

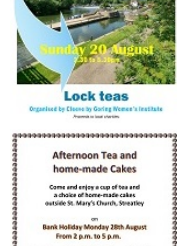
Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

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 August

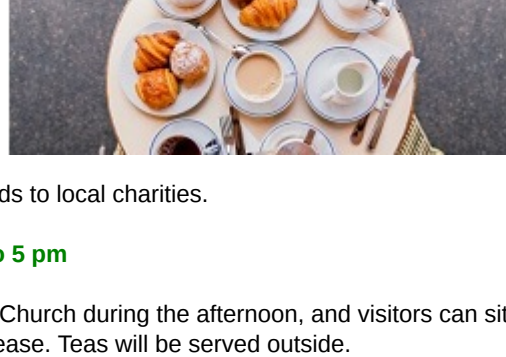
In this issue: Tea & Cakes; Goring High Street news; Scam alert; Tandem skydive; Swan census; College Barge reminder; Youth Hostel update – and our latest update of new planning applications.

Tea and Home-made cakes in Goring and Streatley



Lock Teas, by the river in Goring – Sunday 20 August 2.30-5.30pm

Organised by Cleeve by Goring Women's Institute, delicious teas will be served. Goring & Streatley Concert Band will be playing 3-5pm. Proceeds to local charities.



Streatley Church Monday 28 August, 2 to 5 pm

Janet Pound will be playing the piano in the Church during the afternoon, and visitors can sit inside and listen, or come and go as they please. Teas will be served outside.

It is a great opportunity to meet neighbours and friends, as well as the regular congregation, or for welcoming new and former residents, over a cuppa and piece of cake. Every year we also meet people visiting the Gap, or walking the Thames Path, during the afternoon, seeking convivial refreshment.

Put the date in your diary, come along to join us, and bring your friends. All enquiries either to Sara Turner, telephone (01491) 872102, or to John Rogers, the Church Warden.

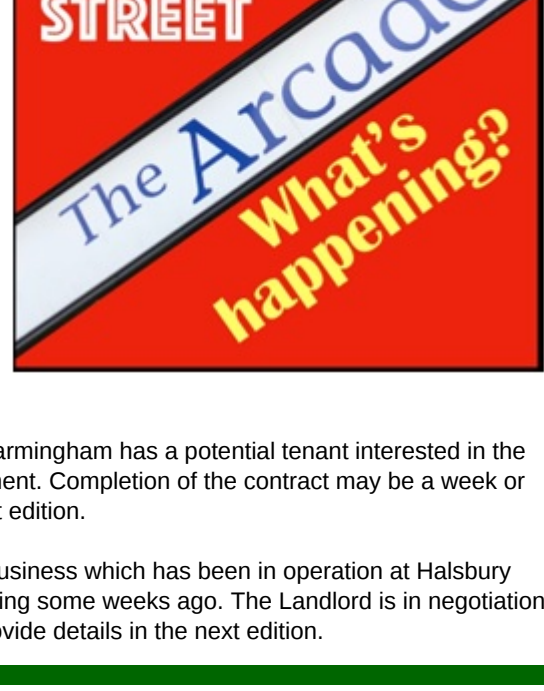
Four empty shops in Goring – Status report

Chef King, The Arcade – Nothing has been heard from the tenant since the unit was suddenly vacated some weeks ago. The Landlord is seeking to confirm the situation at the earliest opportunity.

Thames Valet, Wheel Orchard Car Park –The Wallingford dry-cleaning business, next to Barbara's, has closed its Goring branch. It is not known if the Landlord of the vacant premises has anyone interested yet in leasing the shop. However, some good news. The Wallingford business has appointed **Goring Food & Wine**, in Goring High Street, as their official 'Drop off & Collection' agent. This new service will commence early next week, probably on Monday, and a price list will be displayed in Goring Food & Wine's shop window.

TWC, High Street –The empty shop between Mary S and Warmingham has a potential tenant interested in the property and is currently working through the tenancy agreement. Completion of the contract may be a week or so away, and Genie may be able to provide details in the next edition.

Penelope's Doggy Boutique, High Street –The grooming business which has been in operation at Halsbury House, next to Pierreponts cafe, since May 2019 ceased trading some weeks ago. The Landlord is in negotiation with a potential new tenant and Genie hopes to be able to provide details in the next edition.



Current Honey Fungus Scam in Goring

People are being tricked into paying to have perfectly healthy trees removed. The scammers use the pretext of problems with your neighbours' trees to gain access to your garden and then tell you that yours are also infected with honey fungus. They charge exorbitant amounts to remove the 'infected' trees, which have nothing wrong with them, and ask you to pay by BACS.

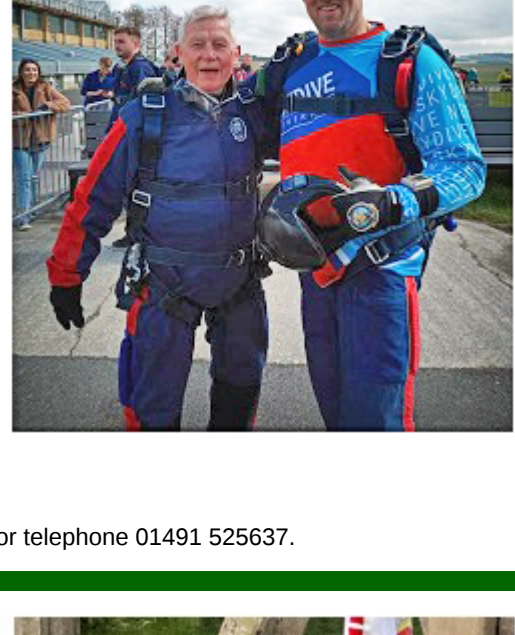


Do not fall for this – look at pages about door-to-door fraud in the 'Little Book of Big Scams' from the Thames Valley Police, using this [LINK](#).

The Hub – Bridging the Gap: Tandem Skydive 16 and 23 September

You might jump at the chance of participating in the Hub's next fundraising event – a tandem skydive on 16 September and 23 September run by the Army Parachute Association at Netheravon Airfield. Additional dates for groups can also be arranged.

If you fancy the thrill of your life, you can sign up by contacting Stuart Rowsell (on left in picture) on 01189 794312 or stuartrowsell@gmail.com or you can donate via <https://www.justgiving.com/page/thehub-bridgingthegap>. The Hub is raising money to launch a new dementia support service which is in great demand from the local elderly community.



At this year's commemoration of George Michael in June, over £7,000 was raised for the Hub, who would like to thank all the organisers and the generous village community wholeheartedly.

The Hub activity details are available on www.thehubbig.org.uk or telephone 01491 525637.

2023 Swan Upping census shows cygnet numbers down by 40% from last year

Many local people came out to watch the annual spectacle of the Royal Swan Upping census when the fleet of traditional rowing skiffs approached Goring lock at about 5pm on 20 July. The King's Swan Marker, David Barber (pictured here under Goring bridge), who is in charge of the census, has been in the role for 30 years. He said the result was disappointing, but, because of avian flu, expected. The impact of avian flu had been horrendous, and terrible to see. Only 94 cygnets were found on the five-day search of the Thames between Sunbury Lock and Abingdon. Down from 155 in 2022, it was the lowest number of cygnets recorded for seven years, but those found had been in good condition he said.



Another factor in the decline was high flood-water washing away nests, but there were also concerns about vandalism including shooting swans with air rifles and other guns, eggs and nests being destroyed and swans being harmed by dogs off leads. In Goring only 3 cygnets appear to be around and are with their parents between Goring and Cleeve locks. There were 5 born, but 2 went over the weir and were spotted downstream for a while, but don't seem to be around now.

A reminder – any bids to acquire the historic Magdalen College Barge at Streatley need to be received by the end of this month

Below is a repeat of the message from The Swan at Streatley which we published a month ago in the 16 July newsletter:

It is with a heavy heart that we have to admit that we have come to the end of our journey with the Magdalen Barge. We have investigated the cost and feasibility of restoration, but the combined effects of the pandemic, war in Ukraine, energy costs, inflation and cost of living crisis mean that we are not in a position to carry them out. We appreciate that this will be a loss to the local community and we would like to thank everyone for their continued interest in the barge. However, despite fund-raising attempts by us and by others it appears there is not enough support to give the barge the love and attention she needs, so we are therefore seeking new owners for her.



The Magdalen Barge, built in 1927 by Messrs L. G. Mouchell & Partners Ltd, is one of the last remaining ferro-concrete hulled vessels in the country and formerly belonged to Magdalen College, Oxford. It was used by the Swan hotel as a wedding venue in the past but the years have not been kind and she is in desperate need of some TLC which we cannot, sadly, provide.

The barge needs a lot of work and will be sold as seen. She will also have to be removed from her mooring at the Swan and taken away at the buyer's expense within 30 days of completion of the sale. She has no self-propulsion so towing will be required. All interested parties wishing to view the barge should contact Michal Wawrzenczyk at Michal@theswanatstreatley.com or call 07724 302224.

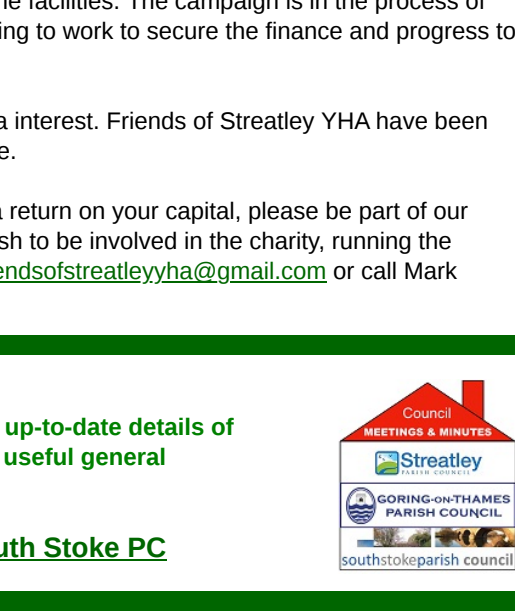
We are inviting all interested parties to submit their best and final bids for the barge by the closing date Thursday 31 August 2023. All bids should be made by email to bargebid@theswanatstreatley.com

NB: We are very keen that the barge goes to a good home and will not be choosing the new owner on bid value alone, so please do explain your intentions for the barge as part of your bid. Thank you.

UPDATE – Streatley Youth Hostel is still up for sale. A plan is afoot is to buy it and set up a local charity to run it. Can you help?

A message from Mark Kibble on behalf of Friends of Streatley YHA:

Genie previously reported on 30 June that Streatley Youth Hostel is now up for sale. This 48-bed hostel has been successful for the past 90 years at providing low cost overnight accommodation for visitors to the Goring Gap. The freehold is at a considerable discount at a purchase price of £850k. There is a strong chance that the hostel, originally donated to the YHA by a Streatley resident, could be bought and redeveloped – and this local asset and facility lost for ever.



The Friends of Streatley YHA (FSYHA) campaign group are looking to save the hostel by purchasing it and continuing to run it as a hostel well into future. Our proposal is to set up a company to purchase the house from the YHA and own the freehold and then establish a separate charity to operate the hostel as a franchisee of the YHA.

There are some great ideas to develop the hostel and improve the facilities. The campaign is in the process of drafting a prospectus for potential investors and will hold a meeting to work to secure the finance and progress to the purchase stage.

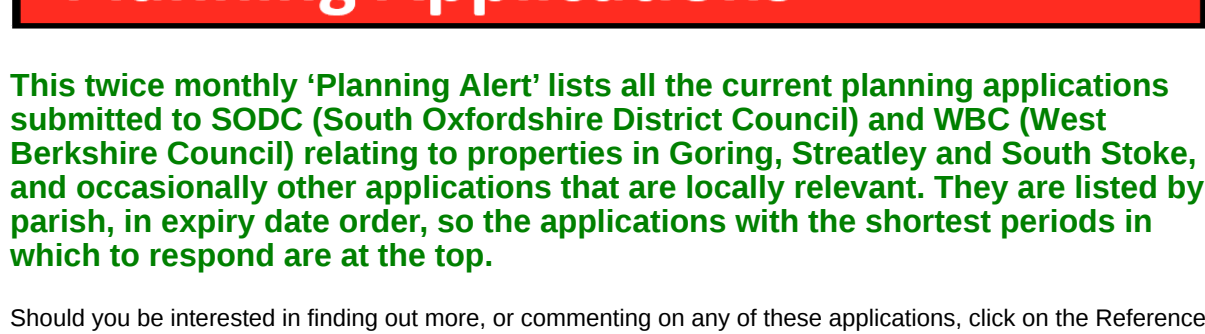
The YHA is selling 20 hostels and has attracted significant media interest. Friends of Streatley YHA have been on BBC TV (South Today) and Radio Berkshire to make our case.

If you would like the idea of social investment that will also pay a return on your capital, please be part of our campaign and buy a share in the property. Alternatively if you wish to be involved in the charity, running the hostel or supporting us in any other way please contact us at friendsofstreatleyyha@gmail.com or call Mark Kibble on 07790 493897. Thank you!

Local Parish Councils

Click on the link below for your parish council's website for up-to-date general information and 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 seven applications for Goring, two for Streatley, and none for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: Ashdown House Rectory Road Streatley Reading RG8 9LE
Proposal: Replacement garage with ancillary loft storage
Reference Number: [P23/S21717/HOUSE](#)
Consultation Deadline: **17 August 2023**

Location: Shona Wantage Road Streatley Reading RG8 9LB
Proposal: Two-storey side extension, front entrance extension, roof alterations and raised patio at the rear
Reference Number: [P23/S21744/HOUSE](#)
Consultation Deadline: **18 August 2023**

SOUTH STOKE

None

GORING

Location: 2 Heron Shaw Goring RG8 0AU
Proposal: Demolish existing garage and replace with garden room.
Reference Number: [P23/S2376/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **16 August 2023**

Location: South Woden Manor Road Goring RG8 9EB
Proposal: Erection of a two bay carport and attached home office
Reference Number: [P23/S2129/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **16 August 2023**

Location: 5 Woden House Limetree Rd Goring RG8 9EY
Proposal: Two storey end of terrace dwelling.
Reference Number: [P23/S2602/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: **25 August 2023**

Location: Claremont Fairfield Road Goring RG8 0EU
Proposal: Demolition of garage, construction of ground and first floor extensions.
Reference Number: [P23/S2673/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **31 August 2023**

Location: 9 Meadow Close Goring Reading RG8 0AP
Proposal: Replacing tile hanging to gables and dormer with weatherboarding; rendering brickwork walls at low level; relocating/changing front & rear doors; gravel front driveway
Reference Number: [P23/S2709/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **2 September 2023**

Location: Stow House Thames Road Goring RG8 9AL
Proposal: Discharge of condition 5(Drainage) on P22/S0785/HH - demolition of rear wing & outbuilding, removal of swimming pool & northern section of driveway; erection of outbuilding, consisting of garage with ancillary accommodation. Not subject to public consultation.
Reference Number: [P23/S2617/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date 13 September 2023**

Location: Buildings Adjacent 1 Grove Farm Cottages Grove Road Goring RG8 0LU
Proposal: Discharge of condition 3(Foul drainage) on P20/S2989/FUL - removal of 2 bays of agricultural building; alterations to brick & flint building; provision of new dwelling & access. Not subject to public consultation.
Reference Number: [P23/S2642/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date 15 September 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](#).

