

**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.

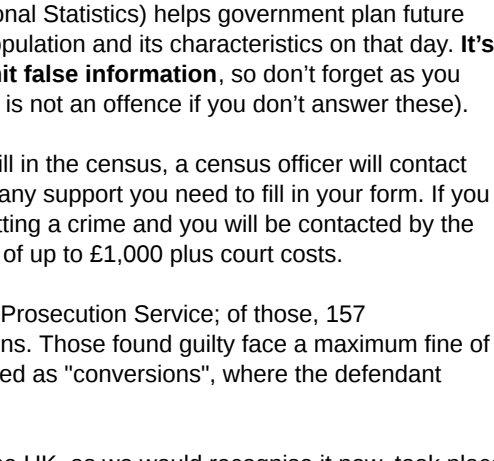
Submission date for articles for the next issue is 26 March

In this issue: Census on Sunday; Major fire at The Grotto; New owners for Goring Hardware; Miller re-opening; FOGL news; GVH AGM; news from u3a, local Covid vaccinations statistics – and our latest update of parish council meetings and new planning applications.

**It's Census day this Sunday**

A reminder that this Sunday every household is asked to complete the census form.

You should have received a census letter in the post with your 'household access code' explaining what to do. If you haven't received this letter, or need some more help or information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk) or call the census contact centre on 0800 141 2021.

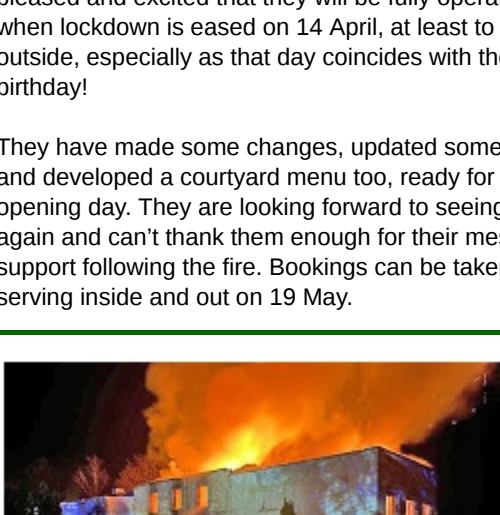


This once-a-decade survey organised by the ONS (Office of National Statistics) helps government plan future public services, amongst other things, and is a snapshot of the population and its characteristics on that day. It's a criminal offence not to submit your information, or to submit false information, so don't forget as you could be fined up to £1,000. (Some questions are voluntary and it is not an offence if you don't answer these).

**What happens if I don't do the census?** Essentially, if you do not fill in the census, a census officer will contact you and encourage you to complete it. They will help you access any support you need to fill in your form. If you still don't return or submit a completed census, you will be committing a crime and you will be contacted by the Non-Compliance team. If prosecuted, you may have to pay a fine of up to £1,000 plus court costs.

After the 2011 census, the ONS referred 369 cases to the Crown Prosecution Service; of those, 157 prosecutions were brought to court, with 120 resulting in convictions. Those found guilty face a maximum fine of £1,000 and a criminal record. The remaining 37 cases are classified as "conversions", where the defendant completed the census form at court. See Legislation.

You can look at the last 2011 census [HERE](#). The first census in the UK, as we would recognise it now, took place in 1801, with just 6 questions. The data is available from all surveys since then. National surveys date way back and the Romans used them extensively (Latin censere, 'to assess'). The first formal English census was, of course, The Domesday Book of 1086, instigated by William the Conqueror in an effort to assess who owned what motivated, no doubt, by how much tax he could extract.



**Ownership of Goring Hardware will change on 1 April**

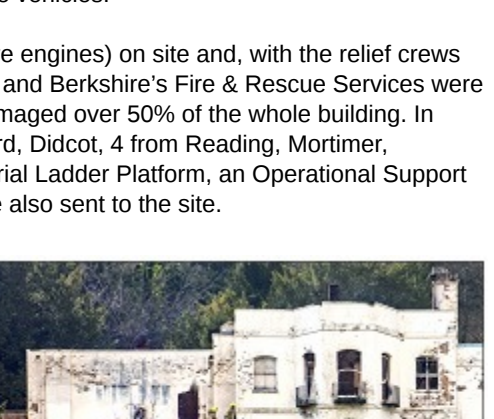
Tanya and Alan, who have built up their business in Red Cross Road over the last 11 years, say customers will hardly notice any difference after they hand over the keys to the new owners on 1 April.

The entire team of staff is remaining in place and the new owners intend to continue to run the shop exactly as it is, at least in the short term, and hope to make it even better, if that's possible, in the longer term. Genie cannot disclose the names of the new owners just yet, but they are local and have lived in the area for the past decade, so know the business well.

Tanya will still be seen in the shop for a while after the changeover to ensure a smooth transition, and is looking forward to thanking all the shop's loyal customers for their support over the years.

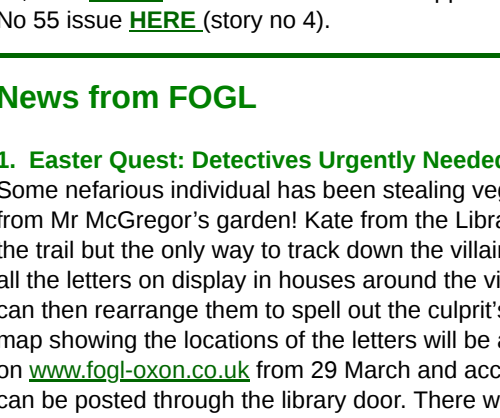
**The Miller of Mansfield in Goring High Street is ready to reopen on 14 April**

After the devastating fire last October, the Miller is now fully refurbished



Mary and Nick say that progress has been very slow to refit and refurbish after the fire (see [Genie Village Matters No 72](#), story no 1) due to the Covid restrictions, but are pleased and excited that they will be fully operational again when lockdown is eased on 14 April, at least to open outside, especially as that day coincides with their 7th birthday!

They have made some changes, updated some furnishings and developed a courtyard menu too, ready for the outside opening day. They are looking forward to seeing everyone again and can't thank them enough for their messages of support following the fire. Bookings can be taken [online](#) from later this week and they'll be fully operational for serving inside and out on 19 May.



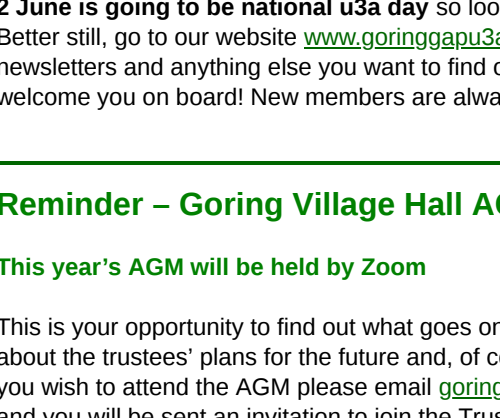
**Major fire at The Grotto (aka ILAM), the listed, derelict Georgian mansion in Lower Basildon**

Many of you may have seen the photograph on the left (courtesy of Mortimer Fire Service) on Genie's Twitter and Facebook channels on 6 March, when we reported the incident while the building was still smouldering and we promised more details when available.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, 6 March, a 999 call was received at 2.35am and fire crews from Oxfordshire and Berkshire Fire Services responded. The Goring crew was first on the scene, arriving at 2.47am, just 12 minutes after the call, and had to cut the heavy-duty chains on the gates to gain access.

On arrival they found the fire was already well established and they used portable pumps to use water from the river to start to tackle the blaze. By this time several other crews had arrived and worked together as a team, using their portable pumps along with main 4 jets from tanks in the vehicles.

During the night and day they were always at least six pumps (fire engines) on site and, with the relief crews which arrived throughout the day, many crews from Oxfordshire's and Berkshire's Fire & Rescue Services were involved in fighting the fire which was estimated to have badly damaged over 50% of the whole building. In total, 13 crews were dispatched from stations in Goring, Wallingford, Didcot, 4 from Reading, Mortimer, Wokingham, Windsor, Maidenhead, Slough and Bracknell. An Aerial Ladder Platform, an Operational Support Unit, a Water Carrier and other specialist support equipment were also sent to the site.



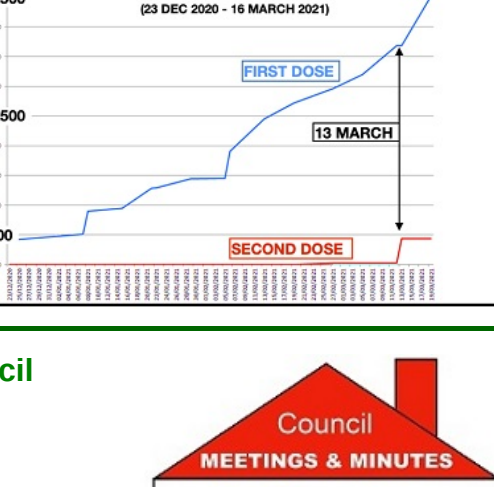
Some officers told Genie they were treating the whole 8.5 acre estate as a crime scene, which is normal for an unexplained fire. We await the outcome of the official fire investigation team's report.

To see a short aerial video of The Grotto, click [HERE](#). Genie Village Matters has previously reported on The Grotto's recent plans for development into a luxury hotel and leisure complex. You can read these reports here: [Issue 68](#), 16 August 2020 (story no 8), [Issue 35](#), 31 March 2019 (story no 5) and [Issue 16](#), 27 April 2018 (story no 3).

Should anyone be interested in joining the Goring crew as an on-call firefighter they would be most welcome. If so, read [HERE](#) and also look at the last appeal for more help in Goring in Genie's January 2020 Village Matters No 55 issue [HERE](#) (story no 4).

**News from FOGL**

**1. Easter Quest: Detectives Urgently Needed!**  
Some nefarious individual has been stealing vegetables from Mr McGregor's garden! Kate from the Library is on the trail but the only way to track down the villain is to find all the letters on display in houses around the village. You can then rearrange them to spell out the culprit's name. A map showing the locations of the letters will be available on [www.fo-gl-oxon.co.uk](http://www.fo-gl-oxon.co.uk) from 29 March and accusations can be posted through the library door. There will be a prize draw on Saturday 17 April at 1pm to reward the successful sleuth. Good luck!



**2. Can You Help?**  
The Home Library Service has been a lifeline to many people over the past year. It has helped to make some of the most vulnerable in our communities feel perhaps slightly less alone in such difficult times. In Goring alone over 25 people make use of the service, receiving regular deliveries of books and audio-books, but we are in desperate need of more volunteers.

If you think you might be able to help out, please do contact Kate Cheng, the Library Manager, on [kate.cheng@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.cheng@oxfordshire.gov.uk) so that she can let you know more about what's involved. You may even know of someone unable to get around who would like to access the service. If so, do let Kate have their details so she can register them.



**Goring Gap u3a**

Sue Hookway writes:  
It was a year ago in March that we had to cancel our monthly general meetings in Goring Village Hall. However, since August we have held these very successfully each month via Zoom. While we all miss meeting in person, the numbers attending these have steadily increased, exceeding the capacity of the GVH!

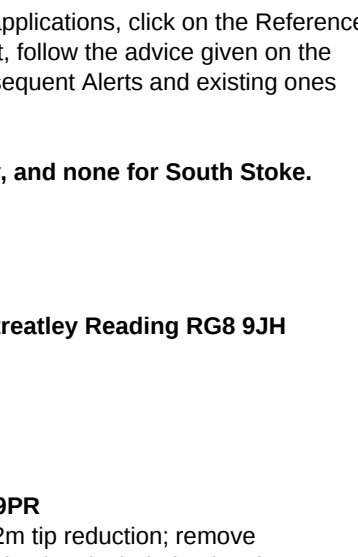
Our latest talk by Christopher Baines: *Paul Nash and the Wittenham Clumps* was fascinating and top standard in both presentation and content. We have 34 interest groups and many of these have also been meeting via Zoom.

**2 June is going to be national u3a day** so look out for publicity about our u3a around the village on that day. Better still, go to our website [www.goringgapu3a.org.uk/](http://www.goringgapu3a.org.uk/) to find details about our events, interest groups, newsletters and anything else you want to find out about us! If you are retired or semi-retired, we would love to welcome you on board! New members are always welcome (see website for details).

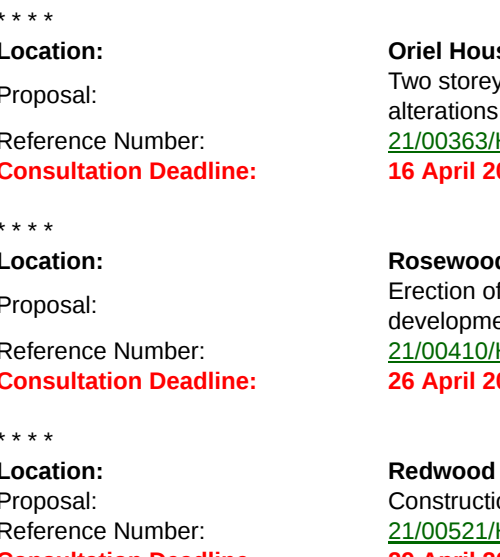
Sue Hookway, Chair Goring Gap u3a

**Reminder – Goring Village Hall AGM on 17 March**

This year's AGM will be held by Zoom



This is your opportunity to find out what goes on behind the scenes, hear about the trustees' plans for the future and, of course, ask questions. If you wish to attend the AGM please email [goringvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:goringvillagehall@gmail.com) and you will be sent an invitation to join the Trustees at 7.30pm on 17 March.

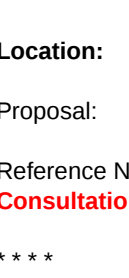


**Latest local Covid vaccination progress**

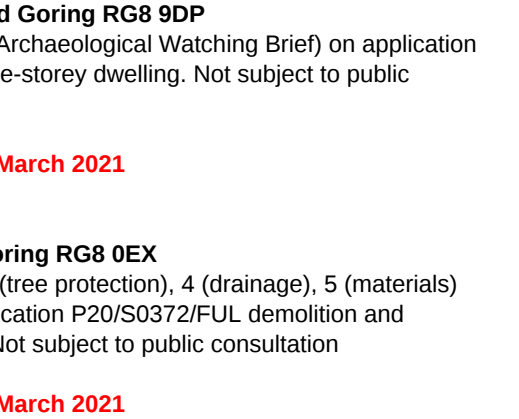
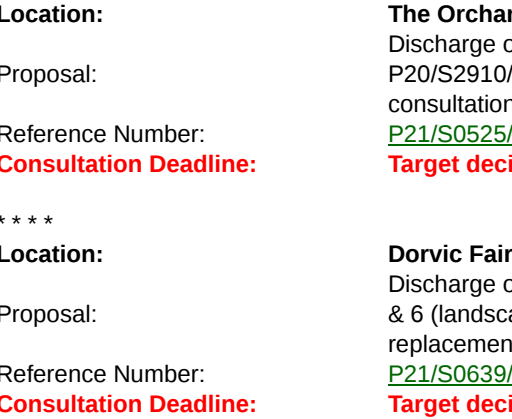
Impressive numbers of people have now been vaccinated by the staff and support team at the practice, with the initial batch of 408 patients given their second doses of the Pfizer jab at Wallingford Hospital last Saturday, 13 March.

The day before, on 12 March, 495 AstraZeneca vaccines were administered at the Goring Surgery and a further 825 AstraZeneca jabs are planned for this Friday, 19 March 2021. By the end of this week (subject to uptake) 4,949 vaccines, of which 436 will be second doses, will have been given by the Goring & Woodcote practice.

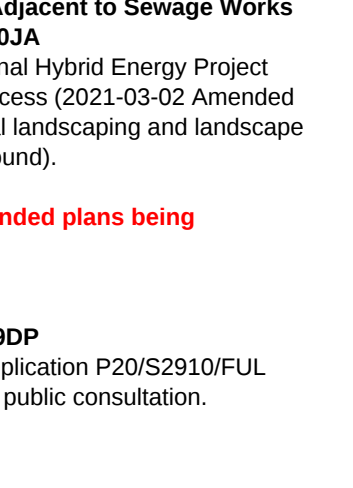
They are now booking anyone from groups 1-9 and they will have offered a first dose to all groups 1-9 with this Friday (19th), that is anyone aged over 50, all healthcare professionals, all shielding and at-risk patients/carers that they know about.



Genie will provide more information soon regarding Groups 10 (40-49), 11 (30-39) and 12 (18-29). To find out the latest information about Covid numbers in our area and much more about Covid generally and the timetable for the lifting of lockdown restrictions etc., just click this graphic which is always on the Home page of the [Genie website](#).



**MEETINGS 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 23 March: 7.30 pm (Planning Committee Meeting)  
Monday 10 May: 7.30 pm (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](mailto: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.

Contact details for the clerk: Tel: 07766 541577 Email: [clerk@streatley.org](mailto:clerk@streatley.org)

**South Stoke PC**

Council meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month in South Stoke Village Hall. See [website](#) for details

Contact details for the clerk: Email: [clerk@southstoke.org.uk](mailto:clerk@southstoke.org.uk)



This twice monthly 'Goring 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, six for Streatley, and none for South Stoke.

**STREATLEY**

**Location:** 5 Pound Cottages Wallingford Road Streatley Reading RG8 9JH  
**Proposal:** Addition of 4 Conservation Rooflights  
**Reference Number:** [21/00303/CERTP](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** 8 April 2021

**Location:** Chaddleworth Streatley Reading RG8 9PR  
**Proposal:** T1 - Turkey Oak - reduce canopy by 1.5/2m tip reduction; remove deadwood; remove redundant lower limb back to included union that hangs over the garage (as highlighted in photos).  
**Reference Number:** [21/00483/TPW|T1](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** 9 April 2021

**Location:** Oriel House Townsend Road Streatley Reading RG8 9LH  
**Proposal:** Two storey front extension, new entrance porch and minor internal alterations  
**Reference Number:** [21/00363/HOUSE](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** 16 April 2021

**Location:** Rosewood House The Coombe Streatley Reading RG8 9QT  
**Proposal:** Erection of octagonal summerhouse to replace an existing permitted development greenhouse  
**Reference Number:** [21/00410/HOUSE](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** 26 April 2021

**Location:** Redwood Townsend Road Streatley Reading RG8 9LH  
**Proposal:** Construction of a single storey garden office and gym  
**Reference Number:** [21/00521/HOUSE](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** 29 April 2021

**Location:** West Streatley House High Street Streatley Reading RG8 9HY  
**Proposal:** Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (materials) of approved 20/01940/LB2 - The addition of a kitchen vent through the roof of the rear extension  
**Reference Number:** [21/00292/COND1](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** 5 May 2021

**SOUTH STOKE**

None

**GORING**

**Location:** Thurle Down Bridle Way Goring RG8 0HS  
**Proposal:** Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on application ref. P20/S3979/FUL demolition and replacement of dwelling house;- addition of a basement floor.  
**Reference Number:** [P21/S0712/FUL](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** 26 March 2021

**Location:** The Orchard Manor Road Goring RG8 9DP  
**Proposal:** Discharge of condition 5 (Archaeological Watching Brief) on application P20/S2910/FUL new single-storey dwelling. Not subject to public consultation.  
**Reference Number:** [P21/S0525/DIS](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** Target decision date 30 March 2021

**Location:** Dorvic Fairfield Road Goring RG8 0EX  
**Proposal:** Discharge of conditions 3 (tree protection), 4 (drainage), 5 (materials) & 6 (landscaping) on application P20/S0372/FUL demolition and replacement of dwelling. Not subject to public consultation  
**Reference Number:** [P21/S0639/DIS](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** Target decision date 31 March 2021

**Location:** Land to the west of Wallingford Road Adjacent to Sewage Works between Goring and South Stoke RG8 0JA  
**Proposal:** Development and operation of a Transitional Hybrid Energy Project and associated infrastructure including access (2021-03-02 Amended Plans to extend red line, include additional landscaping and landscape details and temporary construction compound).  
**Reference Number:** [P20/S4706/FUL](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** Extended to 31 March 2021 due to amended plans being submitted

**Location:** The Orchard Manor Road Goring RG8 9DP  
**Proposal:** Discharge of condition 8 (Materials) on application P20/S2910/FUL new single-storey dwelling. Not subject to public consultation.  
**Reference Number:** [P21/S0589/DIS](#)  
**Consultation Deadline:** Target decision date 6 April 2021

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](mailto:contact@genienews.org)  
To send in news items, use [news@genienews.org](mailto: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.

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

