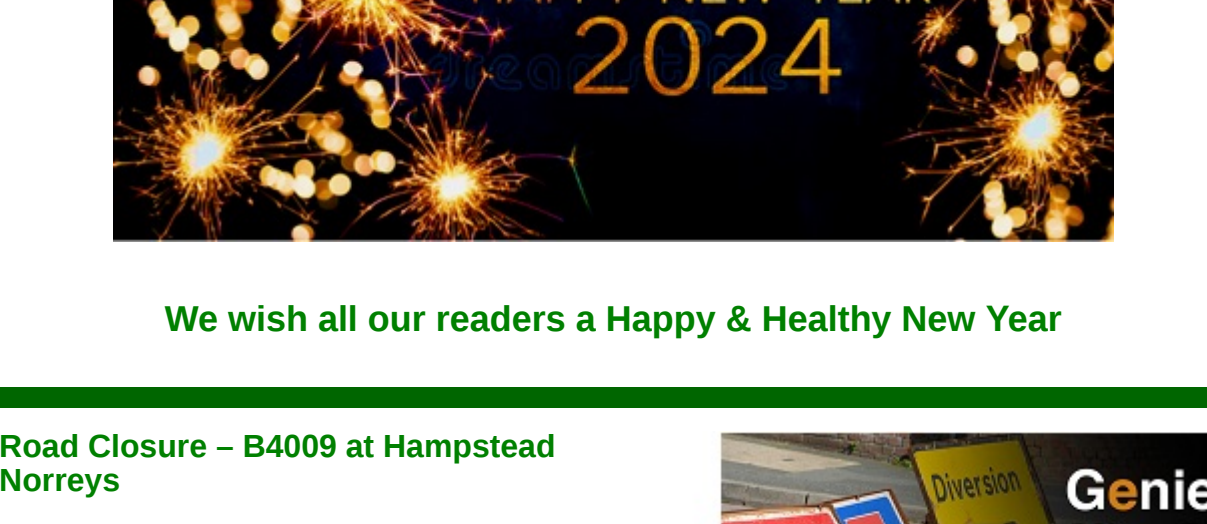


# Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

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 January

In this issue: Road closure; Xmas Eve Procession; January What's On; Tree surgery scam; Post Box topper theft; Virgin Media planning applications; Xmas Tree recycling – and our latest update of new planning applications.



## We wish all our readers a Happy & Healthy New Year

### Road Closure – B4009 at Hampstead Norreys

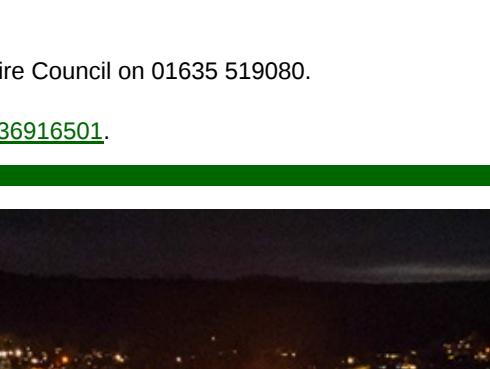
3 January 2024. 09.30 to 15.30

Wyld Court Hill in the Parish of Hampstead Norreys will be closed from the junction of Forge Hill to the junction of Dog lane. This closure is to enable Volker Highways to carry out permanent carriageway repairs on behalf of West Berkshire Council.

Diversion will be signed on-site.

All enquiries please contact Highways Maintenance at West Berkshire Council on 01635 519080.

A plan of the closure can be found at: <https://one.network/?tm=GB136916501>.



### A welcome return of Goring & Streatley's Torchlight Procession & Carols Event

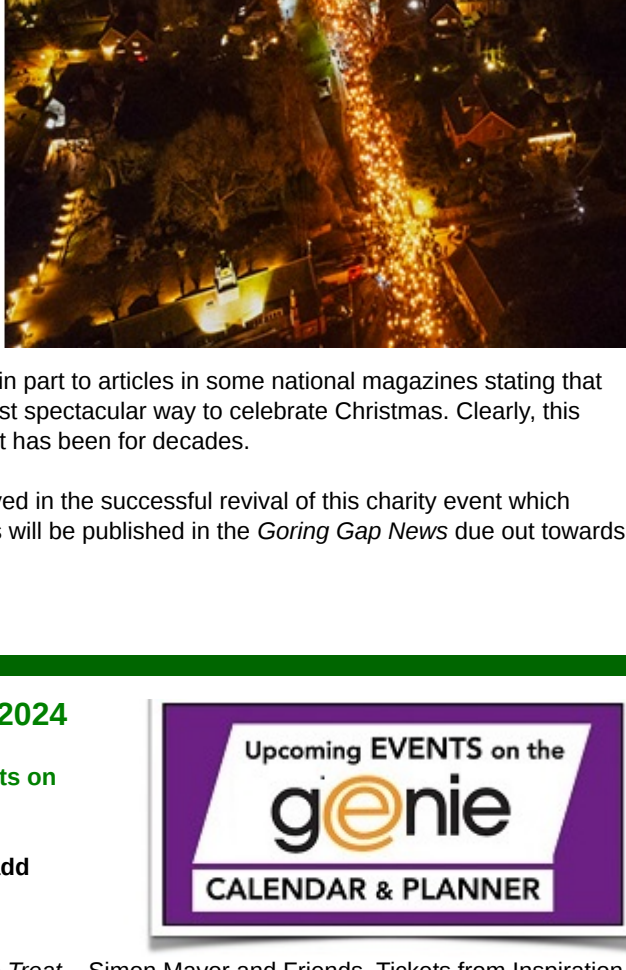
Christmas Eve was back to normal this year with the return of the traditional torchlight processions when residents and their families from both villages merged together to enter Streatley Meadow to sing carols and enjoy the spirit of Christmas.

This year, after a break of five years, the number of people who turned out on a rather windy evening seemed to match the numbers of previous processions, estimated to be 3,000 or so, as can be seen by the spectacular aerial photograph. As Goring's residents assembled near Cleeve Road off the High Street, many of the people are not covered by the photo, which shows Goring Village Hall at the bottom and Streatley traffic lights at the top, where Streatley's residents assembled. The bonfire, burning brightly in the meadow, can be seen on the right. So, it was a huge gathering and a wonderful start to Christmas in the Goring Gap.

The last organised procession was in 2018 when it was felt by the previous committee that it was getting too big for so many flaming torches, due in part to articles in some national magazines stating that Goring and Streatley's Torchlight Procession was a most spectacular way to celebrate Christmas. Clearly, this event, even after a cooling off period, is as popular as it has been for decades.

Huge thanks are due to all the very many people involved in the successful revival of this charity event which benefits a number of local organisations and full details will be published in the *Goring Gap News* due out towards the end of January.

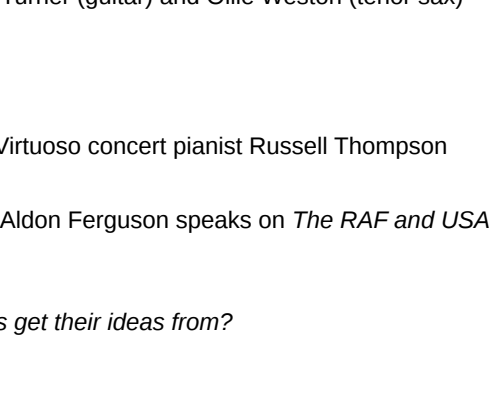
Photo credit: Dougal Thornton



### What's On – for the month of January 2024

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

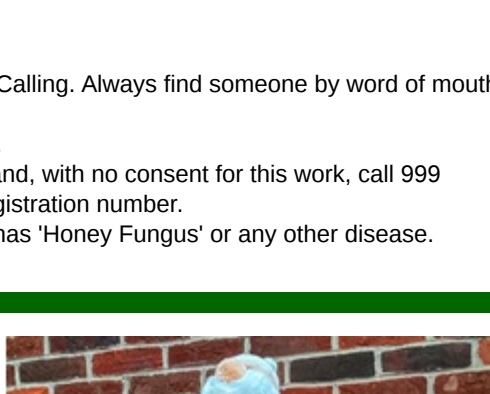
Please go there for details and more events, or to add your own event for free.



Sat 6 Jan	3-5.30pm <i>New Year Tea-Time Treat</i> – Simon Mayor and Friends. Tickets from Inspiration or 0118 9268615 or mandolin.co.uk
	3pm <i>Gifts of the Magi</i> – a concert for Epiphany, Goring Chamber Choir. Tickets from Inspiration or on the door
Tues 9 Jan	7.30pm WI – The January Blues themed evening
Fri 12 Jan	7-10.30pm Goring Community Jazz. Hugh Turner (guitar) and Ollie Weston (tenor sax)
Thurs 18 Jan	10.30am-2pm Pick-a-Flick <i>Casablanca</i>
Sun 21 Jan	4pm Piano Recital at St Mary's, Streatley. Virtuoso concert pianist Russell Thompson
Mon 22 Jan	2.30pm Goring Gap Local History Society: Aldon Ferguson speaks on <i>The RAF and USAF in Oxfordshire</i>
Thurs 25 Jan	10.30-12noon u3a Talk: <i>Where do novelists get their ideas from?</i>

### Tree Surgery Scam

There have been several incidents this year of a group of men turning up and cold calling for garden/tree surgery work. These men are not professionals, nor qualified to take on these jobs and often seek work through deceptive means, such as advising the resident their tree has honey fungus or that the "branch blew down in the wind".



This group is currently travelling in a white Ford van registration DU15 MXG with an orange woodchipper trailer attached at the back. There are sometimes two or three men in the van and they use bullying, coercive and threatening techniques to receive work from our villagers. They sometimes wear an orange 'business t shirt'.

A resident in Goring has recently had two trees taken down in this way by the same gang and one tree has been left perilous to the public and his home and will cost around £1,000 to be removed professionally. Apart from this, two beautiful trees have now lost their life in this needless sacrifice. The past two incidents have been reported to the police. (Reference 43230566878.)

This scam was featured in Issue 140 of *Genie*, 16 August 2023, and seems to be prevalent in Goring once again.

#### Tips & Advice:

- Never accept tree or garden work from anyone who is Cold Calling. Always find someone by word of mouth or on the notice board in the Hardware Store.
- Always report suspicious activity to the police by calling 101.
- If you witness criminal damage happening to trees or your land, with no consent for this work, call 999 immediately. Always get photos, descriptions and vehicle registration number.
- Always get a second opinion if someone tells you your tree has 'Honey Fungus' or any other disease.

### A sad and senseless theft in Goring High Street

This lovely hand-made post box topper outside the Arcade was stolen a week before Christmas. The incident was reported to the Police in the hope that it may be returned or found. In spite of looking around everywhere locally, in case it was cast aside somewhere, it has not been returned.

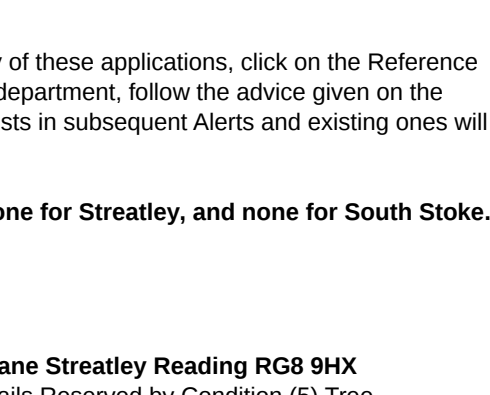
The idea for these post box toppers came about in October when three Cleeve-by-Goring WI members met and decided it would be nice to bring a smile and some joy to people when posting their letters and cards for Christmas. The enjoyment of creating these toppers for the community was immense and the WI received many delighted comments from villagers which made all the hours of hard work well worth the effort.



After producing toppers last February on the post boxes to show the effect of climate change on the environment, in November, eight crafty ladies embarked on many hours of knitting, crochet, sewing, pom-pom making, and glueing to create a giant bobble hat with a long scarf, snowmen, elves, trees, presents and crackers. Each item had to be made to withstand the weather so were securely sewn down and glued as well, but no-one envisaged the need to make them secure against theft. Such a selfish and senseless act in this season of goodwill has sadly deprived our villagers of some Christmas cheer.

### Current Planning Applications

As always, the current planning applications are listed at the bottom of this newsletter. If you look at them you will see this edition includes 14 applications from Virgin Media for the positioning of cabinets on various streets in Goring. You may like to check this to see whether any of these proposed locations are near your property and make any appropriate comments. Click **READ MORE** below to see them.



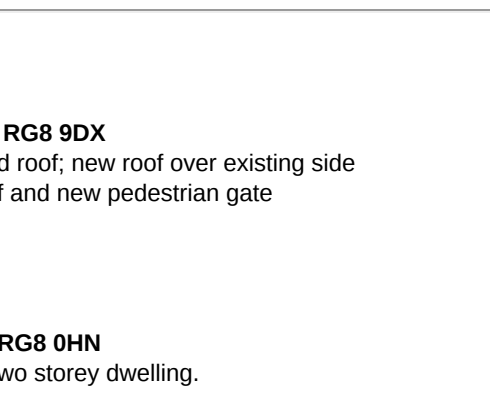
It is likely that further applications, covering the rest of the village, will be made over the next months so you might like to check subsequent editions of *Genie* to see whether these will affect you.

### Reminder: Christmas Tree Recycling

Gardiner recreation ground and Rectory Gardens, Goring

Bring your old tree by Thursday 11 January 2024. Trees left after this date will not be accepted.

Trees larger than 6ft must be cut down in size.



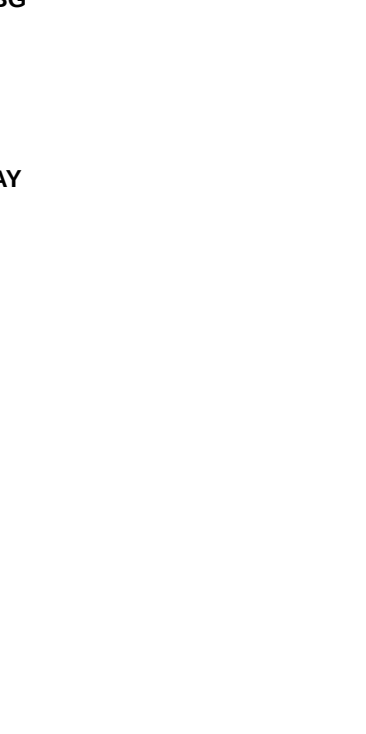
### Local Parish Councils

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 eighteen applications for Goring, one for Streatley, and none for South Stoke.

#### STREATLEY

Location:	The Old Vicarage Vicarage Lane Streatley Reading RG8 9HX
Proposal:	Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition (5) Tree Protection Scheme of planning permission 23/00357/HOUSE - Proposed alterations and extensions to existing house.
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4329/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Determination Deadline: 16 February 2024</b>

#### SOUTH STOKE

None

#### GORING

Location:	Fernhill Ferry Lane Goring RG8 9DX
Proposal:	Removal of existing low pitched roof; new roof over existing side extension; new front porch roof and new pedestrian gate
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4077/HH</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>4 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	76 Wallingford Road Goring RG8 0HN
Proposal:	First floor extension to create two storey dwelling.
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4318/HH</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>12 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	O/S 42 Wallingford Road Goring RG8 0BG
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2i
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4309/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	O/S 20 Wallingford Road Goring RG8 0AY
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4310/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	O/S 37 Elvendon Road Goring RG8 0DP
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4311/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	OPP 1 Icknield Road Goring RG8 0DL
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4312/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O 2 Lockstep Way Goring RG8 0AJ
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2i
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4314/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O 2 Valley Close Goring RG8 0AN
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4315/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O 1 Meadow Close Goring RG8 0AP
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4316/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O 10 Milldown Avenue Goring RG8 0AG
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4318/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O Journeys End Farm Road Goring RG8 0AA
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4320/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O 1 Millers Close Goring RG8 9BS
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4322/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O Cariatad Court Cleeve Road Goring RG8 9BT
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4323/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O 22 Clevemede Goring RG8 9BU
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4325/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	O/S 22 Pennypiece Goring RG8 9BY
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4326/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	S/O 1 Holmlea Road Goring RG8 9EX
Proposal:	Proposed installation of Cabinet VMFB2
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4327/T28</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>Target decision date 17 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	Cedar Wood House Elvendon Road Goring RG8 0LP
Proposal:	Replacement dwelling
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4299/FUL</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>20 January 2024</b>
****	
Location:	Sangalala Elmhurst Walk Goring RG8 9DE
Proposal:	Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) in P21/S4595/HH - extensions and alterations to existing dwelling; design and adjustments to improve living accommodation and aesthetics.
Reference Number:	<a href="#">P23/S4324/S73</a>
Consultation Deadline:	<b>20 January 2024</b>

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>

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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](#).