

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 October

In this issue: Big Green Day; Rail Strikes; New stores in Goring; October events; Awards for Goring; Fundraising parachute jump; Lowbury Hill mystery; Osprey sighting in the Gap; Warm Home Discount; District Councillor report – and our latest update of new planning applications.

REMINDER – Goring's Big Green Day event in Rectory Garden

Tomorrow (Saturday) 10am to 2pm (Goring Village Hall, if wet)

There will be live music and refreshments including WI cakes and teas, so come along and learn how to save fuel, save money, share advice and discover simple ways for all of us to help save the planet.

Enjoy the Big Green Day!

See the [previous article](#) in Genie for full details.



Forthcoming Rail Strikes

Saturday (1 October) when ASLEF (train drivers), the RMT (on board and station staff, and Network Rail signallers) and Unite (engineering staff) are on strike.

This will be followed by further strikes on:

- Wednesday 5 October** – ASLEF
- Thursday 6 October** – TSSA (GWR management staff including control centre)
- Friday 7 October** – TSSA
- Saturday 8 October** – RMT

There will be no service whatsoever on strike days on the majority of the GWR network.

A full list of where they are able to operate trains each day is available on their dedicated strike page:

www.gwr.com/strike. These will be extremely limited and will start later and finish much earlier than usual. Advice to customers is to **only travel if absolutely necessary** and make alternative arrangements. The strikes will also impact the start of service on Sunday 2 October and Sunday 9 October and no rail replacement services will run throughout.

Journey planners will be updated as soon as possible with the revised timetables in areas where services are running. Specific timetable information for each day will be available on www.gwr.com/strike, along with information on refunds and use of tickets on alternative dates.

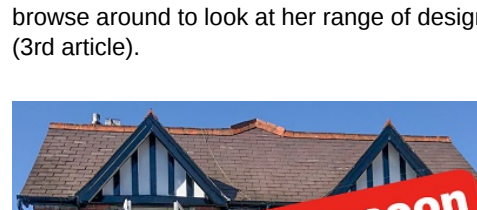
What's On – for the month of October 2022

Below is a selection of some of the upcoming events on the [Genie Calendar](#)

Please go there for details and more events, or to add your own event for free:

Fire Station new date and Lowbury Hill at the library

Mon, Tues, Fri	Weekly activities at The Hub – coffee, exercise, games etc
Mon, Thurs	8-10am Mobile post office outside Westholme Stores
Sat 1 Oct	Great Big Green Day 10am-2pm Rectory Garden
Sun 2 Oct	2 Oct 2.30pm Come and Sing at St Mary's Streatley
Wed 5 Oct	Village Greenfingers: 'The Gardening Business'
Thurs 6 Oct	Wallingford Photo Club resumes at Crownmarsh Pavilion
Fri 7 Oct	Goring & Streatley Wine Society: Tim Syrad presenting
Sat 8 Oct	• 10.30am-12.30pm 'Understanding Dementia' at The Hub • 10am-1pm Woodcote Craft Fair at Langtree School
Sun 9 Oct	10am-4pm Goring Fire Station Open Day (revised date)
Tues 11 Oct	10.30am-12noon Parkinson's Support Group at The Hub
Wed 12 Oct	• 7.30pm WI: Halloween evening – new members welcome • 8pm TWHAS 'Silchester Revealed' St Mary's Wallingford • 7.30pm BMMHS 'White ship – red crosses' Woodcote Village Hall
Thurs 13 Oct	10-10.30am Storytime at the Library (weekly, term-time)
Fri 14 Oct	• 1.30-3pm Stay and Play at Streatley Pre-school • 10am-4pm Fashion Sale Fundraiser at The Hub (also Sat)
Sat 15 Oct	• Hub Heroes Tandem Skydive at Netheravon, Wilts – sponsor them at The Hub • 3pm Goring Chamber Choir Concert at St Thomas'
Mon 17 Oct	• 10am-12noon GFC Ukraine support drop-in café • 2.30pm Goring Gap Local History Society: 'The Commonwealth War Graves'
Thurs 20 Oct	10.30am-2pm Pick-a-Flick 'The Note Book'
Sat 22 Oct	Half Term week – Yippee! • Start of 'Lowbury Hill' month at Goring Library – free exhibition, activities and events • Beale Park 'Creepy but Cool' week • Sue Ryder Starlight Hike at Pangbourne College
Thurs 27 Oct	10.30am-12noon Goring u3a 'The American song book'
Mon 31 Oct	Back to school and Halloween
Tues 1 Nov	1.30pm 'Talk, Taste and a Terrific Tea' Goring Village Hall



Two regional awards for Goring-on-Thames this week

Goring-on-Thames in Bloom and Withymead Nature Reserve both received awards on Wednesday at the Thames & Chilterns in Bloom Awards Ceremony covering the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Region of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

The Gold award, Goring's seventh top award, was presented to Goring-on-Thames in Bloom following the RHS judging in July. In a separate category, Withymead Nature Reserve won the Regional Award for 'Conservation and Wildlife', being the best nature reserve that the judges had visited this year in the three counties. A visit to Withymead is always an important feature in the itinerary of the judges' tour around Goring and the Bloom group was delighted to be presented with the award on behalf of the Withymead team.

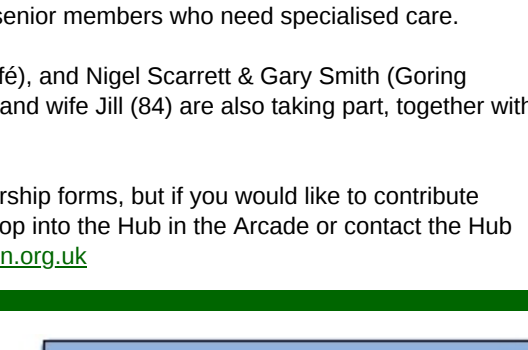


As this was the first awards ceremony to take place since the pandemic, the meeting started off with an ovation, led by the Chairman, congratulating Goring-on-Thames in Bloom on its success in winning the title of Best Small Town in the UK in 2019.

The team representing the Bloom group collecting the awards were (L to R) volunteer Allan Davey and committee members Ron Bridle, Stephanie Bridle (Chair), and Janet Hurst, together with Janet Sartorel, the Mayor of Woodley Town Council, who hosted the awards ceremony.

Two new stores are opening in Goring in October

One in the High Street, the other in Station Road, next to the hardware shop

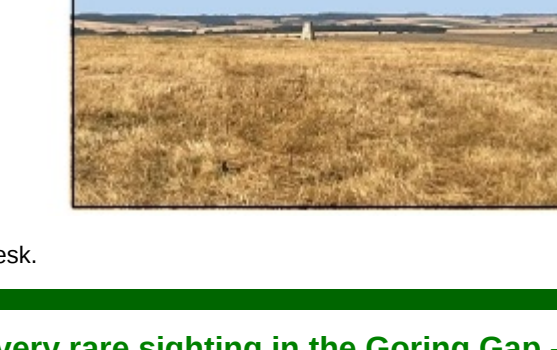
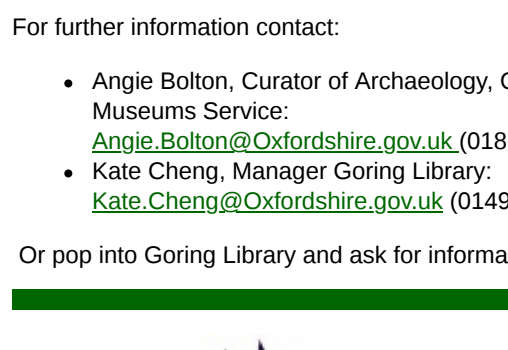


Goring Convenience Store

As indicated in our [16 August issue](#) (6th article), the old McColl's store now has a new tenant who will be opening soon as 'Goring Convenience Store'. No date has been made as the shop is being modified and fitted out. The decision whether or not to have a Post Office Counter Service within the store has not been made yet.

Nicole Mae's Bridal Boutique

Nicole Mae's Bridal will officially open on Saturday 29 October with a 'Welcome Event' between 11am and 3pm. Nicole looks forward to meeting people and helping with any questions they may have. Everyone is welcome to browse around to look at her range of designer wedding dresses and accessories. Details in our [16 July issue](#) (3rd article).



Parachute training before their big charity fundraising jump on 15 October

Four of the rookie (and plucky) wannabee skydivers, pictured here, were practising their first 'assisted descent and landing' in the Arcade, Goring on Tuesday. "It worked for Mary Poppins", said Jo from the Village Café, keen to get an extra practice jump in before they travel to Netheravon airfield in Wiltshire for their first proper jump from 13,000 feet, over 2 miles high, albeit a Tandem one connected to an instructor.

It's all for a good cause and these 'Hub Heroes' are raising funds for the Hub in Goring Arcade, which is part of the Q1 Foundation [charity](#), which provides support, information and education for the community, particularly the senior members who need specialised care.

Pictured (L to R) are Dawn Levett & Jo Heard (The Village Café), and Nigel Scarrett & Gary Smith (Goring Village Butchers). Stuart Rowsell (86) a Trustee of the charity and wife Jill (84) are also taking part, together with a number of other enterprising volunteers.

All the above will, no doubt, be keen to show you their sponsorship forms, but if you would like to contribute towards their fundraising efforts at any time, you can always pop into the Hub in the Arcade or contact the Hub Manager, Claire, on 01491 525637 or email info@q1foundation.org.uk

Goring Library and the Museums Service: 'The Mystery of Lowbury Hill'

Here is a reminder of the various events being organised in and around Goring, 22 October to 24 November

See [THIS LINK](#) for Dates for your Diary for children (all at Goring Library) and Dates for your Diary for Adults. See the [Genie calendar](#) for Dates for your Diary

- Follow the Roman Artefact Trail around the shops of Goring
- Walk to Lowbury Hill – a leaflet about the walk and the map will be available from the library.

For further information contact:

- Angie Bolton, Curator of Archaeology, Oxfordshire Museums Service: Angie.Bolton@Oxfordshire.gov.uk (01865 300557)
- Kate Cheng, Manager Goring Library: Kate.Cheng@Oxfordshire.gov.uk (01491 873208)

Or pop into Goring Library and ask for information at the desk.

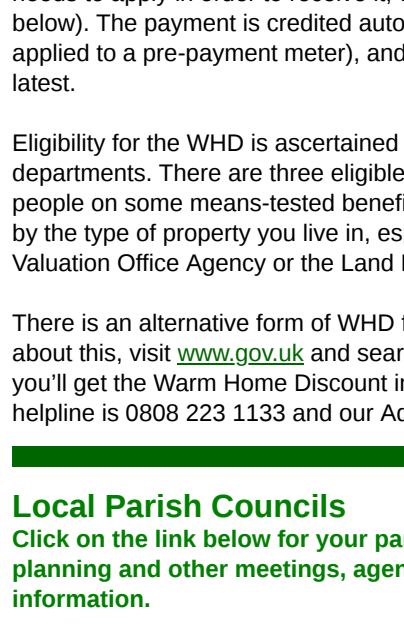


A very rare sighting in the Goring Gap – an Osprey

First spotted at 7.13am on 16 September, and initially thought to be a buzzard, the sighting caused great excitement when it was confirmed it was a young osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), a bird rarer in the UK than golden eagles.

One well-known local ornithologist, who has been regularly watching along the Thames for around 50 years, but missed this one, said he has only ever seen one in this area in half a century.

A fish-eating, migratory bird of prey, the osprey became extinct as a breeding species in Britain at the beginning of the 20th Century. Historically, ospreys were killed because they were seen as a threat to fish stocks that were used as a source of human food. They were considered vermin because they ate trout and salmon and were routinely shot by gamekeepers and sportsmen. They started to breed again in Scotland in the 1950s, as a result of conservation action in the UK, and the population has now recovered to about 230 pairs, most of them in Scotland. In the Thames Valley they occur as rare migrants, in spring usually between March and May, and in autumn between August and October when they fly to sub-Saharan Africa and settle along the shores of Gambia and Senegal.



Warm Home Discount rules updated for 2022-23 – Citizens Advice

As winter approaches, many people will be nervously anticipating the cold weather and its inevitable effect on their heating bills. The Warm Home Discount (WHD) was introduced by the government in 2011 to offset some of this burden.

For 2022-2023 there have been a couple of significant changes to the WHD: the number of energy suppliers participating in the scheme will increase, and those on disability benefits who don't have low incomes nor high energy costs will not receive the WHD.

The value of the WHD payment is currently £150. Nobody needs to apply to receive it, with the exception of those living in mobile homes on a park home site (see below). The payment is credited automatically to the consumer's electricity supply account (or credit is directly applied to a pre-payment meter), and energy suppliers have to make this payment by 31 March each year at the latest.

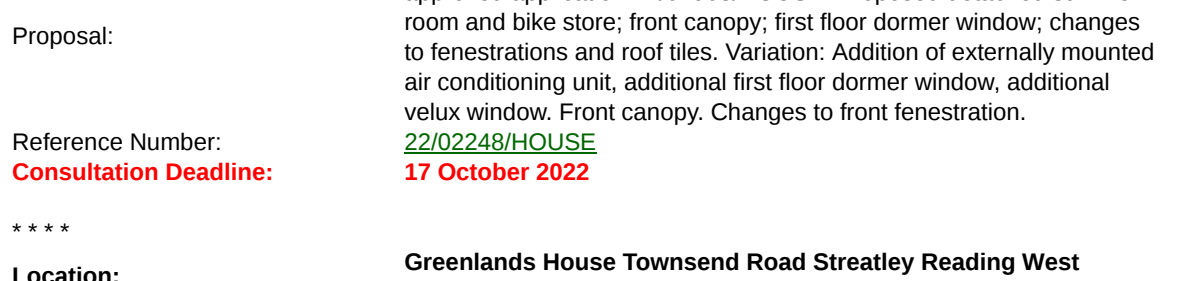
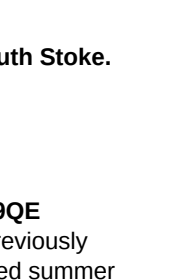
Eligibility for the WHD is ascertained by means of data-matching between energy suppliers and government department records. There are three eligible groups of consumers: low-income pensioner households; low-income people on some means-tested benefits; and households with high energy costs. This last criterion is determined by the type of property you live in, especially its age and its floor area (based on information supplied by the Valuation Office Agency or the Land Registry).

There is an alternative form of WHD for those living in mobile homes on park home sites. For more information about this, visit www.gov.uk and search for "Warm Home Discount". Also see the information under "Check if you'll get the Warm Home Discount in 2022" on <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>. The Citizens Advice consumer helpline is 0800 223 1133 and our AdviceLine is 0800 278 7907 if you have other concerns about energy costs.

Local Parish Councils

Click on the link below for your parish council's website for up-to-date details of planning and other meetings, agendas, minutes and further useful general information.

- [Goring-on-Thames PC;](#)
- [Streatley PC;](#)
- [South Stoke PC](#)



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 no applications for Goring, two for Streatley, and one for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: Warren Cottage Reading Road Streatley Reading RG8 9QE
Section 73: Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of previously approved application 21/02908/HOUSE: Proposed detached summer room and bike store; front canopy; first floor dormer window; changes to fenestrations and roof tiles. Variation: Addition of externally mounted air conditioning unit, additional first floor dormer window, additional velux window. Front canopy. Changes to front fenestration.

Reference Number: 22/02248/HOUSE
Consultation Deadline: 17 October 2022

Location: Greenlands House Townsend Road Streatley Reading West Berkshire RG8 9LH
Demolition of conservatory, garage conversion, single and two story rear extension, loft conversion including a rear dormer, alterations to the fenestration, rendering the external façade, and garden home office.

Reference Number: 22/02327/HOUSE
Consultation Deadline: 17 October 2022

SOUTH STOKE

Location: Land at Woodcote Road South Stoke RG8 0JJ
Discharge of condition 8 (Ecology) under application number P21/S2385/FUL (Variation of Condition 2 of application P19/S2865/RM- for the removal of the detached carport to Plots 2 & 3, removal of the carport to Plot 1, omission of the bike store to Plot 3, a new window to Plot 3 (east elevation) and relocation of 2no parking spaces to Plot 2. Application for approval of reserved matters relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following application P17/S3206/C for residential development (up to 5 dwellings), and associated works, including access.)

Reference Number: P21/S2385/FUL
Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 19 October 2022

GORING

None

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.

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