

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 December

In this issue: Tree scammers warning; lifting of hosepipe ban; Christmas late night shopping; other events in the festive season – and our latest update of current planning applications.

Tree Scammers in the area again

"Tree scammers" or fake gardeners are a known issue, with reports of them specifically targeting older, vulnerable people, an issue [Age UK](#) has raised awareness about. These criminals often go door-to-door, offering to do gardening or tree work for a fee, which is often overpriced for minimal work.



Modus Operandi of "Tree Scammers"

- Doorstep Approach: scammers knock on doors and pressure residents, particularly the elderly, into agreeing to work.
- False Claims: they might claim that neighbours have complained about the state of a hedge or tree to create urgency or a sense of obligation.
- Overcharging and Poor Work: they charge excessive amounts of money for very basic or unnecessary work.
- Financial Exploitation: in some severe cases, they may drive victims to the bank to withdraw cash or even enter their homes.
- Pressure Tactics: they use high-pressure sales tactics and do not give victims time to think or seek other quotes.

How to Protect Yourself and Others

Age UK and the police recommend several measures to avoid becoming a victim of doorstep scams:

- Never agree to services from unexpected doorstep sellers
- Do not feel pressured to say "Yes"; it is okay to say "No" or ask them to leave.
- Always get several written quotes from reputable, established companies before committing to any home improvement or gardening work.
- Consider displaying a "No cold callers" sign to deter uninvited salespeople.
- Never hand over bank cards, cash, or valuables to anyone at the door.
- Keep an eye on older neighbours, friends, and family who may be more vulnerable to these tactics.

Reporting Scams

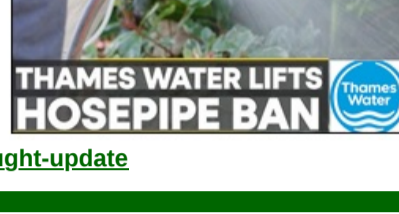
If you encounter potential scammers or fall victim to one, you should take the following steps:

- Contact your bank immediately if you have handed over money or bank details.
- Report the incident to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and internet crime reporting centre, online or by calling 0300 123 2040.
- For doorstep crime in progress, or if you feel unsafe, call the police on 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency).
- You can also contact [Citizens Advice](#) if you have been scammed on your doorstep, and they will pass your report to Trading Standards.

Age UK offers further information and support on avoiding scams through their [website](#) and advice line on **0800 678 1602**.

Hosepipe ban was lifted by Thames Water on 27 November

The ban, which was imposed in July, has been lifted in all Thames Water's reservoirs, now that the recent rainfall levels have filled the reservoirs, recharged the aquifers and restored the river levels to normal.



To read more about the background to this decision and watch a short video statement by Neil Muncaster, Strategic Water Resources Director at Thames Water, click: <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-supply-and-drought-update>

Goring's Late Night Christmas evening – Friday 5 December 4-8pm

As in previous years, this popular and successful event (aka Late Night Shopping and Christmas evening) tends to mark the start of Christmas celebrations for many local residents.



Centred around the Arcade in Goring High Street, but also in many shops, businesses and other venues throughout the village, premises will be open offering hospitality. Attractions include carol singing, Punch & Judy and the fire engine, as Goring's firefighters will be there – always a favourite for families with young children. Another highlight will be a guest appearance of Father Christmas who will be making an early trip to Goring to his grotto inside Inspiration in the Arcade.

As ever, there will be plenty of offerings of food and drink in different locations, including a Hog Roast in the Arcade. Other activities in the Arcade will include craft and many other stalls representing local charities and other organisations. In other premises in Goring there will be more activities including at The Free Church, which will have hot chocolate and marshmallows, and the Library in Station Road where there will be a gingerbread trail and other attractions.

All residents and visitors are very welcome to this wonderful annual event. Please support the village, its businesses and the community organisations which make Goring the place it is.

Christmas Toys & Games Special Exchange event – Sat 6 December, Goring Village Hall, 10am-12.30pm

Instead of buying brand new children's presents this Christmas, why not consider exchanging those good-as-new toys and games, which your children have outgrown, and swap them for other people's good-as-new items thereby saving money and helping the environment at the same time?



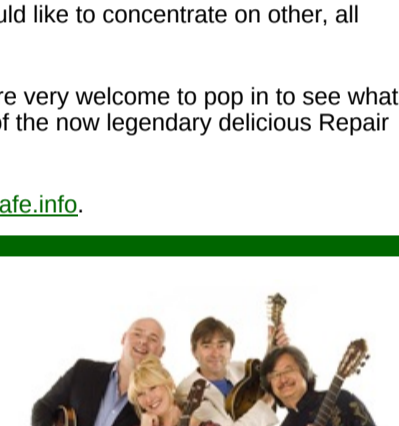
Good quality and safe toys, games and bikes suitable for children aged from birth to end of primary school age are accepted. Drop-off time in the Bellême Room for up to 5 toys and games, plus one small bike, per family is 9.15-9.45am.

Data from Earth Day 2024 suggests that over 8.5 million toys end up in landfills each year. Plastic toys dominate the UK market, accounting for up to 90% of all toys sold which are thrown away. A large percentage of these are perfectly reusable, but not recyclable, so are often disposed of when they could so easily be recycled in events such as the one on 6 December.

Every toy or game that is exchanged is therefore one less sent to landfill, avoiding a replacement product being manufactured with its associated greenhouse gas emissions. This is a free service, with voluntary donations welcome to cover expenses, and is part of the Goring Gap Environmental Organisation's (GGEO) efforts to reduce waste and increase recycling. Full details and FAQs are available in the Exchange section of the Goring Repair Café website: <https://www.goringrepaircafe.info/toys--games-faqs.html>.

Your last Goring Repair Café this year – Sat 6 December, Goring Village Hall, 10am-12.30pm

Your last chance to get your broken products fixed for free this year.



Bring in any product (up to 2 items that you can easily carry or wheel in) and the skilled team of up to 15 repairers with a wide range of skillsets will do their best to restore them to good working order. Goring's repairers have a track record of being able to fix up to 70% of the items brought in, either to full working order, or at least to a useful level of function. They like a challenge, so if you haven't used this service before, why not come along and try it out. (Christmas tree lights, by the way, are often unrepairable or extremely time consuming to try to fix, so we would like to concentrate on other, all year-round products, which would otherwise end up in landfill.)

Even if you don't have any broken items to bring in at this point, you are very welcome to pop in to see what happens at these events and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of the now legendary delicious Repair Café home-made cakes.

Doors open 10am-12.30pm. For full details visit www.goringrepaircafe.info.

The Mandolinquents

17 December at 7.30pm in Goring Village Hall

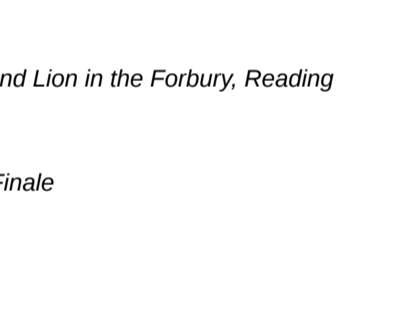


Simon Mayer and Hilary James will present another performance by "The Mandolinquents" at Goring Village Hall in December. This special Christmas Performance by some of the country's top musicians who can play everything from Classical to Jazz, was sold out on their last visit so it is wise to buy tickets at £20 now online at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-special-mandolinquents-friends-tickets-1670940320479?utm_campaign=social&utm_content=attendeeshare&utm_medium=discovery&utm_term=listing&utm_source=cp&aff=ebdsshcpurl.

Any questions call: 0118 9268615 or email: mail@mandolin.co.uk.

What's On – for the month of December 2025

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

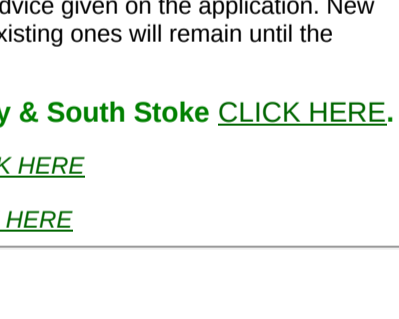


Please go there for details and more events, or to add your own event for free:

Tues 2	5pm Glib Book Group in Goring Library
Wed 3	12noon Goring Gap News copy deadline
Thurs 4	7.30pm An Evening with Kate Humble
Fri 5	4-8pm Goring Christmas shopping evening
Sat 6	10-12.30pm Goring Repair café and Toy Exchange
Sat 6	10.30-11.30am 5-a-side chess in Goring Library
Sun 7	3pm GSCB and Christmas concert
Wed 10	7.30pm Cleeve by Goring WI: Christmas celebration with Goring Chamber Choir
Wed 10	7.30-10pm Soundbar open mic. The Miller of Mansfield
Fri 12	Genie News copy deadline
Sat 13	7pm Christmas Concert by Pangbourne Choral Society
Sun 14	4-5pm GSCB Starter band concert
Mon 15	2.30pm Goring Gap Local History Society: <i>The Maiwand Lion in the Forbury, Reading</i>
Wed 17	7.45pm Mandolinquents Christmas special
Thurs 18	10.30-2pm Pick-a-Flick: <i>Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale</i>
Fri 19	7.30pm Goring Unplugged
Sat 20	5-10pm Concert for a cause – indie bands
Thurs 25	Christmas Day
Fri 26	Genie News copy deadline

Check here on all local planning applications, current and past

This regular twice-monthly 'Planning Alert' service lists all the current planning applications submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council and West Berkshire Council relating to Goring, Streatley and South Stoke.



They are listed in consultation period expiry date order, so the applications with the shortest periods for your comments are at the top. Each has a link to the actual application.

To make a comment to the relevant Planning Department, follow the advice given on the application. New applications will be added to the lists in subsequent newsletters and existing ones will remain until the consultation period has expired.

To check all current APPLICATIONS for Goring, Streatley & South Stoke [CLICK HERE](#).

To check on all DECISIONS of previous SODC applications, [CLICK HERE](#)

To check on all DECISIONS of previous WBC applications, [CLICK HERE](#)

STREATLEY

Location: Churn Lodge Wantage Road Streatley Reading RG8 9LA

Proposal: Proposed new dwelling including new landscaping and parking.

Reference Number: [P25/S2375/FUL](#)

Consultation Deadline: 18 December 2025

SOUTH STOKE

Location: South Stoke Community Shop Recreation Ground Cross Keys Road South Stoke RG8 0JT

Proposal: Removal of condition 9 (electrical charging point) on erection of ref. P23/S1364/FUL (Removal / demolition of existing community shop). Erection of a new shop, cafe and hub for the community. Alterations to existing car park and provision of new overflow parking area.)

Reference Number: [P25/S3499/S73](#)

Consultation Deadline: 10 December 2025

Location: Sycamores South Stoke Reading RG8 0JJ

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 11 (Location of drainage and services) and 12 (Surface Water Drainage) on application ref. P25/S0405/FUL (Erection of single self-build two-storey dwelling and detached garage, with new vehicular access and boundary wall on amenity space for existing property.)

Reference Number: [P25/S3596/DIS](#)

Consultation Deadline: Target Decision 8 January 2026

Location: 1 Ash Cottages Wallingford Road Little Stoke OX10 6AY

Proposal: Discharge of Condition 4 (Archaeological Watching Brief) on planning application [P25/S2578/HH](#) (Rear extensions and replacement front porch).

Reference Number: [P25/S3603/DIS](#)

Consultation Deadline: Target Decision 12 January 2026

GORING

Location: Chauntsingers Cleeve Road Goring RG8 9BJ

Proposal: Infilling of footprint between existing garage and snug, and to partially convert the internal space of the existing garage into a drying room

Reference Number: [P25/S1640/HH](#)

Consultation Deadline: 2 December 2025

Location: 30 Gatehampton Road Goring RG8 0EP

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of P24/S2768/HH - addition of one obscure window to the downstairs w/c; condition of letterbox window above head height in downstairs storeroom; increase flat roof overhang to rear elevation; 2 x velux roof lights to the front elevation existing single storey roof.

Reference Number: [P25/S3588/S73](#)

Consultation Deadline: 5 December 2025

Location: 4 Summerfield Rise Goring RG8 0DS

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 3 (reptiles), 4 (trees), 5 (SUDS), 6 (cycles) and 7 (biodiversity enhancements) on application P25/S0352/FUL - erection of two 3-bedroom dwellings. Not subject to public consultation.

Reference Number: [P25/S2930/DIS](#)

Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 9 December 2025

Location: Land to east of Manor Road Goring RG8 9EJ

Proposal: Part discharge of Condition 2 of P24/S2768/HH - addition of one obscure window to the P23/S3520/S73 for Plots 3 and 4 only so the dwellings can be occupied as soon as completed. Not subject to public consultation.

Reference Number: [P25/S3714/DIS](#)

Consultation Deadline: Target decision date 19 December 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.

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](#)

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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More details on Genie newsletters [here](#).