

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: NHS Change workshop; 2025 Garden Birdwatch; Goring Repair Café; Hub pilates dates; Dementia Buddy; Mend the Gap update – and our latest update of new planning applications.

NHS Change Workshop to help shape a new 10 Year Health Plan for England

Public Meeting on 18 January 10am to noon. Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson OX10 6LZ

Have your say! Come along and get involved.

Goring & Streatley reformed Patient Participation Group has recently developed links with the Wallingford and Benson PPGs. They are therefore able to invite people from Goring, Streatley and Woodcote area to a NHS Change consultation event on 18 January from 10am to 12noon at Benson Parish Hall.

The event is designed to engage with the community regarding areas for potential change – for instance with the use of technology in the NHS in future.

If you wish to attend please come along on Saturday. There is more information on the [NHS Change website](#) and you can post comments on there, whether or not you are able to come to the workshop. You can see an enlarged version of the poster [HERE](#).



Big 2025 Garden Birdwatch 24 – 26 January – The RSPB invites you to contribute

Spend an hour between 24-26 January 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.



Across the UK, over 600,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2024, counting 9.7 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these birds are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds in the UK over the last 60 years. 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 needed to take the appropriate actions to help restore the numbers and health of our most treasured wild birds.

[Click on this link](#) to see exactly what to do – it's free and you don't need a garden to take part, just an hour of your time. Please note you need to sign up online to take part, so click [HERE](#) now to enter your details. Then scroll down for the information on exactly what to do – and there's a good step-by-step animated video too.

Next Goring Repair Café – 1 February – PLUS a new 'Clothes Exchange' event

The next repair service is in the main hall in Goring Village Hall on Saturday 1 February, 10am to 12.30pm – and it's a special one this time! The Clothes Exchange will be the first of a series of planned exchange (swap) events in the Garden Room at the same time as the Repair Café, providing two ways of reducing waste and increasing sustainability at the same time.



This first one is for 'clothes and accessories', but future ones may be focussed on other items that can have a useful second life, eg toys, bikes & buggies and books etc. So, if you would like to refresh your wardrobe with nearly new clothing or accessories, and have any 'nearly new' clothing (ladies', men's or children's and /or accessories) you no longer need, bring them along between 9.15 and 9.45am on 1 February to donate and exchange. Please only bring clean items which are in good – excellent condition. Doors open to the public at 10am and details of exactly how this new event will work, including a comprehensive section of Q & As, will be in the new 'Exchange' section of the Repair Café website www.goringrepaircafe.info.

Exchanging (swapping) is a well-established and sustainable way of acquiring good quality pre-owned products. Like repairing things, this avoids unnecessary consumption and carbon emissions produced in the manufacture and transportation of new products. Globally, the fashion industry is the second most polluting industry after the oil and gas sector and responsible for 1.2 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually, about 10% of the total emissions world-wide. If you don't have anything to be fixed, or clothes or accessories to exchange at this time, you are still very welcome to pop in to have a look at what happens in the village hall every other month – and you can enjoy having a chat and a sit down with a coffee or tea and some wonderful homemade cake.

Hub Pilates – some dates are cancelled

Pilates teacher Sophia Oh, who volunteers her time, will be away in Malaysia over Chinese New Year, so the Hub will not be running their usual Tuesday 13:30 to 14:30 weekly Pilates classes on:

21 January
28 January
4 February and
11 February.

They will resume on Tuesday 18 February and weekly thereafter.



Dementia Buddy – Guardian Angels

Help people to get home safely

If you know somebody who has dementia or Alzheimer's disease who might get lost, you may like to find out about this organisation. They sell various devices for people to wear: wrist bands, pin badges, zip/bag tags and keyrings. If you tap on these you will obtain information about the person and how to get them safely home.

Equally you may meet somebody looking lost who is wearing one.

You can see a larger version of the poster [HERE](#).

For more information see this link: <https://dementiabuddy.co.uk/> or email help@dementiabuddy.co.uk or phone 01942 888990.



GOOD DEEDS, @DementiaBuddy, #DementiaBuddy, 01942 888990, Find out more information at: www.dementiabuddy.co.uk, help@dementiabuddy.co.uk

'MEND the GAP' – What is it, and what has it been doing over the years?

An update from the Mend the Gap Programme Manager



Mend the Gap is run jointly by the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs National Landscapes, with involvement from the Railway Action Group (a group derived from the local community to protest the design of the gantries used in the GWML electrification programme). The Mend the Gap programme is approaching its fifth anniversary, and it feels timely to give a brief update on progress and identify some of the projects the programme is supporting.

The programme has two main sections. 'Mitigation projects', which include planting and screening of the gantries, and 'Enhancement projects', which include a raft of 120 or so projects from supporting small-scale otter holts to landscape-scale wetland creation (Sulham) and restoration (Cholsey Marshes). The projects cover key enhancement areas, including Wildlife and Access (wetland), Wildlife and Access (chalk), Knowledge, Access and Enjoyment, Heritage and Tourism.

Although there was no deadline in which to spend the £3.75million received from Network Rail, a self-imposed target of five years was adopted in the first instance, but this was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now expected that programme management will wind down in 2028. This is primarily due to negotiations with landowners and complex development scenarios for the larger landscape-scale projects.

The programme is managed by Ruth Staples-Rolfe, together with a Project Officer, and supported by Phil Bruss from Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Forum SE (FWAGSE) is project managing the mitigation planting. All this work is overseen by a Steering Committee and supported by specialist advisory panel members when needed.

For more information on the Mend the Gap Programme, including the background to its formation and the latest highlights, visit our website at www.mendthegap.uk.

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](#)



Current local Planning Applications

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, with 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 four applications for Goring, two for Streatley, and one for South Stoke.

STREATLEY

Location: White Hart House 4 White Hart High Street Streatley Reading RG8 9JE
Proposal: Proposed Cart Shed
Reference Number: 24/02380/HOUSE
Consultation Deadline: 21 January 2025

Location: Streatley C.E. Voluntary Controlled School The Coombe Streatley Reading RG8 9QL
Proposal: T009 - Ash: Repollard
T019 - Goat Willow: Coppice to retain a 500mm stump
T031 - Mixed Species (Ash and Sycamore): Sever Ivy
T032 - Hawthorn: Pollard to a final finished height of 3m
T034 - Beech: Cutback from main building by 1m and raise low crown over the footpath by removing secondary branches only
T035 - Silver Birch: Remove Stakes
T036 - Prunus: Remove Stakes
T052 Turkish Hazel Crown lift to 3m
T054 - Apple: Crown reduce by 2m, final finished height of 3m
T055 - Apple: Formative prune reducing branches towards the building by 1m
T057 - Willow: Pollard to a final finished height of 2m
T060 - Sycamore: Sever Ivy
T061 - Elm: Lift to ground level

Reference Number: 25/00015/TPW
Consultation Deadline: Determination deadline: 4 March 2025

SOUTH STOKE

Location: Land west of Wallingford Road Goring RG8 0HP
Proposal: Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans), 8 (CTMP), 9 (Surface Water), 10 (Foul Water), 11 (Ground Levels), 12 (Hard Landscaping), 13 (Soft Landscaping), 14 (External Materials), and 17 (Landscape Specification) on planning application P20S4706/FUL (Temporary planning permission for 25 years for the development and operation of a Transitional Hybrid Energy Project and associated infrastructure including access) - The main change is there will be three larger generators instead of the approved four generators.

Reference Number: P24/S4058/S73
Consultation Deadline: 28 January 2025

GORING

Location: 7 Elmcroft Goring-on-Thames RG8 9EU
Proposal: Two storey rear and first floor side extension to create en-suite shower room.
Reference Number: P24/S3773/HH
Consultation Deadline: 16 January 2025

Location: High Barn Spring Lane Goring RG8 0HR
Proposal: New single storey garden pavilion.
Reference Number: P24/S3905/HH
Consultation Deadline: 16 January 2025

Location: 19 Elvendon Road Goring RG8 0DP
Proposal: Discharge of conditions 10 (boundary details) and 11 (landscaping) on P24/S1080/FUL – demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings. Not subject to public consultation.
Reference Number: P24/S3765/DIS
Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 21 January 2025

Location: Land west of Wallingford Road RG8 0HP
Proposal: Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans) etc on planning application P20/S4706/FUL - temporary planning permission for 25 years for Transitional Hybrid Energy Project: the main change is there will be three larger generators instead of the approved four generators.
Reference Number: P24/S4058/S73
Consultation Deadline: 28 January 2025

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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