special thanks to the Sheepcot Residents Association for their generous donation to GPC which will be used in the ongoing security review and upgrades.

West Berkshire Council announces refund for school transport

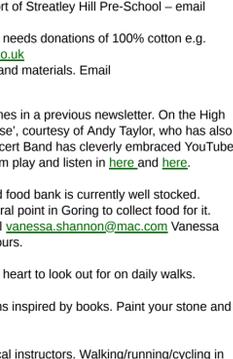
West Berkshire Council have taken the decision to assist parents and carers during this time by offering the option to apply for a refund on fares paid for school transport for terms 5 and 6. This is in response to the current directive from the Government to close schools and only open for certain year groups during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

A refund will be given to those who have bought a farepayer seat on home to school transport. Separate applications for each term will be accepted, if your child is returning for all or part of term 6, please indicate when your child started to use school transport.

To qualify for this refund parents and carers will need to complete the dedicated refund form available online at <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/36932> The information needs to be completed correctly as the payment will be made by bank transfer. The refunds will be processed and either a full refund made or a partial refund if there is an outstanding invoice on the account for the farepayer. **The closing date for refunds will be 17 July 2020.** Please return the completed form to transport@westberks.gov.uk

Unfortunately, we are unable to backdate refunds for the two weeks from 23 March 2020 to 3 April 2020 if you have not claimed for this as the closing date was 30 April 2020.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents to re-apply for the farepayer scheme for the **academic year of 2020 - 2021** as these **applications close on 19 June 2020.**



Village activities during lock down

The Goring Gap has been humming with people volunteering and using their creative skills during lock down and beyond.

Genie has already published information about the hard work of the Parish Council and community volunteers in creating a support network. Here is a sample of some of the other activities going on:

The Combat Corona Volunteers are a group that help out and keep in touch through Facebook. Patricia Jenifermarygray@hotmail.co.uk

- Goring group donating any profits to Nicole Upton. This group needs donations of 100% cotton e.g. sheets, and buttons/elastic. Email nicole_bateman66@yahoo.co.uk
- Q1 Care group. This group is also looking for more volunteers and materials. Email debs@g1foundation.co.uk

Music making. Genie featured the performances outside the care homes in a previous newsletter. On the High Street music formed part of the Thursday night 'NHS thank you concert', courtesy of Andy Taylor, who has also been playing for the residents at Coombe House in Streatley. The Concert Band has cleverly embraced YouTube with two cheering virtual performances. Turn up the volume, watch them play and listen in [here](#) and [here](#).

Food donating. Following generous donations of supplies, Wellingford food bank is currently well stocked. Newbury also has a food bank and work is in progress of creating a central point in Goring to collect food for it. Meanwhile, for advice on donating (including perishables) please email vanessa.shannon@mac.com Vanessa takes donations every Wednesday and they are distributed within 24hours.

Putting toys and rainbows in windows for children and the young at heart to look out for on daily walks.

Outside the library – a bookworm made of stones painted with designs inspired by books. Paint your stone and help the bookworm grow (see picture above).

Keeping mentally and physically fit doing online classes with our local instructors. Walking/running/cycling in our lovely countryside, and now golf and tennis and fun on the river as well.

What an amazing community we live in – well done and thank you to all the workers and volunteers helping us get through this.

Vacancies

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Councillor Catherine Hall resigned from the Parish Council at the end of May. The official vacancy notice was posted on 2 June. The vacancy will be filled by election if, within fourteen working days of the date of this notice, any ten local government electors for Goring-on-Thames Parish submit a written request to the Returning Officer, South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB. If no such request is made the vacancy will be filled by co-option by the Parish Council. As the deadline has almost passed for 10 local electors to submit a request, if anyone wishes to be considered for co-option, please advise the Clerk at clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Additionally, the individual who cleans the Council's buildings and does some litter picking each month has resigned. If anyone is interested in applying for these part-time positions, please contact the Clerk clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk who will provide job specifications and salary details. These roles could be combined and filled by one individual, or the two jobs could be filled by two individuals.



You are invited to a 'Virtual Public Consultation' between 9 and 23 June on a proposal to build 48 dwellings in Goring

A planning application is to be submitted on 27 June for 48 houses, 40% of which will be affordable, on the site allocated in Goring Neighbourhood Plan as GN6, which is north of Springhill Road. The developers, McAdden Homes (GOR2) Ltd, have completed the pre-application process with SODC and are finalising the planning application. As part of the process, prior to submitting the application, they are engaging in a consultation with the

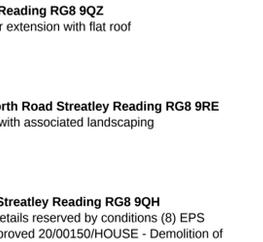
community between 9 and 23 June.

Due to the current restrictions on public gatherings, a traditional exhibition where the public would normally have the opportunity to meet the developers and ask questions, is not possible. A consultation website has therefore been set up at [Goring Consultation](#), where all the details are set out and there is the facility to send comments to the developer.

You can view the SODC website for details of the [Goring Neighbourhood Plan](#) and can comment on the application, which will be listed in the regular Planning Alert section at the bottom of [Genie Village Matters](#), once it has been published on SODC's planning portal.

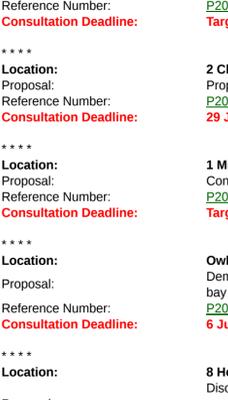
New maps in Goring and Streatley for visiting specific information for visitors during the coronavirus pandemic

The role of the Emergency Communications Group, and set up with representatives from Goring, Streatley and South Stoke, is to provide support to residents during the pandemic, includes visitor information. These temporary maps, in the cabinets at the three gateways to Goring – by the river, station and Wheel Orchard car park, are designed for two specific purposes.



Firstly, to identify the narrow paths and pavements where caution is also needed with obvious social distancing rules. A colour-coded traffic light system shows which paths visitors often use, along with four blind corners, where care is needed, and alternative routes.

The second purpose is to identify the location of the nineteen businesses which provide a food and/or take-away service in Goring and Streatley. Opening times and contact details of all the providers, which are updated weekly, are shown in the A4 frame next to the map. People with smart phones or other electronic devices can scan the QR codes on the map and get this and more information down-loaded directly to their devices.



Floatability has a Boat

River Access for All



Floatability has decided to buy a Pioneer Multi. It will seat 10 people in total: a skipper and volunteer, with up to 8 passengers or with 2 wheel chairs, their occupants and 5 other passengers.

Thanks to the receipt of a large donation, a deposit for the boat has been paid, but the project still needs funding to get up and running. Items such as life jackets, additional seating, hand rails and life saving equipment are needed.

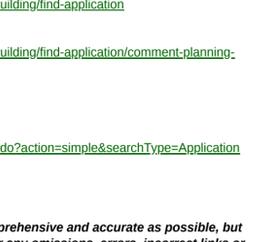
These are difficult times but if anyone would like to donate, please see the donation link here:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/17502/floatability-cic/river-access-for-all>

For further information see the website: www.floatability.co.uk or phone: 01491 520227.

New automated irrigation system under the garden at Goring & Streatley Station

Goring in Bloom volunteers have just completed the installation of a state-of-the-art irrigation system under the garden on the bank by Platform 4. Permission for the work was finally granted by Network Rail and Great Western Railway last Thursday, following submission of the application in August 2019. It is believed to be the first system of its kind on the network.



About 200 metres of water-efficient driplines with emitter valves were laid under the surface of the 25m long by 5m wide slope. The professionally designed system delivers water to the roots of the plants and is controlled by an automated and seasonally adjusted on/off programme. The control box is linked to a rain sensor to conserve water when it is not needed and can be adjusted at any time by members of the Bloom group by an App on their smart phones.

Stations with electrified lines have strict rules about the use of water and this low-pressure, sub-surface bespoke system was accepted by NR and GWR as the only solution to keep the plants alive during hot dry periods as hoses are not permitted.

The Goring in Bloom committee hope they will be forgiven if this installation triggers continual rain for the rest of the summer! The 7 large wooden troughs planted with drought-resistant plants on Platform 3 have their own water supply from a 750 litre tank of rainwater collected from the roof of the footbridge.

For the more information about how this garden was built on top of the rubble and concrete left behind after the footbridge and lifts were completed, [click here](#).



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

STREATLEY

Location: **Streatley Farmhouse Wallingford Road Streatley Reading RG8 9PT**

Proposal: Outbuilding: Upgrading of former farm office building to improve thermal insulation, replace the windows, install a third and build a new partition. Stable Kitchen: Create a new ground floor kitchen in the existing flat

Reference Number: [2001182/COMIND](#)

Consultation Deadline: **19 June 2020**

Location: **Streatley House High Street Streatley Reading RG8 9HY**

Proposal: Laurel - Fell Blue Cedar - Reduce canopy by approx 1-1.5m (final finished height 13m)

Reference Number: [2001175/TPC](#)

Consultation Deadline: **8 July 2020**

Location: **11 The Coombe Streatley Reading RG8 9QZ**

Proposal: Single storey residential rear extension with flat roof

Reference Number: [2001158/HOUSE](#)

Consultation Deadline: **23 July 2020**

Location: **Kiddington Cottage Aldworth Gate Streatley Reading RG8 9RE**

Proposal: New pool building and pool with associated landscaping

Reference Number: [2001137/HOUSE](#)

Consultation Deadline: **10 August 2020**

Location: **The Lodge Rectory Road Streatley Reading RG8 9QH**

Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions (8) EPS licence and (10) SUDs of approved 20/0150/HOUSE - Demolition of garage, erection of a 2 storey extension linked to the existing dwelling

Reference Number: [2001112/COND1](#)

Consultation Deadline: **11 August 2020**

Location: **8 Holmea Road Goring RG8 9EX**

Proposal: Discharge of condition 5 - Protect hedges during development operations on application ref. P20/S0438/HH Two storey side and single storey front and rear extensions.

Reference Number: [P20/S1871/DIS](#)

Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date 14 July 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](https://www.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](#).

