

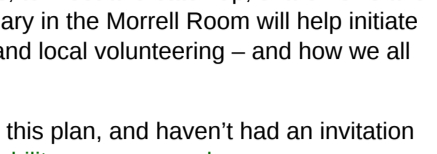
**Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter**

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 11 February

In this issue: the revival of the Streatley Forum and preparation of a new Parish Plan, details of a concert-day closure at The Catherine Wheel, a new water quality monitoring study, February events, GAP Festival details – and our latest update of current planning applications.

**A new Streatley Parish Plan is being prepared – and the Streatley Forum is being revived on 17 February**



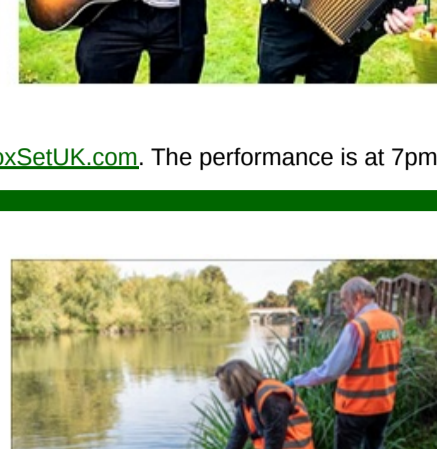
This is a facilitated gathering of local organisations and businesses, to meet and catch up, share news and discuss matters of common concern. The next Forum on 17 February in the Morrell Room will help initiate the thinking for the new plan and look at community engagement and local volunteering – and how we all help make Streatley a vibrant village.

If you are part of a local organisation or business and interested in this plan, and haven't had an invitation yet, please get in touch with Karen Morton, [karen.morton@thecapabilitycompany.co.uk](mailto:karen.morton@thecapabilitycompany.co.uk).

**The Catherine Wheel will be closed on Saturday 31 January**

The Catherine Wheel will be open only to Concert Ticket Holders on that day

On 31 January the inn will be hosting a concert of folk music featuring the popular duo BoxSet, who have recently returned from a successful tour of America and earned much praise from BBC Radio 2 for their last album "Tinderbox Heart". At the concert they will be playing songs from their new album which includes music set to the poems of Alfred, Lord Tennyson.



Tickets are £12 each and there are still a few left online at [www.BoxSetUK.com](http://www.BoxSetUK.com). The performance is at 7pm

**New water quality monitoring study to start this Saturday, 31 January in the Goring Gap**

The primary objective of the study is to investigate chemical pollution in our river and associated water courses. In 2024 and 2025 two similar citizen science studies were conducted to identify the levels of biological pollution (in particular E Coli and Intestinal Enterococci bacteria) occurring in the Thames here. This 2026 study is to identify the concentrations of nitrates and phosphates present at 8 different sampling locations between South Stoke and Hartslock. Volunteers will test the water on the river bank and record the data on a database. It is part of a larger study collecting data between Wallingford and Caversham, by sampling at the end of every month until December.

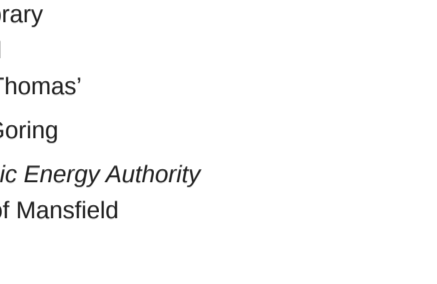


High levels of these two chemicals, often called nutrients, are largely caused by agricultural run-off and sewage and are harmful to both the aquatic fauna and flora in the water and the surrounding environment. The purpose of the study is to find out where habitats are being harmed by chemical pollution and then try to reduce it to acceptable levels within which wildlife can tolerate and thrive.

This, like the previous two studies, is project managed jointly by GGEO (Goring Gap Environmental Organisation) and [Thames21](http://Thames21). You can see the results of the 2024 study by clicking the GGEO link above.

**What's On – for the month of February 2026**

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



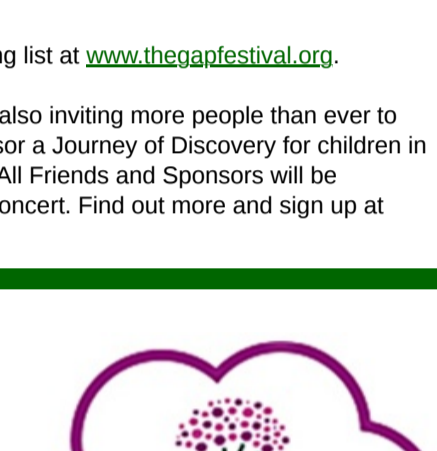
Please go there for details and more events, or to add your own event for free:

Sat 31 Jan	7pm BoxSet at The Catherine Wheel
Tues 3 Feb	5pm Glib Book Group in Goring Library • 12noon Goring Gap News copy deadline
Wed 4 Feb	• 7.30pm Green Fingers. Helena Dove: <i>A Year in the Kitchen Garden</i> • 10-12.30pm Goring Repair Café • 10.30-11.30am 5-a-side chess in Goring Library
Sat 7 Feb	• 7pm Quizco in aid of Goring Primary School • 7.30pm Reading Bach Choir Concert at St Thomas'
Sun 8 Feb	3pm Clarinet and piano recital. St Thomas', Goring
Wed 11 Feb	• 7.30pm Cleeve by Goring WI: <i>The UK Atomic Energy Authority</i> • 7.30-10pm Soundbar open mic, The Miller of Mansfield
Thurs 12 Feb	Genie News copy deadline
Fri 13 Feb	• 7.30pm <i>A Journey through Chelsey's past</i> . With music • 7.30pm Goring Community Jazz
Sat 14 -Sat 28 Feb	Half term activities at Goring Library – Crafts, trail and dressing-up
Mon 16 Feb	2.30pm Goring Gap Local History Society: <i>Not All Beer and Skittles</i> Ash Wednesday
Wed 18 Feb	• 10-11am Lego dragon workshop at Goring Library (please book) • 7.30pm FoGL Author Talk. Colin Wade: <i>The Joys and Perils of Becoming an Author</i>
Thurs 19 Feb	10.30-2pm Pick-a-Flick: <i>Enchanted April</i>
Sat 21 Feb	8pm The Soul Seniors, Goring Social Club
Sun 22 Feb	4pm Piano recital at St Mary's, Streatley: <i>Peaceful Dreaming</i>
Wed 25 Feb	11am and 2pm The Arts Society Goring: <i>Danish Modernism – the Skagen painters</i> • Genie News copy deadline
Thurs 26 Feb	• 10.30am Goring Gap u3a. Vivian Sieber: <i>Kino and Kinder: A family's journey in the shadow of the holocaust</i>
Fri 27 Feb	7.30pm Goring Unplugged

**GAP Festival 2026: dates and first details announced**

This year's GAP Festival will take place from 12–21 June

Embark on a **Journey of Discovery**. As at previous festivals, the programme will once again celebrate creativity, curiosity and connection, bringing together a vibrant mix of arts, music, science, spoken word, theatre and more. Much-loved favourites will be back – from Market Day, art workshops and Family Science Day to wellbeing sessions, Fringe music, Open Gardens, the Festival Concert and the ever-popular opera. Alongside these, the 2026 programme will offer fresh opportunities to discover something new: hands-on performing arts workshops, talks and self-guided trails explore local heritage, powerful theatrical storytelling, and a lively series of concerts.

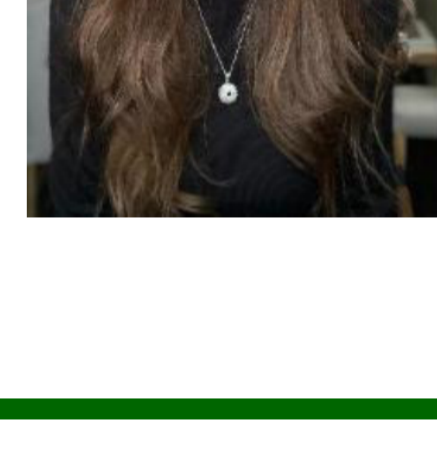


To be first to hear when tickets go on sale, sign up to our mailing list at [www.thegapfestival.org](http://www.thegapfestival.org).

Become a **Friend of the Festival**. As we prepare for 2026, we're also inviting more people than ever to become **Friends of the Festival**. A £50 donation could help sponsor a Journey of Discovery for children in our community, funding a wide range of low-cost and free events. All Friends and Sponsors will be welcomed to a special afternoon tea at the final teatime Festival Concert. Find out more and sign up at [www.thegapfestival.org/get-involved/become-a-friend](http://www.thegapfestival.org/get-involved/become-a-friend).

**Goring chosen to represent Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Buckinghamshire in National Bloom competition**

Following Goring's success in winning Gold and Best in Bloom Category Awards in the 2025 Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Regional competition last year, the UK Royal Horticultural Society has just confirmed that Goring has qualified to represent Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in the 2026 Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in Bloom competition.



Goring-on-Thames in Bloom will be entered in the Small Town category which is for populations of between 3,000 and 10,000 and will be competing against 6 other regions in the United Kingdom. They are Alderley Edge (North West in Bloom), Stonehouse (Heart of England in Bloom), Wareham (South in Bloom), Randalstone (Ulster in Bloom), Edwinstowe (East Midlands in Bloom) & Sawtry (Anglia in Bloom).

**January Report from SODC Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers**

This report covers the following topics:

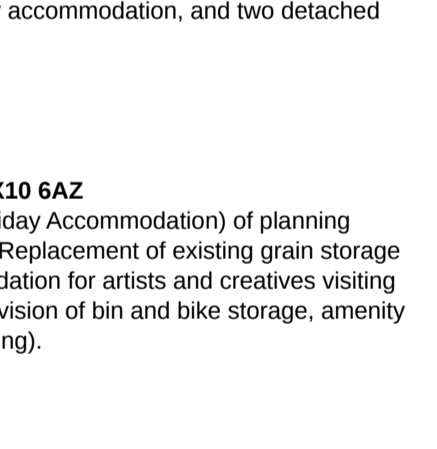
- SODC Budget Update
- Joint Local Plan Update
- Government proposed changes to planning processes
- SODC is officially Disability Confident!
- Consultation: Private estate management arrangements
- South Oxfordshire District Council withdraws from X over safeguarding concerns
- Statement by SODC on Fair Treatment and Community Cohesion
- Waste and Recycling Guides
- Town and Parish Council Support
- Pollutant levels fall by half at a site previously identified as having air quality issues
- Election Timetable Clarification
- Jan Casework
- Useful South Links



Please click here to read it: [District Councillor Report](#).

**Free cyber resilience resource to help your organisation**

If you are involved in any charity, business or organisation there's a free service now available designed to help protect you from the growing threat of cyber crime.

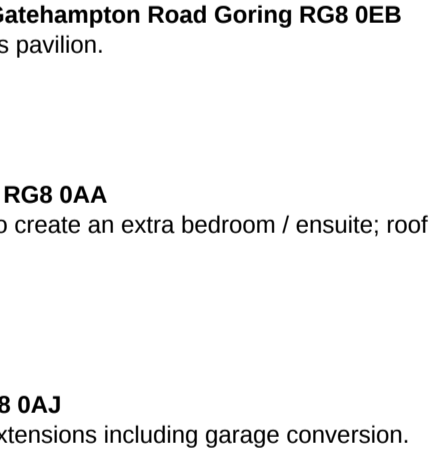


According to [Government data](#) 43% of UK businesses and 30% of UK charities have reported and experienced cyber security attacks in the last 12 months.

Whatever organisation you are involved with, a local shop or a big organisation, the new [Cyber Resilience Centre](#) is there to help protect you. Membership is free and it takes only a few minutes to register, so help protect your online data by clicking [HERE](#).

**Check here on all local planning applications, current and past**

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



They are the applications 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 wbc applications, [CLICK HERE](#)**

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

**STREATLEY**

**Location:** New Dawn The Coombe Streatley Reading RG8 9QL  
**Proposal:** Proposed single storey front and side extensions, other minor alterations, photovoltaic panels and air source heat pump to single family dwelling house.  
**Reference Number:** 25/02918/HOUSE  
**Consultation Deadline:** 2 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** Land at Golden Hill Reading Road Streatley Reading  
**Proposal:** Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 'BNG' of approved 25/02071/FUL: Formation of a new access onto a classified road..  
**Reference Number:** 26/00133/COND  
**Consultation Deadline:** 13 February 2026

**SOUTH STOKE**

**Location:** Kays Barn & Pond House The Street South Stoke RG8 0JS  
**Proposal:** Discharge of condition 5(Surface Water Drainage Details) on application ref. P25/S1238/HH (Demolition of existing annex (Kays Barn) and part of existing outbuilding. Erection of replacement two-storey outbuilding with single storey front extension to provide annex accommodation and ancillary accommodation, and two detached sheds).  
**Reference Number:** P25/S3828/DIS  
**Consultation Deadline:** 7 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** Middle Barn Little Stoke OX10 6AZ  
**Proposal:** Variation of condition 12 (Holiday Accommodation) of planning permission P23/S3822/FUL (Replacement of existing grain storage building to provide accommodation for artists and creatives visiting Little Stoke Manor Farm. Provision of bin and bike storage, amenity space, parking and landscaping).  
**Reference Number:** P26/S0161/S73  
**Consultation Deadline:** 18 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** Middle Barn Littlestoke Manor Farm Little Stoke OX10 6AZ  
**Proposal:** Discharge of conditions 3 - surface water drainage, 4 - foul water drainage and 7 - cycle storage on application ref. P23/S3822/FUL Replacement of existing grain storage building to provide accommodation for artists and creatives visiting Littlestoke Manor farm. Provision of bin and bike storage, amenity space, parking and landscaping.  
**Reference Number:** P26/S0050/DIS  
**Target Decision Date:** 5 March 2026

**GORING**

**Location:** Sheepcot Sports Pavilion Gatehampton Road Goring RG8 0EB  
**Proposal:** Upgrade of the existing sports pavilion.  
**Reference Number:** P26/S4010/FUL  
**Consultation Deadline:** 29 January 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** Hiberna Farm Road Goring RG8 0AA  
**Proposal:** Front porch; loft conversion to create an extra bedroom / ensuite; roof dormers and skylights  
**Reference Number:** P26/S0014/HH  
**Consultation Deadline:** 5 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** 8 Lockstile Way Goring RG8 0AJ  
**Proposal:** Single storey side and rear extensions including garage conversion. New replacement detached garden building  
**Reference Number:** P25/S4060/HH  
**Consultation Deadline:** 5 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** 5 Wallingford Road Goring RG8 0AX  
**Proposal:** Single storey side extension to existing secondary entrance  
**Reference Number:** P26/S0047/HH  
**Consultation Deadline:** 10 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** Station House Wallingford Rd Goring RG8 0EJ  
**Proposal:** Erection of two storey and single storey side extensions with new driveway and parking.  
**Reference Number:** P26/S0018/HH  
**Consultation Deadline:** 11 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** Land West of Wallingford Rd near South Stoke  
**Proposal:** Change of Use from Agricultural to Flexible Commercial for a private dog exercise paddock  
**Reference Number:** P26/S0104/N4C  
**Consultation Deadline:** 11 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** Birchwood 24 Gatehampton Road RG8 0EP  
**Proposal:** Demolition of existing rear conservatory; addition of single storey rear extension; alterations to front porch; conversion of existing garage/workshop into annex/home office  
**Reference Number:** P25/S4028/HH  
**Consultation Deadline:** 12 February 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** 1 Woden Cottages High Street Goring RG8 9AZ  
**Proposal:** Outhouse/studio at the rear of the property. Certificate of Lawful Development  
**Reference Number:** P26/S0005/LDP  
**Target Decision Date:** 2 March 2026

\*\*\*\*  
**Location:** Land east of Manor Road south of Little Croft Road Goring on Thames RG8 9EJ  
**Proposal:** Discharge of condition 20 (Energy Efficiency) on application P23/S3520/S73. Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) on P19/S2923/O to allow for various rooflights, sun-tunnels, loft rooms; and on P23/S3518/S73 for reconfiguration of garages, parking spaces, driveways etc. Not subject to public consultation.  
**Reference Number:** P26/S0168/DIS  
**Target Decision Date:** 17 March 2026

**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.**

**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](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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