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# Issue 72, 16 October 2020

# 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 October

In this issue: Fire at The Miller; Running Event 24 October and National Cycling Event 25 October (closing Streatley Hill); Goring High Street news; 2 new Goring Parish Councillors; Coping with redundancy; New SODC HQ; 2020 Craft Fair cancelled; Q1 Healthcare – and our latest update of parish council meetings and new planning applications.

# Goring High Street was closed on Sunday morning (11 October) as firefighters put out a fire at The Miller of Mansfield hotel



After a 999 call by the hotel at 8.05am, five fire engines and other support vehicles were quickly on the scene and extinguished the fire, which was started by a switched-off tumble drier at the side of the hotel behind the courtyard. No one was hurt.

The fire was initially prevented from spreading to the nearby kitchen and beyond by a closed fire door, but the



hotel's hot water supply, as well as other main services and materials in the immediate vicinity were badly damaged. Over 25 firefighters responded to the emergency call, with two fire engines being dispatched from Reading's fire service and one each from Oxford, Wantage and Goring.

Mary and Nick Galer, who have run the hotel since 2014, are determined to deal with the aftermath of the event quickly and to get back to their 'new normal' of providing hospitality. The hotel is now closed until they can reinstate the all services affected by the fire. Mary and Nick had nothing but praise for the firefighters and the way they containing the blaze so quickly and efficiently. Because of such a rapid response Mary and Nick believed that it would have taken only a few more minutes and the fire would have threatened the whole Grade II listed building and resulted in a major disaster.

#### What a difference a week makes ...

The previous Sunday morning, 4 October, Mary was celebrating in the hotel with her family after successfully completing the Virtual London Marathon, along with an estimated 45,000 other runners from around the world. Mary took 4 hours 36.5 minutes to run a 26 mile local circuit and has raised (so far) more than £3,800 from donations via the <u>JustGiving</u> website for **Daisy's Dream**, a charity which supports children and families through life-threatening illness and bereavement.

### A big Sports Weekend ahead on 24 & 25 October

A big sporting weekend is coming up with over 150 endurance runners coming through Goring on Saturday and up to 450 cyclists competing in the National Hill Climb Championships on Streatley Hill on Sunday.



#### <u> Saturday 24 October – Thames Trot Ultra</u> The Thames Trot Ultra is the UK's classic 48 mile endurance race which will start in Oxford at 8.30am, pass through Goring between noon and 3pm and finish in Henley in the evening. There will be upwards of 150

starters from all over the UK and Europe. The course record, set in 2019, is 6 hours 12 minutes.

It is run in partnership with The Thames Path National Trail and this is the 13th time the event has come through Goring. However, unlike previous years when the route from Wallingford came down the Thames Path and through Streatley, this year, to be Covid-safe and avoid crossing the river bridge on the narrow pavement, the runners will be coming down from Wallingford via the Ridgeway Path. This will bring them through South Stoke, along Cleeve Road, Glebe Ride, Thames Road, then across the High Street past Rectory Garden into Manor Road. There will be

a check point at the end of Manor Road and then they will turn right down the track towards the river and rejoin the Thames Path.

#### See full race details HERE.

(Click on images for full page PDF versions)



Trials, the national governing body.

Championship on Streatley Hill

Up to 450 riders, and some support crew, are anticipated. The hill will be closed to through traffic at the Bull crossroads (except for local residents) and there will be another barrier from just uphill of The Coombe where the riders start the time trial. The road closure continues for about a kilometre to past the Golf Club car park at the top from between 9.00am and 3.30pm. Goring Village Hall will be used as the HQ for race officials and marshals and parking facilities have been arranged for them in Thames Court's car park (entrance Cleeve Road).

The registration point for all riders will be in a field off Hook End Lane, about 200m from the Reading Road and riders will be set off at timed intervals to cycle to the start along the Reading Road and will turn left at the Bull and wait until their start time (at 30 second intervals). Once finished at the top of the hill they will turn left towards Stitchens Green and back to the registration field.

A detailed map of the race area, access routes and parking for competitors and officials can be seen HERE.

There will be restricted access to the hill at the road closure points, to officials and riders only, as spectators are respectfully discouraged from attending for Covid reasons. Also, the event team are requesting that any people using the public footpaths that cross Streatley Hill do not congregate, but move along on their way to minimise the Covid risk.

The current course record is 2.16 min set by Rob Gough back in 2012. The first event was held in 1944 and over the years it has been won by some of the best all-round British cyclists. Chris Boardman won 4 back-to-back victories between 1988-1991. The length of the course (No HCC005) is 0.75km with a height gain of 100m and an average gradient of 13% with a peak gradient near the top of 18%.

Full details of the competition and the Streatley Hill course can be found <u>HERE</u> and also <u>HERE</u>.

### Streatley Hill closure Sunday 25 October

Due to the National Cycle Time Trial, featured above, Streatley Hill (B4009) will be <u>closed</u> from 9.00 to 15.30 on Sunday 25 October.



Sunday 25 October – British National Hill Climb

This is one of the biggest events in the calendar for hill climb specialists and Streatley Hill is one of Britain's top 10 hill climb courses and the steepest and most challenging in the region.

As originally announced in Genie on 1 February 2019, Reading Cycling Club will be hosting the British National Hill Climb Championships on behalf of Cycling Time

Closure is from The A329 Bull Crossroads to Lewendon Hill. Within that closure the trial course will be from 8 yards west of the Coombe to the top of the hill to the West

of Lardon Chase NT car park. (So access to the Coombe will be possible from the A329 under supervision of the event marshals.)

A diversion will be signed along Reading Road, Pangbourne Hill to Pangbourne and back along the A329 to Streatley. Signage will be in place to deter vehicles accessing through the Stitchens Green area.

Blue light access will **NOT** be possible through the event course. A plan of the event can be found here.



Two new Goring Parish Councillors coopted

Two new members were co-opted on to the council at an extra virtual council meeting on 5 October. They fill the seats left vacant by the resignations of Cllrs Catherine Hall and Debbie Gee. Both have

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New name

provided Genie with a brief introductory statement.



Cllr Emma McCorkell "I am delighted to be joining Goring Parish Council. I am a Mum in her 40s and have lived in Goring and Streatley for 4 years with my partner. I work from home and run my own film PR business, a career I have done for more than twenty years.

"I wanted to join the council to make sure that the village I love will continue to be the brilliant, welcoming place it is for my children and their future."

# **Cllr Tony Virgo-Harris**

"I have been living in the village for nearly 2 decades and today still find it as wonderful as I found it all those years ago. What drew me to the area was that I wanted to live somewhere more rural where I could start and have a family. I am pleased that not only am I raising my 2 children in the village but I have, with my wife, a thriving local business which is supported by the area.

"I felt that joining the parish council would be an ideal opportunity to support local issues and continue to be a part of the community I hold dear. I hope that, with the support of the councillors and parishioners, I will be able to perform my duties to the best of my ability."

NB: You can see more about all the councillors and other council information on the Goring, Streatley and South Stoke parish councils' websites in our regular Meetings & Minutes which is updated in each edition, as is the regular update of all the new planning applications in the three parishes.

## High Street matters



**Goring's Late Night** Shopping Event – Cancelled

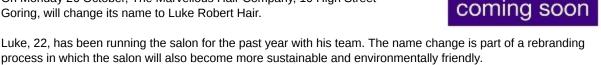
The traditional Late Night Shopping Event in Goring

High Street, which usually takes place on the first Friday in December has, unfortunately, had to be cancelled this year. The local businesses regret that this first festive event of the season, where people come together to sing carols and to enjoy local businesses' hospitality, cannot take place.

Alternative activities may be considered and announced later on to help encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas gifts and supplies, especially in this difficult year.

### Goring business name change

On Monday 26 October, The Marvellous Hair Company, 10 High Street Goring, will change its name to Luke Robert Hair.





New litter problem in our streets - discarded face masks

A large Covid littering survey in England has shown that 90% of respondents have seen face marks dropped in streets and 83% say it's getting worse. A number have been seen in Goring High Street and elsewhere. PLEASE KEEP OUR VILLAGES TIDY.



# In January 2020, Q1 Foundation gained recognition as a registered charity

As many people know, in the Arcade, Goring High Street, there is a unit called The Care Hub, which opened in December 2017, and which is a charitable facility now supported by Q1 Foundation.

Prior to gaining charitable status, The Care Hub was supported by **<u>Q1 Care Ltd</u>**, a registered domiciliary care provider, inspected by the Care Quality Commission. As these two names containing 'Q1' may appear a little confusing to people not aware of the difference, the Trustees of Q1 Foundation have provided a statement to Genie to clarify their different, but interconnected, roles.

The Charitable objects (mission statement) of Q1 Foundation are: 'The charity's objects are specifically restricted only for the public benefit to preventing and providing relief from sickness, disease or human suffering of vulnerable adult members of the public in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, in particular, but not exclusively by ...'.

To read the full text of the charitable objects and other details of Q1 Foundation, as registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales, click HERE.

Didcot (not Crowmarsh) will be the new home of the joint South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District **Council offices** 

Following an arson attack in January 2015 which destroyed SODC's offices at Crowmarsh Gifford, near Wallingford, the plan announced in February this year to rebuild on the original site has now been abandoned.



The new plan, announced 10 days ago, is for a new, smaller headquarters opposite Didcot Parkway railway station, with a possible completion date in 2023. The budget allocated for rebuilding at Crowmarsh in 2019/20 was £9.4m, but the draft budget almost doubled to £17.8m, triggering the rethink. The budget for the new HQ has not been announced yet, but in addition to the financial considerations, Didcot would be a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly location. Changing operational practices, with some staff working remotely as a result of Covid-19, and the proximity of the mainline station, are important factors.

The future of the council-owned land in Crowmarsh is undecided at this point. Read SODC's recent announcement here.



This year, due to so many COVID-19 related restrictions, the school's PTA have decided not to go ahead with the event. This is a loss to the crafters, the school for whom the event raises approximately £4,000, and the community itself.

To try and support the crafters involved, please visit their website, http://www.goringcraftfair.co.uk, where you will find many of their details and can order bespoke gifts from them directly. Happy Christmas shopping!

The PTA sincerely hope to see this wonderful weekend event back up and running in 2021 so please save the

date - Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 November 2021.

## Job redundancy: check your rights and talk to Citizens Advice

One of the most serious outcomes of the current pandemic problem is that thousands of people in the UK are losing their jobs. If you are one of these people, and are made redundant or offered voluntary redundancy, it is important that you thoroughly understand your rights and options.

The first thing to do if you are at risk of redundancy is to look at your contract of employment, which will spell out your basic rights. Make sure that your company abides by these conditions. Also, consider other sources of help such as your union if you belong to one. Bear in mind that if you have been in the job for less than two years you do not have as much job protection, but if for more than two years, your employer has to follow certain procedures, e.g. find you another job in the company if possible.



All the implications of redundancy are helpfully described on the Citizens Advice website at: https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/leaving-a-job. The website also gives advice about claiming benefits or dealing with your debts if you need this. You can talk to an adviser on their Adviceline, 0300 330 9042. Visit <u>www.caox.org.uk</u> to find your local Citizens Advice office.

You can't be made redundant in an unfair way or for discriminatory reasons. The reason must be a genuine one, i.e. the job you do or the skills you have are no longer needed, or the employer can't afford you, or the business is failing. With technology advancing, sometimes fewer people are needed to do a given job.

You might be entitled to receive redundancy pay, which increases with length of service and has two elements statutory and contractual. Statutory pay (not paid to those who have less than two years' service) is the minimum that the law says you are entitled to, and is based on your age, weekly pay and the number of years you have worked in the job. Contractual redundancy pay is the additional amount to which your contract may entitle you.

If you have been furloughed, the law says that your redundancy pay must be worked out according to your usual wages, not the 80% furlough figure. Bear in mind that if your employer offers you a suitable alternative job and you refuse to take it without good reasons, they can refuse to give you redundancy pay. You can check that your redundancy pay is fair by using the calculator at https://www.gov.uk/calculate-your-redundancy-pay.

You are also entitled to a paid notice period or pay in lieu of notice, and the employer should give you paid time off for attending job interviews.



#### MEETING DATES of forthcoming Parish Council meetings and MINUTES of decisions made at previous meetings

The purpose of 'Meetings & Minutes' is to help keep residents of Goring, Streatley and South Stoke informed about their council's forthcoming meetings and to provide easy access to the minutes of previous meetings. Please note that meeting dates may change and extra meetings may be called. This will be shown on the website.

All council meetings are open to the public and the press (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) and probably most, in the foreseeable future, will be 'virtual' ones due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At the beginning of every meeting there is usually a 'Public Forum' when members of the public can

address the council. Click on the link below for your parish council's web page for up-to-date details of meetings, agendas, minutes and how to log on etc.

## Goring-on-Thames PC

Tuesday 20 October 2020 – 7.30 pm (Planning Committee Meeting) Monday 9 November 2020 – 7.30pm (Full Council Meeting)

- Council meetings are usually on the second Monday of every second month at the Bellême Room,
- Goring Village Hall. Planning committee meetings are usually held in the council's meeting room in the Old Jubilee Fire Station, Red Cross Road, Goring on Thames.

Contact details for the clerk: Tel: 01491 874444. Email: clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk

### Streatley PC

Dates of individual meetings are not normally published on the council's website but usually held on the second Monday of every month (except August), starting at 7.30pm, and are held in the Morrell Room. The dates going forward for 2020/21 are: 9 November, 14 December, 11 January, 8 February and 8 March.

Contact details for the clerk: Tel: 01491 8729311. Email: <u>clerk@streatley.org</u>

### South Stoke PC

Council meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month (except December) in South Stoke Village Hall.

Contact details for the clerk: Email: <a href="mailto:clerk@southstoke.org.uk">clerk@southstoke.org.uk</a>



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 three for South Stoke.

### STREATLEY

Location: Proposal: Reference Number: **Consultation Deadline:** 

\* \* \* \* Location: Proposal:

Reference Number: 20/02204/HOUSE **Consultation Deadline:** 29 October 2020 \* \* \* \* Bauhinia Three Gables Lane Streatley Reading RG8 9LJ Location: Single storey front extension to replace existing glazed lobby and Proposal: internal alterations Reference Number: 20/02338/HOUSE **Consultation Deadline:** 3 November 2020 \* \* \* \* Location: The Coach House High Street Streatley Reading RG8 9HY T1 - Pine - Fell T2 - Birch - Reduce height and spread by 1-1.5m Proposal: T3 - Birch - Reduce height by 2m and spread by 1m T4 - Hornbeam - Reduce height by 2m and spread by 1.5-2m Reference Number: 20/02232/TPC **Consultation Deadline:** Target decision date 3 November 2020 \* \* \* \* Location: Highmeadow Cottage Streatley Hill Streatley Reading RG8 9RD Conversion of the garage roof space to a home office, ancillary to the use of the property as a dwellinghouse. Construction of 2 no. dormer Proposal: windows, erection of an external steel staircase and installation of a door at the head of the staircase to provide access into the new room Reference Number: 20/02346/HOUSE **Consultation Deadline:** 4 November 2020 SOUTH STOKE Red Kite House Ferry Road South Stoke RG8 0JL Location: Proposed demolition of existing conservatory with replacement Proposal: orangery. Reference Number: P20/S3579/HH **Consultation Deadline:** 2 November 2020 \* \* \* \* Plough Cottage The Street South Stoke Oxon RG8 0JS Location: Discharge of Conditions 3 (Sample Materials) and 4 (Construction and Joinery Details) of applications P20/S2018/HH and P20/S2019/LB. Proposal: Two storey rear extension and internal alterations to the cottage. Change of use/creation of en suite ground floor bedroom to existing barn - ancillary to the enjoyment of the dwelling Reference Number: P20/S3650/DIS **Consultation Deadline:** Target decision date 17 November 2020 \* \* \* \* Location: 6 Cross Keys Road South Stoke RG8 0JU Certificate of Lawful use for the formation of habitable room in roof Proposal: space with side dormer. Reference Number: P20/S3680/LDP **Consultation Deadline:** Target decision date 27 November 2020 GORING Location: 10 Heron Shaw Goring RG8 0AU Discharge of condition 3 - materials on P18/S1166/HH 2 storey side Proposal: and single storey rear extension (not subject to public consultation) P20/S3351/DIS Reference Number: **Consultation Deadline:** Target decision date 22 October 2020 \* \* \* \* Location: The Pavilion Thames Road Goring RG8 9AH Discharge condition 3 Materials on P19/S3274/FUL Construction of inlet from Thames for mooring within the site boundary; enlargement of Proposal: permitted riverside garden room and raising on stilts (not subject to public consultation) Reference Number: P20/S3280/DIS **Consultation Deadline:** Target decision date 26 October 2020 \* \* \* \* The Old Farmhouse Station Road RG8 9HD Location: Replace asbestos guttering with new heritage black aluminium gutters/downpipes, in keeping with the Old Farmhouse building & Proposal: consistent with the gutters on gable-end of the Barn Reference Number: P20/S3384/LB **Consultation Deadline:** 4 November 2020 \* \* \* \* Location: Junction of Station Rd/Red Cross Rd RG8 9HG Proposal: Change of use of ground floor from hairdressers to two flats Reference Number: P20/S3471/N5B **Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 11 November 2020** 

2 White Hart Yard High Street Streatley Reading RG8 9JE Flowering Cherry - Fell 20/02137/TPC Target decision date 22 October 2020

6 Hill Gardens Streatley Reading RG8 9QF Demolition of existing conservatory/sun room, proposed single storey rear extension. Modifications to existing window and door openings

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-planningapplication

\* \* \* \* \*

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 <u>contact@genienews.org</u> To send in news items, use <u>news@genienews.org</u>

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.

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More details on Genie newsletters here.

