

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 November

In this issue: Goring Gap Players need help; Brass Quintet concert; Purple Poppies and high attendance on Remembrance Sunday; Chair of Streatley Pre-School sought; Call for volunteer befrienders; Power Station application refused; S Stoke School fundraiser; Local wildlife calendar – and our latest update of new planning applications.

Music for Brass Quintet

On Friday 26 November at 7pm at the Catholic Church of Our Lady & St John, Goring

You may remember that ill-health intervened for the first evening planned for the new building at Our Lady and St John in Ferry Lane in October. Jeremy Nicholas will be here in the spring for Jerome K. Jerome.

All seems well for the first concert – five brass players from the London Philharmonic Orchestra will be here for on Friday 26 November for a recital of masterpieces and lollipops with five of London's leading brass players. It should be a fabulous evening.

Tickets: £15 & £7.50 (students & children) or £10 & £5 (slightly restricted view). From www.galleegoring.org.uk or 01491 872181.



Purple poppies in remembrance of the animal victims of war

Amongst the large group of people attending Sunday's service around Goring's war memorial were two donkeys.

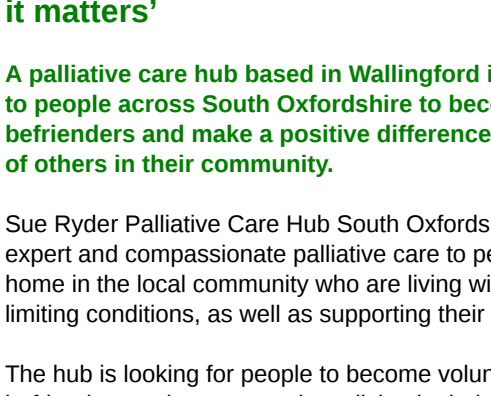
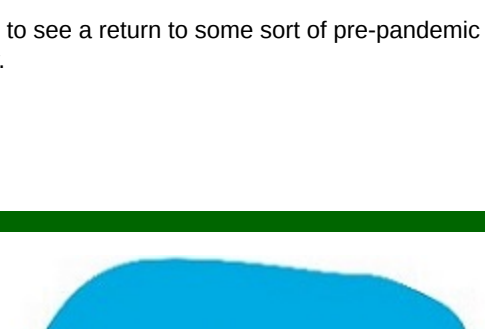
Pictured here with their owner in Rectory Garden and wearing their purple poppy headbands were George and Daisy. These two donkeys were representing the many animals, including dogs and carrier pigeons, but particularly the 8 million horses, donkeys and mules in WWI alone, which have died in the service of their countries.

Vacancy: Chair of Streatley Hill Pre-School Management Committee

A rewarding and valuable volunteering opportunity at the heart of our local community is available as Chair of the Streatley Hill Pre-School Management Committee.

The Management Committee is currently made up of parents who have children at the Pre-school, although this is not a prerequisite. The role would suit someone with an interest in the community and the wellbeing of our youngest members.

This is a really rewarding role, supported by an amazing team. For more details and contact information please click [HERE](#).



Large numbers attend the Acts of Remembrance in the Gap on Sunday

After the very low numbers of people who were able to attend last year because of lockdown, the numbers of people present at the war memorials in Goring, Streatley and South Stoke were back to pre-pandemic levels.

It is good to see a return to some sort of pre-pandemic normality.

Palliative Care Hub calls on South Oxfordshire residents to 'be there when it matters'

A palliative care hub based in Wallingford is appealing to people across South Oxfordshire to become befrienders and make a positive difference to the lives of others in their community.

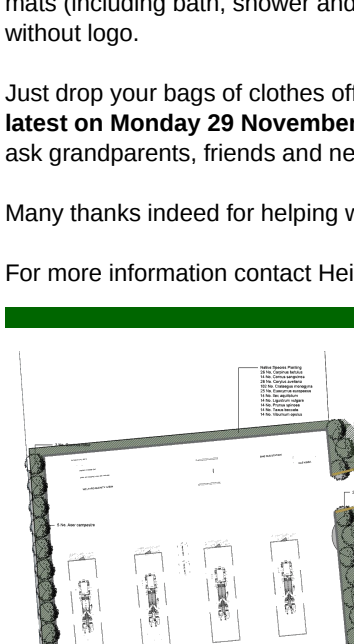
Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub South Oxfordshire provides expert and compassionate palliative care to people at home in the local community who are living with life-limiting conditions, as well as supporting their families.

The hub is looking for people to become volunteer befrienders and support patients living in their local area by providing companionship, helping them to shop or visit favourite places, or offering respite for their family.

For further details click [HERE](#).



Goring Gap Players Proudly Present A Dolls House



Help needed! Goring Gap Players' A Dolls House

Plea for help in moving parts of the set after the final production

The GGP need a volunteer with a van available to take the rocking horse and two chairs back to Wallingford Road in South Stoke and a Christmas tree to Cleve Court in Streatley. This would need to be done after the show on Sunday 28 November (approximately 10.05pm). The rocking horse is 60in X 50in and the Christmas tree is about 5ft tall. It would help a great deal if someone could volunteer as the alternative of hiring a van is quite costly.

If you can help, please contact Chris Bertrand: canjbertrand@gmail.com, 01491 871835 or 07561 094412.

Tickets are also still available at Inspiraions in Goring or by contacting Jean Betteridge on 01491 873630.

Another clothes and shoe collection to raise funds for South Stoke School

As well as raising vitally needed funds for South Stoke School, it benefits the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill.

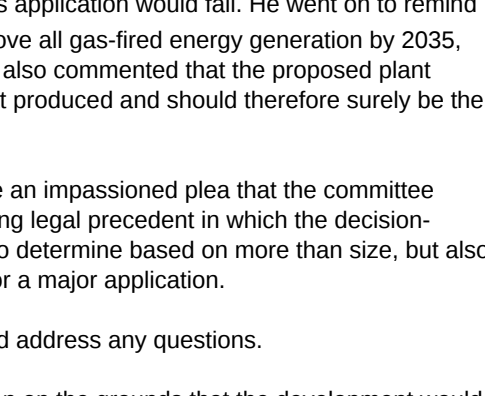
This can include: adults' and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together), handbags, hats, bags, scarves, ties, jewellery, socks, belts.

They cannot accept: duvets and blankets, soft toys, curtains, bedding, pillows and cushions, carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats) Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing, school uniforms with and without logo.

Just drop your bags of clothes off from 4pm on **Sunday 28 November to 8.30am latest on Monday 29 November** at South Stoke Recreation Ground. Don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!

Many thanks indeed for helping with this unique fundraising opportunity.

For more information contact Heidi Tunney 07788 716396.



Goring Power Station application refused

SODC Planning Committee goes against Planning Officer recommendation

In a rare turn of events, South Oxfordshire District Council's Planning Committee rejected the Planning Officer's advice and rejected the application. The decision was made after representations by several members of the community, two Parish Councils and the District Councillor.

Goring's Parish Councillor Sonia Lofthouse reiterated that the application for this 'hybrid plant' is fossil-fuelled and not low carbon or renewable. She quoted local plan and national policies and reminded the committee that even if the landscape proposals developed optimally, it would take about half of the plan's 25 year life for the site to be mitigated.

South Stoke's Parish Councillor Andrew Scrivener argued that because the World Health Organisation has recently reduced recommended maximum NOx levels in 2021, this application would fail. He went on to remind the committee that the Government has proposed a target to remove all gas-fired energy generation by 2035, and that the application seeks to obtain permission until 2046. He also commented that the proposed plant appears to be the least efficient type, making no use of waste heat produced and should therefore surely be the first on the list to be eliminated in the run up to the 2035 target.

Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Goring Ward District Councillor, made an impassioned plea that the committee should consider the application as 'major' instead of 'minor', quoting legal precedent in which the decision-makers – in this case the Committee – have complete discretion to determine based on more than size, but also impact. She then argued that the application would fail the tests for a major application.

The applicant had two opportunities to speak to the committee and address any questions.

The Committee decided by majority (6 to 4) to reject the application on the grounds that the development would cause unacceptable harm to the landscape, character and scenic beauty of the AONB. The SODC Senior Planning team leader, Paula Fox, advised that this is a legal reason for refusal.

The applicant has the right to appeal this decision, though now the SODC planning team would fight against any arguments put forward by the applicant in any appeal.

To view the planning meeting and listen to the objectors as well as the applicant trying to persuade the Planning Committee of their views, please [click here for the link](#) to the YouTube channel. The discussion and ultimate vote on this application starts at about 5:18 in the video.

New local wildlife calendar highlights biodiversity decline

The Natural World in the Goring Gap, 2022 has been produced in Goring to raise awareness of the worrying loss of biodiversity of birds and other animals we used to see frequently. 70% of the animals featured in this A3-sized calendar are either on the IUCN's Red or Amber List of threatened species in Britain.

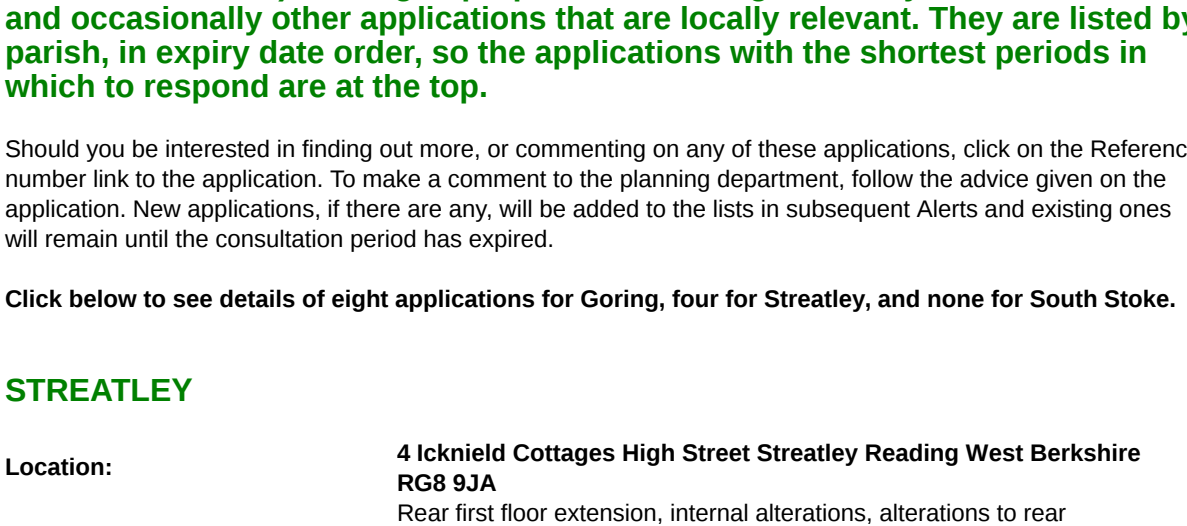
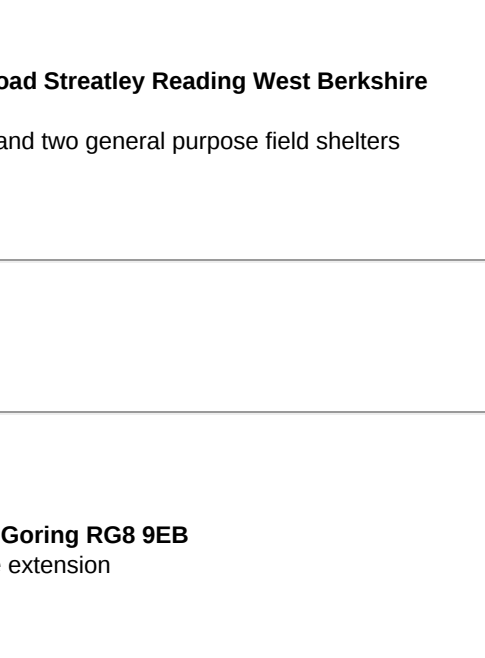
The official calendar of status of all the species featured, taken mainly by local photographers, is listed on the back page with other information. 100% of the sales proceeds will be donated to raise much needed funds for the wildlife charity BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust), which manages Hartslock Nature Reserve in Goring, amongst others, and works to protect vulnerable flora and fauna. This is the first project by the newly formed Goring Gap Environmental Organization (GGEO) and will be on sale on or about 25 November.

To support this project, both Goring companies who sponsored the production and design costs of the calendar, along with all the outlets in Goring High Street and elsewhere who are selling it, are helping to protect our local natural world and trying to reverse the decline.

One example of the help being given is the work to save an endangered animal on the calendar. The small furry animal featured on the December page of the calendar is Britain's fastest declining mammal and very rarely seen nowadays along the banks of the river in Goring and Streatley. It is the water vole, *Arvicola amphibius*, perhaps better known to readers of *The Wind in the Willows* as 'Ratty'.

It is estimated that 95% of this species has been lost in the last century, mainly due to habitat destruction, river pollution and its most voracious predator, the American mink. This particular animal was introduced for fur farming in the late 1920s but escaped/was released in the 1950s and has thrived here ever since. BBOWT's *Water Vole Recovery Project* aims to restore the natural habitats and the eco-system of water voles and a short video guide about the animal, sometimes confused with the brown rat at a distance, can be viewed [HERE](#).

GGEO is trying to extend this recovery project to our stretch of the Thames and water courses in the Goring Gap, in the hope that our local water vole population may gradually recover. For further information please email ronbriddle@btinternet.com.



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 eight applications for Goring, four for Streatley, and none for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: 4 Icknield Cottages High Street Streatley Reading West Berkshire RG8 9JA
Proposal: Rear first floor extension, internal alterations, alterations to rear outbuilding, new doors, timber framed roof lantern, outside lighting and construction of new brick & flint garden wall
Reference Number: 21/02439/HOUSE
Consultation Deadline: 16 November 2021

Location: 4 Icknield Cottages High Street Streatley Reading West Berkshire RG8 9JA
Proposal: Rear first floor extension, internal alterations, alterations to rear outbuilding, new doors, timber framed roof lantern, outside lighting and construction of new brick & flint garden wall
Reference Number: 21/02440/LBC2
Consultation Deadline: 16 November 2021

Location: Paget House Wantage Road Streatley Reading West Berkshire RG8 9LA
Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 (Arb Method Statement) of planning permission 21/01293/HOUSE - Detached oak framed garage.
Reference Number: 21/02385/COND1
Determination deadline: 17 November 2021

Location: Linden Cottage Reading Road Streatley Reading West Berkshire RG8 9NB
Proposal: Erection of agricultural barn and two general purpose field shelters
Reference Number: 21/02486/FUL
Consultation Deadline: 18 November 2021

SOUTH STOKE

None

GORING

Location: South Woden Manor Road Goring RG8 9EB
Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension
Reference Number: P21/S4353/HH
Consultation Deadline: 17 November 2021

Location: High Winds Bridle Way Goring RG8 0HS
Proposal: Single storey, side garage extension
Reference Number: 21/02475/HH
Consultation Deadline: 17 November 2021

Location: The Coach House Icknield Rd Goring RG8 0DG
Proposal: First floor side extension & single storey extension
Reference Number: P21/S4620/HH
Consultation Deadline: 29 November 2021

Location: 4 Walnut Tree Court Goring RG8 9HW
Proposal: Enlargement of dining room window; small living room window to be increased; uPVC replacement windows with grey exterior finish; garage door opening to be bricked up in matching brickwork
Reference Number: P21/S4565/HH
Consultation Deadline: 1 December 2021

Location: Sangalala Elmhurst Walk Goring RG8 9DE
Proposal: Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling
Reference Number: P21/S4595/HH
Consultation Deadline: 1 December 2021

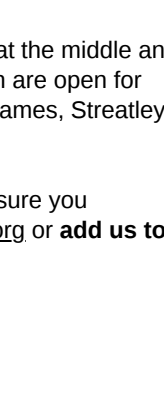
Location: 2 Long Meadow Goring RG8 9EG
Proposal: Extensions at front and rear; new porch & canopy; demolish existing garage and replace; widen vehicle access
Reference Number: P21/S4722/HH
Consultation Deadline: 2 December 2021

Location: The Hollies Howgate Drive Goring RG8 9DQ
Proposal: Proposed garage conversion.
Reference Number: P21/S4182/LDP
Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 2 December 2021

Location: 28 Holmea Road Goring RG8 9EX
Proposal: Discharge of condition 3 (Surface Water Drainage) on P21/S2627/FUL – demolition of existing dwelling & erection of replacement. Not subject to public consultation.
Reference Number: P21/S4531/DIS
Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 6 December 2021

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

Goring-on-Thames PC; Streatley PC; South Stoke PC



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 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.

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