

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 January

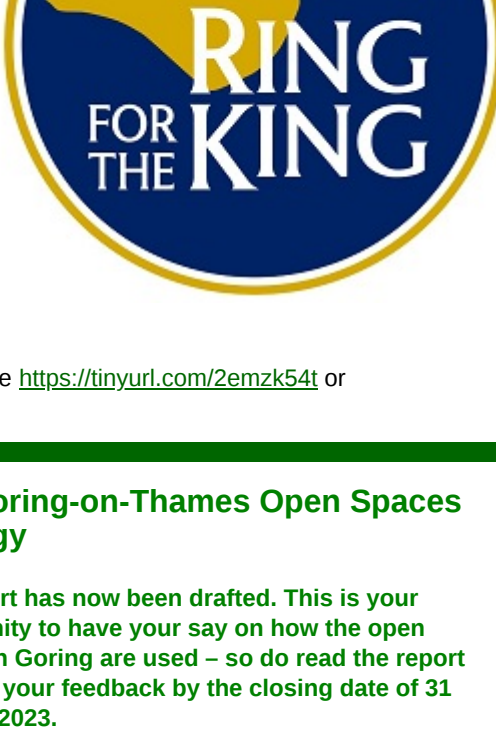
In this issue: Ring for the King; Goring Open Spaces; St Thomas' news; Bird Watch; Car park charges; Crime report & theft from Barbara's; Compton runs; SODC report; New repair café – and our latest update of new planning applications.

Ring for the King!

In 2022 the church bells at St Mary's in Streatley and St Thomas' in Goring rang out not only for Sunday morning services but also for local weddings, the Queen's Jubilee in June and again in September to mark the Queen's death and funeral. This year the bell ringers hope to ring for the coronation of King Charles III in early May. We would like to invite anyone living within a reasonable distance of the towers to learn to ring and join us for this occasion.

There will be an "Open Tower" event at St Thomas' church in Goring on **Saturday 28 January** between 10am and noon, where you can find out more. If there is enough interest we will organise a series of about 15 sessions to teach you how to ring so you can be a part of the celebration in May.

For more information (even if you can't make the 28th) please see <https://tinyurl.com/2emzk54t> or <https://ringfortheking.org> or e-mail josieirving@hotmail.co.uk.



The Goring-on-Thames Open Spaces Strategy

The report has now been drafted. This is your opportunity to have your say on how the open spaces in Goring are used – so do read the report and give your feedback by the closing date of 31 January 2023.

You can read it [HERE](#). This document is put forward by Thirlwall Associates (Landscape Architects) based on their independent views following a review of Goring's open spaces usage and potential, as well as extensive consultation with both residents and sports clubs.

The Council is keen to hear your views on the Thirlwall proposals and is seeking feedback, ideally via email to clerk@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk by **31 January 2023**.

Following the publication of this report and once feedback has been received, the Open Spaces Working Group intend to propose to Council that several separate projects should be taken forward. It is intended that these would be progressed concurrently, if possible, but as separate workstreams:

1. Replace/refurbish playground equipment at Bourdillon and Gardiner
2. Consider improvements suggested within the report on Rectory Garden and Ferry Lane
3. A major project on Gardiner and Sheepcot Recreation grounds – these need to run together as decisions on one are likely to impact the other

It is hoped that specific proposals can be developed for discussion at an Extraordinary Council Meeting in February 2023.

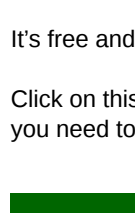
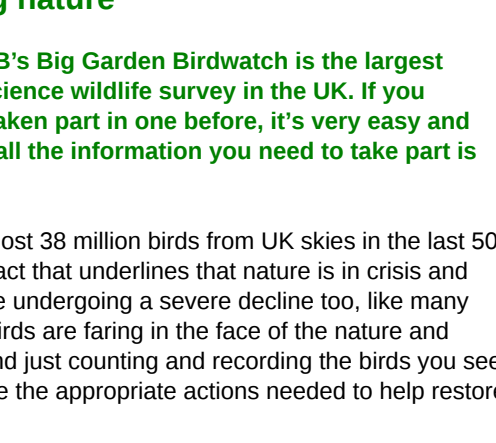
Have your say!

News from St Thomas', Goring



Saturday 28 January 2pm-4pm. Try out the organ day – for young musicians up to the age of 25

You can complete a contact form online to book your place. For more information [SEE THIS LINK](#).



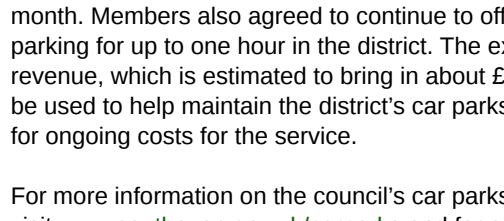
Saturday 11 February 7pm. Inaugural organ recital

This recital marks the completion of the organ rebuild project and will be given by Thomas Trotter, an organist of international renown, who will play music by Handel, Stanley, Mulet, Dupre, Dove and more.

Tickets are £12 and are available online at eventbrite.co.uk or there is limited availability on the door.

You can read more [HERE](#).

Spending an hour counting birds and helping nature



The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch is the largest citizen science wildlife survey in the UK. If you haven't taken part in one before, it's very easy and fun, and all the information you need to take part is below.

We have lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 50 years, a fact that underlines that nature is in crisis and that starlings are undergoing a severe decline too, like many other species. Your Birdwatch results help monitor how our UK birds are faring in the face of the nature and climate emergency. The RSPB can't do it without your support and just counting and recording the birds you see during one hour will help gather the vital statistics required to take the appropriate actions needed to help restore the numbers and health of our most treasured wild birds.

It's free and you don't need a garden to take part, just an hour of your time **between 27 and 29 January**.

Click on this link to see exactly what to do: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>. Please note you need to sign up online to take part, so click now to receive what you need in good time.

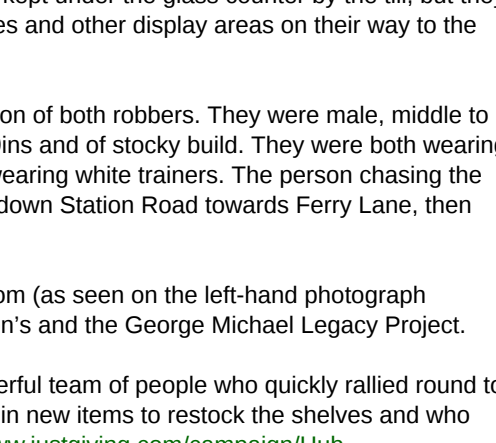
Oxfordshire car parking fees to change this spring

Parking fees will increase in South Oxfordshire from 1 April this year

Residents using car parks run by South Oxfordshire District Council, in Didcot, Goring, Henley, Thame and Wallingford will see between 20p and 60p added to charges for users parking their vehicle depending on how long they park.

The rise to parking fees and permits was agreed in line with inflation by Cabinet members at a meeting last month. Members also agreed to continue to offer free parking for up to one hour in the district. The extra revenue, which is estimated to bring in about £70,000, will be used to help maintain the district's car parks and pay for ongoing costs for the service.

For more information on the council's car parks and fees visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/car-parks and for a schedule of the fees please click [HERE](#).



BURGLARY AT BARBARA'S



Theft and damage at Barbara's on 7 January

About 9pm on Saturday 7 January two men were seen running away from the antiques and bric-a-brac shop in the Wheel Orchard car park, Goring, after they had broken in and stolen jewellery and other items

The target items for the burglars seem to have been jewellery kept under the glass counter by the till, but they broke in at the back of the property damaging a number of shelves and other display areas on their way to the jewellery area.

A brave person who chased them was able to provide a description of both robbers. They were male, middle to late twenties, white, one with a thin build about 6ft, the other 5ft 9ins and of stocky build. They were both wearing black or navy clothing, balaclavas and baseball caps. One was wearing white trainers. The person chasing the men, who was threatened with a crowbar, reported they headed down Station Road towards Ferry Lane, then turned right into Manor Road towards Goring High Street.

A number of fundraising shelves suffered damage in the back room (as seen on the left-hand photograph above), including those of The Hub, Dogs for Good, Parkinson's and the George Michael Legacy Project.

Claire at The Hub in Goring Arcade would like to thank the wonderful team of people who quickly rallied round to clear up the damage and the very generous people who brought in new items to restock the shelves and who have already given donations on the newly established <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Hub-BeatTheBurglars> which will benefit the local charity work of The Hub.

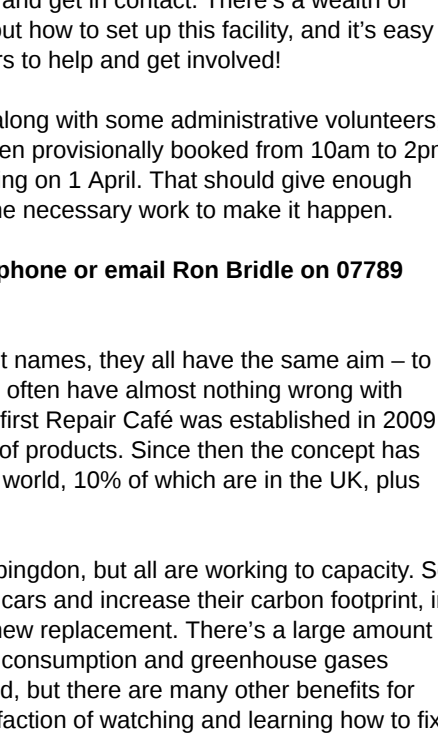
If you have any information about this incident, including any CCTV footage in that area from 8.50pm to 9.30pm on Saturday 7 January, contact Thames Valley Police by telephoning 101 quoting the crime reference number 4323 0009 964.

Latest Crime Incidents in Goring on Police files

Below are the incidents for last month and to date in Goring reported to Genie by the Thames Valley Police (Henley Neighbourhood Team).

7 December 2022	Road traffic collision, Manor Road
12 December	Action Fraud incident
15 December	Criminal Damage, Goring Pharmacy
16 December	Criminal Damage, Goring Medical Practice
24 December	Assault in the Catherine Wheel PH
2nd January 2023	Vehicle being driven with no insurance
6 January	Theft of number plates from vehicle, Millers Close.
7 January	Burglary, Barbara's Antiques & Bric-a-Brac shop, Goring car park*

* See separate report



COUNCIL NEWS



Report from Local SODC Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers

This report covers the final months of 2022 and can be seen [HERE](#).

It covers a number of topics:

- Cost of Living
- Household Support Fund
- Rough Sleeping and Housing Support
- Homes for Ukraine: discretionary £500 payment for hosts
- Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule
- New Housing Delivery Strategy and Plan for More Affordable Homes
- New tree roles for the councils
- Nearly £900,000 given to local communities for local improvements
- Land and Buildings Available for Change
- Successful Eco Fair in Didcot
- CCTV helps to keep people safe in our districts
- New measures to tackle Bird Flu
- Application could drive water quality improvements in Wallingford
- "Park and Charge" scheme wins an award!

Plus information about the following Open Consultations:

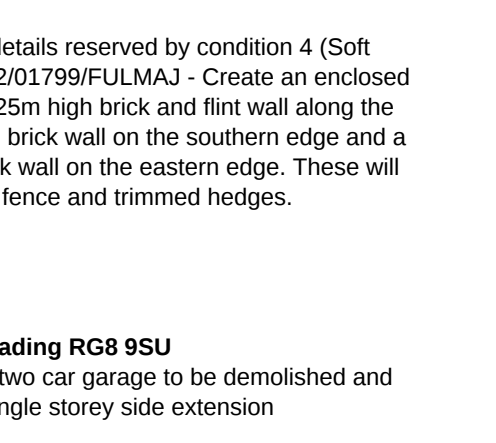
- Share your views on the Integrated Care Partnership's strategic priorities, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire
- Water Resources South East consultation
- Local Crime Survey

Compton Marathon & 16-mile Challenge

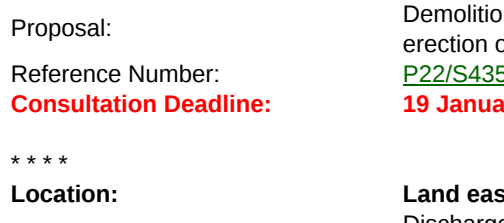
Calling local runners!

Now you're in training for the Goring 10K and Hairy Legs Challenge, how about entering another very local running event on Saturday 20 May – the Compton trail marathon and 16-mile challenge. These are popular races starting in the West Berkshire Village of Compton (RG20 6NP) with routes meandering over and around the Berkshire Downs, and up to 300 runners taking part. The races feature:

- Parking close to race HQ
- Predominantly off-road routes with 1500 feet of ascent/descent
- 7 checkpoints with water/snacks
- Generous 7-hour cut-off time for completing the event
- Unique finisher's mug from the White Horse Pottery
- Barbeque for runners



For more details, please visit Compton Harriers website: <http://www.comptonharriers.co.uk/WebPlus/Challenges.html> where you will find a full description of the event, route maps, and YouTube videos that whizz round the course, along with details of our other Club activities.



Would anyone like to help set up a Repair Café in Goring?

The idea for a local repair facility in Goring has been discussed over the years, but we haven't got one off the ground yet. So, this article is an attempt to make it happen this year!

If you're interested in joining a small team of enthusiasts to set one up in Goring Village Hall and help in any way, please read on and get in contact. There's a wealth of information about how to set up this facility, and it's easy – it just needs one vital ingredient – some good, public-spirited volunteers to help and get involved!

In the hope and expectation that enough repairers will have already been formed, along with some administrative volunteers, Goring Village Hall, plus the kitchen for refreshments, have already been provisionally booked from 10am to 2pm on the first Saturday of every other month during 2023 and 2024, starting on 1 April. That should give enough time to get things organised if enough people come forward to do all the necessary work to make it happen.

If you can help, or just want to have a chat about helping, please phone or email Ron Bridle on 07789 871620 / rbridle@btinternet.com. Thank you.

Whilst there are a variety of different forms of repair cafés with different names, they all have the same aim – to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption by repairing things which often have almost nothing wrong with them and can easily be fixed by someone who knows what to do. The first Repair Café was established in 2009 in the Netherlands, as a community-led approach to extending the life of products. Since then the concept has caught on and there are now well over 2,500 Repair Cafés around the world, 10% of which are in the UK, plus many more informal versions of the concept too.

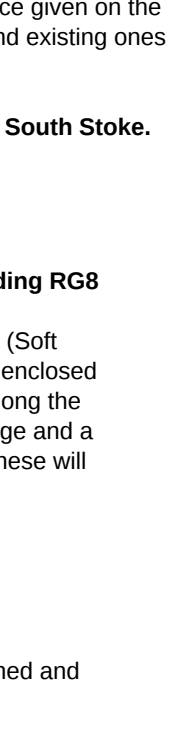
We have some quite local ones, in Wallingford, Cholsey, Didcot and Abingdon, but all are working to capacity. So it would be good to have one where people don't have to get into their cars and increase their carbon footprint, in order to reduce carbon by getting goods repaired instead of buying a new replacement. There's a large amount of data available to confirm the environmental advantages of reducing consumption and greenhouse gases associated with manufacturing and transporting things around the world, but there are many other benefits for the community as well. For instance, the great sense of personal satisfaction of watching and learning how to fix things yourself and giving old items a new lease of life.

Some initial work has been done and a few people have already volunteered to be a repairer if and when the project takes off, but more are needed. One large study showed that the most common items bought in for repair were pedal cycles, portable radios, trousers, table lamps, laptops, vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, toasters & kettles, chairs, toys and hedge trimmers etc. So, if you have the expertise and the tools to help with these repairs, please make contact.

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 eight applications for Goring, two for Streatley, and one for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: Streatley Farmhouse Wallingford Road Streatley Reading RG8 9PT
Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 4 (Site) (Application) of approved 22/01799/FULMAJ - Create an enclosed garden by constructing a 2.25m high brick and flint wall along the western edge, a 2.25m high brick wall on the southern edge and a 2.25m lowering to 1.7m brick wall on the eastern edge. These will replace the roadside timber fence and trimmed hedges.
Reference Number: 23/00009/COND
Consultation Deadline: 26 January 2023

Location: The Houses Streatley Reading RG8 9SU
Proposal: Existing shed to the side of two car garages to be demolished and replaced with 30sqm GIA single storey side extension
Reference Number: 23/00022/HOUSE
Consultation Deadline: 2 February 2023

SOUTH STOKE

Location: South Stoke Primary School The Street South Stoke RG8 0JS
Proposal: Remove the current trim trail in the playground and replace it.
Reference Number: P22/S2620/FUL
Consultation Deadline: 31 January 2023

GORING

Location: Ridgeway Rise Bridleway Goring RG8 0JY
Proposal: Discharge of conditions 7 (Vision splay) and 13 (Energy Statement) on P22/S05924/FUL - erection of a detached two-storey house and garage. Not subject to public consultation.
Reference Number: P22/S4174/DIS
Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 16 January 2023

Location: The Old Bungalow Mount Pleasant Farm, Goring Heath RG8 7TB
Proposal: Demolition of sub-standard dwelling & associated outbuildings, erection of new sustainable dwelling.
Reference Number: P22/S4350/FUL
Consultation Deadline: 19 January 2023

Location: Land east of Manor Road Goring RG8 9EJ
Proposal: Discharge of conditions (flood water, drainage, access, landscape, archaeology etc) on application P19/S2923/O (as amended by plan 05/01/23) –erection of 20 dwellings and associated works with all matters reserved except for access. Not subject to public consultation.
Reference Number: P22/S4493/DIS
Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 23 January 2023

Location: Burntwood Hall Reading Road Goring RG8 0LL
Proposal: Change of use and conversion of disused ancillary accommodation to 3-bedroom dwelling & extension
Reference Number: P22/S4555/FUL
Consultation Deadline: 24 January 2023

Location: 21 Springhill Road Goring RG8 0BY
Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of semi-detached dwellings, with revised access
Reference Number: P22/S4608/FUL
Consultation Deadline: 25 January 2023

Location: 23 Grange Close Goring RG8 9DY
Proposal: Modification of Planning Obligation in P87/W0526 to remove restriction on deed that no dwelling (including No 23) can be occupied by a person at the date of first occupation aged under 65.
Reference Number: P22/S4418/MPO
Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 30 January 2023

Location: The Mill Cottage Lock Approach Goring RG8 9AD
Proposal: Amendments to existing planning approval including: adjustments to new day room and entrance hallway, fenestration & doors; new garden wall to form semi-private courtyard to entrance; amendments to roof structure.
Reference Number: P22/S4607/HH
Consultation Deadline: 8 February 2023

Location: Loppings 55 Gatehampton Rd Goring RG8 0EN
Proposal: Discharge of condition 3 (Surface water drainage) on P22/S2061/FUL – demolition and replacement of existing dwelling, associated landscaping and new crossover. Not subject to public consultation.
Reference Number: P23/S0016/DIS
Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 14 February 2023

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.

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](#).